



News Letter

AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

October/November 2008



Ride for Charity

Mark your calendars for **October 18, 2008** for a "Poker Run Fun Charity Trail Ride" to benefit the Reindancer Therapeutic Riding Center in New Egypt, NJ.

A fun day is planned with a continental breakfast at 9:30 with the ride beginning at 10:30AM. Cash Awards will be awarded to the top 3 placings for the Poker Run! A delicious Pulled Pork Dinner will begin at 2:00PM. Other fun activities taking place will be the exciting Chinese Auction and door prizes.

The ride is being hosted by 'In Recess Farm" owned by Jim and Pam Clyne. The ride will take place in the Colliers Mills Wildlife Park. Feel free to download the Pre-Registration form that has been attached to this email. There is a pouring rain date scheduled for the next day. A two year coggins is mandatory and should be attached to the form when mailing or please bring a copy with you if you plan on registering that morning for the ride.

The ride is open to All Breeds and to all Disciplines. Please visit the website www.reindancer.org to find out more about this wonderful charity. If you don't have a horse but would still like to support this charitable event, you may attend the dinner at a \$25 donation.

Stabling in the area is available, please contact Colleen at the number listed below to reserve your stall for those that wish to arrive the night before. Donations are being accepted at this time for either the Chinese Auction or door prizes. Please contact Colleen Roses at 732-850-1473 and we will be more than happy to make arrangements to obtain the donation.

Thank you in advance for your support for this worthy cause!
Charity Trail Ride Committee
Debbie Gastelu
Student Records
Monmouth Regional High School
732-676-9469

Hunt Pace News.

Thank you all for participating in yet another successful Hunt Pace. The weather was beautiful and the turnout was great. We hope you all enjoyed the trails. Proceeds from this years pace will be going to the Charles Weeden III Scholarship Fund, the East Amwell Rescue Squad and to the East Amwell Fire Department.

All the Pace results are on-line at www.avta.net.
See you all next year!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Sat and Sun, Nov 8-9

**THE RED FOX EQUESTRIAN SUPPLY.
FOR A FITTING OCCASION
WITH ROMY TOTA...**



Romy Tota has over 10 years experience as a professional fitting custom made American and European style boots for a variety of Equestrian Disciplines. Choose from our selection of Stock Boots or Specialized Custom Fit Boots from Cavallo, Vogel, Dehner, Ariat, Devon-Aire, Tredstone, and Tuff Rider.



*Reservations preferred between the hours of 10-5.
OPEN 7 DAYS*

**THE RED FOX
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLY**

609-333-8801 • Fax: 609-333-8802

www.RedFoxEquestrian.com

480 Route 31 South, Ringoes, NJ 08551 (at Rocktown Road)

We accept: **VISA • MasterCard • Amex**

G95529

Local Riders Hit the Trail At an International Dressage Show

AVTA members Nicole Seipp, 16, and Christy Pellegrino, 13, competed at the Youth Dressage Festival, held in July in Saugerties NY. The show is an annual event that has hosted riders from ten countries on four continents. Alumni have gone on to represent their countries at the top levels of dressage. So why did the girls practice by tossing balls to each other while mounted and bending down from the saddle to grab carrots from the top of hay bales?

The Youth Dressage Festival is a unique event. Day one is an optional schooling show. Riders ride a dressage test of choice in front of a judge, but they are then required to summarize their scores themselves. They are supervised and provided with adding machines. Likely, this procedure was put in place to teach the competitors to appreciate some of the work provided by organizers. At 6PM, parents enjoy a wine and cheese reception while the riders take a test. Yes, a written test. Each age group has assigned reading to study prior to the show. This is not to be taken lightly as the written score counts as one third of the overall score.

On day two, each competitor rides a standard dressage test. Additionally, they compete in a dressage seat equitation class. These two rides, combined with the written score are combined to determine the final placing. This format allows a rider with a less than fabulous mover the opportunity to do well.

Riders may show as individuals, or form a team. Nicole and Christy partnered with Carly Goldstein from south Jersey to form the Jersey Girls team. Christy and Carly had previously been on the Eastern States Dressage and Combined Training Association Youth Team together. The girls all had respectable scores, but they seemed to be most amused by a special award they received. Teams had the option of participating in a stall decorating contest. The Jersey Girls proudly displayed themes of famous New Jersey natives, Jersey fresh and the Jersey shore. The judging committee gave them special recognition for the best beach. Isn't ironic to think that hours of polishing boots, cleaning tack, studying dressage books and perfecting rides were upstaged by a bikini tied to a stall front and a dollar store fishing rod?

So why did the girls practice with the balls and the carrots?

Day three offered a collection of optional classes, including Prix Caprilli and Dressage Trail. Prix Caprilli is a standard dressage test with three jumps set up in the arena. Jumps are taken as indicated at the trot and canter. The trail class is ridden and judged similarly to a standard dressage test. Horses receive scores in traditional areas such as accuracy and submission, but they must maintain their composure while doing unusual tasks like trotting over rails, circling with one hand on the reins, and tossing a ball, to the judge. Nicole and Christy did very well the specialty classes and had quite a lot of fun.

The Youth Dressage Festival has been on the road for some top dressage riders, including US Olympian Courtney King. It's also been a fun place for kids to enjoy friendship and their horses. The Festival puts into action the message that the girls have heard from trainer Carol Blackman, of Toy Box Farm. Carol has taught them competing is only one small component of life with horses. Showing can be good, but it's important not to get too carried away. The world of horses can be just plain fun and that's something that's too often forgotten.



Nicole reads to Christy. Both have horses at Toy Box Farm.



Before You Hit the Trails, Remember...

Hunting season is upon us, so remember the rules and dates.

Deer Hunting Schedule

Fall Bow (42 days):
Sept. 13-Oct. 31, 2008

Permit Bow (51 days):
Nov. 1-Dec. 24, 26-31, 2008

Six-day Firearm (6 days):
Dec. 8-13, 2008

DO NOT RIDE OFF YOUR PROPERTY THIS WEEK

Permit Muzzleloader (61 days):

Dec. 1-5, 8-13, 20-24, 26-31
Jan. 1- Feb. 14, 2009

Permit Shotgun Season (43 days):

Dec. 3-5, 8-13, Dec. 17-19
Jan. 10- Feb. 14, 2009

Winter Bow (45 days):
Jan. 1-Feb. 21, 2009

SAFETY RULES

1. Always wear Blaze orange on the trails..
2. Use trails from 10AM to 2PM only, especially important on weekends.
3. Wear or carry bells so that hunters can hear you coming. Some riders also attach bells to their saddles
4. Be aware, in areas with signs that say semi wild hunters can hunt small game on Sundays.

When you're young and you fall off a horse, you may break something.

When you're my age and you fall off, you splatter.

~ Roy Rogers

BOARD MEMBERS

President
TRISH BUCKWALTER
(908) 782-7238

Treasurer
JEN EDWARDS
(908) 237-0204

GAEL GARDNER
(609) 466-9472

DI HUNS
(609) 466-7473
PHIL JACOBY
(609) 466-0933

BRYCE THOMPSON
(609) 466-2649

Landowner Relations
JOAN SANK

Trail Mangers
TRISH BUCKWALTER
GAEL GARDNER

Vice President
JOAN SANK
(908) 788-7423

STEPHEN BUXTON
(609) 466-1966

EARL HARTMAN
(908) 782-6566

AUDREY MEAGHER
(908) 526-7213

JENNIFER FISHER
(609) 915-4994

Newsletter
HEIDI JENSEN

Secretary
LYNN EBELING
(609) 466-0695

GAIL CAHILL
(609) 466-4210

BLAINE HUMMEL
(609) 466-2907

MARY MURRIN
(609) 895-1040

Barn Rep
GAIL CAHILL

Web site
TORY JANUIK

Thank You

to all the AVTA Volunteers!

We would like to send out a thank you to all of those volunteers who participated in the trail cleaning and Octobers Hunter Pace. Please look for your names and if I've missed you, forgive me! I just want to send a huge "Thank You" to all of you wonderful people who helped to make today's Pace the rise the busiest we have hosted! We almost ran out of registration forms, and Audrey printed 100!!!

Gael had a hard time finding parking places for everyone but we didn't turn anyone away!

We had only VERY positive feedback - all the riders LOVED the challenging course which we think was close to 12 miles! Makes it worth coming!

Thank you to: (in NO PARTICULAR ORDER!)

Audrey—for the paperwork and everything

Trish—for planning such a great course and Mowing and

Mowing and Mowing and being there forever despite John's pain!

Gael— for organizing, tagging the course, parking, arranging de-flaggers, and everything else.

Jen F—for such great T-shirts and taking over on the day in 2009 :) and for volunteering Judy who spent so many hours at a road crossing and your niece for hanging out and selling T-shirts

Gail—for the excellent brownies and the yummy soup

Joanie— for being there all day and waiting to the bitter end Morgan for doing a great job on the start line

Loretta—thank you again - for the start line -- I hope you like this job because you have it forever!!

Lyn P—thank you as always for check-in duty- you and I will ride it one day!

Kendra—I really appreciate you coming to help -- hope you had fun

Elaine—no-one else can count the money the way you do it!

Laurie—hope you had fun helping instead of riding this year

Penny & Bonnie—thank you both for mid-point

Irvine & Em—Thank you both for mid- point too, and also to Amis & Peaches!

Lynn & Tom (Mr Wounded Knee) for start/finish and last ditch mid-point and hanging out to the bitter end

Jen C—coming to help was beyond the call of duty!

Steve, Zoe and Danielle—registration is so much easier when the riders have forms filled out—hope you had fun, girls!

Jim, Judy and Mary—thank you all for road crossing patrol—the least exciting job but very necessary!

Janice—thanks for delivering mid-point snacks and finally...thanks to {**Phil** for calculating the results so promptly—hope you got to NY in time! And to **Tory** for posting them on the website.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone and if I HAVE missed a name, consider yourself gratefully thanked!

See you next year!

Di



Intrepid Trail Clippers Strike Again

Twenty-four AVTA members and their friends presented themselves, tools in hand, for the six-day trail clearing effort in August and September. Several especially intrepid people worked more than one day. Workdays were sched-



uled for four days in August and two in September to prepare the trails for the October hunter pace and for general trail riding. The groups concentrated on trails off of Van Lieus and Back Brook Road and the Pine Twig area.

Trail clearers came with hats, gloves, bug spray, water and a variety of sharp tools—hand clippers, chain saws, loppers, string trimmers, and hedge trimmers to the task of beating back multiflora rose, wild grape and other noxious plants. The best unexpectedly useful tool was a garden cultivator rake which proved to be just the thing to corral thorny brush and vines whilst someone else clipped it.

By luck we had extraordinarily good weather on all six days, for which we were all thankful. While it was hard work, it was all quite jolly—fun walks in the woods or beautiful days with good company with the added benefit of discovering new trails. What could be better?

So, we hope you had great weather and a very good time at the hunter pace and that you continue to enjoy the beautiful trails. While you are riding along, safe from the vicious thorns of that multiflora rose lurking evilly in the underbrush, send a kind thought to the intrepid trail clearers listed below. And remember, we will need you next year!

Tony Alimecco

Joel Derrico

Carol Johnson

Elayne Alpert

Nancy Derrico

Barbara Lipani

Susan Auer

Roni De Cesare

Edlyn Meringolo

Monica Bogado

Chelsea Ditzell

Mary Murrin

Trish Buckwalter

Lynn Ebeling

Bonnie O'Boyle

Cat Catalogo

Tom Ebeling

Patty Pagano

Gretchen Creasey

Jen Fisher

Diana Schultz

Nancy Cunningham

Margaret Foley

Kathy Swangler

Trail Alert

to the people who ride through Centre Ridge. Be aware that in the big lower field, there is construction going on to build a house with bull dozers etc. working. The owners have given permission for the AVTA to continue to use the edge of the field to get down to the woods. Please be careful.

Unclassified

BOARDING: Private farm in Ringoes has stall available. Excellent care, AVTA trail access plus outdoor sand ring, tack room, wash stalls and pleasant peaceful atmosphere. For more information call Janet (908) 303-1428.

BOARDING—Good Manners Farm : E. Amwell Twsp, near Flemington. Stalls available with unrestricted access to all weather individual paddocks. Grass paddock turnout when weather permits. Heated tack room and hot water wash stall. 100 X 200 fenced in ring. \$550/month. Individualized care. Call Jon & Graciela at 908-782-7277.



RENT: Apartment for rent at Good Manners Farm: Want to live near Flemington, 5 minutes from Rt. 31, and have your horse on premises? Recently renovated sunny 2 bedroom with washer/dryer. Very private. \$1250/mo + utilities. Call Jon & Graciela at 908-782-7277.

News Letter Continued



2008-2009 Fall/Winter Horse Seminars

Join us at the Hampton Inn in Flemington for our exciting Fall/Winter lineup of equine education

October 16, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

When to call the Vet—from the Vet's point of View

Things happen to horses all the time. Here is a primer on when to call and what information the Vet will need when you do.

Presenter: **Michael N. Fugaro, VMD**

Diplomate ACVS

Associate Professor of Equine Studies, Veterinarian Centenary College

November 11, 2008

New Jersey Horse Industry: It's Impact on Open Space, Traditional Agriculture and the Economy of the State

Presentation will focus on the results of the recent study of the equine industry's impact on NJ by the Rutgers Equine Science Center

Presenter: **Dr. Karyn Malinowski**

Director, Rutgers Equine Science Center

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Strategies for Buying or Selling an Equestrian Property

Get to know the niche market, what is important to buyers and sellers in the current market, how preservation, conservation, and zoning can affect the value of a property, and how targeted marketing programs can help.

Presenter: **Laura Gurreri**

Hunterdon Horses and Homes.com

January 13, 2009

Presenter: **Nancy Elberty**

Upcoming Events:

- Oct 18 **Far Hills SteepleChase**
908-412-2929
www.farhillrace.org
- Oct 19 Amwell Valley Hounds
Opening Day
www.avhounds.org
- Oct 26 Bucks County Horse Park
Spookarama
Hunter Pace, Paper Chase and Scavenger Hunts
www.buckscountyhorsepark.org
- Nov 2 CNTRC Fall Poker Ride –
Halloween Costume Contest & Games
**Rain date - Sunday, Nov. 9th
www.cntrc.org
- NOV 9 Amwell Valley Hounds –
Fall Hunter Pace
908-412-2929
www.avhounds.org
- Nov 9 Horse Park of NJ
Turkey Trot
www.horseparkofnewjersey.com
- Nov 16 Monmouth County Hunt Club
Hunter Pace
www.monmouthcountyhunt.com
- Nov 30 Bucks County Horse Park
Thanksgiving Weekend Hunter Pace
www.buckscountyhorsepark.org

Cost: \$10 each or \$25 for series
Pre-register by calling 908 735-5955 or
visit www.hunterdon-chamber.com



46 North Hill Rd.
Ringoes, NJ 08551