

Winter 2017/2018
**Horse
Times**

FREE

*Prize Lists, Hunt Events & More
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Serving Northern Virginia, a touch of West Virginia, and a hint of Maryland

The Value of Pony Club

How Horse And Life Skills Are Built Into Its Program

By Cathy Frederickson

Cathy Frederickson is the current Regional Instruction Coordinator (RIC) for the Virginia Region Pony Clubs and a Level IV National Examiner. Frederickson joined Pony Club in California at age seven and graduated at the A level. She lived in England and pursued her BHSI exam as well as worked for Bayberry Farm in NH and Denny Emerson in Vermont. She and her husband have lived in Boyce Va. for 30 years where she has competed, teaches, and trains.

Why should parents put their child in Pony Club today?

Over the years, I've heard many former Pony Club members say that their college interview, doctoral presentation, or that really big job interview

would not have gone as well without the poise and verbal skills they honed in Pony Club. Yes, we teach children to ride and take care of their ponies, but they learn so much more. A few years ago Pony Club created a Horsemasters Membership for anyone over age 18, so you don't have to be a child anymore to take advantage of this program.

How does Pony Club teach these skills?

Pony Club members are prepped and tested on their riding and horse management skills. At every Pony Club activity members are encouraged to engage with their peers, instructors, and examiners orally. They discuss their training skills and horse management knowledge.



At an Upper Level Certification prep at Sandstone Farm in Millwood Va. riders are being readied for testing by National Examiners.

PHOTO COURTESY: DAWN BELLINGER

Members are taught to express opinions, explore alternative theories, and examine philosophies.

How long does this training take?

The United States Pony Clubs (USPC) program begins at the "D" level and progresses through a series of tests (called "certifications") to the top tier,

or "A" level. "A" level alumni are recognized around the world for their expertise and are often found running barns and riding programs at the highest levels. Pony Club tries to have all members educated through the "C" level, giving them the skills necessary to own and manage a small barn. On average, students take one to two years between **continued on p. 66**



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calendar from p. 64

MAY	Show Name	VHSA	Location
20	Red Gate Combined Test		Bluemont, VA
23	Loch Moy Jackpot Jumpers/Dressage Pick Time & Test		Adamstown, MD
24	Kelly's Ford Eq Center Twilight Eventing		Remington, VA
26	Loch Moy USEA FEH/YEH/NEH Qualifier		Adamstown, MD
26	LTD Hunters		TBD, VA
26	Kelly's Ford Eq Hunter/Jumper Show	H/E	Remington, VA
15	Loch Moy MDHT Spring Starter #3		Adamstown, MD
27	LTD Jumpers		TBD, VA

Pony Club.....from p. 7
each level.

Can an instructor conduct these tests?

Certifications are conducted by Examiners, trained in the Pony Club program. Examiners use Pony Club approved Standards of Proficiency at each certification level. At the lower levels, local examiners are used by the local clubs and centers during half or full day testing sessions. At the upper levels, National Examiners, trained to a higher standard, are used for 1-2 day certifications which are organized by the national office.

Can you give us an example of how you go about training a student orally?

A unique feature of Pony Club is that Horse Management is completely integrated into all aspects of Pony Club. We start every lesson, testing and competition with an inspection of the Pony Club member's attire, tack and pony. This inspection starts with the member introducing his or herself and her pony. At the lowest level, a member would say, "Good morning! My name is Suzy Q and this is my pony, Flash. I'm a D2 with XYZ Pony Club and Flash is a 9 year-old mare, who does not like to have her tummy touched. Otherwise, she has excellent ground manners..." As the member progresses through the certifications this introduction evolves into a conversation. Through horsemanship, Pony Club instructors, Examiners and Horse Management judges work with each individual member to

develop their oral discussion skills and effective application of those skills.

What are other benefits to membership?

There are many benefits to membership but a few can be summed up by the Pony Club motto: "Sportsmanship, Stewardship and Leadership through Horsemanship." We value each of these character traits. Our more highly certified members mentor and teach the lower certified ones. All of our competitions are in teams to build organizational skills and learn to function in a group. Stewardship requirements in the form of Land Conservation are included at many certification levels.

We offer awards and recognition for sportsmanship and horse management. And, we offer opportunities for our members to be ambassadors of Pony Club nationally and internationally through exchange programs and other activities.

How can people learn more about a club or center near them?

The Virginia Region Pony Clubs is the regional organization that supports the 10 local clubs and two riding centers in Northern Virginia, from Richmond to Arlington (<https://vrponyclub.org/clubs-centers>). The region's membership coordinator (VRPCmembership@gmail.com) can help parents figure out which clubs or centers they should consider based on geography and shared interests.

VHSA.....from p. 49
celebrate the 2017 winners of all the divisions.

In addition, presentation of the ten best Associate Horse Shows for the 2017 show season as nominated by the exhibitors, owners and trainers, will also take place the Awards Luncheon.
Congratulations to the 2017 Top Ten Best Associate Horse Shows and the Competition Managers of those shows. They are (in alphabetical order):

CVSJA Horse Show
Nanci Harmon
October 8, 2017

Coventry Farm
Cindy Carson Downing
August 5, 2017

Deep Run Fall Horse Show
Joy Robinson
September 9, 2017

Elmington Farm Horse Show
Kathie Hamlin
August 26, 2017

Farmington Hunt Club Show
Stephen Bickers
June 3, 2017

Hazelwild Horse Show
Teresa Seay
June 25, 2017

Pam Herman Farm Horse Show
Pam Herman
June 10, 2017

House Mountain Horse Show
Molly Trimble Moore
July 11-12, 2017

VBHSA Cooler Horse Show
Kasey Evans
August 5-6, 2017

VPBA Hunter Horse Show
Georgine Winslett
April 22, 2017

Congratulations to the following local riders for their awards at VHSA Finals!

Best Child Rider on a horse
Amy Lewis
(Fairfax Station, Va)

Best Amateur Rider
Shannon Keany
(Alexandria, Va)

Forrest Linton Sportsmanship
Liam deStanley
(Leesburg, Va)

VPBA.....from p. 15
is maintained for each mare which produces a registered Virginia bred foal. It lists by year each foal with its registration number and its sire, thus reducing the chance for misrepresentation of the age or identity of the foal. VPBA has a produce history for over 2000 mares. One such is listed below:
Partial Produce Record of Infomercial - R534
2012 - Ideal Candidate (Wellen Red Rock) #12004
2013 - Ideal Too (*Tely nau Masterpiece) #13023
2014 - Ideal Outcome (*Tely nau Masterpiece) #14007
2015 - Ideal Guest (*Tely nau Gallant) #15007
2017 - Ideal Gift (*Tely nau Gallant) #17002
Many ponies' names begin with a registered prefix. A breeder uses a prefix in order to identify a pony as being from his program and to keep track of it throughout its lifetime. A

registered prefix can be used only by the breeder to whom it is registered or with his written permission. It is not proper to drop a registered prefix from a pony's name without the written permission of the breeder.
When a registered pony changes ownership, it is important for this transfer to be recorded in the VPBA registry. The registration certificate with a Transfer of Ownership form signed by the last recorded owner should be submitted to the VPBA office. Ponies properly transferred and registered with VPBA are eligible for participation in a variety of award programs at the local, state, and national level. One such program is a monetary grant from the Virginia Horse Industry Board. Many of the nation's best are registered Virginia bred, winning championships and high score awards at every prestigious hunter pony event in the USA.