

North Carolina Horse Council



Membership Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 2

www.nchorsecouncil.com

March-April 2009

NCHC

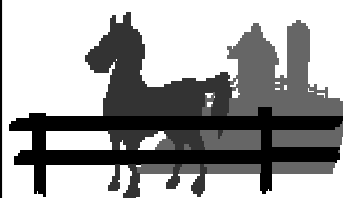
Board Meeting
Hunt Horse Complex
Raleigh, NC
March 4th—7pm
May 6th—7 pm

NCHC Officers:

President: Randy Ratliff
VP: Buck McColl
Treasurer: Clare Reece-Glore
Secretary: Curtis Potter
Executive Dir: Sue Gray

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Letter from the President

Randy Ratliff

I hope February has been kind to you. Personally, I was spoiled by the beautiful weather early in the month and have been cold ever since! Even though winter is still here (thanks to the groundhog??) we have lots of activities going on in the North Carolina equine community. The breed associations have started their show seasons and the weather has cooperated enough to allow trail riding in most parts of the state. Lots of changes are taking place in Raleigh as the legislature settles in for this year and finalize their committee assignments. We continue to anticipate the results from the Equine Impact Assessment which should be out later this spring.

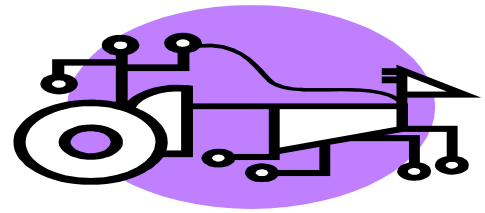
I want to continue to emphasize the importance of member participation in the North Carolina Horse Council. The NCHC is a volunteer organization at its core and will not function without your involvement. We need and certainly welcome your inputs, time and energy. We have numerous committees that will welcome your involvement and ideas. Additionally we are always looking for help in conducting activities throughout the state. This could be manning the NCHC booth at an event or helping with the trail ride or participating at a meeting near you. One of the most important things you can do as a member to benefit the organization is to be an ambassador and encourage your fellow equine supporters to join the NCHC. Increased membership benefits the Council in many ways. First, we get exposed to new members with new ideas, energy and passion for the horse. Second, new members mean that we represent a larger number of the horse enthusiasts in the state which expands our reach and impact and third, new members also benefit us financially (although membership income is a minor component of our budget, every little bit helps).

I will close by thanking each of you for your efforts and support of the North Carolina Horse Council. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Board of Directors with any suggestions, concerns or issues you may have. Have a great month and Happy Trails!!

- Ramblings from Randy



Horsepower.... Thoughts from the Executive Director



Accomplishments

- Preparation for annual meeting: ballots, reports, etc
- Orientation with new President
- Presentation at Camden, SC Equine Meeting: State of NCHC
- Recruiting new Agribusiness sponsors
- News Release on President's Awards
- Developed Legislative Survey
- Developed Legislator List
- Presentation at the Orange County Soil and Water Meeting
- Presentation at the Durham County Open Space and Trails Committee Meeting
- Presentation at the NCAHA: State of the NCHC

Agribusiness Sponsors

The development of new Agri-business sponsors is imperative to the future of the NCHC. Towards that end we have welcomed on board three Bronze sponsors this month, two new sponsors, and the renewal of one past sponsor.

CJ Associates

Equi-Fab Carolina, Inc

Quick Barns, LLC

Legislative Agenda

Our Legislative agenda included the development of a potential legislators' survey to determine equine knowledge and interest. A list of legislators by district was also prepared so that we can begin to identify potential Equine Industry Board Members.

Presentations

Multiple presentations were made this month. These include the following:

The Carolina Equine Summit held in Camden South Carolina. This event was attended by over 40 people. The SC Horse Council and the SC Dept of Agriculture expressed a desire to hold a joint meeting this year. Discussions are on-going.

The NC Horse Council was also asked to speak at the Orange County Soils and Water Conservation meeting to present Horse Farming for the Future. The role of horse farms as they relate to preserving our farmland and open space was discussed.

The Durham Committee on Open Space and Trail development submitted a proposal after the NCHC presentation to include equestrian use of the American Tobacco Trail from the county line to Massey Chapel Road.

Finally, the NC Arabian Horse Association conducted their annual meeting which included a presentation on the state of the Horse Council.

Trail Grants

The NCHC will be accepting proposals for Trail and Community Grants during March. This grant must address a recreational, community service, or trail related need not related to a general education or health related issue. The maximum amount of funding available for these grants is limited to \$1,500 per grant. In order to have your proposal considered, you would need to complete the RFP, which can be found on the NCHC website at www.nchorsecouncil.com and submit it by March 31st.

After all RFPs have been received, they will be reviewed during April with awards being made in May. If you have any questions regarding grants, feel free to contact the NCHC office at (919) 854-1990 or toll free at 800-529-9206.

NOTE: Health and Research Grant information will be posted in June, with the maximum award being \$6,000 per grant.

American Horse Council Updates

On February 25, 2009 the American Horse Council issued several updates on equine health issues that the Council has been following. Both of these updates can be found in their entirety on the NCHC website under Equine Health. The updates pertain to Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP) Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM).

Equine Piroplasmiasis Eradicated From Florida, Canadian Restrictions Lifted

The disease investigation began in August 2008 when a horse was diagnosed with EP, a blood-borne parasitic disease of horses that is primarily transmitted by ticks or contaminated needles. EP is a foreign animal disease that the U.S. has been free of since the 1980s, until this outbreak. All premises have now been released from quarantine, having met the requirements that all horses must test negative for EP, no exotic ticks are found on the premises, and no domestic ticks determined to be infected with the EP organism are found. Despite extensive tick surveillance, no ticks that carried the disease were found, concluding that the disease was spread due to management practices through contaminated needles or blood transfusion rather than natural transmission via ticks.

Contagious Equine Metritis Outbreak

In December 2008, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture announced that a Quarter Horse stallion tested positive for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) during routine testing for international semen shipment.

CEM, or Contagious Equine Metritis, is a transmissible, exotic venereal disease in horses caused by a bacteria *Taylorella equigenitalis*. A CEM infection usually results in infertility in mares and, on rare occasions, can cause mares to spontaneously abort. Infected stallions exhibit no clinical signs. Stallions and mares can become chronic carriers of CEM and be sources of infection for future outbreaks. The transmission rate is high and naturally occurs by mating, but contaminated instruments and equipment may be an indirect source of infecting horses. The bacteria can also be spread via semen collected for artificial insemination. CEM can be treated with disinfectants and antibiotics.



2009 Education Grants Awarded

The Grant Review Committee of the North Carolina Horse Council (NCHC) has received, reviewed and presented to the Executive Board its recommendations for the Education Grants to be awarded for 2009. Thanks to everyone who submitted a RFP for an Education Grant. The maximum award in this category is \$750.00 per grant.

Education Grants must address an educational need of the horse industry or individual horse owner. The recipients for 2009 include the following:

- NE District 4-H Horsemanship School, Washington County Extension Center
- Alleghany's Happy Trails Horse Camp, Piney Creek, NC
- Wize Kidz/Cowboy Poetry Character Focused Education Program, Sanford, NC
- Development of NC Online Equine Educational Programs, NCSU, Raleigh, NC
- Development of Specialized DVDs to Train Horse Show Judges, NCSU, Raleigh, NC
- Franklin County 4-H Horse Council, Louisburg, NC
- Establishing the Freedom High Equestrian Tram, Morganton, NC
- Reins from Above Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc., Smithfield, NC
- 2009 Winter Educational Equine Short Courses & Farm Tour, Louisburg, NC
- Northwest Cabarrus High School Equine Science II Class

Membership - Just a click away

Haven't joined the NC Horse Council yet? It's so easy. The NCHC offers a convenient on-line, secure system to submit your payment. No more waiting in line. Simply visit the NCHC website, click on the Membership button and follow the directions. It's quick and easy.

For those of you who don't like using computers, yet still want to join the NCHC, renewing your membership is just a phone call away. The NCHC office is open daily for those wanting to renew their membership without using a computer!

If you are somewhat computer literate, simply download the Membership Application from the website, complete the form, and mail it along with your check to the NCHC Office.

Equine Directory

List your business on the NC Horse Council website today. Check out the directory to see all of the new businesses that have already signed up. Again last month the NCHC website averaged over 140,000 hits, that's 4,600+ hits per day. Just think of the potential!

Businesses can sign up on-line. It's fast, easy, and your listing goes on the website immediately.

The cost per listing is \$12 per year for NCHC Members or \$24 per year for Non-Members. Categories range from apparel, boarding facilities, farriers, and horse transportation services to tack and supply and training and instruction. For the complete list of categories, check out the NCHC website.

Don't get left behind—list your business in the Directory today and reach out to the horse community. Visit the website for more information.

Agribusiness Sponsors

Several companies have joined with the North Carolina Horse Council by becoming Agribusiness Sponsors. We encourage horse owners to extend these companies first opportunity to bid on products and services you may need in a show of appreciation for their support.

The following businesses are supporting the equine industry by supporting the NCHC as an Agribusiness Sponsor.

Silver Sponsor

Prine Insurance—Handling your insurance needs

Bronze Sponsors

CJ Associates—Management consulting, supervisory training, organization improvement projects

CMC Hotels—Hotels within 3 miles of the Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh. The hotels in this group are Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites of Raleigh & Cary, Days Inn Cary and Best Western Cary Inn & Suites

Equi-Fab Carolina, Inc.—Equine nutritional supplement company

Quick Barns, LLC—Amish-built horse barns, run-ins and storage barns

For contact information on these sponsors, visit the NCHC website at www.nchorsecouncil.com and click on the Sponsor icon.

Sponsorship levels are as follows:

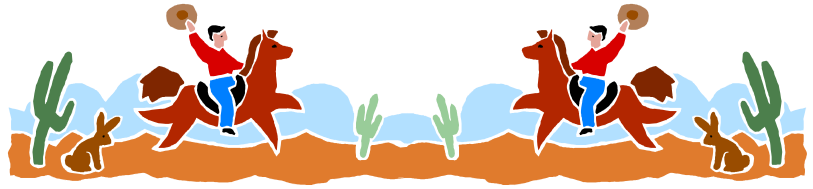
Bronze	\$250
Silver	\$500
Gold	\$750
Platinum	\$1,000

If you're still on the fence, contact the NCHC office today to find out more. Your sponsorship has the potential to reach thousands of horse owners across the state. Don't delay—be a part of the exciting equine industry.



Just one more way we hope that you will keep checking back!

News from the Trail



Eastern Region Trails Report

Since the start of 2009, the NC Horse Council has been busy with the following:

- Identifying “shovel ready” projects and co-signing letters to legislators (along with other trails groups like the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail) to encourage inclusion of trails projects in economic stimulus money.
- Planning to host our fourth Trail Master Certification Course in late September 2009, likely in the western piedmont region of NC. We will be preparing a grant application for the course over the next month.
- Continuing to provide support to maintaining and opening equestrian trail access at Cape Hatteras NS, most recently in reaction to a proposal to manage Buxton Woods as a NCWRC gameland.
- Continuing to support the Friends of Hill Forest to forge a workable solution with NCSU to maintain public equestrian access to recreational trails.
- Providing resources and information to people in Gates County on developing a horse trail system.
- Providing information to Town of Summerfield planners on the value of the equine industry, planning and usage of horse trail systems.
- Providing technical support in the planning for possible horse trail trails around a water supply reservoir.
- Continuing to work with Wake County Parks and Recreation staff to plan and develop horse trails on a 1300 acres destined to be the new Piney Woods park.
- Continuing to work with Durham County about keeping sections of the American Tobacco Trail open to equestrian use, including submitting a letter to the Durham Open Space Advisory Group to recommend that equestrians have access and appropriate trail surface.





Legislative Corner

For more information or questions, please contact NCHC Executive Director Sue Gray (919) 854 1990 or email suegray@nchorsecouncil.com

NCHC Specialty License Plate

The North Carolina Horse Council is actively pursuing legislation to provide a specialty license plate to equestrian enthusiasts throughout North Carolina. In advance of the production of this plate, we need at minimum 300 pre-sales. Your purchase of the "NC Horse Council Specialty Plate" will help the NCHC fund grants and horse industry programs.

Representative Margaret Dickson filed HB153, Special Plate for the Horse Council, on February 12. This bill is identical to Senator Weinstein's bill, SB121, which has also been filed.

The funds from the sale of this license plate will be used to provide programs which benefit the horse industry. Just a few of those programs include:

- Scholarships for students majoring in equine subjects
- Grant to non-profit horse associations
- Education for horse care, trail building and maintenance, land management, and show management
- Keeping our members abreast of issues both within the state as well as nationally which may affect the horse industry
- Education the non-horse owning public about the horse and its importance in our economy
- Encouraging the development of equine related tourism
- Maintaining trails throughout the state and working with land managers to ensure access to those trails

If you are interested in purchasing the license plate, visit the NCHC website at www.nchorsecouncil.com. Click on the license plate icon, fill out and submit the application form, and demonstrate your intent to purchase this plate.



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What fun activities do you participate in with your equine partner? The NCHC would love to publish your photos showing what you like to do with your horse.

All photos are welcomed that show your horse participating in what ever activity or discipline you both enjoy. We want to see you in action—Western, Saddle Seat, Hunter/Jumper, Trail Rider, etc.

It is great to see horses and riders enjoying their sport. As you have seen, there are a variety of disciplines represented by our members.

Your photos can be sent via email as an attachment to your email or simply copied into your email. Email your pictures to Cheryl@nchorsecouncil.com.

Thanks so much to everyone who has shared their pictures.

Look Like Fun?



The picture above was submitted by Ashemont Farm.