



Warning

**Per the by-laws of The Vermont Horse Council
This is notification of the Annual Meeting to be held:**

**March 8, 2009 – 1:00pm
VFW Hall, Winooski VT**

Important: We will have a pot luck lunch please bring something to share
Please note that no outside beverages can be brought into the VFW, VHC will
purchase all beverages for our members from their bar.

Directions: From I-89 take exit 16 and turn south onto Route 7 go approximately
2 miles, Maple Street will be on your right there is a military tank on the lawn.

Agenda:

Secretary's Report

Treasurers Report

Committee Reports:

American Horse Council – Leslie Bowen

Annual Trail Ride - Karen Blow

Farm Bureau – Bev McMullin

Equine Industry Committee – Betsy Greene

Groton State Park Equine Trails and Horse Camping – Jeanette Cole

Large Animal Technical Rescue - Cindy Cross-Greenia

Membership - Terry Rose

NEKET – Martha Benoit

Newsletter – Carmel Stone

Parade Group - Jody Barna

Riding & Driving - Brenda Lasell

Website – Jeanette Cole

Green Mountain National Forest – Steve Noble

Farm Show – Morris Lasell

Safety –Lynn Dow/Betsy Greene

Equine Emergency Grant Committee – Cindy Cross-Greenia

Old Business

Everything Equine – Lynn Beebe/Betsy Greene

New Business

Nominating Committee – Morris Lasell

Election of Officers

Horse Person of the Year Award



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL “Creating a unified equine voice”

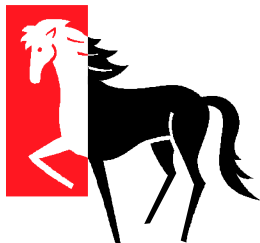
Presidents Letter by Cindy Cross-Greenia

This is my last president's letter. In March my second one year term will end and per VHC by-laws a new president will be elected. At this time I would like to thank all of you who have been there through the last two years, there were those who called and emailed to thank me for a job well done and others who criticized and complained. I thank you all, for all of you have taught me something and allowed me to grow as a leader. Most of all I want to thank my committee chairs and directors, my officers both current and past Roger Morin, Bev McMullen, Susan Mitchell and Terry Rose. Terry you are an excellent friend and resource that has always there to be my sounding board and my voice of reason.

I look forward to leaving my presidency with a new project to work on in the Equine Emergency Fund and encourage every member to bring projects that you feel strongly about to the VHC table. This will help in the creation of new projects and committees that will better the lives of horses and horse owners of Vermont. This is what makes this organization great and enables it to grow.

I have enjoyed my time as your president and have always used the title proudly whether speaking to the press, another horse association, fire department or member. When asked what the Vermont Horse Council does I have confidently listed off our accomplishments such as creating new trails, scholarships, LATR, safety committee, and our wonderful members who are there to help those in need. I hope in ten years when the VHC president is asked the same question the answer list will have grown.

Happy Trails and Kiss Your Critters for Me



A Happy Ending Junior the Missing Horse Returns by Cindy Cross-Greenia

Originally written as an email on November 13, 2008

Most of you have heard this but for those that didn't – an update follows below

Good news everyone!! Junior walked out of the woods and into the driveway of the property owner where we have been searching for him since September 25th at approximately 8:15am this morning.

He was very weak and had difficulty walking but was more than willing to be caught by his owner Beth Gilpin. I received the call and got ready and headed up to Waterbury, Tammy Simon was in the area and came right over to assist Beth with whatever she may need.

It was determined that Junior was in no shape to walk home so Deb Martin was called to trailer him. Junior is now home and resting comfortably he is extremely thin and dehydrated however the vet just left and has set up a feeding schedule to both start to add weight and increase hydration. She has drawn blood to check all organ functions and we will have the results tomorrow. I think this little guy just decided it was time to give up and come home so he had the sense to stand somewhere he could be found.

I can't tell you how happy I am right now! I am still in Waterbury and using Beth's computer but wanted you all to know the news.

Follow up – All of Junior's blood test came back fine. The last time I saw Junior was mid December and he was out of his stall and steady on his feet. I talk to his owners regularly and they tell me he is doing great!! He enjoys being home and playing with his new friend Lacey he is on a special diet for weight gain and is slowly building back-up. Junior is Vermont's own little miracle horse!!

Horse Person of the Year Nominations

It is that time of the year again – time to make your nominations for the Vermont Horse Council Horse Person of the Year!!

Do you know a member who has made a contribution to VHC or the horse industry in Vermont through their ideas, the projects they have created or the sheer amount of time they volunteer? Please nominate them!! It's easy just send a letter or email singing the praises of this special person to:

Cindy Cross-Greenia, PO Box 392, Underhill, VT 05489 or
goodhorsekeepingco@yahoo.com.

The deadline for nominations is February 17th with the award being presented at Annual meeting on March 7th.

New Representative to the American Horse Council

Welcome and thank you to Ilene Douglas who has agreed to become our new representative to the AHC. I expect Ilene will keep all of us well informed of important legislation and news coming from the American Horse Council.

How Can You Help VHC?

Currently we have a need in two areas but remember most of the committees are always interested in new members just let one of the officers know what your interests are and we will find the committee for you!!

Vermont Trails and Greenways: We are in need of a member to serve as a representative to this organization. Their mission states "The Vermont Trails & Greenways Council seeks to ensure that people will always have access to adequate land and water-based trails and greenways." More information can be found at www.vermonttrailsandgreenways.org. Virginia Lancaster has served in this position for many years, she is unable to continue and I would like to thank her for her service to this organization.

Equine Emergency Fund Committee: This is a new committee that will assist individual owners and those holding seized horses for animal cruelty cases during these tough economic times. There is a lot of work to be done and committee members with this type of interest would be appreciated.

Vermont Horse Council Meeting Dates for 2009:

March 8, 2009 - Annual Meeting 1:00 pm Place To Be Determined

August 1, 2009 NEKET Trail Ride and Pot Luck Supper. Meeting To Be Held During Dinner
Time and Place to Be Determined

November 8, 2009 1:00 pm Place to Be Determined

In order to have a quorum, we need 4 officers/directors present at each meeting.

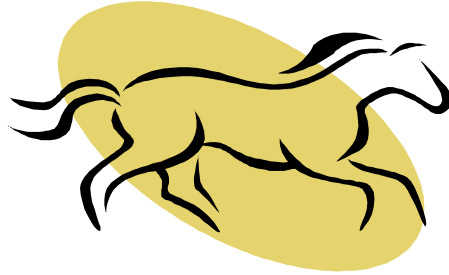
REMINDER: NEKET TRAILS

If any of you are planning go on the NEKET rides, you must acquire a Vermont Horse Council Membership and NEKET pass to use the trails. The membership also affords you a discount for the Tunbridge ride (actually pays for itself) It can be downloaded from the Vermont Horse Council web site. -Ken Hoepner

VHC MISSION STATEMENT - From the 1975 Articles of Association

- To promote and protect the interest of all Vermont horsemen and horsewomen.
- To provide information on the Vermont horse industry, laws and regulations affecting it and on other related subjects.
- To be a means of communication between all horsemen and to provide information to the general public.
- To map, mark, and develop interconnecting riding trails throughout the state of Vermont.

- To encourage horsemen to respect public and private property rights.
To take such action as the general membership directs.



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL MEETING
January 18, 2009
VFW Hall, Winooski, VT

Present were: Cindy Cross –Greenia, Pres., Roger Morin, VP, Terry Rose, Treas., Bev McMullin, Lisbeth Kokx, Carmel Stone, Steve Noble, Lucie Noble, David Blow, Patricia Branon, Martha Benoit, Mike Benoit, Brenda Lasell, Morris Lasell and Amelia Rose.

The meeting was called to order by President Cindy Cross-Greenia at 1 PM.

The secretary was not present to read the minutes so Cindy asked for a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last newsletter. Terry made the motion. Seconded by Patricia. All in favor.

Treasurer's report by Terry. There was discussion concerning the expiration dates on money which has been earmarked for specific committees. The recommendation was that the money be retained in the general account without being committed past the expiration date. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Martha and seconded by Roger. All were in favor. There was discussion of the checkbooks which do not generate interest and the ones which are interest bearing. No action was taken.

The Trail Maintenance Fund money does not have an expiration date. The question was raised about the VT Equine Industry money and what it was needed for. Motion was made by Mike to return these funds to the general fund. Seconded by Roger. All approved the motion. Note was made of the fact that there was no disapproval of the committee only that there was no movement of funds by the committee in five years.

A suggestion was made to Terry to look into money market accounts for some of the funds. VHC's current bank is Northfield Savings. It was suggested that she look at other banks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

American Horse Council – Leslie Bowen

Cindy reported that Leslie has stepped down from this position and Ilene Douglas will take this responsibility. There is a survey on the website of the

Unwanted Horse Coalition to help determine people's opinions on the horse slaughter ban, euthanasia and responsible horse ownership. It takes about ten minutes to do the survey.

The National Animal Identification System will require micro chipping of horses for country to country shipping of horses, but probably not to Canada.

Cindy also reported on the status of Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). A stallion from the UK was found to carry it. Now 36 stallions have been identified as carriers. Mention was also made of legislation which will prohibit the transport of horses in double deck trailers.



Annual Trail Ride– Karen Blow was not present.

(The Tunbridge ride will be held this year on September 26 and 27 as noted by Martha Benoit in her NEKET report.)

VT Farm Bureau – Bev McMullin.

Their annual meeting to set policy priorities for this legislative session was held in Middlebury last November. Recognition of equine activities as farming under the current use program will be pursued.

Groton State Park Equine Trails – Jeannette Cole was not present.

Cindy reported that Jeannette wants to do two loops this year and that fund raising will be necessary as state funds are not likely to be made available.

Large Animal Technical Rescue – Cindy Cross-Greenia

Grafton was set up in November and will cover to the Brattleboro border. Tinmouth will be set up in the near future and will cover to Bennington. Therefore the southern area of the state will be covered. There will be training on May 23rd at Melody Squires' place in Tinmouth. The Professional Firefighters of VT and Vermont State Firefighters Association will distribute information regarding the location of LATR teams. She will apply to the Amy Tarrant Foundation for a grant as the fund is getting low. There is presently \$3,803.45 in the fund.

Membership – Terry Rose

Terry reported that there are now 182 addresses as compared to 176 in October. There are 74 NEKET pass holders and 120 email addresses to which the newsletter can be sent.

Northeast Kingdom Equine Trails – Martha Benoit

Not much activity to report at this time of year. Martha will set a ride date for early September or October. Roger stated that some of the nice trails and bridges have been repaired and are in good shape for carts and buggies. Logging has been done and the roads repaired so they are better for trucks and trailers to access the area from Maidstone.

Newsletter – Carmel Stone

Carmel reported that 117 people are currently receiving the newsletter by email and 68 by regular mail. The deadline for the next newsletter is January 30th. Please send articles to her by then. The current months for newsletter publication are January, March, June and September.

A discussion to set the dates for the meetings for the rest of the year followed. It was concluded that the next meeting would be held on March 8th at 1 PM, followed by a meeting on August 1st to be held in connection with a trail ride in the NEKET area. It was suggested that a potluck be held on Saturday afternoon as part of the meeting. The final meeting of the year was scheduled for November 8th at 1 PM. Locations for the March and November meetings to be determined. The newsletter would come out after each of the meeting dates.

Parade Group – Jody Barna not present.

Ride and Drive – Brenda Lasell

There are two new members to the program. Brenda reported that some people sign up but do not follow through to report their hours and some do not renew their membership. Morris suggested putting the hours earned in the newsletter. Cindy cautioned that names of youth under the age of 18 cannot be published without a parents' permission. Discussion followed regarding publicizing info on the ride/drive program.

Safety – Lynn Bebee/Betsy Greene not present.

The safety poster will be discussed at the next meeting.

Scholarship – Lynn BeBee

Morris reported for Lynn that four scholarships were awarded. Terry looked in the checkbook and found that one at \$500 from the general fund, two at \$400 each from the college scholarship fund and donations to the 4H Foundation and the AQHA Jr. Assoc. had been made. Bev suggested putting the names with the amount given in the newsletter but no action was taken. One half of the proceeds from Everything Equine go to the scholarship fund. Motion was made and seconded to distribute \$1000 to the Youth and 4H account and \$695 into the college fund account. Motion carried.

Website – Jeannette Cole not present.

Cindy conveyed Jeannette's message that the site is going fine, but she needs info from committees to add to the site. Please send items to her!

Green Mt. National Forest and Finger Lakes Region – Steve Noble

Steve reminded the group of the exact title of the organization. Designated additions to the horse trails were made on October 17, 2008 as follows: nine miles north and twenty seven miles in the southern section. As some of these sections are on public roads caution needs to be exercised when using them. If you have questions about GMNF uses, the federal person in Rutland should be contacted. Maintenance of horse trails will not receive funding this year. Groups will be asked for work parties and money to help with trails. There will be a meeting at VT Technical College in Randolph on Wednesday, February 11 from 10 AM – 3 PM for all interested parties.

Equine Industry Committee – Betsy Greene not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Everything Equine – Betsy Greene

Betsy sent information that Kenny Harlow would be a headliner at the event in April. The dates are expected to be the 24th, 25th and 26th at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Jct.

Membership Survey – Roger Morin

Only seven replies were received so no consensus of opinion could be reached.

Logo Design Contest – Roger Morin

No one responded, but Roger will pursue this idea. He would like to see jackets, shirts and hats with horses, people riding etc. to attract attention and show our pride in the organization.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy for Personal Expenses

it was explained by Cindy that Lynn BeBee submitted a request to be reimbursed for her expenses of \$150 which she incurred during Everything Equine 2008. She stated that this had been approved in the past, although no record of it could be found in previous minutes. However, the directors were polled by telephone and the payment was approved. Discussion followed and examples of different situations which could arise were offered.

A case by case basis was suggested. A motion was made by Terry that a committee should submit a budget, including personal expenses, for events at a regular meeting.

Discussion on the motion, with comments by Roger, Steve, Brenda, Terry, Morris, Martha, Patricia, Carmel and Mike followed. The motion was reworded as follows: A request for funds for a committee or activity for VHC must be

submitted with estimated expenses for VHC approval. Motion was made by Mike and seconded by Patricia and all approved.

Proposal of Emergency Fund for Humane Societies and Horse Owners in Need

Cindy explained the need to assist someone who had taken in horses which had been seized in the Rutland area. Franklin County also had a seizure of horses. She reported that another sixty horses may be seized soon. A Proposal for Equine Emergency Grant was circulated. She explained the proposal and discussion followed. She will head a new committee to obtain grants for emergency help. The first step will be joining the Vermont Humane Federation to assist with creating protocols for the care of seized horses as well as understanding the needs of horse owners through reports made through the Vermont Animal Cruelty Reporting System – these reports are often not true cruelty but an owner that may be facing hard time and may need help paying for feed or basic care. Cindy has found grants to apply for such as the ASPCA Emergency Hay Grant and Petsmart Charities Equine Emergencies Grants. Patricia Brannon has also volunteered to work on this committee a motion was made by Morris to authorize the committee to join the VT Humane Federation and to apply for grants and to seek donations to fund emergency care and feed and to pay the \$50 membership fee. Motion carried. Morris made a second motion to approve funding for the committee from the general fund in the amount of \$1,050 and to encourage her to raise money for the work. Mike seconded the motion. All approved.

-Terry reported on a request to clean and dry horse blanket from the fire department which was trying to help a horse owner whose horse had gotten its blanket wet and dirty. By making some calls she was able to find someone to help. This is just another example of the VHC reaching out to help.

- VT Greenways and Trails Council representative Virginia Lancaster would like to resign. Morris suggested putting something in the newsletter to find a new representative. The council meets in the daytime.

- Mention was made of the fact that VAST trails are not suitable for riding and are not available after the snow is gone as the VAST agreements with landowners are not valid after that time.

- Nominating Committee – Bev made a motion that Morris continue to serve and that she would step down and Terry and Roger be asked to serve. Carmel seconded the motion and all approved.

- VT Farm Show takes place next week on the 27th, 28th and 29th. Morris asked for volunteers to staff the VHC booth. Denise Commons has been making calls searching for volunteers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Membership Committee Report

Prepared For October 11, 2008 Directors Meeting

By Terry Rose, Membership Chair

10/10/08

176 addresses @ 10/10/08, this compares to 209 addresses @ 3/27/08

251 members at 10/11/08, this compares to 324 members at 3/27/08

including:

12 LIFETIME
7 Business
65 Family
5 Farm/Club
86 Individual
1 Junior

Total Number of NEKET Passes Held:

74

Kingsland Bay Stables LLC holds 4

this compares to 88 3/30/08

swap newsletters: 7

Email Addresses: 114

Breakdown by County

Addison = 19
Bennington = 3
Caledonia = 4
Chittenden = 30
Essex = 2
Franklin = 12
Grand Isle = 2
Lamoille = 12
Orange = 24
Orleans = 7
Rutland = 4
Washington = 19
Windsor = 16
Windham - 2
Out of State = 20

Membership is looking for 2 new volunteers. One to increase membership, organize membership booths and get the word out to the public about our exciting committees and Also, one volunteer to maintain membership and contacting members to make sure VHC is providing a good service to them. If you are interested in helping, contact Terry Rose right away.

Respectfully Submitted, Terry Rose, membership chair

CEM Outbreak Awareness

 The American Horse Council has sent a memorandum to all AHC member organizations regarding the outbreak of CEM, Contagious Equine Metritis in light of the current outbreak in the United States. As a result Canada has imposed additional restrictions on horse imports from the U.S. into Canada. Additional certification for horses (including Canadian horses returned to Canada, but excluding horses for immediate slaughter) will be required on all U.S. export health certifications as of January 10, 2009 This also includes Canadian horses exported to the U.S. after January 19, 2009 and returning on a Canadian health certificate.

The full protocol can be found on the following website:

http://aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_eq.pdf

CEM is a transmissible, exotic, venereal disease and quite serious because it is highly contagious. It is usually spread by stallions during intercourse with mares. Thoroughbred horses appear to be more severely affected by the disease than other breeds. Because animals may be asymptomatic, the disease is difficult to detect and control. Outbreaks usually occur at breeding facilities following international horse shipments.

The January 29, 2009 Newport Daily Express carried an article about horses in Maine that have been contaminated and are now in quarantine. The disease was first detected in England and has spread to many countries. If you go on to the internet and look up CEM, there is additional information on the disease.

The American Horse Council web site has a variety of information that should be viewed by all members of the VHC. There is also a link to a questionnaire regarding the plight of unwanted horses that the AHC would like for all Horse Council organization members to fill out.

Progress on the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) (article on next page).



While construction hasn't started yet VAST is making steady progress on the LVRT. There are a myriad number of permits to obtain before design can start, and our consultant is working diligently to complete permitting actions. Permitting also includes Act 250, and we are hopeful that by the time you read this article the project will have completed all the actions necessary on Act 250. While the permitting phase continues we are also actively working the characteristics of the trail, as some of these are influenced by permit requirements. For instance, it appears that to cut down on the impermeable surface of the trail- to comply with storm water permitting- we will be including more grassy surface along the trail edge at the expense of the hard crushed stone surface. This should appeal to equestrian travelers.

We are also looking at equestrian guard rail concepts for the bridge crossings, and the US Forest Service recommends a heavy guard rail at approximately 54" to 60" high. We would encourage you to send in your comments on such a guard rail, or any other comments on trail design for horse riders, to VAST at pfalz@kingcon.com.

The photo is the "new" bridge across the Missisquoi in downtown Swanton. Their almost complete rail trail starts at the western end of the LVRT and continues through the town, across the river, to the Rail Museum on the western shore. The bridge is actually two historic highway bridges from other locations in Vermont which were salvaged and rehabilitated for use where the old covered railroad bridge was. The third, middle span is a new truss bridge. Swanton plans to have this open to the public in the spring of 2009.

And, finally, VAST and the Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail need your support to complete the LVRT. Please consider a donation to VAST for the trail, and/or a membership in the Friends (www.Friendslvrt.org) to help our volunteers work on the non-motorized aspects of the LVRT.



sable view pony camp

natural horsemanship development center

Jerry Williams - 2* Parelli instructor

June 13-14th

Adv. Level 1 - Clinic

Adv. Level 2/3 - Clinic (Saturday)

www.jerryswilliams.com

Private and semi-private lessons and assessments by appointment

Kelly Sigler - 2* Parelli instructor

August 1-2nd

Adv. Level 1 - Clinic

Adv. Level 2/3 - Clinic (Saturday)

Private and semi-private lessons and assessments (Sunday) by appointment

www.kellysigler.com

for more information please contact :

Leslie Chadwell

sableview@dishmail.net

802.234.9264

Calendar of Events:

3/8/09 1pm	Vermont Council Meeting	Winooski, VT	Annual Meeting – Potluck Elections of new officers	
4/25-4/26 2009	Everything Equine Event	Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Junction, VT		http://cvexpo.org/equine.aspx
9/25-9/27 2009	Annual Vermont Horse Council Ride	Tunbridge, Vermont	Karen Blow , 64 Orchard Terrace, Graniteville, VT 05654 802-479-2448 KayBee10@charter.net	

2009 Nominating Committee:

Roger Morin 899-4030 rogerm49@aol.com

Moris Lasell 433-1344

Terry Rose 728-6303 terry..rosevhc@yahoo.com

Contact these people with any words of wisdom, suggestions, complaints, etc. for the 2009 slate of officers. At our annual meeting, we will be nominating and electing:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Director At Large

Directors to be appointed by President

Classified Corner:

For Sale: Haggis Trooper saddle, dark brown, only used 3 months. Very comfortable, 18" wide tree. Asking 750.00 or best offer. Can provide photos upon request. Used on gaited horse, call 879-7354 or email motortim@aol.com.