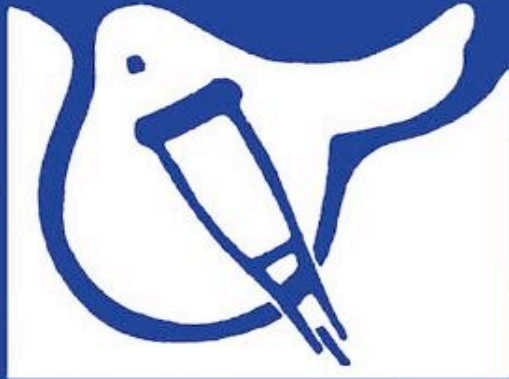


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# Special Equestrians

## Newsletter



*Bits & Pieces*  
Issue No. 001

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Everyone at Special Equestrians has been working at improving, our services, our facility, and our communication. These newsletters will serve to keep everyone abreast of the exciting changes as they take place.

We returned to riding competition last year, and we have seen a huge improvement in all of our riders as a result. The pictures on our website show all of our riders at their best: [www.specialequestrians.org](http://www.specialequestrians.org)



Dear Jacob,

In an effort to become a greener agency, we have developed this e-newsletter. We will be sending monthly newsletters with stories about, and pictures of our riders, volunteers and our horses. We are very excited to be cutting back on our paper use while communicating with the people who care about us.

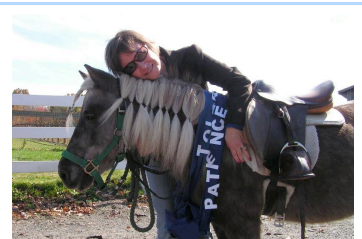
I hope you enjoy the stories we want to share with you!

Sincerely,  
Tammy Westney  
Special Equestrians

## My Favorite Horse Story Tammy Westney

Anyone who knows me knows how much I love Susie the pony. So naturally my favorite story involves her. Susie is known for her spirit, and her mischievous streak has occasionally gotten her in trouble.

Not too long ago Susie, Josh who is Susie's pasture mate, and our newest horse Rita, a Belgian who stands over 18 hands, were all in the arena. The weather did not permit the horses to go out that day, and our Barn Manager Marika decided to see if Rita and Susie could get along. Susie doesn't like big horses and Rita was no exception! Rita approached Susie and that little pony bucked and tried to kick Rita. Being new to the barn, Rita ran away. She had met and been "told" by the other horses that she is low horse on the totempole for now.



But at that moment Rita seemed to rethink her position and proceeded to charge Susie.

No one expected what happened next; Josh sprung into action and let out a war cry and charged right back at Rita. Susie ran behind the mounting block and Josh ran back and forth protecting her. He even protected Marika as she entered the arena to take Susie out. He was everyone's hero that day.

It's unlikely that Susie is going to change very much, at 22 she's set in her ways. She'll probably continue to tease Josh and dislike big horses. But at least we know that in addition to her fans around the barn she also has a good friend and champion in Josh.

## "Thorncroft Reserve Champion" Among our Students

Special Equestrians Rider Ryan, a longtime student in our program rode his horse, Zeus to the "Reserve Champion" at the Thorncroft Horse Show on May 29 in Devon, PA. "For about 10 years I have been riding at Special Equestrians. I was able to ride in 3 different events." Ryan shared "I rode the horse Zeus and he did a great job. Everyone there did a good job. I got a blue ribbon (first) in trail and a blue ribbon in walk/trot class and a white ribbon (fourth) in dressage. I was surprised to even be the reserve champion, which means I came in second overall in my division. I had a great time at Thorncroft and hope I can compete again next year."



His instructor Pam Galante felt certain that Ryan would be going to Devon as she watched his performance. Pam worked intensively with Ryan in the weeks leading up to the show and she knew his performance had improved over the last year.

"Ryan, had a wonderful day and I am glad we were all on hand to cheer him on." Pam said "The Dressage Class is something new to our students. You may have noticed the cones set up in the field next to the indoor ring, this is where we were able to practice the routine. Ryan worked hard the two weeks prior to the show so he would be prepared, and his hard work paid off."

We are all proud of Ryan and his accomplishment; as well as, all the students who participated in the Thorncroft Show, Kristin, Matt, Bridget, Blake, Sara M. and Sara W. and Daniel. All of them made a wonderful showing, bringing home multiple ribbons and winning smiles.

## Volunteer Corner

Our first volunteer story is sad news; one of our wonderful volunteers, Janice Sina, is leaving us! After three years of volunteering at Special Equestrians, and sharing over 300 hours of her time with us, Janice is moving to Connecticut.

Janice began volunteering with Special Equestrians to mentor one of her high school students' graduation projects after learning about our facility by driving past it several times. While that student went to college, Janice continued to volunteer, helping with everything from special events, to summer camp, student horse shows and even gardening in addition to her regular volunteer activities around the barn and in the arena.



Her favorite part about volunteering is working with the students. As she so aptly put it, "You expect to go out and teach them something, but instead they end up teaching you so much more." Her favorite horses in the barn were initially Ebs and Bear, as she led them in many lessons, but she has developed a special bond with Josh after riding him through our Able-Bodied Riding Program.

Although it's sad to see her leave, the good news is that Janice plans to continue pursuing her interest in therapeutic riding by volunteering at a facility in Connecticut. We wish our July Volunteer of the Month the best of luck and hope that she doesn't miss us as much as we will miss her!