

Annual Branch Report Opportunity Pony Club, 2004

This year we have 35 members. Our year began with meetings held at Opportunity Farm in September on every other Saturday. They continued throughout the winter months at the home of Diana Locke. We kicked off our year with the new badge program. Our members have shown great enthusiasm for the program. Novice to D1 have completed their Handling and Grooming Badge, Breeds Badge. D2 and above completed their Driver's Ed Badge, they had the opportunity to visit three different farms to see and work with three different styles and breeds involved with driving. On Dec. 31st, ten members attended a very informative, full day at Herb Best's to obtain the Western Riding Badge. Mr Best did a great job and we recommend him to any of the other clubs interested in doing this badge. A Christmas party was held Dec. 20th at the Locke's home and horse games were played by all. Members brought donations of pet food or supplies for the SPCA.

Our club youth reps., for 2004, are Merilee Yuill and Krista Brouwer.

The Badge weekend was a great success. Eighty-four members from the various branches attended. Everyone worked hard, had fun and received two badges each. A choice was given to make stall signs or halters and lead lines for the Handy Horsemen Badge. The second badge was either The Natural Horsemanship or The Tetrathlon Badge. Mr.Chuck Sproule gave a demonstration on some technics of natural horsemanship and members watched various videos. Special thanks to Gay Hansen and the Tantramar Club for their involvement and expertise in working with those achieving the Tetrathlon Badge.

We had four teams attend the West Valley Quiz.

We had fifteen members attend the Tantramar Quiz and eight girls participated in the Tetrathlon Clinic.

Written tests were done on May 11 with 29 members writing.

We donated funds to sponsor a jump on the cross-country course at Central Nova Horse & Pony Club.

From this point on the summer events hit with a vengeance. Five members attended the Dressage is Fun event on June 6th.

Camp was attended by 33 members the week of July 5-9. Our instructors were Suzanne Perry, coaching flat and show jumping, Miss Zoe, who challenged all to have a go on the x-country course and Jackie Allen, who brought great enthusiasm back for the PPG and gave the older members a taste for Pony Club's newest event, Trek. At the end of the week some members tested. Three more testing dates took place to accommodate our many members. Member, Krista Brouwer, tested for her "B" and passed. Congratulations, Krista!!!

On July 18th, a team from Opportunity participated at the A B C Rally. Other members competed at the Central Nova Horse Trials which were running on the same day and place.

Next event was the Prince Phillip Games Cup. This Nova Scotia Regional event was revived again after many, many years absent. Four clubs attended with several teams, all had a great time, with Annapolis winning the cup. Many, many thanks to Jackie Allen for all of her work, time, effort and

enthusiasm that made this event possible. We look forward to hosting it again next year.

August began with great excitement! The National Tetrathlon Championships, held here in Truro! We had 6 members participating daily during the week. Two of our members were riders on the Nova Scotia team, Madelaine Trider and Tiffany Blaauwendraat. Four more members helped by being grooms, Nikita Blaauwendraat, Emma Eisses, Jenna Lee Reid and Merilee Yuill. Other members and their families helped by picking up competitors and chaperones at the airport and providing billeting for a night.

We had a team participate at the D Rally along with a team captain and two helpers, on Aug. 29th at Hobby Horse Farms.

September 11 was our annual Open Jumper Show Fund Raiser. It was a big success. This year being held in Truro at the McMillan Show Center. We had 70 entries. Our net revenue was approximately \$3500.00. We had a lot of positive feedback. Thanks to all who participated and helped. Please plan to attend next year.

During the Thanksgiving weekend the National Quiz was held in British Columbia. The Nova Scotia team included our member, Merilee Yuill. Merilee's mom, Mary Ann, also attend as a chaperone. Congratulations to the team for placing 6th overall.

Our year ended with a banquet on Nov. 16th and registration for the upcoming year. The banquet was attended by 80+ members and their families. We handed out the past years participation certificates ,badges and banners to display them. Members, Madelaine Trider and Merilee Yuill, both gave speeches on their experiences attending national events.

I would like to take this time to thank my Executive Board members for all of their help during my term as DC. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. Thank-You.