



**Alexandria Equestrian Association
RIDER's DIGEST**

May 2007

2007 Officers:

President:	Judy Tucker
Vice-President:	Lou Corbo
Treasurer:	Larry Shepard
Secretary:	Maxine Lally-Alexis
Membership:	Sherri Dolan
Food Coordinator/Newsletter:	Barbara Nolan
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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.aeanj.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the second quarter newsletter, and the start of warm weather. It's time to update everyone on what has been accomplished since our last newsletter, and how we are progressing towards our goals for 2007.

Dust control, well we did it! Yes, back in March the dust control was delivered and applied to the footing in the indoor. Initially, the feedback was very positive from those that ride frequently in the arena. The vendor told us to wait a bit before we passed judgment on the amount of dust control that was put down. We have done so, and after a few events and lots of use from AEA members, the consensus was that we needed more dust control. The vendor was very accommodating to our request, and he will be sending more to us free of charge, except for shipping. So the saga continues.

NEWSLETTER

Once we get the additional dust control applied, we will be looking for more feedback on the overall project, as well as consensus on the depth.

We have had several fun events since the last newsletter. Always remember to check the web site, as things can change for various reasons. For example, the Spring Jumping Clinic was rescheduled until June, due to a major rain storm that hit the area on the day of the event. I guess it will be renamed the Summer Jumping Clinic, and it may be held in the outdoor arena.

Now let's talk about our 2007 goals.

1. Footing – moving along but still in progress.
2. Trails – we have joined up with a wider network of people trying to link trails across our part of central NJ. More to come from our representative John Alexis.
3. Communication – we have been sending out more frequent reminders of upcoming events via email, updating the web site when there are schedule changes, and we continue to publish the newsletter. Let us know if you think this increase in communication is good, not enough or too much.
4. Charitable donations – we haven't started to give yet, mainly because our funds are low as a result of the dust control and other bills associated with the indoor. However, AEA is committed to contributing to local groups that support our community. We may have to cut back on the number of organizations due to the one time costs we encountered this year. More on this later in the year.

Overall, I think we are making progress. I hope you feel the same way.

Judy

***“YOU’RE WALKIN’ ON THE
FIGHTIN SIDE OF ME”***

It doesn’t seem that Merle Haggard would mind the borrowing of the lyric here. It’s appropriate for sure. What was the measurement of the flag that we had hanging from the joists in the indoor arena? Surely it was big; a grand old star-spangled banner that spoke a thousand words when a visitor first peered into the riding arena.

Now it’s gone. Wrenched from its moorings so unceremoniously that small tattered corners of it remained where it had hung. Each event in the indoor is commenced with the playing of the national anthem, but we had no flag that morning.

So who did this? I’ll catch some flack here from some high school students or maybe an idealistic teacher or two, but let me go out on a limb and guess that it was a teenager or two looking for some kicks. It had to be someone rather agile just to do the deed. But whoever it was, I would remind them of a few items.

Many thousands of Americans fought and died for your freedom which that flag represents; freedom that you now so ignorantly abuse. These Americans included my grandfather and my uncle and my father. My uncle, after D-Day and the Bulge and time spent in a POW camp came home and spent the rest of his life scarred in ways you can’t even imagine. BUT, he protected your freedom!!

You should be ashamed, you defilers of our flag. Were your kicks worth it? Perhaps you’ll never be found out. And you should hope that you aren’t, because already you’re walking on the fightin’ side of me !!

TIDBITS

Results of that 2006 Rutgers-sponsored equine survey are out. They yield some interesting results. First, 174,000 acres of New Jersey farmland are devoted to the equine industry. Of that, 78,000 are used for pasture and hay.

There are 42,500 equine animals residing in New Jersey (that’s a lot of horses). These horses call 7,200 different operations home. Of the total number, there are 8,200 racing-related Standardbreds and 4,300 Thoroughbreds.

The economic impact of the equine industry totals more than \$ 1.1 billion (that’s a lot of cabbage).

Two AEA members were recently disallowed use of the indoor arena for a month for violations regarding manure removal. To their credit, they were both very gracious in accepting their censure and we hope to see them back in the indoor shortly.

Let’s face it. This is a public facility and we all need to maintain a certain discipline in keeping it well-cleaned and tidy. Thanks for everybody’s effort!

Kudos for new AEA member, David Marra. Talk about a guy who grabs the bull by the horns! It required a great deal of effort and coordination to execute the recent dust control application in the indoor. David was the man for the job! A hearty “thank you” is in order.

Becky Nicoletti , Rachel Kimsey and other members worked real hard on the April 14th Gymkhana event. The competition was fun to watch (Rachel kicked butt) and, most pleasing, was the number of spectators that came in due to their attendance at other park functions. It’s always good to hear walk-ins say “I had no idea this was going on” or “how do I join?”

Compared to some of these draft breeds seen around town, he is small. But we affectionately call him “Tall Teddy”, a 16.2 Walking Horse, big-boned, strapping and well,.....heavy. Just ask AEA President, Judy Tucker. Teddy just bore his weight on her foot! This was no mere impression on the toe, but an accurate placement of his hoof across the bridge of the presidential foot. Judy saw stars, but no broken bones. She concedes that it was her fault, not Teddy’s. Teddy agrees.

Congratulations to AEA member Phil Rochelle and sorting partner, Don Berninger, on their recent performance at a United States Team Penning Association event in New Freedom, Pa. This dynamic duo placed tenth out of eighty one teams in a sorting event at the Red Man Ranch in New Freedom.

FOXWOODS RIDING EASMENT

AEA is working with the Alexandria Twp. Planning Board and Blue Seal Realty, the developer of the Foxwoods development off of Woolf Rd. on establishing a riding easement through one side of that development. This gets us one step closer to a clear shot from Woolf Rd. over to Alexandria Twp. Park.

As part of the negotiation to establish this easement, AEA committed to supply materials needed for demarcation of the trail. Most of the material needed (white 4x4 PVC sleeves) AEA already had, thanks to a donation some time ago from John Lionetti. Additionally, we'll supply wooden 4x4s to complete the job. AEA members will soon meet with the developer to discuss installation. The developer will do that part.

It is noteworthy that this is the second development where a riding privilege has been secured on a portion of the circumference to enable riders to navigate this neck of the woods. For the same purpose there is a strip of land around the back and side of the HealthMate development that fronts on Rick Road. As building continues these arrangements will be all the more valuable. Let me throw this out just as food for thought: AEA will eventually need a coordinator who oversees the maintenance of easements and trails. In past years, we've done this "off and on" with no designated trail boss, but sooner or later we'll have to establish more structure in our approach.

Hark! We may need a volunteer !

Pete Tucker

INVASION OF THE SPHINCTERS

"We have reached our rendezvous with infamy. It is our unanimous and irrevocable conclusion that Alexandria has teetered on the perverse."

-Unknown

How does one write about this delicately? Or does the author simply resign himself to the fact that a few readers will be offended no matter what? That's probably it! So here goes!

For those local historians, the date was March 17, 2007. St. Patrick's Day. Indeed, this date may well long live in local infamy. It may well be talked about for as many years as the time the Feds broke up the whiskey still at Camp Tecumseh (then Camp Marudy). For this was not an event to be soon forgotten!

Perhaps it was the gut-wrenching laughter. Perhaps it was the torrid visual effects. Whatever the defining factor, there were quite a number of guests at a get together hosted by AEA members Mike and Barb Nolan and, yes, some imbibing was going on. After all, it was St. Patty's Day. As the evening progressed things became increasingly reminiscent of those old college fraternity parties.

Games ensued, one seeming to capture everyone's attention. The game was played with a coin, a quarter, in fact. Oddly, the player would place the quarter snugly between his or her buttocks, squeeze tightly (hands free) while shuffling ten feet forward to straddle a shot glass placed on the floor. The object was then to position oneself accurately above the shot glass so as to release and drop the quarter into it. This proved to be a near impossible task, but immensely contributed to the amusement of all!

One thing should be noted here without further delay. The Aversas did participate in this spectacle!

Watching the event was just a study in human behavior and interaction. The room was filled with some fairly sophisticated people. But the guffaws were deafening! Imagine the painful hesitancy of

most people to get anywhere near that shot glass, not to mention the sheer horror of having to stand there before all and clench that quarter in such a manner. One particular instance that this writer won't soon forget was when our very own David Marra reported on the floor for such duty. If his poor wife, Ann, the picture of taste and refinement, could have crawled in a hole then surely she would have! The look on her face was priceless!

What does any of this have to do with horses, the lifeblood of our organization? Lots, actually. You see, when we ride we exercise muscles necessary to excel at this game. That may speak to why there were so many willing participants. And incidentally, what is the name of this game? This writer does not know, but an idea occurs to me. What if we had a contest to name the game?! Imagine the hilarity that could stir!

At any rate, thanks Mike and Barb! You guys throw a hell of a party! What you do for an encore I'm not sure, but I hope I'm at that party too.

Pete Tucker

LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Members of AEA:

Please accept this donation for your organization (\$150). I was honored to be able to participate in the recent Robert Lawson "Foundation First" clinic held at the Alexandria Twp. Park. It was a professional clinic, very well organized, and a tremendous asset to our community of horse enthusiasts. As a resident of Alexandria, I also want to thank you for your effort in providing and maintaining the horse facilities at our community park. It is a unique facility in a community park setting and your organization has been able to continually improve and expand the offerings. I look forward to many more clinics and events in the near future.

Sincerely,
Heather Lewis

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Kalliopi (Poppy) Alexis became a big sister on Friday May 4th to baby brother James Frederick Dimitri. He was 7lbs 9 ounces and 21 inches tall. Congratulations John and Maxine!

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE AEA WILL BE:

Tuesday May 15th, 7:30pm at the Alexandria Park.

Coming soon: Look for the new AEA By-Laws to be posted on the Website soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TEAM SORTING DATES:
May 12th

Registration starts at 12:00. Activities start at 1:00.
For more information contact Phil Rochelle @ 908-391-1633

AEA T-Shirts are still available!

If you would like to buy some contact Susan Rochelle at 238-1888. 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 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. If interested in volunteering, contact Barbara Nolan at BAN414@aol.com or 996-7489.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE:

Horse sized refurbished Meadowbrook cart, new seat, new shafts, new trim. \$450 - Lou 713-0830

Horse sized black all leather harness, like new \$450 - Lou 713-0830

Combined leaf vacuum & wood chipper, used one season. \$400 - Lou 713-0830

6ft by 10ft chain link dog kennel, like new – Lou 713-0830

HORSES FOR SALE

6 yr. old Halflinger Gelding, Shown by 13yr old boy successfully at pleasure driving shows. Also rides. Asking \$2,000.
Amie Bauman 908-310-0223

9 yr. old Tobanio, Brown & White Gelding, 15.2 Great Gymkhana horse. Asking \$3,000.
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15 yr. old small Bay Pony Gelding. Great hunter pony. Asking \$4,000.
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4 yr. old Chestnut & White draft cross mare –started under saddle, needs a good home, best offer, Amie Bauman 908-310-0223

8 yr old Rocky Mountain gelding.
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Barbara Nolan 908-996-7489

Tennessee Walking Horse for sale.
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STALL AVAILABLE

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Outdoor arena & daily turn-out in ample pasture space.
Barbara Nolan 908-996-7489 or ban414@aol.com

HAY AVAILABLE

Mixed grass hay, \$2.00/bale.
908-735-9453 or tuckaway-farm@earthlink.net.

A BIT TO CHEW ON

If your horse says no, you either asked the wrong question or asked the question wrong.

Pat Parelli

Available Now: AEA is now accepting business ad space in the Newsletter. ¼ page for \$25 or ½ for \$50/ issue. Contact Barbara Nolan ban414@aol.com



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