



NEWSLETTER

2009 Alexandria Equestrian Association Officers:

President:	JudyTucker
Vice-President:	Barbara Nolan
Treasurer:	Dick Kimsey
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:**

Wednesday March 4th
7:30-9:00 p.m.

A letter from the President

New Year, New Idea

Winter, winter, winter...when will it end? It has been a cold, icy winter, not one conducive to horseback riding outside. As such, the indoor is getting plenty of use this winter, and that's a good thing. We have had some very successful events of late, with more to come. Check out our web site for dates and stop by with or without horse, as the conversation by the fire is always enjoyable.

It's a new year, and we have a new idea to try out. We want to hear from more

members on what they would like to see from their horse organization. We know it's not always easy to get a word in during the general membership meetings, as the agenda is usually full. So our new idea is to schedule an "open meeting," one without an agenda. Come and tell us what ideas you have for making AEA better for you and your horse. Come and give us some constructive criticism on how we can improve on what exists. The idea here is that if you have comments, feedback, ideas to share, please let us hear them. Or perhaps you just want to know why certain decisions were made, what was the back drop, why did the Board do what they did. We want this to be your meeting, so you decide what you want to say, ask, and share.

Now the downside in scheduling such a meeting is that not everyone will be able to attend. Not a problem, as you can send anyone on the Board an email with your ideas or questions ahead of the meeting. Or you can mail the same to our address: PO Box 75 Pittstown, NJ 08867. Or you can call any of us. Okay, so now we hope you feel like we are listening, because we are.

We have scheduled the Open Agenda Meeting for Wednesday March 4th, 7:30 to 9:00pm at the barn. Please come with ideas, comments, questions or complaints. And about the complaints, please be sure to bring along a possible solution, as we are just a bunch of busy



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Volunteer's just like you, without all the answers. However, together I am sure we can make progress.

....Judy

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"New Year-New Idea"; What a great message. This seems like a good place to share a poem about the reason for our organization – our horses - and...a little perspective perhaps? Enjoy!

Kathy



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*When your day seems out of balance
and so many things go wrong...
When people fight around you
and the clock drags on so long...
When some folks act like children
and fill you with remorse...
Go out into your pasture and wrap
your arms around your horse.
His gentle breath enfolds you as he
watches with those eyes...
He may not have a PhD but he
is oh so wise!
His head rests on your shoulder
you hug him good and tight...
He puts your world in balance
and makes it seem all right.
Your tears will soon stop flowing,
the tension will be eased...
The nonsense has been lifted.
you are quiet and at peace.
So when you need some balance
from the stresses of the day...
The therapy you really need
is out there eating hay !*

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Supertrail Update

Trails Grant - Schick Preserve

The proposed riding and hiking trail around the entire 300+ acres has now been marked out. The next step is for the County Parks Department to document the proposed trail via GPS, once all the snow and ice have disappeared. Using the new maps, there will be a meeting with the DEP in Trenton to get feedback and approval on the final version of the trail. After that, we should be ready to solicit bids from contractors on the clearing work. Our hope was to get busy on clearing before spring, but the snow and ice have slowed the project down a bit.

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A Disgruntled Dumpster-Diver

When folks are at home do they take the horse manure from their trailers and dump it in their garbage cans? Do they muck their stalls and dump it in their recycling containers?

Of course not, you say. So why was I pondering these lofty questions lately while squatted in a dumpster at Alexandria Park picking out, piece by piece, frozen clump by frozen clump, of horse manure the morning after a very successful Gymkhana? For the record, yes I was wearing gloves! But that didn't make the job any less time-consuming OR pleasant.

You see, it turns out that us horse folks aren't looked upon too favorably when



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the on-site dumpsters for trash and recycling are mixed with bucket loads of manure! Would this fall in the common sense category? It would seem so, even to this simpleminded country boy! But then I just get such a thrill extracting OPM (other people's manure) from where it obviously doesn't belong!

Don't get me wrong. It doesn't matter who tossed the manure into the dumpsters. And, I've had the pleasure of this extraction process twice now, once on this occasion and once after a recent team sorting. What matters is that we now spread the word..... NO MANURE IN THE DUMPSTERS! We'll be creating a sign to that effect to be placed near them during any event. In the meantime, please, please, don't make me do this again! It doesn't sit well with the Township Committee!

Maybe, in the future, we can even arrange for a designated composting spot close to the barn somewhere. But until then, put all manure in your muck bucket, put the bucket on your trailer and take it home with you. Then, if you wish to dump it in your garbage cans or your recycling containers..... well, that's up to you!

-Pete Tucker

With a box full of homemade cookies, chocolate kisses and M&M's, the following was delivered to Pete Tucker. We hope we made it up to him.

ODE TO PETE TUCKER

*OUT IN THE DUMPSTER
PETE TUCKER HAD TO GO
TO CLEAN UP ALL THE EXTRA
POOP
LEFT FROM OUR SHOW*

*WITH CHISEL IN HAND
AND A FROWN ON HIS FACE
HE WENT AT THAT POOP
AT AN INCREDIBLE PACE*

*WE ARE SO SORRY HE HAD TO
ENDURE
THE SMELL AND THE STENCH
TO GET TO THE CURE*

*WE LOVE YOU PETE TUCKER AND
YES, YOU ARE THE BEST
IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME
YOU'LL HAVE TO CLEAN UP OUR
MESS*

*WITH LOVE, ADORATION AND
GRATITUDE,
BECKY & THERESE*



*HENCE THE NEW LARGE
"NO MANURE IN DUMPSTER"
SIGN*

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Alexandria Equestrian Association
Sign Project

The 25 MPH sign project is underway. The marketing flyer was created and distributed to several people that expressed an interest in selling sponsorships to local businesses. The cost of sponsoring a sign is a onetime cost of \$95. If you, as a member of AEA, would like to sponsor a sign, perhaps on your road or on a road you ride frequently, please contact any of the AEA Board members. Once we have the signs sold, we will place the order and then pass them on to the Alexandria Township Department of Public Works for installation. Remember, this project is for signs on township roads only.

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**What a success... our first
Gymkhana of 2009**

There were plenty of horses and riders at Alexandria Park's Indoor Arena on Sunday, January 25th. This was the first of a series of gymkhana events to be held at the indoor arena. Alexandria Equestrian Association and Readington Trail Association co-sponsored the event.

The weather was sunny but cold although that didn't seem to put a damper on the spirits of the young and old alike who participated in the day's events. John and Maxine Alexis were there to give it a whirl along with several other AEA members. John even won a PINK ribbon! Congrats John... It was

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great to see so many young people turn out for the day (as well as the adults).

Becky Nicoletti was our Master of Ceremonies and alongside her were plenty of volunteers to help with registration, the course and judging. Therese Kimsey was the announcer for the day with volunteers working the timer. The concession stand was quite busy that day selling hotdogs hand over fist.

We welcomed some new volunteers as well as the regulars. Thanks to Debbie Spork, Karen (sorry do not know your last name), and Patty Cavazza...and now the regulars, Dawn, Sandy, Kathy, Rachel V. We were very happy to have you. We appreciate each and every one of you. (If we left anyone out, please forgive us.)

A special thanks goes out to Pete Tucker who not only warms our spirit but our bodies as well (with his blazing fire).

Ribbons and trophies were awarded to the winners. Champion of the day was Emily Zambanini from Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, and Reserve Champion was Nicole Ellis from Pattenburg, NJ (an AEA member).

If you and your horse want to have a fun day join us Sunday, March 8th, registration at 10:00am, games begin at 11 a.m. at the indoor. You don't need experience or speed, just a willing heart and an able bodied horse/pony. We will



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have two divisions, Youth (13 and under) and Open (14 and over); \$50 for the day or \$5 a class

For more information, to pre-register or volunteer for the day call Therese Kimsey 908-996-7775 or Becky Nicoletti 908-268-6026 or email clearview559@yahoo.com.

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Pizza Fundraiser

The **first** of several upcoming fundraisers, our pizza kit fundraiser was a HUGE success. The total profit was \$815.00.



Just a reminder, these fundraisers help raise money for footing improvements in the indoor. Better footing will benefit all disciplines that use the indoor for their events and the members who just enjoy riding there.

Thanks to all who participated and we hope our next fundraiser will bring more member participation enabling us to double or even triple our earnings!!! The possibilities are endless...

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TIDBITS From "Tuck"

Wonders never cease! Witness this little morsel. John and Maxine Alexis were horseback the other evening and pulled up at our doorstep for a breather. A visit from these two always makes for lively

conversation, so my wife and I immediately joined them from the veranda.

We spoke of recent happenings, yesterday's sorting event at the park, the treacherous ice still on the ground, etc. But it doesn't take long for John to lapse into some jocular nonsense of one sort or another. It was precisely then that both their horses startled a bit with the sound of a muted splat... a direct hit on John's head from an airborne goose. Such excrement!

The wonder here is the question that is begged. How did that goose know? How did that goose realize that the conversation, at that precise moment, needed appropriate punctuation? The Alexis's rode on immediately thereafter, but I can only hope that John showered that evening!

You've heard it said that it's tough to keep a good man down. Is Bill Daniels ever proof of that!! Bill was back in the announcer's booth for the most recent sorting event. There is something particularly comforting about Bill's broadcasting style and it's good to have him back!

Bill's courageous battle with cancer continues and his attitude through it is inspiring. Keep fighting the good fight, Bill. Our thoughts are with you.

- Pete Tucker



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Classifieds

As a student at Delaware Valley College majoring in equine studies, I am required to do an internship this summer. Having been around horses for 12 years I have been BHS certified first level and ride English (jumping, dressage, eventing) and can drive a single horse

Requirements of my internship are:

- ✓ Must be full-time, salaried position
- ✓ Must involve horses

Resume provided upon request

My contact information is:
E-mail: Pizziesa@delval.edu
Cell #: (908) 319-3678
- Sarah

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Beautiful black Angelo-Arab mare 5 yrs old 15.1 jumps, cross country, eventing, & dressage. She is green in all, but trained with the best in Wellington Fla. last year.

Sound, no vices. Imprinted, and started NH way. Sell or lease.

Call Patty for more info 908-730-7093 or e-mail me at wildwings1@hotmail.com
Please see AEA website for a picture of this beautiful girl.

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Full Service Dog Grooming
Snip Doggy Dog
Beauty Parlor

1 on 1 Groomings:
Start to Finish by Susan

Over 20 Years Experience
1985 Graduate of NY School Of Dog Grooming
No Cage Drying
Local References Available

Located in Pittstown, NJ
Please Call For An Appointment

All Breeds Welcome

(908) 735-8101

We'll talk again when its springtime...hope everyone enjoyed.
Take good care !

Kathy

