

## Spring Newsletter 2009

*VQHA Would like to welcome our new members !*

*Kaitly White*

*Jan & Gary Oulette*

*Brucie Donahue*

*Michelle & Larry Welch*

*Cathy Anderson*

*Dorothy Andrews*

*Danielle Laberge*

*Lisa Whalen*

As Mother Nature teases us with spring, horse enthusiasts all over have been watching for the tell tale signs that spring has arrived. Our horses are caked in mud, brushing is now a 30 minute shedding process, trailers are being inspected, summer plans are being made and we are feeling the pains of having the winter off with no riding. This is year VQHA is offering riding opportunities to show or take a leisurely trail ride to enjoy the fall foliage. Our show committee has been working overtime to be able to offer more prizes, more money and chances to compete. Check our sponsorship list! If you are interested in sponsoring a show event please contact Brad Giroux.

Many of us don't do the show thing, we ride in faded jeans that fit like a glove, dusty worn out boots, and our old saddles don't sparkle, but they give us comfort for miles of riding. We have tried moving the trail ride to different places in the state and we always welcome new ideas and suggestions. We have a beautiful state but have a hard time locating the right spots for trail rides that can accommodate many trailers. If you know of one please contact Jim Warden.

Everything this year seems to be suffering due to the economy and the horse business is no exception. That is why we are trying to offer events that are closer to home and offer more.

Our club has been feeling the pains of change that all clubs go through at some point. As we try to move forward I encourage everyone to give VQHA another chance. We want to move forward and grow as an organization but we need strong member support to do that. We need people to attend events, either to participate or just help, share ideas, encourage others to join to make a difference. The officers and board of directors are starting this process by doing a board retreat. The retreat will provide us a way to work through some of the difficulties the club has been experiencing and develop a plan for moving forward. We will then be asking for honest member feedback so that we are working for the entire organization, not just the show people or the recreational riders. Every horse enthusiast has their own reasons for connecting with these amazing animals. Some connections are found in the show ring, some on a mountain side, some working livestock, others to mow the lawn and others just to fulfill the need for companionship. Whatever your reason, we want VQHA to have something for you.

*Also, be sure to check out our website [www.vtqha.com](http://www.vtqha.com). Board Meetings (which we encourage members to attend) and all other events will always be posted on there. If there is anything that you would like to add to the site just send me an email and I will be sure to get it to our Webmaster!*

Here is to a safe, nice long riding season. Vermonters know how to savor the summer

months and make the most of our short riding season.

~Shannon

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Newsletter Editor & Point Keeper:

Meredith Langlois

*\*Questions, comments, concerns?? Please don't hesitate to contact any of us!*

### **Birth Announcements!**

It's that time of year! We have lots of members with "New Additions" to their Quarter Horse families!

**Lucille Evart's** mare Principles Contessa had a colt by Arts Self Portrait on January 23, 2009. "Chance" and "Tessa" are both doing well soaking up the Kentucky sun!

**Mary Pat Roche & Lisa Whalen-Swett's** mare, Ella Riva, had a colt by AQHA / APHA stallion

The Ultimate Fancy on February 9, 2009. "Thor," as he is affectionately known, will be double registered APHA/AQHA!

**Tracy Reed's** Encoriva mare had a black colt also by Arts Self Portrait. He was born with a broken rib but after 2 weeks of stall rest he is now running around outside with mom!

VQHA Lifetime Member **Ray Bernier** has several new foals this year all by his stallion Hear Them Talkin.

Ray is still waiting for more foals to arrive!

**Larry & Michelle Welch** have one new foal on the ground, a black colt by Radical Rodder out of one of their Blazing Hot mares. They are also anxiously awaiting the arrival of another foal by Willy Be Invited out their other Blazing Hot mare.

**Norm & Cathy Rice's** mare Skip The Teasin had a colt on February 2, 2009 by Four-Time World Champion halter stallion, Invest In My Pizazz. At birth the colt weighed 82 pounds and by 2 months was already up to 210 pounds!

*Year End Awards are not just for members that "Horse Show"!*

VQHA has MANY opportunities for our members to earn great Year End Awards! We have awards for everything....horse shows, riding hours logged, team penning, barrel racing, dressage and more!! All you have to do is fill out a Nomination Form (attached to this newsletter) and send your form and Nomination Fee to Lucille Evarts before your "season" begins (or now!). For a complete set of rules about Year End Awards check out our "Year End Award Rules" in your membership packets or on our website. If you have any questions about Year End awards don't hesitate to contact Meredith Langlois our Point Keeper!

***Free Open Broodmare***

*Good home a must!  
Zips Tiffany Chip  
1991 AQHA Bay IF  
Has thrown 2 beautiful babies  
Please contact:  
Lisa Whalen-Swett  
802-345-0224*

**Be sure to check us out on the web:  
[WWW.VTQHA.COM](http://WWW.VTQHA.COM)**

**[WWW.VTQHIA.COM](http://WWW.VTQHIA.COM)**

### **What have our members been up to?**

**We want to know what you have been doing with your Quarter Horses!! Whether it's a clinic, trail ride, horse show or just something that you would like to share....let us know!**

### **Members Attend a Beginners Roping Clinic!**

On a warm day in March, VQHA members **Diane Saunders, Donna Ebel** and **Mary Hutchins** all met in Rutland and headed to Schuylerville, New York for a beginners roping clinic held at the WinSum Ranch. The event was hosted by the Hudson Valley Ranch Horse Association (HVRHA). The purpose was to learn the basics of roping, parts of the rope, how to build a loop and then rope dummies. No live cows were used at this clinic and all work was on the ground, no horses needed. The clinicians for the day were George Peters and Shawn Quinn, who did a great job explaining the process. Diane and Donna both have attended clinics with George in the past and encouraged Mary to try it out. Diane has done some showing in the Versatility Ranch shows offered. Donna has not yet put all the parts together to attempt a show and Mary had never held a rope! The clinic started with an introduction to George and Shawn, then the people attending the clinic all introduced themselves. Many had attended before and were honing their skills. George then showed everyone how to hold the rope, build a loop and follow through with roping the dummy. He made it look easy. Everyone was divided into groups of 3 or 4, and took turns at each of the four dummies set up around the arena. The first stage involved building a loop, standing at the base of the dummy (bale of hay with plastic cow head stuck in it) and sweeping the rope forward and over the cows head. And as easy as that sounds, many who actually do rope had a

harder time with it than tossing the rope outright at the head. George stressed that going back to the early steps and improving accuracy there will lead to better, more accurate roping. Don't skip the beginning steps. After some work at that level, we all moved to the next dummy and stood several feet behind the dummy to toss the loop forward and to the cow head. Most did okay at this, several caught it more than when they stood close to the dummy and a couple who had never roped before had problems. Mary had some private tutoring off to one side at this point, as she had never worked with a rope before and needed some guidance on the "how-to's" of building a loop, and handling the rope. Thank you Carol and Shawn for that extra help! After working at this some, and rotating all the groups around the four different dummies to try different sized and positioned heads, the group broke for lunch. Food was available on the grounds and many brought their own. Everyone gathered and chatted informally, getting to know new people and swap stories. After lunch, George introduced the group to heeling, roping the hind legs of a cow. A bit more tricky! And yes, they had dummies there that had moving hind legs for targets. After some practice at that, the group was broken up into teams of two, and some little contests were held. There was a lot of fun had as everyone tried to successfully rope their dummy and stay in the competition to the next round. Donna had great success in the heeling and kept her team in the competition, eventually ending up second. All too soon, the clinic was ended and events wrapped up. George gave some parting advice and warned that everyone might have sore shoulders/arms the next day. The folks from HVRHA graciously thanked everyone for attending, thanked all who helped with the event, and reminded everyone of the advanced clinic being held March 28th. This clinic would have you on horseback and working with moving dummies and live cows, if the horses and riders looked ready for live cow work. On the way back to Rutland, we stopped at Walkers, a place that Diane and Donna had both been to, but Mary hadn't. A little shopping and looking at new merchandise finished off a great day. Although Mary and Donna did not go back for the advanced clinic, Diane did and reported back it was huge fun and she learned lots more. Diane and Skip did well at the advanced clinic and Diane said she actually did get a few live cows roped. Way to go Diane! All in all, it was a lot of fun and definitely something to look forward to doing again.

### **Let the show season begin!**

A busy show season has officially begun for VQHA member **Erin Longworth**, owner and trainer of Erin Longworth Performance Horses.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> she made the 10 hour drive south to attend the East Coast Championship Show in Lexington, Virginia with clients Claire and Molly VanBuren. The show this year was a little smaller than normal (15-20 in a class not the usual 20-30) however the competition certainly was not lacking! Claire and Molly both brought home some very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place ribbons in showmanship, western pleasure and horsemanship out of classes of 15 or more!

Next the barn was off to Northampton, Massachusetts for the Massachusetts Quarter Horse Novice Show. VQHA members **Maureen Rich**, **Jessica Steadman**, and **Lindsey Slack** all went down to show. The trip got off to a bit of a rough start, with a blown tire on the trailer on the interstate in Montpelier, but after that was taken care of it was all in all a great weekend with everyone bringing home great ribbons in large classes. Jess Steadman was even the Novice Amateur All Around Champion for the weekend, congratulations Jess!

### **Lisa Whalen Show Horses**

The show season has also started for member **Lisa Whalen-Swett** and her clients at Lisa Whalen Show Horses. They were also off to the Massachusetts Novice Show where member

**Anya Podolak** was the Open Adult Champion for the weekend, congratulations Anya! Lisa would also like to welcome VQHA member **Lydia Palmer** to their show team. Lisa is looking forward to a great season with her clients!

**A new addition...**

Last fall VQHA member **Michelle Welch's** daughter Michaela lost her special show horse "A Moment In Time." They have purchased a new horse for her by Please Be Easy our of a Zips Chocolate Chip mare. Michaela and "Lexi" look to be a great team and they are hopeful for a successful show season. *Good Luck Michaela and "Lexi"!*

June 12, 13 & 14 – Northampton, Massachusetts  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Yankee Classic Horse Show

July 5 – VQHYA Open Benefit Horse Show  
Pond Hill Stables, Castleton

July 25 – Easthampton, Massachusetts  
Versatility Ranch Horse Show

September 5 – Addison Fairgrounds  
Clinic with AQHA Professional Horseman

September 5 – Addison Fairgrounds  
Open Gymkhana with Exhibitor Party to follow!

September 6 – Addison Fairgrounds  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Novice & Open Horse Show

October 6 – Location TBA  
VQHA Fall Trail Ride and Barbeque

We are always looking for members to help us put on our events! If you are interested in helping us out please let us know!

Vice President: Allegra Walters  
Secretary & Webmistress: Leah Thomas  
Treasurer: Kaitlyn Gawet

Members of the VQHYA are already off to a very busy 2009! Since the beginning of the year they have already done all of these wonderful things:

- Held the Vermont Winter Youth Day, involving 9 members and 8 non-members, at VTC. Activities included cake decorating with King Arthur Flour representative Susan Reid, team building activities with VT Phys Ed Teacher of the Year Jeff Thomas, "blinging" your clothing, swimming, pizza and a movie. 2 new members joined after this fun day!
- Developed guidelines for riding and educational team selection.
- Reviewed and updated the bylaws to clarify funding, to include college students, and to expand on team tournaments.
- Selected 3 members to go to the YES conference in June, with funding. Two of these attendees will be running for regional and national offices with AQHYA!
- Had 5 members and 4 associated parents attend the Region 6 Conference in Massachusetts, with funding, where our youth were able to share their ideas in numerous round table talks and participate in educational seminars.
- Started planning for Region 6 Experience activities.
- One member was awarded first prize in the Region 6 Barbara Breed Media Contest for her artwork.
- Organized and planned a benefit open show, to be held at Pond Hill Stables, July 5. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the VT Food Bank and the show is affiliated with both VT Stockhorse Association and VT Horse Shows Association.
- Increased our membership by more than 50%!
- Purchased hand towels to be logoed with VQHYA logo for each exhibitor at this year's Yankee Classic.
- Purchased t-shirts for trainer participants in this year's Trainer's Showmanship Challenge at the Yankee Classic.
- Changed our membership so it runs for one year from receipt of payment instead of from January 1.
- Decided to provide membership cards which have the members name and a valid date.

And this is what we have planned for the future:

- Selecting and training a quiz bowl team to participate at Region 6 and the Youth World Show.
- Deciding on routines for the walk in at Region 6 and the stall decorating for this year.
- Continuing to prepare for both the Trainer's Showmanship Challenge and the Open Show.
- Investigating the possibility of having a Beginners' Team Sorting or Penning Day at Pond Hill Ranch, an open event for people of all ages to come and try the events and perhaps having horses available for renting or borrowing for those who don't have appropriate horses to ride.

We try to move the meetings around and generally meet on the third Sunday of

the month at 3:00 pm. As always, we welcome anyone to our meetings and look forward to seeing you!!

For more information on the VQHYA please contact Co-Youth Advisors:  
Laurie Gawet (802-775-2678 / [lauriegawet@comcast.net](mailto:lauriegawet@comcast.net)) or Jill Thomas  
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