



Bits 'n Pieces

Manitoba Pony Club Quarterly Newsletter

April 2008

Welcome to the April newsletter. As you look at the calendar you will realize that it is May. Timing is everything and I would ask that content for the newsletter is sent within two weeks of the request. Much of the content has been submitted late and dates for some events have now past. Next news letter will stick to a tighter deadline.

WELCOME TO MPC PORTAGE CAMP 2008!!!!

Camp runs from Sunday, 20 July through to Saturday, 26 July 2008. We are back at the Portage la Prairie Fair Grounds. Camp is a little smaller this year due to construction on the Fair Grounds, however, it will be fun filled as usual. Stable Management sessions will be scheduled into the camp day throughout the week.

The craft this year is halter decorating, so please bring a clean halter to camp with you. The craft sessions will be organized in your riding groups.

Evening activities include a Parelli demonstration on Monday evening; Wednesday evening we host a Kur demonstration; POOL PARTY on Thursday evening and then the week is topped off with you entertaining the crowd with the Show Jumping competition on Friday evening!

Lessons will be run on Saturday morning and then camp winds up at noon. **All Manitoba Pony Club Members are welcome at camp.**

There is a limit on the number of horses that can be accommodated, so please get your application in early. The early registration deadline is 30 April. All applications should be given to your DC to be forwarded to the Camp Committee.

Barb Bradley, MPC Portage Camp 2008 Chair
On behalf of the Camp Committee
252-3448
email: bjbrtb@mts.net

2008 Regional Quiz Report

Submitted by Maria Berry
Manitoba Pony Club Quiz Chair

The 2008 Regional Quiz is over for another year. Again it can be called a success as we had the same number of teams as in 2007. Unfortunately we were not able to field an entire A/B team for the 2008 National Quiz, but I have been assured by the National Quiz Chair that forming a scramble team with another region will not be a problem.

This year the ID stations were placed in a different part of the Herman Pryor Centre in Portage, where the Quiz was held, and it seemed to be far less congested than last year. The 2009 Regional Quiz will be held in Portage once again on March 22nd and this same format will be utilized again; it really made things run a lot smoother and more efficiently.

Congratulations have to go out to our Manitoba region national quiz teams. Representing Manitoba on the A/B team will be Kerry Moore and Hugh Crawley from the Mars Hill Pony Club. As I said above, Kerry and Hugh will have the opportunity to form a scramble team with members from another region. Our C team this year has 3 members returning from last year – Sara Berry from Baldur Pony Club, Stephanie Sawatzky from North Hill Pony Club and Jessi Good from Quarry Ridge Pony Club. They will be joined by Kaitlyn Cockerill from Windy Plains Pony Club. Should someone not be able to make the trip, Whitney Fortin of Baldur Pony Club is the alternate.

National Quiz will be taking place in Vaughn, Ontario, a short distance from Toronto. It is being hosted by the Central Ontario Region. National Quiz takes place during the Thanksgiving weekend each year and this year runs from October 10th to the 13th. Chaperones for this year are Maria Berry, for the A/B team and Bev Moore for the C team.

Again congratulations to all of our regional reps and we know you will do us proud. It is really encouraging to see so many young pony clubbers out to our regional quiz. Keep studying and keep coming, because one day it will be you guys that will be representing your region at National Quiz.

See you at Regional Quiz 2009!

Testing News

The Stable Management Stream project was passed by the National Board in April. Members may now take their written test and the SM portion of the practical test at any level without taking the riding portion at the same time. This is ideal for anyone starting a new horse, having a lame or injured horse, not wishing to do the stadium height or jump cross country or simply not having a horse available at the time of the test. It allows these people to continue on with the SM and catch up the riding at their own pace. For some people, they may wish to go through several levels of SM and may or may not catch up the riding.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Val Crowe (pvcrowe@mts.net).

Tetrathlon

Tetrathlon is up and running in Manitoba now so any of you wanting to try it out and see what its all about contact me at sarahread@inetlink.ca. We are having a mini meet on the 3/4 May with a clinic in each discipline prior to a competitive session in conjunction with the MHT hunter trial at Birds Hill Park. Your DC has the details.

At this time, all the equipment you need will be provided. More clinics will be held throughout the year at Pegasus Riding School in Minnedosa and you are all welcome. I will keep the DC's posted as to what we will be covering at each session. I would love to come to your club and hold a clinic [at the cost of gas] so at your next club meeting let your D.C. know if you would like to try it.

Willville ODE will, I hope, be a regional tetrathlon event in the fall and the national chair has been invited to come and see what we are doing and to help us along the right track. There is interest from Saskatchewan to attend also.

Callum has been training hard all winter at Brandon Bluefins swim club and Osborne Village air-pistol club and now with the better weather, running before school. He is interested in competing under the Manitoba flag at nationals this year near Ottawa. From there I am off to my home country of England and then on to Ireland with the tetrathlon international team! We have a full girls team of 4 and 2 boys who will join some Brits to make a team. I am the official chaperone and Joseph Holownia from NB is the coach, although with our competitive experience and coaching experience we will be sharing the duties equally, me riding and some swimming and Joe the running and shooting. I am excited and honoured to have been chosen and will bring back lots of stories and pictures for banquet. I would love to have a Manitoba competitor attend in future years.

Caroline Sims has been in training with us also and has become a very good shot and at this time is short listed to represent Manitoba at the summer games in Halifax at the 10m air pistol event and all because of Canadian Pony Club! This is a wonderful organization providing excellent all round education, we should all be proud to be part of it.

Youth Rep Report May 2008

The Youth Reps had a busy couple of months prepping and running the MPC AMAZING RACE!!! We ended up having 20 teams! (40 kids)! Entered and ran a very fun race! And thanks to all!

For the first leg, teams had to get a business card from a tack shop, get a feed label from a bag of feed, get a picture of each team member and their horse, get a signature from either their riding coach or stable management instructor & find a horse cake/cookie recipe.

For the second leg, teams had to create a collage including the following: a chestnut horse, 2 bay horses, 1 saddle, 3 grooming tools, 1 blanket, 1 for sale horse ad & a drawing or picture of a barn. They also had to get the prices from 2 different tack shops on a set of 2 polo wraps and a saddle pad. Books are important in Pony Club so they had to find the 53rd word on the 167th page of the USPC D manual of horsemanship. The final thing they had to do for the second leg was answer this question: Jigsaw the pony went to a show in the United States last weekend. He won many ribbons. Six firsts and four



seconds to be exact. Draw one of his first place ribbons. The trick was that you had to draw a BLUE ribbon. Because in the US, first place is blue and not red like us in Canada!

The teams who made it to the third leg had a tough time ahead of them! The first task was to fill out a questionnaire! The questions were tough and taken from the various Pony Clubs websites.

1. What year did the CPC start in?
2. What year did PC start in the UK?
3. Who are the 2 national youth reps this year?
4. PC is now in how many countries?
5. What are the names of CPC administrators 2 cats?
6. Describe the PPG 'milk race'
7. Who is the national president of the PC Australia?
8. In the USPC Fall 2007 News, the quote on an add says 'Life's busy. Time's precious....'
Finish the quote:
9. What are the different levels in PC Australia?
10. Describe the Dorothy Renfro Memorial Scholarship:
11. Who is the DC of the Devonshire PC?
12. What international events are taking place for PC this year?
13. Name 3 books off the PCA Book list:
14. What are the names of the Southern California PC region riding centres?
15. CPC for sale horse ID 2380...What is his name and what is his asking price?

Next, they had to draw or take a picture that represented the CPC motto. The third task was to design a barn with dimensions and safety features etc... included. And finally write up a paper that explained what they thought of the Amazing Race and ideas for the youth reps in regards to activities, fundraising etc...



Regional Quiz 2008, Portage MB was where we held the finals. Callum Read & Caroline Sims, Katie Boisvert & Megan Nicholls were the final 4 competitors. The finals were set up as an obstacle course. The teams had to eat a bran mash, put together a bridle, make a dressage ring with the letters correctly put around, unwrap a vet-wrapped shoe & corks and screw the corks into the shoe, spin a few times, bob for a couple of apples and carry them to a bucket a little ways away, dig out a toy horse out of a bin of shavings with a pitchfork & then finally do a stirrup race back to the finish line! It was very exciting with many many laughs and smiles! The winners were Katie &

Megan who received two beautiful crystal browbands and runners up were Callum & Caroline who received two beautiful saddle pads.

Thanks to everyone who participated and hopefully next year we will have even more contestants!

We look forward to our next activity and hope you do to!

thanks

Stephanie Sawatzky (east youth rep)

Karly Woods (west youth rep)

CALLUM & CAROLINE'S CPC MOTTO PICTURES



Rider coming off cross-country course with hot pony.



Team members rush to aid with buckets of water.



One sets out the water, while the other helps the pony.



Team helping the horse & rider.



Helping tired rider dismount.



Pony clubber offers rider some water. & start cooling horse out.



Rider drinks water while horse gets cooled out.



Horse & rider rest.



Helping the rider mount.



And our loyal, sportsmanlike, charismatic pony club members take him home after a long day of fun.

Ride Across Canada

Celebrating 75 Years of Teaching Horse Care, Stable Management and English Riding to Canadian Youth

During the 2008 and 2009 riding season, the Canadian Pony Club will endeavor to raise public awareness of our organization with a virtual "Ride Across Canada" using the *Trans Canada Trail* tracking system.

The *Ride Across Canada* and the achievements of the Canadian Pony Club will be celebrated throughout the year, culminating in November of 2009 at the Canadian Pony Club National Conference and 75th Anniversary Banquet, a gala event being hosted at the Holiday Inn Toronto Yorkdale.

The Canadian Pony Club is asking all Regions to circulate this information to their Branch District Commissioners. Each D.C. is asked to appoint a representative to log their riding excursions into the "Walk Across Canada" section of the *Trans Canada Trail* website at www.tctrail.ca. By tracking any outside cross country activities and trail rides by your members and families, and logging your kilometers on this website, it is hoped that the Canadian Pony Club will, collectively, ride the full length of the *Trans Canada Trail* by October 2009. This is a notable achievement of 18,000 kilometers.

To reach our target we would like to see each Branch log 100 km or more over the next two riding seasons through various outdoor riding activities, such as trail rides, cross country training sessions, cross country at Rallies and Events, hunts, road work, etc.

The National Office of the Canadian Pony Club asks that each Region:

1. Communicate and promote the *Ride Across Canada* to each Branch.
2. Identify the "point person" from each Branch who will log kilometers and report monthly to the National Office from May 31, 2008 to October 31, 2009.

The National Office will:

1. Keep a monthly tally of all Branches reporting from each Region.
2. Keep a running tally on the Canadian Pony Club web site.

The *Ride Across Canada* is not meant to be a competitive endeavor but rather a collective approach to a major accomplishment for the Canadian Pony Club to celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2009.

Each Region should confirm Branch point persons by May 1st, if possible. Each Region should provide monthly progress reports beginning May 31st.

It is a priority of the Canadian Pony Club to raise public awareness of our organization to:

- Stimulate new membership
- Encourage active living
- Foster interaction with and responsible care of animals
- Promote among Canadian youth the spirit of Loyalty, Character and Sportsmanship

Each Branch completing 100 km will receive a certificate. The Branch logging the most kilometers will be announced at the Banquet and will receive a special award.

This is a wonderful way for every Branch in Canada to participate in our 75th Anniversary celebrations. Whether you ride a horse or a pony, are an Active, Affiliate or Associate Member, no matter your age or your level, you can add your kilometers to your Branch's total.

Ride Across Canada Instructions

If you have been selected as the “point person” for your Branch for the “Ride Across Canada”, here is what you should do:

1. Go to the Trans Canada Trail web site at www.tctrail.ca
2. Click on Walk Across Canada
3. Click on Sign In.
4. Click on Not Registered? Click [here](#).
5. Fill in the form.
6. User name should be your Pony Club's name plus pc, all in lower case, no spaces. Eg. baldurpc, caledonpc, marshallpc, eglintonpc, etc.
7. Password – ponyclub
8. Click the register button and you are done.
9. Send an e-mail to the National Office to let us know you have registered and if you used a different user name or password, please include that information.
10. Now, encourage your members to report to you all the kms they ride during any kind of distance riding, including trail rides, cross country practice sessions, cross country at Rallies and Horse Trials, road work etc.
11. You can enter them on the Canada Trails Web Site as often as you wish. It takes about 2 minutes.
12. Once a month, send an e-mail to the National Office (ponyclub@escape.ca or pvcrowe@mts.net) telling us how many steps your Branch has completed that month.
13. The Trail website allows you to put in kms but it shows as steps. Just let me know how many steps you have recorded and I will convert them back into kms to post on the web site.

If you have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact me at one of the above addresses.

I look forward to hearing from every Branch in the country. Together we can do this. What a celebration it will be in November of 2009 when we can announce that the members of Canadian Pony Club rode 18,000 of trail across Canada.

COMING EVENTS

May 3, 2008	Tet Clinic	Eastman, TBA
May 3-4, 2008	MHT Hunter Trials/Derby	
May 10-11, 2008	Possible MHT Clinic	
May 11, 2008	Eastman Dressage Series	Meadowview Ranch, Anola
May 11, 2008	Baldur PC Fun Show	Will Farm, Carroll
May 15/16	Regional Written Test	Souris, Wpg, Brandon
May 19, 2008	Tet Clinic	Minnedosa
May 23-25, 2008	Red River Pony Club Show	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
May 24-25, 2008	Spring Fling Westman Cadora	
May 31	Eastman Dressage Series	Meadowview Ranch, Anola
May 31-June 1, 2008		
June 4-8, 2008	Brandon Summer Fair	Keystone Centre, Brandon
June 14-15, 2008	Dressage Winnipeg	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg

June 13-15, 2008	Willville MHT Regional Rally	Will Farm, Carroll
June 20-22, 2008	Summer Classics MHJA	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
June 21-22, 2008	Touch of Class Westman Cadora	
June 28, 2008	Eastman Dressage Series	Meadowview Ranch, Anola
July 5-6, 2008	Bird's Hill Summer Event MHT	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
July 10-13, 2008	Beach Party MHJA	TBA
July 18-20, 2008	Combined Driving Event	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
July 19-20, 2008	Dressage Winnipeg	Pineridge Equestrian Park
July 20-26, 2008	MPC D-D2 Camp	Portage
July 23-27, 2008	Derby Show MHJA	TBA
Aug. 2-3, 2008		
Aug 8-10, 2008	MPC Benefit Show	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
Aug 9-10, 2008	Summer Classic Westman Cadora	
Aug 16-17, 2008		
Aug 20-24, 2008	Senior Camp	Will Farm, Carroll
Aug 22-24, 2008	Fall Harvest MHJA	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
Aug. 30-31, 2008	MHT Clinic Chelan Kozak	Eastridge Farms
Aug 30th, 2008	Eastman Dressage Series	Meadowview Ranch, Anola
Sept.7, 2008	Fall Fest Event MHT	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
Sept 6-7, 2008	Dressage Winnipeg	Birds Hill Park, Winnipeg
Sept. 13-14, 2008		
Sept. 20-21, 2008		
Sept 27-28, 2008	Spirit of Pan-Am	Pineridge Equine Park
Sept 27-28, 2008	Willville MHT	Will Farm, Carroll
Sept. 30th, 2008	Deadline for post event report	To National Discipline Chair
Oct. 11-13, 2008	CPC National Quiz	
Oct. 4-5 or 18-19, 2008	Gina Smith Clinic	jrneufel@shaw.ca
Nov. 8th, 2008	MPC Awards Banquet	TBA

Pony Club Events:

Red: National level **Blue: regional level** **Black:branch level**

Nothing scheduled at this time

Branch News

Portage Pony Club

Spring time has finally arrived, the books have been put away and it is now time for the fun part, riding our horses and ponies!!

A big welcome to our three new members, Stephen Rutbeek, Jenny Delorme and Kiera Hannah. We have not met the new horses and ponies yet but are excited to do so.

As well as having lots of fun our members did really well at Quiz, Jenny Delorme and Nicole and were on the 1st place D Team, Lynette was on the 3rd place E Team, Abby was on the 3rd place C Team, C.J. and Kierra were on the 4th place D Team and Rhae was on the 5th place E Team. Well done girls. A big thank you to Shelly and Val for teaching us lots of stuff in stable management over the winter.

Riding lessons are being arranged, camp forms are being filled out and the MPC calendar is being studied for other Pony Club functions to attend over the summer. Enjoy your summer everybody!!

News from Prairie Valley Branch

We have had a busy winter and time has gone by so fast! In formal stable management sessions our members worked on tack identification and fitted out the ever-patient Wylie with various combinations of tack, photographed him and began work on a study poster to use for preparation for Quiz and testing. We took a couple of field trips to the tack information night at Greenhawk and Lisa's presentation on veterinary matters. Callum and Ben, Sarah and I attended "The Round-Up" at the ACE in Brandon last weekend, too bad more could not go for various reasons. We thought it was going to be just cowboy stuff with the name "the Round-Up" but it turned out to be a multi-disciplinary equine education symposium including sessions on chiropractic, saddle fit, dentistry, and nutrition as well as demos of colt starting and other natural horsemanship techniques, and hitching and driving heavy horses. Be sure to mark your calendars for this event if they have it next year, it was awesome.

All of our members (and Sarah our Education rep!) showed in one or more of the three schooling shows in Brandon in February/March. There were a number of "firsts" and I don't mean placings as that is not necessarily the most important thing! Our newest member, Rebecca competed in her first ever horse show placing in all her classes aboard old timer "Fin". Marley, an experienced Western exhibitor, rode her young Pony Club horse "Kola" in his first show and even the DC took her evergreen old trail horse age 15 to his first show (and her first in more years than she is willing to reveal as that would give a clue to *her* age). Callum with his pony Fritham, and Marley with her Western horses, were also exhibitors at Winter Fair; the rest of us were spectators and supporters.

We hosted Westman Quiz on February 24th. Hope all the participants had a great time! It is a lot of work for a small club but a lot of fun too. Three of our members went on to Regional Quiz in Portage on March 16th. While there, Callum and Caroline were delighted to be the runner-up team in the finale of The Great Race. Thanks to Stephanie for organizing such an entertaining and educational activity!

Caroline and Callum are continuing with their Tetrathlon training and have added regular swimming, running and air pistol shooting to their (and their parents!) already busy schedules. Ben is doing some swimming and shooting also. Amberlee has finished a winter of successful competitive skiing and is keen to get on with eventing with the others, starting with the Chelan Kozak clinic this coming weekend and the MHT event next weekend which is going to be part of the Tet clinic.

The members continue to have regular weekly riding lessons at Pegasus Riding School and are looking forward to upcoming events, shows and Rally, as well as warmer weather and the chance to enjoy the great outdoors from the greatest vantage point, the back of a good horse! As the saying goes, "Feeling down? Saddle up!"

Baldur Pony Club News

We have wrapped up our Stable Management Lessons for another year and have begun our riding lessons.

We are very fortunate to be able to use the Will farm in Carroll for our riding lessons complete with stadium, cross country jumps and a dressage ring. The Baldur club spends a great deal of time here in the summer. When we are not riding we usually trying to get things ready for the Willville Horse Trials in June & September.

We held our 3rd Annual Baldur Fun Show in Carroll on May 11th. This is a low key show; great for beginners. We had a great time as usual and the weather really cooperated, giving us a bright and sunny day. There were flat classes, jumper rounds and the ever popular derby, which is a combination of cross-country and jumper fences.

Some of the club parents are also organizing the Ag. Society English show at the Souris Fair on Sunday, July 13th. This will be a ticket show and should be a good time. We have thrown in some games to make the day more interesting.

We have approximately half of our members attending camp in Portage this summer. We always look forward to camp, especially the parents !

Looking forward to seeing you all again this summer.

Mars Hill

Mars Hill is back riding Tuesday nights at Mordha farms. We currently have eleven members. Many members enjoyed the Eastman and regional quiz. Thank to Nadine Orchard for pulling the Eastman quiz together. We would also like to thank the St Andrews Community Club for allowing the use of their hall for the event at no charge.

Good luck to all this show season and have a great summer.

Associate Membership

Why not become an associate member? If you are not of age to be a full member then you can be an associate member. Parents, all you need to do is download a form from the Canadian Pony Club web site canadianponyclub.org. (search associate membership and print out the form.) Hand the completed form to your DC and they will forward this for our national membership. There is no charge for this membership and it will increase our numbers helping to deal with issues at Equine Canada etc.

Better Horsey Pix

By now you have all read your owners manual cover to cover. If you have a camera bag to keep your equipment in then include the manual for quick reference.

That's a good picture but.....

How many times have you heard the phrase “that’s a good picture of.....but....” Is there a pole extending out of your horses head? Does your friend have a branch growing out of her ear? It is important to not only look at your subject but the background as well. If you have the time look beyond your main subject and see what is behind them. If time allows take a step left or right to provide for a neutral space that does not conflict with your main subject. Avoid mirrors and reflective surfaces. If you are using a flash and shoot straight into a mirror the flash will cause a large bright spot. The same is true of other reflective surfaces such as the side of a car or trailer. If these backgrounds are unavoidable then be sure to catch them on an angle.

Another major factor in creating a good image is to remember that your camera will record what you put in front of it. If you put a dirty horse in front of your camera then you will create a photo of a dirty horse. If your horse just rolled in the mud and you want to show everyone how dirty he got then fine. If you want to show your friends how your horse looked at the show, then his mane should be combed or braided, he should be clean and turned out properly. If you are going to submit any of your photos for the calendar then take a close look at them first. In any riding photo the rider must have the proper safety equipment. All the activities must be safe. You and your horse may look great in a photo but make sure no one is doing anything that is unsafe in the background.

Summer is just around the corner. Get the cameras out and take as many photos as you can. Review them and delete any that you don’t like. Have a good time!

The next news letter will be published in August . If you have any information you wish to share please submit it to hdealey@shaw.ca