

## Little Traverse Bay Pony Club 2014

### Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going



LTBPC has had a Grand season so far...We have enjoyed a winter camp and a spring camp at our home base in Kingsley at Cedar Creek Crossings taught by the awesome, Susy White. Both camps were well attended and the riders who attended them learned a lot! Subjects such as jumping position, hypothermia, leg wraps, feed & nutrition, dressage and more were covered in a friendly safe environment.

We took 11 riders to Indiana to participate in this year's Quiz Rally and discovered that all of the studying the girls did prior to going, paid off! Anything worth doing is worth working for and I am proud to say that these girls did just that. Now that we have experienced this event, it is time to start studying again and go back to Quiz Rally in 2015 and clean house!!!



Our new riders were anxious to get started preparing themselves for both Ratings and Rallies this year. Cedar Creek Crossings hosted a Rating prep and invited long time PC leader, Rae Birr to come and help us get prepared. She helped our rider's experience what rating will look like and what the individual rider needed to work on to be successful. The regional JLC hosted a weekend long Rally Prep at Copper Creek and we took two teams of riders and horses to participate. The riders felt like they now had an idea what a Rally would feel like and what would be expected. Since Rally is PC's version of competition, we felt like we were now ready to try!

Our next endeavor was hosting D-Camp in Harbor Springs at Katie Colfer Sport Horses. Both Pier port Pony Club and Bay Winds joined LTBPC to teach our D-level riders what they needed to know to rate up in USPC. We had lovely weather, it was a lovely facility and we had wonderful upper level clubbers to share with us what we needed to know. The event was followed up with a rating in which all participants were successful in what they set out to accomplish. Congratulations riders!



Seven of our riders now wanted to tackle competition at this year's regional "Mega Rally" which was a four day event held at Woodbine Farm in Chelsea Michigan. We had two days of show jumping rally and two days of dressage, complete with free style musicals. The riders were judged as teams and everything you do with a horse-counts! We learned what we didn't know about Horse Management, we discovered how to work as a team to be successful. All the riders were thrilled with their experience. We had one rider who qualified for Championships and went on to participate in this year's National event held at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. One you qualify for Championships in this region, you must participate in the regions "Champ Camp" which was held at Copper Creek in Williamston, Michigan. We had approximately 35 regional PC'ers qualify for Championships this year and one of them was from LTB. The commitment is huge but the experience is life changing. Congratulations to Isa Christiansen, our Champion show jumper and her horse "Percy".



Some of our club made the trek to the Kentucky horse park in July to experience both Championships and Festival which is a series of educational clinics, both mounted and unmounted, that takes place once every three years. Because of the wealth of information and the quality of the clinicians, this is something that anyone interested in horses should be considering and making plans for in 2017. You could learn how to play polo cross, identify toxic weeds, better your dressage riding, learn endurance, rehab a horse, get into riding condition, learn the ins and outs of helmet safety, and so much more, as

well as visit the museums in the park and discover what you didn't know about Arabian horses, saddlebreds ect...Even without a horse, this was the trip of a lifetime for some.



We barely caught our breath and some of our members started packing for Cedar Creek Crossings "Young Ladies Horse Camp". This is not an official Pony Club activity but several of our members participated and had a great time. Other members are getting ready for High School Equestrian team competitions and yet others are participating in the local pleasure shows. Five of our members went to Kestrel Farms and participated in a cross country clinic hosted by Sara Matthews and taught by Craig Barshun. It was the highlight of our summer fun with horses for sure!



Looking ahead, LTBPCC is planning on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 at Cedar Creek Crossings to get together for an unmounted meeting (you are welcome to plan riding time at the barn before or after the meeting if you wish) and September 28<sup>th</sup> with Sara Matthews for a mounted meeting, HOWEVER-we have been invited to Craig and Karen Barshuns (in the Lansing area) for a two day cross country clinic. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP so we can determine if we have enough interest to pursue this lovely invitation. For October we are looking at the 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 for our unmounted meeting and the 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. for a mounted meeting taught by Sara Matthews and an open house! We did this last year and invited everyone we knew to come and hear about PC. It was a very successful meeting with some of our current membership joining us at that time. In November we will have our unmounted meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 and we will host a Fall Camp at Cedar Creek Crossings on the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving with Susy White. In December we will have an unmounted meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 and take a look at a day during the winter break for a mounted games party.

Though 2015 is a ways away, we will be looking forward to once again participating in Quiz Rally, hosting Dcamp, going to Super Camp, participating in Rally and Rating for any of our members who would like to grow. We will be looking forward to more cross country opportunities and some friendly games competition with other northern pony clubs. There are also other regional opportunities for our

members that will come along that have not been planned yet but will surely occur. As a club we will strive to learn all we can about our favorite equine partners, how we can take better care of them, how we can be better partners and how we can be the best teammates and friends we can be with our fellow Pony Clubbers in an effort to be the best the equine industry has to offer.

If you are already a part of Pony Club; Congratulations on all that you have accomplished and learned this year! If you would like to be part of Pony Club, please contact us and come to the open house at Cedar Creek Crossings at the end of October, we would love to share with you our experience. Horses are our passion, come ride with us!

Happy Trails,

Jill Byard, LTBPC-DC

231-645-4643