



4/29/2020

Dear Leaders, officers,

We remain in uncharted waters today with our activity restrictions due to the COVID-19 virus. In the past week the Regional board and I have had many hours of conversations about MegaRally at the KHP, as scheduled for this summer 2020. While it saddens us, the votes are in and **Midsouth Rally is canceled.**

One worry about cancellation was addressed in our favor already. We thought we might lose our dates at KHP for the future if we canceled. However, KHP will hold our dates around the same time in June 2021. As of today, Kentucky is not in the "Phase 2" stage of re-opening the state, which even if we were in Phase 2 means distancing at least 6ft apart, wearing masks, gloves and having sanitizer on hand. KHP will not provide those supplies for us, nor will they do more frequent disinfection of facilities.

Other concerns are horse and rider fitness, monitoring the participants to enforce proper protocols, the ability of Members (and families) to afford the activity in time or money, and the safety of our volunteers (average age above 55 years old). Of further note is that our Regional Rally was planned as one of the first groups at the KHP when it re-opens, if/when Kentucky meets the threshold for group activities. Consequently, we believe it is a risk for your families and Members to host this Rally.

Regarding the Open Horse Trails, after much deliberation the board voted and **Midsouth OHT is also canceled** for the previously outlined reasons, as well as acknowledgment that no work can be done on the Cross-Country at this time.

We now have more than a year to plan for next year Rally and OHT. This is time to investigate sponsorships to help with costs since we aren't having the OHT. *Any fund raising ideas from you all would be taken into account. Get your thinking caps on!*

I need ideas now for our **Fall Council meeting, with a Standard and Rating clinic**, thinking more south this year. **Who would you like to get (names) and how can we improve on this clinic?** Thoughts on this matter would be greatly appreciated. Again get your thinking caps on!

At this point we still plan to have the D1 rally in Nashville, TN, and the Tet Rally in the fall.

We can have testings, Preps and camps if we meet the various state regulations, and USPC national guidelines as to when we can gather again. If you want to have a Pony Club camp down South and North let me know. I just need a proposal of costs for these camps, clinic, preps. It may be easier to get someone as the clinician/instructor now than later, as well as places to hold a S& R clinic with an indoor arena.

Keep up with FB, the National website, and Midsouth website. As always if you have ideas and want to bring them to my attention I am here for you all. Please note this decision was not taken lightly and I wish you all a healthy and productive summer.

Sue



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