



FRVPC Horse Trials 2019, Mia Volpentesta riding Hank, Cross-Country phase, Junior Training Division.

Fox River Valley Pony Club Horse Trials

A LEGACY OF 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES for communities throughout the world. Coming together as a community has been the hallmark of the prestigious Horse Trials equestrian event for 50 years, making it one of the oldest continuous events in the country. However, the grave challenges that this community and this country must face may make the 50th anniversary celebration of this event an impossibility in 2020. Pandemic information evolves daily. We respect, support, and firmly adhere to all measures which keep our friends, neighbors, families, and visitors safe, and that includes cancelling or postponing the event if appropriate. We wish everyone a safe journey through these troubled waters.

With optimism and a hope for brighter days,

we will continue to plan “as if”. This incredible equestrian event, scheduled for June 26–28 and hosted by the Fox River Valley Pony Club, would ideally be one of the first safe outings for our community to come together for three days of fresh air, spectacular horses, and beautiful countryside.

When the current crisis is behind us, whether this year or next, the Fox River Valley Pony Club will look forward to welcoming our competitors, volunteers, donors, and the community to a Horse Trials 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend incorporating magnificent horse sport and a festive atmosphere including food vendors, special activities, and demonstrations.

AN OLYMPIC SPORT

Showcasing the equine sport of Eventing, the

Horse Trials is an equestrian triathlon comprising three phases: dressage, cross-country, and show jumping. Eventing tests horse and rider pairs perhaps more thoroughly than any other equestrian sport. It is one of the few Olympic sports where men and women compete alongside one another as equals.

The FRVPC Horse Trials competition traditionally begins on a Friday with the first phase of **dressage**—showing the graceful partnership of horse and rider as they perform a sequence of movements. On Saturday, **cross-country** challenges the pair’s bravery, fitness, and determination as horse and rider combinations navigate a series of solid obstacles and varied terrain in the beautiful Spring Creek Forest Preserve of Cook County. In the final phase held Saturday and Sunday, **show jumping** pairs must again prove their precision as they clear a course of delicate fences on the grounds of the fabulous Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center. Competitors accumulate penalty points in each phase, and at the end of the weekend event, the pair with the lowest score takes home top honors.

Fox River Valley Pony Club (FRVPC) is grateful to local resident, Emily McHugh, who founded FRVPC in 1963 and the Horse Trials in 1970. FRVPC is incredibly proud of the story of this event and the supportive community of friends and neighbors who have brought us 50 years of equestrian competition at its finest. Visit us at frvpchorsetrials.org to learn more about the Horse Trials. U



FRVPC Horse Trials 2019, Caroline Charette riding Moondance, Cross-Country phase, Open Training Division.



FRVPC Horse Trials 2019, Awards presentation, Ashley Hays riding Call it Courage, winners of CCI*-Short Division. Presenting the award from left to right: Judges: Amanda Miller & Peter Gray and United States Eventing Association (USEA) CEO Rob Burk.



FRVPC Horse Trials 2019: Kaylianna McMorris rides Clifton Peekachu, Dressage phase, Junior Novice Division.



FRVPC Horse Trials 2019: Conor Rollins riding On Target, Cross-Country phase, CCI*-Long Division.



FRVPC Pony Club members performing a demo quadrille at the 2019 LeCompte Kalaway Trail Owners Polo Cup. From left: Ashley Fern riding Bella, Elise Fern riding Emmy, and Isabella McMorris riding Clyde.

Fox River Valley Pony Club

THE ORGANIZATION BEHIND THE HORSE TRIALS

AS THE LARGEST equestrian educational organization in the world, the United States Pony Club thrives on education, safety, sportsmanship, stewardship, and fun. Barrington Hills has enjoyed its own “local chapter” known as the Fox River Valley Pony Club (FRVPC) founded in 1963.

Members learn riding and the care of horses through lessons and mounted sports. The skills, habits, and values instilled through horsemanship will apply to every part of a member’s life. Friendships are forged within the common bond of horses. The club invites interested individuals to learn more and join the Fox River Valley Pony Club family!

Over the years, FRVPC has produced alumni who have received top national rankings, competing, and earning top honors at international levels in equestrian sports. It has produced community leaders and professionals in all walks of life who attribute inspiration and success to experiences they gained in Pony Club. Equally important, the club has generated scores of riders who enjoy horses and ponies for the rest of their lives, instilled with a strong sense of safety, proper care, and equine community. As a testament, the FRVPC enjoys numerous third generation Pony Club families.

LIFELONG BENEFITS OF PONY CLUB

The USPC and FRVPC are 501(c)3 non-profit organizations centered upon the unique, time-tested national Standards of Proficiency which form the basis of instruction, certification, and competition within mounted and unmounted disciplines. Students learn not only to ride,



PHOTO: CAROLYN SCHROEDER

Fox River Valley Pony Club Camp 2019: FRVPC members are (In back, from left) Mia Volpentesta, Ashley Fern, Isabella McMorris, Naomi West, Ella Braun, Sienna Perry, Sophie Schroeder, and Grace Stittle. (In front, from left) Kayli McMorris, Jane Gallagher, Katie Tyer, Jen Galvin, Colin Gallagher, Elise Fern, and Rachel Strong.

but to care for all aspects of keeping a horse or pony, from feeding and grooming, to trailering, barn safety, health, and conditioning. Parents appreciate that handling, riding, and caring for a horse helps promote such positive character traits as accountability, leadership, patience, self-discipline, self-confidence, empathy, and kindness. Youth like making friends who share their love of ponies and horses, and making memories while learning, competing, and having fun. All enjoy the opportunity to grow in knowledge and skill within a safe environment.

The all-volunteer FRVPC offers numerous and special opportunities, including weekly lessons throughout the year held at the Barrington Hills Park District Riding Center, clinics featuring instruction of special interest to members, a week-long summer camp, regional rallies (team-based competitions among Pony Clubbers), mounted games, trail rides, introduction to fox hunting, and conservation and service opportunities.

The club hosts a Mini Event horse show each May featuring riding in the disciplines of dressage, cross country, and show jumping. Its June Horse

Trials and CCI** is an international level competition of similar riding disciplines. Social events include tailgates, costumed Halloween parties, winter party, and work parties. Volunteerism is essential to carrying out the Pony Club mission. Alumni of FRVPC have been some of its greatest supporters of the club and its events.

FRVPC members also have access to the USPC online community, sponsor discounts, Championships and Festival, and a host of additional programs such as international exchanges, youth boards, and scholarships.

An important component of Pony Club education and activity is the contribution to Land Preservation, as horses and the caretaking of land go hand in hand. The Spring Creek Forest Preserve is designated an equestrian and pedestrian only park land. This is made possible by a partnership between the Barrington Hills Park District and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, through which FRVPC assumes responsibility for management of approximately 10 miles of the horse trial courses in the Forest Preserve and the construction and maintenance of cross-country

jumps that the public uses throughout the season. Fox River Valley Pony Club was honored to earn the prestigious Brookfield Conservation Award for its work in the Spring Creek Forest Preserve, and through the years has partnered with and learned from the other community organizations working on conservation goals.

During these unprecedented times, with gatherings cancelled and “stay at home” the mantra, youth members of FRVPC are providing electronic educational lessons about horse care and continuing to connect via video on their devices.

We invite you to join the Fox River Valley Pony Club family. Members are welcomed from all surrounding geographic areas. Membership is affordable. Periodically the club offers a Junior Pony Club program for members without their own pony or horse. Youth make up the majority of our club, but adult members are also welcome. Learn more at foxrivervalleyponyclub.org. Contact Megan Mosier at emmosier@yahoo.com for membership information. 