Dates to Remember:

Show dates are listed for info only. Not all shows noted will be attended. Please watch the board for confirmed shows.

March
11th Happy Hunter Show, Mila Equestrian
11th Southern Pines HT
17th – 19th Pony Club SJ Rally, Clemson SC
18th IHSA Regionals @ Averett
25th Mounted Pony Club*
29th Unmounted Pony Club

April
1st Hillcrest Horse Trials, Mocksville
8th Mounted Pony Club*
10-14th WSFCS Spring Break
22nd Happy Hunter Show, Mila Equestrian
22nd Longleaf Horsetrials
28th Unmounted Pony Club
28-30th PC Dressage Rally, CHP, Raeford NC
29th Sharon Oaks CT/Dressage, Hillsborough

May
7th Groundwork Clinic with Jean Dennison*
13-14th Warhorse, CHP, Raeford
19th Happy Hunter Show- Mila Equestrian
19-21st PC Eventing Rally @ FENCE, Tryon
27th Sharon Oaks CT/Dressage, Hillsborough

June
10th Happy Hunter Show, Mila Equestrian
12-14th Adult Camp, The Fork Farm, Norwood
17-18th Warhorse, CHP, Raeford
19-23rd Beginner Camp
24th Sharon Oaks CT/Dressage, Hillsborough
28-30th Advanced Camp, SOHP, Snow Camp NC

*Indicates arenas will be closed for riding.
CELEBRATIONS!

Congratulations and welcome to our newest Pony Club members: Anna Rose Erickson, Brianna Godshell, Chandler Nance & Raeann Parker.

Congratulations to the WFU IHSA riders who qualified for Regionals: Zanny Dow, Tori Spong, Larissa Hanger, Meagan Rosenburg, Victoria Latham, Asia Parker, Abby Trombley, Max Muir & Emily Ecclestone.

Congratulations to Becca Woodaman, Reserve Champion of Lower Training Division in IDA.

Congratulation to Pearl and the Morehead family on the purchase of Axel.

Congratulations to Sky and the Alday family on the purchase of Benny.

Welcome to Merlot and Hope and congratulations to their families, Clara & the Silkstone family & Anna and the Hadley family.

Welcome Latigo, HKS lesson horse.

Best wishes to Frazier who is enjoying his new job at NC Therapeutic Riding Center, Mebane, NC.

Congratulations to Hidden’s McKayla on meeting her new owner and moving to sunny Florida!

The Hidden K Stables family wishes the best of luck to all of our WFU riders competing in Regionals and Nationals, and to all of our Pony Clubbers competing at rallies and working to qualify for Pony Club Champs to be held in Lexington, KY.

Who is THAT rider?

~Congratulations: Molly & Latigo (lease)
Anna & Hope
Sky & Benny
Maggie & TJ (lease)
Ella & Poptart (lease)
Pearl & Axel
~Welcome:
Benny, Hope, Latigo, Axel

~Horses for lease:
Even, Scarlet, Lucky & Sunny

~Horses for sale:
Shadow, Mini, TJ, CJ, Sunny, Even & Poptart

Keep up with all of the barn happenings!

To join our mailing list, email:
Dawn@hidenkstables.com

Hidden K Stables Official Website:
hiddenkstables.com/

Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/groups/36445737051/

Follow HKS Pony Club on Facebook:
facebook.com/HksPonyClub

Follow HKS&R on Facebook:
facebook.com/hiddenhorserescue

Who is THAT rider answer on Page 3.

March 2017
Recently, a trainer that I admire on Twitter asked me, “How much would you ask to be paid to set jumps?” I thought this was an odd question, but I followed up with one of my own.

“Am I a barn kid, client, or just a random person at the barn?”

She replied that in this scenario, I was a barn kid. I sort of sat there, dumbfounded, as I looked down at my phone before replying. I would expect to be paid nothing. In fact, I would volunteer.

The exchange made me wonder, what has happened to the “barn rat-kids”? Are they still around?

Where does this generation of kids and teens that just show up, ride, and leave come from? Why have things changed? I can’t wrap my head around the premise that kids no longer want to take in every ounce of this sport that they can, especially since they all seem to want to be some sort of professional when they “grow up.”

I was a barn rat. I was the kid that took the bus directly from school to the stable. I was the kid that set fences while my trainer was schooling, or sat up there with her asking questions as she taught lessons. I wanted to know, I wanted to learn, and I wanted to do anything I could to make it happen. Eventually, in doing so, I earned rides, was given more responsibility, and landed a job. However, I never stopped going up to the arena to set fences or watch a group lesson. In fact, I still do that as a 24-year-old “shamateur” rider (my own term for those of us too poor to be amateurs, but not good enough to be pros). I still get to the barn early to watch or help out. I leave after the last lesson because I think that every rider, every horse, and every lesson will teach me something.

I feel like the era of barn rats is starting to run dry. Now kids are too busy to do more than ride, put their horses away, and leave. There is no picking up extra chores or asking their trainers, “What can I do for you?” They are expected to be paid in some way, whether it’s with an extra ride or with actual money to do simple things like set fences.

I’m not saying doing some work for an extra lesson or hack is a bad thing. In fact, I commend those that put in additional hours to be able to afford to ride, but I am talking about the people that expect to be remunerated for what I consider to be learning.

If you ask many young people participating in this sport what they want to do one day, their answers are often, “I want to be a pro on the A/AA circuit.” Are these the same kids that don’t want to work for it? Not all professionals have grooms and assistants. I think what most people don’t realize is that a majority of professionals barely break even at the end of the month. It can be incredibly unglamorous, which is why it takes a willingness to work and do the little things to actually make it in this industry.

Being a barn rat teaches you this exact thing. It shows you the real ins and outs of the life of a professional, and there are so many ways you can learn from your trainer outside of just taking lessons. Of course, if your trainer asks you to hack a horse or offers you some extra rides, take them! But also watch all the lessons you can, from the beginner kids and adult-ammies up to the advanced students. Ask questions about why and how your trainer does things.

You see, money does play a role in this sport, but I think time and a willingness to work will always prevail. Your willingness to do those little, tedious, extra tasks and chores will bring you opportunities. Set the fences, watch the lessons, groom at shows, and open your eyes to the things you can learn in this sport without sitting in the saddle.

Be the barn rat! Your future students, clients, and business partners will thank you.

About the Author, Mary Johnson: Too poor to be an amateur, but not a good enough rider to be a pro, Mary Johnson is a self-proclaimed “shamateur” from Texas. She enjoys riding, Starbucks, and playing “horse show mom” to her barn mates. Her enemies include two-strides and Table II Section 2(c).
Practice Makes Perfect
By: Ms. Michelle

We all know the saying that perfect practice makes.......(can you fill in the blank?). That is why at Hidden K we are so happy to offer so many camps to help all of our students ride to the next level. Whether you are still learning how to pick out hooves or riding cross country, camps help you achieve your goals by having repetitive time in the saddle and good instruction. At Hidden K we pride ourselves that camp is full of fun activities and the opportunities to learn new skills.

Of course, riding is everyone’s favorite thing to do at camp, but camp also gives us the opportunity to have lunge lessons, ride bareback, go on trail rides and so much more!!

Some of our favorite things to do at camp are bathing the sweet horses and making the grey horses bright again; learning how to pull manes and trim feathers - basically learn how to give the horses a spa day!!

We love to learn all about the points of the horse and bones of the horse and paint Ms. Tabby (our favorite grey camp horse) to show where they are. She doesn’t mind as long as she gets lots of treats :-(

I especially enjoy teaching the students how to design the jump courses - how to walk the course, to understand distances and see what creative ideas they come up with for their own courses.

We learn how to pick feet, the importance of shoeing, usually we even get to meet a vet and ask lots and lots of questions. Everyone helps out to take care of the horses and their daily needs - but some of our favorite time is spent telling horse stories over lunch together.

Camp is a wonderful time to makes lots of memories and to learn so much!!

Please sign up early as spots are filling up fast!!! We are lucky enough to be hosted by The Fork Farm for Adult Camp and the Sport of Horse Park for Advanced Camp. Please see their links below. And as always, a big thank you to the horses of Hidden K that make these wonderful camps truly special!!

[Links to Sport of Horses Park and The Fork Farm]

The Rescue Corner

Welcome back Even Odds. Even is doing great and has returned to work. He is currently seeking a forever home where he can be in light work and make someone very happy with his sweet nature. If you know of a perfect home for Even, please contact the rescue @ info@hiddenkhorserecuse.org.

Schooling Horse Spotlight

Name: Latigo
Gender: Gelding
Age: 10 Yrs
Height: 15.3hh
Breed: TB/Quarter horse
Color: Bay

What the trainers say about him:
Latigo’s favorite thing to do is jump! He LOVES cross country and excels in the eventing discipline. Latigo is a fantastic Pony Club mount and will teach his new rider so much! We are lucky to have him here at Hidden K Stables.

[Image of Latigo at Hidden K Stables]