

President's Corner

Summer 2009

Volume 4 Issue 2

Once again the VRHA had a very successful Memorial Weekend show. A big thank you goes out to the Galbraith family of Morning Star Performance Horses for their continued support of our club. What an exciting show! If you missed the runoff for the Rookie Saddle then you missed some REAL excitement. Craig Stonesifer and Neal McCoy were in a dead heat but during the runoff Craig rose to the occasion marking a 143 to win the weekend Rookie 2 saddle and the Rookie I buckle. Congratulations Craig on your great weekend. Patrice Hohl won the Rookie Pro saddle and was nothing but grins in her win photos. Congratulations Patrice!

We raised over \$1100 for the wounded warrior project through the weekend's activities. I would like to extend a big thank you to John Bates for putting together the tournament and organizing the beautiful Derby ceremony. It was definitely a great show and the amount of thank yous we received from all who attended was just staggering. Remember an affiliate is as only good as the members and we have the greatest members that any affiliate can ask for.

We had a very successful one-day show at Campbell Springs Farm with exhibitors showing from near and far. Once again there was excitement in the Rookie classes with a great runoff. Check the show results inside to find the winner.

Our RHSF Rookie day is scheduled for August 1 at Campbell Springs Farm in Chesterfield, Virginia. There are some spaces still available. It will be a great learning experience and for a good cause. The entry form and flyer are enclosed.

Although the economy is still at a standstill please carefully consider an award sponsorship and contact Brenda Clarke at cvqh@hughes.net. Without your help this club would not be able to award the great prizes and offer the great incentives that we do. It is also getting to that time of year again when the Board of Directors is beginning to start planning for the 2010 show season. If you are interested in serving on this great Board please feel free to contact me at kennymoore@hughes.net and I will be happy to talk to you about a board position for the 2010 season.

Good luck and on behalf of the Board of Directors we look forward to seeing you at the shows and other VRHA events.

Memorial Day Classic Opening Ceremony

“The sun is shining in Williamston, North Carolina but tonight inside the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center it’s Reining!”, said announcer John Bates as he kicked off the opening ceremonies for the 2009 Morning Star Performance Horses at the Memorial Day Classic. The opening ceremony was a tribute to our military service and those who have served and are serving. All of the service flags as well as the North Carolina Flag and the Stars and Stripes were presented in the arena on horse back.

Bryant Pace, a Marine veteran proudly presented the Marine Corps flag. Bryant served two tours in Vietnam and is the recipient of two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star.

Marina New presented the Navy Flag in honor of her husband who is currently serving in Afghanistan with the Marine Corp.

Jinny Helton presented the Coast Guard flag in the memory and honor of Terrie Sapp who passed in April 2009. Terrie was a Korean War Veteran and Jinny presented the flag riding Terrie’s last horse.

Jim Havlin, who served in the Army from 1971 to 1974, presented the Air Force Flag. SSG Stephanie Valentine who is currently assigned to the Warrior Transition Unit at FT Eustis, VA, presented the Army flag.

Aubrey Galbraith presented the North Carolina State flag.

The United States flag was presented by Beth Richards. Beth is a Department of Defense, Senior Executive Service employee whose fiance Tim is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve currently mobilized in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Major General David Morris, Commanding General of the United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) from Fort Bragg , NC gave brief remarks and then helped present awards for the VRHA’s first ever Pro/Am Team Tournament. The team tournament allowed non pro riders and open riders to combine scores from any NRHA class. Winners were determined by the aggregate scores. The Team Tournament was a fund raiser for the Wounded Warrior Project and raised \$550 from 11 teams. In addition VRHA donated \$1 from every entry for the weekend to WWP amounting to over \$1100 raised for a very worthy cause. Prizes were awarded to all participants including Champion and Reserve Champion buckles. Congratulations to champions Mark and Shannon Rafacz and co-reserve champions Patty Hohl and Susan Wilcox and Wayne LaFortune and Amanda Hotz.

Summer Slide Freestyle Reining

Remember to bring your music - no longer than 2.5 minutes - NRHA regulations, to the show office prior to the class. Let us know when the music starts - before you enter the ring or on your signal.

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Calendar of Events

July 24-26 EPRHA 'Firecracker Classic'	
August 1 VRHA 'Rookie Day'	Campbell Springs Farm, Chesterfield, VA
August 15-16 VRHA 'Summer Slide'	Williamston, NC
August 15-16 DRHA Futurity	
August 20 & 22 MSQHA Reining	Lexington, VA
August 28 & 30 BRQHA Reining	Lexington, VA
September 11 VQHA Reining	Lexington, VA
September 12 Virginia Bred Futurity Reining	Lexington, VA
Sept 18-20 EPRHA 'Reining Thunder Futurity'	
October 2 VRHA 'State Fair Slide'	Doswell, VA
October 4 VQHA Reining State Fair	Doswell, VA
October 4 AQHA Congress starts	
October 23-25 EPRHA 'Fall Spooktacular'	
October 31 SERHA 'Carolina Classic'	Williamston, NC

Reining Horse Sports Foundation - Classic Equine Rookie Day

The VRHA will hold its first RHSF Rookie Day on August 1st at Campbell Springs Farms in Chesterfield, VA www.campbellspringsfarm.com Rookie Day, presented by Classic Equine, is a one-day event that gives rookies a chance to learn from NRHA professionals. The participants are then given the chance to compete against each other in a show like environment. During Rookie Day, beginning reiners learn the ins and outs of reining in a comfortable, relaxed setting that focuses on having fun. It's designed for reining at the grassroots level and encourages new members to become more familiar with NRHA competition, local trainers and affiliates.

Cost for Rookie Day is \$225 for adults and \$125 for youth and includes lunch. Youth will only be eligible for the Youth division if they pay the \$125. If they choose to be eligible for the Rookie division they are required to pay the \$225 fee. The proceeds from Rookie Day go to benefit the RHSF crisis fund. For more information on RHSF and the crisis fund visit www.nrha.com and click on RHSF.

For more information on Rookie Day contact John Bates at reinerjb@embarqmail.com.

Remember **NO DOGS ALLOWED** at Campbell Springs Farm.

Photos from the Commonwealth Classic are on line see below.

Commonwealth Classic

Well, it was dusty and a little warm but what a great day. There were some exciting moments and a great runoff for Rookie 1 and 2. The Beginner and Green classes were huge with some very nice runs and one very happy buckle winner.

Sponsors for trophies were few and far between however many exhibitors rounded up their show bill and raised over \$300 to help support the association. Thanks to everyone who helped out with trophies, working as scribes or gate folks, running errands to and from the show office and a HUGE thank you to the Prince George Royal Riders 4-H club who came early for breakfast and stayed late to provide us food and drinks.

We were lucky with to have four photographers on hand to capture the memories - Stephanie Askins, Reporter for VRHA, Karin Hinzmann, VRHA webmaster, Gail Murphy, VRHA member and professional photographer, (<http://www.gailmurphyphoto.com/>) and Christy B. Anderson, a local photographer who has donated to our Silent Auction (<http://www.christybanderson.com/>). Check out VRHA's website for photos along with Gail's and Christy's websites. There are some great photos available for you at reasonable prices.

Cow play time

A group of VRHA members and others gathered at Calf Pasture Farm in Louisa, Va and had a great day doing something different with their horses. Under the direction and patience of head wrangler David Clark, the riders and horses learned a bit about reading cows, moving a cow down the fence and turning cows. There were lots of laughs, some red faces and a bunch of tired riders and ponies when the day ended. Of course, no one had a camera.

Thanks to David Clark for his hospitality and welcome and to Joy Blake for coordinating this event for our members.

Memorial Day Sponsors and Vendors

*Thank you to the Galbraith Family -
Ed, Nadine, Melanie, Carly, Cassidy and Carly
of Morning Star Ranch for their support.*

Thanks to the Vendors who supported our show!

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Dream Horse Classified

Summer Slide Special Events

During the Summer Slide you can rent a tack stall for \$75 and keep the barn aisles neat and clean. Don't want to spend that much? Split it with a friend - it's a special deal for this show only!

The opportunity is also available to bring a horse to school or sell for \$75 stall rental (plus office fee) and showcase your sale horses for \$25/5 minutes during the show. Bring your flyer and we'll announce the information while you showcase your horse. All horses sell private treaty. This is cheaper than an auction! Now's the time to empty the pasture before winter and reduce your feed bill!

Just up the road from my home is a field with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or are walking by you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down but has made a good home for him. "This alone is amazing."

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is so he can follow her. As you stand and watch these old friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him and he will listen for her bell and then walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friends isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those who God places in our lives. Other times we the guide horse, helping others see. Good friends are like this. You don't always see them but you know they are always there. Please listen for my bell and I'll listen for yours.