

WNRDC Calendar of Events

January 2009



West Newbury
Riding and Driving Club
POST

Beach Rides and Trail Rides

Contact: Kathy Feehery 978-363-5424 or feebery@comcast.net

Join us for a Beach Ride at Salisbury Beach. RSVP to Kathy 3 days before the ride. If you have room in your trailer to take a fellow member or if you would like to go and have no trailer, please let Kathy know and we can try to match you up.

Sunday February 15 : meet in parking lot by 9am, low tide is at 9:46am

Saturday March 7: meet in parking lot by 1:30pm, low tide is at 2:18pm
Our goal is to be on the beach by the time low tide hits.

Another Beach ride might be possible April 4 and an Apple blossom ride towards the end of April. More to come via email.

Reminder: you do need a State Park Parking Permit (\$35 per year) which can be obtained at Maudsley State Park or Salisbury Beach State Reservation, Beach Rd. Rte. 1A, Salisbury, MA, 978 462-4481

Directions: From Rte. 95: Take exit 58A to Newburyport/Rte. 110 east. Follow Rte. 110 East to Salisbury and the intersection

with Rte. 1A North. Turn right on Rte. 1A and follow it 2 miles to the Park entrance on the right. From Rte. 495: Take Rte. 495 to exit 55, Rte. 110. Follow Rte 110 East to Salisbury and the intersection with Rte. 1A north. Follow Rte. 1A north approx. 2 miles to the Park entrance on the right.

Tack Sale/Swap

Sunday, February 22 3-5pm

Contact: Joan Carlson 978-510-1587 pilgrims2@comcast.net

Location: Town Hall Annex Building
Start digging out tack you would like to sell or start making your shopping list! Please contact Joan if you would like to register for a table, limited number of tables available, you can bring in your own table. Set up will be at 2:30pm.

Experience a free Reiki session with Karen Sherzi

Participate in a free raffle of fun horsey gifts

Annual Potluck

Saturday, March 21, 2009 6:30PM
Town Hall Annex Building

Contact: Jill Hazard 978-363-5829 rhazard48@gmail.com

RSVP to Jill and let her know what dish you are bringing.

Club Contacts

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Board of Directors

Joan Carlson Kathy Feehery Cindy Foote
Deborah Hamilton Judy Wright
Mary Lee Mahoney Camp, Ex Officio President (non-voting)

Bernadette Hamilton— Membership Secretary

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Member Profile: Sara Contois

By Deb Hamilton

After 17 years in West Newbury, Sara Contois, horse trainer and “centered riding” instructor, will be making a move in April to the hills of Vermont. Although she will still be teaching in the area at least one day a week, Sara will be looking after a barn in West Windsor, owned by a couple of Boston attorneys who also winter in Ocala, FL and, Aiken SC. Her new responsibilities in Vermont will still permit her to teach, train and judge throughout New England. Sara’s former boarder, Sophie Battell, will be living in Sara’s Bridge Street home and will be looking for a couple of boarders to fill the stalls where Sara’s horses had been living.

Sara is best known in this area as our Technical Delegate at Pipestave Three Phase events, and for 20 years has been active teaching the young horsemen and women of the Pentucket Pony Club, both mounted and unmounted. For many years she evaluated stable management as a judge, and acts as the “quizmaster” at Central New England Region Pony Club rallies. “Sara always has a story that sticks with the kids,” reports Sarah Robinson, current District Commissioner of the Pentucket Pony Club. “She is hugely respected by parents, kids, and we will really miss her.”

Starting as an Instructor when she was only 18, Sarah acquired all sorts of equine education, first in England riding three times a week with “The Quorn Hunt” in Leicestershire, England’s fastest hunt. Sara rode the “lunatics” there, including one who spent virtually the entire day on his hind legs, then she moved on to the more civilized pursuit of dressage with the Spanish Riding School in Austria and later, in Hamburg Germany. In Austria, she was originally one of 8 girls looking after and schooling 40 horses, but by the end she was the only one. She values the one-on-one time she spent in Europe with the top riders in the world, incorporating their skills—and work ethic—into her own teaching.

She returned to the states to bring over Mike Plumb’s big three-day event horse “Chagall”, and she then looked after his Olympic caliber horses and those of the USET during their glory days in the ‘80’s. Another big opportunity came when Sara was riding NEDA horses, with author and instructor Sally Swift, and exploring her theories on “centered riding”. That is now the focus of Sarah’s teaching: perfect balance makes things much easier for the horse, as the rider can use each limb independently of the others. She finds that learning to ride is like learning a foreign language, and one where practice leads to mastery.

Interestingly, the only two horse-related injuries Sara has suffered both occurred here in West Newbury: one a fall where she wrecked her arm, the other when she took a

hoof in the face. She came to really appreciate the horse community here in town: people just showed up to clean the barn, delivered her meals, and helped her for several months until she was recovered. She also loves the wonderful equestrian park we have at Pipestave, and the fabulous dog walking at Mill Pond and River Bend.

Sara and her canine buddies, Forest Gump and Duke, will be traveling to Vermont by April 1, but she has invited us up to ride with her in “Paradise”. She’ll have room for visitors, with heavenly trails, a beautiful new barn and an indoor arena. If your horse would profit from her schooling, (and whose wouldn’t?), Sara will also be looking for up to three horses to train in Vermont this spring and summer.

Here is just a sampling of all her contributions to WNRDC:

- * *let us use her camper as a secretary’s office for the events for several years, including delivering it and taking it back*
- * *was the head of our motley (not her fault) drill team, and kept everyone happy and laughing.*
- * *served as our Technical Delegate at all the horse trials for many years, and was initially unpaid. She was always very fair and calm, which is not an easy task in that job*
- * *judged our horse trials for dressage and stadium many times, and always kept her scribes chuckling*
- * *presented an excellent seminar on grooming at the Ordway’s farm and gave us all many tips that we still use*
- * *helped build cross country jumps and also assisted on course cleaning days*

Many thanks, Sara, for your help, advice and expertise over the years you’ve been an integral part of the WNRDC!



Sara at her farm in West Newbury

WNRDC News

2009 Membership Renewals

Just a reminder that Membership is due, please check on the directory to see when your membership expires or contact our Membership Secretary at wnrdcmembership@yahoo.com.

2009 Annual Membership (expiring December 31, 2009):

\$15 Individual

\$20 Family

\$30 Business (includes family members), allows business to have one classified ad per newsletter.

Five (5) Year Membership (expiring December 31, 2013):

\$70 Individual

\$90 Family

\$135 Business (includes family members), allows business to have one classified ad per newsletter.

WANTED : Pleasure Show – 2009 Manager

Due to personal and professional commitments, neither Chris Phaneuf or Kathryn West McLeod are not able to run the Pleasure Show in 2009. If any member is interested in taking on the management and planning of this event, Chris and Kathryn are happy to pass on their knowledge and experience this winter. We have one member who is willing to help with the management if we can find a second person. Please note that the first step will be securing a date, and a judge for that date, which must be completed ASAP. Please contact Amy Bresky ASAP if you are interested in continuing the WNRDC Pleasure Show in 2009.

Like to write? Please join the WNRDC Newsletter Crew! If you are interested, contact Nady at wnrdnewsletter@yahoo.com

NEW HEAD FOR PIPESTAVE CROSS COUNTRY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Following in the skilled footsteps of Catherine Williams and Carol Seale, who recently retired from this position, Sarah Robinson, with the support the whole Pentucket Pony Club membership, parents and Board, has taken over as the head of the Cross Country Management Team for our two Pipestave Hill Horse Trials on July 12th and October 11th. Sarah commented, "This is really a win-win situation, as the Pentucket Pony Club uses the Pipestave area a lot and many of our members are competitors. It is a great way for us to give back and for our membership to have an educational hands-on connection to their sport. Now that the upper age for continued Pony Club membership has been increased, we have a number of college students who are still active and have a lot of expertise. They can help the younger members and we look forward to all learning more about course design and jump construction/maintenance." Sarah and her daughter Brooks both ride and have two horses, as well as two boarders, at their home close to Pipestave on Main St. We welcome Sarah and the Pentucket Pony Club and look forward to an exciting year.

Back in Time.... How it all got started

by Nady Peters

The West Newbury Riding & Driving Club was originally started in the 1920's. Our own Barbara Hurd's father was a charter member. Over the years, the club became inactive.

In the 1970's, Cardinal Cushing Academy (located where the Page School now is) was faced with rising costs of operation and falling enrollment causing the school to close in 1972. The property included Pipestave Hill and Mill Pond. In the 1960's, the Academy was an all-boys' prep school, but became co-ed in the 1970's. The school drew a large number of students from the Haverhill-Newburyport area as well as nationally and internationally and actually had a horse program. One of the school administrators mentioned the sale plans to Jerry Mahoney who approached the selectmen and suggested that the Town of West Newbury purchase the property. This would guarantee the school building. At a special town meeting on March 12, 1972, voters appropriated \$1 million to purchase the former Cardinal Cushing Academy property; \$750,000 to purchase the 343 acres and all the buildings, and \$250,000 for improving the property.

A group of trail enthusiasts (led by Jerry and Mary Lee Mahoney) were discussing starting a trail network at Pipestave and to construct horse rings for local shows. It was decided to resurrect the WNRDC. A news article dated March 30, 1977 reads: "Plans for a permanent riding ring and hunt course are on the drawing board of a once defunct sports club, now reactivated, West Newbury Riding and Driving Club.... Steering committee members include Dorothy Connors, Fred Crafts, Judy and Dr. Frank Greelish, Nancy Kelly, Mary Lee and Jerry Mahoney, Mary Meyette, Dr. Howard Nichols and Ingrid Sanborn. Others who participated in initial meetings and discussions included Barbara Hurd, Heather Hull, Ruth Orcutt, Mary Pore and Linda Upright." The WNRDC worked to preserve and clear trails, the rings at Pipestave Hill were constructed with a lot of volunteers, and they held meetings with speakers and a Holiday Dance.

After a few quiet years, the WNRDC became very active again in the 80's. The Town of West Newbury and the WNRDC entered into a Management Agreement for the maintenance and use of the facilities at Pipestave Hill. Pony Club had built a cross country course so Pipestave Hill was a great place to hold Horse Trials. Gail Majauckas started the Horse Trials in the

early 80's.

In the early 90's the town was looking for a place to add baseball and soccer fields and there was discussion of moving the horse rings at Pipestave Hill. That proved to be very expensive and in the end, in 1993 a plan was approved by the selectmen to have a soccer/baseball field with the equestrian area and parking on top of Pipestave Hill. Gail Majauckas and Amy Bresky were very successful in running the Horse Trials in those days and that success carries on today!

As I did my research on the history of WNRDC, my appreciation for the dedication of the people who were committed to the success of WNRDC and the Pipestave Hill facilities grew more and more and I say thanks to all of them. We are very fortunate to have a place like Pipestave Hill and the help of WNRDC to maintain it.

I would like to thank Amy Bresky, Barbara Hurd, Deb Hamilton, Gail Majauckas, and Mary Lee Mahoney for their contributions to this article. Their memories, files and old newspaper clippings helped me piece things together.

Ever wonder where the name "Pipestave Hill" came from? In the 1600's Pipestave Hill was covered with birch and oak trees from which were cut staves for making pipes, large wine casks holding 126 gallons, and hogsheads, barrels for molasses holding 62 gallons. From this industry the hill derived its name.



Pipestave Hill aerial

My Memories of the early days

by Deb Hamilton

Back in 1975, when I first came to town, Mary Lee and Jeremiah Mahoney spearheaded the first effort to reorganize the WNRDC after a long hiatus. Although Myopia did cross town with the hunt, the notion of a club of local riders looking after trails and working together was a new one. The driving force for trails was a sinewy, irreverent old codger with a big tractor and no compunction about driving it anywhere, Fred Crafts.

Freddie Crafts and Mary Meyette lived at 28 Garden Street in the (now) lovely white farmhouse with the farmer's porch, and the big two-level barn. Fred had trained race horses and rehabilitated them and Mary and her mother had several lovely Morgans. They called the farm "Tanglwood". I was fortunate enough to board my then 6 month old first Morgan, GMF Woodbound (Woody), there, and boy, did we ever get an education! Freddy taught him perfect ground manners and got him well started before our own barn was finished at home. Two other "Old timers", Nancy and Debbie Cashman boarded their Morgans there as well.

Freddie carved trails out toward the Artichoke and behind Parson's Woods, part of which the Myopia continues to ride today, as well as across Garden Street through what is now Ocean Meadow out to Chase Street. But his real moment of glory arrived after the town voted to purchase the Cardinal Cushing Academy, now Page School, and all the land south of Main Street that is Pipestave and Mill Pond today. He flattened and graded the stone dust ring initially, and oversaw a work party from the Army Corps of Engineers who substantially improved it to its present configuration.

The original ring was built using salvaged materials from some of the old camp cabins that used to overlook Mill Pond. I remember Jerry Mahoney hauling truck loads of nasty but usable boards up the hill, after we removed the nails and cleaned them up a bit, and the first painting party to complete the ring.

Freddie continued to mow and maintain trails until he was too old to do so, and moved out of town in the late 1980's. But in the lexicon of the WNRDC, his name should never be forgotten.

Lemonade Girls Still Going Strong

by Julie Ledonne

The Pentucket area's Lemonade Girls (who are also active WNRDC members) were busy this past November 9th: they were at Suffolk Downs Race Track selling Lemonade, raffle tickets, and bracelets, to help raise money for horses in need and for rescue An-Carm Farm & Benji's Barn Rescue in New Ipswich, N.H. However, it didn't stop there, the girls along with one of the lemonade girls' mom Julie LeDonne of Jewels Farm in West Newbury & Edward DiBattista owner of An-Carm Farm & Benji's Barn Rescue went back the next day to rescue two thoroughbreds: "Candle light Only", who now lives at Jewels Farm and "September Jewels" who now lives at Benji's Barn Rescue. Another wonderful rescue accomplished with the help of Catherine of Canter New England Rescue, an organization that helps horses who can't race anymore, are too slow, or whatever the case may be, find the right home. Suffolk Downs along with their trainers and owners of these horses have a new policy that they do not send their horses to auctions were they would be at risk for slaughter. This was the main reason the girls have chosen this place to raise money. Check out the girls' web site at www.freewebs.com/the-lemonade-girls

The Lemonade Girls at Suffolk Downs



Lydia Ledonne with Candle Light Only



Members News, Announcements, Classifieds and More

Stall Available: horse stall available with in/out in 4 stall barn, Georgetown Road, West Newbury. Easy access to trails, no riding ring on property. \$400/month. Contact Bernadette 978-994-9670

C&C Equine Boarding- Lessons- Sales- Summer Camp. Now open to new boarders and clients! Offering a comfortable atmosphere for you and your horse. 24 hour care, all-day turnout, large indoor, two 100X200 outdoors, restroom facility, lounge and large tack room. We are located minutes off of 101 in Stratham NH. Offering Full Board at \$500/ month, Semi Rough at \$300/month. Full Board also offered at our Essex, MA location at \$750/month 603-489-3584 www.ccequine.com

Stall Available at Jewels Farm. All day turnout, outdoor ring, close access to 50 acres of conservation land for trail riders, owner 20 years of experience, lessons available for all ages, \$500/month call Julie at 978-363-2422 or jewelsfm@comcast.net

Groom wanted For FEI Trainer. Some afternoons and weekends . Must be able to wrap legs and be dependable. Facility located in Danvers . Contact EPSchofield@aol.com

For Sale: County Warmblood MW 17 Inch seat, good condition, recently reflocked \$800.00. Contact EPSchofield@aol.com

Available for on farm Lease or Half Lease: 7 Year old Friesian. Trained to 2nd level, safe facility in Danvers Ma. Contact EPSchofield@aol.com

Equine Sports Massage and Bodywork - Does your horse have a case of the winter blues? An equine sports massage not only relieves muscular tension and soreness but also reduces stress and promotes relaxation. Karen Sherzi of The Partnership for Equine Performance is currently accepting new clients. Call today - your equine partner will thank you! Karen can be reached at 978-771-8849.

Looking for horse property? Check out DeborahHamilton.com to see "Overboard Acres", the magnificent horse property at 245-251 River Road, West Newbury. This delightful river view property includes an updated 9 room, 3 bedroom 2.5 bath expanded Cape, impeccable 4 stall barn, indoor arena and every horse-friendly amenity. Priced at \$1,150,000, it offers quality, privacy, and great trail access. Email or call Deb at REMAX on the River whenever you have questions about "Equine, Antique and Waterfront Property."

Barn Isle Solutions to expo the Barn Isle Winterbox (TM) at the WNRDC upcoming tack sale/swap.

A small local company, started by local horse owner, Jefferson Rowland, will be displaying an innovative tack box (patent pending) that keeps all your horse supplies warm and ready to use right in the barn aisle (the list is huge - try making one) at the upcoming tack sale. Many of us don't have heated barns, and I solved the problem of running to the house every ten minutes for something else with the *Barn Isle Winterbox*. This tack box can handle any temperature and keep your hoof moisturizer (for instance) right by your stall for a few dollars total heating costs for the year. The innovative (and green) technology and the quality and look of the custom made Winterbox make them sound investments that create innumerable efficiencies when caring for your horses during the frigid New England winters. The efficiencies created through handy location of supplies (next to the stall), lack of waste (thru freezing or sitting on a warm shelf - in the house!) and/or unnecessary barn heating bills can be recovered in months sometimes. I'm marketing the Winterbox across the nation thru my company *Barn Isle Solutions* and hope to see you at the tack sale! Jefferson Rowland

Miniature Horse Fun!

by Sue Fryer

On October 19th 2008 there was an invasion of minis at the “Granite State Carriage Associations” trail drive held in Auburn NH along the Massabesic rail-trail and fire roads. Maps of the trails were handed out before the drive started and before I knew it CJ and I was just 1 of the 11 minis along with 1 pony trotting down the trails single file.

Of course we got lost right from the get go....I guess we should have listened a little better at the meeting when they told us that all the gates will be open for us along the trail but when we came to the first gate and saw that it was locked what did we do...we just squeezed around the gate and continued along our way.

ners and walkers we met along the way were thrilled to see our parade of minis go by, many of whom wanted to pat and talk to us about our little ones. Almost 3 hours later we emerged from the woods and back to the trailers but not before a lot of pictures were taken!



The bikers, run-
View from the
cart while going
down the trails



Miniature horses lined up hitched and
ready to go!

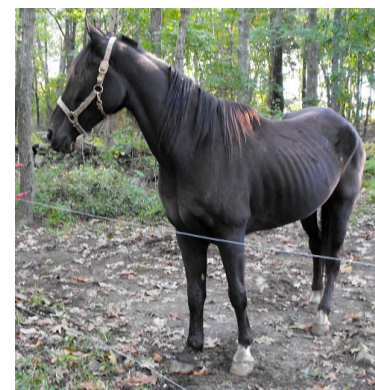
Another Horse Saved from Slaughter by Young Member

Our young member Rowan Hanson of West Newbury fundraised through the Page Elementary School to raise money to save a horse's life. Her funds were matched by Millipore in Danvers and a Tennessee Walking Horse reaped the rewards.

Rowan is involved with his care and rehab and continues to be an Angel for the black gelding she calls 'Echo'. Bonnie Tucker and Eric Myers, also of West Newbury, have opened their barn to 'Echo'. Eric and Bonnie are also fostering Frosty (aka Denarius) the gray standardbred owner surrender.

NEER will evaluate Echo over the winter under Rowan's watchful eye.

Rowan and Echo have bonded!



Reg TWH “Society’s Wind-
star” aka “Echo”

WNRDC E-MAIL RULES AND WNRDC YAHOO GROUP

Our rules about the use of Club e-mail have changed, as our organization has grown. Since we now have an active Yahoo group available free to all members, it was decided to have Club members send out all classified (for sale, etc.) materials there, rather than through the Club e-mails. Members are welcome to post any of their classified items there. The Yahoo group is very user-friendly and instructions for signing up and using it are listed below. The Club e-mail will now provide information about WNRDC Club and related topics only.

Through the WNRDC Yahoo Group you can send and receive messages from members on a variety of things such as horses for sale or lease, items for sale, available stalls, trail rides, and share some pictures!

How to join: If you want to join only the mailing list for the group, send a blank email to wnrdc-

subscribe@yahoogroups.com. If you have a yahoo e-mail address, or don't mind creating one to log into the group, send an e-mail to wnrdnewsletter@yahoo.com and request an invitation to join the group.

How to post a message: Send your email to wnrdc@yahoogroups.com and everyone who is subscribed to the group will receive it. Remember to add your name at the bottom of the message as we may not know from your e-mail address who you are.

How to visit the group on the web:

<http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/wnrdc/>

NOTE: WNRDC Membership is required to join the group

Don't forget to renew your membership. If you don't know when your membership expires, please contact Bernadette Hamilton at wnrdmembership@yahoo.com

www.wnrdc.com