



New England

Open Schooling Horsemanship Meet

Competing ... Naturally

Event Guide

June 4-5, 2005

Hosted by

Spring Willow Farm

18 Blackstone Street

Mendon, MA

Open Schooling Horsemanship Meet
c/o Spring Willow Farm
18 Blackstone Street
Mendon, MA 01756



Welcome ! Join the Fun!!

- The Open Schooling Horsemanship Meet, sponsored by the AAPH_{NE}, offers a fun and competitive opportunity that encourages learning and exploration.
- Classes are structured to focus on the progression of the human and equine as a team in harmony while abiding by the natural behavior laws.
- This event is new in many ways and will differ from shows with which you are familiar. Please note that competitors will be supported throughout the event.

~ Horsemanship Classes ~

See the Class List for Categories of Progression, Freestyles, and Frolic and Romp classes.

~ Roundtable Discussions ~

Walk-in, moderated discussion groups (including competitors, spectators, evaluators, staff) share practices, experiences, information, and challenges with each other in a facilitated and structured setting. Posted and announced at the event.

~ Raffles ~

Tickets will be sold throughout the weekend. You do not have to be present to win.

~ Dinner and Entertainment ~

Saturday evening buffet dinner of barbeque fare will be available for purchase. Entertainment will also be provided

Let us know what you think! Your input will help develop future events.

- ⊙ Drop off your suggestions at any time during the event.
- ⊙ Fill out an evaluation form.
- ⊙ Email info@aaphorsemanship.org.

~ About AAPH ~

In 2004, a few individuals in New England with a common interest in the understanding and application of the natural laws of the horse gathered together to form a new organization. Providing an umbrella of learning, the American Association for the Progression of Horsemanship (AAPH) welcomes those with similar interests regardless of natural horsemanship method or discipline.

AAPH seeks to:

- Foster fundamental knowledge of the natural laws, movements, communication, and biomechanics of horse and handler.
- Offer a forum for learning, sharing, and applying these laws to horsemanship regardless of natural horsemanship method or discipline.
- Offer a form of competition that recognizes and evaluates the application of this foundation and focuses on individual horse/handler achievement.

In July 2004, the 1st Horsemanship Meet was held in Mendon, MA and provided participants with the opportunity to assess their horsemanship without compromising their natural horsemanship training. As future events are being planned, the New England chapter of AAPH (AAPH_{NE}) invites all those interested in sharing this new and exciting journey!

1st AAPH_{NE} General Meeting

April 29, 2005

7:00 p.m. Social, 7:30-9:00 Meeting

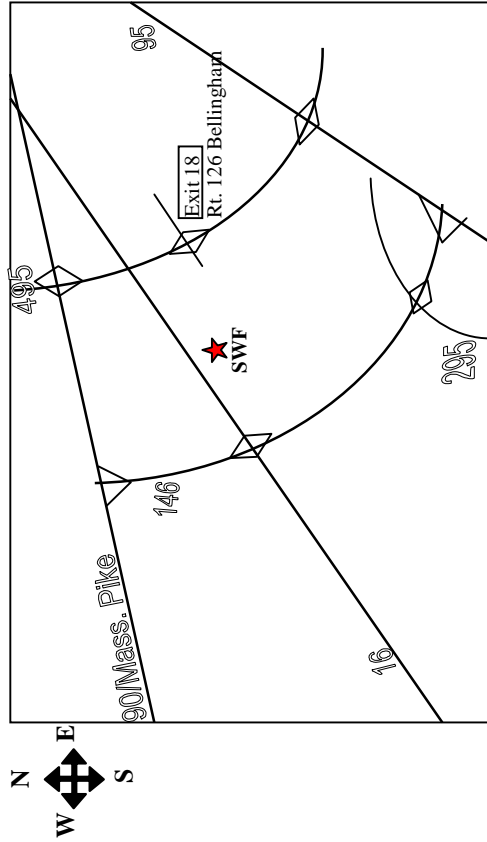
Auburn Sportsmen's Club, 50 Elm Street, Auburn, MA

Come check it out!

For more information about upcoming activities (directions, registrations, etc.), visit us on the website at www.aaphorsemanship.org

If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to receive mailed information, call Karen Noble at (508) 789-8129.

~ Directions ~



From the West – Route #16

- ◆ In Mendon, turn right onto Emerson Street (1st right after Country Hill Plaza).
- ◆ At end, turn right onto Blackstone Street.
- ◆ 2nd driveway on left.

From the East – Route #16

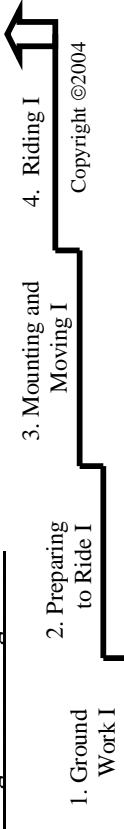
- ◆ In Mendon, turn left onto Main Street (Extra-Mart on left at traffic light).
- ◆ Bear left at stop sign in Mendon center.
- ◆ Take first right onto Blackstone Street.
- ◆ 5th driveway on left.

From North/South (Route 495) or Route #126

- ◆ Take exit #18 off Route 495. At end of ramp, turn left onto Rt. 126. At light (2nd from the North, 3rd from the South; Dunkin Donuts on left), go straight onto Hartford Avenue toward Hopedale – do not turn left to follow Rt. 126.
- ◆ At intersection with Rt. 140, go straight across and follow to end.
- ◆ Turn right onto Providence Street.
- ◆ Take 1st left onto Blackstone Street (before Mendon Center).
- ◆ 5th driveway on left.

CLASS LIST

Categories of Progression – Horse/Handler Evaluations



After a team meets or exceeds the minimum score, they are encouraged to enter the next Category of Progression. A team may also re-enter a category for continued improvement within that category.

Freestyle Classes – Applying skills in a practical way

5. Obstacles-In-Hand
6. Figures-In-Hand
7. Obstacles-Mounted
8. Figures-Mounted
9. Mix It Up - w/t
10. Mix It Up - w/t/c

Frolic & Romp Classes - Fun and Games

11. Water Relay
12. Capture the Flag Relay

BASE ENTRY

\$40 includes:

- ◆ 1 Category Evaluation
- ◆ 1 Dinner

ADDITIONAL FEES

- \$30 per add'l Category Evaluation (can add at meet)
- \$10 per Freestyle Class
- \$5 per Frolic & Romp Class
- \$20 per horse Schooling Fee (not entered in any classes)
- \$10 Post-entry fee per entry postmarked after 5/21/05
- \$12 per add'l dinner (See *Dinner* for more details)
- \$75 per horse for stabling

Make checks payable to: **Spring Willow Farm/AAPH**

EVENT SCHEDULE

Fri

- 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Check-in for stabling
- 9:00 p.m. Grounds closed to competitors

Sat/Sun

- 8:00 a.m. Meet starts
- 12:00 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. Roundtable discussions
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner and entertainment (**SAT. ONLY**)

CATEGORY

For your individual Category of Progression schedule, visit the website at <http://www.aaphorsemanship.org> or call (508) 473-8630, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1, only.

SCHEDULING

ARENAS/FOOTING Pens and fenced sand or grass arenas

AWARDS

Category certificates of achievement and patches will be awarded based on evaluation score and presented at 12:00 and 4:00 p.m. Each Freestyle and Frolic & Romp class will be awarded a prize and six (6) ribbons and presented at class completion.

FOOD

Available for purchase on the grounds

~ Rules and Regulations ~

Entries

1. Every class offered herein is covered by the rules and specifications printed in this program and will be conducted and evaluated in accordance therewith.
2. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to read and understand the rules and class/division requirements and qualifications before entering any classes.
3. Exhibitors agree to abide by all rules and regulations in effect or later adopted and further agree that failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of all entry fees and expulsion from the show grounds.
4. The show management reserves the right to vary or change show officials or evaluators, to decline any entry and cancel, divide, combine, or move classes when deemed necessary to facilitate the smooth running of the show. Classes may be split Jr./Sr. as entries warrant.
5. Pre-entries close May 21, 2005. Post entries will be charged a fee of \$10 per entry. Post entries for Category of Progression evaluations will be accepted **only as space allows**. Pre-registered competitors may add classes during the meet **as space allows** and will not be charged a post-entry fee.
6. Writers of returned checks will be charged a \$25 fee.
7. Refund for entry fees (less Administration fee of \$25.00) will **only** be made if request is received before post-entry date, and if accompanied by a veterinary or physician's certificate.
8. All entries must be accompanied by payment – no exceptions! Telephone, fax, and email entries will **not** be accepted.
9. All entries must show proof of negative coggins test (drawn within 12 months of show) that matches horse's show name.
10. All awards are based on a horse/handler team.
11. Evaluators' decisions are final.
12. At evaluators' discretion, horse/handler teams may be restricted from classes for safety concerns. Evaluators may also restrict equipment as necessary.
13. Schooling is permitted in authorized areas only. Courteous behavior is expected from all exhibitors and trainers. No lunging of horses is permitted anywhere on the property.
14. All horses using provided stabling must adhere to the rules as listed under *Stabling*.
15. Drinking of alcoholic beverages by anyone while exhibiting or mounted at any time is prohibited.

~ Hotels ~

The following area hotels are approximately 5-7 miles from Spring Willow Farm.

- ◆ Holiday Inn Express, 50 Fortune Blvd., Milford 508.634.1054
- ◆ Fairfield Inn and Suites, 1 Fortune Blvd., Milford 508.478.0900
- ◆ Courtyard by Marriott, 10 Fortune Blvd., Milford 508.634.9500
- ◆ Days Inn Milford, 3 Fortune Blvd., Milford 508.634.2499
- ◆ Radisson Hotel, 11 Beaver Street, Milford 800.333.3333 / 508.478.7010
- ◆ Taje Inn, 24 Beaver Street, Milford 800.322.8243
- ◆ Quaker Inn, 442 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge, 01569 888.355.7200

~ Stabling ~

Limited, temporary weekend stabling will be provided for \$75 per stall for the weekend on a first-paid, first-serve basis. The fee includes 2 bags of bedding, daily cleaning, and access to water. To reserve stabling on premises, complete the stabling information on the entry form and return with full payment.

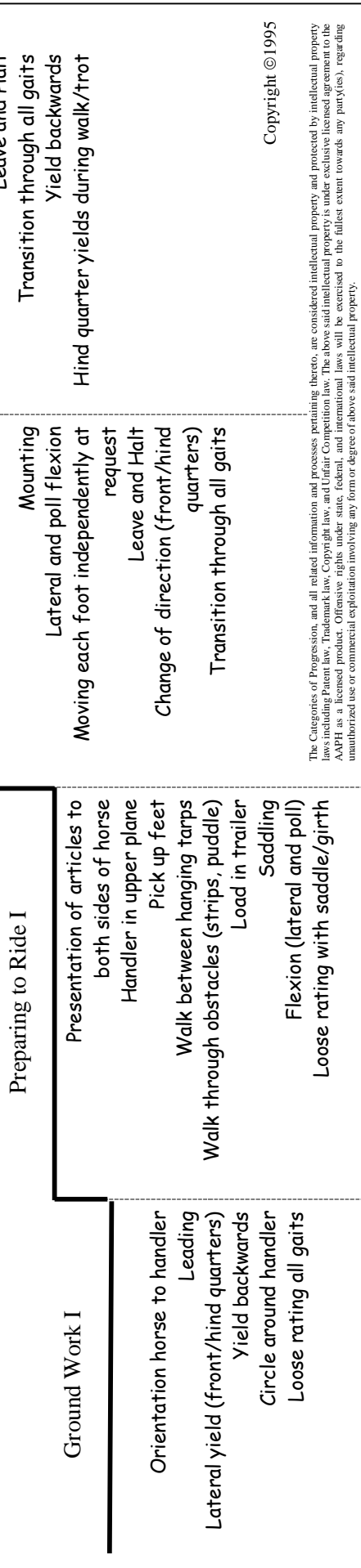
- ❑ Stall locations are assigned at the discretion of show management. A reservation holds one stall per horse.
- ❑ All stall reservations must indicate horse's name. No empty stalls may be reserved.
- ❑ If canceling a reservation, notification must be received by **Monday, May 30** to be eligible for a refund.
- ❑ Stalls will be available from **4:00 p.m. Friday, June 3** to completion of show.
- ❑ Handlers and other personnel are prohibited from staying on the premises overnight. No overnight outside or trailer stabling is allowed at SWF.
- ❑ Owners must provide horse's feed. Owners may bring additional bedding if desired.
- ❑ A vet and farrier will be on-call. There will be staff on property 24 hours/day.

Safety

FUN

Categories of Progression™

The categories put the working relationship between equine and handler into a practical context from ground work through riding as well as provide a framework for assessment of the application of skills and understanding of the natural equine laws.



The Categories of Progression, and all related information and processes pertaining thereto, are considered intellectual property and protected by intellectual property laws including Patent law, Trademark law, Copyright law, and Unfair Competition law. The above said intellectual property is under exclusive licensed agreement to the AAPH as a licensed product. Offensive rights under state, federal, and international laws will be exercised to the fullest extent towards any party(ies), regarding unauthorized use or commercial exploitation involving any form or degree of above said intellectual property.

Category of Progression Evaluations

- The Categories of Progression present a sequence that relies on building a strong foundation in one category before progressing to the next.
- Horse/handler teams are observed and rated by a panel of evaluators as the team performs certain tasks. For each movement, using the scoring criteria, evaluators assign scores based on a scale of 0 (not performed) to 10 (excellent).
- When a horse/handler team achieves a score of 85% or higher, the team receives an achievement award/patch for that category. The team is encouraged to enter the next category in the progression.
- If a team achieves a score between 55% and 84%, inclusive, the team may move on to, at most, one subsequent category at this meet. This is to give the team the opportunity to try the next step.
- Recognizing the importance of ending a working session with a horse on a positive note, each horse/handler team will be allowed, as needed, some time after their evaluation ends to reach a constructive conclusion for their session before leaving the pen/arena.
- Category achievements are solely associated with a specific horse/handler team and may not be transferred to other team combinations (different horse or handler).
- As schedules allow, exhibitors may re-enter a category for continued improvement within that category.

Scoring Criteria

All classes, including Categories of Progression Evaluations, will be evaluated according to the following twelve (12) criteria, where the focus is on the horse, handler, and horse/handler team:

Horse	Handler
◆ Attitude/Disposition of Equine	◆ Attitude/Disposition of Handler
◆ Awareness towards Handler	◆ Presentation of Request by Handler
◆ Handling of Request by Equine	◆ Method of Pressure Application
◆ Biomechanics of Equine in Movement	◆ Etiquette of Pressure Application
	◆ Biomechanics of Handler in Movement
Team	
◆ Spatial Relationship within Team	
◆ Energy/Synergy Link of Team	
◆ General Harmony of Team	

For more details about Category of Progression, scoring, and sample score sheets, visit www.aaphorsemanship.org or if you do not have internet access, you may request copies of website material by calling (508) 789-8129.

~ Freestyle and Frolic & Romp Classes ~

These classes afford competitors the opportunity to try a fun application of skills, based on the Categories of Progression. Mounted classes may be performed in any tack, excluding prohibited action devices listed under *Rules and Regulations - Attire and Appointments* (pg. 4). In-Hand classes may be performed with halter or neck rope.

Freestyles (Applying skills in a practical way)

- ❑ **Obstacles** (Class #5, #7)– From a total of 12 obstacle opportunities, competitors will perform three (3) mandatory tasks and three (3) additional tasks **of their choice** within a maximum allowed time. Obstacles may include serpentine, backing between poles or on a figure, approaching and moving an object (bucket, mail in mailbox, etc. puddle or bridge).
- ❑ **Figures** (Class #6, #8) – Competitors will perform individually demonstrating defined figures.
- ❑ **Mix It Up** (Class #9, #10) – Competitors perform in the arena together through paces, changes of direction, and halts, with the focus on precision and obedience.

Frolic & Romp (Fun way to end the day!)

You may enter these classes as In-Hand or Mounted.

- ❑ **Water Relay** (Class #11) – Relay teams will be created by show management from the entries. Competitors will transport water in a cup from one teammate to another using a posted pattern. The relay team with the most water in the cup after all teammates have participated wins the relay.
- ❑ **Capture the Flag Relay** (Class #12) – Relay teams will be created by show management from entries. Competitors will travel a set course collecting flags in a particular order from various locations on the course. Before the class begins, each team will determine which flags each of their members will be retrieving. Relay teams will compete on a prepared course for this timed class.



~ Rules and Regulations ~ (cont.)

Attire and Appointments

Selection and use of equipment must be in keeping with the nature of the meet and the philosophy on which it is based.

16. Tack associated with any discipline is acceptable.
17. Use of the following action devices is prohibited: martingales, draw reins, side reins, flash/drop/figure-8/crank/cable nosebands, crops, quirts, whips, sticks, bit burrs, spurs.
18. Use of clickers, treats, or voice is not permitted in any class.
19. All riders are required to wear ASTM approved helmets with a harness whenever mounted.
20. All handlers must wear appropriate footwear (no sandals or sneakers).
21. Formal show attire is encouraged though not required. Minimum attire includes: proper footwear, gloves, helmet (when mounted), and a neat appearance.

General

22. Due to insurance requirements, please leave your dog at home. **Dogs are prohibited from the show grounds.**
23. **NO SMOKING** inside the barnyard gate including in and around the barn, barnyard, paddocks, parking, and spectator areas.
24. Neither AAPH^{NE}, Spring Willow Farm, nor their employees or agents will be held liable for injury, theft, or damage to any person, property, or animal.
25. Abusive behavior to horse, spectator, competitor, parent, trainer, ring master, evaluator, or show committee is cause for **IMMEDIATE REMOVAL** © from show grounds, with no refund.
26. The Categories of Progression, and all related information and processes pertaining thereto, are considered intellectual property and protected by intellectual property laws including Patent law, Trademark law, Copyright law, and Unfair Competition law. The above said intellectual property is under exclusive licensed agreement to the AAPH as a licensed product. Offensive rights under state, federal, and international laws will be exercised to the fullest extent towards any party(ies), regarding unauthorized use or commercial exploitation involving any form or degree of above said intellectual property.

