



“Oh, say, can you see...”

Music Country Grand Prix May 31
 Chukkers for Charity June 27
 Three Strobel Award Nominees from Saddle Up!

1549 Old Hillsboro Road, Franklin, TN 37069-9136
 615-794-1150 • www.saddleupnashville.org



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Our Mission:
to provide children & youth with disabilities the opportunity to grow & develop through recreational activities with horses

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Mark your calendars for fun! Music Country Grand Prix May 31 Chukkers for Charity June 27

Yes, please mark your calendars for prime time opportunities for fun – and fundraising to benefit Saddle Up! – with the 21st annual Music Country Grand Prix on Sunday, May 31, and the 13th annual Chukkers for Charity on Saturday, June 27.

Presented by **Tractor Supply Company**, the Music Country Grand Prix is a premier equestrian show jumping competition featuring top riders from across the nation. In addition, people can test their “jumping” skills in a specially designed People Prix course. The event takes place at **Brownland Farm**, 1155 Hillsboro Road, Franklin, with gates opening at 11 a.m. The Junior/Amateur Classic begins at 12:30, and the Music Country Grand Prix is slated for 2:30 p.m. General admission is only

\$10, with children under 10 free. Patrons’ tables range from \$600 to \$900. For more information, please call Saddle Up! at 615-794-1150 or visit the website at www.musiccountrygrandprix.com. Event chairs are **Sarah Ingram** and **Jennifer Pennington**.

Recognized as Tennessee’s premier polo match, Chukkers for Charity will take place at **Lee Ann and Orrin Ingram’s Riverview Farm**, 1475 Moran Road, Franklin. This year’s event is Tennessee’s highest rated game. The event also features the extremely popular tailgating contest, in which tailgaters can compete for prizes in the most elegant and most original cabana decorations. A silent auction features the official artwork for the match plus numerous fine goods, items and



s.b.g.

services. For family fun, visit the Child Fest area, or try your hand at polo on Woody the wooden horse. Gates open at 3:30 p.m., and the opening ceremony begins at 4:45 p.m. The polo match begins at 5 p.m., followed by the patrons’ dinner at 6 p.m. The event benefits **Saddle Up!** and the **Rochelle Center**, a nonprofit agency that serves adults with disabilities.

General admission is only \$10 with children ages 10 and under admitted free. Fieldside patron tables for 10 are \$2,000 (individual tickets at \$200); patron tables at \$1,750 each (\$175 individual tickets); tailgating at \$250 per cabana which includes 6 admission tickets and the cabana; additional tailgating guests are \$20 per armband; and corporate cabanas are available at \$3,000 to \$5,000. For more information, please call 615-794-1150 or visit the website, www.chukkersforcharity.net. Event chairs are **DeeDee Wade**, **Falon Veit** and **Cam West**.



n.s.



s.b.g.

Tailgaters at Chukkers for Charity enjoy a great view of the action and fun environment for partying, as this photo shows. Both Chukkers and the Music Country Grand Prix offer excellent equestrian events, fun atmospheres and the chance to support Saddle Up!. In addition, Saddle Up! riders and volunteers share the spotlight during flag presentations for both events.

about the cover: Saddle Up! rider Peach and her mount Lady present the Tennessee flag at the 2008 Music Country Grand Prix assisted by leader Mary-Jo Patterson and sidewalkers (left to right) Amelia Nennstiel and Kelly Ullmann. Read more about Peach on page 3. Photo by Nancy Swindell

Strobel Awards recognize Cathy Brown, Rachel Brenner and Morgan Plunkett



Little Bits

Cheryl Scutt, Executive Director

At Saddle Up!, it's only by working together that we can do what we do. It may not take a village to provide a lesson, but it certainly takes a strong team – our program participants, our volunteers, our staff, and our heroic horses. Each plays a vital role in bringing our mission to life, with the power of the horse at the heart of it all.

In April, we joined the nation in saluting our volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 19-26. We ended the week with a Volunteer Appreciation Party, with Volunteer Coordinator Kim Kline at the helm.

Also in April, three long-time Saddle Up! volunteers were recognized as nominees of the prestigious 23rd annual Mary Catherine Strobel Awards, named in honor of the late Mrs. Strobel who was kidnapped and killed in 1986 while going about her normal activities of volunteering in the community.

These awards honor deserving Middle Tennessee volunteers and groups who have selflessly given their time and talent to improve the community and its residents' overall quality of life. The Strobel awards are the largest and most recognized

volunteer awards in the area. The awards are presented by Hands On Nashville, middle Tennessee's only volunteer resource center which refers or places 24,000 volunteers with 200 area organizations.

At the time this newsletter went to press, winners were not announced. But, trust me, each nominee is truly a winner, including our own:

- **Cathy Stewart Brown**, nominated for the Communitywide Volunteer Award. A long-time leader in multiple organizations and community endeavors, Cathy's nomination shows her broad impact through the agencies included: The Kennedy Center at Vanderbilt University, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, YWCA, and Saddle Up!. At Saddle Up!, Cathy has worn multiple hats over the years including Board President and Chair of the Chukkers for Charity fundraising event. An avid polo player, she thoroughly understands Saddle Up!'s program because her family has operated The Stewart Home in Kentucky for a century, and a therapeutic riding program has long been part of that operation. As interesting side note: a former

Stewart Home resident recently completed volunteer training at Saddle Up!. Small world! Compassionate and tireless in her desire to make our community a better place for all, Cathy has set a high bar for service across the board.

- **Rachel Brenner**, nominated for the Direct Service Volunteer Award. For 13 years, Rachel has been a devoted Saddle Up! volunteer, also serving in multiple roles. Rachel is a role model for others working in lessons in how she interacts and works as a team leader. She has generously given her time at least

twice weekly in lessons during her volunteer years. In addition, she helps at Saddle Up! events, the SUPER show, demonstration

rides, and helping around the barn. An accomplished equestrian, she has also been a Pony Pal for our herd. In addition, Rachel has been a volunteer each August to help with our riders and horses at the S.T.A.R. horse show in East Tennessee, though she must use her vacation time to be able to go. Conservative estimates reveal that Rachel has put in more than 1,350 miles as a volunteer – and that's just in lessons alone. We couldn't estimate the number of smiles she

has brought to all those she has worked with in her 13 years as a beacon of caring and devotion.

- **Morgan Plunkett**, nominated for Youth Volunteer. Morgan's love of horses led her to Saddle Up! to volunteer when she was only 12. Of course, being so young, she had to have a parent with her, so mom Peggy also got hooked on horses and service at Saddle Up!. The duo came twice a week to help with barn chores, feeding, mucking stalls, blanketing horses and such. They also helped with events, horse shows and in the heart of our work, the weekly lessons. Morgan's performance was so good that she was soon asked to help lead parts of volunteer training, and her equestrian skills were put to work as a Pony Pal. Even when she was hired as a part-time lesson assistant, Morgan continued – and still serves – as a volunteer. She has given more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service, including 750 in 2004 when she was recognized as Saddle Up!'s Junior Volunteer of the Year.

Please join me in giving a big salute and thanks to these incredible volunteers, and to all those who give so generously of themselves to make this program possible. Thank you!

"Alone we can do so little:
together we can do so much."
– Helen Keller



2009 Mary Catherine Strobel Award Nominees

(left to right) Cathy Stewart Brown, Communitywide Volunteer; Rachel Brenner, Direct Service Volunteer; Morgan Plunkett, Youth Volunteer

The Memorial Foundation awards grant for waitlist program

Saddle Up! recently received a grant from **The Memorial Foundation** with direction for it to be used for the Waitlist Provisional Riders Program. This gift will be used to defray the additional cost of increased lessons, number of instructors, horse and facility usage. Saddle Up! has received several grants from this wonderful foundation over the past several years and we greatly appreciate their generosity.



Saddle Up! premieres new video on the web!

Saddle Up! had its “world premiere” April 21 of our new video – on our website! If you’ve not seen the video, just visit the Saddle Up! website and you’ll see the link to You Tube. All you need to do is select the link, then the play button on the video when it comes up on the next screen. The video was produced by Trigg of Shadowcatcher Media Services and was posted for world-wide viewing by our volunteer webmaster Nancy Bass of Duthie Learning. A special thanks to the families, volunteers and staff who assisted in the production.

Family Ties: A parent’s perspective from Sallaya

It is often difficult to find appropriate extracurricular activities for our children outside the school setting. Peach’s preschool teacher Linda Messamore led us to Saddle Up! where Peach was on the waiting list for two years and has now been riding for three years. At first, I thought it would just be about riding horses, that’s it. It turned out to be much more than that. Saddle Up! is not just about riding a horse but a lifetime experience and a place where she can *show off* gained knowledge about riding and horses. Peach has learned many technical things about

horses and looks forward to lessons every week with much enthusiasm.

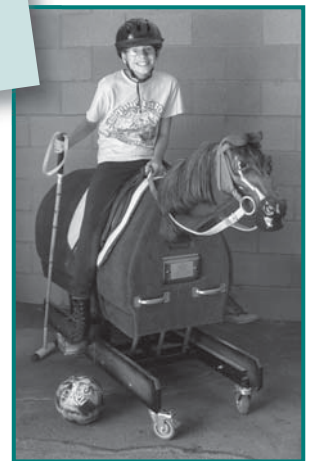
Peach participated in the Flag Presentation at the **Music Country Grand Prix** last year on Lady smiling the whole time with a look of confidence. *(see cover image.)*

She plans to participate in Saddle Up! as long as she can. She enjoys visiting with her volunteer team members, the horses, other riders and their families. Saddle Up! has boosted her confidence in social skills and she now carries on conversations with volunteers who help her in each session.

Did you know...
 Saddle Up! is currently serving
 98 regular program riders and
 19 waitlist provisional riders
 of the 291 children still
 on the waiting list?



Confidence and pride beam from Peach’s face at last year’s flag ceremony at the Music Country Grand Prix.



Andrew learns to play polo on Duke the therapy horse.

Recent Grants

- The Memorial Foundation

If you know of an organization that awards grants for which Saddle Up! may qualify, please contact Tina Carpenter, Development Coordinator
 615-794-1150 extension 35
 tcarpenter@saddleupnashville.org

Yes! I would like to make a donation to the Saddle Up! program with my contribution of:

- \$2,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$200 \$100 \$50 \$25 other

Please make checks payable to Saddle Up! or charge my Visa/Mastercard

#: _____ Card Expires: _____

Print Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Donor’s Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I would like more information about becoming a volunteer!

You may be able to designate your gift to Saddle Up! if your employer has a campaign for multiple agencies such as Community Health Charities, the United Way, or a company-based campaign. Please check with your campaign coordinator on how to have your donation go to Saddle Up!. We appreciate your support! Your gift may be doubled if your employer has a matching gift program.

Please see your personnel department today!

Saddle Up! is a nonprofit Section 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to help children and youth with disabilities grow and develop through recreational activities with horses. Your donation is deductible to the full extent of the law.

Thank You to Our Donors

Saddle Up! is deeply grateful to each donor who chooses to make a positive difference with a gift supporting our program. Each donation is vital to bringing our mission to life. Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to spotlight your support with recognition in our newsletters. If we have omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please call Development Coordinator Tina Carpenter so that we may correct your information. Also, for more information about how to join the Hoofing Society or become a horse sponsor, please call Tina. Thank you for your support.

The Hoofing Society

\$10,000 & Up

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Contributors Under \$1,000 January 1 - March 31, 2009

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The Dedicated S.U.V.

Salute to our Volunteers of the Month

Sally Stonage is a long time volunteer veteran who helps every every Saturday morning. Sally also can be counted on to assist with most special events. She has assisted with flag presentations at the Music Country Grand Prix and at Chukkers for Charity. Beyond helping in lessons, Sally also is a Pony Pal who helps train our horses in appropriate behavior for lessons. Thank you, Sally for your long term service.



Sally Stonage - January Volunteer of the Month



Rogelio Anaya, Bill Fritz & Steve Sabato - February Volunteers of the Month

Our farm manager, Bill Bills, nominated three of his regular guys as the co-Volunteers of the Month for February. These three gentlemen often help Bill feed our herd in the wee morning hours. **Rogelio Anaya, Bill Fritz** and **Steve Sabato** truly deserve



Dana Marshall - March Volunteer of the Month

recognition and appreciation for their dedicated service especially through colder months – along with every other month. Thank you, gentlemen.

Dana Marshall helps in lessons on Tuesdays and on Saturdays. She was nominated as Volunteer of the Month by another Saturday volunteer, Carrie. Carrie was touched by Dana's level of commitment and compassion. One of Dana lessons on Saturdays involves a challenging student mount. Dana as the leader with Samoens must stand quietly at the mounting ramp for an extended amount of time while the rider is positioned. Dana is able to assist Samoens in remaining calm during this important time. We appreciate all you do for our program, Dana, thank you.



Kim Kline, Volunteer Coordinator
615-794-1150 extension 23
kkline@saddleupnashville.org

Volunteers Needed

May 29
Set up for the **Music Country Grand Prix**.

May 31
All day assistance for the **Music Country Grand Prix**.

June 26, 27, 28
Many volunteers will be needed for **Chukkers for Charity**.
- Set up on Friday
- Event on Saturday
- Clean up on Sunday

Currey Ingram *rocked* our world



In practice for any upcoming Easter egg hunts, 17 students, faculty members and parents from Currey Ingram School spent time collecting rocks and stones from our outdoor arena and obstacle course area. By removing all these unnecessary rocks, our horses are assured a safer place to travel with the students. We greatly appreciate the time and muscles that went in to improving our pastures. Thank you, friends.



Lesson Assistant Michelle Beatty-Eakin warms up Nacho in the round pen prior to a lesson.

Did you know...

our paid Lesson Assistants are invaluable to the instructors and perform a variety of duties to keep lessons running smoothly, the barn looking neat, plus fill in when scheduled volunteers are absent?

Why nominate a volunteer?

We have many outstanding individuals who donate their talents and time so this program can succeed. Take a minute of *your* time to nominate a volunteer going above and beyond the call of duty. Families, volunteers and staff may nominate a volunteer for **Volunteer of the Month** honors by completing a short nomination form available in the lobby area of the facility or on our website. *Submit yours today!*

Staff Members:

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Teresa Barry, extension 30
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Nancy Oglin-Swindell
Newsletter Design / Editor
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NARHA Certified Instructors:

Linda Albertalli	Lisa McKinless
Paula Brown	Melissa Mosley
Tina Carpenter	Jane Muir
Kate Cole	Kelly O'Brien
Anne Craig	Mary-Jo Patterson
Alicia Dunwiddie	Katy Reed
Alice Duva	Kelly Sheehan
Lynne Evans	Nancy Swindell
Martha Georgeson	Lindsey Wood*, CTRS
Judy Griswold	Lisa Wysocky
Brittany Halstead	*NARHA Advanced Instructor
Kim Light	

Lesson Assistants:

Michelle Beatty-Eakin
Catie Brown • Catie Byrd
Martha Georgeson • Brittany Halstead
Jenn Krause • Morgan Plunkett
Ann Quigley

Contributing Photographers:

Sarah B. Gilliam • Melissa Mosely
Tony Phipps • SU! Staff
Nancy Swindell

SUN Lite - News in Brief



Melissa in of her many lessons (left to right) Courtney DeTrude, Eric on Aladdin, Courtenay Glisson, Anne Rogers, NARHA Certified Instructor Melissa Mosley, Wyatt on Maddie, Kristin Fuhrmann and Lindsey Rosen.

Instructor Melissa Mosley heading for Colorado

Please join us in wishing our full-time NARHA Instructor Melissa Mosley the best as she leaves Saddle Up! in May and moves to Colorado. Melissa began as a volunteer in August 2007 and became the full-time Instructor in February 2008. She plans on working for a recreational riding program in Colorado for the summer. Melissa, thank you for all you have done. We will all miss you.



m.m.

Rider Wyatt gives a serious group hug to his sidewalkers Adi Inbal (L) who recently moved home to Israel and Kristin Fuhrmann (R).

Saddle Up! student excels at 4H competition



Gracie proudly shows her 4H ribbon.

Saddle Up! student Gracie recently spoke at a Williamson County 4H competition on gaits of the horse, which she learned while taking lessons at Saddle Up! from her newly NARHA Certified Instructor Martha Georgeson (see story below.) Her knowledge and presentation gained her a spot at the final competition in late April, which she placed 3rd of the 16 presenters, in 4th grade division. Congratulations Gracie! We are very proud of your accomplishments.

Martha Georgeson joins Saddle Up! instructor staff

In March, Saddle Up! hosted another successful NARHA On-Site Workshop and Certification. We had 19 people attend the workshop and 12 go through the certification testing. Among the newly certified NARHA Registered Instructors was our own Martha Georgeson. Martha began volunteering with us in 2007. She has an extensive knowledge of horses and horsemanship plus a love of working with people that

made her the perfect candidate to become an instructor. In her application for becoming an associate instructor Martha wrote, "to ride a horse is freedom for any 'able'ity." That is the type of commitment and spirit that we embody here at Saddle Up! and we are proud that Martha is joining us as a NARHA Certified Registered Level Instructor. Congratulations Martha!



Saddle Up! will be hosting another NARHA On-Site Workshop and Certification in December, exact dates and times to be determined.

If you would like more information on becoming an instructor, please contact Lindsey Wood at 615-794-1150 extension 24.

Horse Heroes: ex-polo pony Cali succeeds at Saddle Up!

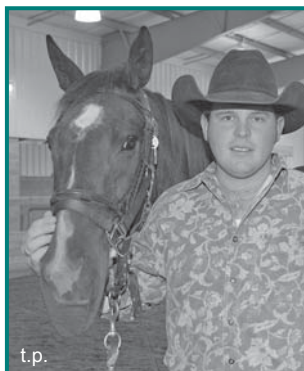
It was the long exciting road that led 19 year-old Cali to residence at Saddle Up!. Originally from Wyoming, this good-looking, dark bay Thoroughbred mare spent the majority of her horse career as a polo pony for **James Armstrong** and **Orrin Ingram**. Quick, agile and strong in her younger years on the polo field developed Cali into the special therapy horse that now makes her a winner at Saddle Up!.

In our herd since 2005, Cali is an excellent mount for our beginning independent riders. Until her riders ask her to move out at the walk she will take short little 'baby' steps keeping a careful eye on her leader. When she is sure that her rider is confident and prepared to take charge then she moves forward more readily. While she does have some

old injuries that do not allow her to move as well as she used to, she is an outstanding horse for our riders as she helps them gain confidence and independence with her willing attitude.

As of the beginning of April 2009, Cali has participated in about 55 lessons this session. She and Azuri, her former stable mate, are very close friends and are often heard calling to each other when separated.

It costs Saddle Up! roughly \$3,500 a year for each program horse. Your \$1,000 tax deductible sponsorship will help ensure that our horses receive quality care year-round and will defray the cost of feed, bedding, farrier and vet care, grooming supplies and tack.



Cali hams it up with country music singer Todd Fritsch.

Contact Development Coordinator, Tina Carpenter, at 615-749-1150, x3 or tcarpenter@saddleupnashville.org for more information on becoming a horse sponsor.



Buddy's typical game face.

Veteran horse hero Buddy to retire

After participating in Saddle Up! lessons for over four years, our heroic horse, Buddy will be retired at the end of this session. Families, volunteers, and staff brought cards and gifts to celebrate his retirement earlier this month. Buddy made a great addition to our herd in 2004 and since then has assisted participants in learning many tasks such as grooming and tacking as well as independent riding. Buddy, thank you for years of outstanding service, we will miss you!

If you or someone you know is interested in providing Buddy, Dove, or King Bee and Alyska a retirement home please contact Equine Manager, Kelly O'Brien at 615-794-1150 x30 or kobrien@saddleupnashville.org for details.

Wish List

Student/Volunteer Needs

- Donations to ridership fund
- Small bottles of water

Equine Needs

- Happy Mouth snaffle bits
- English pony saddles
- Size 70 winter turnout blanket
- Size 70 rain sheets
- Medium sized bell boots
- Fly spray
- Dressage pads
- Massages
- Driving reins
- Horse & pony english leather headstalls
- Average size horse halters with adjustable chin & crown
- Gift cards from Judy's Tack

Facility Needs

- Heavy duty, 4-wheel trailer
- 8' aluminum ladder
- Gift cards from Tractor Supply and Home Depot
- 4-6 Passenger Golf Cart
- Pitch forks & muck buckets
- Low suds laundry detergent
- Horse and cat sponsors
- 3-hole punch paper for copies and printing
- Multi-media laptop computer
- Gift cards to office supply stores
- White & color 8.5 x 11 copy paper
- Small portable sound system

Year at a Glance

May

- 7 Leader Training 5 – 7:30pm
- 7 New Volunteer Training 10am – 2:30pm
- 9 New Volunteer Training 1:30 – 4pm
- 16 Session 1 lessons end
- 18-31 No lessons
- 23-26 Offices closed, Memorial Day
- 31 [Music Country Grand Prix](http://www.musiccountrygrandprix.com)

June

- 1 No lessons, offices closed
- 2 Summer lessons begin
- 26-30 No lessons
- 27 [Chukkers for Charity](http://www.chukkersforcharity.net)
- 29 Offices closed

July

- 1-3 No lessons
- 2-3 Offices closed, Fourth of July
- 24 Summer lessons end
- 31 [S.T.A.R. Horse Show](http://www.s.t.a.r.horseshow.com) Lenoir City, TN

August

- 1 STAR horse show, Lenoir City, TN
- 1-6 No lessons
- 7-13 Session 2 lessons - practice week
- 14 Session 2 regular lessons begin
- 14-16 [NARHA Region V Conference, Lenoir City](http://www.narha.org)

September

- 4-7 No lessons, offices closed, Labor Day
- 18-19 No lessons, offices closed
- 19 [Country Ride 'N Roll](http://www.countryride.com)

October

- 12-17 No lessons, fall break
- 23-24 No lessons
- 24 [S.U.P.E.R. Show and Annual Awards](http://www.s.u.p.e.r.show.com)

November

- 18-22 [NARHA National Conference, Fort Worth](http://www.narha.org)
- 23-28 No lessons
- 26-28 Offices closed, Thanksgiving

December

- 12 Session 2 lessons end
- 14-31 No lessons
- 14-16 [NARHA On-site Workshop & Certification](http://www.narha.org)
- 23-25 Offices closed, Christmas

Please visit our website for continued updates to our calendar, including volunteer trainings, clinics, and other activities.

