

# BENONI PONY CLUB



NEWSLETTER #43 – NOVEMBER 2009

Hi Pony Clubbers,

## NEWSFLASH! ...

At the recent Limpopo Region AGM, it was agreed that the region would merge under the Gauteng Region of Pony Club. Benoni Branch is now part of the 'new' Gauteng/Limpopo Region! The Gauteng Region had several branches under its management. This means that we, as a branch, will now have the benefit of greater competitive experience when it comes to Inter-Branch, Inter-Regional and Mounted Games competitions – as there will be over ten clubs to challenge, instead of just the usual two or three we had in the past. It also provides the opportunity to meet new friends in the Pony Club world!

Note that this merge does not have any other visible impact on our Branch or how it operates. We will still continue as we have been, under the leadership of our District Commissioner and Branch Committee. Our Region is now simply bigger and stronger!!!

## PAST EVENTS :

### Africa Friendship Challenge (25<sup>th</sup> October)

Although, initially, little interest was shown by members, Gideon and Phillip managed to put two Benoni Pony Club teams together for this showjumping show, held at Equestrian International. They did our Branch proud! Thank you to those members, and the parents / supporters who went along to give encouragement and show our team spirit!!

### Annual Mounted Games (1<sup>st</sup> November)

Members from Benoni, Nestpark and Irene/Midrand, competed for top honours at the annual games held in Randjiesfontein.

We had full teams for all the age groups (10 and Under / Lead Rein, 11-13yrs, 14-21 yrs, and even our "fossil" team!). Overall, all our teams came 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we won the "Best Turned Out" Trophy. Congratulations to all concerned!!

Once again, the event was enjoyed by everyone. There were no injuries or major falls – and our riders managed beautifully (even those who had rather "insane" horses !!) Our practices definitely paid off.

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### COMING UP ... :

The holidays are coming up soon, and we will be taking a break until next year!!  
The following has been arranged for the first part of 2010 (please diarise the dates) .....

#### **Tuition Rally :**

DATE: Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
TIME: 10:00am  
VENUE: Ostler's Inn (Hazel Road)  
DRESS: Casual (Jeans and red Pony Club T-Shirts)

For our new members, tuition will be given towards the "Points of the Horse" achievement badge.  
There is also a "mini" badge for our little members (under 8)

Those who already have this badge, will be given tuition on "Care of the Horses Foot"  
There is also a "mini" badge for under 8's.

(Once you have done tuition, a date will be arranged for you to take the test.)

#### **Visit to the EMPD Mounted Unit (Official Rally)**

DATE: Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010 (provisional)  
TIME: t.b.a.  
VENUE: Meerkat Street, Zezfontein Benoni  
DRESS: casual

Please note that this date still has to be confirmed by the unit. (Alternative dates requested are 20<sup>th</sup> February or 13<sup>th</sup> March – please keep these dates free!)

Older members will recall that we visited here a few years back. The mounted police play an important role in crowd control and public policing in our community. You will get the opportunity to gain insight into what these policemen & women do, and how they train their horses. (Obviously they need bombproof mounts, that remain calm in all situations!)

Come along to see these beautiful horses at their stableyard – and don't forget to bring lots of carrots and treats to spoil them!!

#### **Annual Mounted Fun Day (Official Rally)**

DATE: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010  
TIME: t.b.a.  
VENUE: Double TT Stables, Sports Rd, Fairleads  
DRESS: Proper riding gear (beige jodis, boots and riding hat)

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This event is held in the beginning of each year, and is always lots of fun!

There will be a Cross Country competition (30cm and 60cm), Jumpkana (30cm and 60cm), and a Utility Class / Working Riding (in age groups). Rosettes will be awarded.

The entry fee is R100, which covers entry into all three classes, and includes a medical levy. Entry forms will be forwarded to members via e-mail, closer to the date. Entry restricted to paid-up members only.

Remember to bring along a water bucket and a teff net for your horse!

### **Mounted Rally (Official Rally)**

DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
TIME: 9 :00am.  
VENUE: Banbury Stables, Leopard Rd, Zesfontein  
DRESS: Full attire (beige jods, white shirt & blazer, PC tie and badge!)

Inspection will be carried out – please ensure your pony and tack are clean. This will be followed by a morning of fun and games on horseback.

### **Evening Rally (Official Rally)**

DATE: Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
TIME: 6 :00 for 6:30 pm  
VENUE: StrideAlong Stables, Cloverdene  
DRESS: Casual

Bring your thinking caps ..... and join us for an fun evening of “The Weakest Link” !! A beautiful Shield will be up for grabs for the winning Squadron. Your Host, Monique, will be testing your “horsey’ knowledge!

### **Mounted Rally (Official Rally)**

DATE: Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (provisional)  
TIME: t.b.a.  
VENUE: Kingsdale Equestrian Centre, Acorn Rd  
DRESS: Full riding attire

This date will need to be confirmed.

Inspection will be held. Thereafter, members will receive valuable tuition and training from professionals, in the “lesser-known’ disciplines of Dressage and Equitation.

Many of our riders are only familiar with Showjumping – we would like to give you an idea of what the judges are looking for in Dressage and Equitation tests, and the correct way to perform these movements!

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GENERAL / OTHER :

The following members have renewed their subs. (Please check below to see which one you are in for this year, and who your Leaders are, to assist you!)

Welsh	Thoroughbred	Arab	Lippizaner
Brittany (Leader) Lauren M. (Vice)	Stacey (Leader) Natasha K. (Vice)	Chelsea (Leader) Lome (Vice)	Gareth (Leader) Jade (Vice)
Promise Jessica Meggan Donovan	Caitlyn B. Connor Mykayla	Melissa J Caitlin L. Chanel Laura H.	Talya Cyngen Melissa Carolyn

(If your name is not here – we are still waiting for your subs and/or forms!!)

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**\*\*News\*\*** Keep your eyes peeled on the bookshelves for the latest edition of the HQ Pony Magazine, on sale now – Benoni Pony Club is featured !!!!

Any pony club members who will be participating in the THEM Christmas show in December are requested to ride in their Pony Club shirts (or ties) to promote awareness of the Club.

We are looking at making a new collage. If you have any nice (or funny) photos which were taken at any rallies, please could you forward them to us to include in the collage. Thank you!

The Inter-Regional and Inter-Branch competition has been moved forward to May! (Previously always held later in Aug/Sept). We are hoping it will be held at Equestrian International again, but as we are now with the Gauteng Region, we will have to confirm that this is suitable for all branches concerned and will keep you up-dated.

On this note, we wish to clarify a few points (especially for new members who may be unfamiliar with Pony Club protocol) :

You will notice that some of our rallies are marked as “Official” Rallies.

In order to qualify to represent Benoni Branch of Pony Club at any of the competitions or events, members need to have attended *at least* 50% of the Official rallies held from the start of our pony club year (1<sup>st</sup> October). This means that, if you want to attend the Inter-Branch competition in May, you must ensure that you attend as many rallies as you can – or you will not be permitted to ride in the Pony Club classes!!

10 Points are awarded to each member for attendance at these rallies. Inspection points are also recorded. At the end of the year, your points are added. At the end-of-year Prizegiving, trophies are awarded to individuals with the highest points. These points are also allocated to your Squadron, and the squadron with the most overall points (from all its members) wins a trophy and each member receives a medal!

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Please feel free to approach anyone of the Committee Members if you are unsure, or if you need any clarification on this policy.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES :**

The following member(s) will be celebrating their birthdays soon...

- Promise (24<sup>th</sup> November)
- Stacey (7<sup>th</sup> December)
- Brittany (13<sup>th</sup> December)
- Laura (20<sup>th</sup> December)
- Gareth (28<sup>th</sup> December)
- Connor (16<sup>th</sup> January)

On behalf of all of us at Benoni Pony Club, we wish you a very Happy Birthday, and may you have many more !!

**CHECK OUT THE NEW GAUTENG PONY CLUB WEBSITE !!!**

Click on 'Branches' and select 'Benoni' to get your newsletters and view photos every month

**[www.ponyclubgauteng.co.za](http://www.ponyclubgauteng.co.za)**

The Committee would like to wish all our Members and their families, a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Should you be going away for the Holidays, we wish you a safe journey and look forward to seeing you all again in 2010 !!

Enjoy the Holidays – you have all earned a good break!

Until next year .....

***Happy Riding***



**BENONI BRANCH OF PONY CLUB  
COMMITTEE**

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Alison (084 555 310 7)  
Sunette Steenkamp

**Dates to diarise :**

11-01-2010	Tuition Rally	Ostler's Inn	10:00am
16-01-2010	*Visit to Mounted Unit	Meerkat Str.	t.b.conf.
23-01-2010	*Annual Mtd Fun Day	Double TT	t.b.a.
20-02-2010	*Mounted Rally	Banbury Stables	9:00am.
12-03-2010	*Evening fun Rally	StrideAlong	6:00 pm
14-03-2010	*Mounted Rally	Kingsdale	t.b.conf.
May 2010	Inter-Branch/Regional's	t.b.a.	

\* Official Rally

*For your information –*

**DATES FOR SANEF SCHOOLS LEAGUE COMPETITIONS :-**

<i>13 &amp; 14<sup>th</sup> February</i>	<i>Leg 1</i>
<i>20 &amp; 21<sup>st</sup> March</i>	<i>Leg 2</i>
<i>15 &amp; 16<sup>th</sup> May</i>	<i>Leg 3</i>
<i>17 &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Leg 4</i>
<i>05-09<sup>th</sup> August</i>	<i>Gauteng Finals</i>
<i>25 &amp; 26<sup>th</sup> September</i>	<i>Nationals</i>