



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

VFW Hall, Winooski, VT

March 8, 2009

VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL

“Creating a unified equine voice”

Present were: Cindy Cross-Greenia, Pres., Roger Morin, VP, Terry Rose, Treas., Beverly McMullin, Sec’y., James Deberville, Patricia Branon, Karen Blow, Ilene Douglas, Brenda Lasell, Morris Lasell, Nancy Boldt, Sue Altland, Calvin (CJ) Altland, Mike Benoit, Martha Benoit, Mandy Brandolino, Frank Brandolino, Steven Vieira, Janie Thompson, Becky Ainsworth and Winston Ainsworth. The meeting was called to order by President Cindy Cross-Greenia at 1 PM.

Secretary’s report – Bev McMullin The minutes of the January 18, 2009 meeting were read. Motion to approve by Morris, second by CJ. All approved.

Treasurer’s report – Terry Rose The motion to approve made by Brenda, seconded by Patricia. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

American Horse Council – Ilene Douglas Ilene stated that she was very pleased to have taken on this responsibility. She reported on the AHC publication which gives information about the organization and passed it around the room.

Trail Ride - Karen Blow The Tunbridge ride will be held on September 26 and 27. Fires will not be allowed at individual campsites. One site will be designated for a common campfire.

Farm Bureau – Bev McMullin Look for info on the benefits of being a member in the next newsletter. More interest and members from the equine community are sought.

Groton State Park Equine Trails and Horse Camping – Jeannette Cole Jeannette sent the info that signs were ready to be put up. The state made the signs, but VHC will have to put them up. Roger offered to drill new holes and move the posts in order to make the stalls larger. This will be appreciated by the members who use them.

Large Animal Technical Rescue – Cindy Cross-Greenia The next training will be held on June 6th at Melody Squires’ in Tinmouth. This date has been changed from May 25th as that is Memorial Day (observed). Last year there were six calls for help. To date this year there has been one. Morris stated that it was good “insurance” to have this in place. There are now four sets of equipment in place: Colchester Technical Rescue (Chittenden and Washington counties) Orwell (covering Addison and northern Rutland counties), So. Woodstock (half of Windsor and Orange county) and Grafton (southern Windsor county to the border). Tinmouth will be number five and will cover southern Rutland county, through Bennington to the border.

Membership – Terry Rose As of 3/2/09 there were 188 addresses as compared to 182 in January. There are 257 members... As of January first last year there were 192 addresses and 304 individual members. The complete report will appear in the newsletter. Beverly displayed a poster showing a dot for the location of each address. This poster will be used at Everything Equine.

NEKET – Martha Benoit Martha reported that May 23rd will be a work day. Everyone is encouraged to participate! It will be in the Maidstone area and she will put more info on the website. Ilene offered to put some people up overnight for the workday. Benois have a camp there and would also have space for some overnight volunteers. Ilene asked about the map. Liability is an issue if you are riding on the portions which are not designated as NEKET. VHC insurance will not cover you if you are riding in those areas on the map. The NEKET ride weekend will be September 10, 11 and 12. This changes the date for the next VHC meeting as the ride was originally planned for August. The meeting will be held on Sept. 12th after the days' ride.

Newsletter – Carmel Stone There are presently 135 email addresses to which the newsletter can be sent. Please send your correct email or street address if you are not receiving your newsletter. Deadlines are not being met! The absolute deadline for the next issue is NOON on MARCH 20! There is no wiggle room this time.

Parade Group – Jody Barna No report.

Ride and Drive – Brenda Lasell There are three new members. There are some people from whom she has not received any hours.

Website – Jeannette Cole No report. However, items are always welcome. Please send updates or information to her anytime.

Green Mountain National Forest and Finger Lakes Region – Steve Noble No report... However, it was mentioned by Cindy that federal stimulus money will be available for trail improvement. She will follow up with Steve.

Farm Show – Morris Lasell The show closed early on Wednesday due to the weather. The total taken in for new memberships was \$115. Three NEKET passes were sold and \$145 in raffle tickets were sold for the benefit of the Cliff Murray/Floyd Fuller Scholarship Fund. The names of the raffle winners were read. Morris thanked the donors of prizes for the raffle and also the volunteers who staffed the booth on January 24, 25 and 26.

Safety – Lynn Bebee/Betsy Greene Neither Lynn or Betsy were present. Karen raised the question of the expiration date of the funds for the safety poster on which this committee has been working. The date has been extended once and is now set to expire on May 31st. Discussion followed about the importance of having a poster with which to educate the public about the state law regarding the rights of equestrians on the roads. Karen read a letter she wrote to her local paper to plead for consideration and observance of the law. Morris made a motion to allow the authorization of the money to die at its expiration date of May 31, 2009. CJ seconded the motion. Motion carried. A motion was also made to approve Karen's letter for distribution. Motion carried.

Equine Emergency Grant Committee – Cindy Cross-Greenia Cindy read a six point letter that she wrote to Joanne Bourbeau of the Vermont Humane Federation outlining the program, its criteria and how to apply for assistance. Ilene offered to accept applications for help. Karen, Patricia, Cindy and Carmel will be on the committee. They will vote on requests and refer them to the then ask Terry to write the check. Deb Martin will attend the Vermont Humane Federation meeting and will work to help establish protocols for how to handle equines that have been seized in cruelty or neglect investigations in order to establish what a foster home would be required to pay for and what will be provided. The purpose will be to ensure that horses are not placed with individuals who cannot afford to foster them as has happened in the past.

OLD BUSINESS

Everything Equine – Lynn BeBee/Betsy Greene Neither Lynn or Betsy were present. The Horsin' Around show will not be our project this year. VT Farm Bureau will replace VHC and will receive proceeds from the show on Saturday evening. The dates of the event are April 25th and 26th at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex, VT.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership revocation. Cindy reported on the situation of lifetime member Suzanne Hagerty, who was charged with two counts of cruelty to animals and received a suspended sentence of eight years. Many of her animals, including horses were seized from her home in Rutland County, although a small number of them were returned to her. Cindy referred to the By Laws which state that a member shall be admitted, retained or expelled by a vote of the membership. A motion to revoke her membership was made by Janie and seconded by Morris. Motion carried unanimously. Cindy will write the letter to notify Suzanne of the action taken and will send it by certified mail.

Nominating Committee and Election of Officers – Morris Lasell Terry, Roger and Morris are the members of the nominating committee. Terry announced the following slate of officers for 2009. President, Mike Benoit; Vice President, Roger Morin; Secretary, Jeannette Cole; Treasurer, Terry Rose; and Director at Large, Cindy Cross-Greenia. There being no further nominations, Janie made a motion that the secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers as read. Patricia seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Trail Maintenance Fund Committee – Morris Lasell Morris would like to do a ride to raise money for the fund in July. VHC gave the committee \$350 last year for trail repair. The Dog River Club assisted in this work.

Ancient Roads – Ilene Douglas Ilene has been working in the Morgan area on the issue of ancient roads. Some people do not know that they have one on their property. Others know and do not want people riding or walking on their property or near their home. Morris worked on the committee in Williamstown to identify roads in his town that may have been in this category. The Select Board wanted to notify land owners that these roads would be "thrown up", but concern was expressed that prior action may have been taken by the Select Board. Contact Ilene or Morris if you are interested in this subject.

Guest passes for NEKET A discussion about the possibility of passes for guests to ride on the NEKET trails centered on the problem of insurance. A person needs to be a member of VHC in order to purchase a NEKET pass. A pass is issued to a specific person who is a Council member. Discussion took place with Martha agreeing to pursue this idea.

Horse Person of the Year Brenda read a letter of accomplishments written by Terry and another from Karen detailing all the outstanding contributions to the VHC and the equine community which had been made by our president Cindy Cross-Greenia in the past year. Her nomination as the Horse Person of the Year was acclaimed by all who were present and Brenda presented her with an engraved plaque from the Horse Council. A big round of applause for our outgoing president, whose leadership will be missed, followed the presentation. Thanks, Cindy, for a job well done and for going way above and beyond the job description!

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

Respectfully submitted by Bev McMullin, Secretary.

MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT OF VHC 2009

As the newly elected president of the Vt. Horse Council, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Mike Benoit, from Cambridge. I live with my wife Martha (the chair of the NEKET committee), two dogs, a cat and four horses. We have two grown children, Eric in Wisconsin and Michelle in Pennsylvania, where she is eventing the 6 year old warmblood we raised. I ride a Paint/Appaloosa gelding and I'm working with a 5 year old Belgian mare. We trail ride and enjoy camping and taking the horses to our camp in the NE Kingdom. We also love to drive our two Belgians. We have been riding and enjoying horses for 18 years. We are members of two riding clubs and the Green Mtn. Draft Horse Association.

I have many ideas and goals as President of VHC. Here are some of my interests:

- Complete VHC representation from the Rutland area
- Compile a list of trail clubs/horse organizations in the state
- Continue expanding the trail improvement program
- Continue revitalizing the old roads program
- Improve communications with the horse community
- Pursue the road safety initiative to expand knowledge of horse rights/safety
- Establish the tradition of an annual NEKET ride

I will be contacting officers, directors and committee members to introduce myself and discuss ideas, history and concerns. I welcome input from the membership at large. I'd love to see you at a meeting, please introduce yourself!

With your help we can make the Vt. Horse Council an organization that represents ALL horse people and make our voices heard on equine issues!

Mike Benoit

vhcmike@yahoo.com

802-644-6742, evenings

***Membership Committee Report
Prepared For 2009 Annual Meeting
By Terry Rose, Membership Chair
3/2/09***

Note: Bev McMullin has prepared a membership map on poster board showing where our members are located. This would be used for the annual meeting and could also be displayed at Everything Equine.

Respectfully Submitted, Terry Rose, membership Chair

Membership Information:

2008 Results

188 addresses @ 3/2/09, this compares to 182 addresses at 1/12/09

257 members at 3/2/09 as well as 1/12/09

2007 Results

This Compares To 192 addresses @ 1/1/08; 304 members at 1/1/08

Including:

13 LIFETIME
6 Business
63 Family
6 Farm/Club
98 Individual
2 Junior

Breakdown by County

Total Number of NEKET Passes

Held: 77

74 @ 1/12/09

Swap newsletters: 6

Email Addresses: 138

Non renewing members @ 3/5/09:

2 Business
23 Family
3 Farm/club
51 Individual

Addison = 20
Bennington = 3
Caledonia = 5
Chittenden = 30
Essex = 2
Franklin = 12
Grand Isle = 2
Lamoille = 11
Orange = 26
Orleans = 6
Rutland = 4
Washington = 23
Windham = 2
Windsor = 18
Out of State = 21

87 TOTALS

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail

A 4-season Vermont Recreation Trail

An opportunity to make the world a better place and improve the health, vitality and economy of Vermont and New England

Purpose and Goals: The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee are to produce and maintain a premier year round multi use path/trail that will have national and international recognition as one of the finest trails in the US and Canada. After Stowe and Smuggs it will perhaps be the biggest draw for visitors to the state. The Greenway Conservancy has estimated that the trail will be used by 250,000 folks per year.

Summary: The 93 mile rail bed of the former Lamoille Valley Rail Road Company stretches from St. Johnsbury in the east, to Swanton in the west passing through 17 Vermont communities. In 2003 the General Assembly of Vermont directed that the state owned railroad corridor be converted to a year round recreation and alternative transportation facility managed by Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc. (VAST) (www.vtvast.org). The Vermont Agency of Transportation and VAST executed a long term lease for development and management of the corridor in September 2006. The conversion will transform a railroad bed of washouts, overgrowth, and deteriorated bridges into a safe path for people of all ages and abilities to walk, run, bicycle, cross country ski, horseback ride and more.

The VAST Board of Directors has established the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Committee (www.lvrt.org) representing multi-use interests to manage the project. Working with County Regional Planning Committees, The Friends of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Town Select Boards and adjacent landowners, a management plan has been developed and a detailed engineering assessment has been performed to address the development of the trail. The development of the rail corridor has been funded, in part, by a \$5.8 million federal grant. Current estimates are that the development costs will total between \$7.3 - \$8 million. The difference must be funded by in-kind services, donated materials, labor or cash.

Current Status: Project is currently under review for an exclusionary permit (which means it will not require an Act 250 permit) Expect decision in mid March. High probability of success. Expect to start work this summer. Over 1000 grant requests to foundations/corporations have been sent out. About \$100,000 pledged or donated to date.

WPTZ enlisted to support advertising this spring. Round up program is being kicked off. This is how it works. Each of the Lions, Rotary, and Kiwanis Clubs is being asked to obtain 10 committed Merchants in their communities to participate. Other horseback riding, snowmobile and associations will be asked for similar support. The Merchant will post a sign and request the customer to "round up" to the next \$ for the sale and the difference to be donated to the development of the rail trail. The Merchant can manage it however they like e.g. separate account code, a basket by the register etc. Each week the merchant is to send a check to VAST/LVRT, 26 VAST La. Berlin Vermont 05641. It's on the honor system. The goal is to get 15,000 Merchants to subscribe and any excess funds achieved will be used to establish an endowment fund for trail maintenance. Any questions contact Ken Hoepfner, 802-644-5771, kenandsue@hoepfner.com



AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL UPDATE

I would encourage each member of the VHC to consider joining the American Horse Council. It will give you access to a fascinating account of what is happening at the national level in the equine industry. And, it will also offer you the opportunity to become more involved in issues that affect the horse industry. Horse owners represent over 9 million horses in this country and according to the current AHC Directory that amounts to an economic impact of "... 102 billion dollars via direct, indirect and induced spending". Joining the AHC at the Grassroots level (\$25.00) provides the member with lobbying guidelines, AHC Washington Update, electronic news services, and discounts with Avis, Hertz and Chateau Chevalier wine.

AHC has taken on the problem of the unwanted horse and the Unwanted Horse Coalition operates under the auspices of the AHC. Various horses' publications are also addressing this ballooning problem. The unwanted horse may be sick, old, injured, unmanageable or even dangerous and sometimes the owner just does not have the money to care for the horse. Too many people watch movies and television and think it's easy to own a horse and they envision themselves riding across a field, up a mountain or through a forest without taking into consideration that they may have little knowledge in caring for a horse. Some times people buy horses because they find the horse beautiful and yet they learn little or nothing about the animal. A horse should bring joy to its owner and when it doesn't it often becomes unwanted.

Vermont has had a number of incidents of equines that have been seized as a result of varying levels of neglect. It is part of our responsibility to be aware and educated in this area. AHC and the UHC provides a vast amount of helpful information that will allow those who are concerned to play a roll in helping these unwanted, but still unique animals. For more information go to the following website: www.horsecouncil.org.

Farm Bureau News by Bev McMullin

There are many benefits to belonging to Vermont Farm Bureau besides standing up to support Vermont agriculture. Being part of an organization which lobbies in Montpelier on behalf of Vermont farmers helps ensure that the future of farming and our rural heritage is protected and preserved. Membership includes a subscription to our beautiful quarterly magazine, *Fences*, which showcases the diversity of farming in the state by featuring different member's farms including equine operations.

Discounts can save members much more than the annual fee to join. One of the biggest being a \$500 savings on Dodge Ram, Dakota, Durango, Magnum and some Caravans.

Farmway in Bradford offers 20% off on most items. Safemark carries passenger car, truck, tractor and equipment tires as well as baler twine and grease, etc. at money saving prices.

Suburban Propane discounts on propane and fuel oil can be a big benefit. Additional discounts on car rentals and hotel stays, vision, hearing, pharmacy needs and telephone long distance are available.

Perhaps the biggest benefit is the discount that Nationwide Insurance offers to our members. If your home, farm or car insurance needs to be renewed soon it could pay you to check with your local Nationwide agent to see what your savings could be!

Check out the Farm Bureau website www.vtfb.org for more information or call or e-mail Bev McMullin at 802-223-6859 or rlmcmullin@myfairpoint.net

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Please help pass the word and see if you could get this printed in your town's newsletters or news papers and/or if you have some place to notified people by free radio, TV spots or the schools drivers Ed classes.

Horses and Riders on the Road

You are seeing more and more horses being ridden or driven on the roadside these days. And it's a big concern that some vehicle drivers don't realize that horses have the right-of-way on all roads. IT'S THE LAW.

Horse owners and riders are asking that you slow down. Just lift off the gas and proceed with caution.

There are so many things that frighten a horse--the sounds of different road conditions-- water puddles if it's raining--or maybe you hit a big pot hole. Even the sounds of the stones on a dirt road--there are times that some of the stones can also fly out from vehicle tires. Maybe you are pulling a trailer and the items in it are making loud noises. Things like these can cause even the best-trained horse to become afraid, and make unexpected movements, sometimes jumping into the roadway.

If a vehicle slows down and gives the horse some extra room, it can feel safer, and it will be less apt to do something dangerous.

It's equally important for all horse riders to also respect the vehicles and take responsibility for **their** own safety by staying on the right edge of the road so a vehicle can safely pass.

We share the same roads. So please pass the word on. Slow down and give a horse and rider **some** extra room **for safety**.

THANK YOU

From local horse groups and the Vermont Horse Council

VERMONT STATE STATUTES

Title 23: Motor Vehicles

Chapter 13: Operation of Vehicles

Persons Riding Animals

1127. Control in presence of horses and cattle

**FREE BUMPER-TO-BUMPER TRUCK & TRAILER WORKSHOP
ROUGH TERRAIN FARM ~ SAT, APRIL 18, 10-2**

Get your rig and yourself ready for towing in time for the upcoming riding and showing season. This free workshop is offered by Rough Terrain Farm in Randolph Center, VT, in conjunction with the Vermont Technical College Equine Studies and Automotive Technology Programs.

Bring your truck and horse trailer (please leave your horses at home!) to Rough Terrain Farm or just come and observe. Students of the Automotive Technology Program will perform a safety check on your rig, bumper-to-bumper, and make recommendations for any needed repairs. The safety check includes truck and trailer suspension and lighting systems, truck steering system, trailer brakes, and the hitch mechanism.

In addition to the safety check, the workshop covers what to look for in determining if your rig is roadworthy, how to properly hook-up and back up a horse trailer, and how to properly load a horse. Participants can also experience what it feels like to ride in a horse trailer.

In case of snow, rain or deep mud, the workshop will take place on Sat, April 25. Participants should bring a lunch. The workshop is free but pre-registration is required by calling 802-279-5945 or 802-728-5945. Directions to the farm, just 5 miles off I-89, can be found at www.RoughTerrainFarm.com.

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 10th ANNIVERSARY TRAIL RIDE Sept. 25 - 27th, 2009

10th Anniversary
T-Shirts & Sweatshirts
will be for sale



On the Spot Photo
1 - 5x7 - \$9.50
2 - 5x7 - \$16.95
1 - 8x10 - \$18.50



Pack Auction
Items are new
Pre - view items 4:30
Auction starting at
6:30 - 10:00

Saddle up and Join our weekend trail ride through Vermont's Beautiful Mountains in Tunbridge VT. At the Tunbridge Fair Grounds

The weekend includes 2 day trail ride with an approximately 15 to 20 mile loop each day. (A short cut route will be available after we reach the lunch spot). Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times, To avoid a fight don't let your dog get close to a strange dog. The trails are up and down hillsides so check your horse's shoes and make sure they are tight. And get your horse and self in shape for the weekend trail ride. ☺

FRIDAY, September 25th Arrival starting at

Arrival and check-in 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Check in at the North end of the fairgrounds only. Across from the village store between two large brick buildings. If you arrive before **1:00** Fair grounds will charge you extra \$20.00's to be paid at check-in-gate.

SATURDAY, September 26th arrival starting at 7:00 am.

- 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Scrambled eggs, 2 sausage patties, home fries, toast & English muffins. Fresh Fruit, coffee, juice
8:15 a.m. Required Riders meeting at Dodge Gilman building, For trail talk.
10:00 a.m. **No Sooner!** Riders begin staggered rides. No sooner. Trail markers are leaving at 9:00 to double check Trails & markers. Bagged lunch and Beverages will be provided at the half way point, On the trail
4:30 p.m. Pre viewing of JP North auction setting up in the Dodge Gilman Building
5:00 p.m. Glazed Ham or Stuffed & rolled chicken, Seasoned red potato, Tossed Salad, Italian Pasta, Apple Crisp & Ice Cream, Drinks hot and cold.
6:30 p.m. to 10:00p.m. JP North Auction is open to anyone. Please invite your friends to join us and or ONE Group Bonfire.

SUNDAY, September 27

- 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. 2 Pancakes with real Vt. Maple syrup, Bacon, Corn beef hash, fresh fruit, coffee, juice
8:15 a.m. Riders meeting at Dodge Gilman building for trail talk.
10:00 a.m. **No Sooner!** Riders begin staggered rides. No sooner. Lunch when you return from trail ride in the Dodge Gilman Building. In the refrigerators only take one of each items. Including the cookies.

Stalls are available. If you use a stall, you are responsible for cleaning it. Owner must provide feed and bedding or fencing if you want to keep your horse outside, If you don't plan on using a stall please don't save it. ****Every Rider is responsible for cleaning up after themselves and their horse(s).**** This includes around your campsite and on on the fair grounds & the track. Stall must be stripped clean. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.!

All horses must wear a halter or bridle at all times.

All grounds must be free of manure by the end of the weekend.

SHOWERS. There are 2 showers available for every one to share, at the top of the hill above the Dodge Gilman building on the left. Several toilets are available through out the fair grounds.

Any question please call Karen Blow at 802-479-2448 or go to VHC web site. www.vthorsecouncil.org

If you take anything out on the trail with you be sure you bring it back, And don't leave it on any landowner's property

TUNBRIDGE RIDE ENTRY FORM 2009

TWO-PERSON / HORSE ENTRY FORM

Please print clearly I have to be able to read them for next years address labels.

Rider Name _____ Rider Name _____
Address _____ Address _____
City/Town _____ City / Town _____
State _____ Zip _____ Tel: _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel: _____
Horse Name _____ Horse Name _____
E-mail address _____ E-mail address _____

Horses must match negative Coggins paper work you show us. Please have them out and ready for viewing.

For more forms Vermont horse council web site address is www.vthorsecouncil.org

VHC Requires a Negative Coggins report, dated within 12 months of the event, for each participating horse, & State of Vt. Requires Rabies Vacations certificate at the gate.

The fair grounds are charging a camping fee of \$14.00 per unit per night. And is non refundable. This unit fee includes anyone using tents, campers, horse trailers with sleeping accommodations of any type, and recreational vehicle. In short, any shelter used for sleeping. This fee also applies to early birds and holdovers. Fee includes, showers, lights for nighttime security, rubbish removal, tables and chairs, Dodge Gilman building, water, electricity, barn stall. **NO campfires at your campsite.**

Camping over night, yes or no. How many camping with you. _____ and total of **nights staying** _____
(Tent, trailer, camper, etc. - whether you use electricity & water or not)

This is non refundable. At \$14.00 per night camping = \$ _____
\$ 80.00 for **each Non-Member (per person)** Friday to Sunday... ..\$ _____
\$ 60.00 for **each Member (per person)** Friday to Sunday..... ..\$ _____

\$15.00 for day riders only must provide your own lunch, circle Saturday and or Sunday... \$ _____

\$20.00 Extra meal tickets for Saturday night (per person).....\$ _____

A \$10.00 Discount per family with children under the age 16 . \$ _____

Make checks payable to Vermont Horse Council... ...Total \$ _____

(Must be received by Sept. 1, 2009) a \$45.00 cancellation fee if cancelled after Sept. 1st. per person
Space is limited to 150 horses and riders. Only 100 stall for horses, it is first come first get them.

If you are sharing camping with some one please list their name, _____

Stalls – You must save your own stall when you get there. The committee cannot save in advance.

You will be notified if you didn't make the cut off of 150

Entries must be received by September 1st, 2009

Send Entry form to: Karen Blow

VHC Memberships to: Terry Rose

Call at 26 Highland Crofts Rd.

146 Bent Hill Rd.

802-479-2448 Graniteville, Vt. 05654

Braintree, Vt. 05060

RIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

RIDER'S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN (if rider is under 18) _____

Must have signatures of this Entry form & Helmet release form on the backside from each rider. Both forms must be completed and returned. Thank you

**VHC Liability Release and Acknowledgement of Risk
for Riders (Participants) at the VHC Equine Activities
—Two person Liability form—**

I, _____ Participant and _____ Custodial Parent if Participant is minor

I, _____ (Participant) and _____ (Custodial Parent, if Participant is minor),
understand and accept the risks and rules below:

Risks: I understand that the handling, use and riding of a horse involves the risk of injury or death, despite all safety precautions. No horse is a completely safe horse. If a horse is frightened or provoked or even without any such reason it may divert from its training and act according to its natural instincts which may include, but are not limited to actions such as: stopping short, changing direction or speed at will, shifting its weight from side to side, bucking, rearing, biting, kicking or running from danger. These risks exist for any person around a horse, whether mounted or on the ground.

Acknowledgement of Risks: I acknowledge the above risks and I voluntarily engage myself (or my minor child) in riding activities organized or sponsored by VHC. I understand that I (or my minor child) should not participate in any equine activity unless I am confident that I (or my minor child) can do so safely. Participation in equine activities at VHC constitutes a knowing and voluntary assumption of all risks associated with equine activities, which is a defense under Vermont Law to any claim for injury or damage and a bar to recovery.

Safety and Helmet Rules: I understand that I must follow the safety rules of VHC when participating in an equine activity organized by VHC and that I should wear an approved riding helmet and proper shoe work. I acknowledge that wearing a properly fitted and secured riding helmet while riding, mounting, dismounting and being near horses may reduce the severity of head injuries or prevent death occurring as the result of a fall or other occurrence. I assume all helmet related risks, including but not limited to the risk of injury if I don't wear such helmet.

Release: I agree to fully and forever release and hold harmless VHC, its members, officers, directors, committees (such as NEKET), and agents acting on behalf of or for VHC from any and all liabilities due to injuries, claims, damages, actions or losses, which may arise out of my, my minor child's, or my guest's presence at the equine activity sponsored by VHC. Except in the event of VHC's gross negligence or willful misconduct, I shall bring no claims, demands, actions or litigation against VHC, its members, officers, directors, committees (such as NEKET), and agents acting on behalf of or for VHC for any economic losses and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death or property damage, sustained by me (or my minor child) in relation to the premises and operations of this stable. On behalf of myself and my minor children, I hereby also release and forever discharge Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO) and its owners, officers, agents and employees (the Releases) from and against any and all claims, suits and damages that they may in the future have, whether known or unknown, resulting from any action, inaction, representation, failure to warn or any other conduct whatsoever by the Releases or any of them (except for conduct or inaction actually intended to cause harm) arising from or in connection with the use of the VELCO right-of-way pursuant to a certain license agreement between VELCO and the Vermont Horse Council.

Misc.: I agree that this release shall be subject to the laws of the State of Vermont and any dispute relating to this release shall be decided by the courts of the State of Vermont. I agree and hereby waive, to the extent not prohibited by applicable law, the right to a trial by jury and hereby agree, instead to a court trial. In the event any provision of this release shall be deemed invalid or unenforceable by any court, such provision shall be deemed severed from this Agreement and replaced by a valid provision which approximates as closely as possible the intent of the parties.

WARNING: Under Vermont Law, an equine activity sponsor is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities that are obvious and necessary, pursuant to 12 V.S.A § 1039.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS ENTIRE LIABILITY RELEASE

Signature of Participant, Date _____

Signature of Participant, Date _____

Signature of custodial parents (mandatory, if Participant is minor) _____

Directions to the Tunbridge Fair Grounds:

From the South: I-89 to exit 2 on to Rt. 14 north approx. 7 miles to South Royalton. Turn right onto 110. Approx. 6 miles to Fairgrounds on left.

From the North: I 89 to exit 3 left on 107 to Rt. 14 south approx. 5 miles to South Royalton. Turn left onto 110. Approx. 6 miles to Fairgrounds on left.

We hope you and your friends enjoyed your weekend with the Vermont Horse Council. www.vthorsecouncil.org

NOTE: Make sure you have your current Coggins paperwork with you.

Tack Sale

Dog River Horse Club is having a Tack Sale on May 9th, 2009 at Jet Service Envelope Co. just off exit 6 in South Barre. 9:00am to 2:00. stop by to buy or you can drop off stuff for sale call Karen for ID # and any extra info. 802-479-2448

NEKET News:

> **Workday May 23**, check the website for details, after May 1.

> **Trail ride Sept. 11-13** with VHC meeting Sat. 5/12 with potluck supper.

Come ride Saturday if you can't spend the weekend!

I'll post more details on the website as we get closer. – Martha Benoit

TWO HORSES, ONE PONY FOR SALE

Registered Quarter Horse mare, 10 y.o., Robert Redford line. 14 ½ hands. Natural horsemanship-trained (Pat Parelli), great ground manners, excellent trail horse. Could be trained in many different disciplines. Sound, no major medical issues, gets along well with other horses. Chestnut with small white star, long dark mane and very long thick tail. Up-to-date on all shots. Registered name: Tawny Bar Pep Ford ("Sundance"). \$5000 OBO.

Spanish Barb/Percheron/Welsh Pony cross mare, "Belthazar". 13 ½ hands. Beautiful white horse. About 12 years old. Sound, good trail horse but has not been ridden lately. A bit shy, but very sweet and easy to work around. Up to date on all shots. \$3000 OBO.

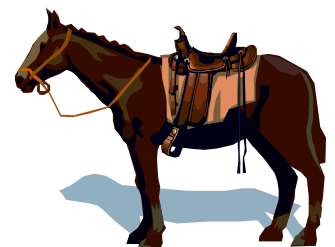
Shetland pinto mare, "Misty". 8 years old. Bay and white, 42". Trained to ride and drive. Adorable and a lovely temperament. Good ground manners and great fun to have around. Gets along well with other horses. Would be a wonderful pony for small children. Up to date on all shots. \$800 OBO. Telephone: 802-485-3328. Lv. Message or email: greyflanne@aol.com

WHEN I AM AN OLD HORSEWOMAN

When I am an old horsewoman...
I shall wear turquoise and diamonds,
And a straw hat that doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my social security on
Red wine and carrots,
And sit in the alley-way of my barn
And listen to my horse's breath.
I will sneak out in the middle of a summer
Night and ride the old bay gelding
Across the moonlit meadow
If my old bones will allow
And when people come to call, I will
Smile and nod
As I walk past the gardens to the
Barn and show, instead of the flowers
Growing, stalls filled with fresh straw. I will shovel
And sweat and wear hay in my
Hair as if it were a jewel.
And I will be an embarrassment
To all who not yet found
The peace in being
Free to have a horse as
A best friend,
A friend who waits at midnight hour
With muzzle and Nicker, and patient eyes

For the kind of Woman I will be when I am old.

Author – Unknown



Calendar of Events:

4/4/09	Mitch Taylor Clinic 8:30am - 5pm	Bristol Rescue Squad Building, 45 Monkton Road, Bristol, VT	Diane Saunders at 802-453- 3750 or dlsqtrhs@gmavt.net	Mitch Taylor, CJF Hoof Anatomical Dissection and Dynamics of the Equine Limb Under Load Click here for more info
4/18/09	FREE BUMPER-TO- BUMPER TRUCK & TRAILER WORKSHOP 10-2	Rough Terrain Farm in Randolph Center, VT	The workshop is free but pre- registration is required by calling 802-279-5945 or 802- 728-5945	This free workshop is offered by Rough Terrain Farm in conjunction with the Vermont Technical College Equine Studies and Automotive Technology Programs. Bring your truck and horse trailer (please leave your horses at home!) to Rough Terrain Farm or just come and observe. For details & Directions: www.RoughTerrainFarm.com
4/25- 4/26 2009	Everything Equine Event	Champlain Valley Expo, Essex Junction, VT		http://cvexpo.org/equine.aspx
4/30/09	Sable View Pony Camp Play Day Pot Luck & Trail Ride		Leslie Chadwell 802-234-9264	sableviewholistichorsemanship.com
5/16/09	Sable View Pony Camp Play Day Pot Luck & Trail Ride		Leslie Chadwell 802-234-9264	sableviewholistichorsemanship.com
5/30/09	Carmel Stone Equine Body Massage Clinic		Leslie Chadwell 802-234-9264	sableviewholistichorsemanship.com
6/13- 6/14	Jerry Williams 2* Parelli Instructor		Leslie Chadwell 802-234-9264	Advanced Level 1 Workshop Advanced Level 2 Workshop sableviewholistichorsemanship.com
8/1-8/2	Kelly Sigler 2* Parelli Instructor		Leslie Chadwell 802-234-9264	Advanced Level 1 Workshop Advanced Level 2 Workshop sableviewholistichorsemanship.com
8/1/09	NEKET Trail Ride and Pot Luck Supper	TBD		Meeting To Be Held During Dinner
9/11- 9/13	NEKET Trail Ride	Victory Hill Camping Area	Martha Benoit 802-644-6742 or marthabenoit@yahoo.com	
9/25- 9/27 2009	Annual Vermont Horse Council Ride	Tunbridge, Vermont	Karen Blow , 26 HighlandCrofts Road, Graniteville, VT 05654 802-479-2448 KayBee10@charter.net	
10/17-	2009 Northeast	Tunbridge	Carl Russell or Lisa McCrory	on-line discussion list:

10/18 2009	Animal Power Field Days	Fairgrounds Tunbridge, Vermont	at: info@animalpowerfielddays.org or call: 802-234-5524	www.draftanimalpower.com program updates: www.animalpowerfielddays.org
11/8/09	VHC Meeting	TBD - 1pm		

Miscellaneous Information: Business listings are also located on VHC website

Sable View Pony Camp – Stockbridge, Vermont - Call 802.234.9264

Vermont Gemological Laboratory – Kennon Young, GG, CBJT, Member of National Assoc. of Jewelry Appraisers, USPAP Certified. Fine handmade jewelry. 11 Kilburn Street, Burlington, Vermont, 802.862.6600 or email kennony@vermontgemlab.com

Wimsey's Echo Equestrian Supply – New and used clothing and tack for horse and rider. Open Tues – Sat. 10-5 and by appointment. Located at 1696 US Rte 2, Marshfield, VT 05658 or call 802.426-2088

Corey Equine Dental – Full Balanced Float & Dental Maintenance, Linda Corey C/Eq.D., 86 Sam Webb Road, Fairfax, VT 05454. Call 802.849.2963

Horse Song Equine Massage, LLC – Gentle, Calming Therapeutic Touch. Call for appointment at 802.879.7354 or 802.373.6302 and ask for Carmel Stone.

Top Of the Hollow Farm, LLC – Experience South Champlain Valley – Natural Communities on Horseback. Boarding * Customized Trail Rides * Hay Rides * Sleigh Rides. Owned and operated by Carol A Shaw, 65 Fisher Road, Orwell, VT 05760 or call 802.948.2174

Hillztop Ranch – 950 Rupert Road, Sandgate, VT 05250 or call 802.375.2249. Breeding, sales, training for horses using Natural horsemanship. hillztopranch@yahoo.com

Artistic Stone – Your images turned into Art & Etched in Stone. Call 866.826.4029 or fax

Portraits by Joanne Delaney

Have your favorite pet and/or animal custom painted in pastel or watercolor. I enjoy painting all animals-horses (my passion), dogs, cats, deer, moose and even unusual animals such as the armadillo.

Great Gifts! Ask about other original artwork available. **Call 802.849.2422**

802.229.5835. Check out our website www.artisticstone.org or email contact@artisticstone.org