



CORBITS

NEWSLETTER OF CENTRAL ONTARIO REGION PONY CLUB

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Let's Talk about Testing!

from Regional Test Chair, Nellie Bradbury

Why does Pony Club have Testing?

- To see how you match up to a standard of performance, truly international and recognized around the world.
- To get realistic feedback on your riding and stable management knowledge from professional, thorough, knowledgeable horsewomen and men who believe in Pony Club and our motto: loyalty, character, sportsmanship.
- To motivate you to keep learning, building on the very basics of D level that are expanded on in every level as you move up, right up to being able to run a stable once you reach the A level.

How is Testing organized? Your Branch Test Rep organizes your D, D1, D2, C and C1 tests. He or she arranges for you to write your tests (which are a must), books the facility and the Examiner(s). The Test Rep makes sure that you and your coach agree you're ready. You may be able to test one level in the spring and the next level in the fall.

Once you get to C2, your Test becomes a bigger deal, and because there's fewer of you, there is probably only one chance

per year to test up. You'll be with others of your level from any of the different Pony Club branches with high-level candidates. To make sure you're ready, and to help you find and work on any gaps in your riding, there'll be a pre-test (or mandatory evaluation) for all the riding phases (flat ride, stadium jumping, cross-country) that you're planning to test. The pre-test is done by a national-level Examiner, and he or she will also go over your lunging skills and often your bandaging skills as well. At your C2, B and B2 Tests, there will be a panel of at least three Examiners, and Testing can take all day, or if there are more than four of you, an entire weekend!

When you get to the A levels, parts of your test that you don't need your own horse for, like stable management and lunging, may be done in another Pony

Club region or province! For the riding phases, you may need to ride a horse that can jump and another horse good at dressage. It gets very technical.

To get ready for Testing, your Pony Club manuals are your friends, but so is practical knowledge. Especially as you move up in levels, seek out experts, watch your

farrier, go to lectures on equine topics, ask questions and ask more questions. Ask older Pony Clubbers and your coach



National Rally is Coming to Town!

That's right folks—this is COR's chance to welcome Pony Club members from across the country to take part in Rally activities including Dressage, Jumping, Cross Country, and of course Stable Management. The event is being held over the Simcoe Day long weekend (August 3-6) at Woodwind South in Oro-Medonte.



Members who are eligible for National Rally as per the guidelines—and this includes Riders, Grooms and Non-Riding Captains—are encouraged to apply to be part of the COR team. Please see COR's Rally page for more details. And, do not underestimate the power of the groom!

There are three big requests for this event: Horses, Volunteers, and Billet homes.

- Horses: Mounts that have proven performance at Entry or Pre-Training horse trial events. Horses can have a slumber party, and lenders will receive a stipend.
- Volunteers: Scribe? Tack Check? Timer? Food? Announcer? You name it—you'll have it!
- Billet Homes: have fun getting to know a member or two from another region in Canada.

Please let Hellaina know if you are able to help: vanroth@csolve.net.

COR Youth Education Conference

Organizers have put together a fantastic program for the COR Youth Education Conference being held April 1st and 2nd in Mississauga. Following success in 2014 and 2015, the format again includes multiple sessions per day and a dinner keynote speaker, against the backdrop of the Hilton Meadowvale. There's no better way for an early spring get-away that includes all things horsey AND a pool with a waterslide!

Pony Club appreciates that the speakers have taken their time to educate and inspire Canada's future equestrians. Returning to the program are farrier Kevin Alcock and Para Dressage rider Madison Lawson. Colleen Kelly from Rider Biomechanics is a big feature this year, along with artist Mark Grice. Alumna Ali Sprague will share about "what to do with poo," while CPC



National Youth Rep Katherine Robertson will explore the role of the youth rep. Members will learn about feed, colic, barn safety, grieving, concussions, and opportunities for further education in equine sciences. There will be a testing panel with Q&A, and members can make their own healing oils. There will also be sessions on Dressage and Jumping. (No, there won't be horses in the conference rooms!)

Thank you to the organizing committee, led by Nancy Codlin, for putting this great opportunity together for our youth and Horse Masters members.



Clinic Opportunities Abound!

Central Ontario Region Pony Club is pleased to have been able to offer several regional clinic opportunities over the winter and spring months, in no small part to having a keen Regional Education Chair! February 25th was the lunging clinic at The Gait in Stouffville (pictured), where members had a chance to learn and practice this very useful method of training and exercise. On March 4th, members engaged in a drill team clinic at Second Star Farm in Oro-Medonte, learning about music and movements towards this fun group activity. March 18th saw members and their mounts at a Dressage clinic with Eddo Hoekstra at his facility in Peterborough, being coached in the finer points of this traditional discipline. A PPG clinic March 25th at The Gait was a great kick-off to the gaming season. Please chat with Debi Robertson if you have any neat clinic suggestions.



Regional Youth Reps: Opportunities for Leadership

Our members are Pony Club's greatest asset. Not only do we put education and competition programs together for youth members, but we also encourage youth to take on leadership roles in the organization. Canadian Pony Club has an Active Member for both West and East on its board of Directors, and Central Ontario Region has two Regional Youth Rep positions (18+) on the committee. For 2017, a new position of "Junior Youth Rep" has been added to the COR committee (16-17). And, each branch should have a youth rep named to their branch committee and listed on the regional contact list. This network of youth reps allows every member to have a voice at each level of Pony Club.

Social Media

COR Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/225717118>

(please be sure to request to be a member of this private group)

CPC Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianPonyClub>

CPC Twitter

<https://twitter.com/CdnPonyClub>

CPC Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/canadianponyclub/>

#ponyclubforlife



Hold the Dates!

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar... watch out for corcomms and **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** get your registrations in on time!

Regional Quiz	April 29	Port Perry
Tetrathlon Mini-Meet	May 6	Barrie
PPGs	May 14/June 11/ June 25	Berg-Solomon Farm
Working Rally	May 26-28	Saddlewood
Fun Rally	June 10	TNY
Show Jumping Qual.	June 4	Woodwind South
Dressage Qual.	June 18	Uxbridge-Scugog
Show Jumping Qual.	July 9	Brooklin
Combined Qualifier	July 23	Victoria
National Rally	August 3-6	Woodwind South
Le Trec	September 10	Durham

Let's Talk about Testing! *(cont'd from front page)*

how to do things, and why, and ask them to show you things. Practice answering questions out loud. Make sure you are tidy and your pony and equipment are spotless. There is a lot of information on the Canadian Pony Club website, and it will help you to read the 'Testing Procedures' for your level. In there are the actual worksheets that the Examiners use, so you can learn exactly what they'll be asking you to show them on the big day. The 'Requirements' is another good resource, with lists of exactly what is expected at each level.

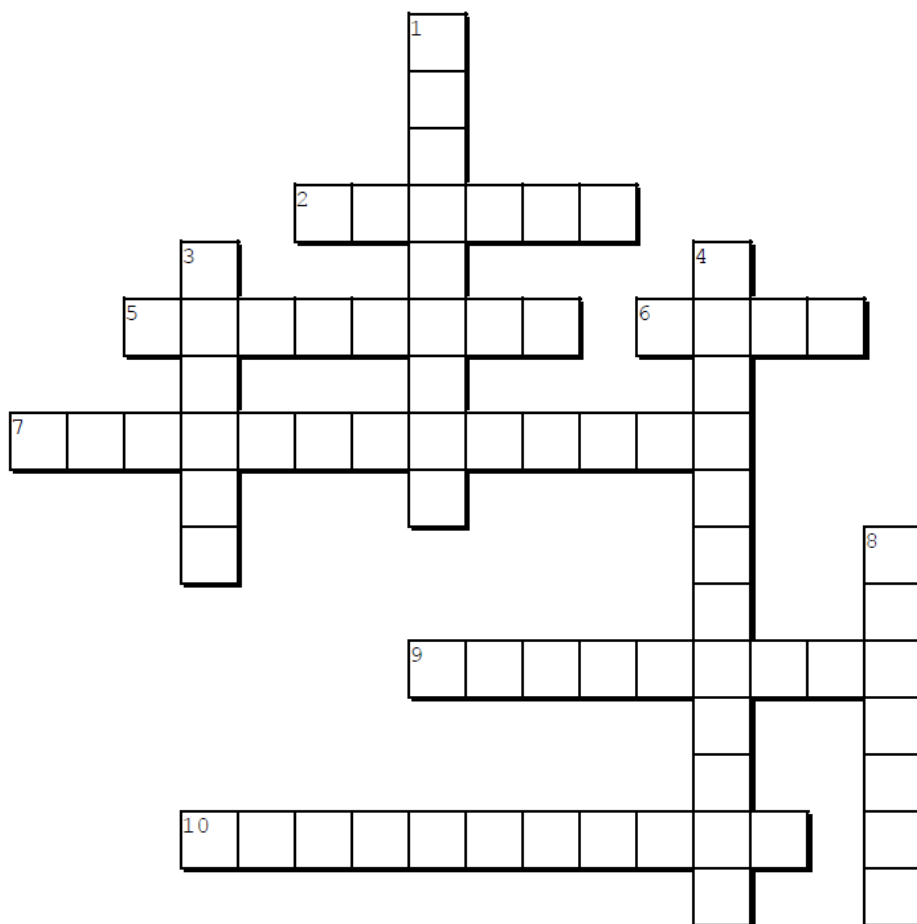
canadianponyclub.org > Resources > Testing > A/B or C/D > Procedures or Requirements

Once you move to D2 and up, sometimes the day doesn't go as you'd hoped. It might help to remember that along the way you've still learned a ton of stuff about horses and riding. And as well, you're learning real-life skills such as dealing with challenges and working through issues. At your next Test, you'll know even better what to expect, and how to prepare yourself. In that respect, Testing doesn't just lead to more horsey knowledge, it also leads to personal growth.

Crossword: Many Pony Clubbers have had a chance to take part in most of the seven disciplines the organization offers. A few others are among the clues in this crossword.

Things I can do with my Horse

Complete the crossword below



Across

2. The equivalent of a period, in Polo
5. A French word for Training
6. This Quiz phase is included at the regional level but not at National Quiz
7. The PPG game that includes the Golden Orb
9. Assistant to the Hunstman, keeps the pack of hounds together in the fox hunt
10. Competing over jumps in the stadium

Down

1. The FEI discipline based on controlled, long distance races
3. The one day eventing competition most similar to Pony Club Rally
4. Skill needed for the trail phase of Le Trec
8. The discipline from Modern Pentathlon not included in Pony Club Tetrathlon