

# Nickers & News



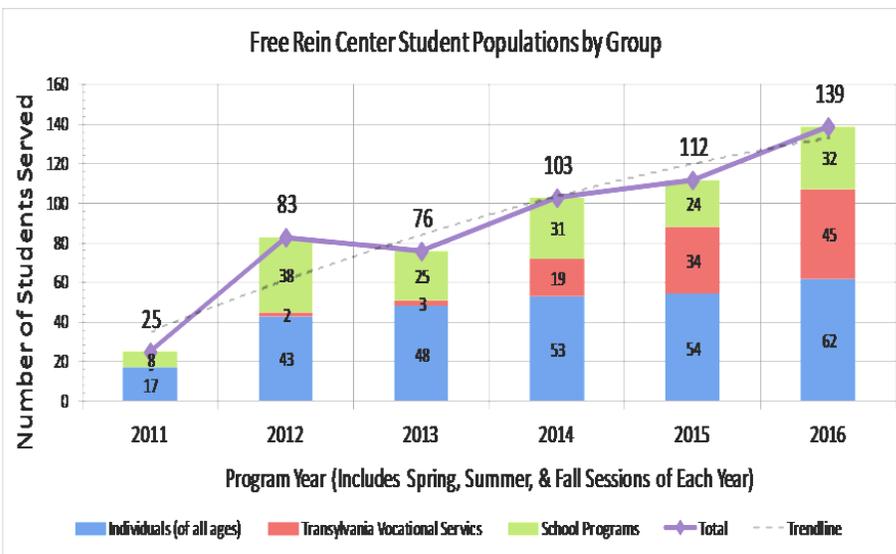
Fall is in the air... and appearing on the trees.

## Notes from the Hayloft...

There is very exciting news about Rockbrook Camp's covered riding facility inside - check it out.



We're serving more than 65 people in this fall session. Here is a graphic presentation of the growth in Free Rein Center's programs over the last five years.



We welcome two new corporate sponsors, Land Rover & Jaguar of Asheville and Charlie's Tire Center. Thanks for becoming partners in serving the community and Free Rein Center's students.

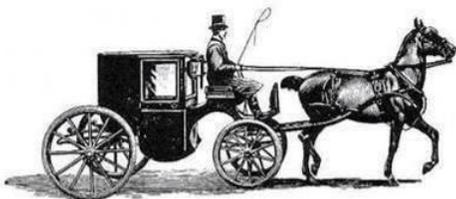
The Mane Event Gala at Connestee Falls' Overlook Clubhouse is almost here. If you haven't made plans to attend yet, call the office, email us, or go to our website to get your ticket.

*Doug Poad* (Chair of the Board)

## Upcoming Events

OCT 15	Mane Event Gala at Connestee Falls
OCT 28	Haunted Barn at Free Rein (Ya'll come)
OCT 29	Brevard's HalloweenFest
NOV 5	Fall Classes End (including makeup week)
NOV 24	Thanksgiving (we have much to be thankful for)

### THEN



### NOW



WELL PLAYED HORSE, WELL PLAYED!

## Fun Horse Facts

Approximately 4.6 million Americans work in the horse industry in one way or another. The US horse industry has an economic impact of \$39 billion annually with just nine million American horses. There are approximately 58 million horses in the world and the vast majority are cared for by humans.

## Covered Riding Facility - It's Happening



Tearing down the old ring

The recent sounds of heavy equipment and the smell of dirt being moved heralded the realization of a long-held dream for Free Rein Center, and Rockbrook Camp. Jeff & Sarah Carter, owners of Rockbrook Camp, began construction of a new covered riding facility in mid-August, when they tore down the existing riding ring where we hold classes to start grading for a new, 90' x 180' covered arena and ten stall attached barn.

Of course, this is requiring some pretty big "work-arounds" for our fall session, which started shortly after the construction did. Folks from Rockbrook and Free Rein Center worked together to be ready for the first students on day one. Classes are being held in a temporary ring in what is known as "the golf pasture" off of Island Ford Road. Our instructors and Michael Rosenthal, our volunteer coordinator, worked extra hard during the first two weeks to get everyone settled into the new ring and different procedures.

Now, classes are humming along and we are watching the construction progress with great excitement. The area where the new building will be has been graded and the steel trusses are onsite being painted. Materials are starting to arrive and be staged.



Grading for the new arena

We expect to see "holes and poles" very soon, as the crews create footers and erect the 50 or more posts that will hold up the trusses for both structures.

We look forward to holding a grand opening celebration sometime in 2017 when we get to start offering classes in the new facility and stop cancelling classes due to rain. Until then, watch the progress as you drive by.



Demolishing the old stable

## Meet Another Great Team of Volunteers

### Harold & Judy Sheets

Harold & Judy moved to Brevard from Virginia in 2014, after they retired. Judy is a nurse and worked at the University of Virginia. Harold owned a car dealership. They first heard about Free Rein Center at Brevard's 4th of July Festival in 2014. Judy had worked with children with disabilities for several years and was curious to see how horses fit into the equation, so they signed up to volunteer at Free Rein Center.

They got started in the fall of 2014 and have been volunteering ever since. Judy says that, "We were amazed at the enthusiasm of the children and how much they loved getting on those horses. We could see the connection between the horses and children was very positive. Some of the children were cautious and frightened, but it didn't last long. The horse leaders reassured them and the side walkers told them what a good job they were doing. Very soon, there was nothing but big smiles as they learned to tell their horses 'whoa' and 'walk on'."

It didn't take long for them to get "hooked" on Free Rein Center and the children they met there. According to Judy, "Working with the children that we have been with is a real delight. They learned our names and laughed when we stumbled or gave a wrong cue to the horse. They began to relax and tell us how much they liked riding."

They were impressed by the programs at Free Rein Center, where children learn to groom their horse and socialize with other students. Judy observed that, "They learn to guide their horse in the right direction and the commands that the horse responds to. They also learn how to balance themselves in the saddle, position their feet in the stirrups, sit tall, and hold the reins properly."

She summed it all up nicely by saying that, "There is nothing that we don't like about Free Rein Center - except maybe the little biting bugs that fly around during lessons. If someone asked us why we volunteer at Free Rein Center, we would just have to say - for the love of the children and the horses."

Harold &amp; Judy getting ready for class





Sean at Free Rein Center in early 2000's).

## Meet One of our Riders

### Sean Farrell

We're pleased to highlight a student who has been riding at Free Rein Center since before it was even called Free Rein Center. Sean started riding in 1999, a year before Free Rein Center was officially organized. His parents heard about the benefits of therapeutic riding from someone at Sean's school.

Sean has developmental disabilities. His father, Willie, says that, "Riding at Free Rein Center has built self-confidence and a willingness to try new things in Sean. It gave him

balance, emotional support, independence, and a sense that he could do something different and challenging. It increased his level of confidence in himself, too. He is full of joy when going to his sessions at Free Rein Center. He has a hard time accepting it when lessons get rained out, so the new covered arena will be a great thing for him, too."

During the course of the years that Sean has been riding, he has seen staff, instructors, and volunteers come and go. He has had his favorites, but has also quickly adapted to, and been adopted by, everyone that has worked with him at Free Rein Center.

Willie says that Free Rein Center, "has great programs, with caring and wonderful volunteers and a great staff. There were fears at first, but after meeting the staff and seeing Sean ride, the fears were put to rest."



Sean at Free Rein Center in fall 2016 session (with the Sheets)



Lacey and Scarlet  
Long Time Barn Friends

## Meet one of our Horses

(by Kara Franks)

Barn Name: Lacey

Nickname: Pink Pony, Rockbrook's Princess

Breed: Connemara

Color: Strawberry Roan (that's very dark brown for non-horse folks)

Age: 28

Height: 13.1 Hands - about 53" high at the withers (shoulders)

Sex: Mare

Favorite Treat: Strawberry Shortcake, of course (with whipped cream)

Favorite Quote: You've always had the power, my dear. You just had to learn it for yourself (Glinda, the Good Witch in the Wizard of Oz)



Lacey came to Rockbrook (and later, Free Rein Center) in the late 80's with Danny, Annie, and Buddy after the breeding facility where they were living burned down. The story goes that none of them were "broke," so they became training projects for the more experienced riders at Rockbrook's summer camp sessions. Lacey was reportedly the hardest one of the bunch to train. Gentle and laid back, she is now the perfect mount for the smallest and most timid children. She is known for her patience and has even let children paint her and put lipstick on her if they ask nicely.

Lacey lives life in the slow lane now and from her stall at the very front of the barn, seems to be in charge of the comings and goings of all who enter. Watching our four Connemaras working together is a magical thing. They grew up together and seem to be more connected than any of our other horses. They seem to know just what their riders need and how to give it to them... all in return for a scratch or rub on the neck or a carrot.

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

Contact us at 828-883-3375 / [www.freereincenter.com](http://www.freereincenter.com)

Free Rein Center is a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity.

Gifts and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by current tax law.



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You will need to identify Free Rein Center for Therapeutic Riding and Education as your chosen charity... get in touch if you need help.

## More on The Mane Event Gala

It's almost here and promises to be our biggest, best, and most enjoyable fund raising event in years. With music from The Bold Gray Mares and Mother/Daughter duo Hunnilicious, Connestee Fall's great food, Mane Street Shopping, and lots of "can't go home without it" live and silent auction items, there's fun for all. Here are just a few of the many items.

- ♥ Bryson City Getaway - 2 first class tickets on a Great Smoky Mountain Railroad excursion and a night at the Chalet Inn & suites
- ♥ Half-day fly fishing trip with Woody Platt, Grammy award winning lead singer of the Steep Canyon Rangers (with a picnic lunch)
- ♥ Original painting by internationally known local artist Ann Dergara
- ♥ French Broad Dinner Cruise - canoe trip for eight, lunch or dinner on the deck at Duckpond served by Free Rein Center's board (thanks to Headwaters Outdoor Outfitters, Jaime's Creole Brasserie, and Duckpond Pottery)
- ♥ Golf for four with Llama caddies (thanks to Sherwood Forest Golf Club and Mark English)
- ♥ Bed & Breakfast package at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville

Call the office, click [here](#), or email us to buy your tickets (\$75 each - \$30 from each one is deductible). Have fun while supporting the work that we do at Free Rein Center - and the many people we serve.

## 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.

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.

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.

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.

## Many Thanks to:



Clark and Mary Lou Hickock, owners of Appalachian Golf Cars in Sapphire, for donating use of a four passenger golf car during the fall session. This will really come in handy as we work around the construction of the new covered arena. Thanks for your support.

The Sasser Family Foundation, for a generous grant to help fund our "Leg Up" program with Transylvania Vocational Services. This program enriched the lives of 17 adults with developmental and physical disabilities during the spring session and is serving 22 individuals this fall. The grant also funds training needs for our instructors, staff, and volunteers.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, for a recent gift from their Art of the Mountains event. This is an example of good people and good art supporting good work.

Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, for their grant funded by their annual Assault on the Carolinas bicycling competition.

Bernard Pellitier, our Farrier, for his great work on our horses' feet and the professional discount he offers to us as his way of supporting what we do at Free Rein Center. He literally saved Tonka's life with therapeutic work he did on his feet.