



**Alexandria Equestrian Association
RIDER's DIGEST**

August 2008

2008 Officers:

President:	Judy Tucker
Vice-President:	Barbara Nolan
Treasurer:	Larry Shepard
Secretary:	Becky Nicoletti
Membership:	Maxine Lally-Alexis
Food Coordinator:	Sandy Howell
Trustee	Tom Aversa
Trustee	Bill Daniels

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.aeanj.com

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING OF THE AEA WILL BE:**

**Tuesday August 26, 2008
7:30 pm at the Park**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What is AEA all about?

Let's face it, the main reason people join the Alexandria Equestrian Association is because they love horses. We ride, we show, we board, we compete, and in general we love everything horse. In addition, what goes along with all that horse business are friendships, bonds and connections with other horse people. All good reasons to join AEA.

NEWSLETTER

However, I want to remind everyone that there is another, loftier reason AEA exists, and that is to give back to the community.

From a tax perspective, we are a group defined as a social club organized for pleasure and recreation and exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501 (c) (7). As such, all excess funds are donated to local non-profit organizations. Each year, the AEA Board sits down and votes on what charitable organizations should be targeted for donations. Some charities seem to make the list every year, such as The Salvation Army's Camp Tecumseh on Rt. 625 and the Alexandria Historical Society. Other charities have made it every other year, such as the six fire companies that service all of Alexandria Township and the five rescue squads that do the same. We also gave a one-time donation to the Park in support of building the playground, and a one-time donation to the Dreams Come True Therapeutic Riding program on Rt. 513 when they were struggling to exist.

We try to share the donations across the many deserving charities in the township. It doesn't look like we will ever run out of community groups in need of our support. That's a good thing, as they do so much for our community. So the next time you write out the check for membership dues, or volunteer time at one of the fund raisers, think of it as your way of giving back to the community.

Thanks for all you do,

Judy

Horse Ruminations

“Ah, Clive, prepare my mount won't you please? Apollo threw a shoe yesterday at the hunt, so saddle Count this time if you would, and do use that special bridle. I should be ready to ride in a half hour.”

A conversation ensued recently between some AEA women, the gist of which was indeed profound. One member was heard to lament, “Sometimes I wish I had a horse servant! I went riding by myself the other day. By the time I caught the horse, lead him to the cross-ties, brushed him, picked his hooves, saddled him, sprayed him for flies and bridled him..... I was exhausted! Too tired to climb up in the saddle!”

It's probably safe to say that we've all had that feeling before, just preparatory to a ride. It's also probably safe to say that none of us have that servant to render instructions to.

“You know what, though,” our AEA lady continued, then with a delighted smile, “I finally got out there and it all became so worth it. The day was beautiful, the area was gorgeous. I got to a spot where I'd never been before, and as I pulled up to give my horse a breather, it hit me. I was enjoying myself immensely! Half an hour ago I was all pissed off at the momentary drudgery and now I was feeling a bit sheepish that I'd even been bothered by that. This ride was the coolest thing that I could be doing!!”

My dear lady, you had a revelation of great depth! For what pleasures do we ever receive that haven't first required some small sacrifice from us so that we might enjoy them? But the pleasure of horses seems to be in a class by itself in this regard, don't you think?

How often have you heard it said, “Wow, they must be so much work !” Well, they are! But that's not a bad thing. But there is an undeniable feature that keeps on giving when we're in the saddle. Surely you've paused on a sunset ride, gazed across the horizon and marveled to yourself, “this is exactly where I belong right now.”

Let us remember then, the next time sweat on the brow is rendered by stall mucking or fence mending. It may not always seem it, but these animals enrich our lives more than meets the eye. Horse owners get a bum rap for being allegedly affluent. That's lame. We've just found a better way to enjoy life

Pete Tucker

Fall Hunter Paces – A Silver Lining

So, it's August – the summer is flying past all too quickly. As I updated my monthly calendar this week, it occurred to me that I might as well check the AEA's 2008 Hunter Pace Schedule (www.aeanj.com) and sure enough, the first of the Fall paces is at the end of this month! The Bucks County Horse Park holds its 2008 hunter pace on Sunday August 31st - and what a grand way to start the Fall hunter pace season! John and I participated in the Bucks County Horse Park pace last year for the first time. It was a freezing cold November morning, but that didn't seem to stop the hoards of equestrians who gathered in that cold field in Revere, P.A. (just a thirty minute drive from the Alexandria Township Park). As always, there were riders of every discipline, whether English, Western, or endurance. All were out to enjoy the 8 mile cross-country course through the beautiful, 700 acre Park - just a glimpse of the 25 mile trail system in the Park.

For the uninitiated (and I was one, just a year ago), a hunter pace is the closest you'll get to fox hunting without the actual fox hunting (most appreciated by the foxes!). Riders are sent out in intervals, in teams of two or three. The courses are generally between 6-8 miles, with optional jumps. Your ride is timed, but paces are not races; the idea is not to complete the course the fastest. Rather, the winning team will be the team that finishes closest to the undisclosed ideal time. Last year's par for the course at Bucks County was around 1 hour and 23 minutes; but with teams categorized into “Open”, “North of 40”, “Family”, “Junior” and “Park Members” and ribbons awarded to the top six teams in each category, winning times ranged anywhere up to 3 hours and 30 minutes. There's no pressure – just participate at your own pace and you may be

pleasantly surprised to receive a ribbon in the mail a few weeks later, as we did!

Perhaps the best thing about hunter paces is the opportunity to explore other trail networks in the area. The reputation of Tewkesbury's trail system runs far and wide, and on September 6th, you have the opportunity to ride it for yourself at their annual hunter pace. It's always a good idea to check the sponsoring equestrian association's website beforehand, just to make sure that the pace is open to non-members – some of the trail associations hold member-only paces during the year in addition to an annual "open" pace. It's also a good idea to check the price and rules of entry. Typically, paces cost around \$40 per rider (often, cash only), and riders must wear helmets and proper riding boots.

A closing thought. John and I have often toyed with the idea of taking one of those horse trail vacations, where you spend a week meandering by horseback through the rolling hills of some distant location. But we always joke that we'd feel guilty at the betrayal of our own horses back home. Well, go out and enjoy those other trails guilt-free – our wonderful Alexandria Township trails will await you when you get home, and you'll appreciate them all the more because they truly do stand up to the competition!

Maxine Alexis

TID-BITS

Yes, a pavilion at the park is an inspired idea. It would be used probably more than you might first think. Residents could use it for all sorts of occasions, whether they be planned events or spur of the moment respites for sports teams, walkers etc. A pavilion could also get rented to out-of-township folks looking for a spot for celebration of one sort or another. Ah yes, a revenue generator!

It's not something that will just happen, though! We all will have to raise the 'scratch' to build it, bend our elbows and knees to build it and generally keep working at it 'til it's done.

To that end, a variety of volunteers are needed. Idea people, fundraising people, fundraising idea people.... In short, people willing to give of their

time, their talent, their brains, their brawn or both. People who, slowly but surely, will make yet another improvement at the park a reality. If you can make any sort of contribution or, even if you're not sure what that could be, PLEASE call Judy Tucker at 735-9453 or email at tuckaway-farm@earthlink.net.

A delightful bit of equine entertainment occurred on the week of June 18 at Ann West and Dan Rosenthal's farm on Little York-Pattensburg Road. Dominique Barbier, a foremost Classical Dressage trainer, was the clinician riding several Lusitano stallions, Dan and Ann's pride and joy. And what incredibly beautiful and graceful horses they are! Did you ever see a show horse when the horse just makes it look easy?

Dominique is just a pleasure, too. So if you missed it, he'll be at Rosenthal's again. In fact, he does a clinic there four times a year, so watch future newsletters for an announcement.

A curious confluence of phenomena occurred recently with the Aversa brothers. Some would say that it is indication of a classic mid-life crisis. And we all know, of course, that they are of that age. But we'll let readers make the call!

While peacefully dining at a local restaurant a day or so ago, this writer witnessed a veritable commotion when Tommy Aversa pulled up to the front on a CanAm Spider, a very hot-looking, few of a kind, three-wheeled motorcycle. Ya just have to see this thing!

Seemingly not to be outdone, Sal Aversa just upgraded to a Malibu go-to-fast boat. Black and yellow in color, this machine is to boats what a Corvette is to cars! One onlooker recently quipped, "It is just so Staten Island!"

Well, have at it, Aversa boys! Life is short!

Web Site:

Have you seen the classified section on our website, www.aeanj.com ? There's some mighty nice horses for sale. Other stuff too.

AEA Newsletter:

The newsletter has been up and running on a regular schedule and has had great success with everyone contributing information, articles, stories, etc. this past year. I have enjoyed putting the newsletter together this year but my upcoming schedule will force me to start looking for a new editor for the AEA newsletter. If you are interested in this task, please contact me @ BAN414@embarqmail.com Keep in mind that the newsletter goes out every quarter so it is not a monthly job and I have everything set up and of course will be around to help and support the incoming editor!

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST:

Community Day:

September 27, 2008

Looking for volunteers to work with the following committee chairs: If you have not done so already, please contact us if interested in volunteering!

Food Chairperson – Sandy Howell

Looking for volunteers to Bake or work the food stand. showell456@yahoo.com or 908-996-1081

Parking Chairperson – Barbara Nolan

BAN414@embarqmail.com or 908-996-7489

VOLUNTEER WORK BOND:

If you have completed 5 hours of volunteer service, you are eligible for a refund of the \$50 work bond. Please contact Larry Shepard: navionflyer@aol.com or 908-996-5216 in order to report hours/duty. Checks will be issued at the general membership meetings.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

AEA is accepting classified ads free of charge for AEA members. There is a \$25 fee per ad for non-members. These ads will be put on the AEA web site (text and pictures)! These ads will also be put in the newsletter if the next newsletter distribution schedule coincides with the ad date (text only). These ads will be on the web site for 60 days.

If you have an ad for the web site, contact Judy: tuckaway-farm@earthlink.net.

JETS TICKETS FOR SALE

Looking to sell our two seasonal tickets for the Jets 2008-2009. Lower level, section 139, row 28, seats 20 & 21. Parking passes included, must purchase entire package. Total price \$1800.00 which is face value. Anyone interested, contact Bill Daniels @ 908-996-6722. Not selling individual games. First serious inquiry takes them!

Horses For Sale:

9 yr old Registered Rocky Mountain gelding.

Flashy Chocolate w/Flax Mane & Tail with a great personality, Good trail horse. Asking \$6500.

Contact Barbara @ Rocken Horse Farm 908-996-7489

4 yr old registered Kentucky Mountain Bay gelding.

Stands for vet and farrier. Great ground manners and trailers well. Has some trail miles and basic driving training. Would make a good driving horse or trail horse. Asking \$4000. Contact Barbara @ Rocken Horse Farm 908-996-7489

BUSINESS AD SPACE:

AEA is accepting business ad space in the newsletter. ¼ page or business cards for \$25, ½ for \$50 or full sheet for \$95/issue. Available to members/non-members: Contact Barbara Nolan 908-996-7489 or BAN414@embarqmail.com

