



CORBITS

Loyalty, Character, Sportsmanship

Central Ontario Region
Pony Club News Letter

Winter/Spring/Summer 2015

Editor's Desk

Katie Stephenson

I stayed in Pony Club until they kicked me out because I wanted my A and because I am as stubborn as a 13.2hh Welsh/Shetland cross. However, during this very busy summer I have come to the conclusion that all those years of testing gave me so much more than bragging rights, an orange disk and a very worn Manual of Horsemanship.

1. I have been asked, "What is Pony Club?" in every job interview I have had this year. Unlike when I was interviewing at stables, it is always asked with a smirk. The smirk quickly disappears once I explain what exactly Pony Club is. It turns out that when explained, the higher levels are impressive even in the real world.
2. Being quizzed by a panel of three A level examiners is great preparation for being interviewed by lawyers. I have done both and the first one is scarier and makes the second seem ... well not easy but easier.
3. Being able to carry on intelligible conversations with your vet and farrier never stops being fun. I admit that I am a big nerd, but it's still really cool.
4. After carrying on many of those conversations, talking to other professionals isn't quite so intimidating, even when you are asking for a job.
5. After being away from the barn for the majority of the last 2 years, there is still no greater compliment than being asked to take care of or ride someone else's horse.
6. In the real world, you do not succeed at everything you attempt. At least, you don't succeed the first time. I was lucky enough to NOT succeed at every Pony Club test I took. And no, that was not a typo. I got to learn how to take criticism and suggestions and how to learn from them. I had the chance to learn that failing once ... or even twice ... doesn't mean you aren't going to get there or shouldn't keep trying – it just means you have to work harder and better and that it will feel amazing once you get it.
7. That stubborn Welsh/Shetland streak that I carefully cultivated and honed through years of dealing with ponies, scary cross country courses, difficult dressage judges, me-no-want-to-loaders and I-will-get-this-stain-out-of-this-grey 5am show mornings, is one of the most important and useful skills I possess. Although my mom may rank it differently.

House Keeping

- Anyone submitting to any COR end of year awards should be keeping an eye on submission deadlines. If you aren't sure what they are, contact your DC
- Don't forget to check in on Facebook regularly for updates and fun

Toronto Horse Day

Hellaina Rothberg, aka Our Fearless Leader

COR Pony Club was represented at Toronto Horse Day today! Lots of kids played the breeds, plants and famous horses games and learned about how much fun Pony Club is. Solstice from Kawartha was there to demonstrate competitive trail riding, and took a moment to smile for the camera with OEF's P'tit Trot mascot at the COR booth.



COR HOSTS IPE

As Documented on The Facebook

National Show Jumping

Emily Lindsay – Rising Star Pony Club

Just had an awesome weekend in Saskatoon at National Show Jumping!! I finished 4th overall!!! My lovely horse Ender was the best mount I could have asked for!

One of the great things about Pony Club are the opportunities to compete outside your region, either Nationally or Internationally. Inter-Pacific Exchange is one of those opportunities. It brings together Pony Clubbers from around the world to compete in an Event, and to have A LOT of fun!!!! (As a side note: Despite the requirement of crash vests on Cross Country, full regulation flak jackets are not a regular requirement of IPE. For context for that comment, please read the blogs below.)

“From the Rally/IPE Gang, at Woodwinds: WHAT FUN it's been, having the Inter Pacific Exchange in COR Region! Woodwind South has been an amazing backdrop. Pictured, Australia follows New Zealand into the Dressage ring during the Combined Test on Sunday, and the whole group of international members gathers for a photo after the corn roast dinner on Monday. Tuesday, the group continues with WOR for the duration: GOOD LUCK to the teams. HUGE thanks to Centaurus families for their support with breakfasts, and to Rising Star for a great lasagna dinner on Sunday evening.” – Laurie Blake



Some teams kept Blogs documenting their IPE fun:

Team USA = <http://meetthe2015ipeteam.blogspot.ca/?m=1>

Team New Zealand (highly recommend this one. These girls know how to document a trip!!! = <https://nzinterpacific2015.wordpress.com/>

The official Photographer, Sabrina Eira Photography = <http://www.sabrinaeiraphotography.com/woodwind-south-ipe-beaver-trails-2015-08-02.html>

Stories from Members

You don't need me to tell you that COR has some pretty amazing members. That said, it's always nice to get to show off some non-equine talent (although they do have a horsey theme to them). Here are a couple of stories from our uber talented members who are certainly deserving of their publisher badge.

Best Day Ever!

By Madelyn L., age 11 - Centaurus Pony Club

Hi! My name is Grace. I live on a small farm in the county. I have been riding ever since I was five; I rode western but then all of that changed. This is my story.

One sunny Saturday morning I was out riding my horse Lilly. We were out on a trial ride in the forest walking around when I heard a roar. It was a mountain lion! All of a sudden Lilly took off, I could not control her, I tumbled off, but the lion was gone. I could not see Lilly anywhere. I called her name but I never saw her.

I kept on walking around when I saw this barn. It was a jumping barn, it was beautiful. Then I heard Lilly. A guy came up to me with Lilly and asked if she was my horse so I took her from the man and thanked him for finding her. I asked if I could look around so I did.

I was looking around when I saw a girl. She was riding a beautiful Paint. She was jumping so high, I always wanted to jump but I never could because my parents didn't know how. Then I saw a note on a board: it said they give lessons at the barn. Later that day I went home and told my parents all about the place and how I wanted to ride there. My parents said they will go see the barn tomorrow to sign me up. I was so excited!

The next day we went to the barn to sign up! We went to their office to talk to the owner. The owners name was Lauren, she said that I could have my first lesson tomorrow, I was so excited. But, then she asked me to go pick my horse. She gave me a bunch of options, but ... then out of the corner of my eye I saw a beautiful dun. He was the one. I asked if I could ride him but Lauren told me I have to be more experienced to ride him. So, instead I picked a little pony to start.

The next day when I was ready to go to the barn, we left. When we got there Lauren showed me how to tack up and then I got on. I knew the basic stuff so we did not start from the beginning. Then we started to go over poles, I learned how to jump little jumps and I learned how do courses. After a few months of lessons I asked Lauren if I could ride the dun and she said yes! I was so happy. After, I started riding the 6 year old dun named Max. It took me a while to get used to him, but after that I was ready for some big jumps.

I started jumping high - I was so happy. After my lesson I was putting my stuff away when I saw a note on the board. It was about a show coming up. I wondered if I could enter. I went up and asked Lauren, It took a lot of try's but she finally said yes! she said I could do the 2ft3 class with Max. I started practicing a lot. The next thing I knew, it was the day before the show.

I cleaned all of Max's tack and I did not have to get a trailer ready because the show was at the barn. The next morning I had to wake up at 5:30 am. I got all of my show clothes on and then I went to the barn. When I got to the barn I saw all the trailers I was so nervous . I brushed Max really well and then I tacked him up. After I went and got my number. I got number 34. Then It was time for my class. I learned my course and then they called a number to start her ride. Before I knew it, it was my turn.

I walked into the arena and I got my canter and started for the first jump. One, two, three, jump! I cleared it as well as the second, third and fourth jumps. Then we were on jump number five. One, two, three, jump! And we cleared it! I was so proud of Max. A few more people went and then they called all of us to come into the ring to get our ribbons. The judge called third and second place but not first yet. Then, I heard "first place goes to Grace on Max." I was so happy. That was the best day ever. That was my story.

A Story

By Lucie T., Age 7 - Centaurus Pony Club

Once upon a time there was a horse. Its name was Jazmen. She was lonely and she wanted some friends. But one day she was walking around. She saw something she'd never seen before and she has seen everything in the forest. A week later she discovered that it was a human. Her name was Lily.

Lily asked what was wrong. Jazmen said, "I don't have any friends." Lily said, "That must be sad to have no friends." She explained how she got into the forest. Lily said, "I was going for a walk. I was trying to get to a park then someone was coming so I ran and then I ended up here."

The horse and Lily were best friends but one day Lily's mom came and that split them up forever.

Clinic Quotes by Katie

I LOVE CLINICS!!!!!! Yes, bringing a horse and riding in them is great. Hearing new things, or even the same thing, from a different voice is a fantastic learning experience. Even better is auditing clinics. Auditing is a fraction of the price of riding, sometimes it's even free, and you can watch multiple sessions and take notes on all the tips and tricks with different types of horses.

Every year, Eventing Canada holds clinics with some of the best riders to ever grace the scene. One of the regular clinicians is Lucinda Green. If that name is not familiar look her up! Her resume is one of the best there has ever been, and she is a fantastic writer. I have not yet had the opportunity to ride in her clinics, but try to audit every year for one, if not two days.

Here are a few of the Lucinda-isms from the gymnastic/stadium/play over poles day. If you have never been to one of her clinics, this is not your typical gymnastic session:

- Your horse should GO to the fence or obstacle. Intention is not a speed!
- You steer your horse with your hands and your legs.
- Your legs point your horse's eyes.
- Get your horses eyes on the fence so they know where they are going. Your horse has to see the fence and know what is expected of it before 2 strides out. Give your horse a chance to assess the question and figure out what it's going to do.
 - **side note**: Once that was pointed out, it was interesting to watch and realize that every stop the horses had, in every group, at all levels, occurred because they hadn't seen the fence properly. Alright, there was one dirty stop, but it was an appy, and he couldn't help being naughty at least once.
- A horse can't jump if they are "on the bit" or put in that sort of frame. I have seen 3, maybe 4 horses in my (Lucinda's) life who could jump when they were on the bit. Let them bring their head up and look where they are going.
- Stop looking for a spot! It's not your job to tell a horse where to jump from. Your jobs are to make sure that your horse sees the fence, is on the right line and has the right canter and impulsion to do the job. After that, your job is to stay out of your horse's way. Don't abandon them, but don't mess them up at the last minute when they have already made their plans. They know how to jump just fine.

Please send submissions and comments to Katie Stephenson – blackbird_r@hotmail.com