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NARHA's Regional Conferences Provide Educational Experiences Close to Home

Denver, CO—With its membership dispersed across the North American continent and beyond, NARHA provides an organizational and educational opportunity in each of its 11 regions each year. In February and March of 2009 alone, NARHA regions convened region conferences in Willowbrook, Illinois; Hackettstown, New Jersey; Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Brainerd, Minnesota.

Each of NARHA's modestly priced region conferences offers an opportunity for NARHA Center representatives involved in equine assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) to take NARHA's Center Accreditation Training Course and exam for free, to dine together and celebrate regional accomplishments and awards, to learn from local experts about aspects of the EAAT field, and to discuss standards for safety and excellence in the provision of EAAT services.

"More than 850 people have attended these first four region conferences," said Jama Rice NARHA's Director of Membership, "so we expect that number to more than double before the year is over." This weekend there will be a region conference in Park City, Utah and others will take place in Goffstown, New Hampshire (April 17–19); Burbank, California (May 8–10); Beaverton, Oregon (May 15–17); Lenoir City, Tennessee (August 14–16) and Noblesville, Indiana (September 25–27).

For more information about NARHA's region conferences visit www.narha.org and click on the Conference Connection pull-down menu on the right side of the homepage.

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About NARHA:

NARHA was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association to promote equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At almost 800 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic riding, a center may offer any number of equine assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work, or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 30,000



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volunteers, 3,500 instructors, 6,300 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at NARHA centers.