



VRS newsletter

Winter/Spring 2013

Vershire Riding School * Vershire, Vermont

Happy Early Spring!

In Vershire, the spring and winter have been dueling, and it looks like the winter is winning. We still have feet of snow on the ground, but with the coming of March we have sun! Soon our white fields will be green again, and horses will graze freely waiting for our campers to return. We look forward to the day when we can release the horses from their winter paddocks into the grassy fields!



summer. We are hoping Mary Brakenridge may come north as well and pay us a visit.



This winter we welcomed a new Mare named Layla. She is a beautiful gray Mare who is a 13 y/o registered Appendix Quarter Horse. Layla settled in immediately as if she had always been at our farm. She is turned out with Akasha and Sully. The three are quite a team. Layla will be a wonderful addition to our camp.

Whinny's from the field

After a snowy winter our horses look good. They have nice round bellies and long furry coats. We have had a few sunny days where we could take off their winter blankets. Feeling the sun on their backs, each horse took their turns rolling and scratching.

Judy Ofchus & Megan Shannon will be returning this summer to teach riding! Judy, our Director of Riding, will continue to mentor our instructors as well as have a riding group of her own. Megan will be teaching the Novice group, and some of the Beginner Novice riders. Sarah Cupcake will be returning as a barn manager and counselor. Sarah Faitell may also be returning for a few weeks over the



This summer we will be re-routing the cross-country course back to the Donegan's track. We will continue to use Mid-Way and the Upper Loop for schooling practice. We have been thinking of many ideas for jumps to be built this spring and summer. We will be adding fences in Druids and the Main fields mostly, but we have ideas for the whole course. In Druids we will be building beginner ditches to practice over, and opening up our pee-wee drop. The Beginner Novice stone wall will be finished, and

a new cross-country route will be made. It is so fun to think about!



Over the spring & summer we will be posting photos of our new cross-country fences on our *face book* page. We intend to post the photos of the fences that will be part of the x-c courses for the 2013 Schooling Trials.



When the snow melts and the grass starts to grow in we will release our horses from their winter paddocks. It is an amazing sight! Horses truly being horses. Galloping and bucking as a herd from one end of the field to the other. Peter will be filming the horses and we will post a clip on Youtube with a link on our *Facebook* page. We usually move them to their grassy fields at the end of April, or when the snow has melted.



We are excited to announce a new **Wellness Camp Weekend** that we will be offering over Labor Day (August 30th - September 2nd). In addition to our riding weekend you may also come to camp for a weekend of wellness! Throughout the day choose from a variety of classes you would like to take part in. Classes in **Yoga** (4-5 classes a day), **Art**- (painting), **Nature**- (tracking, hiking), **Meditation**- (sitting, walking, breathing), **Health** (juicing, cooking, cleansing), and **Massage** will be offered. Our weekends are open to families and adult campers. If you would like more information please let Sarah know. We will confirm the courses offered for the weekend.



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
- 30 lbs. Carrots- chopped into pieces
- 25 lbs. of Apples- chopped into pieces
- Molasses!
- Plenty of Water
- & lots of Love!



DVD

Peter will be making a DVD from the 2012 summer. If you would like to order a DVD please contact Sarah and she will email you an order form. An order form provides us with your name, address, phone number, which session you would like a DVD from, 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!



Show & Event Photos

If you would like to order photos from our Events & Shows you may contact Stan Phaneuf directly. His email address is phaneuf@pshift.com. The photos from some of our shows and events can be viewed on his website www.stanphaneufphotography.com.



We are in the process of editing our own website. If you have a photo, or photos that came out well, and would like to include them, please email a copy to Sarah. We love seeing new photos from camp!

Spring Riding Lessons

This spring we will be offering riding lessons throughout the week. Our instructors, Judy Ofchus and Megan Shannon will be offering weekly riding lessons to the local Eventing community.

If you would like to travel to Vershire to ride you may schedule a lesson for this spring. You could come up for the day, or stay at a local B&B and take a few days of lessons! It is a great way to get a start on your summer of riding!

We will be offering a Stadium & Cross-Country Clinic this spring in May before our camp season. We will also be offering clinics in the fall. We will post the dates of the clinics on our *face book* page.



“Like” our *Face book* page
Vershire Riding School

And 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!”

Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with Vershire Alumni!





Farm & Garden

This spring we will continue to work on our Organic vegetable garden. Last summer we raised the beds and reorganized the garden. This spring we are excited to add additional perennial fruits! We will be relocating the Elderberry bushes and the baby cherry tree closer to the house. We are also thinking of adding a raised vegetable garden off of the patio by the kitchen for easier access. We welcome any help keeping the weeds in check in the summer!

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 financial concerns. If you are interested in a partial scholarship or barter/ trade contact Sarah at: vershineridingschool@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.



Outside Events

In addition to our own Schooling Trials we go to local away events, **if our camp calendar allows**. Over the summer a few campers, who were ready, have Evented at Hitching Post Farm, Denny Emerson's Event at Tamarack Hill and Huntington Farms in Strafford, VT. We are excited to offer a few campers, who are ready, the learning opportunity of participating in an away event in Vermont.

V.R.S Diaries

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

See some of the horses & ponies who have been part of our program. Going back all the way to 1970! If you have a photo or story about one of your favorite Vershire Riding School horses please email Sarah.



We send our best wishes to you,

And we hope to see you this summer!

Best regards,

Sarah, Peter, Gabriel, Daniel

& the Horses

Vershire Riding School



www.VershireRidingSchool.com

(802) 685-2239

vershineridingschool@yahoo.com