

## 2009 NYC Homework Answers - Summary

1. Peer-to-Peer Contact
  - a. Unfortunately, some clubs are not always able to offer the same opportunities that other clubs do; what suggestions do you have about how to network members of small clubs with the larger PC community (regionally and nationally) so that members can take advantage of opportunities in other clubs/regions?
    - Forum/message/discussion board to post opportunities as well as personal info (goals, accomplishments, etc)
    - Roster of resources available to clubs, sent to DC's.
    - Use older members to set example of where PC can take younger members (within and beyond club level)
    - Joint meetings
    - Peer mentorship ( was a NYC project idea)
    - Rotating schedule of older C's and upper level members to give lectures to other PCs in region (could be substitute for HB instead of paying them)
    - Clubs collaborate on activities together (ex. Mock rally)
    - D-Camp and C-Camp
    - Pair small and large (or perhaps several small) clubs together, DC's organize joint teaching/learning opportunities
    - Let clubs swap members
  - b. What will help parents and other adults understand the impact and vital nature of peer-to-peer learning?
    - Directive to the regions
    - Literature for parents
    - National or regional clinics or seminars to teach upper level members to teach
    - Seeing positive outcomes
    - Structured programs
    - Feedback from members to club leaders about how they would prefer to learn
2. Volunteers
  - a. What do volunteers want from Pony Club?
    - Opportunity for past and present PCers to come and work together learning and designing together as one big team.
  - b. How many hours a month are volunteers willing to spend on Pony Club?
    - At least once a month (or every other month depending on how much work needs to be done) for the whole day
  - c. What do they want to be doing during that time?
    - Re-painting and designing stadium/cross-country fences (was personal favorite)
    - Local PC usually makes volunteer sign-up sheet, if no one signs up for a particular activity, someone is hired to complete the work and the club members split the cost.
3. Member Contact with Horses
  - a. How much time (hours per week) does a member spend on each of the following: Riding, At the barn, Taking care of a horse, Online communicating about horse stuff?
    - H member: 10-12 hours/week, 0 online; C members: 6-8 hours/week, 1 online; D members: 5-6 hours/week, 0 online
    - Changes depending on the individual. A safe, average time is 5 days/week, for at least 75 min.

- To encourage more time for the 10-14 year olds, send them off in pairs to have fun (trail rides, dressing up ponies, 'hang out' at the barn, etc.)
  - Directly related to the rating they have achieved or want to achieve. When prepping for B: 18 hours riding, 12 at the barn, minimal online. When prepping for HA: 6 hours per week riding, 24 at barn, 4 online. UR-D2: 4 hours/week riding, 2 care of horse, minimal time at barn. D3-C1: 6 hours per week riding, 4 care of horse, 2 at the barn. C2-C3= more, all levels spend around 4 hours per week online.
  - The only way to get some sort of an average would be to send out surveys.
  - Youth members should spend at least 4 hours per week in the saddle, advanced riders: 5 or 6 days per week riding & 4 hours around the barn practicing skills.
4. Communication
- a. What do members want to do online, relative to horses, on days when they are not at the barn?
  - b. How do you utilize technology around the barn and in your riding career?
    - Website of my own
    - Quickly find information (instead of looking in books)
    - Keep all record book data saved electronically
    - Look at horses for sale
    - Research articles online
    - Browse USPC HM and instruction web pages
    - Search for illustrations to aid in lessons
    - Save lesson plans, create powerpoints for lessons
  - c. How can PC utilize technology during instruction and competition to fully engage members?
    - Send videos to clinician to critique
    - More access to technology (powerpoints!)
    - Homework articles to read, or videos to watch
    - Online videos for teaching purposes (riding clips as well as unmounted skills for the different levels, ex. Bandaging, lunging, etc.) (does not count as a substitute for barn time!)
    - Re-vamping USPC website to make it easier to use and info on it more relevant to members (Younger members would be interested in interactive games. Teen members could be intrigued by the ability to blog about their riding or post videos of themselves)
    - Use it to help bring the barn back home: ex. Educational video from a vet.
    - Create an official, exclusive to members, PC online social network
    - Create online games and activities for rating preps, rally rules, etc., list high scores to PCers can compete.
    - Downloadable formats for record books
    - Posting competitors scores from rallies on regional web pages
    - Online videos
    - Printable worksheets and interactive (educational) games
  - d. Other
    - Make sure that the members are taught to evaluate and verify online sources and stress that it is always better to ask a trusted adult first.
5. Horse Management
- a. What parts of Horse Management at rallies should be kept? What should go away?

- A great analysis of how PC helps members develop life skills: “A good friend of mine and a graduate A PCer told me just last week about his experience with his OSU vet school interview. He told me, being a B PCer, that I “Should definitely go for your HA and A. I swear it helped me so much. In my interview at OSU I was so nervous; it reminded me of my HA and A ratings. They were very tough, but I was determined to show them my skills, just like I did at my rating. Annie if you are really interested in going to vet school I really think you should take the HA and A. I am sure glad I did. I feel like it has given me an advantage over the others.””
  - Keep:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> setup and safety, formals, turn-backs, jog outs, daily’s
    - Tack cleanliness, stall, stable area, etc. (everything that has to do with the care of the horse and its surroundings)
    - Required equipment list
    - Bring back written test
    - Formals, turn-backs, safety-checks and required equipment
    - Shortened written test
    - Jog outs and inspections
  - Go away:
    - requiring 1 team member in the barn
    - the written test
    - requiring 1 team member in the barn
    - Health and maintenance record book requirements for upper levels (they already pay attention to the details of their horses’ health)
    - Efficient the way it is, nothing further should be eliminated
    - Different ways to interpret the standards
    - Feed rules, tack and equipment requirements, requirements for cell phones and no communication outside of the rally
    - Nothing should be eliminated
  - Modify: required equipment list; the standards (need to be in a more lenient, structured way, allowing more room for more discussion of personal ideas and preferences), the way the standards are taught and presented and how they are ultimately judged (judging is taken way too seriously, and more often competitors are not told why something is wrong)
- b. How would you change it for the better?
- Make it fairer (especially formals “this area seems more beneficial for the younger members and I see no reason to agonize over insane details).
  - Give competitors the opportunity to earn ½ points back by correcting the problem and explaining why it needed to be fixed.
  - Only spot check required equipment
  - HM needs to be taught more to younger kids by older kids.
  - Address lack of preparation of members at a club level. It is important that club leaders know the standards and what is going to be asked of their members at each rating.
  - Should be a fun learning experience, judges should be slightly more open minded
  - Focus less on the ‘points’ and more on the fun and learning (taking points off is crucial though because it draws attention to the rule)
  - Look into any individuals that get a lot of complaints from kids after rallies.
  - Take time to explain why something must be done in a particular way

- Enforce rules consistently
- c. Would you like to help with Horse Management at a rally? If so, what would you like to do?
    - Do help out with JTP (judge training program to teach assistant HM judges what they are looking for at a rally – would like to see it implemented in other regions)
    - Volunteered as Assistant HM Judge
    - I don't want to help with HM at rallies because I like to ride
    - Would like to work as an Assistant HM Judge
    - Enjoy doing all the HM jobs – turn backs, safety checks, etc.
6. Membership Demographics
    - a. What does the local membership – member & volunteer know about the organization beyond the club?
      - D level membership knows relatively little about the organization of PC beyond the club level.
    - b. What do parents want from PC beyond what they are getting from their club today? Same question for members.
      - Members want to spend more time actually in the presence of a horse, learning, rather than sitting in a room learning about horses.
      - Spend more time riding as a club
    - c. How can we better engage D members in the regional and national organization to increase participation and retention of all members?
      - Regional and/or national D-Rally
      - Encourage participation in Quiz
      - Give them more opportunities in PC (regional time together, regional preps, mini camps, national program opportunities)
  7. USPC Program
    - a. How can we get these members exposure to these essentials of the program?
      - Get small clubs to work together in pairs or groups to do a meeting once a month.
      - Regional level based meetings (a 'badge night' where young members can get together and earn a badge while meeting others from around the region is an example)
      - Allowing older members to teach younger members both unmounted and parts of mounted lessons (ex. Older members lead 20 min. warm-up).
      - Get a nearby club to partner with a smaller club for joint meetings occasionally
      - Clubs should have a lot of meetings (can be social, what is crucial is keeping PC on front burner and peer to peer contact).
      - Scramble teams
      - Create a start-up kit for smaller/start-up clubs (how to structure) and have parents/volunteers sit in on neighboring club meeting
      - "Visiting PC" program where one club invites a member of another club to spend a day with them, like a one-day camp
      - Upper-level members from other clubs should be brought in to teach smaller clubs.
      - Mock rallies
      - More opportunities for exposure to "higher education" (i.e. national examiners, clinicians, etc...)
      - Bring clubs together and start to share more information about ideas, events, clinics and anything else that might need to be discussed.

- C-retreat and D-camps
  - Make a list of what's expected, with consequences if necessary.
  - DC's should organize with other local clubs in the same region and try to coordinate unmounted/mounted meetings, maybe even a camp over the summer.
  - Hire upper level members from the region to give clinics for the members.
  - Make national resources more readily available
  - National, geographically categorized calendar of clinics, preps and rallies, to make members aware of activities in bigger neighboring regions.
8. Club Size
- a. Today's parents are uncomfortable with unsupervised play for all ages. They have little experience in mentoring groups of young people through loose oversight that allows the group to make mistakes & right itself. How do we create an environment where kids get this critical learning experience and adults learn how to manage it productively without interfering?
- Seminar on how to use "loose oversight"
  - Parents and members should be informed of what is expected of them
  - Parents need to understand what is going on, try to help them learn along with their child (from the sidelines)
- b. Why are those who stay, staying and those who go, going?
- Staying:
    - May not have a riding instructor aside from the ones that teach mounted meetings
    - May like the variety and challenge that PC offers
    - See PC ratings as an achievement
    - Only contact they have with the horse community around them
    - Personal reasons
    - Love of horses
    - Experience like no other in the horse world
    - Do not wish to give up on the experiences and relationship they fought so hard for
  - Going:
    - Often simply have too many other commitments.
    - PC does not seem to connect to or enhance all the other efforts with horseback riding and life in general
    - Lack of modernization
    - "the PC way" vs. "the real way"
    - Personal reasons
    - Wrongly matched horse and rider pair
    - Wrong horse for PC
    - Financial aspects
    - Loss of interest
    - Bad experiences
    - Lack of participation from other regions/national opportunities
  - Other: The organization needs to connect with modern times and ideas, not changing the core values or ideas, but conforming the clubs so that they are designed for kids and youth in the horse world today. I think that opening the club to different disciplines and even riders without horses would make a big difference. Also, taking advantage of volunteers, graduates and the larger horse

- community to bring more diversity and modernizations to the clubs might help keep interest in the organization for longer.
- c. What can we do to help volunteers deal with the critical mass of young folks in the manor that allows them to problem solve, develop organizational relationship and has members as part of the club and regional structure?
9. Team Experience
    - a. How do we foster rallies closer to home and more frequently in the year to get more member participation and less travel costs?
      - Create a centrally located riding center can help cut travel costs and allow for more frequent rallies
      - Clubs need to work together to put on more rallies by area of region
      - Adjacent regions combining efforts
      - Regions could host smaller rally-like events (unmounted rallies, camps or other multi-day activities)
      - Quiz is a low cost way for members to participate in rallies.
      - Hold rallies in a central region and promote the rally as much as possible
      - fundraising
    - b. Are there any other activities that can be implemented on the local level that will give members the opportunity to develop the essential team building skills that are developed at rallies?
      - Games clinics
      - Local summer camps
      - Campouts/camping trips
      - Club level field trips
      - Break up into teams and go to local shows and work as a team without parental supervision
      - Classical team building in PC comes from the interaction of PCers (preferably across a spanned age) any activity without the presence of an adult can bring out similar experiences to a rally, members might make thank-you cards for those who volunteer or help bake cookies for land owners.
      - Have activities that connect members within a club and members between clubs
      - Older members teaching younger members
  10. Organizational Structure
    - a. How would you like to access information about activities in your club/region and national?
      - Mailing about local events would be helpful, especially for younger members that are not allowed internet access
    - b. What types of information is hard for you to get now? What would improve this?
      - Regional websites need to be updated
      - Standardized info (ex. Whether NE's prefer bandages to be pinned or Velcro)
    - c. What types of contact do you have with PCers outside your club today? How do you arrange it?
      - Talk to PCers that she met at ratings
    - d. What kinds of things can PC do to get lots more kids involved in rallies, clinics and ratings outside their current clubs? What other activities would work to get larger groups of kids (interested in horses) together – either in person or online?
      - Facebook
    - e. What activities, camps, social meetings, horse management seminars would be cool things for kids to get together and do?

- Pull resources from different regions and put on a summer camp
  - More non-competitive national activities (ex. Something in conjunction with Rolex)
  - Fun activities within the club (ex. Game day, field trips, social gatherings, etc)
- f. Given the current economic situation, what types of things can clubs share to reduce the cost and increase efficiency of program delivery? What types of things would facilitate this interaction?
- Fundraise

11. World Equestrian Games 2010

- a. Are you planning to attend the WEG (spectator, volunteer, support staff, PC Volunteer)?
- Spectator with group of friends from college
  - Volunteer
  - Volunteer
- b. Is anyone else you know planning to attend the WEG?
- Other PCers and horse enthusiasts as spectators and volunteers
  - No one
- c. Would you like access to information about the WEG, what PC is doing, ways you could participate?
- Yes
  - Yes
- d. If the first time you heard of PC was at the WEG, what would you want to know about the org, how would you find out the information you wanted to know, what experience would you want to have with PCers at the Games?
- A large map of the US should be prominently displayed so that kids and parents can identify what region they live in, and a bulletin board or business cards should have the contact information for each region.
  - All information about PC should have large fonts with short pieces to get wandering crowds' attention with more in-depth information available.
  - Set-up an area for alumni to reconnect with the organization
  - Pictures/video of fun PC activities
  - Hands-on activities
  - What skills PC develops, cost to join, successful alumni, see PCers riding in the different disciplines that PC offers and meet some PCers
  - Want to talk to older members/recent graduates and staff members to answer questions
  - General information
  - Riding demonstration
  - Have older PCers volunteer during certain events (ex. At the vet box after cross country)