



ORS newsletter

Winter/Spring 2011

Vershire Riding School * Vershire, Vermont

Happy Late Winter!

As we are caught between the cold days of winter and warm days of spring our thoughts turn to the summer! Soon our white fields will be green again and horses will graze freely waiting for campers to return.



Harley & Emperor

Whinny's from the field

We have had a pretty mild winter as far as winter goes in Vermont! The horses are wonderfully fat & furry. Everyone is still snuggled into their down winter blankets some getting itchy with the change in weather.

All the horses who live in our paddocks in the winter assume "rank". Tiger is the leader of the boy's paddock and all the horses respect the order of the herd except Solomon! Over the years Solomon has relaxed into the herd but he still challenges the top ranking horses. Solomon is not mean but he ignores the subtle and not so subtle cues from other horses wanting a little distance. I have seen Emperor rear to his full height after being annoyed by Solomon. The funny thing is Solomon will back down to only one horse in the whole paddock- Hanzel!! If Hanzel goes

near Solomon he takes off. Hanzel is the mellowest guy in the paddock, similar to the character in the children's book "Ferdinand the Bull". I wonder what it is about him that puts Solomon on edge.



Hanzel

Solomon

The horses that live in the barn for the winter are divided during the day between all the paddocks that surround the main barn. To make bringing them in easier Peter has "trained" the horses to follow him by just leading one horse in front. For the Mares we hitch Ari with a lead rope and all the other girls follow her in a line into the barn. The Mares usually take a detour on the way to their own stalls by looking and tasting grain in anyone else's bucket!



Ari



For the boys we hitch Boomer and all the other Geldings follow. Martini is Boomer's lieutenant in the paddock so he is always second in the line. Then the rest of the boys come in and always in the same order. Redwing, Ryan & Sunday (!!) always find their correct stall. The rest of the boys usually need a little help to sort it out!



Majik divides his time between Boomer's paddock and Cookies. We discovered his love for Cookie, Georgie & Rocky after he would protest going into Boomer's paddock and wanted to be with the three amigos. Boomer felt a bit left out at first and spent some of the morning eating his hay looking longingly into Majik's paddock. Boomer does get his time with Majik! All these horse relationships we have to be sensitive to!



Every Christmas Eve we thank our horses & ponies with our annual Christmas Eve Super Delicious Bran Mash! After our helpers tasted & approved the batch we served it up to our horses and ponies. They loved it!

In this years Bran Mash

- 100 pounds of Bran
- 50 pounds of Pacer Grain- Oats, Corn, Pressed Grain & Molasses
- 25 lbs. Carrots- chopped into pieces
- 15 lbs. of Apples- chopped into pieces
- 2 Gallons of Molasses!!
- Plenty of Water
- & lots of Love!



Harlan & Solomon

DVD

The 2010 summer DVD is finished! If you would like to order a DVD you may either email me for an order form, or mail us a letter with your name, address, phone number, which session you attended and a \$40.00 check for each video you would like. The video is a great way to see your own riding! We love watching all the horses in their top shape in the green fields of summer!



Cupid, Mischa & Harley

Spring Riding Lessons

This spring we will be offering riding lessons throughout the week. In May Judy Ofchus will be offering jumping clinics to the local Eventing community. The clinics were so well received in the fall that we added a second the following week! If you would like to schedule a lesson this spring please contact us soon! You could come up for the day or stay at a local B&B and take a few days of lessons! Megan Shannon, a former VRS riding instructor, will be available for lessons on weekends as well!



Painter, Bailey & Hanzel

Become a "fan" of our Face book page
Vershire Riding School

Keep updated throughout the year on what is happening at the riding school.

We post our upcoming events & current photos!

You can also test your VRS horse identification skills by playing

"Name that Equine!"

A great way to stay in touch with Vershire Alumni!



Prince Charming!

Outside Events

This summer we will be adding an additional 3- phase to our away event schedule. Over the summers a few campers, who were ready, have Evented at Hitching Post Farm and Denny Emerson's event at Tamarack Hill. In 2011 we will be also be attending the events at Huntington Farms in Strafford, VT! I am excited to offer campers, who are ready, the learning opportunity of participating in an away event in Vermont.



Novice #1; Over the summer we added new x-c fences!

New Cross-Country

Opening the forest on the Upper Loop has led me to a new project! Over the fall we have cleared some of the trees from the loop. This spring we will begin working on the Lower loop & Mid-way by adding new x-c fences. I would like to have the Mid-way as a Beginner Novice loop with a few other fences for Pre-Elementary and Novice. It will be great to re-energize these cross-country tracks!

Over the course of the spring/summer I will be posting photos of our new cross-country fences on our face book page. I will also be posting the fences that will be part of the x-c courses for the 2011 summer.



The Library & Lounge

We have re-claimed Lower Right of the Brown Dorm for our Library, Lounge & Game Room! A nice place to go (outside of your quad & our 400+ acres) to hang out with your friends!



Farm & Garden

This spring we will continue to work on our Organic vegetable garden. Last summer we put in raised beds and reorganized the garden. This spring I am excited to add Blueberry bushes and Strawberry plants! I will also be adding flowers for a Medicinal garden to be harvested in the fall. I welcome any help keeping the weeds in check in the summer!



Sully

Scholarships, Barter or Trade

The Vershire Riding School continues to offer partial scholarships to people who would like to attend one of our programs, but are unable due to finances. If you are interested in a partial scholarship or barter/ trade contact Sarah at: vershireridingschool@yahoo.com and she will email you the form.

If you would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, to make it possible for even more students to attend Vershire, please contact Sarah.

Second Sibling Discount

We offer a 5% discount off of the second sibling's tuition for camp.



V.R.S Diaries

We continue to add your photos and stories to our "VRS Diaries" page on our website - www.vershireridingschool.com

See some of the horses/ponies we have had since 1970! If you have a photo or story about one of your favorite Vershire Riding School horses please email me.



Tiger & the boys

We send well wishes to you all, and hope to see you this summer!

Best regards!

Sarah, Peter, Gabriel & the Horses

Vershire Riding School



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