

# A View from the Top

by Susan Nicoson

Is there anyone so lucky as to be a rider in the Stable Hands program and be on the board of directors for Stable Hands? Well, folks that lucky person would be me.

I feel really lucky to be a rider in this program. When I was told I had multiple sclerosis some 26 years ago, I had no idea the mental, physical, and emotional challenges that diagnosis would bring. As a rider with Stable Hands, not only do I receive help physically, but my self-confidence, trust, self-awareness, and inner-strength are boosted as well. And, how amazing it is to see the volunteers who work with the horses and riders? Some volunteers side-walk, some lead, and some long-line the horses. In spring and summer they walk through hot, deep sand in the blazing sun and by the end of their "shift" most have sunburned noses, cheeks, shoulders, and beet red faces. In fall, they sometimes dodge puddles, get rained on and blown by the cold wind. And, in spite of how horrendous the conditions can sometimes be, they come back for the next session. That is awesome!

Being a member of the Stable Hands Board of Directors is a way for me to give a little bit back. I know I wanted to help in some way, and suggested that maybe I could do filing – something helpful as long as it didn't require walking, speaking, writing, small motor skills or physical strength (think that kind of narrows things down a bit?). Never, in a million years did I dream that I would end up a member on the board of directors.. My hope is that by being on the Stable Hands Board of Directors, I am able to give back as much as I have gotten from the program!

I want to tell about a comment made to me by my 27 year-old son (who, may I add, inherited my sense of humor). He lives with his wife in Montana, and I was talking to him on the phone. I told him I had to go, as I was late for riding.

"Ride what?" he asked.

"I ride a horse!"

And the reply I got was...."Mom the mechanical horses they have outside of the grocery stores don't count."

If only he knew! I love my son.



## GALA FUNDRAISER

The Stable Hands Annual Gala Dinner & Auction will be held July 12, 2008 at the Edson Foulke Guest Ranch in Gazelle. Raymond Zanni Catering of McCloud will be serving a full sit-down dinner which will include a selection of fine wines. Music will be provided by the North of Forty Band. Local artists and artisans will be donating their works to the auction. Other auction highlights will be a trip to Cozumel and tickets to a Britt concert. The Gala Dinner and Auction are a crucial part of the Stable Hands fundraising effort.

Reservations can be made by calling the Stable Hands office at 530-842-3082.

Please leave your number and someone will return your call. Reservations should be made by July 1st.

