



**Alexandria Equestrian Association
RIDER's DIGEST**

November 2007

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CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: www.aeanj.com

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING OF THE AEA WILL BE:**

To Be Announced

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The season has finally changed to fall, and with that many people will be heading to the indoor to ride. So let's talk footing. It's time anyway to update everyone on the progress made on this important issue. Yes, there has been some progress, but more to go before the issue is laid to rest.

We now have consensus on the current depth of the footing in the indoor after grooming. You can call this a starting point. The average depth is around 2.75 inches. We had several people measure it and they all came to the same conclusion. Many of the people measuring were of the thinking that it was deeper than that, but once it was groomed, with no hoof prints, it became clear what we had. The AEA Executive Board even went so far as to vote on a

NEWSLETTER

resolution determining the current depth to be 2.75 inches after grooming. The second conclusion that many of those involved in measuring came to was that the consistency of the material (all sand as we know) was causing the wide swings in the depth. This footing has significant movement every time a horse hoof hits it. There is no binding agent in the sand to hold it in place. Perhaps that is what we need. Would that change the perception that we have too much footing in the arena? Perhaps we could all be happy riding on the top inch without concern for what lies below, if the footing would stay firm. Nirvana I know is not likely, but at least we are starting to see where the problem exists.

The third accomplishment is that the AEA Executive Board has voted to bring in outside professionals to make recommendations on what we should do to the footing to maximize usage across the various disciplines. We intend to get at least 2 professional opinions, perhaps more, using consultants that advise on indoor arenas. Once the recommendations are in, we will present them to the membership, along with the financial implications of an implementation plan. Together we will solve this nagging dilemma, and hopefully be riding together in the indoor someday in perfect harmony. There I go again looking for nirvana.

Judy Tucker

PENNING / SORTING NEWS

Phil Rochelle and B.J. Grieco have, for years, worked tirelessly to bring very successful team penning and sorting events to the indoor arena. These events have been AEA's mainstay fundraiser for some time. This year Phil and B.J. are, quite understandably, hanging up their spurs. A debt of gratitude is due them both for their contribution.

At the cocktail party there were rumblings about a new consortium aiming to continue these events. Stay tuned for further details.

PALEOLITHIC PARK

(Warning: This story contains some graphic scenes that may not be appropriate for all audiences. The faint of heart should perhaps move to the next page).

And by way of further preface a revelation should here be made . It regards my wife, AEA President Judy Tucker. She has a seemingly illogical phobia, one that I have tried in vain to understand for many years. She is deathly afraid of birds. Big ones, tiny ones – doesn't matter .Can't get near them. Feathers or flapping wings anywhere near her is a real issue. I don't know, perhaps some inexplicable incubus from a former life. Okay, that one is out there for the reader to tuck away for further reference.

Now then, please join us, my wife and me and Mike Nolan on a recent ride. The day is perfect. The sun is bright, the breeze is blowing, the horses are fast and we're having a splendid time! We've ridden from Mike's house, through some fields (along the edges, that is) and picked up the Foxwood trail where it empties to Woolf Road. We soon chatted with some neighbors and rode on toward Alexandria Park.

That's a gorgeous spot, don't you think? Along the edge of the Bush farm where the horses descend down through the woods and have to walk the streambed for a stretch before ascending the opposite side bank and onto the park property. That neck of the woods is just one of the gems here in the township.

On through the park we rode to the start of a new "nature trail" brought to us by local scouts. (They've done a beautiful job, incidentally). Further into the woods past the present extent of the trail, it starts to get a little remote. One almost forgets where they are. No roads. No houses, hardly even a sound. Perhaps just the perceptible trickle of a tiny creek and a nearby cicada, but otherwise it could be anywhere deep in the woods. Something pungent was in the air, but I wasn't sure what it was.

Further we rode, but then had to stop to determine our next direction. At that point there was the very identifiable odor of decaying flesh. We turned slightly and chanced upon a gruesome scene. There ahead of us a ray of sunlight beamed down through the trees as though a stage light focused on an actor. The grizzled comb of a huge turkey buzzard pulled up out of a hole burrowed into a rotting carcass. The slimy comb glistened in the light. It was the stuff of an Alfred Hitchcock movie.

Those buzzards are singularly ugly and pre-historic looking. The scene mushroomed from there. Our collective camera faded back a little as it will in the movies to a larger spectacle. Two buzzards were there. No, six. No DOZENS!! They were swarmed in a huge circle in veritable carrion frenzy around this dead whatever it was.

The reader might be aided in picturing this scene by recalling one page or another from an old National Geographic. An illustration depicts some pre-historic Cro- Magnon man at woods edge, club in hand, watching a bunch of Terradactyle Terribluses (early birds) as they pick and peck at some Paleolithic road kill. Fast forward a few million years and you have this same scene, minus the horses and the club, from the outer reaches of Alexandria Park!

But it gets worse. Surveying the situation we realized that to continue forward we would have to ride right close to the carcass and further frenzy these huge and grotesque birds. Then it hit me! Whoa, Nelly .This is going to flip her right out!! She thinks she's got a phobia now, just wait. Let's ride and don't look back! Mike lead the way, me next and Jude was last. To her credit she sucked it up and got through, but this is not to say that she wasn't severely traumatized! If Jude has a little twitch in her neck the next time you see her.....well, you'll understand .

It was a deer. Not just a deer, but a very large one, a buck with a serious rack. Did we stop to count how many points? NO WAY! Stunk way too foul for that. Not to mention we were interrupting the bird's dinner. Alfred Hitchcock would have had a field day!

So that was our little equine romp in the park. Indeed, it was good to be riding back home. We learned one thing, though. There's a reason they call it the "nature trail"!

*Pete Tucker
AEA staff writer*

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: navionfly@aol.com or call 908- 996-5216 in order to report hours/duty. Checks will be issued at the general membership meetings.

Judge Judy at The Celebration

The Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville, TN. is no ordinary horse show. It is an equine extravaganza, the world series of the walking horse industry. The competition is incredibly brisk, the color and pageantry is pure excitement.

The last class of this eleven day, ten night show collars the roses on the year's World Grand Champion. The victory ride is taken before a crowd of 25,000 plus boisterous spectators who have just seen some unforgettable competition. Then the crowd dissipates to all corners of the country until next year.

One particular class at The Celebration always reminds me of AEA's cowboys. The Western Pleasure class at first may seem a little contradictory. Cowboy hats and boots and buckles, western saddles, lariats and spurs.... all on Walking Horses, neck reined, no less! But the class is very entertaining and no less a display of great horses and horsemanship than the rest of the competition. But there were no cows in the ring! My, how our cowboys must squirm at the thought of it.

How many times at The Celebration do I exclaim to my wife, "How in the world do you judge this class?" So many great horses in the ring at once! Any one of them could take the blue. With that we resolved one night sitting there in the stadium to have some competition of our own. Between us, who was the better Walking Horse judge?

Now bear in mind that many years ago I introduced this breed to Judy. She knew not a Walking Horse from a hyena! Imagine my humiliation then, when at the end of five classes, she had picked four winners and I had picked one! Must be she had one good teacher!!



Have You Perfected "The Nolan Roll"?

We all know the phenomenon... a particular spot on your oft-ridden trail where, for some inexplicable reason, your horse tends to act up. Maybe its gait just accelerates. Or, maybe it just plain gets hard to handle. But, for some reason in this specific area the horse has an awareness of something that changes its behavior. It could be the presence of one of those big, horse-eating round bales, or perhaps nearby cows or maybe even something that's not the slightest bit obvious. But your horse is edgy when it passes by.

There is such a spot here in Alexandria that seems to universally affect horses. This spot is jokingly referred to by riders as the "Swift Triangle". There's no real good reason for horses to get ornery in this area, but they do. In fact, member Mike Nolan once recently passed through the triangle and became separated from his horse. The curious thing on this occasion was Mike's description of the incident to his dear wife later on.

Consider if you will the commonly used terminology when you and your mount are no longer one. Did you not get "thrown" from your horse? Perhaps you got "dumped" or "bucked" off. Maybe you went one way and your horse went the other. Or, you just fell off your horse. But, as Mike explained to Barbara, "I rolled off my horse"!

That's right. He rolled off his horse. Ah, Cool Hand Mike! He doesn't do anything as course as getting thrown. As Barbara skeptically questioned him, "Honey, you just don't 'roll off' your horse!"

It does sound a little dismissive, doesn't it? Kind of like just stepping out of a car or stepping off the bottom rung of a step ladder. Perhaps Mike was just trying to dissuade any real concern from his wife while he furtively nursed his wounds. Who knows? But the last time this writer saw anyone roll off his horse, he was deftly allowed to do so by a Lippizaner stallion!

But apparently Mike has a technique that he'll hopefully share with all of us someday. Until then, be watching for the next clinic teaching the "Mike Nolan Roll".

WOULD YOU PAY TO GO TO WORK??

Well, maybe if it was just for a week and was a little like a vacation at the same time. AEA members Tom and Sal Aversa, Rachel and Dick Kimsey, Jim Virgo and Mike Nolan did that very thing recently at the Dry Head Ranch, a 30,000 acre working cattle ranch south of Billings, Montana. Imagine! You pay your employer for the privilege of working for them! What a concept!

What an adventure, too! 1200 head of cattle on the spread, a good portion of which need to be rounded up via horseback, penned, roped, vetted and let back loose. Dusty, dirty work to say the least! The stuff that Waylon Jennings used to croon about. But all members lived to pay for it... and ask Dick when you see him about getting his horse stuck in the mud bog!

TIDBITS:

Safe to say that our first "Trail Owners Tribute" Cocktail Party was a resounding success. Best guess estimates are that 75 attendees converged on the Quakertown Recreation Club and had a rollicking good time. Why even that devilish quarter in the shot glass reared its ugly head for a brief time.

It would be dangerous to begin naming the names of all those who labored to make the event successful for fear of omitting someone. Suffice it to say that an excellent job was done by all and a great big "thank you" is due to each of you. One exception, however, should be allowable here on the no name naming protocol.... Barbara Nolan did a mountain of work and her enthusiasm for this project shone through loud and clear.

Consensus seemed to be that this new format was more workable for an annual get-together than the outside picnic. This event promises to be even better next year!

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.

Point of Interest: CART

The purpose of CART, (County Animal Response Team) is to plan for evacuation and rescue of farm animals and pets in case of a disaster. The group is always looking for new volunteers as well as trained specialists and animal organizations that wish to help in case of an emergency.

The group has been recently formed in response to legislation passed requiring all local, county and state emergency responders to create animal evacuation plans. The organization reports to the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management. It would only be activated by an official declaration of a state of emergency. That would include a local disaster of a large enough scale.

Meetings which include planning and training are held monthly currently in the Franklin Township municipal building. For more information please call 908-788-1196 or email Dolores at oonie@aol.com.

Deworming Your Horse & Your Property

Suzanne Smith, VMD
Spring Mills Veterinary Hospital

Effective deworming treatments for this region of the country include the use of products containing ivermectin or dectomectin, such as Quest as the mainstay of your anthelmintic program. I prefer those products offering 60 day dosages.

Products containing ivermectin are especially effective against strongyles and bots, and December or January is the appropriate time to treat bot larvae in the horse's stomach. In mid-spring, add fenbendazole as a 5 day larvicidal anthelmintic, and in the fall use a double dose of pyrantel (Strongid C) or products containing praziquantal to treat tapeworm infections.

It is equally important to treat your property for the prevention of worms. "Dry lots" or rough turn-out paddocks should be kept clean of manure. Mow the "roughs", or high spots in your pastures. You should rotate use of your paddocks and pastures. The out of service pasture should be dragged, allowing the sun to dry any manure that has not been picked up.

Always remember to worm any new horses on your property before allowing them to graze the pastures. Keep all horses on a regular worming schedule. And, most importantly, consult your veterinarian regularly.

CLASSIFIED ADS:

HORSE BARN FOR SALE

Two stall barn (pictured at right) constructed of yellow pine framing and white pine board batten siding, hot dipped galvanized fasteners with powder coated hardware. The stall sizes are 10x10 and the barn is built on top of 6x6 pressure treated sill plates.

Asking \$5000.00. If interested, please call Nancy @ 908-832-9123

FOR SALE

90' Diameter Round Pen. Good Condition.
Asking \$1,150. Call 908-996-7775

FREE KITTENS

Ready for new home. Call Barbara 996-7489

HORSES FOR SALE:

14 year old sorrel QH gelding. 15.3 – lots of chrome. Goes English & Western, gymkhana and a job to die for! Asking \$4,500. Call Cherie 908-238-3794

TWH mare 8 years old. Sweet, kind, goes on trails not aggressive. Sound. Ships, clips and about 15h and fat! Need to sell so will sell cheap..\$1500.

Contact Doreen Weston at 908 730 8389 or www.Smoke-Hollow.com

WANTED:

14" western saddle with semi or quarter horse bars. An synthetic would be nice. If anyone has one reasonably priced, please call Kathy – 908-713-9293 or email

kharvey10@embarqmail.com



AVAILABLE NOW:

AEA is now accepting business ad space in the Newsletter. ¼ page for \$25, ½ for \$50 or full sheet for \$95/issue. Contact Barbara Nolan-
ban414@aol.com

Editor's note:

David Snogles and his wife Anita Hasbury-Snogles are two wonderfully British folks on a spectacular mission...trail riding in every U.S. state while raising money for charity. David logs their adventures in a bi-weekly column in a Culpeper Va. Newspaper. The following is his column that ran recently after the couple's New Jersey ride with AEA members right here in Alexandria Township. If you have any problems reading the article below, try looking online at:

<http://www.horsequestusa.org/resources/Travelers+enjoy+hospitality+in+New+Jersey.pdf>

Julies Farneski, AEA member and co-editor of Horse News, also ran a story about the ride that appeared in the most recent issue.

<http://www.nj.com/horsenews/> page 48.

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FARM & GARDEN

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Travelers enjoy trails, hospitality in Jersey

British couple's 'crazy ride' bringing other riders together

We have been traveling all over the northeastern states this week, trying to bump up the numbers of places ridden as time marches relentlessly on and the weather has started to cool down.

Although we are currently in Vermont (more on that next week), I wanted to tell you about our visit to New Jersey in particular, although before that, we did make a flying visit to a wonderful equine rescue and rehabilitation center located in both Delaware and Maryland.

Somersetwinds Stables (or Greener Pastures, as it is known in Maryland) was founded in 2001 and is currently operated by Elena DiSilvestro and her father Tony.

Only last year the center was able to expand from the cramped 10-acre site in Delaware to incorporate the 80-plus-acre farm in Maryland, and they also expanded their sphere of work to incorporate therapeutic "summer camps" for local disadvantaged children, using the horses to help and heal as much as possible.

We intend to go back and see Elena and her crew over the next few weeks, so they were in the middle of moving horses from one farm to another, and at the same time getting ready for a family vacation to Florida with the children the first in many years when we were there.

We didn't have a great deal of time to chat to them about the organization and the great work they do, plus it was such a beautiful site to visit, we thought a return trip would be well in order.

We moved up our stop in Alexandria Township, N.J., which was initially a bit of a last-minute thing as the place we had intended to go let us down and an impromptu plan on one of the many horse lovers Web sites brought us an invitation from Beth Borbone to stay at her farm in Alexandria and ride on some of the local trails.

Well, I don't know if you believe in fate or not, but in retrospect this seemed like destiny had been at work earlier in the year, yet her hospitality knew no bounds — she and her husband John totally blew away the myth about New Jersey folk being inhospitable!

When we stay with people during our travels, we don't ask for much more than a place to park the trailer, a place to park the horses (just a bit of field will do) and if we can, a hook-up to electricity, and if we can get it, we don't mind not having any of



A rider approaches Beth Borbone's farm, located in Alexandria, N.J., where David and Anita wound up after their original plans fell through at the last minute. The traveling couple was blown away by the hospitality of Beth and her family.



DAVID AND ANITA HASBURY-SNOGLES

that though — we were invited to dinner with the family every night (whether we wanted to or not), and running errands to the shops, sorting the laundry, etc. etc. was done to order!

Veritable feasts were enjoyed along with plentiful wine, and we had some fun times on the Nintendo Wii playing golf, tennis, boxing and even ten-pin bowling with her and her husband, John. The horses enjoyed cozy stables at night and plentiful pastures during the day, and certainly wanted for nothing themselves.

One of the best things about staying with Beth, though, was that she introduced us to some members of the Alexandria Equestrian Association (aeaaj.com) who promptly invited us on a ride with them across their latest trail. We rode with the president of the association, Judy Tucker, and several other members, such as Tom Aversa and Lou Corba, and were out on horseback for close to five hours that day!

You may recall a few weeks ago that I wrote about the Culpeper Horse Owners Association (chosa.va.com) and their efforts to get a new circular trail established around the town, joining many historical sites together.

Well, the AEA has managed a similar thing up in Alexandria, only they did a little more in the beginning, joining with the local township to buy up an old ranch and convert it into a

riding center with indoor and outdoor arenas, a dressage arena, round pen and, of course, miles of trails around the area.

The really clever bit, though, was that they worked with the local authorities in the beginning to raise the funds to purchase and then convert the property, and incorporated soccer fields and other sports facilities for the local children within it.

This way, a lot more people get to enjoy the facility, perhaps take a greater interest in equine activities that they wouldn't otherwise see, and the town has a vested interest in maintaining and preserving the property, so they share the costs of its upkeep with the association.

The AEA also works with developers and town planners to have set-aside preserved for new trail rides whenever a new building program takes place, and it was on one such trail that we were very honored to have been invited to ride this time.

They also run Team Penning, indoor polo and other events in their arena to which many out-of-state competitors will come, and so raise further funding for the association and local charities that they like to support.

Tom, Judy and the other members of the committee (all volunteers) made us feel both extremely welcome and even a little important, introducing us at every opportunity to anyone they met along the way, stating how privileged THEY felt at our having chosen Alexandria to be the venue for our New Jersey ride.

It's nice to think that in some small way we can "give a little back" by doing this "crazy ride" of ours, and we felt this was one such example — not just for the fact that we do have an effect on the people's lives we interact with, hopefully for the bet-



David Snogles, foreground, Tom Aversa, middle, and Judy Tucker ride one of the most recent trails established by the Alexandria Equestrian Association.

ter, but we do actually help facilitate other people getting together and getting to know each other — relationships that will continue long after we are gone!

Both were fairly new to the area and didn't know the people from the AEA, but because we were coming along and she wanted to set up a trail ride for us, she got in contact with them and

horizons have now been broadened all around!

Until next week ...

David and Anita Hasbury-Snogles are British residents riding across the United States on horseback to raise money for charity. Visit HorseQuestUSA.org for more information. David can be reached at david_hasbury@yahoo.com.