

# Winnies and Nickers

Horses Making  
Miracle...  
One Rider at a

December 2009

Volume 4 Issue 11

## Merry Christmas!



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

This year we are featuring Leslie Ann! Leslie has become the darling of the barn over the past few years. What many people do not know is Leslie was born with a stifle problem. Her stifle would slip out of place making it hard for her to walk. She had to wear special shoes for a long time—and the breeders were not sure that they

wanted to sell her. Fortunately for us, they decided to lease her to us for a year. The rest, as they say, is history. She has always been a very pleasant and co-operative horse. This year she has become the star of the dressage arena, winning ribbons every time she has shown!



If you are looking to make your purchases for Christmas on Amazon, please use the link on our Website—

[http://www.prettyponypastures.org/gift\\_shop.htm](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.

### Need gift ideas?



I can think of two—helmets and boots! Helmets must be equestrian helmets and ASTM/SEI certified for horseback riding. Boots need to have a 1/2" to 3/4" heel. DO NOT BUY HIKING BOOTS! The soles on those boots are too thick and can grip the stirrup.

As long as we're at it, you may want to add a helmet cozy—to keep the ears and neck warm on cold days. Gloves (not mittens) that are soft knit with those rubbery designs or dots on them. Keep the design on the palm to help hold the reins.

Long underwear, tights, or long socks. Knee highs are back in style! They also keep the legs warm while riding. Flannel lined jeans are a good choice as well—they are warm and grip the saddle.



And let Grandma and Grandpa know that we do sell gift certificates. Discounts for 5 or 10 lessons apply here as well!

### Calendar of Events

**December 13—Dickens Parade—Holly**  
Starts at 6:00 pm—downtown Holly.  
There are about 20 of us who will be lighting up the street on our stick horses!.

**December 24—January 1—Closed for Christmas holidays.** Classes resume January 2, 2010, weather permitting.

**January 16—MSU Dressage Club—Dressage Clinic—MSU**  
2:00 pm—7:00 pm—\$10/person

**February 6—Michigan 4-H Benefit Clinic—MSU—details to come**

**March 12—14—Michigan Horse Expo MSU—Details to come.**

### New Scout Program!



We will now be offering a program for Cub Scouts/Webelos that is similar to our Brownie Program.

The boy Scouts have just introduced a new horse rider belt loop and sport pin. It was just released this month and we will be holding our first program on Saturday—December 19th at 2:00 pm.

### Welcome to...

We'd like to welcome our new rider—Jennifer Davis. Jennifer is Madeline's mom. Looks like Madeline was having so much fun riding, that mom decided to join her. Good job!

We are also fortunate to have Kris Tarr join us as new volunteer. Kris helped with the Wednesday class when Patterson Elementary came and is now here on Tuesday morning. Welcome!



Horses Making Miracle...  
One Rider at a Time

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## Rider Release for 2010

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



With this newsletter is the Rider Release (or Volunteer Release) form for 2010 **and** a medical form. The Rider Release **must** be completed and on file when your rider begins the 2010 riding year. Bring it to the class. If your rider **never** filled out a Medical Release form **OR** it's been more than three years since you completed one for us, please return that with you as well. This information is very valuable should an incident occur and medical assistance is needed.

Be sure to complete both sides of the forms. Be sure to enter 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 rider's weight exceeds 200 pounds.

## December Birthdays

The following riders and volunteers have birthdays in December.

- Dustin Cole
- Morgan Nimmo
- Marcus Weil
- Mr. Tom



Wishing you a happy birthday and a great year.

## Weather Advisories

Here are our guidelines for farm closings. 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 20<sup>0</sup> 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 35 mph or a Wind Advisory is in effect
- 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, but always about two hours before class starts.

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.

## Congratulations Riley Keller



For a job well done! Riley took part in her first dressage schooling show on November 8th as Wind Song Equestrian Center riding Leslie.

There were eight participants in the Intro to Dressage Test A class. We are very proud that Riley received a sixth place ribbon. All of the participants were older than Riley. We are looking forward to her taking part in more schooling shows next year.

Amy Miljour also showed Leslie in the Intro to Dressage Test B class and received a blue ribbon! Amy has certainly been an asset getting Leslie ready for this new adventure in dressage.

## Interested in Dressage?

We will definitely be going to more schooling dressage shows in 2010.

Anyone who is currently riding at the Intermediate Level 2 or above can participate. We are hoping to have two or three horses that can perform at these shows. We know Leslie can do it. Buttercup is also able to perform but needs a little more work. We'll be working with her over the winter.

Once the schedules for the different barns in the area are posted, we will have a meeting for anyone who might be interested in participating in these shows.