

North Carolina Horse Council

Membership Newsletter



Volume 9 Issue 6

www.nchorsecouncil.com

November December 2008

**NCHC Annual
Board Meeting
Hunt Horse Complex
Raleigh, NC
January 7th—
7:00pm**

NCHC Officers:

President: Bob Sanford
VP: Bill Parton
Treasurer: Tom Bennett
Secretary:
Executive Dir: Sue Gray

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Letter from the President Bob Sanford

I can say with confidence that 2008 was a challenging year to the equine community as well as the country. Challenges many times force us to review and re-arrange our priorities; giving us opportunities to explore and expand. Certainly, this year has been an opportunity for the North Carolina Horse Council to accept the challenges of being a true "State Wide" organization. Enlarging our infrastructure to meet the needs has been a year-long task. We will continue recruiting and training Regional and District Managers as we expand across the state. Our ultimate goal is to have seven regions and be able to communicate back and forth with each county in our state.

Another great challenge has been the Equine Economic Impact Study. Our challenge has been, and still is, to educate our horse owners to the importance of this study. This study can validate and give value to our industry. Once completed, the study will provide us with many answers as to our value and open our eyes to opportunities that were not visible prior. It is an opportunity to bring the business community together with the equine community to try and enhance, preserve and monitor our industry.

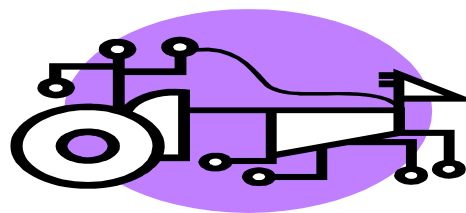
As our equine community continues to feel pressure from population growth, land use and political decisions both at the local and state level as well as the federal level, it is obvious that we need a bigger and more vocal voice in our future. We at the Council are working diligently with several other state councils to form a National Horse Council Group that can represent each state council at the national level. This national presence is one of the main deficiencies that the equine community has had for some time. We now have enough interest from the majority of the state horse councils to move forward and form this entity. We envision this group to be our leader on national issues and support us at the state and local levels.

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Happy Thanksgiving

Horsepower.... Thoughts from the Executive Director



Accomplishments

- Equine Advisory Committee Meeting NCSU
- Attended Mountain State Fair, Fletcher
- Met with the Pisgah Trailblazers
- Reviewed resumes and participated in interviews for Hunt Horse Complex Manager
- Trails Consultant Meeting
- Southern Horse Festival Planning
- RMI Raleigh Benefit Horse Show Planning
- Web changes
- Hill Forest meeting with Dean Brown, NCSU
- Met with NCHC member regarding equine business
- Met with Chatham County Officials regarding new trail possibilities
- Participated in the State Fair with NCHC Booth
- Worked with Auditor on Fiscal Review
- Met with new Trails Coalition Group regarding lobbying efforts for FY 2009
- Continued work on Website changes and Trail Grid
- Researched new membership card template
- Organized a meeting between NCSU Officials and Friends of Hill Forest
- Worked on reviewing support for the NCSU Equine Unit
- Identified and selected a new Regional Manager for West Region One
- Continued work on Draft 2009 Budget

Welcome New Regional Manager

As a follow-up to an initial meeting in the West Region, a new Regional Manager, Jon Jachens, has been identified. I met with Jon last week to orient him and explain the duties and responsibilities of the position. His wife, Christina, will also be assisting us in the Region. He relates to the Board that he is excited about the potentials for the Horse Council and will work to meet our strategic plan and goals.

Mountain State Fair, Fletcher

I attended the Mountain State Fair and thanks to the many wonderful volunteers, the NCHC was exposed to several thousand visitors. Bill Parton and Clare Reece-Glore from our Executive Committee were helpful in serving as on-site coordinators for this event. Members of the Pisgah Trailblazers and the Back County Horsemen helped man the booth! In addition to maintaining our booth I was invited to speak at the monthly meeting of the Pisgah Trailblazers.

NCSU Equine Advisory Committee

September began with a meeting of the NCSU Equine Advisory Committee. Specific information that was discussed included committee member terms, the new short courses for 2008-2009 and the introduction of new committee members. In addition, Dr. Siciliano and Dr. Pratt shared their research efforts with the group including those funded by the NCHC.

Horsepower....

Thoughts from the Executive Director

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Trails Grid & Other Trail Issues

The Trails Consultants, along with Bob Sanford and me, met to discuss the progress of our Trails Grid. The data is neither totally complete nor accurate. However, it was decided that we should proceed with posting this information and to note that all users should call before going to any trail site listed. We hope to begin this process in October. Towards that end, I have begun discussions with our Web Designer. We will be utilizing our Regional Map and integrating the trail grid data. Stay tuned!

Trail issues this month also included a meeting with Dean Brown from the NCSU Department of Forestry regarding access to Hill Forest. The meeting was timely as we continue to negotiate the recreational use of Hill Forest. A follow up meeting will be held in late October.

Chatham County has acquired some additional public lands and an initial meeting was held to discuss equine usage. Barb Oslund and I attended this discussion and look forward to continuing planning. Additional trail work included assisting the Friends of Hill Forest with organizing a follow up meeting with NCSU Forestry Department to resolve user issues. This meeting will be hosted by the NCHC in early November. We also met with representatives from the Mountain to the Sea Trail, the NCDOT, and several conservation groups regarding combined legislative initiatives which would benefit our state trails for multiple user groups. This is an on-going discussion with final resolutions for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Complex Manager

The NCDA&CS are actively recruiting for a Hunt Horse Complex Manager. I was asked to be a member of the interview team to participate on the selection committee for the new Manager position. Six candidates were initially selected for interviews. This group was narrowed to three candidates and second interviews were conducted. There was not a unanimous opinion on the selection nor were the candidates ranked; however, one candidate appeared to meet all of the selection criteria. The Agriculture Department was to make the final decision.

Equine Business

As a follow up to several office inquiries regarding zoning, taxes, land use value and establishing an equine business, I had a follow up meeting with a NCHC member who is trying to establish an equine business in Orange County. He was referred by us to the attorney who won the recent tax case in Polk County. Based on this research I have discovered several equine related statutes which will help others with future questions.

Horse Shows

Meetings are on-going for the RMI Raleigh Benefit Horse Show. Thanks to Sue Grayson and committee for coordinating the NCHC efforts. In addition, Sammy Jenkins and I have been busy promoting the SHF. The award, ribbons and high point prizes have all been ordered. Sue Meyer and Dr. Tim Potter and his wife have agreed to judge our show. We are still negotiating for a non-trotting judge. The SHF Rules and Regulations have also been updated, printed and posted on the NCHC website.

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

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

The 2009 annual membership drive is officially underway! Now is the time to renew your membership for another year, or better yet, become a lifetime member. There are many benefits to becoming a member of the NC Horse Council. Some of these benefits include:

- 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 Equine Directory puts your business in the public eye
- Horse Industry business discounts improve your bottom line

AND MORE BENEFITS...

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

AND EVEN MORE BENEFITS*

- \$1 million Equine Excess Personal Liability Insurance (*only available to individual members)
- Voting rights at the NCHC annual board meeting in January

Horses are an important part of the economy in North Carolina and the country. Highlights from a national economic impact study of the horse industry performed at the request of the American Horse Council shows just how important the horse industry is to the nation. The study, conducted in 2005, shows that the horse industry is a highly diverse, national, serious and economically significant industry. Some interesting findings of the study:

- There are 9.2 million horses in the United States involved in racing, showing, sport, competition, breeding, recreation and work.
- 2 million people own horses
- 4.6 million people are involved in the industry as owners, service providers, employees and volunteers. There are tens of millions more people participating as spectators.
- The economic impact on the economy is \$39 billion annually.
- The industry provides 460,000 full-time equivalent jobs.
- The horse industry pays \$1.9 billion in taxes.
- North Carolina ranks 8th in the nation for number of horses.

If you have questions about which membership option is right for you, call us today.

Use the Membership Invoice on the following page to sign up for 2009. If you prefer, memberships can be renewed on-line at www.nchorsecouncil.com.



NCHC Member # _____

Invoice 2009 Membership

January 1—December 31, 2009



North Carolina Horse Council

Sign up today by returning this form with your check to the address below

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Memberships can also be renewed on-line ◇ New Member
◇ Renewal

Membership Options for 2009

- ◇ Lifetime Membership (includes “in-excess” insurance coverage 1st year only)..... \$360
- ◇ Individual Membership (includes “in-excess” insurance coverage)*** \$37
- ◇ Individual Membership (no insurance coverage) \$12
- ◇ Junior Membership \$6
- ◇ Riding Club/Breed Association (more than 100 members)..... \$100
- ◇ Riding Club/Breed Association (less than 100 members)..... \$50
- ◇ In-excess Insurance Coverage for Lifetime Members \$25

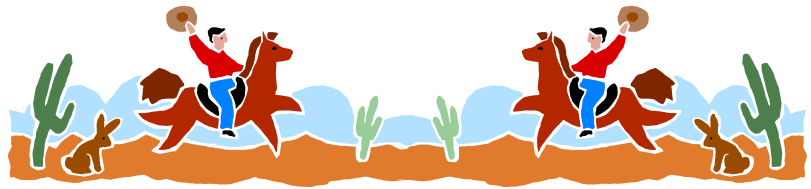
If you choose “in-excess” insurance, coverage begins January 1, 2009

Enroll in the North Carolina Horse Council for 2009 today and enjoy the rest of 2008 FREE!
Your membership joins with others across North Carolina to promote everything horse. Legislators are influenced by numbers, so join the herd and BE heard! Some things to ponder:

- Only members of NCHC can vote in the annual Board meeting held in January.
- Riding Clubs/Breed Associations who join can appoint a representative to the Board.
- You can make a difference for as little as \$12.
- Volunteer opportunities are available.
- NCHC is the only statewide organization that works to serve the needs of the entire horse industry, regardless of breed preference, riding style, or activity.

North Carolina Horse Council, 4904 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 290, Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 854-1990 or Toll Free at 800-529-9206 www.nchorsecouncil.com

News from the Trail



Western Trails Report

Stone Mountain State Park Superintendent Edward Farr reported that the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation continues to explore ways to improve and expand the horse trails in the park. Internal studies and consultant reports have identified problem areas with the existing trails as well as more sustainable sections and potential new connectors. Preliminary cost estimates to renovate existing trails and build new ones are substantial but State Parks continues to explore solutions. Existing horse trails remain open.

Development of a revised directory of North Carolina Equestrian Trails continued in September. The western trails consultant met with planning staff of the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments to seek their help in linking the trail information to electronic maps, such as GoogleMaps® or GoogleEarth®. Both NCHC trail consultants completed a simplified trail directory listing and submitted it to the Executive Director for posting on the website.



Eastern Trails Report

- NCHC trails consultants helped to spread the word about the next Trail Certification Course being held November 13-16, 2008 at Medoc Mountain State Park in Halifax county. To date, all spaces for this course are full and a waiting list has been started.
- NCHC trails consultants are continuing work on a trail location guide that will eventually be available to the public.
- Both NCHC trails consultants attended the NC State Trails Committee meeting on August 22.
- The eastern trails representative has been talking with Chatham County horse owners about advocating equestrian trails in the Northwest County Park that is currently in the planning stages.

- NCHC continues to stay involved with Friends of Hill Forest, and the group continues working with NCSU about formalizing a use or lease agreement.
- Discussion of equine access to areas of Cape Hatteras National Seashore continued, with plans being made to meet with Friends of the Mountain of Sea Trail and park representatives in October.
- Bob Sanford and Barb Oslund made a presentation and met with several horsemen in Columbus County. The meeting was organized by Phyllis Creech of Columbus County Extension and the local 4H group helped serve dinner. Issues relating to trails, open space, access, liability and insurance were discussed.
- The first of two Trail Master Certification Courses was held at South Mountain State Park September 25—28. There were 14 participants. The course is taught by Mike Riter of Trail Design Specialists. Mike started the trail school in 1998 to educate all trail users and land managers on a better way to design and construct trails that are fun to use, require minimal maintenance and have minimal impact on the environment. Mike's course is recognized nationwide and participants receive a certificate of completion.

The participants in the September course included trail riders from across the state and land managers from several NC State and local parks. They spent 4 days of classroom and field time learning proper techniques for designing and constructing trails. The heavy rain on 2 days made for soggy conditions on the ground and demonstrated the physics of erosion and trail use. The participants worked hard and will bring this knowledge home to the places they ride and manage, and have new understanding of the impacts of trails, and how they can be improved or avoided through proper design and construction.



December 13—14, 2008

Plans for the Southern Horse Festival (SHF) are shaping up, and it looks like it will be an exciting event this year. There will be classes for all ages in:

- Halter
- Hunt Seat
- Saddle Seat
- Western

So, come show with us. This is the perfect opportunity for equestrians from all backgrounds to show off their horses while benefiting young riders throughout North Carolina.

For details on how to register for the SHF, check out the NCHC website at www.nchorsecouncil.com. From the home page, just click on the SHF icon on the right side of the screen. You will find all the information you need to show at the SHF including:

- Class List
- Entry Form
- Rules & Regulations
- Sponsor/Advertiser Information

Don't miss out on the fun—join us in Williamston.

Special Versatility Class

Class Sponsorships
\$50

New Location

Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center
Located at the intersection of
US Hwy 64 and NC Hwy 125. This is
Exit 512 from US Hwy 64 (four-lane)
in Williamston

Show proceeds to benefit education
for North Carolina students
in North Carolina schools

North Carolina Sweeps World Grand Championships

It was a North Carolina night at the Kentucky State Fair on August 23, 2008. The American Saddlebred world crowned World Champions in Louisville and it was definitely a sweep. The World's Grand Champion Five-Gaited horse, **CH Breaking News**, brought the tri-color crown home to West Wind Stables in Statesville, with Peter Cowart in the irons. Earlier in the evening, the lovely mare **CH Our Charming Lady**, wowed the crowd to win the Three-Gaited Grand Championship. Mary Marcum Orr, trainer with Cash Lovell Stables in Winston Salem, guided this great mare to her World's Championship. The North Carolinians kept rolling as **Mother Mary**, owned by Anita and Richard Simpson of Monroe, North Carolina won the World Champion Fine Harness Class. The American Saddlebred Daily remarked that the night left "plenty of Kentuckians wondering if the center of gravity in the Saddlebred world might just have felt a seismic shock." Carolina rules this year!



Picture is of Wing Commander (1943—1969)

Website Update

When was the last time you visited the NCHC website? Over 4,600 people a day are discovering all the exciting news that can be found on the website. The home page is constantly being updated to bring you the latest news. There are current events relating to the horse industry and well as links to events occurring throughout the State. You can also read previous issues of the Newsletter or purchase a t-shirt to show your support.



Annual Board Meeting

Make plans now to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Horse Council (NCHC) to be held Wednesday, January 7, 2009. The meeting begins at 7 pm and will be held at the Hunt Horse Complex in Raleigh.

One of the items on the agenda will be the election of new members to the Board of Directors. Only current 2009 members of NCHC are eligible to vote, so don't miss out on your opportunity to vote for the best candidate because you haven't joined NCHC yet.

Equine Industry Directory

2009 is just around the corner. Get the new year off to a good start by listing your business in the NC Horse Council Equine Directory. The Directory is growing thanks to all the new businesses that are signing up. Get your listing on the NC Horse Council website today and be noticed. Last month the NCHC website averaged over 140,000 hits, that's 4,600+ hits per day. Just think of the potential! Businesses are welcome to submit their contact information to the Horse Council to be included in the Directory. If you prefer, go to the website and 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.

Events Calendar

Don't forget to send the NCHC your events for 2009 as soon as dates are set. Events are listed in order by date to keep you informed of the happenings in the horse world throughout North Carolina and surrounding areas. If you are hosting an event, i.e. trail ride, open show, etc., please let us know.

Visit the NCHC website and click on Events (located on the Home Page More on this site) or go to this web address: <https://www.nchorsecouncil.com/events/>. 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, time & location of event
- Event contact person or website
- Brief description of event, including costs

Every effort is made to keep the Event Calendar up to date. So, let us, and everyone else, know what you're up to! If you haven't checked out the NCHC Event Calendar you could be missing out on a lot.



NCHC Board Elections: January 2009

The Nominating Committee presents the following names for election to the North Carolina Horse Council's Board of Directors. There are currently 13 Director Positions open and 15 nominees to fill the positions. The election is for a two year term, running from January 2009 to January 2011. Please review Board Member Responsibilities and Characteristics below as you consider your vote. You may cast your ballot at the Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Casey Armstrong
Bob Sanford
Tom Bennett
Clare Reece-Glore
Brad Williams

Johnny Shook
Bill Parton
Phil Blalock
Tom Hendrickson
John Montross

Ron LaPann
Bonnie Herring
Buck McColl
Kate Bussa
Randy Ratliff

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS TO CONSIDER

Individual Board Member Responsibilities

- Attend board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events.
- Be informed about the Horse Council's mission, services, policies, and programs.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments.
- Make a personal financial contribution to the organization.
- Inform others about the organization.
- Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organization.
- Keep up-to-date on developments in the equine industry.
- Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.

Personal Characteristics to Consider

- Ability to: listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively, work well with people individually and in a group.
- Willing to: prepare for and attend board and committee meetings, ask questions, take responsibility and follow through on a given assignment, contribute personal and financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances, and open doors in the community.
- Develop certain skills if you do not already possess them, such as to: cultivate and solicit funds, cultivate and recruit board members and other volunteers, read and understand financial statements, learn more about the substantive program area of the Horse Council.
- Possess: honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views, a friendly, responsive, and patient approach, community-building skills, personal integrity, a developed sense of values, concern for the development of the equine industry and a sense of humor.

President's Letter

Continued from Page 1

This has also been a year of change for our web site. We hope you like the changes that we are making and we will continue to listen and learn from your comments as we go forward. It is our desire to provide you with as much information as possible from the Home Page. The goal is to have you go to just about any news or story with one click of your mouse.

We are also working to provide more value to you for being a member of the NCHC. With the introduction of our membership cards, we now can offer members only, exclusive deals or opportunities. We are talking and negotiating with different companies to provide discounts to our members. We hope to get the "**Members Only**" page up and running during the first quarter of 2009.

Another challenge that we accepted this year was the task to try and get an accurate and up to date list of equine industry businesses in our state. I am a little disappointed in the response from our horsemen in getting their local suppliers and vendors to sign up and advertise their business. This list could be of great service to all of us, especially those moving into a new area or from another state.

Last, but not least, is the request for you to become more aware and active in the political process. It is important and will become more important in the future that we elect people who are knowledgeable and care about agriculture, and equine in particular. We encourage you vote and we encourage you to be an informed voter.



I will close by asking you to "Saddle Up and Ride into the Future With Us". Join the NCHC today!

What have you been up to lately?

It's been a while since readers have sent in pictures. Thanks so much to everyone who sent in pictures in the past. It is great to see horses and riders enjoying their sport. As you can see, there are a variety of disciplines represented by our members.

Keep those pictures coming. The NCHC Newsletter is your publication. The Newsletter is designed to keep you up to date on happenings at the Horse Council and around North Carolina. Pictures are just one way to keep the newsletter

fresh, so keep the pictures coming! If your picture is not used in this publication, please watch for it in future issues.

Pictures can be sent to the Horse Council 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. Your photos can be sent via email as an attachment to Cheryl@nchorsecouncil.com. Photos can also be mailed to the Horse Council Office.

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Agribusiness Sponsors

Now is the time to sign up your business to become an Agribusiness Sponsor for 2009. The Agribusiness Sponsor program was developed with the business owner in mind. Some of the benefits of being an Agribusiness Sponsor include the following:

- Membership in the NCHC
- Your Company's name and logo on our webpage
- Opportunities for your company's promotion in our Newsletter
- A voice in legislative and regulatory issues facing the Equine Industry

Your sponsorship has the potential to reach thousands of horse owners across the State. There are horse activities in all 100 counties in North Carolina. Our goal is to network the Agribusiness Sponsor with the horse owners and horse enthusiasts located in North Carolina. Sponsorship levels range from \$250 to \$1,000 per year.

Become a part of the exciting Equine Industry by supporting the North Carolina Horse Council as an Agribusiness Sponsor. Additional information can be found on the Horse Council website or by contacting the NCHC Office.

