



VERMONT HORSE COUNCIL “Creating a unified equine voice”

VHC 10th Annual Tunbridge Trail Ride for September 25, 26 & 27, 2009

We had 117 horses and riders attend the ride this year. In addition to that on Saturday we had 26 day riders that joined us. What a wonderful turn out, and weather was out standing not to cold or hot, the views were crystal clear with the start of fall colors. All weekend we heard good things from everyone. It seemed most everyone was there to just relax and unwind from the full riding season and enjoy their time with their equine friends. A lot of people said it was great not to worry about cooking any meals. It's amazing to see all the different breeds of horses and we all do the same things with them.

I have to thank all of the committee, Annette & Jim Deberville, Brenda & Morris Lasell, Terry & John & Jacob Rose, Patricia Branon, Roger Morin and this year we had CJ & Karen Altland to help out on the sale of the logo wear. With out all of these people, this weekend would never go as smoothly as it does. With the exception of CJ & Karen, these are the same committee people for the past 7 years. We really don't have to tell any one person what to do, it just happens.

Deb Mullen has been helping us with finding the Sunday trails for the past three years. It's getting harder and harder to find trails, land is selling and some of the new landowners prefer no one ride on their land. We would like to give all of the landowners a big THANK YOU for letting us ride through their land. Also an enormous THANK YOU to Brenda and Morris for marking Saturday's trails. They have been marking trails for ten years and thank you to Annette, Jim and Deb for marking Sunday's trail. We had a good time with the tack auction and those who didn't stay for that, went outside to sit around the bonfire, there was lots storytelling and group jokes being shared.

The committee special ordered 66 10th anniversary logo wear pieces to sell; they all sold but one Medium tee shirt, it sells for \$10.00. So if there's any one out there that would like to buy it, call or email Karen. Kaybee10@charter.net or 802-4792448.

I have to also thank every one that came to the weekend ride because with out people like you, we would not have the pleasure of putting this ride on.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE THAT CAME to the ride. ☺

Hope to see you all next year at Tunbridge on September 24, 25 & 26, 2010

Karen Blow



VHC 2009 Report for Tunbridge

We had 86 VHC members and 31 non members for a total of 117 plus 26 day riders

Income

Entry fee	\$ 10,055.00
Sales for logo ware	830.00
10% made of auction	<u>359.30</u>
	\$ 11,244.00

Mins all expenses

Cater	5,016.00
Camping fees	1,638.00
Fair grounds	1,150.00
Porta potty	89.00 ?
Logo ware	<u>630.00</u>
	\$8,523.38

Total Profit made \$ 2,721.38

Membership Report

Prepared by Terry Rose, Treasurer and Membership Chair
9/24/09

VHC currently has 255 members including:

Individual: 78
Family: 66
Farm/Club: 6
Business: 5
Junior: 3
Life: 12

NEKET pass holders: **78**

Emails: **123** members get their newsletter via email

Other specials VHC has to offer:

Parade group, contact Jody Barna
NEKET trails with more and more guided trail rides, contact Martha Benoit
Tunbridge Trail Ride, contact Karen Blow
Scholarship Funds, contact Lynn Beebe or Morris Lasell
Riding & Driving program, contact Brenda Lasell

Special interests of members:

118 membership applications specifically indicated they were interested in trails and trail riding.

We have 2 members that do not own horses and we have 3 members who have 10 or more horses.

72 horses within our membership are Morgan's or Morgan crosses, 74 are Quarter horses or Quarter horse crosses, and 46 are Arabian or Arabian crosses.



VTGC Update:

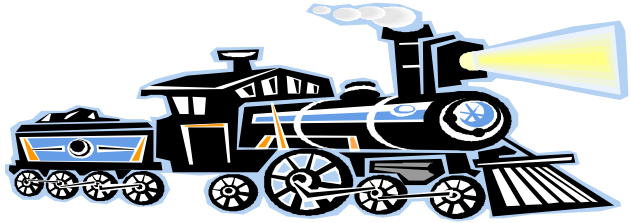
I attended my first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council (VTGC) as a representative from the Vermont Horse Council (VHC) in February 2009. I understand that I have some large shoes to fill as Virginia Lancaster, who served for many years as the representative from the Council was so well respected.

The VTGC brings to together trail users of all kinds along with representatives from several state and federal agencies. The purpose is to ensure that people will continue to have access to land and water-based trails and greenways. The Council is, like so many small non-profits today, challenged by the broad nature of its mission and the small size of its volunteer base and budget – sound familiar?

I polled some of the VHC Board members just prior to the February meeting so I could understand some of the VHC concerns regarding trails in Vermont and shared the overall concern for respect among multiple users and access protection. Those concerns are shared by all the other users groups on the VTGC – so we have some common ground – no pun intended!

The VTGC Board has agreed to focus on education and fund raising, including updating and improving its database and record keeping, increasing membership, improving its website (www.vermonttrailsandgreenways.org), providing a quarterly newsletter and hosting an awesome trail symposium on Oct. 24th. I hope the VHC will participate in the Symposium – it's a great opportunity to share information about equine trail interests and needs with the rest of the trail users. Watch for more details – and please contact me if you have any thoughts or concerns to bring before the VTGC.

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Lamoille Valley Rail Trail Update...Good News

- ❖ The LVRT Project budget has been approved at the VAST annual meeting and work is expected to start in the spring of 2010
- ❖ 4 sponsors have been obtained to produce 160 commercials starting in October. Look for them on WPTZ.
- ❖ Rock Art Brewery is going to produce a promotional beer.
- ❖ Brown and Jenkins are going to produce a promotional coffee brew.
- ❖ Dave Parker who owns 5 Subway Stores is going to produce a promotional sandwich.
- ❖ Boyden Valley Wines has been requested to produce a promotional wine.
- ❖ Ben and Jerry's have been requested to produce a promotional ice cream.
- ❖ 1000 donation boxes will be assembled and distributed throughout Vermont in October.
- ❖ The Chester Snowmobile club has donated \$500 to the project and has challenged other snowmobile clubs to the same. Ten clubs have responded to the challenge to date.

There is a concern by many snowmobilers' that their sport is the major contributor to the financial support of the club even though snowmobiling can only be used on the trail 4 months of the year.

As an equestrian, and member of a Trail Riding club I have encouraged the LTR to provide a similar donation and challenge other non-motorized clubs to do the same. Will your club accept the challenge???? Ken Hoepner





AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

I encourage each member of the Vermont Horse Council to join the American Horse Council. It is the best way to keep abreast of what is being done at the national level for all aspects of the horse industry. The web site for the AHC is extensive and provides current information on issues that are being pursued, particularly at the congressional level. Often that information is emailed out to members which allow you to copy the emails that interest you the most.

One of the major concerns this year has been the fate of horses that are not wanted and/or that are not getting the care they need as the owners cannot provide for them during this economic down turn. I suggest that everyone try to get a copy of the "2009 Unwanted Horses Survey" a study commissioned by the Unwanted Horse Coalition. It is educational, often disturbing, and offers some solutions.

Educating horse owners on their responsibilities seems obvious but we all know that the "cheapest" part of owning a horse is buying one. When the costs become excessive or that young girl decides she likes boys more than the horse, finding a solution is often difficult. Not all solutions are ones that will appeal to everyone. I am sure that most of us agree that reopening the processing plants is not something we would like to see happen and at this point the AHC is neutral on this issue as many of its members have strong feelings for and against reopening the slaughter facilities. However, when you check the figures, note the numbers, increasing daily, of unwanted horses, check out the conditions of holding pens for mustangs, and realize that most private rescue and retirement facilities are at their maximum, it must admit something needs to be done. Another solution is to increase the ability of rescue /adoption/retraining facilities for unwanted horses. It is impossible to put down all that went into the survey, but reading it will help provide some sense of what is happening in the unwanted horse world.

A recent tax bulletin put out by the AHC deals with health care reform and for those who have a horse operation the information is very helpful and while it does not address all the underlying issues it is a start. The author suggests that consulting with a tax advisor if any of the issues covered in the bulletin might affect you and your horse operation.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 February 17, 2009 and the bill appropriated over \$1.7 billion for the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. If you use any of these public lands, contact your local Ranger District, Forest Supervisors, District Offices and superintendents to help them identify projects beneficial to horse back riders.

A program that is important to recreational trail users, the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP) will be expiring this year and must be re-authorized in the next national surface transportation bill. The RTP provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails and trail-related facilities. Since 1991 approximately 730 million dollars has been invested in state projects, including many that benefit equestrians. The program has been a great resource for equestrians to fund projects

in their states. Please note that these federal monies are used on trail projects that are not on federal land available to equestrians. The AHC, in conjunction with a broad coalition of recreational trail users is requesting that Congress not only re-authorize the RTP, but also increase funding for the program to \$555 million to be spent over the five years of the bill.

The AHC suggests that member organizations and their members contact their state congressional officials informing them that this is a program that is important to the horse community.

In the end it is important to remember that members of the horse community contribute a great deal to the economy both financially and from a sport perspective. Whether you have race horses, run a large or even small boarding facility, breed horses, have a few in your back yard or down the road, give lessons to upcoming riders, have show horses or just love to ride, be involved in dealing with the variety of challenges facing our animals. The American Horse Council is one way to become informed and perhaps give back something to these animals that have so enriched our lives.

AND, never forget there are people who love horses and then there is everyone else!!!

Ilene Douglas

Note on Your Calendar:

Vermont Farrier's Association will be holding a forging clinic and forging contest with a live shoeing on November 20th & 21st at Ira Brook Farm, Ira, VT. There will be 3 divisions, novice, intermediate and open as well as 3 classes. Jim Foy, CJF will be one of 3 judges. For more information please contact Diane Saunders, 802-453-3750 or dlsqtrhs@gmavt.net

For Sale: Brenda Imus 4-Beat Endurance Saddle, brown, wide tree, 16" seat, English style stirrups, been used on gaited horse. Horse outgrew the saddle, good condition, very comfortable. Asking \$800 or BO. Can provide photos upon request. Call 802.879.7354.

For Sale : I have the Wintec. It is QH and wide (normal). My mare is Arabian but she is wide or normal not Arabian. My telephone is 802 578 8056 and I am in Charlotte, VT. I am chestnutmarefarm@aol.com. Call if you like. It is a nice saddle but I just can't get used to western. It does have a horn, soft seat....Regular tree.

RIDER TO RIDER TIP: I was reading in a horse magazine regarding horses that chew wood, one rider suggested using a bar of "Ivory" soap. Rub it on the spot where your horse(s) are already chewing and it makes them stop, it doesn't hurt the horse. Leaves a bad taste for a short time. I tried it, my young horse wasn't happy but he hasn't chewed since he got a taste of the soap in his mouth. - C. Stone.



Business Directory:

<p>Artistic Stone / Richard Tousignant - Stall Plaques 30 Stony Corners East Montpelier, VT 05651 Toll Free 866-826-4029 Fax: 802-229-5835 E-mail: Contact@artisticstone.org www.artisticstone.org</p>	<p>Buck's Horse Drawn Rides George & Meryl Buck 1081 West St. Brookfield, VT 05036 802-276-3025</p>
<p>Corey Equine Dental Linda Corey 86 Sam Webb Rd. Fairfax, VT 05454 849-2963 email: coreyexc2@verizon.net</p>	<p>CCR Sales and Service 183 Colchester Road Essex Jct., VT 05452 802-872-2666 ccrsalesandservice@comcast.net Massey Ferguson Dealer</p>
<p>Jessica Ebert Collins, McMahon & Harris, P.L.L.C. 308 Main Street Burlington, VT 05402-1623 862-3524 (fax 862-1794) jebert@vt-law.org</p>	<p>Cottonwood Stables Jeff Senesac 2374 Mallets Bay Avenue, Colchester VT 05446 655-0770 or 655-2862 cottonwoodstbl@msn.com Horse Boarding, Breaking Young Horses, Thoroughbred Stallion Service, Straw for Sale</p>
<p>Greenhope Farm Sallie Grossman Wylie Hill Rd Craftsbury Common, Vermont, 05827 802 586 7577 greenhope@greenhopefarm.com www.greenhopefarm.com</p>	<p>Forget-Me-Not Farm Melody Squier 12 McNamara Rd. - Tinmouth Middletown Springs, VT 05757 235-2718 email: msquier@vermontel.net</p>
<p>Jackson Equine Sales LLC 346 Jackson Rd. Panton, VT 05491 759-2048 email: horsesales@jacksonequine.com</p>	<p>Kingsland Bay Stables Kelli Cole - Owner 3177 Hawkins Road Ferrisburgh, VT 05456 802-877-6914 KCole@gdatp.com Lessons - Boarding - Training - Breeding (AQHA, APHA, PHA) & Sales</p>
<p>Hoofpicks.com Halley Silver 30 Ocean View Dr. Hartland, VT 05048 436-1910 email: halley@hoofpicks.com</p>	<p>Horse Song Equine Massage Gentle, Calming Therapeutic Touch Carmel N. Stone ph: 879-7354 cell: 373-6302</p>
<p>Pease Farm Stable Sarah Seidman - Specializing in Dressage, Trail Riding, Jumping, Trail Network 307 Curler Hill Middlesex, VT 05602 223-4828</p>	<p>Raven Ledge LLC Linda K. Ward 1273 Lapland Rd. Waterville, VT 05492 644-5189 email: raven@pshift.com Specializing in Trails; Driving; Safety</p>

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