



**Barrel Race benefit Sept. 30 – be there!**



Photo by Karen Richert

Hundreds of competitors, spectators and sponsors are gearing up for our Third Annual “Have a Heart Barrel Race & Poles” event Sunday, Sept. 30.

Approved by the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association, this year’s event has \$1,500 added in cash and prizes to contestants. All proceeds benefit Horses with Heart, from 8:30 a.m. (when time-only events begin) through the afternoon at Olsen’s Arena, off Road 1 South in Chino Valley. Thanks to Mike Olsen of Olsen’s Grain for once again donating the venue.

Free for spectators, the day includes barrel racing and pole bending in Open Divisions, barrels for Youth and Pewee Divisions. The fastest combined time in open barrels and poles will earn a horse/rider pair a trophy buckle for the “Horse with the Most Heart.”

**People with special needs can be part of the Barrel Race action: they can meet “their” riders, wear the same contestant numbers, and cheer them on during the races. When the racers win, so will their partners.**

The Opening Ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. with riders and military presentation of colors. Attendants are urged to bring their own chairs (no bleachers at the arena); food and beverage concessions, plus portable toilets, will be available.

Contestants may park overnight if needed at no charge. Dry camping and individual pen set-ups are permitted. For more details, contact Penny Hubbard (520-678-2019) or Trudy Chapman-Radley at 928-713-4016.

*Horses with Heart, P. O. Box 2427  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323  
(928) 533-9178  
www.hwonline.org*

**Calendar of Events**

**Aug. 31 ~ Sequins & Saddles** comes back to HwH! BBQ dinner, live auction, live music, dancing and more. Tickets \$35 at the gate. (For more info, see our Facebook page or hwonline.org.)

**Through Sept. 14 ~ Therapeutic Riding Session 3;** Oct. 1-Nov. 9 ~ Session 4.

**Through Nov. 10 ~ Special Olympics Fall Session.**

**Sept. 15 ~ Arizona Equifest, Prescott Rodeo Grounds.** Volunteers needed for our information booth – contact Pam Berry: 928-899-4759, [execdir@hwonline.org](mailto:execdir@hwonline.org).

**Sept. 15 ~ WDAAZ (Western Dressage Association of Arizona) Fall Horse Show, Santori Ranch, Chino Valley.** Some of our HwH Silver Saddle group will compete.

**Sept. 30 ~ Have a Heart Benefit Barrel Race/Pole Bending, Olsen’s Arena, Chino Valley.** (See left).

**Oct. 2 ~ National Night Out.** A free event with food, entertainment, raffle, produced by the Chino Valley Police Department. HwH booth, plus kid-friendly activities. From 5-9 pm, Memory Park, Chino Valley.

**Volunteer of the Month: PETE SANDERS**



**Reasons selected:** In just months, Pete has shown a remarkable level of dedication to HwH. He helps with sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, feeds horses, sprays for weeds, donated an extra sprinkler for arena-watering, and does it all with a big heart

and ready smile for everyone.

**Q&A with Pete:**

**Q: How long have you been with HwH?**

**A:** About six months.

**Q: Why do you volunteer at HwH?**

**A:** Helping children and wounded veterans and working with older horses is right up my alley. I was raised on a cattle ranch and being with horses has always been my pressure-relief valve.

**Q: What is your favorite memory or moment at HwH?**

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**A:** The first time I helped with a therapeutic riding class, I saw the young rider light up like a candle. So much joy and happiness! That made my whole experience, right there. At HwH I get to see miracles with the riders – and I can tell that the horses are enjoying what they’re doing, too.

**Q: If you could share one thing with new volunteers, what would that be?**

**A:** If you want to experience the miracles, get involved. You’ll be doing good – and knowing that you’re giving back in ways that really matter.

### ***Safety Tip of the Month***

Working with a horse that is new to you? Let your Instructor know that it’s a first meeting, and ask for any special information needed to keep everyone safe.

***Help fund rider scholarships with our new silicone bracelets. Just \$3 each, offered in two sizes, they’re available in the HwH office.***



### ***Don't over-tax yourself: give to HwH***

Does your state tax burden feel a little too, well, burdensome? Cut it down to size and donate to Horses with Heart.

Under the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program, you could enjoy a dollar-for-dollar tax credit – up to \$800 for a married couple – for helping us continue our important programs. To give, email or call Pam Berry: [execdir@hwhonline.org](mailto:execdir@hwhonline.org); 928-899-4759. Or, mail your check, payable to Horses with Heart, to P.O. Box 2427, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.

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### ***Growing up, giving back: new vet sourcing meds for HwH horses***

It takes a lot of care to keep our mature herd healthy, and now a former HwH teen volunteer is working to help keep the costs down.

Madelyn Melchiors, a newly-minted DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine), was heavily involved with horse care when she volunteered with HwH as a preteen and teenager.



“One of my inspirations to become a vet has included giving back to the wonderful horses that help our special needs population,” says Madelyn. Just months ago, she was graduated from Colorado State University with her veterinary degree, and now works at Cerbat Cliffs Animal Hospital in Kingman, AZ.

Her work brings her in contact with pharmaceutical representatives for the horse world, and the connection immediately clicked: “My goal is to be able to obtain some low- or no-cost medications to benefit the HwH horses.”

With an undergraduate degree in Equine Industry and Business, Madelyn knows better than most how expensive it is to nurture and care for horses. And having volunteered for several years with HwH, she also knows how vital a healthy herd is to helping people with special needs.

“The human-animal bond is most evident with special needs people – that’s where it’s most potent,” she says. “I want to do my best to help foster that bond.” To others who might be considering helping HwH, Dr. Melchiors has this “prescription” for doing something that matters:

“You don’t realize how much fun you’re missing until you help a program that you feel good about. Even if you can give just a few hours a week, or a donation once a year, it can make a huge difference.”