

Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.

The Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the well being of disabled children and adults through horse-assisted activities.

Fall 2007

From the Executive Director...

It's been some time since you've received a GNOTRC newsletter. Following Katrina, we mailed out our newsletter that was completed right before the storm. Many newsletters were returned by the USPS, as mail delivery was disrupted. Much has happened since that unforgettable event.

All of the GNOTRC horses, goats, dogs and chickens and our miniature donkey were evacuated to Acadiana Therapeutic Riding Organization in Broussard, Louisiana, outside Lafayette. The evacuation itself was quite an event, but it is safe to say that we looked like Noah's Ark as we got out of harm's way. The animals stayed in Lafayette for several months before returning to LaPlace. Damage at the farm was extensive but limited to trees and fences. Remarkably, the barn survived, but was flooded on three separate occasions during a 10-day period. A tornado that hit the Westbank of

... we looked like Noah's Ark as we got out of harm's way.

Jefferson Parish and jumped across the river and did much damage destroyed a run-in shed three months after Rita. After Katrina, supplies were extremely limited. Feed, normally delivered, was unavailable. There was no hay. Our shavings supplier was out of business for three months.

Support from across the country rallied, and many donations added up to help the center maintain the animals and the supplies. Since Louisiana and Mississippi had been suffering through a drought before Katrina, and drought conditions continued, even to this day, getting our hay supply was one of the biggest

challenges. A train was organized by folks across the nation to help with hay supplies for horses in the hurricane affected areas, and as the train made its way to Louisiana, it would make stops for donations across the country. GNOTRC received a load of 100 donated bales of hay.

About 20 folks associated with C-Line Stables in Delaware traveled to Gaits to Success in Kiln, MS, and GNOTRC to help with hurricane cleanup during their Thanksgiving holiday. The group was completely self-contained with two RVs and food for two weeks. The group helped organize donated supplies from Texas, made improvements and repairs to the barn, and helped with tree removal and fence repairs.

NARHA, our national therapeutic riding organization, established a hurricane relief fund for centers affected by Katrina. The annual conference and meeting, which was slated to be held in New Orleans, was hastily moved to Houston. NARHA waived membership fees for centers affected by Katrina and Rita, and also helped with 4 months of operating expenses.

GNOTRC resumed classes in March, 2006. Not all riders returned right away, but most have come back since then. The biggest challenge was getting volunteers to help with classes. Only recently has the volunteer situation improved somewhat. Reports indicate that there is 60% reduction in volunteerism, and GNOTRC can certainly attest to that hardship. In

addition, traffic was horrendous for about 8 months. Airline Highway and I-10 are the only two main arteries on the east bank out of New Orleans to Baton Rouge. Following the storm where few people could stay at their own houses, travel was cumbersome and commutes were very long with the number of people on the road. A two-hour drive from New Orleans to the farm was not extraordinary.

Things have improved greatly in the last year. Our volunteer base has improved over the last two months. Classes resumed in late September after our August break. The weather continues to be a factor, but having to cancel classes due to a lack of volunteers is a much smaller issue than it has been.

GNOTRC continues to face challenges. Funding is an ongoing concern. Horse health, among the youthful and not so youthful, is a major issue this summer and fall. One of the conditions has only been diagnosed three times in nine years by the attending LSU Veterinary Surgeon. Many of our horses have been a part of the therapeutic riding program since the early years, over 14 ago.

We are back in the saddle, so to speak, and hope you're along with us for the ride. Join us at our fundraisers and our classes and come visit the farm.

We'd like to thank you for your continued support. We will need it now, more than ever!

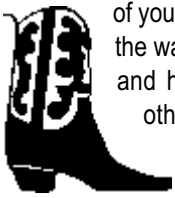
Sincerely,
Anita Hefler
Executive Director

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Rock, Ride 'n Rescue

In 2004, the New Orleans Posse sponsored a silent auction for several area therapeutic riding centers. This year, a similar event will be held at Rock 'n Bowl to benefit GNOTRC. The event will be held on Sunday, November 18 at Mid-City Rock 'n Bowl from 3-6 pm. Benny Grunch and the Bunch will be providing the live entertainment for the benefit silent auction. GNOTRC needs your help in recruiting items for the silent auction. Any type of item or service will be accepted. All funds raised from items auctioned by GNOTRC will stay with GNOTRC. Advance tickets to the events will be sold, and those monies will also stay with GNOTRC. Admission to Rock, Ride 'n Rescue is \$10. We hope you can join us on November 18. Get some



of your Christmas shopping out of the way, while enjoying live tunes and helping GNOTRC and two other nonprofit organizations. Check out our list of items at www.gnotrc.com.

HAY, HAY!!

It's been a long, hot, and dry summer. For the first time since its inception, GNOTRC has finished acquiring, loading, unloading and storing it's annual hay supply. We wished that hay season didn't coincide with the long and hot days of August and September, but that's how the cookie crumbles. The weather is still wreaking havoc on the hay supply, and GNOTRC didn't want to take any chances on not being able to fulfill the annual requirement. Many, many volunteers came out to help us unload, often with very short notice. Thank you all for getting it done!! We couldn't do it without you! Thank you Cindy, Johnny, Stephen, Mark, Stan, Clark, Garrett, Lucas, Tony and Sid.

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**



Classes resumed in September after the long and hot August. Four-year-old Zoey shows her moves on Majic, as her volunteers help her guide her horse in the arena.

LTRA Meeting Jan. 26 and 27

For those of you interested in learning more about horses, nonprofits and therapeutic riding, join the annual Louisiana Therapeutic Riding Association Meeting. It will be hosted by the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. The event is all day on Saturday, and half a day on Sunday. Fee is \$65 and includes lunch on Saturday. For more information contact Anita at horsehartzell@hotmail.com.



Harley for Horses 2007 and 2008

On Sunday, April 18, GNOTRC held its 8th Annual Harley for Horses Benefit Motorcycle Run. This year's fundraiser hosted 110 bikes. The Louisiana State Troopers once again escorted the ride, which started from the St. John Community Center, went to mid-point for lunch, and ended at the St. Rose Travel Center with live music and an auction. The ride for 2008 is scheduled for April 21. Those who rode in 2007 have been challenged to bring a friend to next year's run. For more information about the 2008 Harley for Horses Benefit Motorcycle Run, check our website in the spring at www.gnotrc.com.

THANK YOU LSUHSC OT STUDENTS!

From September through December, GNOTRC will have the benefit of six LSU Health Sciences Center OT students. As students, they have heard of the great benefits of therapeutic riding, and are volunteering their time and resources to become more familiar with this modality, as well as learn more about the benefits. Lorraine Jenkins, an OT, will be spending time with them as well and to educate the group on applications of hippotherapy and do some hands-on demonstrations. Several of the group will be moving out of town in January, but we hope that this is the beginning of mutually beneficial working relationship that will promote therapeutic riding and hippotherapy.

UNITED WAY of Greater New Orleans

The United Way of Greater New Orleans is in the midst of their campaign. Please note that even though GNOTRC is not a United Way of Greater New Orleans agency, you can designate your donation to GNOTRC or any other qualifying 501 (C) 3 organization.



Rider Zack enjoys a horsey moment with Raj, as volunteer Karen looks on with a watchful eye.

SAVE THE DATE

9TH ANNUAL HARLEY FOR HORSES BENEFIT MOTORCYCLE RUN

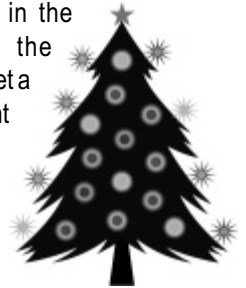
★ Sunday, April 21, 2008 ★



Christmas in the Oaks

Many riders and volunteers have had their pictures taken over the last four months. Once again, GNOTRC will have a tree in City Park's "Christmas in the Oaks". This year's theme is "Back in the Saddle Again", a very appropriate name for all we have been through. Our very grateful appreciation goes to Marilita Roy who has been coordinating and creating the ornaments for the tree. Thank you also to Kelley W.'s uncle, who made a sign identifying the GNOTRC tree and displaying this year's theme.

When you take a stroll through Christmas in the Oaks, look for the GNOTRC tree and get a picture of you in front of the tree and share it with us. We'll put you on our website!



JT DANCER RETIRES

JT Dancer, known as "JT", will be retiring from GNOTRC on November 30. JT has been in the program for almost a year. He was formerly a beginner's school horse, but because riders were more advanced, JT was donated to GNOTRC to assist with riders with disabilities. Age and life are catching up with JT, and his arthritis is becoming a daily issue and concern.

We will miss JT. He is a tall, grey gelding with a wonderful disposition. When JT first came to GNOTRC, rider Grace wanted to know what "JT" stood for. We were never told upon donation what the initials stood for, so we made up our own. Grace initially stated that "JT" stood for "Jiggly Toes" Dancer. After some back and forth discussion, we settled on "Jelly Toast".

Our best wishes to Jelly Toast "JT" Dancer, for a wonderful and relaxing horsey retirement. We've enjoyed having you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 18

Rock, Ride 'n Rescue at Mid-City Rock 'n Bowl. Silent auction, live music by Benny Grunch & the Bunch, 3-6pm.

November 19-28

Thanksgiving Holiday break.

December 15 - January 15

Christmas/New Year's break.

Jan. 26-27, 2008

Louisiana Therapeutic Riding Association Annual Meeting, LSU Vet School, Baton Rouge

March 28, 2008

Plop Drop Festival

Spring 2008

Crawfish Fundraiser

April 5, 2008

United Way of St Charles Bridge Run

April 21, 2008

9th Annual Harley for Horses Benefit Motorcycle Run



**HELP US
TO SAVE
A STAMP!**

This will be the last mailed newsletter. It is also an abridged version. We would like to go to an electronic newsletter so that we can save the price of a stamp and a couple of trees. Help us by sending your email address (we will not share your address with anyone!) to www.GNOTRC.com so we can send you our newsletter electronically.

About GNOTRC

Greater New Orleans Therapeutic Riding Center is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving individuals with disabilities. The center may be reached at **504-466-9960, 985-651-LADY**, www.gnotrc.com, or write to:

**GNOTRC
P.O. Box 23284
New Orleans, LA 70183**

GNOTRC is a North American Riding for the Handicapped Association member center. NARHA is the governing body for the therapeutic riding industry.



NARHA
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Member Center

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

*A United Way
of St. Charles Agency*

*A St. John United Way
Agency*