



MidSouth Boardgram - August 2009

Congratulations!

I just received word that **Alex Green** from Tennessee Valley PC passed her **C3** Rating and **Michala Burman** from Middle Tennessee passed her **B** Rating. **Jackson Roberts**, also from Middle Tennessee, passed the **B** riding & longeing, but still needs to re-test the bandaging portion to earn his B rating. **We are very proud of you all.** Your hard work and perseverance has really paid off. *'Thank You'* to the parents of these members for their support and encouragement!

Standards and Ratings Clinic

On November 7, in the KY Horse Park Covered Arena, the region is hosting a free Standards and Ratings (S&R) Clinic, from 8-3 pm, for ALL club and Riding Center Officers, Instructors, Ratings Examiners and members. This Clinic will be followed by a Ratings Examiner (RE) Clinic (see below) for all persons who are currently, or have an interest to become, club-level Ratings Examiners.

The purpose of the S&R Clinic is to demonstrate visually and discuss verbally each of the USPC D1 through C2 Standards of Proficiency, with explanations of what "Meets Standards", "Does Not Meet Standards" and "Exceeds Standards" actually mean. We will start with demonstration riders at the D1 Level and with each riding session progress up to the last club-level rating, the C2. Also to be discussed is:

- The progression of riding skills from rating to rating;
- The rationale behind various elements of the Test Sheets;
- Factors to consider when determining 'rating readiness';
- How to find/select a Ratings Examiner for your club's testing; and,
- Tips for Ratings Organizers.

There will be a 'Question and Answer' session at the conclusion of the C2 demonstration.

The Instructor for this Clinic is Claire Harmon, incoming Chair of the USPC National Testing Committee. Ms. Harmon is from TX and has been doing S&R and RE Clinics all over the country and is an expert on the Pony Club Standards.

Ratings Examiner Clinic

Following the S&R Clinic will be a free **Ratings Examiner Clinic from 3-5 pm.** The purpose of this Clinic is to coach / update *current* Ratings Examiners and to provide training and mentoring assistance to persons who want to *become* Ratings Examiners. Attendees should include DCs, Instructors, USPC Alumni, experienced Raters and Upper Level Members wanting to become Raters. Topics to be discussed include:

- Knowing the Standards;
- Tips on how to 'dialogue' with the Candidates;
- Addressing candidate/parental concerns at the testing;
- Use of a Scribe and Impartial Observer;
- How to deliver 'the news'; and,
- Ratings evaluation feedback.

There is a wonderful article in the August Issue of USPC's *E-News From Nationals* (ponyclub.org under publications), which specifically addresses national level

members becoming club-level raters and provides some excellent “Tips”. [National Level refers to members C3 and Above and 18 years of age or older.] [Please read this article](#) and pass it on to eligible UL members, examiners, and Instructors. The following is an excerpt from that publication.

“As national (upper) level members, USPC fully expects you to be able to be Examiners for most club level ratings. In fact, some of our best club-level rating reports come from those ratings conducted with at least one caring and committee recent ‘graduate’ or current member serving as an Examiner or on an Examiner Team. However, no one should ever expect you to conduct any rating without some training and coaching from a more experienced Examiner! It is important for everyone testing at the club levels (whether national level members or not) to spend time at tests with experienced Examiners before ever testing alone.”

This is why we are conducting this first MidSouth Ratings Examiner Clinic... to get everyone on the same page. Some Examiners currently doing club-level ratings in our region are excellent and we are very appreciative of their time and effort. But some Examiners are:

- Not qualified members (i.e. not at the national level);
- Too inexperienced to handle a reasonable range of testing situations; or
- Not testing to the standards.

Those individuals need training and coaching to bring them up to speed, which is one of the reasons for this Clinic.

We are developing a **Ratings Examiner Application** to be completed by **all** individuals *currently doing* club-level Ratings Examinations or are *wanting to become* a Ratings Examiner for our Region. It is important for Club/Riding Center Ratings Organizers to have background information on a potential Examiner; for our RIC to pair up an experienced Examiner with an apprenticing one for mentoring purposes; and, to have contact information. ***The region will recommend and include in our latest MidSouth “Instructor and Ratings Examiner Directory” ONLY those persons who:***

- (1) complete a Ratings Examiner Application; and,**
- (2) attend the Standards and Ratings Clinic; and,**
- (3) attend the Ratings Examiner Clinic.**

Sign-up Forms for Demonstration Riders, both Clinics, the Ratings Examiner Application, and [the Region’s Annual Meeting \(Nov 7 @ 6 pm.\)](#) registration will be forthcoming in September (...we are working on them!!).

Club Questionnaire

Please take a few moments to complete the regional questionnaire (attached) if you have not already done so. I have received responses from about 1/3 of our clubs and they include some great ideas and also some concerns. Thank you for taking the time. I, and the Board, value your insights and perspective. Be honest...we realize there is always room for improvement.

Don't forget to send me your club newsletters/flyers, List of Nominating Committee members, Notice of your Annual Meeting and any member recognitions that you would like included in these monthly Boardgrams. I love hearing from you!

Sincerely,
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