

2008 NYC Homework Questions and Responses

1. How should PC handle cell phones (and other communication or entertainment items) in the barns at Rallies?

- Concerning cell phones at Rallies, I think that they should be with Pony Clubbers to use in an emergency. But otherwise, I think they should be turned off and not be in use during the rally for talking to friends. Being at a Rally is a time that you should spend with your teammates learning from each other, and other electronic devices that would distract you from that aren't appropriate.
- I think that cell phones are an important part of everyday life so while at a rally, they should be allowed to be used in a free zone at certain times but kept away from the barns.
- As technology advances and cell phones become a more integral part of society, we must reassess the rules and regulations regarding cell phones. Pony Club offers a unique situation where kids must learn to be independent from their parents or coach. By allowing cell phones at rallies, you are providing an easy way for parents and children to communicate and increase the risk of unauthorized assistance. On the other hand, cell phones could be very useful during a rally. If you are alone and need help, you would be able to call a team member for assistance. They are also useful for reminding that errant teammate that their ride time is in 7 minutes. I believe that Pony Clubbers understand the concept and importance of unauthorized assistance well enough to use appropriate judgment when using their cell phones. As with anything at a rally, if a team is having difficulty with a team member over using the cell phone, they should be allowed to ask a horse management judge to talk with their teammate and take the cell phone if necessary.
- Let's face it, you're not going to keep kids from bringing their cell phones into the barn and it may help prevent something tragic in the barn. Obviously, talking on the phone should be restricted, so treat it like school. They should be on silent and, if you're seen talking on it, you're penalized. But they should not be confiscated.
- No communication devices during competition and anyone caught using a communication device will be penalized for unauthorized assistance.
- Personally, I feel that cell phones shouldn't be used at Pony Club rallies. They directly conflict with the idea of preventing unauthorized assistance. Furthermore, phones interfere with communication and bonding within a team, as competitors would rather spend more time texting than enjoying the company of their fellow teammates. This idea holds true for gameboys and most other personal entertainment items. The main exception to this rule that I see is music. A radio can lead to team bonding much more than it takes away. Assuming it is not so loud as to be disturbing, music brings a team together, as they hold spontaneous dance parties and sing-alongs in tack rooms.
- Cell phones and other entertainment items should not be allowed. The cell phones can be used as outside interference. Entertainment devices can be distracting and dangerous. Cell phones should be kept with chaperones.
- I am a bit of a traditionalist when it comes to electronics at Rally and feel that these items should not be allowed. The use of cell phones is not only distracting, but they may also give teams an unfair advantage (if they use their phones to communicate, it can save time, etc.)

- I think that all entertainment items should continue to be illegal and not allowed in the barns during rallies just for safety reasons. For this same reason, I believe cell phones should be allowed but should be strictly monitored by HM and should only be used in emergencies and after the barns have closed for the day.
- I think Pony Club should handle cell phones as they have in the past, with one exception. I still believe that cell phones should not be allowed for the use of contacting a trainer, parents or talking to friends elsewhere, which can always be done once the PC'er has left the grounds. However, I think cell phones should be allowed with the PC'er during Rally and turned on. It would be a help in any emergency situation. If any PC'er is caught talking or texting in excess while Rally is going on they could be asked to turn it off.
- Cell phones should be allowed in the barn area by all team members so long as they are not used and are out of the way. The penalty for using a cell phone should be raised to elimination of the team member. Cell phones may be used at the horse management base for authorized calls pertaining to the Rally.
- Cell phones – perhaps having an emergency phone available in the HM office. The USPC rule and penalty needs to stay in place at all rallies. The temptation for competitors to place calls or text family and friends takes away from the purpose of the competition.
- Cell phones SHOULD NOT be allowed for use in the barn area during rallies. In my experience as a competitor, rallies were focused solely on the preparation, teamwork, and diligence of PC'ers during competition. Cell phone allowance would not only cause distraction to the competitor, but also to teammates, rally officials, and horses. Permitting cell phone use would make it increasingly difficult to monitor unauthorized assistance. But what about “special circumstances?” This is what the neutral zone is for – it allows for communication if necessary while simultaneously upholding the “no cell phone” rule. Radios, etc.: While I do not believe these should be prohibited, I do believe their usage should be monitored, as music/noise may be bothersome to teammates, horses, and surrounding teams in the barn area.
- Cell phones @ rallies – Don't think they should be used during Rally. Distracting from horse care and team environment. Maybe could be used in neutral zone to share excitement about a good ride.
- Cell phones at rallies: I think cell phones should not be allowed in the barns at rallies. They are a distraction and could be used for cheating. It might be a good idea to have a cell phone use area where Pony Clubbers could make short phone calls away from the barns. If members are found using cell phones, they should receive warning then if use continues, the phone should be taken. No gameboys or other game devices. As far as music players go, I think they should be allowed but only during downtime in the team tack room. Walking around listening to music could be dangerous. Listening to music helps some people get “in the zone before a ride,” or listening to musical freestyle music to envision the ride.
- Cell phones: Everyone has them whether it is allowed or not. I think as long as they are on silent or turned off and in your bag it is alright. Rallies/championships is a time to socialize with your team not your phone.
- In the Maryland Region, we do not allow cell phones or any other device in the barns or at one-day rallies. We have a very strict policy: if you are caught with a device, you

cannot compete for 1 year starting with that Rally and may not qualify for Nationals. You also become a member not in good standing. The National Office, I feel, should follow suit. We, as Pony Clubbers, should be able to not use cell phones while competing because we should be focusing on what the Pony Club pledge states. I know, as an older Pony Clubber, that I would want to focus on how my horse and I are performing rather than text message a friend, especially if I'm trying to qualify.

- Cell phones should not be allowed for Pony Clubber use. If a Clubber is found with a cell phone, then it should be handled by the Horse Management. Points should be taken away from the team. Entertainment items should also be dealt with in the same way.
- After asking many different people in my club it is a bit of a split vote. The PC alumni state (rather vehemently) that cell phones and other things should in no way be allowed anywhere near the barn because they will cause a distraction and the Rally itself will become secondary. They also expressed concern over people using the cell phones to cheat. The current members are in cautious favor of allowing cell phones. I believe that we need to create policies and regulations for cell phones now so that bad habits do not form in the PC members at Rallies. And, let's face it; Pony Clubbers are already sneaking cell phones into the Barns. I propose that cell phones can be carried by **stable managers only** at a Rally but they may be used in the neutral zone to call their chaperone for food or an emergency. Any unauthorized Pony Clubber carrying a cell phone will result in a ten (10) point deduction from the PC'ers Formal Inspection Score, confiscation of the cell phone until the barn closes, and the chaperone must pick up the cell phone. Any unauthorized use of a cell phone by a stable manager will result in ten (10) points deduction from the team's initial inspection, confiscation of the cell phone until the barns close, and the chaperone must pick up the cell phone. A second infraction will result in immediate disqualification from the Rally. My reasoning behind allowing the stable manager to carry a cell phone is that often times that is the only way to reach a chaperone or parents and many Horse Management Judges or Parent Volunteers are not happy to use their cell phone minutes to call chaperones. One experience that I have had is that my horse came up lame at a Dressage Rally and I asked someone to call my chaperone and parent to inform them that I would not be riding. I was told that it was incredibly inconvenient and that the volunteer would be using their long distance minutes. The punishment for unauthorized cell phone use is so high in hopes that it will completely deter the Pony Clubbers from bringing their cell phones into the barn. A small radio, with the volume always on low, should be allowed. It even helps soothe the horses. Other electronic devices should not be allowed because they will encourage cheating and each Pony Clubber to live in their own electronic world and not interact with their team and the other Pony Clubbers.
- I believe that cell phones should be banned during rallies. There is absolutely no need for them during the course of the event. Should an emergency arise, there should be sufficient information available in order to contact the competitor.
- Cell phones, I-pods, and other handheld electronic devices should be allowed to be used by Pony Club competitors; however, they must be used with discretion. If a roaming horse management catches a competitor using one in an unsafe manner, such as listening to their I-pod while handling the horse, they should deduct points. One of the rulebooks/handbooks would also need to be updated so that it clearly lays out what is and isn't considered an acceptable use of such a device.

- I agree with PC that cell phones should not be allowed during crucial competition hours but competitors should be allowed to use their cell phones at critical times and only critical times. Perhaps, PC should have specified hours that cell phones are allowed at each rally (during set up, after the scores are posted, at meal times) to tell their parents how they have done. However, I am not sure if this rule is enforceable. Perhaps, instead each team should give their cell phones to HM at the beginning of the competition. Each competitor would be able to use it when needed but they would be required to remain at the HM tent during use. Music players should be allowed, however, I do not think they are necessary because there is hardly any free time at rallies. If music players were allowed it would help competitors relieve stress and have more fun.
- Cell phones should only be used for emergency purposes only (ex. To call 911 for help or a ride after the rally is finished. If calling for a ride, you should go in a designated area and let an official know). Music devices (cd players/walkmans/ipods) should not be allowed at rallies. The member is there to make friends, learn about the rally, help their club out throughout the day and have fun in other ways. They are not at the rally to isolate themselves, be distracted by these devices, or slack off. Any PC'er caught with a cell phone or music device and is not using it correctly, should have the item taken away and returned at the end of the day.
- I believe cell phones or any electronic device should NOT be allowed in barns at rallies. Phones defeat the purpose of independence and focus. I think music or TV is distracting for others and has no place in a competition barn or atmosphere.
- PC should continue to handle cell phones and communication devices as they are being handled now (not allowed). They are a distraction and the use of cell phones at rallies is unauthorized assistance.
- They should be banned completely. If a parent or chaperone needs to reach their child, the phone should be left in the neutral zone or HM office. The point of Rally is no communication with anyone other than judges, teammates, and competitors. We've done it before, we can survive now. Other communication devices such as radios should be at the discretion of the HM chief. But should always be at a courteous volume with no vulgar or profane or heavy metal music. No ipods or laptops!
- Cell phones should not be permitted during rallies. They are distracting and take the child's attention away from their team and horse. They also are an easy way to receive unauthorized assistance. Once the kids have been dismissed from the rally for the evening, I think that cell phones may be allowed to call parents and such but that discretion should be made by the chaperone. I think that I-pods are acceptable for use in the tack room and during downtime but they should not be used while taking care of horses as they prevent the child from hearing what is going on around them. I think radios should also be permitted in the barns as long as the music is appropriate for everyone in the barn and the volume is kept at a reasonable level.
- They should be somewhat allowed. CD players and I-Pods should be allowed as long as they don't interfere with horse management and then points should be taken off like normal. Or the riders/HM should be warned once and then the device should be taken up and kept for the Rally- also this second option should be allowed for cell phones, if they become a problem, the competitor gets a warning and points taken off.

- Pony Club should continue not allowing cell phones in the barns at rallies. There is no need for kids to have cell phones to contact people when there are horse managers who are always available to contact when something is needed. I don't really see problems with I-pods though. Music can be inspirational and relaxing when needed during stressful situations at rallies.
- PC should continue to ban cell phones and other communication devices from rallies and should eliminate any competitor found with one from competition.
- I think that Pony Club's policy of no cell phones is still a good one. I believe that laptop computers should be allowed as long as the wireless internet connection can be disabled. Any communication device that has the capability to play music should be allowed in the barn but the device needs to have the internet/communication connection disabled. If Pony Club allows cell phones in the barn then they have basically eliminated one of the key features that differentiate rallies from regular horse shows.

2. Horse Management – What can be done to enhance the education part of HM and to make the judging system more relevant and less nit picky?

- I think HM is doing a good job with not being as nit picky at rallies. I feel like there never should be a team with a lot of horse management points if the HM staff explains what's wrong, why it isn't safe, and how to fix it.
- Horse management would be more educational if, when points were taken off, a chance is given to find out what was wrong that caused the deducted points and how to fix it. Once this is done correctly, the HM could deduct a portion of the point.
- I think that the judging system in Pony Club can be made more relevant and less nit picky simply by having well informed judges. In my experience, the nit picky situations occur when a parent or volunteer who knows a lot about horses, but has very set ways, is judging. These people either follow what they grew up with or follow the mythical "Pony Club Way" to an extreme. They do not listen to the child's explanation, even if the explanation is valid. Often when Pony Clubbers get older and begin to judge other members, they maintain an open mind. This comes from their own experiences of the Pony Club nit picking. I think that in order to decrease the nit pickiness, Pony Club needs to actively state that there is more than one way to do something. The Pony Club manuals are often over-read and over-used as the definitive work on horse care when, in fact, it is not. Perhaps an updated, more inclusive, version of the manuals with broader information would allow for a broader view of horse care. More information combined with an effort to emphasize the point that Pony Club is about safety and not about a "Pony Club Way" will help to decrease the nit pickiness.
- HM has made huge steps in the last couple years. It needs to be kept to practices that can be maintained daily when kids go back to their barn. So things like small amounts of dandruff, dirt on hooves, and having the bottom of your boots clean for turn back are unrealistic. The only time kids address those tiny things are for Pony Club formals, and really, they do not affect the performance of horse or rider in the slightest. Not saying PC should settle, but it needs to take a step back and crack the whip on things that matter in the care and maintenance of a horse; like a proper brushing after work, and having supple, well-repaired tack. The chief HM's need to get together and agree on how the standard is interpreted, because the level of strictness varies from chief to chief.

- Always ensure that reasons behind rules are explained; also, teaching PC'ers easy ways to utilize HM in their daily lives until it becomes a habit; furthermore, teach PC'ers cost effective ways to integrate HM policies (ex: we need halters on our horses at all times in case they get loose – we live near a busy road, but leather halters are expensive and my horse breaks them all the time). The judging system would seem more relevant and less nit picky if there was more buy-in from PC'ers which goes back to how they were educated.
- The dichotomy of horse management presents a particularly challenging problem. On one hand, horse management at rallies is designed to test your skills and insure that horses are treated with the respect and care they deserve. On the other hand, however, removing points for issues as simple as having a clip on a bucket turned the wrong way becomes ridiculous. A balance between points and education has to be met. Maybe if Pony Club decided to give positive points rather than taking points away, the system would seem less superfluous. Assigning positive points would require that judging sheets have clear expectations so that competitors know exactly what is expected of them. As the system lies now, the expectations are unclear and vary from rally to rally depending on the judge and their personal experiences and preferences. Besides standardizing judging and making it seem less arbitrary, a positive points system sounds more encouraging. I feel that Pony Clubbers will strive harder to gain points than to prevent losing them.
- Horse management should be judged according to the rating level. The clubs should explain why certain things are done.
- In order to improve the learning aspect of HM, I think the judges should talk through their findings with the Pony Clubber. Instead of going to your formal inspection, having everything looked over and then walking away only to find out later on the judging sheet that apparently your horse had dandruff in his tail, the HM judge could point out during the inspection. The judge could also illuminate the strong and weak points of that subject, for example that there was dandruff in the tail, but a lot less in the mane. This provides more of a hands-on learning experience instead of an authority figure basically saying that all of your effort to remove all of your horse's dandruff the past month resulted in minus two points.
- I think the educational aspect of Pony Club and Horse Management is already really comprehensive. However, if Pony Club could somehow provide a link using technology that easy, world-wide access to all members and Pony Club alumni and affiliates would allow communication and the sharing of information/ideas amongst members. Something that I think Horse Management judging could do to make it more relevant is when making big judgment calls that are written in the rule book, maybe take a step back and remember that you're dealing with young adults and sometimes just make the "right" decision and not necessarily do exactly what the handbook says, in special circumstances.
- I think the HM part of rallies and ratings could be made more educational by explaining why everything must be done in advance. I think the little children/lower ratings do a lot of things because they don't want to lose HM points but don't actually understand the reason behind the method. To me once I understood why I was doing things that before seemed so particular suddenly became purposeful. Once a PC'er understands the various reasons a belt is a must when riding it suddenly becomes easy to remember to wear. I think all these things should be covered in the pony lessons, but HM judge/examiner should be questioning riders as to why they do a certain practice.

- Test knowledge of use of required equipment during equipment check. Create rule that penalty points may not be given for HM unless a logical or safety reason can be given for why something was done incorrectly. Ground jury to decide if reason was logical enough.
- Conducting more hands-on, unmounted events concerning proper Rally horse managing. Upper level PC'ers can instruct "mock" formals, HM scores at clinics and camps. I feel that advanced PC'ers still need the structured environment and be judged according to their rating for HM. The judges' persona and criticizing skills should be uplifting, encouraging, balanced (negative w/a positive – always), but expecting the competitors to be at their correct standards.
- While I agree that we need to do more to educate about HM, I do not feel that judging is in any way irrelevant or nit picky. It is a means to test our knowledge, not to hurt our scores or self-confidence.
- Seminars specifically for older Pony Clubbers to go through standard rules and how to teach effectively.
- At rallies, HM should be focused more on teaching than on points. Rallies should be about fun, not just winning. I don't have an answer to how HM could be less strict, but for two separate rallies the CHMJ was Nancy Harter and she had a style that was relaxed but all the rules were still enforced. Nancy made rallies more enjoyable.
- I was the stable manager for a non-qualifying eventing team this past year. A D2 member from my club was spotless, her paint pony was shining and did not have one speck of dirt or dandruff on her. The lady doing the formal inspections was judging as if the girl was a C3 member. The D2 from my club was very discouraged because of what the judge said to her.
- HM judges have evolved their own standards on ratings and rallies. Judges become very picky to the point of not having fun (ex.: at eventing rally, judges don't listen to members, ended up not having a good experience). Judges should be more understanding, especially to those that don't understand and make it a happy experience.
- The education of horse management should be fun and not "forced down your throat." I've been very lucky in that my region has lots of very HM knowledgeable people. Even when we go to rallies, especially within our local clubs, it's been a good day when we as a team place in HM. As one of my regional HMO's has said "HM is all day, 24/7 job especially at Nationals or overnight rallies, if you place in HM, then you have been doing an awesome job of making sure your partner (horse) and team are taking care of each other." HM will always be nit picky, however, there is a fine line of being judged to the standard or being excessive. I think it would help if the chiefs and regional HMO's are "streamlined" on the standards. It may sound impossible, but I do believe it may help.
- The HM needs to be more subjective to the environment. By being more subjective it gives opportunity for more learning (ie: in this situation do it this way, vice versa).
- It is not the judging system that needs to be changed but the judges. I have been to many Rallies and I have looked over the HM scoring. Everything that Pony Club asks its members to do has a logical defined reason behind it. It is the judges that are nit picky and take everything to the extreme. The judges need to be trained in the fact that there are many different types of grooming tools and other tools than are what Pony Club is asking for. The HM Judges also need to be taught that teaching is the main focus – not taking points away. So many judges seem to revel in the fact that they get to take a point here or a half a point there. Also, many of the judges work very well with D Pony Clubbers but they use the same tone and tactics when approaching a C Pony Clubber. The C's often know almost everything

there is to know about a Pony Club Rally and many HM Judges who are parents and did not go through the process get very defensive when they are told that they are wrong – even when it's done respectfully. Also many times CHM Judges will bring “prizes” for the Pony Clubbers that best exemplify what Pony Club is about but these prizes are geared only towards the younger members. The one thing I would change is the fact that Pony Club requires that you weigh your hay out if you brought a bale. How many barns actually do this? Most horse people go completely by feel since each bale of hay is different not only in how it is baled – tight or loose – but the quality of the hay. You may get some hay that is just a little lower quality than what you are used to and so you will feed the horses a bit more or if you get a particularly rich bale of hay you will feed a bit less.

- The “nit-picky-ness” of HM is what makes Rally such a unique experience. The detail-oriented nature of Pony Club is what makes it so educationally valuable. Of course, there are some extremes, and priority levels should be established in order to monitor the relevance of certain offenses. For example, empty water buckets is a high priority, whereas a full trashcan is arguably not.
- I think being an HM is a very educational as long as the individual is taking their role seriously. Judging can be made less nit picky by only taking points off for safety/care issues and not so much because of the judge's personal pet peeve.
- Written tests are a good way to enhance the education part of HM (although those are already in existence), because they do not affect the final scores significantly. Another good way to make the judging system more relevant and slightly less nit picky is for the judges to leave notes on the team's message boards to fix things before they take points off. Also, scorers could drop off the points of the person with the most points because I find that when a team suffers in HM, it is often related to the mistakes of a single person or it is the team as a whole. If it is one person's mistakes, it is probably because they are new at rallying and this policy could help them without hurting their team. Though the team should try their best to educate new ralliers on the team so they do not have to suffer anyway.
- Have the HM seminar open to all Pony Clubbers every year. At rallies, always have one or more HM manager present where everyone can see them. In my Region, when I first joined Pony Club, the rallies and the rules were always strict and I complained because at the time I thought some of the things were unfair. Nowadays, since our past RS passed away some years ago, the RS position has been shared by 3 people and it really hasn't worked well with how the region has become. Almost everyone at all the rallies are way too lenient with the rules. No one seems to want to put their foot down when something is unsafe or kids are not participating correctly in the Rally. I would really like to see this be corrected. Also there seems to be a lot of parents that are “helping out” during the Rally that don't know too much info about horses.
- I think talking to the Pony Clubbers about hints and quick fixes will make them more able to understand and have fun with the horse management. When the judges make a big deal over a mistake, it becomes frustrating and hard to deal with.
- Horse Management is a very important part of Pony Club but in order to make it more educational and less “nit picky” it should focus more on safety and less on perfection. I understand the importance of appearance but safety of the horse and rider are far more important. In my opinion, the only time Horse Management is “nit picky” is at rallies (and only for upper level ralliers). If HM was more focused on why our tack needs to be clean

over food needs to be packaged correctly, and our stalls set up just so, and less focused on spotless tack and horses, it would be less stressful and more educational.

- Getting the older/upper level (>16,>C2) kids to teach the younger members because many times the younger ones look up to the older ones and may pay attention and learn more. Encouraging regions to hold camps where the older kids do all the teaching of the D's mounted and unmounted with an adult overseeing each lesson plan beforehand. Learning by seeing such as vet clinic visits, ridealongs, being a working student or volunteer at a local stable, even taking the club to tours of many different type of horse barns (polo, hunter, racing, etc.) to see why many principles of PC are so important and practical. Making the judging more relevant and less nit picky: Many times regions have a hard time to get upper level members to help as assistants and they can make it more fair because they have just been there. I feel that rallies really haven't changed in the last 10 years, but the preparation of the clubs is what has decreased. Many kids come to Rally and don't know where anything is or what things are because their parents or instructors do things for them. If they come and don't have what is needed or how things run, most of the time they haven't gone through the rulebook or even prize list. Many times the personality of the HM judges came off as snobby or just do it because I said so attitude. There needs to be more interaction and explaining of reasons why things are done a certain way. Another helpful program or clinic would be to have a rally prep day where clubs come and see how a rally is run and what to expect once they compete in one on their own. And the most important part is gear it towards the kids.
- I believe that the attitude of a rally is set by the judges and so if they come in with a nit-picky attitude then that will carry through. Rally rules are clearly set and all have a reasonable explanation behind them but if the judges don't take the time to answer questions and teach the kids why that item is there or that rule is in place, the really definitely takes on a nit-picky feel. In other words, I feel that the judging system is fine but that the judges need to set the tone of the rally by focusing on helping the kids throughout the rally, not just adding penalties. The judges need to know that perfect formals are possible when you judge to the standard, they need to know that they are not searching for something done wrong, they are praising a job well done. And then, when something is done incorrectly or not quite right, they should help the child understand the correct way and why, not just adding penalties without explanation.
- They could explain the problem more and emphasize what they need/can do to fix it. Good/excellent horse management could also be rewarded more. Focus some more on unmounted annual meeting activities on horse management (esp. at rallies).
- My personal region has HM exams at every rally. There are questions that have to do with the rally itself and the sport being done along with normal HM questions. I found this to be very helpful with learning more about what you're doing and not just doing it. It also makes sure that you are keeping up to date on your HM information. I don't really feel that the system is too nit picky. We like to have a well prepared, knowledgeable, and well turned out Pony Clubbers.
- In order to enhance the educational part of HM judging it might be good to give points back for problems which are corrected, even if it is just partial points which are given back. It would also be good for HM chiefs to lay out their policies for common issues such as spurs to formals and types of antibiotic ointment accepted during the briefing.
- There are still some rules in the HM handbook that are too nit picky instead of just having the idea of welfare of horse and rider and protection of the culture of riding. For example, it

states you must only wear a gold stock pin, however silver pins or pins with decorations on the front that are still regular stock pins should be allowed. Positive points of acts that Pony Clubbers perform in the barn that give a little extra and reward Horse Managers that do a great job for their team. Making all of HM judging more objective and less open to interpretation by the judges would also help make the judging seem fair while teaching good horse management skills. Horse Management judges that are willing to spend time and talk to competitors in the tack rooms and relate to competitors will also be more popular and competitors might feel that all HM isn't just out to get them and instead remind them that HM judges are real people who do not want to punish competitors.

3. What leadership skills does PC develop in its members and what leadership skills would you like to see the organization do more to help you master?

- Pony Club helps its members be able to work better with other members and as a team. This is an important skill to learn and being able to interact with other people is an important leadership skill. Other leadership skills that I would like help – mastering mounted teaching skills. I think there is a lot in my region with unmounted teaching but not as much mounted.
- PC does a very good job of developing group organization and responsibility. However, I feel that it needs to become more individualized so that those qualities reach every member.
- Pony Club does an excellent job of developing leadership skills and independence. Pony Club first teaches kids to take responsibility and leadership roles in the horse/rider bond. From there, kids learn how to be team leaders as they go to rallies and become captains of teams. I think that Pony Club does not need additional leadership requirements, but if they were to, it could be an upper level rating requirement such as completing a project where the Pony Clubber must organize and lead volunteers.
- Pony Club has helped me to learn enough about horses to be able to pass it on to younger kids. I am more capable of making educated decisions and therefore more capable of leading a group both mounted and unmounted successfully. I would like to see the organization give more opportunities outside of NYC for older kids to meet. My club has 60 members, 52 of which are under the age of 12. Once teens enter PC, interest is lost quickly. Older kids need to get together to have fun, compete, or learn more often.
- Qualities I get: teamwork, compassion, responsibility, hard-working, time management. Qualities I want: coordination, leadership outside a team setting.
- Pony Club does an excellent job of fostering a sense of responsibility and communication. It encourages teamwork and individual action at the same time. I would like to see Pony Club work more on getting groups to work together as a cohesive force and deal with conflicts better. When a group of young riders get together, small skirmishes usually result, which while natural, are often dealt with in a problematic manner. Differences of opinion need to be recognized and accommodated. I feel that Pony Club could find a way to teach conflict management so that these team upsetting discrepancies become productive rather than destructive.
- PC develops a leadership skill of being independent and a team member. The organization should help its older members really take part in the younger members' PC experience.
- Pony Club does a great job developing leaders that set positive examples. Because of the large age span and variety of levels attainable through ratings, there are always older people providing an example for those younger than them. Not only do they exemplify where each younger member could be in the future, but they also teach them about what it takes to get

there. I think that Pony Club could do a better job teaching people how to control or maximize group experiences. Often times this is something that comes with experience, but is also a subject that could be taught to members involved in teaching so that they have more of a framework to work from.

- Pony Club develops a good sense of time management and also how to work and perform under pressure. It also instills a good work ethic in its members and helps develop communication and teamwork skills. Although this isn't necessarily leadership skills that I would like to see Pony Club develop more of, I do think the organization needs to focus on how to retain members and create leaders that will continue on helping Pony Club even after they graduate.
- I can't speak enough about the leadership skills PC has taught me. I can speak freely and confidently in front of my peers or respected professors. At my college we have very rigorous tests our senior year called Comprehensive exams in which the students are tested on everything from freshman year to senior year in their major at college. Part of these exams is a 2-3 hour oral exam with your advisor and at least two other professors who have taught you; this section is the most scary section for many students. However, that is one of the least parts I'm scared about because of the way PC has taught me to talk to my respected professors and articulate my ideas clearly. PC has also taught me how to lead when not everyone gets along in the group or to listen to everyone's ideas while finding a general goal for the group. It also teaches leaders to be followers sometimes, which I think is just important to sometimes step down even if that is an unusual thing for the person. I just want PC to continue to teach me how to be a respected leader everyone wants to work with for cause.
- Independence, verbal skills, teamwork. Quiz develops public speaking but other things do not. If this could be worked in it would be beneficial, but I haven't figured out how to do that yet.
- Leadership skills – public speaking, confidence, goal-setting abilities, organization/preparation, presentation (appearance). I struggle with procrastination – perhaps besides being recommended to not procrastinate, a recommended plan or schedule for rally/rating preparation.
- Team leader, responsibility, independence, and goal setting – these are all executed well by PC'ers, thanks to the efforts of the organization. Keep up the good work.
- Leadership Conference; upper level C's; Horse Management Seminar; Teaching Seminar. I think a seminar for an older Pony Clubber that centered around teaching principles would give C's and up an avenue to be more involved in advancing their leadership and teaching skills. After completing my NARHA certification and teach riders with different disabilities, I can see an opportunity to implement some of NARHA's teaching styles and workshops for Pony Clubbers. By creating better teachers, these members will be better instructors, examiners, and leaders. I passed my H/A before completing my NARHA certification, and looking back, my teaching skills were not stellar. With the new ICP's for USEA & USDF, I think the USPC should consider a small scale version that regions could implement. Creating qualified teachers will improve the pool for future examiners as well.
- The skills that PC develops in its members, if they are active participants, are responsibility, oral communication, time management, and being a part of a team. Installing a junior board in every pony club will allow these skills to be mastered because the members will be

making more decisions. Community outreach programs like land conservation would also advance leadership skills.

- PC creates a sense of independence, motivation, and leadership. It lets us learn skills in order to organize and teach.
- Pony Club develops leadership skills in its members: Teamwork! Communication. Teaching. Helping others. Respect. I have mastered most of these, however from what I see and observe at rallies, our younger members (10-15 yrs. Old) have a general lack of respect toward HM judges, officials, and adult volunteers.
- I think this varies from club to club and some clubs do not push for more responsibility out of upper level kids. I think there needs to be more requirements for upper level kids to teach etc. so that clubs have to give upper level kids more opportunities. My club gives kids options all the time and is more focused around the kids. Unmounted lessons and fundraising are great ways for team experience outside of competition.
- How to lead a small group of your peers is one leadership skill that Pony Club helps to develop during rallies with the team captain position. Also as the older members teach the younger members they gain leadership skills. I think there should be more emphasis on how to teach at the Annual Meetings to help with that aspect of leadership. I think Pony Club does a very good job in helping develop leadership skills just by insisting that its members be organized, learn the rules, and play by them.
- Pony Club has a strong track record of developing leadership skills in young adults, as well as overall confidence in social situations. The nature of ratings and formal inspections help develop skills for interviews and other one-on-one interactions. There are individual differences in how people mature given these situations, and I feel as though Pony Club provides a strong base for providing various leadership activities.
- PC develops leadership on two levels. We are taught to lead ourselves and the younger kids who look up to us as an example and we learn to be the leader in our relationships with our horses. I'd like PC to focus more on making us good at making connections with the right people in the horse world. First impressions with people who hold a lot of power or respect are important and can make or break a rider's career. I feel like we are not taught how to approach professionals.
- PC develops numerous leadership skills in the members such as teaching fellow and younger members, decision-making, time management, presenting information as well as representing the club and ourselves in a professional manner, organization and labeling, understanding group needs, controlling a group, and setting examples. Without having these leadership skills instilled in me today, I would be a different, less successful individual. I would like to see the organization help me master how to relieve stress in high-pressure situations and how to relieve nerves when speaking to officials especially judges and raters.
- I would like to see more independence. I honestly think parents are still helping out way too much, especially at rallies when they sneak talk to their kids when they're not supposed to because their child could get penalized if caught. I would like to be able to be more capable of speaking in front of a group when teaching an unmounted meeting. Also how a good way to teach mounted meetings – a fun and interesting way to keep the kids entertained.
- Pony Club helps develop so many leadership skills, as an upper level Clubber, you have to lead by example and by teaching the younger or less experienced riders. In Rallies and Quiz the team captain or older member learns a lot about leading and helping others. I would like

to see each of the younger, lower level Pony Clubbers trying leadership and starting to develop their own voice and opinion.

- PC gives members an opportunity to develop leadership skills like teaching, giving ratings, and judging. While the opportunity exists most Pony Clubbers don't take advantage of them. I would like to see PC encourage its upper level members to take advantage of its leadership building opportunities.
- Teamwork; organization; study skills; responsibility
- I think that PC does a good job of instilling leadership skills in a competitive environment, such as leading a team and also in teaching situations. I can't think of any other leadership skills that Pony Club needs to address.
- Pony Club teaches its members how to lead by giving them the courage/practice so they can do it well and PC instills its members with good teamwork abilities. Pony Club also teaches members how to work well with others and responsibility, which are also necessary for leadership.
- I feel that Pony Club helps teach the ability to stand up in front of people and be confident in the things you say. I think Pony Club could work more on instilling positive experiences no matter what. I know I and others have run into some bad situations with HM and adults doing ratings or helping at rallies and never got any positive experiences at the end.
- PC helps its members to become independent thinkers and smart leaders however I think it would be a good thing for PC to do more to help its members learn how to lead while accepting input from other teammates.
- Pony Club does a great job of teaching teamwork, self-reliance, ingenuity, and independence through rallies and Pony Clubber involvement at the club level. However, there is a gap between communication of Pony Clubbers and adult leaders at the national level. Working with adults in the organization and with other Pony Clubbers to create ideas and provide input to adult leaders would teach leadership and negotiation. The creation of a national youth council would allow Pony Clubbers to work with adult leaders and each other. NYC allows for the opportunity once a year but a national youth council will allow this to continue throughout the year.

4. Do you feel that PC provides sufficient opportunities for you to:

Get instruction and learn from older (upper level) kids

Teach younger (lower level) kids

Have enough team experience outside competitions

Is you club/region organized in such a way that kids get a say about how things work.

- When I was younger, I learned a lot from older members, but now that I am that older member, I don't think that teaching younger members is as present now. I feel that I don't have a lot of opportunities to teach the younger members team skills outside competitions. I don't know if Pony Club provides opportunities for this, unless clubs take it upon themselves. In my region, we have Junior Leadership Council and we get to run our own camps and activities. I don't know if we have a say in how the region is organized, but they ask for our opinion occasionally.

- PC, while it provides adequate instructional support, needs to encourage PC'ers to be more active with each other and provide more opportunities. It would also be better if there was a way to bring the team out past competitions.
- I think that Pony Club provides plenty of opportunity for teaching interactions between upper and lower level members. These interactions occur as part of the upper level program, at camps, helping out at other pony club's camps, and teaching for pony clubs. In our club, camps provide major bonding time between members making the atmosphere very team oriented. Pony Club emphasizes teamwork at rallies, which comes through to everyday life, forming lots of team experience. Our clubs and region are very open to what the members have to say. They constantly ask for feedback and opinions as well as receive input from a Junior Board.
- Speaking from my club and neighboring clubs in North Central Prairie, we have tons of opportunities to teach younger kids. But they don't have much of an opportunity to learn from older kids because the amount of upper level PC'ers is lacking. They do have fun doing group lessons and mock HM competitions at camp. My club is run very successfully with the kids given a lot of say and a lot of opportunities.
- Do you feel PC provides enough: - instruction from older members: yes, - opportunities to teach younger members: yes, have enough team experience outside competition: my club, yes, organized in such a way that kids get a say about how things work: yes
- As an upper level member, the main opportunities to learn in my region come from rating preps and Upper Level Camp; however, I am very satisfied with what I gain from these experiences. I do find it hard to teach lower level lessons because our club holds all lessons on the same day, so teaching requires missing my lesson. Additionally, many parents would rather have their children taught by "real" instructors and have difficulties even allowing upper level members to assist. Camps and meetings give chances for team bonding and experience that is more beneficial than in rallies, because it occurs without the stress of competition. I think that kids have a very indirect say about how things are run, both in the region and the club. Adults can tell what is liked and disliked and ask for suggestions for next time. This allows clubbers some influence, but most of the say lies with the sponsors. However, I don't want to sound unappreciative, because for the most part, things are run in a very convenient and efficient way.
- PC has a lot of opportunities for me to teach younger kids and PC should continue to push older kids to teach them. Team experience is very sufficient during rallies, which helps us continue to use that "team" quality. My club and region do listen very well to the kids. I think the older or upper level PC'ers should be able to participate in all meetings.
- I think that Pony Club definitely provides the opportunities. The problem I see is that people often do not take advantage of these opportunities, which consequently leads to fewer offerings. Perhaps if there was more of an education regarding what these events (rallies, etc.) are, then newer members, or people who have never participated before, would feel more comfortable participating. As for teaching opportunities, I think that Pony Club could do a better job circulating names of upper level members interested in teaching. For example, an email list with instructor names and phone numbers could be sent to clubs in the region so that there was always a fresh list of interested people to hire to fill in, or become a permanent instructor.

- I have had a lot of experience learning and being taught by older members and also teaching younger members in the club. I also believe that Pony Club provides a lot of activities outside competitions that are really fun and educational, for example: various camps, mounted meetings, games and other event practices, clinics, and other activities that provide variety and new experiences for members.
- Yes, PC has allowed me to receive some amazing instruction opportunities. I have had many opportunities to teach younger/lower level kids both at home and when I'm at college. Yes, I think Pony Club emphasizes teamwork no matter where you are so that I'll be in the barn getting my horse ready and if a friend needs help I'll go help her so that we are both ready on time for a lesson. My region/club is very good about listening to the kids' ideas about the way things are run or should be run.
- Not anymore. I don't know enough B's and A's, but it did when I was a C and D, especially D. I believe other clubs might, but my experience, my club does not. Competition outside PC? Not at all. Do you reach PC'ers attending horse trials together? Did not feel I had enough of a say...that's why I'm here so hopefully that will change in 3 days.
- Being the oldest and highest rated PC'er in my pony club, I have offered my teaching skills to my club and other local clubs as well. Lake Norman and Southriver Bend PC's have coordinated clinics this year for the Clubbers to interact with each other. Because of the young age group, not much input is from the members. However, with the teens, every year our club asks specifically for what they want with not much feedback. We try to set goals, such as accomplishing ratings or qualifying in a certain rally (this year is Games).
- All of the areas are sufficient. For "kids say in how things work," perhaps each club/region should create a type of Junior Board, where kids can contribute their ideas and collaborate with those of adults. This would promote critical thinking and teamwork outside of a competition setting, and would enhance leadership and initiative in club/region members.
- Opportunities to learn: Instruction from UL; teach younger, teaching workshops to raise comfort; team experience
- I feel that Pony Club has given me instruction from upper level members. This instruction was mainly through camps and reaching out to neighboring clubs. I feel that I have had a lot of opportunity to teach lower level members seeing as I am the highest rated in my club. My mother has been DC for several years so it was my job to teach D's and I also act as a mentor at D camp. There is not enough team experience outside competitions, but it really depends on the club and region. The only times it would apply would be group lessons at meetings and camps. Holding mock rallies and similar activities would improve teamwork. My club does allow the members to give input, but not many actually do. I'm really not sure about this at the regional level. I've never had many issues so I have no experience.
- Do you feel that PC provides sufficient for upper? No Lower levels? Yes Enough team experience outside competitions? Yes Is your region/club organized? Kids get a say? Club – yes, Region – not really
- In my local club, Quentin Pony Club, we get plenty of instruction with mounted/unmounted meetings the second and fourth Saturday of each month as well as a

member's meeting on the third Friday of each month as well. Teaching is something that in my club, we try to allow older members to teach, however; there are only 2-3 that are motivated and like to teach and the others avoid it at all costs. For team experience, I would say yes and no. If I had more outside experiences, I think I would further my experiences in Pony Club. We get a say in our local club, however regionally, we had a junior board, but it kinda fell through because of the advisor.

- Get instructions and learn from older (upper level) members: Not in the Mid Cal region since almost all of the clinics or events are sent to the members maybe two weeks in advance and are almost always near Woodside so those members who do not live in the northern part of the region don't often get to attend. Teach younger (lower level) members: Yes. I am constantly helping the younger members of my club in both horse management and riding. We often have days where the older members will prepare stations for the younger members to rotate around. Have enough team experiences outside competitions: The many camps that the region holds and meetings that my club hold I am always interacting with the members that are often on my teams. It was amazing to go to Nationals with a few of my close friends. Is your club/region organized in such a way that kids get a say about how things work? Nope.
- Instruction from upper level members: Being one of the few upper level members in my region, this question does not necessarily apply to me at this point in time. Teaching younger kids: Unfortunately, as we got older and moved onto college, it became difficult to simply maintain influence as upper level members in the club, much less teaching. I do believe, though, that had we been provided more of an opportunity to teach the younger kids mounted instruction, we would have been more influential. Team experience: Much of the Rocky Mountain Region's team experience is simply centered on mega-rally and quiz. Kids' say in how things work: Our club and region has an active junior board that often presents ideas to our adult board members for consideration. However, it has been difficult for the junior board to implement these ideas given tough criticism.
- Instruction from upper level members: No, they're usually all in college, which I understand now since that's where I am. Teaching younger kids: Yes, we were always given opportunities to teach. Team experience: No, my club doesn't have a shared barn so I really only get to interact and know some members under the stress of prepping for competitions and ratings. Kids' say in how things work: No, the adults work things out, but the kids have no complaints. I suppose they influence their parents' decisions, though.
- Instruction from upper level members: Yes, in my pony club it is required for the upper level kids to instruct the lower level kids in some form. It is our way of giving back to the club. Teaching younger kids: Yes, my pony club requires us to teach mounted and/or unmounted lessons to lower level kids. Team experience outside competitions: We don't have organized opportunities to get team experience outside of competition but in prep clinics and camps we all get to know each other and work as a team, whether it is deciding what activities we want to do that day or designing our jump course. Kids' say in how things work: Our club is not organized in such a way that the kids get a say about how things work, however, if we do have a suggestion, we can bring it up and I am sure someone would consider it. The best way for kids to have their opinions heard is to tell

their parent to bring it up at a parents' meeting, so the parents and officers can all consider together.

- Instruction from upper level members: No. Our region doesn't have many upper level kids that are interested in teaching. They either have left for college or think Pony Club is boring. I am 22, another member of my club is an HA, same age as me, and she has just recently quit to become the DC of our club. Our region does offer preps for members but a lot of members don't show up either because of cost or lack of horses. Teaching younger kids: Not really. Our club used to provide unmounted for our younger kids, but all we have are C's and just recently, UR's. I help out another local club in teaching the unmounteds and helping with some mounteds and the kids seem to enjoy it. Team experience outside of competition: Not really sure. Kids' say in how things work: No. If there is something said, it is most likely forgotten and people are tired of repeating the same things, so the don't say anything.
- Yes, in many ways PC provides a great opportunity for me to learn from older members. The problem is that I have never had many upper level Clubbers in my club. I have never been taught by someone older because there haven't been any. I am changing that by doing my part as a B Pony Clubber to teach the others. I do feel PC gives me many opportunities to teach younger, lower level kids. My club meets once a week in the summer and I am able to teach each week progressively making the lessons harder and more diverse. I wish there were more times for team experiences outside competitions, such as club trail rides or barbecues or movie nights. In the old days so much of Pony Club was about camping out with your ponies and being away from school, parents work, kids don't have time to do any of this anymore, which is bad. No, kids in my region have nothing to do with the organization or a say in how things work.
- Pony Club can offer opportunities for us to get instruction from upper level/older kids and to teach younger/lower level kids but most members do not take advantage of the opportunities. I would like to see a more structured plan within the regions and clubs to provide instruction from upper level kids and to give kids a chance to teach younger kids. I think PC does not provide opportunities for outside competition but it does make trainers available, gives kids a chance to learn how to show (through rallies), and to find people to compete with (other Pony Clubbers) who might be interested in the same type of competition. My club and region are organized in a way that kids who take the initiative to talk to officials do have a say in the way things work.
- Team experience is important and we don't get the opportunity to be on a team other than competitions and many times that causes problems because lots of kids don't know how to work on a team. Then, when they get to Rally, they struggle because they don't understand their role. Intermountain region is open to what the kids have to say, but they rarely listen. I would like to propose to them that a youth regional council that goes to the regional meetings.
- I feel that as a younger Pony Clubber, I received enough instruction from older Pony Clubbers. I know that some clubs have trouble retaining older members and so they are lacking in instruction. I know that as an older member in my club/region, I do a lot of instruction and teaching! I do feel that I get ample opportunities to instruct for my region. I don't think that there is a lot of team activity outside of competitions, but I feel that the attitude of helping each other out should carry through to all aspects of Pony

Club. Recently, I don't think my region has had much connection with the kids, but I hope that with our new leadership that will change. I have tried on numerous occasions to start a Junior Board but it had no adult support and so it never made it. I feel that my club has always been very in touch with what the kids needed and our leaders worked really hard to make sure that the kids' needs were met.

- Pony Club offers some opportunities to get instruction from older and upper level kids. Depending on whether or not clubs have them depends on whether or not there are opportunities. I think teaching younger members falls along the same lines. I don't think there are really enough team experiences outside rallies. Our region doesn't really have specific ways to speak up. Although, if you feel the need to speak up you can easily get a chance.
- PC provides sufficient opportunities to both learn from upper level Pony Clubbers and for upper level Pony Clubbers to teach lower level kids. In the Delmarva region we have a multitude of both upper level clinics and lower level clinics taught by upper level members. Outside of rallies there is not very much team experience unless you are involved in Games or Polocrosse, although I feel that Pony Clubbers are very supportive of each other whether or not in a team setting. In my region, members have many opportunities to express their feelings on how things work.
- As one of the higher level Pony Clubbers in my club, it is difficult to learn from other Pony Clubbers as I am usually doing the teaching. However, I use the resources of graduate Pony Clubbers in my area. My club greatly utilizes upper level members to teach mounted and unmounted lessons for D's and C's. In general, Pony Club does not have enough opportunities for team work outside of competitions. Team building activities would be good for Rally teams to learn how to work well together before the stress of competition. My region does not have an active youth voice; however, my club does have a youth council. My club does have issues with willingness to participate and speak up. We try to use the Youth Council as a vehicle for Pony Clubbers to talk without speaking directly to the adults.

5. What are your thoughts on the first year for a new Pony Club member in the "Perfect Pony Club?"

- The perfect year in Pony Club would begin with joining a really active club, one that the whole region knows, and is involved. They would be able to participate in every rally, either as HM or as a rider. Be able to go to the regional and national meetings.
- Chance to meet and interact with members of the club; experience new riding activities (games, polox, foxhunting, etc.); have hands-on time while learning HM.
- A "C" level member working toward a National Rating would experience mounted and unmounted instruction and assessment directed toward their upcoming rating. They would experience a positive rally experience and begin to teach and work with the lower level members in their club and region.
- For a "D" member, Pony Club should be all about gaining confidence in their riding abilities, independence from parents, and having fun. They should be able to enjoy camps where they can learn from their fellow members and instructors, care for their pony independently and learn how to work in a team. They would probably attend several rallies.

- A new Pony Clubber should experience a great growing and learning experience for their first year in a non-stress environment. At first, the Pony Club experience seems overwhelming, but as time progresses, the Clubber should find that there is a logical reason for everything that occurs. They should also bond with their fellow members and participate in a variety of fun and educational activities, such as D-rallies, camps, and even regular meetings.
- The perfect Pony Club would have: A healthy bank account; An even amount of younger and older kids; An even amount of boys and girls; Good parent involvement; Good activity from all members
- I think that a new PC member's perfect year would consist of a lot of fun, social, club activities. Many new members have no idea what Pony Club is, but they get the idea real fast with unmounted meetings with friends, group lessons, and introductory activities such as an Everything But the Horse Rally. Upper level members, working to provide examples and motivation for members to go far within the Pony Club system, could teach many of the events attended by new members.
- A year in the perfect Pony Club for any level of rider would foremost consist of having a sound and healthy horse and good weather!
- I think a year in the "Perfect Pony Club" for a new member would be filled with mainly understanding. I joined PC when I was 14 years old and was a fair rider; what I needed was time to adjust to the Pony Club way of life. People need to be understanding and patient when teaching new members young/old or inexperienced/experienced how Pony Club works at rallies, lessons, and in general learning to love the Pony Club way. In that first year, the person would learn tons of horse management knowledge, friends with a shared interest, and a separate family. That first year the person should learn all that Pony Club has to offer with hard work and determination. That person should be pushed hard to reach goals while having the time of their life.
- The perfect Pony Club for new members would have weekly mounted and unmounted instruction (attention?) with lots of activities for D's. **I BELIEVE THIS QUESTION MUST BE EXTENDED TO THE PERFECT REGION for new members!!!**
- New member would experience a weekly club meeting taught by upper level members, with lots of hands on projects, possibly field trips, local EBTH participation in the badge program, attend camps, and have fun learning.
- New member: Supportive membership; ratings; rallies; nationals – depending on rating; team work
- The three meetings that they attend are interesting and well run. The club is very friendly and open, answering any questions from both the potential member and parents/guardian. All financial obligations are given to the parents and the expectations of the club, region and nationals are clearly explained. Once they have joined, the member would have an older member assigned as a mentor to help them learn the rules and the ropes. Depending on the riding level and age, a testing should take place to get the member rated. A mock rally or camp would be provided to let them get their feet wet in a learning environment. A Quiz Rally would probably be a very good choice for a first rally followed by a Rally in the discipline that the new member is most comfortable in. Through all of this, the mentor is providing support and guidance. The club is now like a second family to the member (with all the time you spend with them, that is inevitable) and the member has made significant gains in their knowledge of horses and horsemanship.

- A perfect year in Pony Club for a new member would be remembered as a truly FUN and educational experience. Lots of friends would be made and quality time spent with their best friends would result. Secondly, the knowledge gained and improvements made in their riding would become obvious. A good, solid instructor with the ultimate in high expectations would be routine, in order to give the rider a sense of responsibility and pride in their riding and horse care. Meeting a group of older Pony Clubbers having fun, learning, and mentoring the younger kids would help to set the example and become the role model for the younger Pony Clubbers to follow.
- If someone was in a perfect club for a year they would experience friendship, leadership, lessons on safety, and horse management. They would have gotten to participate in or audit clinics by some of the sport's top professionals at way discounted prices. They would always have a horse to ride, older Clubbers to nurture them, and have lessons and rallies open to them.
- When I first joined my Pony Club, I thought of it as the "perfect Pony Club" so I will tell my experiences. I had just bought a young, green mare with little training and I also had little experience, too. So, one of the older Pony Clubbers would trade horses with me so I could ride her old schoolmaster and she could try to control and help me with my hot mare. I attended several D prep lessons and camps and I took two ratings in my first year. I took advantage of every opportunity I got to get "miles" on my mare whether it was at competitions, camp, lessons, trail rides, or gymkhanas, I took her everywhere for experience. Pony Club was definitely the best choice for my mare and me, we met so many friends (at my level and older, upper level members) and instructors to help us and today we have passed national ratings together and we compete regularly.
- A warm welcome from the region and club they have joined; their thoughts and ideas would be discussed and there would be good communication between the club and the region. The member would make lots of new friends and become a good member in standing. There would be a variety of mounted and unmounted meetings to attend and the member could discuss new ideas for them.
- Would be safe, fun, educational; they would meet friends of all ages and abilities. They would find an older kid who becomes their role model. They would learn to take care of their pony and be independent. They would achieve something great such as a rating or learning to jump or riding in the open. They would find their voice and not be afraid of using it. They would go to a rally or quiz and feel great when they leave, whether they won or lost. Most of all, they would want to have a part of Pony Club for the rest of their lives.
- In the first year of "the Perfect Pony Club" a new PC member would experience organized and instructional mounted and unmounted lessons, successful rating(s) up to their skill level, and a "D" level rally.
- A new Pony Clubber should feel very welcome from both the other children and adults. They also should receive a very thorough initiation so they know all the rules and expectations right off the bat. They should never feel like they can't ask questions or ask for help. Also, for their first year they should get to see how things like rallies work as well as the fun things that may be unique to the club. I think that a lack of understanding of the commitment and expectations of Pony Club cause children and parents a lot of trouble down the road.
- Perfect Pony Club – I'm going to explain this below: D=success when included in the club/has fun/learns, but most important feels included in the club. Being included and

needed applies to the other two is needed, but I like a lot of the “imperfections” of Pony Club because they teach us to deal with imperfections in life.

- Personally, to define perfect is different to everyone. To me, a perfect year for a new member would be experiencing a rating, a rally (riding and quiz), and going to all unmounted meetings. It shouldn't be overly easy for them because Pony Club is not easy. They should, however, have fun and be successful.
- New PC member: A friendly welcoming group of similar aged PC members; a variety of clinics and activities which are both age and rating appropriate; activities which teach about HM before the first Rally.
- For new Pony Clubbers, the perfect year would entail being able to attend lessons and unmounted meetings. They would get to meet all the old Pony Clubbers and have a mentor that would be an older D or maybe a C Pony Clubber that they could shadow at one rally so that they knew what rallies are all about. They would be able to compete in rallies but most importantly, the year would be fun. They would also be able to make a D-1 or D-2 rating.

6. What would a C member experience in a year in the “Perfect Pony Club?”

- A C member would be able to get instruction from very qualified instructors.
- Clinics; rating preps; trip to vet clinics, etc.; chance to ride switch horses; ability to join up with different clubs/regions to prepare for rating in multiple/new ways
- In the “perfect Pony Club” a “C” level member working toward a National Rating would experience mounted and unmounted instruction and assessment directed toward their upcoming rating. They would experience a positive rally experience and begin to teach and work with the lower level members in their club and region.
- A C Pony Clubber would begin to participate in more regional activities such as lecture series or regional champs. They would also enjoy club level camps where they would learn from upper level members and help teach lower level members.
- A C-level member is likely to be more dedicated and interested in improving their skills than the new member. They will want a variety of rallies and events to participate in. They would also benefit from clinics with outside instructors who are familiar with Pony Club standards and can help them work to the level that they aspire.
- A “C” member would experience perfect opportunities to teach.
- I think that a C member's perfect year would include participating in many PC activities such as rallies, camps, and clinics. At this point, C members begin to show an interest in specific disciplines-they would benefit from club-sponsored clinics that would help them pursue this passion. The social and competitive aspects of these events play an important role in interesting these members in continuing their PC education, since this is the time that most members lost interest.
- A C member should now be learning to take responsibility while watching and learning from an upper level rider in the club. The C member should be active and excited to learn all they can. They should have millions of opportunities in PC that they physically can't do them all. I think PC should make it as affordable to go to as many clinics, etc. as possible. Money should never keep a PC'er from attending or doing something they would have done otherwise.

- Encouraged to work towards next rating, have many Rally opportunities, assist in unmounted teaching, serving on a Junior Board, attend clinics and camps, rating preps, have study buddies, and activities that continually motivate them to stay active.
- Rallies; ratings; teamwork; Nationals; teaching; leadership role (within club level); regional seminars
- A C member needs to start taking on responsibilities such as teaching and being mentors for the D level Clubbers. They need to be stable managers at rallies. Because they are becoming a member of the region, they need to give back to the region.
- The challenge with the upper level Pony Clubbers is to maintain their interest in the club, while still achieving that mysterious thing called accomplishment. So often I see upper level kids plateau because they no longer feel challenged by the instructors. The C's perfect year in Pony Club would consist of tons of clinics and lessons where their sole focus was on their riding and their improvement. A huge club-wide support structure would surround them in their pursuit for the upper level ratings and they, along with their horses, would stay happy and healthy.
- A C in a perfect club would have lots of clinic and show experience; they would be eased into teaching and be already prepping for their national ratings.
- A C member would have several opportunities to improve themselves and their horse through preps, camps, and clinics in order to reach their goal in the "Perfect Pony Club." They would also experience opportunities to teach younger, lower level Pony Clubbers. They would develop several leadership skills that would stick with them and help them throughout the rest of their lives.
- A variety of upper level clinics and meetings discussing ways to get to the next advanced level and better improve their riding
- A C member would learn to teach others and take instruction themselves and apply it to their riding and horse management. A C member would feel supported by the whole club and feel very prepared for their rating. They would develop a partnership with their horse. I think most of all they would be inspired to continue their Pony Club education and wait to go on to the upper levels.
- C members are expected to begin giving back and so they should have plenty of time to teach and help with the younger children. But it is also important at this point that they are still being taught and given chances for them to continue to learn as well as being rewarded for the effort they put in. I am not saying that they should not be paid, but just that they are recognized for the time and effort they give to Pony Club. I think also at this stage, they should get a chance to bond with other C's from across their region since their clubs may be made mostly of D's and younger kids. I think that clubs sometimes forget that their C's need time and teaching as well.
- A "C" member should experience lots of learning and teaching skills. They should also have the chance to go to nationals. Continuing in their ratings would be good too.
- A variety of clinics geared toward preparation for advanced rating; an opportunity to go to championships in some capacity; a chance to HM judge; a chance to share knowledge with D level members as well as other C level members; HM camp
- A C member would be able to attend rallies, lessons, and clinics in a year of perfect Pony Club. A C should be learning all that he or she can about horse care and riding. They

should also be able to shadow an instructor and begin to develop their teaching style. Weekly riding lessons should be available to work towards ratings.

7. What would a member that was going for a National Rating experience in a year in the “Perfect Pony Club?”

- A member going for a National Rating would want to experience getting instruction from very qualified instructors. They would benefit from riding every day and getting help from older members.
- An upper level member going for a National Rating would attend regional camps where they could receive whatever instruction or critique/testing experience they desire. They would also spend time helping out C's and D's in their region.
- When a member is attempting a National Rating, they need educational experiences that will definitively tell them where they are in comparison to the standard, and what exactly they will need to do in order to reach the standard. They need to have a chance to teach lessons and work in foreign situations. It would be great if Pony Club were able to provide resources to gain this type of experience.
- For an upper level member, I think that a perfect year would consist of a more independent focus than the C member, but would include many of the same activities. Their role in camps/lessons can now include teaching. In addition to club activities, they would be involved in regional activities (camps, clinics, etc.) as well. For their unmounted knowledge they would be paired up with graduate members or other knowledgeable horse people so that they can prepare for their own ratings as well as improve their skills used to teach younger members.
- I think a member going for a National Rating should experience respect within the club. With that respect comes a lot of responsibility and experience. Though the upper level PC'er should be pulling some weight now for their club/region, it should not be forgotten that they have learning needs as well. That member should be supported by the club/region while preparing for such a high rating. Sometimes all a PC'er needs at their National Rating is a friendly face to tell them that they can do it and are prepared enough to tackle the rating.
- Many opportunities for regional preps, clinics, and camps. Instruction by national level examiners; assist in mounted teaching; have study buddies; serve on the Junior Board; try being DC for a meeting; be involved in community outreach spreading the word about Pony Club.
- Rallies; Nationals; prep clinics/camps; teaching; supportive club/region; lessons with National examiners; RIC
- They need to experience “outer-regional” activities. Instead of being asked, these Clubbers should be expected to help with regional activities. These candidates need to independently think about what they need to do to get prepared for their rating and ask the region to help instead of expecting the region to do it all for them. The region should provide experienced examiners so that these candidates have the best learning experience they can get and can show what they know.
- This person's perfect year in Pony Club would obviously begin and end with a successful pursuit of that upper level rating. This is typically the age where members are making life-altering decisions, including schools, careers, etc. For me, since I am at this stage, my perfect year would involve a schedule in which I could easily balance the club/region and my studies. Being too involved with the club can have its consequences since I feel as though a

lot of independent work is necessary at this point. Furthermore, unless there are frequent clinics in the area, my perfect year in PC might involve relocating to receive outside instruction that challenges me further than the club's instructors and clinicians can provide. As a result, a tremendous amount of knowledge is gained, and as a "guest member" of another club, some new ideas are exchanged that help to further the growth and maturity of each club. Once that rating is attained, the member can then give back to the club from the other side of the mirror, as instructor, clinician, or even examiner.

- They would get to go to lots of clinics; they would do a lot of internships with different people (vet, farrier, trainer, breeder, etc.); they would be teaching weekly mounted/unmounted lessons to the younger Clubbers; they would get the opportunity to ride all types of horses
- A member that is going for a National Rating in the "Perfect Pony Club" would hopefully be given as many opportunities to prepare for the rating as possible, including being able to attend practice ratings in order to give them an idea of what to expect because it is such a big jump compared to previous ratings.
- A variety of upper level clinics and meetings discussing ways to get to the next advanced level and better improve their riding and also a chance to meet instructors and clinicians and work with them towards their rating.
- A member going for their National Rating would do all of the things a "C" member would as well as receive lots of prep opportunities. They would take everything they have learned and apply it to other horses and lower level kids. They would give back to Pony Club.
- A member that is going for a National Rating should receive lots of encouragement and support! It is not possible for all regions to put on clinics and preps for those ratings, but they should be willing to help the candidate use all the resources they can. By this point, I think members that have made it this far are often left to fend for themselves, but they are expected to keep teaching for their clubs and regions. I think that upper-rated members don't stick around because they don't have the support it takes to get the upper level ratings.
- A perfect National Rating should be positive no matter what. Passing or not meeting the standards – it should be positive. The examiners would also be helpful, calm, and relaxed. They shouldn't put riders down in hurtful ways, but be encouraging and helpful when needed.
- Lots of prep clinics; many teaching opportunities; many switch ride opportunities; championships; chances to work with National Examiners to prepare
- If a member is going for a National Rating there should be weekly riding lessons and weekly knowledge lessons for six months prior to the rating in order for the member to prepare adequately.