

Tantramar Pony Club Annual activities report, 2014

Our club had an extremely busy year in 2014! In fact, I don't think TPC has ever been so active in Regional and National Events in my 20-year history with the branch! Well done and congratulations to everyone all for your hard work and enthusiasm! Our members did extremely well and learned a great deal from their experience.

I would like to take a moment to extend a very special recognition to our parents, grandparents and friends of TPC, who did so much to make this year such a success! This would absolutely not have been possible without the help and devotion of many adults. We thank you all for that!

We finished the 2013 year with a December social at Gay's house – two times postponed by weather. Those who were finally able to attend completed quiz activities, made wisps for their grooming kits, ate pizza and socialized.

In January through April, we met once a month at midday on Sundays, at Galloway Stable for semiprivate mounted lessons with Dawn and stable management with Gay. March was the Regional Quiz hosted by Evangeline branch. Gracie, Quynn, Robin and Haley attended. Glenn and Gay drove and chaperoned. Long day but lots of fun!

Opportunity held a sleepover badge weekend and LeTrec information session at Gidden's Lodge near Truro. Robin, Quynn, Sara, Haley, Gracie attended with Susan as chaperone. The girls earned their Bookworm badge.

Maggie, Grace, Sara and Robin attended a PPG clinic in Middleton, organized by Alissa Cue in April. Thanks to Grace's grandparents and the Gorveattes for transportation and chaperoning this event.

May was a busy month with our horse show held on May 10 at Galloway Stable and some of our members and parents helping at the Pugwash Co-op BBQ shortly thereafter.

Holly Pierce suggested that we apply for the Scotiabank Community Fundraiser and we did – and were successful! Thanks to Holly for that. This is a program of financial support offered to non-profit youth groups whereby our fundraising efforts for one month (May) are deposited in the bank and Scotiabank donates matching funds. We are very grateful to Scotiabank for this. These extra funds allowed us to run our camp without increasing fees and pay entry fees for all our members for ALL of their competitions this spring, summer and fall.

June was the month for written tests and D Challenge. Tantramar organized the spring D Challenge, held on June 1 at CNHP. It was an enjoyable day and a good turnout. Tantramar had five competitors sharing two ponies. Gracie, Sara, Robin competed as D1s and Quynn and Haley competed at the D level, Erin Sloan was coach for the day. Glenn Gorveatte was safety officer and many parents and grandparents turned out to lend a hand.

Lori Hall volunteered as our PPG organizer and practices started in late June at Galloway Stable.

July 7 through 11 was our branch camp with Dawn Helm as coach and Joecy Peters (Opportunity Branch) as our Stablemanager, teaching many aspects of horse care including bandaging, grooming, braiding and stall and stable maintenance. Gay ran a daily stable management session in preparation for upcoming testing. This was a very busy camp with mounted lessons on the flat, over fences and cross country. Lori ran PPG practice each day (both mounted and on foot) for any members who wished to be involved. We had a trail ride and wound up the five camp days with an afternoon of swimming at the beach. Thanks to parents who acted as chaperones, safety officers and provided food and drinks daily.

July 12 was our annual test day with Claire Reeves and Merilee Kalyta as examiners and Joecy Peters as EIT. It was a long but successful day. Maggie Dewar received her C1; Grace Reynolds received her C level; Sara Hall, Alexandra Hutchings and Robin Gorveatte passed their D2; and Haley McRae and Quynn Morrison passed their D1 level. Congratulations to all of our members on achieving your new levels.

Immediately following testing, we loaded Miecha and Zipper in the trailer and headed to Middleton. July 13 was the PPG Regional Championship at Alissa Cue's stable. Sunday morning early, we were ready to meet the rest of our team (two Evangeline riders and ponies) and start the games! To our complete surprise, our team won the championship and qualified to attend the National Championship in Lindsay Ontario in late August. This was very exciting news and launched an enormous amount of fund raising activities by all team members and their families and supporters. Bake sales, BBQs, ticket sales, grocery bagging and sponsorship by local businesses went a long way to help cover the cost of travel and accommodation for our girls. Tantramar Branch was able to cover the individual entry fees for our three competitors. Thanks to all who helped make this possible for our members, especially to Holly Pierce who was so generous with her time and energy in organizing donations in support of our kids!

July 24 through 27 was the National Show Jumping Championship, hosted by our own Nova Scotia Region and held in Windsor. Haley and Maggie attended as grooms for the horses loaned from our branch - Reece and Essex. Tantramar provided the noon meal (for 30) on the last day of competition. Thanks very much to Maggie and Haley and to our generous horse owners! These National competitions can only happen with volunteer help from many, and the use of talented loaned horses. Thanks to the McDermotts for inviting our two members to share their camper trailer as accommodation during the four-day event.

National SJ Champs was followed (the very next day!!) by NSPC Regional Camp at CNHP. This was a three day camp with members and chaperones staying in agricultural college residences. Gracie, Quynn, Maggie, Sara, Robin and Grace attended with Susan and Lori sharing the chaperone duties. Our members enjoyed themselves and hope to attend regional camp again next summer.

Maggie, Grace and Robin attended the Regional Show Jumping Championship

on August 16 in Windsor. This was followed by D Challenge the next day when

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Haley, Quynn and Gracie rode the same ponies for D Challenge. Dawn attended as coach for both competitions, Charlene and Gay were chaperones and we all spent two nights sleeping in the horse trailers to keep our costs to a minimum. We had a great time!

While our younger members were attending D Challenge, Maggie, Sara and Robin traveled with Lori to Rohan Wood Stable for a two-day PPG training camp in preparation for the National Championship. Thanks to Alissa for organizing this.

Our PPG team of three (Maggie, Robin, Sara) were joined by Hannah Benedict (Avon) and Elora Ginn (Evangeline) to make up our NS team attending PPG Nationals on August 29 to 31 in Lindsay Ontario. Alissa traveled as coach and Lori Hall was chaperone. By all reports, our team had a great time and did quite well, despite it being their first-ever National PPG Champs. The whole Gorveatte family also traveled to Ontario and provided a capable cheering section for the NS team!

September 13 was our last regional competition of the summer. Maggie, Alexandra, Sara, Haley and Robin all attended the NSPC Regional Dressage Championship at Five Fires in Brookfield. Kelsey Boone attended as coach. This was a beautiful day, good rides and a great way to wind up the mounted competitions for the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Gay Hansen
Tantramar Branch District Commissioner
October 5, 2014