

### The Basics of Saddle Fit

This workshop will look at the inside of a saddle and cover core concepts of saddle fit. Learn some techniques for spotting an ill-fitting saddle, what to expect during a fitting appointment, and get an introduction to fitting.

Presented by Kristie Miller

**Kristie Miller** is a certified saddle fitter serving Michigan's lower peninsula. Kristie received her certification for saddle fit and flocking in 2022. As owner of The Balanced Equestrian, she helps riders and their horses find an optimal saddle fit and enhance their performance.

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### Be a Research Rockstar: Tips for a Successful Research Project Fair

*Sponsored by Kentucky Equine Research*



Have you considered entering the USPC Research Project Fair, but don't know where to start? Are you a veteran competitor who wants to get a leg up on next year's competition? Join a long-time USPC Research Project Fair judge to get tips for brainstorming, organizing, and presenting your project. In the second part of this workshop, participants will break out into small groups to workshop their project ideas and create outlines.

Presented by Shawna Herralá

**Shawna Herralá** is a Pony Club graduate from the Western New York Region. As a Pony Club life member, Shawna is an avid supporter and long-time judge of the USPC Research Project Fair. She is a Chief Horse Management Judge and is always the first person to volunteer to work in the vet box! To fund her horse habit, Shawna works as the director of digital technology at Kentucky Equine Research. Shawna lives on a small farm in Central Kentucky with her husband, dogs, and Off-track Thoroughbred Sota King.



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### Breathing for the Rider

Breathing is the first thing we do when we are born and the last thing we do when we die. So, does it matter how we breathe, especially when we ride? After observing and teaching riders all over the world, the answer is a resounding yes! The way we breathe has a huge impact on our communication with the horse. Everyone can learn how to use their breath to ensure their best performance while in the saddle!



Presented by Christian and McKrell Baier

**Christian Baier** is a diploma international Level 3 Instructor SvRf and a graduate from the riding instructor program at the Swedish University for Agricultural Studies and the Aachen School of Course Design. Christian has worked as a stud manager, trainer, and course instructor all over the world throughout his career. He created the Global Equestrian online curriculum for riders and trainers, He is a certified breathing Instructor, and author of the book, *Arena Tracks*. He is also the director of riding education at BridgeUP GiddyUP, a non-profit championing equity, diversity, and greater inclusion across the equestrian ecosystem by serving under-resourced communities.

BridgeUP GiddyUP Director, **McKrell Baier**, has shown winning hunters, Grand Prix horses, and coached successful students around the country since January of 2000. McKrell has received a wide education from some of the great horsemen and horsewomen of our time. Learning from these many and varied professionals, along with her continuing education in the equestrian arts and sciences, has helped shape her current theory and practices. McKrell is also a showjumping course designer and has assisted in designing some of the biggest tracks in the world.

### Bringing Home Your Own Wild Horse or Burro

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing the 26.9 million acres where wild horses and burros live, striving to achieve a healthy population and rangeland environment. Many of the rounded-up horses and burros are placed into private care through our adoption program. The Mustang is a versatile animal that can succeed in disciplines across the board. Learn about wild horses, get an overview of BLM adoption, and discover the versatility and hardiness of Mustangs.



Presented by [Natalie Lirette](#)

**Natalie Lirette** is a wild horse and burro specialist with the BLM's Eastern States State Office and focuses primarily on the outreach and marketing of the program for all states east of the Mississippi River. After studying water resources in Wisconsin and range ecology and management at Colorado State University, she began her career with the BLM in the Wild Horse and Burro Program in 2019. Today she helps educate about the importance of managing the herds and different ways to be involved and adopt a wild horse or burro of your own!

### Camera Clinic – What a Horse's Body Tells about Its Training

A picture is worth a thousand words. Find out where to look and what to look for in a photo to learn about your horse's body organization and current stage of training. Explore what the next steps should be to promote a sustainably sound horse.

Presented by [Allison Thurston](#)



**Allison Thurston** has been an international and national clinician for over 40 years. Her extensive training in French/Portuguese dressage, Centered Riding, and biomechanics have made her instruction in high demand from instructor forums, dressage, and eventing, with students of all levels ranging from Pony Club to Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI).

Certified by the American Riding Instructors Association since 1995 at the advanced level in both dressage and eventing, Allie received the association's Instructor of Distinction award. A licensed (MA) instructor, she holds US Eventing Certification Level III through Preliminary and is a SureFoot Level 3 practitioner. Allie has been teaching clinics to local Pony Clubs and presenting at the USPC Convention for years and is known for her easy-to-understand explanations of difficult subjects.

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## The Coaching Code

The Coaching Code is a workshop designed to show students how to be better students, coaches how to be better coaches, and supporters how to be better supporters. Developed with the help of Coach Daniel Stewart, its goal is to promote positivity and mentally healthy learning, teaching, and support habits aimed towards creating an improved equestrian community for everyone. The workshop is an overview of an in-depth clinic and will include audience participation and scholarship opportunities.

Presented by Katherine Goodman

Coach **Katherine Goodman** is a lifelong equestrian who has competitive and coaching experience in hunters, show jumping, eventing, dressage, and liberty work. Katherine combines her passion for equestrian sport, sports psychology, and helping others achieve their goals by utilizing Coach Daniel Stewart's Pressure Proof program. She is pursuing her master's degree in sports psychology and participates in equestrian-based continuing education opportunities with leading industry professionals. Katherine strives to build a united community of positive-minded coaches and equestrian athletes alike.

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## Creating a Champion: From Rescue and Rehabilitation to Championships

Join us to learn how any horse can be a champion! A champion is a physically fit, optimally healthy horse, who knows their job and is confident in their ability to perform. We will take you on a journey of a rescue horse to show you how a method of assessment and a step-by-step plan led to a blue ribbon in the USPC Show Jumping Championships.

Presented by Anna Baucum, Cathy Languerand, and JoAnne Miller

**Anna Baucum**, a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) equine specialist in mental health and learning, (ESMHL), holds a degree in psychology and specializes in working with children in crisis. She is a veterinary technician at Brook Hill Farm and a regular Show Jumping coach at USPC Championships.

**Cathy Languerand** is a past member of the USPC and a Certified Horsemanship Association Master Instructor. She is also a Reach Out to Horses instructor with Anna Twinney and has trained on **bioenergetic techniques** with Dr. Regan Golob. She has trained and managed farms with all levels of students and all types of horses, focusing on the most effective and compassionate methods.

**Jo Anne Miller**, a certified therapeutic riding instructor and and equine specialist in mental health and learning, is a USPC Center Administrator and executive director of a fully accredited equine rescue. She is a retired professor of equine science at Randolph College, a previous co-chair of the Equine Welfare Committee for PATH International, and currently serves on committees for Horses in Education and Therapy International, the EQUUS Foundation, the Horses and Humans Research Foundation, and the Virginia Horse Council. She co-created the equine curriculum for the state of Virginia. Her favorite activity is coaching at USPC Show Jumping Championships!

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## Debunking the Myths of Positive Reinforcement Training

Positive reinforcement training is often misunderstood and overly simplified, leading to several misconceptions and apprehensions about adopting it. It won't turn your horse into a Cookie Monster! Via Nova Training is committed to bringing easy and accessible positive reinforcement training methods to all equestrians with our Priority to Positive (PtP) approach.

This session will address the common myths surrounding reinforcement training and debunk them while at the same time introducing the science and methods involved.

Presented By Jasmine Piepho

**Jasmine Piepho**, Via Nova assistant trainer, joined Via Nova in 2021 as a student trainer. A valuable member of Via Nova's team and program, Jasmine helps test new practices and methods, trains green to experienced horses, and works with clients to teach the Priority to Positive approach. Growing up, Jasmine's family had a small hobby farm where she discovered an aptitude and enthusiasm for animal husbandry and riding. Between her careers as a riding instructor, barn manager, trail guide, and wrangler, Jasmine acquired her horse Leia, an experienced western gaming mare, and began her path with positive reinforcement.

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## Do Horses Fly?

Before planes, trains and automobiles, the main method of transportation was the horse. In the 1870s, Leland Stanford wondered how horses moved and hired a photographer named Edward Muybridge to photograph Occident, a racehorse. Muybridge's photos were the precursor to the motion picture and animation. My workshop will explain how it was discovered that horses do fly—all four hooves come off the ground at the same time and this was captured by Muybridge's cameras.

Presented by Pamela Thompson

**Pamela Kleibrink Thompson** has a background in animation including as a production manager on *The Simpsons*. Her articles have appeared in over 140 magazines. As a career coach, she helps creative people pursue and live their dreams. Her picture book, *The Horse Who Wanted to Fly*, a story of perseverance and the importance of believing in yourself, is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

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## Does Pain Impact How Horses React to Sounds?

Pain is often an under-recognized cause of behavior problems in horses. While more obvious behaviors such as bucking or rearing are often attributed to pain, other more subtle behaviors such as sound sensitivity may also be indicators of pain. In this presentation, the results of our current study on sound reactions related to equine pain will be discussed. If subtle pain behaviors can be recognized sooner, horses with unwanted behavior may be able to be treated sooner.

Presented by: Rebecca Thompson

**Rebecca Thompson** is a fourth year PhD candidate at Virginia Tech. Rebecca's research interest area is equine pain behavior. Her current projects have included investigating how the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacteria affects horse behavior, how well horses' diets are balanced by their owners, and how pain impacts horses' reactions to sounds.



### EMS and PPID: Recognizing and Managing Equine Endocrine Diseases



Photo by Tori Hall Photography

Want to learn about the diseases behind laminitis? See how you can recognize, treat and prevent equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) and pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID) and how they can cause issues with lameness and performance. This talk will have lots of practical advice and most current thoughts!

Presented by: Jane Manfredi, DVM, PhD

**Jane Manfredi** is a veterinarian who specializes in equine surgery, sports medicine, and lameness. She also has a PhD in equine endocrine disease. She is an associate professor and the Mary Anne McPhail Dressage Chair in equine sports medicine at Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She is a USPC graduate C-3 and current upper-level dressage competitor.

### Engaging Horse Management Education

Horses are fascinating and taking care of them is important, so why do we struggle with dull unmounted sessions in meetings, camps, and rallies? Those providing or supervising education on a club or regional level can learn to use the goals of USPC Horse Management to create interesting and appealing lessons. Come and discuss the goals of Horse Management, who can teach it, and how to present information to best reach Pony Club members.

Presented by Sedate Kohler and Rebecca Smith

**Rebecca “Becky” Smith** is a H-B HM, C-3 Eventing alumna from River Bend Pony Club in the Virginia Region. She resides in Connecticut where she is a current Regional Instruction Coordinator and former Regional Supervisor for the Metropolitan Region. Becky became a Chief Horse Management Judge in 2008 and has been lucky enough to work at regional rallies and USPC Championships across the country in almost every discipline. She served on various USPC Committees including Horse Management and Western Dressage and is currently on the Competitions Committee working to increase awareness of the various USPC disciplines and improve accessibility to rallies.

**Sedate Kohler** is a graduate H-HM from Racine County Pony Club in Lake Shore Region. As an advocate for Pony Club's Horse Management education, Sedate has been an instructor and examiner, served as Horse Management Organizer for the Lake Shore Region and is a current Provisional Chief Horse Management Judge. In the past few years, she has been an Assistant Horse Management Judge at Pony Club Championships and an instructor at USPC Festival. Professionally, Sedate is a biology and chemistry teacher in south-central Wisconsin.

### Finance Topics for Treasurers and Leaders

USPC's finance director and staff accountant will share financial information needed by local USPC treasurers and other leaders. Receive an overview of the Central Financial Reporting System (CFRS) and learn how to keep your club and/or region in compliance with USPC-required processes and IRS regulations.

Presented by: Karen Clark and Seherzada Faber

**Karen Clark** joined USPC in August of 2012. She moved to Kentucky from Massachusetts in 2004 for a change of atmosphere and to be closer to family members. Karen's background in accounting was mostly in the hospitality industry before coming to Kentucky. Since then, she has become involved with Kentucky nonprofits and has found a more rewarding



way to put her finance and administration skills to use. She lives with her long-time husband (41 years and counting), her son Darryl, and her dog, Toto.

**Seherzada “Bada” Faber** is the staff accountant at the USPC National Office. Bada has lived in Kentucky since age 9, moving there from Bosnia with her family. Bada began working at USPC in 2012 while finishing her accounting degree at Eastern Kentucky University and has stayed on ever since! In the meantime, Bada has built a family with her husband, Brian, and her son, Torin, and enjoys spending time outdoors with them.

### The Fundamentals of Foxhunting

Have you ever been curious about foxhunting? Get a brief introduction to foxhunting and find out what a visiting member is expected to know for their first hunt. This workshop will introduce the unmounted section of the USPC Foxhunting Recognition program, followed by a demonstration and practice of tying a stock tie and learning about other foxhunting traditions.

Presented by [Moriah Orlando](#)

**Moriah Orlando** is an H-B, C-1 Eventing member from Metamora Hunt II Pony Club in the Great Lakes Region. Moriah has been a Pony Club member for eight years. She started foxhunting at age 14 and has been an active member of the Metamora Hunt for the past seven years. Moriah obtained her equine dental tech certification at Central Michigan University.



### Get Equine Conformation Assessment Right the First Time!



Evaluating a horse’s conformation can be complicated. In this workshop, learn a process that will help you evaluate the conformation of any horse, whether it be for a certification, a potential purchase, or perhaps even judging. Learn about good balance and angles, front and hind-leg conformation, and more. See how it can relate to soundness and affect aptitude for a certain discipline. Practice evaluating with an expert!

Presented by: [Laurie Chapman-Bosco](#)

**Laurie Chapman-Bosco** is a life member and alumna of USPC. She is a National Examiner and a Chief Horse Management Judge and has held various positions in USPC as a committee chair, a member of the Board of Governors, and Vice President of Instruction. She is a professor emeritus from the University of New Hampshire, where she taught equine studies for 39 years.

### Getting a Read on Your Horse's Personality

What makes your horse tick? How does he view the world? What do horses read in each other and in you? Come learn to read a horse's gestures, emotions, and postures and learn to get a read on a horse's personality, energy level, and teachability. Know what to look for to find the right horse for you or deal with the one you have!

Presented by Allison Thurston

**Allison Thurston** has been an international and national clinician for over 40 years. Her extensive training in French/Portuguese dressage, Centered Riding and biomechanics have made her instruction in high demand from instructor forums, dressage, and eventing, with students of all levels ranging from Pony Club to Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI).

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## The Happy Athlete Training Scale

Karen Rohlf's Happy Athlete Training Scale is a practical framework for decision-making to help you progress in any discipline while prioritizing your horse's well-being. You'll learn the Happy Athlete Training Scale and how to apply it in real life. You will walk away with a powerful new perspective and a helpful tool to guide you in your daily interactions with your horse and hear some funny stories from Karen's past Pony Club days!



Presented by Karen Rohlf

**Karen Rohlf**, author and creator of Dressage Naturally, is an internationally recognized author, clinician, and speaker who has been a leader in changing the equestrian educational paradigm. She helps students of all disciplines and levels from around the world enjoy the process of learning to be in harmony with their horses through her book, clinics, video classroom, online courses, blog, and her popular *Horse Training in Harmony* podcast. Karen is well known for training horses with a priority on partnership, a student-empowering approach to teaching, and a positive and balanced point of view. She believes in getting to the heart of our mental, emotional, and physical partnership with our horses by bringing together the best of both dressage and partnership-based training.

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## Hay Analysis 101: Useful and Easier than You Might Think

Hay analysis is an important tool to understand your horse's diet. Hay forms the bulk of our horses' diets, yet the nutritional value varies tremendously from place to place. Hay analysis is the best way to understand the hay you are feeding, and what other feeds and supplements might be needed. This talk introduces hay analysis, describing the tools and techniques, what to test for, and how you can use the results.

Presented by: Eben Haber

**Eben Haber** is an H-A alumnus from Jericho Forest Pony Club. He became reinvolved in USPC, first as a Pony Club parent, and later as a District Commissioner, Vice-Regional Supervisor, Horse Management Organizer, Assistant Horse Management Judge, and now a Chief Horse Management Judge, all in the Middle California Region. Coming back into horses after some time away, he was fascinated by how much better we now understand horse health and nutrition and has enjoyed of much deeper understanding of what his horses are getting from their feed.

### The Hidden and Oftentimes Pesky Psoas

Having two juicy, supple, even psoas muscles are key to following your horse in a balanced fluid way. Learn about this hidden muscle that can cause all types of common rider equitation errors, such as a forked seat, a collapsed waist, and uneven shoulders or pelvis. Discover simple exercises to help these muscles regain their magic power.

Presented by Jennifer Kotylo

**Jennifer Kotylo** is a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Bronze and Silver medalist, "L" dressage judge with distinction and a sought-after clinician specializing in body awareness for riders. She has presented at many equine educational conferences and events. She is also a certified Pilates, Equilates and Balimo instructor. Her Movement Studio is located in Chicago. Jennifer is the author of the children's horse book, *My Best Friend Betsy*, and the DVD series *Improve Your Riding Through Movement*.

### Higher Education for Equestrians

This workshop will explore the opportunities that colleges and universities, both in the U.S. and abroad, offer for individuals who wish to pursue a career that includes horses. Learn about a variety of jobs and careers in the horse industry that benefit from a formal education, whether it is a certificate or an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree. The emphasis will be on degree-granting institutions and how they can help give young people a leg up for a career with horses, and there will be some discussion on competing with horses as a collegiate athlete as well.



Presented by Dr. Erin Cardea

**Dr. Erin Cardea** is the dean of equestrian studies at William Woods University in Fulton, Mo. She holds a B.S. in equestrian science and an M.Ed. in equestrian education from William Woods as well as an M.Sc. in equine science from the University of Edinburgh. Most recently, she earned her Ed.D. in educational leadership in higher education. Dr. Cardea is a Master Instructor and Certifier for the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) and is an Advanced Therapeutic Riding Instructor with PATH International. She holds British Horse Society and German Equestrian Federation qualifications as well.

### History and the Inner Workings of the Wild Horse and Burro Program

In 1971, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act gave the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service authority to manage and protect the wild horses and burros on public lands. The goal of the Act is to preserve and protect wild horses and burros as integral parts of a thriving ecological system in balance with other public resource values. Without management, these herds can double every four to five years. The BLM has implemented multiple programs to manage the animals including fertility control, gathers, long-term holding, and adoption.

Presented by Natalie Lirette

**Natalie Lirette** is a wild horse and burro specialist with the BLM's Eastern States State Office and focuses primarily on the outreach and marketing of the program for all states east of the Mississippi River. After studying water resources in Wisconsin and range ecology and management at Colorado State University, she began her career with the BLM in the Wild Horse and Burro Program in 2019. Today she helps educate about the importance of managing the herds and different ways to be involved and adopt a wild horse or burro of your own!



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### Horse Management: Simple, Fun, and Educational Ideas

Horse Management is a pillar of the Pony Club program. This session will cover some of the many activities to take the Horse Management topics to a new level, including icebreakers, games, and hands-on activities. A USPC Horse Management Organizer will share simple and effective ways to incorporate teaching Horse Management into every meeting.

Presented by Tatem and Tracie Johnson

**Tracie Johnson** is a C-1 Horse Management, D-2 Eventing, D-3 Western Pony Club participating member, and District Commissioner of Desert Hooves Pony Club. She also serves as the Horse Management Organizer for the Southwest Region.

**Tatem Johnson** is an H-B Horse Management, C-3 Eventing, C-2 Western Pony Club participating member and enjoys teaching Horse Management and the USPC badge program at her local club meetings.

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### Horse Senses, How Different Are We? And Why it Matters

As humans, we think every animal experiences the world the same way we do. We couldn't be more wrong! Humans "see," dogs "smell," and elephants "feel" the world. What about horses? This interactive workshop explores how horses experience the world and how to help them thrive. Learn how horses use their senses to perceive the world, and how to provide a safe, kind, and encouraging equine environment. Through understanding, discover a better way of caring for and riding horses and how you can form a happy, lasting partnership with your horse where welfare is at the forefront.

Presented by Heather Bell

**Heather Bell** is an A-certified life member of Pony Club and alumna of San Francisco Pony Club. She has rallied all over the U.S. and has since become a National Examiner and Chief Horse Management Judge. Heather is a member of multiple USPC committees and has owned, bred, and worked with many different breeds of horses. She currently enjoys competing her Irish Sport Horse, Bruno, and taking care of her retired Trakehner, Sixpence.



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### Horse Welfare, Social License, and USPC

In this enlightening presentation, we will explore how recent research and technological advances can help us better meet the emotional and physical needs of our equine partners. USPC is poised to be a leader in the promotion of equine welfare by staying current with this contemporary research, and teaching members why "doing things the way we always have" not only can lead to issues with social license, it can inadvertently cause harm to the animals we love the most.

Presented by Heather Bell and Christina Keim

**Heather Bell** is an A-certified life member of Pony Club and alumna of San Francisco Pony Club. She has rallied all over the U.S. and has since become a National Examiner and Chief Horse Management Judge. Heather is a member of multiple USPC committees and has owned, bred, and worked with many different breeds of horses. She currently enjoys competing her Irish Sport Horse, Bruno, and taking care of her retired Trakehner, Sixpence.



**Christina Keim, M.Ed., M.F.A.**, is a USPC H-A alumna and National Examiner, and Registered Yoga Teacher with 200 hours of training (RYT-200). She is an avid and accomplished professional equestrian with competitive results in the disciplines of hunter seat equitation, dressage, eventing, jumpers, and competitive distance riding. For nearly two decades, she was an academic advisor and head coach of an Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) hunter seat equestrian team in northern New England. A lifetime with horses has taught her that the most important lessons horses teach us have very little to do with riding. In 2024, Christina developed her signature Mounted Mindfulness and Equestrian Yoga program, combining horsemanship with yoga philosophy and unmounted asana physical practice, to help equestrians to deepen their relationship with their horse and their understanding of themselves.

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## Horses Strengthening Communities' Futures: Detroit Horse Power

Horses can play a powerful role in expanding opportunities for under-resourced youth and also strengthen hard-hit communities that need creative solutions to turn vacant land into a neighborhood asset. This presentation will walk through Detroit Horse Power's nonprofit journey to establish an innovative equine-assisted learning curriculum and prepare to construct the nation's largest urban equestrian education center.



Presented by **David Silver**

**David Silver** is the founder and executive director of Detroit Horse Power, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that teaches Detroit's youth valuable life lessons through riding and caring for horses. He moved to Detroit through Teach For America and taught fourth and fifth grade on the west side of Detroit from 2012 to 2014. After two years of teaching, David decided to step outside the classroom to make the character skill-building opportunities he had received through working with horses available to youth like his students. Now in its 10th year of operations, Detroit Horse Power has brought hundreds of students from the city to partnering horse barns outside Detroit for summer camps that emphasize the life lessons horses can teach us: Perseverance, Empathy, Responsible risk-taking, Confidence, and Self-Control (PERCS).

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## How Partnership Enhances Performance

How is partnership created? Understanding how your horse views leadership, acceptance, emotions and relationships will empower you to create a special partnership based on trust. How horses think and learn, what they require (freedom, friends, and forage), and how to give and share, will help you create a great partnership that will enhance your performance with your horse, in everything you do.

Presented by: **Anna Baucum, Cathy Languerand, and JoAnne Miller**

**Anna Baucum**, a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) equine specialist in mental health and learning, (ESMHL), holds a degree in psychology and specializes in working with children in crisis. She is a veterinary technician at Brook Hill Farm and a regular Show Jumping coach at USPC Championships.

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**Jo Anne Miller**, a certified therapeutic riding instructor and an equine specialist in mental health and learning, is a USPC Center Administrator and executive director of a fully accredited equine rescue. She is a retired professor of equine science at Randolph College, a previous co-chair of the Equine Welfare Committee for PATH International, and currently serves on committees for Horses in Education and Therapy International, the EQUUS Foundation, the Horses and Humans Research Foundation, and the Virginia Horse Council. She co-created the equine curriculum for the state of Virginia. Her favorite activity is coaching at USPC Show Jumping Championships!

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### How to Develop a Growth Mindset to Improve Your Riding

This workshop will guide students through the definitions of growth and fixed mindset, and how it applies to riding, competition, and training horses. Nancy will share her 12 training beliefs, which teach people to create positive intentions throughout their ride, competition or training session. This presentation will give people the tools they need to show up with a desire to learn as well as connect with their horses in a way that will create safety and success in all circumstances.

Presented by: [Nancy Lavoie](#)

**Nancy Lavoie**, a distinguished Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) dressage competitor, boasts extensive national and international show experience. She is dedicated to mentoring young riders, contributing her time to the Pony Club and Young Rider Dressage programs. Nancy has earned United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medals and is celebrated as a five-star rider. Nancy has guided numerous riders and horses to success, including Junior and Young Rider champions. Recognized for her exceptional horse management skills, Nancy has expanded her knowledge by becoming a certified mindfulness coach and life coach, enabling her to develop beneficial programs.



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### How to Develop a Growth Mindset in Your Students to Improve Their Riding

This workshop will guide students through the definitions of growth and fixed mindset, and how it applies to riding. Nancy will share her 12 training beliefs, which teach people to create positive intentions in their riding. This presentation will give instructors the tools they need to show up with a desire to teach as well as convey to their students how to connect with their horses in a way that will create safety and success.

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### How to Teach Vaulting in Your Riding Program and Development Harmony with Horses

Vaulting is not only an exciting and fascinating sport, but can aid any equestrian in balance, fitness, and agility. Learn how to add Vaulting to your riding program, club, or center and its benefits. Many vaulters can share one horse, increasing accessibility and participation within your program. Hear suggested lesson plans for beginner vaulters and how to perform and teach basic vaulting skills!

Presented by [Beth Whillock](#)

**Beth Whillock** is a Vaulting resource on the USPC Discipline Education committee and Equestrian Vaulting USA (EVUSA) Region 5 Regional Supervisor. Beth has formerly served as a Vice Regional Supervisor and District Commissioner in the Northern Lakes Region. Beth began coaching Vaulting after her daughter tried the sport at a D Retreat and she found that there were no Vaulting programs near them. Over time, Beth was able to grow Vaulting within her local Pony Club and form a EVUSA club that has vaulters from beginners to FEI 3\* levels.

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### Hunter Seat Equitation

An introduction to the USPC Hunter Seat Equitation certification track, a brief history of how and why this track was developed, and how it can apply to today's Pony Club members.

Presented by [Deb Willson](#)

**Deb Willson** is a USPC Alum, semi-retired professional equestrian. She conducts clinics across the country in dressage, eventing cross-country, show jumping, and hunter seat equitation. She is a USPC National Examiner, and regularly conducts upper-level preps, devoting energy and enthusiasm to developing riders' understanding of the mechanics of riding as well as the "feel" of what works with individual horses.

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### Impact of Saddle Fit on Biomechanics of Horse and Rider

Discover how a well-fitted saddle enhances performance, prevents injuries, and promotes comfort for both horse and rider. Margaret Parsons will lead a discussion on biomechanics, saddle fitting techniques, and practical solutions to common issues. This workshop is perfect for riders and trainers seeking to optimize their partnership with their equine companions. Enhance your understanding and improve your riding experience by addressing how your saddle fits you and your horse.



Presented by [Margaret Parsons](#)

**Margaret Parsons** is a certified equine sports massage therapist (CESMT) and saddle fitter. In addition to massage and energy work, Margaret contributes to the horse industry by helping horsewomen to either grow their existing equine therapy businesses or train them to be certified equine sports massage therapists. Before starting as a CESMT, Margaret, cared for some of the top Standardbred athletes in the world and was awarded Caretaker of the Year in 2014 by the Michigan Harness Horsemen Association. Margaret has been working with horses for nearly 30 years after starting in Pony Club as a young child and enjoys eventing and trail riding.

### Implement a Track System for Turnout

Did you know that horses in the wild walk about 30 miles each day? Most domestic horses move nowhere near that amount, and their health may be at risk because of it. Many equine diseases and conditions are tied to obesity (laminitis, equine metabolic syndrome, hyperlipidemia, and arthritis, just to name a few). Increased stress related to confinement and lack of enrichment can lead to destructive habits. A well-designed track system will help address boredom, reduce stress, and encourage movement. Learn how to assess your needs, property, and budget to implement the ideal situation for your horse's health and happiness.



Presented by [Ginger Wisseman](#)

**Ginger Wisseman** is passionate about all things Pony Club. She is an active member, parent, District Commissioner, local instructor, regional examiner, and regional board member. Ginger currently serves as the Horse Management Organizer for the Great Lakes region and is a member of the USPC D-1 through C-2 Curriculum Committee. Ginger and her family own a small boarding facility, hosting regional rallies, clinics, and camps. She has personally implemented a track system to improve the turnout situation for her horses, benefiting both their physical and mental health by allowing them to live a more natural and horse-centric lifestyle.

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### Internationally Speaking: Perspectives Gained from Pony Club International Exchanges

Past participants of USPC international exchanges will share the incredible experiences they had on their exchange, including stories, pictures, videos, and highlights of their experiences. Participants will see an overview of the criteria to apply, the road to participation, and the benefits of participating. Learn from international exchange participants Jennifer Merrick-Brooks, coach of the 2023 Inter-Pacific Exchange Team to New Zealand, and Mason Konesky, team captain of the 2024 Quiz Exchange Team in Kentucky.

Presented by [Mason Konesky](#) and [Jennifer Merrick-Brooks](#)

**Mason Konesky** is an H-B, C-1 Eventing and Dressage member of the Highland Hills and Huron Valley Pony Clubs of the Great Lakes Region. Mason was the team captain of the 2024 USPC International Quiz Exchange Team and has competed in the USPC Championships many times.

**Jennifer Merrick-Brooks** is a Pony Club parent, and coach of the 2023 USPC Inter-Pacific Exchange team. Jennifer is also a member of the USPC Special Opportunities committee.



### Introduction to Cross Country Equestrian (CCE)



Join five-star eventer Nick Larkin for an introduction to the new sport of Cross Country Equestrian (CCE). Nick will explain the fundamentals of the sport, the basic rules, and how this new sport puts horsemanship at the forefront. CCE is born of prevalent trends in equestrian sport and their effect on participation, horsemanship, and the longevity of horse sports in general. Cross Country Equestrian aims to solve some of these issues with flexibility, inclusivity, and adaptability to every competitor, organizer, and venue. Nick will take you on a journey of the benefits of CCE for competitors, organizers, and spectators.

Presented by: Nick Larkin

A native of New Zealand, **Nick Larkin** is a successful eventing rider winning the first four-tar (now five-star level) Kentucky Three-Day Event with Red, a New Zealand Thoroughbred. He has also trained horses for racing and steeplechasing, as is a champion of off-track Thoroughbreds. He lives with his wife, Jeannie, on their Wainui Farm in Lexington, Ky.

### The Journey with Action Jackson, the Wonder Pony! Advice for Pony Parents

Join a Pony Club parent for a heartwarming and informative workshop on "The Journey with Action Jackson, the Wonder Pony!" Discover the fun and challenges of purchasing a pony for your child through real anecdotes and stories. Gain valuable knowledge, advice, and tips from a seasoned parent who has navigated this incredible journey. Perfect for pony parents, equine enthusiasts, new owners, grandparents, and Pony Club members, this session promises relatable insights and takeaways that will guide you in your equine adventures.

Presented by Meghan Welborn

**Meghan Welborn** is the proud mom of an aspiring 9-year-old equestrian, Alta. Meghan never had a pony growing up, so she lives vicariously through Alta, a member of Norfolk Hunt Pony Club. Meghan and Alta together navigate the exciting world of horses both in and out of the show ring. This year, Alta competes in short stirrup hunter classes, and weekends are filled with the hustle and bustle of competitions, but they also offer moments of joy that are truly priceless.

### The Masterson Method

The Masterson Method is a unique, interactive method of equine bodywork that anyone can learn to help build trust with the horse. Maureen Duffy and several Rosewood Riders Pony Club members will share the basic principles of The Masterson Method equine bodywork to help release tension in the horse and rider, improve performance, build trust with your horse, and help regulate performance anxiety in horse and rider. They will share compelling stories from their experience and applications at the 2024 USPC Festival, both at Championships and the educational clinics with their club's rented mounts.



Presented by Maureen Duffy

**Maureen "Mimi" Duffy** is a lifelong Pony Club enthusiast. She is an alumna of the Redwoods Pony Club. She competed in vaulting, gymkhana, hunter jumpers and eventing in her younger years, and as an adult, she has also competed in competitive trail, team penning, and has done ranch work. She is trained as a competitive trail judge and manages a herd of

Connemara ponies. She currently coaches the Rosewood Riders Pony Club in the Sierra Pacific Region. Mimi is a registered nurse and became a Masterson Method Certified Practitioner in 2021. She taught the Masterson Method at the 2021 USPC Festival with Jim Masterson. She was a presenter at the West Coast Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) Conference and was an instructor at the first Horse Class and Masterson Method collaborative weekend seminar.

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## Mounted Games: Fun, Teamwork, and Skill Development for All Riders



Discover the exciting world of Mounted Games, a discipline that encourages participation, enthusiasm, and training for young riders without the need for expensive ponies. This workshop will cover the basics of Mounted Games, including the rules, types of competitions, and the benefits it offers in terms of physical coordination, self-confidence, and teamwork skills. Join us to learn how to get involved, practice using everyday objects, and understand the importance of sportsmanship and proper mount care.

Presented by Lexi and Trish Ray

**Lexi Ray** is a USPC National member and has been participating in Pony Club for twenty-one years. Lexi started competing in Mounted Games at the age of and hasn't stopped yet. She has dedicated her life to helping this sport grow. Lexi has competed in USPC Championships many times, with many different teams. Lexi represented the United States in Mounted Games at the 2023 Nations Cup in South Africa, and has competed in the Prince Philip Cup, President's Cup, and the EEI and USPC Mounted Games Invitational. When Lexi isn't riding her pony Squirt or her Thoroughbred Dingus she works as a sports photographer in Northeast Florida.

**Trish Ray** is an avid equestrian, Pony Club parent, and veterinarian from the Sunshine Region. Trish grew up showjumping and eventing in New England which is where she got the first taste of Pony Club. She competed up to Preliminary Level in eventing with her Morgan mare Magic. After moving to Florida, she immediately got herself and her daughter, Lexi, involved with Pony Club. Since then, Trish has been an active instructor and volunteer. With Lexi riding in Mounted Games, Trish has learned to become a judge, equipment chief, and a casual Mounted Games rider. Lately, she has been using various games to help teach her young pony Sundae how to bend, steer, and focus.

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## Mounted Mindfulness: Using Yoga Philosophy to Improve Our Horsemanship

Yoga is a centuries-old practice combining physical movement with breathwork to control and still the mind. While some may think of yoga only as a physical practice, its roots are deeply philosophical, and by studying and applying yoga philosophy to our daily lives, we can improve both physical and mental health. For equestrians, the practice of yoga holds unique additional benefits. Not only can the physical practice improve suppleness and strength, and increase body awareness, symmetry, and control, but the mental practice can help us to remain present and centered, thereby improving communication, understanding, and empathy for our equine partner.

Presented by Christina Keim

**Christina Keim**, M.Ed., M.F.A., is a USPC H-A alumna and National Examiner, and a Registered Yoga Teacher with 200 hours of training (RYT-200). She is an avid and accomplished professional equestrian with competitive results in the disciplines of hunter seat equitation, dressage, eventing, jumpers, and competitive distance riding. For nearly two decades, she was an academic advisor and head coach of an Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) hunter seat equestrian team in

northern New England. A lifetime with horses has taught her that the most important lessons horses teach us have very little to do with riding. In 2024, Christina developed her signature Mounted Mindfulness and Equestrian Yoga program, combining horsemanship with yoga philosophy and unmounted asana physical practice, to help equestrians to deepen their relationship with their horse and their understanding of themselves.

### Navigating the New USPC Website

Learn about the flow and organization of the new, mobile-optimized Pony Club website launched in April of 2024. A member of the USPC Marketing and Communications committee will lead the audience through areas of the website that are seemingly the most difficult to navigate for leaders and members alike. Bring your own laptop to this interactive workshop.



#### Presented by Melanie Stewart

Melanie joined Dutch Fork Hunt Pony Club in the spring of 1972 at the age of 12. Her parents bought her first horse for her the following spring, a bay Morgan/Quarter Horse mare named Barbery, sparking her love for foxhunting and Pony Club. Over the years Melanie has volunteered in many aspects of Pony Club, including working with Peace Point Pony Club Riding Center as the unmounted instructional coordinator and helping to organize the Tri-State Quiz Rally for six years. She has also been the Tri-State Horse Management Organizer for two years and is an avid USPC Festival volunteer. Melanie currently serves on the USPC Marketing and Communications and Discipline Education Committees as a resource.

### The Perfect Seat Starts With Your Saddle

#### Sponsored by Wintec

The influence a saddle can have on a ridden seat, positive or negative, is often underestimated. Experts from Wintec Saddles share the critical saddle factors every rider and coach should know when assessing rider position. Learn how to see when a saddle is sitting the rider correctly and the simple solutions to instantly improve the rider's balance, so they can enjoy their time in the saddle to the fullest and reach their true potential with their horse.

#### Presented by Wintec

Since 1986, **Wintec Saddles** have been putting equine comfort first. Their range of easy-care saddles make riding fun and hassle-free, so you can ride all day in any weather knowing your horse or pony is happy, too! As the Official Saddle Sponsor of the United States Pony Clubs, Wintec Saddles is ready to give you tips to maximize your mount's comfort in any saddle.



### A Playful Way to Improve Posture for You and Your Horse

In this powerful, interactive, and empowering workshop, you will learn and experience a playful way to move with relaxation, energy, balance, and ease. Riders and horses often get tight and braced muscles when trying to improve their posture or movement. Get ready to enjoy one of Karen's most popular and memorable exercises that is sure to help all riders, whether you are going down the trail or down centerline.

Presented by Karen Rohlf

**Karen Rohlf**, author and creator of Dressage Naturally, is an internationally recognized author, clinician, and speaker who has been a leader in changing the equestrian educational paradigm. She helps students of all disciplines and levels from around the world enjoy the process of learning to be in harmony with their horses through her book, clinics, video classroom, online courses, blog, and her popular *Horse Training In Harmony* podcast. Karen is well known for training horses with a priority on partnership, a student-empowering approach to teaching, and a positive and balanced point of view. She believes in getting to the heart of our mental, emotional, and physical partnership with our horses by bringing together the best of dressage and partnership-based training.

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### Priority to Positive: A Practical Equestrian's Guide to Positive Reinforcement

Have you ever struggled to consistently motivate your horse? At Via Nova Training, we developed a way for horses to positive reinforcement, our practical training approach respects the needs and goals of the everyday rider and the competitive equestrian. In this presentation, we will cover the Five Principles of Priority to Positive, which can serve as your new toolkit to be a more effective trainer and help your horse reach his potential.

Presented by Amanda Jay

**Amanda Jay** is the director and visionary of Via Nova Training, and creator of Priority to Positive. She is on a mission to transform the traditional sport horse world by offering a new set of practical tools based on behavioral science that help trainers, riders, and horses to perform at their best. Over a lifetime of learning as an amateur equestrian, Amanda began to look for what makes traditional methods of training work. As she uncovered how animals (including humans) learn, it took her squarely into the world of behavioral science and she has never looked back. During this quest for knowledge, Amanda has trained with some well-known behaviorists inside and outside the horse world, all the while creating a way to translate these ideas into Priority to Positive, a methodology that will work for the competitive and practical equestrian. As the director of Via Nova Training, she oversees the development of educational opportunities for both professional and amateur equestrians, along with specific positive reinforcement training approaches for traditional equestrian disciplines.

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### Rally Scoring: Don't Panic!

Scoring rallies can be intimidating. Learn from a member of the Competitions Committee about different scoring options, resources available, what to prepare ahead of a rally, and the factors that determine the best method for your region, club, or center. Bring your rally scoring questions for assistance from an expert!

Presented by: Rebecca Smith

**Rebecca "Becky" Smith** is a H-B Horse Management, C-3 Eventing alumna from River Bend Pony Club in the Virginia Region. She resides in Connecticut where she is a current Regional Instruction Coordinator and former Regional Supervisor for the Metropolitan Region. Becky became a Chief Horse Management Judge in 2008 and has been lucky enough to work at regional rallies and USPC Championships across the country in almost every discipline. She served on various USPC Committees including Horse Management and Western Dressage and is currently on the Competitions Committee working to increase awareness of the various USPC disciplines and improve accessibility to rallies.



### Rider Fitness Bootcamp with Daniel Stewart

This upbeat and humorous equestrian fitness workshop and bootcamp will teach you how fun and easy it can be to become an equestrian athlete! Learn how to build a bootcamp that will improve your stamina, balance, core strength, suppleness, posture, symmetry, and more. Discover ways to use equipment found at the barn, such as mounting blocks, buckets, lead lines, jump poles, cavalletti, cross-rails, and bales of hay to become a better rider and athlete.



Presented by Daniel Stewart

An equestrian for over 40 years, **Daniel Stewart** combined his 25 years as an international coach and clinician with a degree in physical education to create an empowering and motivating series of equestrian clinics, workshops, seminars, and training camps. As the internationally acclaimed author of the books *Pressure Proof*; *Ride Right*; *Fit and Focused*; and *Braver, Bolder, Brighter*, he's widely considered one of the world's leading experts on equestrian sports psychology, athletics, and performance. He teaches clinics to thousands of riders each year and is the equestrian sports psychology and rider-fitness consultant to many

equestrian associations. When not teaching clinics, he coaches four-day equestrian athlete camps at colleges and athlete training centers around the country, produces rider sports psychology videos, and offers one-on-one mental coaching sessions.

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### Safe and Healthy Sports Environments for Athletes: When We Protect Athletes, We Protect Horse Sport

Our session provides education and awareness on creating safe and healthy sports environments for all athletes. Sports participation improves mental, physical, and emotional health, as well as improves educational outcomes. These benefits cannot be enjoyed when the fear and threat of sexual violence are present. Proactive prevention and understanding of grooming, power imbalances, and active bystander intervention are necessary to keep our sports safe and elevate the mental health of youth.

Presented by Michaela Callie and Kathryn McClain

**Michaela Callie**, MBA is the executive director at #WeRideTogether. She worked as a professional hunter/jumper rider and trainer before shifting her focus to abuse prevention in athletics. Michaela strives to continuously advocate for safe, healthy environments in all sports. She believes in empowering every member of athletic communities with prevention education and best practices, as well as ensuring that survivors and their loved ones have access to survivor- and trauma- informed resources that can support them in their unique healing journey.

**Kathryn McClain**, MSW, MBA is the creative and passionate program and partnerships director at #WeRideTogether. With her competitive athletic background in volleyball, rowing, and triathlon, and leveraging her expertise from her Master of Social Work and Master of Business Administration education, Kathryn brings a diverse skill set to #WeRideTogether. Kathryn also draws extensively from her professional experiences as a licensed social worker in community mental health and in the entrepreneurial spaces where she worked with and served diverse populations. Motivated to promote positive change in the world of sport and society at large, Kathryn dedicates herself to increasing awareness of sexual abuse prevention and supporting survivors with her trauma-informed lens. When not writing for the blog, attending speaking engagements with athletes, or connecting with strategic partners, Kathryn can be found swimming in the open water, skiing in the backcountry, hiking with her Beagle named Bear, or on her yoga mat.



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### Seats of Lameness and How to Find Them

This presentation will show the exact locations, structures involved, and basic pathology of the seats of common lamenesses, with photos, videos, and radiographs. Learn from an expert veterinarian how these lamenesses are diagnosed and treated.

Presented by Paula Horne, DVM

**Paula Horne, DVM** is a H-A Horse Management, B Eventing alumna of USPC. Paula now serves USPC as a National Examiner, and a member of the USPC Curriculum Committee. Paula practiced veterinary medicine for 40 years, building five mixed animal veterinary practices in Northern Virginia, and now semi-retired in Maine. Dr. Horne has competed and participated in dressage, eventing, show hunters and jumpers, and foxhunting since she was a child. She obtained her USDF Bronze Medal with her current mount, a homebred Lusitano/Dutch Warmblood cross.



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### Speaking Horse

How many of us have taken the time to see the world from a horse's perspective? Let's examine how a horse communicates in a herd, and how they communicate with each other. Then transfer that knowledge in order to "Speak Horse." Effective communication allows us to work with our horses so that they can successfully participate in activities with us both under saddle and on the ground.

Presented by: Anna Baucum, Cathy Languerand, and JoAnne Miller

**Anna Baucum**, a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) equine specialist in mental health and learning, (ESMHL), holds a degree in psychology and specializes in working with children in crisis. She is a veterinary technician at Brook Hill Farm and a regular Show Jumping coach at USPC Championships.

**Cathy Languerand** is a past member of the USPC and a Certified Horsemanship Association Master Instructor. She is also a Reach Out to Horses instructor with Anna Twinney and has trained on bioenergetic techniques with Dr. Regan Golob. She has trained and managed farms with all levels of students and all types of horses, focusing on the most effective and compassionate methods.

**Jo Anne Miller**, a certified therapeutic riding instructor and and equine specialist in mental health and learning, is a USPC Center Administrator and executive director of a fully accredited equine rescue. She is a retired professor of equine science at Randolph College, a previous co-chair of the Equine Welfare Committee for PATH International, and currently serves on committees for Horses in Education and Therapy International, the EQUUS Foundation, the Horses and Humans Research Foundation, and the Virginia Horse Council. She co-created the equine curriculum for the state of Virginia. Her favorite activity is coaching at USPC Show Jumping Championships!

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### Sport Psychology with Daniel Stewart

This upbeat, light-hearted, and humorous seminar, based on Coach Stewart's four equestrian sports psychology books, is perfect for anyone wanting to feel more confident and courageous instead of disappointed and defeated. Learn how to

effectively manage and overcome negative emotions related to sports. Do you experience nerves, show jitters, or struggles with fears, failure, or frustrations? Put a little more happy in your happy place!



Presented by Daniel Stewart

An equestrian for over 40 years, **Daniel Stewart** combined his 25 years as an international coach and clinician with a degree in physical education to create an empowering and motivating series of equestrian clinics, workshops, seminars, and training camps. As the internationally acclaimed author of the books *Pressure Proof*; *Ride Right*; *Fit and Focused*; and *Braver, Bolder, Brighter*, he's widely considered one of the world's leading experts on equestrian sports psychology, athletics, and performance. He teaches clinics to thousands of riders each year and is the equestrian sports psychology and rider-fitness consultant to many equestrian associations. When not teaching clinics, he coaches four-day equestrian athlete camps at colleges and athlete training centers around the country, produces rider sports psychology videos, and offers one-on-one mental coaching sessions.

## Teaching to Teach

What are best practices in teaching? What is pedagogy? How do teaching theory and constructivism connect to teaching and learning in a Pony Club setting? How can we cultivate good teaching methods in USPC? We will explore teaching practices that enhance student learning in both the saddle and barn/classroom. Join me as I share how to learn about learning and ways to cultivate good teachers from good learners.

Presented by Mary Barr

**Mary Barr** earned her Bachelor of Science in math and science teaching from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and her Master of Science in curriculum and development from University of Wisconsin–LaCrosse in 2002. A teacher for over 30 years, Mary has worked with students grades 6-12, teaching science and math. She has also taught riding and horsemanship in a summer camp setting and through 4H. She coached 4-H Horse Bowl and Horse Judging and was a leader for her counties' Horse Project. A life-long learner, she joined United States Pony Clubs four years ago. She serves as the secretary for the Lake Shore Region and has earned C-1 Eventing, C-2 Dressage and H-B Horse Management certifications.



## Tips for Recognizing an Emergency and When to Call Your Vet

Have you ever wondered whether you should call your vet out to see to an issue with your horse? Do you know the characteristics of an equine emergency versus something that can wait until the next day or next week? Do you struggle with not wanting to bother your vet for something trivial, but still worry about all the "what-if" scenarios. Understanding that every situation is unique, this workshop will provide some guidance and advice for how to recognize the need for an emergency farm visit and the information your vet will need from you when you first call.



Presented by Paige Pomorski, DVM

**Dr. Paige Pomorski** is the owner of Midwest Veterinary Service in Scottville, Michigan. Paige graduated from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in

2022. Paige grew up with horses through her local 4-H program and continues to enjoy them now, participating in barrel racing, clinics, and other equestrian activities.

## Trotting on the Trail of Misty of Chincoteague & Marguerite Henry

After re-reading *Misty of Chincoteague* as an adult, Susan Friedland, author of *Marguerite, Misty and Me*, hunted down Marguerite Henry's backstory. Susan was guided by four questions: Was Marguerite Henry a passionate equestrian or a horse lover from the ground? Who was she before she became a famous author? Why do her books like *King of the Wind*, *Brightly of the Grand Canyon*, *Justin Morgan Had a Horse*, and, of course, *Misty of Chincoteague* and *Stormy, Misty's Foal* have such an enduring hold on readers? What makes her stories about horses so timeless and unforgettable? Susan has gathered photos, unpublished manuscripts, Marguerite's records, and interviews of friends and family to build a history of Marguerite that honors her legacy. Marguerite made a way for many horseless children to be with horses via her books—before they could get to them in real life.

Presented by Susan Friedland

*Marguerite, Misty and Me* author **Susan Friedland** is an equestrian blogger at [saddleseekhorse.com](http://saddleseekhorse.com) and popular speaker. Susan has presented at the International Museum of the Horse, the Museum of Chincoteague Island and Chincoteague Elementary School. She hosts the *Horse Illustrated* "Barn Banter" podcast and is learning dressage on her off-track Thoroughbred in Bull Valley, Illinois.



## USA Working Equitation: Discover the Journey and Versatility of Working Equitation



Experience Working Equitation with USA Working Equitation (USAWE), the governing body of Working Equitation in the United States. Working Equitation is a versatile sport for a variety of breeds, riding abilities, ages and tack choices. With this workshop led by professional instructors, you will learn about the phases of Working Equitation (including dressage, ease of handling, speed, cattle) and the opportunities available to instructors, administration and youth participants.

Presented by Kasey Riddle

**Kasey Riddle** is the youth developmental chair for USAWE, the governing body for Working Equitation in the United States. She is a USAWE Bronze Medalist and holds multiple national and zone champion titles. Kasey is also a C-2 Eventing member of the Greenville Foothills Pony Club in the Carolina Region. Kasey enjoys Pony Club and learning horse sports with her two daughters, her cattle farm in North Carolina, trail rides, and teaching riding lessons.

## Using an Equine Riding Simulator to Improve Rider Balance and Symmetry

In this session, we will explore the advantages of incorporating an equine riding simulator into training programs to improve rider balance and symmetry. Riding simulators serve as powerful instructional tools, transforming abstract proprioceptive aspects into concrete kinematic feedback. Participants will gain insights into how simulators can enhance performance and help riders uncover their individual nuances that inevitably impact balance and symmetry in the saddle.

Presented by Kelli Munns

**Kelli Munns** is an avid equestrian in Northern Utah. She taught for seven years in the Equine Science program at Utah State University (USU) and coached the IHSA Hunt Seat Equitation Team. Kelli currently teaches Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences at USU. She is always in pursuit of deeper knowledge in rider and horse biomechanics and how to incorporate technology to improve the equestrian sport. One of her greatest contributions is her research on the Racewood riding simulator and its powerful ability to improve rider balance and symmetry.



## Vet Box Basics

Sponsored by Kentucky Equine Research



The vet box is an important part of Horse Management at an Eventing rally, but if you haven't competed in a long-format three-day or at the FEI level, it may seem like a daunting challenge after crossing the finish flags. Come learn how to set yourself up for success and to make the most of your horse's post-cross-country recovery from who Horse Management judges described as the "Vet Box Queen".

Presented by Shawna Herrala

**Shawna Herrala** is a Pony Club graduate from the Western New York Region. As a Pony Club life member, Shawna is an avid supporter and long-time judge of the USPC Research Project Fair. She is a Chief Horse Management Judge and is always the first person to volunteer to work in the vet box! To fund her horse habit, Shawna works as the director of digital technology at Kentucky Equine Research. Shawna lives on a small farm in Central Kentucky with her husband, dogs, and off-track Thoroughbred Sota King.

## We Are All Volunteers

This session will address how to grow and retain a volunteer base in your USPC region, club, or center. All USPC activities depend on volunteer support, from D-1 certifications to the Board of Governors. Learn best practices and care for our valuable volunteers at all levels.

Presented by Rae Birr

**Rae Birr** joined Pony Club in 1969 and has been a lifetime supporter, serving in many roles on a local, regional, and national level. She brings a full spectrum perspective on volunteerism in USPC. Rae is a member of the Board of Governors and serves as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and has recently become the Vice President of Regional Administration. Pony Club has been a good way to raise her family with her husband and three children who also support Pony Club. Her passion is educating on all things USPC!





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## Western Dressage 101: How to Get Started and Have Fun!

Learn from a Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) judge about this exciting sport and how to begin as a rider, coach, trainer, show personnel, and more. Learn how this sport differs from classical dressage and how it supports riders of all levels and varying interests.

Presented by [Suzanne Morisse](#)

**Suzanne “Sue” Morisse** is a WDAA/USEF "R" Western Dressage judge, active USEF/USDF FEI competitor in Dressage, and the current president of Western Dressage Association of Michigan. Sue has been a successful trainer in Dressage, Western Dressage, and liberty work for more than 50 years. Sue has her WDAA Bronze, Silver, and Gold buckles and holds multiple World Championship titles.

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## What are Regional Youth Boards and Why Should Every Region Have One?

In 2013, the USPC National Youth Board (NYB) set a goal to create and maintain successful Regional Youth Boards (RYB) across the country. There are several benefits to having a Regional Youth Board. This session is led by National Youth Board members dedicated to spreading awareness and encouraging the formation of youth boards at the regional and local levels.

Presented by [Lydia Eilinger](#), [Jocelyn Hunt](#), and [Sophie Redmon](#)

**Lydia Eilinger** is an H-A Horse Management, C-2 Eventing member from the Milton Pony Club in the South Region. Lydia has been in Pony Club since 2007. Currently, Lydia is the District Commissioner of Milton Pony Club, the South Region Youth Board Advisor, and the Chair of the National Youth Board. On the National Youth Board, she also serves as the Chair of the South Region Regional Youth Board Committee.

**Jocelyn Hunt** is an H-B Horse Management, C-2 Eventing Phase 1, C-1 Eventing, C-2 Dressage member of Tidewater Pony Club in the Delmarva Region. She has been an active member of the United States Pony Clubs since 2014, which includes participating and volunteering at rallies and the USPC Championships; teaching members; and helping organize events, such as clinics, fundraising, and more. She is also the 2024 Chair of the USPC National Youth Board (NYB). Pony Club has had an influential impact on Jocelyn’s life, helping her become more outgoing as a person and finding lifelong friendship. On top of that, it has also allowed her to expand her knowledge and love for horses. Jocelyn plans on becoming a Chief Horse Management Judge, along with passing her A certification in Dressage.

**Sophie Redmon** is a B Eventing, H-B Horse Management member from Milton Pony Club, which her mom, JoAnn Redmon, started in 2016 in the South Region. Sophie has been riding for 12 years, competing mostly in the sport of eventing. At the 2021 American Eventing Championships, she went double-clear, landing her a top 20-finish in the Novice division. She moved up to Training and received her C-3 that same summer. In August of 2023, she earned her B Eventing certification. Now, she stays involved in the horse world by working at several farms and being a member of the USPC National Youth Board. Sophie also helps oversee her regional youth board alongside Lydia Eilinger. In the future, she hopes to achieve her H-A certification.



### You Be the Judge: Understanding and Improving Your Dressage Score



This presentation will be an informative and interactive presentation for Dressage, Eventing, and Western Dressage riders and enthusiasts of all levels about what a judge is looking for and how they score a Dressage test. Gain a clearer understanding and appreciation for the precision and art of performing and judging components of a Dressage test. Practice your judging skills and explore how to maximize points on a test through a fun, interactive game.

Presented by Joan Leuck-Waak

Joan Leuck-Waak is a current participating member of the Dune Riders Pony Club and holds her B Dressage certification. She is a United States Dressage Federation Silver and Bronze medalist and is a United States Equestrian Federation “r” Dressage and Western Dressage judge. She is also a co-Horse Management Organizer for the Lake Shore Region.