

November/December 2023

# LCRVHC

Lower Connecticut  
River Valley Horsemen's Club

## Contact Us

LCRVHC: e-mail: [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com)

web site: [lcrvhc.org](http://lcrvhc.org)

[facebook.com/lcrvhc](https://facebook.com/lcrvhc)

BPC: e-mail: [contactus@BPConservancy.org](mailto:contactus@BPConservancy.org)

web site: [BPConservancy.org](http://BPConservancy.org)

[facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy](https://facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy)

## President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Whew! We sure have had a busy fall—I don't have room for all the photos! Follow the BPC and LCRVHC on Facebook to see the photos when they are fresh!

### Recent Activities

On September 16, Jeannie Wigglesworth, Gina McManus, and Cindy Kimss-Kuester hosted a MO progressive fun ride. We parked and started with breakfast at Jeannie's, then enjoyed a trail ride to Gina's where we played games that she and Dick had set-up, then on to Cindy's barn for some horse painting, and back to Jeannie's for a brown bag lunch on the patio. Thank you ladies, for planning and hosting. More photos on pages 4 and 5.



The very next day, September 17, we were finally able to hold the Muck Rock work party that had been rained out earlier in the summer. See Peggy's report and photos on pages 14 and 15. We will need at least one more work party to finish the project. Dates to come.

The Full Moon MO ride scheduled for September 29 had to be canceled due to rain—it sure has been a wet year. Hopefully we can try again sometime.

Fall is always a busy time with our annual Fall Festival Hunter Pace. This is our only fundraiser and pays for our biggest club expense—insurance. Plus it's fun! A huge thank you to our landowners: Dave and Julie, Gloria and

*(President's Letter continued next page)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEMBER-ONLY RIDES

Ride dates and locations are subject to change due to weather and conflicts. Depending on how many riders we get, we may break into smaller groups. Please RSVP to [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com) or call or text LCRVHC ride manager Liz Kennedy at (860) 227-9814 for details.

Details on calendar page.

**Sunday, November 12.** Sue Davenport Memorial Chili Ride at Chatfield Hollow. 11 am ride-out.

**Saturday, November 18.** MO ride at Wadsworth Falls. 10 am ride-out.

**Thursday, November 30.** General Meeting/Elections/Planning, 6 pm at the Fire Museum.

**December 2/3 or 9/10** (depending on weather). Christmas Soup Ride at Rough Draft Farm.

**Monday, January 1.** Annual Freeze-Your-Butt ride at Hammonasset.

**Saturday, February 3.** LCRVHC/BPC Winter Party. Details page on 13.

**Friday, February 23.** Annual Pizza and Planning meeting at Alyce Malleks' house. 6 pm.

### MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

We are going to try and have quarterly meetings, probably associated with a ride or activity, we will continue to have monthly group trail rides, and we always welcome your ideas for destinations, activities and programs. Email [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com) or talk to any board member!

**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 users. 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 between April 1 and October 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!**

\* \* \* \* \*

*(President's Letter continued)*

Tom, and Kristin and Mark. We couldn't do it without your generosity. Also much appreciation to all who helped with trail cleanup and marking, set-up and break down, registration and timing, and those members who participated. It takes a village and you guys are the best! Results and pictures throughout!

As soon as the Muck Rock work party wrapped up we were in full-on hunter pace mode, with trail clean-up, weedwhacking the jump fields and trail areas that were overgrown, cutting and removing down trees, and finally marking the course. Thank you to Tom and Dave for mowing all their fields so they could dry from all the rain we had. Thanks to Bob Bandzes and Dave for removing trees that were too big for my saw; Julie and Dave and Joel mowed/weedwhacked the lower gun club field, Liz and Bob and I weedwhacked Ginger's field, Kristin and Mark brushhogged the trails and around the jumps in their area and Peggy got in close with her mower. The



state forest section of the course got marked the Sunday before the pace, with Alyce and I doing the outside loop in the forest, Julie and her cousins did 4-corners to the finish, and Peg and I did the Elliott/Leas properties the Friday before the pace—roping off wet areas with Tom's guidance. Saturday it rained, again, ugh, but we were still able to get some set-up done. Sunday we got there early to finish setting up the lunch area and, thankfully, it was perfect weather for the pace. Thanks to Cindy and Julie for traffic control; Bob and Dave for parking; Mary for help with registration and picking up the lunches; Liz 1 and Liz 2 for timing; Nancy for scoring; Kathy for handing out lunches and drinks, and everyone else who helped out. We ended up with 43 riders, a great turnout. And almost everyone hung around for the awards for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Blessing of the Mounts planned for October 14, at Hammonasset, had to be moved due to rain. There was a huge event (Ride for the Shore?) at Hammo on Sunday so Liz relocated it to Chatfield Hollow. I had a prior commitment so I missed it but it sounds like everyone had a great day. Photos on pages 10 and 11.

### **LCRVHC Board**

President: Melissa Evarts  
Vice-president: Liz Kennedy  
Treasurer: Lynn Burns  
Membership secretary: Alyce Mallek  
At-large: Gina McManus  
At-large: Hannah Gossett

### **BPC Board**

President: Peg Lupone  
Vice-president: Kristin Elliott Leas  
Treasurer: Nancy Palermo-Lee  
Secretary: Loretta Spencer  
At-large: Tom Elliott  
At-large: Bob Bandzes



A montage from the Christmas card photo shoot. For more go to [judybosco.smugmug.com](http://judybosco.smugmug.com).

*(President's Letter continued)*

And to wrap up October, on the 22nd we held a Christmas card photo shoot here at Rough Draft Farm. It was a blast styling and posing the equines—Judy Bosco is amazing! We made \$130, which we split with Judy.

### **And more**

T-shirts: Liz Kennedy reports: This was not a fundraiser, we sold the shirts at our cost. We ordered 32 shirts. 29 have been sold/money collected. Have 3 left.

This is an election year for LCRVHC. All of our current officers and board members have agreed to stay on, but, if anyone is interested in the treasurer or secretary position, Lynn and Alyce both say they would be willing to give someone else a turn, LOL. Seriously, if you are interested, please contact any board member. We will hold a general meeting on Thursday, November 30, at 6 pm at the fire museum, behind 21 Copse Road, Madison. At this meeting, in addition to the election, we will be making plans for the winter party and activities. It seemed like everyone enjoyed the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall venue where we had it last year. Nancy Palermo-Lee has agreed to coordinate the rental of the space and the potluck again and Peggy will organize a silent auction to benefit the BPC—donations welcome.

Please see the Upcoming Events box on the first page and the Calendar on the last page for upcoming activities. We always need ideas for the calendar! Any ride ideas/hosts are extremely welcome. If you want to share calendars from other local horse groups we will try not to schedule on conflicting dates.

### *Melissa*

**PS** LCRVHC membership is really a bargain at only \$15 annually for individual, \$25 for family. If you have friends you ride with or know people who are interested in trail riding with small groups or working on local trails, spread the word. And please, I can't say it often enough, tell us what you want to do as a club!



# Progressive Ride, September 16





# Progressive Ride, September 16





# Hunter Pace Prep Work Parties





# 2023 Fall Festival Hunter Pace





# 2023 Fall Festival Hunter Pace Results

## Hunter Division

1st place: Heidi Smith riding Mama

2nd place: Shelley Miller riding Royal Thunder

3rd place: Mary Palumbo riding Trixie and Erica Korper riding Chance

## Hacker Division

1st place: “Attack Alpacas” Sarah Willey riding Blackberry, Aria Wilson riding Dove (Pretty Impulsion), and Prais Willey riding Freda (Freedom’s Daughter)

2nd place: “Muck Buckets” Colleen Bjorbekk riding Macchiato and Robin Marrotte riding Dovie

3rd place: Kaela Mook riding Peppy

4th place: “Vintage Vet Techs” Kristin Buch riding Fred and Ashlee O’Rourke riding Honey

5th place: “Mane Attraction” Karen York riding Bunny and Lynda Ferguson riding Gemma

6th place: Marisa Rockwell riding Deebo and Becca Johnson riding LDF Perfect Tense

7th place: “The Fugaways” Ruth Strontzer riding Darwin, Joel Conte riding Splash, and Tony Gambardella riding Buck

8th place: Lauren Veno riding Ice and Chelsea Mongillo riding Typed with Love

## Costumes

1st place: “Puppies in Tutus” Marisa Rockwell riding Deebo and Becca Johnson riding LDF Perfect Tense. 8 x 10 each from Judy Bosco

## Other Great Costumes

“Taylor and Travis” Lauren Veno riding Ice and Chelsea Mongillo riding Typed with Love

“Sparkly Spiders” Kristin Connell riding River and Christine Mather riding Watson

“Thing 1 and Thing 2” Sarah Willey riding Blackberry, Aria Wilson riding Dove (Pretty Impulsion), and Prais Willey riding Freda (Freedom’s Daughter) [I’m not sure which two were in costume!]

“Barbie” Lauren Runkle riding Ramius and Rebecca Runkle riding Roxie

“Super Bowl XXXI” Hailey Braiden riding Dream a Little Dream and Alexa Clark riding Stall 32

“Cow Horse” Kaela Mook riding Peppy

“Pink Ladies” Denise Lichtenfels riding Cricket and Alea Wall riding Scotch

Manager’s award for first complete entry: Denise Lichtenfels and Alea Wall

Manager’s award for most helpful: Bob Bandzes (This was hard to choose—so many helped so much!)

Judy Bosco’ raffle winner: Kristin Buch

Prizes donated by Lakeside Feed and Tack shop, Northeast Feed and Supply, Photographer Judy Bosco, and Liz Kennedy. Thank you!!!

Thank you to all who supported our pace—riders, volunteers, club members, and especially our land-owners!



## 2023 Fall Festival Hunter Pace



Just a small selection from Judy Bosco, for more visit her SmugMug site [judybosco.smugmug.com](http://judybosco.smugmug.com).



## Blessing of the Mounts, October 15



Judy Bosco was also at the Blessing, you can see her photos at [judybosco.smugmug.com](http://judybosco.smugmug.com).



## Blessing of the Mounts, October 15



Cathy and Jimmy Clouse graciously provided Minister Mark Valigorsky. Deb Strickland made charms for each participant.

A little history on the Blessing itself: St. Francis of Assisi was born in the 12th century, lived in Italy, and founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St. Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis for men and women not able to live the lives of itinerant preachers. Francis is one of the most venerated religious figures in history.

He is remembered for his generosity to the poor, his willingness to minister to the lepers, and for his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.



## Behind the Scenes October 22 Photoshoot





# LCRVHC/BPC Winter Party!

Saturday, February 3, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Road, Essex

Club will provide spiral ham and all paper goods (plates, napkins, utensils, etc.)

Reasonable tended cash bar in next room, *no* BYO permitted!

Family and horsey friends are welcome. Please RSVP so we have a head count.

Nancy Palermo Lee is coordinating RSVPs and food so please let her know if you are coming and what you plan to bring. Text is best (802) 989-1110.

## Silent Auction to benefit the BPC!

Donations of goods or services welcome and appreciated. We already have some:

Judy Bosco will donate an 8 x 10 from any gallery on her SmugMug site—this is your chance to get that photo you've been wanting to order! Melissa Evarts offers a Surrey ride with Ritz along scenic Madison Middle Beach. More to come.

Silent Auction contact is Peg Lupone, donations of goods or services are welcome.

Email her at [hazageym@yahoo.com](mailto:hazageym@yahoo.com).





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# Bridle Path Conservancy News

The BPC is always recruiting board members and trailworkers. If you are able and willing to serve the trail riding community in this way please contact BPC president Peg Lupone at (hazageym@yahoo.com). Thank You

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## BPC President's Letter

Hey all,

BPC got busy on September 17 to repair the portion of trail called "Muck Rock Road". At the direction of Kristin Elliott Leas, many volunteers and members of LCRVHC moved rocks, shoveled process and lugged equipment in the area to help with the repair of that section of trail. More work will be needed in that location to finish the walk way for horses and pedestrians. The strategically placed rocks will help keep the muck from taking over the trail. Stay tuned this Spring for more work dates to come. Many thanks to the member volunteers who showed up that day. Photos on page 15.

Many thanks to members Cindy Kirmss-Kuester and Nancy Palermo-Lee! Nancy has been the treasurer of BPC over the last several years and her service is greatly appreciated. She recently asked to step down from that position and Cindy Kirmss-Kuester has graciously accepted the treasurer position. Thank you, Nancy, for your years of service and congratulations to Cindy for becoming our new treasurer!

In recent weeks, it has come to our attention that fixing the plywood bridge over at The Preserve will not be possible because of political complications at this time. In similar news, the DEEP has suggested that the trail on the other side of the Alligator Bridge be abandoned because of the continued beaver damage to the trail. Some of that trail seems to be underwater and fixing it would be costly and possibly ineffective.

To conclude with some good news, the plaque for the bridge rebuild at the beginning of Weber Woods has been installed. Thanks again to Nancy Palermo-Lee for getting it ordered and to Tom Elliott for installing it! Happy trails, everyone!

Sincerely,  
Peg Lupone

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## A Friendly Reminder

The BPC is a non-member organization dependent on LCRVHC for manpower and inspiration! It is basically 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. Please report your time to Peg Lupone, hazageym@yahoo.com. 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!

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# BPC Muck Rock Work Party, September 17







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

## 2024 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) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



## Cares and Concerns

Our thoughts are with our members going through tough times.

Continued prayers for Kathy Schuyler undergoing treatment for cancer.

Condolences to Gina and Dick McManus and family on the loss of their pony, Ollie.

If you have cares or concerns to share email them to [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com)

Congratulations to Rebecca Russell who welcomed her new pony, Fig Newton, barn name Newt, in September



**REMINDER:** Fall and winter are hunting season. Hunting is permitted in state forests. Please take care, wear your orange attire. Hunters are usually in the forest early morning and late afternoon. No Sunday hunting on state land. Check the DEEP web site for accurate information.

## REMINDER

Horses are only allowed on the beach at Hammonasset from October 1 through March 31. Please be respectful.



## 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](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com).


Richard Martin will have a stall available the end of the year. Turnout with run-in. Adjacent to Cockaponsett/Weber Woods trail system. Contact him for information. (860) 669-1176. Landline with voice mail, do not text.


## Classifieds

If you have something to sell, give away, share, or barter; or are looking for something another member might have to exchange, place your ad here!

**P & H Pony Sales**

 Corey Pollock  
902-439-9995

 Kyle Hubbard  
860-986-2334



**Dealers in all classes of livestock**  
1175 Copper Hill Rd, West Suffield, CT



*Rachel's Blankets*

Blanket Washing and Repair

(804) 245-7514  
[rachel@whitesidefamily.co.uk](mailto:rachel@whitesidefamily.co.uk)



## LCRVHC/BPC 2023/2024 Calendar

If you are interested in hosting or leading a member-only ride; have an idea for a future program, clinic, or activity; a topic you would like to learn about; a skill to share; or would like to host a winter party or summer picnic, please email us at [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com). LCRVHC has a Facebook page for member-only rides and events: <https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc>. Check it out and follow!

Ride dates and locations are subject to change due to weather and conflicts. Depending on how many riders we get, we may break into smaller groups. Please RSVP to [lcrvhc.org@gmail.com](mailto:lcrvhc.org@gmail.com) or call or text LCRVHC ride manager VP Liz Kennedy at 860-227-9814 for details. We are trying to do a mix of Saturday and Sunday rides. We try to include dates for some other clubs/groups since we have a lot of cross-over members.

### November

12: LCRVHC Sue Davenport Memorial Chili Ride at Chatfield Hollow

18 (note, this has changed from Sunday the 19th): LCRVHC ride at Wadsworth Falls. Ready to ride at 10 am, bring your own lunch for after the ride. Please trailer pool if possible due to limited parking. RSVP.

19: CT Morgan Turkey Trot ride at Bluff Point. All are welcome.

### December

2/3 or 9/10 weekend—depending on weather:  
Christmas Soup member-only ride at Rough Draft Farm. Ready to ride at 10 am. Bring a soup, side, or dessert to share after the ride. Please RSVP so we have a head count.

### January

1: Annual Freeze Your Butt Ride at Hammonasset. Ready to ride at 11 am. Hot chocolate after the ride.

### February

February 3: Winter Party, 5 to 8 pm, Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, details on page 13.

23: Pizza and Planning Meeting at Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison. 6 pm, club will provide pizza and soft drinks. Bring your calendars and ideas! Please RSVP so we know how much pizza to get!

Other ideas:

Julie Berman suggested a trailering clinic



Stewie supervising at the Christmas card photo shoot