

**Deep South Region
Annual Meeting Minutes
2009**

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2009

Place: Isle of Capri Hotel, Biloxi Ms

Presiding: Lena Coleman RS

Call to Order: 9:15am

Present: Regional Council: PK Richter, VRS; Bebe Brown, VRS; Sue Varenholt, VRS; Ray Stronsky, VRS; Amy Weathers, Secretary; Beth Hays, Treasurer; Joe White HMO; David Roberts (Gulf Coast Gallopers); Debbie Frey (Mobile Bay); Anne Kornak-Baronne (Plantation Pride); Lisa Sheridan, (Emerald Coast); Josephine Austin (Saddle Up); Mary Anderson (River Riders); Todd Weathers (Magnolia); Kecia Jackson (Jump for Joy) Cathy Fenner (Cantering Cajuns).

Others Present: Kate McNeel, Jaque Bittner, Stacey Dunbar, Rachelle Higdon, Sandra Payne, Rachelle Benton, and Nancy Vickers.

I. Introduction of Attendees:

- Everyone introduced himself or herself and said what position they held or how they contribute to their club.

II. Minutes

- 2008 Minutes were distributed and read. A few questions were asked and answered. Bebe motioned to accept the minutes and Lisa second. All approved

III. Financial Report

- Given by Beth Hays
- All attendees received copies of the P and L statement for the region.
- Anne motioned to accept and Josephine second. Motion passed.

IV. State of the Region

- Presented by Lena Coleman
- Deep South Region has currently 177 members, 11 clubs and 1 riding center as of November 2009.
- Yazoo, Red Stick, and Southern Breeze are remaining inactive.
- Indian Creek from Lake Charles, LA wishes to become active again. Because of the status awarded it last year, they must establish a new club with a new name.
- Two groups in LA have inquired about starting a new club

V. VRS Admin Report

- Sue Varenholt has asked that all clubs establish or review their club policies and procedures.
- Availability of examples on the national website for clubs to review when establishing theirs.

VI. VRS Activities Report

- PK Richter presented a spreadsheet outlining rally participation for the 2009 year. All present were given a copy. Suggestions were made to include date of rally and location on future spreadsheets.
- As a whole the region essentially broke even with some rallies losing money and others making a profit. Discussed that the decision to allow the region to get the money for rallies instead of individual clubs was a good one, because the region can stand to have some rallies lose and others gain.
- Due to the participation fee being a redundant fee, PK proposed to remove the club participation fee currently on Rally Budget form and increase the contingency fee to 7% on the proposed Rally Budget Form. Beth motioned and Bebe seconds. Motion passed.
- 2009 Champ camp cost for competitors was based on a break even basis with each competitor only paying for what they used. PK displayed 2009 ChampCamp budget for review.
- Decided that rally information be sent to all DC's for their review prior sending out to club members. Once completed it will be up to the DC's to forward on to their club members. The DSR (DC) Digest will be more for information sharing.
- Joan Singletary has been acting as our official scorer with Alan Wise in training. They are working to establish an online scoring system that will be tied into their scoring sheets. This is still in the process, but promising to be a time saver.
- **Volunteers** – It was decided that the role of Volunteer Coordinator would be stressed as a part of the rally organizing team and that the coordinator would attempt to contact all volunteers that submit a volunteer form with their entries. The volunteer Coordinator will be located at the secretary table at check in.
- Discussed the importance for DC's to explain to their riders to be sure to check IF qualifying for championships or not. Riders will be given a predetermined time frame at rally to notify the organizer of their intentions to qualify. Qualifiers will be announced at the ribbon ceremony.
- Decided to begin using volunteer evaluation sheets for DCs to give to parents at the end of rallies to hopefully find issues needing correction at the rally and handling them rather than allowing them to build up.

VII. VRS Instruction

- Given by Bebe Brown
- 2009 held great clinics and preps.
- Extravaganza had 29 mounted participants and 34 unmounted. It also offered D3, C1, and C2 ratings. There were 12 D3s, 1 C1, and 4 C2s who rated at the event.
- Discussed the availability of upper level clinics to encourage upper level pony clubbers to strive for higher learning.
- 2010 the Deep South Region will be encouraging member clubs to host upper level clinics that are designed for horse management not just for the riding skills. Not going to concentrate on “prep” per say, but more teaching the necessary skills.
- Dates will be check to move Extravaganza to September.

VIII. HMO Report

- Given by Joe White
- **Rally Issues** – encourage all DCs and adults to remind members of the concept of “teamwork.” To encourage clubs to make ALL scrambled team members feel a part of the group not as an outsider.
- Josephine opened discussion concerning coaches helping at rallies. It was identified that teams coming without a coach creates a problem. Coaches are to be provided with EACH team sent to each rally that requires them. A *coach* is not required to be a certified trainer or teacher, but rather some adult that will be responsible for the safety of the children sent from that club. It is the coach’s responsibility to insure the children’s safety.
- The issue of extended times between formals and ride times was discussed. A decision was made to insure effective communication between the organizer and CHMJ concerning delays in ride times that we include a “communication safety officer” at all rallies. This person would make sure the officials and riders in the barn area are kept informed to ring delays.
- Joe identified lunging as a drain on the HM team since clubs were not providing a person to lunge horses. It was decided that IF a horse will require lunging, it is up to that club to provide the appropriate person for the job. IF incidents occur of unforeseen nature, then an appropriate person will be provided.
- Joe identified the additional following issues that need to be stressed:
 - NEVER an excuse for our kids to miss required equipment.
 - Kids are not following safety rules. Riding without stirrups to barn for example.
 - Have DC’s stress that equipment be rally ready at all pony club meetings.

- *All rally attire is as stated in the national policy. The no jeans rule will be enforced throughout the entire rally.*
- Joe stated he could attend 2 of the 3 cluster HM clinics. Magnolia has offered and Emerald Coast has offered. Times TBA.

IX. VRS Advisory Report

- Our current membership includes:
1- HA; 2-B Traditional; 2- C3; 12-C2; 12-C1; 19- D3; 52- D2; 27 - D1; and 50 unrated.
- Discussed ways to improve communications within the region. Still have many club officers not signed up on yahoo groups. Encourage officers to join the DSR Officers Digest.
- Kate McNeel and Kendell Richter will work to update the Deep South Region Facebook page to establish an effective means of communication for our members.
- Regional roster will be updated every 3 months. Ray will be requesting the National Database for this. All DC's need to review the roster when it is posted and if there are any discrepancies then they need to contact the National Office.

Old Business

- Beth Hays presented a PowerPoint presentation on the flow of paperwork. All present were given an informational booklet for reference. Points that were stressed:
 - Many tools are available on the USPC website.
 - Tell all to refer to the DC Guide for responsibilities, AM requirements, Record Keeping, and master member worksheet.
 - Stressed the importance of keeping insurance form obtained when having clinics and or rally meetings for 7 years as required by the national office.
- PK Richter presented a Power Point presentation on the basics of running a rally. All present were given an informational booklet for reference. It was stressed that help was always available during the entire rally organizing process. Issues that were discussed during the presentation included:
 - Remember that proposed budgets for rallies are due no later than 8 weeks prior to the rally.
 - Include the physical address of all facilities due to the increase in GPS usage.

- Once organizers have established team lists for rallies, it will be sent to DC's for clarification of ratings and team composition.
- Since many stalls are not being appropriately cleaned/stripped at the end of the rally, the decision was made that any rally participant who does not strip their stalls at the end of the rally will pay a fee (set by the organizer) to the hosting club. The fee will be assessed to the member responsible, not the club.
- *No need to include the necessary pony club forms when sending a rally packet to PK. She will attach what is required*

X. National Level Competition

- National criteria for championship qualifications often change with the USPC annual meeting. Check the Discipline Newsletter for updates.
- The region will uphold our policy concerning Quiz participation as criteria for Championship qualification. PK stated that she has put together a database of quiz participants based on the last 4 years. If a discrepancy occurs then the DC's will need to submit documentation of a member's quiz rally participation.

XI. Champ Camp

- Not just concentrate on riding, but stress HM aspect. Our region did not do as well as they should have this year in HM, and points were taken off for things the kids *should* have known. We want to insure they all will be prepared for the 2010 championships.
- If teams are established for championships, then the team should choose their coach and have that coach present at champ camp.
- Location to be announced.

XII. Subsidizing UL Ratings – revisited

- In 2009 the entry fee for C3 and above was reimbursed by the region. Wording was amended to say the region would reimburse for one test per level (Pass or Fail) per member. The upper level is defined as C3, HB, B and H.
- Due to the increased expenses with the HA and A testing, the region will reimburse the testing fee as stated above plus provide a one time per rating \$400 subsidy. This will be revisited next year.
- This policy will be retroactive for Katie White.
- Motioned by Bebe and Second by David. Motion passed.

XIII. Regional Equipment

- PK Richter presented our current inventory of regional equipment. She will keep the Horse Management box and the small enclosed trailer that houses regional pennies, games equipment, radios, tents, etc.
- David Roberts has the stock trailer that is in bad shape. He is to get cost comparisons of repairs and replacement. Tabled for further information.
- David has the DSR Utility trailer for the purpose of adding shelving. Once complete, it will go to PK for storage of DSR equipment.
- David will also make a budget for the proposed purchase of making fixed numbers for cross country jumps rather than using paper plates. If it can be done within a budget of \$200, then all were in favor of proceeding.
- 2010 the region needs to purchase another set of pinnies, more banners, and 4 ez up tents.
- The region needs to replenish any PVC that may be missing in the regional Dressage equipment so that we will have 3 complete set of covers for exposed stakes for 3 rings. David Roberts will handle that.

XIV. Recognition of kids aging out

- Sarah Vickers from PPPC aged out this year. A brick will be purchased with her name from the region to be at the Kentucky Horse Park. DC's must send information to the treasurer for a brick to be purchased and she will submit to the national office.

XV. National Youth Congress

- This year we have 2 qualified nominations for the national youth council:
- Tyler Frye from Mobile Bay (Nominated by Bebe Brown) and Kendell Richter (Nominated by Cathy Fenner) from Canterng Cajuns.
- Discussions of the resume of both candidates. Paper ballot ensued. Tyler was named our 2010 representative. Kendell is named the alternate.

XVI. Regional Fundraising

- Ray proposed the Deep South hosting the AM again. All agreed that we could use New Orleans and a Mardi Gras theme.

Lisa Motioned to proceed, Rachelle second. Motion passed. Ray will talk to Nationals and see when we could host it.

- Josephine proposed a regional cookbook. We could carry the Mardi Gras theme through and sell at the 2011 AM with a pre-registration blank in the front
- Established a cookbook committee: Josephine Austin, Mary Anderson, and Sandra Payne
- Lena and David Roberts will look into the possibility of working with SEDA in hosting a recognized show.

XVII. Rally Issues

- Need to establish criteria for the current perpetual trophies. This rally year we had awards given incorrectly. These criteria will give the rally organizer a tool by which the recipient will be chosen.
- Awards may be given at any rally at the organizer's discretion.
- It is asked that we have no more perpetual awards without the council approval
- Kecia brought up the issue of HM personnel smoking near the barns. It was decided that organizers will need to establish a designated smoking area away from the barn.
- Mary Anderson from River Riders was asked by her club to open discussions on the alcohol consumption on rally grounds. Because the adults are the ones consuming the alcohol, we have no grounds to police for this.

We can encourage anyone with an open container of alcohol to use discretion and use a cup. Also to try to stay away from the children.

The availability of alcohol is prevalent at other sporting events involving children as well as equestrian sports were noted.

- Discussion of emergency equipment donated to the region. Emerald Coast had some medical supplies donated to the region as well as supplies acquired by PK. We now have an Emergency Kitt for use at regional rallies and clinics. PK stressed that criteria for the level of Emergency Personnel required is outlined in the discipline rulebooks. A decision was made that for our region we would require an ambulance be on site for all mounted rallies except for dressage.

New Business

- **Rewording of the required attendance to a C2 prep.**
Requiring a C2 prep is against a national policy. Bebe motioned to strike the C2 prep wording from our policies. With a second from David, the motion passed.
The region is still encouraging clubs to offer upper level clinics to help members be prepared for upper level ratings.
- **Discussion of term limits for officers**
Rachelle opened discussion about the limiting the time frame for regional officers. Much discussion on the issue was made. Because of the amount of work that is required, and the time involved, and the distance between many officers, it is not possible to have a 'mentoring' program as proposed by Rachelle. Lena encouraged any regional adult to please feel welcome to run for any office each year.
- **Forming a Regional Youth Council for DSR**
Lena proposed establishing a regional youth council. Criteria were set forth and can be obtained from Lena. All agreed with the idea. Each club will select a candidate of appropriate age (15 years by January 2010) to help Lena solve problems within the members, and establish new ideas. Will visit the age requirement each year

XVIII. Regional Activities Calendar

- 3 HM clinics will be offered from cluster clubs
- SR and Instruction clinics – because of the number of spring and summer rallies, it was agreed that Bebe will look into a September date for Extravaganza 2010. River Riders PC will assist.

Tentative Rally Dates and Locations for 2010

Eventing	March 12 - 14	Folsom	Gulfcoast Gallopers/ Cantering Cajun Saddle up assist
Showjumping/ Tet	April 23-25 (tent.) or June	Folsom	Cantering Cajun – TET

			Plantation Pride – SJ (Mobile Bay assist)
Dressage	May 28 - 30	Harrison Co.	Jump for Joy (Magnolia assist)
Champ Camp	July 16- 18	TBA	REGION
Championships EAST	July 29 – Aug 1	Lexington VA	
Extravaganza	Sept ?	TBA	Plantation Pride (River Rider assist)
Games/ Quiz	Nov 5-7 (Tent)	Hattiesburg?	Emerald Coast - games (Saddle Up assist)/ Mobile Bay – quiz
DSR Annual Meeting	Nov.12-14	Isle of Capri, Biloxi, MS	

XIX. Proposed 2010 Budget

- Beth Hays presented a proposed budget for 2010. It is on file with the secretary of the region.
- Amy motioned to accept the budget, Lisa second and the motion passed.

XX. Explanation of New RIC National Policy

- Lena explained the RIC position by reading the national RIC policy. The RIC is now part of the regional council.
- Lena stated what the Nominating Committee is only required to fill. The 5 *required* positions are:
RS
VRS
RIC
Secretary
Treasurer
- Lena stated what positions the Nominating Committee has traditionally filled but what is not in our current policies.
- Beth motioned to include for 2009 and 2010 the traditional VRS positions.;VRS Activities, VRS Administration, VRS Advisory and VRS Instruction/ RIC. Lisa seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- Cathy Fenner presented the 2009 Nominating Committees nominations for 2010 executive council:

RS – Lena Coleman

VRS Activities – PK Richter

RIC/VRS Instruction – Bebe Brown

Secretary – Amy Weathers

Treasurer – Beth Hays

Kecia motioned to accept the nominations and David second. All were in favor.

- Lisa nominated from the floor
VRS Administration – Sue Varenholt
VRS Advisory – Ray Stronsky
Beth second and the officers were elected for 2010.

XXI Assignment of Policy Committee for Regional Officers and Duties

- Lena stated that she was going to come up with a list of Officers and Duties to add to our policies to be voted on by the council at the next council meeting. She will consult with the officers presently serving on the duties.

XXII Appointments

- Lena appointed as Chief HMO – Joe White

XXII 2010 Nominating Committee

- 2010 Nominating Committee was selected. Members are as follows: Cathy Fenner, Anne Kornak-Baronne, and Debbie Frey
- Amy proposed to accept the nominating committee, Kate second and the committee was formed.

XXIII Motion for Exception

- Beth motioned to allow Lena, Sue and Bebe to hold offices within their clubs as well as regional office. Kecia second and motion passed.

XXIV Adjournment

Lena proposed to adjourn and Amy second at 7:20pm.

