



# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 7 ♦ Issue 2 ♦ April-June 2009

## Catching Up - Again!

I don't think we ever get *caught up*. Time just seems to pass by so quickly that what you were going to do gets done and you don't even remember doing it. © So here goes "Part 2 of Catching Up" on the events at Mounted Eagles during CY2009.

**May** - We left off in the last newsletter looking forward to the May 2nd Gala Event at Spirit Horse Center (SHC). That went very well and SHC experienced a lot of great recognition for their new facility and the services that they offer, including access to the Mounted Eagles therapeutic horsemanship program. We had a concession booth at the event which proved to be profitable for us. The Second Quarter Volunteer Training was held on May 4th and we had a great turn out. We have



Toni Wasilensky, NARHA Certified Instructor and M.E. Equine Manager addresses new volunteers in a Volunteer Training Session



The Mounted Eagles' Equine Family is introduced at a Volunteer Training Session

several new volunteers this year and we are excited about their interest in learning more about the services we provide and how they can become the best volunteers to deliver the much needed services to our riders. We had our annual membership meeting on May 18th and began our search for two new board members. The annual membership meeting had a very small attendance so I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of you who pay your membership fee to attend this meeting next spring. We value your input and want you know what's happening behind the scenes to make your program a success. In late April, Jolene Parks resigned her position on the Board of Directors. We will miss Jolene's physical presence at the board meetings and her contributions to the program. Jolene needed to spend more time with her brand new baby girl, her husband and her new job. We all know that there is never enough time for us to do all that we want to do to help others without cutting back on family time. A decision had to be made and Family should always come first. We wish Jolene and her family the best and maybe some day she'll be back. Jolene, we thank you for all you did and continue to do for our program. Thus began our search for two new board members, one to replace Jolene and one to replace a vacancy from last year.

**June** - On June 8th we elected Colleen Langren and Cheryl Triplett to our board of directors. Colleen lives in Brainerd with her husband, Irwin, and has been a volunteer with the program for about two years. She is very active in the community and is an avid horse lover as well having a special place in her heart for children and adults who face challenges. Cheryl lives with her family in Little Falls and her daughter, Rachel, has been riding with the Mounted Eagles for 6 years. Cheryl is a Certified Nursing Assistant, Parent Partnership Project Facilitator, and an Assistive Technology Assistant. She and her husband, Danny, have been strong advocates for the Mounted Eagles for a number of years and Cheryl will be a great asset to the board. Welcome to both Cheryl and Colleen! June 20th brought our 4th Annual Benefit Dressage Schooling Show. SHC was the host for the show and we had 33 exhibitors who presented in 78 classes. A great turn out and show of support for our program!

**July** - July continues to be a busy month with our current roster of 63 active riders. Our volunteers and our horses stay very busy keeping these individuals smiling and working hard. We continue to receive inquiries for new riders and volunteers and are pleased that our program continues to grow. Chris Bergin entered her resignation from the Board of Directors. Like Jolene, Chris has a new baby and many family obligations that must take priority over outside commitments. We appreciate so much the contributions Chris has made during her tenure on the board and we will miss her physical presence and her input. She has agreed to continue to help us in any way that she can when her busy time schedule and resources permit. Thank you, Chris for all you have done and all that you will continue to do for us. We, of course, continue to work on fund raising events to cover expenses, care for our program horses, insurance, supplies etc. The support of the communities we serve is vital in this endeavor and we appreciate all that is contributed.

**August** - August will begin with us being busy at the Crow Wing County Fair promoting our program services. August 22nd brings Breakfast at Applebee's - a fundraising event for our program. Come have breakfast and help support our financial needs. \$5 per person - Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage, Orange Juice and Coffee. Can't beat that for only 5 Bucks! See you there 8 am - 10 am on Saturday, August 22nd.

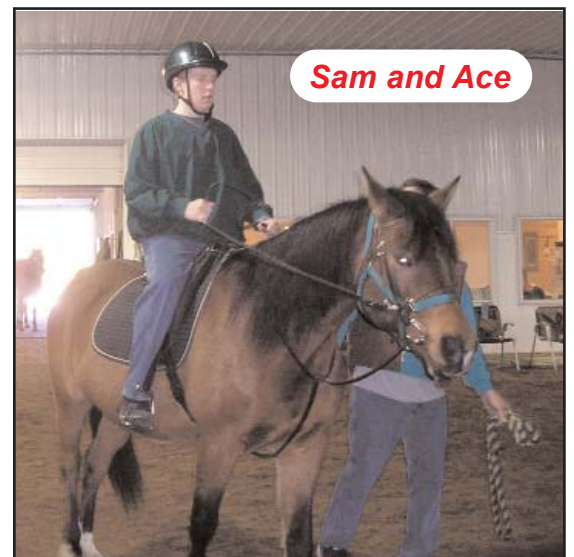


## Rider of the Second Quarter - Sam Weber

It was Tuesday in early Spring of 2005 and it was the first day Sam was to come to ride at Mounted Eagles. We had his horse saddled and his team of two side walkers and a leader were ready to assist. As he entered the arena it was evident that this would be way too much for him to handle. You see, Sam, a 22 year-old young man from Pierz, faces the challenges of Autism every day of his life. New things and changes in his routine are particularly challenging. So we adjusted our plans to more calmly and gently introduce Sam to therapeutic riding. We quietly slid the saddle off and the team backed away. We brought Sam quietly to the horse for introduction and allowed him to stand with one person as we walked quietly around the arena with the horse. He stood and looked and looked with amazement yet with a bit of uneasiness showing in his face as well. As the weeks passed we progressed to a saddle and Sam mounted and sat quietly. However, if Kota swished his tail, Sam became fixed on that movement and was somewhat intimidated. We just had to watch and adjust as needed. Most of the time we were able to lead him around the arena without incident and he became more at ease with the horse and his helpers.

In the beginning Sam was not comfortable touching the horse with his hands. He began to come for his riding lessons wearing gloves. With the gloves on he would touch the horse quickly with one finger on the face. We all cheered and his confidence grew such that one day he handed Kota a LONG piece of grass to eat from his hand--which had no glove on it. Today, Sam sits tall and will do anything we ask him with his horse. He touches the horse and sometimes

helps to groom the animal that he has come to love and respect. Kota has moved out of the program and to our amazement and joy, Sam accepted his new horse, Ace, without any conflicts. We are working on mastering Sam's ability to follow verbal cues instead of the visual cues he is accustomed to seeing. He is even working on the concept of making his own decisions, such as where in the arena he should choose to ride his horse. He is always very excited to ride and giggles and laughs loudly as he stands on the block to mount his horse. We are very proud of Sam and cheer him on in all of his attempts and victories.



When Sam is not riding he enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys swimming and riding and loves to drive the boat whenever his family makes it possible for him to do so. Sam likes music, cartoons and fireworks and especially seeing his friends (horse and human) when he comes for his weekly riding lesson. Congratulations, Sam and keep up the good work!

## Two Mounted Eagles' Volunteers Honored as "Kids With Heart"



Sarah Fairbanks and her brother Justin (Mounted Eagles' rider) receive congratulations from "Elvis"



Emily is the third from the left and Sarah is the first one on the right. David Downing/Kinship Partners received the winner's donation.

In April, two of the Mounted Eagles volunteers were honored at the annual *Kids With Heart* awards ceremony at West Town Mall. Sarah Fairbanks and Emily Gilson both were selected as two of the top ten finalists from the applications that were submitted. All applicants are under the age of 18 and are nominated by their peers or by someone with whom they work in a volunteer situation. The winning decisions are based on the applicant's contributions to the community and their commitment to help non-profit organizations. The top winner receives a \$500 donation to his/her charity of choice. We weren't the top winner this year but look out next year! We're just proud that our girls were a part of the top ten! Sarah and Emily received gift certificates to their store of choice at the mall and we are proud that they were recognized for their love and devotion to helping others. "Elvis" was even there to give them special "notes" of congratulations. Congratulations Girls, we're very proud of you both!

### FINANCIAL NEEDS!

Mounted Eagles is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. Third party billing (medical insurance) is not an option for collecting for our services. Our Board of Directors has made a commitment to turn no program eligible candidate away because of their inability to pay; therefore we offer full or partial scholarships for riders who face financial hardships but would benefit greatly from our services. We work hard at fund raising and grant writing in order to raise the much needed funds to cover the expenses incurred to keep our program in operation. The biggest of these expenses is the care of our horses. Without them and our volunteers there would be no program so we must be able to continue to give them the best care possible. Along with horse care expenses, our Scholarship Fund needs to be replenished. We charge a minimal fee of \$20 per 1/2 hour session. Our operating cost is \$43.29 per 1/2 hr per rider per horse. God continues to bless us and we are counting on continued financial support of our friends, families, individual supporters, businesses and grantors to help us make it through these difficult times. Please remember us when you are planning your charitable donations budget for this year. If you are a member or know of a community organization that you think would be interested in helping support the Mounted Eagles, please contact Aggie about setting up a time to come and introduce our program to them. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you!

## Changes in our Equine Family

We welcome **Tamarack** to our Mounted Eagles' equine family. Tamarack is a very LARGE quarter horse who has been loaned to the program by Debbie Bernie, a veterinarian from Garrison. "Tam" has settled in to her duties quite nicely and seems to be enjoying herself very much carrying our riders--both large and small--during their individual lessons. Thanks Debbie and Welcome, Tam!

**Tacoma**, who has been with the program for a little over a year, will be going back home to his family. He was on loan to us and served our riders well during his time with us. We appreciate so much the opportunity to get to know him and for his sharing himself with our special people. Thanks to Tacoma's family for this experience.

### Walk-N-Roll 2009 is Coming Soon!



Mark your calendars and plan to join us for Walk-N-Roll So They Can Ride on September 12, 2009. Perhaps you

are interested in becoming a sponsor for the event this year. T-shirt Sponsors, Mile Marker, and Starting Line Sponsors are needed. For information about this event please contact Lynn Fairbanks at 218.963.3936.

### Benefit for Mounted Eagles Pancake Breakfast



**Applebee's**  
15240 Dellwood Dr  
Baxter  
8:00 am - 10:00am  
Saturday, August 22  
\$5 per person

### 2009 Calendar of Events

- Aug. 3-8 Crow Wing County Fair Booth
- August 22 Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Benefit for ME
- Aug. 27 Volunteer Training
- Sept. 12 Walk N Roll So They Can Ride
- Oct. 2-4 Hoofin-It for Mounted Eagles
- Oct. 20 Volunteer Training
- Nov. 7 Non-Profit Day at WestGate Mall
- Nov. 18-23 NARHA National Conference
- Dec. 17 Last Day of Riding for 2009

Watch [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) for updated 2009 Calendar of Events



### Happy Birthday

#### May

Mary D  
Rachel T  
Kim O  
Alicia J  
Greg D  
Tasha S  
Jenny W

#### June

Barb H  
Weezie T  
Mya H  
Ronda R  
Nathan D  
Kimberly J

#### July

Yvonne K  
Riley V  
Toni W  
Linda D  
Anshel B  
Shae J

Shari S  
Kate L  
Zac L  
Malissa M  
Derek O  
Sam W

### The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales is a Quarterly Publication of Mounted Eagles, Inc.

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