

OPRC PIEDMONT NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2010

Dear Members,

Finally, I think the heat is behind us and now we will wait for the cold – honestly, ya can't win! This weather does make you want to get out and ride so I hope all of you have been doing just that.

We had the **Lesson Marathon** last Sun with ten people attending. Danielle did her magic in the lower field while Chad berated us in the ring :0) Unfortunately, I can't say how each and everyone did as I saw only a few. Kay and Jag's improvement was spectacular in the jumping. WOW, he's got it. Allison had a cute, young paint mare belonging to a friend. If her eyes could've "popped" out, I think they would've. It was her first time off the farm and she had a LOT to tell her stable mates upon her return. What a cutie. It was so nice to see Henry and Christine back on form. Katherine Hedrick has a new hunt horse that is adorable and seems quite sensible. I think they should have fun together. The rest of what I saw was normal.

The **musical rides** are going well and I hope everyone is enjoying all the hard work Sue and Laurie are putting into this program. Hopefully we will have enough committed people to again do the Christmas program! It was great fun last year.

In Oct, we have planned a **gymkhana/scavenger hunt**. This will be for mounted members only. The gymkhana portion will consist of games such as egg and spoon race, barrel racing, pole bending, and general nonsense. Prizes will be lollipops or the like. The scavenger hunt will be lots of fun consisting of tracking down and photographing things on this farm that are on a list given to you at the start of the hunt. You will have to bring a digital camera so we can check that you have identified the proper item. One part will be in the morning, the other in the afternoon with time for lunch and gossip in between. Now, here's what I want to know. I well understand that many of you are stretched very thin in the time department (who isn't!). However, I need a certain number of riders committed to this event in order to proceed. The reason for this is that it's a lot of work and some expense for the chapter. This is not a problem *in the least* if there is an enthusiastic turnout but not much fun if few people attend. Yes, that sounds negative and that is not the intent but it is the reality. Please think hard before answering this question. Will you commit to riding/working this event on **Sunday, 10 Oct** – barring accidents (loose shoes, horses, children, whatever)? I need your answer by Sept 29 so we can make the appropriate decision. There will be no charge for all the fun and games! I DON'T need to know if you are NOT coming, only if you are COMMITTED to coming. If we don't have sufficient numbers by then, I will make plans to do something else. Regardless, there WILL be an event for Piedmont on the 10th. We might video riders or something.

Miranda has sent me the flyer for the Rappahannock, Bull Run, Farmington, Casanova Pairs Races, unfortunately also on the 10th. These are fun!!! Contact her if you are interested in knowing more. No, jumping is optional, you don't need to be a hunt member, and formal attire is not necessary.

Enjoy this weather and, remember, our cross country course is open for all members. Just let me know if you would like to come and we'll set up a time.

That's all for now so KICK ON.