

Nickers & News



Up-coming Events

- September 8** Fall Session Classes Begin
- September 12-13** Mountain Song Festival
Brevard Music Center
- October 17** "Mane Event" Fall Gala
at Connetsee Falls
- October 25** Oktoberfest
Downtown Brevard
- November 8** Fall Session Classes End

Notes from the Hayloft...

The first issue of our re-born newsletter received a big "hoofs up" from folks. Thanks to those who took the time to say they enjoyed it... and again to those who made it happen.

You will note that we have selected a name ("Nickers & News"). This name was selected from among 18 great alternatives. For those who don't know, a nicker is that soft, guttural noise that horses make when they are "happily excited" - like when you're carrying their feed bucket down the line to their stall.

As we "put this issue to bed," we are planning for the "Mane Event" Gala. We are also printing the 2015 Free Rein Calendar (many thanks to Donna Hunter, Susan Caldwell, and our monthly sponsors). Please see our web page or a 2015 calendar for a sponsor listing and help us thank those sponsors by giving them the business... your business, as they have shown that they believe in what we do for our student-riders and the community. See inside for details on both.

Thanks... SO much... to our board, staff, volunteers, & donors!

Doug Poad (Chair of the Board)



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Fun Horse Fact

This horse isn't smiling - horses don't even know what that is. This is called the Flehmen Response. Many mammals do it to help them better take in scents of particular interest to them.

Get More Out of Supporting Free Rein

Free Rein can now accept gifts of stock or other securities... and that's good news for you, too.

Considering a contribution to Free Rein this year? Giving appreciated securities instead of cash can help you, too. Sure, making money in the stock market is great, but you can end up paying more in taxes if you sell the stock and donate the cash proceeds (or just donate cash) than you would if you donated the stock directly to Free Rein. The chart shows why.

Ask your financial advisor about how this can help you in your particular financial circumstances and then contact us. We can provide details on how to donate your appreciated stock directly to Free Rein.

Example Tax Impacts of Options for Donating \$5,000 to Free Rein		
	Cash	Donate Appreciated Securities (1)
Charitable Deduction	\$5,000	\$5,000
Income Tax Deduction (assuming 35% tax rate) (2)	(\$1,750)	(\$1,750)
Capital Gains Tax Savings (15% X \$3,000 Gain)	\$0	(\$450)
Your Net Cost of Gift	\$3,250	\$2,800

(1) Assumes you have stock valued at \$5,000 today that you paid \$2,000 for more than 12 months ago.

(2) Some taxpayers are limited in the amount of charitable deductions they may deduct - consult your financial advisor to see how this affects you.

Meet one of our Volunteers (by Doug Poad)

Marge Brockway, one of our volunteers who doesn't have muddy boots



Marge is part of a small group of volunteers working with Jenn Rouse, our Program Director, to make sure that all of the critical administrative functions happen. Jenn says that, "her work frees me up to focus on managing our programs and doing the accounting. I don't know what I would do without her!"

She is also a great example of the diversity of experiences and backgrounds of our volunteers. After more than 30 years with the Federal Government, finishing her career with the FBI as an analyst in the drug and counter-intelligence areas, Marge and her Husband Bob retired and moved to Brevard.

Marge volunteered with another therapeutic riding organization in Indianapolis, IN for two years and enjoyed it very much, so she was happy to read about Free Rein in a Transylvania Times article shortly after settling into their new home. That was more than 5 years ago and she has been helping us accomplish our mission since then.

When asked what she enjoys most about working with Free Rein, Marge highlighted, "knowing that the clients are reaping the benefits of the FR volunteers, seeing the enthusiasm of volunteers & instructors alike, referring friends to FR and hearing how much they enjoy their time with the kids (even those who aren't crazy about horses!)." The things she does in the office are absolutely fundamental to making sure that Free Rein can do all of that... just like they are in any organization. Marge manages the database records of our many donors and other constituents, acknowledges and records donations, organizes student and volunteer records, makes badges for our volunteers, and helps the Program Director with a wide range of other projects and tasks. Marge also has a great view of classes in session from the office window, so it's not hard for her to keep in mind why her work with Free Rein is important... and appreciated.

When most people think about Free Rein, they think of the green shirts and horses in the ring working with our many student-riders. In truth, without the work done by Marge and other volunteers who "don't get their boots muddy," there would be no green shirts or horses in the ring. Thanks, Marge (and your "cohorts")!!

Meet one of our Riders (by Doug Poad)

Shyann Hicks, Age 5

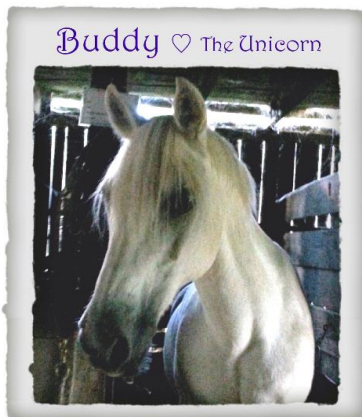
Shyann started riding at Free Rein in 2012 when she was only 3 years old. Shyann's Mom, Jessica, says that riding at Free Rein "has created a passion in her that helps her believe that she can do more than she ever thought she could" and "she has built a great deal of confidence in herself and in being around horses." This means a lot, since Shyann has faced many developmental and sensory challenges since birth.

She is shown here on Lacey, her favorite horse, but she goes to the barn and personally greets each of the horses every time she comes... they are all very important to her.



Christina Torquato has known Shyann from the very start, first as a horse leader and then as her instructor. Christina says that, "She has come leaps and bounds since then. Watching her speech, balance, coordination, and attitude transform has been a rewarding and validating experience for me. I am so happy that she continues to come back to Free Rein each session so that I can witness and take part in all the joy she gets from riding her favorite pony, Lacey!" Shyann can't appreciate all of this... she just knows that she loves Lacey and dreams about riding her all week long. Once she gets to the barn and mounts Lacey, it is always hard to get her back off.

Meet one of our Horses (by Laurie LeDuc)



Barn Name: Buddy

Registered Name: The Magical Unicorn

Breed: Connemara Pony

Color: Grey

Height: 14 Hands

Sex: Gelding

Favorite Song: Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Favorite Treat: Luck Charms Cereal - Yum!

Lesson from the Herd: Retain your child like sense of wonder, innocence and play

Buddy's Favorite Quote: He is pure air and fire; and the dull elements of earth and water never appear in him. Wm Shakespeare, Henry V



We welcome Buddy to his first season with Free Rein. He comes to us from Rockbrook Camp. He is sound at all gaits and likes small jumps. Buddy is especially kind and loves to work with kids. He came to Rockbrook from a farm in Alabama after his barn burned down. His records were destroyed but he is believed to be in his late 20's.

Buddy is a Connemara Pony believed to be the only indigenous equine of Ireland. The Connemara Pony is extremely hardy, sensible, courageous and able to jump. They naturally combine elegance with substance and are regarded as the ideal competition mount for young people. Buddy loves to have his picture taken and thrives on attention.

If you were to catch a glimpse of Buddy in the pasture from a distance with his milky white coat gleaming in the sun and witness his majestic presence you might wonder for just an instant if you had seen a Unicorn! Sometimes at dusk you may perceive the faintest shadow of an alabaster horn spiraling from his forehead and need to look again to see if your eyes are playing tricks on you. According to legend, the Unicorn's purity is renewed every year when the Unicorn returns to the Garden of Eden to dip its horn into the Waters of Paradise. Horses are truly among the earth's most splendid creatures! Come meet Buddy and you will see why he is dearly loved and affectionately nicknamed The Magical Unicorn.

Free Rein Calendar



Our 2015 fund raising calendar is ready. They make great gifts, so get yours now. They are available for \$15 each in the office and at several of the month sponsors. If you “bought” a day, we’ll track you down & get your free calendar to you... and our thanks for doing so. If you didn’t, there’s always next year.

Covered Arena Update

As this issue went to press, it looks like the covered arena project will kick off this fall, after conclusion of our fall session classes. Watch for more details on our webpage and on our Facebook page.



There will be ground breaking and other ceremonies and even some opportunities to help in many ways, so “stay tuned.”

Mane Event – 2014 Fall Gala

We’re working hard to make this year’s event even more fun than previous years. Enjoy Connestee Falls’ great food and The Moonshine Babies, too.

If you have never heard them, you have missed some of Brevard’s most engaging, enjoyable music. Jerry, Jim, and Suzanne are crowd favorites at venues around the county and enjoy a large, faithful group of followers. Round it out with some very popular live & silent auction items and you’ll have a first-rate good time. All-inclusive tickets are \$75 and can be reserved by emailing or calling the office.



Please enjoy this Free Rein newsletter packed with fun and interesting news and information about Horses Helping Humans Heal

Contact us at 828.883.3375 / www.freereincenter.com



Mark the Date !!

Free Rein’s Annual Fall Gala

Friday, October 17th, 2014
6:00 - 10:00 pm
Connestee Falls Clubhouse

Music by the Moonshine Babies (and possibly more), Great Food, Fun, and both Live & Silent Auctions

Tickets - \$75 each
call 828-883-3375 or
email freereincenter@gmail.com
to reserve a spot !!

Free Rein Center, P.O. Box 1325, Brevard, NC 28712
Free Rein is a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by current law.



More pictures of this issue’s highlighted student - Shyann Hicks