



The Pony Express

Newsletter of the Canadian Pony Club
Western Ontario Region



March 2008

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Let's Get Quizzical



On May 10th get ready to compete in a battle of the minds at Regional Quiz. Answer questions related to all areas of equine care including lameness, feed and nutrition, saddlery, conformation and more. Members who participate in Quiz seem to do very well in testing. A coincidence? I think not!

Contact Us

Send your submissions via email to:
heather_agnew13@yahoo.ca or by snail mail:
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WOR Goes International

Congratulations to the Canadian Tetrathlon Team going to compete at International Tetrathlon in England and Ireland this August!

Dylan McPhail - Guelph Pony Club
Alix Findlay - Mt. Nemo Pony Club
Jean Eagleson - London Pony Club
Natasha Knipping - Headwaters Pony Club
Mathea Stevens - SLOV
Kirsty Edwards - Alberta South

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As I write this article, it happens to be the first ever 'Family Day' for Ontario. The concept sprung from politicians and has created some controversy, depending on what side of the fence it is viewed from.

We are fortunate that the concept of 'family' itself wasn't developed as a result of a committee or a group of politicians. Families already have their differences at times and are challenged by a variety of stresses. But they are bound together by shared characteristics, ideals and interests. On a grand scale, we are all members of the Animal Family versus the Plant Family. At times, we may question whether some of our members queued the wrong line at Noah's Ark. Although we generally accept that we all belong to the grand Animal Family unit, we are most familiar with family as it relates to our household unit and our relatives by ancestry and marriage.

My family household produced two children. Both started in Pony Club at eight to nine years of age. By the time they left Pony Club at 21, they had tested through the system to B2 for my son and A for my daughter. They were involved in all disciplines and each was fortunate to compete at international Tetrathlons and Inter-Pacific Rallies. Over the years, my Pony Club family has broadened and become very important to me socially.

As our Pony Club involvement grows, our family expands. After the first few years of Pony Club, our family is comprised primarily of branch members whom we share common interests with. As our children test through the system and compete at regional events, our family grows to include members of other branches. As our children advance through testing and competition at National and International competitions, our family grows correspondingly.

Over the years, I have developed Pony Club friends from coast to coast in Canada and from seven other countries around the world. I have Pony Club family in the U.S.A, Ireland, U.K., Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Hong Kong.

Good family relations are built around good communications. Branch member participation at Regional Meetings is one way of staying current and ensuring that we are communicating National and Regional issues, rules and regulations to our active branch members. We are a volunteer organization, and it is not always easy to attend Regional Meetings due to household and work related pressures. At this time of year, weather can also play a part.

Good communication implies a two-way exchange. As your Regional Chair, I hope I can fulfill my portion of this two-way commitment. I hope we can see as many of your members as possible at Regional Meetings, but I would also like to avail myself to attend your branch meetings. Over the term of my office, I hope I may be able to visit all branches and meet the many dedicated branch volunteers that make this organization work. If you have an upcoming branch meeting that you would like me to attend, please send me an email and I will do my best to schedule it in. You can reach me at delzel@cogeco.ca.

Del Zelmer
WOR Regional Chairman



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Classifieds

For Sale: Lovely 16.1 appaloosa gelding. Owner has lost interest and this boy needs to work. Coach says "training level trot". UTD on shots, feet done regularly, trailers great, stands in crossties, nice boy. If you are an intermediate rider looking for a green horse to teach the way you want, he is for you. Likes to jump and has done small courses.
Price \$3800 negotiable.
Email s.eagleson@live.ca

Pony Club Manuals For Sale

US Pony Club C Manuals, brand new: \$15.00
Vet Notes for Horse Owners, brand new: \$25.00

Both books are required reading for Senior Pony Clubbers and are cheaper than buying in stores. Books can be given to your club's DC at Regional Meetings.
Email Lani Harris at ponyclubmom@cogeco.ca for more information.

Upcoming Events

April 12th-20th – North American Rally Exchange, B.C. Lower Mainland.
April 20th- Regional Meeting, OVC, Guelph
April 20th- Senior Education: Longeing, Conditioning, Setting up Gymnastics, Old Orchard Farm
May 3rd, 4th- Guelph Pentathlon
May 10th- Regional Quiz
May 11th- Grand River Mini-Meet
May 21st- Regional Meeting, OVC, Guelph
May 24th- Mount Nemo Mini-Meet



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A Sense of Peace By Celia Stone

Editor's Note: The following story was written by Celia Stone, parent of a Mount Nemo Pony Club member. As Celia said, "I don't know about you, but I had never met anyone who had invented a sport before!"

I encourage everyone to read this story and learn about the tremendous contributions Anne and Colin Peace have made to Pony Club. Celia submitted *A Sense of Peace* to the OEF, who awarded Colin and Anne the Yvonne Collard Award at this year's awards night. So the next time you see Colin and Anne, thank them for all they have done. Western Ontario Region wouldn't be the same without you!

It has been a year since I joined the Wellington Waterloo Hunt and thus a year that I have had the pleasure of knowing Colin and Anne Peace – two of the Hunt's most devoted members. Anne and I have shared conversations while lagging behind at hound walks (Anne steadfastly refusing to let me man the pooper-scooper shovel) and while working together at Pony Club activities. While hunting, some of my most memorable moments have been as Colin regaled me with his past hunting and horse stories. Both of them are slow to take credit for their many contributions to our hunt and the Pony Club organization so it was a real surprise for me to find out the degree to which they have dedicated their lives to the enrichment of horse sport in both Canada and England.

Colin is a devoted supporter of the Modern Pentathlon. He has five brothers which may account for his competitive nature and passion for sport. A rider from a very young age, Colin has frequently had me laughing at the tales from his youth when he and his brothers took their ponies well away from adult supervision and

tackled many an Olympian fence, ditch or imaginary battle. Perhaps this is what led to his involvement with the Modern Pentathlon, a sport which is comprised of five events - shooting, fencing, swimming, horse riding and running. Its founder Pierre de Coubertin (who also founded the Modern Olympic Games) held the belief that it would be this event, above all others, that "*tested a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal, complete athlete.*"

During his National Service in England where he enjoyed the rank of Midshipman in the Royal Navy, Colin trained and competed in the British Pentathlon Championships. The military had a Brigadier, Leslie Weiler, as their physical trainer – a passionate supporter of Pentathlon and later Resident Governor of the Tower of London. In 1956, Weiler pushed his son Anthony (a non military man) and Colin to compete in the British Pentathlon Championships before going off to university—Colin to Cambridge and Anthony to Oxford. The President of the British

Pentathlon Association at that time challenged both men to take the sport to their Universities and bring teams to the British Championships the following year. This they did and to this day there is fierce competition between the two universities, with Oxbridge matches held each year. Colin shows on the varsity records as having successfully competed as recently as the year 2000 – he placed second overall.

When Colin finished his veterinary degree he moved to Newmarket but continued to coach and compete in Pentathlon. He also began to position the sport with the pony clubs. Colin and Anne married on Valentine's Day, 1967 (that in itself is a two-hunt tale filled with romance) and Anne quickly became the medals presenter at Colin's meets.

Colin set up in veterinary practice. Four children followed, who were all enrolled in Pony Club with their parents volunteering to serve on the club's boards. While this in itself would have been more than most of us would take on, Colin and Anne



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went even further. Colin came up with an idea for making the Pony Club more attractive to boys by taking his love of Pentathlon and making it more accessible to children.

They modified the rules and scoring of Pentathlon, eliminated fencing as being too difficult to learn without a trained instructor and established a four-event sport they called Tetrathlon. I can picture the two of them walking the floors at night with colicky babies while they developed the rules for a brand new sport. The result can be adopted by anyone with access to a pony, two-hundred metres of swim-able water and two kilometres of cross country running and jumping space. Oh, and an air pistol with a cardboard target. Colin then toured the Pony Clubs in England with tables, guns, targets and stop-watches in his trunk so he could loan pistols and demonstrate the events. The plan was to attract boys to the Pony Clubs – it worked, but the girls loved it too. In 1969, the British Pony Club adopted Tetrathlon and it has become one of the strongest divisions within the organization.

Colin's great aunt Kathleen (who had been married to Robert Scott of the Antarctic and in whose garden Barry wrote Peter Pan) was married to Hilton Young who was a leading British dignitary having been Minister of Health and a delegate to the League of Nations. As a graduate of Cambridge, Young was a celebrated alumnus who hosted small groups of undergraduates to lunch whenever he was in residence. He regularly included Colin

in these groups. The gatherings were intimate, but filled with Young's achievements – his signature was on Iraq's paper currency when it was first issued. Colin says that it was these lunches that inspired him, "I felt obliged to do something big" he says. So, once the family was complete, Colin took a year's sabbatical and took them all to the United States and South America promoting Pentathlon. They visited Canada, liked it and decided to emigrate.

When Colin and Anne came to Canada, Tetrathlon met them. A family of Canadian pony clubbers had been to a Tetrathlon meet held in Connecticut that Colin had organized for the U.S. Pony Club. On their return to Kingston, they had started the sport in their own club. The Canadian Pony Club took to Tetrathlon with no less enthusiasm than its European and American counterparts.

Even today, Anne and Colin are both ardent supporters of Tetrathlon and the original Pentathlon. Both are on the board of the Ontario Modern Pentathlon Association and Anne is on the board of the Ontario Western Region Pony Club. If you are a member of OMPA or Pony Club, it is Anne you go to for gun loans, stop watches and unending support and guidance and Colin you ask to moderate and judge. Colin competed in his last pentathlon event in 2005 when he came 12th in the Canadian Masters Championships – he blames his ranking on the major heart attack

he had a few months later!

Thankfully, Colin and Anne's hard work and dedication has been recognized by more than heartfelt thanks. Both are recipients of the Syl Aps Special Achievement Award – A division of the Ontario Sport Awards. These are presented by the Ministry of Health Promotion as an opportunity to show appreciation for amateur athletes and all those who help them to reach their potential. Anne was awarded hers this spring and Colin was given the 2003 award.

Almost fifty years later, in January, my eight year old was handed a gun and taught how to shoot so she could compete with her Pony Club in Tetrathlon. She dragged me out of bed every Saturday morning to be at the gun club in Burlington for 8:30. At her first event in May, as one of twenty-three kids in the novice division, she swam four times the length of the University of Guelph pool, ran a kilometre cross country course, shot her four targets and rode a strange pony around a course of eleven jumps (okay, they were poles on the ground for her level) and she loved every minute of it. Anne was there to cheer her on and Colin was the judge. She cannot do the 2'6" jumps for our regional event this July, but she will do it next year – she tells me she is a Tetrathlete.

Thank you, Colin and Anne for making it possible.

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Get Your Game On at PPG

Riders, start your ponies! The 2008 Regional PPG games will be:

All Levels:

C, B, A

and Masters:

Team Bending
Canadian Race

Ring Race

Three Mug

Tack Shop Race

Wizards Castle

**B, A and
Masters**

(all above plus)

Stepping Stones

Newspaper Race

**A, Masters (all
above plus)**

Hi Low

Milk Race

Tire

Old Sock



For a description of each game, check out PPG and Masters Games Rules at: www.canadianponyclub.org

Catch us on Facebook!

Find us by searching Western Ontario Region-Canadian Pony Club in groups.

You already spend all your time on there...why not stay in touch?!



In 298 days, Canadian Pony Club will be 75 years old! Watch this space for more details on the celebration...

Want to see yourself in print?

The Pony Express wants your contributions! Games, stories, pictures, classifieds and club updates- it's your newsletter Western Ontario, tell us what you want to see!

Submission deadline for the May issue is **April 20, 2008.**