

Contact Us

LCRVHC: e-mail: lcrvhc.org@gmail.com

web site: lcrvhc.org

facebook.com/lcrvhc

BPC: e-mail: contactus@BPConservancy.org

web site: BPConservancy.org

facebook.com/BridlePathConservancy

President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year everyone! A new year means it is time to renew your membership. If you have not renewed since the hunter pace there is a membership form in this newsletter and we will have them at the winter party. Please continue to support our club and activities!

Recent Activities

We had an active fall including the annual Sue Davenport Memorial Chili Ride on November 12, 9 riders did about a 2 hour loop through the park and 5 non riders joined us for lunch of delicious chili with sides and desserts, see pictures on page 3.

The following weekend, November 18, 9 of us rode (in the rain) at Wadsworth Park. Judy Bosco showed up and got some pictures, mostly of the second group. The sun came out in time for a tailgate lunch in the parking area. Photos on page 4.

On November 30 there was a general membership meeting with elections at the fire museum. All of LCRVHC officers and board members agreed to stay on for another term. Alyce Mallek would still like to be replaced as membership secretary if anyone would be willing to take this on. She says her computer is getting too old and they are not going to replace it. Treasurer Lynn Burns provided a final financial report on the hunter pace. Our net profit is once again more than enough to cover our insurance for the year. Discussion followed regarding the winter party, the Muck Rock Road project (it has been too wet to schedule completion), and the Preserve Bridge (The BPC/LCRVHC is going to bow out on this one—too many players and too much politics)

(President's Letter continued next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMBER-ONLY RIDES

Ride dates and locations are subject to change due to weather and conflicts. Depending on how many riders we get, we may break into smaller groups. Please RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or call or text LCRVHC ride manager Liz Kennedy at (860) 227-9814 for details.

Details on calendar page.

Saturday, February 3. LCRVHC/BPC Winter Party. 5 to 8 pm. Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Road, Essex. Club will provide spiral ham and all paper goods/utensils. Reasonable cash bar in next room. No BYO permitted. Silent Auction to benefit the BPC. Details on page 9.

Friday, February 23. 6 pm. Annual Pizza and Planning meeting at Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison. Club will provide pizza and soft drinks. Bring your calendars and ideas.

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

We are planning to have quarterly meetings, sometimes associated with a ride or activity, we will continue to have monthly group trail rides, and we always welcome your ideas for destinations, activities, and programs. Email lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or talk to any board member!

See calendar on last page for more!

* * * * *

Please remember when riding at Bluff Point, Hammonasset, Chatfield Hollow, and other State Parks: These parks are busy and get a lot of non-horse-friendly users. Be considerate. Pass walkers and other trail users slowly and respectfully. Do not ride where you see NO ANIMALS or NO HORSES signs posted. The boardwalks on the Shoreline Greenway Trail in Hammonasset, for example, are *not* horse safe. No horses are allowed on the beach at Hammonasset between April 1 and October 1. Horses are *never* allowed on the beach or in the picnic area at Chatfield Pond. PLEASE remove any manure from roads, trails, and beaches in State Parks. We want to keep these areas open to equestrians!

On high-use trails in the state forest, please dismount and kick/scatter manure off the trail so the kids don't walk in it and track it into Mom's SUV!

Remove all manure from parking areas and trail heads!

* * * * *

(President's Letter continued)

The Soup Ride was held on December 10, It had rained the weekend before so we moved it and once again, we got caught in the rain. Only 4 of us braved the elements but I think we ended up with a dozen or so for lunch. There were 3 delicious soups to choose from along with plenty of sides and desserts. Photos on page 5.



The Annual Freeze Your Butt Ride at Hammonasset was held on December 31. Judy Bosco had spread the word and there were quite a few of her photographer friends there to document the fun. It really wasn't that cold. 15 riders from our club and several others took advantage of the day. There was hot chocolate and coffee to warm up after the ride. Joel and Joanne Conte provided hot beef stew and rolls. Others brought brownies and donuts so it turned into quite a potluck party. I included some photos on pages 6–8 but there are tons more on our Facebook page.

And more

We still have 3 club T-shirts left. I will bring them to the winter party if anyone is interested.

DEEP has announced that there will be road and trail closures at Chatfield Hollow as they are removing dangerous trees and preparing for paving so be aware and check the Friends of Chatfield Hollow Facebook page or the DEEP website if you plan to ride there.

Please see the Upcoming Events box on the first page and the Calendar on the last page for upcoming activities. We always need ideas for the calendar! Any ride ideas/hosts are extremely welcome. If you want to share calendars from other local horse groups we will try not to schedule on conflicting dates.

Melissa

PS LCRVHC membership is really a bargain at only \$15 annually for individual, \$25 for family. If you have friends you ride with or know people who are interested in trail riding with small groups or working on local trails, spread the word. And please, I can't say it often enough, tell us what you want to do as a club!

LCRVHC Board

President: Melissa Evarts
Vice-president: Liz Kennedy
Treasurer: Lynn Burns
Membership secretary: Alyce Mallek
At-large: Gina McManus
At-large: Hannah Gossett

BPC Board

President: Peg Lupone
Vice-president: Kristin Elliott Leas
Treasurer: Cindy Kimss-Kuester
Secretary: Loretta Spencer
At-large: Tom Elliott
At-large: Bob Bandzes

Chili Ride at Chatfield Hollow, November 12



Distance	Elev. gain	Moving time
5.98 mi	518 ft	2:01:30

Thanks to Liz for the pictures. She says she did not take many because her fingers were too cold!

MO Ride at Wadsworth Falls, November 16



A few of Judy Bosco's pictures. See club Facebook page for more.

Christmas Soup Ride at Rough Draft Farm



Above left: Part of the Story Walk in Kenilworth. Above center: Santa was apparently doing a little laundry before the big day! Above right: Waiting for snow!



Liz put her dessert plate in front of me for the picture! Thanks to Gina for the photos.

Freeze Your Butt Ride



Some of the covey of photographers!

Just a small selection from Judy Bosco, for more visit her SmugMug site judybosco.smugmug.com.

Freeze Your Butt Ride



Just a small selection from Judy Bosco, for more visit her SmugMug site judybosco.smugmug.com.

Freeze Your Butt Ride



Photos by Carole Wiley. See more photos by Carole and others on our Facebook page.



LCRVHC/BPC Winter Party!

Saturday, February 3, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Road, Essex

Club will provide spiral ham and all paper goods (plates, napkins, utensils, etc.)

Reasonable tended cash bar in next room, *no* BYO permitted!

Family and horsey friends are welcome. Please RSVP so we have a head count.

Nancy Palermo Lee is coordinating RSVPs and food so please let her know if you are coming and what you plan to bring. Text is best (802) 989-1110.

Silent Auction to benefit the BPC!

Donations of goods or services welcome and appreciated. We already have some:

Judy Bosco will donate an 8 x 10 from any gallery on her SmugMug site—
this is your chance to get that photo you've been wanting to order!

Melissa Evarts offers a Surrey ride with Ritz along scenic Madison Middle Beach.

So far we know there will be jewelry, tack, and gift baskets. More to come.

Bring cash or your checkbook and be prepared to bid for your desired items!

Silent Auction contact is Peg Lupone, donations of goods or services are welcome.

Email her at hazageym@yahoo.com. Peg has gift receipts, if desired.

Remember the BPC is a 501c03 so donations are tax deductible.



Bridle Path Conservancy News

The BPC is always recruiting board members and trailworkers. If you are able and willing to serve the trail riding community in this way please contact BPC president Peg Lupone at (hazageym@yahoo.com). Thank You

BPC President's Letter

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year!!

The BPC will be holding a SILENT Auction at the LCRVHC Winter Party on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, 3 Westbrook Rd., Essex, CT 06409. This activity is a tradition for BPC and LCRVHC to support the BPC projects in a fun, monetary way. LCRVHC members can offer services, donate new or lightly used items or solicit local businesses to donate gifts to this charitable event. If you are willing to donate to the SILENT Auction, please email Peg Lupone (hazageym@yahoo.com) with your items and be prepared to bring them to the party at the Essex Veterans Memorial Hall. If you will not be able to join us for the party but would like to donate, let Peg know and we can make arrangements to pick up your donation ahead of time. Be ready with cash or your checkbook on the night of the party if you are interested in bidding on any of the items that evening. Melissa has already mentioned some exciting auction items in the newsletter and there will undoubtedly be more to come!

As for future trail improvement activities, we are looking to continue our work on the Muck Rock Road area when the weather isn't so wet. If you have any ideas about trail maintenance, let us know where we can help.

Sincerely,

Peg Lupone

A Friendly Reminder

The BPC is a non-member organization dependent on LCRVHC for manpower and inspiration! It is basically LCRVHC's trails committee! We maintain the trails in Weber Woods and the Quinimay Trail. The hunter pace which LCRVHC holds in Weber Woods each year pays the club's annual operating expenses. If you can't make it to an official work party maybe you can take a walk and toss some branches and rocks off the trail. Hours spent in Weber Woods or on the Quinimay Trail can and should be logged as Adopt-a-Park time. Wear your badges. Please report your time to Peg Lupone, hazageym@yahoo.com. We would all rather be out riding but please bear in mind that it takes a lot of hours of political action with the state and towns to prioritize open space and the work to maintain the trails is never ending. Please join us in our efforts. Thank you!



Volunteer Horse Patrol Annual Meeting & OPEN HOUSE



Date to be announced: SATURDAY, March 16th 2024

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

WELCOME -New & Interested members

*Bring a Friend -We need your support to continue and expand this
statewide program started in 2003*

Pot Luck & Raffle Items

Bring a dish to share – Items for Tea Cup Raffle - \$ for 50-50 Raffle

**Company 1 Firehouse
1485 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111**

The Volunteer Horse Patrol serves the community by providing data to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and helping other user groups with general information, directions, and first aid.

Continued education and dialogue between all trail user groups (such as trail etiquette about how all user groups can safely interact on the trail) is crucial as more of us share fewer recreational trails. The Connecticut Horse Council created the Volunteer Horse Patrol (VHP) in 2003 to assist the state during a time of economic hardship.

The VHP has come a long way from its small start in 2003 of 5 patrol areas to over 100 areas around the state, including town parks, open spaces and land trusts. As we continue to grow, we are expanding our riding opportunities and helping to create long distance connecting trails. Congratulations to all members, because each of your patrol logs, no matter how many hours you patrol and maintain trails adds to the grander total of statewide hours. This service provides CHC, DEEP and other Land Management Areas with information on how the equestrian community is continuing its effort to maintain trails for multiple use, while promoting and educating the community and other equestrians of our volunteer efforts.

Members patrol local and other areas they are able to get to. There are no required hours – we ask that you log the hours you do ride so that they are included in our total that we submit to DEEP at the end of every year. The CHC-VHP provides safety vests that identify volunteers. Your membership is \$20.00 a year to the CHC. Members are asked to get certified with CPR & First Aid on their own. If you would like to join the CHC VHP, please contact Diane Ciano DianeMCiano@gmail.com 203.910.9919 for information and applications.



Please fill in all information and sign and date the
Release and Waiver of Liability.
Mail completed page along with your payment to:
LCRVHC, P.O. Box 657, Killingworth, CT 06419

2024 Membership Categories

☐ Family \$25 ☐ Individual \$15

office use: Check amt. \$ _____ # _____

☐ Enclosed is an additional amount of \$ _____ for our ongoing work to maintain and preserve trails.

☐ Enclosed is a separate check to the Bridle Path Conservancy in the amount of \$ _____ (tax deductible).

☐ Please contact me for volunteer help! (This is a working club and all members are encouraged to volunteer for committee chairs, trail maintenance, events organizing help and/or food donations.)

Suggest a program, ride or activity you would attend if the club offered _____

Name(s) _____

(For family memberships please include all names; use a separate sheet if necessary)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone (home) (____) _____ (cell) (____) _____ (work) (____) _____

E-mail _____ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Release and Waiver of Liability

By signing this release and waiver, I understand that I am giving up (waiving or releasing) any right I have to sue or make any claim which I might have or which might subsequently arise or occur against the Lower Connecticut River Valley Horsemen's Club, Inc. (hereafter referred to as LCRVHC), including but not limited to, the officers, members, participants, and landowners; for any injuries which I might sustain while horseback riding, driving, or attending/participating in any LCRVHC event or activity. I understand that I am indemnifying (holding harmless) any horse ridden, driven, loose, or handled by another and the owner or handler while so engaged in the event of an injury to myself, my property and/or others. It is my intent to give up all the rights provided by law and release the club, landowners, etc. (the releasees) from all claims for bodily injury, death, or property damage, including without limitation, claims arising in whole or in part from the releasees' own negligence. I do so knowingly and voluntarily. I further agree to pay all legal fees pertaining to this event, if any are incurred.

LCRVHC is committed to safety. It is a membership requirement that all participants wear a riding helmet meeting ASTM/SEI standards when attending mounted meetings and events.

For Club Membership:

Signature of primary member _____ date ____/____/____
(If a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign)

Signature of Spouse _____ date ____/____/____
(for family membership, parent of minor child of divorced member, etc.)

For Taking Part in an Event:

Signature of primary member _____ date ____/____/____
(If a minor, a parent or legal guardian must sign)

Everyone must complete:

Emergency contact information

Name(s) _____ Telephone(s) (____) _____ (____) _____
_____ (____) _____ (____) _____

Cares and Concerns

Our thoughts are with our members going through tough times.

Continued prayers for Kathy Schuyler undergoing treatment for cancer.

Condolences to Liz and Bob Amendola on the loss of their horse Dublin.

Fast healing to Cindy Kimss-Kuester for her broken wrist.

Prayers for Bob Curtis who has been in the hospital since before Christmas with pneumonia.

If you have cares or concerns to share email them to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com

Content Wanted for Newsletter

Let us know what you are doing with your horse. Write a Meet the Member bio of yourself or a friend. Send pictures of your horse, your adventures or show results, links to articles, tack picks, barn tips, whatever you want to share. E-mail lcrvhc.org@gmail.com.

Classifieds

If you have something to sell, give away, share, or barter; or are looking for something another member might have to exchange, place your ad here!

Congratulations to Nancy Palermo-Lee on her new dog, Izzy, keeping her company while she recovers from hip replacement.



For Sale


Pink Himalayan salt chunks can be used for cooking or horse salt blocks. Great deal at \$1/pound, stock up! Come pick.


For appointment text Kristin 860-510-2262




REMINDER: Fall and winter are hunting season. Hunting is permitted in state forests. Please take care, wear your orange attire. Hunters are usually in the forest early morning and late afternoon. No Sunday hunting on state land. Check the DEEP web site for accurate information.

P & H Pony Sales

 Corey Pollock
902-439-9995

 Kyle Hubbard
860-986-2334



Dealers in all classes of livestock
1175 Copper Hill Rd, West Suffield, CT



Rachel's Blankets
Blanket Washing and Repair

(804) 245-7514
rachel@whitesidefamily.co.uk

LCRVHC/BPC 2024 Calendar

If you are interested in hosting or leading a member-only ride; have an idea for a future program, clinic, or activity; a topic you would like to learn about; a skill to share; or would like to host a winter party or summer picnic, please email us at lcrvhc.org@gmail.com. LCRVHC has a Facebook page for member-only rides and events: <https://www.facebook.com/lcrvhc>. Check it out and follow!

Ride dates and locations are subject to change due to weather and conflicts. Depending on how many riders we get, we may break into smaller groups. Please RSVP to lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or call or text LCRVHC ride manager VP Liz Kennedy at 860-227-9814 for details. We are trying to do a mix of Saturday and Sunday rides. We try to include dates for some other clubs/groups since we have a lot of cross-over members.

January

28 (snow date February 4): CTRA general membership meeting. UCONN Extension, Middlesex County Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Rd., Haddam CT. Potluck lunch at 12:30, meeting follows at 1:30. RSVP by 1/26 to Debra Strickland 860-209-8987

February

February 3: LCRVHC Winter Party, 5 to 8 pm, Essex Veterans Memorial Hall, details on page 9.

23: Pizza and Planning Meeting at Alyce Mallek's house, 44 Jannas Lane, Madison. 6 pm, club will provide pizza and soft drinks. Bring your calendars and ideas! Please RSVP so we know how much pizza to get! lcrvhc.org@gmail.com or text Melissa 203-915-3622.

25: CTRA hosting a Make Your Own Natural Horse Care Products Workshop with Brenda Vynalek.

\$25. Preregistration required: <https://forms.gle/df1BC9Z25QSF8DJWA>. Questions: Text Brenda at 860-227-2147

Other ideas:

2024 Ride Ideas

Freeze Your Butt 1/1/24
Bluff Point/Groton
Chatfield Hollow/Killingworth
Cockaponset/Pattaconk/Chester
Gay City/Hebron
Hurd Park/George Dudley Seymour/Haddam
Hammonasset/Madison
Machimoodus/East Haddam
Rocky Neck/East Lyme
Wadsworth Falls/Middletown
Weber Woods/Deep River
Carolina Trout Pond/RI

2024 Events

Summer Party – need a host/location
Progressive Ride? – Cindy, Gina, Jeannie?
Labor Day Picnic – maybe just do a ride or forgo?
Hunter Pace 10/13/24
Blessing of the Mounts (St Paul's Episcopal)
Chili Ride—Can we the date change due to Equine affair?
Soup Ride – early December
Clip N Rides
Trails Day 6/1-6/2/24
Mountain Laurel - June second weekend
Games Day - TBD
Julie Berman suggested a trailering clinic

REMINDER

Horses are only allowed on the beach at Hammonasset from October 1 through March 31. Please be respectful.

