

National Director's Report – September 2009

2009/2010 Fees

Val has sent out notices about the fee increases.

National fees are \$70 and Regional fees are \$35 for a total of \$105.00.

Membership forms are now available on the website. Val has redone the membership forms so all provinces use the form.

Discipline Grants

The deadline for all post-event reports to be received by the National Discipline Chairs is **September 30th – no exceptions**. Please ensure these are submitted on time to ensure MPC receives the grant money. It is your responsibility to check with the National Discipline Chair to make sure they have received them once sent.

Membership Contest

I had sent an email to the Manitoba Regional Committee at the end of August outlining a membership contest sponsored by National. The Region with the highest net increase in membership will receive a grant. Number of net increase x \$14

New Testing Procedure - Reminder

This was mentioned at a previous meeting; however would like to remind everyone again.

If a member tests their full level and passes the riding phase but fails the Stable Management phase they now have until the end of the following calendar year to complete. They will not receive any designation until both phases are complete. They also may not test the next riding level until the previous one is complete.

Testing Application Deadline

October 15/2009 – applications due to Regional Test Chair for 2010 RA & HA tests as well as the written A. This includes those that failed any phases of the RA or HA this year.

Lori Leverington

Dressage report, Sept 2009

This is my last report as dressage chair as I have decided to step down from this position. Cheryl Hemming from the Red River PC has accepted to fill in for the last year of my 2 year term. I have enjoyed immensely watching our members become aware of the importance of flat work.

Clinics:

One clinic was offered in July at Quarry Ridge Farms for our members who had qualified for the Nationals. It was opened to all pony club members. App. 12 riders took advantage of this opportunity.

Benefit Show:

The dressage portion of our championships was well attended again with 4 D and C teams. The results are:

D TEAMS

1st place

Mars Hill/NHPC

1. Cassidy Moore

2. Amber Orchard

3. Anna McCrea

2nd place

Quarry Ridge

1. Brennan McCullagh

2. Kieran McCullagh

3. Dominic Good

3rd place

NHPC

1. Rhianna Saunders

2. Matthew Tunmer

3. Kirsten Tunmer

4th place

Mars Hill/Baldur

1. Sabrina Kendall

2. Katie Johnson

3. Jill DeKoning

D individual

1- Anna McCrea

2- Kieran McCullagh

3- Brennan McCullagh

4- Dominic Good

5- Katie Johnson

6- Matthew Tunmer

C TEAMS

1st place

QRPC/NHPC

1. Shannon MacLean

2. Jessi Good

3. Stephanie Sawatzky

2nd place

QRPC/MH

1. Nicole Brown

2. Julie Wilson

3. Ariel Orchard

MPC Banquet 2009

Where : Herman Prior Center

When : November 21st, 2009

Ticket prices have not been determined yet.

During the banquet this year, certificates of achievement will be handed out as always so DC's please start compiling your member's 2009 achievements. Achievements you should be compiling include:

- Ⓢ Testing
- Ⓢ Regional Quiz Results
- Ⓢ Regional Finals Results (Benefit Show)
- Ⓢ Any National Competition Results (Dressage, Show Jumping etc...)

The annual power point will also take place so DC's again if you could please start putting together an assortment of pictures that would be great. Previously discussed was that each club do their own presentation. If any clubs still strongly wish to do so please contact me. But in an effort of not wasting time at the banquet to start a new presentation for each club I thought it simpler to just do the power point the way its been done in the past. *Please send a few 'goofy' pictures on top of the other ones you will be sending for the power point if you have any*

The Amazing Race finals will also take place during the banquet. Information about the race and entry forms will be available within the next week or so.

Regional Quiz Ribbons will be awarded at Banquet as well if I remember correctly. Also the results for the year long Branch competition will be awarded.

Also, I would like to start something new. I would like us to award a few things at banquet;

- Ⓢ Best Sportsman Award (for a Pony Club member)
- Ⓢ Volunteer of the Year Award

To do so, I will be setting up an online voting poll. Members will be able to cast their votes online anonymously. The site should be up and running by the beginning of October. So DC's I will be sending out an email to you for you to forward to your members asking them to nominate who they think might be worthy of a Best Sportsman or Volunteer Award.

There had been talk of holding a Dance this year and that will not be happening this time around.

There will again be a silent auction. Each club is asked to please donate an item(s) of approx a \$30 value. A wonderful idea which had been started was the branch displays. Once again if each branch could come up with a display to set up demonstrating the various activities etc... that your club does.

More information to follow later in September

Thanks

Stephanie Sawatzky

Post Camp Report

MPC Camp 2009 in Portage la Prairie Fair Grounds, July 18 - 24

Facility – rental fee of \$3050 plus GST for a total of \$3202.50

- 3 enclosed rings
- o Grass – too small due to 7 missing panels. Moved classes to Dressage ring on the Tuesday afternoon
- o Sand Ring – harrowing provided but not watering which was provided by Portage Pony Club
- o Dressage – 20 x 40 meter ring
- 2 open riding areas
- o Open Jumper in midway area which needed to be walked for debris mostly due to the construction fences
- o Open lunging on grass to north of office
- 51 of the 61 box stalls were set up
- office/kitchen space for the week
- manure and garbage removal

Camping – Total of 32 sites booked

- 19 of 24 sites booked into Main campground (30 amp, water, table and fire pit provided)
- 7 sites booked into Group camping (30 or 15 amp, group water, shared table and fire pit)
- 6 sites booked into unserviced camping (tents)

Campers – Total of 59 originally registered – 51 actual

- 8 cancellations within 3 weeks of camp starting
- 5 cancellations were from the AB Evaluation group

Dressage – 39 lesson slots sold

- enclosed ring very popular
- additional 4.5 hours of instruction time negotiated to accommodate all who had purchased lessons
- self funded activity based on number of spots sold

Instructors – 3 instructors providing four 1.5 hour lessons per day

- Jackie Cooper from BC Islands for AB Evaluation and senior campers (D2 and above) for a total of 21 participants
- Lorraine Wilson and Kerry Moore instructed balance of campers evenly
- Due to the size of the Grass ring only 3 riders at a time could be accommodated there
- Due to riding levels, two groups had 6 riders which were further divided into 2 groups of 3 to accommodate rider ability with each group getting 45 minutes of instruction

Evening Activities –

- Saturday – Welcome meeting
- Sunday – PPG demo cancelled due to clinician not being available
- Monday – Camp Garage Tack Sale
- Tuesday – Games/Movie night

- Wednesday – Craft Night
- Thursday – Camp Show Jumping Show

Friday Schedule – Four one hour lesson slots

- PPG offered in Sand ring to all groups
- An extra show jumping lesson offered to most groups (due to space and instructor availability this extra lesson could not be offered to all campers)

Stable Management – Tuesday and Wednesday 4:30 to 6:00 pm

- Lead by AB Eval participants with C level and above assisting
- Campers organized by SM level into groups of 5 or 6 members
- 45 minute sessions on specific level appropriate topics

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE CAMPS:

Facility – Portage Fair Board has indicated that the facility rental will remain the same for 2010 with the grass ring returning to it's original size

Camping – basically the same as 2009

Campers – a cancellation policy needs to be put in place and clearly defined

Dressage – continue with enclosed ring. This has become very popular and more lesson slots could have been sold. The dressage has always been run as a self funded activity within camp with the instructor contracted for the number of lessons sold which often limits the time she is present at camp.

Instructors –

- AB Evaluation – if this continues to be paired with camp, participants need to have completed the full C level to be considered for this group. No more than 15 participants.
- No more than 5 participants per group for D2 level and below
- If scheduling allows, go to 1 hour riding lessons and have some days with 2 lessons to make up the total riding time of 8.5 hours for the week
- Instructors coach for 6 hours per day
- Stagger instruction time, if scheduling allows
- Ideal ratio of 1 instruction for every 3 or 4 campers allows for more flexibility to move campers around in the groups

Additional options at camp –

- more evening activities
- cross country
- more PPG
- Tetrathlon
- Le Trek
- Quiz

Instructor snacks/lunches –

- Providing a private space for the snacks and lunches, especially for the first 3 days of camp is very beneficial
- Having 1 person responsible for the meals has worked well for the past 2 years

Ground Jury –

- Schedule definite meeting times for Camp Co-ordinators, Ground Jury and Instructors to sort out any issues, problems or concerns to help camp move along smoothly
- Camp Co-ordinators or designates to watch each lesson for first 2 days of camp

Welcome Meeting –

- Unless camp is hosting a supper, having the Welcome Meeting start at 7 or 8 pm works best
- The Welcome Meeting offers a good venue for campers to put a face to a name and to ask questions about the rules and regulations of camp

Information Updates/Bulletin Board –

- Having only 1 bulletin board is the most efficient method to update information

Distribution of duties –

- Activities of camp can easily be distributed amongst the branches
- Each branch should be asked for their preference

Camp Evaluation –

- Camp Evaluation forms were emailed to each camper immediately after camp. As of August 30, 2009, only 6 replies were received with the following ideas, concerns and offers provided:

Best thing:

- craft was fun
- couldn't name 1 best – all of camp was great – perfect amount of instruction, things to do in evening, time to be with friends and horses – favorite things are simply watching other lessons and hanging in the barn with horses and friends
- lessons – good pace
- kids had a lot of fun – Jackie was excellent
- Jackie Cooper was a great instructor and gave good information. Would like to have her back next year
- Facilities are pretty good
- Camping was great
- Dressage lessons were great – perhaps a second instructor to give private lessons in the sand or grass rings in evening

Worst thing:

- no swim night
- not long enough
- classes having to be split and reduced in time – should have more instructors available
- bathrooms
- camp went down the drain this year- older riders had nothing to do
- shorter lessons were disappointing

What needs to be improved:

- optimum number of riders – 5
- shorter lessons and 2 per day
- keep the longer lesson and 1 per day
- younger/less experienced riders need more attention
- more instructors
- evening activities were good – continue with these
- bathrooms
- shorter more frequent lessons or perhaps 1 lesson 1 day and 2 lessons the next day

Suggestions for future camps:

- shorter lessons
- need adult monitoring warm up for evening riding
- have camp for 2 weeks or at least full 7 days
- private dressage should be continued
- cross country would be great
- horse swap
- run evening lessons
- PPG was great
- Shorten camp by a day – kids and horses too exhausted
- Ride twice a day with 50 minute flat in morning and 50 minute jumping in afternoon or evening
- More demos – Parelli, dressage, musical ride, etc.
- Have a musical ride option
- More PPG
- Have a Western riding night – barrel and poles
- Have a scavenger hunt
- Games like sack race, egg and spoon, water balloon catch, etc
- Add a relay in the show jumping
- Keep the dressage lessons
- Cross country was really fun
- Single bulletin board was good but each club should have a rep and a phone tree to make sure changes are known
- 4 per group preferred
- each club should be responsible for signing up for one major area or activity
- hay and straw are best handled by the local club
- jump clean up at end of camp needs to be done by all
- perhaps the Oakville booth could be opened for camp

Are you able to help?

Volunteers indicated for:

- fundraising at camp
- safety officer
- canteen
- purchasing stall check prizes
- organizing non horse activities

- craft
- if you wish to help out then the fees are refunded proportionately

Cancellation policy ideas:

- non refundable deposit of \$25.00 or so
- repayment minus \$25.00 one month before, minus \$50.00 1 week before ,etc,
- max of \$25.00 with doctor's note
- tiered cancellation policy – pay with 2 cheques – if cancellation happen before the original deadline, all funds are refunded, after that ½ is refunded and within the week or two, no refunds

Regional Rally Report – Sept 13, 2009

Regional rally was held in conjunction with Willville Horse Trials the weekend of June 12-14th, 2009. 17 Pony Club members took part in this event. Once again we were blessed with good weather and lots of help from the parents/volunteers. The kids set up their tack stalls in their horse trailers, and this worked very well. The members once again proved that they can manage very well with the help of their team mates. I think when we provide a situation for our kids to work independently, without parents constantly overseeing we are truly helping our kids develop the pillars of Pony Club:

CHARACTER—LOYALTY—SPORTSMANSHIP

It was great to see kids from different clubs working together as a team. One little girl was trudging up the hill after cross country carrying her riders saddle and a pail of various tack: she stopped and told me she was going home to “ride lots” because being the stable manager was more work than she had expected and riding her own pony in rally was her goal for next year.

Thank you to Quarry Ridge Pony Club for organizing the working rallies this summer in the east. There has not been a working rally in Westman this summer.

I will be attending the National meetings in Toronto in November and if you have concerns regarding Rally please bring them forward prior to these meetings. National meetings are a great opportunity to see how other regions operate and find new ways of keeping our members interested.

Respectfully:
Dianna Fraser
Rally Chair

Regional Quiz Report

**Submitted by Maria Berry
Regional Quiz Chair
Regional Meeting, Sunday, Sept.13/09**

In less than a month, the A/B, C level and our first ever Affiliate, National Quiz teams will be heading to Vancouver to do their best to represent Manitoba at National Quiz, being held this year in Richmond, BC in the BCLM.

All the forms and monies have been sent and the air fares booked so Karen Maclean and I are ready to take the teams on another pony club experience, some for the first time along with some experienced quiz competitors.

Some of the team members ordered clothing from BCLM while others are waiting to get some Manitoba clothing that Kaitlyn Cockerill (one of our C team members) is prepared to order for them as she has found a supplier to order from.

I am hoping that the teams have taken the time over the summer months (and I know everyone has been busy with shows, etc.) to study some quiz items and perhaps get together as team members later this month to do some serious studying. I know with university and other school work it's not always easy to take the time, but even one weekend of intense studying can prove to be very helpful. I know the members will do their best in this department.

At our next regional meeting I will submit a report of the results after the National competition has taken place.

Senior Clinic: August 18-21, 2009

Senior Clinic took place at Carroll Manitoba. It was attended by 13 members.

-2 from QRPC

-1 from Prairie Valley

-5 from Brandon

-5 from Baldur

Our riding instructor was Jackie Allan from NS. Suzanne Danyluk was unable to attend at the last minute and refund cheques will have to be issued to those attendees that had pre paid for a dressage lesson. Stable management was taught by Val Crowe and Jackie.

Craig Becker gave an informative lecture on foot and shoeing.

The weather was rainy at times but over all we had very good conditions to ride in. Thank you to all the parents in attendance who pitched in to help with meals when needed. I think this clinic is very beneficial for our senior members. I am open to suggestions for next year if the region would like to see this clinic repeated. I would be willing to organize and host again in 2010 if it is run at Willville (Carroll). I feel the clinic preceding testing is very beneficial.

Submitted by;

Dianna Fraser

Head Cook – Senior Clinic

Show Jumping National Show Jumping

Nationals:

Manitoba Pony Club recently hosted the CPC National Show Jumping Competition September 2-5. For many of us this is the first time we had experienced attending a national pony club competition.

In total there were fifteen riders, of which five were from Manitoba. Manitoba had two riders finish in the top eight of the Active Members Division; Jessi Good from Quarry Ridge was second, and Karly Woods from Brandon was fifth. Katherine Nichols of Baldur Pony Club won the Affiliates Division. All of Manitoba's five riders represented MPC very well and we can all be very proud of their riding and sportsmanship during the competition.

There was an army of volunteers that came together to support the Championships, and without which we would never have progressed beyond the planning stages. They all deserve our gratitude for the hard work and effort that they have put into the competition. The families that hosted the riders and chaperones made them feel welcome while staying in their homes. Many of the billets took the riders shopping and sight seeing during the down time from the competition. Every host family billet seemed very pleased with the rider staying with them, one chaperone is returning in November to host a hunter/jumper clinic. Helene Savard and Pat Napier, North Hill Pony Club, hosted more than one rider. All of our billets were provided by North Hill Pony Club, Quarry Ridge Pony Club, and Mars Hill Pony Club. Geri Sweet kindly billeted Diana Locke, the National Show Jumping Chair.

I would like to mention that Debbie & John Moehring provided all meals and snacks at the birds hill facility for the duration of the competition for everyone (68-80 people), as well as hosting the welcome Meet & Greet, for all riders, chaperones, families, volunteers, grooms, horse loaners and billet families. The food was supremely prepared and delicious, and served in a creative and appealing manner. Their work and dedication to this task was beyond our expectations, and everyone left the competition talking about how fantastic the food was.

There were fifteen horse loaners mostly from pony club members, but some non pony club mounts; Terry & Cindy Klassen X 2 horses, Geri Sweet X 2 horses, Eric & Danae Martin X 2 horses. Their contribution is immeasurable, and without them we would not have been able to host this competition. Manitoba Pony Club is fortunate to have so many generous horse owners within it's membership, and the horse community at large, and the quality of horses made for a wonderful competition.

Obtaining horses was the hardest, and most stressful part of organizing this competition. As of Thursday September 2 we did not have enough horses to provide one horse per competitor, with a minimum of 1 extra horse as a safety net for horse matching, Terry Klassen delivered two horses to birds hill at midnight Thursday September 2. I was disappointed that adult members that had promised horses withdrew them at a late date, four horses withdrawn the week of the competition despite numerous e-mails updating everyone on the progress of the competition in the months and weeks leading up to it.

John Moehring, Phil Crowe, and Kevin Wishart had worked a bingo, earlier in the season to obtain Sport Manitoba funds to support the competition.

Manitoba Show Jumping:

Benefit Show had two D teams and four C teams competing at the regional championships. Jessie Good has been chosen to represent Manitoba at the 2010 CPC Show Jumping Championships, and Mack Wishart is the alternate.

There was much discussion concerning the selection criteria for the national candidate. Below are some of the suggestions for changing the criteria. I would like to mention that there was also mention at the National competition of changing the format of the phases of the competition.

- **Two jumping rounds completed prior to medal round.**
- **Including a flat equitation test, similar (shorter, 2-3 minutes) to the one ridden at the Nationals in the dressage ring, for all competitors jumping in the 3 foot level or higher and wanting to compete for selection for Nationals.**
- **Including a gymnastic phase.**
- **As per the rules (page 40), that if the class has 12 riders or less, all 12 riders should be called back for the medal round.**

Many people commented that the qualifiers should mirror the National competition as closely as possible so the riders are as well prepared as possible. Many did not realize that the flat ride was ridden in the dressage ring as an equitation test, and not as a dressage test.

I am beginning to work on a jumper clinic for the late fall.

Regional Testing Report Sept 13, 2009

National testing took place at Carroll MB on August 22, 2009. All candidates were successful at the level being examined. We now have 4 new B's in the province.

They are: Jessie Good – QRPC
 Meagan McLean – QRPC
 Karly Woods – Brandon PC
 Sydney Hewins – Brandon PC

The examining panel consisted of Margaret Rigby from BC Island, Bonnie Heinrich from BC Lower Mainland, Jackie Allan from NS and myself. The test ran very smoothly and all in all the examiners from out of province were very complimentary of the preparation of the candidates. Once again I think the Senior Clinic, hosted the few days prior, was very beneficial for our senior members.

To those clubs doing testing this fall please remember to send your testing results to myself and I would appreciate if you could send a copy to Barb Bradley (membership chair) so the membership levels can be kept current.

If you have any concerns or issues regarding testing please forward them to Val or myself as we will be attending the National meetings in Toronto in November. We would like to hear from you so that we can take any ideas and thoughts from your club to this forum. Youth reps. perhaps you could send out an email to this effect, to the youth, and see if you get any feedback?

Submitted by:

Dianna Fraser
Testing chair

On a personal note I would like to step down as testing chair at the end of this year. I feel I have taken on far more than I can manage. I could not have done this job without the assistance of Val. I am willing to organize Senior Clinic if it is held at Carroll next year. I will help in any way I can but I do not want to chair this position.

Education Report

Evaluation Clinic July 22-24

5 candidates participated in this year's Evaluation Clinic, which was held in conjunction with MPC's Regional Camp in July. The numbers were down from the original (8? Or 9?) due to withdrawal from testing. Jacky Cooper was the Evaluation clinician, along with general camp instructor.

As Education Chair I support the continued "partnership" with Camp and the Evaluation Clinic. The candidates benefited from 4 days of camp instruction with Jacky prior to the actual evaluation clinic starting. However, we had one candidate, due to work schedule, unable to join this group until Wednesday afternoon, which was when the actual switch to Evaluation Clinic took place. If the Region continues with this format, I strongly urge branches to encourage their regional candidates to do their best to plan ahead and secure this week in their schedules. However, I am also understanding that our senior members, some of which are working full time, are unable to book seven days off during the peak summer vacation period. (This would be a plus to having a "stand-alone" evaluation clinic, i.e. held Fri-Sun, vs all week.).

For Camp/Evaluation 2010, I would like to see MPC continue to include a CPC national examiner as an instructor at this venue. However, in order to best utilize this individual and offer our candidates the most possible, I suggest this instructor (and riders) would operate under a separate schedule from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Evenings would be free to allow this group of riders to join in the general camp's evening activities. (62 horses possible at camp – 15-20 of those horses would ride under this instructor – priority given to regional candidates then working from upper levels downwards).

This format would prevent the "burn out" which happened this year. The clinician was "exhausted" by days end and was unable to offer evening instruction to the evaluation candidates. Jacky was very cooperative, willing to revise the schedule when it rained, but in the end, felt she didn't have "anything left" to give to these candidates.

Traveling out to Birds Hill Park on Friday morning for cross country was received well. I spoke to those families from Brandon and asked for their thoughts. The westman riders agreed it was a good idea as they don't get to the Park (cross country course) at all (or very often).

I have contacted Jacky and she is willing to return next year, should we wish. She has stated that she enjoyed the week but requires \$300.00 a day for the Evaluation portion (which is still under her daily clinic fee) and is happy to do "Camp" for less than her normal amount.

I also spoke with Jackie Allen at the Senior Prep Clinic in August re instructing at the July camp/eval clinic. This discussion took place because Jackie told me she didn't think she could/should come back next year to the August camp but would be interested in the July camp in the same role as Jacky Cooper was this year.

CPC Post Event Report and MHC Post Event Report

MPC received approval from MHC under the Provincial Clinic Support Program (up to \$600). We will also be receiving the grant from CPC. I am currently completing both Post-Event Reports required to MHC and CPC but require some additional financial figures to do so. Leslie, Barb and I are working on this. Val has also provided figures. These grants, once received, will help reduce the cost of Camp/Evaluation Clinic. The CPC deadline is September 30th so I need to confirm these figures quickly.

Mini-Education Sessions

I would like to continue organizing educational sessions during the winter months. Any topic suggestions? Ask your membership and forward ideas to me and I will see what I can put together.

Karen MacLean
MPC Ed. Chair

Benefit Show 2009 Report

This year, we had 65 competitors down from last year of 83. Our number of dressage tests (73) was about the same as last year (78). We used only 1 judge because of EC regulations but could have used another half day.

Pony clubbers represented 49% of our competitors with 31 horses out of 63 being from the following clubs (24 from the Eastern region and 7 from the Western region):

NHPC: 8 horses	QR: 8 horses	WP: 0 horse
MH: 7 horses	RR: 1 horse	PVPC: 2 horses
Portage: 0 horse	Brandon: 0 horse	Baldur: 5 horses

We offered the following divisions with the senior division being the one that lost the most competitors compared to last year.

2009:

11 SENIORS	20 JUNIORS – 3 riders were 13 and under	
9 GREEN	8 WALK-TROT	8 PONY

With the changes made from last year, I believe that we still made a small profit but I have not received any financial report from our treasurer. It was quite disheartening to do all this work for such a small show. Our volunteer coordinator, Karen, worked very hard to fill the roster but found it exceptionally difficult and taxing this year.

With the new EC regulations, finding judges was extremely difficult and it was even suggested by MHC that we dropped the WT division. Thanks to Jan Stephens who interceded in our behalf and we ended up being allowed to use any EC official, which turned out to be Geri Sweet, course designer and TD.

We do have to thank MHJA for taking our date as we ended up with the better weather!

It may be time to look at having a pony club only show, and only do our dressage and show jumping championships. That could all possibly be done in one day with charging entries to cover our costs (facility, judges, ribbons). We wouldn't need EMS as I have found out that Canadian Ski Patrol could be our emergency response team at a fraction of the cost.

We would require one dressage judge and one jumping judge. Not being an EC show would allow us to use any judge of our choice and we wouldn't need a steward. I am looking into what kind of cost we would incur for such a show. I would suggest keeping the WT division to have something for our members who couldn't participate in the championships. We also have had issues with competitive parents so we thought to remove the blanket and saddle pad from the WT classes and give every kid a small trophy.

Another option is to align our show with other similar shows and totally change our format. There is a lot to think about and discuss. I am sorry to not be able to be here to answer questions and be part of the discussion. DC's, please talk with your members and poll then to see what they would like. We can make a decision in November or possibly later in January.

Regards,
Hélène Savard, MPC Show Chair 2009