



NORTHWESTERN

RIDING & DRIVING CLUB

www.nwrdcvt.com

2026

Gymkhana

NWRDC invites everyone who comes to the gymkhanas whether it is to participate in them or to watch them to join the club. Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm location TBD.

GYMKHANA SPONSORS

Kathy Kohlhas

Missisquoi Valley Rescue

Boat Headquarters

Vinyl One Mobile DJ
For all your Music & MC needs

Pat Lafar

Champlain Valley Farm
Equipment

Northwestern Riding & Driving Club

GROUND RULES

The objective of this association shall be to promote good fellowship and to provide recreation among and for horse-lovers, young and old.

1. Any rider/driver under 18 or entered in a youth class is required to wear a helmet while mounted or in a cart on the grounds.
2. A current negative coggins test and rabies vaccine will be required within one year of date.
3. Cantering outside of fenced in rings is not allowed, except as required by special events.
4. Horses are not allowed in designated spectator areas.
5. Horses and horse trailers must be at least 200 feet away from concession stand.
6. When trail riding, use path around outside area of hay field.
7. Riding boots or shoes with heels are required. Sneakers or flat soled shoes are not allowed.
8. Use of alcoholic beverages on the grounds by participants, handlers, judges, officials, committee members and spectators during any active horse-related event is strictly prohibited.
9. Riding double is not allowed, except as required by special events.
10. All riders ride at their own risk and are responsible for damage done by their horse.
11. Abuse of horses will not be tolerated, riders will be asked to leave and will receive no refund. If you have concerns about the treatment of any horse, please address it with a committee member.
12. At the discretion of committee members, anyone whose horse cannot be controlled in or out of the ring and may cause injury will be asked to leave without any refund.
13. All dogs must be leashed, attended at all times and kept away from all riding rings or you will be asked to remove your dog from the grounds. If your dog barks excessively, please leave them at home.
14. This is a family focused club, foul language or excessive cursing is strongly discouraged. If any person has an issue with any other member during an event, notify a committee member as soon as possible so that it can be addressed in a timely manner.
15. **Use of club grounds, other than events, is for members only.**
16. Please return equipment to designated area after use.
17. Horses are not to be turned loose in the Sand Ring, Grass Ring or Trail Ring and lunging is not allowed in the Grass Ring.
18. Persons participating in an ongoing event have priority use of all rings and the grounds over all other riders or persons on the grounds.
19. Persons who are not in good standing with the club are not eligible for year end awards.

Per the NWRDC By-Laws the event committee has the ability to prohibit further participation at any event in any form by participants, judges, officials, committee members and spectators due to inappropriate conduct and request immediate removal from the grounds if deemed necessary. The Board of Directors maintains the right to suspend any member due to inappropriate conduct at meetings, trail rides, shows, races, or other activities, without refund of dues.

Please be aware that the individual events being held at NWRDC have their own rules that need to be followed, for a list of those rules please contact the individual committees.

Northwestern Riding & Driving Club
2731 Main Street Fairfax, VT
Rte 104 (Across from Adam's Store)

CLUB OFFICERS: President-Stacy Bennett, Vice President-Heather Reynolds,
Secretary- Jenna Smith, Treasurer- Susan Sullivan

DIRECTORS: James Sullivan, Christina Carnes, Shirley Langlois, Kevin Mitchell, Linda Wells

Gymkhana Committee: Stacy Bennett, Dan Bennett, Jenna Smith, Shane Smith

You may **pre-register** for any or all of the event days then **pay on the day** of the scheduled event. The entry form placed in this booklet is to enter all the events for the season. Individual entry forms will be available at the booth on the event day.

Register by sending entries to: NWRDC Gymkhana, 232 Lafar Rd., Swanton, VT 05488

Open Horse Show Dates: 6/14, 6/28, 7/19, 8/9, 9/13

If it is raining or threatening to rain on the morning of a gymkhana and you are wondering if we are still holding the event feel free to call Stacy at 802-752-6130: You can also check our Facebook page updates will be posted there.

Basic Guidelines for Emergencies

- 1.) Notify a Committee Member immediately.
- 2.) A Committee Member is responsible for calling 911(if necessary); this will help avoid more than one call to 911. Further assistance from anyone with medical experience will be requested, if necessary.
- 3.) First Aid supplies are available at each booth.
- 4.) Ensure the safety of both the horse and/or the person involved.

Horse: DO **NOT** chase a horse - once the horse calms, and then attempt to approach it.

Rider: Assess the person's injuries (avoid movement especially if the injury is to the head, neck or back).

Keep the person as calm & comfortable as possible. (Ex. Blankets, shade, water, etc.) Keep number of persons around the injured party to a minimum.

Entry Fees: Members - \$30.00 Non-members - \$40.00
Plus \$5.00 per rider Maintenance Fee

Leadline – 12 and under, never been off leadline and may not go in any other division

Walk/Trot – walk/trot only all ages

Youth- Walk, trot, **CONTROLLED CANTER**

Youth Open – Canter and/or gallop

Intermediate Adult- Walk, Trot **CONTROLLED CANTER!**

Open Adult – Canter and/or gallop

Divisions must have three (3) competitors or they will be combined.

Patterns must be followed or the rider will be disqualified. Committee has final decision.

We will be using the wireless timer this season. Any handler with the rider who crosses the timing light before the horse will cause the rider to have a 20 second penalty. Rider must be sure the timer is ready before starting their run.

LEAD LINE DIVISION

- This class is for riders who are being led through the events by **handler**. Horse/pony must be kept at a walk or trot only. **At no time can the horse/pony canter, 20 second penalty**
- Handing equipment to the rider or carrying equipment for the rider will result in disqualification. Riders in lead line with extra handler stirrups optional.
- **Lead line riders cannot be off lead at anytime on club grounds or any equine event or they will be required to move up**
- Children with special needs regardless of their age that cannot ride on their own may be eligible for lead line, as long as they have never shown off a lead line. Please speak to the gymkhana committee if you have a child over 13 with special needs.
- All lead line horses/ponies must be led with a halter and lead rope; also all horses/ponies must have a bridle with bit & reins. **Handlers must be at the head of the horse/pony/not in front** for better control at all times.
- **If handler crosses the finish line in front of the horse's head, a 20 second penalty will be added to the rider's total time.**

**Your child and horse are the RESPONSIBILITY of the parent/guardian.
PLEASE SUPERVISE THEM AT ALL TIMES.**

- 1 Saddles with stirrups properly fitted to child, riding boots or shoes with heels are required. No bareback riding pads allowed. Child will NOT be able to participate without proper attire.
- 2 **All handlers need to be wearing closed toe shoes.**
- 3 There is no riding double or riding bareback allowed on club grounds.
- 4 No re-runs for defective equipment. Please check your tack before the next event.
- 5 If you have a disagreement it must be discussed with the gymkhana committee before the next event.
- 6 It is the responsibility of the rider to check to see if the timer is ready and the ring crew is out of the way before starting their ride.
- 7 **All riders are expected to be on deck when called or the rider maybe disqualified; only the rider on deck should be near the gate.**
- 8 No horses/ponies are allowed in the designated spectator area [between the two rings] or on the track, near the concession stand or in the hayfields.
- 9 Ribbon points are as follow 1st is 7 points, 2nd is 5 points, 3rd is 4 points, 4th is 3 points, 5th is 2points, and 6th is 1 point.
- 10 Ribbons are given to the first six riders to place in each class.
- 11 Champion and reserve champion ribbons for divisions will be awarded at each show, same horse/rider. Must enter 4 or more classes.
- 12 Year end awards champion and reserve awarded to the same horse/rider with the highest points, which have attended 4 or more shows and entered 4 or more classes per show.
- 13 Only participant and/or handlers allowed in ring during classes with the exception of the ring crew/committee members.
- 14 No colts or stallions allowed.
- 15 **If rider is required to pick something out of a bucket, rider has the option to have the bucket elevated from normal barrel height. It is the responsibility for the rider/handler to ask.**

Gymkhana Rules and Regulations

1. **Helmets** are required for anyone under the age of **18 when mounted** and are recommended for every rider.
2. **Current Coggins and Rabies are required.**
3. **Year end points** - You must be a **member, in good standing**, before October 1, to qualify for year end points. Year end points are awarded to a single horse/rider team who attend four (4) or more events.
4. **You** will be **disqualified** for breaking the pattern, the timing light before the pattern is completed, starting and/ or ending your run outside of the chute. **Your horse must be at a trot or walk before entering or exiting the chute!**
5. **Any** obstacle knocked over equals a 20 second penalty.
6. **Riders** ride at their own risk and are responsible for all damages done by their horse(s).
7. **All** riders are expected to be on deck when they are called. Riders are to be at the gate by the **third call or they will be disqualified.**
8. **Time Limit** – There is a **two (2) minute** time limit per game. Please leave the arena if you are timed out.
9. It is the responsibility of the rider to make sure the ring is ready, and the ring crew is clear of the arena and the chute.
10. Once you are in the arena and start your run there will be no reruns for competitor defective equipment. **CHECK YOUR TACK!**
11. There is no cantering outside arenas. When warming up in the lower arena stay off the grass!
12. NWRDC prohibits alcoholic beverages in any form for competitors, spectators or committee members on club grounds during the events.
13. Final decision is up to the gymkhana committee. If you have a disagreement it must be discussed before the next game.
14. No refunds due to weather conditions. We cannot control the weather. If we call the day it is for the horse and riders safety. Three games is considered a full day of events.
15. Please clean up around where you park, pick up or spread out manure and hay. Thank you!
16. Saddle with stirrups and bridle with reins required to compete as well as boots with a heel.
17. Any rider/horse team competing in the Walk/Trot Division CANNOT canter/lope at any other timed or judged event.
18. Any concerns regarding rider/horse safety please bring it to a gymkhana committee member's attention.
19. Dogs must be on a 6' to 8' leash and secured always. This is for the safety of all horses and humans! You are responsible for any damages done by your dog!
20. Patterns or games are subject to change based on arena condition to be determined by the gymkhana committee.
21. Please leave your personal issues on Route 104. If you are disrupting the days event you will be asked to leave the grounds with no refund and no points for the day!

If you do not adhere to the rules and regulations you could be disqualified from all the events for the day. Rules are subjected to the gymkhana committee's discretion.

Please review the Northwestern Riding & Driving Club ground rules. The rules are posted on the bathrooms, booths and in the gymkhana booklets.

Northwestern Riding & Driving Club - 2026 Gymkhana Entry Form

June 6 Check #
1.) Big T Amount
2.) Figure 8 Cowhorse
3.) Barrels
4.) Turn & Burn
5.) Arizona Keyhole
6.) Mystery ☐

June 20 Check #
1.) Big M Amount
2.) Heart Run
3.) Barrels
4.) Pole Bending
5.) Figure 8
6.) Mystery ☐

July 17 Check #
1.) Big O Amount
2.) Butterfly
3.) Barrels
4.) Gated Stake
5.) Speed Barrel
6.) Mystery ☐

August 7 Check#
1.) Streaking Poles Amount
2.) Hour Glass
3.) Barrels
4.) Mountain Cowhorse
5.) Stake Race
6.) Mystery ☐

September 26 Check #
1.) Big M Amount
2.) Tail Spin
3.) Barrels
4.) Open Ended Figure 8
5.) Spur Race
6.) Mystery ☐

Please remember if you are coming to the event from out of state, Vermont State requires you have a current Health Certificate!

Divisions: Leadline, Walk/Trot, Youth, Youth, Open, Intermediate Adult, Open Adult

Start Time 10am June 6, June 20, Sept. 26, (6pm July 17 and August 7)

Entry Fees: **Members \$30.00 Plus \$5.00 Maintenance Fee**

Non-Members \$40.00 Plus \$5.00 Maintenance Fee

MYSTERY RACE \$5.00 Fee

Please Fill Out Completely and Print Clearly

Division: _____ Negative Coggins Okay (____) Checked upon arrival!

Riders Name: _____ Horses Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone # _____

All entries are accepted with the understanding that NWRDC will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any horse exhibited or any article of any kind. All horses shall be under the control and direction of the gymkhana committee but solely at the risk of the rider, who shall be responsible for any loss, damage or injury to any person, animal or property occasioned by them, their agent or employees or by any animal owned or exhibited by them shall identify the NWRDC committee against any and all loss, damage and liability thereof. The submission of any entry form to the gymkhana shall constitute and acceptance by each person signing same of the revisions herein set forth.

Riders Signature: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18) _____

Please make sure you read the Gymkhana rules and the NWRDC ground rules!