



News Letter

AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2010

ANNUAL HUNTER PACE Oct 3rd

Photos courtesy of Jessica Reynolds.



It was a lovely day and the fact that it had rained a few days before made the footing excellent. We had a very small group (40 riders) enter the ride which was very disappointing. Doubly so as the weather had finally changed from hot and dry to cool and fresh. Everyone had a good time though and complimented us on our interesting and well marked course. The only people who had a problem with the course marking were the Ebelings who took down the ribbons on Monday. A lot of them had been hung in sticker bushes which is great to discourage vandalism, but hard to extract.

This is a great ride for ATVA members to ride to see a different part of the trail system. Make a point to do it next year!

We all owe a great thank you to Di Huns. For the past 8 years she has run our annual hunter pace. This is our biggest fund raiser, and requires a great deal of time to coordinate. Di arranges the volunteers, porto potty, calls the gun clubs, makes sure all volunteers know what their job is, makes up kits to take out to midway stops. She even make her husband bring us coffee the morning of.

If you see Di please thank her profusely and if she asks you to volunteer next time be ready to do it.

The AVTA assumes all the costs associated with the pace and divides the proceeds equally between the Amwell Valley Fire Department, the Amwell Valley Rescue Squad and the Charles F Weeden scholarship fund.

Gael Gardner

AMWELL VALLEY ROD AND GUN CLUB aka the Airpark gun club

This year the gun club at the airpark are semi wild which means they will be releasing and then hunting Pheasant during the shot-gun season. They have asked us to stay away from the airpark on the following Saturdays:

Nov 6th,
Nov 20th
Dec 18
Jan 8
Jan 22.

Gael has been mowing up there and opened some old trails that are in the brushy woods below the rifle range. They are nice loopy interconnecting trails and fun to ride. Be aware that the hunters often use the rifle range on weekends. You can use the area but stay on the trails near Wertsville Road or the ones near the lake if you hear gun shots.

RIDING HOURS DURING HUNTING SEASON

Many of you will have received an email about riders who disturbed a hunter in the field by riding too late off their own property. At our next board meeting we will be working on our rules and regulations to make them more clear and definite.

The rule about riding during hunting season will state that you may ride off our own property on the trails only between 10AM and 3PM during hunting season which doesn't end until the beginning of March. You must wear orange vests or helmet covers. This takes effect immediately. After speaking to several gun clubs we have extended by 1 hour the time you may ride.

The Eclectic Equestrian Fattening up Your Horses

By Susan R.G. Lax



Though I usually pride myself on my green pastures, it was not the summer to keep your horses fat and sassy on grass alone. Now we have the winter months to contend with!

Usually we fret that the horses will get too fat on the rich lush grass even when in work, This summer we had a few members of our farm family in need of extra attention. What form that attention came in varied depending upon the horse. Having had thoroughbreds for most of my "horse" life, especially off the track thoroughbreds, I have learned a variety of fat-inducing remedies, supplements, magic, call it what you wish. For the "racing poor" TB, nothing from canola oil to beet pulp worked until I found my magic cure: Hay Stretcher.

The TB can be especially difficulty to keep on weight given their laid-back , non-stressed personality – NOT! So when my vet recommended the hay stretcher I was dubious. Already tried Alphala cubes, which gave me even more TB than usual. But the hay stretcher has worked so well, my TB mare pumped up and was actually mistaken for a warmblood!

Another TB on the farm, however, that is older and retired, seemed to benefit from added alfalfa. Know your horse!

So is there a magic cure? Probably not. But there are tools to determine how to find the right solution for your horse.

First off, do a fecal. Even with sparse grass easily accused as the culprit, worms can be a cause of not putting on weight. Even on a regular worming program, we can too often dismiss such a cause for thinness

If you are worming by alternating pastes every six weeks, are you sure you are hitting the correct parasite? I use a daily wormer and a hit of the five-day Panacur pack Spring and Fall but not without doing a fecal. Sometimes, given pasture conditions, parasites will

indeed "worm" their way into your horses despite your precautions and doing a fecal is very helpful in attacking the problem.

What about a regular dental program? Too many horses need basic floating to correct eating problems. A good dentist can also make sure there is no other cause affecting the horses's mouth that may be unknown to you. It's easy to think that only of the older horse but hey, just like people, horses have good teeth and bad.

And then there's stress in the pasture or even in the stall during feeding time. Is your horse anxious? Are the other horses letting it get to prime real estate in the pasture? Is old Dobbin in the habit of kicking his stall when he eats, stressing out your sweet Gracie? Should they change stalls or pastures?

Or it could be a digestive issue? Is your horse digesting its oats, sweet feed, pelleted grain without problems? Probiotics have become a favorite of horse owners and are manufactured in a variety of ways, even in treats! I'm a fan of just regular Yogurt from the grocery store, which my horses and barn cats get daily.

Beet pulp has been a favorite for years among horses that need an extra, digestible protein. Adding oil to the diet also adds calories and a shiny coat. Just be careful when giving such remedies that you are aware of the pitfalls, such as storage. You don't want soaking beet pulp freezing in the winter or oil becoming rancid in a feed bucket during the summer.

The good news is there seems to be a remedy no matter what the season or reason affecting your horse's diet. The wealth of information online, from fellow horse people and the experts on the Rutgers Equine Science Center's website, are invaluable tools for a good healthy diet for your horse. Just remember: One horse's cure is another's poison. Always check with your vet!

Horsemen Outlet Discount Program for Amwell Valley Trail Association

Horsemen's Outlet proudly supports the Amwell Valley Trail Association and other equestrian clubs by offering a discount program to club members and officers. Bring in your badge, membership letter or other such proof of participation to receive **10% off** the following:

- Ariat Apparel and Footwear
- Tailored Sportsman Apparel
- RJ Classics Apparel
- Charles Owen Helmets

Cut out the coupon below and present it with your membership information to receive the discount!



AVTA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% OFF* THE PURCHASE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- **Ariat Apparel and Footwear**
- **Tailored Sportsman Apparel**
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10% OFF COUPON

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*** PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP AND THIS COUPON ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE DISCOUNT.**



How Not To Ride a Hunter Pace.

Not very long ago, in the beautiful Valley of Am, two friends made plans to ride a Hunter Pace. These friends were Dee Buns and Anne Onnymous. (Names have been changed to protect the innocent although Dee bears a slight resemblance to a member of the AVTA Board. Anne prefers to remain incognito). Their mounts, although the same size and color, could not have been more different. Dee's trusty steed, The Mare, was a seasoned Intermediate event horse with an eating disorder – she liked to do too much of it, resulting in colic surgery, a starvation paddock, a great deal of expensive medication and an eternal quest for the perfect mouthful of grass. The Racehorse, Anne's mount, had not very long ago been a racehorse. He had become a quiet and gentle trail horse, as evidenced by the two friends' many delightful hacks through the quaint Valley of Am. A great decision rode on the Hunter Pace, for Anne had plans to purchase The Racehorse for her own after he had shown his mettle on the Day of the Pace. The Day of the Pace dawned bright and fair, with the perfect amount of give in the footing, water in the creeks of the fair valley, and no mud. Boots and tack polished, immaculately attired, with horses gleaming in the morning sun, the friends set off. The Mare had telepathetically deduced from Dee that more was afoot than a regular Sunday morning hack, and was bouncing off the walls. The Racehorse was his usual amiable self, bidding a cheery hello to the donkeys as he ambled past them. A group of four lost riders from the Pace didn't faze him as they turned and cantered out of sight.

Alas! When they reached the area where many trailers were parked and horses warming up, The Racehorse had a flashback! He was a racehorse, and if there were trailers and horses he must be going racing! Unfortunately, since he had become such a mellow fellow, racing in this instance involved racing backwards at high speed towards ditches and danger. Anne's inclination was to jump ship, but this proved more difficult than she expected due to the reverse nature of The Racehorse's progress, until Dee disembarked rapidly from The Mare and grabbed The Racehorse's bridle. The friends, being of mature years and with a well developed sense of self preservation, decided to walk their horses away from the showground and in a generally homeward direction. The Racehorse, full of bounce, curled himself around Dee for

several miles in that cute way that racehorses have in the paddock before a race. The Mare achieved her goal of eating a great deal of grass because she was built like a Sherman tank and her head, when attached to a blade of grass, was impossible to raise by human hand.

At last the quartet made their way back across the fair Valley of Am to the sanctuary of their own home. The Racehorse by now had resumed his usual gentle demeanor and Anne was able to ride him in the ring in a perfect symphony of woman and horse.

It was at this moment that Dee realized that her very new and very expensive 3G Smartphone was no longer attached to her belt, where she had clipped it in order to be able to summon help in the highly unlikely event of an equestrian emergency. She had no option therefore but to remount The Mare and set off at a snail's pace, back across the valley (which was looking less fair by the minute), retracing her steps and looking and listening for the phone. Friends had offered to call the number in the manner of an echo-locator, but to no avail. Convinced that it had become dislodged when she had hurriedly dismounted, she was bereft when she returned to the site of the Pace to find it still absent. Discouraged, she started to re-retrace her steps across the valley – which was not fair at all! By now, however, The Mare, who had been thwarted not once but twice from her fun and galloping, had become very upset indeed, and was bouncing, bucking and squealing her way home, whilst still being asked to move at a speed appropriate to a telephone hunt. Her rider felt as though she was riding a pogo stick!

Dear Reader, you will be glad to know that this story has a Happy Ending! Less than a quarter mile from home, lo and behold! – Dee found the phone, safe and sounding! Hooray! The Mare was able to have a bit of a run after all, and Anne did not give up – quite – on her plan to purchase The Racehorse who, she is certain, will mellow sufficiently to be renamed The Hunterpacehorse, given time and exposure. So there is a fair chance that they will All Live Happily Ever After!~ Di

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Classifieds

TO SEE MORE CLASSIFIEDS GO TO WWW.AVTA.NET

FOR SALE:

Fancy Polish Arab x Hackney Mare
Registered Half-Arabian, 10 years old, 15.2 hands, rose grey. Very nice mover with plenty of lift and impulsion. Loads of talent and athleticism, would make a great dressage, sport horse or endurance/competitive trail ride prospect. Hacks out alone or in company and loves to hunter pace. Very sweet and willing, and sane. Recently had a month of professional training. Tries hard to please. Nice to have around as well stands in crossties, clips, loads, stands for vet and farrier. UTD on health care, goes barefoot, super nice mare, ready for confident intermediate or advanced rider to take her to the next level. \$5000.
Courtney Keppelman 908-938-2978
~ courtney.keppelman@amcol.com

FOR SALE

ORCHARD GRASS HAY
No Pesticides, Fungicides or Herbicides used in over 5 years. Orchard Grass seed was Certified Organic.
Minimum Purchase – 20 bales
Pickups Preferred
Deliveries by Prior Arrangement
Call (908) 310-6577
for more information

SELF CARE BOARDING AVAILABLE

Horse Boarding on small private farm in East Amwell, Includes entire barn (3) 12 X 12 matted stalls, turnout onto grass pastures, on the Amwell Valley Trails. \$500/month. For more details, contact Sally (908)797-3104 tallyho5us@yahoo.com

BOARDING AVAILABLE FOR OCTOBER 2010: YELLOWWOOD FARM ~ RINGOES, NEW JERSEY 6 ACRES IN THE HEART OF THE AMWELL VALLEY TRAILS

Three Options, You Decide:
1. Barn with 3 stalls with Horse Facilities \$500/Month
2. Self-care Board \$200/Month Design and administer your own specialized care and maintenance program for your equine friend. On-site manager is available for feeding and mucking for additional fee.
3. Full Board \$400/Month We offer 24/7 turnout with ample shelter as well as individual stalls in the barn for the occasional winter ice storm or thunder storms.
This is a small (three horse limit) boarding facility, which means each horse, is provided with individualized care and attention. The owner is a former veterinarian technician &

racetrack groom & the manager lives on the farm. Medication & treatments can be professionally administered if necessary.

Facility: Three-stall barn with loft for hay storage and tack room. Three paddocks with two 10'x20' run-ins. 100x210 outdoor ring suitable for dressage or jumpers.

For more information call Sue at: Robichaud Equestrian Retreats 609-397-2113 or 609-649-3388 www.equestrianretreats.com or horseholiday@comcast.net

FOR SALE

Quality Hay for Sale - First Cut
Call (908)303-1428

FOR SALE

1996 Jackson trailer in good condition, with dressing room.
Call Kathy Luberto 908-236-9518

FREE LEASE WITH OPTION TO OWN

TWH Gelding – ALVIN available as a free lease or potentially free transfer to a great home. Cute, black with white star, 15 hands, close coupled and well-gaited walking horse. He is approximately 13 years old and well trained (did some showing previously, works fine in thering, loves trail riding). He is

healthy, hearty and sound, ok with or without shoes and a nice mover. He has terrific ground manners and is very much a one-person horse. He bonds deeply and expects attention from his person - and can be very frustrated if he doesn't get it, which is why I'd like to find him a great home. Alvin is currently boarded at the Ditzel's farm on Wertsville Road.
Please contact Janice at 646-522-2455 or jk@rosalvin.com for more info.

FREE LEASE WITH OPTION TO BUY

Awesome Icelandic Horse I love this horse, but must sell or lease him. I would like to free lease, with option to buy, my awesome Icelandic 'Horse' (Black, 14.2H, can carry most adults). Icelandics are known for their incredibly smooth TOLTING gait and their comfort for long-distance trail riding. Blaus is about 20 yrs 'young', very fit, sweet tempered and easy to keep. Blaus needs a rider with some confidence, as he will occasionally spook at certain loud noises and will scoot/cantor forward a short ways. He loves to be on the trails. Really fun to ride! If interested, I will arrange a lesson for you with my Icelandic trainer.
Call Cyndi at 609-575-0819



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