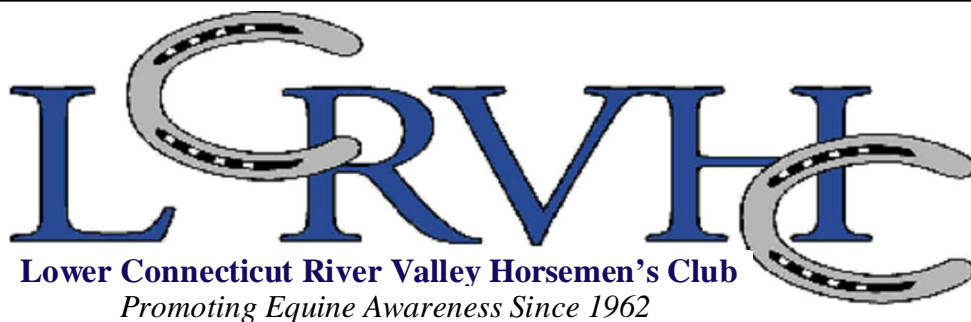




APRIL
2008



Dear Friends

If you missed the March meeting you missed an excellent program. Veterinarian Chip Beckett spoke about tuning up your horse for spring. He covered topics ranging from conditioning after a winter of not riding much to lameness issues to nutrition, dental care, worming, and vaccinations; with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. In my opinion he was one of the most engaging speakers we've had in a long time. Jodie has posted copies of his handouts on the web site.

The fourth (or was it fifth?) annual tag sale went well, providing lots of opportunity for networking as well as shopping. I gave out several beach pace entries as well as membership forms. As usual the bake sale table was a popular venue with Al Davenport quickly snapping up the "prize of the day" Joy Girardi's pineapple upside-down cake. Thank you to all who participated and all who contributed. A huge Thanks to Brad for letting us use the arena and to Peggy, Joanne, and Mary who organized it all.

On Sunday, April 20, Beverly Torell will be hosting a member-only ride at Pataconk/Turkey Hill in Chester. Ride out is planned for 11:00. If you wish, bring a snack or lunch item to share after the ride. Please RSVP to Bev 860-664-0459 as the weather can be so changeable this time of year she might need to adjust time or day.

We have another interesting program lined up for our April 24 general meeting. Starting early, at 6:30, Maggie Sullivan, one of the U.S.A.'s leading junior drivers, and her Fjord mare will provide an introduction to the sport of combined driving. This spectacular sport is gaining in popularity. It's like eventing, but in a carriage. There will be a demonstration. A brief meeting to finalize plans for the Beach Pace will follow Maggie's presentation.

Yes, the Beach Pace is almost here! May 3rd at Bluff Point. Please get your entries in and spread the word. This is a gorgeous place to ride. You can actually ride on the beach. Scottish Dave and the Hen will be providing the lunches.

National Trails day is also right around the corner on June 7th. We will be attempting to run three events simultaneously. First, the only state sanctioned National Trails Day horse ride in Connecticut, a joint effort by LCRVHC, BPC, and CHC-VHP, will be led by Barbara White, please RSVP to Pat Martin (pjm6880@comcast.net). Second, the BPC plans to finally mark the EPIC trail from Messerschmidt's Pond in Weber Woods to Beaver Meadow Road in Haddam. I will lead this portion with Roger Ferraro. Please RSVP to me on this one so we have an idea of how to break up folks into teams (melissa.evarts@globepequot.com). And third, we will participate in the Connecticut Forest and Parks multi-user group work day on the orange trail (which happens to be part of the EPIC trail). Bob Cameron will be leading a team to repair some turn-piking that was installed last year at the Beaver Meadow end of the trail. RSVP to Pati on this one as well. Bonnie and Al Davenport will be managing the picnic area at the site of the proposed horse camp. LCRVHC will provide hot dogs for everyone. You can drop off your contributions to the picnic and there will be coolers with ice, etc. to keep things safe while you work, ride, hike. See Rob Butterworth's notes on other projects. Please get out there and celebrate National Trails Day!

And finally, as our 2008 membership drive draws to a close (it's not too late to renew but this will be your last newsletter if you haven't) we have come up with a plan to get to know each other quicker. Starting next month we would like to include a Meet the Members feature in the newsletter each month. Simply e-mail a digital (JPG) photo of yourself with your horse(s) and a brief description—where you live, what you like to do with your horse(s), etc. and we'll publish it. It should be a fun way to put names with faces.

I hope to see you soon.

Melissa

Trails Day 2008 Ver. 2 @ Cockaponset State Forest Orange Trail Work Party

On site walks held on March 7 and March 14 members of the BPC, CFP, LCRVHC, NEMBA, NE4WD and SRCR walked the orange blazed trail in the Cockaponset S.F. **A further site walk with DEP Unit Manager Alex Sokolow on April 7 identified additional projects.** The group identified both maintenance issues and corrections from previous work parties and still outstanding trail problems. The sites begin at the Beaver Meadow Road trailhead and continue in a counter clockwise loop around the orange blazed trail.

The first site is a minor repair on the initial turnpike. A small corner has become exposed since we last walked it. This will need to be rectified.

The slope between the two sections of turnpike installed last year **is still a problem..** The feeling of the group was that this might be a spot to do a test project. The idea is to install a California ladder on the initial part of the slope. (See attachment for details on the California ladder). It was agreed that three or four four foot wide rungs would be a good starting place. This would elevate this section. The existing edges would be filled with pumpkin sized rocks to allow drainage, but limit erosion. **We will pass on this project for this year.**

The next site is second turnpike installed last year. The north end of this turnpike has become exposed. It's believed that if we extend the turnpike another eight feet this won't happen again. This would require eight feet of geo grid, 8 feet of ground cloth, 1 yard of ¾" stone and a 1 yard of pea stone or **stone dust.** **Alex has suggested that we lay a rock pipe (rocks wrapped in geo-cloth) under this additional segment to improve cross drainage. He believed that this was done on the turnpike by the road and that is functioning very well.**

Continuing on, the water bars installed last year seem to be working, but will need a cleaning. This hold true for all water bars installed last year. **A crew of two volunteers should be put together to clean out the water bars.**

A re-location is being suggested on the trail. Alex has suggest another alternative on the re-route which makes sense. It will swing over about half the distance of the previously discussed reroute. We will need to close the existing trail segment with check dams and plantings. Local mountain laurel can be used for the plantings and we can obtain most of it from the reroute section. I'll try and get out and flag this in the next week or so.

Last years bog draining/trail armoring has held up very well. It will need to be modified however. The current narrow cross drain and out flow need to be widened. Currently a strong storm will quickly flush out enough leaves to clog the outflow and back up the runoff. It was felt that widening and hardening the area to two or three times its current width will be sufficient.

The seasonal stream crossing approximately 100 yards south of the bog drain requires an innovative solution. The stream is usually dry, unless immediately after a storm. The treadway through the stream is solid and stable. The tread immediately south of the crossing is at or below the stream level. The solution arrived at was to enhance and existing mound of dirt paralleling the trail to create a berm. The berm would prevent water from flowing on to the trail (in high flow situations) prior to the actual crossing as it does now. Two or three stepping-stones off to the side would be needed to allow foot traffic to cross. **We will not undertake this project this year**

The remainder of the western leg of the orange trail was deemed to be in good shape. The drainage dips installed on Public Lands Day seem to be working well.

Heading out on the east leg of the trail from Jericho Road the first 100 or so yards seem to be in good shape. Once the trail descends however, things get pretty bad pretty quickly. It's felt that 2 or 3 grade dips or water bars could be installed between the level area and where the trail gets exceptionally eroded.

A solution to the highly eroded section is thought to be the following; take the existing treadway and make it a drain by damming it and cutting through the berm. This would allow the old treadway to be re-established. Re-establishing the old treadway will require that fill be brought in. **For the time being, Alex would like us to just install check dams and cut the berm for drainage in this area.**

Areas were identified for more drain dips below the eroded section. At the site of the large (about 4' X 16') un-drainable puddle it was felt that a re-route would be the best solution. A quick walk through was done and a rough layout was conceived. This will be a pretty big job, being about a 120 yards of relocation and close to the same length of closure. **We will plan on doing this as a National Public Lands Day project.**

The bridge on the spur trail leading to Filley Road needs to have one **rotted** plank replaced along **with all the 2"x4" deck boards** and both toe rails. **DEP will provide three 2"x10"x6' pressure treat deck boards and two 2"x4"x8' pressure treat boards for toe rails. The toe rail boards will need to be sawn to length and mounted on riser blocks.** Three spots for drain dips were sited on this trail also. These will be over flow projects if we have a lot of volunteers show up.

Back on the main trunk of the orange trail, the level sections are in good shape. Five spots were picked for drain dips and water bars on the south-facing hillside. It was decided that some trail edge definition needs to be done in the areas where the trail is beginning to become braided. A blow down that is partially across the trail will need to be removed. There are also areas where the berms need to be knocked down and re-graded.

Near the peak of the hill and area was noted that might benefit from reclamation. It's a "short cut" this is currently blocked by some blown down branches and a few rocks. The treadway is still visible and passing water along, contributing to downhill flows.

On the north side of the hill the previously installed water bars will need to be cleaned and perhaps a few more added.

Just east of last years easternmost stream armoring project is a seasonal stream outflow. Currently the stream flows out of the hill and then down the trail eight to ten feet before coming to a water bar and exiting the trail. This short section has become very rutted. It would make sense to place a water bar where the stream crosses and armor that crossing.

The stream armoring projects of last year's Trail Day seem to be working well. It was felt however, that they might need to be extended a few more feet on either side of the streams, as water levels appear to be higher than were planned on. **Armoring needs to extend at least 4 feet past what is there now.**

Alex also identified two other projects for us. One that we can accomplish on Trails Day is to build some stone cairns and add plantings where the orange trail and blue trail diverge just west of the bridge. The tree as a water bar is working well, but the trail is creeping down hill. Alex would like the cairns to be on the low side and we can put in some plantings in the split area. The second project is the above mentioned bridge. It is still under water. This will be a good project for next years Trails Day event. He'd like to see a 12' long by 6' wide bridge here. The additional length is to raise the bridge out of the flood plain and reduce blockages.

Those are the specific projects noted. Two general projects that it was felt needed to be done are re-blazing and trimming. The whole orange trail needs to be re-blazed. **Alex has agreed that differentiating the arms of the trail makes sense. He'd like to see the east arm from Beaver Meadow Road to Jericho remain as the Orange blazed trail. We'll make the western arm from the split a 100 yards or so south of BMR to Jericho Road Orange with a white under bar. The feeder trail from Filley Road in to the eastern arm will be Orange with a dark blue under bar. DEP is to provide the white and orange paint. CFPA can provide the brushes, stencils, etc.**

Project	Number of Volunteers (min/max)
Reblazing	2/8
Trimming	2/8
Water bar cleaning	2
California ladder	4/8 NA this year
Turnpike restoration	??
West arm relocation	6/10
Bog drain widening	2/4
Stream crossing berm	4/6
Eastern stream armoring	4/8
Drain dips and water bars	4/20

General Notes:

For trimming and blazing we'll need at least one experienced volunteer with each sub-group doing it. The same goes for the water bar/drain dip crews. I hope to have some CFPA folks there who can cover the blazing and trimming (these might both be good projects for SprodKids, what do you think Nestor?)

Materials

Description	QTY	Supplied By
3/4" crushed stone	1 yd	DEP
peastone/stone dust	1 yd	DEP
Geogrid	8'	BPC/DEP
Geocloth	??	BPC/DEP
Orange paint	1/2gal	DEP
White paint	1/4gal	DEP
Blue paint	1/4gal	CFPA
Blazing Stencils	4	CFPA
2"x 10"x 6' pressure treat	3	DEP
2"x4"x 8" pressure treat	2	DEP
PT compatible screws for above lumber	?	DEP

Update on National Trail Day plan from Rob Butterworth of CFPA

>
> Hi Folks,
> Now that we know what the projects are, we need to start
> assigning Crew Chiefs for the projects. Here are the projects:
>
>
> 1. Repair existing turnpike (small section at trail head and larger
> section south of trail head). This will require some equipment to
move the stone. Bob Cameron-LCRVHC
>
> 2. Relocation on Western arm of the trail. Rob Butterworth-CFPA
>
> 3. Widen existing bog drainage. Paula Burton-CTNEMBA
>
> 4. Grade drains, water bars and stream crossings on the eastern arm.
> I believe Herman Voisine and the SRCR want to do this to meet their
> obligations to the DEP.
>
> 5. Repair bridge deck and improve drainage at bridge site on spur
trail to Filley Road /Blaze Spur Trail . Jim Casagrande -NEA4WD
>
> 6. Reblazing trails. Art Roti, CT-NEMBA
>
> 7. Trimming along eastern arm of the trail. Nestor Barrezueta -
SprockKids
>
> 8. Tend the cook out area. I believe Bonnie and Al Davenport -
> LCRVHC
>
> 9. Events for kids and spouses during the work portion of the day.
> I'm working on getting a CFPA Family Hike leader to lead a hike, but
> other options would be great.
>
>
> Let me know which ones you are interested in. I'll assign
them on a first come, first serve basis.

Regards,
Rob Butterworth

BPC Re Scheduled Walk

On March 30 there were 5 walkers. Roger and Linda Ferraro, Pat Martin, Cathy Chase and Melissa Evarts. We spent two hours (10 total) walking the northern section of the Epic Trail notating where work will be needed and picking up trash on the way.

BOD Minutes April 3, 2008

Attendees: Melissa Evarts, Peg Lupone, Kristin Elliot-Leas, Pati Martin, Al Davenport, Bob Cameron and Shirley Tirrell.

Membership: Sherry was absent – no report.

Discussions: Last minute Tag Sale issues discussed. Ready to go!

May 17 – Silver Mine Horse Camp workday @ Natchaug to make more trailer parking and do clean up. Leaders: Cheryl Mastel or Diane Ciano (NEATO/CHC). Hours worked count towards \$10,000 to be raised toward trails grant. This is a good model for our horse camp. Info: greymist@comcast.net

Our horse camp project needs a formal proposal - wait for Jodi to return.

May 18 – BPC pre-Trails Day trail marking. Pati to get approval from Alex, for permanent markers for the EPIC Trail. Pati proposed to tape the trees beforehand then put up permanent signage with aluminum double headed nails or staples after approval.

May 24 - Horse inspection for CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol @ 7/8th Farm.

June 7 – National Trails Day- Barbara White will be leading a trail ride to mark the event. Contact Pati Martin for parking location. Riders can give their lunch donations to designated persons to take to the lunch location where the walkers will meet up with the riders. Lunch of hotdogs and such will be provided by the LCRVHC.

June 22 – General Meeting – HEAP (Horse Environmental Awareness Program) Mary Wozniak will try to get speaker.

Aug 2 – Tractor work needed for BPC work day

Other events: Aug 10th Lord Creek Horse Trials

CDCTA Eventing Clinics @7/8th Farm

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Tirrell

Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7 P.M.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 24th at Brad Turley's 7/8th Farm

Need Info? Sherry LaConte 860-345-8646 or jeffandsherry5@yahoo.com

Directions: From the Rtes. 80 and 81 circle – Follow Rte 80 east for 1.9 miles. The driveway is on the right, 2/10th mile past Titus Coan Road.

From Rtes. 148 and 80 blinker – Follow Rte. 80 west for 1.5 miles. Driveway is on the left, 3/10th mile past Tower Hill Road. Extra parking is past the white house near the barn.

Spring Hunter Pace

Bluff Point, Groton, CT

Time & Place: May 3, 2008 (Rain Date: May 4, 2008)

Bluff Point State Park, Groton, CT

Ride starts at 10.00 a.m.

Course: The distance is about 5-6 miles. There are no fences. Diverse footing includes wide roads, wooded trails with rocky patches, and a sandy beach.

Teams: 2 (max. 3) riders per team. If you are alone, we will try to match you up with another rider.

Divisions: Derby Contenders (timed, competitive rides) and Lead Ponies (timed, leisurely rides). All riding disciplines welcome. The winning team will be the team that completes the course closest to the perfect "fox-hunting" time as predetermined by officials. Please indicate on the entry form which division you are entering.

Safety: Safety helmets and footwear with heels are required! Chin strap required. Horses must be sound, and all equipment must be in good repair. A safety check will be made prior to the ride. If tack and mount are considered unsafe, the entry fee will be refunded.

Directions: I-95, exit 88 onto Rt. 117 towards Groton. Follow Rt. 117 to end and take right onto Rt. 1. At next traffic light turn left onto Depot Rd. Follow to end and bear right through underpass.

Entry Info: Deadline for entry is April 30, 2008. Entry fee is \$40 prior to April 30 and \$45 thereafter. Checks (made out to LCRVHC) must accompany the entry form. Entry forms are available at www.lcrvhc.org. A negative Coggins and Rabies certificate is required.

Food: Breakfast treats and lunch included

PLEASE BRING WATER FOR YOUR HORSE

Questions? Please contact:

Dorothee: 860-664-1608 or dorothee_fuller@comcast.net



Your address:

Reminder:

No water is available.

Please bring water for your horse!

Mail To:

Dorothee S. Fuller
9 Stone Wall Lane
Clinton, CT 06413

-----Please fold over here-----



The following is a continuation of the letter Charlotte Jones sent to us after her move to CA and the wildfires. This second part includes her recommendations for emergencies.

So, the one thing I can give you all out of this experience is some advice on evacuation plans. Please be prepared, it really can make the difference between life & death & between leaving your horses behind & taking them with you.

Firstly, trailers:

We bought one as soon as we got home after evacuating. Ideally you want something big – think that you & your horses might be living out of it for a few days. If you don't want to get a big one, buy a tent & camping equipment & have it ready to take with you if you need to evacuate. You really need to have enough trailer space for every horse on your property, if not, be prepared to make the choice as to who to take & who to leave behind. You may not have time to make multiple trips. It's a tough choice so it's one you're better off having made in advance & not when you are scared, stressed & short of time. Those of you who board may want to think of getting a trailer too, I really can't think of many boarding facilities that have trailer space for all of the horses on their property.

Next, loading your horses:

I can't stress this one strongly enough. **You have to be able to load all of your horses on your own.** Practice when it is dark, when it is raining, when it is windy, when you're tired & when they're spooky. Practice, practice, practice. The one time you really need them to load is NOT going to be on a sunny Saturday morning when the only thing to be lost by them not loading quickly is a missed class at a horse show. If you need help with a trainer or friend get it, I know there are plenty of people in the club who can help. Deal with it now, and it will never be an issue in the future. Make it a project for the miserable, cold New England weather that you have ahead of you.

Be prepared:

Keep some gas in the vehicle you will be evacuating in. I was lucky, I'm normally one of those people who let the gas run right down before filling up – fortunately my tank was almost full, from now on I will never let that needle go below the half way mark. You do NOT want to be looking for gas when you are evacuating.

Don't let your hay & feed run down to nothing – always keep at least a week or so in reserve.

Keep some water in storage as well.

Write out an evacuation plan including:

Where you are going to go – give yourself a couple of options, include telephone numbers (if applicable) & directions even if you've been there a million times before, it's easy to get lost when the roads are busy & you are tired & distracted. Keep a map in your vehicle in case roads are closed & you have to take alternative routes.

Things you need to pack. Include clothes for a few days, medications, toiletries, something to keep you occupied whilst you are evacuated (trust me you will not want to watch the news 24/7), irreplaceable items, cell phones, perhaps a laptop (we found ours invaluable), if you have a dog you'll need a leash, food & a crate is really useful. Also think about what you have that is truly irreplaceable that you can take with you.

Lists of useful phone numbers.

I have a step by step list of things to do when evacuating on my list, that way I know I won't forget anything.

There are some good resources online to help with evacuation plans, and I'm sure mine is by no means perfect. The most important thing is to have something prepared that everyone in the family is aware of. With horses there are more things to think of & it takes longer to get everything ready to go, so it is doubly important that you, as a horseowner have something prepared in advance.

Yes, some of this may seem extreme. Yes, you may think I'm overreacting, I mean you're in safe old CT aren't you? Safe from forest fires (maybe not) & hurricanes (also not out of the question). If you want to think that then fine, ignore my advice I really won't be offended. If, on the other hand you think I've given you some helpful advice then that's just great in my book & I hope you take what I've written to heart & get some kind of plan in place.

Finally, don't panic! God willing, you may never need to evacuate & even if you do, if you have a plan & act sensibly, the odds are that you, your family & your animals will remain safe. As I write this, it is a week to the day after we were evacuated & life in our small, very equine town is returning to normal. Yes, we lost a lot of homes, but most of us were lucky & those that weren't have a whole community helping them to get back on their feet again. We were very lucky in Ramona to not have had any fatalities in these fires (unlike the Cedar fires in 2003) & I honestly believe that if we had not evacuated the town in such an orderly manner the story would have been very different.

Charlotte Jones

.....

PET SITTING! [Equine Insight LLC](#). can take care of your precious animal family while you are away by providing horse, pet and house sitting.

Looking forward to WARM WEATHER RIDING? [Kristin Elliott Leas](#) can help with training and lessons focused on meeting the rider's goals by combining natural horsemanship with riding dressage, jumping, trail riding and horse management.

Contact Kristin at EquineInsight@gmail.com or (860) 510-2262

Stall Available in Killingworth

Stall available in my small 6-stall barn in Killingworth.

Matted 12x12 stalls, automatic heated waterers, stalls have outside doors that lead to individual dirt turnouts, individual and ceiling fans in the summer, small sand ring, direct trail access in adjoining state park. Top Quality NY timothy/orchard grass hay. Lots of TLC. We are a small family barn and are looking for a horse with no vices please. \$450/month. ****Contact Andrea if interested at 860-663-4258 or bosspaige@aol.com****

CALENDAR

April

20-MO ride, Pattaconk, Beverly 860-664-0459 RSVP
24-General Meeting, Maggie Sullivan, intro to combined driving and demo, Melissa snack
27-BPC work day, RESCHEDULED

May

1-BOD-Evarts Fire Museum, 7:00
3 (raindate 4)-Spring Beach Pace Bluff Point, Doro and Melissa, volunteers needed
10-CLCT work party, 8-10 am, will blast info when available
17-Silvermine Horse Camp Workday, Natchaug, e-mail greymist@comcast.net for details
17-WLCT Walk of Timberlane property, Kristin (equineinsight@gmail.com)
18-BPC work day, prep for National Trails Day, Pati pjm6880@comcast.net
22-General Meeting, 6:30, Meg Sauter on Volunteer Horse Patrol, desensitizing demo, Peggy snack
24-VHP Horse Evaluations, by appointment, Pat Martin, pjm6680@comcast.net

June

1-MO ride, Half House Farm, Gloria Elliott, 10:00 ride out, potluck lunch follows, RSVP
5-BOD-Evarts Fire Museum, 7:00
7-National Trails Day-3 Events BPC, LCRVHC, CHC-VHP
14-Mitchell Farm Poker Ride at Lord Creek www.mitchellfarm.org
21-22 CDCTA Leslie Law Clinic at 7/8ths
22-MO ride, 10:00, Tyler Mill, Lisa Toman Memorial, Peggy & Joanne, hazageym@yahoo.com 26-General Meeting _____, Shirley snack

July

No BOD Meeting
13-MO ride, Bluff Point, Lynda
24-No General Meeting-(Potluck at _____'s?) ___-BPC work day, _____

.....



LCRVHC
Sue Davenport
5 Owl Hollow Lane
Killingworth, CT 06419