

Horsemen's Association of

Millstone Township

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Horse Awareness Signs

One need not drive far in Millstone Township to notice that it is populated with many equines and their devoted human companions. And horse-enthusiasts need not dig too far in their memory banks to recall a time when their horse had a bad encounter with an inconsiderate motorist. In the interest of safely sharing the roads with motorized vehicles, the Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township (HAMT) has been working on educating motorists about exercising caution when driving near horseback riders and horse-drawn carriages.

In addition to distributing flyers at public events and gatherings, HAMT has gone a step farther and created a "horse awareness sign" to be posted on township roads in the near future. In the midst of our campaign to get the signs approved by the Township Committee and the NJ State Police, the NJ Motor Vehicle Code was amended in December 2004, which supported our cause immensely. Below is a summary of the amended portion of the drivers' manual, R.S.39:4-72, subsection a.:

When approaching or passing a person riding or driving a horse, a person driving a motor vehicle shall reduce the vehicle's speed to a rate not exceeding 25 miles an hour and proceed with caution. At the request of or upon a signal by putting up the hand or otherwise, from a person riding or driving a horse in the opposite direction, the motor vehicle driver shall cause the motor vehicle to stop and remain stationary so long as may be necessary to allow the

horse to pass. Violation of this amendment carries a \$150 fine.

When riding our horses along the road, let's remember to thank those motorists who abide by this law!



What is HAMT?

The Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township is a family-oriented group of horse enthusiasts that meets on the third Tuesday of each month to engage in equine social and educational fellowship. HAMT also meets throughout the year for various trail rides, clinics, horse shows, parades, and social & civic events. Please join us at our next meeting at the Community Center next to the Clarksburg Inn to see what we're all about! ***

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, June 21st – HAMT Meeting
– 7:00pm, Clarksburg Community Center

Saturday, June 25th – Turkey Swamp Trail Ride, Freehold – **ALSO**, HAMT trip to Cowtown Rodeo.

Saturday, July 23rd – Poker Ride, Bucks Mills Pavilion

Tuesday, August 16th – HAMT Meeting – 7:00pm, Clarksburg Community Center

Officers

Bob Bailey, President
Manny Blanco, Vice President
Betty Bailey, Secretary
Kim Mooney, Treasurer
Marion Healey, Public Relations

Board Members

Dick Cibelli
Carol Howarth
Bev Torok

Contact Information

Send news, ads, corrections about this newsletter to the Editor, Kim Mooney, at HAMTNews@aol.com

A Visit to the NJ Equine Clinic



On Tuesday, February 15th, HAMT members met at the NJ Equine Clinic for their monthly meeting. We were treated to a guided tour of the impressive facility. Following the tour, Dr. Patricia Hogan gave a slide presentation of the story of Smarty Jones, and how Dr. Hogan and the staff at the NJ Equine Clinic treated Smarty's career-threatening starting gate injury – a fractured skull.

According to Dr. Hogan, Smarty was brought in to the NJEC with the intention of removing his badly swollen and possibly ruptured eye. Dr. Hogan opted to treat the fractures and subsequent swelling with medication rather than surgery, saving his eye. As we all know, Smarty made a full recovery and went on to a successful racing career, most notably his wins in the 2004 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, infecting fans with “Smarty Fever” across the nation. The NJEC staff was treated to a limousine-driven trip to the Belmont Stakes to watch Smarty Jones in action. Dr. Hogan says of Smarty, “I knew he was a special horse the moment I met him.”

Thank you Dr. Hogan and the staff at the NJ Equine Clinic for your hospitality, presentation, and tour. We enjoyed ourselves immensely!

Trail Etiquette

(Summarized from an article by Susan Dudasik)

One of HAMT members' favorite equine activities is trail riding. Whether it be in the Assunpink, Clayton Park, Allaire State Park, Island Beach State Park, Baldpate Mountain, Valley Forge, or on the battlefields of Gettysburg, one theme is common to every trail ride ... safety is first and foremost!

So, what do we consider good trail etiquette? Basically it's common sense and respecting others. Listed below are some tips for safely and enjoyably riding in a group:

- Only ride as fast as the least experienced rider.
- If someone has to stop or dismount for some reason, stand still until she is back in the saddle and ready to continue.
- Never trot or canter up behind others. Slow to a walk and ask to pass.
- Don't be a trail hog. If you're riding next to a friend, drop back to single file and let others pass.
- When you come upon obstacles on the trail, allow the rider ahead of you plenty of time to get through it. When crossing water or a bridge, or going up or down a hill, give other riders time to get clear. If the horse ahead of you is leery of crossing, ask the rider first if he wants your help. Don't just charge in.
- Keep going after crossing a tight or uneven spot in the trail, don't stop. Make sure everyone is on safe ground before stopping.
- Keep a safe distance between your horse and others. Don't let horses socialize by sniffing or rubbing their head on others.

Lead-Horse Trail Etiquette

(Summarized from North American Trail Ride Conference judge Jim Ferris)

If you're the leader on the trail, here are a few do's and don'ts to help make your ride safe and pleasant.

- Don't assume every rider – or horse – in the group is comfortable with changes of gait
- Do establish a method for downward transitions. Use a hand signal or your voice to convey your intentions to the riders behind you.
- Don't lope or gallop in a group on the trail.
- Do look for changes in the trail or terrain. Keep at a safe pace and safe distance to avoid branches swept aside by other riders, and to maintain safe footing on difficult trails.
- Do keep a sharp eye for upcoming obstacles, and warn others.
- Do trade positions within the group. Each member of the group will benefit from taking the positions of lead horse, middle horse, and last horse in turn.
- Don't allow slow moving horses to fall too far behind the group.
- Put a red ribbon on your horse's tail if he kicks (and the back of the line is the safest place for a “kicker”).

If Horses Were in High School, What Cliques Would They Be In?

Quarter Horses: Definitely jocks. Strutting around flexing those muscles, showing off their butts...definitely jocks.

Thoroughbreds: Preppies. Sometimes athletes, never 'jocks'. Monogrammed blankets, leather halters, Nike eventer shoes, the latest custom trailer and tack. They are the "new money" rich.

Appaloosas: Could only be the stoners. They like to trip acid so they can watch their spots move.

Arabians: RAH! RAH! SIS BOOM BAH! GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO TEAM!! (need I say more?)

Shetland Ponies: Frightening, spiky hairdos, snotty attitudes and any color of the rainbow gotta be PUNKS. Some even sport tattoos.

Friesians: Big, buff, and always in black, they are the biker clique. Cigs hanging out of the corner of their mouths, dangerous glint in the eyes, daring anyone to cross their path.

Morgans: They're the nerdy teacher's pets, running around doing everything from yearbook to decorating the gym and ratting out the bikers, stoners and jocks. They have perpetual wedgies.

Drafts (all breeds): No real clique, they're just the big guys who sit in the back of the room and fart a lot (and then laugh). Who's going to STOP them?

Icelandics and Paso Finos: They're the little squirrely geeks who flit around a dance trying to fit in and fail miserably. The kind who wear Toughskins jeans from Sears (or would that be rip-off WeathaBeetas??).

Ahkle Tekl (Akle Takl? Ackle Tackle....!! Akhal Teke!!): Foreign exchange student(s). And no one can spell their names either.

Hackney Ponies: A breed this manic would have to be a band geek. Marching along with their knees and heads held high....even going to the bathroom.

Warmbloods: Old Money Preppies, as opposed to the TBs who are new money preppies. All their tack is imported from Europe, they drink Perrier water and eat only organically grown feed. They look down on everyone and talk amongst themselves about summer in Paris and skiing in Gstad and wasn't it dreadful how provincial Spruce Meadows has become? ***

Classified Ads

Classified ads are free to HAMT members. Business card size ads, and classified ads for non-members are \$2.50 per issue, or \$10.00 per year.

Please submit all advertising requests via e-mail to HAMTNews@aol.com.

ROOMATE WANTED to share home in Upper Freehold. Non-smoker. Horses welcome too. Contact Bev

TRAILER FOR SALE: 2-horse side-by-side quarter horse bumper pull. 1992, just serviced at KADCO and upgraded. Asking \$2,200. Great condition. Contact Stephanie or Lisa.

HORSES FOR SALE: 2 Spotted Draft yearling stud colts (3/4 Percheron, 1/4 paint). One is currently 15h, the other 13.1h. Sweet & friendly. Sound & healthy. Great dressage, hunter, or driving prospects. Lots of potential. Asking \$1500 OBO.

SHEET FOR SALE: Size 72". Water-resistant. Black w/ tan trim. Brand new – still in package. Asking \$20.00.

TURNOUT BLANKET: Size 76". Good condition. Wool lining, canvas outer shell. Blue w/ gray trim. Leg straps. Asking \$20.00. Call Kim.

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Tips & Tidbits

* **West Nile Virus** prevails in New Jersey. Here is a link from the state regarding their statistics of infected animals reported by county. If you know of an area with standing water, please contact your municipality requesting service from the mosquito control unit as they will inspect the area and treat it at no charge. http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/west_nile.htm

*Is **proud flesh** bothering your horse? Try applying a salve of plain meat tenderizer and water to the proud flesh. It will shrink and disappear in no time!

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