VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

REACH 4A Riding Academy

Volume 4, Issue 2 April 2008

"Nite at the Races" a Success

The 2nd annual **Ticket 2 Ride** "***Nite at the Races***" was held March 1st at the Casper Petroleum Club..

Over 140 people attended the event which featured horse racing bet on with "Horse Bucks" , many silent auction items and door prizes from local merchants.

The honored speaker for the evening was Susan Thomas, the wife of late U.S. Senator Craig Thomas.

Leigh Flack served as Master of Ceremonies.

Karol gave a wrap up of the preceding year's events including the information that the Arena had served 112 individual riders and that about half of the participants for the Equestrian events at Special Olympics Fall games were from Reach 4A Star Riding Academy.

Veterans from several organizations were present to watch the kick off of the "Horses 4 Heroes" program with a video presentation depicting riders from other *"Horses 4 Heroes"* programs.

Additionally, Donna Messerli, founder of IREACH and the therapeutic riding program spoke about ***"Living Each Day as if it Were Your Last."*** Then a video of a freestyle reining event was shown with a young lady riding bareback and without reins to the music of Tim McGraws' "Live Like You Were Dying."

Horse racing winners for the night were:

Win—Kim Bult

Place—Michael Grose

Show—Glory Walkin

The Great Escape! by Kelli Reese

Most horses would tell you they don't mind being in their pasture because it is where they can be a herd. And most people take for granted that is how they would always act.. But about a month ago, I learned what horses do outside of their pasture.

Karol had asked me to feed while she went to a horse clinic and I accepted. After she left, I had done the chores and was about to go home when I found the lock to the gate was missing. I searched for it for about 15 minutes but got impatient because it had been a long week. I grabbed a bunch of bailing twine and put it through where the lock would go, wrapping it around to tie it tight. I tested it and it would hold long enough, I thought.

The next morning, I went out to the arena to ride and the gate was just as I had left it. Courtney was there and we went to get our horses, not putting the twine back where it was and and not searching for the lock. We saddled our horses and started to ride. Soon after, I could not figure out why Shalome, whom I was riding, was acting so funny. Then Courtney yelled, "Oh no, the horses are out!" Then I saw them running around outside. I dismounted and ran to the gate. Only about five horses were left in the pasture. The others had gone chaotic! Some were attacking the hay pile, others were running around like children after eating too much sugar. These were not the same horses! Catching

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- Calendar of events

Karol's Korral

We are off and running and ***Lengthening Our Stride***.

This year's "*Ticket 2 Ride"* fundraiser was again a lot of fun with the video horse racing and special thanks goes out to Susan Thomas, our guest speaker. During dinner I talked about our theme for 2008 – ***Lengthening Our Stride*** – and the exciting things that are going on this year.

One of the big things that we are really excited about is the lengthening of our building. It looks as if we are finally going to be able to start the addition this summer with the help of W.N. McMurry Construction, Stateline Architect No. 7, and their associates.

We also look forward to building new relationships in the community to help us finish the project.

The other big projects that we are working on are becoming accredited through NARHA and applying for our own 501(c)3.

REACH 4A Star was started as and is currently a program under I-REACH 2, Inc. With the tremendous growth that REACH 4A Star has had over the last three years, we both recognize that it is time for us to become our own agency. This is exciting for us even if it is a little scary.

The support that I-REACH 2 has given us over the last three years was invaluable. While we have had to rely on them less and less for financial support, they have always been there to make sure that we kept going. **THANK YOU I-REACH 2!!!**

Classes have started and we have 43 riders registered with more applications coming in. More volunteers are always helpful, so if you are interested in volunteering you can contact Runge Baxter, our Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@reach4astar.org or call R4ASRA at 307-472-7827.

Not only do we need more volunteers for classes, but we also need more people who are interested in serving on a committee or possibly the new Board of Directors. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering at this capacity.

As always, there is a lot going on at REACH 4A Star so read the newsletter for more information. You might also check out the website www.reach4astar.org as I have been working on it to give it a fresh new look.

Thanks to everyone who supports REACH 4A Star Riding Academy.

Karol Santistevan

Arena Director

Honored Speaker, Susan Thomas

Education...a leg up on life

"Life Lessons" was the topic of Susan Thomas, wife of Wyoming's late Senator, Craig Thomas, at the Ticket 2 Ride *"Night at the Races"* Fundraiser.

Some of those "Life Lessons" listed by Susan are as follows:

We are all life-long learners, no matter the lesson. The good, the bad, the ugly, we all soak it up.

All children laugh and cry in the same language.

What I say to child will become part of him/her, so I must choose my words very wisely and carefully.

Gang kids want desperately to be self-validated and unfortunately they will get that validation any way they can, and they do.

No matter the ability level, everyone can learn something.

Each of us has the responsibility, every day, to make this world a better place in which to live.

Mrs. Thomas has been presented with a Reach 4 A Star embroidered jacket.

Soon after the *"Nite at the Races"* event Susan announced the launch of the **Craig and Susan Thomas Foundation**

The functions of this foundation include helping at risk kids and the developmentally disabled.

The Horse Report

The number of horses at the Center is now 23.

Sugar, the newest addition, is a 13 year old Quarter Horse, Sorrell, Paint. Sugar is a good sized girl. She is the mother to Jade B's horse Tweet and she was donated to the Riding Center by the Bults.

Bessie is a twenty something year old Tennessee Walker who is on loan to the center from the McCardells'. She is a Chestnut with white spots on her face. Bessie is a gaited horse, something which is new to the center. She has put the instructors and the volunteers to work figuring out how to best use her movements to benefit the riders.

Help our Horses * Help our riders

Sign up to get your newsletter online. Help save postage & paper. Go to www.Reach4aStar.org to sign up or call Leigh at 267-8290

Volunteers continue to shine

Thank you to Roxie Monterastelli, Katie Pattison, Kelli Reese, Debbie Sullivan, Kathy Proud & Runge Baxter who fed all winter.

Last Fall Teresa Ylijarvi came to the Riding Center to volunteer as part of her Occupational Therapy curriculum through Casper College. This young lady, a native of Finland, has proven to be a valuable and reliable volunteer.

Her first time in the United States Teresa served as an *au pair* to a local family. But Teresa came back to Casper hoping to pursue her education to become an Occupational Therapist.

At first Teresa volunteered to be a horse handler and side walker in classes. It was after classes ended in the Fall, however, when Teresa's talents really came to light. You see, Teresa had ten years of horse experience and has competed in jumping and dressage in her native land..

Teresa was immediately put to work schooling some of the center's horses in her areas of expertise

She has even taken some of the center's horses to various clinics and competed in the Wyoming State Games Equestrian Events. At these events Teresa also competed on Julie Feiler's big Dutch Warm Blood, Ofen.

Teresa has done schooling with Serzal, Titan and Toby, making them much more valuable to the center in the process.

Recently Teresa was notified she had been accepted in the Occupational Therapy Program through Casper College, which is conducted by the University of North Dakota.

We at the center are most happy to hear this news as it means Teresa will be in Casper for the next few years. And we bet you'll be able to find her doing those things she likes most: being around horses and helping people.

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them seemed impossible.

Misunderstanding Courtney's instructions, I pushed the horses farther away from the pasture. That's when I started to panic. Courtney was trying to calm me down. The first person I called was Karol, sure she could tell me how to make the situation better.

I thought she would never let me work at the arena again.

Karol calmly told me to call Myriah and that she didn't care whose fault it was. I called Myriah. She said she and Tracy were on their way.

Most of the horses where halfway down the road. It was quite the sight! But some were still eating the hay stack and seemed pretty calm, so I got them back into the pasture.

Then I saw Courtney down the road, wrangling horses with her Jeep! Obviously she knew how a herd operates! After a little maneuvering she got them turned around. I was back at the gate, waiting for them to come charging through the same way I imagined they got out.

By that time Tracy and Myriah had arrived. It didn't take long to get all 23 horses into the pasture. I felt very irresponsible but we counted heads and they were all back safely.

I am very thankful that nobody got hurt and that it wasn't as bad as I imagined. Karol found the lock when the snow melted and now we have several spares.

A note to other volunteers: many of us make mistakes but one you don't want to make is locking the gate inconsistently!

Thank you to our "Nite at the Races" Sponsors

"Nite at the Races" video package

Byrnco, LLC

Silent Auction & Prize Contributors

Basket Creations, Moss' Saddles, Boots & Tack, Linton's Big R, Schlager Nolan Feed, Lou Taubert Ranch Outfitters, The Sportsman's Warehouse, Alice Jones, Leigh Flack, Donna Messerli, Beverly Olsen, The Liquor Shed, Poplar Wine & Spirits/Elixirs, Hobby Lobby, Walgreens East, Ego Trip, Brian Farmer, The Jazz Spot, The Check Cashing Center, Wyoming Slim Patch, Wal-Mart East, Barbara Byrne, Janie Nelson, Kathleen and Tom Thorson, Botticelli's Restaurant, Justice, Education and Research Associates, Wyoming Loaf n' Jug Stores

Advertizing

KWYY Radio, KCWY TV, KTWO Radio, The Casper Star Tribune, The Casper Journal, Casper "Our Town" Magazine

Table Sponsors

Les & Debbie Loveland, Donna Messerli, Greg Lance, Leigh Flack, Mike & Pat Grose, Runge & David Baxter, W.N. "Neil McMurry, The Prairie Institute, JERA

Reach 4 A Star item price list

Embroidered insulated jacket

Dark blue S-XXL $45

Delivery 4-6weeks

Embroidered, hooded sweatshirt

Medium blue, black or grey

Youth sizes S-XL

Adults S-XXL $25

Embroidered Sweatshirt

Medium blue, black or grey

Youth sizes S-XL

Adults S– XXL $20

Long or short Sleeved Denim Shirt

Embroidered logo

Adult S-XXL $25

Long Sleeved T-shirt

Screen print front & back

Youth sizes S-XL

Adults S-XXL Black $12

Short Sleeved T-Shirt

Screen Print front & back

Youth sizes S-XL

S-XXL Light blue $10

Embroidered knit beanie

Black $10

Wine glasses, Coffee mugs

Old fashioned glasses

Screen print R4AS logo

$5.00 each

Horse head Carabineer

***Key chains** $3*

2008 pocket planner $5

2008 Calendar $10

'Lil Lena Trouble'

On to greener pastures

Lil Lena Trouble has gone on to Horse Heaven to join her equine friends from the Academy.

Although she was sick last Fall Lena continued be a compliant and steady companion for our riders.

Lena was interred at Angel Companions, a cemetery for service animals, which is located off of Ten Mile Road.

She will be missed.

"Walk On", Lil Lena, walk on...

The History of the Horse in America

by Anna Shaffer, R4AS Rider

The horse brought unity to America using courage and strength. The majesty of the horse made this nation what it is today.

In the 1600's England, Spain, France and Flanders brought the horse to America. Soon after it became a necessity for hauling freight, making trips to unsettled lands, other towns and for carrying pack saddles.

The Indians raided the Mexican ranchers for horses and the horse became a necessity for the Indians who used them for hunting and pulling travoises. The horsed replaced dogs as pack animals.

The horse is also a symbol of freedom. In the Revolutionary War horses were used for hauling ammunition, rifles and cannons to the front lines. They did the same in the Civil War, hauling even more. Horses served in many wars for America from World Wars I and II through the Korean War.

On January 27, 1860 the Pony Express came about. The Pony Express used fast horses and good riders to carry the mail. Without the horses of the Pony Express it would have taken months for the mail to reach California and other out of the way states.

The horse was used to pull wagons for settlers moving West. Without horses the settlers would not have made it and we would not have the states we have today.

Ranchers depended upon the horse to herd and cut out cattle that were headed for market. In doing so they provided beef for soldiers and settlers out West.

The horse gives us a sense of nationality, uniting our nation from sea to shining sea by pulling wagons for settlers, hauling their packs and helping settle the wild lands that make our country what it is today.

Thank you to our Donors

Donors since out last newsletter include:

Donald & Jill Rhea

William Nicol

Joan & Clark Schilling

Glenda Peters

Brian & Darlene Webster

In Remembrance of Doug Flack

SESSION VOLUNTEERS—6 WEEK COMMITMENT

Session I Apr 1—May 10

Session II May 27—July 5

Session III July 22– August 30

Session IV September 29– October 25th

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Horses 4 Heroes Open House May 24th

Special Rodeo/CNFR June 21

Chutes n' Giggles Calcutta July 18

Chutes n' Giggles Rodeo July 19

ARC Camp August 23

Special Olympics October 15 -17

Volunteer News from Runge

It is almost time to start up 2008 Lesson Sessions at the arena. Before we begin our first session, I would like to wholeheartedly thank all our volunteers for their ability and willingness to share their time. We have returning volunteers plus some new faces to help out for the first session.

It seems the horses as well as the people involved are anxious to get started with the program this year, as they benefit as much from the program as do the riders and the volunteers.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering for our other 2008 sessions may attend our next volunteer training April 26th starting at 11:00 at the arena.

Please contact me: email at *volunteer@reach4astar.org*, arena phone 472-7827 or cell phone 258-8431 to confirm attendance at the training or to discuss other options

Please don't forget we have special events throughout the year for which we also need our volunteers help, and these do not require a 6 week commitment.

Volunteering at R4AS is a great way to participate in something wonderful, and of course it would not be possible to have this program without our volunteers.

"TEXAS HOLDUM" CARD TOURNAMENT

May 4th at American Legion Post #2

Sponsored by the American Legion & Dave's Darts

Proceeds to benefit the "H4H" Program and R4AS

Call 315-0383 or 234-4893 for Information

Horses 4 Heroes Volunteers

Reach 4 A Star will be holding a special volunteer training on Saturday May 3rd from 12:30-2:00 pm at the arena. We have had a wonderful response from local service affiliated persons and greatly appreciate the enthusiasm for those who want to be part of this program.

Two types of volunteers needed:

In keeping with the motto *"Leave No Fallen Comrade* Behind" volunteers specific to the actual horse sessions should be those who are or have been involved in the armed services (veterans.) This is in keeping with the NARHA guidelines for the "Horses 4 Heroes" program, www.narha.org.

A second type of volunteer needed for the Open House are those who can help set up, run various activities and take down.

Please contact Runge at the volunteer contact information listed above if you are interested in helping on this special day.

We are proud to be able to bring this service to the Casper area in recognition of the sacrifices others have made for us and for our country.

Third Annual Chutes n Giggles Rodeo July 19th

The Third Annual Chutes and Giggles Rodeo is planned for July 19th at the Arena

As always a Calcutta will be held the Friday preceding the event

Planning for the event has just begun. This year's format will have one rider from the comm.-unity paired with one disabled rider. Events for the rodeo have not been chosen as of yet, however, the "Princess Contest" will continue as in previous years.

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REACH 4A STAR RIDING ACADEMY

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Casper, WY 82636

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E-mail: reach4astar@vcn.com
Www.reach4astar.org

Calendar of Events

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

APRIL 26TH AT THE ARENA 12:30

Learn the Steps
Be a Horse Leader
Be a Side walker
Help with Chores

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Horses 4 Heroes
May 3rd 12:30-2:00
At the arena

HORSES FOR HEROES

Open House
10:00 May 24th
At the Arena

Chutes n Giggles
Rodeo
Calcutta July 18th
Rodeo July 19th