



NEWSLETTER

2008 Alexandria Equestrian Association 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:

Wednesday December 3rd

What's new? A letter from the President

A lot is new with AEA. Where do I begin? Let's start with updating everyone on the new "Fall Trail Rides." Many of you have asked us over the years to "show us the trails." So our energetic VP, Barb Nolan, took it upon herself to organize a few. Barb put out a sign-up sheet at the General Membership meeting (good reason to attend the meetings) and before we

knew it we had 2 trail rides on the calendar. The first was leaving from our place, Tuckaway Farm. We had 5 riders sign up, but as it turns out 4 had to cancel due to various other commitments. We weren't able to reschedule it, so we went out with our only other rider, Heather Toma. Heather is new to the Township, so it was a treat to be able to show her some trails. The second trail ride was hosted by John and Maxine Alexis. They had 6 riders and from what I hear, it was a hoot. FYI ...whenever you ride with John Alexis it's an adventure, so be prepared. Overall, I would say that our first attempt at organizing a "Fall Trail Ride" event was successful. Shall we do it again?

We have another project in the planning stages to put up 25 MPH road signs when horse and rider are present throughout the township. You may have noticed that Franklin and Union townships already have these signs up on some of their roads. Last month, I went before the Township Committee to ask their support to place the signs on township roads. They endorsed the idea and our Dept. of Public Works will install them once we have purchased them. We are going to try and get sponsors for each sign, asking local businesses to pay for the sign, in exchange for a link from our web site and ads in the newsletter.



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We had a very successful Community Day, despite the ominous weather forecast. The amount of AEA volunteers that either worked the food tent, parked cars, or baked goods was impressive. We couldn't have done it without you. Please come back next year in any capacity, as every little bit helps.

Also, we have winter events being planned. The first is the American Saddlebred Horse Association of NJ Academy show on Sunday November 11th at the Park. If you haven't attended one, it's worth stopping by, or better yet participating. We are planning some gymkhana events, tentatively scheduled to start in January, and they will be co-sponsored with Readington Trail Association. As always, we will have sorting events throughout the winter season. Check the web site for dates and contact information.

And last but not least, clear your calendar to join us for the 2nd annual Trail Owner's Tribute Cocktail Party on Saturday November 22nd at the Quakertown Recreation Club.

You need to RSVP Barb Nolan soon, or else we won't have an accurate count for food and drink.

...Judy

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Schick Reserve Fall Trail Ride - One For the Strong-Hearted

As part of our series of AEA Fall trail rides, John and I offered to lead a group from Henderson's Field on Woolf Road to the Schick Reserve. We set off on a balmy Sunday morning last month, passing along the Foxwoods Trail, through the Alexandria Township municipal property on Hickory Corner Road and along the road to Schick. We had a terrific turnout, picking up riders along the way so that by the time we got to the Reserve, there were 9 of us in our merry band. In true AEA form, the ride was not without drama. Despite our assurances "we know these trails like the back of our hands", we got hopelessly lost in the woods of the Reserve - well, things look so different when the undergrowth is bare in February!! When John and I could no longer find the stream crossing we have used so frequently in past rides, John characteristically shouted "Wait here - I'll find it" and disappeared into a thicket so dense I thought I might never see him again. Reactions varied: Tommy Aversa chuckled so hard he almost fell off his horse - he's seen this before! The smiles of our other fellow riders were replaced by looks ranging from guarded skepticism to bulging eyeballs. Those expressions only intensified when we finally managed to cross the stream only to be met by



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60 degree wooded incline on the other side - Oops! I'm proud to say that all of the horses successfully climbed the hill- some a little faster than others, perhaps (the term "reckless abandon" comes to mind). The rest of our ride went well. All in all, I think everyone had a great time. I think it was refreshing for all of us to ride with folks that we haven't had a chance to ride with before - and a few more AEA members have now been subjected to the legendary trail blazing antics of my desperado husband - a few more now feel my pain!

Maxine Lally-Alexis

Fish Stories.....with fur From, guess who folks? You got it.....Pete Tucker

A few weeks ago, early in the morning, my wife and I were rubbing our eyes over the first cup of coffee. The phone rang, oddly given the hour. Our neighbor, knowing that we'd soon be venturing outside to feed the horses, was seeking to avert any startling surprises. She had been outside already and in our field near the house had spotted a "pretty big bear".

We thanked her and, of course, looked outside but when does one ever get to see

the bear? Not that there was any disbelief on our part. After all, our neighbor is a very credible woman and, indeed, there had been a number of bear sighting stories floating around locally of late.

But the question is always begged.... Just how big was the bear? All we knew is what we were told. It was a "pretty big bear". That description, of course, leaves itself fantastically open to interpretation! But later in the morning we spoke again to our neighbor and she confirmed the previous story. It was a "huge bear".

Well, I guess we were off to the races! Even later that morning it became known that someone else had seen the bear! That person's description wasn't too far off from the first. The bear spotted had been "gigantic".

But already the dye was cast. A pattern was developing. The descriptions of the bear were becoming incrementally grander! By 7:30 PM the bear was bordering on a lyric from an old Jimmy Buffett tune...Kind of a Kodiak-lookin' fellow, about nineteen feet tall.

I went out to feed that morning and I have to admit, I was looking over my shoulder a bit more than usual. Maybe



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I really would get to see the bear. What would I do if I came face to face with the bear?? Again, a Jimmy Buffet lyric came to mind. Why, I'd look that big old bear square in the eye and say, "Ah, Mr. Bear, I love every hair on your twenty seven acre body!"

Such are the fabulous ruminations that arise when a bear shows up in the neighborhood. Stay tuned to future issues. By then maybe I will have seen the bear. Then you'll hear a story!!

-Pete Tucker

Supertrail Update - AEA Receives \$25,000 NJ State Grant

WE DID IT!! We are delighted to announce that the AEA was selected as a recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the State of New Jersey to be used to improve and expand the recreational trail system in Schick Reserve, the 311 acre Hunterdon County public park located between Schick Road and Hickory Corner Road, just minutes from the Alexandria Township Park. Along with many other non-profit groups, the AEA submitted a detailed application in November 2007 for a grant to restore, expand, mark and repair the existing limited trail network in the Reserve. The application was

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accompanied by a letter of support from John Trontis, Director of the Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation. On September 23, 2008, the AEA was notified that it had been awarded the grant under the Federal Highways Program. We plan to use this towards clearing and marking a 10 mile recreational trail in the Reserve. We are extremely thankful to John Trontis, Bill Clother, Tom Shephard and the Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation team for their partnership and support during the grant application process, and look forward to working with them closely in enhancing this treasured public park. We are also thankful to Larry Miller and the State of New Jersey Dept of Environmental Protection. A press release will be sent to local newspapers. The next stage is a meeting with the Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation, on November 19th to obtain formal approval and to develop the plan in more detail.

Maxine Lally-Alexis



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**The Cows Are Out.....and
the Goats.....and the
Sheep!!**

Who was the writer who once said "never let a few facts get in the way of a good story"? It is with that flavor that this writer takes pen in hand to describe certain events in Alexandria Township that took place a few months ago. In a few months, surely you'll agree, memories fade a bit. Certain brain cells meet their demise and the clarity of details is not what it used to be. Nonetheless, a remarkable bit of happenstance took place, the particulars of which I shall try to piece together from those who participated.

Turns out, John Lionetti and his lovely significant other, Rose, were sitting on the veranda sipping coffee one morning. The livestock started sounding off as they will, but John immediately noticed that something was awry. The bleats of the new sheep that he had acquired the day before were not coming from the field that he had pastured them in. John, valiant shepherd that he is, ventured toward the commotion and came upon a shepherd's worst nightmare!

Not only were the sheep on the wrong side of the fence, but also quite intermingled with his goats and his neighbor's goats (Tommy Aversa, that is) and his cattle. All one big frenzied

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accumulation of miscellaneous livestock looking to dart anywhere their scattered pea brains would lead them next! Phones started to ring. John alerted the famous Aversa boys, Sal and Tommy. Mike and Barb Nolan were called into action. They called the Alexis's. Maxine was busy with the kids but her husband sprang into action!

You guessed it, Tonto! A posse soon formed! Accounts of the posse's performance were titillating! Apparently Mike Nolan's mount was best at whirling around like a top. Mike, to his credit stayed on, but it is not known what further contribution he was able to make.

But you should have heard the unequivocal kudos for Barb Nolan! "Outstanding! Heroine of the morning!", ruminated Tom Aversa. "Her bravery was second to none", enthused John Lionetti.

Apparently Barb and her sidekick, John "The Greek" Alexis, performed some horseback heroics during this great herding effort that the cowboys were too intimidated to attempt. A steep precipice had halted all in their tracks, but Barb rode up and said "Boys, outta my way." Horse and rider scaled the cliff and the drive continued.



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Meanwhile, back deep in the woods the Aversa Boys had gotten lost! The drive was succeeding but without them for some time. The varieties of livestock were eventually herded into their respective pastures and the Aversa's re-appeared, bedraggled and briar-torn from prolonged exposure to Alexandria's unyielding tundra. Alexis quipped in their direction, "Thanks for showing up, boys, but we're done here!"

Meanwhile, back on the veranda, it was Miller Time. But it was still morning. Rose knew just what to do! Mimosas!

But, of course, Mimosas, the socially acceptable drink in the AM. And thus began the declivity of brain cells referred to earlier in this story. Oh well, there's a reason they call her "Mimosa Rose"!

-Pete Tucker

Note from the editor ... (editorial privilege woo hoo).....maybe too many mimosa's? The version I heard was most certainly abridged definitely the "lost" part was left out !!



2009 Membership Drive

Just a reminder that we will have a booth set up on the evening of the Trail Owner's Tribute Cocktail Party on November 22nd for membership renewals, so please bring your proof of insurance and checkbook or cash and take up this convenient opportunity to renew your membership. If you rely on United States Equestrian Federation membership for your insurance coverage, please note that the USEF has added a new membership category (only \$35) for riders who do not compete. The USEF has already opened its 2009 membership drive, so renew online at www.usef.org/aua and print off your proof of membership (and insurance) within minutes! Remember that we need proof of separate USEF membership for each rider in a family.

Maxine Lally-Alexis

AEA SWEATSHIRTS

AEA now has sweatshirts for sale!! They are available in crew & hoodies. We are also offering them in 5 colors, Black, Vegas Gold, Forest Green, Navy and Maroon. The logo will be on the front only. If you would like to order a sweatshirt, please fill out the attached order form and send it in along with your check to AEA (address on bottom of order form). The minimum requirement for AEA to place an order is 12 shirts. I will be placing orders



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when the minimum requirement is met. The order form is also on the website! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 908-996-7489 or BAN414@embarqmail.com.

Barbara

TIDBITS From "Tuck"

- **The Most Pies Award** – This year, the winner of this prestigious award is....the envelope, please.... Becky Nicoletti. Becky made nine pies, yes, nine pies that sold like hotcakes at the AEA tent at Community Day. Thanks, Becky! You've raised the pie bar! Sara Lee's got nothing on you.
- AEA member Julie Farneski has vacated her editor position at Horse News. After securing a Master's Degree in psychology, Julie is now employed at the High Point Partial Care facility in Flemington.
Congratulations Julie!
- The AEA Newsletter doesn't just happen. First there are the dreamers (people who dream up stuff to write about), then there are the writers, but then somebody edits it and cohesively formats it for membership consumption. Barb Nolan used to do that. We thank her immensely. Good job, Barb!

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Now taking the reins in that capacity is Kathy Cyphers. Thank you, Kathy! (Are you sure you want to do this?)

CONGRATULATIONS BECKY NICOLETTI!!

Every October the All American Quarter Horse Congress takes place. It is the Largest Single-Breed Horse Show in the World and receives more than 17,000 horse show entries.

Becky Nicoletti competed this year at Congress and was in the Top Ten out of 134 competitors for Novice Amateur Showmanship...What an accomplishment.

Congratulations Becky...you go Girl !!



A Thank You Note from our Food Coordinator

Thank you all for your help and support for AEA's Alexandria Community Day. It was a little touch and go with the weather, but our hot apple pie and brownie ala modes were a huge hit (and a huge profit) for AEA.



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This would certainly not have been possible without all of your help.

The pies were fabulous, the brownies delicious and the workers were great. Dedicated to the end with Team ApplePieAlaMode going out into the departing crowds and bringing them back to our booth so that we ended up selling out!!!!

It was a pleasure, thanks again,

Sandy Howell

Reminder...!

One last reminder.... please join us for the 2nd annual Trail Owner's Tribute Cocktail Party on Saturday November 22nd at the Quakertown Recreation Club. Your RSVP goes to our Vice President, Barb Nolan

A Thank You Note from our Vice President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came out to help with Community Day with a specific thanks going out to those participating in the parking detail. We had a great turnout despite the weather.

Our fun filled day included experiencing Dick Kimsey's bout with

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"Community Day fever" which resulted in the "Dance of Traffic Direction". While this dance was an apparent symptom of "Community Day Fever" and included multi-directional use of the traffic flags, the drivers of the cars understood....they just stopped and waited until the symptom passed. The remainder of the day went smoothly and symptom (dance) free.

Thank you again for your continued support. The day could not have been so very successful without all of your help.

Barbara

I am sure everyone will join me in wishing Dick a very symptomatic free recovery from "Community Day Fever" (hee hee!)



It's Election Season

It is election time, even for AEA. The full AEA Board has served for 2 years, as required by our by-laws. We will take nominations for any and all positions by filling out the AEA nomination form in this newsletter, and sending it to our address:

AEA
PO box 75
Pittstown, NJ



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Nominations will be done anonymously. Deadline for nominations will be November 25th. We will check with anyone nominated to be sure they would be willing to serve on the Board before putting their name on the ballot. Then, at the next general membership meeting on **December 3rd** we hold the election. Only those in attendance will be able to vote by written ballot.

Please make sure to take a look at the last page of the Newsletter...its your ballot !

Classifieds

Pine Chex Cruiser

"Cruiser" is a 6 year old AQHA bay gelding who stands 15.3H. He is by Zippo Pine Chex. He has AQHA points in halter, showmanship, hunter under saddle, hunt seat equitation, western pleasure, and western horsemanship.

He excels at the all-around events, and he also jumps. He was a finalist at the 2007 All-American Quarter Horse Congress. For more information please contact Keith Miller at (570) 417-4205, keith@millerquarterhorses.net or www.millerquarterhorses.net.

Annabelle De Max

"Lucy" is a 3 year old sorrel AQHA/APHA double registered mare. She currently stands 15.3H tall. She

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has 6 months of professional training on her, and she is just about ready to show. She will make any level rider a great horse. For more information please contact Keith Miller at (570) 417-4205, keith@millerquarterhorses.net or www.millerquarterhorses.net.

Marecedes Boo Cue

"Benz" is a 6 year old 16.1H registered QH gelding by WF Two Thumbs Up. He has AQHA points in the youth hunter under saddle, and he is now jumping a full course with finished lead changes. For more information please contact Keith Miller at (570) 417-4205, keith@millerquarterhorses.net or www.millerquarterhorses.net.

Looking forward to the next edition....it was a pleasure.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season....We'll talk next year !

Kathy



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AEA Board
Nominations
2009 - 2010

Send your confidential ballots to:

AEA
PO box 75
Pittstown, NJ

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