



SLOV

CHATTER



Issue 2 / 2013



2013 is winding to an end....it is time to fill out new membership forms...start looking at the 2014 calendar. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to volunteer no matter big or small...it has all been appreciated by both the members and their families...Without Volunteers, SLOV would just not be able to function as well as it has. 2014 will probably see Clubs working together to offer their members the most possible....take advantage of as much as you possibly can... You only live Once.....this is not a Dress Rehearsal

Wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy 2014!!

PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Ontario Equestrian Federation chose *Selena O 'Hanlon* as one of the 2013 recipients of the People Make a Difference Award. The Awards are presented to individuals for their efforts behind the scenes within their breed or discipline association. Selena, a 3 Day Event Olympian, has been an inspiration to many a young rider; her dedication to sharing her skills, encouraging hard work and a smile....has been offered up to many Pony Club members at Clinics and Rallies.

Selena was presented her award by Jack Dewit, the OEF 's Recreation Council Chair on December 7, 2013 .

Selena was nominated by SLOV...with Thanks



Loyalty

Character

Sportsmanship

10 Reasons why you should do IPE



10. Hear some cool new accents. One of the highlights from my trip was definitely the fun times I had comparing accents with the other participants. There were people from Canada, the US, New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong, so it could get pretty confusing at times. We had a good laugh every time we found out there could be 5 different ways of saying the same thing! I also discovered that it could get tricky when you want to order food in public places. Besides, who doesn't love a great Aussie accent?

9. Change your scenery. Sure, Canada is pretty great, but wouldn't it be amazing to go hiking in the Noosa National Park, go to the beach on the gold coast, travel through the Outback, or go on a discovery tour to Fraser Island? I got to do all those things and more, and saw such a variety of nature from enormous trees, to tropical flowers, to beautiful waterfalls!



8. See some interesting wildlife. I'm sure you have all heard stories about kangaroos parading around town and spotting koalas in eucalyptus trees at every turn, which isn't far off! We had no shortage of animal sightings during the trip from all the bus rides through the countryside, our hack through the 3* XC course in Warwick, and our visit to the zoo where we got to see crocodiles, Tasmanian devils, and a wide variety of snakes. We even saw a couple dingoes on Fraser Island!

7. Learn or try something new! During our trip, we had so many amazing opportunities to learn about the Aussie way of doing things. We got to see everything from how they train security dogs, to race horse rehabilitation (I got to see a horse gallop on a treadmill and swim in a pool!), to how they make stock saddles! There is so much out there to discover!



6. Gain some perspective. Travelling to a new part of the world can be a real eye opening experience...you may see things you had never imagined! I absolutely loved every second of my trip and I would do it again in a heartbeat; however there were times when I really found the change in culture to be a challenge. These times really make you thankful for everything you have back home, so this may be a trip of a lifetime for you!

5. Ride some really nice horses! Throughout the course of the trip, I got to ride a total of 4 days. It may not sound like a lot, but it was because the time was mainly focused on the exchange experience (which overall, was better in my opinion). We first competed in mixed teams for the Kangaroo Cup, which was located at a local Pony Club Branch's barn in Gold Coast. It had the format of a combined test (dressage and show jumping) and was a really great way to get to know the other participants straight away. We then got to go on an amazing hack through the 3* course in Warwick. It was so neat to see the huge jumps and learn about their different Eventing levels system. Finally, we ended the trip with the Nation's Cup in Noosa, which was a show jumping competition!



4. For the thrill of the adventure! For all you go-getters and explorers out there, this is the trip for you! I got to hang off the Q1 tower (the tallest building in the southern hemisphere), go paintballing, roll around in a giant hamster ball, go extreme boating through Noosa Bay and drive in what looked like a moon car over crazy sand dunes on Fraser Island! IPE really gets your adrenaline going!!

2. Create new long lasting friendships! I made some of the best friends in my life on this trip, and truly felt like I formed a "second family". We travelled together on a coach bus for the majority of the trip and stayed in hotels with a common room we could all hang out in. It is unbelievable for me to think that I would have a good friend to stay with if I ever chose to travel to Hong Kong or New Zealand! On top of it all, I made one of my best friends, Eleanor, on this trip, and now we even attend Queen's University together! How's that for a coincidence!

1. Life is short – just go for it!! There is no better time to do this then now! If you qualify to attend IPE, I strongly recommend for you to apply. You never know, you may get to have the trip of a lifetime and create your own adventure in another part of the world. For a full breakdown of our trip's itinerary, check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/2013-Canadian-Inter-Pacific-Exchange-Team/688942207788933>



Natasha Matte took part in this Once-in-a-Lifetime experience this past summer!

What Model are you Driving....



News....

2013 has seen SLOV make 2 investments on your behalf....
2 Cargo Trailers

A small one for the Tetrathlon Equipment
And a large one for all the PPG Equipment...

Finally, Liz will get her basement back and all the equipment will be put back into one location

From the Horse's Mouth:

Q: When Does a Horse Talk?

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Loyalty

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Sportsmanship

2013 National Quiz– British Columbia Islands

Submitted by Melissa Bayer
Regional Youth Rep

Thanksgiving weekend, a time to spend with family, and what better family to spend it with than your Pony Club family at National Quiz! You meet new friends from across the country that share the same horse loving passion and need for knowledge, and at the same time, you get to see so many amazing features and land marks of this incredible country. It is also one of the less expensive National events since there is no riding and anyone who is dedicated (which is all of you!) can qualify!

This year, National Quiz was held in the British Columbia Islands region in the beautiful city of Victoria. SLOV only had five members competing this year. On the C team of three we had, Sarah and Rachel de Kroon, and Kendra Zimmerman. The C division is always the largest; 50+ individuals, and 14+ teams. Joining an A/B scramble team, in one of the biggest showings for this level (8 teams, 32 individuals), from BCI was myself, Melissa Bayer. Lastly, one of only three affiliates this year, was Carolyn Wight. Friday October 11th was the day competitors arrive and register, receiving any cool “Quiz wear” they ordered (The hoodies are always the best and handy for the flight home). Following this are fun “ice breaker” activities which allow you to start making some pretty amazing new friends. Your team photos are taken on this night, and they can be as serious or as silly as you’d like! It’s to bed early because while you may be battling time difference, you still have to be up bright and early to get your breakfast and be fully awake before the written test!

This year, the SLOV team did amazingly on their written test and this being weighted the heaviest of the two phases, really helped secure a high spot in their individual rankings! The Visual tables this year were very challenging. A little tip to those aspiring to go to nationals, or maybe want a hint to next year’s regional quiz; Study your plants! This seems to always show up on the visual tables. That and every kind of tack you can dream of! There was a lot of western tack, a little different from past years. The results here really sorted out who knew their stuff, and who didn’t. SLOV still held their high rankings! The activity planned for Saturday night was a ghost walk of the city. Apparently Victoria is one of the most haunted cities in North America. A tour guide led the groups around the city, explaining the stories behind the haunting.

Sunday morning, up early again to have a large very delicious breakfast before the best part of quiz began; the games!! Even though it is still very much part of the competition, there is very little stress heading into them. Your sides usually hurt by the end from laughing so much. The energy in the room is phenomenal! Every one, no matter how tired you are, or how nervous you are, ends up very excited and into the games. This year, there were mainly ‘board game’ type styles, with a modified version of Snakes and Ladders, and Jeopardy type games. They were still very fun, and of course there was moving games like ‘Headbandz’, Pictionary and “Smooth Moves” where you worked in pairs to act out various movements a horse can perform. As usual, the games went by far too quick, but we were in for a real treat after. You had the opportunity to sign up (for a small additional cost) to go whale watching on Sunday afternoon! We were out on the water for three hours and saw four humpback whales, and four kinds of seals! It was an incredible experience.

Sunday night is the semi-formal banquet. We all came back from the whale watching with red cheeks and windswept hair, and in under an hour got all prettied up to enjoy a incredible Thanksgiving buffet dinner, and the awards ceremony. This year, two teams from the United States came up to give the C teams a chance to compete in the North American Challenge.

This is a special opportunity. During the written test, there is a separate test that quizzes your knowledge of your country’s club. The best score from each “region” of Canada gets to make up the Canadian ‘NAC’ team and they answer more questions at the banquet in front of everyone. This year, Canada beat the US again!

SLOV had an amazing group this year. The C team placed **second** out of fifteen teams! Sarah placed 4th individually, Kendra finished 10th, and Rachel 13th out of 57! The A/B team came 5th out of 8 teams, and I placed 5th out of 32 individually. Carolyn finished 2nd out of 3 in a very competitive affiliate division. Afterwards, they held a dance, which was so much fun, a great way to let all that stress out after a very challenging weekend.

Having now been to four National quizzes, it is by far a favourite National Event. The places you get to see, the people you meet, and the friends you make from across the country, it’s incredible! The only way to get a chance to compete on the national scale and show the rest of the country how awesome SLOV is, is to go to our Regional Quiz! The more experience you have at the regional quiz, the more you will have seen before going to Nationals and will have a better idea of what may be on the test or visuals. You will also have lots of invaluable study material! Keep your old tests! If you are 12 years or older, and are ready to compete level 5 or 6 at our regional quiz, you could have the chance to show the rest of Canada just how smart you are at the 2014 National Quiz in Winnipeg, Manitoba!



L-R Carolyn Wight, Kendra Zimmerman, Melissa Bayer, Sarah and Rachel de Kroon

SLOV 2013 Motto Certificate Recipients

On December 7, 2013, SLOV awarded Motto Certificates to some deserving Pony Club members who have shown the traits of Loyalty ~ Character ~ Sportsmanship throughout 2013.

- Mei Ling Segal– *Sportsmanship*, while having to retire early from a competition due to injury, Mei still came out to cheer on her friends.
- Kenzie Garfield-*Sportsmanship*, despite a fantastic mud-smearing fall at Rally, Kenzie took it in stride, got back on her horse and cheerfully completed the ride.
- Melina Richmond– *Character*, with a cheery attitude Melina always tries to make the shyer members feel included at the many Regional events in which she participates.
- Rachel de Kroon– *Character*, putting herself last on test day, Rachel selflessly gave of herself to help set-up for the Testers, all the while encouraging fellow candidates during the long day.
- Shaylie Brokate - *Loyalty*, for her endless and wholehearted contribution and participation in all things pony club, Shaylie is always eager to lend a hand and do what she can for fellow members.
- Fiona Hunter– *Loyalty*, always ready to help where needed, even if she is not participating, Fiona always strives to do more. Loyal to Pony Club, Fiona is usually present for most events.
- Melissa Bayer– *Ambassador*, for taking junior pony club members under her wing and acting as a pony club ambassador to them, ensuring that they get the most out of our local pony club opportunities.
- Natasha Matte-*Ambassador*, for so aptly representing SLOV to the CPC and the International Pony Clubs and for encouraging all our members to strive to participate in Pony Club at an International Level



L-R Mei, Kenzie, Shaylie, Rachel, Jack Dewit –OEF, Selena O'Hanlon, Fiona
Missing: Melina, Melissa & Natasha

Volunteer for us



Loyalty Character Sportsmanship

NEWS FROM EAST WIND PONY CLUB

An open house was held to help generate new membership for Eastwind Pony Club. The members made noodle ponies and then competed in PPG games riding their "ponies". We had apples, carrots with dip, cupcakes made by Melina Richmond iced in our club colors and juice for refreshments. We handed out horseshoes spray painted with our colors a business card was placed on it with all the info needed to see the CPC website, OEF info, Susan Lorden's email address on one side and THANKS FOR TROTting BY - Hope to see you soon written on the other side.

Jen Moonlion created a lovely PowerPoint presentation using our members photos to show all the fun we have had during the year. Our members attended Quiz, Rally, Tetrathlon, winter camp and PPG. We expect at least three new members, that will almost double our club!

Submitted by:
Dianne Finnerty



The CPC Quartermark was seen at a number of Regional Events this past summer



Visit CPC website for more information on becoming Certified

~ A Fond Farewell ~

It was with heavy hearts that we said Good-bye this summer to one of the most active families in the Region. The Zimmerman family from Kingston were instrumental in revitalizing both a club and a discipline to the SLOV Region.

Linda brought her years of pony club experience to the Kingston and Region Pony Club. A knowledgeable horsewoman with a quick smile, Linda was an active pony club member from Western Canada. Brian became the Regional Tetrathlon Chairperson, bringing his military background and flare for planning, orchestrating a couple of terrific Regional Tets as well as some much needed shooting clinics for the Region.

Pony Club members Kendra & Erik both avid Riders, took part in almost everything offered. These two members are the epitome of Sportsmanship, always ready to lend a hand, with a smile and encouraging words.

Everyone would like to wish them well in their new posting in BC Islands area, they will continue their adventures with Pony Club and who knows when our paths may cross again!

Yours in Pony Club...

*The Sun Challenges us to Shine, the Clouds remind us to move,
the Birds tell us we too can Fly and the Sky tells us that there
is no limit to our Dreams and Goals.*



Are you maybe a non-horsey person who thinks..."there isn't much I can do...I do not know about horses"...or, maybe you are nervous around them? Well SLOV has a couple of positions they really would like to fill and you could be the right person...or you may know of someone who would like to give some volunteer hours to a great organization.

SLOV requires people to tackle the following:

- Website Coordinator...add news and events to the SLOV website- keep it up to date
 - Respect in Sport Representative- each club is required to have one certified person/10 members, most clubs are on their way to having this...but more are needed...It is approximately, a 3 hour on-line course
 - Horse Day Chair- help to plan the Activities (June 1 tent.)
 - Fundraising Chair- possibly organize a day similar to Night at the Races etc...come up with some great ideas!!
 - Volunteers for the 2014 SLOV Youth Conference
- SLOV will need many hands, this will most likely just be for SLOV members

Contact Lynne if you or someone you know can help!

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RIDE Ontario

The RIDE Ontario program is a fun and easy way to get rewarded for something that you love doing! Every hour you spend riding or driving brings you closer to a reward level. The RIDE Ontario program is open to all OEF members— no age limits and all disciplines can take part!..you just need to maintain your OEF membership to count your hours towards the levels.

It is super easy to join...when completing your OEF membership select the RIDE Ontario program option, there is a one time only \$25 fee to register, track your hours and send in your completed sheets to the OEF. When you reach the various levels you will receive your prize and level badge in the mail. Now how fun is that!! Take a look at the OEF site under programs to find out more information.

[Www.horse.on.ca](http://www.horse.on.ca)

From the Horse's Mouth:

A: Whinny wants to!!

What were Pony Club members up to in 2013

- Day at the Races Fundraiser
- Regional Tetrathlon D Rally
- Regional PPG C/B Rally
- Winter Education Camp
- Regional Show Jumping
- Regional Dressage
- Regional & Branch Testing

The ROLEX Trip, The Royal Trip, Dog Agility Volunteers, Various Clinics

SLOV sent competitors to every National Event as well as International Exchange....

No Doubt, Everyone had an exciting year!

IMGE

International Mounted Games Exchange

In August 4 Teams of young people and their chaperones spent about a week in and around the St. Lawrence Ottawa Valley and points west. It was great as our members got to mingle with other Pony Club members from Australia, the UK, USA and Canada.

Thank you to all who hosted any of the group...it was a great experience for them to see our part of the world, and for us to meet them!

