



# Bits 'n Pieces

## Manitoba Pony Club's Quarterly Newsletter

June 2007

### International Adventurers-A Badge in the Making

On April 25th, Amberlee Brownlie, Callum Read and Caroline Sims, all D2 members of Baldur Pony Club, together with their moms, set off on a very special trip to England! Sarah Read, who coaches the three at Pegasus Riding School in Minnedosa, had promised to organize "something" when they all could ride well enough, and after months of planning we were on our way.

Following a whirlwind couple of days of sightseeing in London, we travelled by train and mini-van to the beautiful hill countryside of Wiltshire, where we spent five days at the Pewseyvale Riding Centre, a large boarding and livery stable run by Sarah's brother-in-law and family, which is also home to a Pony Club branch. There the kids had a daily lesson and as well, on a busy Saturday, had the experience of working alongside the grooms to feed, water, muck out, groom and tack up for the many clients and boarders that come on the weekend. (Some in Mercedes', BMW's etc.) They soon found that the "Pony Club way" of doing things is just the order of the day over there and we are proud to report that these young "working pupils" impressed their hosts with their knowledge, ability and work ethic. They left a good impression of Canadian Pony Club!

The moms (Wendy Brownlie and myself, not Sarah of course) had a few anxious moments as our riding ability was evaluated to see if we would be allowed to hack out. Not that we really doubted it but we now know how it feels to take a riding test. We must have passed because we all went for a hack with a fabulous gallop more or less straight uphill and lovely views of the farms and pastures spread out below. A couple of days later we were taken for a day ride in the New Forest, which was one of the highlights of the trip. The horses were transported from the stable to the starting point in the forest by lorry ("big truck") while we followed in other vehicles. We spent most of the day on trails in the forest, observing small groups of the ponies that are turned out to run wild. Jacky met us at lunch with an amazing array of food. Somewhat heavier than at the start, we mounted up again and eventually came out of the forest onto the heathland where the RAF had an airbase during WWII. Incidentally, a number of Canadian pilots served there who were trained in Manitoba. The ride finished up on the beach where we splashed around on the sand as the tide had gone out, posed for many photos and my mare, Winnie, kept trying to drink the water. She was so disappointed that it was not drinkable, but seemed to have trouble remembering that fact for more than about 10 seconds at a time! Not to worry, she got a good long drink back at the lorry, which had followed us to a nearby loading area. We found the horses well schooled, more forward-going than ours at home, and in the case of Winnie anyway, a very fun and comfortable ride.

The weather was gorgeous: should have left the long underwear at home and packed sunscreen instead. In between the riding sessions, we squeezed in an impressive amount of sightseeing: churches, the stone circles at Avebury, the Rare Breeds Trust farm, choral evensong at Salisbury Cathedral, Old Sarum, the unique pea-gravel of Chesil Beach where we built a miniature Stonehenge, had cream tea in the garden of a 13th century Inn at Lacock, a visit to a seaside resort on the coast of Dorset. I am probably missing some in this list but these were highlights for me.

From Wiltshire we moved on to stay with a friend of Sarah's mother while we attended the three days of Badminton Horse Trials. Wow! Besides the dressage, cross-country and show jumping competition, and the acres of trade show to explore, we also had tickets to the members' enclosure which gave us a place to sit in the shade to enjoy a refreshment, big screen TV coverage of the event, a chance to rub shoulders with competitors and owners, AND access to the better sort of porta-potties. (The ones that got emptied during the event, not just afterwards.) After two days of huge crowds and temperatures in the mid to high 20's, membership certainly has its privileges!

Too soon, it was time to come home, with our laundry, sunburn, souvenirs, thousands of digital photos and memories to last a lifetime. It was an almost perfect holiday. The credit card bills didn't come for at least another month.

By: Elizabeth J. Sims



## \*\*\* BRANCH NEWS \*\*\*

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

### BALDUR \*

We're in the full swing of riding lessons now and ready for summer! Baldur's actually already been having a good season and a lot of fun! We kicked it all off with our Baldur Fun Show where former and present members of Baldur Pony Club, along with others who wanted to share in the excitement, gathered at the home of Sharon and Earl Will of Carroll to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Baldur Pony Club.

The celebration included a two-day horse show consisting of equitation and jumper classes on Saturday followed by a catered supper at the Carroll Hall in the evening and Sunday had classes in Dressage and a Derby (which consists of jumping cross country as well as stadium fences). A Calcutta was also held which consisted of two riders taking part in a competition over 14 cross country and stadium fences. Six teams took part with Sara Berry and Amanda Penner (two long-standing members of the club) taking first place by a mere 2 seconds, earning their owner a fair chunk of change for his purchase.

Riders came from as far away as Oakbank and Stonewall to take part in the festivities. During the evening banquet, members performed a skit in honour of founding member Val Crowe and husband Phil, who were also presented with a beautiful Kim Penner print with an inscription plate commemorating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the club.

Baldur Pony Club was pleased to host a Rally Clinic on June 1 & 2 at Will Farm in Carroll. Everyone moved in on Friday, some with horses and some without. We were very happy to have members from both Brandon and Portage Pony Clubs. We spent Friday evening learning about the rules of Rally, practising how to do the jog and eating hot dogs and other good stuff. Some members demonstrated proper turnout for the various phases of Rally. Everyone

bunked down in Will's garage for a giant sleepover. Some sleep and lots of fun was had by all.

Next morning, everyone hurried out to feed the horses and then back to the garage for breakfast. Afterwards, everyone had a chance to do some flat work, then ride a dressage test. After lunch, we did a Rally quiz and went over what should be in your first aid kit. Then the older members did some stadium and cross-country work, while the younger members had fun playing PPG. All in all, it was a great weekend and hopefully, everyone went home with some new knowledge.

Now it's time to get ready for those tests ☺ Good luck to all and we'll see you at camp!

Amanda (Thanks to Val and Maria for their contributions)

### BRANDON \*

The weather sure has been wild this spring but it hasn't stopped Brandon Clubbers from our favourite pass time...riding!

This spring has been busy. Our club held a mini camp on the May long weekend at Tally Ho. We had lessons with Cornelia McLeod and Jennifer Andrews. The Cooper family ran two great PPG activities (beginner and novice) which were a huge success. Our novice group was highly enthusiastic with team cheers and colours. Great job all! Melissa Jones co-ordinated the stable management sessions with mentoring by our C level members.

We were able to complete some badge work as well. We look forward to presenting it at the Awards Banquet. Terry Klassen was outstanding as our host and meals co-ordinator. We are so glad that he has agreed to help out with this at camp ;). We completed other admin duties like club T's for our new members and camp basket; thanks to Margaret; a regular meeting but unfortunately the weather did not co-operate to get our Hunter jump painted. Finally our weekend was completed with a small fun show and pictures – both group and individual.

We need to plan to do this again!

Brandon members have been participating in the Westman

Dressage Series and at Mock Rally as well as having success at both the Wheat City Classic and Summer Fair. Lots of conflicting activities on the calendar but some of us were able to attend each of the above. We've completed our written testing with everyone having great success. Now on to Regional Camp and other summer shows. Hope all your horsey experiences are filled with success. See you out there!

Jennifer Mickle, DC

### PORTAGE \*

Well, summer is here and everybody is back in action! We have thrown away our books and found our helmets; our horses are once again sleek and shiny and back in shape for a summer of riding fun.

We had a clinic with Todd Crapele in late April. He taught us how to keep our horses nice and relaxed by keeping their heads down. He also taught us how to be more in control of our horses both on the ground and in the saddle. We were seen stretching out before we rode... it really worked!

Abby and Jenny took part in the Mock Rally Clinic at Souris. We learned everything from what the vet is looking for at the vet checks to proper techniques when going over a cross-country jump to calling out dressage tests (and everything in between). Thanks to the Baldur Pony Club for hosting it and a big thank you to Kaitlyn and Lane for sharing their horses with me (Abby). The sleepover (which should maybe be called "the awake-over") was a blast!!

Some of our members are continuing to take riding lessons when it is not raining.

Mackenzie took in the Baldur Show, the Red River Show and the Brandon Show. He had a great time at all of them and did well.

Be sure to check out this month's issue of Horse Country, there is a great story in there about the Rutbeek girls which are some of the younger members of our club.

See you soon, Abby Tye

## QUARRY RIDGE \*

Hi from the Members of Quarry Ridge Pony Club. We have completed our Stable Management and our members are riding regularly, most of them in weekly lessons. Our newest members Kylie Wright, Dominic Good and Shae Mulvihill are riding with Tammy Nelson.

On the weekend of May 11 – 13, three of our members Jessica Good, Dominic Good and Nicole Brown together with Stephanie Sawatsky of North Hill Pony Club went to Baldur's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show. Jessica rode 'Color Me Perfect', Stephanie rode Dominic's pony 'You've been Punked' and Nicole rode 'Kalina'. The girls all did very well and had an absolute blast!!

On the weekend of May 25, 26, and 27<sup>th</sup>, four members of the Quarry Ridge Pony Club attended the Spring Classic Horse Show at Beautiful Birds Hill Park. The Members that participated were Shannon MacLean, daughter of Gerry and Karen MacLean, Jessica Good, daughter of Larry Good and Carole Chamailard, Nicole Brown, daughter of Mel and Lisa Brown and one of our new members this year Kylie Wright, daughter of Tammy Nelson. We are very proud of our members as they did very well on what was a very cold, wet and sometimes slippery Saturday, and Sunday proved to be very nice with regard to the weather.

Shannon rode 'Spoiled to Perfection' and her placings are as follows: Reserve Champion - Pony Club Hunter Division, 1st - Pony Club Hunter 2'3, 1st - Potential Dressage Horse, 4th - Pony Club Hunter Stake, 4th - Dressage Hack, 5th - Green Horse Cross Rails, 5th - Pony Club Hunter Under Saddle, 5th - Equine Canada Dressage Training Level Test 2. and 6th - Junior Dressage Seat Equitation.

Jessica rode 'Color me Perfect' and her placings are as follows: Reserve Equitation Champion, 1<sup>st</sup> – Equitation 'B' Basic Seat, she placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in her Dressage Training Tests 1 and 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Long Stirrup Hunter 2'6" and 6<sup>th</sup> in Open 2'9" Hunter Over Fences and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Open Medal Class.

Nicole rode 'Kalina' and her placings are as follows: High Point Cooler for D2. Two Division Championships; Combined Pony Hunter and Pony Club Hunter; 1st in her Dressage - Pretraining Test, 1<sup>st</sup> -

2'9" Combined Pony Hunter, 1st - Equitation 'C' Hunt Seat 2'6, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Combined Pony Hunter Under Saddle, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 2'9" Combined Pony Hunter Stake, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Pony Club Hunter Under Saddle, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Short Stirrup Hunter Under Saddle, 3rd - Pony Club Hunter Stake, 4<sup>th</sup> - Short Stirrup Hunter, and 6<sup>th</sup> - Short Stirrup Hunter.

Kylie rode 'Silhouette' and she had a wonderful time at the show. She placed 5th in her entry level 1 and 1st in her entry level 2 dressage tests and was 2nd in the walk/trot class. Way to go Kylie!!

On the weekend of June 1-2, three of our Quarry Ridge Pony Club members, Shannon MacLean, Jessica Good and Nicole Brown participated in Eastman Mock Rally outside of Stonewall. The event was well attended and the weather co-operated nicely. The Mock Rally consisted of instruction on Saturday and a competitive environment on Sunday. The riders and their mounts worked on Dressage, Stadium Jumping, Cross-Country and Stable Management. They had great instruction and it was a wonderful weekend. Great Job Lisa!!

Some of our members will also be starting the Dressage Series and are looking forward to the great instruction.

Jessica Good, Shannon MacLean, Nicole Brown and Aylicia Spitzke are gearing towards testing. We would also like to congratulate Jessica Good and Shannon MacLean for passing their C-2 written Test.

We look forward to seeing everyone at camp and Benefit Show!

Lisa Brown, ADC

## WINDY PLAINS \*

Hello to everyone. Windy Plains has news!

First of all, we would like to welcome back our returning members: Haley, Kayla, Keith, Michelle, Katrina and Brettlynn and secondly welcome our new members: Brittany Barker, Caitlin Haywood, Katie Reider, Renee Simcoe and Jillian Overby.

Everyone has been extremely busy so far this year. Our members have been working on their own for stable management and hauling to lessons here and there and everywhere, of course, weather permitting. We currently have pony

club weekly lessons taught at Lisa Taylor's every Tuesday.

On June 2 & 3, 2007, Windy Plains hosted the Eastman Mock Rally at Quarry Ridge Farm in Stonewall. Following the advice of Catherine McCullagh, the 21 participants were taught in 2-hour sessions on the first day by very knowledgeable and qualified clinicians. Stable Management by Jaclyn Day, Cross-Country by Brittany Barker, Stadium Jumping by Tristan Caswell and Dressage by Kelsey Dickson and Catherine McCullagh.

Day 2: the eager group were run through their paces. Karen MacLean was very kind to do our turn out/job up portion at the spur of the moment. Wanda Hicks was our dressage judge and Hélène Savard her most excellent scribe. Catherine oversaw our stadium-jumping portion and Brittany ran the cross-country. All the parents were wonderful and stepped up to the plate to help. The event ran quite smoothly!

Prizes were given out for the top dressage marks, most falls taken, best fall and most sportsmanlike rider. The most precious moment of all was when Matthew Halowaty pulled his own name for the silent auction prize, as he had reassured our ticket seller, Gloria, that his phone number was not required on the ticket as he would be there till the end!

WPPC would like to thank all participants, parents, volunteers, judges and clinicians for making the Eastman Mock Rally a wonderful success and thanks to Catherine McCullagh for providing an excellent environment to learn in.

June 10 was our testing day; held at Quarry Ridge Farm. We are very pleased to announce that all members, who tested, passed with flying colors! Katie and Keith are D1's, Michelle, Brettlynn and Renee are C's and Katrina is a C1. Congratulations! Our thanks go out to our examiners, Amy Johnston, Theresa Moehring, Megan MacLean and Shannon MacLean for making our testing day an enjoyable one for both candidates and parents. They provided a stress free & relaxed atmosphere for everyone. Thanks again to Catherine McCullagh for providing the facilities. So, until next time ----- Ride On!

Lisa Taylor & Debbie Wood

## Upcoming.....Events

**Regional Rally:** July long w/e at Bird's Hill  
**Regional Camp:** July 21-27, 2007, Portage la Prairie  
**AB Clinic:** July 13-15

**Benefit Show:** August 17-19 at Bird's Hill  
**A Testing:** August 12-15  
**Le Trec Clinic:** Saturday, September 8, 2007, Minnedosa

### Regional Fund-raiser: Cash Calendars

In order to keep our regional fees from rising and keep our regional events happening, fundraising is a necessary function. For the fall (prior to when the National Calendar Sales begin), Manitoba region will be selling Cash Calendars.

The calendars are for the month of October and the draws will be made at the banquet on Nov. 3. Each club will be required to sell 10 calendars per member. They are only \$3.00 each and should be fairly easy to sell. It would be great if everyone could have their calendars sold by the October 21 Regional meeting so that your DC/ADC could bring in all the stubs. However, if that is not possible, stubs must be brought to the Awards banquet on Nov. 3. Happy selling trails!

### ● Bulletins & Classified Ads ●

- Be current ... check the calendar on the Canadian PC/Manitoba PC WebPages: [www.canadianponyclub.org](http://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](mailto: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.
- **Saddle for sale** -17", Giffith, close contact, good condition, used two years, oak bark in colour, new \$1200 asking \$600 O.B.O. please call Brenda at 896-1817.
- Do you have classified notices, jokes, bulletins, or even articles? Email [jmickle@mts.net](mailto:jmickle@mts.net) to include in your next Newsletter. Editorial deadline is September 15, 2007.

Thanks for all the wonderful contributions!

## NEWS FROM TETRATHALON

*Well the Saskatchewan Tetrathalon Regionals have come and gone and both mum and I had a great time. We arrived at the host Pony Club barn-Heartland and they were all ready for us and so pleased to welcome us. Early the next morning I took Wylie for a stretch down the road as the 7-hour journey had stiffened him up. The last time we 'flew' to Saskatoon was when he colicked at Christmas so this was a much more enjoyable trip filled with anticipation and not dread. It had taken me almost 4 hours to collect all the gear that I needed! At 9:00 am we set off for Saskatoon and the university for the running, I had butterflies in my stomach and my legs felt like jelly, we did not get off to a good start as when Mum tied up my spike running shoes I twitched and stabbed her with one. We ran all around the grounds of the art building so there was a lot to see there were some really amazing statues and some really weird ones too like a huge hand coming out of the ground! I had to run 2 KM and it went on and on and on. I lapped some others, which boosted my confidence, but my feet just got so heavy. There were a lot of supporters there who cheered us all along and some joggers too along the*

river path who wanted to know what we were doing but I just couldn't talk. I made it in 12 minutes, so, I was very pleased. Next we headed into town for lunch, we hit "Fudruckers" which is a really cool drive-in-like walk up restaurant attached to Ruckers. All the adults drank coffee and we inhaled our food then hit the slots. The older girls went to Winners shopping! Oh no, it's 2 pm and shoot time. I am so nervous; I don't think I can do this. The range was eerily quiet, no echo and like a bomb shelter. The captain's voice was so loud inside the earmuffs - "Ready to shoot? Commence firing." He turns to me; now, I have to do this. It was so hard not to watch everyone else and not to hurry. I really screwed up with a lousy score but boy was I glad it was over! One thing is for sure; I am off to the range a few times to steady my nerves. Ah the Swimming, I am going to enjoy this. I joined Brandon Blue fins 3 years ago with tetrathalon in mind and have been working hard. They have been so great coaching me and tailoring sessions to ready me for the 200metres freestyle. A year ago I did a 7-minute time now here at Saskatoon I almost beat 4 minutes with just 5 seconds over. We swam at the YWCA and it was all over so quickly! We swam in heats of 4 and I had the fastest time of the day and everyone congratulated me. They were all so nice and really true sportsmen.

Mum went to walk the cross-country course and set up the markers and I helped with the show jumping back at the stables. Then it was time to finish prepping Wylie and put both of us to bed. I am really excited because it this is the first time to be away and everything is so new and no schooling rounds! I have to sleep but I can't! Mum helped make red and white flags until around midnight. Then the next I knew, it was morning, we were getting ready and it was my turn for Jumpers. Wylie had one stop at some big purple plastic flowers (thought they might cause a problem) but I sailed over all the others. He jumped well. We had a good break before the cross-country. Mum says my eyes just got bigger and bigger as we walked the course, the track was really hilly with blind crests and sharp turns in the trees; it was amazing. The owner had done a fantastic job. He had built the jumps for his children years ago and revamped them for us, he was a great character with a big woolly beard and a Brown Swiss steer that pulled a wagon and was at least 7 feet tall. Well we warmed up over a really little log which Wy spooked and refused 2 or 3 times. Oh dear, this does not look good! He finally jumped it and we were out of time. Wy stopped at the first fence. Enough, so, I decided to hit him which I have never done before and we cleared the fence by what felt like 5 feet and film shows 3' plus the 2'9" chair. We were off! I felt like I was at Badminton; I could hear his hooves on the ground just as I had heard the others. My favourite was the table, up on 2 strides and down and mum was the jump judge and grinning from ear to ear, down through the trees, fallen tree, open ditch, palisade, log pile... WOW, this is so cool! Well "spud" you are forgiven those stops because that was the time of my life-thanks old boy, let's do it again some time. To all you hopefuls out there, you have to try this, the exhaustion of the run, the nerves at the shoot, the feel of the water, the hope in the show jumping, the exhilaration of the cross-country, but mostly the wonderful new friends and the fantastic memories!

By Callum Read. Thanks Mum for taking me and Dad for staying home and doing my chores.

**Editor's Note: To check out Callum's results, go to the Canadian PC/National Tet WebPages at [www.canadianponyclub.org](http://www.canadianponyclub.org). He is going to National Tet in Alberta this fall! Congratulations Callum!**

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## [On the Lighter Side](#)

Thanks to H el ene Savard, Regional Dressage Chair for this submission! ;)

### **10 SIGNS YOUR DRESSAGE TEST NEEDED WORK**

10. Under judges remarks she writes only: "Nice braid job."
9. Horse confuses dressage arena rail for a cavaletti; exits at K.
8. Your circles shape reminds the judge that he should pick up eggs on the way home.
7. Sitting trot has caused some fillings to be loosened in lower molars.
6. Your horse believes "free walk" means leaving the arena and heading towards the nearest patch of grass.
5. Your working trot had you working harder then your horse.
4. In your salute, your inadvertently use your whip hand causing your horse to perform airs above the ground.
3. Impulsion improves only after the horse sees monsters in the decorative shrubbery near letters.
2. Your halt took place in the judge's lap, instead of at X.
1. The judge asks you take the broken letters with you when you leave.

[Next Newsletter editorial deadline is September 15, 2007, so, keep those submissions coming!](#)