

Tetrathlon Report September 2008

Well we had a quiet summer here in Manitoba with tet' not a single entry for the Winnipeg mini meet other than from Prairie valley or even a phone call for the Brandon {Minnedosa} one!

Caroline and Callum did very well at 3 air pistol competitions around the province and other than the gas all were free with the \$50 subscription to gun club, even the guns are provided.

Callum swam in the Manitoba summer games, which was a great experience for him and a direct spin off from pony club.

Both along with Ben have enrolled in the Brandon swim club again this year.

We have, thanks to the generosity of Sims and Co. A practice shooting range in Minnedosa now and await the approval of our coach and we can host some lessons and try out times here in westman.

Callum and Caroline represented Manitoba both at Alberta central regional meet where they qualified and at national tet' in Ottawa and were as you would expect a credit to us. They achieved personal best times in the run and swim which is all you can ever ask and were noted as being some of the best junior riders in Ottawa as they schooled their loan horses well, listened to the owners and rode a really thoughtful SJ and XC with double clears [Callum had a time fault XC We know how fast he likes to go so I was very happy!!!] they were in the embarrassing situation of going clear where the owners did not! We toured the parliament buildings and downtown Ottawa, the Rideau Canal and watched boats go up & down the locks, had lunch in the Hard rock café and did some serious shopping at apple saddlery! I would like to publicly thank the Sims family of Norman, Elizabeth, Caroline and Norman Jnr. For their very generous hospitality in Ottawa without which Callum and I could not have had those extra few days and for chaperoning Callum home to Manitoba as I went on east.

As you know I went, as chaperone/riding coach to the international tet in England and Ireland and it was the best fun I have ever had. There were tetrathletes coming out of your ears! over 100 at all 3 of the meets and one of the best bunch of polite, fun loving well rounded, true sportsmen and women I have ever had the pleasure of being with. I will do a photo report at banquet. I know I want kids I have contact with to experience it, I watched my Canadian team grow right in front of my eyes and life time friends were made. We are all better people for it.

I would like to invite pony clubbers to come shooting in Winnipeg on the 23rd sept and the 7th oct and for westman if Winnipeg is too far I would like to invite you to come to Minnedosa on the 14th or 28th oct. both at 7 PM. Please call or e-mail to confirm. All free everything provided.

I am holding a fall mini meet on 25 oct at Pegasus riding school. SJ only if the weather is bad [you can use my horses, but there will be a charge if you do] we will move to the fair grounds if numbers warrant.

I would like to hold a mini meet in Portage also if it can be arranged and one in Souris as it's a large club?

Ponder this a while

With questions being asked as to why numbers in the pony club are decreasing I ask you what do you want from it? In Manitoba we have no ppg, no le trec, no polo/polo cross, [that I know of] one rally, little or no dressage other than one champ at one show, the same with show jumping at this point, 2 kids do tet, no entries for eventing which is the bulk of rally HOWEVER hunters are attended in full force and its not even a recognized pony club discipline. The hunt seat style of equitation and jumping is as different from what we do as western or stock seat !

No juniors' horse program or club group is as comprehensive as the pony club. No theory program as thorough, no club has the back up organization and infrastructure we have, no where are there the same opportunities. National & International travel for one.

With the cost of gas to get to places becoming prohibitive I suggest we need to veer away from the clutches of the hunter ring and put the fun back into Manitoba pony club? With play days, funs shows, fun meets or get togethers', trips and visits, games parties' sleepovers and socials. ALL OF WHICH ARE FREE. Prizes and such are not needed, and pot luck is always the best.

If we share our horses we can carpool to another location to experience some of this? Pine ridge is a fabulous place for example and very accommodating, each club could host a monthly thing of their choice, that way the kids get to try out new stuff and who knows where that may lead.

*Manitoba has no one for Rally in Hong Kong, P.P.G. g in Aus, Tet in the UK.....?
Its our loss*

Where I come from a rally is a meeting of pony club kids in a field usually to ride muddy ponies and to swap and learn and share and laugh ,and learn more and have fun under the watchful banner of pony club with a daily common theme...are we getting a bit serious perhaps?

Just some food for thought!