

North Carolina Horse Council



Membership Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 2

www.nchorsecouncil.com

March-April 2008

NCHC

Board Meeting

Hunt Horse

Complex

Raleigh, NC

May 7th—7:00pm

NCHC Officers:

President: Bob Sanford

VP: Bill Parton

Treasurer: Tom Bennett

Secretary: John Thomson

Executive Dir: Sue Gray

Inside this issue:

- 2 Executive Director Update
- 3 Grants Awarded
- 4 Member Highlight
- 5 Legislative Update
- 6 Membership
- 7 Trail News
- 8 Website Info
- 9 Referendum
- 10 Equine Industry Directory

**Welcome New
Agribusiness Sponsor:**

Your Name Here!

Letter from the President Bob Sanford

I hope all of you had a Happy Valentine's Day and I wish to thank those of you who voted in favor of the Equine Referendum. This action assures the North Carolina Horse Council of another year of trying to assist the equine community in solving problems, promoting the industry and making grants to worthy causes.

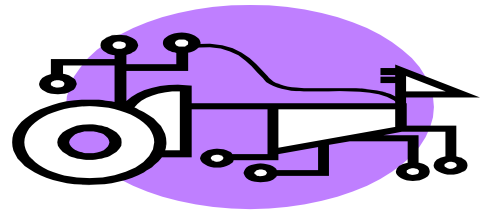
As you now know, we divided the state into seven regions, with four districts in each region. We are very excited with the two Regional Managers that are in place and looking forward to placing the remaining positions. These positions allow us to have local people working with the many associations and clubs who make up our equine population. Please refer to our web site (www.nchorsecouncil.com) for the names and other pertinent information needed to contact these people. As we develop these regions, we hope that you will assist us in having regional meetings in your area.

We are truly excited about the Specialty Plate that we have designed for the NCHC. This plate will allow you to exhibit your pride in the NCHC and the equine industry. You may check out the design on our web page. In order for us to acquire this plate, it is imperative that we have three hundred (300) pre-sold. The North Carolina DMV requires this prior to making any specialty plates. This activity requires a Bill to be passed by the legislature and we are working diligently to get this done in the next session of the legislature. We will be posting an order form later this year for you to commit to an order.

The Equine Economic Impact Study is underway and we again want to encourage each of you to participate. This is the "Once in a Life Time" opportunity for us in the industry to prove our value and importance to the state's economy and well being. With the projected increase in population (50% increase by 2025), land use and open land will become more expensive and scarce. We will need these numbers and dollars to try and assure our members will have a place to enjoy their horses in the future.

Continued on Page 4

Horsepower.... Thoughts from the Executive Director



What's been happening at NCHC?

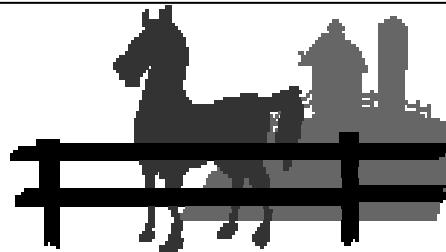
- The recruitment and training of new regional managers
- Beginning discussions with NCSU and NCHC on Equine Educational Issues & new short course ideas for next year
- Prepared referendum materials and releases
- Educational Grants awarded
- Speaker at:
 - American Saddlebred Association Convention
 - Equestrian Meeting in Chowan County
 - American Youth Horse Council Convention
- Meetings with Equine groups including:
 - NC Arabian Horse Association,
 - Equine Facilities Conference
- Reviewed text on Equine Economic Impact Study Brochure
- Set new goals and directions for our NC Trails Consultants
- Assisted at the Judges Clinic
- Continued improvements on the webpage
- Prepared a new agribusiness sheet for recruiting sponsors
- Clarified water use at the Hunt Horse Complex under Stage 2 Restrictions

Speaking Opportunities

During February, I presented at the American Saddlebred Association Convention in Charlotte. The convention drew over 400 members. The Council was afforded the opportunity to speak at the business meeting and again at the Amateur Trainers meeting. In addition the Council was invited to speak at an Equine Meeting in Chowan County.

Goodbye

Finally, we said good-bye to one of our long time members this month. Several members of the Executive Committee along with myself attended the funeral services for Betty Parton. Betty was an active NCHC member and the wife of our long time Executive Committee member, Bill Parton. Betty will be missed by all!



Water Usage

Perhaps one of the largest issues faced by the Council this month was the Stage 2 water restrictions in Wake County and its impact on the Hunt Horse Complex. The Council was able to negotiate satisfactory uses of water including watering with a hose and the ability to wash our livestock via sponging from a bucket and washing with a hose. We are in continuing discussions with the NC State Fair to produce an informational flyer regarding water use at the Horse Complex.

2008 Educational Grants Awards

The 2008 Education Grants have been received, reviewed and awarded. Thanks to everyone who submitted grant requests. The recipients for 2008 include the following:

- Forage Education—Watauga Cooperative Extension, Boone, NC
- Northeast District 4-H Horsemanship School—Northeast District 4-H Horse Council, Currituck, NC
- Wise Kidz Pilot Program and Horsemanship/Humanship Clinics—Full Circle Resources, Sanford, NC
- 2008 Winter Education Equine Short Courses and Farm Tour Program—Franklin County Horse Extension, Louisburg, NC
- Fencing for Our Future—Brevard High School Agriculture Department, Brevard, NC
- Alleghany's Happy Trails Horse Camp—AHS Young Riders, Piney Creek, NC
- Preparing REINS Volunteers for Emergency Response and Enhancement of REINS Programs—NC Cooperative Extension Service, Raleigh, NC
- Enhancement of the Delivery of Educational Programs to Equine Enthusiasts—NC Cooperative Extension Service, Raleigh, NC

The NCHC will be accepting proposals for Trails and Community Grants during March. The proposals will be reviewed in April with awards being made in May. The maximum amount of funding available for Trail and Community Grants is limited to \$1,500.00 per grant. The RFP can be found on the NCHC website at www.nchorsecouncil.com. As always, if you have any questions regarding grants, feel free to contact the NCHC office.

The final round of grants will be for Health and Research. These proposals will be accepted beginning in June, with a maximum amount of funding of \$6000.00 per grant.

Regional Managers

Exciting things are happening at the NC Horse Council. We have successfully recruited and trained two new Regional Managers - Rick McLean in Region 2 and Larry Blackburn in Region 4. Region 4 includes the following counties:

District 4-A	Bladen, Columbus, Robeson
District 4-B	Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Scotland
District 4-C	Chatham, Lee, Moore
District 4-D	Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly

I hope everyone will welcome Rick and Larry and share with them all of your equine ideas. Both Rick and Larry will be looking to recruit District Representatives, so if you are interested, please go to our website and get in touch with them!

President's Letter

Continued from Page 1

All of us have experienced some degree of discomfort brought on by the drought in our state. We have been working closely with NCDR trying to help provide hay and we are also monitoring and observing the water restrictions and how they impact our industry.

As the projected population growth changes occur, we will be faced with more and more issues that will have a significant impact on our industry. It is important that we all are aware of the issues, understand their impact and have a voice in the solutions to the situations that will interface with our industry.

As we expand our profile further into the horse community, we are proud to announce the following: The North Carolina Horse Council will be co-sponsors, along with the North Carolina State Equestrian Team, of a Raleigh Benefit Hunter Jumper Show held in Raleigh in November, 2008. We are also starting an Equine Industry Directory on our web site. This directory will assist you in finding the needed services in your community or area. We would appreciate your help in encouraging your local businesses that supply products or services to the equine industry to advertise in our Industry Directory. This is a way that you can help the NCHC and your local businesses. So once again, I ask you to saddle up and ride into the future with us. Join the NCHC today!!

Member Highlight

The North Carolina Horse Council Staff and Officers would like to give a special thanks and recognition to Curtis Potter. Curtis was elected to serve on the Board of the Horse Council at its meeting held in January, 2008. Curtis is a horse owner and long time participant in the equine industry, including working for various horse stables, guiding public trail rides, and logging hundreds of hours in the saddle. Curtis studied in the equine science program at Martin Community College and later earned a Juris Doctor and Masters of Business Administration from Campbell University. Curtis is an attorney currently practicing equine law. Curtis and his wife, Katrina, reside in Brevard.

Congratulations Curtis!





Legislative Corner

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

S. 2283, The Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Land Act

There is currently a bill in Congress regarding trail riding on public land—S. 2283. The bill states:

Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Land Act - Provides for: (1) the continued preservation and use of pack and saddle stock animals on public land administered by the National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service on which there is a historical tradition of the use of pack and saddle stock animals; and (2) defining the term historical tradition of the use of pack and saddle stock animals for purposes of this Act.

You can visit the following website to vote for this bill to show your support and to let Congress know you want to preserve the right to ride on government lands.

http://www.washingtonwatch.com/bills/show/110_SN_2283.html#toc3



Join the North Carolina Horse Council Today

Membership in the North Carolina Horse Council costs less than a tank of gas...
And gives you better mileage!

- The NCHC Newsletter keeps you current on the state of the horse industry in North Carolina and across the nation
- Professional lobbyists promote your equine interests at the State Capital
- Legislative and regulatory updates help you make informed decisions
- Listings in the NCHC Membership Directory puts your business in the public eye
- Horse Industry business discounts improve your bottom line

AND MORE...

- Discount on "Equine Liability signs and other NCHC store items
- Notices about equestrian trail activities
- Voting rights in the NCHC

AND EVEN More...*

- \$1 million Equine Excess Personal Liability Insurance * (only available to individual members)
- Eligible to participate in the NCHC recognition program

Developing Horsepower...put a Voice in Every County!

"Politicians listen to organizations that represent large numbers of voters."
(Equine Attorney George G. Johnson, Jr. from Western Horseman)



The North Carolina Horse Council
is your voice!
Help us Fight for Your Rights!

Become a Member Today!



News from the Trail

Submitted by:

Barb Oslund

Eastern Trails Consultant

Jim Hallsey

Western Trails Consultant

So many trail issues are on-going we realize that we may miss some updates. If you have any new trail information from across the state please let the NCHC know what is happening.

Contact: suegray@nchorsecouncil.com

Highlights from Jim Hallsey—Western Trails Consultant

- Davidson County Horsemen continue approval process for Hamby Creek Trail on county landfill buffer lands. Doug Meredith is coordinating with Jim's input.
- Met with Clare Reece-Glore and Barb Oslund to review focus goals for 2008.
- Provided some perspective on equine trail issues associated with Cape Hatteras National Seashore.
- Jim and Barb agreed on an approach to measuring equine trail surface load bearing capacity to factor into equine trail design standards.
- Represented NCHC at a regional trail planning meeting in Winston Salem to support the Sauratown Trail (horse/hiker) route of the Mountains to Sea Trail and other regional equine trail initiatives.
- Received data and report from NC State Parks on outdoor recreation activities contained in a 2007 user survey. Look for equestrian trail use data in a future NCHC newsletter.

Highlights from Barb Oslund—Eastern Trails Consultant

- NCHC (through Kristine Remlinger) continues to stay involved with Friends of Hill Forest, and a meeting with NCSU is pending.
- Prepared a Trails Issues and Trail Riding presentation for Franklin Co Horseman's Association (March 13) and Guilford Co Equine short course (March 17).
- Prepared a draft for a "State of the Trails" survey – approval and plans to "go live" are pending
- The Trails Committee scheduled the first quarterly meeting for March 20 to discuss possible Durham County (Jordan and Falls Lake) Trails.
- NCHC has been contacted about closing vehicular beach access on Cape Hatteras National Park and it's (unintended?) effects on equestrian access. Barb Oslund is staying in frequent communication with local equestrians and we need to discuss the best ways to approach this situation.

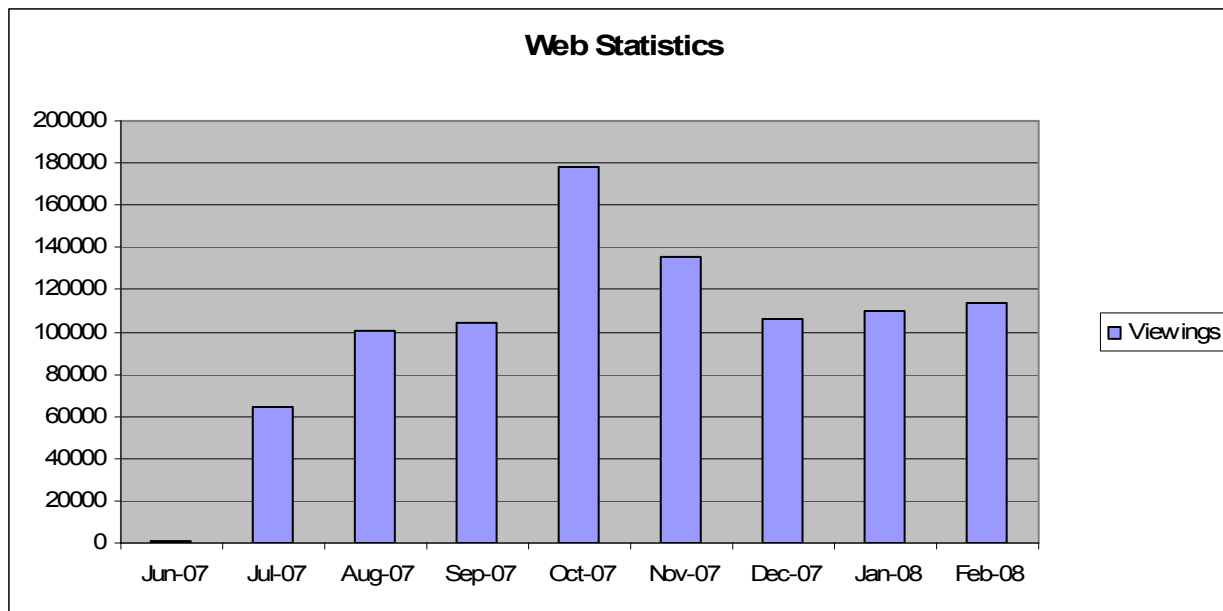


Website Usage Rises

Have you checked out the North Carolina Horse Council website lately? If not, you're missing out on lots of information. The website is constantly changing and being updated. The NCHC website is the place to visit to find out about:

- Equine Directory
- Events
- Meetings
- Membership
- Short Courses
- Sponsors
- Store

As the chart below shows, since June, 2007, the number of times the website has been viewed per month has risen from 892 to a high of 178,570. Check us out at www.nchorsecouncil.com.



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

Horse Industry Promotion Referendum

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges these past few months has been the conducting of the referendum vote. This vote occurs every three years and allows for a self assessment of \$2 per ton, or \$.05 per 50# bag of feed, on all commercial horse feed to be sent to the NCHC. These referendum dollars are what allows NCHC to represent horse owners across the state on issues that are important to all of us. This assessment was first authorized in 1999.

The Horse Industry Promotion Referendum vote occurred March 5, 2008. Polling places were set up in all of North Carolina's 100 counties at each County Cooperative Extension Office. Any horse owner/leassor, over the age of nine, was eligible to vote.

I am happy to say that the referendum PASSED, with 95% of the votes being YES! We now have three more years to continue our work on legislative and regulatory issues impacting horse owners, provide grants to the equine community and promoting education and care programs throughout the state.

The feed assessment has provided essential funding to the NCHC to meet a variety of needs throughout the horse industry. Because of this assessment, the NCHC has programs in place to assist with many equine issues, including equine education, disaster, animal welfare, environmental regulations, trail protection and new trail projects.

The next Horse Industry Promotion Referendum is scheduled for 2011.

Thanks to all of you who voted.



2007—2008 Extension Horse Short Course and Clinic Series

The 2007—2008 Extension Horse Short Course and Clinic Series is winding down with the final courses being held in May. These courses are offered by North Carolina State University and proudly co-sponsored by the North Carolina Horse Council. A listing of courses offered for the remainder of this series is listed below:

May 5—7, 2008	Horse Protection Officers' Short Course
May 15, 2008	NCSU Horse Feeding Short Course
May 16, 2008	NCSU Horse Forage Management Short Course

Register today! For additional information on these courses, please contact Extension Horse Husbandry, NCSU, (919) 515-5784, or visit the website at:

www.cals.ncsu.edu/an_sci/extension/horse/hhmain.html.

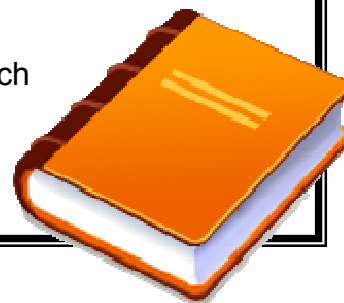
Watch the newsletter or check out the NCHC website for information on the upcoming 2008—2009 Series.



Equine Industry Directory

The North Carolina Horse Council is working to put together an Equine Industry Directory that will be posted and updated on the website. The Directory will be broken down into different categories, such as Training, Fencing, Supplies, etc. Local businesses are welcome to submit their contact information to the Horse Council to be included in the Directory. The cost per listing is \$12 per year for NCHC Members or \$24 per year for Non-Members.

Don't get left behind—list your business in the Directory and reach out to the horse community.





Happenings

The NCHC wants to keep you informed of the happenings in the horse world. If you visit the NCHC website and click on Events (located on the Home Page More on this site), you will go to an on-line calendar that lists many equine events throughout North Carolina and surrounding areas. It's easy to get your event posted on the website. Simply email (or mail) event information to Cheryl@nchorsecouncil.net. Be sure to include the following:

- Date and time of event
- Location of event
- Event contact person or website
- Brief description of event, including costs

If you are hosting an event, i.e. trail ride, open show, conference, etc., please let us know. Every effort is made to keep the Event Calendar up to date. We will not list events that advertise your business. So, let us and everyone else know what you're up to!

Join Today

Becoming a member of the North Carolina Horse Council is easy. Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. To join, simply visit the website, click on Membership Information, decide on your level of membership and enroll. Excess Equine Personal Liability Insurance is also available for Individual and Lifetime Members. The NCHC is set up so you can join online, or, if you prefer, download the membership form and mail it in with your payment. Upon receipt of your payment, a new member packet will be sent to you.

Annual Dues are as follows:

Individual Membership	\$12
Individual Membership with insurance.....	\$37
Student/Junior Membership	\$6
Lifetime Membership	\$360
Lifetime Insurance cost per year	\$25

You've heard about the benefits of membership so what are you waiting for?

Decide which option is right for you and join today!

North Carolina Horse Council
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www.nchorsecouncil.com



Pictures Needed!

When was the last time you visited the NCHC website? We are still in need of your pictures. We want to keep the website up to date and your pictures are what is missing. It's easy. We are looking for pictures that show your horse participating in what ever activity or discipline you both enjoy. We want to see you in action—Western, Saddleseat, Hunter/Jumper, Trail Rider, etc. Photos can be sent via email to Cheryl@nchorsecouncil.com or simply drop your photos in the mail.

