

# Alternative Open Horsemanship Meet

## Event Guide

July 17-18, 2004

Hosted by  
Spring Willow Farm  
18 Blackstone Street  
Mendon, MA

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



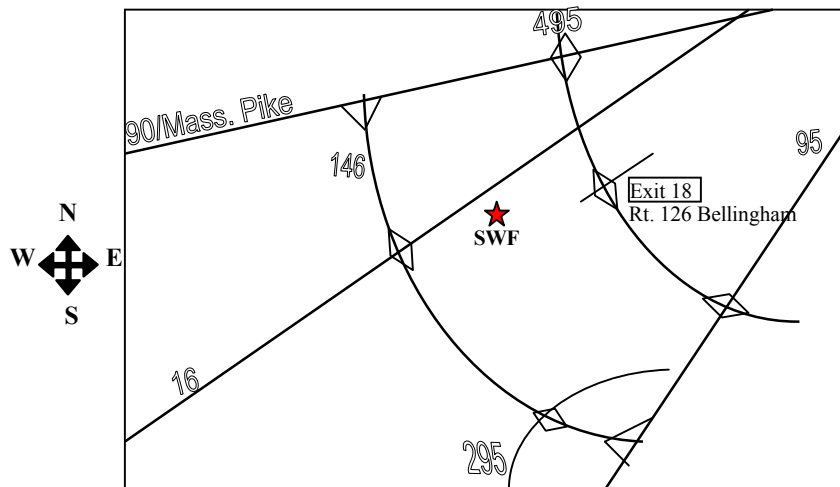


~ Stabling ~

Limited, temporary weekend stabling will be provided for \$125 per stall on a first-paid, first-serve basis. An additional \$25 cleaning deposit check, paid separately, is required. If owner adequately cleans the stall, the check will be destroyed. To reserve stabling on premises, complete the stabling form and return with full payment.

- ❑ Stall locations are assigned at the discretion of show management. A reservation holds one stall per horse. If additional stalls are requested (tack), they will be assigned on a space available basis (horses have preference).
- ❑ All stall reservations must indicate horse's name or use as a tack stall. No empty stalls may be reserved.
- ❑ To be eligible for a refund, notification must be received by Monday, July 12.
- ❑ Stalls will be available from 4:00 p.m. Fri., 7/16 to completion of show on 7/18.
- ❑ 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 bedding and feed. Water is available on premises.
- ❑ A vet and farrier will be on-call. There will be staff on property 24 hours/day.

~ Directions ~



**From the West – Route #16**

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

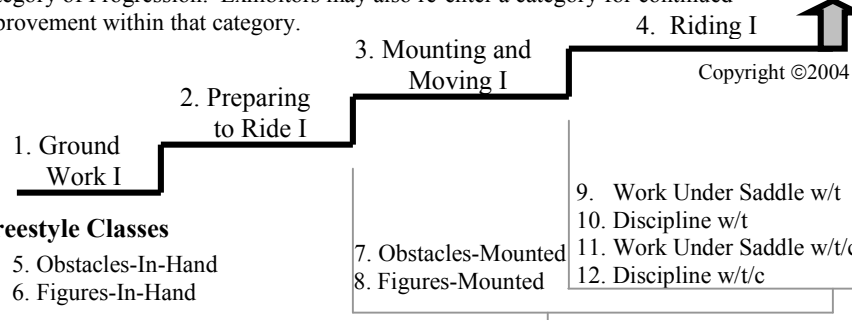
**From Route 495 or Route #126**

- ◆ Take exit #18 off Route 495. At end of ramp, turn left onto Rt. 126. At light (2<sup>nd</sup> from the North, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> left onto Blackstone Street (before Mendon Center).
- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> driveway on left.

CLASSES

**Categories of Progression Evaluations**

After exhibitors meet or exceed the minimum score, they are encouraged to enter the next Category of Progression. Exhibitors may also re-enter a category for continued improvement within that category.



**Freestyle Classes**

- 5. Obstacles-In-Hand
- 6. Figures-In-Hand

- 7. Obstacles-Mounted
- 8. Figures-Mounted

- 9. Work Under Saddle w/t
- 10. Discipline w/t
- 11. Work Under Saddle w/t/c
- 12. Discipline w/t/c

Category Achievement awards are required for entry in the Freestyle classes as listed and outlined below the Categories of Progression.

**Frolic & Romp Classes** (no pre-requisite required)

- 13. Water Relay
- 14. Musical Stalls
- 15. Capture the Flag Relay

**BASE ENTRY**

\$75 includes:

- ◆ 1 Category Evaluation
- ◆ 1 Dinner
- ◆ 1 Freestyle class (optional if eligible)

**ADDITIONAL FEES**

- \$50 per add'l Category Evaluation (can add at meet)
- \$15 per add'l Freestyle Class (eligibility reqs apply)
- \$10 per Frolic & Romp Class
- \$10 per horse Schooling Fee (not entered in any classes)
- \$10 Post-entry fee per entry postmarked after 7/3/04
- \$12 per add'l dinner (See *Dinner* for more details)

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

**SCHEDULE**

<b>FRI</b>	4:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Check-in for stabling
	9:00 p.m.	Grounds closed to competitors
<b>SAT/SUN</b>	8:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Category Evaluations
	11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Roundtable discussions
	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Freestyle and Frolic & Romp classes
	4:00 p.m.	Award presentations
	4:30 p.m.	Roundtable discussions
<b>SAT ONLY</b>	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Dinner and entertainment
	Demonstrations scheduled/posted throughout the weekend.	

**RIDE TIMES**

Visit the website at <http://www.aaphorsemanship.org> or call (508) 473-8630 between 7:30 – 9:00 PM only on Wednesday before the show for your scheduled times.

**ARENAS/FOOTING**

Pens and fenced sand or grass arenas

**AWARDS**

Category certificates of achievement and patches will be awarded based on evaluation score. Each Freestyle and Frolic & Romp class will be awarded a prize and six (6) ribbons.

**JUDGES**

Panel of 3-5 judges will evaluate competitors with final scores awarded to each horse/handler team.

**FOOD**

Available for purchase on the grounds

## ~ Rules and Regulations ~

1. Every class offered herein is covered by the rules and specifications printed in this program and will be conducted and judged 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 judges, 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 July 3, 2004. 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. Exhibitors are encouraged to leave their dogs at home. **Any dog brought to the show grounds must remain leashed at all times.**
11. Drinking of alcoholic beverages by anyone while exhibiting or mounted at any time will not be tolerated.
12. 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.
13. All riders are required to wear ASTM approved helmets with a harness whenever mounted. All handlers must wear appropriate footwear (no sandals or sneakers). For details see *Attire and Appointments*.
14. No action devices will be permitted on the show grounds. For details see *Attire and Appointments*.
15. All awards are based on a horse/handler team.
16. Judges' decisions are final.
17. At judges' discretion, horse/handler teams may be restricted from classes for safety concerns. Judges may also restrict equipment as necessary.
18. 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.
19. Use of clickers, treats, or voice is not permitted in any class.
20. All riders are required to wear ASTM approved helmets with a harness whenever mounted.
21. NO SMOKING inside the barnyard gate including in and around the barn, barnyard, paddocks, and spectator areas.
22. All horses using provided stabling must adhere to the rules as listed under *Stabling*.
23. Neither AAPH, Spring Willow Farm, nor their employees or agents will be held liable for injury, theft, or damage to any person, property, or animal.
24. Abusive behavior to horse, spectator, parent, trainer, ring master, judge, or show committee is cause for IMMEDIATE REMOVAL from show grounds, with no refund. ☺
25. 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.

## ~ 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.

- ☒ Tack associated with any discipline is acceptable.
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ Use of clickers, treats, or voice is not permitted in any class.
- ☒ All riders are required to wear ASTM approved helmets with a harness whenever mounted.
- ☒ All handlers must wear appropriate footwear (no sandals or sneakers).
- ☒ Formal show attire is encouraged though not required. Minimum attire includes: proper footwear, gloves, helmet (when mounted), and a neat appearance.

## ~ Roundtable Discussions ~

Walk-in, moderated discussion groups afford attendees (competitors, spectators, judges, staff) the opportunity to share practices, experiences, information, and challenges with others in a facilitated and structured setting.

## ~ Demonstrations ~

Demonstrations will be scheduled and posted throughout the weekend. The demonstrations offer observers a visual aid for a roundtable discussion or an opportunity to enhance their perspective on the progression of their horsemanship.

## ~ Dinner and Entertainment ~

A buffet dinner of barbeque fare will be offered to those who purchase a dinner (included in entry fee for those registered for a Category Evaluation class). Additional dinners may be purchased with entries or on Saturday on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. Music will be provided on Saturday evening.

## ~ Hotels ~

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

## ~ Categories of Progression™ ~

The Category of Progression evaluation classes are designed to encourage the continued advancement of one's own horsemanship. All competitors are encouraged to enter the Categories of Progression starting with Ground Work. Each category provides valuable information for continued advancement as well as an opportunity to test your skills.

### **Ground Work I (Class #1)**

This category addresses the basic relationship between horse and handler while performing ground maneuvers and basic foundation tasks.

Acceptable tools: halter or neck rope, lead (minimum 10')

This category is divided into three (3) segments: Orientation, Work on the Halter/rope, and Loose Rating (refer to segment C).

- (A) Orientation – The horse is freed into the orientation pen without the handler present. The judged session begins when the handler enters the pen and the team is observed as the horse orients itself to the handler.
- Handler obtains attention of the horse
  - Handler and horse come together as directed by handler
  - Handler puts on halter or neck rope
  - Team proceeds to the arena for the next segment
- (B) Work on the halter or neck rope comprises the following tasks:
- Leading on straight line, 180° turn of handler, and through a gate
  - Lateral yield of front/hind quarters
  - Backwards yield (straight line, circle, serpentine)
  - Circle around handler focusing on leave, conformation of circle (biomechanics of horse), circle, return to handler/face up
  - Team proceeds to the pen for the next segment
- (C) Handler removes the halter or neck rope before beginning loose rating. Loose rating involves matching energy between horse and handler through paces (walk, trot, canter) as suggested by handler through their energy (no signals or verbal cues), in both directions, in a very controlled manner, not moving, herding, or running the animal in pen. Start and stop with equine facing up to handler.

### **Preparing to Ride I (Class #2)**

This category addresses the ability of an equine to deal with pressure of the preparation of riding, including a saddle, and the handler's approach with individual objects. Work in this category is performed unmounted.

Acceptable tools: halter or neck rope, lead (minimum 10'), saddle, pad/blanket, girth

- (A) Handler leads horse into pen:
- Presentation of articles on both sides of the horse at standstill in a sequence called by judges
  - Response to slicker, tarp, trash bag, flag, others as chosen and directed by judges
  - Handler on platform or side of pen, ask horse to approach handler and stand sideways under handler, and articles on back both sides of horse
  - Pick up feet, individual foot chosen by judges
  - Team proceeds to the arena for the next segment
- (B) Walk between two hanging tarps
- Walk through obstacles (strips, puddle)
  - Load in trailer
  - Team proceeds to the pen for the next segment
- (C) Saddling
- Lateral flexion on ground (both sides) in halter
  - Poll flexion in halter
  - Loose rating with saddle and girth, as performed in segment (C) of the Ground Work category

## ~ Categories of Progression™ ~

### **Mounting and Moving I (Class #3)**

This category addresses the relationship between horse and handler during mounting and requests for basic movements under saddle in small pen.

Acceptable tools: halter or neck rope, lead (minimum 10'), tack of any discipline excluding prohibited action devices as specified in *Attire and Appointments*.

Handler leads horse already tacked into pen and the team performs the following:

- Mounting
- Lateral flexion, both sides while mounted
- Poll flexion while mounted
- Moving each foot at handler request as directed randomly by judges
- Leave, halt, change of direction front quarters, repeat other side
- Leave, halt, change of direction hind quarters, repeat other side
- Leave, transition through all gaits, end with halt

### **Riding I (Class #4)**

This category addresses the relationship between handler and horse under saddle.

Acceptable tools: tack of any discipline excluding prohibited action devices as specified in *Attire and Appointments*.

Competitors enter the arena and perform the following:

- Transition through all paces, in both directions
- 180° to 360° change of direction with front or hind quarters
- Backwards yielding (straight line, circle, serpentine)
- Front and/or hind lateral yields during walk and/or trot

Copyright ©1995

---

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.

---

## ~ Questions Answered ~

### **Q: What does the minimum score mean?**

- A:** The Categories of Progression present a sequence that relies on building a strong foundation in one category before progressing to the next. If there are weaknesses in one category, subsequent categories will show those same weaknesses as the handler asks more of the horse. The minimum score provides a quantitative assessment of whether or not the horse/handler team has built a strong foundation in a particular category and is actually ready for the next category.

### **Q: How many Category of Progression evaluations can or should I enter?**

- A:** You must start with the first category, Ground Work. After reaching or exceeding the minimum required score for a Category of Progression evaluation, a horse/handler team is encouraged to enter an evaluation of the next category in the progression. As schedules allow, exhibitors may re-enter a category for continued improvement within that category. Each category is judged separately from the others, and current work between horse/handler should guide the decision to enter subsequent categories.

### **Q: What is the purpose of continuing to work after the judging concludes?**

- A:** This meet is designed with education for all in mind, including horse, handler, and spectator. Although keeping a timetable is important for a smooth running show, we recognize the importance of ending a working session with a horse on a positive note; therefore we encourage horse/handler teams to conclude their interaction with a victory. Toward that end, each horse/handler team will be allowed, if needed, some time after judging ends to reach a constructive conclusion for their session before leaving the pen/arena.

## ~ 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 *Attire and Appointments*. In-Hand classes may be performed with halter or neck rope.

### Freestyles

(achievement in specified Categories of Progression is pre-requisite for entry)

- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Work Under Saddle** (Class #9, #11) – Competitors perform in the arena together while transitioning through paces, changes of direction, and halts, in the nature of a pleasure class.
- ❑ **Discipline** (Class #10, #12) – Competitors perform in the arena together on command through paces, changes of direction, and halts, with the focus on precision and obedience.

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

- ❑ **Water Relay** (Class #13) – Teams will be created by show management from entries. Competitors will transport water in a cup from one teammate to another using a posted pattern. The team with the most water in the cup after all teammates have participated wins the relay.
- ❑ **Musical Stalls** (Class #14) – Remember musical chairs? In this version, poles will be used to define virtual stalls in the arena. Horse/handler teams move along the rail until the music stops. The team unable to make it to one of the remaining stalls is eliminated until only one team remains.
- ❑ **Capture the Flag Relay** (Class #15) – 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. Multiple teams will compete on parallel courses for this timed class.



Categories of Progression™			Riding
Ground Work	Preparing to Ride	Mounting and Moving	
Orientation horse to handler Leading Lateral yield (front / hind quarters) Yield backwards Circle around handler Loose rating all gaits	Presentation of articles both sides of horse Handler in upper plane Pick up feet Walk between hanging taps Walk through obstacles (strips, puddle) Load in trailer Saddling Flexion (lateral and poll) Loose rating with saddle/girth	Mounting Lateral and poll flexion Moving each foot independently at request Leave and Halt Change of direction (front/hind quarters) Transition through all gaits	Leave and Halt Transition through all gaits 180 °-360° change direction (front/hind quarters) Yield backwards Front/hind quarter yields during walk/trot
			Copyright ©1995
<small>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.</small>			

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.

## ~ Scoring ~

### CATEGORIES OF PROGRESSION SCORING SCALE

During Category of Progression Evaluations, exhibitors are observed and rated by a panel of judges as the team performs certain tasks. For each movement, as applicable, judges assign scores based on a 0-10 scale. When a horse/handler team earns the specified minimum score or higher for a Category of Progression evaluation, the team is awarded a certificate of achievement and badge for that category and is encouraged to enter the next category in the progression from ground work to riding. Category achievements are solely associated with a specific horse/handler team and may not be transferred to other team combinations (different horse or handler). All competitors, regardless of score, will receive their score sheets from all judges.

For category evaluations, each horse/handler team will be scheduled for an evaluated session as well as unjudged time to constructively conclude their session as needed. Some segments will take place in a pen containing only horse/handler team, while others may take place in an arena, giving waiting teams the opportunity to observe others before beginning their own, judged session.

### SCORING CRITERIA (ALL CLASSES)

All classes will be judged according to the following twelve (12) criteria, where the focus is on the horse, handler, and horse/handler team:

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