

# Vermont Quarter Horse Association

June 2009 issue



## From the desk of the president:

Ahhh, the weather has finally warmed up and the gentle spring rains and sunny days are turning the pastures into an all-you-can-eat buffet. It won't be long and we will start stacking hay for next year's winter.

As we clean our tack and plan our trips, whether it be a show, a clinic, a trail ride or maybe just riding around home, welcoming new foals, all horse owners are living for this time of year as the days get longer and our opportunities in the saddle are no longer far and few between. Another riding season is upon us, and VQHA is just as excited as you.

Be sure to check out all the added prizes and challenge classes for the Yankee Classic. It is sure to be a great show thanks to the generous offerings by all of our sponsors and the show committee. The show committee had two members getting donations to make the show a big one, Jill Thomas and Brad Giroux have worked all winter to long to secure thousands of dollars in donations and prizes for the showing season. Thank you Jill and Brad! We appreciate all the hard work and long hours you put in.

Keep watching the website for more upcoming events. We have yet to secure a location for a trail ride, so if you have suggestions please contact the trail committee; Shannon Warden, Jim Warden and Mary Hutchins. Planning is already underway for the clinic and Novice show at the end of the summer. We had a huge success with an open gymkhana event last season. Information about this will be available from Cele Howland or Laurie Gawet. Information about the novice show will come from Lucille Evarts. We also look forward to having an exhibitors party after the gymkhana on Saturday night. It was great to visit with friends over some fresh corn, hot dogs and cake.

Dawn Walters is in charge of the food booth at the novice show this year. This is a great fundraiser for VQHA

but it will only happen if we have enough volunteers. Anyone can help out as much or as little as they want. Dawn has a shift sign-up sheet so please contact her for the available shifts and help our club earn some money! Many hands make light work.

VQHA board members will be wearing VQHA STAFF t-shirts at all events so they are visible should you have any questions, concerns or just want to meet us.

The board of directors will also be taking a look at the by-laws to bring forth to the general membership. If you have questions, concerns or ideas about the by-laws please contact Shannon Warden or Mary Hutchins.

VQHA wants to help everyone find something they are interested in. If there is something you want to have happen, contact us and work with us to help make it happen. Do you have friends that ride? Encourage them to join VQHA and help our membership grow. Although we have a board of directors we also rely on our members to help sustain the organization and make it grow. We appreciate the years of dedication from many of our members. Those members are the foundation and backbone of our club.

As you noticed we are getting back on track with the newsletter. Thank you Meredith for getting the ball rolling. Mary Hutchins is now our newsletter editor and we want to know what you are up to and if you have ideas for future newsletters.

I hope to see you on the trail, in the show ring, in the tack stores and everywhere else that horse people congregate.

Here is to a long, safe riding season!  
Shannon Warden  
President of VQHA

## VQHA Mission Statement

To represent and promote the popularity, enjoyment and welfare of: The American Quarter Horse, American Quarter Horse Owners and Supporters, and the American Horse Industry in the State of Vermont.

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### Mary Pat Roche

## Upcoming Events

**June 12, 13, 14**

### ***22nd Annual Yankee Classic Horse Show***

Location: Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton, MA  
Contact: Lucille Evarts  
802-545-2547 Email: evartsl@yahoo.com

**July 25**

### ***Versatility Ranch Horse Competition - AQHA***

Location: Heritage Farm, Easthampton, MA  
Contact: Shannon Warden - Manager  
802-377-9209 Email: Shannon\_Warden@hotmail.com  
Or: Lucille Evarts - Secretary  
802-545-2547 Email: evartsl@yahoo.com

**September 5, 6**

### ***5th - Clinic with an AQHA Professional Horseman***

followed by a Gymkhana and corn roast/cookout

### ***6th - AQHA Novice and Open Show***

Location: Addison County Fairgrounds, Addison, VT  
Contact: Lucille Evarts  
802-545-2547 Email: evartsl@yahoo.com

**October 3**

### ***Annual Trail Ride - AQHA Recognized***

Location: to be determined

Contact: Shannon Warden  
802-377-9209 Email: Shannon\_Warden@hotmail.com  
Or: Mary Hutchins  
802-295-2811 Email: hutchins64@aol.com

Please visit the website for current information:

**[www.vtqha.com](http://www.vtqha.com)**

# News Bits from Members



At a recent cutting clinic, Diane Saunders with her mare Skip (palomino) and Mary Hutchins with her gelding Tango (dun) paused during a fun-filled weekend of learning to cut cows to have a photo taken and show off their VQHA sweatshirts. The clinic was held at the Winsome Ranch in Schylerville, NY. The clinician was Scott McKinley of Gallatin, MO, who did an excellent job all weekend. Scott, his wife Marsha and 5 of their cutting horses made the trip east, and spent the weekend in NY, teaching cutting to riders of various stages, and a few true beginners. Mary and Tang have never worked with cows previously, and until that weekend, Tang had not seen cows - ever! Diane and Skip had a good weekend, learning suppling exercises, how to "read" cow, move off the leg, and really improved their overall performance. Mary and Tang started from scratch, also working on suppling, getting Tang to move quicker (he wanted to stop and see the cows, hang with them, not move them) and generally get Tang near the cows. Scott offered his professionally trained horses out to riders who wanted to try a finished horse to see

how it should feel, and improve their own green horses. Diane and Mary both jumped at the opportunity and rode several of Scott's horses, throughout the weekend.

By weekends end, both riders felt they had progressed a lot, as had their horses. Proof that pleasure horses can do so much more than circles! As the clinic wrapped up for the weekend, all riders met a final time in the ring and Scott thanked the riders for their time and helping to make his job easier by being so enthusiastic. He then presented a sweatshirt (with farm logo and cutting figures) to the Most Improved Cutter of the weekend, Mary Hutchins. Scott said that the enthusiasm of both horse and rider was fun to watch, and that a huge amount of progress was made by the team, who had never attempted anything like this previously. It was a lot of fun and both Diane and Mary want to it again!

Members - tell us what you are up to! Send an email to [hutchins64@aol.com](mailto:hutchins64@aol.com) to be included!

# VQHA News

## VQHA Retreat for Officers and Board of Directors



Pictured:  
Meredith Langlois and Sherry Longworth (above)

Maureen Rich, Mary Pat Roche and Jim Warden (in center)

Dawn Carleton-Walters, Brad Giroux, Cecile Howland and Mary Hutchins (bottom)

Pictured on the front page is Shannon Warden and baby Madeline, newborn of Meredith.

Not pictured: Lucille Evarts and Laurie Gawet, who ran the cameras!

May 31st found the Officers and Directors gathered together for a day-long retreat on behalf of VQHA.

The purpose of the retreat was to help build team skills, and create a better working unit of the Officers and Directors, bring focus to the unit and ultimately, make the VQHA a better club. Pretty lofty goals for a one day retreat.

Everyone met with great enthusiasm at the Vt Technical Colleges facility. Thank you so much to Dawn Walters for organizing the meeting place, and the lunch. We very much appreciate your efforts!

Laura Soares was the facilitator for the day and she did an outstanding job. Laura did the research ahead of time, to see what our club is (she's a non-horseperson) and to determine the clubs goals. She then set up a program to follow, a survey and many other items to be sure we got the most out of the event.

A lot of truly valuable information did come from the meeting, and there's a lot of work in the future to iron out some kinks found along the way.

But everyone's enthusiasm stayed sound, and everyone has accepted the new roles and responsibilities. In the future, with new guidance, this club will be able to do anything! Stay tuned.

