



**The Horse As
Teacher, Therapist
and Friend**

MISSION:
Serving those in
Greater Augusta
County with
Physical
Emotional
Developmental
Special Needs
through a wide range
of therapeutic equine
activities.

Inside this issue:

Horse Report	2
Volunteer Report	2
Board Members	3
Events	3
How to Help	4

Special Events

**July 22 - RWP Ben-
efit Horse Show**

**Aug 4 - Summer
Session ends**

**Aug 5 - Middlebrook
Horse Show**



Barn Chatter

Spring-Summer - 2017

President's Corner

Hello, Everyone,

This year has been a time of great change and excitement for Ride With Pride. Many of you know Patrick Webb, who has been instrumental in growing our program and keeping us organized, will be stepping down from the board to concentrate on family and health, though he will be available in an advisory capacity. David Schroen, who has been our treasurer, needed to resign from the board due to work constraints. Sue Guyer has agreed to be our new treasurer and has already stepped into the position with enthusiasm and experience and has given us some terrific suggestions. We are very relieved and happy to have Sue on our board! We are also pleased to announce that we have four other new board members, Allison Bagly, Patricia Hommel, Michael Cathey, and Marion Updike. All of these people bring new perspectives, great enthusiasm and energy and ideas. We very much appreciate their willingness to share their time and talents with our program!

Melissa Miller, who has been our amazing Program Director, is leaving for the Coast Guard in September. Over the last few months, we have been busy advertising and taking applications for a new director and interviewing the applicants. What a difficult decision it has been. Our program attracted quite a few highly qualified individuals! We are excited to announce that Kelsey Lasher will become the new Program Director and we look forward to beginning a great partnership with her!

I can't express how much it has meant to me to have everyone's support and involvement in this time of transition. We have a wonderful team here at Ride With Pride. My heartfelt thanks to all.

Laura Martlock

Director's Report

The 2017 year has been an exciting and prospering one at that. Our 6 week spring session was filled with 50 excited and eager new and returning students that were ready to ride! Now, halfway through our 8 week summer session, we continue to serve around 50 more eager and enthusiastic students. Last year we had a goal of teaching 140 students, this year my goal is to teach 150 and I'm well on my way to accomplishing that goal with my amazing team of instructors, board members, volunteers, and of course the horses.

I am absolutely impressed by all the progression shown by each student. We had new students who had never ridden before go from learning how to steer their pony around obstacles with a leader to quickly gaining the confidence and muscle control to trot on their own with minimal assistance. The veteran I have been working with for about a year and a half now went from never riding a horse to trotting big olé Lucy in between cones and around the arena completely by himself.

I am absolutely impressed by every single one of our students and our horses. This is truly where the magic happens. One of my favorite success stories thus far is with one of my students whom we used to have to tandem ride with because she didn't have enough core muscle control to hold herself up. Throughout each lesson she would begin to rely less and less on her back rider and more on her horse's movement to help hold herself up. With much preparation and with the proper equipment and amount of volunteers we had her ride without help to a much happy and tearful surprise, she held herself up all by herself. These are the moments I live for and cherish. These horses really do create miracles every single day and never cease to amaze me.

Lastly, I hosted our 3rd annual 5k run on Dr. Melyni Worth's beautiful farm. It was our first colorful run where runners were sprayed with colorful chalk at each mile they ran by. We ended the race with a color blast celebration where we all threw environmentally friendly chalk into the air and on each other's 5k t-shirts to signify a well-deserved accomplishment. A very special thank you to all the runners, volunteers, and especially our sponsors for supporting our cause!

I'm excited to see what the remainder of this year brings and the memories yet to be made! Please contact me if you are interested in joining our team or would like a tour of the facility. **Melissa**



*"RWP has served
as an positive
recreation outlet.*

*I am sure it has
helped strengthen
the girls core,
trunk and
posture"*



Nicker News - Horse Report

Our herd of horses are doing very well so far this year. We have quite the team of super steeds! Our newest members include: Xavoy, Peony, Seska, Kili, and Sally. Xavoy and Peony are two of Dr. Melyni Worth's beautiful spotted Knabstruppers that she uses for Dressage competitions. Their gentle and calm nature help our newest clients learn to relax yet their athleticism and versatility allow for advance riders to progress into trotting and even cantering. For those of you who know our beautiful and elder Ms. Dania, her daughter Seska, has rejoined the Cedar Creek Stable crew within the past few weeks. Melyni has graciously allowed us to use Seska in our program as well. So far, she is proving to be just like her momma; sweet and careful with every rider. Kili is owned by our farrier, Faith Kears, who has owned him since he was a foal. Even though Kili is relatively green under saddle, we chose him for how much he cares about every person that is around him. He absolutely loves his volunteers and riders. He will not pick up a trot until he knows his rider is balanced and safe first. Lastly, is our most popular newbie... Ms. Sally the Mule. Yes, you read correctly. We now have a Mule! So far she is integrating into the routine nicely. She is still getting used to staying in after hours to complete late lessons (you can't miss hearing her neigh/donkey squeak). We are excited and very pleased with our wonderful heard of horses.

Melissa

Volunteer Corner

The first session is almost through and we are on our way into the summer!

2016 was a huge success for our volunteers! We had 123 volunteers helping with our lessons throughout the year and we are so grateful to each and every one of them.

As Ride With Pride entered 2017, we welcomed many new volunteers and we are so grateful to all of them! In February, we held several workshops for our volunteers. These workshops were a huge success and brought in many interested volunteers. By the start of the spring session we had 53 volunteers to help out with our students. Many of the volunteers were from James Madison University, to whom we are grateful for helping us get the word out.

As we move quickly through this year, we expect 46 volunteers to help out during the summer session.

2017 seems to have flown by already, but I would like to personally thank all those who take the time out of their week to volunteer with our program. We truly could not accomplish the wonderful equine-assisted therapy we do at Ride With Pride without them!

We are always on the lookout for volunteers. If you are interested go to the Ride With Pride website ([www. http://ridewithprideva.org/contact-us/](http://ridewithprideva.org/contact-us/) or email Kelsey at volunteer4rwp@gmail.com or 540-280-3842.

Kelsey Lasher

Board Member Highlight

The Board of Directors for RWP are those individuals who not only serve to provide advice and guidance to our activities but they also are cornerstones that provide hours of behind the scenes work to see that all comes together.

We are recognizing in this issue Dr. Julia Hecking. Julia is a local veterinarian with Blue Ridge Equine Clinic. She enjoys working on a variety of breeds and disciplines of all different levels. Her special interests include reproductive work, lameness/sports medicine, dentistry and preventative medicine. She is certified in acupuncture and completed her training at the Chi Institute in Florida. She is an FEI veterinarian, a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, Vice President of the Virginia Association of Equine Practitioners, and is on the Board of Ride With Pride, a local therapeutic riding program. She is a control veterinarian at many Virginia endurance rides and enjoys presenting for pony club chapters and other equine associations.

Julia is the Chairperson for the RWP Events Committee and can be counted on to organize and coordinate our efforts for all events.

She is one of Melissa's right hand persons. Julia can be counted on to be there to see to the health and Ride With Pride horses. She is our cornerstone and advises on the selection, care, and well being of all our horses.

Julia can also be counted on as a resource for orienting and training our crew of volunteers. Without a doubt, she is an invaluable asset to RWP.

RWP Events

5K Run – May 6, 2017

Melissa hosted our 3rd annual 5k run on Dr. Melyni Worth's beautiful farm. It was our first colorful run where runners were sprayed with colorful chalk at each mile they ran by. The race ended with a color blast celebration where we all through environmentally friendly chalk into the air and on each other's 5k t-shirts to signify a well-deserved accomplishment. A very special thank you to all the runners, volunteers, and especially our sponsors for supporting our cause!

Bike Virginia—June 27, 2017

2017 marks 30 years of touring Virginia with bike enthusiasts participation in **Bike Virginia**. It has seen almost all of the state in its long history of exploring Virginia by rural back roads. This year it ran from Buena Vista to Staunton. RWP staffed a food and water station for Bike Virginia on 27 June at the Devil's Backbone **Basecamp Brewpub & Meadows**. RWP board members manned the stop there and met bikers from all over the East Coast.

Benefit Horse Show – July 22, 2017

Christi Meek & Pam Stoneburner are in charge of the RWP Benefit Horse Show, which is being held on Saturday, July 22d at Breezy River Stables in Verona. Classes start at 9:00 A.M., and there will 33 classes with a fee of \$7.00 per class. The show judge will be Lynda McGarry. The set up for the event will take place the day before the event. Volunteers are requested to help with set-up and with registration, parking, riders, etc. on the day of the event as well as help afterward. Food and beverages will be available.



How To Support Ride With Pride

Special Recognition!

Each year concerned individuals demonstrate their interest and support of the mission of RWP by making a commitment to help sustain this process and assist us meet our financial requirements.

One such individual is Jeanne Hoffman. We would particularly like to thank Jeanne for her most generous donation made in memory of Florence Swanbeck (Babe) from Middlebrook who died recently. It is such support that makes RWP what it is today!

Again, thank you very much Jeanne for your unstinting assistance.

Laura Martlock

So, How Can You Help?

VOLUNTEER!! We need volunteers to help with for classes!! Call Kelsey at 540-280-3842

Be a BARN WORKER!! We have openings. Call Kelsey or Melissa at 540-255-2210

Are you an INSTRUCTOR ? We need them urgently. Call Melissa at 540-255-2210 for details.

RWP is a volunteer-based, 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Rider fees only cover a small percentage of our costs and we turn no-one away due to an inability to pay. Therefore, we rely on the generosity of individuals, community businesses, and foundations to help us provide our very special services. Donations are fully tax deductible.

Participate in our Scholarship Program. Consider being a partner for one of our young men and women and their families by providing a scholarship for an individual a session or an entire year. Your tax deductible gift of \$180 will support a child or adult for one session (\$540 for spring, summer, and fall sessions.)

Make a choice off of our Wish List – visit <http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/281ZPWT535E9A> and see the items you can purchase for us. We especially need the following:

- Therapeutic Rider & Double Rider Horseback Riding Pad: \$399.99
- Coleman Instant Canopy 10x10ft.: \$146.24
- Oversized Western Leather Stirrups: \$75.22

It won't take much effort on your part. Giving to RWP is easy and tax deductible.

Go to <http://ridewithprideva.org/donate/>

Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	Event
7/18/17	RWP Board Meeting
7/22/17	Benefit Horse Show
8/4/17	Summer session ends
8/5/17	Middlebrook Horse Show
8/15/17	RWP Board Meeting
9/11/17	Fall session Begins
9/19/17	RWP Board Meeting
10/8/17	Fall Trail Ride



Ride With Pride Annual Benefit Horse Show

July 22, 2017

Rain Date – July 23, 2017

Breezy River Stables
406 Windswept Rd
Verona

Classes Begin at 9 AM

\$7.00 per class

Show judge: Lynda McGarry

A photographer will be taking pictures. CDs
will be available for sale with proceeds
benefitting RWP.



FOOD AVAILABLE
Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Drinks
Chips

For more information contact:
Christi Meek 540-256-1229 or
pegasusheights@hotmail.com



Western Classes

1. Beginner Western pleasure walk/jog
2. Beginner Western pleasure walk/jog
(May be asked to do a simple pattern)
3. Beginner Western pleasure walk/jog/lope
4. Beginner Western Equitation walk/jog
5. Beginner Western Equitation walk/ jog
(May be asked to do a simple pattern)
6. Beginner Western Equitation walk/jog/lope
7. Open Western Pleasure walk/jog
8. Open Western Pleasure walk/jog/lope
9. Open Western Equitation walk/jog
10. Open Western Equitation walk/jog/lope
11. Ride a Buck
12. Egg and Spoon
13. Lead Line

Jumping Classes

14. Cross Rails course A
15. Cross Rails course B
16. Fences 2' Course A
17. Fences 2' Course B
18. Fences 2'3 Course A
19. Fences 2'3 Course B
20. Fences 2'6 Course A
21. Fences 2'6 Course B
22. Gamblers Choice Cross rails - up to 2'3
23. Gamblers Choice 2'3 up to 3'3

Flat Classes

24. Beginner pleasure walk/trot
25. Beginner Pleasure walk/trot
(Maybe be asked for sitting trot, halt, 2 point)
26. Beginner Pleasure walk/trot/canter
27. Beginner Equitation walk/trot
28. Beginner Equitation walk/trot
(Maybe be asked for sitting trot, 2 point and halt)
29. Beginner Equitation walk/trot/canter
30. Open Pleasure walk/trot
31. Open Pleasure walk/trot/canter
32. Open Equitation walk/trot
33. Open Equitation walk/trot/canter
34. Costume Class

Schooling Break Between Western-Jumping-Flat Classes
Large Classes may be split