

WINTER 2009-2010

ALL RIDERS UP ENTERS PHASE TWO

It doesn't seem possible that it was a year ago when our first student sent in a request for evaluation. The year has flown by. But then, that's what they say happens when you are having fun.

It has been a year of fun and excitement. What a pleasure to see smiles on little faces as they bring a bag of apple pieces for their favorite lesson horse. How uplifting it has been to learn from a mother that her son sat up for the first time using only his core muscles and not depending on his arms to achieve that position change. Her insistence that she was sure his riding here had made the difference only confirmed what we had been seeing in his ability to balance himself with walk/halt transitions in his lessons. Here was the report that, as we anticipated, our efforts were producing desired effects which could be seen outside of ARU.

As December started with its' biting cold and single digit wind chills, we were giving twelve lessons a week. We had been given the opportunity to enjoy meeting several families who liked our program and our horses. It was a nice start, comfortable and laid-back exercise and learning for students, instructors and volunteers alike without undue pressure.....exactly the relaxed atmosphere for learning I had hoped ARU would come to embrace.

I wanted us to grow slowly and remain a place where students and their families would be welcomed like an extension of our family. After all, this remains our home and the horses are still very much family members. It isn't unlike the days when our children grew to be of an age where they would invite their school friends over to see the farm, meet us and learn something about the horses. We treasure each new relationship and *thank each of you* for having the confidence in us to trust our judgment with your child's equine recreational activities while we were learning the ropes of running a not-for-profit business.

The new year brings with it renewed enthusiasm for continuing our mission and heightened anticipation of spring weather. The approval of our 501c3 application in Oct. 09, marks the start of **phase two** where we are challenged to move into the less familiar but necessary side of the business,...that of fund-raising and grant writing for support. We know now that we have the components for success in our instructors, volunteers and horses, but success can only come (while continuing to provide our homelike atmosphere) if we can plan ahead, reach out, and achieve a strong base of support for our operations derived more from outside contributions than student fees.

We have planned our first public fund-raising event for Tuesday evening, May fourth. With the help of Annelie Anderson Beck who has been involved with training our horses, we have been able to secure a demonstration of "The Visible Rider" and "The Visible Horse" to be presented as part of our *"Quatro de Mayo Fiesta* to raise funds for ARU". We have planned a super party with Mexican food and music to kick off our efforts to spread the word about ARU. We want to give our community along with our students, an extremely enchanting and visible introduction to how a horse and rider can work together and achieve the benefits that are unique to this form of exercise.

Peggy Brown and Susan Harris are world renowned in their ability to educate equine enthusiasts and the public alike about the anatomy and physiology of the horse and rider working as a team. We are working hard to make the party a huge success and to obtain enough press coverage that everyone in the area will know that ARU has our entire community in mind as a benefactor of our efforts. Those who might come to us as students and many who might wish to support our mission can learn about art, science, and the unique bond between an animal and human through the demonstrations and a visit to the farm that night. All will be provided a chance to enter our world of therapeutic riding and party with our extended family.

Help us kick off phase two in our plan for growth. Come to the party. Learn more about what we can do together. And as is our goal with our students' education and exercise: HAVE FUN.

On a more personal note:

We're are pleased that **Hillary Ramspatcher** has joined us as our part-time **Barn Manager/Assistant**. She loves training ponies and has accepted breaking "Jill" the hinny as her "pet project".

Belated *congratulations* go out to our lead instructor **Anne Rainey** for having passed her NARHA exam and "taken the reins" as **Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator**. Her ARU family, her students and their family members all love her. We all appreciate her uncommon work ethic in volunteering to help keep the barn tidy, the horses fed and happy and our volunteers informed and safe.

We want to cheer on **Jeanie Troutman**, now a NARHA "Instructor in training", though we have no doubt that her years of horsemanship and special education teaching experience will provide smooth sailing as she adds NARHA certification to her already impressive resume.

A big "welcome back" is extended to **Donna Teleis** who was with us for many years when breeding was the main focus here. We are thrilled that she has returned (following a long hiatus working at New Bolton's Exercise Physiology Lab) to embrace the title of NARHA "Instructor in training" here while she peruses her Oil Painting and Art Therapy careers.

Finally, another BIG THANK YOU to **Rebecca Farrell and the many volunteers** who have stood by us in the cold (literally) and made that extra effort that will make the difference in All Riders Up being an OK place to learn and volunteer or a FUN place to help out and take lessons. **YOU ARE ALL SUPER PEOPLE and wonderful to have as friends of the farm!**