



# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 7 ♦ Issue 1 ♦ January-March 2009

## Catching Up!



Susie Ballif & Cody Vleck

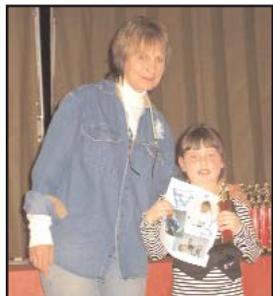
Well, it's been a busy four months of 2009 for the Mounted Eagles. Seems like it has been just a few weeks since the beginning of the New Year and now it's the end of April already! We're a little behind in getting this edition of Mane Tails out so please bear with us as we try to catch you up on what's been happening so far!

**January** - We settled in to our new home at Spirit Horse Center and started our year off with 56 riders and 51 very active volunteers who spend most of their time at the barn but also helping out at fund raising events. We had our first 2009 volunteer training session and had record-breaking attendance at the two-part session. We combined our Volunteer Banquet with the first training session and honored our volunteers who reached 'milestone' service award dates during 2008. Our Adult Volunteer of the Year was Kris Olson and the Youth Volunteer of the Year was Emily Gilson. Our volunteers logged a combined total of 3,894 hours at the barn during 2008. Thanks so much to all of you!



Susie Ballif & Nathan Drake

Our starting date was postponed a week because of the unpredictable Minnesota January weather so it wasn't until Jan 20th that we got going with the riding. We set up a new riding schedule this year that will enable a couple of weeks off every six weeks so that our volunteers, horses and participants and their families can get some things done without having to miss a riding night. We ride six weeks and then take two weeks off. The horses really appreciate the rest during this time.



Susie Ballif & Karlee Schular

On Jan 16th, we had our Rider's Banquet and celebrated the 2008 successes of the participants. As usual it was a great time and the food (which everyone contributed) was fabulous. Trophies and photos were given to the participants and a special

award was given to mom, Cheryl Triplett. She was awarded a photo collage for her eagerness to learn what Rachel feels on horseback--she wanted to know so we put her on horseback so she could find out.



Aggie Stroot, Kris Olson, & Susie Ballif

We worked at the Jaycee's Ice Fishing Extravaganza. It was one of the coldest days of the year but the dedication and commitment that Mounted Eagles' volunteers and parents had was warmer than ever. We had 14 volunteers show up to help out at this event--another record breaking attendance.

**February** - Riding is off and trotting. We were the benefactors of the Knights of Columbus - St Francis Order Pancake Breakfast on Feb 15th. It was a fun event and is always a chance to meet new people who are interested in hearing about our program. The KC's are very gracious and do all the work - we just have to be there to clear tables and socialize! Can't beat that! We are very grateful to reap the benefits of this group's hard work. We participated in the MN Tack Swap in Little Falls and were able to make a few bucks on some of the tack that we no longer use. Being present at the event also allowed us to meet new people and again promote our services.



Aggie Stroot, Emily Gilson, & Susie Ballif

**March** - This was a very busy month for us as we hosted the NARHA Region VI Conference at the Lodge on March 20-22. We spent a lot of time since last October planning for the conference that was attended by representatives from fellow therapeutic centers in Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Canada and Minnesota. We hosted a benefit "Dinner and Dancing at the Barn" on Saturday night of the conference and had an overwhelming attendance for the event. People from the



*Catching Up!--continued on back*

## Rider of the First Quarter - Wendy Nyberg

Wendy Nyberg is a lovely woman who is challenged by mild mental retardation and mental illness. She is number 6 of 8 children and grew up in Mizpah, MN. She graduated from high school in Chisholm, MN. in 1978. Wendy is friendly and outgoing and loves to talk and never forgets a thing! She struts in with her cowboy boots and asks everyone how they are and tells us she has missed us. Each week she asks one of her instructors if she has seen her sister and upon finding she has not wants to know why. Mounting always starts with this discussion. Wendy begins the lesson by asking what horse she is riding and visiting with her volunteers. One of her sisters has always had horses and she would never ride because she was so intimidated by their size. Wendy loves animals and started coming to Mounted Eagles and was stiff and uncomfortable but kept coming and has continued for five years now. She rides weekly and has ridden in several annual Mounted Eagles horse shows and proudly displays her ribbons to friends and family as well as her annual trophies for improved horsemanship. Wendy is dependant on her team of a sidewalker and leader to know what she needs to do next but as they back off from her horse, she is realizing she is able to steer her horse by herself and we are seeing her confidence level rise and her skills increase. When her lesson is finished and she returns to the mounting block to dismount she always rubs her horses neck and tells him he is a nice boy.



Wendy on Earl

When she is not riding, she lives in Baxter and earns an income by cleaning rooms at the Casino and doing piece work for PA. Wendy loves her family and keeps in touch with her nieces and nephews by cards and letters. She loves to shop and travel. She also loves to do beading and collects anything to do with rabbits. She will be turning the "Big 50" this year and a big family party for her is being planned. Wendy is enjoyed by all of her friends at Mounted Eagles and we all wish her the happiest of birthdays and a very bright future.

conference as well as Brainerd Lakes area residents were there to enjoy the fine food and a special dance demonstration from Michelle, Talina and Oscar Gonzalez of Spirit Movement Dance Studio. Spirit Horse Center was the host for the barn sessions of the Conference as well as for the dinner and dance. We truly appreciate the continued support we receive from Staci and Brion Fornshell, the owners of our new home.

**April** - We have been very busy so far this month too. We had a booth at the Garden Expo in Brainerd and at the Central Minnesota Horse Fest in St. Cloud. Along with promoting our services and reaching prospective clients and volunteers, attending these events gave us an opportunity to showcase some of our new fund raising items that have been created by Jan Moran, a member of the ME Board of Directors. Jan has created a new line of note cards, greeting cards, photo cards, t-shirts, aprons and tote bags that are great gift items or fun just to keep for yourself. Please watch our website for the items to be posted in our store. We had an absolutely marvelous evening at our first Wine & Hors D'oeuvres Fund Raising Event on April 17. We had a total of 83 attendees which Prairie Bay manager said was the largest attendance at any of this type of event that they have hosted in the past. Great job, huh!!!! They opened up the patio and most of the attendees sat outside at tables in the early Spring temperatures and socialized with friends, family and people they had never met before. It was awesome to see!

Once again we were invited to be a part of the Resource Room at the Parent Partnership Project Parent Retreat which was held at Cragun's

Resort. This retreat is for parents who are raising children with special needs from Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, East Ottertail, Morrison and Todd counties. It is another great opportunity to meet new people who share the same mission and vision. We will have our first Volunteer Orientation on Monday, April 20 and we will participate in the Non-Profit Days at Westgate Mall on Saturday, April 25. So the month continues to be quite busy.

I think that pretty much catches us up to date on what has happened so far this year. Now for what is going to happen in May!

**May** - May 5th starts our second 2-week off period on our schedule so there will be no riding on May 5, 7, 12 or 14. However, we take this time to have our Volunteer training session that will be held on Tuesday, May 5. Tuesday, May 19, starts our next six week session of riding.

**May 2** ♦ 11 am - 5 pm ♦ Spirit Horse Center  
Spirit Horse Center is hosting a Spirit of the Horse Gala Event and we will have a vendor booth at the event as well as supply the concessions. Come and enjoy a variety of vendor booths, art work, dance movement demonstrations for humans and horses and lots more interesting ways to celebrate your passion for horses. The event is open to the public at no charge. Mounted Eagles will benefit from the concessions sold at the event.

It's been and will continue to be a busy 2009 as we strive to provide better quality and quantity of services for the people in our communities.

**FINANCIAL NEEDS!**

As with everyone, it is proving to be a time of financial struggle at Mounted Eagles. We continue to work hard at fund raising and grant writing in order to raise the much needed funds to cover the expenses incurred in order 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 needing to be covered, our Scholarship Fund needs to be replenished. We have a commitment to never turn anyone away who is qualified to participate in our program 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. Fees are \$20 per ½ hour session but the operating cost is \$43.29 per ½ 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 thru these difficult times. Please remember us when you are considering donating and/or planning your charitable donations budget for this year. Thank you!

**Dressage Schooling Show**  
**Saturday, June 20**  
*A Benefit for Mounted Eagles*  
**Spirit Horse Center**  
8386 50th Ave., Brainerd  
Contact Toni Wasilensky  
218.825.4944  
info@spirithorsecenter.com

**2009 Calendar of Events**

- May 5 Volunteer Training
- June 20 Dressage Schooling Show Benefit for ME
- June 20 Non-Profit Day at WestGate Mall
- Aug. 3-8 Crow Wing County Fair Booth
- August 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**

January	February	March	April
Christina Zugschwert	Lise Lunde	Madeline Bernie	Eric Lemmer
Karen Kersten	Sammy McKee	Jan Moran	Brenda Barker
Nathan Goff	Justin Fairbanks	Diane Edison	Chris Bergin
Lynn Fairbanks	Sarah Heitkotter	Annette Manzano	Jake Thomsen
Heidi Goodrich	Bradyn Siewert	Charles Koenig	Lydia Putnam
Colleen Langren	Jack Kimbler	Stephanie Koenig	Mitchell Ruis
	Dalton Schreier	Veronica	Brandon Sullivan
	Brad Baker	Uhlenkamp	Loretta Sullivan
	Laura Becker	Connie Madison	
	Hank Mykkanen	Tracie Price	Jolene Parks
			Bill Haeg
			Shirley
			Adolphson
			Katie Velardi
			Dylan Becker
			Susie Baillif
			Theresa Grow
			Bruce Gross

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

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