



From the Barn

4-H Therapeutic Riding Program of Carroll County

Nov 14, 2010

News of Note

Special Weekend Event at R. D. Bowman Details in "Hobbs Appeal"

Friend Retiring

Brian Lockard, long time friend and member of the Board of Directors, has retired from the Board following many years of service to TRP.

Brian's input about the program, his advocacy in the community, and his quiet wisdom will be missed. Thank you, Brian, for all your service and don't be a stranger at the barn! Everyone at TRP wishes you and Lynda well in the future.



Everyone's already talking about next year! Special thanks go to Miss Nancy and all her helpers for dressing up and decorating all the horses. Even the Injured Reserve List was represented gamely by Hobbs. Wednesday's challenge was incredible when the horses had had all day to roll in the mud and Smokey looked more like a mud puddle than a horse!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to decorating the arena: Karen, Kathy, Susan, Gary, Jamie, and Cari made everything look just like a football stadium! And to our new Ravens Roost supporters and friends - welcome to the barn!

Pictures from this year's fun can be found at our webshots site. If there's a pic you'd like to have, email Peggie for a copy.



<http://outdoors.webshots.com/album/578944690ZoNsrv>

A HUGE thank you to long-time friend and Carroll County Times Neighborhoods reporter, Lois Szymanski, for 2 outstanding articles.

Did you see "Program goes purple: Ravens Roost No. 115 lends support to 4-H program" in the Nov 5 edition of the paper? A great picture of Mary Beth introducing Smokey to Ravens Roost members and lots of great quotes from riders and volunteers. If you missed it, it is posted online at:



http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/neighborhoods/article_6e40a654-e8e1-11df-be10-001cc4c002e0.html

Pictures from the entire session are found at: <http://community.webshots.com/album/578942516vYpWOT>

For more information about the Ravens Roost and to see the pics and articles on their website: <http://ravensroost.yolasite.com/charity-event-info.php>

Ravens / Halloween Week



How much fun was the last week of lessons?!? So much laughter, so many riders and volunteers learning how to play football on horseback, horses being incredibly patient and learning! Miss Mary the referee making calls never before heard on any gridiron and throwing that dreaded red flag ... Miss Caroline calling plays ... Miss Susan making substitutions ... and we thought they only knew how to teach riding!

Spectators had just as much fun ... even when called on to be goal posts, line judges, field markers, or equipment helpers. And visitors galore ... many new friends and fans from Ravens Roost 115 came to cheer everyone on.

Never seen so much purple before .. looked like game day at M&T Bank Stadium! Ray Rice, Ray Lewis, Joe Flacco, Ed Reed, and Michael Oher have never looked so good. And did you see all the opposing teams? Games were played against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Green Bay Packer 'Cheese Heads', Washington Redskins, New England Patriots, South Carroll Cavaliers, Maryland Terps. But the 'longest distance traveled' award goes to the Monday team from the Texas Longhorns!



Hobbs Update



In a nutshell – he's doing great!

As you may know, Hobbs was injured Oct 4 (best guess from the vets is that he was kicked), suffered a serious external injury, and as later detected by x-ray, a broken splint bone in his left rear leg. The recommendation from the vet was for Hobbs to have surgery to remove the fragments of bone so they will not irritate internally and create calcifications and permanent lameness.

Hobbs was checked into the hospital on Wed, Oct 27, operated on the 28th. Vet reported that everything went very well. It was a little more of a mess once inside than the x-rays showed, but all cleaned up nicely. They removed 4 fragments of the splint bone and infection that had started on the back of his canon bone. The vet was able to remove all the infection and close the wound. Hobbs was quickly back in his stall and resting comfortably and was sent to his rehab / winter home on the 29th.

On Nov 3, his care giver reported that they were changing the bandage the next day. "It's very large but it looks really good. He was not a very good patient to start with but since we put Chips in with him he has settled down. (Chips is one of the other horses at the farm.)

And on Nov 9 she reported, " the vet has removed the stitches and Hobbs has settled in. His leg looks really good, a little puffy, but not bad and we are only keeping a standing bandage on for support. So far things are going good. Friday (11/12) he is allowed to be hand grazed in the paddock with Chips as company. Having Chips stay with him has been great, Hobbs really like his company. As long as things are looking good I plan to have the vet back out in Dec after the 6 weeks are up and look at him again before I turn him out into field again."

A very, very special thank you to everyone who has contributed to this effort to get Hobbs' leg healed and him back to his good, old self and doing what he does best – being a TRP horse!

Thank you to:

Windsor Vet Service, New Windsor
Manor Equine Hospital, Monkton
Green Glen Equine Hospital, Glen Rock

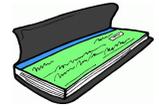


PA

Petticoats Advance, Hampstead, Kim, Jillian,
Jessie

TRP Horse Managers Darlene, Leanna, Joanna
Hauler Miss Mary

Hobbs Appeal



Hobbs has soooo many new friends and has received lots of great notes and cards wishing him good luck and a speedy recovery! He has become a well known horse throughout the area and everyone has been so generous!

The original appeal for financial assistance was responded to quickly and generously by many, many volunteers, riders, and supporters. The newspaper article, also in the Nov 5 edition of the Carroll County Times Neighborhood and authored by Lois, explained Hobbs role with TRP, his injury, and encouraged community support. Weblink to the article is: "Friends of Hobbs aim to help ailing horse"

http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/neighborhoods/article_d14e5d72-e8e1-11d-f-848b-001cc4c002e0.html



Donations and notes have been coming in ever since. It is extremely heartwarming to know that so many folks around the area are pulling for Hobbs and want to help TRP make sure he gets the best care possible.

But, wait ... there's more! One of our local suppliers, R. D. Bowman Pet & Feed Supply, contacted us to ask if they could have a fund raising event for Hobbs. Dale Bowman, his brother Dirk, and the staff at the Englar Rd. store are always helpful and the Bowmans have been very, very generous in their support for the program in the past. (Tuesday riders: Dale was your horse show judge last spring!) And now, they want to sponsor a major event for the Hobbs Appeal. So, plan to do your pet food, bird seed, and pet holiday gift buying and tell your friends and neighbors about:



Friday, Dec 10 thru Sunday, Dec 12
Bowman's Feed & Pet
101 Englar Rd Westminster

Bowman's will **donate 5% of gross sales** for those three days to help with Hobbs medical needs.

Bowman's has a full line of pet and livestock feed and products, including gift cards, for your shopping trip. For directions and hours go to <http://www.bowmansfeedandpet.com/index.htm>

Mark your calendar and thank the folks at Bowman's when you go in!! TRP is so very, very fortunate to have community friends and

supporters like this and we can't thank them enough!!

What IS a Splint Bone?

Lots of folks have asked, "If he has a broken leg bone, why hasn't he had to be put down?" Most people are familiar with stories of race horses which have broken a leg and for which there was no treatment. Hobbs was much more fortunate than that.



The splint bone is a small, icicle-shaped bone (about the size of a pencil at the top and tapering down to be much smaller) found on each side of a horse's cannon (long) bone. They are thought by most researchers and scientists to be remnants of toes from prehistoric horses. If a splint bone should break or "pop" (become slightly separated from the canon bone) most horses experience pain, but once the splint bone has "set" or healed it is completely pain free.

They support the carpal joints (front knee) on either side of the cannon bone, and the tarsal (or hock) joints on the rear leg. In addition to assisting weight support, splints form a vital 'groove' and protection for ligaments and tendons that enable equine locomotion. The function of the splint bones is to protect the tendons and ligaments and especially the blood vessels and nerves which pass down the back of the leg. They also provide a greater bearing surface for weight by supporting a portion of the carpal bones of the knee joint.

When Hobbs was kicked, the end of one of the splint bones in his back left leg as broken off. These are the fragments which were rubbing inside and which the vet removed. Pictures, including the x-ray which cinched the diagnosis, are posted online. Some pics of Hobbs doing his job, of the

external cut and x-ray (NOT nasty to look at), the stitches, his 'barn buddy,' Chips, and how he looks now are here:

<http://community.webshots.com/album/578993088CrMtCs?start=0>



Fantastic Volunteers!

This fall the barn was filled with many new volunteers and each and every one of you were terrific and made a difference for TRP. Students from several high schools, from Carroll Community College, folks who 'want to DO something with my spare time' all signed up, came to training, and jumped right in during lessons.

Returning volunteers greeted everyone with smiles and couldn't wait to catch up on everything at the barn. 'Veterans' are always so helpful to the



new folks and make everyone feel so very, very welcome.

Every week there were changes in horses, riders, volunteers, and activities but everyone jumped in and made it all work. As recently as this past weekend there were several folks at the barn to put equipment away, clean stalls, and set the barn up for winter.

Thank you to everyone for being there for riders, instructors, your fellow volunteers, and TRP. Without you this program would not exist or be such a successful venture!

Feather Fund



A longtime friend of TRP, Lois Szymanski, is the author of the newspaper articles previously mentioned but she is also very, very actively involved with another non-profit you may be interested in.

Have you ever heard about the wild ponies which live on Chincoteague Island on Maryland's Eastern Shore? Or about the 'running of the ponies' which is a fund raising event for the local fire company?

An organization known as The Feather Fund was created whose mission is to assist deserving children with the purchase and attendant costs associated with the acquisition of Chincoteague ponies. Additionally, they have goal of helping each child learn about responsibility, care, love, work ethic, as well as the concept of "giving back to others" through the care and training of his or her animal. Feather Fund recipients are chosen by the fund's board of directors, which includes members of the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department and prior recipients of Chincoteague ponies.

To learn more about this outstanding program and how you can help, contact Lois at szymanski3@verizon.net, or read more online at www.featherfund.org

TRP contact information:

Website:

www.trp4h.org

Registration & Information:

peggie@att.net 410 876-1760

Photos:

<http://community.webshots.com/user/peggie100>

Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdK2Wog5qPQ>

Barn 410 848-3029

Open to All

