REACH 4A Riding Academy

Volume 3, Issue 3 July 2007

Karol's Korral

I can't believe how quickly time seems to go. We are already getting ready to start our 3rd session this year and we have over 60 riders that come out each week. With the start of our 3rd session, we will be beginning our sports training program to get riders ready for competition. This program will cover everything necessary for those interested in competing at Special Olympics Fall Games in October. It will be 12 weeks of training for the price of a 6 week session. Drill team has been working hard to get ready for the rodeo. Speaking of the rodeo, don't forget to join us on the 27th and 28th for the Chutes & Giggles Rodeo. Check out our website for more details. As our program continues to grow, so does our need for volunteers. If you know anyone who is interested in volunteering, please have them get a hold of us. Sorry to be so short and sweet this time, but with 60+ riders and 20 horses, time goes quick. Enjoy your summer.

Karol Santistevan

Arena Director

And The Winner is... Shirley Muse

The winner of Shalome, that is.

Shirley's name was drawn by Chandler Hiser, with her mother Velvet holding the bucket containing all the entries at the Hiser Farms open house on June 16th.

A total of 729 tickets were sold. The tickets were sold by Advisory Board members, Instructors, some of the Hiser Farms staff and even some of the riders.

One man mailed his ticket money from Grand Junction, CO.

Tickets were sold at the Night at the Races Fundraiser in February, at a Wyoming Cavalry Game where some of the Arabian Horse Youth Club helped, and at the Hiser Farm Open House.

Linton's Big R allowed us to bring Shalome to their store for people to see during a radio remote broadcast.

Shirley said she bought her ticket at the Cavalry game and that Shalome was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen.

Shalome will reside at Hiser Farms and then at the Riding Academy until the Muses have built an appropriate enclosure for her.

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Special points of interest:

- Session Number 3 Starts July 17th
- Drill Team has proven to be Quite Popular
- Karol talks about Sports Training
- Be at the Chutes and Giggles Rodeo

  Calcutta July 27th at the Petroleum Club

  Rodeo July 28th at the Academy

Volunteer News

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Reach 4 A Star has begun a memorial garden for our horse partners who have moved on to greener pastures in the sky. There are three rose bushes planted outside the arena by the office entrance for Rebel, Joe, and Goldie.

Volunteer Kelli did a spectacularly artistic job painting the meditation bench in lovely hues of blue with silver stars resembling the bountiful night sky and incorporating the theme of Reach 4 A Star. She also planted a tree to provide shade for the area.

Karol's mother has provided an artistic touch with her hand crafted memorial markers.

Thank you to everyone who helped to create this serene spot where one can enjoy the view of our horses in the pasture, the smell of Karol's favorite flower and reflect on all that has and does bring beauty to our lives.

Volunteers Needed

As our program grows so grows our need for volunteers!

Horse handlers, Side walkers, Stall cleaners, General Maintenance, Barn Staff and individuals to keep the horses in working condition; these are all jobs that need to be done.

If you have some time and interest please give us a call at 472-STAR or 267-7416

Welcome New Volunteer Instructor

Have you heard about the 40 year old Arabian therapy horse in Colorado? They call him "Timex."

Runge Baxter began volunteering with Reach 4 Star in March of this year. She previously lived in Nebraska and volunteered with therapeutic horse facilities there from 2005 through 2006., She and her husband, Dr. Baxter, moved to Casper last July because they found Casper to be idyllic with all the outdoors have to offer. The Baxters are huge outdoor enthusiasts and spend their free time with horses, fly fishing, hunting and wind surfing.

Runge is currently seeking her NAHARA Instructor Certification. She also works part time at Wyoming Behavioral Institute. Runge graduated from Creighton University with a B.A. in Psychology and studies under Masters of Education in Special Education at Arizona State University. She brings 15 years of psychiatric and special education experience to the program. She recently completed an Occupational Therapy course at Casper College.

Runge recently brought her horse Monora (Moma) to the Academy. Moma was a lesson horse at Hiser Farms and Runge is looking forward to assisting with her training to become a therapy horse.

Runge states that she "...loves working with everyone at Reach 4 A Star and that the people, which includes students, staff and volunteers are what makes the program so special and so much fun."

NARHA Region 10 Conference held in Sheridan, Time Well Spent

The weekend of June 23rd & 24th Director Karol and Instructors Julie and Leigh traveled to Sheridan, Wyoming in order to attend the Regional NARHA Conference. The purpose of this trip was to meet other therapeutic riding instructors and to gain some of the 20 yearly education hours required by NARHA.

The attendees went to seminars on "Imprinting the Rider with Autism", two different seminars on how to build your program and then spent time with an "acquired" disability at the C.H.A.P.S. riding facility.

Karol presented a program on how to choose an appropriate horse for a therapeutic program.

More Horses! That's 20 Now.

As the number of riders at Reach 4A Star Riding Academy grows, so grows the number of horses. With some horses being used as many as 7 times a week, the Center's need for a variety of horses has grown.

Added to the herd as of late are **Little Lena**, a 12 year old Quarter Horse mare. Lena is not so tall and is helping Toby out with those riders who need support. She is a chestnut with a white stripe down her face. Lena was donated by Secoys. She was used as a reining and cutting horse before coming to the Academy.

Spring, has a beautiful white mane and tail and is a flea-bitten paint. She was donated by Greg and Marjorie Pope. She is 20 years old, 14.1 hands tall and has been a show horse. Spring likes to walk fast so she is exciting to ride. This Arabian mare is being used in both drill team and in several classes.

Volunteer Runge Baxter has also brought her horse **Monora** to the Academy. Monora is a dapple grey Arabian who has beautiful lavender colored marks on her face. She is 6 years old. So far Monora is just getting at home at the arena.

Blue is a 20+ year old Quarter horse. He was donated by Mike and Pat Grose. Even though Blue is up there in years he still likes to move out. Rider Kelli R. has her eye on him for possibly running the barrels.

Lacy is a brown and white 4 year old Paint Thoroughbred. She was left with the Santistevans by Bobbi Jo Kanter who formerly worked for Special Olympics of Wyoming Lacy is being used as half of a Pas de Deux team by Myriah Santistevan.

The newest addition is **Tarjo**, a 25 year old Bay Arabian. He also was donated by the Popes.

No Need to Panic, It's just a Drill

Drill Team, that is. This activity has been proven to be a very popular activity at the Academy. "The number of team members has grown to about 12 riders," said Team Director, Karol Santistevan.

Each Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon members of the community bring their horses and pair up with an Academy rider to perform maneuvers with names such as "Suicide Charge", "Single Cross" and "Company Front."

These maneuvers are performed in unison with a partner or even with the entire drill team participating. Practices encourage a team spirit, as well as making riders aware of where they ought to be in each maneuver. "It's addictive," stated one participant." "It's also a lot of fun, said one rider after being told her horse needed to "step up," by one of the participants." Karol is having fun also, directing with her new whistle, given to her for Mothers Day.

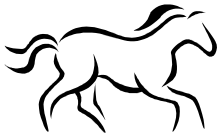
The team was named ***The Shooting Stars*** by a vote of the participants.

Chinook Winds Drill team was kind enough to donate it's black and silver tack to be used by the Shooting Stars.

Horses by Rhonda Taylor, student rider

Horses are as wild and free as the land they live on. They run like the wind on a blanket made of green pastures. They show us how we should want to live. They also teach us things about the land on which we live.

They have a way of talking to us if we only want to listen to what they say. The horse is an awesome creature that God created on earth. We should show respect to and honor the horses of the world. It is said that the horse and rider should be as one; with each other and the land on which they live.



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Chutes & Giggles Rodeo!

Join us 4 food & fun!

CALCUTTA

July 27th, 7:00pm

Casper Petroleum Club

Bet on Your Favorite Team!

Silent Auction Items

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RODEO!

July 28th 10:00am

Reach 4 A Star Arena

Enter a Team

Ribbons for Each Event

Belt Buckles for All-around Team Winner!

Road Apple Relay

Costume Race

Dollar Race

Keyhole Race

Synchronized Bull Riding

Entry Fees:

$5.00 for each event or $20.00 for all 5 Rodeo Events

For entry information call 472-STAR or 267-7416.

PRINCESS CONTEST

For young ladies under 10 years of age

$20.00 Entry Fee

Includes a Riding Lesson and Tips on being a Rodeo Princess!