

# Norfolk Hunt Club

## CONCLUDES FANTASTIC FALL SEASON

SUBMITTED BY DANA POPE AND D. A. HAYDEN

Founded in 1895, the Norfolk Hunt Club had a fantastic fall 2010 season, with 28 Saturday and Tuesday hunts, 10 hound schoolings, and no cancellations. The Club is stronger than ever, with both riding and non-riding members who support Norfolk's efforts to keep the land in and around the Charles River watershed open for equestrian sport. Without the support of the Hunt's many friends, volunteers and, most importantly, the many land owners who open their land to the Hunt, a tradition of seven generations of New Englanders would cease to be.

The informal season began Saturday, September 4, on the lands in Dover once owned by Amelia Peabody and now known as Noanet Woodlands, currently under the care of the Trustees of Reservations. The Club improved many trails and jumps in Noanet this past summer. Some new fences have been built at Adam's Farm in Walpole, and are now known as the "Keane Line." As well, the Steeplechase Course, the Exercise Field, and other favorite hunting venues have new fences to enjoy.

Polo in the Country celebrated its eighth season as a Norfolk Hunt sponsored event in Medfield, Mass. The Club extends thanks to the many volunteers who staffed the exhibition match between Newport and Byfield Polo on Sunday, September 19, at the Steeplechase Course. Over 800 members of the community tailgated along the sidelines as the two teams battled it out with a final score of a tie at 9-9.

A delight to all equestrians was the Norfolk



Newport Polo and Byfield Polo chase the ball at Norfolk Hunt's Polo in the Country.

Hunt's Westport Hunter Pace in Westport, Mass., on Sunday, September 26. Friends of the hunt in Westport opened their land to the riding public for this magnificent 10-mile cross-country ride. Our thanks go to the Norfolk members who volunteered and the team from the Westport Land Conservation Trust, who, with local volunteer support, encouraged over 150 riders to attend the pace. The scenery was breathtaking and trails and jumps were in perfect condition. The Norfolk Hunt's relationship with the Westport and Barney's Joy community is over 20 years strong.

Norfolk's opening hunt occurred at Charlescote Farm in Sherborn, on the first Saturday in October. Tradition continued with playing of bagpipes and the blessing of the hounds and horses before the hunt began. The weather was beautiful and the Norfolk Hunt is grateful to the many landowners and spectators who supported this special day. The land the Club hunts at its opening meet has been hunted by Norfolk for over 100 years.

A new event for Norfolk this year was the Norfolk Hunt Country Barn Tour, held on Sunday, October 17. Five private barns were open to the public for the first time ever. Visitors could share Norfolk foxhunting traditions, meet the new litter of foxhound puppies, witness an Olympic-level dressage clinic, and shop at the Norfolk Hunt Pony Club used tack sale. The Club extends thanks to the very generous barn owners for showcasing their beautiful properties. Many dedicated committee volunteers also deserve tremendous thanks.

The Norfolk Hunter Trials were held Sunday, October 24 at the kennels and drew an enthusiastic group of competitors from both the membership and the surrounding equestrian community. The New England Hunter Trials were hosted by Norfolk on Sunday, October 31, at the Steeplechase Course. A large group of competitors, volunteers, and spectators enjoyed the New England's, which has been a tradition since 1932. These events require the work of many volunteers and the Club thanks each and every one of them.

Norfolk hunts on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, with hound schoolings on Thursdays. Some of this season's highlights included fixtures at the Cummings Veterinary School of Tufts University



Norfolk Huntsman John Elliott with hounds on the beach at Barney's Joy.

PHOTOS KATHIE DAVENPORT



Hounds, horses, and riders were blessed at Norfolk Hunt's opening meet.

in Grafton, Mass., (a 20-year tradition) and the exciting Barney's Joy hunt in South Dartmouth, Mass., complete with a gallop on the sands of Horseneck Beach. A wonderful hunt on October 30 included a route through the Barber Reservation, the cross-country course at Coursebrook Farm, and the beautiful open fields along Western Avenue in Sherborn, Mass. The Veteran's Day hunt featured a crossing of the Charles River, which was unusually deep due to several fall rainstorms. The last Massachusetts hunt of the season took place over beautiful country in Westport, Mass., and included territory that had not been hunted in for more than a decade. The season concluded with the seventh annual joint meet with the Farmington Hunt Club in Free Union, Va.

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## Connecticut Trail Riders Assoc.

### JANUARY MEETING POSTPONED

SUBMITTED BY KIM DORE

Is winter ever going to be gone? I don't know about the rest of you, but I am so done with this white stuff. Our January 23 meeting was postponed until February 13 due to, you guessed it, snow issues. I am hoping that we have a good turnout with lots of volunteers for rides and club events...hint, hint. Any and all news—the good, the bad, the ugly, the funny—can be sent to me at 860-309-4507 or johwye98@yahoo.com.

If you haven't received a renewal application or haven't gotten your *Pedlar* please contact either me or Betty Pokrinchak 860-868-2901 so we can correct this. If you weren't able to make the meeting to volunteer to host a ride, etc., don't worry there is plenty of "work" to go around and still time to step up and volunteer for something! Just give me a call and I can "plug" you into the schedule. Stay warm, give the ponies a nice treat, and dream of green trees, green grass, and warmer temperatures and maybe they'll get here sooner! 🍷

### Norfolk Hunt Club

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Norfolk Hunt Club's Joint Masters of Foxhounds, Owen Hughes and Carol Mansfield, along with Norfolk huntsman John Elliott and his staff, lead large fields of riders at all the season's hunts. Three fields of riders—jumpers, pick and choose, and flat—are available at all hunts. A fourth field—hilltopping (slower pace)—is available on most Saturdays. Newcomers are welcome to ride with the hunt, but must be prepared to ride in fast company and contact a Master before hunting.

Norfolk hounds continue to be trained and exercised throughout the winter months, and many Norfolk events are currently being planned. The Norfolk Hunt Club welcomes the support of all in the community who encourage the continued use, preservation, and protection of the fields and forests in the Charles River Watershed and beyond, for equestrian sport. Norfolk's spring hunting season begins April 19, 2011.

For more information about Norfolk Hunt Club, and to ride or volunteer, visit [www.norfolkhunt.com](http://www.norfolkhunt.com). 🍷

## Yankee Walkers, Gaited Horses of New England

### MEMBER SHARES HER PASSION FOR HORSES

SUBMITTED BY CYNDY EROMENCK

It has been a long, long trail for me. I had promised myself that I would own a horse before my 50th birthday. As it turned out, my childhood dream was realized at age 47, when I purchased Conrad, my first horse. I had reached my goal three years early.

I spent most of my childhood in Passaic and other very urban areas of northern New Jersey. My father was a truck driver so we moved around a lot. The one thing I remember as being a constant was my love for horses.

Living in the city and having a desire to ride horses was really an impossible dream. My grandfather found a temporary solution though; a stick horse that he purchased for me at the downtown 5 & 10 cent store. I rode that trusty stick horse weekly, literally down to toothpicks.

Later in my teens, I was able to rent a horse for trail riding, one hour at a time. You know the kind of trail riding I mean, the kind where your horse mindlessly follows the one in front. It didn't matter though, I was thrilled to finally be riding a real live horse. It was about this time that I realized I was allergic to horses, hay, and grass. How could that be? My dream looked like it was going to be thrown out with my Kleenex tissues. I underwent allergy testing and then took allergy shots. This never really worked. To this day I still have to medicate in order to ride, but it's worth it.

Soon my horse riding days were temporarily put on hold while I got married and raised a family of three great kids. I still went riding on occasion with my family, but it was not until after 9/11, when we watched the smoke of the burning towers for days from my town of Clifton, N.J., that I decided to get back to the horses that I loved as a child. My girls became very interested and before long we were all leasing horses and riding together. Sharing this passion with my two daughters has given me some of the best times of my life.

Suddenly I was 45. How did that happen? The time had come to search for a horse to purchase. At this point I like to think that fate really played my number. I was looking for a Quarter Horse because that was all I knew through the years. I called on an ad listed on one of those



Cyndy Eromenck and Conrad.

DEB JACOBSON

Internet horse sites. When a woman answered, she explained that the horse was not really a Quarter Horse, but a Tennessee Walking Horse. Her mistake was the best thing that could ever have happened to me. I knew nothing about gaited horses nor had I ever ridden one, but as we talked we made a connection and she agreed to let me lease this horse for a year. The first time I rode Conrad I could feel the difference. He seemed more like a big playful puppy wanting to please me. The experience was unlike that of any rented horse I had ever ridden. To this day, I can call his name in a field of 20 other horses and he will pick up his head and walk over to me. I like to think that he picked me. I purchased Conrad about one year later.

I now have a horse trailer so our journey continues, far and wide. We still do mostly trail riding. The connection I feel with Conrad while in a running walk is everything I ever wanted from a horse and more. I got to cross another item off of my bucket list when we rode on the Jersey shore. The Tennessee Walking Horse is so versatile; he's at home on the trail and the beach but has also won ribbons in gymkhana games. We have gone to several de-spooking clinics sponsored by the Morristown Sheriffs Department, where there were smoke bombs to walk through, sirens blaring, lights flashing, dogs barking, etc. We have taken riding clinics with Diane Sept, and most recently attended the Equine Affaire in Massachusetts with Brenda Imus and Julie Goodnight.

Thanks to my wonderful and very supportive husband, my childhood dream has come true with my Tennessee Walking Horse, Conrad.

For more information, please visit [www.yankeewalkers.com](http://www.yankeewalkers.com). 🍷