

## SAHA'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

From a list containing over 450 names of past and present SAHA members, 71 people joined us in a "Night to Remember"!

A warm thank you to our Sponsors for this event: SAHA, subsidized \$4.50 of each party ticket and provided a bottle of wine for each table. Jeff Stapleton Farrier Service sponsored the appetizers for the "Mix and Mingle" and Salisbury Greenhouse donated the lovely evergreen table centers done in silver containers to depict our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have to also mention that without the support of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church this event might not have happened. They indirectly subsidized our club \$2,295.00 by not imposing the 125 people minimum for the large room and by allowing us to bring in our own appetizers.

Our Party goers were met at the door by volunteers: Marg and Steve Jubinville who checked them in, gave them their personalized place cards for the table and then took their picture in front of a table loaded with door prizes and sporting the "Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" banner. They then moved into the room that was edged with a lit Horse and Sleigh sporting our Parade Costume and lead by a SAHA Costumed rider. Tables filled with newsletters, membership lists, clothing, mugs, trophies and pictures lined the walls around the large hall, accented by Christmas lights. The original hand drawing of our logo was also on display along with our original charter and bylaws. Scrapbooks filled with pictures of our first events and even some of our joint farm ads were also displayed. Two Native costumes flanked the first banner that SAHA had and spot lights softly lit the display.

For an hour people snacked on shrimp, cheese, crackers and veggies as they renewed old acquaintances and made new friends.

Phil Coatta as the 2009 President invited everyone to take their seats and the Program began as the main committee of Greg Fitzgerald and Carol Spriggs came up to join Donna-Rae Coatta who was the MC. The first door prize of the evening was donated by Dennis and Carol Spriggs. A "Goodie Food" Basket was won by Ken Komm.

Natalie Ince joined Donna-Rae on stage to say Grace and in doing so mentioned the 19 members that have gone to the Rainbow Bridge. The Buffet dinner cooked by the OLPH Volunteers was once again superb.

Back to the program and recognition was given to the current Board of Directors of SAHA, 4 were in attendance: Phil, Wendy Zelt, Greg Fitzgerald and Karen St. Amand. Phil then went on to list the others and included the members who came forward in 2009 to run specific events. The second door prize was a dark chocolate sleigh donated by Donna Nellis, which was won by Andy Polanski.

The 1984 Directors in attendance were: Jim Thornton, Pam Bonar and Donna-Rae Coatta. Rounding out the 7 people that ran the club that first year were: Bill Scott, Karin Brunnee, Christa Hoppe and Myrle Tessari

Of the Past Presidents: Jim Thornton, Ken Zelt, Pam Bonar and Donna-Rae attended and Bill Scott, Gary Millar, Myrle Tessari, Rae Roulston, Sally McArthur and Bob Klassen were absent.

Linda Finstad won Greg Fitzgeralds' donated door prize which was a clock flanked by cowboy boots.

Phil then came back to the stage to introduce his slide presentation that was put to western music. Shouts came from various parts of the room as the people and horses (or dogs!) were recognized.

Another draw and this time Kathy Dumaresq won the Pet Basket donated by Phil and Donna-Rae.

We invited the audience to participate in a "Remember" session, Ken Zelt, Linda Peet, Carol Spriggs, Jewel Maass and Ken Komm came up to share some of their memories of SAHA activities. An email sent by Christa Hoppe was read, she recapped the first horse show at Manta Arabians and wished the club luck in future endeavors.

Another draw and this time Jean Askew went home with the White Chocolate Sleigh donated by Donna Nellis.

One of our favorite activities at Christmas is the Christmas Gift Exchange. The task of keeping the gifts going to the right people falls on the very capable shoulders of Ken Komm. His wit and wisdom keep the participants in stitches until the last present is chosen. Thanks Ken!

Next on the program was the draw for the Salisbury Greenhouse Table Centers. As one person from each table was asked to stand and be #1, the rest were numbered in a clockwise circle, a ticket was drawn out of a bucket and that person took home the center piece. The 10<sup>th</sup> one was drawn for from all the volunteers that helped out with this event.

The evening drew to a close, our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was very special because of the friendships and the horses that brought us all together. Those friendships and the visiting continued on into the late evening as people enjoyed the soft Christmas music in the background and chatted.

A special thank you to the Volunteers that made the event happen:

Greg Fitzgerald, Carol Spriggs and Donna-Rae Coatta – Committee, phoning

Natalie Ince & Donna-Rae Coatta – Decorating

Susen Douglass – Christmas Tree

Wendy Zelt – Appetizers & phoning

Phil Coatta – Slide Presentation

Helen Bakker & Kathy Dumaresq – phone list

Marg & Steve Jubinville – Greeters & photographer

**CALENDAR REMINDER: 2010 SAHA Christmas Party will be on DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>.**