



Bits 'n Pieces

Manitoba Pony Club's Quarterly Newsletter

March 2007

Quiz Results

Despite both Eastman and Westman Quizzes being postponed by weather, they did occur in 2007. Fun was had by all that attended. For results, please look to the new Youth Newsletter coming to your mailbox (snail mail) soon!

Regional Quiz occurred on the actual date that it was scheduled! There was a whopping attendance of 68 Pony Clubbers. The largest Regional Quiz yet! Mark your calendars because the Herman Prior Center, Portage has been booked for 2008 Regional Quiz for Sunday, March 16th. Here are the final 2007 results:

D2 Written

1 st Whitney Fortin	Baldur
2 nd Emma Dealey	Mars Hill
3 rd Caroline Sims	Baldur
3 rd Nicole Brown	Quarry Ridge
5 th Kirsten Tunmer	North Hill

Top D Team

Stacey Sherritt	Baldur
Abby Tye	Portage
Kassidy Moore	Mars Hill
Whitney Fortin	Baldur
Laura Elder	Brandon

C Top Individuals

1 st Sara Berry	Baldur
2 nd Stephanie Sawatzky	North Hill
3 rd Jessica Good	Quarry Ridge
4 th Katrina Johnson	Windy Plains
5 th Leighton Dyck	Baldur

Top C Team

Wayne Hicks	Quarry Ridge
Megan Nichols	Brandon
Leighton Dyck	Baldur
Jessica Good	Quarry Ridge

A/B Top Individuals

1 st Amanda Penner	Baldur
2 nd Hugh Crawley	Mars Hill
3 rd Kerry Moore	Mars Hill
4 th Alexia Reske-Naurocki	Mars Hill

Upcoming...

- **Baldur 25th Anniversary Show!**
It's May 12-13 at Will Farms in Carroll, MB (20 min SW of Brandon). It should be a great time and everyone is invited to the alumni supper on Saturday night. Even if you weren't a part of Baldur you may remember some of those kids who have since grown up! We may have the prize list on the web in the next couple weeks so keep an eye open for that. Look forward to seeing you there!
- **Regional Camp:** July 21-27, 2007 in Portage la Prairie.



...Events

- Red River Pony Club, Quarry Ridge Pony Club and North Hill Pony Club have joined together this year to put on the **Spring Classic Horse Show** (used to be called the Red River Pony Club Spring Classic Horse Show). The last few years we have had it at the Red River Exhibition site but we need more space, so, have booked the Birds Hill site for the May 25, 26 & 27. We are always looking for volunteers. Please contact Karen McLean if you can spare a couple of hours.
- **Le Trec Clinic:** Saturday, September 8, 2007, in Minnedosa.

*** BRANCH NEWS ***



NOTE: ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOMED, HOWEVER MAY BE EDITTED DUE TO SPACE!

BALDUR

The dust has been well blown off the books and Baldur has been busy studying. We've been having stable management lessons throughout the winter and have also been busy with quiz. You may have noticed the good turnout of Baldur members at Westman and Regional by our new club shirts!

Baldur had great success with Whitney Fortin, Sara Berry and Amanda Penner taking top D, C, and A/B written. Also in the placing were:

Caroline Sims, 2nd place D Ind., part of 3rd place D team

Callum Read, 7th place D Ind., part of 4th place D team

Whitney Fortin and Stacey Sherritt, part of 1st place D team

Jacy DeKoning, part of 2nd place D team

Jill DeKoning, part of 3rd place D team

Leighton Dyck, 5th place C Ind., and part of 1st place C team

Sara Berry, part of 2nd place C team

Lesley Goethals, part of 3rd place C team

Kaitlyn Fraser, part of 4th place C team

Way to go everyone! Sara Berry and Amanda Penner will be representing Manitoba at Nationals this fall in Edmonton. Amanda has also been chosen to represent Canada at International Quiz being held in Lexington, Kentucky this July.

Happy Riding, Amanda Penner

BRANDON

Welcome spring and may the mud disappear fast to bring on good footing!

Although winter weather caused problems with our winter events, Brandon Clubbers have continued to study stable management, do badge work and attend Quiz. We've had a

visit to see the farrier; Murray and a visit from a local veterinarian; Greg Lovett. We look forward to hearing from an equine massage therapist during Winter Fair!

Congratulations to everyone who attended and did so well at both Westman and Regional Quiz (see other articles for results).

Plans are in the works to revive the spring weekend camp that used to be regularly held. The long weekend in May is our target and we hope that all the early plans will pull together. Riding lessons, stable management, PPG; among other things are planned. We hope to co-ordinate with the Dressage Series and the Tally Ho Spring Show. Lots of experiences and fun are planned.

As always, we look forward to Regional Camp in July. It will be here before we know it. In between, there will be shows to attend and other PC'ers to greet! Hope all your horsey experiences are filled with success.

Jennifer Mickle, DC

NORTH HILL

NHPC ended 2006 with a fabulous Christmas party held at the Reeves's new country home. We discovered, through a Karaoke contest, some very good singing potential amongst our talented riders and Kirsten Tunmer played the flute for us.

January 2007 brought us the usual Manitoba frigid weather and stable management lessons... Actually, for the North Hill Pony Club parents, stable management lessons are an excuse for weekly get-togethers where we share good food; good coffee and good company while our children review their knowledge and learn new material!

In February, our members made the decision to cancel NHPC's annual Spring show, but organized a

very different event: a Valentine Day Bud, Spud and Steak. It was a success! Mark your calendars for next year as we plan on making this an annual event! On a sad note, one of our D2 members, Stefanie Markewich, broke her wrist while watching (yes, watching) soccer! Thank goodness she has a lot of time to heal before the real riding season starts!

March saw all of us busy with winter holidays, attending shows, clinics, quiz, etc. A new member, Brittany Payjack took her new horse to the Pineridge PREP clinic, while Stéphanie Sawatzky made a big impression falling off her horse a few feet before a jump. Robby Norris was seen riding two horses (not at the same time) at the same competition.

At the Winter Fair, watch for two of our members: Erin McPhail will be tackling her first Winter Fair show with her sister's lovely mount, Bryce and Robby Norris will be showing the same two mounts (again, not at the same time...). We wish them success and a fun time!

We are looking forward to see many of you during the riding season!

Hélène Savard DC

PORTAGE

Portage PC had a busy winter with Stable Management. The older members have meetings every second weekend while the younger members meet once a week for studying. Many thanks to Shannon Bowers (née Switzer) for the time she spends teaching us.

Some of our members have been lucky enough to ride all winter in an arena while the rest of us had to quit riding in early January when the weather turned very cold. We will all be getting our horses ready

for riding lessons, which should begin shortly.

Congratulations to Kalee Bradley and her team members who received third place in the C Division team Quiz. Abby Tye and her team placed first in the D Division team Quiz, Amanda Perrin and her team received 4th place and Rheanan Wishart placed 5th with her team. Well done!

All of our members are looking forward to a year of horse shows, Rally, Camp, Clinics, Testing, lessons and riding with our friends.

Abby Tye

QUARRY RIDGE

A warm hello to all our pony club friends. Quarry Ridge would like to welcome back our returning members, Megan MacLean, Shannon MacLean, Jessi Good, Aylicia Spitzke, and Nicole Brown. For the first time in a few years we are very excited to be able to say we have three new E's. Welcome to Shae Mulvihill, Kylie Wright and Dominic Good.

We meet weekly at Jessi Good's house for our stable management lessons. The older girls are teaching our E's and our D.C., Karen is teaching the C/C1/C2 theory, along with Kylie's mom,

Tammy. Tammy and Karen are both past pony Clubbers...Karen achieved her C1 and Tammy achieved her B, (let's just say they achieved those levels a "few" years ago!). Jessi and Shannon appreciate the knowledge Tammy can offer as the two girls prepare for C2 regional testing this year. Nicole will be testing her C level and Aylicia her C1 this spring. Megan will be graduating from Herzing College shortly and hopes to have the time to work towards achieving her B level and join Karen and Tammy with teaching stable management.

We extended an invitation to both RRPC and WPPC to join us for stable management sessions. So far, Wayne Hicks, RRPC, has added a nice "flare" to our meetings. Club visits to Westgates, Elders Vet. Clinic, etc. are in the works that will see QRPC, RRPC and WPPC gather as one, enjoy each other's company and learn at the same time.

A reminder to QRPC/RRPC members – April stable management sessions will take place at Wayne Hick's home on April 2nd and 9th.

Congratulations to Dominic and Kylie who participated at their first Regional Quiz on March 18th. The girls had a great time and Kylie took home a 2nd place Team D5 ribbon and Dominic took home a 3rd place Team D4 ribbon.

Congratulations to Nicole, Jessi and Shannon. They also competed at Regional Quiz. Nicole's Team, D9, placed 4th, Shannon's Team, C3, placed 4th and Jessi's Team, C4, placed 1st.

An extra congratulations to Jessi for placing 3rd overall in the individual C category. This earned Jessi a place on the 2007 MPC Regional C Quiz Team and a trip to Edmonton in the fall.

Spring Break is on the horizon, which is another way of saying "Winter Fair". Most of our members will be taking in the Fair throughout the week so be ready for a "Hi there!!" from one of us. April will see some of our members sharpening their riding skills under the skillful eye of Gina Smith. And, of course, all of us, (the moms too!) will be enjoying more regular riding as the spring weather settles in.

Wishing you all safe riding and lots of spring fun from QRPC.

Karen MacLean, DC

Growing Through Mentoring by Jennifer Mickle

Mentoring by definition is "to counsel or guide". For those of us in Pony Club, mentoring occurs at many levels. DC's mentor other parents to pick up the torch and carry on for them when the time comes. Parents mentor their children on becoming responsible members of society...Pony Club society in this case. Coaches mentor or guide us all in the fine points of riding technique. Stable management instructors mentor on horsemanship and horse theory. Older level Pony Club members mentor the younger or new members in "the Pony Club way". Why? We all have a love for horses and the craft of horsemanship. It is a goal to pass the legacy on and share our love of the magnificent creature called 'horse'!

However, this is not a skill that we are all born with and thus, must be developed. Scholars for many generations have studied and perfected teaching methods. It is these methods that continue to be shared and then further developed.

A teaching component is part of the testing at the A and B levels of Pony Club. It is far more productive to introduce mentoring concepts well before a candidate is studying at the A or B level. When the badge programme was introduced, a Mentoring badge was included. It is for these reasons that mentoring was introduced at Regional Camp in 2006. Our goal was to give our membership another opportunity to learn these skills.

But there is also another reason! Pony Club is a community within society. Pony Club exists because of the thousands of volunteers that provide their horse knowledge or organizational skills for every meeting or event. Part of being a Pony Club member means to give back to your organization! Each member will reach a level where they need to give of their time and knowledge to those following them through the ranks. It is an opportunity for personal growth! It is a skill that is worthy of being placed on your resume.

Regional Camp 2007 will again have mentoring as part of its programme. The Camp Committee learned a lot from our first "kick at the can" last year. Our first step this year is to better communicate what mentoring is all about to both members and camp instructors. This year, members of C level or above and of a minimum age of 14 (**see The National Education Handbook – Developing a Junior Instructor's Program**) will be required to participate in at least 3 mentoring sessions with the coaches on site. This is one of the ways that demonstrates that members are ready for the next level and appreciative of the efforts to bring out of province instructors like Carine Cudmore to Regional Camp.

As with all additions to PC activities, the Camp Committee is looking forward to developing the concept of mentoring in the camp environment. We encourage input from the membership that provides constructive development. Note: Forms and initial info will be distributed through your DC soon!

First Call for Camp Registrations!

Regional Camp 2007 will be held at the Portage Fairgrounds from Saturday, July 21 to Friday, July 27. The Camp Committee has been working hard to provide a fabulous camp experience for every level. We are pleased to announce that our instructors will be:

Dressage: Susanna Danyliuk, Tristan Caswell, Cindy Klassen, Lesa Cafferty, and Carine Cudmore

This year we will be offering a pre-sign up for the optional clinics. Emphasis on optional! The clinics are offered as opportunities to enhance the camp experience for those who want more. For those that find camp full enough with regular lessons that is great too! Note: Although we are doing everything we can to confirm details, things happen. As a result, we cannot guarantee that all clinics will occur or that you will be able to attend every clinic you choose. Camp Committee will be applying participation limits based upon the clinician's requests. If you have an idea for a clinic with a clinician, please contact a member of the Camp Committee. The list below is the current clinic lineup:

Longeing (mandatory for C and up), Natural Horsemanship, Saddle fitting, Quadrille, Pacing, Le Trek, Chiropractor, Driving, Endurance, and Teeth.

There will also be a Social night for youth. The senior youth will be planning a separate event. The younger members will be having an entire camp event of their very own.

Reminder: Camp award (previously Darlene Craig Scholarship) will be once again given. Each camper is encouraged to write a story or draw a picture about our motto: Loyalty, Character, Sportsmanship. Please put your name on the back of your entry with your Pony Club branch and age. The winner will be chosen at random and receive their camp registration fees back – yes, go to camp for FREE!

The Raffle this year will be in the form of themed baskets. They can be purchased or have the items donated. Have fun with the idea and see what your club can design!

Stay tuned - Registration documents and further details will be sent out to DC's soon.

Camp Committee: Hélène Savard (North Hill PC), Karen MacLean (Quarry Ridge PC), Crystal Neudorf (Portage PC), Jennifer Mickle (Brandon PC) and Stéphanie Sawatzky (Youth Rep).

TETRATHALON NEWS by Sarah Read

Well here we are and spring is not just around the corner but here in full force, I have a Canada goose standing sentry on my slough and to a British import that my friends signifies spring and a return to civilization!

Lets break down the sport of Tet':

Modern Pentathlon came from the history books. Long ago in times before Canadian messengers had to deliver letters across country. As fighting with each other was the norm, much like you and your siblings, you would encounter any of the requirements of this sport. You would obviously be on a horse and jumping was compulsory just to get there. Sword fights were regular hence the fencing, later shooting with pistols might save you and the message. Swimming the rivers and lakes was common. Running just to find and steal a new horse was popular and could save your life. As times moved on sport was invented to entertain and keep skills sharp and now we have Modern Pentathlon, pent meaning 5. The Pony Club had adopted 4 of these for our Tetrathlon discipline:

RIDING

As a PC discipline firstly there is the equine content; show jumping and cross-country. For those of you involved in a comprehensive training schedule, such as participating in the Baldur fun show, 12TH May 2007 our silver anniversary (hint hint, plug plug) and Rally with a full one day event, this element is a 'no-brainer' as you have it covered.

Eventually there will be a need to ride a borrowed horse. So, try to swap with your friends as much as possible, suggest to your coach that you break your regular lesson down into segments and ride, assess and suggest helpful hints for each others animals. It's a really beneficial exercise for everyone and an ideal opportunity for you to all teach each other too. Not to mention it can be hysterical especially for me the coach looking on. Or teaching your coach can entertain; you should see me at 6' on the Dun Welsh at 12hh being taught by my son, no stirrups? Very funny Callum!

The loan horse will be well suited to you and there is ample opportunity to try it and speak with the owner prior to the competition and we are looking at a small height set of fences. Do not be lead astray with the rules for Modern Pentathlon where the horse name is drawn from a hat, the P.C. Tet' has been modified to be "kid friendly".

RUNNING

Well what is there to this, the distances are short medium races of 800 to 2000metres and these distances are offered at your school track meets. With the evenings getting longer its much easier to fit in a run just a couple of times a week, mum or dad can come too, they will thank you for it when they are fit and trim and ready for the summer show season where we I mean they run around like headless chickens after you very comfortably seated on leather padded, automatic 4 legged drive competitors wait patiently!!! For the one item you forgot...again! Callum has a flag half way down the drive and from the barn to it 3 times and back is 1000m and a couple of repetitions are the easiest way to get out of the washing up. Later in the year we increase a little and with modern day music systems it's not a bad way to firm those posteriors and be as fit as you expect your horse to be.

SHOOTING

This might be more challenging for you to set up but persevere. A lot of little towns have shooting ranges and your own garage works well but check with your parents for local regulations if you are in a built up area. You need 10 meters and a target 2.5m from the ground. I have spoken to the range captains in Brandon and we are welcome there with just a phone call at no charge. There is a range I know of in the city too and a gunsmith who can help at Selkirk. Portage has a facility as do Neepawa and Minnedosa. If you want me to make some arrangement for your club, come and get you started or make introductions just call or e-mail me. I was recently in Canadian Tire looking at pistols and a more than adequate gun, nice and light and easy to load was \$39.99 dollars, so, not a big investment. The targets there are very similar to PC ones [not the type I had at camp] and safety goggles are a must too. The pack with the hip holster is not a good idea. You will not be walking with your gun uncased and never carry it loaded, so, why do you want it under your arm like a Mexican Bandit? Do not shoot for too long as your arm gets tired, your accuracy will be off and frustration sets in. During competition 10 pellets is the maximum with a few warm-up shots. Walmart sells little dumb-bells and doing a few lifts and holds can really help the shooting arm and can be so easy during the 3-minute commercial break of your favourite TV show.

SWIMMING

Well here we have the bugbear for most of you. You really do need to find a swim club if you can, Brandon, Portage, Winnipeg and Selkirk I know have very good clubs and will welcome you to join and, if you explain your reasons will accommodate you. You can do minimal Butterfly for example but more stamina and endurance. Again the distances are basic, from 100 to 200 meters, that's 8 lengths of most pools. The Pan Am is 50m so just 4. If you are in the local pool program then level 6 gets you well on your way. Most small towns with a pool offer a lap session, private lessons for the older beginner and there is an excellent summer swim club program with meets too. I know Winkler, Hamiota, Neepawa, Dauphin and others are involved, call your local pool or check out the web for details. As an example we have been swimming with the Brandon Bluefins for 45minutes on a Monday all winter, Callum started at the red cross level 8 with recognizable strokes and happy in the water

but no idea of keeping going, turns, breathing etc. He now can do a healthy 200m averaging 30 seconds per lap and achieves well over 1000m in a training session. I do my groceries in Safeway as its not a spectator friendly time in 30 degrees above with eau de chlorine getting right to the back of the retina.

By far the biggest commitment to tetrathlon is the riding and we all have that covered. The rest can be a daunting prospect but really with a little time management and one night out a week to the pool, it is very attainable and the possibilities are endless. We are a great crowd sponsoring true sportsmanship and a good time is had by all. The experience can and will be a great positive educational one.

We are off to the Saskatchewan regional on the 9/10 June with our own horse. They are just a year or two ahead of us with dozen or so competitors, so why not come too?

I will be offering training sessions in my area this summer for everyone as I coach Callum and as always I am very happy to come to you. I competed up to and including national level modern Triathlon [no riding] in England coming in the first team and individual 3rd so, at this stage I can help you along. I am a qualified ASA [amateur swimming association] advanced teacher and competitive coach as well as British Horse Society instructor with many years experience in all of it and would love the opportunity to share with you all.

COME ON MANITOBA LETS JOIN IN WITH THE REST OF CANADA AND HAVE SOME FUN!

● Bulletins & Classified Ads ●

- Be current ... check the calendar on the Canadian PC/Manitoba PC WebPages: www.canadianponyclub.org
- **The Tack Trunk: Flex rider hunting vest** – Children's sizes 24-26-28-30 for \$110.95, Ladies' sizes 32-34-36-38 for \$125.95, and Men's sizes 40-42-44-46 for \$135.95. They have to be ordered and come in black, navy, & hunter green in all sizes except men's which only come in black. Also available are SSG gloves at a good price. Contact Vicky at rwwilson@mts.net for delivery at camp. Other delivery arrangements can be made for appropriate charges. Look for The Tack Trunk at Regional Camp in July 2007.
- **For Sale:** Chance is a 13 year old, 16.1 Thoroughbred. He was on the track as a 2 year old then was retrained in English. He was used for endurance and dressage. All shots given 2006 and dewormed regularly. Gentle, easy to handle on the ground, good with fences but requires an experienced rider that is firm yet gentle as he is quite sensitive. He hasn't been ridden regularly for a few years as his owner did not have enough time (my sister-in-law). He was ridden last summer but unfortunately not often enough. He needs about a month of steady riding to get him into form. He currently does not wear shoes and is located 6 miles east of Anola. He needs a good home by April 27, 2007. Asking \$3500 obo. Contact: email: HeadJ@inac-ainc.gc.ca; work #204-984-0709; home #204-866-3115.
- **Did you know?:** Your Pony Club membership is honoured by Winnipeg Dressage and will be recognized for entry and includes the volunteer commitment. So, don't miss those WD Shows this year!
- Do you have classified notices, jokes, bulletins, or even articles? Email jmickle@mts.net to include in your next Newsletter. Editorial deadline is June 15, 2007.

Thanks for all the wonderful contributions!

On the Lighter Side

YouTube has some great horse clips. This is just one of many. It is entitled "Men doing Dressage". Thanks to Sharmyn Hamilton for sending this one along to Bits 'n Pieces. If you like Monty Python, you will love this. Just click on the link and enjoy the show. Disclaimer: If you still are on dial-up, this one takes quite awhile!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=De0vL53EDgU>

Next Newsletter editorial deadline is June 15, 2007, so, keep those submissions coming!