

# February 2021 RS Update

Hi Everyone,

Well, 2021 is underway and, regrettably, COVID is still a dominant factor in how we live. Because of this, we are learning different ways to do things. Stay tuned for more information and Volunteer opportunities for future events.

I am very excited that National Pony Club is offering a Virtual Quiz Rally. I hope your members take advantage of it. Also, MidCal has moved its bi-annual Pony Palooza to a virtual format. Please join us on March 6 for our multi-level educational and fun Palooza! Something for everyone!

In February, the MidCal Advisory Board formed a Rally Working Group. This group (with the RS) will be making decisions concerning the holding of our Rallies. At this point, we will not be having an in-person Dressage Rally (which was scheduled for March 20-21). We realize Rallying is an integral part of Pony Club, and we are working on an alternative way to have our Rallies. Please stay tuned for more information.

We cannot guarantee that our alternative rally will meet USPC Championships' requirements but suggest participating if you wish to compete in the Championships. At this point, the USPC Championships and Festival are still scheduled to be in person, July 19-23, 2021, at the Kentucky Horse Park. Questions are being raised about whether USPC should hold it. Despite this, MidCal is still interested in knowing who is interested in participating in MidCal Rallies and who intends to participate in USPC Championships. In this newsletter, you will find a link to our website to the form members should use to express intent to participate in Championships. Please have your interested member fill it out and send it to me.

Stay Safe and Best Wishes,  
Kathie Schulz  
Regional Supervisor,  
Middle California Region, USPC

## **Announcements from USPC**

### **Virtual Quiz Rally - February 27-28**

**Please encourage your members to participate in this  
National Sponsored Quiz Rally.**

**MidCal is not holding a Quiz Rally in 2021  
Entries Close - February 11**

**Registration, Competition information, Frequently Asked Questions, and Schedule are available at the [Link to the USPC Virtual Quiz Rally Website](#).**

## **NEW! - Pony Club Mandatory Compliances**

It is imperative to USPC that our members and volunteers have a safe environment. Knowledgeable volunteers are needed to create a safe environment. Therefore, USPC is taking action to protect members and volunteers by adding training requirements over the next several years.

### **The Club, Center, and Regional Officers**

Before this year, USPC only required DC, JtDC, CA, ACA, RS, VRS, RIC, and HMO to complete the following requirements:

- Be either an annual or life, Corporate Member.
- Favorably complete the USPC Background Check.
- Submit proof of completion of SafeSport™ trained course
- Complete USPC Concussion Quiz (which follows but is separate from the CDC Training and Quiz)
- Complete USPC Heat Illness Training and Quiz

**New in 2021, the Club Secretary, Club Treasurer, Region Secretary, Region Treasurer must also complete the following requirements:**

- Favorably complete the USPC Background Check.
- Submit proof of completion of SafeSport™ trained course
- Complete USPC Concussion Quiz (which follows but is separate from the CDC Training and Quiz)
- Complete USPC Heat Illness Training and Quiz

### **Adult Members of Clubs and Centers**

Effective **January 1, 2022:**

- members of USPC age 21 and over will be required to complete a favorable background check.
- members of USPC age 18 and above will be required to provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Course completion.

### **Pony Club Instructors and Other Volunteers**

Regular instructors and volunteers having ongoing contact with members will soon be required to complete a favorable background check and provide proof of SafeSport™ Trained Course completion as well. The timeline for the implementation of these safety measures is being announced in 2021.

An individual may begin completing these requirements immediately by visiting the [Volunteering Requirements](#) page of the USPC website. Reference: [USPC Policy #0900](#)

## **Additional Educational Resource from USPC - YouTube**

The [Pony Club YouTube channel](#) has new instructional videos going up all the time. Check out some of the latest topics such as:

- Related Distances and Basic Grid Setup
- Body Condition Scoring
- H-B Shoes Part 1, 2 & 3 and How to Remove a Shoe

More videos are coming soon! Follow [TheUSPonyClubs](#) on YouTube and subscribe, so you don't miss new videos.

## **Important Information for MidCal Leaders:**

### **Treasurers:**

- **Canceled due to lack of response:** February 7th - Peer Review workshop where we will trade financials amongst the group and walk through the peer-review process. **See below for more information.**
- **February 10th - Peer reviews due**
- **February 15th** - Deadline for your 2020 Year-end reports to upload to the Pony Club website
- **February 28th - 1096** - Summary report of 1099 sent to IRS
- **Before May 15th** - 990 must be filed (likely for all of you that will be the e-postcard) - An excellent time to do this is after uploading your year-end reports.

### **Peer Reviews**

**Treasurers:** It is Peer Review time! If you have had a change of Treasurer from 2020 to 2021, OR if it has been two years since your last Peer Review, you are due. We had hoped to try to do this as a workshop on Sunday, February 7th to beat the February 10th deadline, but it doesn't appear to have been a good date for anyone. Don't panic about the February 10th deadline. Let's just plan to get all that are due, done by the end of the month. Below are links that you will find useful. You must be logged into the Pony Club website to see these pages:

Peer Review Powerpoint:

<https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Treasurer/USPC%20Peer%20Financial%20Review%20Revised%20May%202020.pdf>

1-page Peer Review Form to be shared with sponsors and uploaded to Finance system documents:

[https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Treasurer/peer\\_review\\_form.pdf](https://www.ponyclub.org/ContentDocs/Treasurer/peer_review_form.pdf)

Treasurers' Resource Page:

<https://www.ponyclub.org/Volunteers/Resources/Treasurers.aspx>

The MidCal books as well as Clayton Canyon's books are due for a Peer Review as well, so if anyone wants to trade with Deb Kirsch, please reach out: [debk@ponyclub.org](mailto:debk@ponyclub.org)

Deb Kirsch

## **New Updates**

### **Notice of Intent to participate at Champs**

Goal: to better help our members wanting to join in the 2021 USPC Championships. **We ask that members give the region notice of their intent to participate by filling out our new statement of intent form available on the Middle California Region's website.** DC/CA: Please send completed form as soon as possible to the Regional Supervisor.

### **Volunteer Compliance Update**

Thank you to all of you who have completed their requirements for volunteer compliance for 2021. Bess Pieracci is sending out emails to remind those of you who haven't yet completed the requirements. All the information need to find and take the necessary training can be found on the [USPC Website's Volunteer Requirements page](#). Remember now Secretaries and Treasurers need to complete a background check and the pieces of training.

### **Diversity and Inclusion Working Group**

During this year's USPC Meeting of the Corporation, Ben Duke (USPC President) and Teresa Woods (USPC Executive Director) mentioned that USPC task forces had recommended "exciting initiatives" about diversity, inclusion, and equity. They did not mention any of the details. We are looking forward to hearing what the initiatives are in the coming weeks and months.

Our next step will be to send a letter of support to USPC leadership, expressing our willingness to engage with rolling out new policies and processes in our Region to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity in Pony Club.

We have sent the memo concerning Demographic Data collection to the National Leadership as was recommended at the Region's Annual Meeting.

As a Region, we recommend taking steps to increase the Pony Club footprint in MidCal, focusing on smaller lesson businesses and promoting the Pony Club's Professional Membership. We are in the beginning stage of this project and may need your help to reach trainers and others in your areas. Keep your eye on the D&I section in this newsletter for more information.

**Interest, Questions, or Comments, contact Michelle Cale at [mscale86@gmail.com](mailto:mscale86@gmail.com).**

### **Invitation from Butte Valley Pony Club for an in-person HB/HA Prep**

**\*\*\*This invitation is not available on the MidCal Website.\*\*\***

Butte Valley Pony Club is excited to be holding **an in-person HB/HA Prep on March 6th and 7th, 2021**. It offers the remaining available spots to any members in the MidCal Region who would like to attend.

- HB will be held on March 6th at Camelot Equestrian Park.
- HA is on March 7th at Jennette Scanlon's home in Auburn.
- **Postmark application deadline of February 19th.**

This Prep will be an immersive learning opportunity for **members holding a certification of C1 HM and up**. As this is an HM Prep, there is no need to bring your horse.

Parents are welcome to stay and attend the prep. We ask that if you're planning to do this, that you also complete the attached paperwork and submit it along with the payment for yourself.

We will be adhering to any COVID protocol required at that time and will be outside with plenty of fresh air and space!

Any questions, feel free to email [southwindequine@gmail.com](mailto:southwindequine@gmail.com) or text (530) 680-5284.

[Information and registration form](#)

**\*\*This invitation is not available on the MidCal Website.\*\***

**NOTE THIS EVENT CLASHES WITH THE MIDCAL PONY CLUB PALOOZA**

## **Follow-ups from January's Newsletter**

### **1) 2021 Regional Dues Information -**

All Clubs and Centers are responsible for collecting and sending payment to the Regional Dues to the Mid Cal Treasurer. **The Regional Treasurer should receive the main portion of Clubs/Centers Regional Dues by March 1st.**

#### Reminder:

- The fee is \$25 for renewing 2020 members.
- New members and returning members (from 2019 or before) will remain at \$50.

#### Please note:

- **Checks are the preferred method of payment.** MidCal does have a PayPal account, but the user must cover the transaction fee.
- **The Regional Secretary uses the number of members listed in your Club/Center Profile to guide the amount each Club/Center owes.** It is up to you to keep track of the amount collected from the member, ie. Prorated, renew, or New. The DC and Treasurer should monitor their membership list throughout the year and send updated payments as necessary.

[Regional Forms on the MidCal website](#)- Send to Deb Kirsch at PO Box 509, Clayton CA 94517

### **2) USPC Equine Symposium and Convention**

Remember: each club and center may submit receipts to claim reimbursement for one or two officers who attended the January 2021 virtual USPC Equine Symposium and Convention.

**For Reimbursement, DC/CA, please send** the receipt along with the name, office, and Club/Center of the two officers. Email it to Treasurer Deb Kirsch at [debk@ponyclub.org](mailto:debk@ponyclub.org) Include a mailing address for receipt of the check. Or mail the receipts with a [reimbursement form](#) to Deb Kirsch at PO Box 509, Clayton, CA 94517

### **3) Land Conservation/ Land Stewardship efforts in the region.**

**Coastside Corral/Sweeny Ridge Equestrian in Pacifica. Sweeny Ridge Equestrian is the home of the California Riding Academy Pony Club Riding Center.**

The petition is heading to 7500 signatures on the petition. Please sign and share if you haven't done so. Petition link: <http://chnng.it/rQXckT625V>

The PUBLIC HEARING is on February 16, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Zoom will be posted 72 hours in advance: <https://pacificacityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/>  
<https://zoom.us/j/91418722216>.

#### **4) Middle California Region Website:**

**We welcome any club center events open to all of MidCal's members.** Please send information about your events for inclusion in our public calendar. For example, the events can be anything, mounted or unmounted clinics, virtual HM lessons, and fundraisers.

The public calendar is at <https://middlecalifornia.ponyclub.org/calendar/>.

**The Webmaster will update the website each Friday.** Please send full information (when what, where, who, cost, contact information) to Michelle Cale at [mscale86@gmail.com](mailto:mscale86@gmail.com).

**Events can also be advertised publicly through the MidCal Facebook page. Please indicate whether you would like this for your event too!**

#### **Social Media**

MidCal has accounts on Facebook and Instagram. We would love to make these accounts representative of all clubs and centers, all activities, and our membership's whole demographic. Please send photos, videos, and news to Michelle at [mscale86@gmail.com](mailto:mscale86@gmail.com) (with photo credit). *Mounted images must include helmets and appropriate footwear.*

## **Regional Events**

### **Where to find more information and Registration for Regional Events**

The website is where information about Region Clinics and Rallies and Club/Center Events open to all MidCal Members is found. Note: Due to mother nature and other factors beyond our control, changes may need to be made to any event.

- The Region's Web Site is <https://middlecalifornia.ponyclub.org/>.
- The Website Calendar is <https://middlecalifornia.ponyclub.org/calendar/>.
- The Regional Planning, all of 2021 Calendar Document, is [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Mtofl-NSNVoa\\_bJ9vXbKAVZd2OuhR-aMTDIIQLtTynU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Mtofl-NSNVoa_bJ9vXbKAVZd2OuhR-aMTDIIQLtTynU/edit?usp=sharing).

## **\*\*\*Upcoming Regional Events\*\*\***

### **MidCal's Virtual Pony Palooza - March 6, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

**This year we are going virtual, so it's even easier to connect with other Clubs and Centers across the region for a day packed with education!**

- ***Both the Regional D1/D2 and D3-C2 Standards and Certification Clinics will be part of this event.*** Calling all examiners: remember you are required to attend at least once every two years.

## **What is Pony Palooza**

Pony Palooza is an all-day educational event hosted by the Middle California Region with tracks. The tracks include "Getting Started" for the D Level, "Build your Skills" for the C Level, "Advanced Knowledge" for the HB/HA Level, and "Leadership Training" for DCs/CAs and Officers, Parents, Examiner/Instructors. This event focuses on members age 13 and above, who can participate patiently in a virtual setting with guest speakers. Younger, mature members are welcome in particular for the "Getting Started" D Level track.

Check out the [Palooza Schedule](#). [To Register, go to the MidCal Website's Calendar](#).

# **2021 Middle California Regional Calendar**

(conditions permitting)

## **February**

27-28 - **USPC Virtual Quiz Rally** - This meets the requirements to participate in either the Standard or Modified USPC Championships. MidCal Is not holding a Quiz Rally in 2021.

- **Entry Fee - \$45/competitor,**
- **Entries are Open Now, Entries Close – February 11, 2021**
- **Event Website - <https://pheedloop.com/virtualquiz2021/site/home/>.**

## **March**

6 - **Virtual Palooza** - The majority of the programs will be of interest to our older members ( C1+, Teens, and Adults). There will be an Intro to Quiz Rally program for our young members. Other programs planned include D3- C2 S&C, HA/HB prep topics, and Equine emergency preparedness and safety.

**Moved to Palooza - 7- D Level S&C**

**Postponed - 20 and 21 - Dressage Rally - South Bay Horse Ranch**

## **May**

**8- SJ Rally - MidCal/Camino Real Paso Robles Horse Park**

## **June**

**5/6 - TET Rally, Santa Cruz Co. PC**

**16-19 - C Camp, Sport Equine, Fresno**



27- *C1/C2 Certification*- South Bay Horse Ranch, Gilroy

July

10/11 - *D Camp*, Marina Equestrian Center

19 – 26, USPC Championships & Festival, Lexington, Kentucky

August

12 -15 - Pony Club Recognition at Woodside Summer Event. *Clinic & Eventing Rally*

September

5 - *D1/D2 Standards & Certification*

October

16 *C1/C2 Cert.* the Horse Park at Woodside

November

7 or 14 - *Regional Annual Meeting*