



PEACE POINTS

Best of America by Horseback

“Best of America by Horseback” has announced Peace Point Equestrian Center as the West Virginia location for their “Grand Tour of America.”

“Best of America by Horseback” is a weekly trail riding television series on RFD-TV (24-Hour Television Network for Rural America) that highlights trail ride opportunities throughout the country.

The tour is scheduled to stop at Peace Point Equestrian Center the weekend of Friday, August 17, 2007 through Sunday, August 19, 2007. The trail ride being filmed for the show is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. After lunch there will be a trail ride hosted by Peace Point Executive Director, Ellen Fischer. Other activities throughout the weekend include an apple pie baking contest, food and gift vendors, music groups, cowboy church and much more.

There is a \$50 registration fee for the guided trail ride on Saturday morning. For more information on the “Grand Tour of America” or to register for the ride, visit www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com or call 540-829-9555.

Permanent (\$30/night) and temporary (\$20/night) stalls are available and include first bedding. Primitive camping spots with porta johns and water hose can be reserved as well as trailer/camper parking (\$10/night) and rooms at the local motel.

Space is limited and is on a first come first serve bases. Stabling reservations are due by August 5, 2007 or while availability lasts.

To reserve horse stalls or camping call Peace Point Equestrian Center at 304-829-4800, to reserve Peace Point Bed and Breakfast housing call 724-747-6358 and to reserve rooms at the nearby motel call 304-829-4343.

Best of America by Horseback

<http://www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com/>



Tom Seay, host of the show

Upcoming Events

- Mid-July
United States Pony Club International Inter-Pacific Exchange 2007
- Friday-Sunday, August 17-19, 2007
Best of America By Horseback showcases Peace Point Equestrian Center
- Monday, August 27
Fall semester classes begin at Bethany College

Equestrian Team News

Dressage Team Heads to Nationals

For the first time, one of the Bethany College Equestrian Teams qualified for Nationals. Even though the dressage team has been competing for less than a year and is comprised of mostly freshmen, the young team is beating their tough, well-established competition.

The Bethany College Dressage Team headed to Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ on Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29 for the IDA (Intercollegiate Dressage Association) 2007 National Championship. The following team members qualified for team competition, Mickie Pilla, Brooke Drury, Libby Reidy and Maggie Soulsby. Mickie Pilla qualified individually for First Level and Brooke Drury qualified individually for Training Level.

The Bethany team placed 11th out of 12 teams. Pilla and Drury, freshman who were both qualified individually placed 10th and 4th.



*Members of the dressage team at Nationals
From left to right– Maggie Soulsby,
Libby Reidy, Mickie Pilla and Brooke Drury*

This semester, the dressage team also hosted their first IDA show at Peace Point Equestrian Center. On Saturday, March 10, the team hosted 12 teams with almost 50 entries.

A second IDA show took place at Peace Point Equestrian Center on Saturday, March 24 followed by a dressage clinic on Sunday, March 25 conducted by Jane Kelly from Tecumseh, MI, who also judged the IDA show on Saturday.



*Briana Boyd, a sophomore member of
the western team after her class*

Hunt Seat Team Results

The Bethany College Hunt Seat Team ended their 2006-2007 show season in third place with 188 points behind West Virginia University (268 points) and the University of Pittsburgh (241 points). The following four Hunt Seat Team members qualified for Zone 3 Region 3 Regionals; junior Gary Cooper, sophomore Lindsey Walsh, sophomore Ashley Iwaniec and freshman Ashley Anderson.

Regionals took place Sunday, April 1 at Willows Equestrian Center in Fairview, PA. Any rider who places first or second in his/her class at Regionals qualifies for Zone 3 Zones. Ashley Iwaniec placed second in walk/trot/canter and Ashley Anderson took home a second in novice over fences, both competed at Zones. Zones took place on Saturday, April 7 at Horse on Course Equestrian Center in Valencia, PA. Anderson placed seventh and Iwaniec placed fourth.



*Ashley Anderson and Ashley Iwaniec with their second place
ribbons after the Zone 3 Region 3 Hunt Seat Regionals*

Western Team Results

The team may be small but there is no doubt when it comes to the team's success. The Bethany College Western Team completed their spring show season in fourth place behind West Virginia University, Kutztown University and Bloomsburg University. The team attended two shows on Saturday, March 10 and one show on Sunday, March 11. All three shows were hosted by California University of Pennsylvania at the Greene County Fair Grounds. Western team members Ashley Iwaniec and Briana Boyd both qualified for Zone 3 Region 4 Western Regionals which took place on Sunday, March 11 following the morning show at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Iwaniec placed fifth and Boyd placed first in her class which qualified her for IHSA Western Zone 3 Region 4 Semi-Finals. Semi-Finals took place on Saturday, March 24 at Tennessee Miller Coliseum in Murfreesboro, TN. Boyd placed sixth in the competition.

Recently Donated Four-Legged Friends

Gabina

This eleven-year-old black Dutch Warmblood/Thoroughbred mare is more commonly known as Blackie around Peace Point. She was donated in March by Dara Legg. In the past, Blackie has been used for eventing and hunter/jumpers. This is the second horse donated by Dara; the first donation was Tego.



Blackie being ridden by her previous owner

Peace Point Partners with Williams Racing

Peace Point Equestrian Center has partnered with Williams Racing Corporation to take advantage of the Lucrative Breeder Award in West Virginia.

This spring 10 brood mares from a breeding farm in Michigan will be boarded at Peace Point Equestrian Center until they foal. The foals will return to the farm in Michigan approximately 10 days after they are born.

In addition to benefiting the breeding farm, Peace Point also benefits from the program because Peace Point will receive a percentage of the money that the colt, filly or stallion earns during his/her racing career in West Virginia.

As of the end of April, two foals have been born; there are eight more to go.

In the future, Peace Point hopes to become a satellite facility for the program where the program's brood mares will be boarded at Peace Point year round.

Local High School to Team

In early November, administration of Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy in Wheeling, WV, signed a formal agreement with Peace Point Equestrian Center that will allow the Academy to use the facilities, instructors and faculty to develop an equine studies concentration at the private school in Wheeling, WV.

The new program is planned to begin at the start of the school year in the fall of 2007. Peace Point faculty will visit Mount de Chantal for the classroom equine classes. The students will be transported to the Center for hands-on classes and mounted lessons.

Courses offered in the equine concentration at Mount de Chantal include classes such as equine husbandry, horsemanship, horse management as well as horse-related science courses. Students enrolled in the equine studies concentration program will complete the classes needed for Mount de Chantal's college preparatory diploma.

Students from the tri-state area may join the program at any age. Students out of the area may become boarding students at Mount de Chantal starting in the seventh grade. Mount de Chantal boarders may also board their horse(s) at Peace Point Equestrian Center.

It is unknown how many students will enter the new program but with a joint promotions effort and Peace Point's past history, the program is expected to become popular very quickly. As of mid-April there were already nine students signed up for the program and approximately 15 students still deciding.

Recent News

- Ashley Anderson, a freshman and the member of the Bethany College Hunt seat and Dressage teams and Rabo Nijenhuis, coach of the IHSA Hunt Seat Team, competed at the Lake Erie Prix de Ville Friday, April 13 through Sunday, April 15. Anderson placed fourth out of 27.
- On May 5, 2007, the first Equine Studies major and minors will be graduating from Bethany College. Katie Haines will be graduating with a major in Equine Management. Jobeth Rollandini and Shanna Gabel both Biology majors, will graduate with Equine Studies minors.
- Peace Point continues to attract students to Bethany College. As of mid-April, 35 students have decided to attend the college because of the intercollegiate riding teams, Pony Club, boarding facilities and/or the Equine Studies program through the school.
- At the beginning of April, Peace Point Pony Club attended a Quiz Rally in Butler, PA. Once again the Club was very successful. A first place was brought home in Senior D and Junior D and a fourth place won in Junior D.
- Peace Point is currently in search of a **hunt seat instructor** and **IHSA Hunt Seat Coach**. For more information please contact Ellen Fischer at Peace Point Equestrian Center.



PPEC CONTACT INFORMATION

**Gene Valentine— CEO, Founder/
Benefactor**

**Ellen Fischer—Executive Director/Interim Director of
Equine Studies/Adjunct Faculty/
Instructor
efischer@bppef.org**

**WWW.PEACEPOINTFARMS.COM
304-829-4800
INFO@BPPEF.ORG**

Rodeo

With the success of the first rodeo back in November of 2006, Peace Point Equestrian Center decided to host another rodeo. Just like the last rodeo the rodeo turned out to be a great time for contestants, spectators and even the volunteers.

On Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14, Peace Point Equestrian Center hosted an International Professional Rodeo Association (APRA) and American Professional Rodeo Association (APRA) sanctioned 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. Because of the volume of entries, several teams of Team Ropers and Barrel Racers competed after the rodeo during the slack.

In addition to the traditional rodeo events, the rodeo also featured food vendors, a beer truck, tack/apparel vendors, mechanical bull riding contest, inflatables and petting zoo.

The event took place in Peace Point's larger indoor arena which was completed in November of 2006. The second indoor arena is 100 feet longer than the first indoor arena and is equipped with ESPN standard lighting and 10 sets of portable bleachers.

Despite cold temperatures and rainy weather, approximately 1500 people attended the rodeo on Friday night and approximately 2000 people attended the rodeo on Saturday night.



View of the rodeo on Friday night from the stands

Adult Riding Program

Peace Point Equestrian Center is planning an adult horse program to accommodate parents of Pony Club members and adults who want to discover a new lifelong love.

The program is still in the planning stage, but the goal of the program is to provide adults with the opportunity to learn the basics of horseback riding and horse care.

Regardless of their prior experience with horses, all adults, both men and women are encouraged to become a part of the Adult Program at Peace Point Equestrian Center. We do expect members of the adult program to be at least 25 years old.

Volunteerism is an important part of the adult program, in fact, it is strongly encouraged. The best way to learn, is to teach others. At Peace Point Equestrian Center there are several groups that are constantly looking for committed volunteers.

The center is an official Pony Club Riding Center, there are Pony Club members ages 7-25 that are always looking for some extra support. Peace Point Equestrian Center is also the home for three Bethany College Equestrian Teams, a dressage team, a hunt seat team and a western team. These teams host intercollegiate shows and clinics throughout the fall and spring semesters. They frequently need help, especially with the horses.

If you are interested and want more information please call or e-mail Peace Point Equestrian Center.

New IHSA Western Coach

Suzanne Mocniak has been named coach of the Bethany College Western Team at Peace Point.

Mocniak has a Bachelor degree in Economics, Business Administration and Personnel and Labor Relations from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL. She also has an M.B.A. with an emphasis on Statistics and Marketing from the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL.

Mocniak has been training competitive performance horses in all-around events for over 30 years. She has also successfully coached youth and amateur Western and Hunt Seat riders in local, breed, state and national events.

Mocniak has won numerous awards such as All American Quarter Horse Congress Champion, All American Quarter Horse Congress All-Around Champion, Canadian Quarterama Champion and 4H State Winner.