

July 30, 2011

Dear BCHSA members-

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I'm writing this month with a summary of our recent Open Meeting and a few reminders about various things of possible interest!

### **July Open Meeting - Summary**

The BCHSA Board held its second of 3 annual open meetings on July 11 at Vito's Café in Cockeysville. About a dozen members attended and provided the board with some insightful comments and suggestions. Having an exchange of ideas like this is valuable in our ongoing effort to improve your show experience and the success of BCHSA activities. Talking points included:

- Entry fees vary and are higher at some venues than at some others; lowering fees might help to enhance participation
- Show venues might want to consider giving little gifts for division winners – this is very popular and they do not have to be big/expensive.
- Show venues may want to consider offering some outside/handy courses.
- BCHSA should consider having shows with “No Jackets Required”- polo shirts only – as something different and fun to do during the “dog days” of summer.
- BCHSA is doing a nice job of reaching out to the membership, but there is always room for improvement and should continue to work at engaging more with the membership – find more ways for members to be engaged and participate in BCHSA-related activities.
- Local Pony Club riders might be interested in riding at BCHSA venues if we offered more 3ft options in the spring of each year (3, 3.3, 3.9 –April and May).
- It was suggested that we send in more photos to the Equiry each month about our shows, our TB division, rider stories, etc.
- Jr. Members asked that we consider the Baltimore County Public School calendar when putting our schedule together for next year – can we try to accommodate spring break by not scheduling a show then?

In addition:

1. Attendees were advised to “**Save the Date**” for our Year End Banquet on 11/19 and our February Bull Roast on 2/25 at Oregon Ridge
  - Auction donation forms were handed out to several attendees who agreed to donate items (Marsh Herbert, Gloria Harrison, Margie Williams)
  - Mike Daniels committed to a tack box again this year and we collected some Natty Boh memorabilia from Debi Fowler.

- It was suggested that we go back to the idea of asking barns to donate baskets or auction items this year.
2. A question was posed about cross entry for medals and the board advised we will need to see how things shake out at end of season for medal qualifiers
  3. BCHSA Special Awards – Board asked members to please think and consider nominations for our year end awards. All agreed it would be a good idea to announce at shows, have forms, and email a reminder to members

The Jr. Board also gave a brief update on the status of their activities.

- 2011 YTD Income \$1,352.19 (Hack, Bake Sales, 50/50, Lemonade/watermelon, Padonia Station Restaurant Night)
- 2011 YTD Balance \$1,696.73

Recent Jr. Board Activities Update:

- Bracelet craft at Featherdown show was fun/went well
- Scholarship Hack numbers have begun to increase now that recent show venues have moved the class later to later in the prize list. All agreed this was a good change.
- Jr Board talked about their need to be better about recruiting new Jr. Board members and involving younger membership in activities. Ideas were to announce at shows “come meet the Jr Board/learn about the Jr. Board”, run craft/activity tables, and it was suggested that we run Jr. Board open meetings at our open member meetings as well.
- June 20<sup>th</sup> (all day) Restaurant Fundraiser at Padonia St was successful – smaller attendance but made up for it with auction and 50/50 raffle. Thanks to Debbie Fowler for helping this be such a success!! Total raised \$1,368.27. All agreed we should try to have it earlier/before school is out next time.
- Upcoming Jr. Activities
  - horseless horseshow at Benefit Show.

### **Your input is welcome!**

As an association, we want to be open and responsive to the interests and concerns of our members. So, let us know if you have any suggestions for how things could be done better, etc. Any of us would be happy to hear from you directly, but you can also use the form on our website (under “contact us”) if you prefer to submit comments and suggestions anonymously ( <http://bchsa.org/contact.php> ) – think of it as a “suggestion

box.” There is also an evaluation form that you can submit (again anonymously) about show venues ( [http://bchsa.org/pdf/evaluation\\_form.pdf](http://bchsa.org/pdf/evaluation_form.pdf) ). The Board will give serious attention and consideration to any and all suggestions or concerns that we receive, and the comments and suggestions about venues will be shared with the appropriate people at the respective venues. We are serious about continuing to make this a safe, fun, and competitive activity, and your views on how to do that most effectively are of great interest to us.

### **Sharing Photos!**

The BCHSA Facebook page is up and running with show pictures posted and updated weekly. As mentioned before, the main purpose for doing this is to give us a place to easily post photos of members in action! We welcome submissions from the broader membership, assuming that they are of adequate quality for posting. PLEASE NOTE: this year’s membership form includes a box to check that will indicate your willingness to allow us to post photos of you on the website and/or Facebook page.

### **BCHSA Wear.**

Let me just remind you that there’s lots of great BCHSA stuff for sale on the website (<http://www.acesportswear.net/> ). The BCHSA jackets that we gave away as prizes at the banquet last year were a huge hit! And there’s lots more where that came from....!!!new

**Coming Soon...** new BCHSA Car Decals for members!

Thanks for your continued support and participation in BCHSA!

On behalf of the BCHSA Board, I wish you happy trails, and will look forward to seeing you at the shows!

Andy Pope

BCHSA President

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