

BARN BITS



Spring SIRE's Newsletter

November 2011

Issue 9

Rider Showcase!

Spring held their Rider Showcase on Saturday, November 12th. We started our event off with an exciting demonstration from the Junior Mounted Posse. Our volunteer Nick Rashall is a member of the Posse and it was fun for all of us to watch him ride. We enjoyed meeting his family, who are also involved in the Posse, along with his other team members. Andi Fry and Shayna Bolton gave a short presentation on SIRE and then we moved on to the main event! We had thirteen riders participating in four classes. Our riders were Carly Bender, Claire Bouldin, Eli and Jacob Sukin, Garrett Ennis, George Daponte, Esteban Lozano, Jason Mickelis, Jessica Callan, Lauren Iglar, Megan Fry, Sebastiaen Raymaker and Zach Christian. As always we couldn't do this without the help of our wonderful volunteers: Debbie Stuber, Ginger Luft, Jill Kin, Madison and MaKaela Carter, Mary Baker, Nancy Grant, Randi Jackson and her friend Sara, Renee Bouldin, Renee Ketterer, Tammy Edmonds and Traci Hockabout. A huge thank you to all of them for spending their Saturday afternoon helping us! Volunteer Alicia Angst took all of the day's photos. The families and volunteers brought many wonderful dishes and desserts and the Fry family donated and cooked hot dogs. This is one of our most popular events and if you were with us on Saturday we probably don't need to say anything else!



Eli Sukin on Chester with volunteer MaKaela Carter

Volunteer and Jr Posse member Nick Rashall and Skip (Right)

Texas Racing Fillies



*17th Annual Christmas Gala
An Evening of Dinner and Dancing
Silent and Live Auction
Monday, December 5th at 6:30pm
Sam Houston Race Park – The Pavilion*

Ladana Iglar and Anna Mary Thomas, mother and grandmother respectively of Spring SIRE rider Lauren Iglar are members of the Texas Racing Fillies. This group supports SIRE by doing such things as sponsoring a rider. Tickets for this event are \$30.00 per person in advance and \$35.00 per person at the door. If you would like to support the Texas Racing Fillies organization (and SIRE!) by attending their Gala and Auction and would like more information please call Ardiene Thompson at 281-252-3440.



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Traci Hockabout! Traci has been an integral part of our volunteer team since January 2011. She heard about SIRE from her friend and our volunteer Regina King. After hearing about SIRE Traci decided that it sounded like something she would enjoy doing and would allow her to spend time with horses, something she did when she was growing up. It didn't take long for Traci to realize that she was doing something that she absolutely loved. And although she enjoyed being around horses again it was the riders that had stolen her heart. She has made many friends among the families of our riders and our other volunteers. Of course all of us on the staff think she's been a wonderful addition to our Spring site and love working with her. Traci volunteers on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings and just about any other time we ask her. We've had Traci's help at many of our special events. She tells us that her favorite event is Ride-A-Thon. Traci is married to Dennis and has three sons. Tyler is 21 years old, Derek is 16 years old and Jesse is 9 years old. We've heard that Traci wishes she had more time to volunteer with us at SIRE. We wish she did too!



Traci and Rudy

New Picnic Tables!

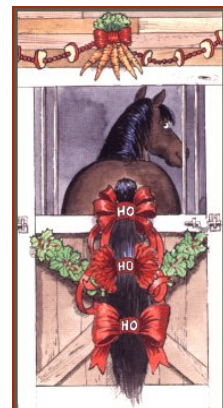
Mario Laiseca-Ruiz built four picnic tables as part of a Boy Scout project. Mario knows about SIRE because he attends the same church as Richard White, former president of the SIRE board. Once Mario completed the tables he donated them to the Spring site. The current tables in the Client Area have slowly been falling apart so we are thrilled to be able to replace them with two of these new tables. The other two tables will stay in the Client Area at the large arena. A huge thank you to Mario for giving us a much need item!



Showcase visitors using our new tables

HO HO HO!

Word around the barn is that the horses are once again putting together their Christmas Letter and List. They swear they've all been good - even Bud! We've heard rumors of email hacking to get it out to everyone (apparently Harry is pretty techie). And Lark is getting in touch with her inner Martha Stewart and is going to decorate the Client Area with their stockings. Wonder who will have the biggest and fanciest one?



Donation Thank You's!

Spring SIRE was gifted with two very generous donations during October!

Mary Kister, the grandmother of volunteer Ana Short's husband Michael, made a donation in her honor. Ana started volunteering with us this semester. Ana volunteers on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. She and Michael have both helped out at special events.



Shayna Bolton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Krinsky also made a very thoughtful donation in honor of their daughter. We couldn't keep our program going without the support of people like these. We are so grateful to have them as a part of our Spring SIRE family.

Horses and Airplanes . .



We're working on something fun and exciting that involves horses, trail riding, volunteers, and *the airport??* Stayed tuned for more details but trust us. You're not going to want to miss this one!

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Break

November 21st through November 26th

Last Day of Fall Semester

Saturday December 17th

Winter Break

December 19th though January 13th

Colic By Dr. Ruddock

This article was sent to us by Molly Sweeney, SIRE Board member. We thought it would be helpful to our Leaders and other horse people.

Colic is a symptom indicating abdominal pain. Signs of abdominal pain (in order of severity – less severe to most severe):

- Lying down for excessive periods, in an odd time or in an odd position
- Lack of appetite
- Restlessness
- Quivering of the upper lip
- Turning the head toward the flank
- Stretching as if to urinate
- Kicking with the hind feet at the abdomen
- Crouching as if wanting to lie down
- Sweating
- Dropping to the ground and rolling

If the horse grinds its teeth or yawns repeatedly he may be experiencing pain. Observing the horse's vital signs is also helpful to determine the seriousness of the colic (and is helpful information for the vet). Normal rectal temperature of the adult horse (in rest) is: 36.1–38.3C (98-100.5F). Heart rate is 20-40 beats per minute. Respiratory rate is 12-24 breaths per minute. Mucous membrane are pink with capillary refill time of 2 sec. Bowel movement is about 8-12 piles per day and 2 intestinal noises should be heard at each quadrant per minute. Pale membrane may indicate inadequate circulation, which can lead to shock. Brick red mucous may reflect shock from endotoxins. Purple or blue gums are signs of severe colic with vague prognoses. If the heart rate elevates and is 60 beats or higher for a long period of time, it means a severe case. High temperature may be sign of infection or septic condition, opposite of that - lower body temperature indicates shock. Sound in all four quadrants - in the upper and lower areas on both sides of the flank region - can be listened to with a stethoscope. There should be 2 waves (how the intestines are moving) every minute. No sound at all can be a bad sign. Be safe and always call a vet first. You never know if you are at the start of a bad case of colic.

