

## **BAKAS PARENT MEETING MINUTES**

### **JANUARY 14, 2009**

The meeting started at 7:05 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Bakas, after a delicious pasta and salad dinner provided by Linda Blum and Joe Judice. There were about 25 people in attendance.

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> will be the Challenged Show at Austin Farms. All plans have been made with 16 riders and 6 horses competing in 2 events. The parent organization is paying for the entry fee and Friday night BBQ. Competition starts at 10 on Sat. Bakas is taking and setting up the obstacle course. Stirrups and Strides is the co-sponsor. This event was started by Bakas 18 years ago and moves around the state each year. Good luck to all the riders. The results will be published in the newsletter.

Suzanne Sylvestre is improving the website and has added the newsletter and meeting minutes to it. She would like to add more content like horse bios. She will also add more pull downs and links to other sites. If you have pictures to be added, please send them in on a JPEG file or to the stable. If you have any ideas, let us know. This is a work in progress.

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>** is the Area Special Olympics at Bakas. 35 riders can compete if they are over 8 years old, been riding longer than 6 months, can follow instructions, and have a cognitive disability. Friday night we will start and have hot dogs and hamburgers. Please see if there is a group that would like to donate the food. It will cost between \$400 - \$800. Steve Young will let us borrow his tents. On Sat. morning we ask that you bring in a box of donuts or dozen bagels to sell at the concession stand. Starbucks usually donates the coffee. Lunch for the riders on Sat. will be provided by the Special Olympics. The Tampa Bay Sertoma Club will provide the ribbons and the Hillsborough Sheriffs Mounted Posse will give medals to each rider. There will be 3 or 4 other stables competing. We will need lots of volunteers to help both days.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** on Saturday from 6 to 8 is the annual Rider Banquet at the All Peoples Life Center behind King High School. We need centerpieces, decorations, balloons, DJ, and rider award ideas, along with volunteers to buy stuff, set up, decorate, and clean up. We expect about 150 people at the banquet. Please get involved to make this a fun time for our hard working riders and staff. Contact Beth at the stable or Sandra VanDijk and Beth Hemmert to volunteer.

The State Special Olympics will be **May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>**. We are allotted 12 riders and usually the 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers age 10 and up from the Area Special Olympics get to go. More details will follow in later months.

The Pony Club has pony calendars available at the stable for \$10, with \$2 going to Bakas.

Lorraine Potocki is working on a press kit that looks more professional and up to date. Once this is done, talk to Beth about where and how to approach business for donations of time or money.

Denise Andretta talked about some kind of a fundraising folk concert at the stables maybe in the summer. She will get more information about this and report back. She also will look into the Tampa Charity Horse Show to see if they have the funds to help us.

Sandra went over the Treasurer's report. We broke even in Nov. and the books are at the CPA for Dec. Kim Hajaistron passed out a few copies of Dec.'s minutes.

Austin Foundation (affiliated with Winn Dixie) donated \$7,500 last year for Chester's eye surgery and again donated that amount this year. A plaque will be made for them.

Beth has joined the Diva Angles motorcycle club and will give them a plaque for their \$1,000 donation. They would like to do another motorcycle charity run this year. Brooker Creek Elem. will also get a plaque and a horse pin for each kid as a thank you for the huge stockings full of things for our riders during the Holiday party.

Lorraine suggests that we approach some clubs, frats and sororities, or business that might want to sponsor an annual event. Beth said that the Highland Park neighborhood would like to sponsor the Spring Fling. Please talk to people you know about sponsorship.

Mandy Judice said that Bob Jeffries and the HPBA at the Tampa Bay Downs have listed Bakas as one of the charities that will receive a donation at their Charity day races.

The free medicals this month was a huge success. 25 riders showed up and there was very little waiting (unlike the doctor's office). There will be another one in the fall, and will be limited to 20 riders.

**Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**, on Wednesday at 6:30 will be the next parent meeting at Bakas. Since we had so many people, we decided that having it at the stable is the best place. As you can see, there is much to plan for and some fun events coming so get involved.

Meeting ended at 8:15, minutes taken by Kim Hajaistron

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – Parent meeting at Bakas

April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Area Special Olympics

April 25<sup>th</sup> – Riders Banquet at All Peoples

May 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> – State Special Olympics

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