VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

REACH 4A Riding Academy

Volume 5, Issue 1 January 2009

# Special Olympics Wrap-up

It was a wild and tiring week but for all involved it was well worth the effort!

There are no classes the week of Special Olympics and for good reason!

**On Monday** morning our Equine Vet, Dr. George Marble gave each of the 14 horses going to Special Olympics a health check. Then we started getting tack ready and packing it into horse trailers for the trip to the Fairgrounds. Meanwhile, staff was dispatched to buy bedding for 14 horse stalls.

**On Tuesday** each of the 14 horses was fitted with our special drill team tack (bridles and breast collars) so they could be identified as being part of the "Casper Team". Then final adjustments were made to costumes the horses would wear for drill team appearances.

**Wednesday** morning horse trailers and vehicles were packed with costumes, saddles, bridles, blankets, buckets, grooming equipment, helmets, hay, grain and horses. Karol picked up a ramp and mounting block from the 4-H office, then all of the above was transported to the Fairgrounds.

Once the horses were in their stalls it was time for volunteers and staff to take them to get acquainted with the "Arena at the Fairgrounds." This is especially important for the "first time" horses at Special Olympics as they need to get used to new sights & sounds, as well as having a chance to meet other horses from around the state.

After the horses were bedded down & fed, it was time for the Opening Ceremony!

**Thursday** morning came early as Roxie & Katie were at the Fairgrounds to feed the horses at 6 am. The horses were then walked down by the arena so they

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## Chutes n' Giggles Rodeo March 21st

Plans for the Chutes n' Giggles Rodeo have been made!

The Events chosen for this year's rodeo are as follows: the **Road Apple Relay**, the **Keyhole Race**, the **Costume Race**, a **Ribbon Race** and of course **Synchronized Bull Riding.**

The Calcutta will start the day as the doors to the Arena at the Fairgrounds will open at noon. The Rodeo will begin at one o'clock.

The All-Star Teams will compete first. Teams in the All-Star Division will consist of one Reach 4A Star disabled rider paired with one member of the community.

The Open Competition will then follow. These teams may consist of any two members from the community.

Sponsorships for All-star Teams will be $250.00 and teams will compete in all events. Winners of the All-Around competition will be awarded belt buckles.

Entry fees for the Open Competition may either be a sponsorship fee or $25 dollars per person per event. Prizes will be awarded to winners of the All-

**See Rodeo—page 2**

## Casper College Rodeo Team to Participate with Chutes n' Giggles

Casper College Rodeo Team Sponsor Tom Parker has announced The CC Rodeo Team will sponsor at least one team and will join in to help produce this year's rodeo.

Further details will be forthcoming as the Spring Semester of Casper College begins!

**Welcome Aboard CC!**

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## Special points of interest:

- Thanks to our donors & volunteers
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# Karol's Korral

I can't believe that the end of the year is already here. 2008 was a very busy year for us that had many challenges and accomplishments. One of our biggest challenges is that we still don't have our addition built. We keep getting closer and closer but the harsh reality is that now we need money. Some day we will get this accomplished but for now it is another cold winter with a porta-potty and cold water. So a great big ***thank you*** goes out to the volunteers and staff who are helping me through another winter. If you are interested in helping with or contributing to the building addition, please contact us.

Our riders achieved some great accomplishments this year. Be sure to read about the Special Olympics Fall Tournament. Not all of our riders compete in Special Olympics but they all had moments of greatness. We truly have some incredible riders who are able to adjust and ride whichever horse we put them on. There are also some spectacular young people who ride with us and it is a true pleasure to have the opportunity to know them and watch them grow in so many different ways.

2009 will hold some changes for us but will ultimately be for the good of Reach 4A Star. We are going to have a more structured class schedule by instructor availability. So class times may vary from session to session depending on instructor availability. It will be important to sign up early as these changes may mean that we will have to have waiting list. We will also try to have better defined class types and levels.

Join us for the year end party at St. Patrick's Catholic Church gym on Feb. 7th for more information on these changes and to celebrate the accomplishments of everyone this last year.

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Karol

**Rodeo** from page 1

Around Division.

The cutoff date for entering a team is February 20th for the All-star division.

One event planned for the any cowboy or cowgirl in attendance is a stick pony race.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase during the competitions.

**Anyone wishing to volunteer to either be a competitor, help with setup or take down, work with concessions or provide a sponsorship should call Lynn Jackson at 235-3438.**

There will be a special training for those wishing to compete as an All-Star team member.

Admittance at the door will be $1.00. Come on out and join us for a really fun event!

## Welcome Aboard Rodeo Sponsors!

## Arena Sponsor

## Wyoming Hay Cubes & Lloyd Dechert

## Sponsors

**Dr. David & Mrs. Runge Baxter**

**Dr. Steven Orcutt * Molly B.**

**Casper College Rodeo Team * Bennie Williams**

**Newpark Drilling Fluids * Don & Lynn Jackson**
**Stratton Real Estate**

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In kind sponsors

The Central Wyoming Fair Board

**If you would like to sponsor a team call Lynn Jackson at 235-3438**

## Congratulations to the Athletes

Jade B, Michael G, Rhonda T, Molly B, Patricia G, Shanna S, Moses S, Kathy S, Tracie D, Julie H, Sammie A, Katelyn W, Greg E, Karen B, Troy E, Rickie K, Jordan H, Rebecca J, Jeremy C, Sheryl D, David D, Megan B, John C, Richard C, Alethea A, Whitney J, Tawnie G, Kris L and Michael W.

## And to the Unified Partners

Kelli Reese, Jared Hofstead & Bethany Wheeler

## The Venue Director, Judges and Ring Stewards

Cleo Watters, Ruth Uptain, Erin Schroeder, Marjorie Pope, Donna Chladek, Lynn Jackson, Charlene Vogel.

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could be tacked and used as needed. With 30 riders, some of whom rode in three events, that was a lot of tack changes!!!

Events on Thursday consisted of Dressage, Trail, English Equitation, Western Equitation Western Riding and Relay Races.

The events then shut down as riders , staff and volunteers attended the "Victory Banquet."

**Friday** morning seemed to come even earlier as the second day of events began. All of the timed events: Barrel Racing and Pole Bending as well as the Drill Team Competitions are held on Friday.

Reach 4A Star's 12 person drill team performed at lunch. "It was really fun, but probably not the smartest things we've ever done." said one of the busy volunteers.

Reach 4 A Star had five teams competing as both All-Athlete and Unified Drill Teams. Each of the team performed routines choreographed for the music and theme they had chosen.

One team wore Halloween Costumes and rode to "Monster Mash." Another team dressed all in black and performed to Johnny Cash's "Walk the Line. "

Two of the ladies who come to ride from Circle C combined to ride with two of the gentlemen who come in from the community to ride to the Tobie/Krystal Keith duet "Mocking Bird." These riders had their riding helmets made into mockingbirds and their horses dressed as scare crows.

Members of one of the younger teams dressed as super-heroes and rode to the song "Kryptonite." Kelli and Jade dressed as Indians and adorned their horses with war paint to ride to "Indian Outlaw" The horses loped in this drill and took up the whole arena.

Once all of the events were done all of the equipment and all of the horses had to be transported back to the arena. Needless to say, most of the sorting and putting away had to wait for another day as volunteers, the instructors, the horses and the Arena Director called it quits as soon as the horses were back home, fed & watered.

**And then, the planning for next year began...**

**There are some wonderful people in our community who**

**care about our Athletes and Volunteers!**

*To our **Friends at Halliburton**, thank you for the cash donation*

***Critter Hoppers 4H Club**, thank you for the cash donation*

***First Interstate Bank**, thank you for the matching cash donation*

# Thanks to our Donors!

***Sierra Rodeman**, one of the arena volunteers organized a hay drive with folks she knew from Elk Mountain, the Douglas area and from around Casper. As a result almost 12 ton of grass hay was assembled , delivered to the Arena and unloaded. Those who donated were:*

***Billie Jean Hirsh**, Elk Mountain -5 ton*

***Lyle Richardson**, Elk Mountain - 1 ton*

***Rena & CB Valentine**, Douglas—2 ton*

***Dave Rodeman**, Douglas - 1 ton*

***Bob Stoddard**, Douglas—1 ton*

***Shawn & Kathy Seebaum**, Douglas—1/2 ton*

***Troy & Heidi Tillard**, Douglas—1 ton*

***Bill & Joan Holland**, Casper—$20.00 worth*

***Mary Strand**, Evansville—$50.00 worth*

***Thank you!***

***David & Melody Bowar**, thank you for the horse blankets.*

***Ken & Louise Walker**, thank you for the cash donation.*

***Greg & Marjorie Pope**, thank you for the donation of the 50" screen TV that will be used in our new office addition.*

***John & Betty Wolfe**, thank you for the cash donation*

*There are wonderful people in our community who care about our athletes and volunteers!*

*Recently Massage Therapists **Kay Nuzum of Body Wisdom Massage Therapy** and **Misty Hays-Cameron of Healing Touch Massage Therapies,** each donated gift certificates for 15 20 minute chair massages for our athletes. Kay also donated 5 tables massages for the hard working staff and volunteers.*

*This was as major donation on the part of these ladies, the value of this contribution being worth almost $900.00.*

## "Ticket 2 Ride"

## will have a new format this year!

In past years our "Ticket 2 Ride" has usually been a dinner where we bet on horse races and claimed prizes based on our winnings.

This year our intention is to have a raffle which will award a number of prizes. It has been determined that the raffle will kick off at the "Chutes n Giggles Rodeo" March 21st. The price of tickets as well as a list of the items to be raffled will be released at that time.

This will be a fun change and is likely include more of the community. So, hang onto your gambling money and be prepared to buy some of those tickets on March 21st!

## Thanks to our "Special O" Volunteers

Roxie Monterastelli, Katie Pattison, Shawna Gleason, Runge Baxter, Rachael Tenney, Kaylee Bright, Sierra Rodeman, Kathy Proud, Caren Vogt, Dee Strom, Kelli Reese, Anna Shaffer and The Occupational Therapy Students from Casper College who helped with horses and riders

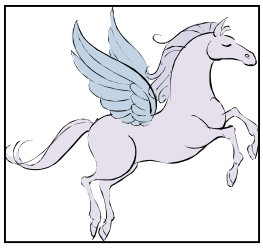
Tara Rice, who served as announcer. Janae Pope who helped with times.

Kim Bult, who hauled horses. Rick Kincaid, who manned the gate. Jim Chladek who helped set up the arena.

Members of the Reach 4A Star Royal Court, Bethany Wheeler, Bailey Kourt and Jessamyn Wolff who helped members of the Casper Police Force and Sheriffs' Department hand out medals.

## The Origin of Pegasus

**by Kaylee Bright & Rachael Tenney**



Pegasus was a mythological winged horse fathered by Poseidon and Medusa.

Medusa who had been known to kill from a glance of a mortal and Perseus, a hero, had been in a battle for many days, when finally, the hero sliced the villain's head off. As soon as Medusa's blood splashed on the ground, a winged and majestic horse sprang up.

As the horse was getting a drink from a well nearby, a golden bridle descended into the hands of Belerophon, another hero. Belerophon caught Pegasus with the golden bridle after which the two shaved many victorious battles.

One day the Proud Belepheron was riding on his steed to the highest mountain to be with the gods when a godfly was sent down to sting Pegasus. Belerophon fell and was forever doomed to walk the earth.

Pegasus, however, turned into a constellation which is held to be a symbol of strength and leadership. The Legend of Pegasus had been born.

At Reach 4A Star Riding Academy we try to help strengthen our riders in body, mind and spirit in able to help them do their best in whatever they may attempt. To that end, Pegasus is indeed an appropriate symbol of our therapeutic riding program.

## Education Hours

NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) certified instructors are required to complete 20 hours of education yearly in order to keep their certification current. To this end Karol and Leigh headed off to Lexington, Kentucky on October 29th to attend the Certified Horsemanship Association's Fall Meeting.

We then spent 2-1/2 days attending workshops on topics such as Dental Care for the Older Horse, Relationship Training Taught To You By Your Horse, Riding For At-Risk Youth and Hands on Vaulting. The quality of the speakers was excellent and included such Nationally known clinicians as Julie Goodnight and Lew Sterrett.

Each attendee was allowed to sign up to ride in one of the lessons. What was learned was well worth the investment. Next year's conference will be held at Colorado State University during the month of October..

CHA is a safety certification organization which offers certification in more areas than therapeutic riding, although an IRD (Instructor of Riders with Disabilities) is one certification which may be attained through their organization.

The close proximity of this event will allow many more individuals to access this information. If you think you would like to attend please contact Leigh or Karol for information.

**World Equestrian Games**

Of interest is the fact the clinic was held at the Kentucky Horse Park which will be the site of the 2010 World Equestrian Games. This event is akin to Olympic Competition for Horses. Like the Olympic Games it is held every fours years. 2010 will be the first time these games have been held in the United States.

## The Wishing Trees

Each year Reach 4A Star comes up with a list of items it could really use. This year **Wishing Trees** were placed at **Noland Feed** and **Linton's' Big R** with those items wished for hanging on them as Christmas Ornaments.

Items donated at Linton's included a large bag of Hay cubes—donated by Linton's. Several containers of horse candy , several bags of hay cubes and some fly spray were donated by the store's customers.

Items donated by Noland Feed included fly spray, horse shampoo & conditioner, several bags of hay cubes, several bags of Strategy, several bags of Equine Senior Feed and a bag of horse candy. Mary Manes & Ann Schott each donated a bag of hay cubes.

Other items the Arena could us include:

~An air compressor

~Aluminum cans for recycling

~Charger for Electric Fence

~Feed

~Supplements

~Copy paper

~Updates will be posted on the R4AS website!

## State Meeting

On September 21st members of NARHA who live around the State converged at Reach 4A Star to discuss a number of subjects.

The attendees from Cheyenne, Sheridan, Lander, Casper and Rock Springs heard information on working with the community colleges, how to get a workforce development grant, and got a report from Special Olympics Director, Priscilla Dowse.

Michelle LeFluer, the NARHA Region 10 Representative (which includes the states Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Wyoming) informed us how to hold a certification workshop and clinic as a fundraiser for the Arena. Casper may pair with Sheridan at a later date to hold such an event.

## The Horse Report

With all the recognition taking place in this newsletter, let us not forget our valuable steeds who accompanied us to Special Olympics!

**J.R., Serzal, Lacy, Zip, Saber, Casu, Toby, Monora, Shalom, Bessie, Dixie Queen, Shazam, Tweet and Shadrach** each did their part to make Special O "Special" for our riders.

## WINTER VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteers will be needed throughout the winter to help feed the horses. Choose your day to feed! Please call Runge at 259-2090 if you can help.**

## The Warmth of a Horse - author unknown

*When your day seems out of balance and so many things go wrong…*

*When people fight around you and the clock goes on so long…*

*When some folks act like children and fill you with remorse…*

*Go out into the pasture and wrap your arms around your horse.*

*His gentle breath enfolds you as he watches with those eyes…*

*He may not have a Ph.d. but, oh, he is so wise!*

*His head rests on your shoulder, You hug him good and tight…*

*He puts your world in balance and makes it seem all right.*

*Your tears will soon stop flowing, the tension has been eased…*

*The nonsense has been lifted. You are quiet and at peace.*

*So when you need some balance from the stresses of your day…*

*The therapy you really need is out there eating hay!*

## Awards Pot Luck

At the end of each season the Riding Academy has a party to celebrate the achievements of our riders.

This year a Potluck Dinner to be held at St. Patrick's Church Gymnasium February 7th at 5:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite dish as follows, last name

| A-I | J-R | S-Z |
|---|---|---|
| **Salad** | **Side dish** | **Dessert** |

Beverages and table service will be provided

## We Have Lost Another Equine Partner

**Ethan** has been at the arena almost since it began in 2005. Mr. Ethanol was his given name. He was a sorrel Quarter Horse who once earned his living on the race track. At the arena he was known for his patience and good nature.

When the arena acquired Ethan we knew he had Laminitis and would need a special diet. Ethan lived on beet pulp in order to keep inflammation from his hooves. But after twenty-some years the situation worsened and Ethan was used very little this year. Ethan, our friend, you are missed!

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## REACH 4A STAR RIDING ACADEMY

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Fax: 307-473-7827
E-mail: director@reach4astar.org
Www.reach4astar.org

**Volunteer to help with the Chutes n' Giggles Rodeo! Join us for a day of FUN!**

## Calendar of Events

### YEAR END PARTY

**February 7th**

**5:30 pm**

**St. Patrick's Church Gymnasium**

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### TICKET 2 RIDE RAFFLE

**Will kick off at the Chutes n' Giggles Rodeo!**

### CHUTES N GIGGLES RODEO 2009

**MARCH 21ST**

**COME OUT AFTER THE WINTER**

**HAVE FUN ON YOUR HORSE**

- **Special Stick Ponies may be LEASED by those who feel safer with both feet on the ground**
- **THE RODEO FOR EVERYBODY!**