

Horse Trials PEI

Spring 2009

Newsletter

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President's Report

Hello everyone. I hope you are out and spending lots of time in the tack these days, we have certainly had the weather for it. I know it is my intention to ride more this summer, with an eye on some competition down the road, maybe later this season. In the meantime, I am busy organizing the Spring Work Day at Strathgartney on May 23, and the Summer Horse Trial.

Please, please, please don't forget to come out on Saturday, May 23 for our spring work day at Stathgartney. After attending not one but TWO course building clinics, Mike Gallagher and I are full of ideas for improving the park. Strathgartney is not yet open, but it came through the winter in great shape. There are some old jumps that need to come out, and we will work on some new jumps, as usual. Of concern to me is the path through the woods down to the pretraining and training level drop fences - the roots are really beginning to stick up, and we will have to do something about that this summer, I think.

The winter was busy with horse activities for me. I attended the general meeting of the Canadian Eventing Committee of Equine Canada in Toronto in November, in addition to the Course Building Practical and Theory Courses this winter. For recreation, I took in two horse trials in the southern USA. Pearl moved up to Intermediate with Herman this winter, and I just HAD to see that! I especially enjoyed being at The Fork in North Carolina - their cross country ride was totally awesome, and they placed well against people with tons of experience. I ran into New Brunswick eventers Lori Leach (of Brae Fearan Farm) and Susan Pike, who were down at The Fork training with Rebecca Howard. I understand Susan and her new mare did really well in their division. If you're reading this, Susan, I hope to see you at Strathgartney this summer! The Fork is an absolutely stunning facility, an event not to be missed if you ever get the chance. Pearl also competed in her first CCI** event at the Florida Horse Park, with a flawless cross country ride, but, unfortunately, did not get a qualifying score for the North American Young Rider Championships. It is a long, hard road to follow at that level, and once in a while, you have a bad day. Pearl is still working on a qualifying ride, and she is competing on the Victoria Day Weekend in a CIC** at Chattahoochee Hills in Georgia. Wish her luck!

I look forward to seeing everyone at Strathgartney this summer, and wish you many happy hours in the saddle.

Two Horse Trials at Strathgartney for 2009

HTPEI will be hosting two horse trials again this year with the help of some new and seasoned volunteers. Liz Spangler will be organizing the June 20 HT with Sherry-Lynn Smith taking over as secretary and Kim White is organizing the September 19 HT with Wendy Eisan as secretary. Thanks to everyone for stepping up to the task, it couldn't happen without you! There are also lots of smaller jobs that need attention prior to the events and the day of, if you can spare some time, it would be great if you help out. Many hands make light work.

Strathgartney's first class Equestrian Park and Cross Country Course along with well run events is what draws riders from off Island and with out these riders we wouldn't be able to host such great competitions.

Alex Beaton Clinic

If you are considering eventing for the first or hundred and first time, HTPEI will again be hosting the annual Alex Beaton clinic. This is a great opportunity to get out on the course and get comfortable jumping natural cross country fences in a controlled environment. There is something for everyone from logs and cross rails for this first time riders or the green horses right up to Training level for the more seasoned folks. Contact Deborah MacEwen at (eventingbee@ hotmail.com) and entry forms are on our website www.horsetrialspei.ca .

2009 Membership

You can find the downloadable HTPEI membership form on our website (horsetrialspei.ca). You must also be an Island Horse Council member to join HTPEI. The insurance through IHC is very comprehensive and well priced. (www.islandhorsecouncil.ca). If you are planning on competing at Entry level to PreTraining, you will need to have a EC Bronze membership and a Silver for Training level. It is advised to have these well in advance so as to avoid confusion.

Spring Clean-up and XC Jump building

Liz Spangler is organizing the annual work day at Strathgartney equestrian Park. There is always lots of work to do: check and repair existing jumps, trim branched and bushes, fill in mouse holes on the bank and hopefully build new jumps among other things. We need all hands on deck for this day, men with chainsaws are always welcome but there is a job for everyone. Please reserve May To come out and get dirty!

Thanks To Matthew MacPhail

HTPEI would like to extend a very hearty thank you to Matthew for his ever constant presence in HTPEI. Many of you may not know him but Matthew has been a competitor in the past and since the sale of "Lincoln", he has been our link to the web. Matthew maintains our website and keeps it looking fresh. Without him, we would probably be lost. So thank you Matthew from all of us.