



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference

Volume #170

www.gerlltd.org

October 2009

GERL And The Department Of Agriculture Meet To Discuss Policies and Procedures

GERL constantly receives emails and phone calls from concerned citizens who are calling to report or check on a horse or horses in their area. Often times, it is a very skinny horse standing in a pen with no grass that they pass every day on their way to and from work. They always want to know why the GDA hasn't picked up the horse or done anything about the situation. Because there are so many misconceptions about the GDA's responsibilities, we thought it would be a good idea to plan a meeting to discuss and clear up any confusion between our two organizations.

On Saturday August 22nd, over 40 members of GERL including the Board of Directors, Area Coordinators and members of the Equine Division of the Georgia Dept of Agriculture met to discuss the policies and procedures of each organization, as well as how we can better work together to serve the equine of our State. The meeting was hosted by Diana Kelsey DeMoss at her farm in Good Hope.



Patty Livingston gave the first presentation on the history and the operations of GERL. This presentation was recently set up by Kelly Lockerman, the GERL Education Coordinator, and is a powerful portrayal of the accomplishments of GERL since its inception in 1993. Copies of the presentation were made available to the Area Coordinators to utilize when asked to speak at meetings or when GERL is invited to have a booth at events.

Robin Easley from the Dept of Agriculture gave a wonderful presentation on the history and operations of the Equine Division of the Dept of Agriculture. The presentation was an eye opener for each one of us as it made us more aware of the weaknesses and loopholes in the Humane Care for Equine Act. (continued on page 7)

Who's Who
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To report a case of equine abuse, call the

Georgia Department

of Agriculture's Equine Division

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

If you would like GERL to assist with an

Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138

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***Please submit all newsletter materials by the
10th of each month for submission in the
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Charles & Linda DeVane - Brooks, Thomas & Cook Counties

(229) 263-7714 / (229) 560-0844

***If you are interested in becoming an Area Coordinator
for a county not listed here, please contact
Ronnie Pesserilo (770) 466-4515 or gerlrone@bellsouth.net.**

LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By Patty Livingston, President

It didn't take long after the Fright Fest application hit the public that I began to receive phone calls about our choice for the location. Of course, I was prepared. I knew that camping primitive would be a negative for some. I also knew that Jake Mt. wasn't the ideal place because it cannot accommodate the numbers I'd like to pull in. But, it was the best place that was available on Halloween weekend for the best price.

I remember attending my first few Fests years ago. Everything was primitive camping, until the R Ranch came along. I had actually thought that we would be having our Fall Fest at The R Ranch and announced that at our annual meeting. What I didn't foresee was the inflated prices that were later quoted and, ultimately, why we couldn't hold a function there. Let me say this, about that... this is way too much work not to make good money and spending your profit on a facility just makes no sense to me. That is why we chose to have it at Jake Mt.



Logistically, it is a whole lot more work. We're renting a huge tent that will be set up in the day parking area. We're also getting a commercial generator to operate our lights and other things. We'll have a shuttle that will run through camp picking folks up and dropping them off. Amy Cox and Gail Mann have volunteered to do the cooking. I don't know if you've ever had anything that either of these women has prepared, but it is definitely to die for! They'll be preparing a full breakfast Saturday morning and supper that evening. We'll have a continental breakfast Sunday morning, after Cowboy Church. Speaking of Cowboy Church, Dr. Lee Meyers will be doing the honors.

We're going to have a photographer on hand during the weekend to take pictures. So, think about wearing some of your fancy duds to potluck on Friday night and maybe you'll end up with your Christmas card. She'll post all of the pictures on a web site and you can browse through them at your leisure (the following week) and buy any photos you like. (We're getting high-tech now.)

We're going to have a cake walk on Friday night, right after everybody eats. You remember the old fashion cake walks, don't you? They've returned! Plan to come and bring your favorite cake (or pie). The most fun about a cake walk is watching the people. It can be quite entertaining while bringing in a few dollars for the horses.

We're also introducing our 1st Annual Arts & Craft Show and Sale. Maybe you enjoy building birdhouses or making things with horseshoes or wood? Or, perhaps you make jewelry? You get my drift. Anyway, I'd like to challenge you to see who can create the best art or craft. If it's something you do for a business you can display your card, brochure or other information to promote your business, while helping the horses. There's going to be a great prize worth over \$100 and the voting will be done by the other campers. All items will be donated to our auction that will be taking place on Saturday night. Mickey Farmer, our favorite auctioneer, will be there to make you laugh and enjoy spending money. (I'm not kidding!) Following the auction we'll have a DJ and a dance..

On Saturday afternoon we plan to have a costume contest. Contestants can be on horseback or ride in the parade (via the shuttle) through camp. All of the other campers will vote on the best costume. The winner will win a nice prize. I've already heard some pretty original costume ideas, so, get in gear and start thinking about what or who you'll be! As if that weren't enough, we're also going to have a contest for the best decorated campsite. A panel of judges will decide who wins the prize.

I got so carried away with the activities I almost forgot that we're going to have organized trail rides going out Saturday and Sunday mornings. They'll take you on some of the most beautiful trails in North Georgia. Of course, if you'd like to go out on your own, we will provide you with a map. This is an event that you don't want to miss! Unfortunately, space is limited to the first 50 rigs. Get your application in as soon as you can to secure your camp site and join us Halloween weekend for the one of the most fun events of the year!

A Note from the Secretary's Desk

By Anne Ensminger

As everyone can see, the October GERL Newsletter is largely devoted to promoting our upcoming Fright Fest. We have never held an event at Jake Mountain and I must say that I was not in favor of the location when it was first proposed. My objection was only because there was no electric power or water available in the, quite limited, camping area. The trails and available riding at Jake Mountain is well above average. Many of us have ridden there and always find it enjoyable.

Each time we begin to plan for one of our biannual Fests, we always bemoan the fact that there are so few places in Georgia where a large weekend trail ride might be held. We have been to Warwoman Campground near Clayton many times and the facility suits our needs very well but the distance which must be ridden on the road before the riders arrive at the trailhead, is objectionable to many. The lovely R-Ranch above Dahlo-nega has simply priced itself out of our league. There remains Silver Spur Riding Club near Dublin and Lake-view Plantation near Fairfax, S.C. where we have previously held Fests but most of our participants prefer the mountain terrain of north Georgia for trail riding. SO! The dilemma just will not go away.

After the vote to try a new place, Jake Mountain, was taken and I was the "odd man out", I began to become convinced that my fellow GERL Board of Directors members were determined to pull this off and make it a success. Their enthusiasm became contagious and I am now getting excited about the possibility that this will be one of our best fundraisers yet.

Each time we discussed a negative aspect of the location, the problem was satisfactorily addressed and I think, if everyone approaches this event with TOLERANCE in mind, it will be wonderful. I say 'tolerance' because we are going to have to camp close together to be able to fit everyone in. Most of our time at Jake Mountain will be spent out on the trails and there is plenty of room out there! Who knows? You might make a new and dear friend as you share the close quarters! The fact that the camping area is quite a hike from where the pavilion for meals and activities is to be set up, will be no problem, thanks to Ken Archer. Ken proposed a "shuttle" which will run most of each day. He has a little red truck and a flat bed trailer, which will run up and down the road transporting folks from camp to the activity area, as needed. We already have several volunteer drivers for the shuttle and we believe that this arrangement will add greatly to the fun.

The absence of electricity should be of no consequence to our campers. Many have living quarters trailers with generators and for those who do not camp in such luxury, heaven knows, they are the REAL campers and will do nicely for a weekend with no electricity! The pavilion will have power provided by a large commercial generator. Water for our horses will be available from a 300-gallon tank, which can easily be refilled at a nearby fire station. We ask that everyone bring his or her own potable drinking water.

We are planning the usual potluck supper on Friday, a silent and live auction on Saturday, as well as music for dancing after the live auction. Amy Cox and friends will prepare two breakfasts and the Saturday evening meal on site. These ladies are all volunteers and their efforts will, no doubt, produce wonderful meals while saving GERL a large amount of money. More for the horses!

Other than our usual activities, please note the flyers throughout this issue, which describe some new and very fun contests that have been added to our agenda. Patty Livingston and the rest of your Board are working very hard to insure that this "step out in faith", will be a success. I have actually heard that some of our old faithful attendees have said that they are unwilling to attend this event because they object to the location. I hope they will reconsider and give GERL a chance to make some money for the horses. After all, that is the reason we hold these fundraisers. It just seems that we always manage to have a great time when GERL members and friends are together, no matter where we gather!

**GERL
Calendar of Events**

Fall Fest, 2009

October 30th - Nov 1st
Jake Mountain, GA

*Details on page 26 & 27

Christmas Party

December 12th
in Bethlehem

*Details on page 28

**Gene Ensminger
2nd Annual
Memorial Ride 2010**

April 30th - May 2nd
to be held at

Ron & Adrian Cook's

Round Oak, GA



Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful rides that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time ... a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

**Foster and Adoptive Homes
Desperately Needed**

By : Anne Ensminger, Secretary

As everyone has seen by now, we have a new Board of Directors, a new address, and a new newsletter editor, which has led to a new look for our newsletter. These things are just the beginning. We also have a new Foster and Adoption Coordinator. Donna Pieper has taken on this monumental task and is anxious to get to work making a difference for horses in need.

Never has the need been greater in these two areas. Horses are being abandoned and given up because of job losses or other financial hardships that are the result of the present economy in our country. GERL is now frequently called upon to help these horses, therefore, we are in need of help from our membership as never before. Can you offer a horse a temporary home until a permanent home can be found? Are you interested in adopting a GERL horse?

If you have answered yes to either of these questions please contact Donna Pieper at (404) 797-3333 or gerldonna@bellsouth.net. Let Donna know what you are able to foster and if you are looking to adopt, what sort of horse would work for you (mare, gelding, young horse, old horse, pet, or riding horse). If you have made such an offer in the past and have not been contacted, rest assured that you WILL get a response from Donna. The need is great. Please help us meet this need and help these horses!



**A
Horse Lover's
Catalog**

**(800) 332-9251
thebarndoor.com**

**If Your Name Is Listed Here, Your Membership Is Due For Renewal!
This Will Be Your Last Newsletter Unless You Renew.**

Sandra Bryant - Monroe, GA
James Elzey - Cumming, GA
Deborah Hines - Thomasville, GA
Jamie Hodes - Gainesville, GA
Judy Lawson - Fairmont, GA
Paula LeCates - McDonough, GA
Lew-Anne MacArthur - Gainesville, GA
Tracy & Lance McClain - Cumming, GA
Lynne McClintock - Snellville, GA
Tammis & T.E. Pennington - Blythe, GA
Margaret Poindexter - Raleigh, NC
Lydia Ryan - Douglasville, GA
Art & Julie Schwab - Canton, GA
Scott & Tammy Wiggins - Hampton

Please continue to support GERL ...

**Junior Membership \$15 (12 and under)
Single Membership \$25
Family Membership \$35
Business, Club, etc. \$50**

***Membership form is on the last page of this newsletter**

**Please mail your check to:
GERL
PO Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620**



WITH YOUR HELP ... WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**Please Help!
GERL receives money for the following ...**

**Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags
of these Southern States feeds –
Legends, Triple Crown & Reliance
and send them to:**

**Ginny Scarritt
4835 Kendall Court
Atlanta, GA 30342**

ALL money raised goes directly to GERL!

**Thank You
Dr. Ken Marcella**

for providing our membership
with such informative
articles each month.

See page 12 for this month's article



GERL And The Department Of Agriculture Meet To Discuss Policies and Procedures

(continued from the cover)

Here is a basic scenario of what happens when the GDA is called about a “possible” abuse/neglect case: When sent out on a call, the inspector gives a citation or warning to the owners of an equine that has a body score of 3 or less. They will recommend certain things that the owner should do to ensure that the animal is being taken care of per the letter of the law. They will perform a follow-up visit to see if the owner is complying with their recommendations. If they are, the GDA has no legal right to impound the horse. They must build a case against the owner that is strong enough to hold up in court. That means that they must document everything that they find that shows that the owner is NOT complying.



(Photo Above - Ronnie Pesserilo & Leisa McCannon)

In the case of old horses, it becomes a little more difficult. If the owner has proof that a vet has been out and floated teeth, for instance, that is compliance. If they have proof that they are feeding a senior feed, then, they are complying. In a situation where despite good food and vet care, the old horse continues to lose weight, the inspector may recommend euthanasia. If the person resists that route, the inspector would have to document every visit and the weight of the horse on every visit in order to build a case that would be supported by a licensed Vet and the local law enforcement to agree that is the only course of action. But, bottom line, the GDA does not have the money available to impound a 30 year old horse in order to euthanize it. As sad as that sounds, it is the ugly truth. That is why they will continue to make their inspections and attempt to talk the owner into doing "the right thing" for the horse. Sometimes this works and sometimes the owners just will not euthanize, no matter how skinny the horse gets. And, sadly enough, if they haven't had the recommendation come from their personal Vet, they will not follow the Inspector's recommendation.

There are situations when an owner wants their horse back. In that case, they have to pay all expenses associated with the impoundment and attend a mediation hearing. The GDA charges \$8 per day for board, plus any vet or farrier expenses, while an impounded horse is in their care. The GDA will do a follow-up visit to ensure that the owner is complying with the citation. If they are, they will continue to make inspections, as time permits. If the owner does not comply, the GDA attempts to get the owners to release the horse. If they won't, the State will document the facts in order to build a case that will hold up in court.

The GDA Inspectors have enormous territories to cover and are overloaded with paperwork on a daily basis. There are several territories that do not have an Inspector assigned. Inspectors are expected to follow-up with cases in those counties after they have completed all inspections in their own territory. A “territory” is typically made up of 15 or more counties. Add to that the territories that do not currently have Inspectors and you can see that they are overburdened.

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GERL And The Department Of Agriculture Meet To Discuss Policies and Procedures

(continued from the previous page)

We all moved outside where Robin did a demo on how to body score a horse, utilizing several horses in the care of GERL and GDA that had been brought to the meeting. Ronnie Pesserillo demonstrated the use of a sling that was donated by Gene & Anne Ensminger. This was truly a "hands on" demonstration and the time and effort spent in bringing the horses was well worth the experience that was gained.

The format for this meeting was a first for our organizations and hopefully, it will be the first of many as we have discussed the possibility of including Sheriff's Departments and Animal Control agencies in the future. We all learned the importance of working together so that we can be a stronger network to accomplish what needs to be done for the equine in the State of Georgia. Thank you to Robin and all the Inspectors of the Dept of Agriculture for enabling us to learn more so that we can be of more assistance to your organization.



As always, with your help and support we WILL make a difference!



Photo At Right
All who attended the August 22nd workshop

“Feed a Horse”

Starved and neglected horses impounded by the Georgia Department of Agriculture need your help! Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for impounded horses. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. “Feed a Horse” program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



I would like to make a donation of:

- \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- \$_____ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- \$_____ any donation is gladly accepted!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Make check payable to:
GERL
Mail to: P.O. Box 328
Bethlehem, GA 30620

THANK YOU!

**“Feed a Horse”
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

***Your donation is
tax deductible!***

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS

Kay Fletcher
Howard & Jennifer Johnson
Kim Snider
Mickie Warren
Shari Spokes
Chatty Stover
Debbie Lindstrom & Family
Richard Sauerbier
Lynn Petersen
Pat Marks
Roger & Mariellen Schultz

White, GA
Cataula, GA
Gainesville, GA
Decherd, TN
Royston, GA
Suches, GA
Cumming, GA
Bethlehem, GA
Cumming, GA
Canton, GA
Jasper, GA

Referred By:

GERL
Donna Pieper
Mickey Farmer
Patty Livingston
GERL
GERL
Mickey Farmer
Scott Sauerbier
Patty Livingston
Marge Mabey
Ray Ziebell



Thank You For Renewing Your GERL Membership

Betty Altman - Ballground, GA
Evelyn Braile - Powder Springs, GA
Anne Ensminger - Covington, GA
Mark & Lynn Garrett - Covington, GA
Elizabeth Harris - Monroe, GA
Marc & Gaylin Hasbrouck - Loganville, GA
Geri Kono - Alpharetta, GA
Joray Lockridge - Braselton, GA

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!
With Your Help ...
We Will Make A Difference**

Volunteers of the Month
November, 2009
By Anne Ensminger

It is again this month, my pleasure tell everyone about two wonderful GERL volunteers who greatly deserve to be recognized for their generous service over the years. They are Ray and Pierette Ziebell of Dawsonville, GA. In "real life", Ray builds the best farm fences in the southeast and Pierette works in an office. They live on their beautiful farm which they named On Golden Pond. They were married next to the pond and have worked together to make a beautiful home on the property. They have four horses; one a real American Mustang named Jack. They also have several lucky dogs which are members of the family. Everyone loves to trail ride and camp with Ray and Pierette. We love his slow, soft spoken humor and her delightful French accent.



I can recall very few GERL events which were not attended by these two tireless, dedicated, and caring people. I can not imagine a Fest without Ray and Pierette. I wonder if the other participants even know that it is Ray who gets up before daylight to make the coffee for us each morning at Fest.

I remember very well, the first time I ever met these two. It was years ago when GERL had a Fall Fest at the R-Ranch above Dahlonega. To make a long story short, I will say only that I had just been unceremoniously 'dumped' by my horse, Chance. As I lay on the ground taking stock of my parts and wondering how I would ever get all of that dirt out of my mouth, I opened my eyes and saw two strangers bending over me with great concern on their faces. They helped me get back on my horse and would not hear of letting me go back to camp without their company. That was the beginning of a close friendship which has lasted for over 10 years.

While Ray and Pierette are always available for any chore at GERL events, he never misses a chance to dress up as some kind of fierce looking, wild Indian. He even decorates his horse with authentic markings just as the plains Indians might have done. This extra effort always adds great fun for everyone no matter what else is going on. Once, a group of us were sitting around the camp fire on a very dark night at Willis Knob when, all of a sudden, a screaming skeleton came riding into camp on a black as night, horse, at a full gallop! In the fire light, Ray and "Magic" were quite a sight. Many of us had already missed a few heart beats by the time we realized what was happening. He enjoyed a good laugh on all of us but he didn't appear to be so fierce when he finally dismounted and we all noted a hole in a most embarrassing place in his costume! I am kind of looking forward to a repeat performance, minus the hole in the costume, at our Fright Fest at Jake Mountain, the end of this month! If Ray can get his wardrobe department (Pierette) to help, I wouldn't be surprised if we get to enjoy being scared out of our wits sometime after dark!

Another example of Ray's antics will make many of you smile when you remember coming upon Ray, deep in the woods at Dawson Forest, dressed in his long black wig, face paint and Indian jewelry, looking for all the world like some renegade, half-breed gambler! He and Pierette, have traditionally manned one of the stations at our annual Poker Rides. Here, riders pick up a playing card which will, hopefully, become part of a winning hand. I have never known Ray and Pierette to get to ride their horses at this event and, of course, by the time they get back to the camp, after making certain that everyone else has collected their cards, there is usually no food left for them. Never a complaint. While Pierette helps with clean up, Ray folds and stacks the heavy tables and makes certain that all of the trash is loaded onto his big truck so that he can haul it away to gosh knows where. Those are the kind of behind the scenes activities which must be taken care of in order for our events to be successful.

Splint Bone Problems in Horses Too Much Too Soon

By: Kenneth L Marcella, DVM

Evolution is a powerful process. In an effort to become swifter and better able to run away from predators, horses evolved from a very early five-toed animal to a three-toed creature and eventually to the single toed (hooved) horse that we know today. Developing a single strong toe provided support for a larger muscular body and lessened the skeletal weight below the knee. This in turn provided for a longer stride requiring less energy to produce superior speed compared to most multi-toed animals. As the early horse began losing its no longer needed digits, the two farthest out and in (digits one and five) eventually simply disappeared. Digits two and four however became much smaller and remain as thin support structures on the inside and outside of the cannon bone. These toe remnants are known as the splint bones (metacarpal or metatarsal two and four).

The top of the inside (or medial) splint bone is closely associated with the bones of the knee (carpus) and in fact the medial splint provides a significant amount of support for the knee. The outside or lateral splint is located further away from the carpal bones above it and is much less involved with support of the knee. These two bones (metacarpal II and IV) are closely associated with the cannon bone (metacarpal III) and to some degree help support or "splint" that central bone which is where their name comes from. Each splint bone is attached to the cannon bone along its edge by a thick fibrous tissue called the interosseous ligament. As the horse ages, this ligament becomes more and more ossified or "bone like" and eventually the splints are fused to the cannon bone. The evolution of the horse's toes and the resultant anatomy is important because problems with the splint bones can and do occur fairly frequently and owners and trainers should have a good working knowledge of these problems in order to more easily recognize, treat and resolve these conditions.

There are actually three types of "splints" that can occur in horses. A "true" splint occurs when there is damage to the interosseous ligament. Tearing or shear forces can occur anywhere along the length of attachment between the splint and the cannon bone and this resultant damage leads to localized inflammation, heat, pain and swelling. This initial inflammation will produce soft, fluid (edema) swelling but as the condition progresses and healing begins, new bone is produced in the area of trauma to re-stabilize that area. Eventually a firm, non-painful bump or knot is left at the site of the original damage. This is a true splint and its size is related to the amount of original

trauma and the early care that the damage receives. Better care early on usually means less swelling and a smaller resulting bump.

True splints typically occur on the inside of the front legs because of the additional weight that is borne by the medial splint bone and because conformational problems often overload the inside front leg with weight bearing pressure when the horse runs and uses that limb. Base narrow and toed out horses, horses with uneven hooves (higher laterally) and other conformational problems can lead to true splints. Poor farrier attention causing imbalance, dietary excesses (calories) and deficiencies (minerals), excess weight of horse or rider, and rigorous exercise on hard or uneven footing can all contribute to the formation of true splints.

"False" splints are the result of any trauma that occurs to the splint bones from an external source. Direct kicks, interference, or any other type of blunt trauma to the length of the splint bone will result in a swollen, tender area directly associated with the splint bone. Over time these injuries will also become hard knots as well and will be indistinguishable from any other type of splint. There is, however, no interosseous damage in these cases. The third type of splint is the "blind" splint and this less common problem occurs with damage to the interosseous ligament along the most central or inner area of the splint bone-cannon bone connection. Because this damage occurs so deeply in the leg there is often no outward swelling noted. These horses may be lame though and further diagnostics do indeed show that the horse has damaged the interosseous ligament and that a splint problem has occurred.

Most splint bone problems are relatively easy to diagnose because of the swelling, tenderness and lameness. The exact nature and extent of the problem may require a radiographic examination though. Your veterinarian will want to make sure that the splint bone itself is not fractured or otherwise damaged. Occasionally ultrasound examination may be necessary to determine if the splint/interosseous irritation has involved the suspensory ligament which runs deeply between the splint bones on the back of the cannon bone. If a blind splint is suspected then nerve blocks may be needed for diagnosis. Injecting the suspected area with local anesthetics will resolve the lameness if the splint bone truly is the source of the problem and then an appropriate treatment course can be determined.

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**Splint Bone Problems in Horses
Too Much Too Soon**
(continued from the previous page)

Fractured splint bones are usually treated with surgical removal of the fractured distal or lower segment of the bone. The upper segment typically heals well and continues to contribute to the support of the knee and leg. Large splints that irritate the suspensory ligament or other support structures in the back of the knee may also require surgical repair to lessen their size or remove the offending bone growth. This type of surgery is difficult because it is not simply a matter of cutting or rasping off the offending bone growth that may be interfering with ligament or tendon function. Any trauma (including surgical intervention) to the periosteal area tends to irritate that structure and results in even more bone being produced as an attempt to stabilize the area. The irritating bone may be shaped or smoothed however and this may be necessary in some cases.

A better approach to reducing splint bone size is to aggressively treat an initial splint bone injury so that the interosseous damage is reduced and less swelling occurs. Horses with splint bone injuries should be rested immediately. Continuing to exercise a horse with a mildly irritated splint will almost always lead to a horse with a much more serious splint problem. Once rest is initiated, affected horses should also receive pain relievers and anti-inflammatory agents. There are many products on the market for use on splint bones. Most are some form of ointment or salve that is rubbed on the affected area. This rubbing is often very aggressive and the resultant irritation caused by this treatment is believed to toughen the ligaments and tendons and to reduce the splint size through the principles of counter-irritation. Dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) mixed with a small amount of steroids can also help these areas. Steroids reduce the bone's reaction to trauma and the size and shape of the periosteal or interosseous reaction can be reduced with such products leading to reduced splint bone size and to fewer problems for the horse.

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of Thoroughbred Times**

Georgia Equine Rescue League
October, 2009

KEY LIME CAKE

Submitted by: Leisa McCannon

Cake

1 (18 1/2 ounce) box lemon cake mix
1 small package lime Jell-O gelatin
1 1/2 cups vegetable oil or canola oil
5 eggs
1/2 cup orange juice

Glaze

4 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup lime juice

Icing

1 (16 ounce) box confectioners' sugar
1/2 cup butter, softened
8 ounces cream cheese
1 tablespoon vanilla

Mix cake mix, jello, oil, eggs, and orange juice.

Beat 3 minutes at medium speed.

Pour into 3 greased cake pans or 13x9 greased pan.

Bake at 350 for 25-30 minutes for cake pans and 35-40 minutes for 13x9.

Mix confectioners' sugar and lime juice.

Pour over warm layers or 13x9 cake.

I froze the cake over night for easy frosting.

But could do for a couple of hours. It was a little hard to get out of the cake pan, just run a knife around the edge.

Mix sugar, butter, cream cheese and vanilla and cream together with mixer.

Frost cake when cooled and enjoy!

I decorated with Lime slices.

Marty Paulk - GERL Friend & Supporter

December 7, 1938 - September 12, 2009

We Will Miss You Marty!

By: Betty Evenson

It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing of Marty Paulk ... long time GERL member and very special friend, to me personally, and to GERL.

In 2005 Marty was diagnosed with lung cancer. Marty was a fighter and fought her battle valiantly until the very end. Marty passed away in her home, on Saturday, September 12th.

Marty grew up in Massachusetts and New York and moved to the Atlanta area as a young teen. She met her husband, Dr. Alan Paulk, at Medical College of Georgia where he was studying to be a Cardiologist and she an RN. Marty is survived by her husband Dr. Alan Paulk, two daughters Druanne Paulk Robert and Missie Paulk Morrissey, her one beloved grandson, Christopher and two sons-in-laws.

Marty's daughters took up riding at a young age and Marty was a "barn mom" to many. Her magnificent farm on Spalding Drive was the hang-out and riding facility for many, many horse kids. Up until the end Marty would talk about her "barn kids".

Marty became active with GERL in the "early days" and served in many capacities ... Area Coordinator, Board Member, guest speaker, horse transport, impound worker, Christmas Party hostess and the list goes on and on. For many years Marty was the cook for our Poker Rides and our Spring and Fall Fests - whether rain or shine ... Marty always arrived with a smile, laden with her home cooked goodies.

Marty served on the GERL Board until nearly the time that I retired in December, 2005. In those 10+ years we shared much laughter, many tears, many accomplishments, proud moments, frustrations and disappointments. I am privileged and grateful to have shared these years with Marty, working side by side for a cause that we are both so passionate about and to know that we truly did "make a difference" in so many equine lives.

GERL is a better organization today, in part, because of Marty and her tireless efforts. GERL has lost an incredible supporter and equines all over have lost a very devoted friend. We will miss you always, Marty!

Marty's daughters have asked that donations in memory of Marty be made to GERL. Please feel free to include a note with your memories of Marty along with your donation. We will run some of these in an upcoming newsletter and will also share them with Marty's family.

Donations may be sent to:
GERL . PO Box 328 . Bethlehem, GA 30620



GERL Attends Polo Match to Benefit GDA

Alexandra Imerman is a very industrious young woman who recently organized a polo fund raiser to benefit the Georgia Dept. of Agriculture's Equine Division. With the help of her family and friends she organized a silent auction, as well as a polo match where the players paid to play. Their beautiful farm is located in the heart of Atlanta, near Lenox Mall. GERL was invited to participate with a booth to sell T-shirts and share information about our organization.

Mickey Farmer and I attended this event on behalf of GERL and we set up our canopy right next to the GDA snack and drink tent. It was the "maiden voyage" for the new GERL cargo trailer. It was so nice to pull the trailer to where we wanted to setup our canopy and joila! It was done in about 15 minutes.

We stayed busy selling shirts, giving out newsletters and telling people about the work that GERL does and the relationship that we have with the GDA to help support the impounded horses. It was a very rewarding day for GERL as we made over \$500 in T-shirt sales and donations. This is enough money to rehab a starved horse and that's exactly how I've come to think about every function we attend and every dollar we make. Thanks to folks like the Imermans, we're making a difference!



Stormy Update By Ronnie Pesserilo

Almost 3 months have gone by since I have seen Stormy. He was sent to East West Morgans in Blue Ridge to "chill" while his testosterone levels decreased. BJ Morris and Anne Maxwell Searcy are very experienced in handling stallions and they welcomed Stormy with open arms and agreed to not only socialize him with other horses but to also work with him as needed during his stay with them. I spoke with BJ frequently and the terms stubborn and non socialized kept popping up in our conversations about Stormy. After his first few days at East West Morgans he was turned out with 2 young stud colts who he befriended very quickly. He was then turned out in a small pasture beside the herd of brood mares and their young babies. He paid them little attention especially when they charged the fence line making sure he kept a good distance away. He was then placed into a large herd of mares and yearlings and that is where he learned what socialization is all about. Stormy was thrilled when he was again brought back into the pasture with his 2 young stud colts.

During this time of transition Stormy was also having lessons in manners around the human beings who were handling him on a daily basis. He began round pen lessons which he tried his best to ignore by keeping his head turned away from his handler for quite a few sessions. Then something clicked and Stormy realized that the time spent with BJ & Anne was a good thing. BJ had been calling and asking if someone from GERL could come up to help her with Stormy since she needed an additional ground person. Margo Clower was happy to go up and help BJ with Stormy and from what I understand they had a very successful day of lessons.

BJ called again to tell me that she and Anne had laid the groundwork for Stormy's training and she felt it was time that he was ridden. I went up to East West Morgans this past Saturday, September 12, and was extremely pleased to see a calm Stormy with soft eyes and no glint of the stallion that I left there in June. We quickly tacked him up in my saddle, brought him up to the round pen to work a little and then we ponied him up the road at both a walk and a trot. He ponies beautifully and I saw that he enjoyed the work. We brought him back to the round pen and asked him to canter under saddle but he hesitated time and time again. BJ pushed him a little more and then he picked his back up and off he went into a lovely ground covering canter. He was worked the other side and his canter departure was even better than the first. BJ looked at me and said "it is time to get on".

(continued on the following page)

Stormy Update

(continued from the previous page)

I softly put my weight in the stirrup and stood suspended there waiting to see if we had a reaction from him, all I saw was a soft light brown eye looking at me. I then leaned over him with my body and hung there while I touched him with my hands on his off side. I slid my right leg over him and sat up with no reaction from him whatsoever. We sat there for a few moments while I moved my weight around the saddle so that he could feel my movement. BJ asked if I was ready to take a few steps and off we went around the round pen while she led us. I will make a long story short now by telling you that we worked on our halts, our one rein stop, backing up and cues to go forward.



Stormy (left) meeting his new pasture mates



Fast Friends

Stormy questioned me a few times but he picked up on everything very quickly and was a true gentleman. We then took a very short trail ride which was just as successful as our round pen session, enough done for one day. Stormy came home with me that evening.

The next morning Donna Pieper and I made plans to ride at Harbins Mill. She knew that I would need help with Stormy and agreed that it would be a good way to work together to give him a little more experience. I arrived at Harbins, took him off of the trailer and he hollered at all the horses but then settled down while I tacked him up. By the time Donna and Keith arrived I knew that it was not a good decision to ride him as there were too many distractions and he could not keep his mind on me. I asked Donna if we could pony him instead and off

we went with him tracking beautifully beside us. About 1 mile out I saw that he had relaxed and I told Donna that I was going to put his bridle on and ride him but she was going to have to pony the other horse which she agreed to. The ride I had on Stormy was wonderful and although he is very, very green he did his best to please me in every way. He halted, did a one rein stop and offered to give me his eye each time I asked.

Stormy is 7 years old, a Welsh/TB cross and is 13.3 hands. He is up for adoption through GERL and if interested please contact Donna Pieper at gerl-donna@bellsouth.net.



Stormy (right) hanging with his new pasture mate

Pryor Mountain Update - September 11, 2009

By: John Hutcheson

I am an Infantryman of long service and have got to say that this removal on the Pryors ranks right up there with the end of WW I when the government would not provide transport for the horses home and soldiers had to lead their friends to the trench and shoot them in the head.

First, let me say that had I never ridden on Pryor Mountain among Cloud, his family and all the Spanish horses there, I would probably have let the BLM's recent actions pass by

off my radar scope. But I did ride there, experienced that unique environment, and began a still continuing study of that genetically unique herd. I wrote that winter that:

"The Pryor Mountain herd has been managed by Nature for some 200 years before Federal agencies came into existence. There have been years when no foals have survived. Mountain lion depredation, severe weather, lightning strikes, an extreme environment....cold, wind, minimum water....all insure that natural selection is at work to the "nth" degree. And on more than one occasion, foals have been trampled and died in the BLM "roundup" when the bands are forced off the mountain by helicopter. My personal view is that, at least on Pryor Mountain, the BLM should leave the horses alone, regardless of what their EIS studies indicate about carrying capacity."

So I was absolutely horrified in August at learning that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of the Interior, was planning to do a "removal" in September that would virtually destroy the genetic pool of the Pryor Mountain Mustangs.

(continued on the following page)



John's two Morgan mares as they ride enter the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range



Cloud himself walks out to get a good look at the two mares I was riding

Pryor Mountain Update - September 11, 2009

(continued from the previous page)

The first federal legislation aimed at protecting the remnants of the wild horses on this continent was the *Wild Horse Act* in 1959, and the next was *The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act* in 1971, that created 303 herd areas. In 2004 a stealth rider, The Burns Amendment, attached to an appropriation bill, removed 34 years of federal protection and the BLM can now sell any "excess" animal, or its remains, without limitation—meaning that they can be adopted, or sold at auction for slaughter, without adoption.

When I checked in 2006, fewer than 186 areas remained.... National Geographic recently did a spread on the situation (February 2009).

The problem, as I see it, is that the BLM is an agency that works to accommodate consumptive users: mining, oil, gas, grazing, timber and the horses don't fit in that sphere so they have no place at the table and lose out. BLM is the literal "fox in the hen house" and the horses are literally the "chickens."

In the BLM's sign on Pryor Mountain are the words:

"Report Violations of Injury, Harassment, Death or Removal to the Billings Field Office."

Yet this government agency, themselves, have inflicted injury, harassment, (death is to follow for the older horses) and removal in violation of the very spirit of the law Congress passed. And as evidenced in their testimony in the Colorado Court proceeding, they consider themselves above the law.

BLM would not delay the removal, even after Congressman Rahall of West Virginia and Congressman Grijalva of Arizona, asked them to do so (until the GAO report could be presented to Congress). Their specious rationale for the removal on the Pryors would not stand up to the light of day that only the media could bring to bear - the Today Show let BLM slide with their answer "we're managing the herd"... my God, they were destroying it.

The Pryor herd is acknowledged from all quarters, read National Geographic, February 2009, as a genetic gem, *so from a public relations standpoint alone the smart move for the BLM would have been to leave the Pryors alone. They could have used the Pryors as their Poster Boy to show how they carefully consider and respond to the input of experts.* But they were just hell bent for leather to make one size fit all, to remove them all and to show us that they can exercise

power. They used a 2004 range study to justify a removal in 2009 (with some of the best grass that had been seen in years).

I am sad to report that many of Cloud's progeny have been permanently removed: Rain, Arrow, Image, Ember, Summer and Sage have tags around their necks with numbers. But they will never be numbers to me. They will always be my special children of the wild. Sax (Himalaya), Cloud's little brother, a buckskin 2 year old, has also been removed from his home. He has always been such a joyous colt, so curious and playful. His fun-loving life has just been shattered and he has no understanding of why this has happened. Neither do I. BLM's destructive management policies have turned wild horse heaven into hell.

No horses have been treated more unjustly than the Custer National Forest horses. All who were rounded up on Commissary Ridge are to be permanently removed. This was to be a selective removal, but at the last moment, BLM revealed their plan to gut this sub-population and its important genetic lines.

We are hopeful that BLM will show some compassion and return the Forest Service band stallions Conquistador (19 years old), Bo (13), Trigger (12), and Shane (10) back to the designated range with their adult mares. If not into their homeland, than the bands need to be in a setting that is wild. It is important to keep these bands in tact as an essential reservoir from which to draw to shore up the genetics which have been lost in this massive removal.

We are praying that Raven's mare, Grumpy Grulla (21) will be returned to her precious Pryor home. She was one of the first wild horses I ever saw. This strong-willed grulla mare brought many smiles to my face as she regularly disciplined her offspring as well as the other foals in Raven's band including Cloud—hence her name. It is only fitting that she be allowed to live out the last few years of her life in freedom in her spectacular home.

We fight on for the herd and all wild horses still living free on OUR public lands. Keep your calls and letters and emails coming. The voices of the American and world public will surely be heard in time. Never give up! Bless all of you for outpouring of support for Cloud and his herd and our American mustangs.

(continued on the following page)

Pryor Mountain Update - September 11, 2009
(continued from the previous page)

Now the deed is done and Ginger Kathrens reports:

Dear Friends;

We have always believed that 20 young Pryor wild horses ages 1-2 could be successfully adopted even during these rough economic times. Now BLM is holding 57 horses and three foals at the Britton Springs Corrals located at the base of the mountain. Most are over 1-2 years of age. We continue to push for BLM to return the oldest back to their home.

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Happy Trails,

Ginger

Congress could protect the horses from the public, but it looks like they could not protect them from the BLM.

The third program in the Cloud series, "Cloud: Challenge of the Stallions," will premier on PBS stations nationwide on October 25th on NATURE. *Sadly, I imagine that there will be a postscript at the end of the movie eulogizing by name many of the horses you just watched because they were subsequently destroyed in September by the BLM.*

Do not underestimate the power of your letter to Congress, your financial contribution to The Cloud Foundation, and your voice.

The legal bill for August alone was \$9,000 and bills for September are coming. *The foundation has no rich benefactors ... it depends on ordinary horsemen like you and me.*

The Cloud Foundation
107 South 7th St
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

(continued on the follow page)

Pryor Mountain Update - September 11, 2009
(continued from the previous page)

Please write and call your Senators today and request that they support S1579 the ROAM Act to improve protections and improve the management of our wild horses.

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:s.01579:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:s.01579)

Please enlist your friends, family, and neighbors to do the same.

Encourage them to follow the Cloud BLOG:
<http://thecloudfoundation.wordpress.com/>

If we do not collectively band together as horsemen, the only place you will be able to see a wild horse in the near future will be either in the pages of old issues of National Geographic or in the death camps BLM is running (where they are holding an estimated 30,000 head) ...that is until they can send them all to slaughter.

John

Editor's Note: John Hutcheson took a trip out west with his own Morgan horses in August, 2009.

During his trip he had the once in a lifetime experience to ride into Cloud's the Pryor Mountain Range and view Cloud and his herd from his own saddle, on his own horse. John shared his magnificent journey with GERL members in our March, 2009 newsletter.

As many of us have been following this terrible event with Cloud and his herd and writing our letters and contacting our representatives, I invited John to write an article updating us.

This is John's update as of September 11, 2009. Please continue to help Cloud and his herd fight this battle.

Your letters and support are as important as ever. Please call write and call your Sentators and ask that they support the ROAM Act.

We Need Your Help! Auction Items Are Needed

We have upcoming events that will include auctions.

We need you to help by donating auction items. These items can include new or used tack, home décor items, gift certificates, etc. Remember ... our auctions are only as successful as the items that we have to offer.

Do you have a beach house? A cabin rental? Do you have a timeshare that you do not use? Perhaps you would consider donating a few nights or a week for one of our upcoming auctions. It's tax deductible and benefits a great cause.

Thank You In Advance For Your Support!

If you have items to donate
or have additional questions please contact

Patty Livingston
(770) 867-0760
gerlpatty@yahoo.com



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See
www.gerlltd.org

or call
Diana DeMoss
(770) 267-0867

for availability,
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choose from ...
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And Continued Support**

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Midland, GA

Constance Burchette
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John, Lynn & Carol Royer
Social Circle, GA

Evelyn Braile
Powder Springs, GA

Constance Burchette
Marietta, GA

Janet Bryant
Alpharetta, GA

Thank You To Our Foster Homes

Scott Sauerbier & Family
for fostering Dalls & Tidbit

Jean Long
for fostering Lucky

Susan McCullar
for fostering Lil Lady, Sweet Pea & Little Bit

BJ Morris & Ann Maxwell-Searcy
for fostering Stormy

Bob & Shirley Guhl
for fostering Lobo and Tyree

Patty & Nick Howard
for fostering Eryzeka & Rosie

Tiffany Bergdorf
for fostering Afire Extinguisher

Donations In Memory Of

Ramses Camelot
by Betty Altman

Maurice O'Brien
by Andee Rogers

Gail Kincaid
by Robert Dockery

Maurice O'Brien
by Fred & Beverly Villa

Maurice O'Brien
by Anne Ensminger

Spitfire & Larry
by Geir Kono

Tiffany Vick's horse, Vegas
by Carol Golson

Thank You For Your Change Jars

**The Stock Market
Conyers, GA**

**Pampered Pony
Monroe, GA**



Update on Afire Extinguisher

By Tiffany Bergdorf, Foster Mom

Friday, August 14, 2009

"Afire" arrived safe and sound this morning. I already love him! He looks just like the other horse I have at my farm.

I introduced him to my two horses over the fence and they didn't squeal or anything. Since everyone was being so well behaved, I let them all out together. Diesel (the bay) and Afire immediately started grooming each other! It was so sweet! My old guy, Gus, was the most spirited and ran around a little, but the other two didn't seem phased by it.

I don't think "Afire" had met a pig before because he was entranced by Miss Piggy. She walked right up to him and they touched noses through the fence. It was so cute!

I think Afire is going to fit in really well. He is sweet and walked right up to me and my sister. He is going to be a really nice horse to have.



Friday, August 28, 2009

"Afire" is doing great! We actually call him "Afie", it's a little easier to say :) He has become a dream companion horse for my old gelding, Gus. He is very aware of my horse's blindness and is very patient with him. I think they both know that each other is handicapped and really try and help each other out.

Afie acts like he hasn't been handled much and is curious about everything! When he is scared of something, he doesn't spook or act dangerous, but will hid behind me until he decides it is safe to come out. I walk him around my property every chance I get and hope soon he will be just a little less curious of everything! He wasn't even sure how to eat the horse cookies I bought! He learned that one fast though! He is very loving towards me and has such a sweet disposition. He is a true pleasure to have at my farm.

***See page 24 for adoption information for Afire.**

GERL NEEDS YOU!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FRIGHT FEST 2009

Our Fall fundraiser is drawing closer and we need volunteers! There will be needs in every area - parking, setting up, selling merchandise, helping with the auctions, serving food and a lot more!

Please help us raise money for the horses! The more volunteers we have, the better the fundraiser will be!

Contact Leisa McCannon - gerlvolunteers@yahoo.com

GERL ADOPTABLES

Stormy is a Welsh/TB cross, 14.1 hands, 7 years old, recently gelded, gentle to handle with good basic manners. Has not been ridden to date. He will be a wonderful horse after training for a smaller adult or an experienced youth rider. He is a lovely mover with a ground covering trot and canter.



STORMY

Fire Extinguisher is a 6 year old registered Arabian. He is 16 hands. His Sire was the Reserve National Park Champion and his Grand Dam was also a Champion. He was injured during his training, which has caused a slight limp, but, he does trot and canter without pain. Because of his injury his training was never completed. He is a very sweet horse and one of the favorites at the Decatur Impound Barn. He would make a great companion horse as he is great with other horses, including old horses. The GDA needs to find a new home for "Fire" to make room for new impounded horses.



LIL LADY

For adoption fees and additional information please contact

**Donna Pieper
GERL Adoption & Foster Coordinator
(404) 797-3333
gerldonna@bellsouth.net**

GERL ADOPTABLES

Tyree and Lobo were both stated as 15 year old bay geldings when we brought them into the GERL adoption program. Based on our vet's assessment, he feels they are closer to 10-12 years old. They stand approx 14.2-14.3hh and stocky (easy keepers). These boys are both VERY sweet and gentle to handle, but have no previous riding experience to our knowledge. We are unaware of any physical issues with either gelding that would prevent these boys from being trained under saddle. We will be looking for either companion homes or homes that have the facilities and time to train them properly. These geldings will be adopted out individually.



Tyree

Ekyra – 9 year old bay arabian mare, approx 14.2hh and **Rosie** – 4 year old sorrel arabian mare, approx 14.1hh (Ekyra's baby) – These two mares will be adopted out as companion horses only due to a confirmation issue. Although it is not mandatory that they stay together, it would be ideal. These two have never been separated and due to an eye injury, Ekyra is blind in her right eye and seems more secure with Rosie around. At the time that GERL received these two into our program, they had been handled very little. After a short 4-6 weeks with 'clicker' training by Tanya K., they run to the fence and are easily approached and haltered. They are very well socialized with both other mares and geldings. Ekyra and Rosie are both sweet girls, love to be brushed and handled, and are looking for the special forever home.



Lobo



Rosie



Ekyra

GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

PRESENTS: FRIGHT FEST 2009



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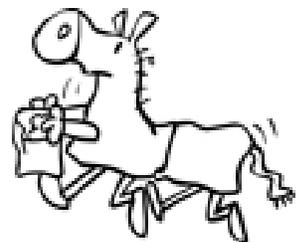
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Live and Silent Auctions on Saturday Evening
Mickey Farmer –World Famous Auctioneer

Donate Items for the Auctions!

Contact: gerlpatty@yahoo.com



Costume and Best Decorated
Camp Contest - Judging on Sat. Nite
1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded!!

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Friday Night
Bring your instrument!

Dance with D.J.
Sat. Night after Auctions

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! SPACE IS LIMITED. WE WILL ACCEPT LATE COMERS ON
A SPACE AVAILABLE BASIS ONLY. DON'T TAKE A CHANCE, REGISTER NOW!
DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION FORM @ GERLLTD.ORG
QUESTIONS? CONTACT Patty Livingston: 770-867-0760 or gerlpatty@yahoo.com

BITS & PIECES

Photo #1

Dallas & Tidbit
bathed and ready to
go to their new foster home
with Scott Sourbeer



Photo #2

Rusty (back)
At his new home.
Rusty was adopted by
Karen Marsh.

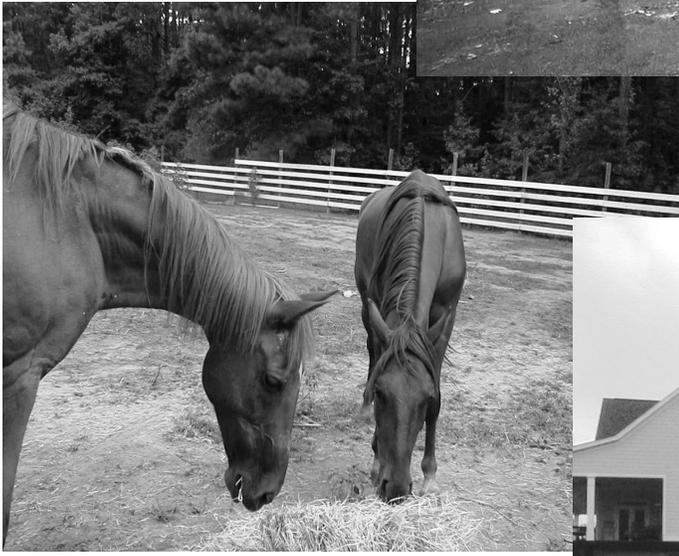


Photo #3

Tidbit & Dallas enjoying the grass
at their new foster home.

Photo #4

Sha was recently adopted
by Nick & David Adams



"Oh Come All 'Ye To Bethlehem" GERL Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 12th

Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Bring: Your favorite covered dish, BYOB & lawn chair

Where: 61 McElhannon Road, SE
Bethlehem, GA 30620
(770) 867-0760 (home)



There will be good food, good friends and even a bonfire (weather permitting). Bring your lawn chairs.

Directions from Gainesville: take Hwy 60 thru Gainesville to Hwy 124. Turn right onto Hwy 124 and go approx. 3 miles to light. Turn left onto Hwy 53S to Winder. Follow Hwy 11S by turning left at McDonald's in Winder. Go approx. 1½ miles (bear right) at Blockbuster. Go approx. 5 miles to Hwy 316. Cross over 316 and go 1.5 miles through Bethlehem. Turn left on McElhannon Rd. Go through 4-way stop; First house on the right.

From Atlanta: From 85S exit onto Hwy 316 towards Athens. Go approx 23 miles to Hwy 11 and turn right. Go 1.5 miles and turn left onto McElhannon Rd. Go through 4-way stop; First house on right.

RSVP: (770) 867-0760

Don't forget to bring your Christmas cards with you to mail from the Bethlehem Post Office.



Dear GERLs

We have received a check from Southern States for \$266.70!

Thank you to all of you who send in the Proofs of Purchases for Legends, Triple Crown and Reliance Feeds!

Thank you to Ginnie Scarritt for collecting the POPs and sending them along to Southern States.

THANK YOU

GERL

Editor's Note: See page 6 for the details of the POP program with Southern States.



Volunteers Are Our Life Blood

We receive GERL applications from new members quite often who check the box that says that they would like to be a volunteer. However, we later learn that what they really mean by 'volunteer' is strictly working with horses. Of course, this is a horse rescue organization; therefore, it is understandable that they would have that in mind. The fact is that all GERL horses are in foster care and the foster homes meet their care needs. The only practical way that other volunteers could work with them would be if they lived near one of our foster homes and had an agreement to help with the horses. That would be wonderful.

However, when you get right down to the nitty gritty, the most prominent function of GERL is to raise money! No horses can be rescued, fed or vetted without it. Therefore, we MUST also be about fundraising. To accomplish this, we need many volunteers to attend our events and be willing to help. Some duties that are handled by our volunteers include working registration tables, setting up our auctions, purchase and/or preparation and serving of food, setting up tables, tents, chairs, etc. The list is unending but we always get everything done, thanks to our volunteers. The best part of being a volunteer at our events is the feeling of camaraderie, which comes as we work together, feel that sense of great accomplishment, and leave with one or more new friends!



Please Help

Please send proof of purchase seals from bags of any

Southern States feed to

Ginny Scarritt - 4835 Kendall Court - Atlanta, GA 30342.

Ginny is collecting them for GERL, and we will receive money for every pop seal she sends to Southern States.



**Would You Like To
Get Involved With GERL?**

**Area Coordinators needed
for counties not listed on page 2
of the newsletter.**

**If you are interested in becoming an
Area Coordinator
for a county not listed, please contact
Ronnie Pesserilo (770) 466-4515 or
gerlrone@bellsouth.net.**



**Fundraiser Planned
for GDA Impounded Horses
By Patty Livingston**

Plans are underway for an exciting event to benefit the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Impound Program. GERL has contributed in many ways to GDA over the years and will continue to do so. However, due to cutbacks in government spending, it is evident that for the Impound Program to continue to meet the demand, it will be necessary for all of us to be creative in our thinking about how to obtain additional operating funds.

I recently received a call from long time GERL member and supporter, Jack Cashin of Chukkar Farm near Alpharetta. (<http://www.chukkarfarmpoloclub.com/index.html>) Jack wanted to offer his beautiful 173-acre facility to GERL for a fundraising event. His offer could not have come at a better time. I met Jack at Chukkar Farm the following Sunday and began to get excited about making plans for a very different fundraiser. Anxious to showcase his beloved sport of polo, Jack offered to host a match for the enjoyment of all. Many attendees have never seen a polo match and I think it would be very exciting to watch such a fast-moving game, played on horseback by top riders.

Although our plans are just in the beginning stages, we plan for the event to take place in the spring of 2010 and we are considering a barbecue dinner with a live auction in the evening following the polo match. I see the day as being very restful as we enjoy the match and visit with old friends and others who love horses. Please plan to join us!

I am forming a committee for this event and I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to help. Please call me at (770) 867-0760. It is my hope that the committee will include some new people from GERL, GDA personnel, as well as interested parties who are not a part of either organization.



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_____ I am a horse owner

_____ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

_____ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

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**Make check payable to: GERL
Mail to: GERL - P.O. Box 328 - Bethlehem, GA 30620**