



# PASS IN REVIEW

Issue 18, Autumn 2016

Our annual  
Fundraiser!

# AUCTION

The 2016 WAA Fundraising Silent Auction  
October 29th—30th  
at **Annual Show, Horsecapades**



## Auction items this year include:

- ☞ Signed sports memorabilia
- ☞ Gift certificates to Denver-area restaurants and spas
- ☞ Entrance passes to Colorado attractions
- ☞ Tickets to arts and entertainment events
- ☞ Artwork by talented artists (some of whom are Alumni!)
- ☞ Tack and horse supplies
- ☞ Valuable jewelry
- ☞ Gift baskets
- ☞ Much, much more!
- ☞ Would you like to donate items to this year's auction? Please contact us at [info@westernairesalumni.org](mailto:info@westernairesalumni.org)

Help the Westernaires Alumni Association to raise funds by bidding on auction items. With dozens of items of varying value and use, we know there is something of interest for everyone who participates.

Amidst our gorgeous and diverse auction items, choose from items to enhance your home, gift certificates for services to refresh your spirit, lots of dining certificates to please your palate, and events that the whole family can enjoy!

With each bid, donation, or referral, you will have the pleasure and satisfaction of knowing that you have helped our fundraising efforts to support Westernaires!

If you have any items that you'd like to donate to this year's auction, please contact us.

**Check out Page 2 for more Annual Show information**

# Sponsor a Westernaire Rider

It happens on occasion: a young rider is unable to come up with the funds necessary to continue in Westernaires. Westernaires has always worked keep their fees at the lowest possible levels for riders, however, in trying times they can add up.

Enter the Sponsor-A-Westernaire-Rider program.

The goal of the Sponsor-A-Rider program is to provide short-term financial relief (for Westernaire-related expenses) for families, and to ensure that riders are able to participate in their classes during tough financial times.



Because WAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we require information pertaining to how the funds will be used. We also require that a request form be completed. Nomination of a sponsorship can be initiated by someone who is aware of a family in need. All information regarding the program is confidential.

To date, the Alumni Association has been able to help over a dozen riders with their Westernaire expenses. If you would like to help us to keep Westernaire riders in the saddle whose families are going through financial crisis, please consider donating to our Sponsor-A-Rider fund.

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# ALUMNI



# The 2016 Annual "Horsecapades" Show

Oct. 29th & 30th

Visit, mix, and mingle with other alumni at the Alumni Association booth on the midway level of the Event Center.

There are four Horsecapades shows this year. Show times are:

**Saturday, October 29, 10:00 AM**

**Saturday, October 29, 2:00 PM**

**Saturday, October 29, 7:00 PM**

**Sunday, October 30, 2:00 PM**

Tickets are **\$10.00** each. To purchase tickets, you may:

✉ Mail us a check or money order. Please include the number of tickets you wish to purchase, the show(s) you wish to attend, your mailing address, and how you wish to take delivery of the tickets. We can either send the tickets to you, or you can pick them up at the Will Call window on the day of the show.



✉ Show up on the day of the show and purchase tickets at the ticket window. However, many shows sell out, so purchasing your tickets in advance is a wise decision!

**Don't plan to be in the Denver area on October 29th and 30th? Help to support the cause by purchasing donation tickets!**

All donation tickets are 100% tax deductible.

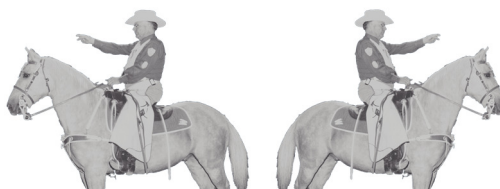
The Westernaires Alumni Association has a booth at Gate End on the midway level — please stop by and see us. We'll be performing additional fundraising, and we'll be celebrating alumni and old friends at our Homecoming show.

We hope to see you there!



Left: The Cavalry performing their "Artillery Act" at Annual Show 1965.

Right: Cavalry platoon salute at Annual Show 1984.



## Riding a Horse at Annual Show?

If you are riding as an alumni, you **MUST** comply with all instructions that are given to you by Posse, by Westernaire volunteers, or by the Barn Staff. Any failure to do so will result in immediate expulsion of you and your horse from the grounds. Please be a good example to the kids who are watching you and looking to you to learn how to behave.

Are you an alumnus who would like to bring your own horse to Annual Show? Upon your arrival on October 29th, please stop in at the Barn Office (it's on the northeast side of warm-up arena) and check in with Barn Superintendent. Please be aware that **you must purchase at least one ticket to ride in the show!**

The Barn Superintendent will provide you with a stall and a stall card. The stall fees have not yet been set, but will be approximately \$25.00 for the entire weekend. Please bring your own feed and any necessary supplements and tack that you may require.

**Anyone who rents a stall will be expected to fully clean the stall upon departure on October 30th, after the show.** A few alumni, in years past, have left without cleaning their stalls. Let's be good stewards in the Westernaire community by cleaning up after ourselves.



# 30 Years Ago:

## Varsity Red Team Travels to Regina, SK Canada

### March 1986

#### “The Best Precision Mounted Drill Riders AT SPEED, Anywhere”.

It started with these two words: “At Speed” -- this was the minor difference between the reputations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (affectionately called “Mounties”) and the Westernaires. Since their inception, the precise Mounties have performed their Musical Ride drill at a trot, while Westernaires Varsity Red Team have performed their Firelight drill at a nimble run.

This slight differentiation – “at speed” -- was enough to pique the interest of certain Canadians, and for them to reach out to Westernaires Director, Glen Keller, Jr., to inquire whether the Westernaires would consider making the northward trip to Regina, Saskatchewan’s famed Regina Horse Show. According to Keller, this was “probably the most over-lawyered” trip that Westernaires had ever contemplated. The logistics of getting kids (without their legal guardians) and their horses across an international border were complicated. Local and state brand and health inspectors had to be satisfied; so did the U.S. regulators, then so did the Canadian regulators. Keller described it as an “interesting challenge”.

Despite the legalities, Lady Luck was working in Westernaires’ favor:

1) A rarity: only 8 Varsity Red Team riders had graduated at Stock Show in January of 1986. Normally, at least a dozen turning team riders graduate at Stock Show leaving the following turning team freshly promoted and still in learning mode. Instead, Red Team was largely still in tact and ready to perform in March.

2) The Red Arena had just burned down and it was the only practice space for Red Team during the winter months. However, March of 1986 was unusually mild, and this allowed Red Team to use the Rodeo Arena for practices to that would prepare them for this show.

3) The long-haul horse trailers that Westernaires used were ill-equipped for such a long distance. In fact, the last time Westernaires had made a trip to Canada (1970, to the Calgary Stampede) a number of horses fell ill from travel fatigue. There happened to be a large trailer on Fort Westernaire premises (not owned by Westernaires) that was instead left-over equipment used during the production of one of the numerous movies in which the Cavalry had appeared. This Ward Trucking, straight-deck hauler had sat on the path leading up to the Upper Arena

– and it had been just sitting there for some time. Keller inquired with Earl McCluskey (mechanic, driver, and all-around great guy) about the ownership of trailer and, wanting to clean up the Fort, instructed Earl to either get someone to retrieve it or to scrap it. When Earl McCluskey contacted the trailer’s owner to inquire about its future, the owner said that Westernaires could keep it, but only under one condition: that Westernaires take one more just like it. These hauling trailers, after some retooling, proved to be well-ventilated and ideal for the Regina trip.

Once all the legalities and logistics were ironed out, the Westernaires were en route to Canada. They ended up stopping in Billings, Montana that first night. While searching for a place to eat, they encountered a diner called “Elmer’s Place” – how fitting is that? The teams slept inside the armory that evening. Glen Keller reports remembering that he slept under the muzzle of an artillery tank.

Upon arrival to Regina, the team was hosted in the barracks of the RCMP Academy Depot Division, which provides training to the RCMP cadets in training. Most of the Mounties were at their Ottawa headquarters at the time, however, Liz Keller found one Mountie and successfully talked him out of his RCMP collar pin. (She wears it on her Red Team sweater to this day.)

Red Team was introduced to a number of Canadian dignitaries, including the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Governor General of Canada. The shows were well received: fans were impressed by not only the speed and precision of Westernaires’ drill riding, but also by the versatility of the riders. Specialty acts, including trick and liberty, also performed at the shows.

While the trip to Regina was relatively issue-free, the trip home was not so straightforward. Upon reaching the border, Canadian border agents (who were likely unaccustomed to seeing dozens of teenagers and their horses crossing the border) decided to be a bit difficult and required that every horse be taken off of the trailers. Satisfied after their inspection, the horses were reloaded. The border agents were reportedly “amazed” at the organization and ease by which the horses loaded onto the semis.

The group needed to stop for the night on their way back home. “We were looking for a place to stop, and ended up in Sheridan, Wyoming,” says Keller. Alumni Dave and Debbie Metzler were former residents of Sheridan – they were instrumental in arranging for lodging, food, and accommodations for all. The riders were pleased with the gracious welcome they received in Sheridan.

As the team approached home, an official State Patrol escort led them into the Fairgrounds.

Awaiting the team’s return were hundreds of other Westernaires. The convoy pulled straight into the Rodeo Arena for a warm welcome. “The horses unloaded off of the trailers and were bright-eyed and healthy”, Keller recalls, and a few took the opportunity to roll in the arena.

The new straight-deck trailers were a success, as was the overall trip.



# 30 Years Ago: *The Red Arena Fire*

The month of March this year brings the 30th anniversary of the catastrophic fire that burned down the old Red Arena in Fort Westernaire.

Numerous Westernaire horses were inside the building at the time the fire broke out. Golden Animal Hospital veterinarian and close friend of the Westernaies, Dr. John Pallaoro (Doc John), along with other volunteers, arrived and began rescuing as many horses as possible. Doc John and the others repeatedly entered the inferno until the Fire Department stopped him and threatened his arrest if he entered the building again. The fire reached such high temperatures that it melted steel.

Three beloved Westernaire rental string horses perished in the fire: Mariah, Big Red, and Hot Shot. Many more horses would have perished had it not been for the bravery of Doc John and the other volunteers who were there on site that day.

After tragedy, the Westernaies family always pulls together and perseveres. A BarnRaising Fundraiser party was held at the Jeffco Auditorium to help raise the funds to purchase the new arena. Director Glen E. Keller, Jr. discovered that the organization was only insured for \$75,000 worth of loss, yet the most affordable bid that the Westernaies received for a replacement

structure was \$225,000. Westenaire driver and dad, Bob Massengale, immediately began calling steel companies. One of those companies to which he reached out felt sympathetic to the unfortunate situation. Varco Pruden, a provider of pre-engineered metal buildings, graciously agreed to sell a building to Westernaies at below dealer cost, provided that the Westernaies would go pick it up in Independence, Missouri. Unlike the previous Red Arena building, this one would actually be red!

The new Red Arena building was dedicated on November 15th, 1986. A memorial to Mariah, Big Red, and Hot Shot was placed in the concrete flooring of the Red Arena, where it stands to this day.



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