



From the Barn

4-H Therapeutic Riding Program of Carroll County

Fall, 2010

News of Note

Welcome!!

Welcome back to our returning riders, volunteers, and horse managers! And a warm 'welcome to the barn' to each of our new volunteers and riders.

TRP is now in its 32nd year of operation and none of this would exist without every person who works so hard to make it happen. We are a large family of 39 riders and their families, 4 instructors, 7 horses, 2 barn staff, 3 horse managers, 74 active lesson volunteers, 8 Board of Directors members, and an untold number of folks in the community who support us and the horses.

Thank you to everyone – you make it possible for this outstanding program to continue to operate so successfully!

TRP Basics

Foul weather policy: If Carroll Co Public Schools close early OR are closed for the day due to weather conditions OR if the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll Co, all TRP lessons for that night are **cancelled**.



Website www.trp4h.org

Registration & Information:

peggier@att.net

Photos:

<http://community.websites.com/user/peggier100>

Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdK2Wog5qPQ>

Barn 410 848-3029

So You Thought It Couldn't Get 'Funner'



Halloween week is always special at the barn and this year will be as much fun as always ... with a new, exciting twist!

Through the efforts of one of our amazing volunteers (thanks Kathy!), TRP has been 'adopted' by local Ravens Roost #115 (headquartered at Rafael's in Westminster). A Ravens Roost a social group, a fan club of the Baltimore



Ravens. They bring people together in the local community for social activities and to raise money for local charities. To meet our new friends and supporters and in recognition of their efforts, Halloween week is being celebrated this year as "Baltimore **RAVENS WEEK**," Oct 25-28. The week will include:



Ravens Roost #115 members visiting during lessons to meet everyone and learn about our program.



Instructors planning football type activities and games. Everyone loves games and these will be lots of fun! Decorations will be Ravens (lots of purple, black, gold) and football.

The horses, through the efforts of Miss Nancy, costumed and painted with Ravens colors and football outfits. You can expect to see a gridiron and a referee, along with some of your favorite Raven players' numbers. She is working on saddle pad covers, painting stencils and all other manner of things for the horses. If you have any ideas, please let us know right away! (If this is your first Halloween with us, check out some of the pics from prior years on our Webshots site.)



Riders and volunteers encouraged to wear their Ravens colors! Fans of other teams are welcome to wear their colors! (Can't have a football week without 'the other guys'!!)

Also, volunteers will be needed, especially Monday, to help get everyone ready for lessons. Along with the usual grooming, each horse's 'costume' needs to be refreshed. If you can get to the barn earlier than usual, check with your instructor about time.

New Friends



This week TRP was the recipient of \$2900.00 from the Knights of Pythias, Lodge #58. In memory of one of their members, a golf tournament was held in August and this very generous donation is the proceeds from that tournament.

Participants in and supporters of the tournament, including volunteer and rider families,

reported having a grand time at a smoothly run event. Ralph (and his mom, Debbie) was an incredible ambassador for the program, meeting and greeting golfers all day and encouraging everyone to participate in the hole in one contest. The Knights hope to be able to continue holding this event and we look forward to being able to continue our association with this group.



If you're not familiar with the Knights of Pythias, check them out online. They are the oldest non-profit in existence, having been founded during the Civil War when 2 brothers, fighting on opposite sides, decided there had to be a better way and founded the Knights.

Knights of Pythias, welcome to the TRP family!!

Freedom Hills Horse Show



Several of you have been asking if TRP riders will be going to Freedom Hills this year. Instructors are anticipating attending but entry forms have not yet been received.

The show will be Saturday, Oct. 23, at Rolling Hills Ranch as in past years. As soon as more information is available, it will be passed on.

Rec Programs

Looking for activities for your family? One of the best resources right here in Carroll County is the Department of Recreation & Parks.

Local sports and rec programs are planned seasonally and information about these are detailed in their Program Book. Copies of this book are available at the barn for everyone and online year-round.

Of particular interest to many TRP families are the events and programs designed, adapted, and planned especially for folks with different needs. Our own rider mom, Debbie Gemmill, is responsible for the "Therapeutic Rec Programs" and she makes sure info about these is included in the Program Book. (I know it's a little early, but she's planning a really special day at the Arts Center in November for the whole family. Check it out!!)

Contact information for Debbie is in the book.



Meet TRP's Horses

Each horse in TRP's herd has joined the program because of an owner's desire for their horse to 'have a job' and to help provide a safe, enjoyable lesson for our riders. Some of the horses are loaned to us for each session, while others have been donated to TRP. Here's the story of each of our 7 currently active horses:

Rascal is the granddaddy of them all. He is a 28 year old Appaloosa which is loaned to us by his loving owner, Laura. He has been giving riders, from the beginners to the most experienced, lessons since 3/06 but spends his summers and winters enjoying the quiet pastures at Laura's.

Handsom is a 19 year old palomino Percheron / quarter horse cross who is owned by Monday volunteer & rider, Darlene and Mary Beth. As the barn 'strong man,' he's been helping riders since 9/06, keeping all the ponies company, and spending his summers and winters at Darlene & Mary Beth's with one of our 'retirees,' M&M.



Achilles, a 17 year old Haflinger pony, was donated to the program in 9/06. His owner no longer had young children interested in riding but she wanted him to have a new job and he's developed into a favorite, especially of our younger and smaller riders. He spends his winters and summers with a 4-H volunteer, helping her riders learn and compete. We understand he's quite the barrel racer! He's also often seen as a 'display pony' since he's so quiet with lots of children clustered all around him.

Buddy was donated in 9/09 by folks who wanted a larger horse for trail riding. He is a 14 year old bay quarter horse pony. To make certain he continues to learn how to be a good therapeutic pony, Buddy spends his winters and summers with a former TRP instructor and, while learning better manners, he is helping her children learn to ride.



Our other tall horse, Calvin, is the newest addition and joined the herd late last fall. He is a chestnut Appendix quarterhorse (cross between thoroughbred and quarter horse) and was donated to the program when his owner went away to college. Calvin is so loved by his donor's family that he spends his winters and summers at their farm enjoying all the love and affection they show him and visiting his old friends.

Hobbs is a 16 year old tobiano Paint. (Tobiano means his coat has a white base with dark patches.) He is loaned to us as his owner no longer rides. During the off-season, Hobbs lives with a 4-H family and is ridden regularly by one of their daughters. Some of our

volunteers visit him when they go to the farm to ride.

Last, but definitely not least, is Smokey. Smokey is a 17 year old Percheron pony, loaned to us by Alan & Kris as they wanted him to have a job to maintain his svelte physique. We all know that while Smokey likes helping our riders excel, his very favorite thing to do (other than eat) is roll in the mud. It's not unusual to have someone ask who the new brown pony is!!



So, that's who the horses are and, more importantly, the fantastic folks who make it possible for us have these special horses and who provide outstanding care for them away from the barn -- even when there is 5' snow on the ground!



Pathfinders for Autism

Another organization is also being supported by 'our' Ravens Roost. This organization is Pathfinders for Autism. This name may be familiar to you as it is the organization supported by Baltimore Oriole, BJ Surhoff.

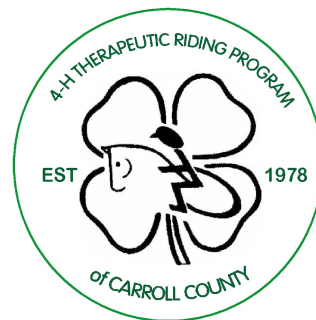


If you are looking for information, resources, or assistance for someone with autism, contact them at:

www.pathfindersforautism.org

Weather Reminder

Fall is only a week old but it's already been memorable, hasn't it?? And what happened to all that heat from summer? It doesn't happen often but last Thursday's lessons had to be cancelled because of the weather emergency. The guidelines are spelled out on the first page of the newsletter because of the potential for a 'power outage' and the possibility of not being able to phone or email everyone. In the event of severe weather, please always keep an ear out for announcements of school closings. (But we're crossing our fingers that we'll be foul weather free through October.)



Open to All