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Karol's Korral

Spring has sprung and we are back in the saddle again. We have some new horses, new riders, new volunteers, new instructors and new opportunities. This is my favorite time of year as everyone is excited to see their favorite horses and start to get back into riding shape.

There are many exciting things happening at REACH 4A Star this year so be sure to read the whole newsletter. We are raffling off a horse, have been accepted as a United Way agency, then there's the Chutes & Giggles Rodeo, and it looks like we will be adding on the addition this year so that we will finally have

indoor plumbing as well as classrooms and offices. We will also be going through the accreditation process with NARHA so that we can become a Premier Accredited Center.

For the past 2 years, the Riding Academy has really focused our programs on physical and mental disabilities. This year we have started branching out more and are serving emotional and behavioral disabilities also. We are not offering equine facilitated psychotherapy but offer many learning opportunities while interacting with the horses.

Drill team has been a fun activity

that we have taught to a few and now it is to many. The Shooting Stars Drill Team has been practicing twice a week and we have about 16 members and are excited about all the different maneuvers we can do with this big of a group. In the past, the biggest group we had was 4. We are looking forward to being able to take our show on the road someday.

So cinch up your belt and grab on to your boot straps, it looks like we are in for a busy year.

Karol Santistevan

Arena Director

A United Way Agency

REACH 4A Star Riding Academy has been accepted as a United Way Agency this year. We are extremely excited to be a part of such a wonderful organization and look forward to the upcoming year. We are not sure what the

monetary allocations will be to us yet but any and all help is always appreciated. United Way helps to support many wonderful programs within the community as well as helping with special projects such as the fire on the

mountain last year. Casper is a wonderfully generous community and we are proud to be a part of the activities that happen here.

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Special points of interest:

- When you wish upon a star...you can win your dream horse.
- R4ASRA has 37 riders coming out each week and 14 horses.
- R4ASRA has started a drill team; the Shooting Stars Drill Team.

Volunteer News

That Roxie...She Rocks!

Monterastelli, that is. Congratulations on being named Volunteer of the Year for 2006. Roxie logged over 140 volunteer hours last year; horse handling, side walking and helping feed and clean up after the horses.

Roxie has been a volunteer at the center since it opened in June 2005. She said she came to the center after pick-

ing up a brochure from one of the health fairs.

When asked what she enjoys about the center Roxie replied "What's not to like. It is just a nice place to be. I get to be with kids and horses. Even in the winter when it is cold, being out with the horses and the quiet is nice. Besides, said Roxie, **"I am convinced the muscles it takes to ride a horse are connected to your smile."**

When she is not volunteering at the center Roxie is involved in a social justice study group and Women in Black. She also likes to cross country ski and enjoys yoga.

For her efforts Roxie was awarded an embroidered Reach 4 a Star jacket.

Our toast to Roxie..."Rock on!"

New Faces in the Herd

Since last Fall Reach 4 a Star Riding Academy has acquired three new therapy horses.

The first, Heza Wild Rose, more commonly knows as **"JR"** came in January. He was donated by Sue & Terry Apel. JR is a sorrel Quarter horse. He is 22 years old and really believes he is Top Horse. He has a long back and is built close to the ground making him useful for riders who need support.

In March the Center responded to an ad in the Wyoming Arabian Association Newsletter about some Arabian horses looking to find a good home. As a result Karol and Leigh drove to Lusk and decided **Shadrach** should come to live at the Center. Shadrach was donated by Dr. Carlton Huitt, a retired physician. Shadrach was trained as a show horse and did some racing as well. He is a 19 year old sorrel and has long white socks on his hind legs. And yes, Shadrach had brothers named Meshach and Bendigo. Shadrach is a member of the "Shooting Stars" Drill Team which will perform at the *Chutes & Giggles Rodeo*

Most recently **Saber** came to live at the Center. Saber is 12 years old. He was donated by Scott & Susan Sojourner. Instructor Courtney describes him as "really sweet." He is a big boy though, sixteen hands. Saber is a Grey. When he is not in class Saber hangs out in the small pasture with Toby and Ethan. Sometimes he says his feet hurt so he and that he isn't much into trotting.

Most horses live to be 20-25 years old, but some thrive well into their thirties and beyond.

To Old Friends

In February the Academy lost one of its oldest and dearest friends. "Goldie" is now in horse heaven with her old friends, Rebel and Joe. She will be missed for her gentle heart and her amazing patience. We can only be grateful for the wonderful things she taught all of us.

Spring Cleaning

On Easter Monday about a dozen members of the Wyoming Arabian Horse Youth Association came out to the Academy to help do chores. The girls and their moms' cleaned stalls, trimmed bridle paths, dusted helmets and wiped down the arena panels.

The girls even teamed up to give Bunny a new Spring haircut. It was obvious Bunny loved the attention as she stood quietly for about an hour without being tied.

Chutes & Giggles Rodeo

The Chutes & Giggles Rodeo will be held July 28th this year with the Calcutta on July 27th at the Petroleum Club. We have a couple new events this year but kept the favorites: Road Apple Relay and Synchronized Bull Riding.

The Rodeo will start at 10am on the 28th and will go into the afternoon. The entry fee is only \$5/event/person. We will again give away belt

buckles to the all-around team so find you a partner and get signed up today. We will also have a Rodeo Princess contest that will be run separately for girls 10 and under that are interested. This will be an actual event and you will need to sign up before hand. We will only be taking 10 Princess Contestants.

Tickets to come watch this day of fun are only \$5 each. Be watching for

more information on where you can get tickets as we get closer to the event. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring the rodeo, go to www.reach4astar.org or call Karol at 472-7827 to get more information.

Hope to see you there!!

“Animals are such agreeable friends-they ask no questions, they pass no criticism.”
-George Eliot

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following people and businesses that helped make *A Nite At The Races* a successful evening:

Weatherford, Leigh Flack, JERA, Prairie Institute, King-Monterastelli State Farm Insurance, Les & Debbie Loveland, Ken & Karen Farmer, Wild West Construction, North Platte Physical Therapy, Robert & Carmen Dolen, Byrnco LLC, ATI, McMurry Foundation, Beth Opitz, Donna Messerli, Ego Trip, Brooks Spa-Lon, Block Buster, Abundant Health, Loaf n

Jug, Nikki & Justin Sweets, Bev Olsen, Western Distributing, The Liquor Shed, Tracy Motors, Larry & Barbara Byrne, Moss' Saddles, Boots, & Tack, Lou Taubert's, Linton's Big R, Noland Feed, First Street Bakers, First Street Coffee Shop, Sunrise Coffee Café, Grant Street Grocery & Market, Chrysalis Massage, Three Crowns Golf Course, Applebee's and a special thanks to The Filling Station for outstanding food and service, the volunteers who helped, and everyone who attended.

At the *Ticket to Ride* event Dr. Robert and Mrs. Teri Narotzky agreed to "Sponsor a Horse" for this year. This commitment of \$1500 is to pay for the expenses of one horse for one year: food, veterinary expenses and tack. Thank you so very much!

There are also two new stall sponsors. Greg Lance and Gene & Rox Monterastelli have each donated \$1000 and will have a nameplate permanently posted on one of the stalls.

Project Pegasus

Project Pegasus is what I am calling our newest building adventure.

McMurry Construction has offered to donate the material needed to frame in the addition so that we can build offices, classrooms, and indoor bathrooms. The **Natrona County International Airport** is

also helping us with clearing of the project area and putting in a septic system for us. We are also working with **McMurry Redi-Mix** about the possibility of them donating the concrete for the foundation. **Stateline Architect** is working on drawings and pictures of what it will

look like when we are done and so that we can get a building permit as well as other contractors to help with finishing the addition. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call Karol at 472-7827. **Thank you** so much to those that have helped already.

REACH 4A STAR RIDING ACADEMY

IREACH 2 Inc.
P.O. Box 1060
Evansville, WY 82636

Phone: 307-472-7827
Fax: 307-473-7827
E-mail: reach4astar@vcn.com
Www.reach4astar.org

When You Wish Upon A Star.....



Shalome

Hiser Farms has generously offered up *Shalome* to be raffled for the benefit of REACH 4A Star Riding Academy. She is a 6 year old registered Arabian mare that has been used as a lesson horse so would be great for a beginner or a more experienced rider. She is

a very sweet, kind, and gentle mare that is 14.3 hands high. The drawing will be held at **Hiser Farms** on **June 16th** during their open house. You don't need to be present to win but you will want to be. They will have training demonstrations throughout the day as well as giving you an opportunity to see all of the incredible horses that they have for sale. Raffle tickets for Shalome are \$10 ea. Or 3 for \$25. Tickets can be bought at Moss' Saddles, Boots, and Tack, All That Yarn, or REACH 4A Star Riding Academy. Check out the blog on our website www.reach4astar.org/blog.asp and tell us what you would do with this dream of a horse.