**NORTHBORO HASH HOUSE HARRIERS RULE BOOK**

**There are no rules... only traditions**

**October 2014**

**PURPOSE**

Just like religion, there are rules we observe, rules we omit, and rules we dictate out of the blue.   Basically, there are no rules... only traditions.  Here is a vastly incomplete listing of the traditions of the Northboro Hash House Harriers.

**HARE RAISER**

The Hare Raiser is responsible to create a trail logo, post the event on the NH3 Facebook page and NorthboroH3 website, and invite all members of the kennel. The Hare Raiser must ensure there is at least one Trail per calendar month.

**HARE**

A Hash Trail is born when the Hare and Hare Raiser agree on a location, time, date, title, and description.  The Hare MUST disclose if the planned, true trail distance will be in excess of 6.9 miles by designating it as a “ballbuster” distance in the description. The Hare must disclose if additional hash cash is needed beyond the standard rate, which is $5 per Trail as of this writing.

**CO-HARES**

The Hare may invite one or more Co-Hares to mark the trail.  This method can improve the trail quality because the trail can be marked more clearly by using greater quantities of marking materials.  In addition,  more false trails can be marked, more beer can be stashed, and the hares could split the trail into a Turkey-Eagle.

**SWEEPER HARE**

The Hare should designate a Sweeper to ensure that the slowest, most intoxicated Hounds (aka DFLs) don't become hopelessly lost, or too far behind on Trail.  The Sweeper should have knowledge of the Trail trajectory and should guide the slowest Hounds to shortcuts to catch up with Pack if they become too lazy or too far behind.  The Sweeper is also responsible to remove garbage, particularly empty beer cans, left at the Beer Checks and On-On.  This hasher stays at the rear of the trail, and is a good job for a slower runner, or a lush.

**RAIN OR SHINE**

The Hare must not cancel the event because of weather, unless conditions would make it nearly impossible to lay trail, i.e. a blizzard or hurricane, or something. We hash in all weather conditions, even if that means the pack size will be small!

**HASH CASH**

The Hash Cash person is responsible to record the attendees hash name and home kennel, and to collect the hash cash, and disburse it to the Hare for expenses. Surplus cash stays with Hash Cash for the club account. The Hare is responsible for any expenses in excess of hash cash collected.

**TRAIL SECRECY**

Except to the Sweeper Hare, or possibly the Hare will not disclose any answers about the planned trail!  Questions about the trail would normally be answered with the quip:  "Only the Hare knows where the Hare is going."  The Hare does reserve the right to sell clues to clueless hounds at the cost of one down-down or other negotiated compensation.

**TRAIL MARKS**

All Trail marks to be used must be explained, in advance, at Chalk Talk. It is NH3 tradition for the Hare to clearly mark the trail.  This is normally done with sidewalk chalk and flour, or some other method could be used.  The Hare must bear in mind that Hounds are very, very, stupid.  The trail must be marked in such a way that a 5 year old child could follow it.

**HOT OR COLD TRAIL**

The Hare may lay a Hot Trail by laying the trail just minutes ahead of the pack, or the Hare may lay a Cold Trail by laying the trail hours ahead of time.  Cold Trails can be fun for the fittest hares, as they would normally run the route with with Hounds, as a second lap.

**ADEQUATE HYDRATION**

The Hare is responsible for providing adequate hydration to the pack in the form of BEER.  The BEER may be supplied at the start (On-On), at beer checks (BC), and at the end (On-In.)  The Hare isn't responsible to pay for BCs at bars, but a good Hare would notify the hounds of the necessity to bring additional Hash Cash for this purpose.

**HASHTORIAN**

The Hashtorian must also for the updating and safeguarding, and publishing the NH3 Record Book.

The Hashtorian is responsible to collect the statistics needed by contacting the Hares and Hash Cash.

**HARE SNARE**

An experienced Hare laying a Hot Trail will take steps to ensure he is not caught by a Hound while laying the Trail.  Taking steps such as laying the Beer Checks in advance, knowing the terrain, and taking a 10 minute head start from the On-On and from each Beer Check is local custom at NH3.  A Hound that is able to catch a Hare laying a Live Trail (not at a Beer Check) has achieved a “Hare Snare.”  This is a highly coveted accomplishment, similar to a perfect game in baseball, or a hole-in-one for golf.

**ALLOWABLE TACTICS FOR SNARING THE HARE**

Hounds determined to snare the Hare can employ countermeasures such as shortcutting, teetotaling, or the use of FRBs to catch the Hare before the end of the Trail.  If successful, the Hound must touch the Hare and mark a “Hare Snare” at the location where this occurred. The Hare must then give his pants to the Hound, and continue laying the Trail with no pants.  The entire pack, including the DFL, must stop at the Hare Snare mark, and wait 5 minutes before proceeding.

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**DISALLOWED TACTICS FOR HARES TRYING TO AVOID BEING SNARED**

If a hound can visually see a Hare, he may shout “Hare Snare!” This invokes a restriction on allowable Trail marks. Specifically, once a “Hare Snare” has been audibly called, the Hare is not permitted to lay any gathering checks for as long as the Hare is within sight of the FRB.  The Hare must continue on laying a true trail.  This regulation is necessary to prevent the Hare from writing numerous gathering Checks mere seconds before he is snared.​

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**THE CHICKEN AND PIG**

Pack position is measured at each check and at Circle, in order to bestow esteemed titles, and, a rubber chicken and pig.

FRB:  Front Running Bastard (Carry Freddy Chicken); DFL:  Dead Last (Carry Doris Pig)

**BEER CHECK**  The Hare is responsible for including correctly-proportioned Beer Check on Trail.  A well-designed Beer Check will have enough beer for everyone and set so that the Pack arrives at about the same time, regardless of their running ability.  Arriving last to a Beer Check to find the FRBs have already finished the beers is an unspeakable insult to the Pack.

**CHALK TALK**  It’s the Hare's duty to familiarize the pack with the marks that they will encounter. Marks can vary according to local custom, so visitors and virgins should pay close attention.

**SHORT-CUTTING**  As in life, some Hounds are delighted to run the trail exactly as it has been laid, and others seek a deviant path.  Shortcutting is allowed.  This is not to say that shortcutting won’t result in being accused for a down-down, but it is to say that the reward of a Hare Snare, or for arriving to Circle sooner, may be worth the punishment.

**R U?  ON-ON?**  Calling out “R U?” is done to inquire whether or not the listener is on the true trail.  Good etiquette requires the listener to answer either “On-On” or “Checking.”  Answering “On-On” means the listener has found the True Trail.  Answering “Checking”means the listener doesn’t know where he is.  Blowing a whistle or a horn is equivalent to answering “On-On.”

**ACCUSATIONS** The “Circle” is normally begins after the last DFL has been accounted for.  The first order of business is normally to recognize the Hares, the FRB, the DFL, etc.  Then the calling of accusations begins.  Any Hasher can accuse any other Hasher for an infraction or praise on Trail.  Do not point.  Put your vessel on your head and wait your turn!  The accused stands in the Circle, and is given some beer.  A song is sung, and at the end of the song the accused can either do a down-down or pour the beer on his head.

**OTHER ETIQUTTE**

​Don’t raise your hand or point:   (Put your vessel on your head or gesture with your elbow.) Don’t say “Head.”  (See Head Chant)

Don’t wear a hat in Circle

Don’t pour beer on the ground.  (Put it in a lush’s belly)

No race-ist (from running races) clothing

Bring a Vessel, Whistle, and Flashlight

When 1 Hare Drinks, All Hares Drink

**HEAD CHANT**

If you use the word “head,” or trick someone else into saying it you can expect to hear the Head Chant.

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**VIRGINS**

A first-time visitors to the hash are “Virgins”and thus, must be introduced to the rest of the hash so that the hash might take advantage of them later.  It is customary to call the Virgins in the Circle and serenade them with the "We've Got Virgins" song.  We might ask a few tricky questions, too.

**REBOOTS**

Tradition: A “Reboot” is a hasher who hasn’t attended a NH3 hash for at least 3 months.

**VISITORS**

Visitors are called into the circle (all of the visitors from a specific kennel are called in at once) and are asked to introduce themselves to the hash. After introductions have been made the Visitors have the option of singing a song, telling a joke, or showing a body part.  Frequently the body part option is declined if the visitors are male, because nobody wants to see hairy, wrinkled balls.

**NEW SHOES**

Wearing new shoes is a major hashing faux paus.  Anyone caught wearing new shoes at the hash must pay the penalty of having to drink beer from out of their shoes (donations from the circle are taken so the shoe is fulll), so unless you like feet-flavored beer, you should wear well-worn hashing shoes.

**CONE OF SILENCE**

This punishment is dispensed for a hasher who has repeatedly refused to shut their fucking mouth during circle.  In this instance,the accused wears a traffic cone and is not allowed to talk while wearing it.  The cone may be occasionally removed so that the Accused can do a down-down through the top of it.  Normally the cone will remain in place for 10 minutes, with time added if the Accused has the audacity to speak while wearing it.

**NAMING REGULATIONS**

**HASH NAME**

While hashing, a hash name must be used to protect the identities of the hashers.  Earning a hash name is a great honor whether it's earned easily or through great suffering. Failure to use a hash name while addressing a hasher (during a hash)  may result in a small punishment, such as a down-down. The hasher being named must have run at least three NH3 Trails as a prerequisite.

**PEARL NECKLACE**

A hasher can normally be spotted by their Pearl Necklace, which is lettered with their hash name.

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**NAME FLINCH**

The hasher being named must not like the name.  There must be evidence of the hound complaining or discouraging the use of the name.  For example, some hounds will suggest an alternate name, or plead and protest, and some hounds will just quietly flinch or a groan.  Any negative reaction meets the name flinch criteria, so long as at least one hasher will testify that the name is disliked.  The name will be tried unofficially, as a "Sticky" name until it either dies out, or gathers enough support amongst the hounds to initiate a Sealed Name Ceremony.

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**69% CONSENSUS METHOD**

This is the preferred naming method, and must always be attempted at least once before resorting to the Closed Door Method. The Consensus Method name is derived democratically, with a super- majority consensus of at least 69% of hashers present at Circle.

The Consensus Method begins with the RA asking the Pack if there are any nominations for namings. If a naming is proposed, then the nominee is called into the Circle and the Pack will call out the suggested names. Each suggestion offered should include some affirmative testimony about the applicability of the name, and evidence of the name flinch. Each hasher shall be given one turn.

After each hasher has been given a turn, the RA will call a vote to determine whether any proposed name has support of at least 69% of the Pack present. The RA himself and Virgins do not get a vote. If a 69% majority is achieved, then the RA will immediately proceed with the naming ceremony. If this majority is not achieved, then the Closed Door Method may be used next time.

**CLOSED DOOR METHOD**

If a naming by Consensus Method has previously failed, the RA may elect to elicit private and confidential suggestions from the Pack for names. This can be done during or outside of a hash. The decision to invoke the Closed Door Method is solely at the discretion of the RA.

At Circle, the RA will inform the Pack that, because of the failure to obtain a 69% majority last time, there will be naming this time whether by Pack Consensus or Closed Door. The RA will state what the Closed Door Name will be and why.

The Pack will be given one last chance to propose an alternative name, or to achieve a consensus on the Closed Door Name. Each hasher given a turn and a vote, like last time.

Whether or not a 69% majority is achieved, the RA will immediately proceed with the naming ceremony, without further debate or dissent from the Pack.