

## Red Barn Blues THANK YOU !



A HUGE thank you to all who helped make the “Red Barn Blues” a fun and successful event! The WI State Horse Council Equine Foundation sponsored the July 28th fundraiser to benefit the future equestrian campground at Governor Dodge State Park. Partnering up with the Friends of Governor Dodge -Equestrians, the fundraiser was held at Shepard’s Bed and Barn in Columbus, Wisconsin.

The day started with a presentation from WAMSTAR, Whitewater Area Mounted Search and Rescue. WAMSTAR members Roger



Kincaid, Debbie Kahn, and Candi Kildow shared information about how the volunteer team works with local Sheriff/Fire Departments and EMTs to serve the public in locating lost or missing persons. Horses are especially useful in searches because of the terrain they can cover and the line of sight provided to the rider. Horses are valuable searchers as they are instinctively aware of their surroundings and will alert on anything out of the ordinary. The horse/rider teams undergo extensive training to become certified. Thanks to WAMSTAR’s Ralph Hunter and Bill Maddox for bringing their amazing horses to the Red Barn Blues. For more information about Whitewater Area Search Team and Rescue, a 501(c)3 organization, visit their website at <http://www.wamstar.org>.



Next was the fascinating demonstration by WI Large Animal Emergency Response led by Howard Ketover, DVM. WLAER is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to educating emergency response, animal control and veterinary personnel in technical emergency response. Whether an animal is in a trailer accident, submerged in mud or water, trapped into a ravine, cast in a stall, or has fallen on barnyard ice and cannot get up, it is human nature to want to help. Large animals can be unpredictable, especially when

in desperate, life or death situations and when stressed and trapped, livestock can injure themselves, property, and the people around them. It is crucial that the rescue is performed in an organized, efficient, and safe manner. WI Large Animal Emergency Response not only trains first responders around the state but also serves in a support and response role for large animal emergencies. For more information visit <http://wlaer.org>.

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A BIG thank you to Peter Lewke at Shepard's Barn & Bed for hosting the fundraising event in his beautifully restored barn and for all the preparations he and Micha took on. We are also extremely grateful to Madison's Blythe Gamble and the Rollin' Dice who performed their award winning original and traditional blues from 4:00-7:00 pm. There was plenty of good food to go around and local beer and wine crafters were on hand to serve refreshments. It was great to see folks of all ages, young and old, come out to enjoy the music and a fun day in the country!



Most of all, a heartfelt thank you to the Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation for supporting The Friends of Governor Dodge in their efforts to build a new equestrian campground at one of the largest and most beautiful state parks in Wisconsin. Wisconsin State Horse Council Equine Foundation members came together to support an endeavor that will serve equestrians now and well into the future. Governor Dodge State Park has some of the finest horse trails in the state and with a suitable campground,

riders from all over the state will be able to traverse the trails in the beautiful Driftless Area and then enjoy a positive and memorable camping experience. For more information or to DONATE TO THE CAMPGROUND FUND, visit <https://www.govdodgeequestrians.com>.

