

SOUNDS OF STIRRUPS 'N STRIDES
Quarterly Newsletter May 2008
Volume 1 Issue 3

A CHAT WITH BETTY GRAY

The first quarter of the year has been very busy and very successful. First of all I wish to congratulate all our riders who did so very well at a series of horse shows. We will list the winners later in this newsletter but I wanted to point out that we had 15 riders compete in the Area Special Olympics last month and they took 11 first place ribbons. We have been given a quota of 8 riders who can attend State Games. The 8 to go to Tampa in late May will be selected by a lottery type drawing. We need help taking these 8 riders and 5 horses to the State Special Olympics. If you can go with us please give me a call. I must also brag a bit about the Citrus Cup Morgan Horse Show where we had 3 riders to qualify to go to Kansas City in November for the UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Championship finals. They were Theresa Grimes, Krista Koch and Megan Cyr; this is quite a trip for our riders and horses to look forward to. I am also very proud of Kathy Gray's dressage performance. Riding against all able bodied riders Kathy not only won both her classes, but had the highest scores for the whole dressage division.

The Challenge Show was another great success. We had 42 riders from around Florida that competed and thanks to our wonderful sponsors who helped feed the participants and provide trophies and ribbons the show was a huge success. Speaking of success's the Poker ride hosted by the Sun County Trail Blazers raised over \$500 for our Center and the silent auction we held at the Citrus Cup Morgan Show gave us another \$2500.

In February we took 11 instructors and volunteers to Tampa to go through the Special Olympic Training Program. Also that month Kathy Gray did demonstrations at the Tampa Charity Horse Show which raised us another \$1350 to help with horse show expenses. In March we staffed a booth at the OBS Business Summit which gave us a chance to tell people about us and how they could participate. We also have 13 riders in the Marion Saddle Club Shows who are competing for Hi-Point awards at year's end.

If you live in the Marion Oaks Area look for our booth at the Spring Fling on May 10th.

This season's riding will end June 14th and you are all invited to the Stirrups 'n Strides family fun day on June 21st. The party is a potluck and will begin with a volunteer ride from 9-11AM. Then at 11:30 riders, volunteers and families are invited to come play games, eat, swim and enjoy. We will be raffling off prizes and if you have anything you can donate to the cause please get in touch with me.

As you can see we are on our way to a second successful year. The success is because of your help, dedication and willingness to put your foot in the "Stirrup" and "Stride" forth with us into a bright new future.

Betty Gray

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR WINNERS

The Citrus Cup: UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup to qualify to go to Kansas City in November to the National Finals: Theresa Grimes riding Ace; Megan Cyr riding Barney; Krista Koch riding Knickee. The Exceptional Walk-Trot Equitation: 1st: Krista Koch riding Knickee; 2nd: Megan Cyr riding Barney; 3rd Kathy Gray riding Stewart; 4th: Malcolm Barnard riding Ace and 5th: Kim DiPiazza riding Patches. Dressage: 1st: Kathy Gray riding Knickee in Intro level test A and B.

Area Special Olympics: Malcolm Barnard took a 1st in Western Equitation and a 2nd in Trail; Christine Barnes took a 3rd in Trail and a 4th in Western Equitation; Jack Barton took 1st in Western Equitation 3rd in Trails; Karl Corbin took 3rd in Trails and 2nd in English Equitation; Nikki Corbin took 3rd in English Equitation and 4th in Trails; Megan Cyr took 1st in Trails and 1st in English Equitation; Kimberly DiPiazza took 2nd in Western equitation and 1st in trails; Kathy Gray too 1st in Dressage and 1st in English Equitation; Keani Hatt took 2nd in Trails and 3rd in English Equitation; Krista Koch took 2nd in English Equitation and 1st in Trails; Nichole Miller took 1st in Western Equitation and 1st in Trails; Tracy Parnell took 4th in Trails and 1st in Western Equitation; Megan Pintok took 1st in Western Equitation and 5th in Trails; Kathleen VanRider took 1st in English Equitation and 1st in Trails. Congratulations to all.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Use a gentle but firm touch when grooming and handling horses
- Learn each horse's sensitive areas
- Watch rider's leg position and pressure and consult with instructor to protect the horse from irritating contact and becoming upset.
- Understand a horse may paw at a bridge or ground pole before crossing it

NEW HORSES FIND A HOME AT S'N S

Ace is a registered 16 year old Quarter horse that has joined our program. Ace came to us from Mayo Florida and is quickly becoming a favorite of our riders. Another newcomer is Shadow also a quiet nice working Quarter horse and finally a third Quarter horse has joined our string, his name is Hot Rod. We now have a total of ten horses only three of whom are sponsored. We need to find sponsors for the other seven horses. A sponsor provides the feed and care for one horse for a year. The cost of the sponsorship is \$2,000. Contact Betty Gray for more information.

DRIVING PROGRAM UP AND RUNNING

Betty Gray is a certified driving instructor and Jim Olson is her assistant. The therapeutic driving program has just begun with a very special student, Marianne Hughes. She is very excited about learning to drive. Marianne drives Brook under Jim's tutelage and is doing very well. She is learning to groom and care for her horse also. Marianne is an inspiration to all, as Marianne is blind. Brook is joined with Briggsy and Knickee as our other driving horses.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We cannot exist without the help of all the volunteers that do so many things for our program, the students and the horses. Next year we have to submit the certification document for accreditation with North American Riding for the Handicap (NARHA). This is quite a task and requires hours of clerical support. If you are a typist, have a computer and organization skills we need you. If you can give an hour or two please give us a call and get involved. You will learn a lot about therapeutic riding, have the knowledge that you have helped many and most of all we promise you a friendly rewarding experience.

PAINLESS CONTRIBUTIONS

You can help support Stirrups 'n Strides by opening an account at SunTrust Bank. Stop in at any branch and tell them you wish to participate in the "Checking for a Cause" program, you must use your debit card 1 time and then you can sign up Stirrups 'n Strides to receive \$100. This opportunity has been extended to August. Do you shop on line? Join iGive.com to support Stirrups 'n Strides. It's free, safe and easy to join. There are over 690 stores to shop at including many big names such as: Land's End, Nordstrom, JC Penney etc. A percentage of your buy is contributed to us. Just join and surf. You don't have to buy anything. By joining you give us a chance to win a \$1000 donation. iGive.com is giving away \$1000 to 5 winning causes every month for 10 months.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

Riding for the summer ends June 14th. Volunteer Appreciation Fun Day is Saturday, June 21st. There will be a ride for volunteers from 9 to 11 am. Starting at 11:30 is the swim party for volunteers, riders and their families. There will be games and lots of surprises. Don't forget that like last year this is a potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share and come prepared for fun and games, we will provide hamburgers and hotdogs.

HOW TO REACH US

Stirrups 'N Strides is located at Hi-Time Farm in Citra. It is midway between Ocala and Gainesville just 3 miles East of I-75 (exit 368) or 1 mile East of Hwy 441 on CR 318. Once you are on 318 look for the Ocala Jai Alai. Stirrups 'n Strides is about a half mile past the Jai Alai on the right. The actual address is 4246 West Highway 318, Citra, FL 32113. You can call us at 352-591-1042 or 352-427-3569.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

“Help others get ahead. You will always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders.” Bob Moawad Business Leader