

OPPORTUNITY PONY CLUB ANNUAL BRANCH REPORT

The 2004/2005 year began with our banquet which honored those who participated the previous year and welcomed new members. Most of the winter was spent doing lectures either in the barn when it was warm enough or at a member's house when the weather got too cold. Opportunity Pony Club decided to put a float in the Santa Claus Parade held in November. It was exciting for all the members and is going to be repeated in the 2005/2006 year.

March began to get a little busier. Besides the normal lectures our members attended quizzes and a Kevin Crosby Jr. clinic. From the ABC Quiz one of our members, Merilee Yuill, was fortunate and skilled enough to be chosen for the National Quiz in Ottawa.

In July we held our annual week long camp which was open to all members. The camp offered crafts, lectures, PPG instruction, flat coaching, cross country and jumping. Friday and Saturday after the camp were used for testing. I am proud to say that all of our members who tested on this weekend passed and are looking forward to the next level. Also in July the ABC Rally was held at the Central Nova Horse & Pony Association grounds. This was so popular with our older members that we sent two teams. The girls had lots of fun but also learned a great deal.

August began with our PPG Regional and Zone Cup. Although the numbers were a little disappointing the weekend turned out quite well. Opportunity had an A team and a Masters team attend. As luck would have it our Masters team walked away with the brand new trophy, carrots for their horses and huge smiles. Around the same time as PPG three of our members were off to Alberta for the National Tetrathlon Championships. The girls had a great time. They returned with new friends and many wonderful memories.

September proved not to be any quieter. OPC held their annual Open Jumper Show. The numbers were down this year for a number of reasons, gas prices being a major factor, but we still ended up making some money to help support the kids. The show was held over two days instead of one. From every event we must learn. This year we learned that no matter how well you plan something it doesn't always go as planned.

All in all the members had a busy, fun, educational year. I know all the parents and members are ready for the new year to begin and to find out what is in store for OPC this year. We held our annual banquet November 17 and have a couple new members. Although our numbers have dropped slightly I know we have a busy year ahead of us.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Stevens, DC, Opportunity Pony Club