



# CORBITs

Loyalty, character, sportsmanship

Central Ontario Region  
Pony Club Newsletter

March, 2013

## Editors Desk

Katie Stephenson

By about this time, you can't help but think that this might in fact be the year that the seasons forget to change and winter is going to stick around for good. Now I know that here in Canada we have 4 seasons, and I love them all in their own way. I love winter with its cozy sweaters and hot beverages, yummy soups and stews and beautiful snow falls. I even love that winter gives us time to spend on our basics, like horsemanship and the details of our flat work. On the other hand, I am not a fan of constantly having to wear three layers to venture outside, being unable to go on hacks to enjoy said beautiful snow fall because the wind chill is so high your eye balls freeze and having to convince my mount that springing up on all four legs and ping ponging around the arena is not an acceptable response to not going on a hack because of the wind chill.

Spring is however, slowly making its way to us, which will soon enough lead to summer and with that a whole new host of complaints like flies, excessive heat and sunscreen in your eyes. Then again, I have the sunscreen concern all year, so that is not a seasonal complaint for me. In addition to the heat and the bugs, spring brings with it the fun of testing and show season. So hopefully you are all spending the last winter weeks brushing up on your horsemanship and trying to figure out just where to start on your show preparation – should you begin with the pulling comb and your ponies now completely over grown mane, or the shedding blade in a possibly vane effort to actually find your pony under all that hair.

My personal choice of a place to start is with the below video link. I am sure most of you are familiar with the Super Bowl. Some of you know it as a great afternoon with friends and family watching a football game. Others know it as an inspiration for some pretty yummy appetizers. I see the Super Bowl as useful for really only one thing – commercials. I am especially a fan of the Budweiser commercial (one guess as to why). The link below is a glimpse of just how those commercials are made, and it might be a bit of an inspiration for how to spend the last of those cold days in the arena with your pony.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=si7p23Nex-q#at=174](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=si7p23Nex-q#at=174)

## Regional Education Session – Tricia Spong (Centaurus Pony Club)

Recently my daughter and I had the opportunity to attend the COR Education Session in Brooklin. Being new to Pony Club (we have one year under our belts), we attended not so much for my horse loving daughter, but for me to gain a broader understanding of Pony Club and everything that it has to offer.

The day began with a great overview of the behind the scenes administration and structure of Pony Club. I never realized how large the organization was nor how many volunteers there were. I want to extend a thank you to the parents for all the volunteer work they do. Pony Club could not happen without your involvement. I also came away with the distinct impression of the passion everyone has who is involved with Pony Club. It is clearly evident that you enjoy what you do.

The day ended with the ability to talk with the chair of each Pony Club discipline. This was a great time to place faces with names. Most everyone is somewhat familiar with Show-Jumping and Dressage but here is where you could ask questions about Prince Philip Games, Le Trec, Tetrathlon, D Rally, Quiz and Testing. It was a very informative day. If this is to be a yearly event, than I would highly recommend it for new members and parents.



Just to remind everyone that Spring really is coming – with clip lines and everything.

## A view from down South –Kyra Holmes

Hello all from sunny South Carolina! Some of you may remember me from my Pony Club Days, others may not. I was a member of Maple for 10 years, and I moved to the States last November to be a working student under Mogie Bearden Muller, a 3\* level eventer. I was back in Ontario for a few weeks this past December and got a chance to catch up with everyone, which was lovely!

I have some very exciting news; we hosted Captain Mark Phillips this week for a clinic. He has coached the USA Eventing team for what seems like forever, and some of you may know of his daughter, Zara Phillips, the British Olympic eventer. He is one of the most positive coaches I have ridden with in a long time, and he may not say much but when he talks, you better be listening! He has a lot of really cool stories, some of which start with "Once I was riding with George Morris and he said..." so yeah, he knows what he is talking about!

His main focus was about the balance of the horse. With the horse's balance going up and forward, you could do anything, either jump that 2 foot vertical or sail over the 9 foot wide table at Rolex. You have to keep the balance up by keeping the hands up and forward, do not even think of pulling back. Use your knee and thigh to slow the horse down. I learned this very well when he put me on a lunge line and took my reins away and told me to make the horse do walk/trot transitions. It's all about breathing out, stopping the hips and closing the knee with absolutely no pressure from the lower leg. It is very hard but very, VERY worth it.

Otherwise, things are pretty much the same down here. I am in Aiken, SC until April this year, and will be back in Ontario as my time is done at Fox Hill. As much as I am sad to leave, I am so, SO excited to come back and share all that I have learned with all of you fabulous Pony Clubbers!

Until next time,



Kyra, feelin' the burn!

Kyra and Wonder Not at the CDCTA in Virginia

Ace and Kyra doing their thing – extra Pony Points if you can guess how old this horse is:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldfXK3Rb0yo&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldfXK3Rb0yo&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

## COR's Trip To The Ontario Veterinary College

Meaghan Lloyd – Durham Pony Club

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, COR was invited to the Ontario Veterinary College for two seminars and a tour. The day started off with a talk called *You, Me and Your Horse*. The seminar leader brought Winston, her human skeleton, along with two horse skulls for demonstrations. One of the most interesting parts was when she told the group that one of the skulls had most likely come from a racing Standardbred. She used the skull to show us evidence of arthritis and bad abscesses; she also showed tooth decay on the horse's teeth. She surmised that these painful injuries this horse was forced to bare were all inflicted because of uneducated horsemanship.

She taught the group a large amount about the skeletal system and the digestive system as well. She demonstrated the size of the horse's digestive system with coloured ropes that snaked throughout the room. The seminar leader also explained about colic management and informed us this will be a key topic this year for Equine Guelph. She told the group 80% of colic cases are management caused which is why prevention and knowledge of colic is so important for everyone in the horse industry.

After a break, the group then met the next speaker, Andrew Peregrine for a talk on, *Important Parasites of Horses in Ontario*. He presented a PowerPoint about the main types of parasites which plague horses in Ontario. After he taught us how to identify and prevent these parasites he set up jars of all the parasites around the room. We were allowed to look at the samples in the jars and one under a microscope! All of this was to get us ready for a rapid fire quiz which was really fun.

We then were broken into groups to tour the facility with some students who volunteered their time. We got to see how the x-ray machines work, where the surgeries take place and a general overview of the campus. It was fascinating to walk around and see all the specimens they had around the campus, brains in jars and even two-headed skulls from animals! We were also given a lot of information on applying to vet school. If anyone wants more information go to, [www.equineguelph.com](http://www.equineguelph.com).

The seminars were both very informative and it was a great experience to be able to go to the vet school.





## What Facebook Had to Say about it

Thanks to Christy for that fantastic Guelph tour and lectures we all attended this past weekend! What a learning experience. I know our kids learned so much and in such a fun environment. Just sitting in one of the classrooms surrounded by microscopes and specimens and listening to the lecture.....it was fantastic! Loved the enthusiasm felt by the vet students as well. It really opened our kids up to the possibilities available to them!!! Thanks Christy, I know how much work would have gone into this by yourself and the staff at Guelph! We dont get this type of opportunity too often, glad to be a part of it!!

Shaaron Marsden-Delvecchio

Thank you so much Christy for organizing the trip to OVC! It was such a eye-opener to different jobs around all animals not just horses, and the parasite pres. was very informative and was really cool that we got to do some hands on activities! Thank you for the little snack too! I know we at TNY had tons of fun, and it seemed like the others did too! :D

Skye Noodle Doodle



## Central Ontario is Going Hollywood

Do you like movies? Better yet, do you like making movies? COR is holding its first video contest open to all Central Ontario branches. The theme is "The Motto of Pony Club" and must include some educational aspect. Submissions can be created by individuals, groups or whole branches – but remember, this is a members only project except for the driving to locations and the providing of equipment. The deadline is September 20, 2013. All submissions will be judged by a 3 person panel and shown at a Gala screening where the winners will be chosen. Speaking of winners, the top film will receive a \$100 value prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive ribbons, and all film makers will receive bragging rights. For details regarding guidelines and submissions, contact your DC .



### Links:

#### Riding/Training:

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=46b1487dba5950a40037020f6&id=2b3ed1ea32>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=I8cOq7YWXys](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=I8cOq7YWXys)  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2013/02/25/classical-training-letting-go-ego-and-excuses>  
<http://www.horsenation.com/2013/02/19/eventions-presents-perfecting-your-galloping-position/>  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2013/01/31/training-young-horse-americas-best>  
<http://www.an-eventful-life.com.au/eventing-news/training-tips/bettina-hoy-%E2%80%93-using-walk-pirouette>  
<https://www.chronofhorse.com/article/think-outside-box-day-2-global-dressage-forum-north-america>  
<http://www.dressagedaily.com/article/steffen-peters-defines-contact-and-connection-2013-usdf-trainers-conference>  
<http://www.getmyfix.org/category/the-5-minute-clinic/>  
<http://chronofhorse.com/article/taming-mental-beast>  
<http://eventingnation.com/home/jacquie-brooksclayton-fredericks-clinic-recap.html>

#### Horsemanship/Knowledge:

[http://horsetalk.co.nz/2013/02/22/key-gene-horse-height-identified-researchers/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=key-gene-horse-height-identified-researchers#.USbPcFrioZQ](http://horsetalk.co.nz/2013/02/22/key-gene-horse-height-identified-researchers/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=key-gene-horse-height-identified-researchers#.USbPcFrioZQ)  
<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/feeding-top-athlete-part-i-fiber-flair>  
<http://useventing.com/news/rain-rot-ringworm-lumps-and-bumps-skin-disease-refresher>  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2013/01/23/cribbing-and-weaving-stereotypes-bored-horses>  
<http://eventingnation.com/home/five-tips-toward-winter-health.html>  
<http://useventing.com/news/veterinary-refresher-course-foot-lameness>

#### Random:

<http://www.horsenation.com/2013/02/21/10-pairs-of-crazy-marwari-horse-ears/>  
<http://eventingnation.com/home/the-one-that-started-it-all-snooze-alarm.html>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3tLVd2w8SY>  
<http://eventingnation.com/home/thursday-video-equine-intelligence-test.html>  
<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/keeping-it-green>  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2013/02/01/paragon-giant-athlete>  
[http://www.regardinghorses.com/2013/01/22/confessions-of-a-working-mother-wife-and-horse-woman/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+Regardinghorses+%28Regarding+Horses%29](http://www.regardinghorses.com/2013/01/22/confessions-of-a-working-mother-wife-and-horse-woman/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Regardinghorses+%28Regarding+Horses%29)  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2013/01/22/ruth-klimke-backbone-success-klimke-dynasty>  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/1999/01/30/rider-spotlight-dr-reiner-klimke>  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2012/08/16/ingrid-klimke-where-riding-becomes-art>  
<http://www.horsenation.com/2013/01/17/5-indoor-riding-arenas-that-will-blow-your-mind/>  
<http://www.horsenation.com/2013/01/10/dear-hn-help-i-dont-know-what-color-my-horse-is/>  
<http://www.eurodressage.com/equestrian/2013/02/06/isabell-werth-having-fun-retired-satchmo>

## Bob's Corner

Friends,

*I am well aware that most Ph.D.'s do not write in tiresome academic language, so please hold your complaints, any of you with your doctorates. This is a spoof.*

Dear Katie,

I thought you might be intrigued by a news item I came across the other day. A literary historian at the University of Upper Tooting Bec in England claims to have discovered that Mother Goose was a real person. It seems that an old peasant widow, who could neither read nor write, told her nursery rhymes to a passing scholar. Somehow they were published, and were such a success that the old woman found herself quite rich. She used part of her wealth to further her education. Not content just to learn her letters, she went on to become the oldest person ever granted her doctorate in the British Isles.

Alas, it went to her head. She felt that her simple verses no longer fit her image, in view of her new-found erudition. So she re-wrote them and spent her fortune to have the updated versions published as "*Senilia Gooseorum, The Collected Later Works of M. Goose, Ph.D.*" She died poor.

Most of her later work has been lost, but this fragment may explain why it was not well accepted by the masses, even though the scholarly reviews were united in their praise.

There Was An Aged Crone Who Resided In An  
Article of Footwear

There was an aged crone who resided in an article of  
footwear.

She produced immediate descendants to such an extent that she found it impossible to arrive at any decision with regard to her next course of action. She provided her multitudinous progeny with portions of a clear liquid nourishment, neglecting to serve her customarily accompanying baked fare, Assaulted each and every one of them in an aggravated manner and deposited them in their nocturnal resting places.

M. Goose, Ph.D.

For your interest, the report also mentioned that the chap who discovered all this has dropped out of his own doctoral program and is scouring the British countryside for illiterate bards. A team of more senior academics, however, is eagerly searching for more of M. Goose's literary legacy. They say

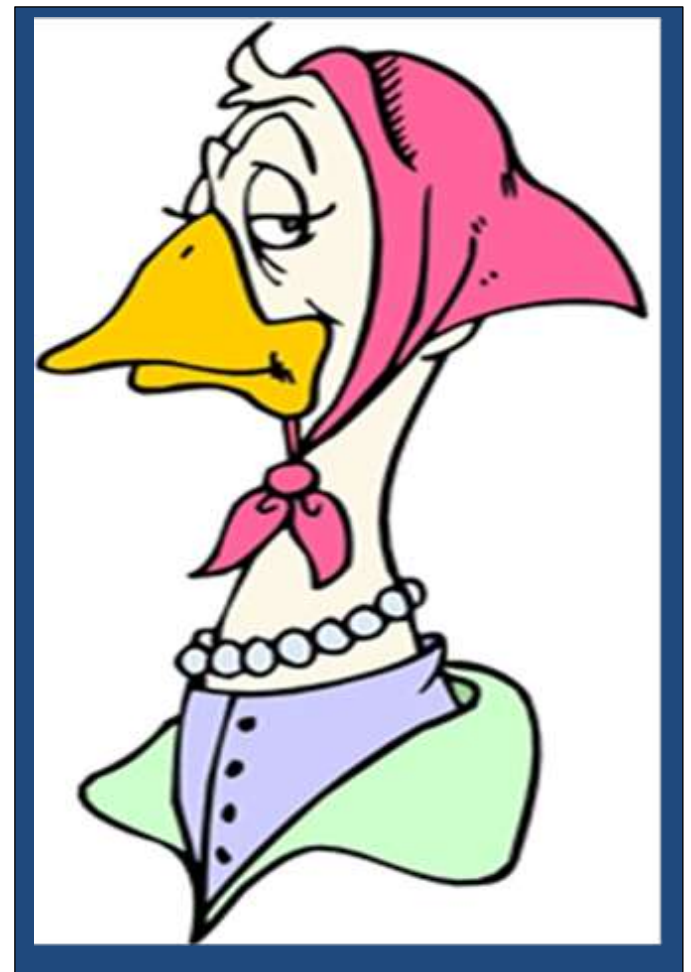
that within the next decade or so, they hope to recover the complete verses to "*Diminutive Jack Horner Assumed A Recumbent Position At The Juncture Of A Residential Vertical-Structural-Support System*", "*Hey Diddle Diddle, The Feline Quadruped And The Soprano Member Of That Family Of Stringed Musical Instruments Which Are Predominantly Bowed Rather Than Plucked*", and of course everyone's favourite, "*Three Visually Challenged Rodents*".

I can hardly wait.

Perhaps you and I should discuss this momentous literary development over lunch. Or we could discuss something else. Anything you like, actually. I am growing just a bit concerned that eating lunch from a brown bag at my desk too many more times might start to send me rather strange. It may even be too late.

Yours truly,

Bob



Comments and more importantly contributions can be sent to:  
Katie Stephenson at [blackbird\\_r@hotmail.com](mailto:blackbird_r@hotmail.com)