

# HOOFF BEAT

freedomfarm™



therapeutic riding center

Kick Off Issue

January 2010

www.freedomfarmMN.org

freedomfarm@hotmail.com

952-955-2505

## rider roundup

Freedomfarm Riders, I am so excited to be planning the Riding Celebration for YOU! Because we are celebrating our 10th year, this years horse show will be extra special.



PARENTS: I need help months in advance with costume design and music on cds. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help make the horse show a special celebration.

## Horsing around

On January 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate our horses' birthdays!

- TANGO is 12
- JOSIE is 15
- ROCKY is 16
- DOMINO is 19
- LARRY is 20
- SNICKERS is 20
- JOKER is 24



Hats off (or on) to Doc turning 24!

## volunteer lowdown

Once again, a good time was had by all who attended the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Rider parents Kathy Knoploh, Sue Valiton & George Artley helped serve along with Susie's mom, Audrey Schroeder.



The Volunteer of the Year is Bill Eckblad.  
Couple of the Year is Brian & PJ Frauendienst.



All the other fun volunteer awards you will find listed on the website! \*\*We will be having several training dates for our **horse leaders**. It will also be required for those of you that are not leaders, but help hold or walk horses before and after classes to attend. Please watch your email for the Feb & Mar training dates. Remember, NARHA requires ALL volunteers be trained every year.

## a note from Susie

Freedomfarm is celebrating! My heart is filled with incredible joy as I look back at our humble beginnings. But most cherished are the relationships with so many families and volunteers and the many success stories... riders that have never spoken, spoke their first words here, and signed their first requests here, riders that when at school can complete only a 2 step task, when on a horse complete 7, riders who know they are not like the other kids at school and get treated differently come here and let their spirits soar, the confidence then carries over to school. All while atop their beautiful horse.



Because you are reading this, you are a part of the Freedomfarm Family and **you are the reason** we are celebrating! WOW 10 years!!!! Thank you for having your child find freedom by the means of a horse. Thank you for being so generous and volunteering. Thank you for so faithfully donating money to sustain this program. Thank you to all that responded to 'Give to the Max Day' and those that passed on the info to your family & friends. Thank you for your prayers and good wishes.

Sometimes we need to hold on to our dreams until they become reality! 2009 dreams were The Sure-Hands Lift—now sitting in the barn waiting for installation, 'Healing with Horses' (veteran program) will be launching this spring and 1/3 of the fence line has been replaced.



2010 dreams are a new office center, renovating the school house, insulating the arena and a round pen!!

Susie

# Freedomfarm Blessings

## Bill Eckblad awarded 2009 NARHA Region 6 Volunteer of the Year

CELEBRATE BILL ECKBLAD and all he has done for the riders at Freedomfarm. Sue and I attended the NARHA National Conference in Texas. It was a great conference, so much networking and learning. But the highlight was honoring Freedomfarm's volunteer; Bill Eckblad. Bill was chosen as Region 6 Volunteer of the Year!!!! He was on stage with the 11 out of 3000 volunteers.



He received a beautiful belt buckle. There were 650 attending the banquet, so to have Bill up on stage with his pictures



showing on the 2 large screens was thrilling. Bill, and his wife Zoe, joined us for part of the conference and we also snuck in some fun! We had a great time with Bill & Zoe.

## George & Jeanie Artley

George & Jeanie are parents of Freedomfarm rider, Jack, and have generously blessed this program.



WOW! We didn't know George was a carpenter! George presented Freedomfarm with this beautiful picnic table for all of you to relax at while you watch lessons.



Jeanie works at Cargill and was instrumental in inviting me to speak to Cargill employees during their United Way Campaign Drive. I enjoyed lunch with Jeanie & George and met many new friends for Freedomfarm!

## SureHands Lift

CELEBRATE the installation of the SureHands Lift! This lift has many benefits and will provide a safer mount for many riders.

The total cost including installation will be \$9,500. To date we have received grants from Wright Hennepin for \$2,000 and The MN Horse Council for \$3,000, Dale Lund donated \$1,000, Buffalo Lions donated \$200 and Freedomfarm volunteer Susan Lasoff fundraised \$590 through her family and friends.

Thank you so much for realizing what a huge benefit this will be. That leaves \$2,710 still needed to fully fund this project.

Now to get the horses used to it...

## Zajac's Christmas Lights

Bob & Julie Zajac, parents of Freedomfarm rider Melissa, light up their home in Waconia for Christmas.



This year, any donations they received went to Freedomfarm! Bob set up a 'project page' on giveMN.org so people could give online. Thank you for being such special friends to Freedomfarm!

## Uncle Buzzy to the Rescue!

Susie's Uncle Buzzy drove all the way from Colorado to help out at Freedomfarm.

Just in time for the really cold weather, he installed a garage door at the west end of the barn. The goats, Polly & Zena, have a new strong door, too!



## An important HOOFBЕАТ note...

Freedomfarm is trying to save trees which will save us time and save us money! If you have been receiving updates by email, you will receive the HOOFBЕАТ via email in the future. If you have not received update emails, we need your email address! The HOOFBЕАТ will be available on the website. If you prefer the HOOFBЕАТ mailed to you, let us know!