

Nickers & News



Project Horsepower - our program for Davidson River School Students

Schools
Out!!



Notes from the Hayloft...

School is out and summer is here. Free Rein served 59 individuals during our spring session - again, 20% more than our average session. Serving more people is good and rewarding, but it asks even more of our volunteers, who came through yet again. If you aren't already in our "stable" of volunteers, consider joining these folks for a rewarding experience... get in touch to find out how you can get involved.

I'm happy to report that we have recently received grants totaling almost \$25,000 from Lake Toxaway Charities, the Sasser Family Charitable Giving Committee, Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, and the St. Philips Episcopal Women. We appreciate their investment in our programs and what they help us do for so many people.

While I'm thanking them, let me also offer a big thank you to the many people who invest some part of their personal resources in Free Rein's programs. We appreciate that they also believe in what we do, how we do it, and for whom we do it. We wouldn't be able to do any of it... for so many people... without this support.

We're working on our 2016 calendar - please consider buying a day for \$25 to honor someone on their special day or remember someone special to you. See page 4 of this newsletter for more details. We want to have it available by September 1st, so don't delay.

Doug Poad (Chair of the Board)

Upcoming Events

JUL 4, 2015	Brevard's 4th of July Festival - come see us !!
JUL 23-25, 2015	Blue Ridge Classic Horse Show at the WNC Ag Center - come see us !!
AUG 8, 2015	Fall Volunteer Info & Orientation Session
SEP 8, 2015	Fall Session Classes Start
OCT 17, 2015	Mane Event Fall Gala at Connestee Falls
NOV 7, 2015	Fall Session Classes End



Fun Horse Facts

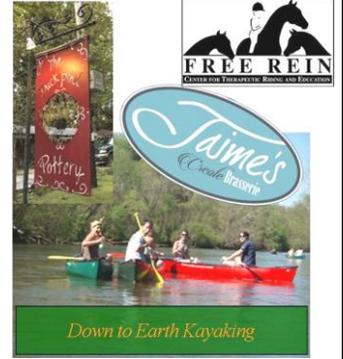
Depending on breed, care, and living environment, the modern domestic horse has a life expectancy of 25 to 30 years. A few live into their 40s and, occasionally, beyond. The oldest horse on record is "Old Billy," an English barge horse. He was 62 years old when he died, living from 1760 to 1822.



French Broad Dinner Cruise

If you missed the Mane Event Gala last fall, you missed the opportunity to win on a truly unique auction item. Jaime and Dena Hernandez (Jaime's Creole Brasserie), Hannah Small (Down to Earth Kayaking), and Nick Friedman (Duckpond Pottery) provided the food,

kayaks, and space for the Free Rein board to host eight folks for an hour-long river trip followed by Hors D'oeuvres, beverages, and a gourmet meal. OK, the river trip part got rained out and will be rescheduled on a dryer day, but the deck at Duckpond was dry enough to enjoy appetizers on a beautiful late afternoon, followed by a remarkable dinner inside Nick's gallery. It was a hugely enjoyable evening for all. Free Rein, and the eight guests want to thank the team of folks that donated the food, river time, and space to make this inaugural French Broad Dinner Cruise a real winner.



Speaking of the Mane Event, this year's fall gala is already well-along in the planning process. It will be on Saturday, October 17th from 6:00 - 10:00 pm at the clubhouse at Connestee Falls. The Moonshine Babies were so moved by hearing more about what we do at Free Rein that they will not only be playing again... they will donate a house concert to the auction. Mark your calendars (hopefully a Free Rein calendar 😊) and make plans to attend. Several of our guests last year remarked that it was one of the most enjoyable fund raising events they had attended, so don't let them have all the fun... join them this year.



Meet another Great Pair of Volunteers

Paul and Christine Mellon

In the last issue, you heard about the great team of Michael and Nancy Rosenthal. We'd like to introduce you to another great pair of folks who help make Free Rein successful. This picture is worth 1,000 words about how much Paul and Christine enjoy their time at Free Rein.

They read about Free Rein in a Transylvania Times article in 2013 and have been volunteering with us ever since. They moved to the area from Ohio the previous fall, but had not yet explored volunteer opportunities. The article in the paper inviting the public to attend the volunteer information/orientation session piqued their interest. That session sold them that the organization and mission was one they wanted to support. Next time you're at Dugan's Pub, say "Hi" to Christine and thank her in person if she's working while you're there. Here are some things they said they like most about their time at Free Rein.

- ☺ An impromptu hug from a student.
- ☺ Watching Mojo manage to smear his food from his nose to his ears during his evening feeding.
- ☺ One little guy who is mostly non-verbal started mimicking everything being said and one of the things he said was "Hi Christine." "Thank goodness for sunglasses because that brought me to tears of joy."

Paul and Christine both claim that the biggest joys they get from working at Free Rein is watching the riders light up when they arrive, prepare for their lesson, and their reactions to the horses during the lessons. They also enjoy hearing from the families how their experience at Free Rein has positively impacted not only the rider during the class, but how that has carried over to their life at home and school.

Meet another group of our Riders

Since the school year just ended, we thought it would be appropriate to feature the young folks who ride in one of our three school programs. Teachers from Davidson River, Brevard Elementary, and Brevard Middle schools brought a total of 20 young folks to Free Rein for two hours during the school day. These programs are offered to the schools at no cost... made possible entirely by funds raised from grants and the support of our individual donors.



The teachers remark that their students' experiences at Free Rein have made substantial impacts on their young charges... noting improved social skills, more confidence, and saying "It wasn't just the actual riding that they appreciated. The encouragement from instructors and volunteers was mentioned as well as their desire to work with students who identify themselves as "difficult."

Time at Free Rein gives these students, who need more individualized attention, a great way to learn how to work well with others and develop more self-confidence. They also learn that horses, like people, are like mirrors that reflect how you treat them... give love & respect, get love & respect back. These programs are yet another example of *Horses Helping Humans Heal...* and grow.

Sometimes, "Art Class" even breaks out at Free Rein, as students decorate Mr. Pumpkin, who seems to actually enjoy being painted... as long as it can be washed off later. It's lots of fun and lets the students enjoy working together in a cooperative environment.



Meet one of our Horses (by Kara Franks)



Barn Name: Cassie

Breed: Quarter Horse (and some others)

Color: Red Dun

Age: 26 (a senior citizen among horses)

Height: 15 hands

Sex: Mare

Favorite Song: That's What Friends Are For (by Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager)

Favorite Quote: Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend. ~Albert Camus



Cassie (shown on right in photo above eating some sweet grass - one of her favorite activities) is a newcomer to Free Rein this year and she brought Montana (shown at left above) along with her. They are both seasoned camp horses on loan from Camp Carolina. Free Rein will feed and care for them for the nine months out of the year that camp is not in session, so it's a real win-win for everyone... even Cassie and Montana. They get to continue to live, work, and play with people who love them... and they really love people, too.

Cassie loves to work with our smallest riders. No matter who she works with, Cassie teaches everyone a very important lesson... what it means to be a good friend. Cassie was a big hit with volunteers and students alike, making many new 2 legged friends. These two are much more influential than either of them could ever understand, helping us not only teach riding and horse skills but also life lessons.

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

Contact us at 828-883-3375 / www.freereincenter.com



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Shop at Amazon.com - buy what you would have bought - pay what you would have paid - and Free Rein gets .5% of the amount of your purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-1740563> to learn more or get started using your Amazon login. You will need to identify Free Rein Center for Therapeutic Riding and Education as your chosen charity... get in touch if you need help.

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.

If you missed the volunteer appreciation picnic and didn’t get one of the two small “thank you” gifts (a high-quality vinyl Free rein decal and a “can koozie” with the same image), you can get them from the office in the fall, or send a note to freereincenter@gmail.com.



2016 Calendar “In The Works”



The 2016 Free Rein calendar is coming... and so is your chance to be part of it. You can “buy a day” to commemorate a loved one’s birthday or your anniversary... or honor someone or something of special significance.

The theme of this calendar will be “Teamwork” and will feature lots of great pictures and stories about the various groups of people (and horses) that work together to make the “Free Rein magic” happen. It will also feature calendar day pages printed on paper stock that is easier to write on with a pencil.

If you’d like to buy a day, contact us at 828-883-3375 or at freereincenter@gmail.com. Each day only costs \$25 and you get a free calendar for every day you buy. They make great gifts and really help support Free Rein’s horses, people, and programs.



Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

More than 70 people gathered on a beautiful late spring afternoon in mid-May to enjoy our annual volunteer appreciation picnic at The Stables at Las Praderas.

Several local businesses, Free Rein’s board, staff, and special friends provided lots of great food and beverages. Michael and Doug grilled for the crowd.



Three members of Pretty Little Goat - a popular local band - provided entertainment. Lois & Clark even “sat in” with them on a few songs. A great time was had by all... and we do mean all. If you weren’t there, you missed a truly enjoyable time.

