

TO RIDE ON A
HORSE IS TO FLY
WITHOUT WINGS

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Important Dates 2017**
- **Auditing**
- **Highlights of 2016**
- **Membership**
- **BHP Cross Country Course Update**
- **Peter Gray clinic in review**
- **2016 Year End Awards**

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Manitoba Horse Trials News

WINTER 2016 / 2017

About our MHT President

Paige has been the President of Manitoba Horse Trials for the past 3 years. She runs a Dairy Farm, Four Oak Farms with her husband, Marcus and his family, and manages to be an active competitor with two horses in eventing, Zoom and Woody.

When people ask me what type of riding I do I tell them that I am a rider, called an Eventer, in an equestrian sport called Three Day Eventing. Most people have either never heard of this sport or have little knowledge of it. This surprises me. Eventing is an official Summer Olympic sport so I would have thought it would be better known.

I will not go into the nitty gritty of what Eventing actually involves, that is what Google is for! Basically it is a combination of three phases, or events. These are Dressage, followed by Cross Country, then Stadium Jumping. Competitors will ride in each of the phases at the level they have achieved. The rider with the lowest total penalty points wins and

can eventually move up to the next competition level. Eventing is a great sport to challenge and round out any rider. Horse and rider must work on the different skills required in all three phases in order to advance.



Paige at Otter Creek HT competing in the Training division with her horse , Zoom

The Cross Country phase is the most famous of the three. In this phase horse and rider gallop long distances across open fields and through wooded areas, jumping over various solid obstacles and ditches as well as dropping off dirt banks and

racing through water. It is exciting for the rider and the audience!

The summer after grade 9 I headed to Alberta to fill a working student position with a farm that bred Sport horses. This is where I fell in love with the sport and began looking at how I could continue this new found passion in my own province.

In Manitoba, Eventing is represented by our small club, the Manitoba Horse Trials (MHT). It is based out of Birds Hill Park. A Horse Trial is a shortened version of a Three Day Event. Horse Trials run edited versions of all three phases over two, not three days. This is far more practical for most amateur riders as the time required and the fitness level needed for an actual full Three Day Event is not usually achievable unless you are a professional competitor. MHT also offers many one day competitions and clinics to help our local riders and their horses improve their Horse Trial skills.

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Important Dates for 2017

January

14 MHT Snowbound Eventing Clinic 1 (Greenhawk Winnipeg 6:30pm)

February

4-5 Pineridge Schooling Show

10-12 BLHPS (Brandon)

24-26 BLHPS (Brandon)

TBA XCOUNTRY Jump Building March

11-12 Pineridge Schooling Show

27- Apr 1 RMWF (Brandon)

April

21-22 Pineridge Schooling Show

TBA Spring Course Clean-up/removal demolition (when snow leaves)

May

13 MHT Meet the Fences Clinic

14 MHT Combined Series (BHP

XCOUNTRY course)

15-26 XCOUNTRY Open for Schooling

12-14 Campbell's Ready or Not (BHP)

19-21 Otter Creek Spring HT (Wheeler, WI)

20-21 MHJA Victoria Day (BHP)

27-28 Chelan Kozak Eventing Clinic

June

3-4 MHJA Summer Smiles (BHP)

9-11 Roebke's Run HT (Hector, MN)

17 MHT Meet the Fences Clinic

18 MHT Combined Series (BHP

XCOUNTRY Course)

19-25 XCOUNTRY Open for Schooling

17-18 MHJA Ride of Rides (RREX)

July

6-9 MHJA Beach Party (RREX)

8-9 Roebke's Run HT (Hector, MN)

14-16 Campbell's Beat the Heat (Brandon)

15-16 PC & MHT Combined Series

17-29 XCOUNTRY Open for Schooling

21-23 MHJA Marcy Schweitzer Derby

26-30 Heart of the Continent (RREX)

August

5-6 Willville HT (Carroll, MB) - tentative

11-13 Otter Creek Summer HT (Wheeler, WI)

12-13 MHJA Summer in the City (RREX)

25-27 Campbell's Harvest Sun (Brandon)

Late Aug Pony Club Derby Day (BHP)

September

TBA Fall XCOUNTRY Schooling dates

15-17 Otter Creek Fall HT (Wheeler, WI)

15-17 MHJA Fall Harvest (BHP)

22-24 MHJA Jump into Fall (BHP)

22-24 MHC Manitoba Equestrian Challenge/PC Derby (BHP)

November

4-5 Campbell's Jump for the Cure (Brandon)

18-19 Campbell's Deck the Stalls (Brandon)



Paige and Eileen at
Roebke's Run HT
June 2016 at the
Training Table

*There is something
about the outside
of a horse that is
good for the inside
of a man.
- Winston
Churchill*

Pat Napier
and
Charleston
2016 Pre-
Entry
Champion



MHT's President - on eventing

Continued from first page

Currently there are one or two Horse Trials held in Manitoba each year. The only annual Horse Trial is held by Dianna Fraser out of Carroll, Manitoba. Dianna and her family put in countless hours to prepare for and run this Trial on their private property. They are a big reason many Manitobans get the chance to ride in a Horse Trial at all. Our club, the MHT, also holds trials when able, but cannot do so on an annual basis.

If you are an avid Eventer in Manitoba, and want to gain the experience necessary to move up the levels, you must travel. Three or four times per year I, my good friend and fellow Eventer, Eileen Blais, and my husband/groom/driver/chef, Marcus, pack up my

rig and head south to Minnesota and Wisconsin, U.S.A. to ride in Three Day Events. These destinations are shorter drives than the option of driving to Alberta where Events are also held.

The American courses are beautiful and challenging. Between 150 and 200 horse and riders compete over the three days. These Events are held by families on their private properties. They, like Dianna, work hard to host these Events for our benefit.

A large reason for my love of Eventing is the people. They are a kind and caring group. Regardless of which level you ride or what your nationality is, they are welcoming and encouraging. I have

brought two horses up to the Training level, so far, and Eileen is making the move up to Prelim very soon. We could not achieve our goals without the support of the people involved in the sport.

I hope I have provided some insight into Eventing, how it fits into the Manitoba equestrian scene, and a bit about a pair of avid Eventers in our province!

If you would like more information about Manitoba Horse Trials, or would like to join our club, please check out our Website www.manitobahorsetrials.com. We always welcome more members to join our circle of Eventing enthusiasts!

Paige Dueck
President, Manitoba Horse Trials

What is an Audit Fee?

Some of you may have signed up to ride in a clinic and noticed a spot on the entry form for an Audit Fee. Auditing' is the term we use for spectators at clinics. This is one of the easiest, cheapest and most beneficial ways to see what a clinic is all about and make huge progress in your horsemanship.

Some find that watching the lower level clinics really clean

up their understanding of the basics, while the higher level clinics show riders where things are headed and help to put a purpose behind what they are currently working on.

Commonly, for a nominal fee, riders can watch others ride in a clinic, take notes, then go home and try out what they learned on their own mount.

There are often opportunities

to audit a clinic for free in exchange for being a volunteer and helping the Clinic Coordinator with equipment sales, lunch, check-in or advertising prior to the event. If you'd like to volunteer, contact the coordinator for more information on signing up! Remember audit fees help clubs cover costs for hosting clinics so please, take part, pay an audit fee and enjoy the day!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

Highlights of 2016

◆ Ian Roberts Clinic

Manitoba Horse Trials kicked off the season with a clinic with Ian Roberts on May 28 - 29. We were at maximum capacity for the clinic and from what I have heard and from personal experience, it was an incredible clinic!

◆ Pony Club Derby Series

Pony club offered 4 derbies that included dressage tests and derby

jumping rounds in the Grand Prix field at the MHC site. This gave riders a great opportunity to practice their dressage test and get scored by an official dressage judge and test their jumping skills. What a fantastic experience for all riders!

◆ Willville Horse Trials

Always an awesome show run by Dianna Fraser and her family. Record entries and many new faces to eventing!

◆ Peter Gray Clinic

We were lucky to have Peter come

to do a clinic with us this summer. It was a very rare and special opportunity to learn from a National Team Coach and an Olympic rider!

◆ BSS Fundraiser & Year End Awards Banquet

We tried a new location this year at the Peppercorn Restaurant. The food was tasty, the venue was inviting and the company was outstanding!

MHT is looking toward a future of positive growth and development for 2017!!

Memberships 2017

Recognizing that membership requirements can be confusing, the following may assist you in your planning.

If you are a **COMPETITIVE** member or horse owner in Manitoba and plan to attend EC Sanctioned Horse Trial Competitions:

1. You must obtain your **Sport Licence** from Equestrian Canada
2. You must obtain your Eventing National Membership with your Sport Licence from Equestrian Canada (includes Omnibus).
3. If you are competing at Training level or above, your horse must have a **Passport** (available through Equestrian Canada).

Equestrian Canada
308 Legget Drive, Suite 100,
Ottawa ON K2K 1Y6
Tel: 613-287-1515 www.equestrian.ca

4. You must join **Manitoba Horse Trials**. Course user fee must be paid each time the cross country course is used in BHP.
MHT membership form can be found at www.manitobahorsetrials.com and mailed to Marilyn McNaughton Box 801 Grunthal, MB R0A 0R0
5. You must also join **Manitoba Horse Council** which is the Provincial Sport Organization for Equestrian Canada.
www.manitobahorsecouncil.ca

Now you are set for this year's competitive show season!!

MHT Membership Fees:		
	Paid before March 31st	Paid after March 31st
Senior	\$55	\$60
Junior	\$35	\$40
Family	\$145	\$150

Riders soaking in the teachings of Peter Gray



In a Nutshell: If you are NOT competing in any EC Sanctioned Horse Trials this year, are new to eventing and/or would only like to participate in MHT Combined Series and/or clinics, you need— a MHC Membership, MHT membership and pay a course user fee to use the cross country course.

Cross Country Course Update *** IMPORTANT ***

In September, we had Barry Tyerman, a course designer from Alberta, come to Manitoba to assess our cross country course in Birds Hill Park in preparation for the 2017 Event.

This is what he discovered:

- ◆ There are not enough existing jumps, at any level, to put together full and safe cross country courses for a EC Sanctioned Horse Trials
- ◆ Many of the existing jumps require repairs or need to be demolished

A detailed analysis of Barry's findings of the condition of the Cross country course can be found in the MHT Meeting minutes on our website. Basically, the course needs an overhaul!

Based on these results from Barry's thorough evaluation and lengthy discussions during board meetings,

Manitoba Horse Trials will be forced to cancel the 2017 Horse Trials.

In order to save MHT and to hold future EC sanctioned HT events, and derbies, a significant capital investment is required from the club to bring the cross country course up to current standards. After all, Horse Trials is nothing without a cross country course.

Avid eventers, do not despair! We are still planning to hold an official EC event in 2018!! Plans for 2017 involve beginning to build/rebuild fences for the cross country course this spring. We will also continue to work together with Pony Club to provide Combined events throughout 2017 with some of our new fences!

To move forward, preserve the integrity of the cross country course and our new fences for the future, please note some basic changes:

Schooling the cross country course:

- ◆ A course user fee of \$20 per horse/rider will apply **each** time the course is used (you do NOT need to be a member of MHT to just use the course)
- ◆ Large groups may take advantage of the course rental fee
- ◆ The course will only be open during set schooling periods that coincide with our derbies throughout the season

Please find more information about memberships and riding on the cross country course on the MHT website under *Memberships*

.MHT Thanks you for your continued support in keeping this sport alive in our province!



Krista Brown and Chanel IV at Fall Otter Creek Horse Trials 2016
MHT Training Reserve Champion

A horse is worth more than riches.
- Spanish Proverb



Manitoba Horse Trials

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2016 Year End Awards

Congratulations!

Training

- ◆ High Point: Paige Dueck and Zoom
- ◆ Reserve: Krista Brown and Chanel IV

Pre-Training

- ◆ High Point: Karla Iverson and Irish Gold
- ◆ Reserve: Paige Dueck and Woody

Entry

- ◆ High Point: Colton Martin and Buckaroo
- ◆ Reserve: No eligible competitor

Pre-Entry

- ◆ High Point: Pat Napier and Charleston
- ◆ Reserve: Joline Bohne and Flin

For eligibility for year end awards, please see the Manitoba Horse Trials website.

Important notes:

- ◆ Pinney number holders will be **required** by all riders participating in any MHT shows! These can be purchased at Greenhawk or other tack stores.
- ◆ Reciprocity Agreements with MHJA, DW and PC are under review for 2017. Stay tuned!
- ◆ Interested in competing at horse trials the US this year? For more information contact Paige Dueck or Eileen Blais!



**** Jumps on the BHP Cross Country Course to be demolished have been marked with a **BIG RED X !!** PLEASE DO NOT JUMP THESE ****



Peter Gray Clinic by Becky Rempel

I attended the Peter Gray clinic on Aug 20-21, 2016. Peter started the clinic with the foundations of balance and suppleness and then applied layers of instructions as we were ready. He used a lot of positive reinforcement of what you and your horse were doing right to encourage you, and then gave you the next thing to challenge you to improve on. I liked how he worked on relaxing the horses and not relying harsh aids, and I could see how the horses settled down to be in the right frame of mind to where they wanted to work with their rider over the jumps in a partnership.

At the end of the day, Peter reviewed the information that we worked on to remind the riders what they learned –

so that they could continue to improve when schooling at home.

When we were working on the cross country jumps, I appreciated how Peter worked with us on connecting one jump with another. He worked on what to do in between the jumps to set you up for success for going over the jump. Peter insisted on challenging us to work towards consistency and excellence over all jumps, he said “if you're going to do only 50 jumps today, they better be 50 quality jumps.”

This picture on the right represents achieving a milestone for us, our first ski jump, and the highest this little horse has ever jumped.



My horse had been pretty nervous about this jump, but with a little help from a lead horse and direction from Peter we were able to conquer our fear and jump it!

I want to thank Manitoba Horse Trials for providing excellent grounds and jumps to hold a clinic and for all their hard work in organizing this event! I will definitely want to go to the next one!