

THE MANE ISSUE



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Our new columnist Rebecca Schoenhardt with Red Fury—her retired Pony Club mount.

**Art Contest—
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From the Judge's Booth with Rebecca Schoenhardt

Don't you just love watching really great dancers stride out on to the stage prior to their music beginning, or figure skaters taking their position before the routine starts? When a truly great performer steps out you know before they even begin that this is going to be something special! The whole audience holds its breath and eagerly looks on in anticipation. So how do we get that same response from our judge before we salute at X?

Let's start with table stakes: every rider should be neatly turned out; a rider's long hair tied up under a properly fitted helmet; clean breeches, jacket, and boots; a neatly tied stock. You want to show the judge that you're well prepared for the job ahead, and the first visual clue is how you're presented. When it comes to the horse there are some non-negotiable basics as well: every judge loves to see a horse who is sound, in good weight, suitably fit for his job, with a shining coat, tidy braids, a well brushed tail and face, and whose tack and saddle pad are well fitted. These items won't win you the first place ribbon, but they do keep you in the running for it.

So beyond dressing the part, how can you and your partner make a really positive first impression?

Think back to our example of the dancer or figure skater. They stride out with head held high, broad shoulders held back, and with an aura of athleticism and confidence. You need to emulate that same

posture in your riding with deep long legs, eyes straight ahead, and the unmistakable look of confidence twinkling in your eye. And your horse has to demonstrate the same outlook! Admittedly, this last part is trickier – how do you get a horse to think of himself as an immensely confident dancer instead of whinnying for his buddies back at home or the hay net he'd to which he'd like to return?

This is where you can't have enough practices. Why wait until the horse show to see how your partner responds off property? Instead, jump at every chance you can to get your buddy onto the trailer and ride in a new location, even if it's just around the corner from your barn. The more frequently he's in unusual circumstances, the more usual such outings become, and so by the time you're at the horse show you'll both benefit from a track record of building your mutual confidence in one another.

And from confidence stems the most important way to impress the judge: having fun with the work at hand! I delight in seeing a horse that is happy in his work and eager to please his rider. And the icing on the cake is a rider who is happy in the good work that she and her horse are accomplishing together.

Have fun and C U @ X,



Specialising in themed gift boxes for horses and the riders who love them. New surprise PEG boxes are released each season. A PEG box delivers high-quality products that are curated for you and your horse or pony. A very appreciated gift for the horse lover in your life. PEG is also a full online shop, filled with trendy, earth-friendly and ridiculously cute equine-themed products.

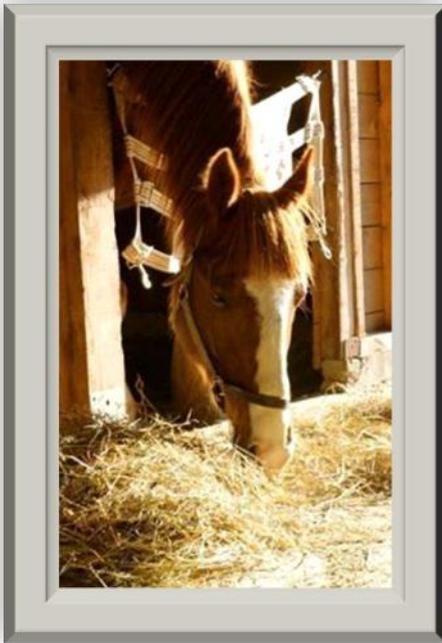
Super Ponies (& Horses)- NB/PEI—Blaze

This is Blaze, lovingly taken care of and ridden at the Hampton Riding Centre, home of the Hampton Pony Club, in New Brunswick! Blaze turned 21 this year and has been a pony club mount since 2008!

riders have qualified for National Competitions thanks to their awesome partnership with Blaze.

Blaze is so special that the Hampton Riding Centre has even named an award after him at their annual June Horse Show. This award goes to the top Pony Clubber in the cross rail division. Some years, the pony clubber has even won with Blaze!!

Without Blaze, many riders wouldn't have made it to where they are today. Thank you Blaze for your many years at the Hampton Pony Club, here's to many more!

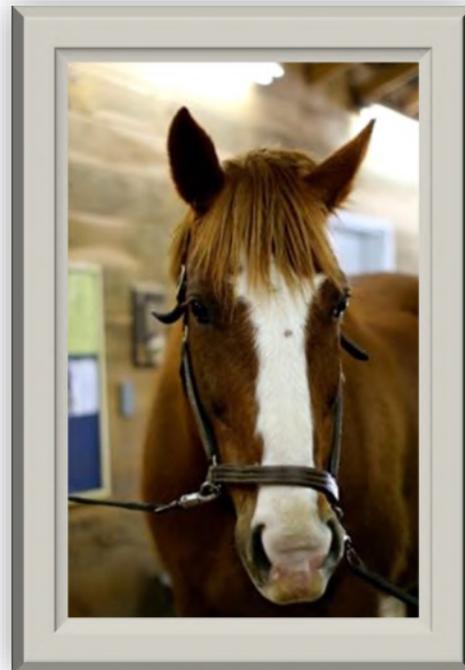


Blaze is frequently the first horse anyone who comes to pony club meets. He loves to be groomed and definitely has a special place in his heart for young children. His gentle demeanour makes him an obvious choice for nerv-

ous or new rider. Blaze is an expert at lunge lessons and loves to show new riders how fun it can be to have a lesson! Blaze is a club favourite for trail rides.

Fun fact about Blaze: he doesn't like motorcycles ☹️

Blaze's biggest (and most favourite!) accomplishment is watching his riders learn and all the great students he's taught to ride over the years! Many





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Contest Time Again!

Art Contest!

Win a \$25 gift card!

Draw, sculpt, photograph or paint a piece entitled "Winter Pony Woes!".



Must be a 2018 member in good standing to participate.

Submit artwork with Newsletter Contest in the subject line and include name, age, branch, region to Cat @ s.c.hunter@sympatico.ca

Divisions are: HorseMasters, youth 12 and under, youth 13 to 18, seniors 18-25! (Divisions may be combined if entries are low!)

BRANCH—ABCS—DELACOUR PONY CLUB

ABS

The Delacour pony club has etched thirty years of pony club memories in the grounds here in the Southern Alberta Region. In fact, Delacour Alumni are now hauling their children's ponies here on Wednesday nights to begin yet another generation. Membership numbers have ranged from 6 to 30 over the years. 2017 saw fourteen members aged 8 to 17 attend Regional Quiz, camps, shows and rally from E to C level riding and C2 theory. One of our senior members, Carlie Wells, a newly accredited B member, represented well at National Quiz this year placing 9th individually.

This past fall, the Delacour Pony Club added The Beverly Bishop Memorial Award which will be placed on our cross-country course. This bursary awards the pony clubber who exemplifies the Loyalty – Character – Sportsmanship motto. Despite her broken arm, Rebecca Anderson dedicated herself to helping out at Pony Club each week and was a significant contributor at several events. It was fitting that Rebecca was presented with the award that was initiated by her late grandmother.

Thanks to many, many volunteer hours from the community over the past few years, the Delacour Pony Club grounds have undergone some major modifications beginning with the building of 20 outdoor covered stalls and an addition to our clubhouse of two washrooms and a storage room!

With some grant money and our supportive Delacour Ag Society, both the Delacour and Pegasus Pony Clubs, who operate out of the Delacour grounds, worked tirelessly to refurbish the arena fencing and re-build the 20-year-old cross country course. One of

the features that was in need of repair was our memorial rock wall which had been out of commission for so long no one re-called anyone jumping it! It is very satisfying to see it back on the course.



Our little cross-country course now boasts jumps for every pony club level from E to A! There are a wide variety of obstacles including ditches, culverts, banks, water, coups, a chevron and our signature jump which this year was raised, literally, to new heights.

Rally – The Crown Jewel of Pony Club

Rally epitomizes what pony club is all about. Featuring the four chief elements of the program; quiz, dressage, stadium and cross country and blends it into a team format highlighting the sportsmanship, loyalty and character that we all hear so much about.

In celebration of all of that hard

work, the Delacour and Pegasus Pony Clubs hosted a Regional rally.

We had fantastic, cooperative weather (if not a bit hot, but we Albertans won't be heard complaining about such things!) lots of super volunteers and 5 teams competed in the D Rally along with 4 individuals in the C Rally.

While C Rally didn't attract enough interest to host a team event, the C level entrants rode as individuals on the same day as D Rally. This elevated the challenge. Almost every one of the C competitors was either captaining a D rally team or involved in some way with their D level teams. To nearly no one's surprise, they tackled it all with true pony club character. Judging by all of the smiles at the end of the long and hot day – everyone had a fabulous time!

It has been a great accomplishment for both of these clubs to rally together to see the course and pony club grounds fit to continue for the coming decades of pony club adventures and to share it with our region. Bring on the Next 30 years!



Breed Basics - Knabstrupper

The breed originated in Denmark, in 1812 by Villars Lunn, owner of the manor house “Knabstrupgaard”.

The Knabstrupper can be divided into two main horse categories, namely the elegant, well-balanced Baroque type and a more athletic Sport Horse type. During their performance tests these horses are evaluated according to the unique characteristics of these two distinctive types.



The ideal classical Baroque Knabstrupper will have three equally proportioned body parts, preferably with equal length and height, and a good muscular build with good depth, breadth, and adequate height. The shoulder should be long, sloping and muscular with long bone in the upper arm and should be flexible with good freedom of movement. The withers should be well defined, but may appear short due to a high set neck and muscular crest. The head must be expressive with large, calm eyes widely set. A noble head with a slightly pronounced nose and the lower jaw broad and defined is common to a stallion of this type.

The Knabstrupper Sport Horse is a more refined, big framed horse with good depth and breadth. The head is attractive and smaller than the Baroque Knabstrupper. The Knabstrupper Sport Horse resembles the modern European warmblood with colour that may include a percentage of approved warmblood breeding. The inclusion of a percentage of warmblood breeding offers the possibility of genetic variation to avoid high levels of inbreeding while maintaining the valuable characteristics of the Knabstrupper warmblood breed. When followed in a structured manner this breeding principle offers endless possibilities.

The ideal height of a classical Knabstrupper horse should preferably be above 148 cm up to about 165 cm (16.1 hands). Knabstrupper Sport Horses can have heights taller than that of the classical Baroque type and can be as tall as 17+ hands.

An old saying goes, “A good horse has no colour,” but this is only partially true of the Knabstrupper. Knabstrupper's are not always spotted, but neither is every spotted horse a Knabstrupper. The Knabstrupper's most significant characteristic is the particular colouration. There are numerous permutations of the colouring. Therefore, the extent of the colouring has no bearing on the assessment and classification. However, a horse with the gray-ing gene, distinct piebald or skewbald markings as well as the appearance of a “wall eye” or “rat tail” is ineligible for grading.



Meet Your New Youth Rep- Rebecca Holleman

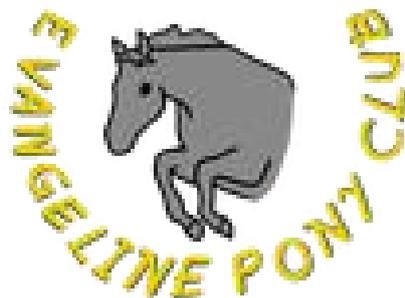
I am a member of the Evangeline Branch in the Nova Scotia region. I am also a student at NSCC in the Tourism Management program and volunteer through the year with the Free Spirit Therapeutic Riding Association. I am so excited to be the National Active Member Director for the East. As the Regional Youth Rep for Nova Scotia, I wanted to give back to my branch and region. I wanted to apply for the Youth Rep positions so that I can help Pony Club to expand and grow by engaging the youth. Now I can encourage the youth across Canada to get involved in Pony Club!

By participating as the National Active Member Director, I will gain new leadership skills and now at a National level. I am very excited to work with the rest of the National Board to get new ideas and learning opportunities. What I love about Pony Club is that it provides so many different opportunities for everybody. Through different experiences you get to meet really awesome people and create new friendships. I have personally had many amazing experiences in Pony Club. This past year I was a member of the Nova Scotia Prince Phillip Games Team that traveled to the



National competition in Alberta. With Pony Club you learn so many valuable life long skills and gain so much knowledge. I can't wait to be working along with the current National Active Member Directors, Kathryn and Allison, and learn from them this year! I am looking forward to the next three years to sup-

port the members of Pony Club in Canada to make Pony Club the best experience it can be!



Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Jane Goodliffe and I am your newly elected National Chair. I live in northern Alberta in the Alberta North Pony Club Region. I am sure that quite a few of our members have met me already through the Prince Philip Games program as I have helped host many National PPG Championships in the Edmonton area over the years. Between my daughter (now a proud Horsemaster member) and myself, we own seven horses, ponies and a mini. The mini belongs to our 'future pony clubber', my 3 ½ year old granddaughter who already wants to learn how to play PPG!

The Canadian Pony Club has been my 'other' family for almost 24 years now, and I am always very proud to tell people that I am a part of this wonderful worldwide organization. Pony Club friends are friends for life, and every function we host and every summer camp we organize spreads that family feeling just that bit further.

Let's work together to ensure the future of The Canadian Pony Club and the wonderful programs that we offer.

Once again, Merry Christmas from my family to yours.



Canadian Equestrian(ne)s—Shane Adams—Jousting

I did a quick Internet Search of the Canadian Equestrian Team to pick who I would feature in this issue.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Equestrian_Team (Yes I know not the most reliable of all sources) has a table listing the World, Olympic, and Paralympic Champions. The most recent entry on the table was Shane Adams (Dragon) - Jousting World Championship—2010.



(credit tmceachern@postmedia.com)

Not too many people can say they got their sporting inspiration from watching the 1938 movie *The Adventures of Robin Hood* starring Errol Flynn.

But then again, Shane Adams isn't like most athletes.

Adams, 45, founded the jousting touring company Knights of Valour in 1997 after spending time with Medieval Times in Toronto.

Adams, who is also the captain and coach of the troupe, calls himself the Wayne Gretzky and Bobby Orr of jousting. He got his first taste of the sport as a young boy growing up on a farm in Acton, Ont.

He has won numerous International and Canadian jousting championships over the years, but Adams recalled his first full-contact competition in the United States in 1997. At first, he thought he was invited only to watch, but quickly learned his name was on the list of competitors.

"I wasn't about to paint Canada yellow, (so) I borrowed some equipment, rented a horse (and) jousted for three days," he said.

"I came back with four broken ribs, a broken hand, a concussion and a world championship title. I won."



Adams explained the combination of horses traveling up to 30 km/h along with armour designed to catch a strike from a 3.5-metre Douglas fir lance amounts to a bodily impact of about 5,000 pounds of force per square inch.

"It's a huge, deadly force of impact ... When we're hitting each other with that much force, some lances break and sometimes so do the knights."



Great Grooming—AnneMarie Duarte



Many people dread this time of year because of clipping but it doesn't have to be that hard! Here are a few easy ways to make clipping easier for both you and your horse. Remember you can always take

more hair off but you can't put it back on! Start with the most modest clip that is appropriate for your horse and reclip in a more extensive style if necessary. To recap: a bib clip is the most minimal clipping style and in most climates a horse with a bib clip could still live outside 24/7 with shelter and a blanket. Then there are a few different styles of trace clip including the Irish or steeplechase clip which is my personal favourite. Lesser known than the traditional trace clip the Irish clip is flattering and effective. Depending of course on the local and the individual horse, trace or Irish clipped horses could still spend the majority of their time outside but I would recommend a good blanket with a neck. From there we move into the blanket clip. Horses with this clip would require a good blanket with a neck and daytime turnout. The most extensive clips are the hunter clip and the full clip and both require extensive blanketing and a thoughtful turnout schedule. I would typically only recommend a full clip for a horse that will be competing throughout the winter at indoor venues or wintering in a warmer locale. Practise makes perfect: the more prepared you and your horse are for the first clip the better your chances of success. If possible expose a young or green horse

to the experience by having them in a close by stall while another horse is clipped. This may not seem useful but the chance to see a friend "survive" can be really helpful to a nervous horse. Practise running an electric toothbrush over sensitive areas such as the stifle and belly to accustom a sensitive horse to the sensation. Smaller face and whisker trimming clippers have blades that cut at a different length to body clippers so you don't want to actually cut the hair, but holding them against the horse while running is a great warm up for the real deal. Practise yourself - make sure you are familiar with setting up your blades and assembling your clippers so that your horse doesn't run out of patience while you get organized. Make sure you have everything ready - extension cords etc to ensure a prompt and positive experience. If you run into trouble and your horse isn't behaving don't be afraid to ask for help from a more experienced person or your vet. A bad clipping experience can stay with your horse for a long time so err on the side of caution and call for back up before it's needed!



Down the Rabbit Hole

Hi, my name is Diana and I am a recovering horse beater.



Don't get too excited, I was a pretty normal horse trainer. I chased horses around round pens with whips, and I challenged them if they came into my space.

I bought into the alpha mare concept. Be a leader and motivate your horse to be better.

I thought join up was the way.

I believed if you could show your horse a good strong boss, they would feel safe with me, and not question me so much.

Oh! How naive I was!

If a horse bites you, what do you do? Duh you hit him or send him away. If he pushes you, you push back and make him work hard. You treat him like his momma horse would. You take no guff and you expect manners.

Silly human you are not a horse.

After years of training horses, thinking I was on the enlightened path, I found out I was still getting it wrong.

I found clicker training (aka positive reinforcement training) or it found me. There are no accidents in life. It is part of the evolution we all need to do. If you listen your path finds you.

A wonderful lady moved into my barn and at first all I saw was a rude slobbery mess of a pony. Carter was his name and he kept pawing in the aisle and I would push him back as it was rude.

Not my place to really do that but at the time rude horses really bothered me.

He looked like he was always begging for food and to me, treats were rarely used in my training. I didn't believe that horses were that food motivated. Food is everywhere for a horse, why would he need any from you. Not like dogs that only get food from the master.

Well I have a mare that will not be caught. Every method you can think of, we tried once, and it worked. But never twice. So, I asked this lovely lady to show me the magic of clicker and train Holly to be caught. Like prove it lady, ha.

Well she did it in two days.

I drove in my laneway and there was Holly following this lady around the field.

Ok I needed to know more.

And down the rabbit hole I went.

Stay tuned for more in the next issue.

Happy Pony Clubbing. Well, don't really club them ok.

Diana Bayer

Owner operator of HeronCrest Stables, Smiths Falls, ON

DC Appleton Branch

On Instagram @ heroncrest_stables



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