



Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association

January/February 2018

Hi, everyone! This issue contains all the information you need for ECTRA's Annual Winter Getaway, with the schedule, the registration forms, and candidate resumes for the 2018 elections, plus the ballot.

"DEADLINE for hotel reservation is FEB 2ND AT 5 P.M. CALL THE HOTEL AT 717-469-0661 TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM; BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU'RE WITH THE ECTRA BLOCK. DEADLINE for registration for the ECTRA events is a week later - February 9TH. CHAR SAYS "I will accept late registrations, but I cannot guarantee food."

This issue is being mailed to ALL members via USPS, because of the ballot. If anyone knows of a method to vote electronically (some members get one ballot, families get two, Juniors cannot vote), that's something we might try in the future, as the expense of printing and postage for the entire membership is considerable. Maybe do a "ballot only" mailing in two batches, Individual and Family?

If you usually get your newsletter via e-mail, your paper copy will have **only** the essential voting and Annual Meeting info and ballot, and you will receive the entire newsletter, except the ballot, via e-mail. If you usually receive a paper copy, you will get the entire newsletter in the mail as usual.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY— EVERY YEAR SOME BALLOTS CANNOT BE COUNTED BECAUSE PEOPLE DID NOT FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

Be sure to mail your ballot so that it will arrive by Thursday, Feb. 22nd, to allow for travel time for the secretary.

**VOTING PROCEDURES:
YOUR BALLOT IS CONTAINED IN THIS
NEWSLETTER!**

You must be an adult 2017 member in order to vote.

OPTION 1: YOU MAY VOTE IN PERSON.

Individual members get one vote; a family membership gets two. Bring your ballot(s) with you to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 24th. The ballot box will be available until 2 P.M. When you cast your ballot, your name will be checked off on the membership list.

OPTION 2: YOU MAY VOTE BY MAIL. It will still be a secret ballot because the envelopes are not opened until the day the ballots are counted by the ballot committee at the close of voting at 2 P.M. Saturday.. **But you MUST print your name(s) in the return address area of the envelope so we can check off your name(s) on the membership list.** If your ballot does not have the names on the outside of the envelope, it will not be counted. If you are mailing it from your work or business, be sure that your name is in the return address area. Mark "BALLOT" on the outside of the envelope.

Do not mail the banquet reservations and your ballot in the same envelope! The ballots go to the Secretary,, Jeannette Cole, 287 West Hill Rd, Northfield, VT 05663

The reservation forms for the weekend must go to Char Jewell, 17 Hartley Lane, Raymond, ME 04071.

CANDIDATE RESUMES

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT: WANDA STAZICK, CT: Thank you for your support over my past terms as president and on the board. I would be happy to serve the membership for another term as President.

I have been involved with ECTRA for over 19 years and have managed and volunteered at many rides during this time. I feel that ECTRA is looking to its future with CDR and P/F divisions as they are both excellent ways to promote the sport to new individuals and increase participation at events.

I have been working with our local agricultural commission to introduce trail riding and ECTRA to the community. This awareness has helped in the community mapping local trails and promoting that all are welcome to use these trails and better understanding on the trails.

I feel that competitive trail and endurance are separate sports each with their own rules. Competitive trail's high standards and detail to horsemanship have started many of the top endurance riders. Competitive trail riding is a partnership and bond between horse and rider which ECTRA promotes. I hope to see you out on trail in 2018."

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT - ESTHER FIDDES, CT: "I am running for the position of Vice President of ECTRA, for my second term. I am also CO Chair of the Awards Committee, and am Nominating Chair. I have served on the board as a Director several times as well. I have been competing since the early 90's, and continue to love the sport. I am excited about all the positive changes we have made as an organization, and hope to continue to serve ECTRA in the future. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity."

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY - JEANNETTE COLE, VT: "Dear ECTRA members, I am seeking election to the office of secretary for the 2018 term. I am currently serving out the remainder of the 2017 secretarial duties and have been secretary for the organization in the past. While I cannot be a competing member within our sport due to the medications I am required to give my mare in order to keep her healthy, I still enjoy keeping active in other capacities. I endeavor to maintain an accurate accounting of all meetings and to assure timely communication to members. Thank you in advance for your support." Jeannette K Cole

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER - MEGAN THOMPSON, CT: " I am running for ECTRA Treasurer. I have over 2000 ECTRA miles and 3 of our horses have over 1000 miles. I have brought up two sons through the junior ranks of ECTRA.

I am a bookkeeper for several small businesses. I have long history of club / group leadership on both local and state level that starts with 4-H and FFA and goes through FFA Alumni and multiple college organizations. I was treasurer for the Gathering in Christ Church for a number of years and most recently have served on the Connecticut Morgan Board. I am thankful for all the volunteers that keep ECTRA running and make rides happen. I hope to be a productive and cooperative ECTRA officer.

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTORS: (VOTE FOR 2)

KATHRYN WATERS, VT: " I am asking for your support to join the ECTRA B.O.D. I did my first Competitive Ride at eleven years old on a four year old Morgan and I was bitten by the bug. Though I compete in other disciplines, distance riding has been the most educational regarding overall horsemanship. I believe it benefits all riders to at least experience getting a horse prepared for and successfully through a CTR or CDR. Also, I am a "rule nerd"; I love the nitty gritty details and origins of the ECTRA rules.

Professionally, I'm a Lyons Legacy Certified Trainer and I've had the privilege of bringing a number of green horses along for the discipline as well as helping green riders get their start. I believe this gives me a good perspective on the hurdles faced by newbies getting into the sport. I would be honored to be part of the Board and if voted in, will enthusiastically work to promote and support this organization."

LOUISE LESTER, MAINE: "I have been a member of ECTRA since the late 1970's and have ridden ECTRA rides since 1973. I left horse showing and eventing after I had found competitive trail riding and the knowledge and fun is afforded me. I have over 3000 miles in competition and can still say that I learn something new at every ride. I love the sport and want to stay active in the ECTRA organization. The need to build ECTRA membership and keep ECTRA rides in the northeast continues to be the reason I want to continue to be on the board of directors. I would like to see more competitive trail clinics for newbies and prospective judges. Without our riders and officials we wouldn't exist."

ECTRA WINTER GETAWAY & ANNUAL MEETING

February 23, 24, 25, 2018 Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville, PA

Friday

5 - 6 Registration
 5 - 8 Trade Show & Silent Auction
 5 - 8 Meet & Greet Reception
 6 - 8 BOD meeting

Saturday

7 - 8 Breakfast
 7 - 6 Registration
 7 - 2 Voting
 8 - 7 Trade Show & Silent Auction
 8 - 12 Dr Schott & Dr Harman
 12 - 1 Lunch
 1 - 5 Dr Schott & Dr Harman
 2 - 3 Ballot counting
 5 - 6 Annual Meeting
 6 - 7 Social Hour
 7 - ? Awards Banquet

Sunday

7 - 9 Breakfast & Registration
 Hot Topics & Judging
 9 - finish Round Table with
 Dr Schott & Dr Harman

REGISTRATION FORM – Please register by February 9 (late registrations will be accepted, however, food may be an issue)

Name _____ Email _____

Mailing Addy _____ Phone: _____

WEEKEND PACKAGE # Adults _____ @ \$ 125.00 = \$ _____

Friday meet & greet reception
 Sat. breakfast, lunch & Banquet
 Sunday Breakfast
 Sat. & Sun. Clinics

_____ Juniors under 18 # Juniors _____ @ \$ 90 .00= \$ _____

Additional people – please list first and last name needed for meal and function tickets PLEASE
 PRINT _____

A-LA-CARTE (ADULTS & JUNIORS)

Saturday Breakfast, Lunch & seminars # People _____ @ \$75.00 = \$ _____
 Saturday Breakfast, Lunch only # People _____ @ \$45.00 = \$ _____
 Saturday Lunch only # People _____ @ \$24.00 = \$ _____
 Saturday Reception & Banquet Adult # Adults _____ @ \$50.00 = \$ _____
 Saturday Reception & Banquet Junior # Juniors _____ @ \$30.00 = \$ _____
 Sunday Breakfast & Clinics # People _____ @ \$35.00 = \$ _____
 Sunday Breakfast Only # People _____ @ \$21.00 = \$ _____

Checks payable to ECTRA **OFFICE USE ONLY**
 Date Received _____ check# _____
 Batch # _____ Amount \$ _____

HOTEL ROOMS – 1 or 2 people \$89.00 – pricing is good for the nights of Feb 22, 23, 24
 Call 717-469-0661 Be sure you say you're with the ECTRA BLOCK. Our Block is reserved until February 2, 2018 at 5:00PM.
 Reservations made after this time are on space available and at the regular price. The room block is now OPEN so you can call and book your room now.

Weekend REGISTRATIONS mail to – Char Jewell, 17 Hartley Lane, Raymond, ME 04071, (207) 210-0541, ban_zus@yahoo.com
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E.C.T.R.A. Winter Get-A-Way—February 23 – 25, 2018

Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, Grantville, PA

We are preparing for a SPECTACULAR Winter Get-A-Way in 2018!!!

MEET OUR SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Dr. Harold Schott, DVM, PhD, DACVIM - Dr. Hal Schott earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell in 1980 and a DVM from the Ohio State University in 1984. He worked in a private equine practice in Santa Barbara, Calif., from 1984 to 1987 and followed that with a residency and PhD program at Washington State University from 1987 to 1991. He was on the WSU faculty from 1991 to 1995 as an instructor and then an assistant professor of equine internal medicine. In 1995, he came to Michigan State University as an assistant professor and progressed to associate and then full professor. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

His clinical interests include all types of urinary tract disease in horses, and his research focuses on fluid and electrolyte physiology, especially with prolonged endurance exercise. Dr. Schott's name is synonymous with electrolyte education in the endurance world. He has performed numerous studies and supported out sport for many years.

Dr. Joyce Harman, DVM, MRCVS – Many ECTRA members are familiar with Dr. Harman who participated in and supported ECTRA for many years. Dr. Harman graduated from Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984 with an interest in acupuncture and alternative medicine.

Dr. Harman became a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist in 1990. She decided to open her own practice and do just acupuncture, so she moved to Virginia in 1990 and opened Harmany Equine Clinic. In 1994 she became a Certified Veterinary Chiropractor and also completed an advanced homeopathic course for veterinarians. Along the way she has taken many other courses in holistic medicine for animals.

Dr. Harman is well known as an expert on tick borne diseases, she regularly consults with veterinarians and owners across the country for treatment protocols.

She has "written the book" on saddle fitting, with two volumes, The Horse's Pain Free Back and Saddle Fit Book for western and English horses. She also has a booklet to help introduce people to homeopathy for horses, The First Aid Guide to Homeopathy for Horses. Her goal is to help educate the equine industry about natural, holistic and integrative medicine.

Used Tack Table – got stuff you don't need? Someone might NEED it!! Please make sure you TAG all of your items with your NAME, contact NUMBER & PRICE! Thank you

Silent Auction – if you would like to donate an item to ECTRA for the Silent Auction, please let me know. I will need a description of the item & recommended minimum bid. You will be referenced in the Weekend Program as a Silent Auction Sponsor.

Trade Show – Vendors! Please contact Rebecca Wachtel to reserve a space – there is no charge. 215-766-0696, rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com, PO Box 179, Pipersville, PA 18947

Door Prizes and 50/50 – if you would like to donate a door prize, please let me know. Also, come prepared for the 50/50 raffle at the Banquet!

FMI - Char Jewell, 17 Hartley Lane, Raymond, ME 04071, (207) 210-0541, ban_zus@yahoo.com

FRIDAY NIGHT!!! Join us in the trade show room with your favorite bevy and bring snacks to share! Great time to catch up with friends you haven't seen in months and meet new faces!

2018 ECTRA Sanctioned Events (as of 1/15/18)

Wanda Stazick, Sanctioning Phone 860-447-3976, wstazick@sbcglobal.net

State Date Dist Name Contact

Limited Distance CTR:(1 day, 25-40 mi)

NJ	3/25	25	Bunny Hop PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 imalato@hudsonreporter.com
MD	3/31	25	Chesapeake Spring	Cate Peloquin. 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
PA	4/29	25	Cheshire CTR PF	Kim Colket 610-933-7074 rkcolket@verizon.net
NJ	5/11	40	NJ100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/12	35	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/13	25	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
ME	5/26	30	Maine 30 PF	Louise Lester 207-894-8185 louise1@maine.rr.com
ME	5/27	30	Maine 30 PF	Louise Lester 207-894-8185 louise1@maine.rr.com
VT	6/9	25	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org
VT	8/4	25	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org
VT	8/5	25	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org
VT	8/19	30	Warren Tessier Memorial	Sue Esty 802-299-1172. sesty1964@hotmail.com
MD	9/21	25	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
MD	9/22	30	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
NJ	10/27	25	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ	10/28	25	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 imalato@hudsonreporter.com

Middle Distance CTR: (2-days, 40-75 mi)

NJ	5/12-5/13	60	NJ100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
ME	5/26-27	60	Maine 60 PF	Louise Lester 207-894-8185 louise1@maine.rr.com
VT	8/4 - 8/5	50	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org
MD	9/22-23	60	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
NJ	10/27-28	50	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 imalato@hudsonreporter.com

Extended Distance: (3 days, 80-100 mi)

NJ	5/11 - 5/13	100	NJ 100+	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
ME	5/26-28	80	Maine 80 PF	Louise Lester 207-894-8185 louise1@maine.rr.com
VT	8/31 - 9/2	100	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org
MD	9/21-23	80	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com
MD	9/21-23	100	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin 410-652-3454 cpenguin57@aol.com

Drives CTR: (1-3 days, 25-100 mi)

NJ	3/25	25	Bunny Hop PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888 imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ	5/11	40	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/12	35	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/13	25	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/11-13	100	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ	5/12-13	60	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696 rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
VT	8/4	25	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org
VT	8/5	25	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509 mrosen@gmhainc.org P.5

Drives CTR,Continued:

VT 8/4-5	50	GMHA PF.	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org
NJ 10/27	25	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ 10/28	25	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ 10/27-28	50	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com

Conditioning Distance Rides and Drives (R&D means both rides and Drives)

NJ 3/25	10	Bunny Hop PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ 3/25	15	Bunny Hop PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
MD 3/31	15	Chesapeake Spring	Cate Peloquin. 410-652-3454	cpenguin57@aol.com
VT 4/28	15	GMHA Mud PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org
VT 4/29	15	GMHA Mud PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org
PA 4/29	13	Cheshire CTR PF	Kim Colket 610-933-7074	rkcolket@verizon.net
NJ 5/11	10	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696	rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ 5/12	10	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696	rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
NJ 5/13	10	NJ 100+ PF	Rebecca Wachtel 215-766-0696	rebeccawachtel370@gmail.com
ME 5/28	10	Maine CDR	Louise Lester 207-894-8185	louise1@maine.rr.com
VT 6/9	15	GMHA PF	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org
MD 9/21	10	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin. 410-652-3454	cpenguin57@aol.com
MD 9/22	15	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin. 410-652-3454	cpenguin57@aol.com
MD 9/22	10	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin. 410-652-3454	cpenguin57@aol.com
MD 9/23	10	Chesapeake Fall	Cate Peloquin. 410-652-3454	cpenguin57@aol.com
NJ 10/27	10	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ 10/27	15	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ 10/28	10	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NJ 10/28	15	Jersey Devil PF	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com

CTR Clinics

ME 5/19	10	Maine CTR & Judging Clinic	Louise Lester 207-894-8185	louise1@maine.rr.com
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Endurance (1-3 days, 50 - 100 mi)

NJ 3/24	50	Rabbit Run	Lucha Malato 201-970-6888	imalato@hudsonreporter.com
NY 5/27	75	New York Adventure	Naomi Campbell 252-205-4025	ncc1983-tjs@yahoo.com
NY 5/27	50	new York Adventure	Naomi Campbell 252-205-4025	ncc1983-tjs@yahoo.com
VT 6/10	50	GMHA Spring	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org
PA 7/1	50	Muckleratz Run	Laura Theurer 717-433-0754	lalu117@hotmail.com
VT 7/21	100	Vermont 100	Pam Karner 607-280-2282	drpamkarner@gmail.com
VT 7/21	75	Moonlight in Vermont	Pam Karner 607-280-2282	drpamkarner@gmail.com
VT 7/21	50	Moonlight in Vermont	Pam Karner 607-280-2282	drpamkarner@gmail.com
NY 9/8	50	Hector Half Hundred	Eva Norris 607-693-4024	eva83919@aol.com
NJ 10/6	75	Mustang Memorial	Eileen Mullen 856-701-6742	eileenjmullen@gmail.com
NJ 10/6	50	Mustang Memorial	Eileen Mullen 856-701-6742	eileenjmullen@gmail.com
VT 10/13	50	GMHA Fall	Megan Rosen 802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org

Limited Distance Endurance: (1 day, 25-35 mi)

NJ 3/24	30	Rabbit Run	Lucha Malato	201-970-6888	lmalato@hudsonreporter.com
NY 5/27	30	new York Adventure	Naomi Campbell	252-205-4025	ncc1983-tjs@yahoo.com
VT 6/10	25	GMHA Spring	Megan Rosen	802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org
PA 7/1	30	Muckleratz Run	Laura Theurer	717-433-0754	lalu117@hotmail.com
NY 9/8	30	Hector Half Hundred	Eva Norris	607-693-4024	eva83919@aol.com
NJ 10/6	30	Mustang Memorial	Eileen Mullen	856-701-6742	eileenjmullen@gmail.com
VT 10/13	30	GMHA Fall	Megan Rosen	802-457-1509	mrosen@gmhainc.org

Introduction to Endurance: (not sanctioned by ECTRA)

NY 9/8	15	Hector Half Hundred	Eva Norris	607-693-4024	eva83919@aol.com
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IMPORTANT NOTICES

ECTRA RIDERS AND JUDGES CTR CLINIC, MAY 19, 2018

There will be an ECTRA Judges and Riders Clinic on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the North Waterford Fairgrounds from 10:00 am to about 4:00 pm. This clinic will discuss all aspects of riding and judging an ECTRA Competitive Trail Ride. There will also be a mock trail ride of 5 miles for those who would like to experience what they would have to do on an actual ECTRA ride including taking their horse’s pulse and respiration, rating their horse for a long distance trail ride and going through the judging process.

The Judging portion of the clinic will discuss how to judge a ride using the ECTRA rules, and have a round table session for both riders and judges to ask questions. A bag lunch will be provided. This clinic will count toward Judges’ ECTRA certification. For more information: Louise Lester, PO Box 346, Raymond, ME 04071 or louise1@maine.rr.com or 207-894-8185.

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Mary Coleman writes “Once again I am rounding up awards for the Brookfield CTRs held in June. Sponsorships would be greatly appreciated. I have lots of nice items which I will have on display at the banquet. Thus far have maybe 2/3 covered but could use more breed awards paid for! Cost is only \$10. Hope to see lots of support for ECTRA at the banquet! Great speakers once again! And awards too!” If you can help, contact Mary at caf@raystownwireless.com

URGENT!!! If you are getting an award, and are not able to attend the awards banquet, PLEASE get back to me immediately, and let me know who will be bringing your awards home. Thanks, Esther estherfiddes@gmail.com

ECTRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Membership good thru December 31 of calendar year)

MEMBER (EFFECTIVE UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT)

**HORSE(s) - EFFECTIVE UPON RECEIPT OF PAYMENT.
MUST BE RENEWED ANNUALLY FOR MILEAGE TO BE COUNTED!**

Name _____				Name _____				
Address _____				Breed _____		DOB _____		
Address _____				Reg# _____		Color _____	Sex _____	
City _____		ST _____	Zip _____	Prev. Reg? _____	If yes, year _____		ECTRA# _____	
Home Phone _____		Cell Phone _____		By Whom? _____				
Email _____				Name _____				
Type _____	Ind _____	Family _____	Jr _____	Honorary _____		Breed _____		
						DOB _____		
ECTRA# _____	IF FAMILY, LIST ALL MEMBERS _____		Jr DOB _____	Reg # _____		Color _____	Sex _____	
				Prev. Reg? _____	If yes, year _____		ECTRA# _____	
				By Whom? _____				
				Name _____				
				Breed _____		DOB _____		
				Reg # _____		Color _____	Sex _____	
				Prev Reg? _____	If yes, year _____		ECTRA# _____	
				By Whom? _____				
Prior Member? _____		Latest Year _____		Name _____				
If name has changed, list prior name _____				Breed _____		DOB _____		
<p>MEMBERSHIP CLAUSE: (Mandatory that all adult members sign before membership is granted.) As a condition of, and in consideration for, acceptance of an application for or renewal of membership in the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association, Inc. (ECTRA) I represent that I have read, fully understand and agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of ECTRA. I further agree that the decision of the Board of Directors of ECTRA shall be final on any interpretation of said Rules and Bylaws and upon any dispute or protest which may arise thereunder.</p>				Reg# _____		Color _____	Sex _____	
				Prev Reg? _____	If yes, year _____		ECTRA# _____	
				By Whom? _____				
				Name _____				
				Breed _____		DOB _____		
Signature(s) _____				Date: _____		Breed _____		
				Reg# _____		Color _____	Sex _____	
				Prev Reg? _____	If yes, year _____		ECTRA# _____	
				By Whom? _____				

PLEASE RETURN ALL PARTS OF THIS FORM!

Family:		\$35.00		<p>Make Check Payable to: ECTRA</p> <p>Mail to: Marilyn Miles P.O. Box 76 Clarksville, NY 12041</p>	OFFICE USE ONLY	
Individual		\$25.00			Batch No	
Junior		\$15.00			Name:	
Honorary		\$0.00			State:	
Honorary + Fam		\$10.00			Check:	
Horse Registration		\$15.00	# _____		Cash:	
Other:				Payable in US Funds Only - Canadians please add \$5.00		
			TOTAL			

This was a column by syndicated humorist Dave Barry. I published it a few years ago but I needed to fill another page, and his columns are always good for a laugh:

PULLING THE REINS ON ROMANCE

Recently, a woman I know named Michelle came into the newspaper office with a big ugly wound on her upper arm. Realizing that she might be self-conscious about it, I said, “Michelle, what’s that big ugly wound on your upper arm?”

It turned out that she had been bitten by a horse. It was her own horse, and it bit her while she was trying to feed it. This is a typical horse maneuver. Horse are the opposite of dogs, gratitude-wise. You give a dog something totally wretched to eat, such as a toad or a wad of pre-chewed Dentyne, and the dog will henceforth view you as the Supreme Being. It will gaze on you for hours with rapt adoration and lick the ground you walk on and try to kill the pizza-delivery person if he comes anywhere near you. Whereas if you spend hours grooming a horse and lugging its food and water around, the horse will be thinking “Should I chomp on this person’s upper arm? Or should I merely blow a couple of gallons of horse snot into this person’s hair?”

I don’t trust horses. “Never trust an animal with feet made of the same material as bowling balls” is one of my mottoes. I never believed those scenes in Western movies when bad guys would tie the hero up, and the horse would trot over and untie the knots with his teeth. A real horse would size up the situation and stomp on the hero’s feet.

I don’t blame horses for being hostile. I myself would feel hostile toward somebody who was always sitting on me and yanking on my lips. But what I don’t get is, how come they’re so popular? Especially with women?

Now you’re probably saying, “Dave, you’re just bitter because in 5th grade you had an intense crush on Susan Cartoun and you wrote ‘Sue’ on your notebook inside a heart, but the name inside the heart on her notebook was ‘Frosty’, an imaginary horse that she loved much more than you despite the fact that, if Frosty ever had the chance, it would have got imaginary snot in her hair.”

Yes, it’s true that I am a little bitter about that. Also I have not forgotten my first experience with a horse. I was 9 years old, at a farm, and I attempted to ride a pony. “Pony” is a misunderstood word. Many young people, having grown up watching the “My Little Pony” cartoon show, believe a pony is a cute little pastel-colored critter with a perky voice and a nurturing personality and a 1973 Farrah Fawcett hair style. Whereas, in fact, a typical pony is the same weight as an Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme but with no controls or moral code.

Anyway, following my sister’s directions, I put my foot in the metal thing hanging down from the pony (technically, he “fetlock”) and instantly the pony, not wishing to be boarded at that time, trotted briskly off, with my leg attached to it. I attempted to keep by bouncing next to it on my other leg, like the famous Western cinematic star Hopalong Dork, but finally, in a feat of astonishing equestrian skill, I fell down backward and got dragged across the field with my head bouncing gaily behind amongst the cow doots.

I could tell the pony enjoyed this immensely. It couldn’t wait to get back to the stable and tell the other horses via Snort Language.

“You should have seen his hair!” snorted the pony. “He’ll need to shampoo with industrial solvents!” “Next time”, snorted one of the older horses, “try stepping on him. It’s like dropping an anvil on a Hostess Twinkie”. “And the legal authorities can’t prosecute, because we’re horses”, snorted another.

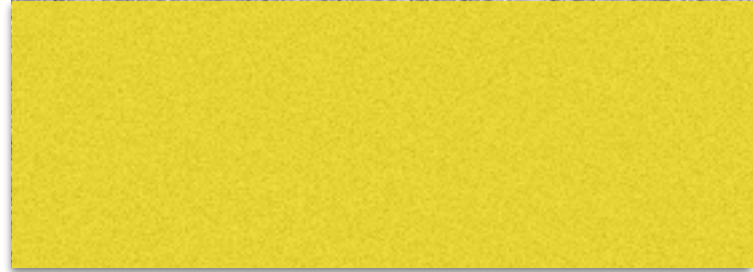
So I stayed off horses altogether until 20 years later, when I was courting my wife. We were in the Rocky Mountains, and they had rental horses, and she wanted to ride. Naturally, she loves horses. As a child, she used to ride a neighbor’s horse bareback, an experience she remembers fondly even though she admits the horse would regularly try to decapitate her by running under low tree branches at 27 miles per hour. I don’t want to sound like a broken record here, but why is it that a woman will forgive homicidal behavior in a horse, yet be highly critical of a man for leaving the toilet seat up?

Anyway, I was in Raging Hormone Courting Mode, meaning I would have wrestled a giant snake to impress my wife-to-be, so I let her talk me into getting on this rental horse. It turned its head around and looked at me with one of those horse eyeballs the size of a mature grapefruit, and I knew instantly what it was thinking: “Hey, it’s Hopalong Dork!” So while my wife’s horse trotted briskly off into the scenery, looking for low branches to run under, my horse just stood there, eating and pooping, waiting for me to put one foot on the ground so it could suddenly take off and drag me to Oregon. So I sat very still, like one of those statue generals, only more rigid. I’d say we moved about 11 feet in two hours. Fortunately, my wife’s horse was unable to kill her, and we got married and lived happily ever after, except that she kept saying that she wanted us to go riding again. I don’t know what to do. I think maybe tonight I’ll fix her a candlelight dinner, give her some wine, and put on some soft, romantic music. Then, when the moment is just right, I will gently but firmly bite her upper arm.

ECTRA Newsletter
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