



# Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

## Mind Your Manners

Please remember that **it is your responsibility to be polite to hunters on any properties you ride on.** They all pay a lot to hunt on those properties and we don't. Recently we received a very nice note from a land owner.

Here in part is what happened. A rider was approached by a hunter I was speaking to yesterday, a true gentleman. He was not treated as I would have expected from one of the trail members to treat an individual who could have been me, if I was hunting my own property. She was rude and said she was unaware that it was deer hunting season. She was not wearing blaze orange which is a safety for hunters and riders alike.

Please make sure that all riders/hikers are aware that it is the hunting season and they should have some color on. And of course politeness is important too.

By the way, when he is in his tree stand, he does put a sign out as he does not want a rider or especially a horse to be spook/frightened.

(THIS HAPPENED AFTER THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER CAME OUT WITH ALL THE HUNTING DATES ON IT.)

## Hemorrhagic Disease Outbreak In White-Tailed Deer



This disease has been confirmed in New Jersey. As far as we can find out as of September there have not been and cases reported in Hunterdon county, but since there are reported cases all around us it is probably only a matter of time before it is here too.

EHD is a naturally occurring disease that affects white-tailed deer and, rarely, domestic livestock. The disease poses no threat to humans. EHD is common throughout the eastern United States and outbreaks occur annually at differing degrees.

Deer contracting EHD may exhibit symptoms of lethargy, often salivate excessively, and appear to lose their fear of humans. Hemorrhaging or lesions of the mouth and tongue are a typical symptom. Severe emaciation may be seen in animals recovering from the disease. Dead or dying deer found near water in late summer or early fall are a common characteristic of an EHD outbreak.

Any deer you see and suspect may be EHD cases the OFWHF should be notified immediately by calling 908-735-6398 or the nearest DFW Regional Office. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/contact.htm>



## Winter Riding Hints

We usually do not close the trails until January, however sometimes there are days when the ground is too wet or to slippery for it to be safe for you or your horse to go out. We hope that you will use good judgment about the ground conditions so that you do not ruin the trails for others. Holes put into the ground at this time of year take many spring and summer months to even out and can seriously damage your horse later not to speak of those members of the AVTA who enjoy hiking. Twisting an ankle or knee in a hole is not fun.

# First Ride

By Sandy Kiser



I arrived at the Fall Festival minus the "pony." Jet, my 15.3 hand American Quarter Horse was scheduled to give pony rides to the kids during this event at my church a few weeks ago, but the weather disrupted our plans. There were quite a few disappointed kids - two in particular who were really looking forward to their very first opportunity to ride a horse.

So the next day, six year-old twins, Jason and David Hinkle, and their parents came out to the Sank farm on Back Brook Rd where I board Jet. *They were fearless!* After several minutes the boys were leading and riding Jet on their own and even enjoying a brief trot (all under watchful eyes and in close proximity to us adults). *They were curious!* After all, who doesn't want to know how a horse poops? Or how to properly hold a horse cookie in your hand so the horse takes it without taking your hand too. *They were adorable!* The smiles and expressions on their faces reminded me of why "horse people" are drawn to horses in the first place. It was a beautiful day for all of us.

Jet Century Three (his registered name) is 31 years old and I've had him for 22 of those years! Joan Sank calls him "the Senator" as he is the senior statesman in the pasture and has garnered the respect of the other geldings. He is a semi-retired show horse turned trail horse. Yes, we still enjoy leisurely rides on the Amwell trails most weekends. Over the years he's had many a mile put on him, has earned an AQHA World Championship and more than 700 performance and halter points. He's mellow, well mannered, and of course, a good babysitter. *He's simply one of a kind!*

There is nothing worse than losing an old friend. I received this note from Sandy Kiser on Nov 28th. "I had to put Jet down this morning due to colic. He was in severe pain with little/no hope for recovery and after 31 years of a good life it was his time. Not an easy thing to do. My heart is crying."  
Jet died quietly outside at the farm that had been his home for years.



## HUNTING DATES 2007-2008

Fall Bow (42days)  
**September 8 –Dec 31**  
Muzzleloader (61 days)  
**November 28 –Feb 9**

\*\*\*SIX DAY FIREARM\*\*\*

**December 3rd – December 8th**  
*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 there 6 days than the rest of the year.*  
**STAY HOME!**

There will be some sort of hunters in the field from Sept 6th 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.

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# A Blanket Statement



Fall is in full swing and you know what that means! You have to lung that “ying yang” horse: before you ride anywhere and you have to get your blankets ready for winter. You remember those blankets, they are still in those black garbage bags where you left them last spring, when you promised yourself that you’d wash and repair them before summer... Ok, Ok they are still “ripe” and in those bags, just where you left them. And you have to get them ready for winter. Here are a few tricks, tips and reminders.



Before you jam that blanket into the washer take a stiff brush and “groom” the blanket to loosen dirt and manure. A shop vac is great for getting out all that loose hair that you do not need in your washer. Though, when I forgot, I would wash my first husband’s underwear next, leaving the machine hair free.

Before you wash, untie all those legs straps that were too long, last year ...but miraculously will not be this season. There are several good blanket wash products on the market but be sure to use COLD WATER and though you think you’ll need Atlas to haul it over the line or fence, do not use the dryer. Water resistant blankets are treated with a chemical that will dissipate when heat is applied. Even if you follow all these rules, the chemical treatment is not designed to last forever. So, you have a great blanket that no longer keeps out the rain. Don’t panic. Rambo makes a great blanket treatment that you can use in the washing machine. It is pricey but it works. There is, of course, my favorite tack store Home Depart where you can find several spray products to treat tents and backpacks. It can revive your blanket, but be sure to follow the directions.

Light cotton sheets under your blankets will make your life easier. Change them regularly like a tee shirt to keep the blanket underside cleaner. Show Sheen type products can be used on your horse to prevent shoulder and wither rubs. Be sure to keep the tail flap area clean to avoid tail rubbing.

These are just a few of the great tips that I have been given over the years and I am sure there are many great horse keeping tips out there, that are worth sharing. So, send them to Gay Mitchell at GEM49@PatMedia.Net.

## TID BITS



**A TIP FOR THOSE WINTER DAYS WHEN THE SNOW IS DEEP OR THE ICE SLIPPERY OR THE WIND IS BLOWING HORIZONTALLY.**

Don’t try to carry your hay out to your horses in your arms. Get a plastic sled from a toy store. Put a rope on the front and also attach an adjustable bungee cord at the front and make a hole at to back of the sled so you can put it over the hay for when it blows over or tips over when you try to pull it over a pile of frozen manure.

## Volunteers Needed!



The AVTA Board is looking for help with two projects. One is a person who can design and help us run a new web site that is more friendly to those of us who need to put up information on it and are not too computer literate.

The other thing we have been trying to find is a member who would volunteer to write or fined article that would be of interest to hikers. Our association has nearly as many hikers as riders and is we think the only trail association in New Jersey who can say that, so we need someone to write for them.



## Unclassified

### WANTED

Robin Parelli, who is a Mercer Co. 4H leader based at Howell Farm, is in need of a used stock, pony or horse trailer for hauling her 4H stock to fairs,etc. Please call her at 609-737-8107.

### FOR SALE

1998 Adam 2 horse trailer w/ hay area  
Very good condition, low use  
Rubber floor Mats  
Divider  
Spare tire (never used)  
7 ft H x 10 ft L x 6 ft W  
\$4000 Please call Mary (908) 806-3371

### FREE LEASE/BUY

'Dante- ex-jumper, 19 years old, 15.3 bay gelding. Good on trails alone or with company. Excellent flat work, can be shown lower level dressage and jumped lightly. He is a little bit of a forward ride so probably not for a beginner. He's well mannered, with good looks, and loads of personality. Free lease with option to buy.'  
Call Corrin Carberry (609) 529-2954 if its after 4:30 or at home (609) 466-1968  
Please call Mary (908) 806-3371



### BOARD

One stall available at Joan Sank's farm on Back Brook Road. \$400 includes 12 X 12 stall, turn out, worming, blanketing and any treatments as needed at no extra charge, older horses or retirees welcome and well loved, ring and access to AVTA trails from property. Call Joan at (908) 788-7423

**TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD  
PLEASE CONTACT GAEL GARDER AT  
GAEL@THEGARDNERS.ORG**

### Touching Equine Poem

When you are tense, let me teach you to relax.

When you are short tempered, let me teach you to be patient.

When you are short sighted, let me teach you to see.

When you are quick to react, let me teach you to be thoughtful.

When you are angry, let me teach you to be serene.

When you feel superior, let me teach you to be respectful.

When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things.

When you are arrogant, let me teach you humility.

When you are lonely, let me be your companion.

When you are tired, let me carry the load.

When you need to learn, let me teach you.

After all, I am your horse.

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### \*And now, the REAL story.....\* Mary Green

When you are tense, let me teach you that there are dragons in the forest, and we need to leave NOW.

When you are short tempered, let me teach you how to slog around the pasture for an hour before you can catch me.

When you are short sighted, let me teach you to figure out where, exactly, in the 40 acres I am hiding.

When you are quick to react let me teach you that herbivore's kick MUCH faster than omnivores.

When you are angry, let me teach you how well I can stand on my hindfeet, because I don't FEEL like cantering on my right lead today, that's why.

When you are worried, let me entertain you with my mystery lameness, GI complaint, and skin disease.



When you feel superior, let me teach you that, mostly, you are the maid service.

When you are self-absorbed let me teach you to PAY ATTENTION. I TOLD you about those dragons in the forest.

When you are arrogant, let me teach you what 1200lbs of a YAHOO-let's-go horse can do when suitably inspired.

When you are lonely, let me be your companion. Let's do lunch. Also, breakfast and dinner.

When you are tired, don't forget the 600lbs of grain that needs to be unloaded.

When you are feeling financially secure, let me teach you the meaning of

"Veterinary Services, additional".

When you need to learn, hang around, bud. I'll learn ya



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