

HOOF PRINT

Aquidneck Island Horseman's Association

March 2007



AIHA Information

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Newsletter:
Dori Burner
849-0476
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Newsletter Deadline:
April 16th will mail the 27th

President's Message

Well, we may have thought we were going to get off easy this winter
But the cold temperatures have found us and are testing our resolve.
It takes real fortitude to get out to the barn and give our hoofed friends
The time and attention they deserve in this cold weather. By the time
You read this; hopefully, we will have thawed out a bit and by the time
We have our next meeting; spring will be just around the corner!

The new officers of the AIHA have met and laid out a tentative calendar
For the year and we are excited about what we think will give our club
New energy. We have activities and fundraising events planned that
We can't wait to reveal at the March meeting!! We have a new newsletter
Editor, Dori Burner As you will see in the Minutes of the January meeting,
we have a new slate of officers and we are confident that 2007 will be a
memorable year. So please join us on the 14th of March and resolve to
have some fun with your horse and your horse buddies this year.

See you there,
Meredith Commons Russo, President

Let's Get Together...

The March AIHA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14th.
The meeting will be held at the 501 Restaurant, Island Park in Portsmouth
RI. We will gather at 6:30 pm, and have dinner at 7:00. The price for the
meal is \$10.00, the tax and tip will be \$2.80. Coffee is included with the
meal; alcohol or soda will be extra. Donations of prizes for the raffle will be
gladly accepted. Please let me know of your meal choice and if you plan to
attend by Friday, March 9th, so Sam can shop for the event. There may be
some names on this list that are not current members, and please accept my
apology for this. The list will be updated following our meeting Wednesday.

Thanks,
Rose Stabile



Winter Polo at the Glen



Mike Waters on his way to a wedding...

2007 AIHA Calendar

March 10 & 11 Annual Driving Forum

Westford, MA

www.driving-forum.com

March 14th AIHA meeting

March 17th BCHA Tack Sale Rehoboth, MA

Contact: Sandy Beauregard

508-222-2959

April 16th AIHA newsletter deadline

May 8th AIHA meeting (tentative)

May 26 & 27 Memorial Day Campout at
Escoheag

LeGrand: Reynolds horsemen's
camping area (Informal gathering
– not an official AIHA event)

June 22nd Newsletter deadline

Tales From The Farm...

A little over a year ago I got a call from my parents. They informed me that they had just bought a farm. My mother explained that she had found this farm on the internet (Which needless to say has become an expensive pastime for her) and she convinced my father it was meant to be. So they drove about 350 miles the next day to take a look at it. Well it just so happened that when they arrived at the farm there were two other people interested in the property, so in my mother's opinion it must be a good farm to own so she promptly wrote a check and told the realtor to tell the other folks it was sold. You must understand that my parents have been going around the bend slowly, but this was a huge leap even for them. I said, "Mother what on earth are you thinking!" She said, "I knew that we were going to buy this farm before we even got there. We passed the most beautiful field of purple flowers on the way here, and you know my mother loved purple flowers." You simply do not even want to know the other indicators that sealed this deal, trust me!! So she described the new family farm as, "Well it will need some work." She didn't tell me until days later that the 150-year-old farmhouse was inhabitable, without indoor plumbing or electricity! The only upside was that the farm came with a barn full of old tack and equipment, and two horses! My dad told the older couple that his daughter liked horses, so would they mind leaving the horses with the farm, they were more than happy to comply. So for the next year my parents were under construction again, the contractor they hired ended up taking three times longer than originally planned because, well he liked his beer. It took dad a few months to figure out why the guy was always late or didn't show up at all. After dad was clued in by one of the neighbors that this contractor could be found every night at the local roadhouse, in true dad-like fashion, he went and kept him company most every night insuring that the guy didn't drink so much that he couldn't make it to work the next day. Dad even offered to pick him up every morning. Which he did if the guy was 30 minutes late. All I can say is that the parents didn't realize living in the country was going to be such a major inconvenience, things happen much slower in the country! So the new pastimes were going to the local roadhouse, visiting family in our neighboring hometown, and going to the local livestock auction. Now I have been to this auction house and it is rather scary to say the least. I remember the first time (I only went twice) I went to the auction, my mother said, "Honey you need to go and change, you will feel really out of place." I had some shorts and a matching top on, nothing too exciting, but nonetheless I went and changed into jeans, a t-shirt, and tennis shoes, again I got the look, I said, "Well I suppose I could run out to the barn and get dirty if I am still over-dressed." So off to the auction we went, my mother said, "Now if you see a horse you want just raise this paddle, I gave them a cancelled check and opened up a line of credit for you." I thought how exciting I could buy a horse! Well let's just say that I left there that day without a horse, I was saddened by the whole adventure, these horses were either half starved, ill, old, or wild. I could have purchased every horse that went up that day for less than a thousand dollars. Did I also mention that I discovered my mother is kind of addicted to bidding at auctions? I had to throw myself on her a couple of times to keep her from adding another green horse to our collection. The last time she and my dad went to auction they bought two more green horses that make four un-ride able horses at the farm, it is utter torture! Well I will say that she may have learned her lesson with the horses, one morning she called me in a frazzle. "You are not going to believe how my day started", she said. "I looked out the window and the girls are running down the middle of the road!" The girls are the four wild horses we have at the farm. So I put my muckers on and ran out in my nightgown to go and get them. "Can you even picture my mother in her nightgown and muckers running down the road first thing in the morning?" "Well," she says "I finally got the harness (AKA halter) on Princess (our 2000lb Percheron) and the rest of the girls followed me back to the paddock. I come in the house (AKA mobile home temporary quarters till farm house done) and I had left the water running and flooded the kitchen." Simply a Green Acres moment

AIHA MEETING NOTES
TUESDAY JANUARY 9, 2007
BLUE PLATE DINER, MIDDLETOWN RI

Meredith Russo called the meeting order at 7 p.m.

The treasurer, Paul Rice gave a financial report. That information is available to any club member who requests it from the current treasurer.

Meredith expressed a special thank you to the Green Valley Country Club for our wonderful Christmas party and special thanks to Mary Raposa and Arlene Davis for all their planning. We enjoyed a delicious dinner, some holiday games, and had a very large and exciting Chinese Auction.

The results of the election of officers for 2007 were announced:

President – Meredith Russo
Vice President – Rose Stabile
Secretary – Marcie Taylor
Treasurer – Anne Torres
Member at large – Sylvia Hayden
Club Historian – Grace Kinnunen

Grace Kinnunen spoke about the beach committee and the importance of protecting our rights to ride. She noted how those rights sometimes are conflicting with the enforcement of the leash laws for dogs.

Barbara Plante spoke to the membership about efforts she made on searching out a web site carrier. After much investigation she chose and created a site utilizing software, which is available, free of charge to Non-profit groups. The site is up and running and can be accessed by logging into <http://www.orgsites.com/ri/aiha/index.html>

Sheila Reilly noted the importance of establishing a website for tax purposes and also the importance of the ability to make changes as required. We discussed whether there should be a classified area to be accessible to club members only.

The Sunshine Fund will be temporarily taken over by Arlene Davis while Mary Raposa is away.

We discussed the AIHA Scholarship for 2007 and agreed upon an amount of \$500.00 again this year. Those who volunteered to be on the committee are Marcie Taylor, Pat Grimes, Sandra Van Duinwyk, Laura Murphy, DeeDee Harrison, Paul Bernard, and Rosa Day. Emily Diggins, last year's scholarship recipient, will be contacted by Marcie as a follow up to inquire as to how her goals have lined up thus far.

Sylvia Hayden said that there has been 3 square miles of raw woods added to Arcadia, and Cranston has added 10 miles to its horse path.

Dues for 2007 are now due and the membership form can be downloaded from the website.

Some brief discussion included possible plans for the upcoming year, including a meeting with Meghan Hamilton, equine massage therapist, as a guest speaker a steak cookout and possibly a ride in May.

Sheila Reilly was our guest speaker and discussed the Robert Potter League, its past, present and future. Most important was the capitol campaign for the building of a brand new facility. She discussed how the model of an animal shelter has evolved from shelter to comfortable housing, creating safe and stimulating environments, and how the shelter hopes to find solutions for animals before they have to be in a shelter. She discussed detailed plans for a new green building to make it environmentally friendly as well.

Barbara Plante and Roy Richardson completed the repair of the ground surface of the riding ring at the Glen Park and said it will be re-opened in the spring.

Grace Kinnunen discussed the honor of "Lifetime Membership" and mentioned the contributions of the past recipients, Dr. Jerry Cates, Sylvia and Chet Hayden, and Grace Kinnunen. She then announced the newest nomination for Lifetime Membership, Barbara Plante. A motion was made and accepted to nominate Barbara for this award.

After the meeting there was a raffle. (For any new members, you may bring a raffle gift to any meeting. Raffle tickets are for sale for \$1.00 apiece or 6 for \$5.00. The money collected helps the club pay for any tax and tips when we have fixed price meals.)

After the raffle the meeting was adjourned.

The AIHA Classifieds



Home Needed:

For a tame, quiet and loving adult male cat, black and white, recently neutered. "Goose" was found in a trailer park in Triverton, having been dropped off there by his previous owner. He was sick with an upper respiratory infection, had severe worms and ear mites. We guess by his size and condition that he is about two to three years old. He was starving when we brought him in from the cold and still weighted 13 pounds! Goose is a big boy...he is very even tempered and seems to like other cats about as much as he likes people. He was prevented from eating in the trailer park by the other cats that eat there because he is not a fighter and didn't fight for his portion of food...I have given him pills, cleaned out his ears and cut his nails with little resistance from him, he was a gem at the vets the two times he was treated there and he LOVES to be brushed and combed and is seemingly content living in my spare room, although he'd like to get out to be with the other cats in the house. I have too many of my own rescued cats and really would like to find this guy his own home...if you know of anyone who might be interested in a laded back boy, please have them call me.... by the way, he got his name from the sound he makes when he "meows"...it sound more like a goose than a cat! Janet Skinner 683-6490

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NEXT MEETING: THANKSGIVING DINNER AT WHITE'S OF WESTPORT

Our next meeting will be our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner to be held on Monday, November 13th at White's of Westport, on Rt 6 off of I 195 East at the usual time: 6:00 to 6:30 pm meet and greet, 7 pm dinner/meeting. The menu will be; soup, turkey with the "fixin's" and apple crisp with ice cream for dessert. The cost to the club is \$19.62 per person. As voted at the meeting, if the club had a good profit from the hunter pace, we would pass this on to members so this dinner will cost members only \$10.00!!! Take advantage of this great price and attend this important meeting!

Please rsvp to Grace Kinnunen by November 5th at
G_Kinnunen@msn.com or call 401 623-9697.



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