



NEWSLETTER

RIDER's DIGEST

May 2005

2004 Officers:

President:	Lou Corbo
Vice-President:	Tom Aversa
Treasurer:	Judy Tucker
Secretary:	Scott Whitaker
Membership/newsletter:	Sherri Dolan
Trustee	Pete Tucker
Trustee	Bill Daniels

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE AEA WILL BE: May 24th, 7:30pm at the Alexandria Twsp Park.

TEAM PENNING SATURDAY, May 7th!

 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.aea-nj.com

PENNERS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

Just plain having fun has always been one of AEA's hallmarks. To that end, recent team penning events have been "spot on"! They've been well attended, well done and thoroughly enjoyed by lots of folks.

The foremost fun here is obviously the competition; the rigors of cutting cattle on horseback. Then comes the small stuff that may add up to nearly half the fun! Some

of those things shouldn't even be laughed at. When a guy falls off his horse, that's serious business.

But when Phil Rochelle picks himself back up, shakes off the stonedust and re-mounts...well that's worth a laugh or ten. This was, of course, accompanied with a few macho caveats from the rider himself attempting to dissuade even the slightest perceptions of faulty horsemanship...some hair-splitting diatribe as to the difference between being thrown and the horse making an improper move. But the damage was already done, Phil. Besides, it's O.K. that you fell off!

Just after the last penning event this writer was working in the arena, fork and muck bucket in hand. AEA member, Jim Virgo, was a fellow shoveler at the arena's other end. The cows were still in-house and Jim happened to divert one toward the pen.

"Hey, Pete", he yelled. "Let's see if we can do this on foot!" Jim chased the critter closer to the pen. I threw up my arms and screeched, the cow threw a move, I countered and, bingo, it ran in the pen!

"This ain't that tough", Jim mused. We'll keep you posted, but talks are already underway with the Penning Commission toward an additional "horseless and afoot" feature at our next event. The commission is concerned, however, about how popular this may become.

A fireside chat ensued at this same event. Plans were developing among some members for a karaoke rendezvous that night at the Little York Tavern. It came to pass and a raucous time was had by all. My, those Aversa's are a talented bunch! Singing like you've never heard and an eclectic mix of tunes, to boot. Folsom Prison Blues and Paradise By the Dashboard Light... do they even belong in the same performance?

On a serious note- if you can believe that- AEA membership volunteerism at these penning events has been outstanding. Even our association checkbook appreciates it. That balance is at record levels!

THE PLAYGROUND GETS SERIOUS

We tend to sound like a broken record asking for volunteers all the time. This time it's not even for AEA. You may recall sometime last year that AEA donated the proceeds from one of its team penning events to the playground building effort at the park. The playground committee has raised a lot of funds since then. The erection of the structure will take place on Saturday, June 11, 2005.

AEA is looking to have volunteer presence at the park on June 11. It is shaping up to be a "barn raising" type community event. Any hours worked on this day may be counted toward your yearly AEA volunteer total. All work will be supervised so all that is needed is your enthusiasm and "elbow grease". Lunch and refreshments will be served. Work hours will be from 7AM to 7PM, but partial days are welcome if that's what you can give. Please mark this date on your calendar and let Judy Tucker (735-9453) or Sal Aversa (996-0014) know if you can make it. We're attempting to know in advance how many AEA hands there will be. So far we have 11 members.

Who knows? We may even have some fun!

All AEA family members who volunteer will receive a free AEA T-shirt!

TRAIL CLEARING AT THE SCHICK PRESERVE

Trail clearing at the Schick Preserve is in progress. We've had two sessions thus far and more scheduled. Please check the AEA website www.aea-nj.com for dates and times or call Judy Tucker or Lou Corbo. This is not a small undertaking but it's great to see progress being made.

Until the trail is finished and parking arrangements made it is still OK to ride at Schick Preserve. Two points need emphasis. Trailers can be pulled off to the side of Schick Road just as you have driven onto it from Hickory Corner Road. Also, stay to the very edge of fields while riding!!! That is the only request that the very cooperative farmer makes (Frank Kocsis). Thanks, Frank!

We are attempting to make parking arrangements at a contiguous property but that has been delayed a bit. Stay tuned to future newsletter or the website.

GROPING FOR A STORY!

As a two decades plus veteran in the newspaper business this writer well remembers those issues that were, well, thin. The beat wasn't rife with news that week and what was being printed was marginally newsworthy. Thank goodness for retirement. Those issues weren't too enjoyable! You did the best you could to make a story sound like a story and moved on.

Déjà vu! Here's one of those stories. Fair warning! It's mundane stuff. Not all would agree, though. For some it's momentous and it goes like this. The Feb. 12 team penning was at a fever pitch. Lots of spectators and riders were enjoying the show. As luck would have it, our one and only toilet at the indoor chose that moment to go on "the fritz". It would not be fixed! We tried and we tried.

There is now a newly renovated restroom at the indoor! New floor, new vanity, new toilet--the works! Why, you ask, is this momentous for some? Well, consider the situation on Feb. 12. Especially consider the women. Oh, those tortured grimaces! Twisted mouths. That panicked glare in their eyes! The silent anguish of unacceptable choices surrounding a simple relief of one's bladder! Where to go? A stall? Outside! In somebody's trailer? The weeds. Yikes! Was it Confucius who said that the most appreciated restroom is the one that doesn't work?

Thanks, incidentally, to the Alexandria Twp. Park Committee for finding room in their budget for this job. And thanks to Joe and Frank at A Plumber Now for understanding the urgency of the situation.

The T-shirts are coming, The T-shirts are coming!

Yes, with any luck the NEW AEA shirts will be available for sale at the next team penning event on May 7. Thanks to Susan Rochelle for the clever design you are bound to like. We plan on keeping an inventory of shirts all year long in adult and children sizes. If you would like to buy some contact Judy Tucker at tuckaway-farm@earthlink.net 735-9453. All shirts will be \$10.

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 Susan Rocca at:

Amazingmane@aol.com or 908 479-6565 in order to report hours/duty. Checks will be issued at the general membership meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 7th - Team Penning

Sept 24th – Community Day

Oct 22nd – AEA annual Picnic

LUSSCROFT FARMS HORSEBACK TRAIL RIDE

Location: Neilson Road, Wantage Township
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Rain or Shine
Fee: \$20.00/person for ride and Bar-BQ
(Hotdogs/Hamburgers)
Purpose: Fundraiser for Heritage and Agriculture Association to support Lusscroft Farm
Parking: Ample for trailers
Facilities: Porta-John and water

Specifics for Equestrians:

Footing: Rocky
Shoes Recommended: Yes
Terrain: Hilly
Required: Proof of Coggins

Reservations Required – RSVP & checks no later than
May 30th 973-948-3814 after 6:00 p.m.
e-mail: gldg@nji.com

Checks made out to: Heritage and Agriculture Association
Mail to: Sussex County Agriculture Development Board
One Spring Street, Newton, NJ 07860

Driving directions provided upon request

CLASSIFIED ADS:

A lovely, newly renovated 3BR, 2B country cottage on 8 mature acres available in Hunterdon County! The property also includes a handsome, red lofted barn (electricity) with 4 horse stalls and a charming 2-car garage that would be ideal for a workshop. The house features a master suite with full bath and nice office with large windows facing south overlooking a 50 acre farm. Some of the benefits include ceiling fan and quality, vented gas-log fireplace in living room, dining room, new GE refrigerator, stove and dishwasher in kitchen, basement laundry room with Maytag W/D and laundry sink! Hardwood and ceramic tile floors, new and working windows throughout, all new light fixtures, plenty of electric outlets and a bonus of delicious well water!!! The house sits off the road on this serene property that displays gorgeous old trees. Must see!!

One year lease required
\$2800/month
Security deposit of 2 months required
Electricity not included

Contact owner directly with name and phone number @
: jordanjablons@att.net