

SOUNDS OF STIRRUPS 'N STRIDES
Quarterly Newsletter August 2008
Volume 1 Issue 4

A CHAT WITH BETTY GRAY

It has been and will continue to be a very busy summer. In July we took 13 riders, 5 horses, and 11 volunteers to the Marion Saddle Club Show. A good time was had by all. At the Citrus Cup Show in April we raised several thousand dollars from our silent auction. Thanks to all who participated.

Speaking of horse shows, we took 8 riders to the State Special Olympics. We participated in 16 classes and took home 8 gold medals, 5 silver medals, 2 bronze medals and a 4th place. Congratulations to all our riders. James Barton took a silver in working trails and a silver in western equitation; Megan Cyr took a gold for working trails and a gold for English equitation; Kim DiPiazza took a gold for working trails and a bronze for western equitation; Kathy Gray took a gold medal in dressage and a silver in English equitation; Krista Koch took silver in working trails and a gold in English equitation; Nichole Miller took 4th place in working trails and a bronze in western equitation; Tracy Parnell took a silver in working trails and a gold in western equitation; Kathleen Van Rider took gold in working trails and a gold in English equitation. This is an impressive record and we are very proud of all our riders.

Those of you who read WESTERN HORSEMAN already know what a hit Nicole Miller's story and picture made in the July Issue. We loved the picture so much that we are featuring it on our new Stirrups 'N Strides Brochure. Do stop by and pick up some of the new brochures and hand them out to businesses, friends, and co-workers. Copy Shoppe in Ocala printed them for us and sponsored most of the cost of the 3,000 brochures. The remainder cost was sponsored by our center's good friend Tracy Schumer, and by the way it was Tracy who took that wonderful picture of Nichole and set everything up with The Western Horseman to have the article done. Thank you Tracy, we appreciate all you do.

We had a wonderful end of the year party on June 21st. We managed to get the volunteer ride in before the rains and then in the afternoon hosted 75 people. We all ate, laughed, and ate, and laughed. We did manage to find time to hold a raffle which paid for the party expenses and also added some extra money to help our cause. During the party Board President Jim Olson asked for volunteers for a fund raising committee. The committee is already hard at work. Those participating include: Marianne Hughes; Sandy Gaile, Theresa Grimes and Treesa Drury. If you have any ideas, or know of the availability of grants for which we might apply please e-mail Marianne at mrshughes@embarqmail.com. I also want to thank everyone who surprised me with the beautiful flowers and the memory picture frame; what a wonderful surprise, and how you kept it a surprise is beyond me, I usually know everything!! Thank you again I was very honored.

A new activity box for our riders is complete and ready for the Fall. It was built by Brandon Angel as his Eagle Scout Project. He had 20 volunteers to help him complete it with carpenters and roofers donating their services. We just love it and are very grateful to all who participated. Wait till you see the wonderful activities are on it for our riders.

Betty's Chat continued:

We are in great need of more building space. What we are looking for is a shed, or possible a construction trailer at least 10 by 24 preferably bigger so we can use it for storage as well as for our office. The current office then could be used for volunteers and more room for our tack. Right now there just isn't enough room in the one small space that is serving as tack room, office, and volunteer quarters. Please contact me if you know of a shed that might be donated or purchased for a reasonable price. I would also like to thank Mary Hall from Hill's Van Service for the loan of the Mini Storage unit since last fall. It has been very much appreciated and we will miss not having it, but we are glad to hear that their business has picked up where all their units have been leased out. Way to go Mary!

Betty Gray

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION/REFRESHER COURSE

September 20th is the day slated for volunteer training. Anyone who would like to become a volunteer at Stirrups 'N Strides is welcome to come and learn more about how you can contribute and work with our students and horses. All current volunteers are urged to attend as well to refresh and add to their skills. The first day of Fall riding is September 23rd so it is very important that everyone attend the September 20th orientation.

50/50 EVENT TO RAISE MONEY FOR OUR CHAMPIONS

We are holding a 50/50 fund raiser to help our riders go to the National Championships in Kansas City. There are four riders who have qualified: Megan Cyr, Krista Koch, Theresa Grimes, and Alison Dolan. We will be taking 4 horses and at least 4 volunteers.

Raffle Tickets are available. Fifty percent of the money raised will go to the winner and fifty percent will help our riders and volunteers make the trip. The raffle tickets are available at Stirrups 'n Strides. Ask friends, neighbors, and business associates to donate money for a chance to win. We are asking for a donation of \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets or \$10 for 12 tickets. We also will be selling the tickets at the Summer's End Morgan Horse Show in September. The drawing will be held on the last day of the show Sunday September 7th. You do not have to be present to win just be sure the name and phone number of the person who donated money for the ticket is on the back. All tickets and money must be returned to Betty Gray by August 29th.

A VERY SPECIAL VOLUNTEER ----- LOU YAICH

All our volunteers are special but every once in awhile there is a volunteer that goes above and beyond to help all of us. This time we'd like to feature Lou Yaich. He comes regularly two days a week during riding season & has been coming every Wednesday all summer. This summer he has been mowing the fields, fixing fences and any other maintenance that needs doing, like fixing the golf cart. We certainly could not afford to pay for all the work that Lou does. What we can do is all say thanks to Lou for making Stirrups 'N Strides such a special place. Hats off to Lou, you are very much appreciated.

GET YOUR GROUP OR CLUB TO SPONSOR A HORSE

We have 10 horses. Three are sponsored, they include: Bourbon sponsored by Deborah Weber; Patches sponsored by the DiPiazza Family; and Briggsy sponsored by Treasa Drury. That leaves 7 to go. The cost is \$2,000 a year and includes various mentions in Stirrups 'N Strides materials, a name plate on the barn stall and a flyer telling you all about your horse. Clubs, businesses, families, or individuals can sponsor a horse. If you would like a person to come and speak to your club just let Betty Gray know and she will set it up. We have flyers available with pictures and a bit about the horse told right from the "horse's mouth". You are more than welcome to bring your group to the Center to have a picture taken with your horse. The horses only ask you bring a carrot or two. Please contact us with any questions about the sponsorship. Help us get all our horses sponsored. A big Thank You goes out to our current sponsors.

HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE RIDE FUND RAISER - OCTOBER 25TH

Hard to believe but Halloween will be here before we know it. We are going to have a Halloween adventure ride. All students and volunteers may participate. You must get pledges in order to ride. You can pick up pledge sheets at the barn or in this newsletter. Ask people to donate money and sponsor you in the ride. There will be prizes given for most money raised; most pledges; youngest rider; oldest rider; best costume and for the volunteers, best costume for you and your horse. We also will be looking for parents and volunteers to contribute items for a bake sale at the event. There will be a food court with hamburgers and hot dogs and most of all lots of fun for everyone as we raise some funds for the riding center. Mark the date on your calendars now---**SATURDAY OCTOBER 25TH**.

FOUR EASY STEPS TO HELP US RAISE MONEY

- 1) Go to a SunTrust bank and open a personal or business checking account under "Checking for a Cause" by September 30th.
- 2) Accept and make any purchase with your new SunTrust Visa Check Card.
- 3) Choose for SunTrust to donate \$100 to Stirrups 'N Strides as your charity of choice and begin the redemption process.
- 4) Submit your complete redemption form. For more information go on line to www.suntrust.com/mycause or call 866-266-2802 or stop by any SunTrust Branch and ask about checking for a cause.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Recognize the team consists of rider, horse, horse handler, instructor, and sidewalkers.
- Understand that every member of the team must be aware of what is being asked of the rider
- Understand the importance of restating instructor's direction. This helps keep the team in sync and ensures the rider understands commands.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Here are some of our major sponsors. We urge you when doing business to turn to these most generous patrons for your needs.

Ocala Breeders Feed and Supply; Seminole Feed Stores, Mid-West Hay; Ocala Equine Hospital, Cardinal Hill Farm (Norm Casse), Jody Schnaible (Farrier), Camp Thomas (Equine Dentist), A Plus Tax and Bookkeeping Center and The Copy Shoppe.

Please support them as they support us.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 29th Day Raffle Tickets are due to Betty Gray
September 4-7 Summer's End Morgan Horse Show
September 20 Volunteer Orientation and Refresher Course
September 21 Marion Saddle Club Show
September 23 First day of Fall Riding
October 25th Halloween Adventure Ride
November 15 -22 UPHA National Competition in Kansas City

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Olson – President _jimandjanfla@embarqmail.com
Anita Gossett – Vice President _agossett1@embarqmail.com
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Betty Gray – Director – _grayhitime@windstream.net

HOW TO REACH US

Stirrups 'n Strides is located at Hi-Time Farm in Citra. It is midway between Ocala and Gainesville just 3 miles East of I-75 (exit 368) or 1 mile East of Hwy 441 on CR 318. Once you are on 318 look for the Ocala Jai Alai. We are about a half mile past the Jai Alai on the right. The actual address is 4246 West Hwy 318, Citra, FL 32113. You can call us at 352-591-1042 or 352-427-3569.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Let us not become weary in doing good,
For at the proper time we will reap a
Harvest if we do not give up. –Galatians 6:9