



## Region 6 Report

Deadline: January 15, April 15, July 15, and **October 15**

**Plans are underway for our next Region Conference! Mark your calendars now: March 14-16, 2008 Fargo, ND.**

**Equul Access, Inc. (Hutchinson, MN) NARHA Premier Accredited Center** just wrapped up our regular 2007 season. We are contemplating adding a few winter sessions for the first time. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ride-a-Thon/Walk-a-Thon was a success. We have a couple fundraising events left this year and are planning on those being successful as well. Many thanks to everyone involved with our program, we couldn't do it without the support we get from our participants, volunteers, Board and staff. We just added a new equine partner to our herd after she passed her trial period with flying colors. "Indy" is a 14 year old bay overo Paint – absolutely gorgeous! Equul Access is very proud that our instructor Marsha Anderson won the NARHA Region 6 Instructor of the Year. Congrats, Lady, we are excited to celebrate in Anaheim! Best wishes to everyone for a great end to 2007. We look forward to catching up with old friends and meeting new ones in Anaheim this November and in Fargo next March!

**Free SPIRIT Riders, Inc. (Fond du Lac, WI) NARHA Premier Accredited Center** Free SPIRIT Riders in Fond du Lac WI is winding down after a busy year with anticipated end of our 2007 season on October 30. Our 17th Annual Ride/Walk-a-Thon was a success in August, but we are working on ways to attract more people to the event. We hosted our first ever On Site Workshop and Certification for NARHA Registered Instructor candidates in September and are seriously considering making that an annual event for us.

**Mounted Eagles (Brainerd, MN) NARHA Premier Accredited Center** Mounted Eagles in Brainerd MN has had a wonderful end-of-summer/beginning of fall in 2007. We just signed up our 60th rider for the year and have been blessed with several new volunteers. Since we only operate 16 hrs per week, being able to provide services for 60 riders on a weekly basis is quite an accomplishment for us! Our major fund raising event, Walk-N-Roll So They Can Ride, was a huge success again this year and brought in enough funds to get us off to a great start in 2008. We are so grateful for the people who participate in this event by donating, walking, working or just sharing their day with us. It is always fun and seems to get bigger and better every year. Our annual participant horse show was also a success and we saw lots of smiling faces from the riders and also from the spectators. This is such a great opportunity for family and friends to witness the accomplishments of their family member as well as of those who share the equine-assisted activity world with them. They meet other riders' families and share experiences and success stories. We will end the 2007-year season in mid-November and begin again Jan 3rd. It's always nice to take a break but it's great to see everyone come back in January. Four of us are attending the National Conference in Anaheim and are looking forward to coming back with new ideas and energy to begin our 2008 season. May God continue to bless you all for what you do!

**Project ASTRIDE (St. Cloud, MN) NARHA Premier Accredited Center** will be finishing its 21st year of classes in October. We moved to a new facility this year which ironically is the same location where we began 21 years ago! We are now the sole tenants of the facility and are very excited about the possibilities it presents in program growth.

Project ASTRIDE was the beneficiary of a local dressage and jumping schooling show this year. It was empowering to see some of our more independent riders competing and placing against able-bodied riders.

Project ASTRIDE will be having their year end party in conjunction with a Holiday photo shoot. Riders, volunteers and their families have their photo(s) taken with their favorite program horse. It makes for great Holiday cards and wonderful PR.

We are excited to have involved two prominent new board members and a grant writer from our

community who promise to lead us in new and exciting directions in 2008.

We hope to see many of you at Nat'l and in Fargo.

**RideAbility (Pine Island, MN)** RideAbility celebrated ten years of program services this summer!!!

This was the best year yet with over 125 students served in horse back riding lessons. The sensory trail was used extensively this year and enjoyed immensely by our families. The first annual RideAbility Student Horse Show was a great success and was dedicated to the memory of one of our sweet students who passed away in 2006.

RideAbility now owns 8 beautiful horses, and has defined a partial horse donation program to bring in additional horses for summer classes.

Our students set up a royalty program that we started as we celebrated our tenth anniversary. Many families participated this year in additional events like community parades, our barn dance, our RideATHon and our JailATHon.

Thanks to all of you wonderful volunteers who keep therapeutic horseback riding centers open and reaching out to people!!!!

**River Valley Riders (Bayport, MN)** Life has been very exciting for River Valley Riders. We have completed our 7th year and had 36 riders participating and 4 drivers, yea Orphy! RVR has a new Registered Instructor Cheryl Holt. Cheryl is also a founding RVR Board Officer and she hauls her horses to the Washington County fairgrounds 25 evenings a year.

River Valley Riders received a grant from the Fred C. and Catherine B. Anderson Foundation for \$50,000 to assist in our Capital Campaign to purchase land in the East Metro for the future home of RVR.

Four RVR Board members and our driving instructor are going to Anaheim this November so ask us about our land!

This November 3rd we will have our 4th Roundup with a silent auction, dinner and dancing hoping for a great turn out. Then rest until spring, oh sure!