

Another great summer comes to an end, and what a summer it has been. I don't know about the rest of you, but I have been so busy that this is one of the first times I have had a chance to sit and take stock of what has actually gone on the last few months. It was a summer of accomplishments for me. Now, when I say accomplishment, I don't mean ribbons and prizes; although there were a few ribbons I am pleased to say. These are accomplishments on the Katie scale - my own personal scale of what I should be proud of, and I would like to tell you about two of them. The first accomplishment on the Katie scale was finally making it to Scotland!!! For a long time now, I have wanted to make my way to the homeland of not only my own family roots but also the homeland of kilts, bagpipes, shortbread and Scotch. While I can't say that I had any Scotch, there was a lot of shortbread (and scones, fish and chips and sticky toffee pudding ... oh the pudding!), a few kilts and the introduction to a band called The Red Hot Chilli Pipers. If you enjoy history, amazing food, incredible sceneries and some very adventurous farm animals, then Scotland is definitely a country you have to visit.

The second accomplishment was of the equine variety. Many of you know our big horse Oakley. For those who don't, I will tell you a bit about her. A few years ago, my dad decided that he wanted to get a horse of his own, so we went out and found him one - a lovely, big Clyde cross named Oakley. At the time, she was a quiet mover with a reliable and small jump that we thought would be perfect for him to play with and maybe take a try at eventing. One thing led to another, and I sort of absconded with Dad's horse. Fast forward two show seasons, and Oakley is no longer a quiet mover, and while her jump is still reliable it is no longer small; in fact we are ending our season at Training level eventing and schooling some Second level dressage (that's the accomplishment part). I am constantly impressed with not only the ability but also the heart of this big mare. I am extremely proud of how far this mare has come this season, and also with how much my own riding has improved ... even if we are still getting some time faults on Cross Country.



Speaking of accomplishments, bare with me while I gush for a moment about Burghley, the four star event which just took place. This year that event played host to some of the most amazing accomplishments the horse world has ever seen; William Fox-Pitt claimed his 6th title and Neville Bardos was not only there but brought home a

7th place. If you did not follow the event, I encourage you to take a look at some of the many videos that are online. There is definitely something to learn from those riders. I would also like to point out that a vast number of them are past Pony Clubbers ... talk about a goal after you have aged out of Pony Club. Many videos and articles can be found on eventingnation.com, undoubtedly one of my favorite web sites. Also from that site is another article that I would like to share with you. It is not an article about winning a ribbon or making it to the Olympics, rather it is about a woman with a goal and a cause, and I think it's a pretty special story.

<http://eventingnation.com/samanthalclark/2011/08/iona-legge-bourke---eventing-at-its-very-best.html>

Now onto our most recent issue. This one has some interesting articles in it. We have one article about Dressage education that some of our members took part in this spring, a trip that one Pony Clubber took to National Rally, and the adventures of one of our intrepid adults onto the field of battle at this year's Le Trec.

I hope you all enjoy this issue ... but first a picture of me and a "hairy heilan coo" on the sunny sunny hills of Scotland:



Dressage Education – Spring 2011

Marie Howran

Saturday April 16th, 2011, the Central Ontario Region hosted a four hour Dressage Education clinic for approximately 34 Central Ontario members and parents at the Uxbridge Skeet Club.

The Region's own Katie Stephenson started off the day with an informative introduction to the world of Dressage. Katie discussed the basic meaning of the word Dressage, which translates from French as "training". Katie used visuals and video to assist in her education session which covered basic theory and objectives, Dressage terminology

and definitions as well as gaits and the evaluation of the horse. Katie also discussed the benefits of dressage to all the other Pony Club Disciplines, including PPG's, Show-Jumping, Eventing and even Le Trec.

Katie was joined for the later half of the education session by special guest, Megan Lane, of Collingwood. Megan was a member of the 2009 Canadian, North American Junior Young Rider Gold Medal team. She is one of Canada's most successful, Young Riders. Megan spoke with our members about how she got started in dressage, why she chose Dressage as her discipline, and how she has achieved an International level of success. Megan provided the members with insight into her world and that of her prized mare Caravella. Megan brought along video footage to assist her in her presentation and the members very much appreciated the time for a question and answer period with Megan after her presentation.



National Rally 2011 Report

Shaylyn Lucas

When I was told I should write up a brief summary of National Rally, the first thing that came to mind was how much fun it was. I will admit I was a little nervous at first but once I arrived and started to meet the other competitors, I realized that this would possibly be one of the greatest weeks ever, and I was right!

National ABC Rally was held by SLOV at Oakhurst Farm in Ashton, about 30 minutes from Ottawa. Rally officially started on Monday, August 15 but Kyra Holmes and I drove up Sunday afternoon saving us a very early Monday morning journey. After the horse matching, Monday consisted of clinics held mainly by Ruth (owner of Oakhurst) in which each competitor rode the horse they had been assigned for the week. They schooled some of the cross country course and got to understand and work with these horses. Stable management started in the evening once each team had set

up their tack room and the horses were cared for. On Tuesday, when the first horse inspection/trot up took place and the dressage phase was finished, the competitors walked the cross country course and roads and tracks. Wednesday consisted of the roads and tracks and then cross country. In the afternoon we took a trip to the local swimming pool. Thursday was the second and final horse inspection. The riders then rode their stadium course. After a final stable management check, in the afternoon the competitive part of Rally was over. That evening we had the celebratory supper and were awarded with our ribbons and prizes. Friday we went zip lining and everyone who went had the time of their lives! At around 1pm everyone said their goodbyes and another year of National Rally was complete!

As a groom, my job was to help the riders with whatever they needed. It was also my job, with the rest of the team, to keep the tack room, feed room and aisle clean, safe and neat. The team I was on consisted of two Nova Scotia riders, Emma Foote and Julia Locke, and two Central Ontario competitors, Shaylyn Lucas (groom) and Kyra Holmes (non riding captain). Our team came 3rd in stable management and 4th overall. Emma came 6th and Julia was 9th. Kyra came 1st and I was 2nd. For a full listing of the results you can visit the Canadian Pony Club website

The way to qualify for National Rally is quite simple. Last year I rode at Regional Rally which allowed me to groom this year. As long as you have gone to Regional in any position the year before, you can go to National. Since I was a groom this year at National I am qualified to go to National next year. For anyone wanting to go to National Rally in the future, going as a groom first gives you a really good idea of what to expect. Also, next years National Rally is going to be held in Western Ontario.

This year was my first time at a National Pony Club event and I can tell you it was definitely an event I want to experience again.

Hurricane Irene

Michael Stephenson

So where were you when Irene blessed us with her presence? Ok, we were only cast in her shadow but boy it was a windy day.

On Sunday August 28th, I had the privilege of meeting up with some of my favorite Pony Club friends from COR on the Le Trek field of battle. I say battle because I went dressed for a fight. My theme this year was my favorite World War I Flying Ace, Snoopy and his trusty Sopwith Camel Oakley. While most stock built Camels in those times boasted a 110 - 150 horsepower rotary engine, Oakley comes with the right number of horses.... you guessed it.... one horse power. But what a power house she proved to

be. A very brave girl this year going straight over the bridge, she did not run away from the flag on a stick and she went under the branches straight away...ok nearly straight away. Next year, I will ask her to do the required gaits and the premier prize will be ours for sure so watch out.



Once again the adult level had a great turn out of competitors. All anxious to compete and show the smaller ones how it was to be done. However, many of the young riders had something to say about that and they all put in a great showing of their own. Thankfully the adult scores were not put up against the youngens or it might have been a difficult and somewhat embarrassing day for some of us.

For those of you who have not been, or been recently, we continue to gather on the Rowe-Ling Hills and Fiddle Sticks homesteads. We park on the Rowe-Ling Hills Farm and do our first couple of phases there. We then of course make our way over to the Murray's forest to test our navigational skills and this year, get away from some of that wind if only for 20 minutes or so. The optimum time for this year's adults was 24 minutes. To make the time, you pretty much had to trot the whole way. For me anyway, trotting for 24 minutes meant not walking for the next week. A compromise I was willing to make in order to show Katie how it was done. Making the time I mean.

Next year we will also need to do some things a little differently. Apparently the "Sopwith Camel" sign on Oakley for some did not tell the whole story. Next year, maybe we will see some wings and a tail skid.

Oh and I almost forgot. For those who were not there, Wills, Kate and Harry honored us with their attendance. They not only threw us a wave, but they also brought their own ponies and they did very well. There were many other riders in costume ...perhaps we will see some pictures at the yearend banquet?



A big thanks to the organizers, volunteers and property owners. That would be the Rowe's, Murray's, Durham Pony Club and all of their friends and volunteers. Come on everyone, next year will be coming sooner than not and we would love to see you all out ...adults and Pony Club members alike.

Chocks away

Snoopy