



ONE COMMON BOND—THE HORSE; ONE COMMON VOICE— MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL

MHC UPDATE

mdhorsecouncil.org

Maryland Horse Council—What kind of organization is it?

MHC is a private, non-government related entity; it is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) organization with dues paying members.

Who makes up the Horse Council?

The Maryland Horse Council is an umbrella association for all Maryland horse organizations. The Maryland Horse Council belongs to the American Horse Council, which is an umbrella organization for all national horse organizations and state horse councils.

What is the purpose of the Horse Council?

Like the American Horse Council, which represents the horse industry on Capital Hill on federal legislation and regulatory issues, the Maryland Horse Council represents the horse community in Annapolis. Like our national organization, MHC monitors legislation and regulatory issues which may affect the horse community.

MHC also supports research, education and promotion.

How does MHC decide its position on issues, or what issues it is going to work on in Annapolis?

Members must bring an issue to the Board of Directors for discussion. The Board of Directors will then vote to establish the position of the Maryland Horse Council.

Who is on the Board of Directors?

The MHC Board of Directors consists of one representative for every dues-paying member organization. There are Directors-at-Large to represent non-association members (businesses, farms, individuals and youth). The Board of Directors elects the Executive Committee, which serves as a combination steering and long range planning committee. Members stay directors as long as their dues are current.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Thurs., Jan. 15, 2004

6-7 p.m. Meet & Greet Reception

Plenty to eat and drink!

sponsored by

Maryland Jockey Club

Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association

7-9 p.m. Business Meeting

Legislative Forecast

**including
SLOTS**

Guest Speakers: Tim Capps—Maryland Jockey Club

Thomas W. Winebrener, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assn.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, LuAnne Levens 301-421-1252 • levenslk@aol.com

Vice President, Michael D. Erskine, DVM 301-854-5689 • mikedvm@aol.com

Treasurer, Keith Wills 410-838-4242 • kwills@midatlanticfarmcredit.com

Secretary, Crystal B. Kimball 410-489-7826 • secretary@mdhorsecouncil.org

Recording Secretary, Doreen Hill

Dir. at Large for Businesses & Farms—Billy Boniface
Dir. at Large for Businesses & Farms—John Nunn
Director at Large for Individual Members—Beverly A. Raymond
Director at Large for Individual Members—Greg Gingery
Director at Large for Individual Members—Sol Goldstein
Director at Large for Individual Members—Elizabeth Madlener
Director at Large for Youth—Darryll Ann Buschling
Carroll County Equestrian Council—Carolyn Garber
Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club—Jacquelyn Cowan
Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association—Sharon Roberts
Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.—Kathleen Schwartz
Elkridge Harford Hunt—Albert J.A. (Jay) Young
Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.—Debbie Rollins Frank
Fair Hill International—Lou Morris
Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds—Pamela Bussard
Humane Society of Carroll County—Nicky Ratliff
League of Maryland Horsemen—Caileen Orr
Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation—Roger Scullin
Marlborough Hounds—Christy Claggett, jt-MFH
Maryland 4-H Foundation—Robert Cooper

Maryland Combined Training Association—Nancy Morris
Maryland Dressage Association—Judith Provencal
MD Equestrian Foundation/Rosaryville Conservancy—
Dorothy Troutman
Maryland Farriers Association—Tim Streaker
Maryland Horse Breeders Assn.—Cricket Goodall
Maryland Horse Shows Assn.—Street Moore
Maryland Jockey Club—Tim Capps
Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assn.—Felicia Hilleary
Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Assn.—Christine Bricker
Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Assn.—David Turner
New Market-Middletown Valley Hounds—Guillermo Warley
Pasadena Horse & Pony Club—Charlene McCraith
Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland—Sandy McCann
Potomac Hunt Club—Monica J. Breland
Potomac Valley Dressage Association—Jane Seigler
Trail Riders of Today President—Gale Monahan
Tuckahoe Equestrian Center—Royce Herman
Washington International Horse Show—Gina dePasquale
Wicomico Hunt—Cindy Wood



Maryland Horse Council

2004

Serving the
Industry
Serving You

- Association—\$100/year
- Farm/Business—\$50/year
- Youth Club—\$10/year
- Individual—\$25/year

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP—\$1,000 one-time fee

Institutional Membership: open to any private entity, corporation, or for a state, county or other municipal agency, department, service or office that wishes to support the Maryland equestrian industry. Membership shall be a one time fee of \$1,000. Payment shall entitle the institution to designate one or more individuals to serve in an advisory (non-voting) capacity to the Council.

Name _____

(Assoc./Business/Farm/Youth Club/Individual)

Phone _____

If Assoc., Representative to Serve as MHC Board Member _____

Phone _____

Alternate _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Website _____

Fax _____

**Mail w/ check payable to: Maryland Horse Council
P.O. Box 233 • Lisbon, MD 21765**

When Mountain Bikes and Horses Collide

What happens when mountain bikes and horses collide? Can equestrians and bikers share the same trails?

The Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE) invited equestrians to participate in a seminar on Trail Construction and Maintenance taught by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). So on a bright fall Saturday morning, 4 equestrians set out for Clifton Virginia, to find out more about mountain biking trails.

After a warm and friendly reception, the first thing we noticed is that mountain bikers are very organized, and know how to network. They have “liaisons,” volunteers who have built a strong working relationship with the managers of their favorite parks and are actively involved in working out solutions to trail problems. The mountain bikers were eager to learn more about the requirements of equestrian trails, and invited us to join in the fun and camaraderie of maintaining our shared trails.

We were disappointed to hear about several rude equestrians who expressed an entitlement to ride muddy trails because horses have traditionally been using those trails long before the sport of mountain biking evolved. Unfortunately, historical use is mostly irrelevant. Although mountain biking is a relatively new sport, it's also more popular and more affordable for the general public. If we don't want to be viewed as eccentric snobs, every one of us must serve as a “good will” ambassador every time we ride. Make sure you greet other trail users



in a friendly manner, and NEVER do anything that will intimidate another person. Horses seem big and frightening, and if you run past hikers on the trail, with mud flying up in the air behind you, well...you get the picture. It's not too hard to imagine how this can result in trails being closed to horses.

When we make a sloppy mess that makes it hard for bikers and hikers to use the trails, the park managers hear about it from other trail users. Because we're not well organized, the park managers don't have any way to contact the equestrians who may be damaging their trails. While it's not going to be easy to retrain some members of our community, we must follow the example of the mountain bikers by establishing good trail preservation methods and integrating volunteer workdays into our sport.

Outdoor recreation is on the rise everywhere, and this puts more pressure on our public trail systems. If we are to preserve equestrian access to public trails, we must share them in a manner that does not interfere with the enjoyment of hikers and bikers. Mountain bikers have a good “rule” to protect trails from erosion—they don't ride for 24 hours after it rains.

The second thing we learned is that trail maintenance isn't intuitive. Just about everything I thought I knew turned out to be wrong. So many of our attempts to control erosion in the past probably made things worse. Fortunately it was easy to learn how to implement the right solutions. We learned how to use a clinometer to measure the angle of a slope (less than a 5% grade is a goal), to plan a new route to replace eroding trails (following contour lines to reduce the grade), and to remove a berm on the outside edge of a trail that was channeling water down the trail.

The course material was excellent, and after lunch, we headed outside to practice what we learned. Out on the trail, we also learned how to use special hoes designed for trail work. These multifunction tools are called McClouds (a hybrid hoe and pick ax) and Forresters (a hybrid hoe and dirt tamper) after the rangers who invented them. They really cut down on the number of tools you have to carry into the woods with you for trail maintenance.

We were delighted to find out just how much in common we have with mountain bikers. EROSION is our common enemy. Bikes and horses don't cause erosion, water does. And managing the flow of water is the key element in controlling erosion.

Mountain bikers also like the same kind of “zippy” trails that are fun for equestrians—a little uphill, a little downhill, some parts easy, some parts challenging, winding around to provide a change of scenery, optional loops, and an occasional flat stretch to really “crank” (the mountain bike equivalent for canter). And they know how to design trails that naturally regulate the speed of bikers and riders, when it's appropriate to slow down.

The mountain bikers we met were all courteous and friendly. And they are very proactive and progressive when it comes to protecting and preserving their sport. Equestrians would be wise to emulate and join forces with the mountain bikers in their area. We're outnumbered, so why not join them? You might find that you have more fun too!

The Maryland Horse Council's Trails and Greenways Committee is planning to bring training on “Reducing Trail Erosion” to you in 2004. Visit our web pages at <http://mdhorsecouncil.org> and follow the link to “Trails and Greenways.” While you're there, sign up for our on-line discussion group, make plans to come to one of our meetings, and show up to help during one of the trail workdays. Want more information? Send e-mail to green@riva.net.

See you on the trails!

—Contributed by Peggy Bree