

# SOUNDS OF STIRRUPS 'N STRIDES

Quarterly Newsletter June 2010

Volume 1 Issue 9

## A Chat with Betty Gray

Wow! What a year we have had. As we wind down for the Summer I look back and I am amazed on everything we have accomplished this season. Our students keep growing with over 60 riding with us and so many wonderful volunteers that help with not only the riding and driving program but also with our many fundraising activities. Thank you volunteers for all your hard work this season, without you, there would not be a program.

Our January cruise was awesome. With over 30 people in our group everyone had a great time and we made \$700 for the Center. Ridgemont Travel donated \$50 for each stateroom that our group reserved. We all had such a great time that next year's cruise is already in the making. We will be sailing from Cape Canaveral on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 for a 7 day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean. Next year Ridgemont Travel will donate \$75 for each stateroom reserved so call Ridgemont Travel at 757-345-3335 and join us for the best time of your life.

The Challenge Show on February 6<sup>th</sup> was the largest ever with 75 riders from 7 programs from around Florida & Georgia. Over 50 volunteers helped make it a very special day for all the participants along with the many sponsors who made it possible for Stirrups 'n Strides to host the show. Thank you all.

Also on February 27<sup>th</sup> the Republican Club from Spruce Creek Preserve hosted a Spaghetti dinner to benefit our Center. Before dinner, our own Bob & Marianne Hughes played music & sang songs and then we gave a presentation about our Center to over 150 people. After dinner there was great music and a lot of dancing. It was a great time and we were presented with a check for over \$1000. It was decided to put the money towards sponsoring one of our horses. **Amigo** was chosen for this honor by the "Spruce Creek Horse Sense Club."

On March 27<sup>th</sup> Stirrups 'n Strides hosted the Special Olympic Area Games. We had 18 riders compete & Tomorrow's Equestrian headed up by Sandy Arbour brought 1 rider. It was a fun day for everyone with lunch being served by the Florida Thoroughbred Fillies & donated by Tommy's BBQ & Golden Flakes Snakes.

The VFW Retirement home in Ft. McCoy hosted a Horse Fest on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Marianne Hughes & Kathy Gray worked together on perfecting a Drill Team in which they performed in front of over 400 people. Many hours went into practice & what a great job they did. They hope to build on their Drill this Summer & do some more presentations next year.

We just got home from State Special Olympics in Tampa. With 9 riders competing, 5 horses & 12 volunteers we had a busy weekend. Look in the newsletter for the results. Thank you volunteers for making the weekend such a success. Our athletes are great!

As we round out the season, I hope to see you all at the end of the year party on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Bring your swim suits & your favorite dish to share; we always have a great time. I hope everyone has a great Summer & we will see you all back in the Fall.

*Betty Gray*

## **END OF THE YEAR PARTY**

Stirrups 'N Strides once again has had a wonderful year! Our program keeps growing and growing with our riders and volunteers!

We are getting ready to wind down for the year and have big plans for our fall season.

Our end of the year party will be held at Stirrups 'N Strides on June 12, 2010, 11:00 a.m. Plans are being made now for great food and fun for all. We will be having our singing group again this year with our own Marianne & Bob Hughes

**- MARK YOUR CALENDARS -**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2010, 11:00 A.M.**

***EVERYONE IS INVITED; VOLUNTEERS, RIDERS AND FAMILIES. PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE COVERED DISH TO SHARE!***

**(Our last day of riding will be Wednesday, June 9)**

## **SPECIAL OLYMPIC STATE GAMES**

We had 18 athletes compete in the Area Special Olympics which was hosted at Stirrups 'n Strides on March 27<sup>th</sup>. From Area games the 1<sup>st</sup> place winners qualify to go on to State Games in May, but the hardest part is that not all our athletes can go to State Games due to a quota that we receive from the State office. We were very fortunate this year to be allotted 9 athletes to go on to State, but then we have the very hard job of putting all the names in a hat & only pick out 9 names. On May 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> we were headed to Special Olympic State Games in Tampa. Our athletes worked very hard to prepare for the show & it certainly showed what a great team we had again this year. With each rider allowed to enter 2 classes, we brought home 16 medals from a total of 18 classes. Wow! I am so proud of our athletes. The results are as follows:

James Barton: 2 Silver Medals, Joey Burke: 1 Gold & 1 Bronze Medal, Kim DiPiazza: 1 Silver Medal & 4<sup>th</sup> place, Kathy Gray: 2 Gold Medals, Krista Koch: 2 Gold Medals, Tracy Parnell: 1 Silver & 1 Bronze Medal, JJ Rosenstock: 1 Gold & 1 Bronze Medal, Tori Smalt: 1 Gold & 1 Bronze Medal, Kathleen Van Rider: 1 Silver & 5<sup>th</sup> place. **CONGRADULATIONS RIDERS**

## **GIVE THEM A HAND!**

**SHE'S AT IT AGAIN!** Maddy Graham once again has "gone beyond the call of duty" by helping to keep Stirrups 'N Strides on top!

She takes care of the farm when Betty is out of town and keeps our horses and riders with smiles on their faces! She is a wonderful contribution to Stirrups 'N Strides and is Betty's "right arm" in keeping things going! It is hard to decide who smiles more, Maddy or the kids with her heartwarming hugs and enthusiasm! Thank you Maddy for always being here.

**THERESA GRIMES** has been hard at work again this year with our fundraiser “FROM SEATS TO SADDLES” which will be held the first week of November at the Paddock Mall. This year, we will also be having painted milk jugs, buckets & some special “surprises” along with the painted chairs. The chairs & other items will be open for bidding the whole week with the closing of the auction at 3:00 on November 6<sup>th</sup>. A special “thank you” to Jim Olson and Fay Wright for helping Theresa sand & prepare the chairs, buckets, etc. for the artist’s. *Mark your calendars now & plan to support our biggest fund raiser of the year.* Thank you Theresa for taking on this huge undertaking again this year, you are appreciated.

### **FUNDRAISING CRUISE TO THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN**

Join us next January 30, 2011 for a 7 night cruise of a life time on the “Freedom of the Seas”. We will be leaving from Port Canaveral with our first stop at Cococay, Bahamas & then on to St. Thomas & St. Maarten. Stirrups ‘n Strides will receive \$75 for each stateroom taken & you will receive a \$50 on-board credit. For more information on the cruise contact Ridgemont Travel at: 757-345-3335.

### **CITRUS CUP HORSE SHOW**

We took 4 riders to the Citrus Cup Regional Horse Show in April and everyone did a great job. 3 of our riders Megan Cyr, Krista Koch & Tracy Parnell qualified for the United Professional Horse Assoc. (UPHA) Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals that will be held in November at the American Royal Horse Show in Kansas City. This is a very exciting trip for our riders & their families, just to be at one of the most prestigious shows in the country makes it very special but also to compete against some of the best riders from around the United States makes it very challenging. UPHA makes this trip possible by paying all the expenses to van our horses to Kansas City & they also pay for the stalls, entry fees & even the bedding for the horses. When you see Megan, Krista & Tracy congratulate them for qualifying for this show & wish them good luck at the show.

### **OUR HORSES!**

Our horses are the Best! These horses are doing an incredible job and we can’t thank the people who donating them enough. These horses show their incredible disposition for their job at hand each day with their willing spirit and their kind hearts for our riders. The donators of these fine animals deserve a great deal of credit for the work they have done with these “special horses”! There have been a couple of horses retired this year & a couple new horses have joined us. As I’m sure, many of you know “Knickee”, has had a bit of a rough time here the last couple of years with the heat, so she has a new home in Colorado at another program much like ours and is doing beautiful with the weather change. She has become the most favorite and spoiled horse in their program. We all miss her for she was the favorite horse of many of our riders, but now she is well, happy and doing the job she loves, taking care of her “kids”. We also retired our wonderful Bourbon this year & he was adopted by one of our volunteers Donna Messer who has him even more spoiled than before. I here he follows Donna & her husband Eddie around like a puppy dog & even would like to come in the house! Thank you Donna for giving him such a great home, Bourbon is a very special horse. Thanks to Kesmarc Rehab Center, Ocala Equine Hospital & Jody Schaible Ace is back to work. Ace’s foot is almost completely grown back to

normal & he is feeling great. It is so nice to see Ace feeling his old self again. We welcome Feliz a 17 year old (Oldenburg) gelding. Feliz is a little over 16 hands tall & has been a 3<sup>rd</sup> level dressage horse. He is sweet & extremely quiet and is fitting quite nicely into the program. We also have adopted 2 nice Tennessee Walking horses that both ride & drive but we might have to sell one of them since we have more horses than we need for the program.

### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Lorraine Rourke put together a small golf tournament with the On Top of the World Nine Hole Ladies Golf Club. She made prizes from decorating used horse shoes & everyone seemed to have fun. The club made a donation to us of \$480. Wow! What a nice surprise.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

We want to recognize and “**Thank**” all our volunteers this year! We **Thank you**, our rider’s thank you and our horses give a “special thank you” for their grooming, hugs & treats. Remember, without you we couldn’t have this wonderful program.

### **GRANTS & PAT TRECKMAN:**

We have been honored to be an United Way Partner this past year, but due to the ailing economy our program along with many other worthwhile organizations have been dropped for this coming year due to their not meeting campaign goals for the 2010-2011 year.. We must work very hard this year through sponsorships, grant writing & fundraisers to make up this loss. We want to Thank Pat Treckman for stepping up & taking over the grueling job of grant writing. We appreciate all your efforts & know you will be successful in your endeavor. Anyone with any ideas on fundraising, or you know someone who would like to be a sponsor, please let us know. Our program is supported by the generosity of people & businesses that make donations to the Center & the benevolence of its volunteers.

### **SPONSORS**

A sincere “thank you” to our **Major** sponsors for this year! Without your support we could not provide this service to our very special riders. When you are in need of any of these services please support the Vendors that support us.

OBS Feed & Supply

Seminole Feed

Mid West Hay

Cardinal Hill Farm (Norm Casse)

Jody Schaible (Farrier)

Billy Bishop (Farrier)

Ocala Equine Hospital

Robert Bloomer (DVM)

Dunkin Donuts

Tommy’s Bar B Q

Kesmarc Rehab Center

Quail Roost Foundation

**THINGS TO COME** We will be updating our website with lots of new information and pictures of our riders and volunteers. We will have a calendar on our website too include our riding days and upcoming events and many new things for you to see!

We will have our annual Halloween haunted house again this year at the Florida Carriage Museum and Maddy has plans for an even bigger and scarier haunted house.

Lots of shows to compete in throughout the year and lots of new and great things are coming for **Stirrups 'n Strides!**

**DATES OF INTEREST NUMBERS**

June 9<sup>th</sup> – last day of riding  
June 12<sup>th</sup> – End of the Year Party  
June 27<sup>th</sup> – Marion Saddle Club Show

**IMPORTANT PHONE**

Betty Gray – 352-427-3569  
Anita Gossett – 352-817-6446  
SSS – 352-591-1042

Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center

**Board of Directors:**

*Jim Olson, Pres.*  
*Anita Gossett, V. Pres.*  
*Treesa Drury, Sec.*  
*Fay Wright – Tres.*  
*Betty Gray, Ex. Dir.*  
*Sandy Brown*

**Advisory Board**

*Pat Parrelli*  
*Bob Bloomer, DVM*  
*Gloria Austin*  
*John Wise*  
*Kendall Ford, PT*  
*Cathy Algood, PT*

**Please accept my contribution to**  
**Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.**  
(A Not-For-Profit Organization)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation of: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Stirrups 'n Strides) & send to 4246 W. Hwy 318, Citra, Fl. 32113

**Contributions from this newsletter will be used to underwrite our scholarship program.**