

The Arena

A newsletter dedicated to keeping NWRDC members in the know about club business, news, history, events and equine issues.

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2010

I'm Your Huckleberry
This month's comments from NWRDC president, Pierce Williams.
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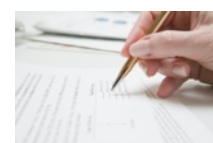
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Editors: Veronica Williams, Pierce Williams, Sue Tice

Club News

Club News is where we'll bring you notes about what's going on with the club. Expect to find the highlights from the last meeting and an agenda for the next. You'll be able to look here to determine if you want to attend our monthly meetings.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2010 at 7:00pm at the VFW on Lake Street in St. Albans

February 9 Meeting Summary

Attendance was down from our previous meeting, but a big thank you to all who did attend. We encourage all members to become more active and attend our Club meetings.

The standard agenda was covered. Following are some of the highlights:

General Correspondence - Feedback was received from members via email and reviewed at the meeting which included support for opening the pony track, and some recommendations about show days. More positive feedback about "The Arena," including "a picture speaks a thousand words" and "color sells." Suggestions regarding advertising space to help offset the costs of the newsletter were made as well.



Laney Rambone on Left and on right Sarah Lunn cleaning up at a Pee Wee Gymkhana

"The Arena" - Veronica Williams provided newsletter sponsorship/advertising pricing. If anyone is interested in either newsletter sponsorship or advertising, please contact Pierce Williams. Advertise your business in "The Arena," reaching 200 horse owner households in Northern Central Vermont while helping to support the Club.

Board of Directors Meeting Update -

- The posts that were donated will be used in the show ring.
- More sand will be purchased as needed for the gymkhana ring.

- The concession stand is in need of a "on demand" water heater which will be purchased for less than \$300.
- There will be some work done on the show ring track to make it wider.
- The roof on the concession stand has been put on hold for the time being.
- Research is being done to determine the cost of building a new storage shed that would be large enough to store a tractor in the future.

Any members that have the ability to assist or donate with any purchases mentioned or labor with the above items, it would be greatly appreciated if you would step forward and contact one of the board of directors or the President.

Code of Conduct - With a few minor changes to be made, this was voted on and approved by the members present. The final version is posted on www.nwrdcvt.com.

The meeting was running long, so some items were tabled until the next meeting.

March 9 Meeting Agenda - In addition to the Standard Agenda we will discuss pony track cleanup, officer job descriptions, securing a grant, membership dues, and show fees. If you have an interest in any of these topics, please plan to attend.

I'M YOUR HUCKLEBERRY

Howdy -

While reading this month's Spotlight (page 3) about Abbott Lovett, I was reminded of how I got more involved with our Club. My wife competes in the Gymkhana's, and the first year I was the horse groom. The second year, I got more involved because I saw a need.

There is a core group of people in the Club that volunteer their time to help run the Club and we are grateful to them for their service. It is usually the same group of people who do most of the labor of maintaining the Club as well. We are lucky to have a 55 acre facility that needs maintenance. I would love to see more people get involved with the upkeep of the grounds that benefit us all. At the beginning and at the end of the season, we have work sessions to do what needs to be done to either open or close the grounds - things like turning on the water, taking equipment out of storage, picking rocks from the arena, or draining the pipes before the first freeze, and generally winterizing the place. We'll be discussing the Opening Day plan and schedule at the next club meeting. Please come, learn how you can help, or make recommendations.

Monthly meetings are another way in which you can easily help the Club. Generally, the same handful of people make all the decisions but by participating in these monthly meetings, you could help the Club move towards the future. The greater the attendance, the more ideas and the more we can move forward as a club. The monthly meetings are held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at the VFW in St. Albans on Lake Street. The Club News on page 1 covers what happened at the last monthly meeting and provides an agenda for the next meeting on March 9th.

In the meantime, remember; No matter where you go, there you are.



Pierce Williams

Equine Wellness



Learn to Recognize the Signs of Laminitis

Every day veterinarians across the country see hundreds of cases of laminitis, a painful

disease that affects the feet of horses. Laminitis results from the disruption of blood flow to the sensitive and insensitive laminae within the foot, which secure the coffin bone to the hoof wall. While the exact mechanisms by which the feet are damaged remain a mystery, certain precipitating events can produce laminitis. Although laminitis occurs in the feet, the underlying cause is often a disturbance elsewhere in the horse's body.

As a horse owner, it is important to recognize the signs of laminitis and seek veterinary help immediately. Signs of acute laminitis include the following:

- Lameness, especially when a horse is turning in circles; shifting lameness when standing
- Heat in the feet
- Increased digital pulse in the feet
- Pain in the toe region when pressure is applied with hoof testers
- Reluctant or hesitant gait, as if "walking on eggshells"



- A "sawhorse stance," with the front feet stretched out in front to alleviate pressure on the toes and the hind feet "camped out" or positioned farther back than normal to bear more weight

Signs of chronic laminitis may include the following:



- Rings in hoof wall that become wider as they are followed from toe to heel
- Bruised soles or "stone bruises"



- Widened white line, commonly called "seedy toe," with occurrence of blood pockets and/or abscesses
- Dropped soles or flat feet
- Thick, "cresty" neck
- Dished hooves, which are the result of unequal rates of hoof growth.

If you suspect laminitis, consider it a medical emergency and notify your veterinarian immediately. The sooner treatment begins, the better the chance for recovery.



Spotlight

Abbott Lovett is a man who stands out... in any crowd.

— Veronica Williams

So we can learn more about each other, we ask that each month, members spotlight a fellow rider within the club. Share the story of one of our exceptional riders and their horse and family.

I've been watching Abbott ride for 6 years, but I wouldn't claim to know him very well, so I had to call to ask a few questions in order to write this. When I had finished, Abbott cautioned me not to make more of it than it is. But that's not easy.

Abbott's been riding for seventy years! He started riding gymkhana somewhere around the age of 50. Let me repeat that for those of you who weren't paying attention... FIFTY. I hope I'm still riding at the age of 50. "God willing," says Abbott, he'll be riding until the age of 80. Seeing him ride the way he does at 76, I think he'll make it.

If you belong to NWRDC, you know who Abbott is. He's been with the Club since sometime around '83. During that time, he's served as a president for a couple of terms, and is currently serving on the board of directors for his 3rd term. He feels strongly that you shouldn't have to be an officer of the Club to contribute. He says he'll keep doing as much as he can even when he isn't on the board any more. In fact, when I asked him about his hopes for the Club, he said it's that

more members will contribute their time to the Club.

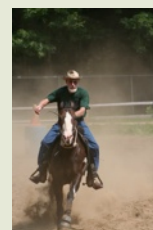
If you are one of the few members who hasn't actually seen Abbott ride, you've at least heard the same stories I have, so let's set the record straight on a few items. The rowels of his spurs are *not* quarters. They're half dollars. He has ridden saddle seat (he did that for Dr. Pawket when he and Rose first moved back to Richmond), but only for a short time. He does not ride *every* day. Just most of them.

For many years, Abbott trained horses. His philosophy is that you need to teach a horse to think what you're asking is their idea. Using that philosophy, he's trained 20 or so horses, including his current mount Breeze. Abbott is now, and has always been, an avid trail rider and it's where he does most of his teaching. In fact, he says he only runs a short barrel pattern 2 or 3 times a week. In competition, he always rides to win, but he accepts the run he gets with the grace that comes from confidence and wisdom.

Other things you should know about Abbott: He was born in a small Indian town in Maine, called Passadumkeag. He attended Lee Academy, paying his board by milking cows. He graduated in 1952 and then served in the Air Force as a jet engine mechanic. Stationed at Fort Ethan Allen, he met his wife Rose at a

dance in South Burlington and they were married in September 1957, the same year he was discharged. He and Rose lived in Maine for many years, and returned to Richmond (Rose's hometown), where they built the house they live in today. He's got a beautiful family, even if none of them are horse people. He's always worked hard and even though he's retired, he still does. At gymkhanas, he often has his latest welding sculptures for sale – coat racks, iron birds, wine racks – and his house is filled with other labors of love. Like his wagon wheel chandelier and horse shoe plant hangers.

Abbott is soft spoken and kind. He believes people can have different opinions and still get along. And – when asked – he's happy to share his knowledge and experience to help a fellow horseman.



Abbott on Breeze.





Pee Wee Gymkhana

The Pee Wee books are done. We mailed out some and handed some out at the meeting. If anyone needs a book please let us know and we will send it out. We plan to bring more books to the meeting in March. We have our champion and reserve champion sponsors for all five shows. Thank you notes and ribbons were sent to last years sponsors. Information is on our club web page or email Sue at jsstables@hotmail.com. Thanks, the Pee Wee Committee.

DATES FOR 2010 EVENTS:

May 22 June 19
 July 10 Aug. 7
 Aug. 28
 Rain date, Sept. 19

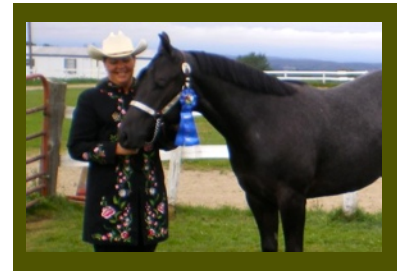


Gymkhana

The Gymkhana Committee has selected the games and finalized the Gymkhana dates which are listed below. The Game Patterns are available to download at www.nwrdcvt.com. The Rules and Entry Forms are also available for download.

DATES FOR 2010 EVENTS:

May 29
 June 26
 July 11
 Aug. 21
 Sept. 18
 Oct. 3



Horse Show

The horse show committee is still working on the show books. Some of our adds, and class sponsors are in, just waiting for a few more. Hope to have all sponsors forms back by the end of march. Thank you notes and ribbons were sent to all of last years sponsors. I'm working on a ribbon price brake for the club, will have information by march meeting. Judges are all set, just waiting for the contracts to be sent back. More information will be on our club web website, nwrdcvt.com or email Sue at jsstables@hotmail.com. Thanks, the Horse Show Committee.

DATES FOR 2010 EVENTS:

June 6 June 27
 July 18 Aug. 15
 Sept. 12

Kids Corner

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Cowboy Word Search

Wrangler
 Brand
 Dodge City
 Chaps
 Cook
 Chisholm
 Red
 Longhorn
 Remunda
 North Star
 Stampede
 Drover
 Shawnee
 Colt
 Drag
 Great Western
 Bandana
 Brand
 Railroad

Check the website, www.nwrdcvt.com, for solutions to last month's puzzle



Please Print;

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email*: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Please send me the newsletter via postal mail

**By providing this information, you are granting NWRDC permission to send you the newsletter and other updates via email*

Membership Application

Membership Dues:

Family: \$15.00 Single: \$10.00

For family membership, please list all the children to be included and their ages. Children 18 years and older must have own individual membership.

Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____

Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____ Child: _____ Age: _____ DOB: _____

Please check all interests that apply:

____ Trail Rides ____ Gymkhana ____ Pee Wee Gymkhana ____ Horse Shows ____ Administration

I understand that the activity of horseback riding involves risk of harm and I knowingly assume that risk in consideration of participating in and using the property of Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc.

Recognizing that wherever animals are in use, there is the potential for accidents which can cause injuries to other horses, cattle, riders, participants, and guests and spectators, I do hereby release, hold harmless, and indemnify the Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc., its members, directors, officers, affiliates, agents, employees, family, and volunteers from any damages or claims that may arise out of or due to the use by me, my animals, my spouse, my children and any minors, for whom I act as a de-facto or legal guardian, my guests and their animals, of the grounds, arenas, stables, jumps, cross country course and other property owned, leased or used by the Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc. owners, members, managers, directors, employees, affiliates, associates, agents, and volunteers. I further bind myself, my heirs, administrators, and executors to indemnify said entities and individuals from any judgments, costs of defense or suit, including attorneys' fees, and to reimburse said entities and individuals for any such losses. This agreement shall also apply to any claims or damages arising out of the negligence of The Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc., its owners, members, managers, directors, employees, affiliates, associates, agents, and volunteers.

I have carefully read and do understand the above and hereby fully release the above entities from any responsibility as stated or implied. I also agree to no alcohol use, no abusive language and no abusive treatment of horses while engaged in any riding activities or any activities on the premises. To do so may result in being asked to leave the premises.

THIS IS A LEGALLY BINDING AGREEMENT.

Rider's Name (Print): _____ Rider's Signature: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Emergency Phone #: _____

Parent / Legal Guardian: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

--We will need a signed release form for every rider.--

Mail completed form and check to:

Northwestern Riding & Driving Club, Inc.

PO Box 1314

St. Albans, VT 05478

For official use only:

Year: _____

Date Paid: _____

Cards Issued: _____

Featured Photos

These photos have been selected from the many photos posted on our Facebook page. To follow us on www.Facebook.com, log on and search for "Northwestern Riding and Driving Club".

