

Winnies and Nickers

Pretty Pony Pastures

December 2008

Volume 3 Issue 6

Happy Holidays



Our holiday ornaments are once again available at CafePress—
<http://www.cafepress.com/p3riding>.

This year we are featuring Slick Chick! Slick is our rescue horse. She came to us as a very underweight three-year old filly. We have brought her weight up to a respectable level, she has had extensive ground work, has been handled by groups of children and we have

been riding her for the last three months. She is very calm and willing. We plan to introduce her as a regular team member of our therapeutic riding program this spring. You can read more about her at www.prettyponypastures.wordpress.com.



Planning to buy books, movies, CDs, games, toys, electronics, health and beauty items, sports, outdoors, and so much more is available through Amazon.com. Please access Amazon through our Web site at http://www.prettyponypastures.org/gift_shop.htm. We will receive a donation of 5% on most orders. This costs you nothing, but does help support our riding program.



If you are looking for horse items for your rider, visit www.horse.com. If you do order on-line, please enter **ppp** in the Country Care Code box and our facility will receive a 5% contribution based on the cost of the items you purchased. This is a win-win for both you and us. Don't forget, helmets and riding pants make GREAT Christmas gifts.

Wednesday Riders

Sixteen (or was that eighteen) riders, four horses, six volunteers, three hours...for five weeks. We did it!

I have it on good authority that the students from Patterson Elementary enjoyed themselves. I was told that they looked forward to what they were going to do at the farm. Thanks to Kathy Carter, the kids got a short, but informative lesson on some aspect of horses, from grooming, to listening to gut sounds, to looking at teeth. Every week was something new, something different.

In the arena, the riders were led by Audrey, Gloria, Vickie, Mary, and Margie. Stella, Leslie, Lu-Rain and Poppie all did their best, even on the days that they didn't really want to work.

Thank you to everyone who helped. I understand they will be back in the spring!

Calendar of Events

Dec. 24—Jan. 1—Christmas/New Year
No classes. Have yourself a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Feb. 7—4-H Horse Benefit Clinic *No classes.* This year's topic is *Sprucing up Your Showmanship and Hunter Under Saddle*. Clinic is held at MSU (11:00 am to 3:00 pm.) Cost—\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Thanks, Gracias, Dziękować

No matter how we say it, know that we are grateful for everyone who has helped out this past year.

Last month we asked for a microwave, and within days we got one from the Sims. They also brought us a table for the Activities Room (formerly known as the Tack Room).

Three angels visited us last week and gave us a financial gift so we can continue to provide some scholarship therapeutic riding lessons for riders whose families cannot afford the cost of riding.

We appreciate the time and efforts of our volunteers, who have shown up to assist with the classes, muck the paddocks, or do what ever needs to be done at the moment.

The "handy people" who have built, painted, assembled, installed, and put together the inner and outer workings so we can have a barn. It wouldn't have happened without you.

We are grateful to all.



Pretty Pony Pastures

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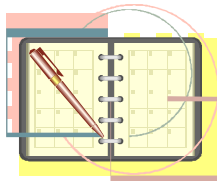
On-line Calendar



We now have an on-line calendar that lists all of our classes, events, and other activities. We are hoping this will help when you are trying to schedule your time. You can get to the

calendar from our Web site—
www.prettyponypastures.org or go directly to—
<http://freecal.brownbears.com/Prettyponypastures>

And speaking of calendars, please remember to write the rider name on our **sign out** calendar when you will not be here.



If your rider is sick or another emergency occurs, please call as soon as you know by calling my cell phone 248 245-0014. Once I am in the arena, I do not get messages left on the business line until after all the classes have been completed.

Rider Release for 2009

It's another year...and another set of forms.

With this newsletter is the Rider Release (or Volunteer Release) form for 2009. This form **must** be completed and on file when your rider begins the 2009 riding year. Bring it to the class.

Be sure to complete both sides of the form. On the front of the form, please indicate the weight of the rider. If you don't know, we have a scale. This is important so we can match the rider to the right horse based on the weight. Also, if your rider is at or near 200 pounds, we need to discuss which horse can be ridden and alternate plans if the weight exceeds 200 pounds.

We need to know if there has been any changes in the health of the rider. Even if the medication has changed. This information is very valuable should an incident occur and medical assistance is needed.

Weather Reminder

If this is winter, than spring has to be just around the corner! Please be aware that the weather at our farm may be a lot different than the weather in your neighborhood. We are closed if:

- Temperature or wind chill is 20⁰ or less.
- Traveler's advisory is in effect
- Snowfall of 4 inches or more (check to see if our drive is plowed)
- Winds gusting to more than 30 mph
- Severe weather warning (snow, ice, wind, temp, storm)
- Traveler's advisory is in effect.



If in doubt, please call our hot line at **248 245-0014**. We try to post closings as early in the day as possible.

If your roads are bad, if your area is not safe for travel, just call and let us know that you are not coming. It's always wise to play it safe.

North American Horsefest and YouTube

We got the videos taken at the North American Horsefest up on YouTube.



Saturday's video shows Quinn riding, Sunday's shows Jimmy. Both riders did an excellent job at demonstrating a typical riding lesson. The announcer did a great job at detailing the history of Haflingers and explaining the therapeutic riding program.



Sunday brought an interesting activity. One of the clinicians needed a horse. Not just any horse, but a horse on which he could demonstrate desensitizing. It seems the horse he was going to use woke up on the wrong side of the stall, and he needed a calm, gentle horse. He felt that Lu-Rain would be a good pick.

Watch the video. I would say Lu-Rain was too good of a pick! I can't take the credit for her. Lu-Rain had been to fairs, shows, and parades on a regular basis before she came to live with us. All that training paid off. Even when faced with a horse-eating leaf blower, Lu-Rain just stood there.

Enjoy the show at <http://www.youtube.com/lindamwatson>.