



Annual Meeting of the Region

October 22, 2016 2:00 pm

Agenda

Welcome

Call to Order

Role call of clubs and officers – quorum in attendance

Approval of minutes from 2015 Annual Meeting

RS Report: 2016 State of the Region

State of the Region/membership

Certifications

Mounted Instruction

Rallies

Horse Management

Calendar

Election of Officers for 2017

(Nominating committee: Susan Poulton, Patricia Palm, Jay Ahlstrom, Denise Ritacco, Jody Hoffman)

Call for nominations from the floor

Election of 2017 officers

Request for 2018 Nominating Committee members (3-5 members)

Treasurer's Report

Financing our activities

Approval of Budget expenses, fundraising, and dues

Plans for 2017

Instruction – clinics, HM

Rallies, Ratings, Camp

Amendments to Region policy

Volunteer recognition

Any other business

Adjourn



State of the Region October 22, 2016 2:00 pm

The state of the Region is stable and improving

- Membership is down slightly

- Local instruction is good

- Competitions in 2016 were well attended

- Financial accounts are sound

Pony Club is competing with other activities for 'share of time'

- Kids over programmed – 'resume building'

- May shift – colleges seeking 'depth' and commitment

Boarding Barns and In-house Lesson Programs gain share

- Fewer backyard ponies, fewer open places to ride

- Fewer knowledgeable parents supports growth of boarding lesson programs

- USPC horse management education important here and opportunity

- USPC Riding Centers are growing across country.

Pony Club has strategic advantages as family oriented and non-profit

- Parents learn with kids and adult members – Horsemasters

- Our costs lower as no 'profit' in entry fees, clinics break even



Membership Trend by Club

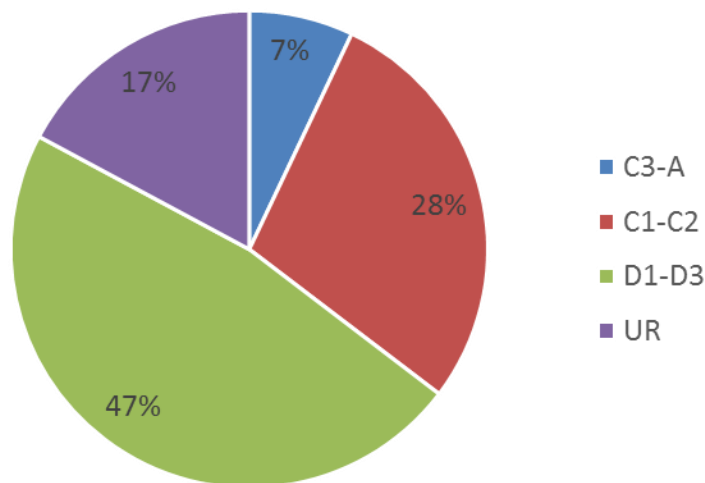
@ Oct 2016

- Good – up 1+
- Caution
- Get members down 25%+

	2015	Total	HMX	vs. 2015
● Greenville Foothills	48	42	3	(6)
● Eno Triangle	44	32	0	(12)
● Yadkin Valley Hounds	30	34	8	2
● Eno Triangle Master	29	32	32	3
● Hidden "K" Stables	28	26	0	(2)
● River Valley	26	36	8	10
● Rocky River	21	17	4	(4)
● Brickhouse Equestrian Center	21	15	0	(6)
● Lowcountry	20	13	0	(7)
● Cardinal II	15	7	0	(8)
● Pee Dee	14	13	0	(1)
● Aiken County	13	16	0	3
● Moore County	12	7	0	(5)
● Triad	11	7	0	(4)
● Sandy Ridge	8	4	2	(4)
● Palmetto	0	23	0	23
● Charleston	3	0	0	(3) closing
● Land Of Sky	1	0		Closed
● Triple Threat	0	0		Closed
TOTAL REGION	346	315	53	(31)



Certification Update 2016



Rating tests are intended to recognize achievement and increase enjoyment of Pony Club members by encouraging increased confidence, independence and good safety habits. Rating test should be a positive educational experience. Members should be encouraged to progress at a pace that is comfortable for them.

Riding is a hobby, something we do for fun.

- Nearly **2/3rds of Region members are Unrated or D certified** (64% - this excludes HMX) Region Camp should be 'revived' with focus for Ds.
- Percentages of Nationally certified, **A-C3 members, 7%** and **C certified members 28%** are stable. There was slight shift year to year (up 2% on C1, down 1% on C2s)
- Carolina Region hosted 3 national certification tests with more than 30 candidates from multiple regions. Congratulations to our new HBs, HAs, C3s, and Bs!
- Local instruction and certifications are important in all clubs. Clubs should offer rating opportunity 2x per year. Jointly with neighbor club and Region tests are fine.

- *The purpose of certifications is to enhance the pony club experience.*
- *Don't pressure kids for ratings. Relieve peer pressure if you can.*
- *Rally teams and riding groups are flexible with regard to ratings.*



Mounted Instruction

Goals 2017

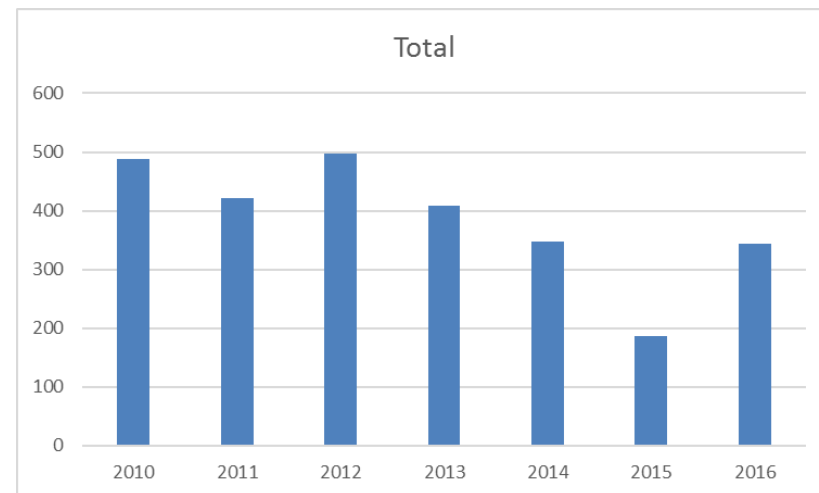
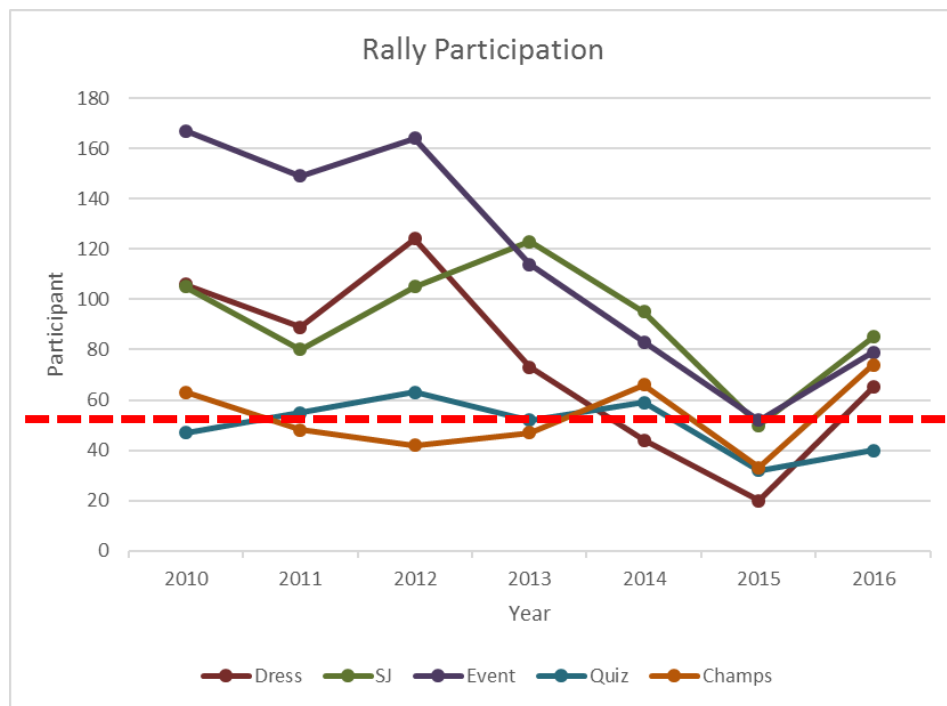
- **More Region clinics scheduled**
- **More advance notice of clinics**
- **'Headliner' clinicians and NEs**
- **High Reliability on date, cost, and quality**
- **Strong leadership by North and South RICs**
 - Larson/Montani



- Upper Level prep clinics with GFPC – Sandy Larson model
- Peer instruction – UL members visit other clubs to teach
- Upper level member/Instructor list to be compiled and Shared with clubs
- Teach the teacher instruction included at Region Clinics
- Region Camp Summer 2017 plan at FENCE
- Region clinic – winter 2017 at Aiken, perhaps Stableview Farm



Rally Round up 2016



- Rally participation was very low in 2015 averaging about 40 competitors per rally. This is not a sustainable level.
- 50 competitors per rally is about breakeven depending on fixed facility cost and entry fee budgeted
- 2016 participation is improved with average participation about 70 (excludes games, tet, plx).
- 2016 Rallies were profitable. Rally profits go to organizing club up to \$500, balance goes to Region for education and championships
- Club leadership and organization of rallies is important to their success.



Rally Round up 2016

What	When	Participation	Host/organizer Profit or loss	2017
Quiz Rally	Feb 2016 So Pines, NC	40	Eno Triangle \$928	Aiken & Palmetto February
Dressage Rally	March 2016 Monroe, NC	47+18 = 65	Hidden K Riding Center \$1232	Eno Triangle Apr 29-30 Carolina Horse Park
Show Jumping	April 2016 Monroe, NC	66+19 = 85	Yadkin Valley Hounds Pony Club \$1880	Yadkin Valley March 17-19 Clemson, SC
Eventing Rally	May 2016 Tryon, NC FENCE	62+17 = 89	River Valley, Greenville Foothills – Carolina Region \$1810	River Valley, Greenville Foothills May 20 FENCE
Championships	July 2016 Tryon, TIEC	61+13 = 74	USPC Cost: \$5159	USPC Lexington KY July
Tetrathlon Rally	April 2016 Monroe, NC	16	With SJ rally Helen Firby	With SJ rally Helen Firby
Polocrosse, Games		1	APA, South Region	APA, South Region





Horse Management Update

DIFFERENTIATOR: Unique features and/or benefits of a product, or aspects of a brand, that set it apart from competing products or brands.
 HM IS WHAT MAKES PONY CLUB DIFFERENT !

- Horse Management is the Pony Club 'Differentiator'
- HM is the essence of making a true 'Horseman', not just a rider
- George Morris, among others, bemoans the lack of horsemanship in today's participants in horse sport.
- Role of the Horse Management Organizer (HMO) is critical
 - Regional and Club HM instruction: work with the RIC to provide instructors and materials
 - HM Staff for Rallies: Develop group of knowledgeable, trained HM staff (parents and older members)
 - Region Competition: work with Rally Organizers on CHMJ, staffing, facilities and HM paperwork
- 2016 learning was through our clubs and rallies
- Need HM education in clubs and Region events
- New HMOs proposed
 - My pony club story – Judith and SuSu Shoemaker 1970s
 - Recent Pony Club grads C2/HB and C3D/H
 - North and South Dronzek/Jacobs





2017 Region Calendar

- Nov 11-12 HB Certification at Riverbend
- Jan TBD Winter clinic at Aiken
- Jan 26-29 USPC Annual Meeting at Los Angeles
- Feb 18 Quiz Rally Palmetto Pony Club, Columbia, SC
- Mar 17-19 SJ Rally Yadkin Valley Hounds PC at Garrison Arena, Clemson, SC
- Apr TBD Region Clinic
- Apr 28-30 Dressage Rally Eno Triangle PC at Carolina Horse Park, Raeford, NC
- May 19-21 Eventing Rally RVPC, GFPC at FENCE, Tryon, NC
- Jun 25-28 Region Camp and Clinic at FENCE --- or August dates possible
- Jul TBD Region Clinic and Champs Prep
- Jul 17-24 USPC Championships and Festival, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY
- Jul Upper Level Certification Unmounted Tests
- Aug Upper Level Certification Mounted Tests



Nominating Committee Election of Board for 2017

- Nominating Committee:
Jay Ahlstrom, Susan Poulton, Patricia Palm, Jody Hoffman, Denise Ritacco
- Nominations:
 - **Juliet Sadd Wiehe** for Regional Supervisor
 - **Jay Ahlstrom** for Vice Regional Supervisor
 - **Susan Poulton** for Vice Regional Supervisor
 - **Sarah Deal** for Secretary
 - **Stefanie Faith** for Treasurer
 - **Julie Jacobs** and **Tori Dronzek** for HMO
 - **Janna Ritacco, Susan Montani, Sandy Larson** for RIC
- Call for nominations from the floor
- Election of 2017 Regional Board
- Request for 2018 Nominating Committee members (3-5 members).



Financial Report

Bank Balances	
11/1/2015	\$30,972
10/15/2016	<u>\$38,144</u>
Change	\$ 6,987

Carolina Region Budget Analysis										Budget v
2015 actual			2016 budget			2016 actual			Actual	
income	expense	net	income	expense	net	income	expense	net		
Rallies	22,901	23,186	(285)	25,000	23,500	1,500	26,549	21,730	4,819	3,319
champs	17,440	21,500	(4,060)	12,500	21,500	(9,000)	26,686	31,330	(4,644)	4,356
clinics	6,675	13,764	(7,089)	6,500	14,000	(7,500)	8,593	6,950	1,643	9,143
ratings	3,287	4,310	(1,023)	2,500	4,500	(2,000)	4,021	2,746	1,275	3,275
camp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
admin	2,217	3,599	(1,382)	6,500	3,750	2,750	1,483	2,665	(1,182)	(3,932)
dues	5,295	-	5,295	5,000	-	5,000	2,430	-	2,430	(2,570)
donations	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	200	2,300	2,368	-	2,368	68
										-
	60,315	66,359	(6,044)	60,500	67,450	(6,950)	72,130	65,421	6,709	13,659

2016 Financials much better than budget

- Well attended profitable region rallies
- Championships budget way off – TIEC effect
- Fewer clinics in 2016
- Adjustment of income and expense categorization



Financial Report Budget 2017

	2016 actual			2017 Budget			
	income	expense	net	income	expense	net	
Rallies	26,549	21,730	4,819	30,000	28,000	2,000	Keep up participation, manage to small profit per rally
champs	26,686	31,330	(4,644)	16,000	20,000	(4,000)	at Lexington KY, smaller team (34) , 3 coaches
clinics	8,593	6,950	1,643	10,000	12,500	(2,500)	Increase clinics, subsidize 'headliner' instruction
ratings	4,021	2,746	1,275	5,000	3,500	1,500	manage to small profit on UL ratings
camp	-	-	-	14,000	16,000	(2,000)	subsidize instruction, materials, food
admin	1,483	2,665	(1,182)	-	3,500	(3,500)	annual meeting @ LA, tax prep, software
dues	2,430	-	2,430	4,500	-	4,500	300 region members at \$15
donations	2,368	-	2,368	*	-	-	* non cash donations recorded separately
						-	
	\$ 72,130	\$ 65,421	\$ 6,709	\$ 79,500	\$ 83,500	\$ (4,000)	

This Budget seeks to manage competitions to small profit and spend additional money on annual meeting, clinic instruction, championships and camp.

Recommend approval of 2017 budget as outlined.



Region Policy Update

- Carolina Region Policy Update October 2016
- These are changes suggested and requested by USPC Vice President of Regional Administration. They are simplifications and clarifications to align our policy with USPC policy and other Regions.
- Full policy and change details were emailed to all Region Council members in advance of the meeting for review and comment.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Active Club/Center – grammar correction “respond” should be “responds”

Regional Membership Fee : Delete ‘Current fee’ sentence. Fee will be voted in the annual meeting and recorded in the minutes. Policy change will not be required to adjust fee in the future.

Delete ‘Club, Center and Horsemasters’ so that sentence simply says ‘members’.

Education Fund : Delete ‘Current fee’ sentence. Add “The fee will be determined and approved by the Region Council at the Annual Meeting.” Fee will be voted in the annual meeting and recorded in the minutes. Policy change will not be required to adjust fee in the future.

USPC championship fund : Income from rallies, Add “a portion of Income from rallies, to be determined annually at the Annual Meeting.”

Education : Standards and Certification – delete ‘Policy 3015’ reference to USPC policy not needed.

Change ‘DCs’ to ‘leaders’; change ‘pony clubbers’ to ‘members’; delete ‘their’

National Certifications :Add ‘and keep the fee within USPC guidelines.’ At end of sentence. Must keep fee within maximum amount allowed by USPC. Currently \$175.

Special Awards/Honors : Add ‘as funds allow.’ To end of sentence

Motion, second and vote to accept requested.



Volunteer Recognition

- **Volunteers are the heart of Pony Club.**
- **Thank you to our Region Officers serving this year.**
- **Thank you** to everyone who is an integral part of Pony Club, from the Regional Board to the club and center leaders, to parents and other family members.
- **Your time and talents are appreciated** in delivering the Pony Club program to our members.

Volunteer Recognition Awards

This award is intended to be given at the local and regional level for those volunteers in a club, center, or region who have “gone above and beyond the call of duty.” These volunteers can be recognized in the Pony Club News magazine.

7 award recipients 2016



Carolina Region

The Kevin Mather ‘Barn Dad’ Memorial Volunteer Award

This award is given annually to an outstanding Carolina Region volunteer who has given their time and talents to contribute to the success of Pony Club in the Carolina Region.

The award is a memorial to Kevin R. Mather, Vice Regional Supervisor for the Carolina Region, who exemplified the best in volunteering: Selflessness; Contribution of time, knowledge and skills; Presence in the barns at rallies and clinics; Camaraderie and friendly banter with youth members; and Pride in the Region (Winning the inflatable horse race at Championships 2016). Kevin combined a passion for helping youth members with understanding of the tenets of the USPC, always encouraging the members, taking time to listen to members and volunteers, treating all members equally, and setting an example for all. He was a devoted husband and father in the pony club family of Yadkin Valley Hounds Pony Club.



Other Business

- Dues payments for 2016
 - Need \$15 per member added during the year
- See chart below. Send dues form and check to Lynn Huggins, treasurer
- Region Web page – Jay Ahlstrom
 - USPC Annual Fund appeal
 - Supports key programs – youth congress, international exchange, training
 - \$207K goal for 2016
 - Compete online <https://www.ponyclub.org/secure/Forms/MakeAGift.aspx>
 - Improves grant success

In hand →

2016 Dues by Club	Dues paid	members paid	Oct-16 members USPC	Dues short	\$
Aiken County	\$ 105.00	7	16	9	\$ 135.00
Brickhouse		0	15	15	\$ 225.00
Cardinal II		0	7	7	\$ 105.00
Charleston	\$ -	0	0	0	\$ -
Eno Triangle	\$ 375.00	25	32	7	\$ 105.00
Eno Triangle Master		0	32	32	\$ 480.00
Greenville Foothills	\$ 540.00	36	42	6	\$ 90.00
Hidden K	\$ 300.00	20	26	6	\$ 90.00
Lowcountry	\$ 15.00	1	13	12	\$ 180.00
Moore County	\$ 120.00	8	7	-1	\$ (15.00)
Palmetto	\$ 360.00	24	23	-1	\$ (15.00)
Pee Dee	\$ 195.00	13	13	0	\$ -
River Valley	\$ 405.00	27	36	9	\$ 135.00
Rocky River	\$ 270.00	18	17	-1	\$ (15.00)
Sandy Ridge		0	4	4	\$ 60.00
Triad	\$ 75.00	5	7	2	\$ 30.00
Yadkin Valley Hounds	\$ 450.00	30	34	4	\$ 60.00
	\$ 3,210.00	214	324	110	\$ 1,650.00



Volunteer Recognition

- Special thanks for your service to our members that are leaving the Region Board
 - Jen Kimbrough – secretary
 - Paula Hennon - HMO
 - Lynn Huggins - Treasurer
 - Margaret Crevar - RIC
 - Alicia Henderson – RIC
- Congratulations and Thank you to our Volunteer Recognition Award recipients who are also all nominees for the Mather Volunteer Award:
 - Jay Ahlstrom (VRS) – Organizing rallies with clubs, Rally onsite leadership, region equipment, nominating committee, new website
 - Laura Davidson (DC) – scoring leadership, implementation of start box
 - Sarah Deal (DC) – SJ Rally organizer, budget, paperwork, Eventing rally secretary, pinnie care and tracking
 - Helen Firby – Organizer Tet at SJ Rally, led XC at Eventing Rally, accommodations for officials, volunteer coordination
 - Sandy Larson (DC) – setting up and hosting UL preps for region, led Dressage and SJ phases for Eventing Rally.
 - Denise Ritacco – Eventing Rally organization and facilities, UL test support with food, accommodation.
 - Janna Ritacco (NE) – Took complete responsibility for all 3 UL Tests in Region – dates, locations, communication, hospitality barn friendlies, facilities, equipment, weekend host.

Award winner: Janna Ritacco

