



Lower Connecticut  
River Valley Horseman's Club

*Promoting Equine Awareness Since 1962*

[www.lcrvhc.org](http://www.lcrvhc.org)



## Newsletter

Oct 2011

### *From The President*

Dear Friends

It's been quite a summer. Between Lynda's horrific accident, Homes's terrible Lyme disease, and Hurricane Irene; the LCRVHC has taken a bit of a back seat. But fall is in the air, Homes seems to be responding to the latest antibiotic, and we need to move on. We have a lot of work to do.

The Lord Creek Hunter Pace scheduled for September 25 was cancelled due to extensive damage to the trails. That leaves our fall hunter pace on October 30 as the only local pace this fall. The trails we use were also heavily impacted by the storm but this ride is our only fundraiser and it pays our operating expenses—including insurance—plus we have more time to get ready. A huge thank you to those who have already been out there: Kristin and Mark have been working to clear damage and cut a few go-arounds. Peggy, Jen, and Gloria have been mapping where other problem areas are. We had a work day on October 2 and have one coming up on October 16 (clip & ride); we will be marking the course the week of the 24th to the 29th with October 30 for the ride. Hopefully no more storms before then! If you can possibly help, especially if you are skilled with a chainsaw or know somebody who is, please coordinate with Peg Lupone ([hazageym@yahoo.com](mailto:hazageym@yahoo.com)) or Kristin ([equineinsight@gmail.com](mailto:equineinsight@gmail.com)). Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help on the day of the Hunter Pace.

A reminder: if you are out doing trail work in the state forest please log your hours and report them to Trish Panico ([trishpanico@gmail.com](mailto:trishpanico@gmail.com)) or Roger Ferraro ([ferraro@snet.net](mailto:ferraro@snet.net))--they may be useful for future grant applications, etc.

This is an election year for LCRVHC, if you have any interest in serving as an officer or being on the board of directors please let me know. Elections, per our bylaws, are held at the November meeting. Since that falls on Thanksgiving we will have it a week earlier, November 17, at the Fire Museum.

## **FALL FESTIVAL HUNTER PACE**

SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 30TH  
ENTRY FORM ON  
PAGE 3&4



See all of our 2010/11  
photos in our SmugMug  
Galleries at:

<http://lcrvhc.smugmug.com/>

Lynda has resumed her monthly member-only ride program so get out there and enjoy the lovely weather fall in Connecticut has to offer.

Hope to see you soon!  
Melissa

## *Congratulations*

*To Melissa Evarts and Kevin Tucker who made their union official finally by marrying in October.*

## *Condolences*

To Judith Hunter on the loss of her horse Copeland who died from colic.

To Lynda Perry on the death of her horse Trapper who was hit by a car.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Oct. 16 - Clip and Ride in Weber Woods to prepare for the Hunter Pace, rsvp Lynda Perry cymaron-farm@snet.net.

Oct. 23 - LCRVHC Hunter Pace Trail Marking, rsvp Shirley Tirrell shirleytirrell@aim.com.

Oct. 27 - General Meeting

Oct. 30 - LCRVHC Hunter Pace, for info call Genie Dethloff 452-4118, lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net.

*See calendar and web site for more events*



Weber Woods Section of  
Cockaponset State Forest  
Westbrook, CT 06498  
(Check-in at 546 Stevenstown Rd)

Ride starts 9:00 am

Entry forms and info at  
[www.lcrvhc.org](http://www.lcrvhc.org)

860 452-4118  
[lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net](mailto:lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net)

Lower Connecticut River Valley Horseman's Club

# Fall Festival Hunter Pace

Sunday, Oct. 30 2011



## FALL FESTIVAL HUNTER PACE

*Come in a COSTUME and WIN A PRIZE!*

**Sunday, October 30, 2011**

(Raindate: November 6, 2011)



**TIME & PLACE:** 546 Stevenstown Rd., Westbrook, CT 06498. Ride starts at 9:00 am

Checkin starts 8:30 am. Must be checked in and on trail before 10:30 am to be included (turn clocks back).

**COURSE:** Trails through Weber Woods section of Cockaponset State Forest. ~ 7.5 miles.

Terrain is varied - open fields, flat stretches through the woods and a few hills. Jump course is optional.

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

**DIVISIONS:** Hunters (timed, competitive rides) and Hackers (timed, leisurely rides).

All riding disciplines welcome. Please indicate on the entry form which division you are entering.

The winning team in each division will be the team that completes the course closest to the perfect "fox-hunting" time as predetermined by officials. Places first through sixth get ribbons. A prize will be given for the best costume.

**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 (less \$12).

**DIRECTIONS:** **From I-95** Take exit 64, Rt. 145/Horsehill Rd. exit. Go north onto 145.

Go 3.6 miles and turn RIGHT into driveway. Look for signs and drive to parking areas.

**From Rt. 80** Head South onto Rt. 145/ Stevenstown Rd. Go 1.0 miles and turn LEFT into driveway. Look for signs and drive to parking area.

**ENTRY INFO:** Deadline for entry is **Oct. 20, 2011**. **Entry fee is \$45**. Please note earlier deadline than in the past.

**Entries will be accepted from Oct. 20 - 25 if space is available and at \$55.** (\$40.00/\$50.00 for LCRVHC members).

Checks (made out to LCRVHC) must accompany the entry form.

*\$12.00 not refundable. We have a commitment to the caterers in advance of the event.*

Rain date will only be used if severe storms are predicted a few days in advance.

**For more info call 860 452-4118 or email [lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net](mailto:lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net).**

Entry forms are also available at [www.lcrvhc.org](http://www.lcrvhc.org).

A negative Coggins and Rabies certificate are required. Please include with your entry form.

**FOOD:** Lunch is included in entry fee.

Breakfast treats will be available for purchase.



Please send in the entry form on the next page

# LCRVHC Fall Hunter Pace Team Members Entry Form

Send this entry form, check (made out to LCRVHC), rabies certificate, and negative coggins to:  
**Genie Dethloff, 31 Overlook Farms Rd, Killingworth CT 06419**

<b>TEAM NAME:</b>	__ Hunter __ Hack	Payment amount included: \$ _____
Rider 1 Name:	Rider 2 Name:	Rider 3 Name:
Horse Name:	Horse Name:	Horse Name:
Address:	Address:	Address:
City:	City:	City:
State:      Zip:	State:      Zip:	State:      Zip:
Telephone:	Telephone:	Telephone:
Email:	Email:	Email:

**Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement** \*Pursuant to the Connecticut House Bill No.6357 Public Act No. 93286, I acknowledge the inherent risks involved in riding, working around or being in close proximity to horses, which risks include bodily injury to either horse or person. By signing this release and waiver, I understand that I am giving up (waiving or releasing) any right I have to sue or make any claim which I might have or which might subsequently arise or occur against the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club, Inc. (hereafter referred to as LCRVHC) including but not limited to the officers, members, participants, volunteers, and landowners for any injuries or damage which I or my family might sustain while horseback riding, or attending/participating in this LCRVHC event. I am also giving up (waiving or releasing) any right I have to sue or make any claim which I might have or which might subsequently arise or occur against the LCRVHC including but not limited to the officers, members, participants and landowners for any injuries or damage which my property or property in my possession might sustain while I am horseback riding, or attending/participating in this LCRVHC event. It is my intent to give up the rights provided by law and release the LCRVHC including but not limited to it's officers, members, participants, volunteers and landowners, (the release's) from all claims for bodily injury, death or property damage, including without limitation, claims arising in whole or in part from the release's own negligence. I do so knowingly and voluntarily. I further agree to pay all legal fees, if any are incurred. \*I also understand that the landowners of the land on which we travel, park, cross or prepare or wait for any part of the event, receive no part of the fees charged for this event and that they are not paid by the LCRVHC for the use of their land. \*This release and waiver of liability claim has been read carefully and clearly represents my intent by signing it. If rider is a minor (under 18 years of age) parent must sign

***MUST be signed by Rider(s) or by Parent or legal Guardian if under 18.***

*I have read and agree to the Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement*

**Signature 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature 3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Internal Club Use Only***

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Riders: [ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3

Payment amount included: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Form [ ] Release (s) Signed: [ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3	Current Coggins Form (s) [ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3	Current Rabies Form(s) [ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3
---	---	---

## Patrol Horse Killed by Car

We are very sad to share this news with you: In July our member, Lynda Perry and her horse Trapper were hit by a car while riding on a road in Clinton. Trapper's injuries cost him his life.

The Clinton Patch covered the story at <http://clinton.patch.com/articles/a-woman-her-horse-and-a-tragic-ending>

Lynda has written the letter below to share her story with you.



### Patrol Horse Killed and Rider Injured by 17 Year Old Driver in Clinton

Dear Lower CT River Valley Horsemen's Club members,

I can't thank you enough for your overwhelming support and kindness after the traumatic death of my horse Trapper Jake Mint. I am so lucky to have such wonderful friends and to have shared the last ten years with my exceptional Lippitt Morgan Horse. Trapper was a hero. He saved my life when I first met him by showing me that horses could be both safe and fun. And he saved my life at the expense of his own life on that tragic evening. I also believe he saved the 17 year old driver from injury by preventing him from driving off the road.

Trapper was a road safe, trail safe, child safe, dressage and patrol horse. He was one of the first horses on the CT Horse Council's Volunteer Horse Patrol. We received awards for exceptional service every year since the Horse Patrol's inception (2003). I am devastated by his loss.

After Trapper's death I became aware of how large a problem injury and death of people and animals along Connecticut roadways is, and that there are often no consequences to the drivers causing harm. A bill is being reintroduced in the state senate. I would like to share Trapper's tragic story with the hope that something like this will never happen again.

On Tuesday, July 26, Trapper and I were riding home along Olde Orchard Rd in Clinton, speed limit of 25 mph. We were on a straight and open section of the road walking next to the curb on the right side of the road. I heard a vehicle approaching at approximately 6:50 pm. I turned to my left to acknowledge the vehicle with my usual friendly wave. As I turned, I saw the speeding Dodge Durango approach and swerve toward me. I screamed "Oh my God, you're going to hit me!" as the vehicle struck both Trapper and me. My first thought was that the driver intentionally hit us. It was obvious to me that the driver was speeding and out of control. Trapper and I were thrust into a tree where I was impaled by a branch on my right side. My left leg was hit by the vehicle. Trapper's left front leg was amputated above the hoof at the fetlock joint by the vehicle. We both sustained multiple abrasions and contusions. I was bruised from head to toe.

Amazingly Trapper never went down and once he was able to steady himself, he allowed me to dismount. He stood quietly, occasionally shaking the leg with his hoof dangling by skin and blood pouring out. I was in shock and disbelief. I am a veterinarian and there was nothing I could do to help my horse.

The driver stopped quite a distance past the point of impact. The first officer on the scene was the driver's father whose major concern was how I was going to get this horse transported away from the scene of the accident rather than realizing that this was an injury that was going to cost Trapper his life and that it was unsafe to all involved to try to move him. Emergency personnel and another Clinton police officer arrived. Two off-duty state troopers were there. I requested (begged) to have Trapper shot immediately. They refused because it was a residential neighborhood.

It was up to me to try to find an equine veterinarian to euthanize my horse. I only had one equine veterinary hospital's number in my cell phone, which was damaged in the accident. All three of my colleagues were over an hour away. Finally I called my associate, a small animal veterinarian. By the time he arrived, Trapper was in shock. We were able to sedate Trapper and he fell to the ground. Since he had lost so much blood, we were unable to find a vein to administer the final injection of euthanasia solution. At this point, we again asked the police to shoot Trapper. Unfortunately, the police are not trained for these types of emergencies and the officer had to shoot Trapper four times before he died, approximately 1 1/2 hours after the accident. It was horrific. The driver was very fortunate as he was sent home before my horse was shot and thus did not have to witness the terrifying and tragic end of his actions. My husband took me to the emergency room hours later after we buried Trapper.

The driver's statement says he could not see me and was "blinded by the setting sun". I was wearing a fluorescent lime green shirt and had a blaze orange poncho over Trapper's rump. The sun did not set until 8:20 that evening. What if I was walking next to Trapper, riding my bike, or walking my dog? This driver would have killed me.

The driver's statement says he stopped because he thought he hit a mailbox or garbage can, thereby acknowledging that he thought he was driving off the road and out of control. The driver lives in this neighborhood; there are no mailboxes on this road.. How could he mistake a 1000 pound animal for a garbage can or mailbox? Was the driver texting or using his cell phone?

The only consequence to the driver who struck another human being, as well as killed a horse by driving out of control was a verbal warning. Is this the message that we want to give to other drivers: That hitting someone while driving is just an accident and please don't do it again?

My husband and I met with Chief Lawrie of the Clinton Police Department and Major Santry of the Connecticut Highway Patrol last week to discuss the incident and my concerns. They will not investigate whether texting or cell phone use contributed to the accident because I did not see the driver doing either of them. They do not consider my injuries serious because I was not taken away by ambulance (I was more concerned about my mortally wounded horse than about my own injuries). They stated that 70% of all traffic violations in Clinton are given warnings. It seems to me that those that cause injury to a person should have more consequences. I asked them what they planned to do about preventing something like this in the future, specifically speeding and distracted driving. Their response was that there wasn't much more that they would be able to do as they already had one less patrol officer due to budget cuts.

This is why I ask you to support the protection of all users of Connecticut's roads, legislation which will "An Act Concerning Creating Penalties For Causing Harm to, or the Death of, a Vulnerable User of a Public Way".

<http://cthorsecouncil.org/resources/LegislationFiles/VulnerableUserFactSheet.pdf>

Representative Debra Lee Hovey has contacted me and promises to work to assure this never happens again. Many of you have asked if I need help in any way. I plan to send this letter to out as a letter to the editor. PLEASE write more letters concerning this problem, distracted drivers and speeding. PLEASE contact you state representatives and ask them to support this bill in the upcoming legislative session. I will be called to testify at a public hearing concerning this early next year and will need your support.

Sincerely and your friend,  
Lynda E. Perry, DVM

## War Horse, a Review

by Jim Griffin

Recently, I was privileged to attend the play WAR HORSE at the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center in New York City. I would highly recommend this play, and urge anyone who is interested in fantastic theater to get to this show. It was supposed to play a limited engagement from April until June, but has been so successful the engagement has been extended to an unlimited run. WAR HORSE won five 2011 Tony Awards, including Best Play.

If you are not familiar with the play, WAR HORSE is the story of an English teenager, Albert, and Joey, the hunter colt his drunken father bought for a plow horse. Albert is given the horse to train, and they have an unbreakable bond, but when World War I breaks out Albert's father sells Joey behind his back to the British cavalry, to be shipped off to France. Albert, despite being underage, joins the Army to find his beloved Joey.

The horses are depicted by life-sized puppets, the most incredible puppets you have ever seen! You would swear they are actual horses, even though they are not built to look realistic. Their actions; however, mimic real horses perfectly. In one scene, Joey leaves the stage by galloping up an aisle through the audience and out an exit door. I was fortunate enough to be seated on that aisle, and I would have sworn that was a living, breathing horse which ran past me.

WAR HORSE is theater at its best, intense and emotional. A packed house of 1600 people spent over two hours laughing, crying, and cheering. (Yes, grown men were sobbing like babies. I'm not ashamed to admit I was one of them). There was a FIVE MINUTE standing ovation at the end of the show.

If you love horses and great theater, WAR HORSE is a must see! Don't wait for the Steven Spielberg film to be released in December. There is no way it will be able to match the intensity and raw emotion of the live performance.

## A New Small Friend

Gina McManus recently welcomed a new addition to her barn. His name is Merlin, a black and white pinto miniature gelding, about twelve years old. Merlin is a rescue Gina obtained from Beech Brook Farm Equine Rescue in Mystic. Merlin has an old injury to his right knee which makes his leg stiff, but he gets around just fine.

Merlin is going to be a companion to Gina's horse Trooper and Jim Griffin's horse Yankee, keeping them company when one or the other is off on a ride or trip. There is also the possibility Merlin will become a certified therapy horse once he settles into his new home. He has already made one trip to visit the residents of Aaron Manor in Chester.

## Ads

### Horse for Part Lease

On farm part lease of my paint gelding, Yankee. The farm is located on the Clinton-Westbrook line bordering Clinton Land Trust Property and Weber Woods. Miles of riding trails. Yankee is a CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol mount and a certified Delta Society Pet Partner Therapy Animal. He is absolutely dependable, loves the trails, and has personality plus, but IS NOT for a beginning rider. He wants and insists on attention and love. Part lease to approved person only. Contact Jim Griffin at 203-483-8528 or [keeneyankee10@yahoo.com](mailto:keeneyankee10@yahoo.com).



## Ads continued

### Horse For Part Lease

Hope is a 15 hand, 15 year old sorrel paint/QH mare. She is safe, sane and fun to work with. She focuses on her work and doesn't react to sounds or other distractions. She has two years of full-time dressage training and before I owned her, a history as a very patient basic school horse – she loves kids. Hope is a real confidence builder with a great canter. She loves to canter and if you have any fears of cantering or feel like your seat at the canter is not great, she is the gal for you. She would be excellent for a beginner or an intermediate rider who would like to move up on

a safe fun horse. She is also great at lunging. I am looking to lease her for two to three days a week on the farm in Clinton, CT. The farm has an indoor arena so you can ride year round. The lease includes dressage lessons which can be beginner to intermediate. Hope is showing Training Level and schooling First and some Second Level. Hope is trained in leg yield, shoulder in, haunches in, half pass, counter canter, walk-canter transitions and more. Showing is an option if you are interested, but not at all required. If you are interested in taking her out on trails also, that would be OK.

Contact Genie Dethloff 860 452-4118 or [geniede@comcast.net](mailto:geniede@comcast.net)



*Whisper of Hope*





## ***Safires' Grace***

3/11/2006

***Beautifully marked Tri Color Paint cross mare.***

15.1 hands and sound.

Professionally started and trained. Natural horsemanship, dressage, enjoys jumping stadium and cross country, trail rides and goes over bridges and through water. Trailers, clips, vacuum, stand for farrier and is an easy keeper. The past two years she has also competed and done well in local schooling dressage and two phases shows. Born on the farm, with one owner.

Sire: Bug Zappers Design – blk tob. Registered Paint  
Dam: Safire N Lace - double registered Half-Arab - Pinto

Asking \$7500  
Lyme, CT

Contact: Trainer – Kristin Elliott Leas, [EquineInsight@gmail.com](mailto:EquineInsight@gmail.com), (860)510-2262

## 2011 Calendar

All General and Board of Directors (BOD) meetings will be held at Evarts Fire Museum at 7 pm unless specified otherwise.

CLCT work plans are made about a week ahead, see web site [www.clintonlandtrust.org](http://www.clintonlandtrust.org) for details.

### September

22-General meeting, Program: barefoot trimmer  
Sarah Block will speak about feeding the easy keeper, Equine Metabolic Syndrome, Cushings

25-*Canceled* Lord Creek Hunter Pace

\_\_\_-BPC work party

### October

2-BPC-Clean the trails from Irene damage, rsvp  
Peggy Lupone, [hazageym@yahoo.com](mailto:hazageym@yahoo.com)

6-*Canceled* BOD meeting

16-Clip and Ride in Weber Woods to prepare for the Hunter Pace, rsvp Lynda Perry [cymaronfarm@snet.net](mailto:cymaronfarm@snet.net).

23-LCRVHC Hunter Pace Trail Marking, rsvp Shirley Tirrell, [shirleytirrell@aim.com](mailto:shirleytirrell@aim.com).

27-General meeting

30-LCRVHC Hunter Pace, for info call Genie Dethloff  
452-4118, [lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net](mailto:lcrvhc-hp@comcast.net).

### November

3-BOD meeting

12-CLCT work day

13-MO Ride: Chatfield Hollow, Emmy Pavelka and Sue Davenport host

17-Special General meeting-elections

\_\_\_-BPC work party

### December

No BOD meeting

No General meeting—Merry Christmas

10-CLCT work day

4 or 11-Christmas Progressive Ride, start with breakfast at Rough Draft Farm

### January

\_\_\_-Holiday party, Sue Davenport's house