



**CT Horse Council  
TRAIL NEWS  
Volunteer Horse Patrol  
FALL 2007**



**DIANE CIANO - Recipient of the WFSB Channel 3 "EVERYDAY HERO" Award**



**Diane Ciano on Aladdin on the Larkin Bridle Trail  
Karen Hartwell with Scooby Doo & Randy Olmstead on bike**

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, CHC Trails chair, Diane Ciano and the Volunteer Horse Patrol (VHP) were the recipients of the WFSB Channel 3 "Everyday Hero" award. Channel 3's Scot Haney introduces a person each Friday who, by attitude and actions -- either big or small -- help make our state and the world a better place. Diane Ciano was a recipient of this award for her work in establishing the CHC Volunteer Horse Patrol and other work she has done to promote trail riding in Connecticut. She will receive a gift certificate from Pilgrim Furniture.

Eyewitness News pays tribute these Connecticut residents, whether they do a good deed for an individual, for the community or for people in need. Diane and the VHP were nominated due to the many hours they devote to trail maintenance and active patrols in the saddle acting as "the eyes and ears of DEP". To date, The VHP has logged several thousand hours to trail duties, and this translates into a savings of more than \$40,000 in taxpayer dollars. The CHC board of directors is very pleased with our VHP members, and we would like to congratulate them on a job well done. Special thanks to Marylou Millet and her horse Desiree acted as the mount for Scot Haney during the filming of the VHP on patrol by WFSB news crews at the Larkin Bridle Trail. To view the video go to: <http://www.wfsb.com/everdayheroes/14022988/detail.html>

## MEG SAUTTER - A NEW CHC-VHP SUPERVISOR



**Congratulations** and a **BIG Thank You** to Meg Sautter who has taken on yet another position as an additional Supervisor for the Horse Patrol. As the Patrol grows, there is increasingly more paper work and reporting to do. Starting in its beginnings of 2003, Meg has pitched in and volunteered to be the Coordinator for the Larkin Bridle Trail as well as offering to certify VHP members for CPR & First Aid (along with Angela Deschenes). Since then, she has also volunteered to become a Coordinator for Machimoodus State Park and Roraback Wildlife Management Area. With her wonderful mare, "Dancer" she puts on miles exploring trails around the state and has been instrumental in the helping the CHC Statewide project to ride and write reports on equestrian accessible trails. Somehow we have to find a way to "clone her". Thanks Meg for all your work.

### OUR NEW VOLUNTEER HORSE PATROL MEMBERS & HORSES

Congratulations to two new members of the CHC-VHP, totaling 27 new members for 2007: **Heather Deyo** of Oxford and **Gilly**, along with **Jane Samuels** of Deep River and **FFC Brigadier**

### NEWS OF OUR PATROL HORSES

**CHC - Volunteer Horse " Marshmellow" is now a patrol horse for the City of New Haven**

This handsome grey Percheron is ridden by Officer Roche formerly owned by Dana Stillwell.  
Best Wishes to the new team.

**CHC - Volunteer Horse " Sedona" retires. He is now on a retirement farm in Vermont.**

Rose Mary Biegger's new patrol horse is "**Little Chief**" and resides at Happy Trails Farm in Danbury.

## **NEWTOWN BRIDLE LANDS ASSOCIATION (NBLA) HOLDS HOE-DOWN TO BENEFIT CHC**

On August 25<sup>th</sup> the NBLA an old fashioned Hoe Down to benefit the CHC. Attendees received a barbeque dinner and an evening of fun, games and dancing. Happy Trails Farm gave us a wonderful demonstration of their drill team. Activities included a tug of war rope contest where winners received "special winner glasses" to light up the night. Then onto a roping contest to test their skills on the mannequin bull heads. An old fashioned barn dance up in the loft topped off the evening. A great turnout of close to 100 people showed up for fun and to support the CHC. This was the first time a horse organization took on a project such as this and donated its proceeds to CHC. A BIG Thank you goes to NBLA for their innovative idea and hard work to help the Council with our missions. **Special Thanks to Dee Davis and Cindy Miller and all the members of NBLA that worked hard on this successful event and to Lucy & Ed Prybylski who offered their wonderful Happy Trails Farm for the event.** We hope it will inspire others to help us continue our work for the equestrian community of Connecticut.

### **Lost Silver Mine Horse Camp, Natchaug State Forest Workday # 2**

The Connecticut Horse Council (CHC) and the New England Arabian Trail Organization (NEATO) organized another brush clearing work day of the campsite on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. 17 volunteers showed up to clear bush & small trees from the 28 outdated camp sites. Included with the volunteers was the new DEP Trails and Greenways Coordinator Laurie Giannotti, along with her husband Rob Butterworth and his sister visiting from Florida, Polly. Lunch was provided by CHC.

There were **62 hours** of trail maintenance recorded that will be used to apply for a grant fund for further work to the camp. A previous workday on June 30<sup>th</sup> brought in 136 hours, and recently on the 9/21-23, the CHC-VHP recorded 23 hours of trail maintenance, making a total of **221 hours to date.**

Improving the campground is a major undertaking in which everyone, both in and out of CT, will benefit greatly from. Workday # 2 is still just the beginning of a large scale renovation of the camp, the goal of the CHC is to replicate the camps at Escoheag (RI) and Otter Creek (NY) and eventually create a campground suitable for large scale camping that would encourage tourism to the area and increased use on the trails, including having the space to which to host Competitive and Endurance events.

The second phase of the project will be to submit a Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP) request for greater improvements.

We need volunteers to come forward to help build additional structures including a pavilion, new toilets, kiosk (for maps), and some piped corrals, numbering of the campsites, additional clearing and a pavilion, along with picnic tables for each of the 28 sites, as well as re-vamping some of the trails in the area and re-marking the multiple-use designated trails in the forest. Please join us in this project.

**CHC would like to start a " Friends of Silvermine Horse Camp" group, so that when work days are scheduled we can notify you and keep you in the news regarding the funding. The group can also work on some fund raising projects, such as a benefit trail ride or camp out to help with the federal match and get other work done (regrading of the campsites, removal of boulders, fill, etc. Please contact Diane Ciano with your name, e-mail address and phone number to be added to the list of contacts.**

***Remember: It's a camp designated for horse people to camp that has wonderful equestrian accessible trails. It doesn't come "free handed". We all have to pitch in and work on this and the trail systems if we want it to be updated.***

### **CHC- VHP Camp-Out - Natchaug State Forest - Silvermine Horse Camp September 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>**

Members of the Volunteer Horse Patrol camped at the Silvermine Horse Camp. There was plenty of room at the opened campsites from our previous workdays. 10 CHC-VHP members logged a total of 75 patrol hours and 23.5 hours of trail maintenance to the trails. A pot luck dinner included other equestrians camping for the weekend and a great time was had by all.



**Bunny Joseph on Dickens, Diane Ciano on Aladdin & Cowboy Ken on Red**



**Ginger Tullai with Express**



**Dana Stillwell & Cowboy Ken Forcier clearing trail**



**Dana Stillwell and Beau**