

VERMONT HORSE SHOWS ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER

January 2010

Vermont Horse Shows Association
Shelly Edson
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VERMONT HORSE SHOWS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2010

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We hope all our members and their families had a wonderful holiday and new year!

Even though it's the off season, that doesn't mean that the board of directors is taking the time off. In fact, it's quite the contrary! We've been busy planning activities for this coming year at our monthly meetings – finalizing plans for the banquet, working on scheduling a tack auction in early spring, preparing for Everything Equine in late April, updating the rulebook, possibly doing another benefit show this year, brainstorming fundraisers, and we've already received show date applications! We're always happy to hear from our members, so if you have any ideas for events or fundraisers, please feel free to contact any board member listed below.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010

President

Anneka Bickford
43 Sky Farm Road
Lyndonville, VT 05851
802-535-9301

Vice President

Christine Grimes
201 Parker Road
Pittsford, VT 05763
802-483-9380

Secretary/Treasurer

Shelly Edson
PO Box 974
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-363-1997

Board Members

Channa Howe
71 VT Route 110
Tunbridge, VT 05077
802-889-5574

Shelly Edson
PO Box 974
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-363-1997

Tracy Davis
1410 Goose Green Road
Vershire, VT 05079
802-685-2273

Angela Hooker
64 Hall Road
Maidstone, VT 05905
802-676-2079

Judy Thibault
PO Box 48
Monkton, VT 05469
802-453-3255

Callie Streeter
783 Main Street
Warren, VT 05674
802-496-6922

Trisha Newland
382 White School House Road
East Burke, VT 05832
802-535-9637

MEET YOUR NEW PRESIDENT!

Hello VHSA members! I am Anneka Bickford from Lyndonville, VT, your newly appointed VHSA President. I have been involved with VHSA since 2006. My daughter, Ashley, was given a Quarter Horse for Christmas and started showing in the spring. This led to my two step-daughters, Desiree and Danielle, taking an interest and bumping us into a VHSA family membership. As the girls got more and more involved I decided that I would like to become more involved as well. I became a VHSA Board of Director in 2009. I was nominated for a two year term so I did not even see the President nomination coming at this year's annual meeting. (Thank You Trisha Newland) I did accept the position of President. I will admit that I am a little nervous having to follow in Linda's footsteps. She did an incredible job as President and will be missed. I am committed to giving my all to VHSA and feel confident that with the help of the Board of Directors that VHSA will continue to grow and be strong. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Banquet in a few weeks! Anneka

VHSA CONTINUES IT'S EFFORTS TO GO GREEN!

In trying to keep our costs down, we will be sending monthly newsletters via email to those that have an email address on file with us. (If you received this by email, we have a current address.) If you prefer to receive printed newsletters instead of email, please let Shelly know and we'll be happy to continue to send you one. However, if you do have an email address that you'd like to provide, please email Shelly at shellyedson@aol.com and we'll add your email address to our list. The omnibus and rulebook will still to be sent via mail. Currently, 40% of our membership has no email address on file...we'd like to get that figure down to 20%. Help us go green!! All documents that are in the newsletters will be available online, as well.

PERPETUAL AWARDS & CHALLENGE TROPHIES

If you received a perpetual or challenge trophy last year, please remember to have it engraved and polished and return it to Channa Howe. Please contact her at 802-889-5574 or via email at radarn6@yahoo.com to make arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Remember that your membership expires as of December 31st. However, as a courtesy to it's members, VHSA usually continues to send newsletters to the prior year's members for the first couple months of the new year. We're hoping to have 2010 membership forms at the banquet for those that would like to renew early. You can sign up horses and riders at a later time. The membership form and requirements are a little different for 2010, as voted on at the annual meeting. The membership form with instructions will be posted on the website shortly.

AWARDS BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION

The Awards Banquet will be held on January 23rd at the Holiday Inn on Williston Road in Burlington. It is located on the north side of the Dorset Street and Williston Road intersection.



Schedule of events:

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| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Social hour |
| 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | Buffet dinner - includes chicken cordon bleu, yankee pot roast, tossed salad, garlic roasted potatoes, baby glazed carrots, and cheesecake with strawberries for dessert |
| 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. | Awards ceremony followed by silent auction results |
| 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Dancing to the DJ Best Times Entertainment until 11:00 p.m. or later. |

Reservation forms with voting ballots are included/attached in this newsletter, as well as sponsor forms. Please remember to vote for the awards listed on the reservation form. Also, just a reminder to those who earned awards but won't be attending the banquet – you have 30 days to contact either Channa or Shelly to pick up your award(s) or they will be forfeited. If you want someone to pick your awards up for you, you must contact Channa or Shelly and let them know. VHSA is not responsible for awards picked up by others that you don't receive. Banquet reservation forms and sponsor forms will be posted on the website shortly.

SPONSOR FORMS – Although the deadline listed on the form is December 31st, we will extend the deadline to January 15th.

Please bring an item to donate to the silent auction. It doesn't have to be horse related – any good new or used item will do. No clothes please except show clothes. Puzzles, tools, books, toys, movies, music, housewares, homemade items, etc. are all welcome! Got a gift that you didn't really care for this year? Don't throw it in the closet - bring it to the banquet and recycle it for the silent auction!

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UP TO FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS!

Even though our show season ends and the weather starts to turn colder, that doesn't mean that our members begin hibernating! Some are still riding or doing other things with their horses. **We want to know what our members have been doing and spotlight you in the next newsletter or on the website!!** Did you attend fall shows, or do a trail ride? What sorts of fun things do you like to do with your horse this time of year? Did you go anywhere with your horse or do something fun or special? Did you attend a clinic or driving event, or go to Equine Affaire? Do you have other horsey hobbies or interests besides showing? Or maybe you just have a funny horse tale to tell. Or send us pictures of your horses playing in the snow! We want to hear from you!!!

To get this started, I'll tell you about my trip to the Otter Creek Horse Trails.

I took two of my horses and boyfriend out to the Otter Creek Horse Trails in Glenfield, NY the week after the Champlain Valley Fair show and had a great time (special thanks to Linda Voehringer for letting me use her trailer). The Otter Creek Horse Trails is an awesome 65-mile system of interconnected trails on the western side of the Adirondacks that is free to use. Some trails wind through peaceful woods, and others are steep and rocky. But one of the best things about the area is that there are hardly any bugs!! (at least that time of year anyway) It was such a joy to ride through the woods and not be swarmed with mosquitoes or flies. We also had absolutely perfect weather the whole time we were there. There are three assembly areas that include covered pole barns for the horses, one bathroom, a dump station, but no shower facilities and no electricity. There is a sand pit in front of the barns that we would let our horses roll in after a long day of riding. Although most of the people are locals, many come from all over the eastern US and Canada to enjoy the trails. It took us about 4 ½ hours to get there from Cornwall. During the week it isn't as crowded, but on the weekends there is hardly a place to park. Some of the entourages of trailers and campers that come in are amazing. The trails are so extensive that you could ride all day long and not see another person. Sometimes you see wildlife, but most of the time you just enjoy the quietness and serenity of the woods, fields, and country roads and let the rocking motion of the horse sooth your soul. Although many people stay on the grounds, we chose to board the horses at a stable just down the road and stay in a motel about 15 minutes away so we had a little freedom to explore the area if we wanted to (and be able to take showers!). The area is beautiful and there is a Wal-Mart nearby if you need provisions. I believe snowmobilers can use the trails in the winter months. However, my trip was bittersweet. The day before we left for home, on 9/11, I got a call from home saying that my 32 year old Palomino Quarter Horse, Sun Oil, had passed away. We knew it was coming...I was just hoping that he'd hang in there until I got home. I regret not being there to hold his head in my lap, stroke his neck and give him a goodbye kiss on his muzzle and tell him how special he was and that everything would be ok. I didn't even get the chance to see him again...my parents took the liberty of interring him in a corner of his pasture before I got home. I owned him since he was a yearling and he was the best horse a girl could have had. However, he had Cushings and a series of health problems in the past couple years and his death was ultimately a blessing. I am currently planning trips to Otter Creek in the spring and fall this year. If anyone is interested in coming or has any questions about the facility, please let me know. It's a long ride to get there but it's definitely worth it!! For more information visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8088.html>.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

2010 Membership Form ~ Tentative Schedule of Events ~ Tentative Show Dates ~ Member Spotlight

The VHSA Board wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2010!