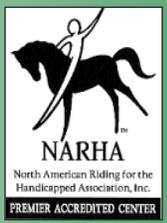




# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 5 ♦ Issue 1 ♦ January-March 2007

## Riding in January--What a great way to start the New Year!



John on Bill

The Mounted Eagles 2007 riding season began on January 2nd! What a strange but wonderful feeling it was to be able to offer our services at the very beginning of the year instead of waiting until late March or April. We are very blessed to have the heated arena where we can provide our riders with equine assisted activities pretty much on a year around basis. We have 51 active riders

already this year and have several more getting ready to begin their lessons. We get so excited when we have calls about prospective riders--it's such a blessing to know that word is getting out more about the benefits of therapeutic horsemanship and we're ready to show everyone how well it works! Our volunteer staff has grown as well and we have added three new volunteers during January and February.



Riding the course

We can never have too many volunteers so we're always happy when we get a call from someone who wants to become part of our equine-related family. Most of our horses



Darin on Wind Dancer

didn't hesitate to begin the riding season earlier either. All of them except Jazzmin were ready to start in January. Jazz had a bit of a hard time over the break healthwise but she's back on all four feet now and we're gradually working her back into her routine. Pepper has been under the weather a bit but we finally have a diagnosis for her and we'll be bringing her back soon. The cold weather during the first part of February has been really hard on the horses. We had to cancel a couple of classes because the risk of bringing the horses in to ride, getting them all heated up and then turning them back out into the sub-zero temps was just too big. We have to keep them safe!

One mother commented in a humorous way that we once couldn't ride because it was too cold for the riders and now we can't ride because it's too warm for the horses! Thanks to all of you for understanding when we do have to cancel. We wouldn't do it if it was not necessary for the well-being of everyone concerned, human and animal.



Bucky on Jazzmin



Darin rear view

## Rider of the Quarter

Barb Hacker is a tall lanky lady who has ridden with us for over ten years. She has the biggest smile! When she arrives at the barn she digs her helmet out of her backpack and puts it on, walks up the mounting block and steps DOWN on her 15+ hands horse. The routine is begun: two times around the arena to warm up and then stretches. The instructor begins to talk to the riders and Barb is watching but not responding....Barb, are your hearing aides turned up? Up goes her hand to each ear to see if she hears a whistle. Her face goes contemplative as she listens, hopefully, they are in..... she turns them up - "Ya," there, that is a little better (or maybe not). Today we are trick riding to improve our balance. Put your hands way above your head, straight up...up...up....like this...more..wow! That is good. Now straight out to the sides. Good job! Barb grins big and is pleased with herself because of the praise she is receiving. It takes hard work for Barb to gain achievements but she really tries.

When horse show time rolls around, she chooses her classes and begins to practice. Practice, practice, practice---her movements are not fluid but she is getting it...HOORAY! THAT'S RIGHT! Finally show day arrives and she arrives with her housemates and waits patiently for her turn. She walks up the mounting block, looks at you,

smiles that big smile, and steps down on her horse. She is led to the starting line. OK, BARB, you can do this... turn this way...that way...YES! GOOD JOB! She is grinning bigger now..."Mom! Dad! Did you see???? Didn't I do good?" All of the volunteers and the instructor watch, smile and silently say "Yes, Barb, you are very very good." The struggles she faces in every day life and at the barn are rewarded in that one moment when she knows SHE DID IT!

Congratulations, Barb, on being selected as our Rider of the 1st Quarter of 2007. We are very proud of you and all that you accomplish, whether it's at the barn or in the regular routine of your daily life. You teach all of us how to pass away our sorrows when you show us your wonderful smile! Thank you for sharing.



Susie Ballif and Barb Hacker

## Four Winds Horse Center Offers Discount to Mounted Eagles' Participants

Four Winds Horse Center, home of the Mounted Eagles, now has their Retail Center open for business! They have a wide variety of equestrian items including clothing, boots, outerwear, jewelry, framed and unframed prints and essential oils. Some of the jewelry and prints are designed by local area artists. Stop in and check out their wonderful selections. If you are affiliated with the Mounted Eagles program as a volunteer, rider, parent or caregiver, you will receive a 15% discount on all merchandise other than consigned items. If you just walk in off of the street and mention Mounted Eagles, you'll receive an automatic 10% discount. You can't beat this great opportunity, so stop by soon and check out the area's newest equine accessories center.

Four Winds Horse Center ♦ 218.824.6773  
13860 Shawkia Dr ♦ Brainerd MN 56401

## Mane Tales New Look

The *Mane Tales* got a new look. Don't you just love it? We do and all the credit goes to Linda Dahl of Dahl Graphic Design located in Pine River, MN. Linda owns horses, is an avid horse fan, and has been a supporter of our program for several years. We appreciate the time and talents that she contributes to the layout of the *Mane Tales* every quarter. We are very fortunate to have her as part of our growing Mounted Eagles family. You can find out more about Linda at [www.dahlgraphics.com](http://www.dahlgraphics.com) or you can reach her at 218.543.4040 or [Linda@dahlgraphics.com](mailto:Linda@dahlgraphics.com).

## Mounted Eagles Seeks Additional Board Members

Mounted Eagles, Inc. is looking to add a minimum of two members to the governing Board of Directors by April 2007. Interested parties should contact Aggie Stroot at 218.568.3968 prior to February 28 for initial contact and discussion. Applications will then be mailed out to prospective candidates and should be returned to Aggie no later than March 9. The current board will review the applications and make selections for final interviews. The announcement of successful candidates will be made at the Annual Membership Meeting on April 16. We welcome applications from individuals who share the vision, mission and values of our organization.

### Purposeful Vision

Mounted Eagles' purpose is to enhance humankind through the overall acceptance, appreciation and encouragement of diverse abilities within the community at large.

### Mission Statement

Mounted Eagles enhances 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.

### Core Values

As individuals associated with Mounted Eagles, we are guided in our daily decisions and actions by the following beliefs:

- We have an open-minded belief in what individuals can do.
- We share a love of horses and believe they are co-facilitators of positive changes through our program.
- We have a deep sense of caring and integrity that facilitates mutual acceptance.
- We provide a safe environment - both physically and emotionally.
- We are passionately committed to achieving our Vision.

## 2007 Calendar of Events

February 27	Rider Banquet
February 28	Volunteer Banquet
March 9-11	Region VI Conference
March 27	Volunteer Training
Mar. 31 - Apr. 1	Central MN Horse Fest Booth, St Cloud
April 16	Annual Membership Meeting
May 24	Volunteer Training
May 26	Non-Profit Day at West Gate Mall
July 31 - Aug 4	Crow Wing County Fair Booth
August 18	Annual Participant Horse Show
August 21	Volunteer Training
November 1	Volunteer Training
November 11	Non-Profit Day at West Gate Mall
November 14-18	NARHA National Conference
November 15	Last Day of Riding for 2007 Season
December 7	Rider Banquet

Watch [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) for updated Calendar of Events for 2007

## Welcome to our new Mounted Eagles Family members

**Riders:** Bruce G., Rocky H.

**Volunteers:** Diane E., Beth K., Kristen K., Steve L.

### Volunteer Training Process Enhanced.....

Janet Moran has accepted the responsibilities of assisting our Volunteer Director, Mary Hammer, with the orientation and training processes of the new volunteers. Jan has an extensive background in volunteering and in education of volunteers. She will be conducting the new volunteer orientation and the first two steps of the Volunteer Training Program. The plan is that Jan will orient new volunteers and begin their training as soon as possible after we receive their completed paperwork. This process will allow us to start the new volunteers off on the right trail and then we can assign them to mentors until they feel comfortable in their chosen positions. We are grateful to Jan for volunteering in this capacity where our volunteers will gain knowledge in the right perspective and the right timeline.

### Fund Raising Updates

Kris Winum has accepted the position of Fund Raising/Communications Coordinator for the Mounted Eagles. Kris has been a volunteer with the Mounted Eagles for three years and has a strong financial background that will help take the Mounted Eagles' fund raising efforts to the next level. Kris will be responsible for coordinating all fund raising activities from start to finish. She will also be responsible for developing the quarterly newsletter and other quarterly communication efforts. We are pleased to have Kris in this position and look forward to working with her on this most crucial part of our program's success. Please contact Kris at 218.824.6773 with any ideas you may have or your offers to help.

These are some of the Fund Raising events that we have planned for 2007. Mark your calendars and ask how you can help!

**No Bake Bake Sale** - Feb 20 - March 31

**Herberger's Community Day** - March 3

Call Aggie 218.568.3968 or Kris 218.824.6773 for coupon books

**Dressage Schooling Show** - May 12

Four Winds Horse Center - Benefit Show for Mounted Eagles

**Clean Sweep Garage Sale** - June 7-8

**Applebee's FlapJack Breakfast** - July 14

**Walk-N-Roll So They Can Ride** - September 8

**Christmas Card Sales** - Oct 1 - Nov 15

Watch [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) for updated CY 2007 Fund Raising Events.



## Happy Birthday

### January

Christina Z  
Kristen K  
Darin L  
Char C

Lynn F  
Grace B  
Jenny G  
Colleen L

### February

Ben H  
Bucky P  
Brian K  
Justin F

Sarah H  
Dalton S  
Brad B

### March

Omar E  
Ethan A  
Janet M  
Maddie B  
Diane E

Staci G  
Veronica U  
Connie M  
Tracie P

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

Aggie Stroot, Executive Director; Susie Baillif, Sr. Instructor; Mary Hammer, Volunteer Director

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Mary Hammer, Kris Nelson, Terry Prettyman, Lynn Fairbanks, Theresa Grow

Editor/Contributor: Aggie Stroot Contributor: Susie Baillif Newsletter Layout: Linda Dahl, Dahl Graphic Design

Facility Location: 13860 Shawkia Dr., Brainerd 56401 Visit our website at [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) Or call 1-888-828-9920



Mounted Eagles Inc.  
6504 59th Ave SW  
Motley MN 56466

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