



Country Music Grand Prix June 6
Chukkers for Charity June 19
Saddle Up! earns perfect score for reaccreditation



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

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Music Country Grand Prix and Chukkers for Charity kick off summer fun

Summertime fun will get into high gear when the 22nd annual Music Country Grand Prix and the 14th annual Chukkers for Charity polo match take place.

Presented by Tractor Supply Company and benefitting Saddle Up!, the Music Country Grand Prix is a premier equestrian show jumping competition featuring top riders and horses from across the nation. It will take place Sunday, June 6, at Brownland Farm in Franklin, TN.

Other activities include a Patron Lunch buffet and the always fun People Prix jumping for humans!

Gates open at 11:00 a.m. and General Admission is \$10 (free for children under 10 years of age). Again this year the event offers premium Paddock seating, which will include box lunches with beer and wine. More information about patron seating is available at 615-794-1150 or at www.musiccountrygrandprix.com.

Presented by Mercedes-Benz, the 14th annual Chukkers for Charity

Music Country Grand Prix at Brownland Farm

Sunday, June 6

Junior/ Amateur Classic: 11:00 a.m.

Patron Lunch Buffet: 1:00 p.m. (by The Wild Iris and Nero's Grill)

Music Country Grand Prix: 2:30 p.m. (Lead Line & Saddle Up! exhibition before Grand Prix)

includes a top flight polo match and, for the second year, a unique auto show on the polo field prior to the match. The event benefits Saddle Up! and Rochelle Center, which serves adults with disabilities. Chukkers takes place at Lee Ann and Orrin Ingram's Riverview Farm, 1475 Moran Road, Franklin.

In addition to the sizzling polo competition and auto show, Chukkers features the highly competitive and creative cabana decorating contest, a petting zoo, stick horses races, and the "traditional stomping of the divots" by spectators, as in the movie *Pretty Woman*.

General admission is only \$10 a person (children under 3 are free). Tailgating is \$250 for a 10' x 10' cabana, and seating in the patrons' tent is \$2,000 for a fieldside table of 10 or \$1750 for a second row table of 10.

Chukkers for Charity at Riverview Farm

Saturday, June 19

Gates Open: 2:30 p.m.

Auto Show: 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Flag Presentation: 4:45 p.m.

Polo Match: 5 p.m.

Patrons' Dinner Buffet: 6 p.m. (by Nero's Grill)



Spectators watch the excitement from the shade of the patrons' tent at the Music Country Grand Prix.



The AutoWeek Team proudly displays their 2009 Chukkers for Charity trophy.



Saddle Up! scores 100% on reaccreditation!

Saddle Up! has scored 100% on its reaccreditation as a NARHA Premier Accredited Center. NARHA is the national organization that sets the standards for safety and quality of equine-assisted programs.

"We were thrilled to learn that not only had we passed, but we passed with flying colors!" said Executive Director Cheryl Scutt. "Our goal had been to score 100% compliance, and that's exactly what we did!"

The accreditation process involved two NARHA certified site visitors doing an on-site evaluation at Saddle Up!. The independent evaluators reviewed practices, written documentation and related areas for 21 standards for administration, 32 program standards, and 30 facility standards during a day-long process.

(Please see 100% on page 6.)



Program Manager/Lead Instructor Lindsey Wood organizes participants' paperwork.

about the cover: Alex Z. studies the world through a magnifying glass. Photo by Nancy Swindell.

Surveys say... what you told us



Little Bits

Cheryl Scutt, Executive Director

Happy New Year! Yes, as far as newsletters go, this is our first 2010 newsletter, so it's the first chance to share results of surveys families and staff completed late last fall. As those of you who have been part of the Saddle Up! family for a few years know, we ask for your input on a regular basis – typically at least once a year – to get our fingers on the pulse of how we're doing and how we can do better. (Note: Due to being flagged for "spamming" by our internet service provider, our attempt to survey volunteers did not get completed. We'll resume those surveys in the fall of this year.)

Overall, both families and staff have high satisfaction rates with Saddle Up!. When all question responses were averaged, families were at 87% and staff at 88% of either being at "strongly agree," which was the predominant answer, or "agree" to the questions.

Families see the Saddle Up! program as making a positive impact on their children's lives in multiple ways. One parent wrote, "Everything

we have experienced has been positive." Another said, "The whole family has benefited from the care and compassion of volunteers and staff."

Similarly, staff see and are motivated by the impact of the program on the children we serve.

Consequently, when asked if they saw their work as fulfilling, 100% strongly agreed (68%) or agreed (32%). In open comments, one staff member wrote, "I love my work at Saddle Up! and I will continue to commit my time and energy to the children/families we serve."

As might be expected, both families and staff offered suggestions for ways we can improve. The suggestions boil down to improving communications. For families, for example, some would like more information about what's happening in the lessons and their child's progress on a more regular

basis. Staff expressed a need for more feedback to help improve lessons.

We have already begun working on these and a few other suggestions.

This fall, we will be testing an expanded communication with some

families with a goal of creating a system we can implement in 2011. We have already increased formal feedback with

Instructors to provide more input on techniques, activities, etc. they can use for their lessons.

Also, we were thrilled to learn that Saddle Up! has received a free My Emma account that we can use to communicate through email newsletters. We will be creating special newsletters for families, volunteers, donors, and staff plus a general newsletter. To help cut costs, we are reducing our printed newsletter to three times a year instead of four, and will be relying more and more on email as the way to communicate.

We need your email addresses for this to work. So, please, if you haven't given us your email address before, now is the time to do it. You can send it to: pplunkett@saddleupnashville.org.

Please remember that I always love to hear from you – families, volunteers, donors, staff – so don't feel that you have to wait until we do a survey to let me know what you're thinking. Feel free to call (615-794-1150 extension 34), email (cscutt@saddleupnashville.org) or stop by. We are all here to serve!

For all those who are part of Saddle Up!, please know that what you do contributes to this program and to comments like the one received in the survey from a parent, "Thanks for the great job you are doing! We appreciate the difference you all are making in our children's lives so much and I'm very grateful that there is a welcoming place like Saddle Up! for our special kids."

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

Three Board members recognized for service



Joe Gallivan, second from left, was the apple of everyone's eye when he was recognized for service as a board member during the annual meeting of Saddle Up!. Joe and two other outgoing board members who were unable to attend, Kay Francis and Joni Werthan, were recognized as outgoing board members following six years of service.

(Photo courtesy of Kristy Williams.)

Saddle Up! Board President Jill Bosse (left), retiring Board member Joe Gallivan and his son Joseph, and Past President Sarah Ingram (right).

"Barn voyage" Kelly



Kelly O'Brien is leaving after 3.5 years as our Equine Manager to return to school full-time in Michigan in pursuit of becoming a veterinarian. Saddle Up! thanks Kelly for all the contributions she had made during her tenure, including improved herd management methods and an upgraded system for the horse donation process.

Kelly O'Brien (left) and Saddle Up! President Jill Bosse (right)



Saddle Up! scores with Predators Foundation

Saddle Up! was recently awarded a grant from the Nashville Predators Foundation to purchase a much needed large horse to accommodate some of our rapidly growing teenagers. Their only request was to name it something related to the Predators. We've got just the name but we're keeping it a secret until a horse is found. (Stay tuned for details.)

Pictured are Foundation President Gerry Helper (left), Saddle Up! Development Coordinator Tina Carpenter, and Gnash (right).

Strategic plan lays course for the future

Saddle Up! has approved a new strategic plan that lays the course for 2010-2012. The plan was approved by the Board of Directors at its December 2009 meeting after a multi-month process to develop it.

The plan can be viewed at our website, www.saddleupnashville.org.

Building on our mission to "provide children and youth with disabilities the opportunity to grow and develop through recreational activities with horses," the plan set three goals:

- I. Increase and diversify financial resources.
- II. Expand program opportunities, resources and services.
- III. Enhance and increase skills, knowledge and performance of staff, Board and volunteers.

Each goal has measurable objectives and timetables that will be closely monitored as the plan progresses. Updates will also be reported at least annually.

Thanks to all those who participated in the planning process.

S.O.S. – Seeking Out Sponsors

Ever dream of owning a cat, but then realized you were allergic to them? Sponsor one of ours and remain allergy free. Saddle Up! cats are not your every day household pets but felines with super-powers – leaping to great heights in a single bound, becoming invisible in the tack room, catching anything that moves and having been known to lay across a computer keyboard and erase everything. Snip, Madison and Sweetie are available for sponsorship for only \$150 a year. Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

If you are thinking larger in scale and more super-power strength, luckily we have horse sponsorships available. At \$1,000 each sponsorships help provide feed, shoes, shots, bedding and tack for a year to a horse of your choice. If you are a volunteer and work with one of these equines, join forces with your riding team and support one of your favorites as a group effort. No amount is too small to help sponsor a horse or pony that spends its time bringing joy beyond measure to many Saddle Up! participants, the greatest super-power of all! Please contact Development Coordinator Tina Carpenter at 615-794-1150, extension 35.

Matthew B.'s 7-year bond with Saddle Up!

Seven years have passed since Matthew took his first ride at Saddle Up! and now the 18-year-old is riding towards graduation.

Matthew's pleasant demeanor, polite mannerisms, and willing attitude have made him a favorite participant among instructors, staff and volunteers alike. It's not every day that students open the doors for their instructors, willingly follow directions without complaining or give up their favorite mount for a fellow riding partner. However, Matthew seems to be an exception to those rules. Even after a successful reduction in weight in order to regain riding privileges on Nelson, Matthew by-passed that opportunity and remained on Sam so that another student could ride Nelson.

Always prepared for a lesson with hugs and kisses for Sam, Matthew has learned a great deal

about riding from Sam. "He has mastered how to post Sam's huge trot which can be difficult for many of our instructors," laughed Lynne Evans, Matthew's long-time instructor. A loud, "I did it!" can be heard echoing through the arena when he posts that trot or after riding independently through a clover-leaf pattern.

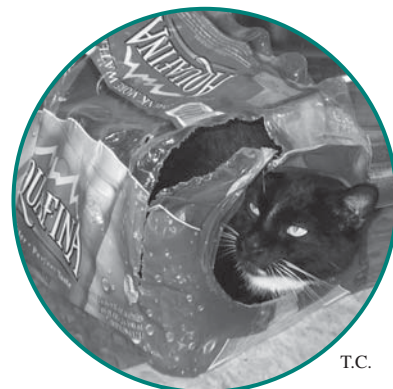
Early on, Matthew struggled with sitting up tall in the saddle so Lynne slipped a riding crop in the back of his riding pants as a reminder, a technique many instructors use to assist with posture. Now he rides with a beautiful position. Matthew has also improved his communication skills by sharing his love for the Titans and his new part-time job at Kroger.

Matthew has a special bond with his two devoted volunteers Kevin Shoemake and Bethany Dorris. "They mean the world to him

Recent Grants.....

- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
- Middle TN Electric Customers Care, Inc.
- The Nashville Predators 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



T.C.

Snip, our resident barn cat and master of disguise, snuggles up in a package of water bottles. You can sponsor Snip today!



F.C.

Matthew B.'s team of professionals NARHA Certified Instructor and Saddle Up! Founder Lynne Evans, Matthew and trusty steed Samoens, and volunteer Kevin Shoemake.

and it makes you realize just how important the volunteers can become to our children," says Lynne. All these types of special character traits are enhanced and encouraged by his parents with whom he shares an evident strong relationship.

Lynne, Kevin, Bethany and Sam will have a void in this hour of their day after Matthew graduates. Thanks for the memories.

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 at 615-794-1150 extension 35 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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Highly decorated moms

Percie S., Nicole O. and Brandy B. proudly display the ribbons earned by their Saddle Up! riders at the 2009 S.T.A.R. horse show.



Visit our website store at
www.saddleupnashville.org

Thank You to Our Donors - Continued

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Wish List

Student/Volunteer Needs

- Donations to ridership fund
- Small bottles of water
- Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)

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 Tractor Supply Co. or Judy's Tack

Facility Needs

- Heavy duty, 4-wheel trailer
- Gift cards from Tractor Supply Co. or Home Depot
- 4-6 Passenger golf cart
- 19 cu.ft. refrigerator, gently used is fine
- 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

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SUN Lite - News in Brief

Perfect score takes team effort

Nearly three years ago, the staff at Saddle Up! began the process of preparing for an accreditation visit that would take place in 2010. All relevant data was entered into the computer and gaps in information were identified. A team effort began with the invaluable leadership of NARHA Center Representative and Saddle Up! Instructor Jane Muir as the coach.

Farm Manager Bill Bills started the process by helping put a risk management plan in place. Peggy followed by gathering all of our business and legal information. Cheryl's job was to identify and define all staff and board related issues. Lindsey, Kim and Kelly had forms to update and maintain for each of their respective areas of expertise. Though Tina did not have any direct standards to meet, she joined the team effort by making sure all CPR/First Aid requirements were met and that we had the necessary first aid equipment on hand.

By January of 2010 we were nearly ready. Bonnie Garner put her proof reading talents to use as we made a hard copy of every standard and put it in a notebook. In February the visitors arrived. The good news – with this massive team effort, Saddle Up! met or exceeded the requirements of 100% of the standards. Saddle Up! is a Premier Accredited Center for another five years.



Tina Carpenter checks the supply levels in all first aid kits.

Saddle Up! earns Gold "Live Green" partnership

The Live Green Partnership has awarded Saddle Up! a Gold level of partnership. The Gold designation was based on Saddle Up!'s current practices of recycling, re-using and other actions to be a good steward of resources.

The Live Green Partnership is a joint relationship with Leadership Franklin, Franklin Tomorrow, and the City of Franklin.

"We are happy to be part of the Live Green Partnership," said Executive Director Cheryl Scutt. "At Saddle Up!, we are committed to being good stewards of all that is entrusted to our care, and the Partnership reflects that ongoing commitment."

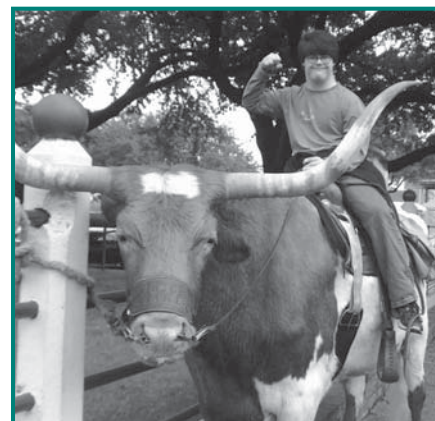


Treat a child as though he already is the person he's capable of becoming. — Haim Ginott

Ride 'em cowboy

Saddle Up! participant Andrew W., NARHA's 2009 Independent Youth Equestrian of the Year, enjoyed a ride aboard a Longhorn steer at the National Conference in Ft. Worth, TX last November.

(photo courtesy of his Instructor Kate Cole.)



100% on accreditation

(Continued from cover story)

The site visitors then submitted the scoring form and their comments to the national NARHA office for official review and the determination of accreditation.

"The real value of the accreditation is that it demonstrates that our daily practices meet – or exceed – the national standards for the safety and quality of program we provide to our students," Cheryl said. "That is something we all work for

every day. It requires that all of us here follow the standards in how we do our work.

"This is a true team effort, and one that we spent much of 2009 locking down details on to prepare for the actual visit," she continued. "A special thanks goes to our NARHA center representative and Instructor Jane Muir, who was our coach and captain on the project. Her extensive experiences at other NARHA centers and as a site visitor benefitted us greatly."

The certification as a NARHA Premier Accredited Center is effective through April 2015.

Group volunteers give back in abundance

Saddle Up! continues to be blessed with the gift of volunteer groups offering their time, talents and services. We are very grateful to the following churches, schools and businesses that lent a helping hand last fall and early this spring. We invite groups of all kinds to spend a day giving back to their community. Call today to find out what special projects Kim has in store for your outing.



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



Brentwood United Methodist Youth Group



Bethlehem United Methodist Youth Group



Ensworth High School



Currey Ingram Academy Elementary School
Community Service Group



Merck Pharmaceuticals
After working all day they presented Saddle Up!
with a \$500 cash donation.

Volunteers Needed

New Year's Resolution -

Recruit 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.

Music Country Grand Prix
Friday, June 4 - Set up
Sunday, June 6 - Event

Chukkers for Charity
Friday, June 18 - Set up
Saturday, June 19 - Event
Sunday, June 20 - Clean up

Salute to volunteers!

Volunteer Coordinator and horse leader, Kim Kline keeps an eye on Kurtis and Patchy in the outdoor arena (left) while veteran volunteer Marty Foy follows behind John S. who took Nelson on a spring time trail ride (right).

Given encouragement and wings, many students learn to fly from the security of a lead rope and volunteer. Volunteers of all skill levels are a vital part of our organization and we could not survive without them. We celebrated our special volunteers in April during *Volunteer Appreciation Week*.

