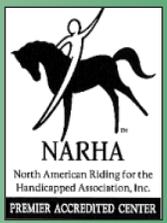




# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 5 ♦ Issue 2 ♦ April-June 2007

## Special Ed Class is Very "Special" to Mounted Eagles

Ever wonder about the process of sending out a newsletter? Our mailing list is near 350 strong now and it takes a lot of time to just fold, seal and sort the letters after the articles are written and printing is done. Mounted Eagles is especially lucky because we have some of our very own special people helping out with this task. After being approached by Lynn Fairbanks about this opportunity, Jolene Parks, Special Ed Teacher for 9th & 10th grades at Brainerd High School, took on the project as an activity for her class. Once every quarter we send the newsletters to Jolene and she has her class members fold, seal and sort the letters by zip code. Does this ever make it easy for me! Jolene makes this a learning experience as well, teaching the kids to follow directions and proper sequencing, as well as recognizing and sorting numbers. We offer many thanks to Jolene and her class for contributing their team efforts to help us distribute our news to you. being of everyone concerned, human and animal.



Justin Fairbanks works with his aide to sort the Mounted Eagles Newsletters by zip code.

## Mounted Eagles 2007 Membership Drive

Did you know that you could become a member of the Mounted Eagles organization and be a partner in sharing our successes? You don't even have to come to the barn, although we would love to have you visit or become one of our faithful volunteers. Membership in the Mounted Eagles enables you to become a part of a local NARHA member organization. It also gives you a sense of ownership and pride in being part of achieving the individual progress we see in each of our participants.

A Mounted Eagles Inc. membership entitles you to the following benefits:

- Option to attend regularly scheduled meetings of the board of directors.
- Vote on issues and election of board of directors at the annual membership meeting.
- Access to "Members Only" section of the Mounted Eagles' website, where you can view financial and board of directors information.
- A 10% discount on all Mounted Eagles "store" items.
- Special crafted "members only" acknowledgement gift.

## Celebrating Our Rider's Successes

The 2006 Rider Banquet was held on Feb. 27th at St. Andrews Church. There was a terrific turnout and a great time was had by all. 48 program participants were presented a trophy to acknowledge their horsemanship accomplishments during the 2006 riding season. It was fun to see all the smiles and we are so proud of each and everyone one of you!



**Contratulations to all of you!**

## Rider of the Second Quarter

Jenny Aulie has ridden with Mounted Eagles for eleven years. She is physically challenged with a diagnosis of "idiopathic torsion dystonia." Her physical symptoms are similar to Parkinson's Disease and began at the age of 5. They have steadily progressed over the years. Jenny is now 26 years old. Horseback riding has allowed her to use muscles she otherwise couldn't use. It has helped her develop strength, balance and flexibility as well as better coordination of her muscles. Aside from the physical benefits she has gained, she has also gained self-esteem and self-confidence. On one occasion, just after she had ridden in our annual horse show for the participants, her brother said "aside from the fact that she has gained all these skills, when we tease her, she fights back now."

When Jenny rides, she sits taller and straighter than at any other time. But the most beautiful thing about her riding is the huge smile that never leaves her face. Riding brings her much joy. Riding has allowed her to be successful and she has made many friends at the program. Mom says "our Mounted Eagles family is so very important to us."

Last December Jenny had deep brain stimulation surgery. Two leads with four electrodes each were implanted in her brain and a pace-

maker-like unit was implanted in her left chest. Electrical stimulation from the pacemaker is emitted into her brain through these electrodes. This stimulation pattern helps to unscramble the erratic electrical impulses and allow the normal impulses through. Since her surgery, she has been able to gain even more flexibility and coordination of her movements. She is essentially retraining her muscles and as she rides, she is improving in position and coordination in using her reins. We are continually cheering her on.

Jenny rides a lovely Arabian name Ace. He is so patient and moves so slowly, if you let him. We affectionately tease, "his speed is slow to ooze," but Jenny gets him to move for her. She was able to trot again last week for the first time since her surgery. She was so excited to tell her mom all about it! After each ride Jenny very affectionately pets her horse and tells him he was such a "good boy." Jenny says she enjoys riding and loves doing it. You can just watch her face and know that she is right!

Congratulations, Jenny, we're so proud of you!



## Mounted Eagles Adds Members to Their Board of Directors

The current board of directors consists of Aggie Stroot, Executive Director of Mounted Eagles, Mary Rosemore-Hammer, Volunteer Director, Terry Prettyman, and Lynn Fairbanks. Three new directors were added in April of 2006.

**Staci Grattan**, Ft. Ripley, is the owner of Grattan Healthcare Inc. She has been involved with the Mounted Eagles for four years and is currently pursuing her NARHA Certified Instructor certification. Staci has attended NARHA Regional & National Conferences and has been a strong advocate for the program in the community. Staci also served on the committee for the Healthy Organizations Partnership program, which the Mounted Eagles participated in during CY2005 & 2006.

**Theresa Grow** is a Social Worker with CWC and lives in Brainerd. Theresa has served on the Dist 181 Community Education Advisory Committee and is involved in Special Olympics and church activities. Theresa works directly with some of the families who participate in the Mounted Eagles and receives a first hand report on how Mounted Eagles affects the lives of these families.

**Kris Nelson** is the Human Resources Director for CTC, Consolidated Telephone Association, and lives in Baxter. She has served on the Crow Wing United Way Board and the Department of MN American Legion Auxiliary as well as the National American Legion Auxiliary Board. She is involved on a National level with the Girls Nation and is Chairman of the Girls State. She is also the Legislative Chair of LAHRA (Lakes Area Human Resources Association), a Zonta Member and is a part of the Member City Memorial Committee.

Four new members were voted to join the board at the Annual Membership meeting on April 16, 2007.

**Melissa Giles** owns a travel agency in Brainerd. She is also involved with the Vacation Land Figure Skating Club.

**Brian Kohn** is an Engineering Professor at CLC. He is the husband of a participant who rode with Mounted Eagles for five years before she passed away in 2006. Brian is currently volunteering with the program. Brian is a member of the Heartland Symphony Orchestra, Friends of the Crane Meadows Wildlife Refuge, and also plays with a Scandinavian Fiddle Group.

**Marcia Mehr** is an EMT-CPR-I in the Outreach Education/RT/Amb department at the Cuyuna Medical Center in Crosby. She is the parent of a Mounted Eagles participant who has been riding for around 11 years. She has served on several committees and councils at her church and is currently Christian Education Chairman. She is also involved in MN Via de Cristo.

**Jolene Parks** is a special education teacher for 9th & 10th grades at Brainerd High School. She has been involved in DeWitt Martial Arts, Special Olympics, and participated in the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics.

## 2007 Calendar of Events

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| May 24          | Volunteer Training                     |
| May 26          | Non-Profit Day at Westgate Mall        |
| June 7-8        | Garage Sale                            |
| July 14         | Flapjack Breakfast at Applebee's       |
| July 31 - Aug 4 | Crow Wing County Fair Booth            |
| August 7        | Volunteer Training                     |
| August 18       | Mounted Eagles' Participant Horse Show |
| September 8     | Walk-N-Roll So They Can Ride           |
| October 15      | Phone-A-Thon                           |
| November 1      | Volunteer Training                     |
| November 11     | Non-Profit Day at Westgate Mall        |
| November 14-17  | NARHA Annual Conference                |
| November 15     | Last Day of Riding for 2007 Season     |
| December 14     | Rider's Banquet                        |

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

## 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

Board of Directors: Aggie Stroot, Chairperson; Staci Grattan, Secretary;

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

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

## Welcome to new family members

**Riders:** Bradyn S, Briston D, Heidi G, Austin M, Jack K

**Volunteers:** Tracy K, Bridgett S, Keith Sonnarborg, Lynn F, Sarah F

## A new look for [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org)

Check it out! It is informative, sharp, easy to navigate and absolutely wonderful! Special thanks to Paul Stroot for donating his time and expertise in creating and continually updating the website for us. Visit [www.paulstroot.com](http://www.paulstroot.com) for more information about Paul and his web design business.

## Saying "Thanks" to our Volunteers

The 2006 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held on Feb. 28, 2007. We enjoyed seeing everyone and had a wonderful meal served by the Black Bear 4-H Club. We had a great group of volunteers last year who gave a combined total of 2,927 of volunteer hours to Mounted Eagles. Without our faithful volunteers, our program wouldn't exist. Thanks to all of you who gave so much! The following volunteer awards were presented:

Volunteer of the Year - Abby Knoblauch

Youth Volunteer of the Year - Kate LePage

5 year Service Recognition - Toni W

10 year Service Recognition - Aggie Stroot

Newest Dedicated Member - Kris Olson

Volunteers who completed training - Kris Olson & Connie Madison

Volunteer Hour Service Awards:

500+ hrs - Aggie Stroot, Susie Baillif & Abby Knoblauch

250+ hrs - Staci Grattan, Abby Knoblauch & Sandy Zugschwert

150+ hrs - Alison Grattan, Shirley Adolphson & Jean Ciesinski

75+ hrs - Christina Zugschwert, Kris Olson, & Char Czech

## What if Mounted Eagles could earn a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can!

GoodSearch.com. powered by Yahoo!, is a new search engine that donates ad revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity its users designate. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter Mounted Eagles as the organization you want to support. Get started right now and download the GoodSearch toolbar at [www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx](http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx). It may not sound like much but if we spread the word and get everyone we know using this website, the pennies will add up to \$\$\$'s. Thanks for helping us. **SPREAD THE WORD!**

## Fund Raisers

Keep the cans and phones coming in. We'll continue collecting these items as part of our fund raising efforts. Check out the calendar for more upcoming fundraising events.



## Happy Birthday

### April

Jake T  
Lydia P  
Mitchell R  
Shirley A  
Kristi T

Tracy K  
Susie B  
Theresa G  
Beth K  
Bruce G

### May

Rachel T  
Lori T  
Alicia J  
Greg D  
Jenny W

### June

Barb H  
Kaitlyn H  
Louisa T

John H  
Ronda R  
Kris N

Non-Profit Org.  
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