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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! What a crazy start we are having. I actually had to put a blanket on my woolly mammoth for the first time ever. Homes just seemed tense and cold. On New Year's Day we went to Hammonasset, it looked like Antarctica! I have never seen Long Island Sound so frozen. It makes me just want to hibernate. And the ice jams in the Connecticut River—I just dread what may be happening to the trails at Machimoodus, Hurd Park and the Meadows, maybe even Lord Creek.

As you know the Bridle Path Conservancy has been operating without a president for over a year now. No longer! Beverly Torell has stepped up and offered to serve in this capacity now that she is retired and has more time. A HUGE thank you to Bev! Please support her and the entire BPC board, they are our trails committee!

With the new year we are, as always, looking for insight from you, our members, as to what you are looking for from your club. It seems like, although our membership numbers are pretty steady, attendance is down at meetings and activities. Is this because the programs we have been having are not of interest? Or because it is easy and quick to get information on line? Or just because our lives have become so busy? We have been trying to have less meetings, more outdoor activities, social events, riding, and eating. We have been more flexible, changing dates and times to perhaps allow different folks to participate. Please share your thoughts and ideas. Email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or come to our 2018 planning meeting on February 8 or 9 (TBA) at Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison. You will notice that this newsletter is pretty loose. We are waiting for your input!

(President's Letter continued next page)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 PLANNING MEETING

February 8 or 9 TBD: Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison. I'm thinking we should get pizza so let me know if you are coming. Email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.

MEMBER-ONLY RIDES

Saturday, February 10 or Sunday, February 11: Let's try to have a ride at Hammonasset, weather permitting. I know the park was pretty torn up but hopefully they can get back to work soon. RSVP to lcrvhc.org with interest and availability and I will set a time and day. If there is enough interest, I will see if Judy Bosco wants to come. I know she likes to photograph horses on the beach.

Sunday, February 18 or Sunday, February 25:

How about a hay ride? Greg, Ben, and I have been working with Able and Pepper and we think they are ready for a low-key group hay ride. Afternoon is better for us—warmest part of the day. Limit maybe 10-12. Again, let me know if you are interested and I will schedule it.

FIRE SAFETY FOR THE FARM

Thursday, March 22, 7 pm at the Fire Museum. Nick Wallick, chief of the Hebron fire department will speak on fire safety around the farm. This seems extra appropriate in light of the recent tragedy at Folly Farm. Not a tentative date/time. This is confirmed. Please put it on your calendars! Bring a friend. If anyone would like a tour of the fire museum, you can come at 6:30. *Fire Museum is behind 21 Copse Road, in Madison.

See calendar on last page for more!

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Please remember when riding at Bluff Point, Hammonasset, Chatfield Hollow, and other State Parks: These parks are busy and get a lot of non-horse-friendly use. Be considerate. Pass walkers and other trail users slowly and respectfully. Do not ride where you see NO ANIMALS or NO HORSES signs posted. The boardwalks on the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Hammonasset, for example, are not horse safe. No horses are allowed on the beach at Hammonasset from April 1 to November 1. Horses are never allowed on the beach or in the picnic area at Chatfield Pond. PLEASE remove any manure from roads, trails, and beaches in State Parks. We want to keep these areas open to equestrians!

On high-use trails in the state forest, please dismount and kick/scatter manure off the trail so the kids don't walk in it and track it into Mom's SUV!

Remove all manure from parking areas and trail heads!

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(President's Letter continued)

Some Recent Programs and Activities

On November 12, LCRVHC held our annual Chili ride at Chatfield Hollow hosted by Emmy Pavelka. 9 riders enjoyed about a 2 hour loop followed by chili and deserts and visiting. Andrea and Kayden Vanderweide were kind enough to bring Sue Davenport who has been having some health issues. It was so good to see her. See photos on page 3.

Our annual winter holiday (Christmas, New Years) was held on Saturday, January 13 at Kristin and Mark's house. There was an awesome variety of food. We held a free raffle for some horse treats that were donated by Lakeside Feed as prizes for the hunter pace that was cancelled. It was fun to see some of our previous (returning) members like Bev Torell and Doro Fuller as well as our friend/photographer, Judy Bosco. About 25 people were in attendance. See photos on page 4 and 5.

Please see the Upcoming Events box on the first page and the Calendar on the last page for more activities. We really need your ideas for the 2018 calendar!

I hope to see you soon.

Melissa

PS 2018 membership renewals are now due. If you joined for the hunter pace or renewed at the Chili ride (or in November and December, you are good for 2018). Everyone else, there is a renewal form in this newsletter. It's a bargain. Only \$15 year for individual, \$25 for family. Don't make Alyce chase you. Send it today!



LCRVHC Board

President: Melissa Evarts
Vice-president: Mary Wozniak
Treasurer: Lynda Perry
Membership secretary: Alyce Mallek
At-large: Emma Saunders
At-large: Lynette Burns

BPC Board

President: Beverly Torell
Vice-president: Kristin Elliott Leas
Treasurer: Dave Beaudette
Secretary: Marlisa Simonson
At-large: Tom Elliott
At-large: Nancy Palermo-Lee

Chili Ride



Winter Party



Photos by Beverly Torell

Winter Party



Photos by Judy Bosco (more on her Facebook page)



Please fill in all information and sign and date the Release and Waiver of Liability.
 Mail completed page along with your payment to:
 LCRVHC, P.O. Box 657, Killingworth, CT 06419

2018 Membership Categories

Family \$25 Individual \$15

office use: Check amt. \$ #

- Enclosed is an additional amount of \$ _____ for our ongoing work to maintain and preserve trails.
- Enclosed is a separate check to the Bridle Path Conservancy in the amount of \$ _____ (tax deductible).
- Please contact me for volunteer help! (This is a working club and all members are encouraged to volunteer for committee chairs, trail maintenance, events organizing help and/or food donations.)

Suggest a program, ride or activity you would attend if the club offered _____

Name(s) _____

 (For family memberships please include all names; use a separate sheet if necessary)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone (home) (____) _____ (cell) (____) _____ (work) (____) _____

E-mail _____ New Member Renewal

Release and Waiver of Liability

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, and landowners; for any injuries which I might sustain while horseback riding, driving, or attending/participating in any LCRVHC event or activity. I understand that I am indemnifying (holding harmless) any horse ridden, driven, loose, or handled by another and the owner or handler while so engaged in the event of an injury to myself, my property and/or others. It is my intent to give up all the rights provided by law and release the club, landowners, etc. (the releasees) from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage, including without limitation, claims arising in whole or in part from the releasees' own negligence. I do so knowingly and voluntarily. I further agree to pay all legal fees pertaining to this event, if any are incurred.

LCRVHC is committed to safety. It is a membership requirement that all participants wear a riding helmet meeting ASTM/SEI standards when attending mounted meetings and events.

For Club Membership:

Signature of primary member _____ date ____/____/____
 (If a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign)

Signature of Spouse _____ date ____/____/____
 (for family membership, parent of minor child of divorced member, etc.)

For Taking Part in an Event:

Signature of primary member _____ date ____/____/____
 (If a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign)

Everyone must complete:

Emergency contact information

Name(s) _____ Telephone(s) (____) _____ (____) _____
 _____ (____) _____ (____) _____

Bridle Path Conservancy News

The BPC is recruiting board members and/or officers, if you are able and willing to serve the riding community in this way please contact acting president Kristin Elliott Leas (equineinsight@gmail.com). Thank You

A Friendly Reminder

The BPC is a non-member organization dependent on LCRVHC for manpower and inspiration! It is basically still LCRVHC's trails committee! We maintain the trails in Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail. The hunter pace which LCRVHC holds in Weber Woods each year pays the club's annual operating expenses. If you can't make it to an official work party maybe you can take a walk and toss some branches and rocks off the trail. Hours spent in Weber Woods or on the Quinimay trail can and should be logged as Adopt a Park time. Wear your badges. You may report your time to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com for now. We would all rather be out riding but please bear in mind that it takes a lot of hours of political action with the state and towns to prioritize open space and the work to maintain the trails is never ending. Please join us in our efforts. Thank you!

Cares and Concerns

From Nancy Palermo-Lee <greenbear@gmavt.net>

There are about 35 paint and quarter horses in Vermont that need new homes (understand the owner has about 50 total). Ages from 5–15. All of them have had very little handling and none of them are trained except an older mare who is 20. They will need experienced handlers. Never vetted except if hurt. Understand they are good temperament.

If anyone has any interest please send me your name, address, phone number and e-mail address and I will forward it to the Trooper handling the placement. I am hoping to get some pictures and information on individual horses.

There are two I have information on now.

There is a stallion. He is 14 or 17, red dun, he has been handled for breeding purposes only.

Also, a 20 year old mare with one eye that has a cyst on her hip but has been trained to ride and was ridden and cared for most of her life (they said safe for a child to ride but nothing heavier because of hip).

Horses are located in Warren VT. About 4.5–5 hours from Westbrook, CT.

LCRVHC/BPC 2018 Calendar

Please think about the 2018 calendar. If you are interested in hosting a MO ride please contact Lynda Perry (cymaronfarm@snet.net). If you have an idea for a program or activity, a topic you would like to learn about or a skill to share, please e-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or contact any board member. Meetings are at the Fire Museum behind 21 Copse Road, Madison, unless otherwise specified. It is always fun to go other places. Consider hosting a meeting or social event at your home or farm. LCRVHC has a Facebook page for member-only rides <https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc>. Check it out! We will be filling this out at our planning meeting!

January

1: Annual Freeze Your Butt Ride at Hammonasset State Park, RSVP lcrvhc.org@gmail.com (cancelled)
13 (heavy snow date 20): 6 pm, Winter Party, Kristin and Mark's house, 131 Pritchett Drive, Westbrook

February

8 or 9: Planning Meeting, Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison-date will be finalized via e-mail
10 or 11: Hammonasset Ride, tentative
18 or 25: Hay Ride, tentative
See first page for more information

March

10: CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol annual meeting
22: Fire Safety in the barn, Chief Nick Wallick, Hebron Fire Department

May

___: Games Day at Rough Draft Farm

June

2: National Trails Day, work party and picnic

October

28: Fall Festival Hunter Pace/Silent Auction/Raffle

Other ideas:

CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol CPR Update
Spring Tag Sale
Poker Ride

HOLIDAY POTLUCK RIDE

???? We had to cancel this due to the bitter cold. Dave says we can reschedule. What works for you all?
Potluck ride from Dave Beaudette and Julie Berman's place, 98 Stevenstown Rd., Deep River (where we do the hunter pace). Please bring a dish to share (we can warm it after the ride if needed—or crockpot?), ready to ride about 10 am. We will supply a map of the state forest. Riders can go out in pairs or small groups or whatever they like, ride as far and as fast as they like, and return for potluck about 12:30. Non riding members are welcome for lunch too. Please RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com, you might tell us what you plan to bring so we can head off duplicates. Dave and Julie also extend the invitation to riders who missed out on the hunter pace.

Content Wanted for Newsletter

Let us know what you are doing with your horse. Write a Meet the Member Bio of yourself or a friend. Send pictures of your horse, your adventures or show results, links to articles, tack picks, barn tips, whatever you want to share. E-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.