

# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 5 ♦ Issue 4 ♦ October-December 2007

## Update on WALK-N-ROLL 2007

Statistics and outcome for the 2007 Walk-N-Roll were the best yet. Celebrating our 5th year for this event was extra special. Elvis' rock & roll kick off got the walkers geared up for the 6 mile trek from Nisswa to Pequot Lakes. Appearances by "Elvis," David Alan Pundt, The Skal Klub Folk Band and Juggler, Michael McColgan made the Spaghetti Dinner and Awards Ceremony extra special. Sponsorships, pledges from walkers, silent auction bids, spaghetti dinner sales and individual donations grossed \$15,687.44 once again proving that this event is the biggest fund raising event of the year for the Mounted Eagles.

Major Sponsors for this event were Baxter Lions Club, Consolidated Telephone Company, Crow Wing Recycling, Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grattan Healthcare, H & H Builders & Supply, Pine Motors, Thrivent Lutheran Services Caring Abounds Communities, Pierz Lions Club, Lakeland Agency & Pequot Lakes Physical Therapy Services. Thanks to all of you for your generosity and support!



## 9th Annual Participant Horse Show

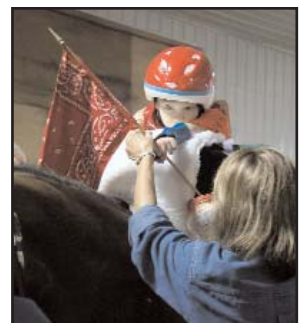
On August 18th Four Winds Horse Center was a whirlwind of activity as the Mounted Eagles program participants showed off their horsemanship skills for family members, friends and relatives. 44 out of 55 program participants took part in the 9th Annual Participant Horse Show; each rider showing in three classes and earning a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th place ribbon according to his/her performance in each class. It was a great time for all.



## Rider of the Fourth Quarter

Jake Thomsen is not like most 8 year old boys who go to school, watch Sponge Bob on TV or listens to someone read him a story, yet he enjoys each one of these activities. In the real world Jake has severe Cerebral Palsy, Primary Immune Deficiency, Growth Deficiency and Evans Syndrome, which is a blood disorder affecting the immune system. He is unable to speak like most and Jenny, his adoring helper, carries him lots of places - especially into the barn for his riding lessons. Jake is unable to sit alone or hold his head upright for a long period of time, but when he comes to ride horses is when he really works the hardest to accomplish these goals. We prepare his horse by placing a support on the front of the saddle so he can lean his body up against it and rest his head on it when he tires. He rides with a sidewalker present on each side of the horse to help support him and a person leads the horse for him. When Jake is on his horse, Ace, he is taller than all of us and he is moving all around the arena. We tell him that his goal today is to raise his head and watch where he is going. Sometimes Jake is just too tired to lift his head and just leans it on the support but other times he, without our prompting him, will raise his head and laboriously turn it forward to look where he is going. He will hold it there for a few seconds and down it goes for a rest, and then up it comes again! His horse walks in patterns and moves to stretch and lengthen various muscles in Jake's body. Jake doesn't know he's working while he's on the horse; he's on top of the world and moving at a pretty good clip! Jake will look at you when you speak to him and you know he's taking in every word you say. When Jenny says "Hi Jakie" from the end of the arena, he raises his head and turns to look at her and they exchange glances as he rides by. Jake lives in Royalton and attends school

four days a week. His family has adapted many items so that he can enjoy life and experience it to the fullest with his siblings. His mother says Jake is very "vocal at school and at home". Sounds like any other 8 year old to me! On Tuesday morning when mom tells him it's riding day, he squeals and gets excited. When he arrives at the barn in Jenny's arms, he is always greeted by the volunteers who help him and his riding instructor, Susie. He turns his eyes to look for Ace and knows he will soon be on top of the world again.....Jake doesn't say, but he knows..... Congratulations, Jake. You've come a long way and we're watching you ride to conquer the rest of your world!



Mounted Eagles is committed to enhancing the lives of program participants, volunteers and the community by providing a safe and enjoyable environment where individuals with special needs benefit from therapeutic, developmental and educational equine-assisted activities. Services are provided to individuals from five counties within and surrounding the Brainerd Lakes area. The program takes place at Four Winds Horse & Human Learning Center, 13860 Shawkia Dr in Brainerd. For more information about participating in the program as a rider or a volunteer please contact Aggie Stroot at 888.828.9920 or 218.568.5883. You may also check us out on our website at [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org)



## Get Ready to Saddle Up for the 2008 Riding Season

The 2008 riding season will begin on January 3rd. We look forward to seeing our riders and volunteers after this holiday break. All riders and volunteers will resume with their regular schedules unless you have been notified otherwise. We look forward to another great year in 2008 where we will watch our riders continue to gain physical and emotional strength, confidence, self-esteem and independent riding skills where possible. Our volunteers will be looking forward to seeing their friends again and making new ones as we add new riders to the program. If you have questions about your riding or volunteering schedule, please call Susie at 218.764.2337 or 218.839.3370. Always be sure to call 1.888.828.9920 before you come to the barn, especially if you think the weather might present conditions that would result in cancellations of riding lessons.

## Thanks for Giving in 2007

It is once again time to say "Thanks for Giving." Grant awards, organizational donations, individual donations, fund-raising sponsors and participants and in-kind donations made it possible for us to achieve our budget goals another year. It's always a relief when we know that we have enough money to feed our horses! ☺ We send our many thanks to all of you who were in any way a part of this financially successful year. May God bless you for all that you do for others. A list of our major donors can be found on our website.

Thanks to our barn volunteers who donated a total of 3375.5 hrs this year. We couldn't do this without each and every one of you.

Thanks to the board members who donated their time and efforts to make sure the organization was run effectively and efficiently. Your guidance is of the utmost importance to our success. Thanks too to the "offsite" volunteers who work behind the scenes to make things happen, like birthday cards getting sent, copies being made, meeting sites found etc.

"Thanks" to the staff members: the instructors who really make it happen at the barn and to the volunteer staff who coordinate training, orientation and making sure we have enough people to do the job.

And, last but certainly not least, thanks to our faithful, dependable horses who always give unselfishly of their time, patience and talents; each one giving just what their individual riders need. They are the ones who are really ready for a rest when the riding season winds down for the year but always ready to come back and start all over again - without hesitation! What true friends they are!

## 2007/2008 Calendar of Events

December 14	Rider Banquet
December 18	Volunteer Banquet
January 3	2008 Riding Season Begins
March 14-16	Region 6 Conference, Fargo, ND

Watch [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) for updated 2008 Calendar of Events

## Welcome to Our Family

**Riders:** Erica B, Mary D, Cody L, Jessica L, Natasha S, Shae J

**Volunteers:** Emily G, Kari J, Lars R, Sandy S

**Horses:** Rosie - a six-year old Arabian mare who is just a "peach." She'll be taking on most of the riders that Jazzmin served along with a few new ones. We're happy she's here and we know that you'll just love her too. Rosie was donated to the program by a loving couple from Milaca who just knew she would be a perfect fit for our program, and they were right! Thanks, Cindy and Jim.

## So long . . .

We will be saying "Happy Trails" to Jazzmin, our 22 year-old POA who has served us very well for the past 9 years. Jazzmin has earned the right to a one-owner, easy-living, lots of loving lifestyle which she will get in her new home. We love her and appreciate her years of dedication and service to our riders.

## Positions Available

Mounted Eagles will be accepting applications to add a minimum of two board members at its Annual Membership meeting in April 2008. These are replacement positions for two directors who have resigned. All interested parties should contact Aggie Stroot, Executive Director, at 218.568.5883 for more information. The position description for a Mounted Eagles Director can be found on our website at [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) under the "News" section. Applications will be accepted until February 28, 2008.

Applications for the position of Fund Raising/Communications coordinator are now being accepted. This is a part-time paid position and reports to the Executive Director. A position description can be found on the website at [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) under the "News" section or you may contact Aggie Stroot at 218.568.5883 or via e-mail at [info@mountedeagles.org](mailto:info@mountedeagles.org) for more information about this position. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2008.



**Every one at the Mounted Eagles wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!**



## Happy Birthday

### October

Jean C  
Sandy Z

### November

Cody V  
Sharon L  
Kelsey W  
Bill S  
Rosemarie V

Aggie S  
Kari J  
Erica B  
Jessica L

### December

Alicia P  
JoAnn S  
Jennifer H  
Debra S  
Rocky H

Marcia M  
Kris O  
Emily G  
Cody L

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