

Winnies and Nickers

Pretty Pony Pastures

April/May 2010

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Setting Your Sights

When you or your rider began lessons here, you were asked to complete a form with your goals for yourself or your rider. Some goals were lofty; others were fun. Some riders reached them; some surpassed them; others stopped short.

During the next few weeks, I will be asking each and every rider (and parent) the question, "What are your goals?" Your answer will help both me and you to plan each lesson so that we see progress in every rider.

The goals that you set for yourself or your rider should:

1. Be motivating for the rider. For some of our younger riders, it could be staying on the horse for the entire lesson; others may want to keep their heels down so they can eventually jump. Don't set the goal too high or the rider may become frustrated.
2. Keep a balance between outcome and performance. Want to ride with a bit (outcome)? The performance is keeping the hands low and quiet.
3. Prepare for riding. On the way to the arena, discuss *success* with the rider, as in "*I am looking forward to watching you make big circles today.*" rather than "*When do you think you'll be able to turn that horse?*" Also, encourage your rider to stretch before getting on the horse, especially if you drive a long distance to get to us.
4. Encourage Focus, Focus, Focus. Be a cheerleader on the way to and from the riding lesson. Calling out to the rider can distract him/her just as he/she is ready to pull the rein or turn the head.
5. Build on the success, ignore the failure. Riding is a difficult sport. Every time the horse moves, the rider needs to adjust his/her position. For some of our riders, this is a big challenge.

I would also encourage you to take pictures or videos of your rider or yourself so you can see the change in your posture and position over time.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of our riders move up to the next level!

Update on Gloria

I am happy to report that Gloria is no longer in ICU and is now at a recovery center where she is doing therapy in hopes of a complete recovery. She is able to walk a few steps and can talk. Latest word is she may move in with her sister in a week or so.

When Kathy last visited her, she brought her a picture of Poppie that Nancy printed and laminated. When Gloria saw the picture, she immediately smiled and recognized "her" horse. We are now working on a video for her with all our riders.

Her visitors often see her in her Pretty Pony Pastures t-shirt. If you would like to send her a card, please bring it to the arena and Kathy will take it on her next visit.

Calendar of Events

May 9—Mother's Day closed.
Take Mom out for brunch.

May 9—Dressage Show—Rattle Run Farms 7103 Gratiot Ave. St. Clair, MI 48079— 9:00 am Come and cheer our riders on.

May 29—31— Memorial Day Weekend closed.

June 20—Father's Day closed.
Take Dad out to the lake.

June 20—Dressage Show—Windsong Equestrian Center—2315 E. Rattalee Lake Road, Holly. 9:00 am Come and cheer our riders on.

June 21—24 Horses and More #1—
Nutrition week—Registration forms will be e-mailed separately and on the Website.

July 3—11 closed—*Have a great Independence Day week!*

July 11—Dressage Show—Rattle Run Farms 7103 Gratiot Ave. St. Clair, MI 48079— 9:00 am Come and cheer our riders on.

July 18—Dressage Show—Windsong Equestrian Center—2315 E. Rattalee Lake Road, Holly. 9:00 am Come and cheer our riders on.

August 2—5 Horses and More #2—
Performance (or Getting Ready to Show)

August 14— 3rd Annual Giddy-up Go Horse Show. More information to come.

We would like to welcome the following riders to our program: Julia McCue and Dustin and Dylan Malburg, . We hope you enjoy your sessions with us.

Also our new volunteer, Jan Wenner, will be with us for a few months as she completes her internship. If you haven't already met her, she will be at most of the therapeutic riding sessions.



Pretty Pony Pastures

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Team P3 Dressage Results By Riley Keller



Team P3 fans here is our latest breaking news! On Sunday April 25, 2010, Amanda Martin, Kathy Carter, and Riley Keller (me) were in an amazing Dressage show at Windsong Equestrian Center. Kathy and Riley rode Leslie and Amanda rode Buttercup.

Amanda showed great effort and determination to finish the tests with Buttercup, who in her first show, was extremely eager to leave the arena. Amanda prevailed and hopefully Buttercup will be less nervous at the next show. Way to go Amanda!

Kathy looked cool and confident and after several long moments received 2nd place in Test A. She was awesome in her first dressage show.

After a wind whistling ride, and what seemed like hours of waiting, I received a 1st place. But more importantly, I gained 14.5 points from my first ride. Thank you Mrs. Linda for helping us improve so much!!

Thanks for all who came out and supported our P3 riders. We hope to see you at Rattle Run on Mother's Day!!

Just a reminder that our CafePress store has t-shirts and other gifts at <http://www.cafepress.com/p3riding>

All proceeds from the items sold through CafePress benefit our riding programs.



No Laughing Matter

As the weather gets warmer, we tend to be outside and at the barn more. Our activities in and around the barn could jeopardize the health of our horses.



Smoking—We are a non-smoking facility. That means there is **no smoking** anywhere on our property. If you must smoke, please do so in your vehicle and place the butts in your ashtray. Cigarette butts make their way into the paddocks; the horses cross the driveway when going to the outdoor arena. If a horse eats one they could colic. Colic can be fatal. Plus, dropping cigarette butts anywhere is littering!

Food and drinks—We are finding water and pop bottles everywhere! In the arena, in the barn aisle, on the picnic benches. Please deposit empty bottles in the recycle or the trash container. We are also finding candy wrappers and candy in the arena, barn aisle and other places where the horses could get them. HORSES DO NOT VOMIT! If they eat the candy—they can colic. If they eat the foil wrapper, it could damage their throat or intestines. Please DO NOT LITTER!

Pass Them On!

Kids grow fast and riding clothes are soooo expensive. To help with this ongoing dilemma we will be offering free advertising both in our newsletter and on our notice board at the barn.

If you have clothes or boots that your rider outgrew and would like to pass them on, post a note on the wall in the barn. Please include the item, size, description along with YOUR name and phone number/e-mail address and the price or FREE.

If you want it included in this monthly newsletter, I can add it. I cannot STORE any items, but, it can be “dropped off” on ride day to be “picked up” on the buyer’s ride day. We can turn this into a win-win for everyone!

April/May Birthdays

The following riders and volunteers have birthdays in April or May.

- Pam Martin
- Poppie
- Nora Kreft
- Lorene Mollenhour
- Madison Head
- Tanner Tarsi
- Bowen Waltz
- Julia McCue
- Brandon Hall



Wishing you a happy birthday and a great year.