



NEWSLETTER

RIDER'S DIGEST

February 2008

2008 Officers

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE!

I know, the word is a bit overused these days given the political atmosphere, but it just happens to apply to many things going on in our equestrian organization. Let me share some of the most recent changes.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

www.aeanj.com

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE AEA WILL BE: FEBRUARY 19, 2008 (7:30)

PARK NEWS:

AEA Members,

This is to let everyone know that the Park will be occupied, and we mean fully occupied, the whole weekend of 4/26 and 4/27. We should stay away as there will be no room for even one horse trailer. Thank you.

AEA Board

Board of Directors

Sherri Dolan and Lou Corbo have resigned their positions on the Board, but they will remain AEA members. AEA thanks both Sherri and Lou for their many years of service and dedication. As luck would have it, several Board members have opted to fill these open positions. Maxine Alexis has moved from Secretary to Membership Chair, and Barb Nolan has moved from Food Coordinator to Vice President. That leaves the positions of secretary and food coordinator open. At the next general membership meeting, Tuesday, February 19th, we will take nominations for those positions and a formal vote to fill the openings. Although we have one nomination for each position, please let us know if you would like to nominate someone or perhaps even yourself.

Indoor

Recently, the AEA Board sent out a note to those riding in the indoor on changes we have made to the rules governing the facility. We have kept all the rules the same (must sign in and sign out, must clean up all manure in the arena, stalls and parking lot whether or not it is from your horse) but, if for some reason you overlooked a spot there will be no reprimand as before. The consequences are gone. Instead, the Board voted to ask those that frequent the indoor to sign up for "15 minutes of stable duty" once in a week (not every day or every week just one day in the week you signed up for). What is involved in this you ask? Well, it's merely the same thing you would do at the end of your ride; scour the arena, stalls and parking lot for any manure that was left behind unintentionally. The reason we changed these rules was to avoid finger pointing and hard feelings between riders when someone forgot a little manure here or there. We know that no one does this on purpose, but, hey, we are all human and therefore prone to miss some once in a while. We believe this change will result in improved camaraderie among the riders, and a more enjoyable atmosphere in the arena.

Footing

Oh yes, the footing. Well, here is where it stands. As promised, we contacted two outside consultants for an opinion on our footing. When I told them we had a multi disciplined group of riders we were trying to please, they first responded, "good luck." They know all about the various disciplines, as one group I talked to is responsible for the NY State fairgrounds, where they host horse shows that cover the spectrum. Apparently, they remove the footing after a western event and put down different footing for the English riders. Not what we wanted to hear. Never the less, we sent off a sample of our footing to this group, Northbrook Farm in upstate New York,

where upon they analyzed the material and suggested two options. The bottom line is that both options would cost a great deal of money, and at this time AEA is not in a financial position to take on that liability.

At this point, we know the sand movement and the lack of grooming, rather than depth per se, is the root of our footing issue. Grooming may be something we can do something about without costing a bundle. Stay tuned.

Trails

We have some real positive changes going on over at the Schick Reserve, our 300+ acre county parkland in Alexandria Township. See Maxine's article further on in this newsletter for the full story.

By-laws

After many months of review, the Board has finalized the organization by-laws, making them more suited to our equestrian association. They will be available on our web site before the general membership meeting, and we need to vote on them at the meeting. Anyone wishing to comment on them, please do so before the meeting, if possible.

Events

Team sorting is not new to AEA, but those leading the effort this year are. Phil Rochelle and BJ Grieco ran the show for as many years as we have been hosting the events. They did a wonderful job, but they need a break. So Bob Moore, Bill Daniels and Larry Shepard have volunteered to lead the effort for 2008. Kudos to them for stepping up, and continuing a good thing. See Larry's article further on with details on the first event of the year.

Cocktail Party

Talk about change! Instead of an annual picnic, we opted to try hosting a fall cocktail party in November 2007. We had a great turnout, including many people outside the association, and we received lots of positive feedback. It seems we are a group of people well suited for cocktails. Hmm...no comment.

I hope to you see at the next meeting on Tuesday February 19th 7:30pm at the Park.

Judy

A Supertrail Smoulders in Alexandria Township

Picture an eighteenth century oil painting landscape. A soothing golden hay pasture swaying as it gently slopes down to meet an oak treeline; a farmer's tractor path meandering through the trees, on towards another idyllic setting in the distance. In twenty-first century terms, a view that property developer would kill for. This is what we stumbled into while trail blazing the new 10 mile multi-purpose trail over at the Schick Reserve this past Sunday. The AEA has joined forces with the Hunterdon County Department of Parks and Recreation to develop an expansive trail network through the 311 acre Reserve, which is located within a half mile of the Alexandria Township Park. We are also looking for ways to link the Reserve directly to the Township Park, avoiding the walk along Hickory Corner Road. The effort began in December when we heard, through our involvement with the Central Jersey Horse Trail Coalition – a loose affiliation of several trail associations that serves (among other things) as a forum for disseminating information and news about horse-related issues – of the availability of State of New Jersey grants for developing recreational trails. Grants, you say? Free money? Given the AEA's current

financial situation following the devastating impact of the Equine Herpes outbreak on our team sorting season last winter, we were all ears... Thanks to an effort led by John Alexis that, given the deadline of a matter of days, can only be described as monumental (your AEA Board members still grimace when we recall those words, "Right, lets just get this application completed tonight!"), a detailed application for a \$25,000 grant (the maximum amount permitted) was put together describing AEA plans to "restore, expand, mark and repair" the existing trail network in the Schick Reserve, accompanied by a letter of "wholehearted endorsement" from John Trontis, of the Dept. of Parks and Rec. In true governmental style, it will take many months before we know whether our application has been successful, but in the meantime it has spurred us to start marking out the proposed trail. A number of us (so far comprising Pete and Judy Tucker, Skip and Tommy Aversa, John and myself – although we are always hopeful for more volunteers!!!) have met at the Reserve each Sunday for the past three weeks, armed with pruners and enough caution tape to make the Preserve visible from space. The trail we marked out is already a few miles long – and we've only scraped the surface in terms of the Preserve's full potential. We'll be meeting again this Sunday; this time to walk the trail so far identified with Bill Clothier of the Dept. of Parks and Rec to get preliminary approval and begin the formal process of obtaining County approval.

This is the beginning of a long process given our grandiose plans, but hey – you've got to start somewhere and it's a terrific start. Like any conquering heroes, we've had our setbacks. Last week we discovered that someone had removed most of our caution tape markers – to the perpetrators, I say "You may strip me of my markers, Sir, but you cannot take away my steely determination!" It's also been a great way to invigorate our trail riding experience. It's so much more fun to ride with a purpose! And it's been great on-the-job training for our

horses – Sonny is getting quite good at patiently waiting while I contort myself beyond limits as I tie caution tape around trees; while John's horse, Reno, proved his worth by standing patiently ground-tied for fifteen minutes while John hacked away at a fallen tree. All in all, the experience has been so worthwhile that it no longer seems to matter whether or not we get the grant (which is intended to be spent bringing in County-approved contractors to clear the trail mechanically in areas where our manual efforts fall dismally short, and perhaps even to bridge the odd stream-crossing). Pending County approval, we've already opened up a fabulous new trail (which I urge all of you to take advantage of – feel free to contact Judy or I for details) and have created real possibilities for a new fund-raising events – in the words of Pete Tucker, "Can you say 'Hunter-Pace'?"

Maxine

TEAM SORTING NEWS:

Event dates:

February 2, 2008
February 23, 2008
March 22, 2008
April 12, 2008
May 3, 2008

Start Time had been changed:

Registration – 11:00am
Start time – 12:00

For more information contact Bob Moore – rmooore08848@yahoo.com or 908-479-0178, Larry Shepard- navionflyr@aol.com or 908-996-5216, Bill Daniels – Willmilf00@aol.com or 908-996-6722.

Volunteers Needed! Please contact Sandy Howell – showell456@yahoo.com or 908-996- 1081

Weekend of Feb. 2-3

For those of you who may be a little out of touch with local happenings here's a quick run down of the referenced weekends' activities ... The NY Giants Won the Super Bowl!! ... And oh yeah, the AEA had a very nice equestrian activity too! Seriously, we had a VERY NICE equestrian activity.

We were scheduled to have our first Team Sorting event of the year on Sat. Feb. 02 and the setup on Friday evening went very well. Thanks in no small part to the prior planning, organization, coordination and organization of Bob Moore (who got up from his near death bed to join us on Saturday.. Bob was fighting a "killer" cold brought home from a recent business trip to Germany). And thanks in no small part to Tom Aversa for building the doors and gates to the "new" cow holding pens and assisting with the set up Friday. And especially thanks to Phil Rochelle for providing valuable insight, inspiration and arranging for the cows (which came all the way from Cape May) .. Thanks also to Dick Kimsey (a new volunteer this year), Bill Daniels, John Alexis and yours truly for their assistance on Friday evening.

The weather on that Saturday, as you may recall, was exceptional for early February and the turn out was equally exceptional .. we had riders come from as far away as Long Island and South Jersey (almost a 3 hour drive). Special thanks must be given to our announcer (Bill Daniels) who makes a fun activity even more enjoyable and to Kathy Daniels (his lovely wife), who did a fantastic job of manning the score-keeping clock. BTW we may need to post a sign in the arena for future events that reminds riders that "1" always follows "0" you had to have been there. Additional and invaluable arena help was provided on Saturday by Dick Kimsey, Bob Moore (his lovely wife, "Jing" handled the registration desk), Steve Massey (a new family member) and others, whose names have been lost in

the glow and excitement of our success. I don't know who to thank for the tear down on Sunday morning ... all I know is that when I arrived at the appointed time there was almost nothing left to do but take the nearly full manure bucket home (Rachel Kimsey did the manure "policing" ... thanks Rachel).

Ok, here are the numbers from the early returns (that phraseology seems appropriate considering the current political activity)... We had a total of 229 riders sign up. At \$10/each, that equaled a gross income of \$2,290. The cows (24 of them) cost \$30/head for a total of \$720 making the net for the riding portion of our activity \$1,570 (\$2,290-\$720). The food concession did quite well also (how could it not? ... they sold every last slice of 9 Pizza's, plus coffee and soft drinks to wash them down) ... In the end the food concession netted an even \$170 ... So the weekend's activity brought a combined total of \$1,740 into the AEA treasury.

Linda (my lovely wife) heard some very nice compliments from the riders about our "new" setup AND the arena in general while she was behind the counter "slinging hash." Speaking of the food concession .. we were "inspected" by the organization that issues our food delivery certificate .. I didn't hear specifically how that went but I assume that since we weren't shut down, we passed ... thanks to all the girls behind the "counter" and especially to Barb Nolan for her hard work and coordination.

Finally, this was a fantastic start to our 2008 season and hopefully it won't be the "high water mark" .. the only downside to this great event was that there weren't more "new" faces to assist with the food concession, registration, setup/teardown and riding ... maybe that will be different at our next event on the 23rd of February.

Respectfully Larry Shepard, Treasurer

PS: If I failed to mention anyone who contributed their time or talent to this success ... my sincere apologies.

UPCOMING EVENT:

Foundation First and Training Trail Obstacles Clinic:

Co-Hosted by AEA and NEMHC

Date: March 15th

Location: Alexandria Park (Indoor Arena)

Clinician- Robert Lawson of Paris Kentucky

Clinic Start Time – 10am (rain or shine)

For More Information Contact:

Pam & Randy Smith – RLPK57@aol.com or 717-266-2136- NEMHC

Barbara Nolan – BAN414@aol.com or 908-996-7489 - AEA

See Attached Flyer/Registration Form

Volunteers Needed! Please contact Sandy Howell – showell456@yahoo.com or 908-996-1081.

COMPETITION RESULTS!

Rachel Kimsey competed for the first time this summer in the Eastern Pennsylvania Gymkhana Association. At the year-end awards she was the Reserve Champion in the youth division and also Reserve Champion in the McNair Memorial Show. She was also awarded Rookie of the Year.

At the New Jersey 4-H State Competition, Rachel was 3rd in the State for Barrel Racing, 6th for Pole Bending and 7th for Keyhole.

At the Somerset 4-H year-end awards, Rachel was awarded Champion for speed competitions.

Congratulations Rachel!!

Community Day:

September 20, 2008

Looking for volunteers to work with the committee chairs: Contact to following people if interested:

Food Chairperson – Sandy Howell
showell456@yahoo.com or 908-996-1081

Parking Chairperson – Barbara Nolan
BAN414@aol.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 at: navionflyr@aol.com or call 908-996-5216 in order to report hours/duty. Checks will be issued at the general membership meetings.

TIDBITS:

Paul Bunyan paled in comparison. When John Alexis shows up at Schick Preserve to clear trails a gritty determination is wrought on his face. Viewing him from behind on horseback it looks as though his bucksaw is actually sticking out of his back! It might as well be. He's so focused that he wouldn't notice anyway.

But then it's time for the first scrub-brush to get lost. John leaps from his horse, whips the saw from his knapsack and the wood chips go flying like there were a hundred frenzied beavers on site!

Good to have John on our side! Heck, this little Schick place is only three hundred or so acres. That won't get in the way of Big John.

Hark! An AEA milestone. Finally a newsletter that's written largely by someone else other than our resident big mouth, Pete Tucker. In fact, he profusely thanks all other contributors and encourages their continued good work!

A funny thing happened on the way to team-sorting. Barb Nolan, in her normal diligent pace, was looking in her home freezer for some supplies to take to the event. A substantial piece of frozen meat fell and landed square on her pinky toe. Barb winced a bit but the show had to go on!

Later that day, with the pain not subsiding from inside her shoe, Barb resolved to bare her foot to have a look. Not pretty. Black. Blue. Swollen. Yes, later it was determined that she had a broken toe!

These horse and cattle events do pose their dangers! Good thing we have gutsy women like Barb Nolan who grabs the bull by the horns and gets so much of the work done.

Pete

AEA T-SHIRTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

If you would like to buy t-shirts contact Susan Rochelle at 238-9200. All shirts will be \$10.00.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

Stalls Available:

Two 12 x 12 box stalls available immediately for boarders, large pastures with daily individual turnout. Round pen and grass riding arena available. Lots of trails. Call Becky 908-268-6026 very reasonable

For Sale:

15" Dakota reining saddle model 820. Black. Used for four months and in excellent condition. \$600.

Contact David at maxmar@patmedia.net or 908 240-2699.

Looking For Help With Your Barn Or Horses?

Looking for a reliable hand that will give you an honest days work..then look no further. Rachel Kimsey is available for barn work and/or exercising your horses. She has many years experience and will supply references if needed. If interested, please call her at 908-996-7775



“Foundation First”

Saturday - March 15, 2008 10AM

Alexandria Park in Milford, NJ

Robert Lawson of Paris, Kentucky, a highly respected and successful horse trainer, will present his “Foundation First” clinic on March 15, 2008. This Award Winning 2005 Trainer of the Year, will demonstrate his training methods by using several broke horses at different levels of discipline.

In the afternoon session, Clinician Robert Lawson will continue to educate auditors by demonstrating how to train your horse to safely navigate various types of obstacles found on the trail. Whether you have a weanling, a mature horse, or something in between, the information that you learn from the “Foundation First” clinic will create a more solid and safer ride for you and your horse.

This clinic is being hosted by the Alexandria Equestrian Association and presented by the Northeast Mountain Horse Club.

Clinic starts at 10AM. Lunch will be available for purchase on site.
Contact Pam or Randy Smith at 717-266-2137 or RLPK57@aol.com for more information.

Mapquest Directions:
Alexandria Equestrian Association
Alexandria Park
242 Little York Mt Pleasant Rd
Milford, NJ 08848.

Indoor Facility - Rain or Shine
Please bring a chair



www.northeastmountainhorseclub.com

Clinic Reservation Form - Saturday, March 15th (Milford, NJ)

Name (s) _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Pre-Registration \$25 per person due by Monday, March 10th. At the door cost will be \$30.

All checks made payable to Northeast Mountain Horse Club and mailed to:
Susie Ferree, 250 Blossom Dr. Mt. Wolf, PA 17347.