

BARN BITS



Spring SIRE's Newsletter

January 2012

Issue 11

Molly Sweeney Honored

On January 14th Molly Sweeney was honored as the 2011 recipient of The EQUUS Foundation Humanitarian Award presented by The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). She was presented with this award at the USEF Pegasus Awards Dinner during the Federation's Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. The USEF/EQUUS Foundation Humanitarian Award spotlights the selfless dedication made by one individual or a group of individuals to improving the health and welfare of the horse by promoting and expanding the general public's appreciation and respect of the diverse roles of horses. Molly has had a long time association with SIRE as a volunteer and past Board President and is currently serving as a Board Member. She has been a friend and support of SIRE for many years and we can't thank her enough for all she has done for us! Congratulations to Molly for this well deserved honor!



Molly Sweeney riding a SIRE horse

Volunteer Orientation and Training

We held our Orientation for the new volunteers for our Spring semester on Wednesday, January 4th from 6pm to 8pm. We had a group of seventeen enthusiastic people attend to hear about our program. Training was held the following Saturday, January 7th. We had nine volunteers come to the 8:00am Leader Tryouts and then participate in Leader Training and Tacking for Leaders. At 9:30am the Sidewalker trainees arrived and joined up with the Leaders. Our new volunteers learned about our Mounting and Dismounting and Emergency procedures with Kathy Bigelow. They also did a class in Riding Skills and Developmental Skills with Shayna Bolton. Thank you to Volunteers Alicia Angst, Caitlin Russett, Cassie McCollum, Tracie Hockabout and her son Jesse, Randi Jackson and Mary Baker. Thank you to riders Sebastiaen Raymaker and Amber Johnson. We're very excited to have this new group of volunteers working with us as we start off this new year! We're especially excited to have two new DHP's joining us! Welcome Cassie and Courtney!



Benefit Ride For SIRE



2012

IAH Airport Express
Endurance Ride

Hitch up your saddle and put on your boots to get ready to join us for the second annual "IAH Airport Express Endurance Ride" on February 4th and 5th, 2012 at George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) for a 25 and 50 mile ride on each day. In addition, a 10+ mile "Fun Ride" will be hosted for those that would like to find out more about the sport of Endurance, or just want get out to enjoy the beautiful airport trails.

Camping will be at the North Trailhead located at 5100 FM 1960. There will be MAJOR signage on FM 1960 for the event site and horse parking. There is plenty of room for all sizes of rigs, camping and pens (bring your own pen). One parking area is a mix of gravel and cement base; two others are soft grassy pasture type. One area will allow continuous generator usage; the others will require them off at 10:30 PM. Port-O-Cans and horse water will be provided by the Houston Airport System. Please note: No Electric hook ups will be available for rigs. For Registration Forms and more information on the ride please visit our website at <http://sire-htec.org/>

This year the Airport Express Endurance Ride benefits SIRE. We will be doing demonstrations on Friday afternoon for anyone interested in our program. SIRE will have an information table set up on Saturday and will also be helping with Registration. There may be a need for a limited number of volunteers on both of these days. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out.

SIRE On Stage

On Thursday, February 9th from 5:00 to 7:30pm SIRE is holding its first ever SIRE on Stage at the Hobby Center in downtown Houston. SIRE riders and horses will be doing live riding demonstrations at the top of every hour: 5:00pm, 6:00pm and 7:00pm. Houston Police Mounted Patrol will also share equestrian skills and demonstrations on stage. Kim and Don Richards are the Co-Chairmen of this event. Their daughter Katherine rides at our Spring site and both Kim and Katherine volunteer here. If you or someone you know would like to attend this event, reservations are required. You can make them by calling (281) 356-7588, ext. 203 or by emailing JoAnn@SIRE-htec.org. They can also be made through our website <http://sire-htec.org/>.



Upcoming Events

Top Hands Practice Horse Show

Sunday, January 29th, 2pm to 4pm

IAH Airport Express Endurance Ride

Friday, Feb. 3rd – Sunday, Feb. 5th

SIRE On Stage

Thursday, February 9th, 5pm to 7:30pm

Top Hands Horse Show

Friday, Feb. 17th – Sunday, Feb. 19th

Clyde's Birthday Party!

We celebrated Clyde's 30th birthday the week of January 16th by giving to all of our riders and volunteers horse cookies from Clyde that had been decorated in his image. We've had the pleasure of working with Clyde at SIRE since 1996. He's one of our hardest working horses and a favorite around our barn. Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate this very special event.



Top Hands Practice Horse Show

Top Hands is right around the corner!! With that in mind we have arranged a small competition horse show with our other two sites and Joy Ride. It will take place on Sunday January 29th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. We will be the host site with the other three groups bringing their horse here. As we all know, an event of this type requires lots of help. This is the perfect practice for those volunteers that have done Top Hands before and plan on doing it again. For our new volunteers, this show is a good time for us to show you how we present our horses and riders during a show like Top Hands or Special Olympics. If you would like to volunteer for this event please let me know by sending me an email at vc.spring@sire-htec.org. I also need help outside the arena. We will have our "Sale Barn" set up along with a Concession Stand.



Christmas Thank You!

The Spring SIRE herd would like to pass on their sincere thanks for all of the generous donations that were made during the Holidays in response to their Christmas Wish List. We received \$735.00 in cash donations which will buy lots of horse cookies! Well, that's if you ask Bud how it should be spent. It will also help buy show halters, hay, grain and other horse necessities. Our Santas this year were Elaine Gregg, Renae Ketterer, Christine Smith (Bud's previous owner) Claire Bouldin and her family, Sherry Dermer, Amy Krueger and her family and Sue Reifel. Samantha Swift and her family donated a box of horse shampoo and conditioner which will be very helpful during our upcoming Top Hands horse show. A huge THANK YOU to all of our wonderful SIRE supporters!



TOP HANDS!

Top Hands is coming up fast! It is the weekend of February 17th - 19th and we need lots of help! If you have never done this before you don't want to miss out. It's held at Reliant and is tons of fun. It's also lots of work so we need many hands. Please let Kathy Bigelow know if you'd like to volunteer for this event and what days/times you will be available. You do not need to stay for an entire day although you are certainly welcome to! We do setup on Friday which means lots of stall decorating so if you're crafty we want you! We also need DHP's, Leaders and Sidewalkers for all three days.