



Barn Chatter

The Horse As Teacher, Therapist and Friend

Spring 2016 Issue

Barn Chatter

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

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Special Events

May 7 - *The RWP
5K Run for the Roses*

May 21-*The RWP
Benefit Horse Show*

June 6 - **Summer
Session Begins**



President’s Corner

For RWP, spring always brings the promise of good weather for all our riders, staff and volunteers. Spring brings promises to our riders who have endured the cold and to their friends – both volunteers and horses who look forward to seeing them each week as well as to the instructors who look forward to working with the children to reach new goals.

We are also beginning our first full year with a fulltime Program Director, Melissa Miller. She is a graduate of Bridgewater College and has been associated with the RWP program for almost 13 years. Combined with being a PATH Certified instructor and her past experience, she clearly understands the therapeutic program from the ground up not to mention the management of equine nutrition and equine behavior.

As a Board Member and now as President, it did not take long to realize that without our corps of volunteers, RWP would not exist. To all our current volunteers, I wish to thank you for what you do for RWP. And for those who might be interested, I encourage you stop out at the barn and see us. You will definitely like what you see.

As spring arrives, the barn fills up with activity again after the much deserved winter break dedicated to new opportunities, horse care and training, education, barn maintenance and other duties. With spring comes a very full calendar. As we look ahead, please save the date, May 7 for 5K Run for the Roses benefit run as well as Benefit Horse Show on May 21 at the Breezy Hill Stables. You won’t want to miss these events.

There is a spring in our step, we have spring fever, and joyful enthusiasm as the RWP family ever so grateful and thankful for your support.

Again, my best to all of you!

Laura

Director’s Corner:

Wow, what a great year 2015 was and it flew by fast! And now we are off to the races in 2016. There were so many great events on the calendar for this year. But most important of all, I just want to express how honored I feel to be the new director of this wonderful organization. Ride With Pride has been my second home for 13 years and I had never thought that one day I was going to be leading it. On June 1, 2015 (a day before my birthday) I received the greatest gift of all... my passion became my career. I am grateful to be surrounded by and have the support from instructors and a board full of wonderful dedicated individuals who have the passion and drive to help others, from a family who provides love and excitement to help fuel the desire to better my leadership capabilities, from sponsors who encourage our organization to grow, from students who have hearts pure of gold and are eager to learn, from parents who show patience and understanding, from volunteers who help make a difference, and to the herd of angel horses that provide hope, healing, eternal friendships, and most important of all... pride. We are all a family, a team, and we all ride with pride. I look forward to a great year.

Melissa

Nicker News - Horse Report

Our team of specially trained therapy horses returned to the barn on the week of March 7th. Currently our team consists of: Beau, Sam, O'Brien, Lincoln, Annie, Dania, and Lucy. Throughout the year we will be receiving a few more newbies so keep an eye out!



Ride With Pride has been a huge part of Jax's successful summer... This experience has been such an asset to my son's progression. We absolutely love it here."



Horse Highlight: Lincoln is our newest member of the Ride With pride team. He is also our tallest standing at 18.1 hands! But don't let his height alarm you; he's an absolute teddy bear to be around. He absolutely loves attention from his humans. He is about 13 years old and his breed is Belgian. We are currently working with our farrier, Faith Kears, and our veterinarian, Dr. Julia Hecking from Blue Ridge Equine Clinic, to heal his hooves. Before his current owner rescued him, Lincoln suffered from long term neglect to his hooves resulting in many painful abscesses, ringbone, and white line disease. With the support from his current owner and the careful and persistent hard work from our farrier, veterinarian, and director, Lincoln's hooves are slowly becoming healthy again. He currently just received new front shoes and is feeling much more comfortable. Lincoln's size and slow steady pace are very beneficial for carrying our larger students who are working on strengthening their core muscles for balance or who are just learning how to trot.

If you would like to know more information about our horses or are interested in becoming a stall sponsor, please check out our website www.ridewithprideva.org.

Volunteer Corner

The session is off and running.

Kelsey Lasher is our Volunteer Coordinator.

She has been working with horses for over 13 years. Kelsey started riding when she was 7 and has been working for Ride With Pride for a little over 2 years and now wear many hats, including barn worker, instructor, and now, volunteer coordinator. She is PATH certified! Kelsey is currently enrolled at Blue Ridge Community College with the intent to transfer to Bridgewater College and graduate with a major in psychology and a double minor in business and equine management.

Trainings sessions for our volunteers was held in the early part of March. We now have no less than 50 helping with our classes. We have a very large contingent from the JMU Equestrian Team.

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://www.ridewithprideva.org/contact-us/)) or email Kelsey at volunteer4rwp@gmail.com or 540-280-3842.



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 our Treasurer, David Schroen who works tirelessly to see all comes together financially. David received an Associate's Degree in Accounting and Business Management from Blue Ridge Community College and his Paralegal Certificate from JMU.

He is married to a Julie, an Advisory Board member, and have two grown children. He has a passion for road cycling and the outdoors. He and Julie own and ride their own horse. David and Julie are taking riding lessons themselves. No doubt David will aspire to be an eventer as that discipline will test his athletic and competitive prowess.

David can be counted on to care for the RWP funds as if they were his own. As such he is responsible for all funds and securities of RWP; receives and give receipts for monies due and payable to RWP. He is the master of our Quick Books management system and can be found tirelessly looking to future financial requirements and challenges.

RWP Events

Celtic Concert

On Sunday **Bernie Bekken** hosted a Celtic Concert at the home of her friend, Karen Clark. Victoria Lee, a harpist from Charlottesville, performed. The concert was the result of a winning bid Bernie won at a silent auction at the Wildlife Center Gala last October. She used the opportunity to invite guests to make good will donations to Ride With Pride. Tracey, Pat Webb, and Pam Stoneburner all spoke about Ride With Pride. Bernie said there were fifteen people there, and she collected \$600. Ms. Lee expressed an interest in visiting the program at some point. She, herself rode professionally until she was injured, so she has a special appreciation for horses.



5K Run – May 7, 2016 (See the flyer in this issue of the newsletter.)

The 5K Run/Walk event is scheduled for the morning of May 7th, the first Saturday in May. It will again be held at Cedar Creek. Melissa Miller, who is in charge of the event, will be opening registration soon. She told us that she may comprise a list of potential donors and assign each of us a few to visit to solicit donations and support.

Benefit Horse Show – May 21, 2016 (See the flyer in this issue of the newsletter.)

Christi Meek & Pam Stoneburner are in charge of the RWP Benefit Horse Show, which is being held on Saturday, May 21st 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 the help with set-up and with registration, parking, riders, etc. the day of the event, and help afterward. They plan to have a “registration training class” for those helping with registration, since there was some confusion in that department last year. Food and beverages will be available.



How you Can Help

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..

So, How Can You Help?

Participate in our Helping Hands Campaign. Consider being a partner in this life changing program for 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.)

Become a Ride With Pride Society member!

- Donate \$1,500 and be a Stall Sponsor who provides a stall for a RWP horse for one year
- Donate \$500 and be a Clydesdale - the gentle giant & backbone of the farm
- Donate \$250 and be a Thoroughbred - the horse that goes the distance
- Donate \$100 and be a Mustang - the cowboy's faithful companion

Make a choice off of our Wish List – visit our website to see our current Wish List and see if there are things on there you can help us with.

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

Go to <http://www.ridewithprideva.org/help.html> or

send a check to Ride With Pride, P.O. Box 1203, Staunton, VA 24401

Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	Event
4/19	RWP Board Meeting
5/7	5k Run for Ride With Pride (Roses)
5/17	RWP Board Meeting
5/21	Benefit Horse Show
6/6	Summer session begins
6/14	RWP Board Meeting
7/19	RWP Board Meeting
8/6	Middlebrook Horse Show
8/16	RWP Board Meeting
9/5	Fall session Begins
9/20	RWP Board Meeting
10/9	Fall Trail Ride
10/18	RWP Board Meeting
10/29	Volunteer Thank You Potluck Dinner
11/13	Bingo Fundraiser
11/15	RWP Board Meeting
12/13	RWP Board Meeting





2nd Annual *RWP Run for the Roses* 5K Run and Walk

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Registration: 8am Step off: 9am

Cedar Creek Stables

2435 Shutterlee Mill Rd., Staunton, VA 24401

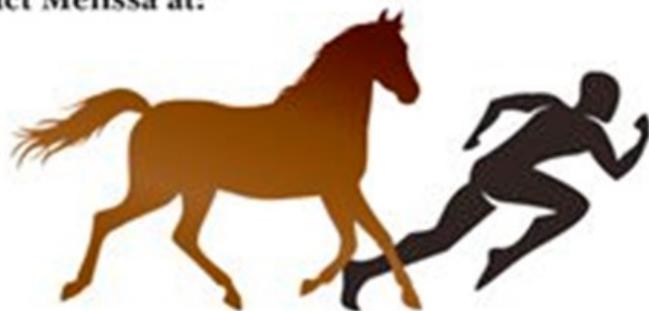
- Early bird registration fee: \$25 (mailed before April 30)
- Registration sent after April 30 and day of race \$30.
- Registration forms found online www.ridewithprideva.org
- Mail completed forms to Ride With Pride, P.O. Box 1203, Staunton VA 24402
- Entry fees include: hydration stations on course, post-race refreshments, and a t-shirt.

For more information contact Melissa at:

540.255.2210

info@ridewithprideva.org

www.ridewithprideva.org



Ride With Pride Annual Benefit Horse Show

May 21, 2016

Breezy River Stables
406 Windswept Rd
Verona

Classes Begin at 9 AM

\$7.00 per class

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

Show
Judge
Is
Lynda
McGarry



FOOD AVAILABLE
Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Drinks
Chips



Western Classes

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

Lead Line Class

13. Lead Line Class

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

Schooling Break Between Western-Jumping-Flat Classes