



2009 NARHA Independent Youth Equestrian of the Year

Andrew W. Accomplishments and Award
S.U.P.E.R. Show Highlights
Reflections on 2009



Our Mission:

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

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Saddle Up! rider Andrew W. wins 2009 NARHA Independent Youth Equestrian of the Year Award

by Lucinda Dyer

News arrived in August that Saddle Up! rider, Andrew W., had been awarded the prestigious 2009 NARHA Independent Youth Equestrian of the Year Award.

"All participants at NARHA centers are unique and deserve recognition," says NARHA CEO Carol Nickell, "but every once in a while a youth equestrian comes along who is simply outstanding."

Andrew's long-time Saddle Up! NARHA Certified Instructor Kate Cole nominated him for the award, which "recognizes riders between the ages of thirteen and eighteen who represent and promote the power of equine assisted activities to improve lives."

"When reading over the criteria for the nomination, one of the sentences really struck me -- 'whenever this child appears, the hearts and spirits of everyone are transformed,'" Kate says. "Andrew has most definitely transformed not only my life but also those of all the volunteers who have worked with him.

"He earned this nomination," adds Kate, "not simply because of his riding ability but because of the relationship he's formed with his horse, Elvis. Andrew is the only 17-year-old boy I know who has no problem speaking in a sweet voice to his horse without worrying about what anyone else thinks!" Andrew happily agrees.

"I like to ride Elvis over to the mirror in the arena so he can see himself, and I tell him he's looking good," he says.

A sophomore at Franklin's Centennial High School, Andrew began riding at Saddle Up! as a 4-year-old. Even then, remembers his mother, Alice Christian, he was at home on a horse -- "about half way through his lesson, we'd see him fall asleep on his pony's back."

Andrew has come a long way in his 13 years at Saddle Up! and now rides independently at the walk and trot and is learning how to canter on the longe line. When he's not riding, Andrew plays safety on a flag football team for the Williamson County Titans, competes in the freestyle and breaststroke with the Nashville Dolphins, and serves as a manager for Centennial's football team.

The announcement of Andrew's win wasn't just big news at Saddle Up!, it was also celebrated at Centennial High School. "A student wrote an article in the school newspaper," reports Andrew, "and so many people were surprised and congratulated me. My teachers loved it!"

Andrew (accompanied by his parents and Kate Cole) will receive the 2009 Youth Equestrian Award on November 21st at the NARHA National Conference and Annual Meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas.



Elvis and Andrew

Editors Note: You can learn more about Andrew by visiting our website, www.saddleupnashville.org, and watching our 2009 video that premiered this spring.



Kate, Andrew and Elvis at the 2009 S.U.P.E.R. Show

S.U.P.E.R. Show and Awards Presentation 2009

How do you thank a team of staff and volunteers who can orchestrate a horse show and awards presentation in record time? Each year this special day becomes more of a resounding display of cooperation and a 'reading of minds' rather than an unanticipated, disjointed day in October. Increased participation from other riding programs, a schedule ahead-of-schedule and happy horses proves they are doing something right.

This is a day for riders of all ages to strut their stuff! Nothing like a little friendly competition to warm up a crowd of family and friends on a chilly autumn day. Congratulations to all the riders, volunteers and award recipients at this year's show.

Thank you to the staff, instructors and especially our army of volunteers.

(Please see page 7 for show results and award winners.)



Campbell M., Catherine B., Nina K., and Kate B. from Leg Up are all smiles after being presented their ribbons.

about the cover: Andrew W. 2009 NARHA Independent Youth Equestrian of the Year. Photo by Trigg

Merry-go-round year



Little Bits

Cheryl Scutt, Executive Director

Life at Saddle Up! has been like a merry-go-round this year, with lots of ups and downs. Since horses are at the center of all we do, that's probably the best way to look at the year.

As might be expected, the biggest "downs" involved our horses, specifically the loss of three within a short span of time in the summer and fall after several years of not losing a member of our herd. All three – King Bee, Buddy and Maddie – had been part of the program for a long time. We paused to honor our horse heroes at the end of the October 24 SUPER Show.

It was interesting to note that all

three came to Saddle Up! about the same time, and consequently worked in lessons for several years. If you've ever visited the farm, you know they were well cared for – and definitely loved as all our horses are – and were working well into their senior years. We're thankful to everyone who was, or is now, part of the team that takes such good care of the horses, including our staff, the professionals from Tennessee Equine Hospital, and our volunteers.

Another downer, unfortunately, has been the impact felt from

challenges in the economy. We're thankful that our fundraising events did as well as they did this year, though they fell short of budgeted revenues. Donations have also been below target in several areas so far this year.

**"the 'ups' of the year
have surpassed the 'downs'
by a long shot"**

But the "ups" of the year have surpassed the "downs" by a long shot. Andrew W.

winning a national award. Grace G. also

winning regional and national honors in horse shows. Evan S. making big strides in verbal communication. And another 185 stories all unique, all special, and all about the reason we're here – to serve children and youth with

disabilities through the power of the horse.

Right now, we're in the midst of our 2010 annual fund campaign. With your help, it can be another cause for celebration. Our annual fund campaign provides money to support all we do here from feeding our horses to turning on the lights. It is the biggest, single fundraiser we have with \$100,000 goal targeted to be raised by year-end. Please give your support to this campaign. Each gift, whether it's \$5 or \$5,000 (or more), can make a difference and help ensure that Saddle Up! remains the place "Where all children are equal in the saddle."

Maddie Remembered

Maddie was a quiet pony who was a trooper in lessons. She arrived at Saddle Up! in May 2005 after having been a child's pleasure pony. Her easy going personality and steady nature resulted in her beginning to work in lessons shortly after her arrival.

In addition to her work in lessons, Maddie participated in

many of our off site events and was the perfect example of a therapy pony. She was the object of much, much love from the riders, volunteers and staff who were blessed to work with her during her 5 years of service at Saddle Up!.

Standing 12-hands high with highland chestnut coloring,

Maddie didn't look like she was in her mid-20s. She enjoyed good health and remained on the job until the last couple of days of her life when colic struck. Unfortunately, her condition could not be treated.

Thank you, Maddie for your service at Saddle Up!



Kate is one of many who has benefitted from Maddie's sweet spirit.

Allie and Tardy right on course

Anne Craig, NARHA Registered Instructor & Grandmother



This photo is somewhat deceiving, Allie is actually BACKING her horse Tardy through the "L" shape.

Since you know Allie as a Saddle Up! pony pal and summer junior volunteer, I'm being a "proud grandmother," spreading the news that Allie and her Quarter Horse mare, Tardy, are the 2009 State Champions in Youth Trail for the Tennessee Saddle Club Association. She won in a field of 26 riders, 17 years and under, at the annual championship show at the Wilson County fairgrounds in Lebanon Labor Day weekend.

Allie is pretty modest about the win, but she's proud of the

huge silver championship buckle - and she's proud of Tardy! The course involved passing through a gate, walking over a bridge, backing through a very tight "L," trotting around cones set 4.5 feet apart - and cantering around a triangle made of 12-foot poles, then cantering into the center and stopping. THEN, cantering out of the triangle and over three poles, breaking to a trot over two more poles, and getting the "mail" out of a mailbox. I appreciate how difficult the course was - since I rode the



Allie shows off her prize winning belt buckle.

same horse in Adult Trail later that day and messed up!

Thanks for letting me brag.

Super stocking stuffers

Saddle Up! note cards available today

Looking for that special something to serve as a holiday gift? Then look no further than note cards from Saddle Up!.

The cards feature the 10 art contest winners, who were selected from about 60 works created by Saddle Up! program participants. Each note card set has the 10 winning entries.

Cost is only \$10 a set, and the funds support the Saddle Up! program. To purchase a set, just talk with one of the Saddle Up! staff at the farm. You can have them mailed for an additional cost.

Thanks to Tractor Supply Company for sponsoring the printing of the cards and to Dye, Van Mol & Lawrence Public Relations for assisting with the production.

You can also find a variety of Saddle Up! merchandise at the Saddle Up! on-line store. Go to www.saddleupnashville.org/shop.



Recent Grants

• Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

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

The best of both worlds

Ownership without the upkeep – sponsors needed for 2010



Cierra

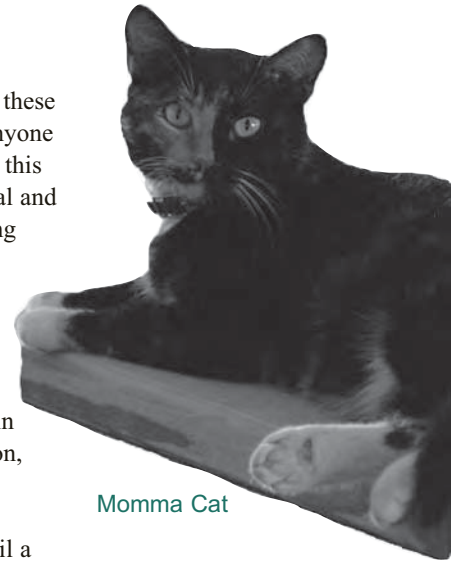
We have yet two more fantastic new horses (and several not so new ones) who are ready and eager to finish out the fall session and head into winter. Cierra, a gift from **Lee Ann Smith** arrived in late August and has been adapting nicely to the “Weight Watchers” pasture. She is a 15h, 12 year old liver chestnut quarter horse mare who has a background in dressage training.

Several weeks ago, Pedro joined the herd as a gift from **Debbie and Fred Vail**. At 12.2h, this 11 year old bay gelding was a former lesson pony and definitely cute enough to become a favorite. In the middle of his trial

period he will be ready for a permanent job soon.

\$1,000 will sponsor one of these horses (or you may choose anyone from our herd) for a year and this will help pay for feed, medical and farrier care, tack and grooming supplies. In return, you will receive a nice color photo of your horse and an engraved plate with your name will be placed under your horse’s picture on our Wall of Fame in the barn. For more information, please call Tina Carpenter, Development Coordinator, at 615-794-1150, Ex. 35 or email tcarpenter@saddleupnashville.org.

Family member allergic to cats? Keep “yours” at our barn. For \$150 a year, you can be a BFF to Katie, Madison, Momma Cat, Snip



Momma Cat

or Sweetie. This would make the perfect Christmas gift for someone on your list!

As a sponsor for a Saddle Up! horse or cat, you can call them your own for a year yet have no worries about the upkeep. We take care of that part for you.

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.

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Beautiful discards are in the eye of the beholder

Nancy Swindell, NARHA Registered Instructor

How simple it is to abandon a pair of used rubber riding boots or riding breeches that no longer fit to an organization like Saddle Up! without thinking twice. As the old adage goes, what you consider trash is someone else's treasure.

As an instructor I assist students in a number of ways, often looking beyond everyday riding lessons to teaching life skills or new avenues in which to help a student succeed. The most recent success stories

come hidden as discarded rubber riding boots and an outgrown pair of riding breeches.

One independent male rider made the transition from a long-term dependency of wearing only one type of shoe, somewhat inappropriate for the barn, with a pair of donated rubber riding boots. His reward for making this difficult change? Learning to canter.

Another student recently progressed from baggy jeans to

tailored riding breeches in order to participate in his first S.U.P.E.R. Show just last week.

We could share hundreds of success stories from over the years like [Judy's Tack Shop](#) who had a riding outfit personally made to fit our student JoAnn Cotton when she qualified, and eventually won, the 1995 Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, CT. Or more recently, a set of specialty reins designed, made and donated

by [Terry Lankford](#) in order to better serve three of our riders' specific challenges.

Gifts of tangible items, including riding clothes, tack and horses, bring hope to many goals set for the students who participate here at Saddle Up!.

Thank you to the anonymous donors who give us these trashful treasures.

Thank You to Our Donors - Continued

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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
- 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



Deanna and Patchy proudly show off their new ribbons from their S.U.P.E.R. Show classes.

Staff Members:

- Cheryl Scutt, extension 34
Executive Director
cscutt@saddleupnashville.org
- Peggy Plunkett, extension 22
Business Manager
pplunkett@saddleupnashville.org
- Lindsey Wood, extension 24
Program Manager/Lead Instructor
lwood@saddleupnashville.org
- Tina Carpenter, extension 35
Development Coordinator
tcarpenter@saddleupnashville.org
- Kim Kline, extension 23
Volunteer Coordinator
kkline@saddleupnashville.org
- Bill Bills, extension 26
Farm Manager
bbills@saddleupnashville.org
- Kelly O'Brien, extension 30
Equine Manager
kobrien@saddleupnashville.org
- Martha Georgeson
Equine/Barn Assistant
mgeorgeson@saddleupnashville.org
- Nancy Oglin-Swindell
Newsletter Design / Editor
dznancy@comcast.net

NARHA Certified Instructors:

- Linda Albertalli Kim Light
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- Kate Cole Kelly O'Brien
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- Alicia Dunwiddie Katy Reed
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- Brittany Halstead

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Contributing Photographers:

- Maggie Moore • SU! Staff
- Nancy Swindell

SUN Lite - News in Brief

Country Ride 'N Roll rocks in the rain

The 2009 Country Ride 'N Roll event chair Teri Edmonson went barefootin' as she helped set tables and chairs under the concert tent. A little rain couldn't dampen her spirit or that of nearly 150 other people who enjoyed an evening of hit songs by their creators and down home cookin' by Puckett's Grocery that made mouths water even more than the skies.

Although rain had cancelled the trail rides originally planned for the September 19 event, the show did go on that night and what a show it was.



Singer-songwriters Barry Dean, Wynn Warble and Rodney Clawson quickly made the crowd forget the rain with songs that were touching, funny and memorable.

"If nothing else, this event shows we don't quit easily," laughed Executive Director Cheryl Scutt. "Unfortunately, for the general public trail ride, we did have to give it up after rain made it impossible for the third scheduled date. Our Saddle Up! trail riders did get to do their ride on October 11 and had great fun exploring parts of

Saddle Up! they normally don't get to ride."

Thanks to the event sponsors, performers, participants and concert goers for their support, and a special thanks to Sarah and David Ingram for again hosting the Country Ride 'N Roll at their Duke It Out Farm.



Andy Marshall of Puckett's Grocery and concert guests



Pausing for at the concert are, from left, Len and Amy Smith and the event hosts, Sarah and David Ingram.



Ali C. squeals with delight during her time in the saddle at Ride 'N Roll.



Board President and super booster, Jill Bosse enjoys the concert.

Interested in becoming an instructor? NARHA On-Site Workshop and Certification

Saddle Up! will be hosting a NARHA On-Site Workshop and Certification December 16th – 18th. We still have space available and the deadline for registration is November 9th. This is for candidates who have completed all the initial NARHA requirements and their 25 teaching hours. For those of you that are interested in pursuing your NARHA Instructor Certification you can contact Lindsey Wood, Program Manager/Lead Instructor at 615-794-1150 ex. 24 for more details.



Year at a Glance

November

- 7 Leader Training 12 – 2:30pm
- 12 New Volunteer Training 10am – 2:30pm
- 14 New Volunteer Training 11:30 – 4pm
- 21 Leader Training 12 – 2:30pm
- 18-22 NARHA National Conference, Fort Worth
- 23-28 No lessons
- 26-28 Offices closed, Thanksgiving

December

- 3 New Volunteer Training 10am – 2:30pm
- 5 New Volunteer Training 11:30 – 4pm
- 12 Session 2 lessons end
- 14-31 No lessons
- 14-16 NARHA On-site Workshop & Certification
- 23-25 Offices closed, Christmas

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

S.U.P.E.R. Show and Awards Presentation 2009

A fantastic fall day and several individuals to appreciate made this year's S.U.P.E.R. Show (Saddle Up! Phenomenal Equestrian Riders) a huge success. Special guest participants and their beautiful horses were from Area 4 S.O./Hixson TRP, Leg Up TRC, Tri-State Rainbow Riders, Silver Bullets, and TLC Riding Academy. Congratulations to all our show participants and wonderful horses. See you next year!

Each year Saddle Up! presents awards for outstanding achievements to participants and dedicated volunteers. Congratulations to this year's winners.

Ashley S. received the Saddle Up! 2009 Companionship Award for her unexplainable insight with her horse Nacho. H.K. D. happily accepted the Sportsmanship Award for being a great "cheerleader" to his fellow teammates. Rogelio Anaya humbly accepted the Volunteer of the Year Award for his over-achieving attitude and fix-it capabilities helping around the farm. Alicia M. was presented the Junior Volunteer of the Year Award for logging over 250 hours this year alone. The dynamic duo of father Stephen Foster and his son Noah won the Volunteer Family of the Year for their pure energy on Saturdays. For the fifth year in a row, Connor B. earned the Country Ride 'N Roll High Dollar Award.

Although not able to be with us, we honored Teri Edmonson for Parent of the Year for chairing the 2009 Country Ride 'N Roll fundraising event and Amelia N. for Pony Pal of the Year for her dedication working with Samoens, who is famous for needing a lot of leg to get him to go.

A special thank you to the following for their time and talents.

- Brentwood Camera Club – Photography
- Laura Gilmer – Trail Course judge
- Susan Gregory – Scribe
- Rita Heffner – Scorekeeper
- Sally Holland – Outdoor announcer
- The Men of St. Paul's – Food
- Leslie Milstead – Indoor announcer
- Terri Pewitt – Dressage/Futures judge
- Paula Suddeath – Facepainting
- Nancy Swindell – Photography
- Lisa Thomas – Equitation judge
- Janet Wilkins – Award presentations



From left Melissa Osburn, Emeline Osburn, Saddle Up! Executive Director Cheryl Scutt, Olivia Cesnik, and Sonya Cesnik.



Volunteer of the Year Rogelio Anaya with Volunteer Coordinator Kim Kline



2009 Graduate and Sportsmanship Award winner H.K. D. with NARHA Registered Instructor Tina Carpenter



Country Ride 'N Roll High Dollar Connor B.



Volunteer Family of the Year Stephen and Noah Foster with Volunteer Coordinator Kim Kline



2009 Graduate Anna Claire W. with NARHA Registered Instructor Tina Carpenter



Companionship Award Ashley S. with NARHA Registered Instructor Alice Duva



Junior Volunteer of the Year Alicia M. with Volunteer Coordinator Kim Kline



2009 Graduate Michael C. with NARHA Registered Instructor Kim Light



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

Volunteers Needed

New Year's Resolution -

Recruite your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, scout troops and church youth groups to volunteer at Saddle Up!

Contact Kim Kline for more information on volunteer needs.



A row of empty wheelchairs collect a little dust as their occupants ride by during the 2009 S.U.P.E.R. Show.