# EQUESTRIAN PARK

4th Quarter 2016 Report for the Salt Lake County Equestrian Park and Event Center



# New Leadership Comes to the Equestrian Park

Jo Stowell Named Facility Director

In October, Jo E. Stowell was named the new Director of the Equestrian Park. Jo comes to Utah from Illinois where she was the Senior Sales Manager and Department Head of the Peoria Civic Center. She spent 10 years at that facility and spent an equal amount of time working with the equestrian community at Bridlewood Stables in Peoria. Her leadership skills, vast sales experience and history with horses were key factors in bringing her on board at the Park.

The hiring process was a cooperative effort between the Salt Lake County Community Services Department, Salt Lake County Council, the Equestrian Park Advisory Committee and SMG. This special interest in the selection process was borne out of events that occurred earlier this year when the future of the Equestrian Park was being discussed. The Salt Lake County Mayor's office put forth four different scenarios that ranged from closing the facility to converting it into a regional, multi-use park.

In August, the Council agreed with the Mayor's recommendation to maintain the equestrian programming and opportunities at the park, as well as to invest in the maintenance and improvements needed at the facility.

This infusion of cash and commitment from the County will help revitalize the Equestrian Park. Jo says she's up for the challenge. Jo says she is excited to be part of the process to improve the facility. With better amenities and a ramped up sales effort to bring new and larger events to the Park, the County will soon see a return on its investment. She's looking forward to working with all of the various user groups at the Park, from the equestrian crowd to other athletic organizations, consumer shows to community groups.

In addition to her experience at the Peoria Civic Center, Ms. Stowell also worked at

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**January 2017** 

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A SALT LAKE COUNTY FACILITY



Mike Terry Named Employee of the Year

Award Comes

on the Heels of Terry Being Named Employee of the 4th Quarter

Operations Manager Mike Terry had a big year at the Equestrian Park. In April, he took over as Interim Facility Director and served in that capacity until October.

Mike has been with SMG for over 14 years. He came to the Park after 11 years at South Towne where he was, most recently, the Lead Engineer.

In his spare time, Mike likes to ride motorcycles, camp and spend time with his grandkids.

Although he works at an equestrian park, Mike does not ride horses. He did once, when he was 10 years old. After the horse bolted into the barn and Mike fell off the horse, his riding days came to an abrupt and painful end. He says he'll stick to motorcycles.

Mike also won the Employee of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter 2016.

# **4th Quarter Sales**

#### <u>October</u>

- Utah Horse Expo 2017
- Utah All Breeds Horse Association May 2017
- Utah All Breeds Horse Association -June 2017
- Utah All Breeds Horse Association -July 2017
- Cleo Anderson

#### <u>November</u>

- Jordan World Circus 2017
- Utah Valley Chariot Association Races
- American Vaulting Association 2017
- Performance Horses Winter Show Series

#### <u>December</u>

- Dee Hickman Christmas Party
- 4-H Clubs and Meetings 2017
- Performance Horses Winter Series



## Feral Cat Program Continues at Park

The Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program administered by Salt Lake County continues at the Park. As the name suggests, the program focuses on trapping, neutering (or spaying) cats and then returning them to the same area. County personnel check the Park weekly.

The Equestrian Park likes to have cats at the facility because they help control the rodent population, which is common on properties with horses, other animals and feed.

# Plenty of Action at Equestrian Park Events

One of the Equestrian-related highlights of the 4th Quarter was hosting the Rocky Mountain Professional Rodeo Association. Crowds enjoyed steer roping, bull riding and a variety of traditional rodeo events. There were also plenty of thrills during the Utah Valley Chariot Association Races that began in November. Club nights and meetings included: 4-H, Jr. Livestock Board Meeting, Utah's Mounted Thunder, Barrel Buddies Jackpot Nights, Utah Paint



Horse Club, Utah Hunter Jumper, ZD Roping, Barrel Buddies Winter Nights, Wasatch Horse Show Association and the Utah Barrel Racing Association Jack-

pots. The Performance Horses Winter Show Series kicked off in December.

In October, the North American Dog Agility Council met at the Park and in December the Wasatch Agility Club held an event.

(See Events next page)



SMG is a worldwide leader in public facility management and hospitality services. Since 1977, SMG has contracted with 230 facilities around the world. The Salt Lake County Equestrian Park has been part of the SMG family since 2014.

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EAC Selected Festival of Trees as 4th Quarter Project

Partnering with Visit Salt Lake, SMG employees helped prepare a ski-themed tree for the annual Festival of Trees held at the South Towne Exposition Center. Proceeds from the sale of trees benefited Primary Children's Hospital.

The tree was decorated in a "Ski City" theme and included Super Passes, new skis, boots and other accessories. The sale garnered \$3,300 for PCH. The total amount of funds raised from the auction will be announced by

PCH later this year.

The tree was dedicated to the memory of Visit Salt Lake and SMG employees who passed away during



2016: Larry Vaughn, receptionist for VSL; Jim Petersen, IT Manager for SMG; and John Bell, Security Supervisor for the Salt Palace.

#### S.O.A.R.

Service for Success/Outreach to Our Community/ Awareness of Safety/Responsibility to Our Environment

# Park Adds Two New Staff Members



**Dave DeLong** has joined the Operations team to work on grounds maintenance. He comes to the Park from the Pacific Northwest having lived and worked in California, Washington and Oregon. He has an extensive background in the sawmill industry. In in leisure time, he enjoys fishing and watching baseball and football. He's a big fan of the Seattle Seahawks.

Dave DeLong

**Mike Spotz** has also joined the Operations team. He hails from Utah, but has lived in California, India and Japan. He has traveled extensively through Nepal, Thailand and North America. He has one son and the two of them spend time together exploring our local geography.



**Michael Spotz** 

Park Staff Participates in End-of-Year Training at South Towne

All SMG employees were invited to participate in the annual training sessions and Employee Recognition Luncheon.

Katie Wells from the SMG K'Nekt program offered Customer Service classes over the course of two days.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, the Employee Luncheon featured an emergency preparedness session from Utah's "Earthquake Lady," a recap of the year from General Manager Dan Hayes and a financial recap from Finance Director Jon Daich.

Many employees were recognized for their years of service, and Employees of the Year from all three facilities were named.

The day included a catered holiday meal by Utah Food Services.

# Events (continued)

A variety of sports organizations either held meetings or hosted events at the Park, including: the Utah Avalanche Soccer Club, Utah High School Mixed Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, GULL Lacrosse Girls Tournament, Utah High School Mixed Ultimate Frisbee Championships and the Rad Canyon BMX competition.

Other events included the Intermountain Snowmobile Show and the City Church Fall Carnival.

There were also a couple of **private holiday parties**.



Staff End-of-Year Meeting at South Towne