



# ST. CROIX TRAIL BLAZERS

## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 | OCTOBER 2017

### 2017 Special Olympics Minnesota Competition

August 18th was Special Olympics Minnesota



Equestrian Competition. This year St. Croix Trail Blazers had 19 athletes signed up to compete. Our largest team ever and the largest team competing! It was a beautiful day and every rider brought

their "A game" to the arena and did their best; which is all we asked.

There were 84 riders from all over Minnesota competing in Showmanship, Western Equitation, Working Trail, Pole Weaving, Barrels, English Equitation, and English Obstacle. Our athletes proudly came home with 15 gold medals, 13 silver medals, 7 bronze medals, 4 fourth place ribbons, 4 fifth place ribbons, 1 seventh place ribbon, and 3 participation ribbons.

As much as I'd like to clone myself and be in multiple places at one time, that's not possible so I was only able to take minimal photos of our day while keeping everyone going where they needed to be.



If you have photos you'd like to share from the day, please

email them to me or upload them to the 2017 SOMN Competition album on our Facebook page.

Thank you to our staff and



volunteers who supported our riders through this competition. Thank you also to

Jeannie Heckel and Peggy and Warren Walsh for hauling our horse partners. And last but not least, thank you to our families and riders for

making this day so awesome!

*Karen Harjes*



### MISSION

Trail Blazers mission is to provide horseback riding, training, and competitive sports opportunities to individuals with special needs in a safe learning environment through adaptive equine experience.

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## Rider in the Spotlight: Hailey

SCTB: How long have you been riding with St. Croix Trail Blazers?

Hailey: Riding about 2 years. I ride two Saturday's each month.

SCTB: What horse(s) do you ride?

Hailey: Rowdy

SCTB: Do you have a favorite horse?

Hailey: Rowdy is my favorite horse because he listens to me when I tell him to go!

SCTB: What is your favorite thing about riding?

Hailey: I like horses a lot. It's a fun sport. I did Special Olympics horseback riding and won 2 silver medals! I like the people who help me each week at riding. I like my friends I've met at horseback riding.



SCTB: Do you have any hobbies?

Hailey: Play sports, ride my bike, play video games and claw machines, draw and color pictures and take our English Mastiff dog (Clyde) for a walk. Bowling, basketball, bocce ball all through Special Olympics and I might try softball at school this year.

SCTB: Do you play other sports?

Hailey: Bowling, basketball, bocce ball all through Special Olympics and I might try softball at school this year.

SCTB: Anything you want to add?

Hailey: I'm 14. I go to high school in White Bear.

Thanks, Hailey, for being our "Rider in the Spotlight!"

## New Makeover for the Old Barn

The old red barn got a makeover this fall. Broken boards were repaired on the outside and a new coat of paint was applied. The windows at the top of the barn were also reconfigured to help keep the birds out.



The barn was originally built in 1901 as a dairy barn. It had a hay loft on the upper level and a milking parlor below. The old rope and pulley system for moving piles of loose hay can still be seen at the top of the hay loft. The barn structure is made of white oak beams with mortise and tenon joinery. There are no nails, bolts, or metal plates holding them together, just wood pegs.



The barn was in rough shape when Jasmine Meadows bought it in 2013. SCTB pulled out



a mountain of old boards and junk from the old milking parlor. A new metal roof was added in 2015. Additional supports were added below the barn where a concrete wall had been knocked down. Earlier this year the Washington County

Sentence to Serve crews broke up the concrete and moved it away.

Today SCTB is again using the barn for hay storage. The lower level is a horse shelter where Rocky the horse has been staying for the last several months. With the new upgrades, the barn should last for many years to come.



## Pasture Rehaul Completed

Over the last few months, you may have noticed quite a few changes happening in the SCTB landscaping department!

This spring, we made the decision to “rehaul” our pastures and get them healthy enough to sustain our horses for the entirety of the warm season. To do this, we needed to not only seed with a high quality equine grass seed, but also clear all the fence lines so that the electric fences worked properly, cut down many, many trees, remove mountains of buckthorn, put up new fencing and gates, and much more! A healthy set of pastures not only allows us to spend less money on hay every year, but it’s also a very good nutrition source for our horses.

As you know, Mother Nature can put up quite the fight, so before beginning our pasture rehaul, myself and one of our volunteers, Jeannie Heckel, attended a pasture management seminar at the University of



Minnesota. The U is one of the top resources in the country when it comes to equine health and nutrition, so we knew we were in the right place to learn!

Jeannie and I had lots of help to get this project complete; the Sentence to Serve Crew was a huge help in some of the bigger projects (cutting trees, buckthorn removal, etc.). Anthony Grayden, Karen Malmskog, Joe Heckel, Karen Harjes, and Austin Harjes all were huge helpers in getting this giant undertaking done as well!

Today, our pastures have been successfully “revamped” to each include two high quality grass paddocks, a dry lot (where we feed hay), and an intricate gate system that allows us to cycle where the horses are eating so that we can let the grass rest. We plan to continue working on adding more shelter to each pasture this fall and next spring.

*Kellie Grayden*

The Grubbs are hosting a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 28 from 6-10 p.m.

Adults \$10; kids under 18 free. Bring a treat to share!



**FEATURING: THE WHITE BEAR BIG BAND  
17-PIECE SWING ORCHESTRA**

**ADULTS: \$10  
KIDS UNDER 18: FREE**

**BRING A TREAT TO SHARE!  
QUESTIONS? CALL STU AT (651) 247-2045**

**A BENEFIT FOR THE ST. CROIX TRAIL BLAZERS  
ADAPTIVE HORSEBACK RIDING**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 - 6:00PM**

**JASMINE MEADOWS  
6659 JASMINE AVENUE NORTH  
STILLWATER, MINNESOTA**



## Give to the Max

Have you heard the phrase "Give to the Max" day? Well you'll probably be hearing it more in the near future because it's approaching fast!



[GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) is an online, non-profit organization that links donors with organizations like ours who are working to make Minnesota a better place. Its online giving website, [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org), enables charitable giving any time and any place, allowing people to donate with ease and enthusiasm.

Please join us on November 16, 2017, for Give to the Max Day and help us continue to change lives by providing horseback riding, training, and competitive sports opportunities to individuals with special needs in a safe learning environment through the adaptive equine experience.

In the "find a cause" box, type in St. Croix Trail Blazers then click on us. Select your donation on the right hand side. With the help of donations from supporters such as you, we will continue to see improvements in our cause.

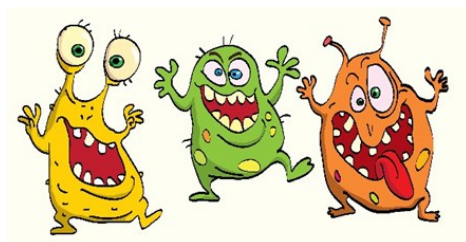
Once again, thank you for your generosity.



## Flu season has arrived!!!!



**Please stay home if you are sick.**  
**Thanks!**



# SAVE THE DATE

Our Christmas Party will be on Thursday,  
December 14. Details to follow later.



If you bring a new rider who joins  
the team, we'll give you \$50 off  
your next month's fee!

\*\*\*Rider must pass evaluation  
with instructor.\*\*\*



*Special People Needing Special Horses*

## Contact Us



Email:  
[stcroixtrailblazers@yahoo.com](mailto:stcroixtrailblazers@yahoo.com)  
Website:  
[www.stcroixtrailblazers.org](http://www.stcroixtrailblazers.org)  
Facebook:  
[St. Croix Trail Blazers Equestrian Team](https://www.facebook.com/St.Croix-Trail-Blazers-Equestrian-Team)

Copywriters: Sylvia Grubb and Karen Harjes  
Layout: Kristie Campeau-Perlock  
Send submissions to: [hsgrubb@gmail.com](mailto:hsgrubb@gmail.com)

St. Croix Trail Blazers is tax-exempt under  
Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service.

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