



Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

With *Your* Help...We *Will* Make a Difference!

2013 Quarterly Newsletter

January, February & March

Jack and Dianne - Part One: The Rescue

By Diana Kelsey

On a cold, rainy evening in January, DeKalb Co. Animal Control picked up two donkeys. One donkey had been lying down in the mud for several days, according to a neighbor. They were both very skinny, a body score of 2. Dianne was so weak that DCAC had to lift her into the trailer. Jack was rolled over onto a tarp and carried to the trailer.

The holding area at DCAC is small with only a shed for shelter. The weather was horrible as Jennifer Cochran, D.M.V. administered IV fluids to Jack. The next morning, Jack had moved a little bit off of the tarp but was still lying down. Dianne seemed stable and was eating feed and hay.

That was when GERL received a call asking for help from DCAC. The vet wanted Jack and Dianne out of the weather, and



Jack



Jack

they had no facility to do that. Patty Livingston and I loaded up and made the trip over to DeKalb County. We had no idea what we were going to encounter, but we were ready for anything. We have done many rescues and nothing shocks us anymore, as sad as that may seem. When I laid my eyes on Jack, covered with debris and shivering, my heart was wrenched. If he hadn't been shivering I would have thought he was dead.

So, our task began as we slowly walked Dianne to the trailer. She was so weak that we had to join arms and lift her up onto the trailer. She was so cooperative and sweet. Next came Jack – we stood there with five other people from DCAC, trying to decide the best way to load him as the trailer was quite a ways from him. So, as I was taking pictures to document the case, four LARGE men and Patty take hold of the tarp and begin to slowly drag it to the trailer. Once there, the four men lifted their end of the tarp and I heard Patty yelling “Hey, wait a minute! I can't lift this end by myself!” As I stepped back and looked, there were all the men on one end and little Patty on the other! We were all laughing, probably to keep from crying.

...continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

GDA Success Stories...Page 5
Update on patches the Paint...Page 10
Let Me Say This...About That...Page 12
GERL Annual Meeting...Page 24
GERL Poker Ride...Page 32
Volunteer of the Quarter...Page 35

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...continued from page 1

Paperwork was signed, and off we went with our new charges. We had wrapped Jack in the tarp to try to keep the wind off of him, but we worried about him as we were going around I-285. I pulled off the road once we got on I-20 so that we could check on the babies. Jack was so cold to the touch! Patty got two blankets out of her truck and wrapped him up. She looked up at me and said, "You drive, I am going to stay back here with him." I agreed with her, put the flashers on and down the road we went (much slower than the speed limit, I might add!) I prayed for the next hour and a half that Patty was OK back there, and that Jack would survive.

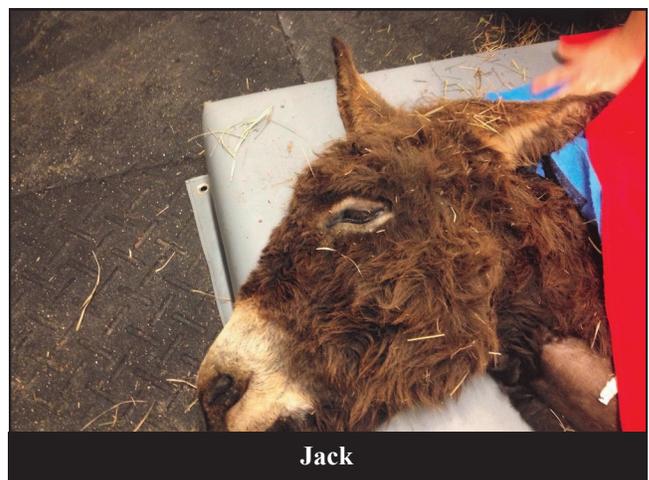
Originally, we were taking the donkeys to the home of Ruth Wilson, GERL Adoption Coordinator. She has a wonderful barn and wanted to ensure that these guys got a chance at life. Dr. Daniel Pike of Piedmont Equine Associates in Madison was on standby at Ruth's barn, waiting for us to arrive so that we could begin immediate treatment on Jack. When I called Ruth to let her know that we were getting close to her exit, I expressed my concern about Jack's grave condition. She conferred with Dr. Pike, and he suggested that we go straight to the clinic. I had just pulled over to check on Patty and the donkeys, and we knew that Jack needed help ASAP. We re-routed and met Dr. Pike and Ruth at the clinic.

As soon as we arrived, Ruth opened the trailer door, saw poor Jack, and began to cry. She is not usually involved in the pick-up part of our cases, as she says she does better with the "happily ever after" part. She got another blanket out of her truck, spread it over Jack, and lay down with him to try to share some body heat. Dr. Pike got into the trailer to do an initial assessment and take vital signs.

Several clinic staff members assisted in unloading Jack onto a set of large cushions, which they then scooted along and placed Jack in a stall. Much easier than carrying him on a tarp! Warm IV fluids were started and blood was taken to determine what the next step would be. Jack seemed more alert and was eating feed out of Ruth's hand. At that point, we were all cautiously optimistic that everything would be all right.

As all of this was going on, Dianne was still standing quietly on the trailer, accepting feed by hand along with love pats. Dr. Pike gave her a quick assessment and deemed that she was strong enough to go to Ruth's farm. So we bid Jack good night and hit the road again. Fifteen minutes later, Dianne was led off the trailer and into a stall with a deep bed of pine shavings. She was blan-

keted and given fresh water and a little feed; no hay yet, as per doctor's orders. Ruth left on a "night light" for her, and Patty and I went home, exhausted.



Jack and Dianne - Part Two: The Road To Recovery

By Ruth Wilson

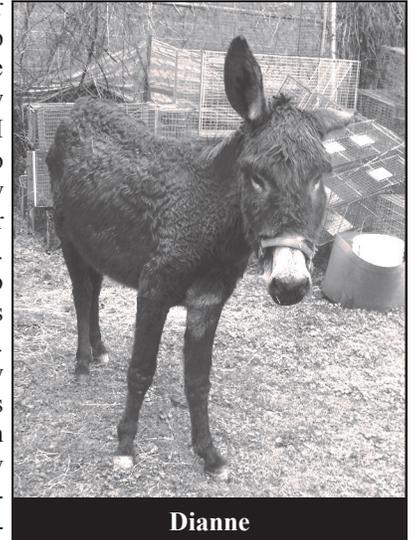
The next morning we each got the call we had anticipated and dreaded. Jack had lived through the night, but Dr. Pike had discovered that there was some sort of serious neurological issue. When lying on his right side, Jack could raise his head, semi-sit up, and eat a bit of feed. But when turned onto his left side, he was unable to move at all -- not even his ears. More than likely, he had either suffered an illness or injury that caused paralysis. Whether his condition might have been treatable had the owner not neglected him is unknown. But it was decided that Jack had no quality of life and no chance of recovery, so the decision was made, most reluctantly, to put him down. At least he spent the last night of his life in a warm stall, on a soft bed, with a blanket over him and some feed in his tummy. At least he knew, at the end, that someone cared.



When I heard the news, I went into Dianne's stall and cried into her soft fur. She was covered in pine shavings from her night in her warm bed, and she continuously nuzzled my hands and pockets for more food, more food, more food! Her ears were covered in scabs from a bad case of rain rot, but her thick luxurious coat hid all but the most prominent bones. In the light of day, and dry, Dianne didn't look like such a hopeless case! So we embarked on a slow, uneventful course of rehab -- several small meals a day, turnout in a small private paddock, unlimited access to her stall, and one daily serving of rich timothy-alfalfa hay.

she is a far better watchdog than the six canines here at the farm. While they will often doze through a car coming up the driveway, Dianne does no such thing. When a car turns in, she rushes to the fence and begins to bray! There is no sweeter sound in the world! Her personality just shines.

I am a lousy foster parent; I want to keep every animal that I come in contact with! My husband Tommy and I are quite attached to Dianne. But she already has an approved adopter waiting eagerly for her. The vet has given the go-ahead, saying that she is well enough to travel. The DeKalb County Animal Control Officers have given permission for her to go to a new home, with the understanding that the adoption won't be finalized



until the court case has slogged through the legal system. (DeKalb is one of the few counties that aggressively prosecutes animal abuse and neglect cases, and actually seeks financial restitution from offenders. GERL encourages more law enforcement agencies to follow DeKalb's lead. So many offenders are merely given a slap on the wrist, and in a few months they have acquired a whole new set of animals to neglect.) She may leave our farm, but she will never leave my heart. I know that both she AND Jack will be in a better place than that cold, muddy back yard.

"A little ditty..... 'bout Jack and Dianne....."



In the past few weeks, Dianne has made a remarkable recovery! Her ears are nice and soft now, and her belly is getting quite round! Her hipbones still protrude a bit, but she is gaining weight right on schedule. She loves people of all ages and treats of all kinds! Those big ears are the best at picking up even the faintest rustle of a peppermint wrapper! She has been an angel for both the vet and the farrier, and



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

Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?

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GDA and Other Updates

For those of you who like to know where GERL spends your donated dollars, below is an update since our last newsletter:

- ✓ GERL accepted a horse impounded by Murray County Animal Control into the foster program.
- ✓ GERL recently took two horses from the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture that didn't fit their curriculum.
- ✓ GERL accepted two horses impounded by Gwinnett Co. Animal Control into our foster program.
- ✓ GERL recently paid \$269 for the vet care of a lame filly at the Pulaski Prison Impound.
- ✓ GERL recently paid \$720 for hay for the Pulaski Prison Impound.
- ✓ GERL recently paid \$807 for the vet care for GDA horse Patches' eye enucleation.
- ✓ GERL recently paid \$600 for the vet care of four horses at the Mansfield Impound.
- ✓ GERL recently spent \$3,762 for a tractor trailer of hay for the GDA northern impounds.
- ✓ GERL recently spent \$352 on feed for the horses at the Lee Arrendale State Prison Impound.

'SUCCESS STORIES'

Georgia Department of Agriculture

This is Sunny, a 7 yr old sorrel grade stallion, when he entered into the GDA's impound program in December at one of our impound facilities.

He was 678 lbs when he arrived in and was very shy. Once he gained a few pounds, he was castrated. Another recipient of GERL's Stallions to Geldings Program! From there, he turned into an in your pocket kinda guy! He was affectionate, spunky and respectful to work with. Not knowing if he was ever ridden before coming to us, we treated him like we were starting a baby! He was amazing! He definitely had some training started on him. He was sold at our April Auction. He is working great at Silvercrowns Stables with Jessica Poynton. His new name is Peanut.

Above left is his arrival picture and below is his after picture, getting ready for a horse show in a costume class & at his new home in his pasture. Jessica let us know that he was excelling in his training and was jumping 2'3"! Go Peanut!!!





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Spring Trail Ride

To benefit the
GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.

<http://www.gerlltd.org>

APRIL 27-28, 2013

At Mingo Trails

3888 Little Sandy Creek Rd

Toomsboro, GA

GERL Members -- \$20
Non GERL Adults --\$25
Ages 7-16 -- \$10
Ages 6 and under free

- **Registration starts at 8:00 am**
- **Guided trail rides at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday**
- **Over 100 water and electrical hookups - \$10 per night**
- **Clean bathrooms and showers**
- **21 miles of fun trails!**
- **Pot Luck Dinner, Auction, and 50/50 Raffle Saturday Night - BYO Beverages**
- **Cowboy Church Sunday at 9 a.m.**
- **For more information email: Eddy O'Hern - edohern@bellsouth.net**

We Will Ride Rain or Shine
Negative Coggins and Signed Mingo Trails Liability Waiver REQUIRED!

“With Your Help...We Will Make a Difference”

GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information please contact Ruth Wilson, Adoption Coordinator (706) 342-4097 / gerladopt@gmail.com



Jessie is a 16 year old chestnut Thoroughbred gelding, 16.2 hh. This good-looking guy is sweet and loves attention; needs an experienced rider. Loads, stands for farrier.



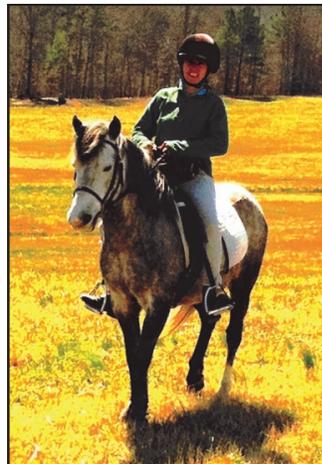
Meet Beau! He is a 20 year old black Tennessee Walking Horse gelding, sweet and rideable (light riding only). Beau needs a forever home with lots of love and someone to help build his confidence. He is a bit chunky in his picture, but he is getting into shape and is ready to be your best friend!



Rocky is an 11 hh yearling. He has a very sweet temperament and is an "in your pocket" pony. He loves attention and spending time with people. His is halter broken and is learning manners very well on the lead line. He is learning to stand quietly for the farrier.



This is Josey. He is a 25 year old appaloosa gelding, 15.3 hh. Josey is sweet and gentle, and is a great pasture companion. He is retired from trail riding, and could still be lightly ridden. Perfect for leading the grandkids around on his back!



Grayson is a handsome little dapple gray pony gelding, 11.2 hh. He is only five years old, but he is doing beautifully under saddle and would be perfect for an intermediate child rider. He is a bit green yet and can be pushy, but a confident child can handle him. He has been ridden English and has been on trail rides. Grayson is ready to be part of someone's family; he has so much potential! Won't you take him to the next level?



GERL ADOPTABLES

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Buddy is five years old and green broke. He is a sweet boy and just needs someone who has the time and skill to finish his training under saddle. Buddy has great ground manners, loads and loves people! Buddy is a QH type.



Alf is a 2 year old 13.3hh sorrel gelding with lots of personality! Will probably mature at around 14hh. He's an in-your-pocket kind of horse, and is always the first one to greet you. Alf has completed Parelli Level One horsemanship and is a very quick learner! Extremely curious and playful. Alf has recently started under saddle and is doing GREAT! He responds to pressure, backs, lunges, picks up his feet, and loads on a trailer without a problem. Level headed and has great movement with beautiful smooth gaits. Could go English or Western; lots of hunter/jumper or HUS potential. Alf will be a great horse for a teen or small adult. Whoever adopts this handsome boy will have a terrific equine partner!



Ginger -- 5 yr. old sorrel QH mare, 14.3 hh. Pretty girl with a sweet disposition! We are still in the process of evaluating this mare's level of training, but we do know that she has been ridden. Nice ground manners, loads well. Ginger just needs someone who is willing to spend time working with her.



Gracie is a sweet nine year old gray pony mare, around 14 hh. We have not evaluated her riding ability yet, but we have been told she is rideable.

Update on Patches the Paint

by Patty Livingston

Patches is a young paint mare who was picked up by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) a few months ago. She was skinny, of course, but she had also lost an eye and it didn't appear to have ever been treated by a vet. It was difficult to look at because it was oozing all of the time. Poor Patches really needed to have her eye surgically removed and stitched up, but this is a rather costly surgery, running close to one thousand dollars by the time all is said and done. The State does not have the budget to cover extra vet care for the horses impounded and rely heavily on donations and GERL.

GDA Equine Manager, Mat Thompson, contacted me about the possibility of GERL covering the costs of Patches' surgery to remove the eyeball, or what was left of it, and sew the lid shut. Of course, GERL is always happy to help the impounded horses. That's what we do. So, we gave the authorization and an appointment was scheduled for February 14th to remove the eye.

Patches' surgery was performed by Dr. Ross Kittrell and assisted by Dr. Rhonda Veit of New South Equine. The surgery went very well and Patches came through it like a champ. Thanks to the many supporters out there who donated toward Patches' new look. Isn't she beautiful?



Patches' Eye – Before



Patches' Eye – After



Patches – All better now and soon to be ready for a new home.

Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipes

HOLY COW CAKE

Rich, rich, rich!!!

- ✓ One Devils food cake mix, plus what ingredients it calls for.
- ✓ One tub Cool Whip, thawed.
- ✓ One jar caramel ice cream topping.
- ✓ One can sweetened condensed milk.
- ✓ Two full size Butterfinger candy bars, frozen and crushed.



Bake the cake according to the directions in a 9 x 13" pan. Once it is out of the oven, poke holes about an inch apart using a fork. Cool cake, then whisk together caramel ice cream topping with sweetened condensed milk. Pour about half that mixture over cake. Let it soak in a few minutes. Cover with Cool Whip, sprinkle with crushed Butterfingers, then drizzle with the rest of the caramel mixture. Refrigerate.

Best made at least 12 hours prior to serving.

Feed Bag Recipe Submissions

Do you have a wonderful, easy recipe that you would like to share?

Putting On the Feed Bag is a new section in our newsletter and we want your suggestions.

Please submit your recipe to:
recipes@gerlltd.org

2013 GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars Now!*

Spring Trail Ride

April 27-28, 2013

Mingo Trails
Toombsboro, Ga

Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

May 3-4 & 5, 2013

Round Oak, Ga

Exhibition Polo Match

July 14, 2013

Chukkar Farms, Alpharetta, Ga.

Fright Fest

October 18, 19 & 20

Location TBA

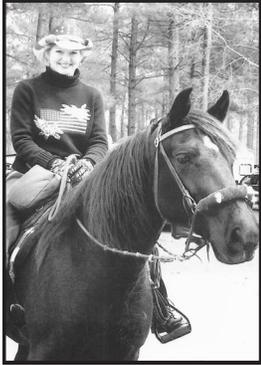
Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

Visit our website to download flyers and directions to some of these events.



LET ME SAY THIS ... ABOUT THAT

By *Patty Livingston, President*



There was a news report on TV recently that showed extremely emaciated horses being picked up by the Department of Agriculture's Equine Division. They picked up eleven horses and brought them back to one of their four impounds. It was one of the first legal im-

poundments that the State has done in a few years. Most of the time they don't have to go that route because the problem is so rampant with unwanted horses that most neglectors sign them over to the state or county, hoping to avoid prosecution.

With over ten million horses in this country today, things have to be done differently than in the past. The GDA must be able to sell the horses they impound within 3 or 4 months, or as soon as they are rehabilitated. We already know that if it doesn't ride, it doesn't sell. GERL is paying the majority of the costs for all of the horses impounded by the GDA today. What would we do if they started swooping in and picking up large numbers of skinny horses and taking them back to the state impounds to vet and feed as so many people think they should? We do not have unlimited funds to provide to them to take care of excessive numbers of horses. The eleven horses that were impounded recently will cost an estimated \$6500 to rehabilitate. That includes feed, hay and vet care for four months. Think about what a herd of twenty or more could cost. It's scary.

It is imperative that negligent horse owners are made to take care of their horses instead of the government or rescues doing it for them. The state has inspectors who can check on the condition of skinny horses to make sure that the owner is complying. They are very responsive and can usually check on the condition of a horse within two or three days after being reported. The public can help keep an eye on horses in their communities,

too. Sometimes the offender will start feeding his horses because he knows he's being watched and will get reported if he doesn't. Once a dead beat owner figures out that they are going to have to feed their horses or go to jail, many times they will let a concerned inquirer take the horse(s) off of their hands. It never ceases to amaze me how many people step up to take a poor horse from somebody who isn't taking care of it properly. God bless the folks out there who do that so willingly and so often. They are part of the solution, however small.

This is how things need to work with the overwhelming number of neglected horses there are today. And, especially with equine owners who have large herds that cannot or will not feed them regularly. We must be the eyes and ears for these poor creatures that are unlucky enough to be owned by such a person and impoundment by the state and counties should be the last resort and performed only when an owner is non-compliant and the horse(s) are in eminent danger.

And, let me say this about that...WE need to be the ones to help communicate this message to the public and especially those who bash the GDA equine program. They are doing exactly what needs to be done...educating and making people accountable. The GDA equine program is a very important component of our "Equine Get Well Plan" and we need to ensure that it stays in place by supporting it! Georgia is one of few states who have equine inspectors and vehicles with which to operate. I am proud of the work that they do and GERL is proud to support them. Also, they are our partner with the training of law enforcement and animal control officers all over Georgia. We are seeing a difference in what is happening out in the field. More and more counties are starting to get a little more involved and a little tougher about prosecuting people who starve horses. It is very exciting to witness the progress we've seen in just the past four years. Of course, there's still a long way to go. My prediction...fasten your chin straps and get ready to witness more attention on animal abusers and neglectors in the future!

The One and Only Starr!

By Linda Kundell

Well, maybe not the one and only but he is the only Starr at my house. He's tall, rangy, and wants to be loved. He tries to be Dee's friend. She really doesn't want anything to do with him. He wants to be Jake and JoJo's friend. Lots of luck on that one. They actually chase him away.

Marian and I picked Starr up on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. That was a fun trip. We GOT LOST. I mean, really, we missed one turn and it was miles to go before you find the darn place! Of course, being women we had no problem stopping and asking for help.

When I bring a new horse in they go into a pasture across from the other horses. They talked and talked. My husband wasn't sure that we would get any sleep but to me it's music. I'm pretty sure that they told him to stay over there and mind his own business. He did.

He was thin but not terrible. I got some Godfrey's Miracle food for him. The Bar G owner told me that lots of horses don't like it and it takes a while for them to get used to the taste. No problem with Starr, he is eating like it's his last meal. He seemed to love it from the first bite.

He really needs some TLC (tender loving care for those who don't know). I gave him attention, patting, talking and picking up feet, etc. After a while I put Dee in with him. She wanted nothing to do with him (truth is that she doesn't want anything to do with any horse!). He tried once to get her food but he listens very well to humans and I told him no or was it the pinned back ears on Dee? He behaved. Then I decided to put him with the other two geldings and the mare since all they were doing was running the fence line. They get a long fine now. My three said stay over on that side of the pasture and do not get any closer and he said that's fine with me!!

He and I have had some communication problems. I wanted him to go though the Pole Barn with Dee to get to the other horses. He thought that the barn would eat him. Really funny to me since he had gone into the other barn and into a stall and had eaten his grain. So there he is calling to the other horses and they are running for all they are worth and he stands there looking at me like "I can't go through the barn. It will eat me."

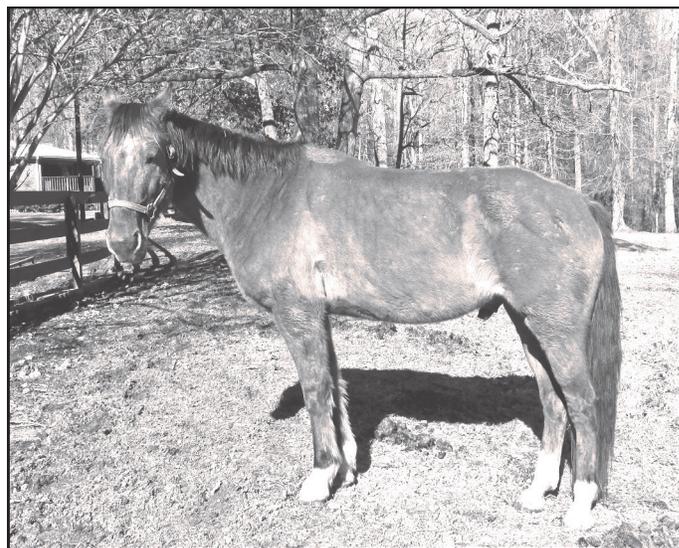


He was willing to be led so I took him in and out and turned him loose. Of course, the next day they were all running back and forward and having a good time.

It has been raining (believe me I'm not complaining!!) at my place almost since he got here. Not enough for me and my pastures but enough to keep me from doing much with him. He's about 15 hands (maybe bigger, my horses are 15 hands and he just seems bigger).

I had my farrier out recently. He did my three and Starr. My three just stand and pick up their feet as he moves to a different foot. Then we did Starr. He backed up a couple of times but my farrier is really good and just patted and talked to him. Starr looked at him, gave a sigh and just stood there. What a good boy. He has gained a little weight and he is getting really good about walking up to me and then I lead him to the place where he eats. (I say he loves me and my husband says he knows that food is coming! Now I wonder who is right?) His coggins says he is a Quarter Horse. I'm not good at knowing what breed a horse is. My farrier thought maybe some Thoroughbred. He's a tallish bay and he's turning out to be a very nice size and temperament. Since the rain stopped for a bit (I want more!) I have been able to groom him and pick up feet, look at his teeth and do a little leading around. My grandchildren were here and the 11 year old who rides spent some time with him. He was calm and quiet with her.

I really want a good home for him when he's ready. He needs to work under saddle and be ridden. He's the right size for an adult or an older child. My husband has already said that three horses are enough. To me, it's sort of like potato chips; you can't just have one, or two or three!!



Feed A Horse Program

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!

**"Feed a Horse"
Program**

www.gerlltd.org

Name: _____

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

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

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

THANK YOU!

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

The Story of Lil Bit and Her Lucky Day

by Patty Livingston

We recently received a call on the GERL hotline from a lady named Kim who had found a horse running “at large” on a long dirt road known to be a favorite to people who dump their animals. Kim was able to catch the horse, a healthy-looking mare that had a wound to her head, and put her on a trailer and take her back to her farm where several other “rescues” currently live. Kim is the person her county animal control and law enforcement officers call if they have a horse issue and she has been rescuing horses for thirty-seven years. Kim contacted the county animal control about the horse and they told her that they received a call about a horse at large two weeks previous, so she thought that the horse had been loose at least that long. The mare was dehydrated when Kim found her, but surprisingly, was not a starvation case, like so many others. What she did learn was that “Lil Bit” was not even broke to a halter when she picked her up!

Kim called GERL requesting assistance with veterinary expenses for the mare. She thought that the wound on the mare’s head may actually be a gunshot wound, but wasn’t sure. The horse was having difficulty eating and she suspected it may have something to do with the wound. The GERL Board of Directors voted to help Kim with the vet expenses and she made the appointment to take Lil’ Bit in to her vet within a

few days.

Upon examination, the vet determined that it was not a bullet that made the hole beside Lil’ Bit’s ear. He thought that she may have taken a blow to the jaw and it had abscessed from the ear area. He gave Kim medicine for the wound and floated her teeth, after discovering some very sharp points. He aged Lil’ Bit at three years old.

According to a recent conversation with Kim, Lil Bit’s head has almost healed now, and she is starting to look for a forever home for her where she will be loved and cared for. If you or someone you know would be interested in adopting Lil’ Bit please contact Kim @ kimberdmorr@hotmail.com.



Walton County 4H Drill Team Donates to Impounded Horses

By Patty Livingston

During the Christmas holidays the Walton County 4H Drill Team, under Coach Jennifer Wood, decided to collect items to donate to the impounded horses in the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s Equine program instead of exchanging gifts with each other. All of the kids were eager to participate in this worthwhile idea. We were able to obtain a “wish list” from the impound barns of items that were needed most. That list contained feed buckets, de-wormers, shampoo, detangler, horses treats and fly spray. The 4H Drill Team purchased items from the list and gathered them all together and delivered them to GERL for disbursement to the impounds. I drove out to one of the impounds with all of the donated goods shortly after eleven emaciated horses were impounded by the State. I was met by GDA Inspector, Jessie Murray, who was very happy to receive all of the goodies. We immediately opened the bag of horse treats and went to the stalls containing some of the new wards. One very large double

stall held two young horses whom we had a hard time leaving. They were so cute and LOVED horse treats! We could have stayed right there and emptied the bag, except that there were others in the barn nickered to get their share. After giving out a few nuggets to each we put the goodies away for another time.

Thank you so much to Coach Jenn Wood and all of the Walton County 4H team for your thoughtful and generous donation! The wormers and supplies are something they can always use. With your help, we are making a difference!





GERL Merchandise

Ladies Polo's
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White,
Light Blue,
Yellow Haze,
Heather



Men's Polo Shirts
S-XL \$18.00
XXL \$20.00
White, Light Blue,
Yellow Haze, Heather
Grey



Youth Sweatshirt Navy
M-XL \$15.00



T-Shirts - 100% pre-shrunk
cotton. S-XXL All sizes \$10.00
Blue Spruce, Cactus Green
River Blue, Khaki



Ladies contoured fit, cap
sleeve, ribbed T. 90% cotton,
10% poly. S-XL. \$10.00.
Deep Heather, Raspberry,
Black



Adult Vest Black
13.5oz., 100% spun
poly. Lycra trimmed
armholes and hem.
Front pockets. XS-XXL All
sizes \$27.00



Adult L.S. T's 100% pre-shrunk cotton.
S-XL \$15.00 XXL \$18.00
Black, Cobblestone, Chocolate
and Cardinal Red



Ladies Denim L.S. Shirt,
6.5oz., 100% cotton.
S-XL \$25.00
XXL \$27.00
Stone Wash Blue



Men's Denim L.S. Shirt,
with front pocket,
6.5oz., 100% cotton.
M-XL \$25.00
XXL \$27.00
Stone Wash Blue



Otto 6 panel, low profile
caps. \$15.00
A MUST HAVE!!
Dark Olive, Pumpkin,
Light Pink
Dark Brown (not shown)



Ladies contoured feminine
body. Super soft 1 by 1 baby
ribbed knit, 5.8oz. 100%
combed ringspun cotton.
Chocolate, Navy, Pink and
Light Blue.
S-XL \$16.00 XXL \$18.00



Adult T-Shirt Horse
Logo 100% pre-
shrunk cotton.
M-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00



Youth T's. 100% preshrunk
cotton. Grey is 90/10. S-XL
\$6.00 - Royal Blue, Black,
Heather Grey



Horse Logo
Ladie's Combed Ringspun
T- Shirts
S-XL \$12.00
XXL \$14.00 - XXXL \$16.00
Iris, Banana, Pink, Cantaloupe



Visit our website to place an order: <http://www.gerlltd.org>

HAPPY ENDINGS – KYRA AND ROSIE

Written by Suzy Kersey

I came across the GERL website for the first time when browsing the internet one afternoon. When looking at the horses for adoption, Kyra caught my eye but I moved on. Five minutes later, I was back at the page, then moved on again. Fifteen minutes later, I was calling my husband Don to tell him about Kyra....then calling back to ask about taking Rosie too....and the rest is history. Knowing Kyra needed a special setting because of her fetlock deformity, but seeing the healthy condition of both of the horses, I first thought that some well-meaning owner had placed them with GERL to find them a new home. Although happy to have such beautiful horses coming, we had hoped we'd be able to adopt some horses that really needed a lot of love and care. We did not learn their story until the day Patty and Miss Anne delivered them to us. We were speechless.

Rosie and Kyra are doing wonderfully in their new home as they are showered with love, laughter, understanding....and carrots! They have four pasture companions - three horses and a small molly mule - and all have 25 acres of good pasture to roam.

Rosie is now called "Layne" in honor of Alaina Mills of Charleston, SC. Alaina is a very special, compassionate 12 year old young lady with a deep love of horses and a desire to help them. Kyra is now "Beth" in honor of Bethlehem Ga, the home of GERL.

Layne and Beth's new family members are not newcomers to animal rescue, often coming across an animal in need and making the owners an offer (we traded a car for a horse once) or stepping in to help fill a gap in an animal's care. We have both worked with wildlife rehabilitation under DNR permit in the past as well, with Don doing his first unofficial rehab as a 12 year old boy successfully treating and releasing a hawk that he found who had been shot. He says he "just did what needed to be done." I say "he still does." We plan to continue their involvement with GERL, and hope to be able to provide foster or adoptive care for more horses in the future.

My heart has always been with horses and I especially love working with ground level care for the ones needing special attention and love. A friend was admiring our current 'baby

pictures' of Layne and Beth and came across one that Patty sent from the day Layne was rescued. Our friend's comment was "Oh no! WHO is that?!?" And that about says it all...

The thing is, when we first saw the same picture, our immediate reaction was the same as our friend's, then we saw Layne's eyes and thought, "There she is!" Beneath all the abuse and starvation and pain, our Layne was in there, waiting.

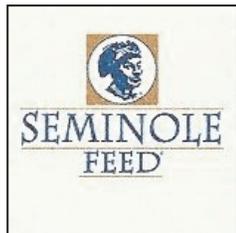


We are so grateful to GERL for rescuing these girls and especially to their foster mom for all the incredible work she did in helping them learn to trust again...you know who you are!"

Don adds, "These horses, donkeys and mules have endured what most people could not - and to still be able to forgive and learn to trust and love all over again takes the heart of a true champion. Their courage is humbling. We feel honored to have them in our lives.

For all who made the effort to rescue and restore Layne and Beth, and for all who supported the ones on the front lines, please accept our heartfelt thanks. You can rest assured that they have a forever home with us, and the rest of their lives will be filled only with gentle voices, soft hands, lots of hugs, plenty of food, solid shelter....and, yes, lots and lots of carrots!"





Seminole Feed Donates to GERL and GDA

By Patty Livingston

I received a phone call from a representative of Seminole Feed shortly after a news story hit TV about the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division impounding eleven emaciated horses. I had just updated the GERL Facebook page with updates on the horses and requested help in the way of donations for their care. What a nice surprise to learn that Seminole Feed, based out of Florida, actually has a grant program where they will donate up to four bags of Seminole Feed per horse, per month. I quickly gathered the paperwork that they required and mailed it to their Florida headquarters. Within a few days I received another phone call letting me know that GERL's grant had been approved and the Seminole Feed dealer located closest to the impound would be ordering forty-four bags of senior feed which could be picked up within a few days. How nice it is to know that there are large corporations out there who sponsor programs to help starved and abused horses. Please take the time to thank Seminole Feed for this very important grant program on behalf of GERL and the Georgia Department of Agriculture!

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

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 success-
ful 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 auc-
tions? It's tax deductible and benefits a great
cause.

Thanks You In Advance For Your Support!

If you have items to donate or
have additional questions please contact:
Sue Wrensen / (770) 331-6947
swrensen@comcast.net

Editor's Note

In our previous newsletter we reported on GERL's Georgia Annual Castration Day. In fact, it was the cover story. We listed all of the Georgia equine veterinarians who participated in this important program and inadvertently left off Dr. Melissa Fulton of Fulton Equine Clinic located in Griffin. Dr. Fulton has participated in this program both years we've hosted it. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Fulton and all of the vets who gave of their time and efforts to support this very important program. Without YOU this would not be possible.

Training Tip: Rescued horses don't need to be treated any differently

By Clinton Anderson

Don't treat a rescued horse any differently than any other horse. Making excuses and special allowances for an abused horse's bad behavior will only limit him, while treating him the same as any other horse will actually accelerate his progress. All horses are looking for a leader that will keep them safe, but while horses are natural followers, they only want to follow a leader they respect and trust. Every day your horse will test you to see if you deserve to lead him, which means that you have to be worthy of your leadership role. You have to prove to him that you can move his feet forwards, backwards, left and right and are always willing to reward the slightest try. All of the exercises in my Method are geared toward developing a relationship, building trust and earning the respect of a horse. For that reason, it's the perfect remedy for horses that have been abused and neglected by humans. Although abuse is a terrible thing, once a horse is brought back to health, treating him just the same as you would treat any other horse breaks the cycle of abused-



related behavior and sets you on the track to enjoying a great partnership. It's absolutely amazing to see how quickly the horse will start to trust and respect you if you treat him like any other horse.

Note: Many Clinton Anderson fans receive his periodic Down Under Horsemanship blog via the internet. This one was certainly something that those of us who are absorbed in horse rescue, should find interesting. It is re-printed here with Clinton's permission.



Bar G Horse & Cattle Supply Donates to GERL

Big thanks go out to Bobby and Donna Griggs, owners of Bar G Horse & Cattle Supply of Bishop, Georgia, for donating fifteen bags of horse feed and a box full of nice items for the GERL auctions. We were in a desperate situation with obtaining nice live auction items for our next weekend fund raiser, so receiving these items was truly a blessing! Ten bags of the feed have been given to the Department of Agriculture to be used at their Mansfield impound where they have the largest number of horses to feed. GERL will keep five of the bags of feed for our foster program. Please let the folks at Bar G know how much we appreciate their support by supporting them!

5th Annual GENE ENSMINGER MEMORIAL RIDE TO BENEFIT THE GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE

May 3, 4 & 5, 2013

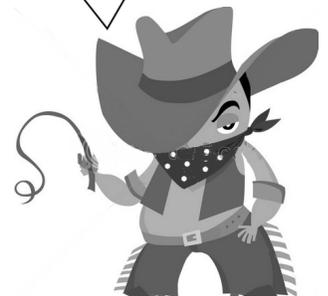
Fundraiser to be held at the farm of Ron & Adriane Cook, Round Oak, GA., near Monticello & Hillsboro.

- Cross Country riding in the Oconee National Forest
- Bring a dish and join us for Pot Luck Dinner Friday Night
- Breakfast Sat. AM, Dinner Sat. PM and Breakfast Sunday AM included!
- Live Music & Dance on Saturday Night
- Live Auction Saturday Night with Mickey Farmer - Famous Auctioneer!
- Silent Auction on Saturday
- Limited Power and water hook-ups available
- Plenty of primitive camping
- High ties provided with power sites, pens o.k.
- GERL Merchandise will be for sale on site
- Please pre-register—space goes quickly!!
- Two night minimum for electric sites
- Rain or shine!



Contact Anne Ensminger @ 770-464-3348 or missanne612@bellsouth.net for more info. Registration forms available on our website: www.gerlltd.org

Start packin' up, honey! We're gonna have a blast!



Registration Form—Gene Ensminger Memorial Ride

If registered before April 19th:
 GERL Members: Adults \$55 / Children 12 & under \$ 25
 Non-Members: Adults \$65 / Children 12 & under \$30
If registered April 19th or after:
 GERL Members: Adults \$65 / Children 12 & under \$30
 Non-Members: Adults \$75 / Children 12 & under \$35

There are a limited amount of power and non-potable water hook-ups, sites will be assigned as registration forms are received.

All reservations must be made on this form through GERL, please do not call Ron & Adriane Cook!
 For further information, please contact Anne Ensminger, 770-464-3348 or missanne612@bellsouth.net
 Additional forms available on our website: www.gerlltd.org



All attendees must register, riders and non-riders alike!
Single & non-family members, please register separately.
See website for additional forms: gerlltd.org

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Negative Coggins Required
Two night minimum for power sites.

<i>Adult Campers/GERL Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$55 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Adult Campers/ Non-Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$65 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Children/GERL Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$25 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Children/Non-Members</i>	_____	<i>X \$30 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>Power & Water Site</i>	_____	<i>X \$20 per night</i>	=	_____
<i>Primitive Camping</i>	_____	<i>X \$10 per night</i>	=	_____
<i>Coming Sat. nite ONLY: Dinner, Auction</i>	_____	<i>X \$15 ea.</i>	=	_____
<i>After April 19th: Late registration fees: Add \$10/adult and \$5/child</i>			=	_____
		<i>Total Amount Due</i>	=	_____
		<i>50 % deposit non-refundable deposit</i>	=	_____
		<i>Amount Due at Check-In</i>	=	_____

Please make checks payable to: GERL
Mail to: P.O. Box 328 * Bethlehem, GA 30620

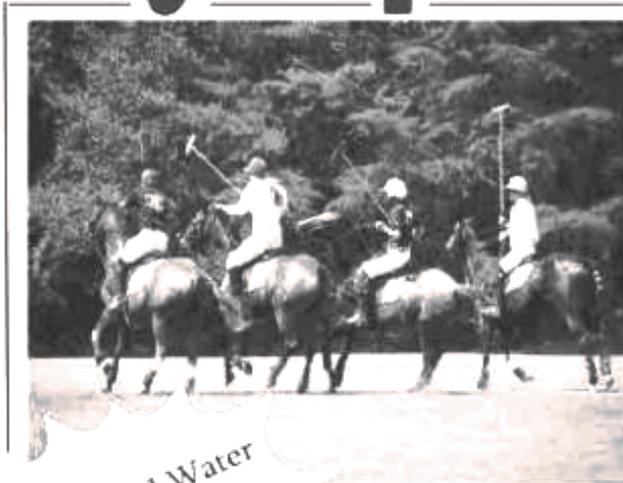
**GERL MEMBER, JACK CASHIN
OF CHUKKAR FARM AND POLO CLUB**

is again hosting an

Exhibition Polo Match

All Proceeds to Benefit

Georgia Equine Rescue League



COME ON OUT AND ENJOY THE FUN!

BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND A PICNIC BASKET.

ENJOY WATCHING EXPERT HORSEMANSHIP.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXCITING SPORT!

Cold Bottled Water
and Soft Drinks
Available

\$15 Gate Fee
Free Parking

SILENT AUCTION



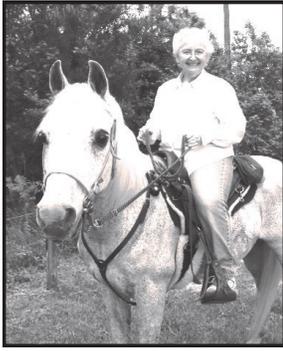
Date: Sunday, July 14, 2013

Time: Gate opens @ 1 PM Match @ 2 PM

Where: Chukkar Farm and Polo Club

1140 Liberty Grove Rd. Alpharetta, GA

Driving Directions: <http://www.chukkarfarm.com>



A Note from the Secretary's

By Anne Ensminger

In my last Secretary's Desk article, I wrote about some of the calls received on the GERL phone line. One of the calls involved Sally, an aged white mare living in the back yard of a home, near mine, in a subdivision. This situation was personal to me as I often passed

the home and viewed the old mare standing confined within an electric fence in the small back yard. It was far from an adequate situation for a horse. Day after day, Sally stood out in the sun, the wind, or the rain, and was slowly losing weight. I knew the owners had little knowledge about the care of horses and the mare was a constant concern for me. I soon learned that others were also concerned and had joined me in reporting the situation to GDA and local animal control. Both agencies had sent representatives to the property and tried to teach the owner what would be required to maintain a horse. That is part of the course an investigation such as this, must take. It is difficult for observers to stand by and wait to see if the owners are responsive.

I spoke with the owner and, as you may recall, was told that he had acquired the horse as the result of a short conversation outside our local Walmart, with a man he hardly knew, who asked if he liked horses. The next thing he knew, he had "Sally" in his back yard. This being a grown man, a husband, a father, and unemployed, it was difficult for me to sympathize with his stupidity in accepting the responsibility of care for a horse when he did not have facilities or even minimal knowledge concerning how to provide such care.

After bringing this case before the GERL Board of Directors, of which I am a member, I did not get the solution for which I hoped. They felt that Sally's owner should face some kind of penalty and that GERL should not just swoop in and take Sally off of his hands. This man did something stupid and there must be consequences for stupid! The GERL Board often has to face the sad fact that cases like this cannot end with neglectful owners simply being relieved of their burden. Foster homes are precious and few. Besides that, we have a duty to be good stewards of the funds that GERL is able to accumulate. Punishment for mean or stupid actions of horse owners is about the only way we can ever hope to make thoughtless and STUPID people think before they obtain horses for which they are unable to care. While I understood the Board's view, and even agreed with them, the old white mare with very sad eyes, continued to stand in that back yard with not a blade of grass in sight, and lose weight.

Thankfully, my fellow Board members agreed to set up a limited account at the local feed store so that this owner could obtain feed and hay for the mare until HE was able to re-home her. That is often the way that GERL initially handles such situations. Unbelievably, it usually works out for the horses

involved. I took a deep breath and was happy to have some time to help find a solution for this horse which, I truly HOPED did not involve her moving to my farm.....but that was my "bottom line".

Two weeks later, after reading my Secretary's Desk article and realizing that she shared my concerns about the very same horse; I received a call from Barbara Argo. Barbara had also passed by this mare many times on her way to and from her farm over the past few months. Her heart was heavy each time she looked for the mare as she drove by. If the mare was hidden from view, Barbara shared my fear that perhaps she had died.

When I received the call from Barbara about Sally, I was elated! After learning that she was a long time GERL member and was willing to give the mare a home, she and I immediately went into action. I called the mare's owner and arranged to have the mare signed over to GERL (with the Board's blessing). Barbara and husband, Nelson, agreed to bring their trailer and get Sally within the next few days. Sally hopped on that trailer so fast; we all had to jump back! She was outta there! We took Sally by Countryside Hospital for Animals and obtained a Coggins, vaccinations, and a physical exam which revealed that the mare was over 25 years old but showed no signs of lameness or other physical problems other than an age appropriate swayed back.

Sally spent that night in the Argo's lovely pasture which contains a run-in shed to shield her from the wind, rain and sun. There are other horses, rescued by Barbara, Nelson, and their teen aged daughter, Katie, in the adjoining pasture. All look fat and well cared for.

Yes, this was a perfect end to this story and a perfect situation for Sally. All she will ever be required to do will be to come and accept the food offered by the Argo family twice each day until her LAST day.



Finally! A Forever Home for Rosie and Kyra

By Anne Ensminger

Rosie and Kyra are two Arabian mares which have been in GERL Foster Care for quite a long time. Rosie is estimated to be about 7 years old and Kyra about 14. Rosie is Kyra's daughter. Neither horse had experienced more than barely adequate human interaction before they came into our care. They came with several other Arabians from a hoarding situation where the owners allowed their horses to breed year after year with absolutely no plans for the future of the resulting foals. Both mares, in addition to having had no training, were found to have a congenital deformity of the hocks which would preclude their ever becoming riding horses.

The mares are both very beautiful. To this day they are inseparable. They are suspicious of humans but seem to feel fairly comfortable when facing new situations if they are together. Over the time they were in GERL's care, they were fostered by some very patient and loving people. They learned to lead, have their feet worked with and to accept grooming. Still, we were very aware that they were not going to be easy to place, especially since we were very hopeful that they might go to the same home.

Then suddenly.....came an answer to our prayers! We were contacted by Suzi and Don Kersey, new GERL members, who expressed an interest in adopting both horses! After receiving their adoption application, approving their facility, and meeting these wonderful folks, we were very excited for Rosie and Kyra.

Patty Livingston and I drove the 160 miles to pick up the mares at the home of Michelle Williams in Spalding County (foster home) and deliver them to Suzi and Don Kersey in Emanuel County.

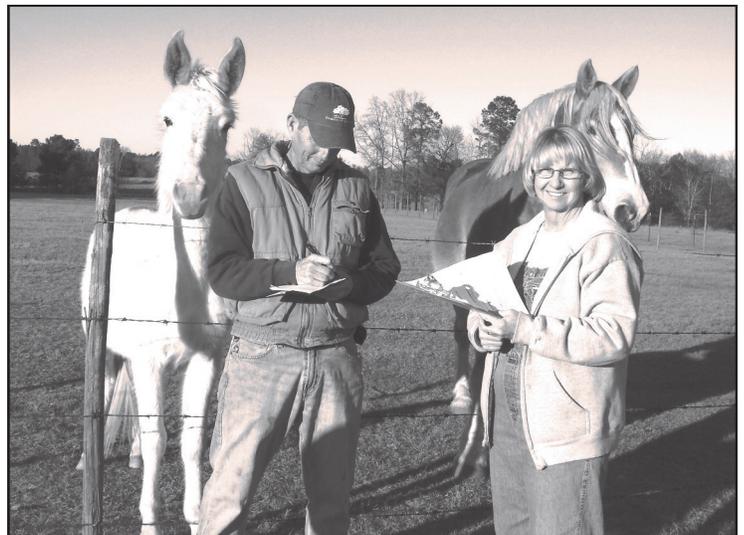
After a short visit with Michelle and the joy of seeing her beautiful Gypsy Vanner horses, we were ready to face getting Rosie and Kyra on the trailer, a chore we had all been dreading. Much to our surprise, we had them loaded in a matter of minutes! It was if they understood that they were headed to a forever home that was going to be perfect, and we were certain that they were very comforted to face such a wonderful future TOGETHER!

After about 4 hours on the trailer, both horses were a bit wobbly as they disembarked into a beautiful pasture and saw, for the first time, several other horses (including a small white, very friendly mule and a HUGE Draft mare, also very friendly), previously rescued by the Kersseys. There was a lovely new barn with stalls for each of them.

Don and Suzi are near retirement age and have little interest in riding. They simply enjoy caring for horses and working together to build and maintain their lovely farm.

As I watched them interact with their horses and heard each of them use the words "quiet" and "gentle" several times, I realized that they intended to provide a true sanctuary for their adopted family of horses and that is exactly what it will take to ensure that Rosie and Kyra will thrive. Both Patty and I felt very satisfied about leaving these two very fortunate mares in such a place.

We have received several updates on the girls since we delivered them to the Kersseys and they absolutely adore Kyra and Rosie, who have been renamed to Beth and Layne. Suzi reports that they are able to go out into the pasture and pet the horses without the need for a halter or lead rope. These two lucky girls have found a piece of heaven and they know it!



G.E.R.L. Annual Meeting

By Anne Ensminger

We all look forward to the GERL Annual Meeting each January as it gives us a chance to meet and greet old and new friends. It is also a time when we learn just how we are doing as an organization. We receive a full financial report as well as updates on all of our activities and events for the preceding year. An always highly anticipated treat comes in the form of the pot luck meal served during our meeting. Many GERL members are great cooks and they make a special effort to bring something very tasty.



Marge Mabey, Margaret Clower and Jaye

This year was particularly remarkable because it was the twentieth such affair. How can it be that GERL has been in existence for that many years? It seems like only a few years ago that I first heard of a new organization made up of a handful of ladies who had a great concern for the plight of many horses in our state. I remember thinking that I would like to be a part of that group. Little did I know that Georgia Equine Rescue League would eventually become the main focus of my interests, my time, and my thoughts? I am, by no means, the only member with a real passion for the work of GERL. The organization has grown to a membership of hundreds and now, thankfully, includes men and young people, as well as the ladies.

The meeting has been held at the Lions Club in Winder for the past few years. It seems to be a central location and is large enough to accommodate the growing number of those attending.

Our President, Patty Livingston, gave an overview of the past year's projects and accomplishments. Her video presentation described the Multi County Meetings GERL sponsors for the purpose of introducing local law enforcement and animal control personnel to our organization. These meetings are always well attended and the officers seem to enjoy the speak



Pat Allen, Jessie Parker, Sharyn Canady, Debbie Whitworth and Marian Finko

ers we provide. They leave with a new sense of the extent of the need for their help in seeing that equine abuse in Georgia does not go unpunished.

Patty was also happy to report on the success of our second Annual Stallion to Gelding Day in November. The event is growing in popularity and the number of veterinarians participating is heartwarming. That number tells us that the vets agree with the importance of encouraging stallion owners to have their animals castrated.

The need for new members and more volunteers was greatly stressed. GERL is being invited to speak at more public gatherings and provide more information booths than ever. Realizing the need for members to be equipped to volunteer for these events, Lynne Yates brought materials and showed us how to make an information board to show the public what GERL does.



Area Coordinator Director Debora Hines teaches the Area Coordinator Training class before the annual meeting starts.

...Continued from page 26

...Continued from page 25

We were told that GERL now attends all GDA auctions and we have begun to provide a food concession at those events. Volunteers to cook and sell food are essential and greatly appreciated. Besides that, it's FUN!

Two very meaningful and helpful things happened in 2012 that had a great impact on our success. First, we received a \$10,000 grant from ASPCA to help with our Stallion to Gelding project. Second, Dallas McCade of Atlanta's Kicks Country Radio wanted to do something to help get the word out about GERL. She (at her own expense) produced a video promoting our mission. It can be seen on the GERL website and will be used in other ways as publicity for GERL. We are very grateful for both.

Of course, we still hold several important fund raisers each year and they were quite successful this past year. There are plans for even more such events for the coming year.

In addition to our live auction fund raisers, we now hold flea markets at certain events. It is amazing how ANYTHING donated to GERL will sell at some price and it all adds up to more help for more horses!

We were informed that GERL now buys the majority of the feed and hay needed for GDA impounded horses at all of their impound facilities. We also pick up most of their veterinary expenses. In this way, we hope to enable them to impound more of the starved and/or abused horses they encounter, in spite of their limited budget.

Even though it was a beautiful day for riding, our Annual Meeting was well attended; we hope that everyone left with a full tummy and the knowledge that GERL is here to stay. Our members are devoted to our cause and prove it each time they are called upon to volunteer.



We had approximately 40 people attend the GERL Annual Meeting.



GERL Vice President Eddy O'Hern

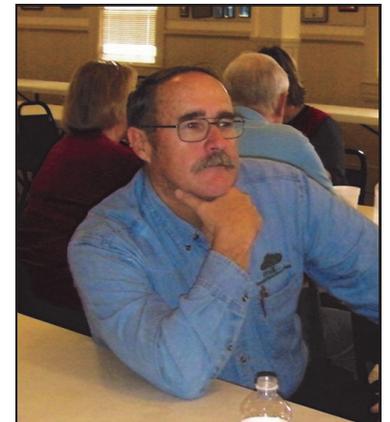
GERL Names New Chaplain "George Lilley"

A chaplain is an institutional minister who works outside the traditional church setting. Chaplains may serve a variety of cultures and religions within organizations such as hospitals, or in this case, a non-profit organization like GERL whose membership believes in the power of prayer and often depends on faith, with a sprinkling of hard work, to insure that we are able to continue to care for God's most wonderful creatures.

The GERL Board of Directors was recently contacted by active member, and recently ordained minister, George Lilley who requested the opportunity to serve as GERL's Chaplain. While we always hold a brief "Cowboy Church" service at our weekend events, we had never had an official Chaplain. We were excited to accept his offer and look forward to his guidance in the years to come.

George, and wife Janice, have become an important part of our efforts to expand the GERL presence south of the metro area. They have promoted our cause by representing GERL at many events where a GERL information booth is requested. Always a huge attraction at such gatherings is their beautiful Haflinger gelding, Goldie.

Please be sure to welcome George, as the new GERL Chaplain when you see him at our events. Don't forget Janice and Goldie who are also important GERL representatives!



After The Auction...

Written by Lynne Robinson Yates

Over the past year, I have volunteered at several GDA auctions. As most of you know, GERL supports the activities of the GDA by providing feed, hay and vet care to the horses in their possession. At each auction, we set up a booth and sell merchandise as well as cook hot dogs and hamburgers. While I am at the auction, I try to introduce myself to the people who are taking home the horses. I give them my GERL business card and ask them to stay in touch so that I can get an update on the horse(s). For this edition of our newsletter, I have several updates.

This is a picture of Twister. He has a big bow on him because he was a birthday present to Natalee, the young lady in the picture. Twister was actually auctioned several years ago. He changed hands several times and ultimately became a lesson horse. Teresa Dula's daughter began taking lessons and she fell in love with Twister. He was up for sale, so Teresa bought him for her daughter. Teresa heard through the grapevine that I wanted to get updates on the GDA horses, so she sent me an email about Twister. He now lives on a 162 acre ranch with other horses and is a very happy horse. He even has his own Facebook page. Teresa assures me that Twister much loved and is in his forever home.



such bad shape. Despite being the biggest guy at the stable, he's a big softie. The other horses did pick on him at first (even the mini pony chased him off after running right under him!) but I think he's starting to realize his size and holds his own. We've been doing a ton of work-basics like stopping, backing up, and turning. I'm riding him both English and western, but he has a lot of potential to be a great hunter jumper. He gets really excited when he gets to jump, and his size is a huge plus. His ground manners are amazing. He takes his bit without hesitation, and he picks up his feet and loads easily. For such a young horse, he's really a sweetie. He's definitely a people lover. He follows everyone around and just loves to hang with us, even when the other horses are out. Everyone loves Phoenix.

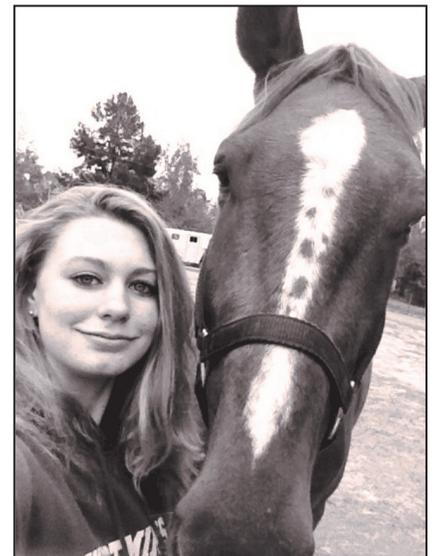
I really want to thank Teresa, Jodie and Ariel for sending me these updates. I really love these stories. I also want to invite you to attend the next GDA auction. We could use your help at the GERL booth, or come and buy a hot dog or a T-Shirt. The proceeds from our food and merchandise sales go right back into providing for more horses being cared for by the GDA. The more we sell, the more horses we can help.



My next update is about Buckshot and Monty. They were bought by Jodie Brown at a GDA auction about a year ago. Jodie recently sent me an email letting me know that her two boys are doing great. She said that they are both great riding horses. They are in a pasture with Jodie's two miniature donkeys as well as her other horse Zippy. She said that Buckshot and Monty have really bonded and they love being together. Jodie really loves her boys.

My last update is about a horse called Freedom. He was bought by Ariel Boxall at a GDA auction about a year ago. Here is the email I received from Ariel:

Hi! Freedom has been renamed to Phoenix. We thought it was a fitting name, seeing as the Phoenix is a symbol of re-birth and starting over. He's doing great. He's put on weight and his feet are being taken care of, because they were in



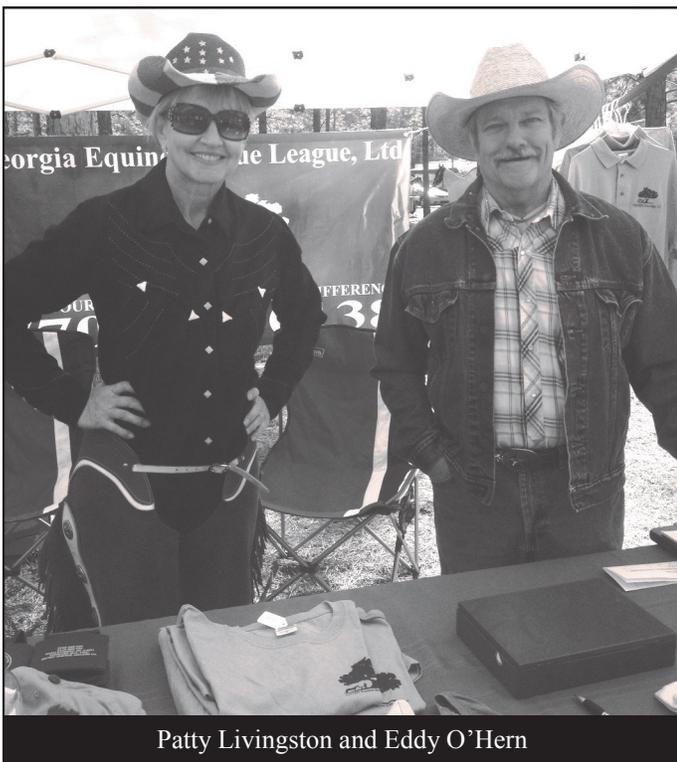
Shoot Out at Mingo Trails

by Diana Kelsey

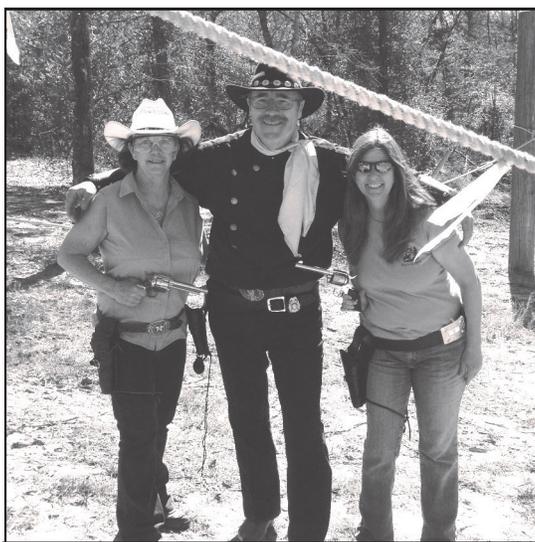
We learn something new about our members every time we attend an event. Mingo Trails, located in Toombsboro, GA., had a weekend Frontier Ride and Pow Wow in mid-March and GERL was invited to set up a booth. It was a very educational and fun weekend with Native American Art, Dance and authentic Frontier exhibitions. Little did I know that George and Janice Lilley would be shooting at each other! I always thought they got along pretty well!

I walked over to the exhibition area to watch the gunslinger shoot out, and there was Janice, her back to George, holding a balloon in each hand, and George whipped his pistol out and shot both balloons in a split second! Janice, luckily, was unharmed! Even more amazing, George took a balloon in each hand and one between his legs and Janice shot all three in a blink of an eye! Who would have ever known of these talents? I now know what keeps them together, they are both very good shots! They are also best friends and wonderful company!

George and Janice also had a Fast Draw contest that was



Patty Livingston and Eddy O'Hern



Diana Kelsey & Becky Gregory "holding up" our new Chaplain George Lilley.

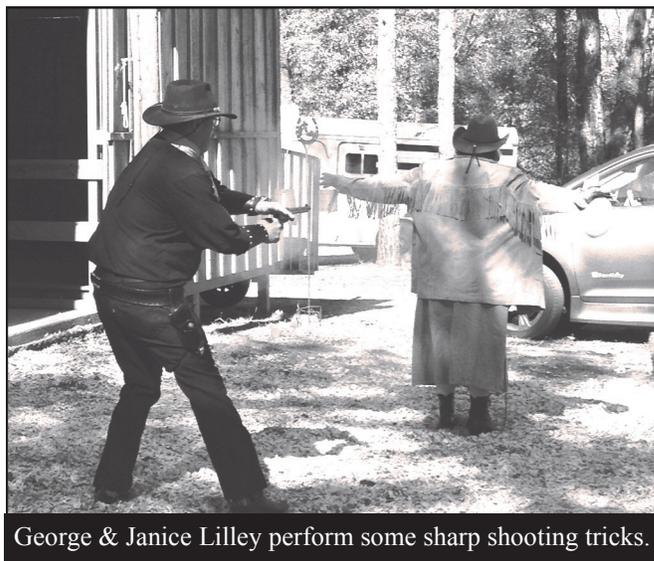
open to the public, with all donations going to GERL. Becky Gregory and I gave that a try, learning very quickly that it is not as easy as it seems! We had some laughs, we were 8 feet from the target and Becky missed completely with her first shot! I hit it, but it took 2 seconds to get my gun out of the holster, cock it and fire! Doesn't seem that long until you compare it with the real gunslingers at 1/2 second! We are now Honorary Gunslingers! Thank you, George and Janice, for taking time to set up the Fast Draw and giving the proceeds to GERL! It was a lot of fun!!

Our star GERL Vice President, Eddy O'Hern set up the GERL booth on Saturday, selling our merchandise, recruiting new members and educating

all who came by on what GERL is all about. It is so imperative that we get the public to understand the plight of equine in our State and Eddy is always on the ball when it comes to that. Every chance he gets, he sets up a booth somewhere! Thank you so much, Eddy! You have fast become a champion for GERL!

GERL will have a Poker Ride as this fabulous facility on April 27 & 28. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for information and plan to attend! All funds raised will help starved, abused and neglected horses across the State of Georgia. It's going to be a great fundraiser!

Maybe we will even get to see George and Janice try to kill each other again!



George & Janice Lilley perform some sharp shooting tricks.

Thank you for your donations.

Lori Smith	Sandra Freeman
Carol Dick	Miriam O'Day
Erin Murphy	Rod Murray
John & Sydney Lee	Virginia Campen
Animal Medical Center, Cairo, GA.	Lynn Smith
United Way of Central Indiana	Nanci Mallow
Truist	Lamar & Kathy Chandler
Meghan Cameron	Network for Good
Martha Woodham	Cindy Russell Bounds & Family
Neil & Gene Rowsey	Don & Suzi Kersey
James & Barbara Cumming	Meaghan Cameron
Susie Cottongim	Carol Upshaw
Ken & Beth Dykes	The Cochran Family
Paula LeCates	Martha Shepard
Lynn Fowler	Art & Elizabeth Bartlett
Kathleen Oldford	Lisa Casey
Carol Phillips	Cork-Howard Construction
Susan Pearson	Debbie Fuller
George & Janice Lilley	Tamber Fuller
Karen Ross	Kristina Fournier
Caitlyn Foster	Tresa Lingler
Diane Kirby	



In Memory of:

Lowell & Louise Benfield by Rita Benfield.
 Braveheart by Margaret Korges.
 Thundering Elvis owned by Charis Vincent by
 Kathy Barkley.
 Marcelle by Gina Lance.
 Lily Brorein by Donna Brorein.
 Dr. Lynda Kelley by Butch & Marie Babcock.
 Elliott by Jim & Jeanne Shelhimer.
 Gene Ensminger by Jim & Jeanne Shelhimer.
 Cloudy Fickling by Menla Schwartz.

In Memory of Frank Mann:

From his friends at the Mansfield Impound barn.
 By Yvonne & William Moore

We have added a new online store of GERL logo merchandise. Please visit our newest
 online merchandise page <http://www.gerlltd.org>.



Help spread the word about our organization, proceeds go to help our abused horses in the Georgia.

Thank You For Your Foster Homes

Beth Eavenson/Alf
 Cindy Farris/Angel, Eloise, Skye
 Lester & Diane Aradi/Beau
 Elaine Bishoff/Buddy
 Kim & Dan Smith/China, Spook
 Debra Young/Ginger, Hoss, Little Joe
 Ernie & Leslie Gassmann/Cody, Gracie
 Alica Mohr/Dakota
 Ruth Wilson/Dianne
 CeCe Calli/Hank, Gable
 Wanda Lane/Ginger

Claudia Tomaselli/Grayson
 Susan Prugh/Jessie
 Michelle Williams/Joker, Kiester
 Patti Henry/Josey
 Debora Hines/Krystal
 Ann Murphy/Lizzie
 Brannon Reeves/Payday
 Heatherlee Hammonds/Rocky
 Patty Livingston/Sampson, Rhythm
 Linda Kundell/Starr
 Tamma Trump/Twilight

With *Your* Help...We *Will* Make A Difference!

Multi-County Meeting in Oglethorpe County

By Debbie Whitworth

“Appoint a day and it will surely arrive.” That is a Whitworth family saying and the time for our Region 4 (and surrounding counties) meeting finally arrived on Feb. 21, 2013. Much preparation and time by many individuals had gone into the final outcome of thirty-one law enforcement and animal control officers from 13 counties participating in five hours of equine training which included learning about the Georgia Equine Rescue League and its role in helping the horses in Georgia from the president, Patty Livingston. Mat Thompson, the Equine Manager for the Ga. Dept. of Agriculture reviewed his department’s role in answering equine abuse calls, went through the Henneke model for equine body scoring and conducted hands-on demonstrations of how to handle horses. Mat was assisted by two GDA inspectors, Lisa Wald and Jessie Murray in a lovely indoor arena.



GDA Inspectors Lisa Wald and Jessie Murray
With equine manager Mat Thompson.



This was the largest crowd of law enforcement
and AC officers ever to attend GERL’s training.

This training had originally been scheduled in another facility and had to be relocated to the Oglethorpe County Cooperative Extension Service’s Agriculture Center in Crawford, GA just 6 days prior to the meeting. However, the change was “all for the better” because the ag center was a fantastic place for our meeting. We served lunch using a very nice kitchen with an ice maker and other amenities. The participants (45, including the GERL members, GDA & training attendees) seemed to enjoy the selections of homemade soups, breads, and deserts. Thanks go to Linda Kundell and Debbie Whitworth for providing lunch, with much help from a multitude of GERL members that “set up and packed up”.

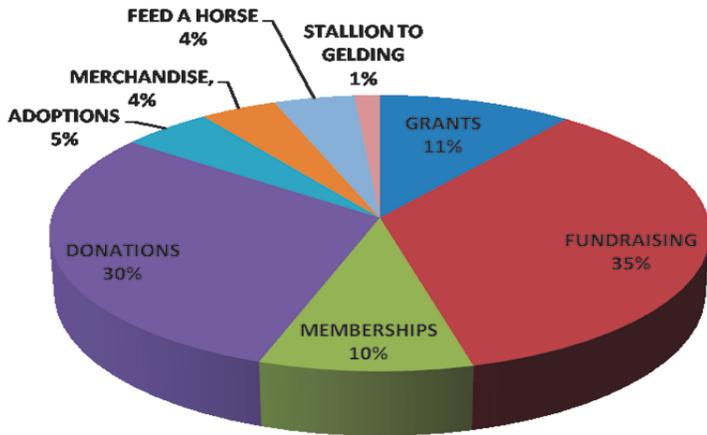
After lunch, while anxiously awaiting the arrival of Kevin Hearst, Animal Cruelty Investigator for Dekalb County Animal Services, Patty Livingston tried to recall as much of Kevin’s presentation as possible since we could not reach Kevin and had no idea if he would arrive. Finally he burst on the scene and made his usual energetic and amusing presentation of how to document and prosecute animal abusers.

All of the attendees received attractive certificates done by our own Anne Ensminger, secretary of GERL and those that required received five POST credit hours. As organizer, I would like to thank all of the ACs, board members and others that helped to contact as many law enforcement and animal control officers as possible with the result of a very productive day.



Haltering 101

INCOME - 2012 - \$98,808



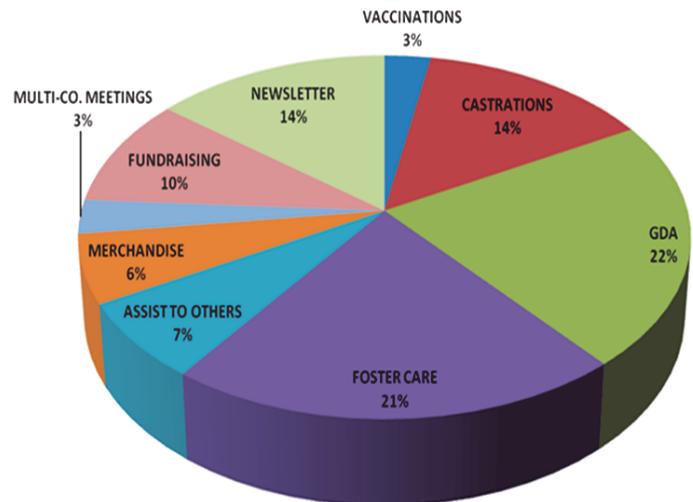
LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MONEY

- We raised \$33,416 at FUNDRAISERS.
- We received \$8,898 in MEMBERSHIPS.
- We received \$31,833 in DONATIONS.
- We sold \$3,955 in MERCHANDISE.
- Feed-A-Horse Program brought in \$4,157.
- Stallion to Gelding Program brought in \$1,300.
- Adoption fees brought in \$4,716.00.
- ASPCA Grant funds brought in \$10,00.00.

TOTAL INCOME FOR 2012 WAS \$98,808

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MONEY

- We spent \$31,531 on assisting horses:
 - \$24,152 on goods & services for the GDA
 - \$ 6,949 assisting individuals.
- \$ 3,082 on 1 vaccination clinic
- We spent \$15,446 on castrations.
- We spent \$23,175 on foster care.
- We spent \$10,690 on fundraising events.
- We spent \$3,315 on Multi-County Meetings.
- We spent \$15,690 on operations (newsletter, postage etc.).



EXPENSES 2012 - \$114,873

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR 2012 WERE \$114,873.

GERL Poker Ride 2013

By: Diana Kelsey

It was a cold and rainy day – NOT! The weather was perfect! Jaye Herrington & I were so excited to pull into camp and see all of the people that had camped overnight in anticipation of the GERL Poker Ride on March 9th.

I can't say enough about the fabulous job all the volunteers did to make this ride such a success! We had 22 volunteers and each one went above and beyond their assigned duties, pitching in wherever they were needed.

As the riders came back in to camp after their ride, each one had a big smile on their face, commenting that they had a wonderful ride! We have many pictures posted on our Facebook & website pages, go and take a look!

Sonny Hinote, our cook extraordinaire, and his volunteer partner, David Lee, turned out hamburgers and hotdogs from the grill (Sonny still has eyebrows, not sure about David!). We also had all the trimmings, potato salad, chips, cookies and drinks.

After lunch, prizes for the best Poker hand were

given out. Layne Oldfield won first prize, which was \$100. Layne turned right around and donated it back to GERL! She didn't want that announced – sorry Layne and thank you for being so generous! We also gave out 2nd and 3rd prizes and door prizes.

It is always great to get together as a group and do something fun! Thanks to all that participated in the ride. We are looking forward to seeing you at our next Poker Ride at Mingo Trail camp in April. (See flyer in this issue.)



Some riders enjoying the day!



Volunteers

GERL Poker Ride 2013

By: Diana Kelsey



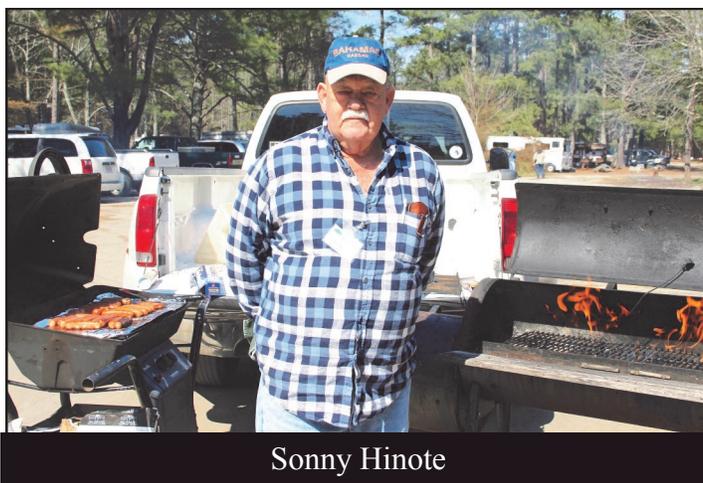
Diana Kelsey, Layne Oldfield and Patty Livingston



Lara Homans



Leisa McCannon



Sonny Hinote



Pierette and Ray Ziebell, Jaye Herrington

RAFFLE TICKETS

A week at the beach in Ormond Beach, FLA

The dates are September 14 to 21 at The Cove on Ormond Beach. The condo is a two bedroom that sleeps 6.

It is in Ormond Beach, just north of Daytona. Ticket Price: \$20 each for a chance to win.

\$20.00



The Cove on Ormond Beach

Raffle Ticket
Proceeds to benefit
Georgia Equine Rescue League
A week at the beach in Ormond Beach, FLA

Ticket EXAMPLE
2 Bdrm/Sleeps 6

Spend a fun filled week in Florida at The Cove, September 14 - 21, 2013

TICKET



One Week at Westgate Smokey Mountain Resort and Spa – Gatlinburg, TN

Dates: Nov. 22 – 29, 2013 (Includes Thanksgiving Day)

One bedroom/one bath condo- sleeps four. Ticket Price: \$20 each.

\$20.00



Westgate Smokey Mountain Timeshare

Raffle Ticket
Proceeds to benefit
Georgia Equine Rescue League

Ticket EXAMPLE

Spend a week at Westgate Smokey Mountain Resort & Spa. Dates: Nov. 22 - 29, 2013
One bedroom/one bath Condo-sleeps four

TICKET



For more information contact Patty Livingston, (770) 867-0760 / gerlpatty@yahoo.com

Honorariums

In Honor of:

- ◆ Beau by Jack & Dotti Carter.
- ◆ Tony Pyle and his dedication to a girl and her horse, by Kristin Tucker.
- ◆ Lisa Sikes—my donation to GERL is your Christmas present from your sister, Judy Gore!
- ◆ Tony & Susan McCullar, by Charles & Sandra Bone.
- ◆ Linda Schwab, my childhood friend and “stable brat” mate by Cheri Jordan.
- ◆ In honor of Jessica Rekos from the ESR Competition Team.
- ◆ In honor of GERL’s work by Alice Stagg.

Thanks to Flohr Family Foundation for their continued support of our organization!

A HUGE thank you goes out to Bent Tree Saddle Club for donating the proceeds of their silent auction to GERL!

GERL Volunteer of the Quarter

By Patty Livingston

Our Volunteer of the Quarter is a GERL Area Coordinator who has helped with several situations involving skinny horse reports in her area and has attended many booth events for GERL over time. She has also fostered a couple of horses for GERL in the past and has horses of her own. She is married to a farrier and is a mother of two grown daughters and three adorable grandbabies. Her name is Debbie Whitworth and what a pleasant surprise to learn recently that Debbie also has excellent organizational and people skills. Those traits are valuable assets! All the while, she is quiet and shy-like. Who knew there was a live wire under that reserved demeanor!

Recently, Debbie went out on a limb and volunteered to put together a multi-county training meeting with law enforcement and animal control officers all over the northeastern part of our state. Orchestrating a “Multi-County” Training Meeting is no small task and it typically takes several people working together to host one. First of all, you have to find a location that is suitable for horses and also offers a meeting room large enough to handle forty or fifty people. Debbie secured a place (an insurance company) that had reservations about the horses at the last minute and she quickly and calmly shifted gears and picked a better place than before. It had an indoor arena with bleachers and even a heater! Since it was cold and windy day you can see why we were so impressed with the location she had secured.

Debbie had to wear her secretary hat and get to work obtaining all of the names and addresses of the county sheriffs and animal control officers that would receive the letter of invitation. There were at least twenty counties that were invited. She had to send out a reminder letter and also follow up with a phone call closer to the date of the meeting. All the while Debbie reported back periodically to let everybody know what was happening. This was the largest Multi-County Meeting that we have put on in 3 years of hosting them.

We offer lunch at all of our training meetings, so Debbie had to put on her Paula Dean hat and come up with a menu. She’s a great cook and decided to go “home-made” with a selection of soups, chili, sandwiches, salads, brownies and cookies. She and a few volunteers served up a delicious lunch for everybody. Did I mention that she also had coffee and doughnuts (there were cops in the room) and a few other yummy breakfast foods to start out the meeting? She thought of everything.

Debbie works and has a family, but what a gem she was to volunteer to pull off such a huge undertaking. I felt very spoiled just showing up and doing the presentation. Kudos to Debbie and her professionalism and dedication to GERL. It’s people like Debbie who make GERL look good!



Debbie with one of her grands .

WELCOME NEW GERL MEMBERS



New Member	Referred By	From
Anna Altfeder	GERL	Maysville, GA
Butch & Marie Babcock	GERL	Hull, GA
Phyliss Bowen & Family	GERL	Jesup, GA
Donna Brorein; Dolphin Pools, Inc.	GERL	Alpharetta, GA
Susan Eberhart	Lynne Yates	Hapeville, GA
Kim Fleming	GERL	Monroe, GA
Pam Glover & Family	Liz Dees	Rex, GA
Ron & Sandy Green	GERL	Mansfield, GA
Tammie Griffith	Marjorie Leder	Baldwin, GA
Beth Power Hinton & Family	Andee Rogers	Social Circle, GA
Jay Hutchinson & Family	Website	Smyrna, GA
Cindy Keen	GERL	Dublin, GA
Don & Suzi Kersey	GERL	Twin City, GA
Adrienne Kies-Bouchiollon & Family	GERL	Bethlehem, GA
Jannet King	GERL	Dahlonega, GA
Carolyn Laforge & Family	Lindsey Laforge	Upatoi, GA
Leanne Lundquist	George Lilley	Hawkinsville, GA
Janice Mahoney & Family	Rita Benfield	Whitesburg, GA
Ann Mitchell	Website	Loganville, GA
Richard Naylor & Louise Nelson	GERL	Talking Rock, GA
Janine Powell; Wildfeathers Farm	Patty Livingston	Kennesaw, GA
Cassandra Rogers	Debora Hines	Martinez, GA
Morgan Skilling & Family	GERL	Atlanta, GA
Jim & Susan Stevens	GERL	Cumming, GA
Bill Thrash & Family	Website	Rutledge, GA
Royston Animal Hospital	GERL	Royston, GA

If you have any questions about when you need to renew contact: **Diana Kelsey; diana@gerlltd.org or 770-267-0867.**

With Your Help...We Will Make A Difference!

GERL would like to give SPECIAL thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Jody Kitchen
 Melody Jackson
 Top Hat Dressage
 ReMax of Georgia—Nancy Klein
 Silver Spur Riding Club, Dublin, GA.
 Kel-Mac Saddle Club
 Susan Mead
 Gary Edwards
 Dennis Howie
 Catherine James
 Cynthia Fuget Mare
 Moira McCracken
 Ken & Brenda Owens
 Sandra Green

Thank you, Patchwork Farm! For donations from your barn!

Lauren Kissell
 Lindsay Nolan
 Trisha Bennett
 Nancy Pahl
 Sara Hinckley
 Kate Larimer
 Lesley Posey
 Janet Salem
 Kim Cronin
 Stewart & Lauren Patton
 LHK Training & Sales

RENEWALS DUE FOR APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2013

Renewals due for April 2013

Thomas & Shirley Brady & Family
Felicia Brown
Tracy Clarkston & Family
Jacqueline Conort
Patti Cornelius
Riley & Kit Duncan
Tommy & Tonia Epps & Family
Priscilla Gilbert
Betsy Gilman
Gillian Hayward
Jeff Hetsko & Family
Jennifer Johnson
Bob Long
Ann McCloskey
Joan McGinley
Lynn McMinn & Family
Brian & Elizabeth Mitchell
Ann Murphy
Patricia Myler
Debbie Powell & Family
Steve Warmack & Mindy Prator
Michael Sanders
Jim & Sherry Strickland
Marya Tietz
Tommy & Ruth Wilson

Renewals due for May 2013

Jeffrey Butler
Jillian Chamberlain
Ron & Adriane Cook
Cindy Huesler
Sammy & Marie LeVert
Vickie Lummus & Family
Marilynn Mims & Family
Elizabeth Porter

Renewals due for June 2013

Joanne Campbell
Elizabeth Dees & Family
Danny & Stephanie Edmondson & Family
Leah Flowers & Family
Erica Gilmer
Laura Hedelson
Tori Joyce
Geri Kono
Dianne Lacefield
Mike Morris
Monique Murfield & Family
Melissa Spatz-Schwartz
Mary Turner
Kathy Vargo & Family

Your membership dues help many horses each year. Please take time to renew today so that we can continue our important mission to save starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia.

Fill out and mail the form on the back of this newsletter, or go to www.gerlltd.org, click on membership and pay via PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account.

GERL thanks you for supporting our cause! Tell a friend about us!

Newton Co. Saddle Club gave GERL a wonderful donation! Thank You!

Thank you, Heart of Dixie Horse Lover, for your generous donation!

New Baby at the GDA

The Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) has a new baby at one of the impounds! Baby Hope was discovered one morning by GDA Inspector Jessie Murray when she arrived to feed the horses. There stood this beautiful golden ball of fur standing beside her mom, just like she had always been there! What a cutie pie!



Sincere get well wishes from everyone at GERL to our dear friend, Jack Pesserilo. Jack has recently undergone spinal surgery and we are happy to report that he is doing very well. Our well wishes also include Jack's wife, Ronnie, and daughter Estraya, both long time active members and hard workers for GERL.

GERL Stallions to Gelding Program.



**Stallions Gelded
To Date By
GERL: 339**



Thank you to the all that donated for the horses involved in the Fulton County seizure:

Amelia Bolton
Patty Livingston
Michelle Lyle
Sang Yoon
Art Schwab
Evi Ebert
Pamela Schwartz
Alice Stagg
Sandra Green
Kathleen Swenson
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