



# New York State Horse Council

July-September 2022

## President’s Message

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED – NYSHC NOMINATIONS

#### 2023 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

The following Officer and Director positions will be up for election this year for 2023. There are 5 vacant Director positions to be filled by new volunteers!

Incumbents up for re-election are named below. Regions are also described on website nyshc.org under News/Events, click Chapter News.

Statewide Positions – all members vote for these.

President – Susan Knauer

• Executive V.P. - Vacant

Treasurer - Steve Ropel

• Director at Large –

Chip Watson

Regional V.P. – vote for the Region in which you live only.

Capital – vacant

Southern Tier – Wendy Wakula

Central – Gary Slate

Western – Lissette Ruotolo

Finger Lakes – Dru Malavase

Regional Directors – vote for your Region

Capital - 1 vacant

Northern - Mary Beth Green

Finger Lakes – 1 vacant

Southeast – Ahmed Zubair, plus

Mid-Hudson – Sade Johnson-

1 vacant

Conway

Western: Barb Cunningham

There are usually 4 – 6 virtual (ZOOM) Board meetings on weekday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, perhaps 1 or 2 in person meetings on a Saturday, and 1 Annual General Membership Meeting – in person or ZOOM.

These are the people helping horses and equine activities in New York. State issues the NYSHC

has been involved with include: Improvements and reduced fees for horse shows at NYS Fairgrounds (see April 2022 Newsletter); making horse boarding eligible for agricultural tax exemption; reducing tolls for horse trailers on NYS Thruway; supporting Carriage Drivers in NYC.

Support of Horse Trails has long been a priority of the Horse Council – 50 plus years ago NYSHC Members worked on the establishment of the Brookfield and Otter Creek Trail Systems.

Currently there is a \$47,000 grant to improve muddy trails at West Almond/Phillips Creek forests managed by NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – plan to be

finished this month. DEC and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) manage a state Trails Committee with representatives from all trail user groups. The 3 Equestrian representatives are provided by NYSHC.

Recreational activities include the Fall Pleasure Ride (Columbus Day weekend) at Brookfield (54 years); Competitive Trail Ride Clinic and

You can make a difference in the horse community by volunteering to help. We would like to have more clinics and educational events, and need someone to plan them. We have committees for equine assisted therapy, fund raising, humane, publicity, social media, safety, scholarship, legislative and others – and need members to help. I am hoping to have an

Competition. This year we published the Equine Resource Directory – provides listing of horse related businesses in NY – on nysbc.org under Resources Button. Webinars on Nutrition and Horse Behavior are available on You Tube under NYSHC. Chapters of the NYSHC offer clinics, shows and trail rides; the Western Chapter offers the EquiFest in Hamburg NY.

online Annual General Membership meeting in the Fall to conduct business, and perhaps an in-person event in each of our 8 regions. We need people to help organize these events. Please volunteer to help!

Sincerely,  
Susan Knauer  
President, NYSHC

### **From the Editor's Desk**

To make the New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) Newsletter successful and useful to all, as the editor I will continue to need your input for all future newsletters. The NYSHC Newsletter can be a great way to get the word out about equine activities and initiatives throughout New York State. I am excited to share articles and pictures from all of our NYSHC members and area equestrians.

The NYSHC Newsletter will be published quarterly. Deadline for articles to be submitted by the first of the month for each quarter. See below:

Issue 1 - January, February and March.

Article due Jan 1 or before

Issue 2 - April, May, and June

Articles due Apr 1 or before

Issue 3 - July, August, and September

Articles due July 1 or before

Issue 4 - October, November and December

Articles due Oct 1 or before

Please E-mail your article in the e-mail or as an attachment in word format (**not a PDF**) and photos as J-Peg for the upcoming newsletters to: barbcunningham11@gmail.com. If you have questions, you can also call me at 716-735-3529.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed the newsletter. As of January 2023, I will no longer be available to continue doing the newsletter, If you are interested in taking the position over, please let the President know or contact me with any questions. It is important that you are familiar with MS Word or Publisher.

Barb Cunningham, Editor

---

## Current 2022 NYSHC Officers

If you have any questions regarding the NYSHC feel free to contact the officers or the

VP and Directors in your Region

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>President:</b></p> <p>Sue Knauer (term expires 2022)          Email: <a href="mailto:susan.knauer@nyshc.org">susan.knauer@nyshc.org</a>          Phone: 585-230-3720</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer:</b></p> <p>Stephen Ropel (term expires 2022)          Email: <a href="mailto:stephen.ropel@nyshc.org">stephen.ropel@nyshc.org</a>          Phone: 518-366-8998</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exec Vice-President:</b></p> <p>Dan Gruen (term expires 2022)          Email: <a href="mailto:Dan.Gruen@NYSHC.org">Dan.Gruen@NYSHC.org</a>          Phone: 315-749-8086</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recording Secretary</b></p> <p>Mary Hull (term expires 2023)          E-mail <a href="mailto:mkeanehull@gmail.com">mkeanehull@gmail.com</a></p>

---

## NYSHC Regional Contacts

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE (Statewide)

**Chip Watson** (2022), 845-220-7857,  
[Cowgirlchip1@gmail.com](mailto:Cowgirlchip1@gmail.com)

### CAPITAL REGION 3

VP- Vacant

**Brianna Hughes** Director (518) 885-9885  
[bh548@cornell.edu](mailto:bh548@cornell.edu)

### CENTRAL REGION 5

**Gary Slate – VP** (315)-638-4868  
[garysharonslate@gmail.com](mailto:garysharonslate@gmail.com)

**Jeannette Dietrich-Director** (518)526-0718  
[jeannette.dietrich@nyshc.org](mailto:jeannette.dietrich@nyshc.org)

**Sharon Young Slate - Director** (315)-638-4868  
[garysharonslate@gmail.com](mailto:garysharonslate@gmail.com)

### FINGER LAKES REGION 7

**Dru Malavase - VP** (585)-657-7053  
[drumalavase@hotmail.com](mailto:drumalavase@hotmail.com)

**Allison Conti Frey Director** (585)703-8479  
[alicfrey@yahoo.com](mailto:alicfrey@yahoo.com)

### MID-HUDSON REGION 2

**Colleen Segarra - VP** (845)-744-1728  
[phishmare@aol.com](mailto:phishmare@aol.com)

**Deb Goodpaster – Director** 845-380-3273  
[deb.goodpaster@nyshc.org](mailto:deb.goodpaster@nyshc.org)

**Sade Johnson-Conway - Director** 917-346-8727  
[conway35025@aol.com](mailto:conway35025@aol.com)

### NORTHERN REGION 4

**Karen Lassell - VP** (518)-593-9768  
[lassell@whminer.com](mailto:lassell@whminer.com)

**Chauntel Gillilard - Director** (518)-578-2392  
[csgorses@gmail.com](mailto:csgorses@gmail.com)

**Mary Beth Green - Director** (315)-590-2034  
[dgreen5@twcny.rr.com](mailto:dgreen5@twcny.rr.com)

### SOUTHEAST REGION 1

**Christina Tabacco-Weber VP** (516) 225-5636  
[ctabacco@gmail.com](mailto:ctabacco@gmail.com)

**Ahmed H Zubair Director** (347) 515-9850  
[pologround@hotmail.com](mailto:pologround@hotmail.com)

### SOUTHERN TIER REGION 6

**Wendy Wakula - VP** (607)-849-6042  
[wendy.wakula@nyshc.org](mailto:wendy.wakula@nyshc.org)

**JoAnne Frechette** Director (607) 692-2209  
[jfrechette@stny.rr.com](mailto:jfrechette@stny.rr.com)

**Sarah Collier – Director** (585)-709-6076  
[Sarah.Collier@nyshc.org](mailto:Sarah.Collier@nyshc.org)

### WESTERN REGION 8

**Lisette Ruotolo - VP** 716-926-6010  
[LMRuotolo@yahoo.com](mailto:LMRuotolo@yahoo.com)

**Barb Cunningham - Director** (716)-735-3529  
[barbcunningham11@gmail.com](mailto:barbcunningham11@gmail.com)

**Pauline Burnes Director** (607)-765-8543  
[pburnes102@gmail.com](mailto:pburnes102@gmail.com)

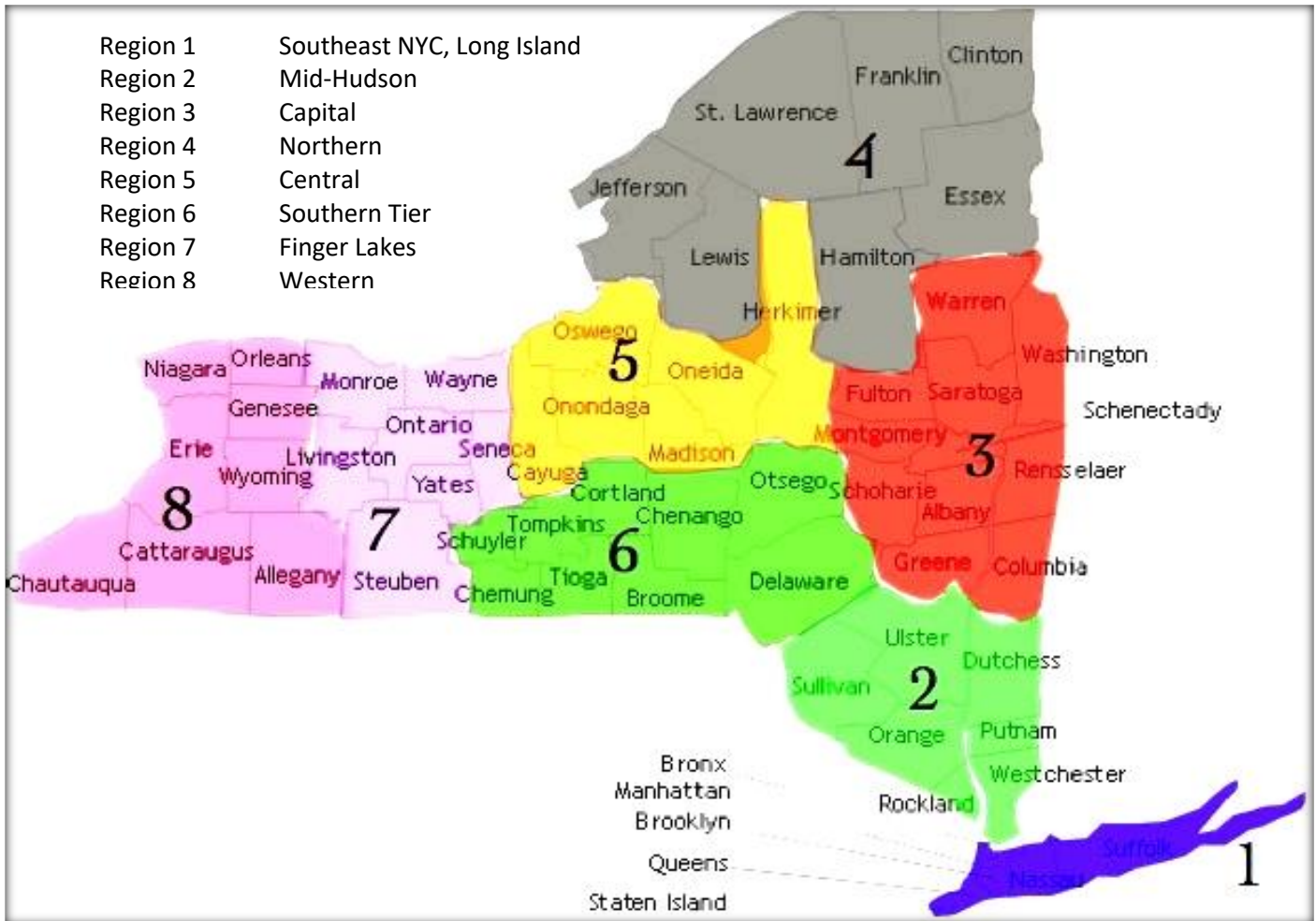
---

## Annual General Membership Meeting

Currently there are no plans for when or where/how AGM meeting will take place.

---

### DO YOU KNOW WHAT REGION YOU ARE IN?



**Our Mission: "To create a strong unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State."**

**Join or Renew Your NYSHC Membership**  
**Now**

---

**HORSE COUNCIL REGIONAL REPORTS**  
**Quick look at what has been happening in your Region**

---

**Southeast NYC, Long Island Region 1**



"Music Hall RADIO CITY, New York, NY - a downtown evening in horse carriage. Photo courtesy Ahmed H Zubair"

---

**Region 2 Mid-Hudson Region No Report**

---

**Region 3 Capital Region No Report**

---

**Region 4 Northern Region No Report**

---

**Region 5**

**SOUTHERN TIER/CENTRAL REGION** worked together on May 17, the regions collaborated to offer a mini-clinic called **Trailer Backing 101**. 7 drivers and 6 auditors participated. NYSHC

---

**Central Region**

provided insurance coverage. CNY region provided personnel and the venue was supplied by Cortland's Tractor Supply Company.

---

**Tour Of Madden Stables**

Sharon reported that the Central Region is hosting a tour of Madden Stables on July 19 with a rain date of July 25. There is no charge for this event. Attendance is capped at 35 with preference given to Central Region members. There will be refreshments followed by a talk on caring for the senior equine given by Karin Bump. No walk-ins will

be allowed. Sign up with Sharon. If the tour is not filled with Central Region members, other Horse Council members will be accepted so let Sharon know you're interested. The only cost to the Central Region will be for the refreshments. Karin offered to assist other regions if they would like to have a similar event



## Plow Day with the Draft Horse Club

Submitted by Gary Slate, Central Region VP, New York State Horse Council

We went to the New York State Draft Horse Club "Plow Day" on Sunday, May 15, at the Minter's Farm in Sennett, NY. We saw numerous teams, one pulling a farm wagon for the public to ride around the field. People brought horses from as far north as Barnes Corners, and south as Dryden to "rip up the land" in the manner of previous generations of farmers. In fields all around us, large tracts had already been plowed, disked, and planted by the modern equipment of large farms. But here a handful of people who own, raise and train draft horses were working the land like farmers did just a generation or two ago. Amish and Mennonite farmers would not raise an eyebrow, except for the working on a Sunday, but the people here were plowing in the spirit of fun, not work. The gas and diesel fuel saved on farming with horses was more than made up by the trucks that brought these horses such a distance.

As is often the case when a horse club meets for a public event, there was a refreshment tent set up selling fast food and drink for the workers, helpers and tourists. While chatting with other spectators over coffee, we discovered that one couple had driven in from North Rose and that they had a Morgan horse back in their barn. The

conversation led to information about a famous Morgan horse farm in our home town. Another person happened to be an in-law of



the people with miniature horses who live across the road from us back home. Such is the interconnected horse world where we often meet strangers who know people we know. We enjoyed the day so much, we agreed to pay a family membership to this Draft Horse Club. We are hoping to attend the next function, a Wheat Harvest August 6 in King's Ferry, NY, and maybe the Corn Harvest September 18 at the Fuller Farm in Groton, NY. These same folks will be showing or watching the Draft Horse Classes at the New York State Fair September 1-4. Details about this club can be found at their website (<http://www.ny-state-draft-horse-club.org>)

---

### Region 6

### Southern Tier

#### Tidbits from the Southern Tier Region (ST)

Being out here in no-mans' land, without any chapters, Southern Tier is working to bring services to horse owners, be they council members or not.

- New York State Horse Council tabled at the CNY Horse Club tack sale of April 9. It was great to start seeing everyone again.
- Pleased to announce that property easements for the extensions of the Dryden

Rail Trail are being negotiated with horses in mind. The Town of Dryden has continually defended the use of horses along the trail, currently about 7 miles, with expansion plans in the works.

- In May, a clinic entitled Trailer Backing 101 was co-sponsored in Cortland, well attended with both drivers and auditors. There have been queries about a repeat
-

performance after everyone has had time to practice. Maybe a Road-de-o? .

- In June, funds were donated to install a mounting block at the equestrian lot at the Tuller Hill trail system in Virgil



---

### Region 7

#### **FINGER LAKES MOUNTED PATROL CLINIC:**

Pauline reported it went very well. The clinic

### Finger Lakes

was featured on the front page and in an article provided by Pauline to “Country Folks” news.

---

### Region 8 Western

**By Pauline E. Burnes, RLA Western NY Region Director Submitted July 10, 2022**

Thanks to the Cherise, Tina, Gail, Mary, and Barb who turned out to help clear and maintain trails on the West Almond (Phillip’s Creek) trail system. I spent three days and two nights camping at Stewart Forest Road, riding and grooming the trails with this great group of friends. Some of them are still camping as I write this article.



We have spent a lot of time pruning high branches, moving smaller trees and logs out of the trail, and rerouting some of the trails around wet areas. Ground bees were encountered on Trail 6 near Palmer’s Pond. If you see double blue flagging on the tree, that is a warning to pick your way around the trail through the woods.

Please note that Trail 5 on the south side of Stewart Forest Road is VERY wet, and should have a sign stating, “Closed to Horses”. It has not been maintained or improved for that use. Trail 10 accessed from the north side of I-86 at the West Almond Interchange on Miller Road has been checked this year for horse use. Trail 11 on the west side of Miller Road is a very nice trail, mainly open and pruned.

My horse, “Little” Joe, did a great job overnighting in the covered tie stalls. Two

things really helped him, one is a 4 ft x 3 ft rubber mat, which discouraged him from pawing. The other is sharing his hay bag with his trail buddy Molly. The water at the horse campground is very cool and refreshing. However, the pump handle is hard to work, so we are trying to get that improved.

Wherever you go, check for wasps, bees, and hornets before setting up camp. The kiosk at Stewart Forest Road had a paper wasp nest, that the Forester sprayed but some of the wasps found their way into the map box and went unnoticed. I carry wasp spray in my vehicle and was able to treat the kiosk on the next day. When riding, I make sure my first aid kit has antihistamine and my epi-pen on my person.

Trail 4 on the West Almond System remains closed for construction. The Contractor is supposed to finish that project at the end of this month. I anticipate that Trail 4 will be open for riding by mid to late August. When that is complete it will be the “poster child” for other trail improvement funding opportunities.



Work has begun on developing a Master Plan for Trail Improvements on the West Almond Trail System. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provides staff assistance for various community conservation projects. Lelia Mellen from the National Park Service has been assigned to assist IMPACT: Friends Improving Allegany County Trails, Inc. (IMPACT) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation West Almond Forestry Office. We are getting assistance from Alfred University in the form of GPS data collection on the trail conditions, for entry into the DEC’s Geographic Information System (GIS) to track and prioritize trail improvement projects.

IMPACT: Friends Improving Allegany County Trails, Inc. received the Step-Up Grant from Parks and Trails, NY. This is to complete a consultant facilitated 3–5-year Strategic Plan for the organization. We anticipate that this will help with future funding, board development, marketing, membership, and event planning. The total award is \$10,000 with the \$500 match provided by the New York State Horse Council, Inc.

The weather has been great for camping, and the equestrian trails are in pretty good condition thanks to our volunteers. Contact me if you would like more information about the equestrian/multi-use trails on the DEC West Almond Trail System.

---

## **2022 NYSHC ADDITIONAL CONTACTS**

### **NYSHC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Chip Watson, , Cowgirlchip1@gmail.com Karen Lassell, , lassell@whminer.com

There was not one youth who applied. It was decided by the NYSHC to award two

adults the scholarships. They are Susan Padbonio and Pauline Burnes.

- 
- **RIDE AND DRIVE COMMITTEE** JoAnne Frechette [jfrechette@stny.rr.com](mailto:jfrechette@stny.rr.com) or [ride.drive@nyshc.org](mailto:ride.drive@nyshc.org) **No Report**



- **SOCIAL MEDIA**: Shannon Budnik, 845-436-7669, Uchcny@gmail.com Wendy Wakula, 607-849-6042, [wakula1@juno.com](mailto:wakula1@juno.com) – No Report
- **TRAILS COUNCIL**: Dan Gruen, 315-749-8086, [DanGruen@roadrunner.com](mailto:DanGruen@roadrunner.com) No Report
- **YOUTH**: Lissette Ruotolo, 203-809-9559, [Lmruotolo@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmruotolo@yahoo.com) No Report

### **Brookfield Competitive Trail Events Change their Dates**

The Brookfield Clinic is returning and Padroni being moved from its April date to **June 18, 2022**. People are encouraged to bring their horses and do a five-mile training ride or drive, following a lecture and demonstration session. They could then stay to camp and ride the open trails the next day. Coming to the clinic will give you an opportunity to learn about the sport, what to expect at a competitive ride, how your horse will be judged and how to condition and train your horse to keep him healthy and happy on the trails. It is a sport where the rider or driver must pace his well-conditioned horse over a set course in a given time frame and keep the horse as fresh as possible at all times. We will again welcome drivers as well as riders at both the clinic and the ride/drive competition.

The Brookfield Competitive Ride/Drive 50/25/15 is being moved to **October 7-9, 2022**. We are looking forward to beautiful fall foliage and, hopefully, dryer trails. It will also give new riders and drivers lots of time to condition their horses and prepare them for longer distances on the trail.

The Brookfield Events are sanctioned by the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association [www.ectra.org](http://www.ectra.org) and sponsored by The New York State Horse Council [www.nyshc.org](http://www.nyshc.org) where you can get more information and entry forms. Both events are held at Pure Country Campground in New Berlin NY adjacent to Brookfield Horse Trails

Contact: Jo Lasher, Manager [jolasher65@gmail.com](mailto:jolasher65@gmail.com) or 518-882-1515

### **Pictures From Previous Years**



## Clinic Prepares Trail Riders and Drivers for a Columbus Day weekend Competitive Event!

The Clinic was held on June 18th at Pure Country Campground in New Berlin. Sponsored by Triple Crown Feed, the New York Horse Council and Pure Country Campground, the clinic offered insight into what it takes to participate in competitive riding and driving. Despite the unseasonably cold, windy day about 15 participants learned how to prepare their horses for the sport of CTRs. Presenting the clinic were several Ride Managers as well a Veterinarian, Lay Judge and riders. Feeding, training, tack, camping and judging and conditioning your horse for success in CTRs were covered. There was also the opportunity

for participants to practice taking the horse's pulse, and view trot outs. At the end of the day participants were able to head out on trail for a 5 mile mock ride. There were lots of smiles and laughs despite the cold!

The goal of the clinic was to introduce riders to the sport and hopefully see them at the **Brookfield Competitive Trail Ride and Drive, October 8th and 9th**. Riders and Drivers can choose a distance of either 25 or 15 miles each day. We are looking forward to seeing some new faces in October!

---

## IT'S HERE 2022 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL NYSHC FALL PLEASURE RIDE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Registration starts 6/18/22 and ends 9/17/22.

Please visit NYSHC webpage: <https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=101> to register ONLINE RSVP book or print the Postal Mail Registration Form.

*For your convenience, the Fall Ride Poster and Postal Mail Registration Form is included in this newsletter.*

*Come join us, we look forward to seeing you there*

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://nyshc.org/post.php?pid=101>. The page content includes:

- REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**
- Columbus Day Weekend**  
October 7th thru 10th, 2022  
Madison County Fairgrounds  
1968 Fairground Road  
Brookfield, NY 13314
- Fall Pleasure Ride Manager & Registration:**  
Paula Chiazza  
Email: [fallride@nyshc.org](mailto:fallride@nyshc.org)  
Cell: (585)953-2226 (please leave a message/do not text)  
[Fall Ride Info \(PDF\)](#)
- We Need Volunteers!**  
Volunteers Opportunities include (Barn Managers (set up/take down/repairs/provide customer assistance), Jar Wars, 50/50 Raffle, Auction (set up/organize/collect data/present items), Registration Office, Weekend Activities; Poker Run/Obstacle Challenge/Costume Class/Weigh In your Horse/more). If you are interested in volunteering, please email the event manager.
- A paragraph about the Brookfield Trail System: "The highly acclaimed Brookfield Trail System has over 130 miles of horse trails set throughout three state forests (Charles Baker State Forest, Brookfield Railroad State Forest, and Beaver Creek State Forest). These three forests collectively provide 13,750 acres of public reforestation lands for multiple recreation purposes. Madison County Fairgrounds provide Campsites with full hookups, bathrooms, showers, 3 horse barns with box stalls, outdoor arena, dining hall and more."  
[The Erica Raab Inspirational Award](#)
- REGISTRATION is OPEN!**  
[Online rsvpbook.com Registration](#)  
[Postal Mail Registration](#)  
[Info & Reminders](#)  
[Fall Ride Payment](#)

The page also features a logo for the New York State Horse Council and a photo of two riders on a trail. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 6/20/2022 and the time as 2:46 PM.





[HTTPS://NYSHC.ORG/](https://nyshc.org/)  
**53RD ANNUAL FALL PLEASURE RIDE  
COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND  
OCTOBER 7–10TH, 2022  
MADISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
1968 FAIRGROUND ROAD  
BROOKFIELD, NY 13314**



Photo by Desdelan Photography

It's official! We are hosting our 53rd Annual Fall Pleasure Ride, at Madison County Fairgrounds, October 7th thru October 10th. We look forward to meeting new arrivals and reminiscing with old timers! Come join us in weekend activities i.e.; Guest Speakers, Social "Happy" Hour, Photographer, Benefit Auction, Jar Wars, Door Prizes, Awards, 50/50 Raffle, Weigh In Your Horse, Poker Run, and evenings relaxing at camp Bon Fires.

And of course, trail ride and/or carriage drive at your leisure on the beautiful and picturesque highly acclaimed Brookfield Trail System. The Trail System is over 130 miles of horse trails set throughout three state forests (Charles Baker State Forest, Brookfield Railroad State Forest, and Beaver Creek State Forest). These three forests collectively provide 13,750 acres of public reforestation lands for multiple recreation purposes.

**REGISTRATION:** Open registration: **June 18, 2022**. Close Registration: **September 17, 2022**. Please visit [NYSHC.ORG](https://nyshc.org/) > <http://www.nyshc.org/post.php?id=101> for registration details. You must be registered at Madison County Fairgrounds to participate in this event.

- Registration via Online or Postal Mail
- NYSHC 2022 Member Registration Discount
- NYSHC Information Table
- Onsite Photographer
- 7 Designated Hookup sites w/electric, sewer, water and dumping station access
- Hookup sites w/electric & water
- Rustic sites w/o electric, bring your own horse corral or fencing
- Restrooms with Hot Showers
- Barn #1 & Barn #2 w/20 box stalls each
- Barn #3 w/20 open stalls
- Stall shavings, forks and wheelbarrows available for your use
- Outdoor riding arena
- Dining and activities in Whitford Hall
- Order Breakfast and/or Dinner

**Information:**

Paula Chiazza  
NYSHC Fall Ride Manager / Registration  
Email: [fallride@nyshc.org](mailto:fallride@nyshc.org)  
(585) 953-2226 (Please leave message, do not text)

**Volunteers:**

We could use your help with: Benefit Auction, Jar Wars, 50/50 Raffle, Weigh in Your Horse, Poker Run, and Barn Manager. If you are interested, please contact me for info. Thanks. Paula

**Desdelan Photography:**

Mike Boettcher (518) 512-6126  
<https://www.desdelanphotography.com>

**Beaver Den Diner:**

1946 Academy Rd.  
Brookfield, NY 13485  
(315) 899-8206  
<https://www.facebook.com/beaverdendiner/>

**Brookfield General Store:**

10546 Main Street  
Brookfield, N 13314  
(315) 899-5815  
<https://www.buellfuel.com/locations/gas-station-country-stores/brookfield-store/>

**Endless Trails Guesthouse:**

8856 Larkin Rd, Hubbardsville, NY 13355  
Kristina (315) 765-9555 (call or text)  
[WHRKristina@yahoo.com](mailto:WHRKristina@yahoo.com)

<https://endlesstrailsguesthouse.com>

The guesthouse is available to rent by the week, by the weekend, or by the day. Take advantage of our horse stalls, our location, and most of all, the peace and quiet.

**Airbnb—Blue Heron Lake House on Gorton Lake:**

Sharon Schmidt (315) 941-4457  
[Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com). Search under West Edmeston or Brookfield. Our house is on Gorton Lake, 5 miles from the fairgrounds. We have an efficiency apartment with full bath, full kitchen, sitting area and 1 queen size bed and 1 double bed. Also, we have a lovely outdoor patio with table chairs, fire pit, and BBQ grill.

**Lake Chalet Motel:**

593 NY-8 Bridgewater, NY 13313  
(315) 822-6074  
<https://lakechalet.com>

**Stall Rental:**

**Barb Taylor Tack & Field**  
9192 Skaneateles Tpke  
Hubbardsville, NY 13355  
Box Stalls available @\$20.00 per night  
Barb (315) 723-7063 (Please call for Stall availability and/or to visit the Tack Shop)  
<https://www.facebook.com/iwasmadefor/>





**NYSHC 53rd ANNUAL FALL PLEASURE RIDE, FRIDAY OCT. 7, 2022 -- MONDAY OCT. 10, 2022**  
**Madison County Fairgrounds, 1968 Fairground Road, Brookfield, NY 13314**

**PRINTABLE REGISTRATION FORM**

6/16/22 this event is sponsored by the NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL which officially starts Friday Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am and ends Monday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. You MUST be registered at the Madison County Fairgrounds to participate at this weekend event. OPEN Postal Mail Registration Date: **6/18/22**. CLOSED Postal Mail Registration Deadline Date: **9/17/22**. After this date, we cannot guarantee availability. Current Rabies Certificate for horse or dog along with Coggins Certificate for horse must be presented upon arrival at registration. Cancellation notices received prior to 9/17/22 will receive full refund minus \$35.00 processing fee. Cancellations after 9/17/22 are non-refundable. COVID Safety: Face masks are optional when outdoors or indoors. Please consider COVID Safety Measures at your discretion. Sanitizer and Face Masks will be provided onsite.

*Office Use Only*

**REGISTRATION #:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**BARN #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STALL#:** \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date Received:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2022  
**Paid in Full:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Pd:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2022  
**Amount Due:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Pd:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2022

**YOUR ARRIVAL DAY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2022 **YOUR APPROXIMATE TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AM / PM**

**REGISTRATION TYPE:** One Registration Form per Single or Family (Two Adults 18+ yrs. of age, w/ or w/o Children under 12yrs) residing at the same address.

Single (One Adult 18+yrs)	Family (Two Adults (18+) w/ or w/o Children under 12yrs. residing at the same address)
---------------------------	--

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Adult Last Name: _____		First Name: _____	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Adult Last Name: _____		First Name: _____	
Child's Name: _____	Age: _____	Child's Name: _____	Age: _____
Home Address: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____		Cell Phone: _____	
		Email: _____	

REGISTRATION FEE: NYSHC discount to <b>current</b> 2022 NYSHC Member. Children under 12 yrs. of age are FREE.	#	FEES	\$ TOTALS
NYSHC-Member Rider: <b>Current</b> 2022 Member: ID #: _____ \$23.00 per person.		x \$23.00	
NON-Member Rider: \$46.00 per person.		x \$46.00	
Non Rider: Guest/Volunteer/Other: The Fairgrounds is not selling meals onsite or to the general public. Meals are only available for NYSHC-Member, Non-Member, Non-Rider registrants. \$12.00 per person.		x \$12.00	
<b>TOTAL \$ REGISTRATION:</b>			<b>\$</b>

**ELECTRIC HOOKUP FEE:**

Thursday, "Early Arrival" after 10am Electric Hookup per RV/Camper. \$16.00. Office, Meals, Dining Hall closed until Friday which is Opening Day.		x \$16.00	
Electric Hookup per RV/Camper ____ Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday, \$16.00 per night.		x \$16.00	
Electric Hookup per Rustic Camper ____ Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday, \$16.00 per night.		x \$16.00	
<b>TOTAL \$ ELECTRIC HOOKUP:</b>			<b>\$</b>

**SEWAGE HOOKUP FEE:**

Thursday, "Early Arrival" after 10am Sewage Hookup per RV/Camper. \$11.00. Office, Meals, Dining Hall closed until Friday which is Opening Day.		x \$11.00	
Sewage Hookup per RV/Camper ____ Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday, \$11.00 per night.		x \$11.00	
<b>TOTAL \$ SEWAGE HOOKUP:</b>			<b>\$</b>

<b>RUSTIC SITE:</b> without electric or sewage, designated open field behind barns, bring your own horse corral. No charge.		x \$00.00	
<b>TOTAL \$ ELECTRIC / SEWAGE HOOKUP:</b>			<b>\$</b>

**STABLING:** Stalls are assigned 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve, according to date received.

Thursday, "Early Arrival" after 10am for Barn #1 or Barn #2. \$21.00 per horse. Meals, Dining Hall closed until Friday which is Opening Day.		x \$21.00	
Box Stall for Barn #1 or Barn #2, Friday/Saturday/Sunday. \$63.00 per horse for three nights		x \$63.00	
Thursday, "Early Arrival" after 10am Open Stall for Barn #3. \$16.00 per horse. Meals, Dining Hall closed until Friday which is Opening Day.		x \$16.00	
Open Stall for Barn #3, Friday/Saturday/Sunday. \$48.00 per horse for three nights.		x \$48.00	
<b>I would like to be stabled in Barn # _____ or next to (if possible): _____</b>	<b>TOTAL \$ STABLING: \$</b>		

**MEALS:** All meals must be ordered in advance. The Fairground is not planning on selling meals onsite this year or to the general public. You must register and purchase meals before 9/17. Meal tickets are only available for registered participants. This is a new policy from the Fairgrounds due to supply chain issues.

<b>Breakfast:</b> ____ Saturday, ____ Sunday, ____ Monday. Order what you'd like, includes beverage. Served 7-10am. \$13.00 per person.		x \$13.00	
<b>Friday:</b> ____ Fish Fry or ____ Lasagna, Includes side dish, beverage & dessert. Served 6pm. \$19.00 per person.		x \$19.00	
<b>Saturday:</b> Ham and Turkey, includes side dish, beverage & dessert. Served 6pm. \$19.00 per person.		x \$19.00	
<b>Sunday:</b> Chicken BBQ, includes side dish, beverage & dessert. Served 6pm. \$19.00 per person.		x \$19.00	
<b>TOTAL \$ MEALS:</b>			<b>\$</b>

<b>Check or Money Order # Payable to NYSHC:</b> _____	<b>TOTAL \$ ENCLOSED: \$ \$</b>	
---	---------------------------------	--

I HEREBY enter the New York State Pleasure Trail Ride, sponsored by the New York State Horse Council in cooperation with the New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation, at my own risk, and agree to be subject to all the rules and regulations of the Pleasure Trail Ride, the NYSHC, DEC, and the Madison County Fairgrounds and Committee. I further agree that in the event of any damage to occasioned or loss incurred to any horse(s) entered, or to any vehicle or any article, I may send with said horse(s), that I will make no claim against the New York State Fall Pleasure Trail Ride, the Committee, or aforesaid organizations. I further agree to indemnify and to hold harmless the aforementioned for any and all claims, demands, suits and expenses arising out of any injury to any person or damage to any property caused by my horse(s), family, attendant(s), agent, or myself, and I agree to pay ALL liquidation fees for animals which I bring to the Ride that are suffering from contagious or infectious disease. New York State Law REQUIRES all riders under age 18 to wear ASTM/SEI safety helmets. **NYSHC RECOMMENDS ALL RIDERS TO WEAR HELMETS. Thank you.**

<b>One Adult Registrant Signature:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> ____/____/2022
<b>Signature of Guardian for under 12 yrs. of age:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> ____/____/2022
<b>In case of emergency contact:</b> _____ <b>Phone #</b> _____	

I'VE ENCLOSED the following  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Original or Copy of this Registration Form  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Check or Money Order (Returned checks are subject to \$25 fee after deadline).

**Mail Printable Registration Form along w/Check Payable to NYSHC**  
**Postal Mail To:**  
 Paula Chiazza, NYSHC Brookfield Registration  
 898 Ridge Rd., Lot #52, Webster, NY 14580

**Questions?**  
 Paula Chiazza  
 (585) 953-2226  
[fallride@nyshc.org](mailto:fallride@nyshc.org)



## A Thank You from a Member

I don't have an article, rather some gratitude to express for the efforts made and given by unknown people. My daughters and I had fallen off the deep end into the horse world about 5 years ago. I'm 46 and it has been a lifelong goal to have horses. My three daughters range from 19, 17 & 10 years of age. During July 4th weekend my eldest daughter Hannah and I took our quarter horse and mule to north lake in hunter. We rode the horse trails and had the most amazing ride of our lives. We are so

incredibly grateful for this experience. From riding across difficult terrain and crossing well maintained bridges and noticing the horse mounting stations available if needed. It was an experience that has inspired us to more regularly ride the available trails of which there are many. We really don't know who to thank but it's obvious that even though I've never seen other horses on these trails before. There must be caring people to whom we can say thank you. We are so grateful to people like you and the horse council and all involved. So, thank you thank you thank you. Peace Ron Sauer

---

## Fit or Fight

I think many of us take for granted how much crap our horses take from us both mentally and physically. Some of us are lucky enough to have use of an indoor in the winter and others have the opportunity to go south. But for the majority of us we expect our horses to be game on day one. But is that fair? We humans emerge from our winter caves, plop ourselves on their backs and that's that.

We ride a short ride and blame our aches and pains on age or past injuries. Imagine how the horse feels. He just carried himself plus 3 50-pound bags of lumpy grain around after he too has had time off. We need to get fit ourselves.

My husband Dwight and I try not to argue on the trail. It's supposed to be our Zen time spent together. However about 10 miles in my saddle always slipped to the left side. I would get cranky. He would say "why do you do a sport that makes you cranky?" I would blame the horse, the saddle, the terrain, the weather and sometimes just the fact that he breathed air. I have had saddle fittings, breast collars you name it. I have even blamed it on the horse's anatomy.

Last summer we had the opportunity to ride for a week in Normandy, France. The riding was strenuous and the days long. It was there that I had my epiphany. I was more crooked than ever and more tired than ever. It 100% my body that was

failing me. Not the horse or the fact that my husband breathed!

After my brain surgery I had tons of OT and PT. Those therapists helped me tremendously but I needed something more. I needed additional core strength and exercises to strengthen my right side after I was fatigued. After working with a very specialized sports therapist my PT problem was solved. Basically, I rode a bike for 45 min to an hour. At that point he gave me specific exercises to do to strengthen my right side. PT officially kicked my tail.

My point of this story is we owe it to both ourselves and our horses to get ourselves in shape too. I also find having a jump on my strength in the spring helps with any training.

NY winters can be depressing and cause us to become even more sedentary. Try to think about the summer season and the fun ahead. I find stuff on YouTube it's free and you can always scroll and find something more enjoyable. I look for yoga and stretching exercises for people with bad backs!! They are kinder on the over 40 crowd.

I'm not always the best about doing them. But I do notice the difference if I give it a chance. I'm trying to be more fit so we don't fight!! Now getting lost is a completely different subject. LOL

Submitted by Janet Hoffmann

\*\*\*\*\*



Purple Pony

THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP

“TREASURES SALE & FUNDRAISER”

\*\*\*\*\*SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 & SUNDAY AUGUST 14

9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

KD RANCH (Rt 19)
8321 LAKE STREET RD, LEROY

Rain or Shine.

Clean, Bright, Indoor Arena. Plenty of easy off-street parking.

\*\*\*\*\*

All items are donated. All proceeds will benefit Purple Pony Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc., 501c3 Organization.

ACCEPTING: Household, area rugs, collectibles, jewelry, sports, books, infant care, children’s toys/strollers, garden/lawn care, camping, books, small/medium furniture, hand/garden/power tools, crafts, holiday decorations, artwork, etc.

NOT ACCEPTING: Large appliances, large exercise equipment, couches, leftover paints/hazardous liquids, computers, tires.

DONATION DROP OFF: Begins July 5 & ends August 6. Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays Only. 8321 Lake St. Rd. LeRoy

---

## Recognizing Emotional/Physical Balance in Riding or My Lesson Learned at Muckleratz 50 Race

After a long month of June of haying, teaching, training, and doing all things horse, I wanted to just go out and ride. The kind of ride that gets you out in unfamiliar woods and trails that you can just be...

So, Glory, my Quarab gelding, and I traveled down to PA for our last endurance race before the busyness of summer kicked into high gear. We were both fit and prepped well enough, and this was an easier 50-mile race to compete in, so I was pretty confident in our abilities and in doing the physical fitness math.



The evening before the race started, Glory and I went for our usual pre-ride walk and stretch around the ride camp. All was well. Then I felt a gentle bump on the back of my arm, Glory was checking in with me and nuzzled me respectfully as is his habit if he needs my attention. But this time I felt and heard his question so clearly 'Are you okay for this?' I of course replied immediately back to him, 'Yes! I'm fine. Thank you for checking.'

But in reality, I wasn't fine. As I walked him around and I pondered his outreach (this kind of dialogue is something I have encouraged him to participate with me fully via respectful body language since he was born on the farm) that was such a clear checking in with me, I started to realize just how tired I was. You can't hide this kind of

bodily and emotional tiredness from your horse partner when you are joined in an adventure.

Digging a little deeper I realized this emotional exhaustion was more prevalent than bodily tiredness. Exhaustion that still lingered from a disappointing pulled shoe (that was just bad luck) that cost us our National Championship Ride earlier in June. Emotional weariness that comes from supporting others in their own learning with their horses, even though it's my calling. Emotional weariness from trying to do everything well, from keeping the garden to making healthy meals (note meals were the first thing to go downhill). A pressure cooker of my own design.

Glory felt I wasn't at 100 percent emotional fitness. He was a little worried about me. So, I adjusted, adapted, and decided to just let this race play out however it may, even if it meant we have to stop halfway. I let go of the outcome.

We walked back to the trailer, and he seemed quite relieved. The morning of the race, it was an easy start at 6 am. Both of us are seasoned enough endurance competitors that we can just chill out on the first loop. As I was riding him though, his behavior was way different then I was used to. He was hanging back, drifting behind my sister's horse Merri, when he normally leads in front.

He was 'babysitting' ME. He took matters into his own hooves. He knows how to babysit riders, he is a wonderful lesson horse at home, but has never 'babysat' ME quite like this before, it's always the other way around, I'm supposed take care of him at these races! I was at first a little offended. Then I stuck to my plan and just rolled with it. I really let him in and carry me on a soul level. As we went through the loops and miles, my emotional tiredness gradually subsided as my physical tiredness grew.

The woods and trails did their magic, and even though it was hot, and Glory and I both started to whine to each other, I felt myself getting lighter

inside. I made some firm resolutions to do more self-care at home. He was kind of demanding it, like a good partner. But it is up to me to do the work. I can't just ride my problems away, that's not fair to the horse.

We finished the race pretty strong at 3:00 pm, we even placed ninth even though we weren't trying too hard. We had a wonderful, shared experience, which is what the sport of endurance

riding is all about. Glory helped me get my head out of a stuck place. He reminded me that my internal balance must come first for optimal partnership while riding. I encourage all my horses to this level of awareness.

I hope all of you do as well, your horse will hold you accountable either way. Ride in balance and joy!

Caroline North

---

### **Lorenzo Driving Competition 2022** submitted by Gary Slate, Vice President of Central Region

With many horse events returning to some resemblance of years gone by, the Lorenzo Driving Competition returns to Cazenovia, New York for three full days, July 15, 16 & 17, 2022. Presenting ring classes, obstacle courses, antique vehicle classes, and Sunday's Pleasure Drive-Pace (cross-country marathon), this unique event promises a rare chance for horse lovers of all disciplines, breeds, and incomes to spend a day or a long weekend viewing how one group of horse people choose to enjoy their horses. Horses in this event range from "very small equine" (mini's) and ponies up through Morgans, Arabs, warm bloods, and many crosses that are all trained carriage horses. (Details and class schedules can be found at [lorenzodriving.org](http://lorenzodriving.org))

Located on the grounds of the lovely New York State historic site of Lorenzo, there is the added opportunity of visiting the mansion house and carriage collection, as well as browsing through several vendor and informational booths catering to carriage driving accessories, horse clubs, and even the Cherry Valley Carriage Association that has long supported and participated in this competition. "Competition" actually has a slightly different meaning from those who compete in other breed or discipline competitions. Although everyone enters their classes with optimism, fully prepared to do their best, they are

generally very eager to welcome newcomers with help, advice, and even time to encourage beginners. This is one of several reasons that the New York State Horse Council ([nyshc.org](http://nyshc.org)) is proud to be one of several sponsors for this traditional weekend.



It hardly seems necessary to say that seeing horses harnessed to carriages, driven by fashionably dresses ladies and gentlemen (not costumes, mind you, but following a modern dress code that is unique to the carriage driving community) will make you feel like you are participating in the making of an historical movie. Someone once told me that this is something you only see on "Gunsmoke". If you are too young to understand that reference,



you owe it to yourself to come and learn. Be sure to bring a lawn chair! There's a lake in

view, and on a day of perfect weather, a gentle breeze will make it a perfect day for everyone.

---

## About Your Noggin / DROOL IS NOT COOL

About 10 days ago a friend of mine that owns a 10,000-acre working ranch reached out to me on Facebook asking for prayers for her 10-year-old granddaughter. They had been moving cattle to summer pastures. Her horse had stepped in a gopher hole. The horse had landed on top of her. She is in a coma and needs everyone's prayers.

I have received an update on Facebook every day that there are little improvements. She blinked. She moved a toe. All promising signs. Then I finally asked the question. "Was she wearing a helmet?" The answer "No, not part of the ranching culture"

Do you know that head injuries are associated with 60% of all equestrian deaths and 18% of injuries?

Only 20% of riders wear protective headgear

Did you also know that lifetime head injury costs not covered by insurance can easily reach over 3 million dollars!!!

As you know we travel with our horses

down to Florida in the winter. My poor husband is picked on constantly for wearing a helmet. Our family has already received the "brain surgery tee shirt" and we don't want another thank you. I'm laughed at for taking my horse in the round pen wearing a helmet.

I understand everyone wants to be cool like Rip on Yellowstone. But not being able to feed yourself ain't cool either. It's selfish. Not only do you screw up your own life but that of your loved ones.

For Christmas I bought my husband a helmet that looks like a cowboy hat. He says it's comfortable. I bought myself a brim to put on my own helmet. It really does help with the sun! We are modeling both below.

Please also make sure that your helmet meets both ASTM standards and is SEI certified.

My goal in this article was to open up the discussion of safe riding. Horses even the best trained can step in a gopher hole and land on you. If not for you, do it for your loved ones.

---

## NORTHAMPTON DRIVING SOCIETY CARRIAGE SHOW

First things first - the weather was absolutely perfect, cool and sunny – for our 36<sup>th</sup> annual pleasure show, judged by accomplished whip and CAA vice president Bill Venditta and held at Silver Shoe Farm in Batavia ON June 19.

We had seventeen competitors, of which only one, Dan Ingleman, showed as a novice in the single horse division with his lovely Morgan. There were no entries in novice ponies or very small equines. Perhaps those of us who own horses should consider "adopting" a novice to fill these classes next year! Something to think about, as it

further the club's mission of introducing people to pleasure driving.

Sarah Reitze swept the single pony classes with her Welsh pony stallion. Second place ribbons were distributed among Sheila Mueller, Karen Leach, Mary Crinean and Tricia Anselm. Similarly, Elisa Furysinski dominated in the single VSE classes while Sharon Baum and Esther Railsback each garnered two second place ribbons apiece.

The single horse division was poised to be a sweep for Teresa Jackson, but was upset by a well-strategized and -executed scurry drive by Leigh Semilof, which handed second place to Teresa.

Leigh had another second in the working class. Bill Hendershot garnered second in reinsmanship.

It is always a pleasure to welcome our multiples competitors and their placings were consistent: Phoebe Waller-Sharp won in both working and reinsmanship with her lovely and well-matched very small equines, Romeo and Mercutio. Paul Buck won obstacles and scurry with his keen pair of Dartmoor ponies. Dee McCartney was second across the board with her attractive pony pair.

Theresa Jackson was judged Best Single Turnout and Phoebe Waller-Sharp won the Concours d'Elegance. These awards were sponsored by Dave and Cindy Remley and are distinguished honors, as all turnouts on the grounds were of very high quality.

Special thanks to the Cable family for use of their wonderfully suitable venue. Many thanks as well to the tremendous cast of volunteers, show sponsors and patrons that made the show possible.



---

## An Introduction to Western Dressage

By Stasia Newell

Updated and revised from publication in Horse Bits Magazine, March 2013

Dressage for the Western horse! What does that mean to the amateur rider? The beginning Western rider? The training of our green Western horses? And how about the retraining of many Western-type horses that are headed into second careers? Western Dressage is opening exciting doors for many Western-style horses and Western enthusiasts.



When I first wrote about this new discipline in 2013, the Western Dressage Association of

America was only three years old. It caught my attention because in my business I'm aware that many riders want to identify obtainable goals with their horses. They want to be recognized for their skills at whatever level of accomplishment they can achieve and then continue to build more skills. Many people have horses that have retired from other disciplines, or have been rescued. There are still more people in the process of training their first horse—ever! These horses often don't fit into a "type," are often mixed breed, and are unique and usable horses. Interestingly, the same goes for the new wave of horse persons—they don't fit into a "type," either. This all means that we aren't seeing horses that fit into the Western pleasure horse scene, we don't have cows to work, and barrel racing looks fun but is out of the question! Most people trail ride, but don't want to do miles & miles...however, they are seeking knowledge and want to compete in some manner.

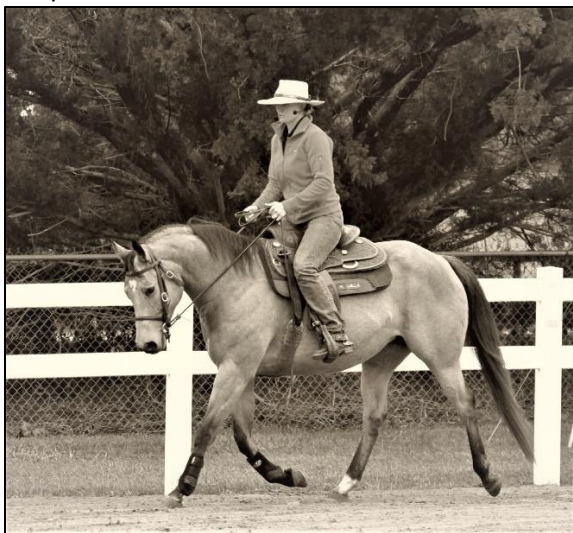
I have a number of clients that fit into this fun and challenging scenario, and I'm sure there are even more riders out there who will be magnetized to this "new" discipline. So, I feel challenged to

describe Western Dressage and offer lots of opportunities for riders and their horses to experience what it has to offer.

First, Western Dressage is a training program that helps you explore a unique understanding, feel, and connection that you can develop with your horse. This approach is growing quite a following, such that we now have the opportunity to participate in any of FOUR horse shows all to be held in Horseheads, NY in June, July, August, and September, 2022.

In a Western Dressage show, the playing field is leveled because you participate in the ring alone, competing against only yourself in a “test” that demonstrates your mastery of certain skills. I like to say that less is more in this approach. You are constantly learning how to improve this connection with your horse, paying attention to communication feedback, and finessing a special feel of softness.

Western Dressage is NOT English Dressage in Western tack. Western Dressage is dressage within the tradition of the Western horse. It recognizes the lightness of contact we ride the Western horse in, but not the draped rein of the Western pleasure horse. Rather, it promotes the acceptance of light contact, balance (engagement of the hindquarters, and lifting of the forehand), freedom of movement and use of the back, while always looking for a relaxed, confident manner with rhythm, cadence, and a consistent speed and tempo.



The gaits are within Western working horse tradition, as follows:

- THE WALK—must be a 4-beat gait, executed at the (1) working walk, (2) free walk, and (3) collected walk.
- THE JOG—a clear 2-beat gait, with regularity, elasticity, cadence, and impulsion, maintaining balance within the (1) working jog, (2) collected jog, and (3) lengthening of strides.
- THE LOPE—a recognized 3-beat gait that is rhythmic, light, balanced, showing engagement of the hind quarters and a slight “uphill” tendency. The lope is shown at the (1) working lope, (2) collected lope, and (3) lengthening of strides.
- THE HALT—is to be presented straight and square.
- At higher levels of proficiency, lateral moves, pivots on both the forehand and haunches are added. The higher levels will also introduce
- THE BACK.

There are four levels of Western Dressage: Introductory, Basic, First and Second Level.

- INTRODUCTORY—This is clearly an introduction to Western Dressage, shown at a walk and jog, with halt. The rider must show proper position, basic skills, and an understanding of figures. The horse should show relaxation and harmony with the rider. The jog should be a natural gait with some scope and a swinging back.
- BASIC—Also shown at walk and jog, confirming a supple horse that moves freely forward with clear and steady rhythm, while accepting light contact and understanding of the bridle and other aids. Emphasis is on relaxation, submission, harmony, and pure gait.
- FIRST LEVEL—Shows the lope, with development of impulsion, improved balance, while beginning to develop self-carriage. The horse demonstrates more consistent light contact with the bridle.
- SECOND LEVEL—Requires more self-carriage and impulsion, more “uphill” tendency as the horse accepts more responsibility from behind. Lengthening, smaller circles/figures are required,

as are lateral movements, turns on the forehand and turns on the haunches.

- Tack should be of Western style, bits can be snaffle or Western shank style, and bosals are allowed in Intro and Basic levels. What's maybe most exciting is that Western Dressage is accessible to all breeds. Each is to be judged within its "type." For example, if you ride a stock-type horse that goes with a lower, flatter frame, shorter stride, less over track—it will be judged accordingly. If you ride more of a Morgan/Arabian type of horse with a higher carriage, it will be judged accordingly, as will the Draft, Warmblood, Gaited, or Pony. This discipline is meant to be all inclusive.

Rules and regulations, as well as tests, can be found at [www.WesternDressageAssociation.org](http://www.WesternDressageAssociation.org). There is also information about "Train the Trainers" opportunities at this website. I continue to be excited about this sport and am dedicating two clinics and the whole summer of lessons (private, semi-private, and group) this year to exploring Western Dressage further with current and new clients. Some riders and horses will even participate in the shows—



—taking advantage of the opportunity to set and achieve new goals. Like and follow my NEWELL FARM posts on Facebook and feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have. Stasia Newell, Newell Farm, Burdett NY 607.279.1881 [horsrubsnwlfarm@aol.com](mailto:horsrubsnwlfarm@aol.com)

---

### Red Hot Barrel Horses (Tricia Aldridge)

I wish I could put into words how hard these horses try for us. How truly incredible it is to have a horse lay a run down, and how much, as a rider, we expect from them.

Many people have shared my quote: "I can't out train pain."

I want to dive into something I see all the time. Sometimes it's hard to decide if a horse is being a jerk or if something is truly bothering them. I used to be like you, I used to hate getting my horses worked on, I used to be hard on them for their bad attitudes, I used to accept when a vet told me my horse was sound, even though in my heart, I felt something was off. Hundreds of horses later, I don't hesitate. I work with a vet that listens to what I feel too.

You'd be amazed, how many horses trot sound for your vet, but don't stay committed in a turn, get stiff, bounce, take their face back, can't hold a lead in a turn, switch leads leaving second and back at third, duck barrels, refuse





the alley, blow out of turns, and so many other things that only YOU feel. Don't second guess yourself, because YOU know your horse best.

I get so many horses with issues, give them a work over, fix all the small issues that are adding up to a big thing, (death by a thousand papercuts) and rock on! People are

amazed when I find another winner, but any horse will try when they feel 100%.

Remember, your horse doesn't wake up every day and think of ways to piss you off.

**Give them a chance. Listen to your horse. Don't be scared of a second opinion Give them a chance. Listen to your horse. Don't be scared of a second opinion.**

---

## Upcoming Events – 2022

Be sure to keep an eye on the NYSHC calendar on the website.

- Jul 23 – 24, 2022 Where Houghton College, One Willard Ave, Houghton, NY 14744,  
Recognized WNYDA Dressage Competition Houghton College Equestrian Center, Houghton NY
- July 23 – 24, 2022 Advantage Horsemanship with Scott Purdum Call 845-260-0962 JL PERFORMANCE HORSES
- July 23 Open Pleasure Show -Attica Exchange Street Arena PO Box 58 Attica, NY 14011-0058
- July 23 NC4H Miniature Horse Show. 9am. Terri Seidel – 716-772-2390
- July 30 & 31 WNYCCA Pleasure Driving Show.
- Aug. 3 NC4H Open Miniature Horse Show – adults & youth. 9am. Terri Seidel – 716-772-2390
- August 4, 6:00pm – Sun, August 7, 6:30pm ATTICA RODEO & SHOW ASSOCIATION Exchange Street Arena PO Box 58 Attica, NY 14011-0058 (map
- Aug. 4 Niagara County 4H Open Driving Show – adults & youth. 8:30am. Karen Randall – 716-439-1865
- Aug. 6 Niagara County 4H Open Gymkhana Show – adults, youth, & walk/trot. 4pm. Karen Randall – 716-439 1865 or Cheryl Bish – 716-439-4499
- Aug. 7 Niagara County 4H Open English and Western Show – adults, youth, & walk/trot. 7:30am. Karen Randall 716-439-1865 or Cheryl Bish – 716-439-4499
- August 7, 8am EHVHC 2nd Annual Summer Schooling Show Serie Tymor Park, 8 Tymor Park Rd, Lagrangeville,
- August 10-21 Erie County Fair Horseshow 5600 McKinley Pkwy, Hamburg, NY 14075
- August 12-14 Parelli Gaited Horse Clinic with Popular Instructor Jenny Trainor Golden Stride Ranch P.O. Box 705 Ellicottville, NY 14731 716-474-7580 cell www.goldenstride.com
- Aug. 13 CCTRs Family Fun Game Show, 3560 Gerry-Levant Rd., Falconer, NY. 8am. Jessica D'Angelo 716-720-3909 or Anne Lynch – 716-287-4474
- August 19, 2022, 10:00am – August 21, 2022, 58th Annual BIG Weekend Friday-Sunday, Aug.19-21, 2022 CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY TRAIL RIDER'S GROUNDS-3560 Gerry Levant Road in Falconer  
contact: Dave Schauman (716) 487-9650, Anne Lynch (716) 287-4474
- Aug 24 Leg up Stables Hunter Pace [www.legupstables.org](http://www.legupstables.org). 3589 Avon Rd Geneseo, NY 14454 (585) 243-3579
- August 27 Open Pleasure Show -Attica ATTICA RODEO & SHOW ASSOCIATION Exchange Street Attica, NY 14011
- September 3 – 4, 2022 Genesee Valley Riding and Driving Club 40th Driving Show HIDEAWAY FARM, 4130 Roots Tavern Road Geneseo, NY14454, contact: dharter412@gmail.com or go to gvrdc.org for entry info
- September 23 Leg Up Stables Friday Night Jumper Show. [www.legupstables.org](http://www.legupstables.org) (585) 243-3579
- September 24 GVH Opening Hunt [www.geneseevalleyhunt.org](http://www.geneseevalleyhunt.org) (585) 243-3949
- September 24- CCTRs Fall Benefit Ride at Cockaigne Trail Head for CCETS Anne Lynch – 716-287-2274 or Kaleena Rodriguez – 716-708-9202
- September 24 HCEC Horse Trial. Combined Test, & Dressage Schooling Show, Houghton, NY (585) 567-4374
- September 25 OCBSC Hunter Pace at Northampton, Hubble Rd., Spencerport, NY. Jayne Foose (585)356-8178
-

---

## NY STATE HORSE SERVICES DIRECTORY BY CATEGORY

### NYSHC Business Memberships get a Free Listing on Website

go to [https://nyshc.org/directory\\_category.php](https://nyshc.org/directory_category.php) for more information including e-mails and websites, and specific information.

Only those businesses paid for the current year will be listed here

#### ADOPTION / RESCUE

**Begin Again Horse Rescue, Inc** 2828 Plank Rd Lima NY 14485 (585) 322-2427  
**Equine Rescue Resource Inc. ...**PO Box 17 Pine Bush NY 12566  
**Lollypop Farm, Humane Society of Greater Rochester** 99 Victor Rd., Fairport, NY 14450 (585) 223-1330  
**Sunshine Horses, Inc. ...**8757 Blue Heron Circle Baldwinsville NY 13027 315-456-9380  
**Unbridled Thoroughbred Foundation ...**PO Box 122 - 11 Wood Lane Greenville NY 12083 518-755-1813

#### BOARDING

**American Heritage Morgan Farm** 1974 Murdock Rd., Lyndonville, NY 14098 (585) 735-5322  
**Amy Hanssen Training Center Inc ...**9063 Chestnut Ridge Road Middleport NY 14105 (716) 735-7988  
**Big House Stables ...**15 Avon Road PO Box 279 Geneseo NY 14454 585-507-3397  
**Cross Timbers Ranch ...**122 Barney Rd. Middle Grove N.Y. 12850 518-587-6276  
**Gale's Equine Facility ...**219 Sing Sing Road Horseheads NY 14845 607-796-9821  
**Jeff Wilson Horsemanship ...**24041 NY-28, Delhi, NY 13753 607-435-8076  
**Laurelin Farm ...**2920 Route 39 Collins NY 14034 716-532-9434  
**MK Quarter Horses** 4430 Chestnut Rd., Wilson, NY 14172. 579-204-5281  
**Nash Hill Equestrian Center ...**10999 Persia Rd Gowanda NY 14070 (716) 257-9543  
**Ohioville Farm ...**228 N Ohioville Rd New Paltz NY 12561 845-419-2999  
**Orchard Park Equestrians ...**4760 Freeman Road Orchard Park NY 14127 716-667-7669  
**Rolling Stone Ranch LLC ...**39 E. Artisian Avenue Huntington NY 11743 (845) 583-1100  
**Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun** 4085 Quakertown Rd., Warsaw, NY 14569. (585) 786-3504

#### BREEDERS

**American Heritage Morgan Farm** 1974 Murdock Rd., Lyndonville, NY 14098. (585) 735-5322  
**Jeff Wilson Horsemanship ...** 24041 NY-28, Delhi, NY 13753 607-435-8076 (Morgans)  
**Lorick Stables Inc ...**840 Lake Rd Youngstown, NY 14174 (716) 745-3611 (Friesians)  
**Sand Meadow Farm** 300 Taylor Rd. Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 (585) 624-4468 (Icelandic horses)

#### CAMPS-

**Laurelin Farm ...**2920 Route 39 Collins NY 14034 716-532-9434  
**Kimberly Farms ...**1214 Cross Hill RD N.Bennington VT 05257 8024425454 kimber@sover.net

#### CLINICIANS / CLINICS

**Big House Stables ...**15 Avon Road PO Box 279 Geneseo NY 14454 585-507-3397  
**Jeff Wilson Horsemanship ...** 24041 NY-28, Delhi, NY 13753 607-435-8076  
**Kinship With Horses- 9324** North Otto Road, Cattaraugus, NY 14719 (716)-982-5180  
**Laurelin Farm ...**2920 Route 39 Collins NY 14034 716-532-9434  
**Lucky Star Horsemanship ...**PO Box 740 Red Hook NY 12571 530-919-8767  
**Massage & More Equine Therapy, LLC** 3332 Maple Ave., Allegany, NY 14706. (716)-474-6786  
**Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun** 4085 Quakertown Rd., Warsaw, NY 14569. (585) 786-3504

#### CLUBS

**Aurora Trail Riders Inc ...** NY 716-655-9929  
**Bits N Spurs Trailriders ...**3705 Bard Rd Cassadaga NY 14718 laurahorses@me.com  
**Creekside Roundup Inc. ...**64 Palmer Rd. Cuba NY 14727 (716) 437-9904  
**Landsman Kill Trail Association ...**63 Cobblestone Ridge Hyde Park NY 12538 845-240-4299  
**Rolling Stone Ranch LLC ...**39 E. Artisian Avenue Huntington NY 11743 (845) 583-1100  
**Saratoga Back Country Horsemen ...** Saratoga Springs NY 12866 [arborgal112@gmail.com](mailto:arborgal112@gmail.com)

### **CONSTRUCTION**

**J&K Agriculture Inc** ...3389 Route 39 Collins NY 14034 716-337-3548

### **DENISTRY**

**Traditions Equine LLC** ...4375 State Highway 30A Fultonville NY 12072 (607) 201-2099

**Royalton Equine Veterinary Services, P.C.** 7735 Chestnut Dr., Lockport, NY 14094. (716) 629-8384

### **DRIVING**

**Lorick Stables Inc** ...840 Lake Rd Youngstown, NY 14174 (716) 745-3611

**Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun** 4085 Quakertown Rd., Warsaw, NY 14569. (585) 786-3504

### **EDUCATION**

**Equestria NYC** ...336 East 71st Street, Apt 3-D New York NY 10021 917-621-7050

**Equine Essence** 2730 Upper Mountain Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132. (716) 481-9812

**Lucky Orphans horse Rescue** ...2699 Route 22, PO Box 334 Dover Plains NY 12522 845-416-8583

### **FEED**

**Clydes Feed & Animal Center...**351 Union St Hamburg NY 14075 716.648.2171

**Green Mountain Nutritional Services, Inc.** ...247 Main Street Attica NY 14011 716.523.0018

### **FENCING**

**Ike Fencing.** 1066 Erie st. Lancaster, NY 14086 (704).258.1193

### **HORSEMANSHIP**

**Equine Essence** 2730 Upper Mountain Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132. (716) 481-9812

**Jeff Wilson Horsemanship** ... 24041 NY-28, Delhi, NY 13753 607-435-8076

**JTB Equine Care Solutions** ...**2102 Fix Rd Grand Island NY 14072 716-512-2602**

**Kimberly Farms** ...1214 Cross Hill Rd. N. Bennington VT 05257 8024425454

**Kinship With Horses- 9324** North Otto Road, Cattaraugus, NY 14719 (716)-982-5180

**Legacy and Lace Acers** ...183 Pleasant Ave. Montgomery, NY 12549 845-674-2082

**Lucky Star Horsemanship** ...PO Box 740 Red Hook NY 12571 5309198767

**MK Quarter Horses 4430 Chestnut Rd., Wilson, NY 14172. 579-204-5281**

**SASI / High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding of SASI** ...PO Box 526, Sardinia, NY 14134 (716) 496-5551

**Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun** 4085 Quakertown Rd., Warsaw, NY 14569. (585) 786-3504

### **HUMANE WELFARES**

**Begin Again Horse Rescue, Inc** ...2828 Plank Rd Lima NY 14485 (585) 322-2427

**Equine Rescue Resource Inc.** ...PO Box 17 Pine Bush NY 12566

**Lollypop Farm, Humane Society of Greater Rochester** .99 Victor Road, Fairport, NY 14450 (585) 223-1330

x193

**Unbridled Thoroughbred Foundation** ...PO Box 122 - 11 Wood Lane Greenville NY 12083 518-755-1813

### **INSURANCE**

**The Saren Group** ...1357 W. Bloomfield Rd Honeoye Falls NY 14472 (585)-704-6857

**Jenny Lunderg, Farm Family Insurance**, a division of American National Insurance .. (585) 802-5222

### **LESSONS**

**Amy Hanssen Training Center Inc** ...9063 Chestnut Ridge Road Middleport NY 14105 (716) 735-7988

**Big House Stables** ...15 Avon Road PO Box 279 Geneseo NY 14454 585-507-3397

**Equine Essence** 2730 Upper Mountain Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132. (716) 481-9812

**Gale's Equine Facility** ...219 Sing Sing Road Horseheads NY 14845 607-796-9821

**Horses For A Change** ...PO Box 54, 570 Old Post Rd Esopus NY 12429 (914) 466-5099

**Jeff Wilson Horsemanship** 24041 NY-28, Delhi, NY 13753 607-435-8076

**JTB Equine Care Solutions** ...2102 Fix Rd Grand Island NY 14072 716-512-2602

**Kinship With Horses** 9324 North Otto Road, Cattaraugus, NY 14719 (716)-982-5180

**Laurelin Farm** ...2920 Route 39 Collins NY 14034 716-532-9434

**Legacy and Lace Acers** ...183 Pleasant Ave. Montgomery, NY 12549 845-674-2082

**Lorick Stables Inc** ...840 Lake Rd Youngstown, NY 14174 (716) 745-3611 lorickstables@gmail.com

**Lucky Orphans horse Rescue** ...2699 Route 22, PO Box 334 Dover Plains NY 12522 845-416-8583

**MK Quarter Horses** 4430 Chestnut Rd., Wilson, NY 14172. 579-204-5281



**Nash Hill Equestrian Center** ...10999 Persia Rd Gowanda NY 14070 [\(716\) 257-9543](tel:7162579543)  
**Ohioville Farm** ...228 N Ohioville Rd New Paltz NY 12561 [845-419-2999](tel:8454192999)  
**Orchard Park Equestrians** ...4760 Freeman Road Orchard Park NY 14127 716-667-7669  
**Rolling Stone Ranch LLC** ...39 E. Artisian Avenue Huntington NY 11743 (845) 583-1100  
**Sand Meadow Farm** 300 Taylor Rd. Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 (585) 624-4468  
**SASI / High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding of SASI** PO Box 526, Sardinia, NY 14134. (716) 496-5551  
**Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun** 4085 Quakertown Rd., Warsaw, NY 14569. (585) 786-3504

#### **SHOWING**

**Amy Hanssen Training Center Inc** ...9063 Chestnut Ridge Road Middleport NY 14105 (716) 735-7988  
**Lorick Stables Inc** ...840 Lake Rd Youngstown, NY 14174 (716) 745-3611

#### **TACK**

**Bray Hollow Farm Online Tack Sale.** 34 Clinton St. Delhi, NY 607-435-0855  
**Nash Hill Equestrian Center** ...10999 Persia Rd Gowanda NY 14070 (716) 257-9543 (home of Allegany Saddlery)  
**Sand Meadow Farm** 300 Taylor Rd. Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 (585) 624-4468 (official dealer of Ástund Tack)

#### **THERAPEUTIC**

**Equestria NYC** ...336 East 71st Street, Apt 3-D New York NY 10021 917-621-7050  
**From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship Inc** ..1238 North Road Tully NY 13159 (315) 382-3664  
**Hidden Hollow Farm Riding** ...6 Hidden Hollow Trail Red Hook NY 12571 845-758-0619  
**Horses For A Change** ...PO Box 54, 570 Old Post Rd Esopus NY 12429 (914) 466-5099  
**Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center** ...15 Reiter Road East Aurora NY 14052 [716-655-1335](tel:7166551335)  
**Massage & More Equine Therapy, LLC** ...3332 Maple Avenue Allegany NY 14706 [716.474.6786](tel:7164746786)  
**SASI / High Hurdles Therapeutic Riding of SASI** ...PO Box 526. Sardinia, NY 14134 [\(716\) 496-5551](tel:7164965551)

#### **TRAILS**

**Landsman Kill Trail Association** ...63 Cobblestone Ridge Hyde Park NY 12538 845-240-4299  
**Urban Equine Escapes NYC LLC** ...63-01 Borden Ave, Fl 1 Maspeth NY 11378 [917-510-6508](tel:9175106508)

#### **TRAINING**

**Amy Hanssen Training Center Inc** ...9063 Chestnut Ridge Road Middleport NY 14105 (716) 735-7988  
**Jeff Wilson Horsemanship...** 24041 NY-28, Delhi, NY 13753 607-435-8076  
**JTB Equine Care Solutions** ...2102 Fix Rd Grand Island NY 14072 716-512-2602  
**Lorick Stables Inc** ...840 Lake Rd Youngstown, NY 14174 (716) 745-3611  
**MK Quarter Horses** 4430 Chestnut Rd., Wilson, NY 14172. 579-204-5281  
**Orchard Park Equestrians** ...4760 Freeman Road Orchard Park NY 14127 716-667-7669  
**Sand Meadow Farm** 300 Taylor Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472. (585) 624-4468  
**Sunshine Horses, Inc.** ...8757 Blue Heron Circle Baldwinsville NY 13027 315-456-9380  
**Wolcott Farm 4 Seasons of Fun** 4085 Quakertown Rd., Warsaw, NY 14569. (585) 786-3504

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

**Equine Emergency Transportation** ...158 Yantz Road, Red Hook, NY 12571 [845-464-7058](tel:8454647058)

#### **VETERINARIAN**

**Royalton Equine Veterinary Services, P.C.** 7735 Chestnut Dr., Lockport, NY 14094. (716) 629-8384  
**Genesee Valley Equine Clinic** 925 Chili Scottsville Rd., Scottsville, NY 14546. 585.889.1170  
**Springville Veterinary Services** 344 W. Main St., Springville, NY 14141. (716) 592-0070

---

## Miscellaneous Information

### Curb Chains Thank you Dave Elliott for these awesome explanations



#### 1. WRAPPED CORD WITH QUICK LINK

This was designed to help keep the bit balanced on the horse's head. It is used on the bits with higher purchase and medium shank.

2. **FLAT LEATHER** The leather curb will create some soft contact on the jaw, which helps with the introduction of the curb, and helps keep the lower jaw from becoming stiff.

3. **FLAT CHAIN** The chain lays flat on the lower jaw, in order to conform to the area, and is one step up from the flat leather curb.

4. **TWIST LINK CHAIN** This curb is a step up from the flat chain. This is designed to ask the horse to extend its poll forward which helps with anatomical balance front to back.

5. **WRAPPED TWIST LINK CHAIN** When the curb holds its form, it will release off the jaw quicker, which gives the horse a more black and white signal.

6. **BEADED CURB** The beaded curb is designed to school a horse that has lost respect for the flat chain or twisted chain curbs. When the beaded curb is engaged, it will create more push forward of the poll. This curb should be used in schooling at high-speed competition rate, then removed.

7. **BAR CURB (1/4" THICK)** The bar curb is offered in 2 styles, the curved and the shaped. Both bar curbs are designed to encourage the horse to extend their poll forward. These curbs should be used on a higher purchase bit, so not to create too much curb pressure.

8. **SHAPED BAR CURB** The shaped bar conforms to the shape of the lower jaw, so the initial effect will be delayed in comparison, but after contact is made it will affect an area of the jaw including the sides and the bottom.

9. **TWIST CURB (1/8" THICK)** This curb is smaller in diameter and the twist gives it an uneven contact area, which helps the horse respect it and does not lean or push on it.

10. **SQUARE TWIST CURB (5/16" THICK)** This curb asks for the same anatomical changes as the twist curb, but with more attention. This curb should be use in speed events where the horse tends to stiffen or brace against any type of pressure

---

### The Four Components of Impulsion in Dressage

1. The desire to move forward means that the horse moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm and tempo; that he is readily available at the aids of the rider to move off into an energetic gait without quickening.
2. The elasticity of the steps has to do with the flexion and extension of the legs: The horse

shows a springiness to his gaits or, in other words, cadence or suspension.

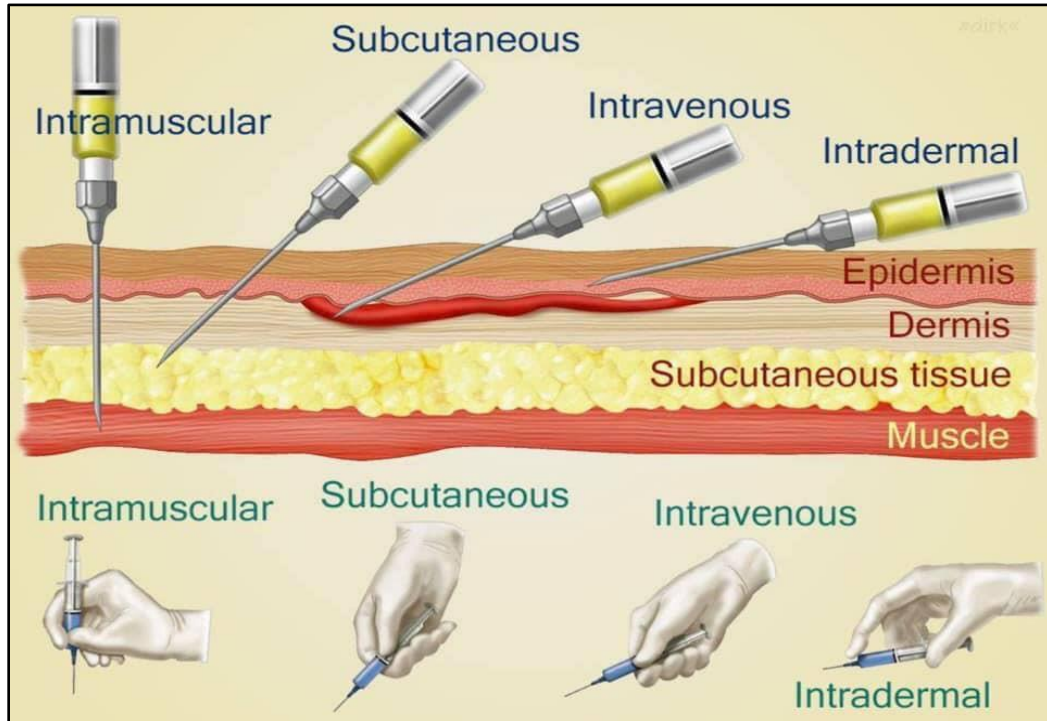
3. The suppleness of the horse's back implies that he is relaxed through his topline and that he is using his abdominal musculature to support the stretch of his back muscles.

His tail should show a nice swing, indicating that his back is relaxed and without tension.

4. The engagement of the hindquarters means that the horse is capable of carrying his

weight with his hind legs and propelling the energy into a longer, more upward thrust for the medium and extended gaits.

### Do You Know the Terms and Differences When Giving Shots?





## A Note From a Western Rider That Wears a Helmet

I went to a barrel race a couple of weeks ago, and while I was awaiting my timed runs, I was referred to as “helmet girl”. “Helmet girl, you’re next!”, one of the event staff yelled. She meant no harm by her statement. But it caused me to look around, noticing that I was, in fact, the only competitor wearing a helmet. Helmets are a little less common amongst western riders.

When I put a helmet on, I do so knowing that I am likely to stand out in the western world. I know I’m not the only one that has ever felt this way. It used to bother me, as I’d rather fit in with the rest, but there came a point where I stopped caring. Don’t get me wrong, I don’t judge anyone that chooses *not* to wear a helmet. Everyone deserves to make that choice for themselves, especially because helmets are not required in most western events. I actually used to be a little anti-helmet. I liked feeling the wind in my hair, having full visibility, not sweating bullets, etc. I thought I looked a bit dorky in a helmet. So what changed?



I do think it takes one bad fall to change your mind. My little barrel horse decided to play rodeo bronc for the day. I hit the ground head-first. Thank goodness I was wearing a helmet, because my

temporary blackout could have been much, much worse. Only two good things came from that fall: 1) a viral Facebook video, and 2) I decided that I had better start protecting my noggin for good.

Here are some other reasons why I decided that being a “helmet girl” was the life for me.

**1. Life is precious.** I know this for many reasons, one of which is having family and friends that are first responders. Accidents happen every single second of the day, and everything can change in a split second. We cannot always live our lives thinking “it can’t happen to us”. So I wear a helmet to minimize my risks.

**2. I feel more confident when I’m wearing a helmet.** Like I could maybe kick a little more at the barrel race, and truly push myself and my horse. I feel a tad bit more invincible. When you’re brave in this sport, you’re successful.

**3. I like challenging horses.** I like the horses that buck and rear. The ones that spook at discolorations in the dirt, want to launch you into the next state for no apparent reason, etc. I hop on those horses knowing my risk of falling is greater, and yet I still love the challenge. So I wear a helmet.

**4. There are awesome helmets out there.** You’re not being forced to wear a black velvet helmet in the western world. Helmet designs are changing as more western riders demand them. You can get a super ranchy looking, leather-covered helmet, like the [Troxel Cheyenne](#). Then, you can blend in a little bit more, and still look like you’re going to run barrels rather than jump a course! *Note: Always make sure that the helmet you choose is ASTM/SEI certified!*

Return Address  
Barb Cunningham  
3021 Johnson Creek Rd  
Middleport NY 14105