

2015 was a great year for the Tantramar Pony Club, based out of Galloway Stables, in Port Howe, Nova Scotia. Congratulations to all members on a successful and busy year for everyone. In your role as a Pony Club member, you have all provided the necessary enthusiasm to achieve your personal and team goals; ensured the good standing of the club; and helped raise the level of knowledge of Pony Club in your community. Your family and community, and all those who understand that knowledge, skill and strength are important for youth, benefit from your dedicated involvement.

A special thank you is extended to parents, grandparents, other volunteers, and to our Coach, Dawn Helm. A profound appreciation is extended for the passion, talent and time you've committed to the Club. Please accept a heartfelt and well-deserved congratulations for the club's continued success, and a commendation for the teamwork you have all demonstrated. Under your guidance, the club has provided our members and others in the Pony Club community access to subject matter experts, examiners, and ideas that help build the future of our young members.

## AGM

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Our AGM was last held on October 5, 2015 where memberships signed up for the 2015 Pony Club year and a final Christmas gathering was held to celebrate the year with members learning about horse teeth (and enjoying sweets and great friendship). Carrying on the tail of the 2014 year, which marked the busiest year of the club, it was clear 2015 held both promise and expectation with a focus on safety and fun for everyone! Tantramar Branch had seven members in 2015.

## Winter lessons

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From January to April, the club met at Galloway Stable on the last Sunday of each month for a riding lesson with Dawn and Stable Management with Gay. The severe winter weather played havoc with our plans so to compensate for missed time, members were asked to study on their own between our meetings. Each member used their PC workbooks and books to cover stable management topics before our meetings and come with questions. This new system worked brilliantly and those who prepared in advance were well equipped to apply what they learned and ready for testing and quiz.

## Regional Quiz, March 27

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Quiz is organized to test theoretical knowledge of horsemanship and of various Pony Club activities. This was a great event attended by two Tantramar members: Quynn Morrison and Haley McRae.

## Regional PPG Tryouts, May 18

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This was attended by Sara Hall, Maggie Dewar and Grace Reynolds at Rohan Wood Stables in Aylesford, NS. With games and races, this was a high-spirited, fun day for everyone. Three Tantramar members were named to the Regional team to attend Nationals in Edmonton. Weekly practices ensued, lead by Lori Hall at Galloway Stable (see PPG Nationals).

## Horse Show, May 30

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Delayed due to the excessive snow and wet ground from the winter thaw, the Tantramar Pony Club show held at Galloway Stables was a huge success. Over 30 participants attended with many trailered horses to compete in this event. Awards were given out for over 47 events and sponsorships were received from almost 25 sponsors recognized during the show. Thank you notes were sent to the sponsors to express our gratitude for their support. This event involved many volunteers from a cross section of PC member families. Rider dedication and skill was demonstrated through the high quality of riding seen during the show. Thanks to all who participated as competitors and volunteers.

## D Challenge, June 7

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Tantramar has two D<sub>1</sub> level members; Haley McRae and Quynn Morrison and their ponies Paddy (Quynn) and Essex (Haley) were great as were their riders. Tantramar branch organized this event again this year. This is a wonderful venue for our younger members (only E, D and D<sub>1</sub> level members are invited) and often replaces “Rally” for this group. This event was hosted at CNHP in Truro. There were 12 competitors from three NSPC Branches. Safety Officer Glen Gorveatte was on the lookout for any incidents (thankfully none) and many parent volunteers made this event a great success.

## Testing Written Exams, June

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Exams were written at various locations in June to ensure the members were ready for their testing in July.

## Dressage Regionals, July 4

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Maggie Dewar, Alex Hutchings, Haley McRae, Robin Gorveatte and Sarah Hall attended on behalf of Tantramar. It was a very hot day at Clay Hill Stable in Sheffield Mills, Nova Scotia. Horses were trailered in by Dawn and Lori (via Dave & Cheryl Allen). Members stayed the Old Orchard Inn at their own expense (with cost and room sharing where possible). Dawn Helm was Coach for this event and the team performed very well overall.

## Pony Club Camp, July 5-9

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This is always a great annual event. A five-day event, this camp included all of the levels appropriate to the Tantramar members and an additional non-Tantramar member attending from Annapolis Branch. Joecy Peters (Opportunity Branch) returned again this year to assist with the camp as Stable Manager. Dawn Helm covered the mounted lessons and each camper received one flat and one over-fences session each day. Gay Hansen covered stable management topics each afternoon. A group trail ride was held on the last day of camp. This year's camp included a Tetrathlon clinic, hosted by parent and Range Officer Glen Gorveatte and SFNS Shooting Coach Bob Selig. The camp also included a Pre-test clinic with Jackie Allen to prepare the members testing this year for their Pony Club Levels. PPG Practice was organized by Lori Hall in preparation of the National event in August. BBQ lunch was

provided by Gay Hansen daily. Parents provided a wealth of support including barn supervision and snacks.

## Pony Club Testing, July 10

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Tantramar members testing at Galloway Stables had already written their exams in June. Each exam was proctored by an overseer and graded prior to the practical test. The girls testing included Haley McRae and Quynn Morrison (D<sub>2</sub>), Robin Gorveatte and Alexandra Hutchings (C Stable Management) and Grace Reynolds (C<sub>1</sub>)

Examiners for the tests were Val Paton (PEI) Inga Hansen (former Tantramar Branch member). It was a long testing day after a busy camp, but riders and horses fared well. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work and dedication in a successful test day!

## Regional Rally, July 11-12

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This event was attended by riders Maggie and Haley with groom Robin and Alex (team captain) at CNHP in Truro. Coming the day after camp and testing, this was a big challenge for our members. They did well and undoubtedly learned a lot about working through sleep deprivation! Only one injury (Haley) reminding us all about the importance of wearing sturdy boots when handling horses!

## Regional Camp, July 27-29

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Three girls attended regional camp with a chaperone; Sarah, Maggie and Robin and Lori Hall as chaperone. Horses were trailered in with the club participants. This year's camp was hosted by Avon Pony Club at the Windsor Fairgrounds. This three-day event provided members with a chance to meet other Pony Club members and included riding, stable management instruction and non-riding events (like a scavenger hunt). Members stayed at the adjacent Super 8 hotel with cost sharing to reduce overall expenses.

## Regional Testing, August 8

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Maggie Dewar was the first Tantramar member in many years to test at C<sub>2</sub> level – a Regionally administered test. The mandatory pretest was held on June 20 and the test on August 8. Both were held at Killeavy Stable in Wilmot, NS. Maggie was successful in all her test challenges and was awarded her full C<sub>2</sub> level.

## Regional Show Jumping, August 15

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Hosted at the Windsor Fairgrounds by Avon Pony Club, Tantramar had three members attend: Maggie (Casper), Robin (Meicha), and Haley (Essex) with Coach Dawn Helm. Participants arrived the night before to settle in the horses that were trailered by Dawn Helm (Coach) and Dave Allen. Participants attended a schooling round and competed in events throughout the day.

## PPG Nationals, August 29-30

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This National event was held in Edmonton. Tantramar participants included the members who competed at the Regional event: Grace, Maggie and Sara. Three Tantramar PPG team members were joined by two other NS members to make the Nova Scotia Team - coached by Jackie Allen. The team performed well (third place overall – WOW!!) and their hard work practicing and fundraising throughout the summer paid off.

## Fundraising

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Fundraising for the club was conducted over much of the year and included several member-driven activities. Our first event of the year was our horse show at Galloway Stable. We are grateful to Dawn Helm for the opportunity to share this event with her. We share the fund raising and preparation for the show and split the proceeds. This year (as last year) the “Scotiabank Community Fundraiser” generously matched our fundraising efforts. We are very grateful for this support and it allowed us to support our camp, branch and regional testing, and support for our members going to National PPG.

Tantramar Pony Club members sold tickets on the Sunsweep raffle, hosted by Sport Nova Scotia. This fund raising opportunity is run several times per year. Tantramar members sold tickets on the March and September draws earning funds for the club (allocated based on individual votes by member families). Project-specific fundraising was held to assist the PPG Team attend Nationals in Edmonton, AB. These initiatives included a “Gojis” evening, various grocery bagging days and a table at the Tidnish market.

Information on these and other events can be found at the Tantramar Pony Club website (<http://tantramarponyclub.weebly.com>). Thank you to Glen and Susan Gorveatte for sponsoring and maintaining this site for the Club. Any photos or PC news can be sent to [ggorveatte@gmail.com](mailto:ggorveatte@gmail.com) to updating the site as needed.

Thank you to everyone for the significant contributions you have made this past year. Your efforts are appreciated efforts and let’s look forward to your continued participation in 2016!

Sincerely yours and respectfully submitted by,

Susan Gorveatte, Secretary,

Tantramar Pony Club