



MEG SULLIVAN-WALSH

## Norfolk Hunt Club

### SPRING HUNTER PACE SET FOR JUNE 5

SUBMITTED BY SANDY SANDERS, MICHAEL PAPARO AND D.A. HAYDEN

On Sunday, June 5, 2011 riders from all over New England will meet between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. for the popular Norfolk Hunt Spring Hunter Pace. The pace starts at the Norfolk Hunt Steeplechase Course at 240 North Street in Medfield, Mass., and is open to the public. Proceeds from the event go toward preserving and protecting land and maintaining trails for equestrian use.

The Norfolk Spring Hunter Pace attracts horses of many breeds and riders from multiple disciplines. Adults, children and riders of various experience levels are invited to attend. Organizers ask that horses and riders have experience riding in the open country and on wooded trails. Set over a course of approximately 10 - 12 miles through beautiful Norfolk Hunt country in Dover and Medfield, the event provides an excellent way to condition a horse for any equine activity.

The Norfolk Hunt Spring Hunter Pace features two divisions—Jumpers and Flats. Ribbons will be awarded through tenth place. In addition, a special award will be given for the Best Matched Pair/Team. All riders must wear an approved safety helmet and sign a Norfolk Hunt waiver of liability prior to participating. Each team must have at least two riders. Dress for the event is casual.

The pace is a great opportunity to meet other equestrians, see country hunted by Norfolk, and

jump a variety of fences, including stone walls, logs, ditches, brush, cord wood, banks, etc. The course is well marked and every jump has a way around for those riding in the Flat division. Each team of two or three horses and riders will set off from the starting line about five minutes after the team ahead of them. The goal is to finish the course at the closest time possible to an actual fox hunting pace (the optimum time is predetermined by an experienced fox hunting pace team).

#### 2010 Pace Results

The 2010 pace was chaired by Norfolk member Sandy Sanders, who was supported by a great group of volunteers, including her family members. Despite on-and-off rain showers throughout the day, the 2010 Norfolk Hunt Spring Hunter Pace was a tremendous success with over 80 riders turning out for the event. Norfolk Hunt member Dominic Cammarata and his

◀ Maggie Walsh, Charlotte McEnroe, and Katie Eppinger, winners of the 2010 Best Matched Team Award.

wife, Carolyn Regan, set the 2010 optimum time of 1:29.

Turning in a magnificent performance and placing first in the Jumpers division was Norfolk Hunt father-daughter team, Peadar and Siobhan Hardiman, who finished the course in 1:25. Spectators agreed, all the time spent in the hunt field the past several years might have given Peadar and Siobhan a significant advantage—practice makes perfect! The team of Norfolk Master Carol Mansfield and Master of Fox Hounds and Norfolk member Lee McCloskey took first place in the Flat division, clocking in at 1:23.

The color-coordinated team of Charlotte McEnroe, Katie Eppinger, and Maggie Walsh handily won the Best Matched Pairs Award. The team was outfitted in blue, with spotless matching tack, riding their similarly matched chestnut horses with white blazes.

#### Entry and Volunteer Information

Norfolk Hunt member Michael Paparo is chairing the 2011 Norfolk Hunt Spring Hunter Pace and is guaranteeing a good time for all—rain or shine. Michael encourages riders to arrive early to avoid waiting, as he is expecting a record turnout. “The Norfolk Hunter Pace is all about fun, camaraderie, and enjoying the beautiful land we all cherish and enjoy. We are truly grateful for the generosity of our many landowners for letting us ride through such beautiful country,” said Paparo.

Refreshments for riders and treats for horses will be available on site. An awards ceremony will take place at approximately 2:30 p.m., after the

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KATHIE DAVENPORT

Deb Balliet of Equine Land Conservation Trust, Carol Mansfield and Lisa Lewis of Norfolk Hunt, and Jen Bagley of SmartPak at the land use presentation.

# Connecticut Trail Riders Association

## GEARS UP FOR AN EXCITING SEASON

SUBMITTED BY KIM DORE

The view out my window is improving daily—grass is greening, buds are on the trees, new kittens are hidden in the barn, daffodils are starting to bloom, the spring peepers are peeping, and I can see all the junk that the snow kept hidden for so long, yuck! Of course, the pastures are nothing but a mud pit—deep tractor ruts and hoof divots—but that's the price we pay for spring's arrival. The "new" puppy has been shedding like crazy, I can almost make a whole new dog with all the hair, and my equines are doing the same.

On to upcoming stuff! A reminder of the June rides...for the June 11 ride at Natchaug State Forest, contact Ann Dominick at 352-208-1809 and for the June 26 White Memorial ride, contact me (Kim) at 860-309-4507. A ride and club function schedule should have been sent out around mid-April, so if you haven't gotten a mailing please call and let me know.

I need some news...any news—good, ugly, cute, whatever—otherwise you're all going to get sick of hearing about my dogs, mustang adoptions, and collapsed barn woes, etc.

Friday, July 1 through Monday, July 4 is the official holiday weekend at Camp Boardman, (one of the official hold your lot weekends, along with Camp Opening weekend, Memorial Day weekend, Labor Day weekend and CTRA Memorial Trail Ride weekend).

On Saturday, July 2, there will be a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. in the pavilion, and on Sunday, July 3 there will be a pancake breakfast from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and a poker ride at 10:00 a.m., hosted by Carrie Torsiello. On Monday, July 4 there will be another pancake breakfast if there are any leftovers from Sunday's breakfast.

On Sunday, July 10, there will be a ride at Steep Rock in Washington, Conn., hosted by new member, Heidi Finch. You can contact Heidi at 860-354-3308 for details.

The weekends of July 16 - 17, 23 - 24, 30 - 31 and August 6 - 7 are open weekends for anyone who would like to host a ride or put together a special weekend at camp.

The weekend of August 13 - 14 is our annual barbecue and auction weekend at Camp Boardman. At the time this

issue went to press, no one had stepped up and offered to host this important function, so as I posted in the May submission of club news, I will co-host this event if someone else will volunteer to help. Please give me a call if you can pitch in and help make this a successful weekend. It would also be helpful if you could send me suggestions as to what you'd all like on the menu...maybe something a bit different this year, besides the usual burgers and dogs?

Sunday, August 21 is the Scavenger Hunt Ride at 10:00 a.m., starting from Camp Boardman into Mohawk Forest. Be advised that you will be required to dismount during the search. My advice is to ride with a buddy who is either younger and nimble for the mounting and dismounting portion of the ride or be sure to ride a short horse or carry a cheater stirrup! This ride is hosted by Carrie Torsiello, who can be contacted at 860-379-2880, and Fred Pokrinchak, who can be contacted at 860-868-2901.

On Sunday, August 28, there will be a White Memorial Ride starting from Berkshire Livery Stables (BLS) in Morris, Conn. Call me for details. If anyone would like to make this a full weekend of fun and riding, I can put together a potluck supper on Saturday night for those who'd like to arrive early and camp out at BLS. There are stalls and small turnout paddocks for your equines to relax, too.

Friday, September 2 through Monday, September 5 is the official Labor Day Weekend at Camp Boardman. On Saturday, September 3, there will be a kids only Turkey Hunt, hosted by Ann Dominick. Saturday night will be our annual Spaghetti Supper hosted by Lou Fox and Fran Torsiello. On Sunday, September 4, there will be a pancake breakfast from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and the adult Turkey Ride will start at 11:00 a.m.

Remember you can always contact me via cell phone at 860-309-4507 or by emailing johwye98@yahoo.com. New members are always welcome and we can always use new volunteers, new ideas, and new places to ride... this is your club, so participate! 🍷

## Norfolk Hunt Club

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last riders return. Volunteers are needed to help with the many aspects of the pace. To volunteer, please contact Michael Paparo at 401-651-3282 or email mbpaparo@hotmail.com.

Riders may download entry forms at [www.norfolkhunt.com](http://www.norfolkhunt.com), or enter on-site on June 5.

## Equine Land Conservation Lecture Attracts Enthusiastic Audience

The April 6 lecture on equestrian participation in land use planning, sponsored by the Norfolk Hunt Club and SmartPak, attracted a large crowd of riders, landowners and concerned citizens. Held at the SmartPak retail store in Natick, attendees came from as far as New Hampshire and Cape Cod. Deb Balliet, Executive Director of the Equine Land Conservation Trust, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., delivered a compelling presentation titled "Maintaining Horse Sport and Recreation in Your Community."

Deb encouraged attendees to get involved early and often. "Go ahead and attend planning board, zoning board, and conservation commission meetings. Learn as much as you can and let people know how important open space is to you and your family. You don't have to be an expert to share your appreciation of open space." She stressed the value of open space to community health, recreation, the environment, and property values.

## Open Space is Working Space

Balliet explained how land is diminishing at the astonishing rate of 250 acres per hour. Communicating that open space provides areas for farming, flood control, temperature control, environmental filtering, buffering and wildlife habitat are key points to consider when talking to developers about the ongoing need for open space. Important economic benefits, including keeping productive farmland and jobs, reducing the expense of keeping horses, increasing or maintaining property values and tourism opportunities are all benefits of good open space management.

Maintaining horses in suburbia—to motivate young people to ride and understand the importance of open land—is key to preventing future over development. Deb also talked about the importance of partnering and coalition building to find common ground between equestrians and developers. She cited several case histories in which equestrians, developers, other trail users, and parks and recreation joined together to keep space open for horses and riders.

For more information, or to make a donation to the Equine Land Conservation Resource, visit [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org). 🍷