

SOUNDS OF STIRRUPS 'N STRIDES

Quarterly Newsletter September 2011

Volume 3 Issue #13

A Chat with Betty Gray

What a busy Spring & Summer we have had & what a hot Summer it has been this year. To look back to the Spring, we took 9 riders to State Special Olympics in Tampa & I am very proud to say that all our athletes brought home a medal & some brought home two medals. This is the first time ever that all athletes brought home either a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal. Out of 18 classes we brought home 10 Gold, 6 Silver & 2 Bronze medals, Wow! I am so proud of everyone.

I need to thank all the volunteers that have been braving the heat this Summer to come out & help keep our horses & facilities in top notch condition. Also, the volunteers made it possible for us to hold a limited 6 week riding session on Tuesday mornings in June & July. Someday, hopefully we will have our dream of a covered riding arena & will be able to do more in the hot Summer & inclement weather.

We had a wonderful End of the Year party on June 11th. Everyone had a great time with a pot luck lunch, swimming & great raffle drawings. It is always fun to close out the riding season with this get together.

Again, this June, I presented at the Family Café Conference at Disney World in Orlando on therapeutic horseback riding. This three day conference is extremely beneficial. It lets everyone know what is available in Florida for disabled children and adults. Over 9,000 people attended this year & I certainly encourage everyone with a special needs child or adult in your family to attend. If you would like more information about the conference for next year go to www.familycafe.net or you can call them at 1-888-309-café.

We will be taking riders to Kansas City again this year in November. This will be the 11th year to make this wonderful trip where our riders compete for the National Championship title against riders from around the country. Last year, Megan Cyr was the National Champion. We will be attending the Summers End Morgan Show on September 8-10 for our riders to compete in a qualifying class for the National competition. We will also be having a silent auction during the show to help raise funds to help with the expenses to Kansas City. If you are near the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion during the show, stop in & visit, you can watch our riders compete on Friday evening, September 9th, at 5:00. Come & cheer them on.

We will be taking 3 horses to Sportability in Ocala on September 29th, please read about this in the newsletter, we need volunteers to help for the day in order to give many people a chance to experience riding a horse for maybe their 1st time. If you are available, please let me know. My cell # is 352-427-3569.

Stirrups 'n Strides will be beneficiary of the Region 3 Dressage Show held at the Hits Show grounds on Oct. 14-15. We need volunteers to help at the show. Please let me know if you are available to help on one or both days. The jobs that are needed are ring stewards, barn hostess's, & bit checkers.

We welcome all our new & returning volunteers, you are the backbone of the program & hope you have a very rewarding experience while at Stirrups 'n Strides. Please plan to attend volunteer orientation on September 17th. Thanks for all your help and I look forward to a great Fall Season for Stirrups 'n Strides.

Betty Gray

STIRRUPS 'N STRIDES COUNTRY HOEDOWN & CHINESE AUCTION

This will be our biggest fundraiser for the year! It will be held at the Ag Center Banquet Hall next door to the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion on 200A in Ocala on Sunday evening from 5:00-9:00 PM. There will be a full course country dinner with great desserts, live country music (our own Catherine Sears will be performing) & lots of baskets to try & win. What a fun evening! Tickets are now available for purchase, \$25.00 or \$20.00 for Stirrups 'n Strides riders or children under 12. Call & reserve your tickets now, there are only 200 tickets available. We also need your help! Would you be interested in putting together a theme basket for our Chinese auction? Or do you have something that could be added to one of the baskets? For more info please contact Elaine Richter at: 352-620-5236 or Betty Gray at 352-427-3569.

GOLF TOURNAMENT OCTOBER 8TH

Please sign up for our golf tournament!! Jim Olson along with Laney McGivern are once again heading up our 2nd annual Stirrups 'n Drives Golf Tournament. It will be held at Rainbow's End Golf Club on Saturday October 8th. We have room for 14 teams. Everyone had a great time last year with lots of great prizes. We need sponsors also if this is to be a success! You will receive lots of publicity and at the same time help put smiles on the faces of our students. There are sponsor packages available at \$500, \$250, \$150, and \$100. For more information call Jim Olson at 352-861-7185 or Laney McGivern at 352-249-4484 or 650-678-7757.

FUND RAISER CRUISE

We set sail on February 4, 2012 for a five night cruise of a life time on the "Jewel of the Seas". There is still time to sign up for a wonderful time and also to help S'N S raise some funds. The ship leaves from Tampa. The first stop is at Cozumel, Mexico & then on to Costa Maya, Mexico. For more information please contact: Professional Travel Services (Sheri Mruz) at 352-732-7849 or email at: Sheri.Mruz@avoyatravel.com. Stirrups 'n Strides will receive a donation for each stateroom booked.

SPORTSABILITY

We will again this year attend Sportsability at the Ed Croskey Center on Martin Luther King Blvd. in Ocala. This is an event available to people with disabilities. This event showcases various activities including water sports and horseback riding. Last year we rode 55 people. We also will have a booth inside the gym to tell everyone about our program. The big day is Friday, September 29th. Activities begin at 10 am. If you are interested in volunteering for Sportsability please let Betty know.

YARD SALE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

Our yard sale is Saturday, October 22nd. We need help to set up on the 21st as well as the day of the sale. If you have anything for the yard sale please let us know & please ask friends & neighbors to start saving items for us. We will take everything except clothes & computers. This is the same day as the McIntosh Festival & we always have a large attendance.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER! Volunteer Orientation

September 17th is orientation for both new and returning volunteers. The time is from 8:30 am to 12 noon. The new volunteer form is on our web-site at www.stirrupsnstrides.com or you can fill it out at orientation. Please try to print it out and bring it filled in with you on September 18th. Volunteer forms are needed from each person every year. Please confirm your attendance for orientation by either e-mailing Anita at: agossett1@embarqmail.com or call her at 352-817-6446. We need a lot of volunteers in order to run this amazing program, so if you know someone who might be interested, please invite them to attend orientation.

HORSE SPONSORSHIP

Without our very special horses there wouldn't be a program! And they need your help. You can sponsor a horse for \$2,000 a year. This gives you barn signage, announcements in the newsletter and our web-site. Another idea is to talk to any of the clubs you may belong to. The club can have fund raisers for the horse and come and have a picture taken with the members.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas Party will be Monday Evening on December 5th. We will be in the Ag Center's new building on Jacksonville Road or 200A. Bring a dish and join your friends, volunteers and students for a fun evening. Ham, turkey and drinks will be furnished. Santa Claus has promised to stop by.

NEW PROMOTION VIDEO

A huge thanks goes out to Mark Barrett for putting together our new promotional video. If you haven't seen it yet, you can go to our web-site at www.stirrupsnstrides.com & check it out. It is right on the home page. Mark & his wife Jackie spent many hours videoing at Stirrups 'n Strides & also going to many horse shows in order to put this video together. If you know anyone interested in learning about therapeutic riding please pass on our web-site to them, it will give them a great overview about the benefits & miracles that happen while riding or driving a horse for people with disabilities. Thank you Mark & Jackie, you are one of our Angels.

September 28th is the first week of riding on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

- September 17th – volunteer orientation
- Sept 29th – Sportsability
- October 8th – Golf Tournament
- October 14th-15th – Region 3 Dressage Show- volunteers needed.
- October 30th – Signature Show Series (Livestock Pavilion)
- October 22rd – Yard Sale at S'N S
- November 6th —Country Hoedown & Auction
- December 5th—Monday Evening Christmas Party
- February 4th – Fundraising Cruise

Mission Statement

To provide therapeutic horseback riding and driving to anyone with physical, mental or emotional challenges, and to improve the quality of life for these individuals with the opportunity for emotional, educational and physical growth through horsemanship and competition.

OUR SPONSORS OUR “ANGELS”

Ocala Breeders Feed Supply / Dunkin Donuts / Berrettini Feed/ Seminole Feed / Mid West Hay/Kesmarc Rehab Center/ Cardinal Hill Farm (Norm Casse) /Farriers: Jody Schaible & Paul Bender /Ocala Equine Hospital (Robert Bloomer, DVM) / North Marion Feed / Quail Roost Foundation/ Tommy's Bar-B-Q”Boomer Rowles” (Equine Dentist)/ Bryony Anderson (Ortho Bionomy)/ Mark Barrett (In Motion Productions)



4246 W. Hwy 318
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Please accept my contribution to Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. (a Not-For-Profit Organization)

Name: _____

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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.