

SEPTEMBER NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM SUSAN KNOX

Howdy Do, and welcome to Fall – well almost! I hope each of you had a great Summer, maybe got some Vacation time in and are ready to ride. Finally the dog days of Summer are gone and hopefully the earthquakes and hurricanes will stay away for a bit. All my friends have asked "What did the horses think of the earthquake" and honestly I don't know. I was too busy watching the ground jump around to give it much thought. I didn't hear any hooves running amuck but I sure did hear the rumble of the earth! I expect the horses reacted a lot like we did with "what the heck is that!!". I am positive none of them are scarred for life – so NO new excuses not to ride!

The next lesson is similar to our lesson marathon and will help you get ready for the October Rally. This will be held at Betsy Burnett's farm in Jeffersonton. Danielle Geoffrion will teach the Dressage section and Sandi Deisterhoft will teach the Jumping. This lesson is designed to be helpful to all levels! No excuses! I hope you are able to make it. You should have already received the notice about this lesson. RSVP to Sue Knox.

Our Scavenger Hunt was once again rained out. I don't know if the Burket's are up for another try, but I sure hope so! A lot of work went into the planning and



Miranda & Soleil 2011

I know we'd have had a great time. I saved my favorite lesson pony for myself and didn't get to ride him! Oh well. Hopefully I will sometime soon.

The Rally is the focus of the OPRC Board for the coming weeks and you should have already received your Rally information and entry forms. I have enclosed some information about the Rally from my personal perspective in this newsletter and hope you take the time to read it. There is some-

thing for everyone at the Rally!

A parting thought:

"If you think you can or you can't, You're right" – Henry Ford

Hope to see you all soon! Until then, have a great ride!

Sue Knox

2011 OPRC National Rally



Piedmont Chapter Mounted Rally Sunday, October 9, 2011

**Location:
The Burnett's
Volopia Farm
21205 Aberdeen Lane
Jeffersonton, VA**

- Pleasure classes
- Jumping & Trotting Poles
- Gamblers choice
- Dressage classes—Intro thru 1st Level
- Trail class
- Pole Bending
- Barrel Racing
- Ride a Buck



**Secretary: Miranda Kettlewell 540-636-6201
Email: miranda@sporthillusa.com
For entry forms go to www.oprcpiedmont.org
For OPRC Members only
Other OPRC Chapters welcome**

**Mock Rally: Sunday, September 11
To include: Dressage Fix-a-Tests with
Danielle Geoffrion & Jumping Course
work with Sandi Deisterhoff
Contact: Sue Knox to sign up at
woodruffshires@gmail.com**

**Come & have fun—ride that Dressage test in a Western saddle!!
Run those barrels in an Dressage saddle!!**

THE WARM-UP ARENA—OPRC RALLY 2009

DEDICATED TO THE NEW FRIENDS I FOUND ON THAT DAY—CHRISTINE LAMBDEN AND “HENRY”.

By Susan Knox

Okay, you have been looking forward to this re-introduction to the competitive world for years. You have been attending the OPRC lessons each month—most of them at least—and your young horse is much happier and secure at getting onto the trailer and going away from home. So are you!

Finally, Rally Day is here. It's chilly, the grass is wet with dew and the horses filled with anticipation. You tack up and chat with the person parked beside you on the hill. You share the mounting block, smile nervously, and ride off towards the arena and step in.

Your horse is a little bit “up” along with about twenty other horses to varying degrees. Right at that moment, when

you are *really* feeling like walking out the gate, you spot that friend. The one who always rides like the wind—jumping tall fences without a care. Your friend is cool as a cucumber. Needing some reassurance and support, you guide your horse in her direction and say, “Hello.” You talk a few moments, and then...

Then she confesses her knees are like noodles and her legs are shaking. (*Really? You're kidding!*) I confess my legs are a little weak, too. We look at each other, roll our eyes, and laugh. Good grief. HOW are we so silly?

We both take a deep breath — in with the good, out with the bad. We then proceed to grin and take off together,

charting out a safe little path in the arena to warm up in while keeping eyes on each other and sticking together.

You know the other rider is a capable rider (hey, you're a capable rider, too) and you're both going to do this. You trot together quietly for a bit, then move off to independent circles. Then you find a spot that looks like a great opportunity to pass each of the scary flower pots and new jumps.

You sit quietly as your horse spooks a bit sideways but soon find that your horse pays less and less attention to them each time you pass. Soon you're both cantering a bit. Then cantering the entire circumference of the arena—

Cool as Cucumbers.

And That's the Point!

MORE OF WHAT YOU WILL FIND AT THE RALLY—

- A Friend to lean on
- A supportive environment full of very capable horsewomen (and a few good men)
- Reasons to laugh and not take yourself so seriously
- An opportunity to act like a kid at camp again
- Our Founding Father's words: “Why should the kids have all the fun?” (it was a girl actually, but father just sounded better)
- Being surrounded by folks who genuinely wish you to do well
- A chance to try things you never thought you could do—much less have fun while doing them
- A very LOUD cheering committee—you will be SURROUNDED by them!

There is fun to be had, now YOU, YOU GO GET YOU SOME!!

(in the words of a Teenager—we Old People usually use gooder English)



RALLY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It doesn't take a Village to get all this done, it takes a small Army! The Cavalry to be exact!

Here are a few of the volunteer opportunities that exist:

Setup Dressage Ring
Setup Jump Course
Setup Trail Course
Scribes

Score Posting
Stopwatch Timer
Cheerleader
Ring Steward
Ring Crew
Setup/Takedown
Runners
Secretary
Dressage Scorekeeper
Drawing Courses/Signs
Drawing Score Charts/Signs

If you might be interested in any of the tasks (and believe me, there is more to do than this!)

please contact our Volunteer Coordinator—
Robin Garbe at:

Robingarbe@comcast.net



For more information on the "Do's and Don'ts in the horse world", check out the humorous and helpful

THE NOVICE RIDER ETIQUETTE HANDBOOK

Written by our own Betsy Burnett

This can be found at www.OLDPEOPLESRIDINGCLUB.ORG

GAMBLER'S CHOICE—

"60 seconds will be the time allowed for the exhibitor to gather as many points as possible"

Open to any horse/pony and rider combination

There will be eight fences set on the course that can be jumped from either direction. The joker Fence is optional and will be set 3" higher than the others and it can only be jumped after the first course is finished.

The timer starts when the starting line is crossed (set 15' from first jump)

You must begin the course with the first 10 pt ;fence in the designated direction, after which any fence on the course can be jumped in any direction up to a maximum of three times per jump. EXCEPT the Joker Fence. It can only be jumped once after you finish the 60 second course.

Every fence on the course is given a 10, 20 or 30 point value.

60 seconds will be the time allowed for the exhibitor to gather as many points as possible.

There is no penalty for refusals or knock-downs, but you will not earn points for that fence. Once a fence falls, it cannot be jumped again. In Trot Pole Class, 5 point penalty for each time the horse canters more than 2 strides.

Joker Fence (3 inches higher than others):
When the time is up at 60 seconds (whistle blown), the rider will be given 20 seconds to decide if they will try the joker fence which is worth 30 points if jumped successfully, and will cost 30 points if there is a refusal or knock-down. Joker Fence for the Trot Pole Class will be an "x" set low as possible.

Qualifications – Rider and horse may only submit scores from one height to be counted in the national rankings. The first height you jump would be the one that would qualify, i.e. you cannot use the lower heights to "warm up" for your national qualifying course.

DRESSAGE TESTS

The OPRC National Rally will accept scores from three tests:

- Intro A
- Training Test 2
- First Level Test 2

Copies of these tests are available on our website.

Although many of our riders take these types of tests pretty seriously, Rally is the place to let it all go... If you aren't a dressage queen, IT'S OKAY!!! Get the test and figure out the pattern and just "do it". You might not get a

winning Dressage score, but the meaning is in the fun of it! You DID it! Got a Western horse? Try the pattern. The basic pattern isn't really isn't so hard, but making the circles truly round with your horse happy on the bit and light to your hands and seat—NOW THAT's HARD!!.

For the aspiring Dressage Queens out there... Go For It!!! This is a wonderful place to give it a go. Real comments from a Dressage judge. Totally worth it! And at a real bargain price!

This is for fun, but also designed to give you an intro-

duction to the world of Showing. Be respectful of the Judge and learn the basic rules. Make the best impression you can.

As for riding your test,

You can memorize your test or have it read to you aloud. There is no penalty for a "reader".

You will be given an appointed time to ride. Ask us at your next lesson if you have any questions or concerns.



Riding a test with a "Reader"

TRAIL CLASS

Lots of qualities go into a great Trail Horse! And many of them are learned on the trail, and even more skills are learned, surprisingly, in the Arena!

Your wonderful Ring horse might be better at Trail than you think! Also, your marvelous seasoned Trail horse might use some brushing up to ace the course! Here are a few areas to work on that will help you with any Horse Show's Trail Course, and make your partner even more handy around the farm!

Is your horse comfortable while you open a gate? This might require turn on the forehand, a sidepass, and a reinback.

Is your horse okay with you picking up an object and carrying it a short distance?

Will he stand quietly?

Will he stand quietly while you mount & dismount?

Will he trot through cones?

Will he perform his transitions promptly and obediently from trot to canter and from trot to halt?

Can you straddle a pole and ask him to walk sideways (sidepass) to the other side?

Will he walk or trot cavaletti?

Will he walk across a bridge or plywood or a tarp?

Will he willingly approach a scary object?

It is wise to ask you horse to attempt many of these things

from the ground, working in hand first (think of blue tarps). Then your horse has an idea of what you desire when you ask from astride.

All of these are the types of things a good trail horse should be willing to do, and most trail horse qualities are learned in the ring with flat-work & schooling. Practical application of your schooling is what takes place out on trail, or in a Trail Class.

These are a few ideas to get you started for conquering Trail Class!

Good luck!

"Practical application of your schooling is what takes place out on trail"



www.oprcpiedmont.org

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Membership & Renewals
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UPCOMING EVENTS:

RALLY PREP, RALLY PREP, OH OH OH, RALLY PREP!!!!

*Our Fall Lesson is a **Mock Rally**— scheduled Sunday **September 11** at the **Burnett's Farm**. Both **Dressage and Jumping lessons**—**Don't miss it!***

*Contact **Sue Knox** to enroll*

*Our Next **Musical Ride** scheduled for **Saturday, September 24** at **Woodruff Riding School**— Look for information from **Laurie**.*

OPRC National Rally— scheduled **Sunday October 9** at the **Burnett's Farm**. **Dressage, Pleasure, Jumping, Trail, and Games**.

Don't miss it! Enrollment forms and information are available on the **OPRC Piedmont Website** www.oprcpiedmont.org

*Other events can be previewed on our **Events page** on the website. Details on upcoming events will be distributed closer to the scheduled event date.*



BRAVO AND THANK YOU!!

This month's "Bravo" recipients are:

Molly Judge who attended her first Licensed Dressage show at Morven Park. She and "Big" received great scores too! Congratulations!

Miranda Kettlewell, Kay Brady, Josie Thomas & Sue Knox for shaking off the butterflies and riding in the CDCTA Show in Warrenton. While Kay, Miranda and Josie are more seasoned competi-

tors, this was Sue & Amadeus' very first Dressage show.

Thank you **Laurie Counts** for organizing a tailgate party to support the competitors! A fellow competitor came up to me and asked "Are all these people here for you?" I replied that they were—well, sort of. If she wanted to join OPRC we'd cheer for her too!

If you know anyone who has overcome a hurdle or has

gone above and beyond to help another member—this is the place to recognize them.

Please forward your nominations and a very short description of the accomplishment to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

We have a lot of great people and you all need to meet them!