



Issue 1 - 2012

RTRA

Regina Therapeutic Riding Association

“Yes, I enjoy the sport of Kings”,
When carried high my feet take wings
To fly me on a pleasure course,
for I CAN mount and ride a horse.”

*Excerpt from “I Can”
by John A. Davies*

We have a new logo!

Directly above this story you will see our new logo. The Pegasus-inspired horse and rider capture the essence of the RTRA as the horse literally gives the rider wings to take them places and allow them to see things that they otherwise may never experience.

Regina’s Chris Jordison is responsible for designing the logo. Chris is a highly regarded designer, illustrator, and author. Check out his long list of national and international achievements which are listed on our web page at rtra.ca.

We are very thankful and appreciative of Chris’s work on our logo, and delighted with the amazing result you see above.

Thank you, Chris!

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Introducing our new instructor: Dana Zubko

The board of RTRA is pleased to introduce Dana Zubko, our new RTRA Instructor.

Dana is eager to teach riders with special needs by giving knowledgeable, safe, and enjoyable riding instruction along with encouragement to set individual goals.

Dana’s lifelong love for horses has inspired her to share her passion with others through teaching.

Since she began riding at a young age, she has expanded her knowledge through showing Hunter/Jumper, teaching both English and Western disciplines, studying Equine Therapy and Sciences at the University of Guelph, and volunteering for various equine events. Dana has five years experience volunteering with teaching riding to people with special needs.

Her appreciation for therapeutic programs lies in the bonds that form between horse and rider. Dana is an Equine Canada certified Instructor and



Dana Zubko and her four-legged friend, Buck.

she is studying to acquire her CanTRA certification.

Dana believes learning is a lifelong experience and that through positive reinforcement, every lesson can be a fun, confidence building experience.

On behalf of the RTRA students, parents, volunteers and board members, we extend Dana a hearty welcome to the Regina Therapeutic Riding Association.

Meet & Greet

The RTRA board of directors invites current, previous and future students and their families and friends to come meet our new instructor - Dana Zubko; our new horse - Buck; and everyone’s friend - Blue.
Come enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and take this opportunity to chat with Dana!

WHEN: Sunday, January 8 - 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: Setting Sun Stables (5 km north of Regina)



The RTRA is a charitable organization formed in 1992 with the goal of providing qualified instruction in therapeutic riding and horsemanship to children and adults with special needs.

RTRA is a member of and operates under the guidelines of the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association (CanTRA) website: cantra.ca

RTRA is a corporate club member of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation. website: saskhorse.ca

RTRA is a Canadian registered Charity. Donations of \$10 or more to the RTRA are tax-deductible, with receipt issued to the donor from the Regina Therapeutic Riding Association.

BN/Registration Number: 135138964RR0001.

Questions? Comments? Contact us!

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Newsletter Editor

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This newsletter was printed on January 1, 2012.

President's message

Greetings,

As we leave 2011 it's a time to reflect on the year that was and look forward to the coming year. This past year was a challenging one with Catherine's decision to retire, a number of board members resigning due to personal commitments, and the decision of postponing the fall program which was very difficult as the impact touched so many people.

Looking ahead to 2012, I'm very pleased to say that the program will resume in January (information to follow) under the guidance of our new instructor, Dana Zubko. Although we continue to look for volunteers, I'm very pleased to say the individuals who have signed up are very excited and are looking forward to the winter program.

With respect to the board of directors, I must say how honored I am leading this group of individuals as we move forward. The passion and desire each and every one of them has to RTRA would be the envy of any organization.

In closing, from my family to yours, the very best this holiday season and a Happy New Year.

John Van Koll
President
RTRA

thank you **Setting Sun Stables**

RTRA would like to acknowledge the support and generosity of Korey and Davey Dunlop who allow us to board our horses and use their indoor arena for RTRA lessons at Setting Sun Stables.



Setting Sun Stables is a family-run horse boarding facility five miles North of Regina. The stable houses 12 x 14 ft. indoor box stalls, individual tack lockers, a washroom, and complete laundry services. The entire facility is heated and insulated.

Visit www.settingsunstables.org to learn more about Setting Sun Stables and their expansion plans for 2012.

Volunteers train, prepare for winter session

If the calibre and enthusiasm of volunteers reflects the effectiveness of an organization, the RTRA is in excellent shape.

Both new and experienced volunteers braved the winter weather to attend volunteer training workshops on Nov. 14 and Nov. 27 at the Setting Sun Stables.

Instructor Dana Zubko led volunteers through a stable orientation, animal care session, and a workshop on mounting/dismounting and student safety when riding.

"It's exciting to see many new and familiar faces," said Pat Jacobson, a volunteer and supporter of the RTRA. "Dana did a really nice job of making the training relevant for the new volunteers and providing a refresher for our returning volunteers."

The workshops were also an orientation for the RTRA's newest equine volunteer, Buck.

Buck was donated for the RTRA's use and he has been making himself at home at the Setting Sun Stables since mid-October. (*See related story - Blue's News, page 4.*)

"We have a strong base of volunteers, but there is always room for more," Dana said. "It's especially hard to find people who are able to help us out during our weekday lessons."

"We would be happy to hear from anyone who is willing to join us," Dana concluded. "And they should bring their friends."

The RTRA wouldn't be able to successfully run a program



RTRA instructor Dana Zubko (mounted on Buck) leads volunteers through proper mounting and dismounting techniques at the Nov. 14 volunteer workshop at Setting Sun Stables.

without the assistance and dedication of our volunteers.

There are many opportunities to volunteer and help us reduce the number of students on a waiting list for lessons. No experience is necessary to volunteer and training will be provided.

You can help out by:

- preparing the horses for class (e.g., grooming and tack)

- leading a horse during the lesson.
- participating as a side walker, walking along side the rider to provide support, encouragement, and guidance.

Contact the RTRA if you are interested in attending a volunteer session or if you would like more information about what is involved in becoming a volunteer.

RTRA bids a fond farewell to Catherine Sneath

After a summer of considerable thought and soul-searching, Catherine Sneath resigned from her position of RTRA Program Co-ordinator/Riding Instructor effective September 2011.

Catherine touched the lives of many students, parents and volunteers during her 12 years of service with the RTRA.

Her boundless enthusiasm and her many dedicated and heartfelt contributions to the program will certainly be missed.

On behalf of the RTRA Board of Directors, parents, students and volunteers, we thank Catherine for her service and wish her well in her future endeavours.

Instructor's message

What a pleasure it has been to begin working with the RTRA board members, the volunteers, and the horses. I am now eager to meet the students and their families!

The past month has been exceptionally busy for me and for everyone who has been helping me. Our two volunteer workshops were very promising, and it was a pleasure to share ideas and meet an enthusiastic crowd of new and experienced volunteers.

I've learned that Blue – the veteran therapy horse – has a very gentle nature and lots of patience. He is the ideal model I had in mind while schooling RTRA's new therapy horse, Bucky. I'm pleased to report that Bucky is following in Blue's hoof prints as he is adjusting extremely well

to the challenges of his new surroundings and what is being asked of him.

I've been in constant contact with CanTRA in preparation for the new session of lessons to begin. I feel the program is certainly blessed with two of the most suitable horses I've ever met and a strong team of people who will ensure the program remains safe, consistent, and a lot of fun.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome at the RTRA. I am looking forward to working with everyone to build on the strengths of the RTRA and make our program the envy of our peers.

2012 is going to be a great year to be involved in the RTRA.

Jane Zulko
RTRA Instructor



Blue's News

I have a new friend who will soon be your friend, too! His name is Buck, and he is the newest equine member of our RTRA team.

Buck likes to teach students to ride—just like I do. He has a great personality he won't mind if you call him "Bucky" or "Uncle Buck."

Buck arrived at Setting Sun Stables in mid-October from his previous home at Beaver Creek Ranch. All the riding students at Beaver Creek learned how to canter/lope in both English and Western with Buck's help.

We get along great and I know you will love him like I do. I'm excited to get back to work soon with all the students and my new friend, Buck.

Blue's gentle manner and sweet disposition have made him a favourite among RTRA students, instructors and volunteers. He is the unofficial mascot and face of the RTRA.



**A New Year and
A New Website!**

Need information about the RTRA?
Check out our new website!

rtra.ca