



South Region January 2014



Volume 1, Issue 1

From the Regional Supervisor

Welcome 2014! And welcome new members and parents!

Wow, 2013 was a fantastic year in the South Region. We accomplished plenty and along the way our Region grew stronger. Thank you members, parents, and South Region Officers for your dedication, hard work, and for having a sense of humor.

Each New Year brings renewal and goals. All of us have no doubt made our New Year's resolutions. For the South Region, we remain committed to the USPC Mission:

To develop character, leadership, confidence, and a sense of community in youth through a program that teaches the care of horse and ponies in riding and mounted sports.

Core Values:

- Horsemanship
- Organized teamwork
- Respect
- Service
- Education

In closing, enjoy this new year, set goals, attend your club's or center's monthly meetings, and get involved with regional activities.

Katie Fite

2014 Calendar of Events

January 18 – 19	HA/HB Prep	Rockwood Equestrian, Auburn, AL Hoof Print Pony Club Host
January 22 – 26	USPC Annual Meeting	Portland, OR
February 22 -23	EBTH/HM/Quiz	Coweta County Fair Grounds, Newnan, GA Midland Pony Club Host
March 8 - 9	Upper Level Prep	Birmingham, AL Cahaba Pony Club Host
March 15 -16	Standards & Ratings Bub Hawley Clinic	UGA Agricultural Center, Athens, GA – SR Youth Board and Piedmont Pony Club Host
March 29	Games Rally	Barlyn Farm, Covington, GA Hilltoppers Pony Club Host
April 12 – 13	Eventing Rally	Poplar Place Farm, Hamilton, GA Hoof Print Pony Club Host
June 7 – 8	Show Jumping	Poplar Place Farm, Hamilton, GA Atlanta Pony Club Host
June TBA	Champ Camp	TBA
June 25 – 29	South Region Camp	Poplar Place Farm, Hamilton, GA
July 14 -21	USPC Championships and Festival	Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY
August TBA	D Clinic	Pinetrace Pony Club Host
August TBA	HB National Certification	Birmingham, AL Cahaba Pony Club Host
September 6 - 7	Dressage Rally	Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, GA Atlanta Pony Club Host
September 19 - 21	Horse Management Retreat	Compton Farm Dawsonville, GA
October TBA	Upper Level Mounted Prep	Ashland Farm, Covington, GA
November 1	Regional Counsel Meeting	Fayetteville, GA Woodbine Pony Club Host

2013 USPC Championships, Lexington, VA



2014 Regional Officers

Regional Supervisor (RS) – Katie Fite
 VRS Activities – Willie Johnson
 VRS Activities – Kimberley Umphress
 VRS Instruction – Elaine Fowler
 VRS Instruction – Lida Sease
 Secretary – Billie Henry
 Treasurer – Nancy Thrasher
 RIC – Ann Haller
 RIC – Jennifer Hood
 HMO – Brenda Yike
 Web Master – Kelly Smith

DCs Did You Know?

Insurance - one of the most important items required for all pony club events. Please remember the following:

- This must be done prior to using the facility to ensure insurance coverage is in place
 - Every date the facility will be used must be listed
 - This is done online through the USPC website
 - Dates can be added as the year progresses to each individual entry and new locations can be added
 - **Insurance is required for ALL pony club meetings, certifications, rallies, field trips, etc.** Insurance is valid for the event only - not driving to and from.
 - If non-members are participating, the special insurance is required and non-member activity forms need to be signed
 - Remember to include any Horsemasters events as well if they are separate from club events
- It's time to send the IRS 1099 forms for all individuals that were paid \$600 or more in the previous calendar year. All forms must be sent prior to January 31st.
 - **Cash Receipts and Disbursements are due by Feb 15th to the National Office – please email a copy to Katie Fite for the Region file.**
 - New Club Officers complete your background check!

Important Reminders

EBTH/HM/QUIZ - Entry deadline February 11

Upper Level Prep for Cs & Bs – March 8 - 9

News from USPC

Pony Club Pizza: Where We Pile on the Knowledge!

Don't miss your chance to get a slice of the pie! Pony Club Pizza is back in the blog-o-sphere! Be sure to check out [this site](#) every Friday for cool, educational articles about all things horse and Pony Club related! Have a good article you want to submit for consideration? Email it to marketing@ponyclub.org along with any photos you would like to have included with the article. Who knows, your piece may end up as one of our blogs!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB PAGE AT

[SOUTH REGION](#)

AND



Horse Management Monthly

Proper Saddle Fitting:

Saddle Placement. Make sure the saddle is not sitting too far forward on your horse. It should sit behind the back of the shoulder blade with enough clearance for your horse's shoulder blades.

Tree. You want to make sure you have the correct tree size that will fit your horse's build. If it is too narrow it will pinch your horse and if it is too wide it won't provide enough clearance for your horse's withers. You also want to be sure the angle of the tree matches the slope of your horse's shoulders.

Contact. With one hand on the top of the saddle you should be able to use your other hand and run it from the entrance of the tree down to the bottom of the flap feeling consistent contact all the way down. Make sure to check both sides on your horse.

Balanced saddle, leveled seat. The saddle should not rock up and down when pressure is applied to the pommel and cantle.

Wither and Spine Clearance. There should be ample space between your horse's withers and the front of the saddle, so that the saddle is not sitting directly on the withers. The gullet should clear the entire length of the spine by a couple inches and make sure the gullet lines up with your horse's topline.

Saddle Length. Having the correct length of saddle for your seat as well as taking into account the length of your horse's back is very important. Your saddle should not go past your horse's last rib. If it does, it begins to sit on the lumbar section of the back, which is the weakest part of your horse's back. Typically you would like to have around two inches between the back of your saddle and the last rib.

After checking these factors, ride your horse and pay attention to your horse's response to the saddle. We all know how honest a horse can be when they feel something they don't like. With a good fitting saddle, the horse should move freely and calmly in the saddle and the rider should feel balanced. Look for signs or behavior issues that may stand out if the saddle does not fit correctly such as pinning ears back, biting at saddle, girthy, hard to relax, travels hollow backed, and worsens the longer you ride. These are just a few examples; pay close attention to your horse in case these behaviors arise. Of course, if these odd behaviors arise and you find that your saddle fits great you may need to consult your veterinarian or farrier to look into other issues unrelated to your saddle fitting.

Remember, a happy horse is a happy rider.
Jenna Temple, Apprentice HMJ

SOUTH REGION 2014 YOUTH BOARD RETREAT



Recently, the South Region Youth Board came together for a wonderful two-day retreat. Time together included planning for the Standards & Ratings/Bud Hawely Clinic, attending a leadership workshop given by National Examiner Anne Haller, and ending with a session with Regional Officers. While everyone worked hard, they also found time to have fun! Our Youth Board rocks!!!

Upper Level Prep, Auburn, Alabama

The Upper Level Prep sponsored by Hoof Print Pony Club in the South Region was fantastic! From the National Examiner, Karine Gordy, to the Graduate A's, Clinicians, and Equine Vets at Auburn University, the presentations were fascinating, informative, interactive, fun and supremely helpful. From the "fresh" (3 day dead) oozing horse parts to the full horse skeleton, and multiple jaws and sets of teeth ... to the 3 legged races of pony clubbers trussed up with spider bandages and tied together to the conformation study/discussion (on a cold windy hill) of every horse in the Auburn Vet School Equine Barn ... to the timed identification reviews of poisonous plants ...to discussions of drugs, vaccines and land conservation just to mention a few; in a word, it was fabulous!

Kimberley Umphress, DC, and Hoof Print Pony Club ran an organized prep with a timely schedule, wonderful food, and Kimberley's house as the base. With bodies sleeping everywhere in this gorgeous 1920s renovated farmhouse, the pony clubbers and parents made new friends, learned a lot and had an amazing experience at the Auburn Vet School and with Karine Gordy at Kimberley's Rockwood Equestrian.

Five of our Deep South Region members attended and we were most fortunate to have been included: Marissa D., Nikhol K., Cameron M., Hayden M. and Bet M. I know my daughter and I will attend again next year if allowed.

Kimberley Umphress and Hoof Print Pony Club are to be commended for sponsoring this exceptional upper level prep. Thank you so much for including us and we look forward to the next time.

Doti Donovan
Treasurer, Mobile Bay Pony Club and Secretary, Deep South Region

ITEMS NEEDED

This year we are trying to collect all of the items needed for the Mega Room at Quiz Rally for the South Region to OWN instead of borrowing each year.

NEEDED ITEMS: Boots/Bandaging/Wraps. Bits: Kimberwick, Jointed Uxeter Kimberwick, Pessoa/Elevator, French, Half Cheek, Dr. Bristol, Mullenmouth Snaffle, Liverpool, Fulmer, Gag, Pelham, D Ring, Full Cheek, Double Twisted Wire, Egg Butt. Grooming Kit Supplies, Farrier Tools, Horse Skull, Horse Hoof, Horse Figurines with different colors, markings and/or breed, and toy size jumps of all different types

If you or someone you know would be willing to donate any of these items please email Adrienne Sipe at <mailto:msipe.mustardseedfarm@gmail.com>.

