

Education Report
September 21, 2008
MPC Regional Committee Meeting

The **Candidate Evaluation Clinic** was held July 18,19,20, at Will Farms, with Lynn Sanderson (BC) as clinician. There were six C2 candidates, one B-SM, one HB2 and one HA, for a total of 9 candidates. My Post Event Report is attached with details of the clinic. I increased the cost per candidate by \$25 to assist with the cost of food. Seeing I had to take care of Lynn's meals, it made sense to me to provide the food for all. The girls appreciated the continuous flow of food (when don't they!) and the fact they didn't have to pack meals for the weekend.

I have received negative feedback from the candidates in regards to Lynn Sanderson. When I initially asked for comments at the clinic, the girls, and parents, all commented "she sure knows her material". However, by the end of the weekend, most found her blunt approach unnerving and intimidating. I agree, to a point, that her thoughts could be expressed in a more positive manner. However, Lynn feels her job is to evaluate not "coach". She sent our candidates away with lots of critical homework...then at August's Regional Test everyone was successful...so in Lynn's mind, she did what she was paid to do.

I have approached Jackie Cooper for next year's Evaluation Clinic. She will be sending me the dates in June/July 2009 where she is available.

With the escalated fuel costs, etc., compounded with a fluctuating number of candidates, I feel the Evaluation Clinic needs a budget of \$1000.00 to cover costs, but with the goal of working towards breaking even. The grant money plus participant fees will recover most of the \$2000 incurred this year. However, in some years we have a few candidates and then in the next year we have several. In future years where our Region has a small number going forth to Regional Testing, I would recommend opening the clinic up to other members to offset the cost of the clinician fee and flight costs.

I believe our Region successfully put forth strong regional candidates due to not only their individual skill level, but the flow of preparation provided...Evaluation Clinic, Senior Clinic followed by Regional Testing.

As Education Chair (and parent!), I would like to say that I hope Diana Fraser and Baldur Pony Club will agree to host a senior clinic again in 2009 and preferably directly before Regional Testing. Senior Clinic was an awesome experience. Some of the participants came to me near the end of Senior Clinic and expressed how they felt so much stronger in their knowledge (quotes...I listened to Val's sessions two or three times over..."I definitely know my teeth and conformation!", "Jackie was so fun to be coached by, she had lots of great pointers!", "Ok, this is so much more work than Camp, but I am learning so much!"). These kids said that they thought of regional testing wasn't quite as scary with this opportunity to prepare.

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I have been trying to arrange **study sessions for our Regional Quiz teams**. Kit Anderson will be meeting with the teams in early October to review parts of harness. I have approached Westgates for a session on tack and am attempting to arrange some time with a vet.

I have touched base with Jan Stephens in regards to a day/time she and Marg Teske would be available to hold a lecture/discussion re “**what the judge is looking for**”. Jan and Marg are away, together, this weekend and are going to discuss it and get back to me next week. I am hoping to arrange this for a Saturday or Sunday this fall, to allow those interested from the West travel time to Winnipeg.

I have some **teaching material for each club**...a reference manual on parasites published by Merial (Eqvalan and Panomec)...and another power point presentation on Equine Performance Nutrition, produced by Masterfeeds (similar to Feed Rite's). The Masterfeeds rep. gave a presentation at Senior Clinic...and graciously offered to burn her presentation onto cd's for our clubs before leaving that evening. I should have one for each club. Most of the members at senior clinic also received their own copy.

I plan on arranging similar **educational mini-clinics** like last year's “Evening at Greenhawk”, “Vet Talk”, etc. As I have topics/dates/locations confirmed I will notify the DC's and ask that their members be notified.

Submitted by:

Karen MacLean
MPC Education Chair
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