

News Letter

AMWELL VALLEY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

September 2009

Hunting Dates 2009-2010

Fall Bow (42days)	September 12 – Dec. 31
Muzzleloader (61 days)	November 21- Feb 13

SIX DAY FIREARM December 7 - December 12

Most dangerous days of the year. Do not leave your own property!

Shotgun (43 days)	November 28 – Feb 9
Winter bow (41 days)	January 1– Feb16

When riding during Hunting season, be sure to:

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.
4. Be aware, in areas with signs that say semi wild hunters can hunt small game on Sundays.
5. During *****SIX DAY FIREARM***** season do not hike or ride off your own property or the property on which you board

There are more hunters in the woods during these 6 days than the rest of the year.

STAY HOME!

There will be some sort of hunters in the field from Sept 12th to mid May.

This has been increasing over the past several years, 1/2 of May to Labor Day are the only hunting free days in New Jersey.

We request that you use the trails only between the hours of 10 and 2.

Remember that this year there will be bow hunting in most areas on Sundays

Hunting Season in the Airpark

We have been contacted by the Amwell Valley Rod and Gun Club about riding in the airpark during the hunting season. They have agreed to let us continue to ride on the airpark trails as long as we say on the defined trails and roads. They have also requested that we keep our voices down while we ride in their area. Deer don't mind horses as much as they mind people on horseback talking.

They also appreciate it that we limit our riders and hikers to the hours between 10 and 2 figuring that most of the hunters are out of the field by 10 and are not likely to return until after 2.



Sharing the Roads

Welcome to East Amwell Township in Hunterdon County. Bicyclists come here to enjoy our rolling hills our beautiful scenery and farms. We are home to many horses and riders who use the same roads as you do. If you've never had to share a road with a horse, there a few things that we'd like you to know.

Horses, despite the size and weight—1,200 pounds or more—are prey animals. When they see something that moves suddenly, or sneaks up on them from behind, they can change from quietly walking along the road to panic mode, bolting, spinning around and doing whatever it takes to get away from the perceived threat. If that happens-- you, the horse and rider—can all get hurt.

So, when coming up behind people on horseback or driving a horse and cart, be safety-minded and courteous. Slow your speed, ride single file and alert the riders to your presence. A simple "hi" or "coming up behind you" will do. Often horseback riders will see you and greet you. Please respond! Not only are they being friendly, but they want their horses to know that --despite moving along the road on strange devices, wearing helmets and making no noise--you are humans, and not a pack of predators.

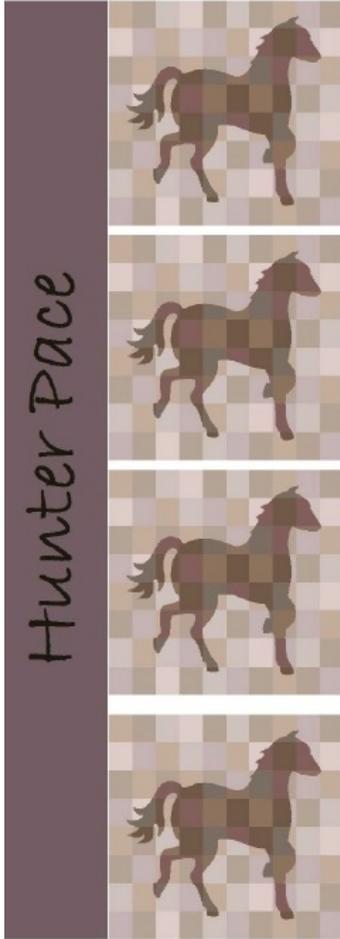
Don't try to sneak by—or try weaving between a group of riders. Horses have exceptional peripheral vision and can act unpredictably and dangerously if they feel threatened. The most experienced horse- person is relatively ineffectual in trying to control a scared horse on a paved road. If horseback riders see you coming, where possible, they will relinquish the road until you've passed.

BTW: if you bring your bike here by car or truck, remember that it's the Law in New Jersey that when approaching or passing a person riding or driving a horse, the driver of the vehicle must slow down to 25mph or less and proceed with caution. And, at the request of, or signal from, the person riding or driving the horse, the operator of the vehicle must stop until the horse passes.

Whether on horseback or on bicycles, but we have something in common—we love the beauty and tranquility found in this part of New Jersey. Please enjoy it with us, and share our roads.



Anwell valley Trail Association



- **Sunday, October 4th, 2009**
 - **9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
 - Rain or Shine
 - **Big Sky Farm**
 - Van Lieu's Rd., Ringoes, NJ
- **Getting Here:**
 - Route 202/31 to 514 (Old York Rd.)
 - 2 miles east to Van Lieu's Rd. on the right.
 - Look for the signs on 202 and 514.
- **Hard hats required.**
- **Please bring water for your horses.**
- **Ribbons in all divisions:**
- **Open, Family, Junior, Senior & Western**
- **Entry Fee:**
 - Adults: \$40. Juniors: \$30.
- **Course is 8 to 10 miles with optional fences.**
- **For more information:**
- **Jen Fisher at 609-915-4994**
- [riderjen77@yahoo.com](mailto: riderjen77@yahoo.com)

If you have signed up to help on fundraising, please call Jen Fisher to tell me how you will help.

At the Annual Meeting

The following things were considered or acted upon:

Newsletter

The board had decided after a year's trial that they will have the newsletter sent out both via snail mail and email from now on. If there is someone who wants it only in one form please let Gael Gardner know. gael@thegardners.org or by phone (609) 466-9472. Gael is going to get in touch with members who have indicated newsletter as their contribution to the AVTA and get them to commit to writing or finding an article for the newsletter.

Membership

As of this date only 119 out of 217 memberships have been received. Phil will send out forms to those who have not renewed. Notices have already gone out either by email or snail mail twice so far.

Bicycles vs Horses

Ronnie Decesare has written a very good article, which was printed in the VIP, concerning the code of conduct that bicyclers need to use when they encounter horses on the road. Gael plans to print Roni's letter in the AVTA newsletter as well.

24th AVTA ANNUAL MEETING AND DOG DAYS OF SUMMER PARTY

Once again the rains held off and we had a nice cool mosquito free evening on the back lawn of Weathertop Farm. About 65 people came with quite a few children who enjoyed the pool even though it wasn't very warm.

The food as usual was great and varied, some excellent salads, fantastic deviled eggs and Eva's fruit salad with Kuala cream which as disappeared very amazingly fast.

Rusty Sank was the chef par excellence. With his new sous-chef, Oliver Katz, they turned out perfectly cooked juice hamburgers and hot dogs at just the right moment.

Gael's new chickens appreciated scraps and were a great decoration on the lawn. The horses hung around the gates hoping for treats but got only pats.

Thank you Gail Cahill for organizing the whole thing – Linda Fox and others for helping with clean up – and of course Fred and Gael for letting us have the "dog day's" party at their home once again.

p.s. Gael says someone left a green and white print towel which she will keep if no one claims it.

Trail Clearing for Fall

It's trail clearing time again. Fall is approaching and with it our hunter pace. This year we will have a new route so different trails need attention.

Trail clearing is scheduled for the following days:

- Saturday, September 5**
- Wednesday, September 9**
- Wednesday, September 16**
- Saturday, September 19**

Come and help us clip and prune our trails. We had a nice turnout for the early summer work and we need even more help this next month. Please let me know which days you can work and what tools you can bring. Hand clippers, loppers, and any other cutting tool will be useful. Chainsaws and their wielders are especially welcome. Email me at mrmurrin1@verizon.net or leave a phone message at (609) 895-1040.

We will meet at Trish Buckwalter's, 125 Back Brook Rd at 9:00. Bring your tools, a hat, bug spray and water.

See you there!



Trail Clearing This Spring

Eleven AVTA members brought willing hands and a variety of sharp tools to the year's first trail clearing parties on May 24 and 27. Tree limbs, multiflora rose and other obnoxious plants were no match for the work crews and their hand clippers, loppers, chain saws, hedge trimmers and gas trimmers. Work parties concentrated on trails around Back Brook, Van Lieus and Laga Court.

The May 24 work party benefited from excellent weather. May 27 was another story—damp and dreary and an ominous sign of what was to come. Unfortunately, the heavy and seemingly endless rains in June forced the cancellation of the two scheduled June clearing dates. Additional clearing dates will be scheduled for the fall before the hunter pace, so watch the web site for the dates.

Other AVTA members continue to work on their own to maintain individual parts of the trail system, and several landowners invest considerable time and effort to keep the trails on or adjacent to their properties nicely groomed. Their names and the areas they tend are listed below along with the names of the May work crews. Trish Buckwalter and Gael Gardner continue to do much of the heavy mowing in their respective ends of the valley. Thanks to everyone for their efforts. If anyone's name has been omitted, please contact Mary Murrin at mr-murrin1@verizon.net and let her know who you are and what area you tend.

We hope that you enjoy the lovely trails and that you are taking care to ride only when they are dry. Our trails are all on private land and we have access because of the generosity of individual land owners. Riding when it's wet and your 1,100 pound horse sinks in up to his fetlocks risks the landowner's ire and everyone's access.

P.S. Thanks from Gael Gardner to Lynn and Tom Ebeling for spending a hot morning trimming back the overheads and the edges of the berms to the west of North Hill road which had made mowing hazardous.

Work Crew members

Eileen Bird
Trish Buckwalter
Jack Derrico
Nancy Derrico
Tom and Lynn Ebeling
Jen Fisher
Rebecca Hazlett
Carol Johnson
Jon Maurer
Mary Murrin
Joan Sank

Self motivated workers

Trish Buckwalter – western end of Amwell Valley
Steve Buxton – Riding Mill
Jay Carter – Maple Run Farm area
Gael Gardner – eastern end of Amwell Valley
Earl Hartman – Back Brook
Bev Hoffman – Welisewitz Road Creek area
Tori Januik Cindy Smith and Tony Alimecco – Centre Ridge area
Dan Mirabito – Back Brook and golf course area
Kate McGreevy – North Hill Rd to air park
Bob Petrolino – Pine Twig area
Barbara Wolfe – Pine Twig

Events for September

20: 14th Annual Tewksbury Trail Association Trail Pace

to be held on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at the Christie Hoffman Park, Fairmount Road West (County Road 512) in Tewksbury Township. New optional jumps this year. Back by popular demand is the option to ride the short course (5-6 miles) or the longer course (about 9 miles). Riders will go out between 8 am-1:30 pm. Bring a picnic and enjoy the day! Don't forget to mark your calendar!

27: Judged Trail Ride

Riders cover a course of approximately 4 – 5 miles with up to 19 obstacles that are judged. This is fun to watch, as horses and riders try to conquer obstacles that one finds in everyday life with horses that think the obstacles are monsters. <http://buckscountyhorsepark.org>

26: Snapper Creek Stables

Extreme Trail Series

Pilesgrove, NJ

A 2 event Show Arena and 2 mile Trail Course. 4 Divisions, Beginner, Junior, Senior, Open Entry fee: \$35, \$25 for Beginners For more information go to www.snappercreekstables.com or call Sue at 856-769-1810

Thank You!

Charles F Weeden

Scholarship Fund Donations

The trail association board would like to thank the members who added donations to their annual renewal check.

Sebastian & Susan Tenebruso,
Janet Herman
Ben Fazio,
Denise Gonsiewski,
Lauren Hannah,
Sharon Doherty
Susan Feeney
Peter Freundlich & Paula Mann,
Elisabet & Paul Schank,
Lise Thompson,
Barbara & Robert Wolfe,

Have you ever seen anything like this year before?....statistically speaking?



Fred Gardner has been keeping weather records since 1999. This in response to this question.

This late spring through midsummer period beats anything I have recorded previously, but a statistician might tell you that a similar period of 2006 was somewhat like it. This year, we had 7.4" in May, 8.0" in June and 7.1" in July for a total of 22.5". August at the moment looks as if it will stay on trend with 3.6" to date and, if it does, that may really put 2009 in a class by itself. We have had individual spring/summer months in many past years with more rain than any of the recent months (e.g. 10.3" in July 2004), but then there was usually normal rainfall on either side. In 2006 we had 18.6" in May-July, 10" of which fell in June, a concentration that has not occurred this year. However, the total is not wildly different and from mid-May to the end of July that year, there were 38 out of 81 days when I recorded rainfall, which on a percentage basis is not far off the 48 out of 92 for May-July this year. There is no question that 2009 is the winner (or loser depending on one's point of view), but we were probably saying much the same sort of thing about the weather three years ago that we are now. Memory, mercifully, tends to be either quite short or so long that we distort it to our own purposes – Fred

Classifieds

Classic Stubbens for SALE

Stubben Siegfried VSS - 161/2" seat and 32 cm tree (wide) - I am the original owner, sadly no longer having a 161/2 inch bottom - asking \$425

VSD / close contact - 17" seat 31 cm tree - New billets \$325 call Gay Mitcell - (908) 806-6553 or e-mail gem49@comcast.net

Horse for Sale

Following knee surgery I am sadly selling Sid, my 6 year-old chestnut Quarter Horse. Great trail horse, goes first, last or alone. Wonderful on Hunter Paces. Lives in or out. Loves to jump, has been used in child and adult lessons. For sale through no fault of his own — \$6,500 negotiable. I need something really smooth to save me from further surgery!! See www.avta.net for pictures Call Di on (609) 466 7473 (H), (609) 558-1074 (C) or plantersro@aol.com.

Horse for Half Lease: Charlie is an attractive paint gelding, 11 yrs. old, 15.1 well mannered, seasoned trail horse, trailers, clips, no vices. On the Amwell Valley Trail System. Half lease is \$250/month. Contact Sally (908)797-3104 or tallyho5us@yahoo.com

Boarding: Horse Boarding on private farm, all-day turnout, 12X12 stalls, excellent, personalized care, on the Amwell Valley Trails. \$350/month. Contact Sally (908)797-3104 or tallyho5us@yahoo.com

FOR RENT: Ringoes, NJ - \$2800/month Yellowwood Farm – 6 Acre Horse Farm in the Heart of East Amwell 3 Bedrooms ~ 2 Baths ~ Living Room/Library/Fireplace ~ Large eat-in Kitchen (Jenn-Air Stove and Dishwasher) ~ Dining Room ~ Mudroom Full Basement with Washer/Dryer ~ Central Air Stalls and House Available August 1, 2009 3 Stall Barn ~ 3 Paddocks ~ Full-Sized Dressage Ring ~Amwell Valley Trails. Contact: Sue Robichaud (609) 397-2113 / (609)649-3388

Boarding: One stall available for Sept 1st, 2009 \$475 per month 12' x 12' stalls - Rubber mats with 12" quarry dust base. Post and rail fence. All day turn-out or in/out option. Free choice hay. Excellent custom feed. Large all weather ring. Round pen. Free blanketing/worming. Direct access to AVTA trails. 155 Backbrook Road Ringoes, NJ Contact: Joan Sank (908) 788-7423

Home Needed : family desperately need a place to live in NJ or PA. Their rental house in NJ has a backyard that has overflowing sewage. They can pay reasonable rent, work for the rent or a combination of the above to cover the rent. He is a farrier and she is very good at training and gentling horses. If anyone can help, please email riderjen77@yahoo.com or call Jennifer Fisher at (609) 915-4994.

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