



HAMT Newsletter December 2010

"Me and My Horse" - Ruta Slepetyts and Travis (aka Traveller)

As my friend/trainer (Melissa Rispoli) and I determined, we did not like his registered Quarter horse name (Brisk Sundance) and this new name seemed to work. Travis is a 15 year old, 15 hand true dun (dorsal stripe, zebra stripes on legs and George Hamilton silver in his mane). He is a licker. If you are interested in QH blood lines: he is a Three Bars/Bar Heels.

I bought Travis 3 years ago because leasing was too limiting (I really wanted to trail ride). He is my first horse. I only started riding seriously (lessons and leasing a horse) 7 years ago after a life-changing event and a horsey friend saying "it would be a lot more fun for me if you took some lessons." This resulted in finding my trainer and taking the bridle path of perdition. Travis and I have been together (other than a few unscheduled dismounts) for a little more than 3 years (I bought him when I was 50).

Travis is often perplexed but gives the old college try (at least once; a repeat requires some negotiating) to virtually anything I present him with: beach rides, strange horse trailers, English horse shows, dressage lessons, round pen training, competitive trail riding clinics, little jumps and lots of trails, especially those with the dreaded water crossings. Sometimes he demonstrates that he is a true cow pony, with great spins and what I call the "electric slide" or rapidly going backwards (under saddle, on longe line, whatever). Especially when presented with the dreaded water crossing. Or puddle.

On a personal level, Travis loves ponies, Charlie (my friend Yvette's horse) thinks dogs should be tormented or chased and I-Pods are for stealing. And there is no reason that he shouldn't join you in the port-o-potty, trailer dressing room or house. Water must be in a container (who drinks out of the dreaded puddle?) He has appointed himself mayor of his new home (Stargate Farm) as well as trying to be everyone's (horse or human's) best friend.

The greatest gift Travis has given me is opening many doors (sometimes literally) to new experiences, a new life, and meeting new people (including the family from Uzbekistan at the Meadow Horse Show. Go figure.) His friendly, outgoing nature and sweet expression are really an inspiration to me.

Yes, Travis is my best buddy and I am a horse crazy girl.

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Ruta and Travis
enjoy riding on the
beach although
Travis is not a fan of
puddles or water
crossings!

"Me and My Horse" - Yvette Janvier and Sir Charles, aka "Charlie"

The winter of 2007, I decided that I would purchase my own horse. I had half-leased a horse at the farm in Howell where I was taking lessons. I had never owned a horse before so I scoured DreamHorse and trav-

eled all over New Jersey in the ice and snow.

My trainer had a thing for gray horses and liked Charlie even based on the advertisement description. I was told he was a Quarter horse - without papers. The teenager who had trained him jumped him over two-foot fences effortlessly.

Charlie is a flea-bitten gray with small brown spots which increase in abundance in warm weather. He is a handsome, sweet gelding who is most likely an appendix. We spent two-and-a-half years training with a hunter-jumper trainer and have now moved onto dressage. He has done well at the Meadow schooling shows in

the adult long stirrup classes. One time, he even was Grand Champion!

Our favorite activity is trail riding. We have ridden in a number of competitive trail clinics. We love to go to Island Beach State Park. We have ridden in Allaire, Lebanon State Park, Collier's Mill, the Turkey Trot, Washington Crossing, and Gettysburg. Charlie likes to be in the front of the pack when out on the trail. He will gallop to catch up if he thinks he is being left behind. He has no bad habits or vices. We are both very happy to have found HAMT. We have enjoyed the warm, friendly members and rides!



Yvette and Charlie participate in many activities, including dressage.

"Me and My Horse" - Lynda Martin and Ginger (the Energizer Bunny)

"Once the pony and dog were named, they became part of the family. My horse vet examined Ginger and indicated that she was ancient. Her tongue was split into two pieces but she was healthy. She did not like to be handled. In time she did become a little more trusting."

Lynda Martin

It was a nice, warm, sunny day in the beginning of July 1990 and I had stopped at my local gas station to fill up my pickup truck. The owner of the station approached me to indicate a pony was tied to a tree and a dog was tied to a car at the house he was in the process of selling. The owners had been arrested and taken to jail leaving the animals behind. I then went over to check on the situation. Yes, there they were tied up and without food or water. I subsequently checked with the neighbors to determine if anyone knew anything about the pony and dog. No one knew anything, and it was apparent that they did not want to get involved or assist in finding out.

I then went home to obtain food and water for the pony and the

dog. After feeding them for the next two days with no sign of their owners, I decided to bring them to my place and then notified the owner of the gas station. I decided not to contact animal control since they would probably put the animals down.

Well, the pony became Ginger and the dog became Lucky. Once the pony and dog were named, they became part of the family. My horse vet examined Ginger and indicated that she was ancient. Her tongue was split into two pieces but she was healthy. She did not like to be handled. In time she did become a little more trusting.

My first medical emergency with Ginger occurred in February of 2000 at which Ginger became impacted and was down. My horse vet, Dr. Taylor, came and treated her with

medications and tubed her with mineral oil. Two days had passed and there was no sign of oil coming out the "south end." During this time, Ginger stopped eating and was lethargic but did drink water. I began to panic that Ginger was at risk for rupturing and subsequently contacted Dr. Taylor to question whether she should be put down to avoid a possible crisis. Dr. Taylor calmly stated that he did not feel that we were at that point and reassured me by stating "I am here if you need me." Dr. Taylor again came and tubed Ginger with oil. Finally, about one week after the initial tubing, Ginger began to pass oil. What a great day that was! Over time, she became regular and her appetite went back to normal. At this point, Ginger only had one grinding tooth left

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"Me and My Horse" - Lynda Martin and Ginger (con't)

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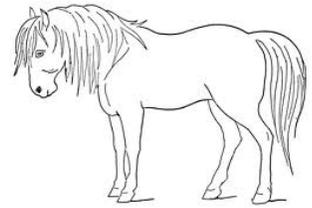
and her diet was modified to senior feed and hay cubes that were presoaked with hot water. During the day, Ginger would suck on hay or grass which she would then spit out. After the impaction, I also included Psyllium in her diet to reduce the risk of future impactions. Ginger was also maintained on Pergolide due to possible Cushings as she tends not to shed out her winter coat.

Beginning in 2003, Ginger would periodically go down and be unable to get up on her own. Since I never noticed her going down, it was difficult to determine if she falls down or lays down on her own. These episodes have increased and one morning in January 2004 I found her down in the icy snow. It appeared that she had been down for a long time due to the amount of struggling and

she had actually dug herself into a hole. After getting help from my neighbors, we were eventually able to get her up and warm her up. Fortunately, her body temperature was within normal limits and I treated her with Banamine paste for eye bruises. By the end of the day, Ginger was getting back to her old self.

Ginger was diagnosed with cataracts in both her eyes, which has resulted in limited vision and she can only see shadows. She becomes disoriented and at times will get lost in her pasture. She appears to navigate by memory and by using her hearing. One day when lost in her pasture, the gelding who was in the pasture next to her whinnied for Ginger to come into the barn for feeding time. Ginger immediately perked up and ran directly to the barn.

In February 2004, Ginger had gone down in her stall. After about two hours of trying to her up, she lay perfectly still. This was quite unusual since Ginger is always quite determined to get up. Consequently, I contacted Dr. Taylor to assess the situation. Dr. Taylor arrived in about 30 minutes and there had been no change in the situation. We began making noise to try to get her attention. Ginger continued to lay flat on the ground without any response. We began discussing whether this maybe the time to put Ginger to rest. I could not leave her down and helpless in her stall. Ginger had already been down for several hours and appeared to be very tired. As we were discussing the alternatives, Ginger suddenly began to try to get up and with our assistance, got to her feet and ran out of her stall into the paddock. She was pretty sore and shaky and



significantly lame on her left leg so I gave her some Bute paste. It was amazing it was almost like she heard us taking and determined that she was not ready to go.

And then it was July 2004, 14 years from when I first rescued Ginger. Ginger's estimated age was around 50 years old and I called her Ginger – my energizer bunny. With all her ups and downs, she kept on going. Ginger did pass away during the night in October 2004 in her field. She is gone but not forgotten.

Many thanks to all my friends and neighbors who have assisted in Ginger's care. I give special thanks to my vet who has always been available all hours of the day and night.

Mishaps, Misfortunes, and Misadventures *The Kate and Dude Leo San Series: Part II-And the Fun Continues!* By Kate Fling



Kate and Leo

You'll remember that Part 1 ended with three fractured ribs...Part 2 will have a similar conclusion.

Since Leo had been pretty much standing in a field for a couple years, it came as no surprise to me that parts of him were very dirty. And, when I say "parts", I mean those special "boy horse" parts! So, I asked his owners if we could get his sheath cleaned. Yes, I could! How nice for Leo, how dangerous for me...little did I know that a boy horse might not *enjoy* having his sheath cleaned.

Anyway, another boarder at the

farm said that she knew how to do it and, if I would help her, she would get it done. So, one lovely day, when she and I were both at the farm with nothing better to do, we took to the task. Leo...did not! My job was to hold him still...HA! I had a halter on him and a lead rope, that's all. She reached for the "parts" and he kicked at her...she wasn't happy with him and he wasn't happy with her. She suggested a chain over his nose; I didn't like the idea but... on it went. She reached for his "parts" again and he kicked at her again... the whole scene was escalating rapidly.

Leo's owner arrived and suggested something called a "twitch"...I had NO idea what that was but I thought we had all agreed to try it and I thought we were in waiting mode for the twitch to arrive. I reached under the chain on Leo's nose, to loosen it, so he would be more comfortable and calm down...just then the boarder reached for his "parts" again and, this time, Leo went straight up in the air; he was REARING! Who knew a horse that was so heavy on his forehead could even do that!

Well, my thumb, which was

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Mishaps, Misfortunes, and Misadventures (con't)

"I should have figured out at that point that Leo was going to be difficult and expensive. But, all I knew was that I loved him and, hey, if I didn't deal with him, who would?"

Kate Fling



I'm getting a horse. No, you're not. Yes I am. No, you're NOT. YES I AM!

Don't worry. The capital letters do not reflect shouting, just emphasis. It is many, many years after I first set eyes on and fell in love with real live horses. There has been a life lived, a relocation, an engagement. Throughout, in the back of my mind and deep in my heart, I knew I would get here. The short 'debate' was with my soon-to-be husband.

I now live in Farmingdale, NJ. On the surface, I had made the move for professional reasons. However, fate and faith always seem to know what is really in your heart and guide you, even when you are not aware. The time had come, and I wanted a horse of my own.

I had taken a few lessons and befriended some horse people. A friend had a cousin looking for a

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under the chain at the time, went UP with him and when he came down, I was minus a thumb nail (which I found later inside my glove). The pain was excruciating and the blood flowed like rain! Leo's owner drove me to the ER! Not sure what happened to Leo at that point but I think it likely that he was turned out with a dirty sheath and a satisfied smirk on his (long) face!

The ER doctor had my thumb x-rayed and, you guessed it, it was broken; the tip of the finger, that little bone, was broken. And, the ER doctor told me that the

nail probably popped off when the bone broke. Then, after a local anesthetic, she SEWED the fingernail back onto my thumb! She said it was the best way to protect the nail bed... who knew?!

The vet took care of Leo's "parts" after two shots of sedative and about \$75.00. I should have figured out at that point that Leo was going to be difficult and expensive. But, all I knew was that I loved him and, hey, if I didn't deal with him, who would?

The bone healed, the fingernail grew back (in about 6 months) and all was well again.



The next installment will be a "Pre-quel"...stay tuned!

My Journey With Horses: Part 2 of a Series By Traci Teller

home for a horse. I went to see it. She turned and looked into my eyes. Oh my God, it was love at first sight! I went right up to her and reached out to her. She did not run, she did not flinch, nor did I. Her name was Pretty Mare.

I returned often over the next several weeks. I started to put into practice what I had only read about in books. I groomed her until she shined. I talked to her, and she listened, even chatting back a bit. I hand grazed her, walked her around the farm--the bond between us was growing fast and deep.

It was the hot and lazy days of summer. I could be in the comfort of air conditioning. I could be in a pool or at the beach. I didn't have to be hot, sweaty, and dirty with carrots in my pockets. I didn't have to be sidestepping piles of poop and swatting away flies. But I could not imagine being anywhere else. This was heaven on Earth!

Pretty Mare taught me there is such a thing as love at first sight. Few times in one's life do you

get to offer unconditional love, and fewer times still do you get it back. I learned I was capable of giving and worthy of receiving unconditional love. I felt a growing bond of friendship and trust I had not experienced before. Don't get the impression I am not loved or that I have no friends. To my great fortune, I am and I do. However, this was different. I had only read about the spiritual connection that can exist between a woman and horse. Somehow, I knew this was just the beginning of something greater... A journey. Pretty Mare was introduced into my life to embark on with me, side by side.

"Do you think you can take Pretty Mare?" Of course, my mind was made up, but I had to be realistic about this. My fiancé, Bill, had sometimes visited Pretty Mare with me and was smitten, and soon realized it was pointless to continue resisting. Next was to find a place to board her, for my postage stamp backyard simply wouldn't do. One befriended equestrian, Debbie, boarded her two horses at a

small farm nearby. While visiting her horses I became friendly with the owners, Liz and John, who had two horses, some sheep, and a huge goat named Buckley. Debbie was their only boarder, for they wanted to keep the operation intimate, but agreed to let me board Pretty Mare there. Well then, there was only one thing left to do...Go shopping!

Water buckets, feed bucket, halter and lead line. Grooming tote, brushes, curry, hoof pick, sweat scraper. Fly spray, shampoo, mane & tail spray. Feed and a huge bag of treats!

The day arrived! October 12, 1997. The trailer pulled in, and she was here! All mine! Definitely one of the two top days of my life! The other? My wedding, October 19, 1997. Oh, didn't I mention I was also planning our wedding over the summer? We spent everyday of our honeymoon getting to know the mare that would soon become known as Kaliflower. I highly recommend it!

Valley Forge, PA Trail Ride-June 12, 2010 Tourist Attractions or Trail Blazers???

By Rosemary Hodgson

Seven HAMT riders participated in the Valley Forge ride this year. Bev Torok and Ron Harning shared duties as trail guides, leading a HAMT group that included Sue Koval, Susan Auer, Barbara Lipani, Barbara Cammeyer, and Rosemary Hodgson.

The drive to Valley Forge was nearly a straight drive along main roads, and surprisingly not as long as one would think...only about 1.5 hours. The caravan of trailers met at the first rest stop south of I-195 on the Turnpike at 10 am. We set off for Valley Forge from there together and arrived at just after 11 am and began the ride at 11:45 am.

The ride began with 'an incident' ... What would a HAMT trail ride be without some type of incident ?? ?

As we walked along some paved path to make our way to the inside of the park area, we heard a distinct extra clatter on the pavement and learned quickly it was Ron's horse Robbie's shoe..It was loose. Several riders who had ridden the HAMT Valley Forge ride last year and were on again this year's ride were experiencing *deja vu* because at the very start of last year's ride Kate's horse Leo experienced the same problem with his shoe and in nearly the same spot!

After some discussion on turning back completely or turning back and getting the duct tape that Ron had in his trailer and whether we should all go back to the trailers with Ron or just Ron, we noticed that we were alongside some sort of industrial building with trucks in the parking lot and workers outside. While the distance was

somewhat far for a voice to travel (which included a barbed wire fence and an expanse of grass) Barbara Cammeyer called out to the workers, "We have an emergency... Do you have any duct tape?" ... Well the group of men were surprised and chuckled quite a bit when all explained that the duct tape would be used to hold the horse's shoe on! With many comments being shared that 'duct tape really can be used for anything' and that perhaps farriers would go out of business, the men who were government workers and volunteers for the Valley Forge park even asked to take a picture of Ron with the duct tape and the 'workmanship' of his duct tape-shoe holder. Ron as per Bev's suggestion decided it may be best to take the duct tape along on the trail with us rather than give it back and asked if he could purchase the tape and the one volunteer said " We work for the government so you actually already own the tape!"... which got a lot of laughs from all.

Halfway through our ride, while we were walking/trotting along the grass alongside the paved road that winds through the park, a car pulled up beside Ron. It was one of the kind volunteers, asking if Ron was making out okay. The kindness showed to our group of riders from the volunteers was wonderful and refreshing.

The trail through Valley Forge was quite unique as our group of riders walked/trotted/cantered on beautifully maintained grass expanses for part of the ride right next to the tow path that all of the visitors to the park walked along or biked



"The ride began with 'an incident' ... What would a HAMT trail ride be without some type of incident?? ? "

Rosemary Hodgson

Robbie's hooves display the duct tape miracle cure!



HAMT riders pose before the National Memorial Arch in Valley Forge National Historical Park.

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Valley Forge, PA Trail Ride-June 12, 2010 (con't)

(Continued from page 5)

along from historic landmark to historic landmark, and right next to the paved road that wound through the park which cars, vans, and motorcycles drove along and right next to where visitors were picnicking on the grass. Our group on horseback gave the impression that we could have been part of the "sights." Had we been dressed in colonial garb, we could certainly have said we were part of a reenactment!

Our horses were wonderfully behaved with all of the traffic occurring right next to them.

In our sightseeing part of the trail, we came upon some of the old soldier barracks. It was Muhlenberg's Encampment according to trusty map reading by Ron and a very knowledgeable historian, dressed in colonial clothing stationed at the barracks. We of course had to ask him to be in a picture with all of us... which he agreed to ... *only* after he gave us a brief history lesson about some horse brigades that were used during the time period of George Washington. He called them "dragoons."

The second part of the trail was a winding path through the trees away from the walkers and cars. We followed this path to make our way to Washington's Headquarters. This path

while picturesque was very rocky and it had a few forks that we needed to choose left or right, hoping to find our way to the water and to the covered bridge. Well we picked a path, but as fortune would have it, it did not take us to those areas. Instead we found ourselves on the opposite side of the water with a very busy road to cross to make it to the water. Ron stepped up as our "policeman" for the day and he with his trusty steed Robbie stepped out slowly to the road, raised his hand and stopped traffic!! All horses crossed safely.

Then we trailblazed through an area of high grass trying to find a way that we could safely get to the water. We did eventually find a lovely little waterfall and the water, but the access to the water was small and the horses didn't seem all that interested in trying their luck to drink from the water in that area. So ... we headed back through our trailblazed grass and had to cross the street again! So Ron and Robbie once more to the rescue ... they stopped traffic so all horses could cross safely.

All of our traipsing through Valley Forge provided us with a trail ride 3 hours long!

The tailgating that occurred after we returned to the trailers was much anticipated and thoroughly enjoyed!



Sue and Susan get a history lesson from a Colonial re-enactor. Their horses are more interested in the grass!



HAMT members with Colonial camp re-enactor.

HAMT Meeting Dates for 2011

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Millstone Community Center at 7:00 pm

January 18

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 20



Wharton State Forest Trail Ride-April 17, 2010 By Eileen Fralinger

On April 17th, nine HAMT members participated in a 12-mile trail ride through the **Wharton State Forest**; six on horseback and three in Debby and Rich Osborn's horse drawn carriage. The trail started at the Atsion Ranger Station, just off Route 206 in Atsion. It was a cool spring day and although there was a threat of rain, the rain held off and the temperature was comfortable until the end of the ride. At that point, it got pretty cold and windy.

The route we chose was a 12-mile loop that ran between the Mullica and Batsto Rivers, making it a good choice for early spring (before the dreaded mosquitos arrive). Being so close to the water, the trail also provided several options to allow the horses to get in the water to cool off or enjoy a cool drink.

The trails we rode were firm sand, with no gravel. Anyone whose horses are unshod or tender footed would do well on these trails.

The trails in this part of the Wharton are multipurpose; so it is not uncommon to see people walking their dogs, or families parked next to a waterhole enjoying a picnic lunch. The roads/trails are also used for SUVs and trucks with canoes, kayaks, and camping gear, so we knew they would be wide enough to accommodate the Osborn's carriage. Although we did not encounter many vehicles during our ride, the few we did share the road with were courteous and patiently allowed us whatever space we needed.

Of course, in true HAMT fashion, there was a tailgate at the end of the ride; but since it was getting so cold, it might have been a little shorter than usual.

For anyone who wishes to ride these trails, there are no permits required. However, if you are unfamiliar with the area, it would be a good idea to stop at the ranger station and get a map.

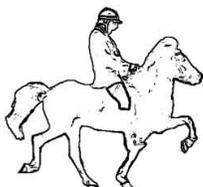
Many of the trails look similar. (Just ask Kate ? . .) It wouldn't take too many turns to get lost! There are also some trails that are designated for pedestrians only, so observe trail markers. Just as an FYI - If you are a fan of Icelandic ponies, there is a group of riders and ponies that frequently ride in this area.



Waiting to go for a ride in the Pine Barrens forest!



Rich, Deb and a friend prepare their horses and carriage.



Interesting Link Displaying Animations of the Gaits of Icelandic Horses:

<http://www.solva-icelandics.co.uk/thegaits.htm>



Memorial Day Parades-May 31, 2010

Millstone Twp. Parade By Rosemary Hodgson

What the HAMT group lacked in large numbers in the Millstone Township Memorial Day parade, they more than made up for in patriotic attire, both with decorated horses and riders—From silvery painted hoofs, to red, white, and blue sparkles and USA stenciled on the horses' flanks, to red, white, and blue ribbons and hats.

Riders who participated were: Matt Hill, Diane Blackwell, Carol Strommen, Shelley Aaronson, Dee Balint, and Lisa Maiorino. The walkers included Mark Blackwell, Rosemary Hodgson, Mark Hodgson, Carol Wingerter, Lorraine Davis, and Donald Davis.

While the parade route from the Clarksburg post office to the Clarksburg Inn was not filled with parade watchers, those that were there were excited to see the horses--young and young-at-heart alike--and a few furry four-legged friends barked their excitement over seeing the horses, too.

All horses behaved wonderfully. For a few of the riders and their horses this was their first parade! "Well done" cheers go out to all for their successful parade participation. At the conclusion of the parade route, Mark Blackwell represented HAMT as he presented a wreath during the Memorial Day ceremonies at the monument.



Allentown Parade By Traci Teller

The Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township was proud to participate yet again in three Memorial Day parades. HAMT was privileged to be one of the participants of the 57th Annual Allentown event sponsored by the Lions Club.

Leading our club's representation was banner carriers Jean Sorrells and Kim Mooney, along with our youngest member, Elizabeth Mooney. Following was Karyn Kempson, riding her Standardbred Villa, and Bill Teller riding a 26 years young Quarter horse, Cowboy. Walkers for the riders were Monica LaRue and Traci Teller.

Representing yet another grand aspect of equine history, an 1831 replica Stagecoach was driven by Rich Osborn and Ed Patterson as 'Shotgun', with Brain Mooney as the 'Doc Holiday' passenger. Walkers were Debby Osborn and Liz Kwasnik. The magnificent horses pulling the coach were the Osborn's own Percherons Megan and Logan.



Hamilton Parade By Kate Fling

Fourteen HAMT members participated in the Memorial Day Parade held in Hamilton Township, NJ on May 31, 2010. The participating members were: Sue Koval, Bev Torok, Ron Harning, Kaitlin Harning, Joe Krzaczkowski, Lea Blanco, Manny Blanco, Susan Auer, Barbara Lipani, Eileen Fralinger, Carol Landau, Cathy Larson, Marie Wagner, and Kate Fling. We had five walkers, including new HAMT member Christie Kerr and friends and family of other participants.

The weather was unbearably hot and humid... typical NJ (BUT IN AUGUST, NOT MAY). We were on time for the parade, ready to line up at 10:30 am. The parade, however, was late; about an hour late. So, we started the day standing in the only shady spot for blocks trying to stay cool. We eventually fell into our spot, the last in line to allow for poop scooping!

The crowd was wilted and a little thin, likely because of the weather. But they were enthusiastic! And they loved the horses. Many commented on our patriotic colors and how many horses were present. Fourteen is the largest number of horses since we started five years ago! Thanks to all who participated!

If there was one downer for the day, in addition to the weather, it would be that we didn't have a sufficient number of walkers. The role of the walker is so important. We needed two to hold the HAMT banner, two to handle the poop scooping; that left just one floating among the horses and trying to keep some distance between the horses and the crowd. We had a couple of incidents when the two met in not such a safe way; these involved me and my parade veteran horse, Leo! There were kids in flip flops walking up to the horses and seniors crossing the parade route right behind the horses. Next year it might have to be a requirement to participate for each rider to bring a walker...we'll see.

Thanks again for all who participated...we looked great and we really put on the Ritz to pay tribute to our veterans! And, the crowd really loved the horses! The horses did fabulous too!

The HAMT banner proudly led HAMT members in three different Memorial Day Parades (clockwise from top): Allentown, Hamilton, Millstone. See next page for additional photos.



Memorial Day Parades-May 31, 2010



Parades Chair Kate Fling (at right) did a terrific job coordinating HAMT's participation in three different parades!



Veteran Mark Blackwell presented a wreath from HAMT at the Millstone ceremony following the parade.



HAMT Member "Q&A" Edited by Rosemary Hodgson

In this new feature you can read horse care-related questions submitted by HAMT members and fellow HAMT members' responses. Enjoy!

Q. What is your specific worming regimen? Why have you found this effective/cost efficient? - Submitted by Bev Torok

A.

--First, pick up the manure in the paddocks/stalls/run-in sheds or use a drag harrow. Next, deworm all horses on the same day when the living areas are free of manure. I use our vet's deworming regimen -- every two months: Panacur power pack in January (I use Safe-Guard because it's cheaper), generic ivermectin in March and May, Strongid in July, ivermectin with praziquantil (tape worm med) in September, and ivermectin in December. For my skinny, old TB mare, I also use a daily dewormer during the summer months when she tends to drop weight.—

Submitted by Kim Mooney

--I use a rotational system. You can get a rotational chart to follow, which makes it a lot easier.— **Submitted by Stan Strzelecki**

--www.VitalRoyal.com has the best worming regimen. There is a lot of information on this subject. It is very helpful. I have been worming this way for years. [This site also offer a great book called "Hay for Horses," which is a great tool for learning how to balance the hay to keep your horse healthy. I also have been feeding my guys for years on this formula.]— **Submitted by Doreen Polhemus**

--Worm every other month. We alternate wormers and give Strongid in the spring months. We use the cheapest ivermectin brand if the ingredi-

ents are the same. We like to use a wormer that contains tapeworm wormer once a year.— **Submitted by Barbara Cammeyer**

--In contrast to human FDA-approved drugs, the agency does *not* demand sound medical data to support some uses of animal drugs. Therefore, if you read the label (or "package insert") for the dewormers, the advice is to follow the recommendations of your vet. Some folks believe in rotating brands of dewormers, giving them in the am and not riding until the next day, skipping the winter months, etc, etc. These are all "old wives" (or "old husbands") tales, and are not supported by medical (veterinary) evidence. Sooooooooo.... follow the advice of your vet (and ask him/her how he/she came to give that advice).— **Submitted by Ron Harning**

--I use the newer ivermectins, such as Quest, Zimectrin Gold, every eight weeks. For a new horse, I might start with a five-day Panacur regimen. No matter what wormer you use, you need to manage your fields or pastures. Drag or spread the manure in your pastures on a routine basis.— **Submitted by Joe McGowan**

--I rotate three dewormers and use one every other month, year round. One of those is an ivermectin and one has tapeworm prevention properties. — **Submitted by Karyn Kempson**



Q. What in your experience has been the best type of fence to build/purchase on your property where you keep horses? - Submitted by Ron Harning

A.

--I have three types of fencing on our farm: oak post and board, pressure-treated split rail, and Equi-safe (polyethylene with an electric wire wound around it). We installed all three types ourselves, and the Equi-safe is by far the easiest to install and is virtually maintenance-free, as well as guaranteed for life. It's not cheap, but it's worth it in the long run. It comes in three- and four-rail, black or white. Diamond mesh with a top-rail is probably the best and safest fence to get, although I don't have it on our farm, so I can't speak from experience.— **Submitted by Kim Mooney**

--There are so many types of fencing! I decided on wood because there are two saw mills in the area, which make repairs easy and inexpensive. I can get an oak plank for \$3.00-\$4.00. I use an electric tape fence to divide the pastures.— **Submitted by Stan Strzelecki**

--We have three-post fence with electric on the top. If I were going to put all new fencing up, I would use the wide strip electric fence, at least four rows.— **Submitted by Barbara Cammeyer**

--Farmer Steph Anderson has the best and safest horse fence. It's also known as the "Rutgers Fence" since it was developed, apparently, in RU. It consists of 4x4 or wider poles, with small wire mesh (small enough

such that a hoof CANNOT go through), and a "live" wire along the single top railing.— **Submitted by Ron Harning**

-- I installed Electro Braid four years ago and I highly recommend it for ease of installation, maintenance, and cost of ownership. I previously had split rail and high tensile wire. Electro Braid is far superior to both.— **Submitted by Joe McGowan**



Q. How to purchase the right saddle? - Submitted by Ron Harning

A.

--Talk to Charlie at Rick's.— **Submitted by Kim Mooney**

--See Charlie in Rick's. He sometimes works among all three stores, so you may have to "time" a meeting him, but he is the best at fitting your bottom to the appropriate saddle, with your horse's configuration /conformation in mind. He gave a GREAT demo for HAMT members a few years ago (remember when he dissected a cheap saddle???). Finally, he will come to your farm with six or seven saddles (after you describe what you are looking for) and test them on your horse (free of charge). I've known him for the past 10 years.— **Submitted by Ron Harning**



HAMT Member "Q&A" (con't)

(Continued from page 10)

--I am a stickler for research. I use a great book called, "The Horses Pain-Free Back and Saddle Fit" book by Joyce Harman, dvm mrcvs. This teaches you how and what to look for in the horse's back before shopping for the saddle. Great tools to measure the horse. Then go see Charlie!— **Submitted by Doreen Polhemus**

--Just as there are "horses for course," the saddle you ride should be suitable to your horse-related activity(s). The saddle should fit both you and your horse comfortably. The pad or blanket you select is equally important. We tend to overpad, thinking we are benefiting the horse when we are really creating more pressure.— **Submitted by Joe McGowan**

--See Charlie at Rick's Saddle shop. Make an appointment, take your horse. It's well worth it and they will match competitors' prices as long as you bring them written proof. I had great results getting a saddle that fits both me and my horse. I wouldn't do it any other way!
— **Submitted by Carol Landau**

Q. How has keeping your horse barefoot worked for you? Good choice? Poor choice? Have you used things to compensate like boots or Venice turpentine, etc? How have they worked out? - Submitted by Sue Koval

A.....

--Depends on the horse. Since I don't ride all that often, my horses are fine barefoot. I've used Boa boots on the carriage horses and they worked well, but I'm not sure how they'd be for trail riding over all types of

terrain. A good farrier is a must.—**Submitted by Kim Mooney**

--I will only have a horse that's barefoot. Too much info to share here. But treat yourself and go on this web site. www.Equinesoundness.com. Go on the past newsletters and print out the special holiday volume 2009. This is a great start. For anyone who wants to know more, give me a call. I can chat for hours on this subject. Bringing a horse back to barefoot is hard work for some horses. Metal and time does a lot of damage. Why do we think this is the only animal in the universe that needs shoes?—**Submitted by Doreen Polhemus**

--This is an individual choice based on how your horse does barefoot. Some are more sensitive than others. Also the kind of work you are doing with him, jumping or riding on lots of rocks or roads will weigh into the decision. I find B vitamin supplements help not only horses' feet, but their coats as well.—**Submitted by Barbara Cammeyer**

--Keep in mind ALL of the nutrient additives for protecting or increasing the strength of hoofs (or hooves) are considered "supplements" and are NOT guaranteed to do anything except make expensive urine and manure. This is just like human supplements which are advertised to: increase your strength, help you lose weight, make you more attractive, prevent certain disease, help recover your memory etc. etc.= NOT PROVEN. BUYER BEWARE.—**Submitted by Ron Harning**



--My horses have been barefoot for years without any incident. And when I did put shoes on them I only used fronts. Make sure your horses are properly trimmed and don't dry the foot out. I have friends that have used boots in place of shoes for various reasons with excellent results. There are now more than a few choices, so fit/measurement is very important.—**Submitted by Joe McGowan**

--Having the same farrier working on my horse since he was 1 year old (he is now 21) has helped keep him barefoot all these years without any problems. Also having a knowledgeable farrier & the same farrier over the course of those years help avoid any problems as your farrier knows your horses hooves & the type of riding you do & the conditions in which the horse is kept: pasture versus dry lot or stall. By having the same farrier you establish a good relationship. If you bounce from farrier to farrier, the problem (if any) may never be corrected or the length of time to treat the hoof properly becomes a problem. Treating/correcting problematic hooves is a time-consuming effort. Diagnostic is key then corrective shoeing or trimming is essential. Also patience; to take a shod horse & make that horse barefoot takes a lot of time & measures to get that horse walking comfortably barefoot. That is where boots, ointments, supplements/feed & reduced riding or riding over softer terrain or just keeping them in a softer environment (grass vs hard dry lot) helps. Remember: Preventative maintenance is key in keeping hooves healthy & less costly in the long run. Neglect or bad care like anything else costs more money & more

down time.—**Submitted by Valerie Palluzzi**

--I have shoes up front, barefoot behind. Since most of the horse's weight is on the front feet, this has been my choice. If your horse's feet can be barefoot without soreness or lameness, or if you can get to that point by having some down time for the foot to harden (if your horse's hoof wall is in good enough shape to withstand it) that is surely the best route for the feet, not to mention your wallet!—
Submitted by Karyn Kempson



Q. Do you have any tips to share with the group on how to run a small farm efficiently and keep costs down? Submitted by Carol Strommen

A.....

--Boy, I sure wish I did, but I don't think there's any way to run a small farm efficiently. I have a few boarders to offset some of my costs ... that helps a little bit. I do just about all the work myself, so there are no paychecks to write. I'm a bargain hunter, so that helps too. Rotate pastures, keep horses turned out as much as possible, make daily routines as easy as possible by having things set up in a way that works best for you. Hay racks are great so less hay gets wasted. Feed everyone in their own "place" so there's no fighting over food. Have a manure management plan.—**Submitted by Kim Mooney**

HAMT Member "Q&A" (con't)

(Continued from page 11)

--Hmm... I found that always looking for potential sources of hay is beneficial. I found a couple of farms that sell their hay at a reasonable price and have quality hay. This has saved us money and kept the price I charge for board steady. Since, I've been here, I only raised the board once, and that was when the price of gas went to \$4.00 a gallon and the price of commodities sky rocketed. This caused the price of feed to double.—**Submitted by Stan Strzelecki**

--Turn out as much as possible and rotate pastures to keep grass in all of them. Automatic waterers are very helpful as well. If you throw hay out in winter, put in shed or use a hay holder of some kind or most of it will blow away.—**Submitted by Barbara Cammeyer**

--Buy the best/consistent quality of hay you can afford. Don't shop that for bargains. The most expensive hay you can buy is what they waste or walk on. Be frugal with shavings. When mucking out remove only wet shavings. We tend to overbed or constantly put new shavings in, drying out our horse hooves. Spread or drag your manure to avoid removal charges. Don't spread shavings in your fields it kills the grass.—**Submitted by Joe McGowan**



Q. Have you had to go through an equine emergency? Submitted by **Lea Blanco**
A.....

--Have you had to go through an equine emergency? Yes. Were you prepared? No. Did you know where the equine surgical centers are? Yes. Had you prepared mentally for the decision that you may have had to make? Not really sure how to "prepare" for something like that. How did you prepare financially in order to afford the surgical center if you do not have equine major medical and/or mortality insurance? I had to put it on my credit card. It prompted me to look into equine major medical and mortality insurance, that's for sure. How did you plan to transport your horse to the surgical center? Truck & trailer are either always hooked up or easily hooked up in an emergency. This is the one part that I was prepared for. —**Submitted by Kim Mooney**

--Have you had to go through an equine emergency? Yes. Were you prepared? Yes. If so, what did you do to prepare? I had supplies of antibiotics, bute, bandages, betadine solution and scrub, vet wrap, leg wraps, banamine, ace bandages. Did you know where the equine surgical centers are? Yes. NJ Equine, MidAtlantic, New Bolton Center. Had you prepared mentally for the decision that you may have had to make? Yes. How did you prepare financially in

order to afford the surgical center if you do not have equine major medical and/or mortality insurance? Most places let you pay off with time payments. How did you plan to transport your horse to the surgical center? Have trailer, will travel. If not, you should have a friend or service that could help you on short notice. —**Submitted by Barbara Cammeyer**

-- Have you had to go through an equine emergency? Yes. Were you prepared? Yes, I had an episode of atrial fibrillation. If so, what did you do to prepare? Only preparation I had was being able to report TPR (temperature, pulse & respiration) and symptoms to my vet. Did you know where the equine surgical centers are? I know where the closest surgical centers are. I also know where the closest veterinary school is (U of PA), which is where my horse ultimately went for treatment. How did you prepare financially in order to afford the surgical center if you do not have equine major medical and/or mortality insurance? Financially....a loan and or payment plans with the facility are the best route in my opinion if \$ is an issue. Thank goodness I didn't have to make any decisions about my horse's mortality and he recovered fully. — **Submitted by Karyn Kempson**



Miscellaneous Member's Forum —Message from Matt Hills

Hello members,

My name is Matt Hills. I am a responsible teen looking for a job exercising, some training, and even lessons. I am very reasonably priced. I have experience in all three fields. Your first lesson, training session, or exercising is free. I can provide references. cell : 732-804-6726, email: matt9rider9@yahoo.com

And...instead of doing a training article this issue, I have decided to share some information on horse rescue. If you're looking for a new horse, you could go and see what is for sale. You can even look at a few rescue sites. Now that is all fine, but my first suggestion is to look at the horses left over at auction. These horses are the leftovers, the unwanted ones, and as our economy is down we are seeing more and more horses go to slaughter, and I know that's the last thing every horse person wants to think about, but we must. For the first time in quite a while, ponies are going. That is a big sign of how hard the economy is hitting horse owners, there are more and more horses going to auction every week. The ones that aren't sold go to a pen. If no one wants them, the truck comes Saturday and the horses go. Luckily for them there are people who work endlessly to save these innocent animals. None of the horses are "free;" the average piece is about \$100-\$600 depending on the breed, color, and "brokenness". So please if you are considering a new horse take a look, here is a link to some horses that need rescue www.nj-feedlot-horse-rescue.com. Thank you.



In Memoriam-Joygantic By Kim Mooney

In Memoriam - Joygantic – June 26, 2010

It is with great sadness that I'm writing to you all this evening. This morning our beloved Joy (aka "Joygantic") had to be put down after a bad colic. She actually went quite peacefully considering she was colicking so badly. Beamer, her best equine buddy, Ethel, our compassionate kitty, Sue K. and I were right there with her. I was blessed to be able to spend almost three hours alone with her this morning and we were able to say our goodbyes. She celebrated her 25th birthday on May 10th.

Joy was our first carriage horse. Actually, she's what started the whole carriage business! She taught me to drive. She was a rock-solid carriage horse and as bombproof as they come. She did many weddings, proms, quinceneras, Christmas rides, harvest festivals ... she carried people in parades and on the trails who had never done parades or trail rides before ... she jousted ... she did the Hambletonian parade with the drill team ... she did "pony" rides at all of our family reunions ... she carried Tonto (Pastor Michael) into our church sanctuary for a seniors' luncheon ... she carried a Roman soldier on Christmas Eve ... she would do anything and go anywhere. She was the best. She officially retired two years ago when moon blindness took her eyesight in one eye. More recently she has been losing sight in her other eye, and that was tough on her. God knew it was time to take her before she hurt herself or someone else.

I remember the first time I saw her. I bought her sight unseen and when I picked her up on May 11, 2002 in Harrisburg at the Farm Complex parking lot I couldn't believe how big that head was! I remember looking into the trailer and seeing that huge head and thinking, "Oh my gosh, this horse is never going to fit in my trailer!" When I got home with her and Brian opened the back of the trailer and saw that huge butt, he said, "She's not Joy, she's Joygantic!" The name stuck because Dr. Perris loved it so much that he put her name in his computer as Joygantic. She had a "fan club" ... everyone loved her because she was so big and beautiful, yet so gentle. She was the boss of the horses and kept everyone in line at MoonBeam Farm. We'll miss her.

Postscript—June 27, 2010

God has a way of easing the feeling of loss. Just fifteen hours after Joy was laid to rest, the cutest, sweetest, little donkey foal was born. I think Patience knew, so she waited to deliver little Gideon at just the right time. His energy and antics certainly helped to bring a little "joy" back to the farm.

Postscript – December 5, 2010

What a fun-filled, joy-filled day this was! Just about every MoonBeam Farm critter took part in our church's live Nativity in the annual Newtown Christmas Parade. There were Roman soldiers on horseback, shepherds with donkeys, a cow, goats, and sheep, Three Great Kings bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for the baby Jesus, with their entourage leading llamas and a camel, the Holy Family on a Nativity float, carolers, a horse-drawn carriage, and huge banners wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. On the drive home I was thinking how great Joygantic would have been in this parade, whether she was carrying a Roman soldier or pulling a carriage. I was thinking about her name and how it fits with this joyous time of year when we celebrate Christmas. After I got home and tucked Elizabeth and all the critters in for the night, I sat down to relax and open the mail from the previous day. There was a Christmas card from the woman I had sold Joy's harness to a few months prior. It was really difficult packing up Joy's harness, and I remember telling the woman that it would arrive with my horse's name on the bridle because I couldn't bring myself to take it off. When I opened the card, three plastic letters fell out ... "J", "O", "Y". Tears welled up in my eyes as I remembered all of the wonderful times Joy and I shared. I knew it was Joygantic's way of telling me she was okay. What a sweet way to end such a joy-filled day.





**HORSEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF
MILLSTONE TWP. (HAMT)**

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Horsemen's Association of Millstone Twp.
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2010 Officers and Trustees

President: Sue Koval
Vice President: Ron Harning
Secretary: Rosemary Hodgson
Treasurer: Kim Mooney
Trustee: Mark Blackwell
Trustee: Carol Strommen
Trustee: Bev Torok

The **Horsemen's Association of Millstone Township (HAMT)** is an organization dedicated to horse-related recreation and education. Our members include western riders, english riders, and carriage drivers. We enjoy a variety of recreational activities, including trail riding, gymkhana, team penning, parades, Halloween rides, games on horseback, potluck picnics, and other fun activities! We aim to educate our members about responsible horsemanship and equine resources through our meetings, newsletters, and website.

Our monthly meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Millstone Township Community Center (463 Stagecoach Road, Millstone Township, NJ 08510). The meetings are open to all. The purpose of our monthly meetings is to keep members up-to-date regarding HAMT and non-HAMT activities and events. All horse lovers (owners and non-owners) from all towns are welcome.

Visit our website www.hamt.org for information, photos, and calendar of trail rides and events!

December 2010 HAMT Newsletter

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Please note that this issue was originally scheduled to be published in early July, and so does not include events and trail rides that took place in the second half of the year. We'll highlight those in our next issue!

Make sure to check the website often for updates and info!

<http://www.hamt.org/calendar.html>

<http://www.hamt.org/newsletters.html>

<http://www.hamt.org/photos.html>

<http://www.hamt.org/join.html>

<http://www.hamt.org/ads.html>

Featured In This Issue:

"Me and My Horse" Series

Ruta & Travis, Yvette & Charlie, Lynda & Ginger

"Mishaps, Misfortunes, and Misadventures of Kate and Dude Leo San" Series Part 2

"My Journey with Horses" Series by Traci Part 2

"HAMT Trail Ride Recollections and Tips" Feature
Valley Forge (PA), Wharton State Forest (NJ)

"HAMT Memorial Day Parades Recollections" Feature
Millstone, Allentown, Hamilton

"HAMT Member Q&A Forum"

Worming regimens, best fences, saddle fitting, barefoot horses, running a small farm, equine emergencies

"Miscellaneous Members' Forum"

Matt Hills suggestion for when you are looking for your next horse

"In Memoriam"

Joygantic

www.hamt.org