



# PEACE POINTS

## USPC Eventing Rally Success

The Peace Point Pony Club team competed in their first Pony Club Eventing Rally on Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24 at Stone Gate Farm in northeast Ohio. Eventing is the core discipline of Pony Club and helps to develop a well-rounded rider. There are three phases to the discipline, cross country, dressage and stadium jumping. For more information on eventing, visit <http://eventing.ponyclub.org>.

Success is always sweet, but more so when you are a Pony Club riding center that is less than a year old who is finishing in the top three at Rallies. The formation of the Peace Point Pony Club Riding Center was announced in February of 2006. This new riding center rides operates out of the three-year-old equestrian facility, Peace Point Equestrian Center. This riding center is not only distinguished when it comes to ribbons but the center is also the first center in the United States to be based at a college or university.

The recent success of this young center comes from Stone Gate Farm in Northeast Ohio. A team of four members, Ashley Anderson, Brooke Drury, Brandon Fischer and Mickie Pilla competed together in their first Eventing Qualifying Rally which happened to be hosted by the Tri-State Region and the Western Reserve Riding Center.

“Git-R-Done” was the theme of the Rally for the Peace Point Team and they did just that. In their very first rally, the team won the entire event overall and to top it off, the team was awarded first place for horse management. Three out of four members, Anderson, Drury and Fischer, competed in the Novice Division. Drury was awarded second place overall for the Rally; Anderson earned first place overall and had the lowest dressage score of any participant in the Rally. Fischer placed in the top ten. Pilla competed in a more advanced division, the Preliminary Division; she also placed in the top ten.

The successful team consists of Ashley Anderson a Pre-Vet/Horse Management freshman at Bethany College and a C3 member of the White Mountain Region, Brooke Drury a Business major and Equine Studies minor freshman at Bethany College and a C3 mem-

ber of the Delmarva Region, Mickie Pilla a Pre-Law and Business Marketing major freshman at Bethany College and a C3 member of the Northern Lakes region, and the last riding member of the team, Brandon Fischer, a senior at McGuffey High School and a C3 member of the Tri-State Region. Last but not least, the Horse Manager for the Peace Point Pony Club Riding Center was Libby Reidy, a freshman Pre-vet Major at Bethany College and a H member of Virginia Region.

Peace Point’s own Executive Director, Ellen Fischer, coached the team for the Event. Fischer is and has been actively involved in Pony Club for 30 years. She is a USPC National Examiner, Clinician and Draft Horse Judge. In 2004, Fischer was honored as a Pony Club Legend at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.



From left to right: Ashley Anderson, Libby Reidy, Ellen Fischer (coach), Brandon Fischer, Mickie Pilla, Brooke Drury

***Love means attention, which means looking after the things we love. We call this stable management.***

***-George H. Morris***

## Rider Fitness is Important

By Nicole Holden

Many riders believe that sport-specific exercise is not important. Even riders at the highest level may feel that they are immune from injury or simple muscle fatigue. In recent years, however, cross-training has become de rigueur not only for our Olympic athletes, but also for amateurs and beginner or novice riders.

All persons who participate in equestrian activities are able to benefit from some form of exercise program. The basic skills of balance, strength, flexibility and aerobic fitness are paramount to success in, and enjoyment of, riding. Without those basic skills, many riders find riding to be difficult, tiring and even a little scary.

One of our Olympians, Anne Kursinski says that, "We riders and our equine partners need to be strong, supple, and generally fit to prevent injury and to maximize our performance". While Ms. Kursinski has the opportunity to ride many horses every day to perfect her own riding, most riders only ride occasionally and for them, an exercise program is even more important. Without the constant practice of balance and mobility on horseback, most of us need to develop our skills elsewhere, like in the gym.

Working out, outside of the stable, has ancillary benefits too. Beginning a workout program and sticking with it allows riders to set and achieve personal, specific goals. Goal-setting skills carry over into the riding arena where the rider may draw upon this mental toughness to perfect a new skill or to simply move to the next level. In this way, the rider is achieving mental fitness as well as physical fitness.

There may be many obstacles that riders encounter on the road to getting fit. The gym may be too far away or too expensive or the rider may lack time to actually visit the gym. However, there are many resources available to the stay-at-home rider. The Internet is a great place to start and there are books such as *The Rider's Fitness Program* by Dennis, McCully & Juris or *Yoga for Equestrians* by Benedik & Worth to help. Additionally, riders are able to purchase workout videos specific to the sport. Sometimes, just having another rider to exercise with provides motivation and the encouragement necessary to keep going.

The goal of every equestrian is to become "one" with their horse or to move fluidly and effortlessly with their mount. A rider who is neither fit nor prepared to ride, will be at a disadvantage to achieving this unity. An out-of-stable exercise program will increase a rider's coordination, thereby increasing his/her ability to effectively communicate with the horse. Additionally, a proper workout program will allow a rider to enjoy the sport with less effort and will decrease the likelihood of injury.

## Yee-Haw!

Most people know that Peace Point Equestrian Center has been rapidly expanding. Among the many firsts the center has had in the past year, another very important event was held this past November.

On Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 Peace Point Equestrian Center hosted a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rodeo with the help of Rawhide Rodeo, a well-known and experienced rodeo contractor. The rodeo was to benefit the Bethany Fire Department and Peace Point Foundation.

Rodeo events held both nights included Bull Riding, Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Barrel Racing, Calf Roping, Team Roping, and Steer Wrestling.

In addition to the traditional rodeo events, the rodeo also featured food vendors, a beer truck, tack/apparel vendors, roping machine, petting zoo, western-themed inflatables, bucking machine and DJ.

The event took place in Peace Point's brand new indoor arena. The arena is built very similar to the first indoor arena at the center. The second indoor arena is 100 feet longer and also has ESPN standard lighting.

Despite cold temperatures and rainy weather, approximately 1000 people attended the rodeo on Friday night and approximately 1500 people attended on Saturday night.

There are already plans in the works for a second rodeo this spring. The tentative date for the International Professional Rodeo Association (IPRA) and the American Professional Rodeo Association rodeo (APRA) is Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10.



Two team ropers during one of the rodeos  
Photo courtesy of Jay Libby

## New Four-Legged Friends

### Joint Venture

Joint Venture commonly referred at Peace Point as JV, is a 9-year-old chestnut Dutch Warmblood gelding who was recruited by Nicole Holden to join the Peace Point school horses. JV was donated by Betsy Larson and Mary DiCarlo of Northern Illinois. In the past, JV has shown hunter and competed in the pregreen, children's hunter divisions and the Midwest A circuit

### Ichiban

"Ichi" is a 12-year-old dark bay Holsteiner mare. She was donated by Lindsey Bradshaw and traveled to Peace Point all the way from Colorado. Before becoming a school horse at Peace Point, Ichiban was previously an open jumper.

### Travelin Soldier

This five-year-old gray Thoroughbred gelding was donated by Jodi and Megan Winkler. Even though soldier has only been off the track for a year, he has competed in two combined tests and has also schooled cross country.



*Soldier being ridden by his previous owner*

## Recent News

- On Thursday, September 28, Gene Valentine, CEO of Peace Point Equestrian Center, made it possible for Paul O'Neill, former Secretary of the Treasury to speak at Bethany for the day. O'Neill spoke to a filled Commencement Hall on the Bethany College campus on issues such as the national deficit and other related matters.
- September 29 through October 1 marked the dates of the second endurance ride held at Peace Point. Despite the rain, the ride was an overall great success with over 140 entries traveling from all over the country; one competitor hauled horses from Texas.
- On November 4 and 5, National Examiner Nancy Grout visited Peace Point to instruct an upper level (C2 and up) Pony Club jumping clinic. Approximately 11 members participated in the clinic.
- The four students of the Show Coordination and Competition class worked hard to organize the first judged trail ride hosted at Peace Point Equestrian Center. The day of the ride was Sunday, October 22, 2006. The Halloween themed ride drew in approximately 29 entries.
- Gene Valentine is now running a Bed and Breakfast out of several of the local properties he owns. The rooms range from \$49.99 to \$187.99 (plus tax) per night. Guests are provided with a self-serve continental breakfast which includes muffins, coffee, tea, fruit and/or bagels.
- Peace Point is still accepting members for the Hunt and Gun Club. For a yearly fee, members can take advantage of the 2,000+ acres to hunt animals indigenous to the area such as deer, turkey, pheasant, grouse, groundhog and red fox.
- This past month, Gene Valentine purchased 500+ acres in Wellsburg, WV. The property was previously owned by the Catholic Knights. In addition to the land, a mansion, reception building and assisted living facility was also purchased.
- Peace Point Equestrian Center is now home to a Horsemasters Program. Horsemasters is similar to Pony Club in that it teaches basic riding skills and horse management, the main difference is that members must be age 26 or older. An open house was held at the end of November; 25 people took advantage of the day-long event.



### PPEC CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Peace Point Pictures



*The hunt seat team after Bethany College was announced as High Point Team*



*Ashley Anderson on her horse Liam at the Pony Club Eventing Rally*



*Kayla Pavlik, Brittany Celata, Jaimee Stewart and Lauren Testa pose for a picture before competing*



*Members of the Equestrian Club aboard their float for the Bethany College homecoming parade*



*Members of the Western Team- Don Jox (coach), Michelle Werner, Ashley Iwaniec and Briana Boyd*



*Newest indoor arena lit up on the night of the rodeo  
Photo courtesy of Jay Libby*