



Summer 2012

Kent Special  
Riding Program

## BARN ROOF



Before



During



After

A Big Thank You to the Thornapple Valley Lions Club and Drew Francis for the wonderful much-needed repairs to the barn roof completed during last year's very hot summer. Tom and Jim Marshall, Bob Reed, Dave Anible, Ed Holmberg, and Conrad Swanson also helped with the repairs. The old roof was leaky and the hay stored in the hayloft was getting moldy. Thanks to the new roof, our 1000 bales of hay are safe and great quality to feed the therapy horses.

## ARENA LIGHTS



old high pressure sodium vapor light



new light installed



new metal halide light

We don't often need to use the lights in the outdoor arena – only for the evening classes in early spring and late fall. However, the 3 sodium vapor lights that lit the arena were not adequate for our needs. There were areas of light and sharp boundaries with shadows that tended to spook the horses as they moved between the two areas. While we were researching improvements to our lighting, we noticed that John Ball Park in Grand Rapids was in the process of dismantling their baseball diamond and taking down their metal halide lights. A quick phone call to the park's facilities director revealed that not only were the lights indeed functional, but the park had no use for them and planned to scrap them. Jeff Neumann, a member of our Hay Crew, is a Master Electrician. Jeff was able to obtain the lights, rewire them, remove the old lights and install the new ones on the existing poles around the arena. We now have 5 functioning metal halide lights to brighten our spring and fall evenings. A big Thank You to Jeff Neumann for donating his time and expertise to KSRP!!

## WEBSITE:

[www.ksrp.org](http://www.ksrp.org)

Our website is currently undergoing a facelift. It is being redesigned to allow for quicker access to key information, and we will be adding a PayPal Button to allow for internet donations. Sometimes, even after we have updated information on the website, people still get the old information when they visit the website. This may be due to a computer phenomenon called “**caching**.” When a person visits a website, some computers automatically store that website information on their computer. This makes it easier and faster for users to return to that website because the entire website doesn't have to be downloaded each time. Their computer uses the information stored on their computer to recreate the website. Unfortunately, the website information may have changed, but the computer still uses the old stored data. One way around this problem is to go to the website, then use the "**Refresh**" or "**Reload**" button at the top of the web browser (often looks like a circular arrow). This asks the computer to get a fresh version of the website instead of using the stored copy. This is a good practice to use when visiting any website. Often people don't even notice the info is outdated, but with a “refresh” they can see the latest version.

### **Please check out our website for:**

- Rider forms and information
- Volunteer forms and Handbook
- Directions and a Map to the program
- Ride-a-Thon pledge sheet, Prize form and information
- Current and Past Newsletters
- Pictures and info on our Horses
- Current Financial info



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## **HELP NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS FOR MAINTENANCE, HAY CREW, HORSE CARE, BOARD JOBS**



There are many, many jobs that are required to run a program of this size. We have two barns, a tack room and classroom that all need ongoing upkeep, repairs and cleaning. Fence boards and posts need replacing, equipment breaks and needs repairs, pastures need maintenance, and each August 1,000 bales of hay need to be loaded into the hayloft. The 8 to 12 therapy horses get regular hoof trimming and dental care, spring vet exams and shots, emergency medical care, exercise, training and health observation. Our Board members coordinate and oversee class scheduling, volunteer recruitment and training, fund raising, newsletter production, website maintenance, publicity, funds management, facility upkeep, and horse selection and care. All of these jobs are dependent on volunteers to help out with.

Our few dedicated volunteers are being overworked. We are in need of a bigger crew of people who would be willing to help out with horse care, scheduled maintenance, unplanned repairs and Board tasks. Experience is helpful in some areas, but not necessary. We can teach you new skills that will look good on any resume or job or school application. If any of these opportunities interest you, on either an occasional or regular basis, please contact Rita at [rjneumann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjneumann@sbcglobal.net).

## Work Day ~ ~ Saturday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 – ???

There is MUCH work that needs to be done before winter . . . fence repairs & gate replacements are the most important jobs. We are now facing the need for immediate repairs to be done. The work planned is heavy . . . drilling, hammering, lifting, etc. – it can all be done in a day with enough people but we need more hands. The boards and gates are purchased and on the grounds. We need power tools and strong hands to help. Please call Lynn at 891-8066 if you are able to help. (Rain date: Sunday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>)



# Thank You

## *A Big Thank You to Our 2011 Donors & Supporters!*

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital  
Valley City Plating  
American Legion Carl A. Johnson Post 2  
West Michigan Brain Injury Network  
Merial, John Schankin (donated vaccines)  
Andy DeBoer, Farrier  
Dr. Fitzgerald at Thornwood Equine  
Amy Plets (manage hay & grain, horse care)  
Vince Impellizzeri (cut grass & general maintenance)  
Deb Schumacher (property maintenance, horse care)  
Pat Sipperley (property maintenance)  
The Tatreau Family (donated new helmets, lights  
& arena gate)  
The Stawicki Family (new arena gate)  
Karen Kleinheksel  
Chip Lake, Farrier  
Jo & Carl Anderson  
Jackie Kennedy  
Ruth Ward

Wind Riders 4H Club (Work Day)  
Triple F Ranch (Work Day)  
Jerry Poll Sr (Brush hogging pastures)  
Kelvin Borr (Brush hogging pastures)  
Drew Francis (repaired barn roof)  
Jeff Neumann (installed arena lights)  
Jeanette Overholt & Jackie Foster (new saddle)  
Sue Heft (assistance with payroll, taxes & washing  
saddle pads)  
Debb Decker, Heidi Guftason & Sheri Potter  
(publicity booth)  
David Hannah & Trinity Health  
Caledonia Western Week  
Knights of Columbus, Holy Family Church  
Knights of Columbus, St. Isidore  
Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart  
Lions Club, Lowell/Lakewood Area  
St. Anthony of Padua  
West MI Winter Horse Fest

It is very important to us to recognize everyone who has supported KSRP in the last year. If you know of someone who was not listed, please let us know at [rjneumann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjneumann@sbcglobal.net).



# 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual KSRP Ride-A-Thon

Ride-A-Thon 2011 was a great success! 117 riders and hikers enjoyed a beautiful, sunny fall day out at the Ionia State Recreation Area. Pledges totaled \$21,461.75. Thank you to our Business Sponsors: **King Milling Company of Lowell, Progressive Building Products, Carl A. Johnson Post 2 American Legion, Valley City Plating and Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital.**

## *Golden Horseshoe Award winners...*

Our High Pledge Individual was Marge Palczewski who turned in pledges totaling \$2,836.00! Marge has been a rider at the Kent Special Riding Program since its beginning in 1976 and has never missed a riding session in all of those years. Right behind Marge was her good friend, Cindy Klinge, with pledges of \$2,034.00. Deb Schumacher came in with \$2,000.00. Jeanette Overholt, whose sister, Jackie Foster, is KSRP's newest instructor, brought in \$1,238.00. Cathy Greenwald's pledges totaled \$1,200.00. Amazing!



## *Silver Horseshoe Award winners...*

Five supporters came in with pledges from \$500 to \$1000! Bridgett Clay, Karen Groom, Barb Swanson, Mike Nitchke and KSRP rider, Annette Reinburg all went above and beyond in their support of our riders! Thank you!

## *Special Awards...*

Country Cowboys 4H Club has been a long time supporter of the Kent Special Riding Program. We appreciate this Kent County 4H Horse club making the annual Ride-A-Thon a part of their yearly club activities. Country Cowboy's pledges totaled \$2,465.00 and they were named High Pledge 4H Club.



The Swanson Family has three generations riding with us now! This family has supported KSRP for many, many years and this year brought in pledges of \$1,049.00. Thank you, Swansons! Thundering Phoenix Equine was our High Pledge Business with \$150.00 and Non-4H Club winner was "Trot or Not" with pledges of \$700.00.

The Clay family has made the Ride-A-Thon a part of their life for many years. Bridgett Clay, who was once the Ride-A-Thon's youngest rider, was this year's Trail Boss. Bridgett recruited 9 new participants who came out to the Ride-A-Thon for the first time to win this honor. Thank you!

The End of the Trail award went to Amanda McIntyre who traveled from Havelock, North Carolina to attend! Our Youngest Rider was Bella Rairigh and our Oldest Rider was Barb Martins. Rick Roderick hit the 25 years of participation milestone in 2011! Our 2011 Grand Prize Winner was long time supporter, Cindy Klinge!

### *Winners in our 11 age divisions...*

Our winners in each of our 11 age divisions were: 5 & under, Ethan Swanson; 6-10, Bridgett Clay; 11-15, Maria Finelli; 16-20, Paige Buehler; 21-25, Aaron Fluit; 26-30, KSRP rider Brian Reynolds; 31-35, Carrie Varney; 36-40, KSRP aide Deb Schumacher; 41-45, Jeanette Overholt; 46-55 KSRP rider Marge Palczewski and 56 & over, Cathy Greenwald. Thank you all for your ongoing support of the Kent Special Riding Program!

### *Rick Goodwin Memorial Saddle Donation...*

Rick Goodwin was a very familiar face at the Ride-A-Thon. He and step-daughter, Jeanette Overholt, were always ready to lend a hand, holding horses for riders taking a break and just adding to the fun atmosphere of the Ride-A-Thon. Rick and Jeanette also teamed up to win many High Pledge Family awards over the years. Rick passed away unexpectedly on March 9, 2011. In his memory, Rick's family collected donations and purchased a beautiful new saddle for the Kent Special Riding Program. The saddle was presented to KSRP at the Ride-A-Thon. We extend our sincere gratitude to the family of Rick Goodwin.



### *Treasure Hunting...*

One of the features that make the Ride-A-Thon so popular is the hunt for discs and pumpkins along the trails which are then redeemed for door prizes. Thank you to our prize donors for 2011:

Amy Plets, Back In The Saddle, Branns, Burgett Floral, Caledonia Farmer's Elevator, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Celebration Cinema, D & W, Deb Schumacher, Deer Run Golf Course, Eastern Floral and Gifts, Erick Rupprecht, DDS, Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, Forest Hills Foods, G.B. Russo and Son International Grocery, Gilmore Collection, Grand Carriages, Grand Rapids Civic Theater, Jade Garden, Kit Kolenda, Leslie Christian, Louise Palczewski, Lynn Schumacher, Mary Ann Dragoo, Millbrook Tack and Trailer, Pizza Hut, Subway, Sue Szymanski, The Spinnaker, Trigo Pizza Company, TSC, Uccellos, Valley Vet Supply and Wellspring Clinical Massage.

### *We also appreciate our food donors....*

Carl & Elinor May (apples), Jan Palczewski & Jean Tingley (pop), Kleins (cider), Kents (hot dogs), H & R Bakery (buns) Leonard Street Family Fare (cookies)

*Ride-A-Thon 2012 is set for SEPTEMBER 22! We are adding a Hoe-Down on Friday night, complete with music and line dancing! Watch our web-site for updates on the activities we are adding to our 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride-A-Thon!*

Kent Special Riding Program  
9705 Morse Lake Ave.  
Alto, MI 49302

**2012 KSRP Schedule:**

**Volunteer training: April 9, 7 pm**  
**Work Day: April 7, 9-3**  
**Spring Session: April 16 – May 26**

**Volunteer training: June 11, 7 pm**  
**Summer Session: June 18 – July 28**

**Volunteer training: Sept. 4, 7 pm**  
**Fall Session: Sept. 8 – Oct. 20**

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride-A-Thon: Sept. 22**

**Barn Phone:**  
(616) 891-0057

**Website:**  
www.ksrp.org



**Lynn Schumacher**  
Program Director  
(616) 891-8066 [ksrp@voyager.net](mailto:ksrp@voyager.net)

**Connie Van Belkum**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
(616) 891-8243 [convb@iserv.net](mailto:convb@iserv.net)

**Glenda Kilpatrick**  
MSU Extension Educator  
Youth Development Programs

**KSRP** is licensed with the State of Michigan as a 501 (c) (3) charity. Your gift is *tax deductible*.

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Enclosed is my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send donations to: Kent Special Riding Program, 723 Flat St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

# KSRP'S RIDE-A-THON and WALK-A-THON



34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR THE  
KENT SPECIAL RIDING PROGRAM  
*SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012*

IONIA STATE RECREATION AREA

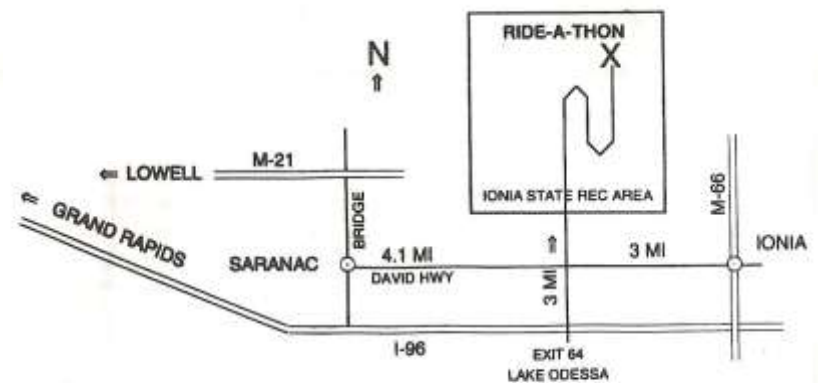
*Minimum pledge: \$35.00*

*GRAND PRIZE \$500.00!*

Registration: Friday 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Lunch served Saturday 11:00 – 1:30  
Award Ceremony begins Saturday at 3:00!

For more information: (616) 723-5682

Or visit our website at: [www.ksrp.org](http://www.ksrp.org)





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Rider 5 & under (birthdate \_\_/\_\_/\_\_) 6 – 10 11 – 15 16 – 20 21 – 25

(Circle one) 26 – 30 31 – 35 36 – 40 41 – 45 46 - 55 56 & over (birthdate \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)

How many years (including this one) have you participated in the Ride-a-Thon? \_\_\_\_\_

Name & type of group you came with today: *All members of group please use same name*

4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE Non 4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_

circle tee shirt size:

ONE Family \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

kids sm med lg xl xxl

The Kent Special Riding Program is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality therapeutic and recreational horseback riding instruction to physically, mentally and emotionally challenged individuals in Kent and surrounding counties. KSRP strives to maximize the potential of all individuals involved in the program in a safe and stimulating environment. The staff and students gratefully acknowledge your pledge to support this 4-H fund raising project. KSRP receives no tax dollars and is operated solely on donated funds.

## DONATION SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS

(this is a straight pledge, not based on time or distance)

Please list each sponsor's name, mailing address (if they are to be invoiced) & contribution. Collect contributions immediately if at all possible. Donations of less than \$35.00 must be collected by the entrant. Pledge checks to the 4-H Foundation no longer qualify for state tax credits. Please write ALL checks payable to KSRP. (The Foundation keeps 15% of all checks written to the Foundation.) KSRP is licensed with the State of Michigan as a 501 (c) (3) charity. Other tax breaks may apply. If you are unable to attend the Ride-A-Thon, pledge sheets and donations may be mailed to: Louise Palczewski, 723 Flat Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. **Thank you!**



Sponsor's Name	Complete Mailing Address with Zip Code	Phone Number	Contribution \$	Mark paid if paid
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Total Collected \_\_\_\_\_ Total Pledged \_\_\_\_\_

## The 2012 KSRP Ride-A-Thon is sponsored by:



**CARL A. JOHNSON POST 2  
AMERICAN LEGION  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI.**



**HULST JEPSEN**  
PHYSICAL THERAPY

### 2012 RIDE-A-THON PRIZES

- Entrants who bring in a minimum of \$35.00 in pledges the day of the event will receive lunch, a collector tee shirt and be eligible for dozens and dozens of door prizes!
- For *each* \$50.00 in pledges, the entrant will receive one ticket in the Grand Prize drawing ... First Prize is \$500.00!
- There will be 12 other prizes awarded in the Grand Prize Drawing!
- Trophies and 6 Place Rosettes will be awarded to the High Pledge entrants in 11 age categories.
- High Pledge Business, Family, 4-H Club, Non-4-H Club and Individual
- Oldest Rider and Youngest Rider
- "End of the Trail" (entrant who traveled the farthest to attend)
- "Trail Boss" (entrant who brought in the most new participants)
- Glass mug for a veteran participant bringing in a new participant
- \$250 - \$499 in pledges TBA
- \$500 - \$999 in pledges TBA
- \$1000 and over pledge TBA
- Various years of participation receive special awards