



CORBITs

Loyalty, character, sportsmanship

Central Ontario Region
Pony Club Newsletter

January, 2013

Editor's Desk

Katie Stephenson

Welcome to 2013!!!! With a new year comes a new format. I think this new look is a little more fun for the reader and gives **CORBITs** that professional look. Not to mention the fact that you all get to picture me trying to figure out how to get the formatting to work (if it wasn't me trying to do it, I would be laughing at the mental picture too). 2013 promises to be a year of excitement and change. Canadian Eventing has lost David O'Connor but gained Clayton Fredricks as a new national team coach. My mom is going to be venturing to her first 4* event this spring when we travel down to Rolex. Jayme Holmes has taken over CORCOMs from Bill Murray and we have a new COR chair in Hellaina Rothenburg. January is cold and chilly, and while we may not be lucky enough to fly down south for the winter, we are lucky enough to have some beautiful snow to go out and play in this year. So after you get home from a hack through the snow white fields, warm up with some hot chocolate and a read through the most recent edition.

Regional Education Session

Calling all members of COR!

The region is hosting a special meeting on Saturday, January 19th from 10am - 2pm at the Brooklin Community Centre (Cassels E. & Bagot). This multi-discipline workshop is meant to inform about all things Pony Club and is designed for new and experienced volunteers and members alike. All Branches are encouraged to attend, and a big welcome to new members. You won't want to miss this day! Branch registration forms are to be found on the regional website. Please direct all inquiries to Nancy Codlin at info@ribbonworks.ca



Pony Clubbers Paint



Samantha Migus – Brooklin Pony Club
Acrylic Paint - part of her University application for architecture

Go BIG or go home - Katie Stephenson

Barn Manager: "Katie, since Simon has sold, would you be interested in another project horse?"
Me: "Sure, what did you have in mind?"
BM: "Well, a new boarder has bought a Percheron that is going to need some work."
Me: "Yah, sure sounds like fun. What can you tell me about him?"
BM: "He is big. I know he was driven but I'm not sure how much work has been done with him under saddle."
Dad: "That's ok."

2 months pass and a trailer pulls in. A large black horse departs. It walks closer. It gets larger ... and larger. Upon close inspection it is a very large black Percheron whose front end is roughly twice the size of the Clyde cross I am sitting on. Final stats: July Flame (aka. Shaq or Big Guy as I call him), 7 year old gelding, 18hh, unbacked and no concept of personal space. I was a little less enthusiastic about this new 'project' - Dad was delighted.

I have never had the desire to start a horse. I always figured that the first person to get on the back of a horse should be calm and unflappable and should ideally know what they are doing. I can be calm, but I can certainly be flapped and while I had seen videos and read books, I would never claim to be an expert. After a little bit of peer pressure from my Dad, I thought I would give it a try and see how it went. If I felt I was in over my head I would let the owner know. I happily possess the very valuable skill of knowing when I am over-faced and am always ready to ask for help.

I chose to start right back at the beginning with Big Guy. Despite their gentle nature, it is hard to ignore that the Percheron breed has a surplus in the areas of weight, muscle and size, and this adorable creature was no different. While it was clear that as a show horse he had been primped and prodded everywhere, ground manners were not a priority with his previous owners. So between that and teaching him to lunge, I had a clear starting place. After a few discoveries (pleasant: this was a smart horse, unpleasant: he was a little distractible and also a little nappy), I found myself with a polite horse on the ground who lunged well.

Then it was time to add a saddle. First we tried the Western saddle (the owner's preference). However, after one attempt I



quickly figured out that that would not work for me. I could throw it up as high as his barrel. Dad was happy to show his experience by easily getting it up on the giant beast, and after allowing him a well-deserved laugh, I decided that the English saddle would be my tack of choice. We ventured into the arena. I was armed with helmet and crash vest, Dad was armed with lead rope and his usual calm attitude and sense of humour. I worked Big Guy in hand. I lunged him. Dad worked him in hand. We brought him over to the mounting block. Dad held him. I climbed up to the block and lay over his back. I patted the off side. I put weight in the stirrup. I bounced a bit. I took my weight off the block and put everything into the stirrup. This was the first time we got any sort of concerned reaction. Big Guy started to jig a little and Dad did exactly as we had discussed and let him circle around him. After a couple of circles he stopped and stood. I put my leg on the other side and VOILA!!!! I quickly discovered that he had wonderful breaks and was much more interested in standing still than in moving. After about three rides he had figured out that the leg meant go, and that the tiny person on his back steered more or less in the same way as the big guys in the wagons he used to pull ... although there are still times when he turns like there is still several feet of wagon behind him.

My own obligations and sometimes crazy life has not allowed me to be as consistent with Big Guy as I would like, but thankfully he has a good memory (elephant heritage is a definite possibility). So far, one of my proudest moments has been when fellow past Pony Clubber Kyra Holmes came up and took him for a spin. After a momentary "you're shorter than the last one" moment, he lunged like a pro and was a super star under saddle.

So my first backing experience was a success. Not sure if I did it by the book. I know I took longer than most (I am sure many of you will be shocked to hear that). Not sure if I will ever do it again. But I can say I have checked one more thing off the list, whether it started there or not.



Sorry Kyra, there is no way to make this picture not look ridiculous.

Year-End Awards

Central Ontario Region Pony Club gathered to celebrate their achievements, their love of horses and an evening of camaraderie, at the annual banquet on October 27th. Hosted by Brooklin Pony Club at the Off the Hook restaurant in Whitby, the theme was "A Night at the Oscars." Pony Club members took full advantage of the red carpet, posing for pictures in their Oscar-inspired finery. Awards were handed out to the top riders and teams in the different equestrian disciplines.



D Rally

Stable Management: Toronto North York

Team Captain: Zehra Ozturk, TNY

Dressage

Starter: Katie McCoy Bridges, TNY

Pre Training: Natasha Austin, Victoria

Training: Emily Lindsay, Rising Star

First Level: Lindsay Weber, Rising Star

Le Trec

High Points Champion: Jessie-Lyn Boadway, TNY

High Points Reserve Champion: Jessie Rowe, Durham

Prince Philip Games

Masters: Toronto North York/Uxbridge Scugog

A's: Temiskaming

B's: Temiskaming/Toronto North York

C's: Victoria

Quiz

Project Award: Horseshoe

C Team Trophy: Toronto North York (Kaitlyn Henderson, Cassandra Henderson, Zehra Ozturk)

Show Jumping Champions

Pre Entry A1: Amelia Austin & Peanut, Victoria

Pre Entry A2: Amanda Back & Boogie Back to Texas, TNY

Pre Entry B: Lily Solomon & Tango, TNY

Pre Entry Schooling: Patricia Rothenburg & Kwanzaa, Centaurus

Entry: Natasha Austin & Diamonds for Sierra, Victoria

Starter: Emily Lindsay & Shatar, Rising Star

Advanced Starter: Jocelyn Donaldson & Romeo, Uxbridge Scugog

Beginner: Rachel Scott & Come as You Are, Victoria

Novice: Kendra Stewart & Pre-madonna, Centaurus

Tetrathlon

High Points Individual: Lindsay Weber, Rising Star

Regional Awards

Stillwoods Farm Award: Patricia Rothenburg

Karen Meuleman Award: Cassandra Henderson

Welsh Pony Award: (not awarded)

Royal China Award: Polly, owned by Jessi Rowe, Durham

Dressage Clinic:

Last month, members of National Quiz teams were invited to participate in a dressage clinic hosted by international competitor Esther Mortimor, at her facility in Waterdown. COR was represented by three riders – Kaitlyn and Cassandra Henderson and Zehra Ozturk – and Patricia Rothenburg audited with club mate Katie Bradbury. The girls were treated to some excellent coaching and feedback.

Links

Health (Horse and Human):

- <http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/12/14/shedding-light-cushings-disease-and-laminitis>
- <http://www.horsenation.com/2012/12/04/in-praise-of-thunder-thighs/>
- <http://eventingnation.com/home/monday-video-horses-inside-out.html>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t3mswG2MpE>
- http://www.horsecollaborative.com/index.php?option=com_blog&view=comments&pid=721&Itemid=56

Clinics and Training:

- <http://www.usefnetwork.com/featured/2013GeorgeMorris/>
- <http://eventingnation.com/home/sinead-halpin-clinic-day-1.html>
- <http://eventingnation.com/home/sinead-halpin-clinic-day-2-cross-country.html>
- <http://eventingnation.com/home/clayton-fredericks-clinic-report.html>
- <http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/08/22/classical-training-work-horse>
- <http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/12/26/classical-training-controlling-what-we-can-accommodating-what-we-cant>
- <http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/11/11/catherine-henriquet-training-young-horse-grand-prix>

Random:

- <http://eventingnation.com/home/two-days-as-a-working-student-for-sinead-halpin.html>
- http://horsetalk.co.nz/2013/01/02/bronze-horses-and-men-equestrian-statuary/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=bronze-horses-and-men-equestrian-statuary#.UOeKhPme3y1
- http://www.retiredracehorsetraining.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=71&Itemid=363
- <http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/12/15/dolly-dressage-cloning-horses>
- <http://eventingnation.com/home/winter-guide-to-blanketing-part-i.html>
- <http://eventingnation.com/home/winter-guide-to-blanketing-part-ii.html>
- <http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/12/03/about-saddle-fitting-part-1-fitting-saddle-horse>
- <http://chronofhorse.com/article/kelly-prather-has-brought-lessons-master-home-england>
- <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/14/sport/race-horse-names-betting-frankel/index.html>
- <http://www.horsenation.com/2012/11/20/14-bits-that-ought-to-be-illegal/>

Things to think about:

- <http://blog.andrealeatherman.com/2013/01/we-are-lucky.html>
- <http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/excellent-reminder-why-we-do>
- <http://thebarrgroup.com/eric2011/EricksBlog/TabId/93/PostId/73/do-you-know-what-you-are-riding-for.aspx>

Something that stands all on its own:

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=iAVcm4zBSRQ

Comments and more importantly contributions can be sent to:
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