

# Winnies and Nickers

Pretty Pony Pastures

February 2010

Volume 5 Issue 1

## State of the Farm

As we began last year, we continue to bring you up to date of our status with our State of the Farm address.

First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who came to Tom's funeral, sent cards or contributed to a memorial in Tom's name. It meant so much to see you and read some of the notes that were placed on the memory boards.

One of the most frequently asked questions was, "What will happen to the program?" The answer is, "It will continue." I will make every effort to continue the Therapeutic Riding program as well as the traditional riding program for as long as I am able. Tom played a very important role in the program. He had been my support and the behind the scenes (or horses' tails, as the case might be) person. Many of you have already volunteered to come out and clean the paddock, groom horses, or do whatever else needs to be done. For this I am grateful. If you would like to come out to help, don't wait to be asked, just call or come. I am hoping to have a comprehensive list of all the tasks that need to be done each day, so all anyone has to do is look at the list and see what isn't checked off for that day.

**Riding Programs**—our riding schedule will remain the same. We still need 100 riders to make expenses and be able to perform any extra maintenance or capital expenditures that occur. If you know someone who would benefit from our riding program, give them our brochure. If the rider stays in the program for three months, you will have your choice of a free lesson or a 2010 Pretty Pony Pastures t-shirt.

**Spring Break**—as we have in the past, *Horse Fever Week* will take place during Spring break, which is the first full week of April (April 5th—8th). Cost will be \$100 for the four sessions. Details and registration forms will be available next month.

**Cub Scout Workshops**—As mentioned in December, the Cub Scouts now have a Horseback Riding Belt Loop and Sport Pin. We held our first Cub Scout Workshop in December and have another scheduled for March 6th. If you know of any Cub Scout Dens that would like to earn this belt loop, have the leader call me or take home some *Scout* brochures to distribute.

**Summer Camp**—will be in June and August this year. We are looking to partner with a local youth association for five weeks in June/July so they can offer horseback riding lessons to their campers. *We will need Program Assistants* for this. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

**Giddy-Up Go Horse Show**—is planned for August 14th. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

Thank you for your support. If you have any other suggestions, please let me know.

### Calendar of Events

**Feb. 11—Equine Gatherings—Metamora**  
Getting Ready for a Dressage Show  
6—8 pm (free) For more information  
<http://www.equinegatherings.com>

**Feb. 12—14—Mid-Michigan Horse Expo** Featuring Ryan Gingerich. (\$8.00/under 10 free). Schedule and information:  
<http://www.greatlakesequineclassic.com>

**Feb. 19—21—big Sale at Tom's Western**  
Ovid, Michigan - always great buys  
<http://www.tomswesternstore.com>

**March. 7—Dressage Meeting—Arena**  
Noon—More information on other side.

**March 12—14—Michigan Horse Council Expo—MSU Pavilion.**  
\$12 (over 14), \$6 (6-14), 5 and under free  
\$1.00 off coupon in February Saddle Up.

**April 5—8—Horse Fever Week**  
Four days-four riding lessons-four horse keeping activities. \$100. 10% discount for early registration. Details next month.

### Condolences

The Callie and Riley Keller lost their grandmother (Matt's mother) on January 16th.

### Back in the Saddle

I've been told that Ritchie Ragnone's wrist is functional again and he will be returning for riding classes just as soon as the weather cooperates. I know Poppie is looking forward to his return!

### Thank You

**Nimmo** family for feeding every night during the week of the funeral.  
**Gloria** for getting a toilet paper holder for our bathroom. No more rolls falling off the tank!  
**Phil** for putting the paper holder up!



## Pretty Pony Pastures

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## Dressage Shows



Last year Leslie and Amy took part in several dressage shows. Riley Keller also rode in one dressage show last fall.

This year we want to expand the show program to include *any* rider who wants to show and is riding at the **Intermediate Level 1 or higher** per the Achievement Certificate that was given out at the Awards Ceremony in October. If you are not sure or didn't get a Certificate, send me an e-mail and I will tell you the rider's level.

To make sure we are all on the same page and understand what is expected and required of the riders to compete at a Schooling Dressage Show - we will have a mandatory parent AND rider meeting on: **March 7th at noon** in the arena for those who may want to show. Coming to the meeting does not obligate you to show, but not coming will eliminate the possibility of showing this year.

At this meeting we will answer any questions you may have about the showing, the costs involved and how we plan to rotate the riders so every rider who wants to participate will be given the opportunity.

## January and February Birthdays

The following riders and volunteers have birthdays for the last two months.—Sorry January.

- Callie Keller
- Becca Harrison
- Stephen Schreiber
- Amy Miljour
- Robbie Ragnone
- Gloria Donal
- Eva Aguilar
- Quinn Mollenhour
- Regan Tackett



Wishing you a happy birthday and a great year.

## Weather Reminder

If this is winter, then 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 20<sup>0</sup> or less.
- Traveler's advisory is in effect
- Snowfall of 4 inches or more (call to check if our drive is plowed)
- Winds gusting to more than 30 mph
- **Severe** weather warning (snow, ice, wind, temp, storm)

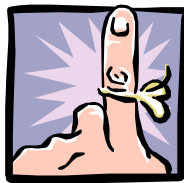


If you are using weather.com to check the weather, be sure to enter our zip code **48350**. Weather patterns change from area to area and our temperature can be as much as 10 degrees colder than the city.

If in doubt, please call our hot line at **248 245-0014**. We try to post closings as early in the day as possible usually by 8:00 am on weekends and 4:00 pm on weekdays.

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.

## Reminders



2010 Rider Release Forms **must** be on file *before* your rider can participate in classes. As of today, I have only **three** release forms. I've attached another one to this mailing. Also, every rider **must** have a Medical Form on file regardless of which riding class is being participated in. **New Medical Forms must be completed every three years. A new one must also be filed if the rider is returning and has not ridden for the past six months.**

Rider's weight must be listed on the form. Use the scale in the tack room if you don't know. Because of the issues we have had with some of the horses, I must adhere to the weight limits set for each horse.

Use the Sign-out calendar when you know your rider will not be attending a class.

Call the *hot line* (248 245-0014) at least two hours before class when your rider is sick. You **will** be charged for the class if we do not get the call within that time frame. Your rider **will** risk losing their riding spot if three consecutive classes are missed *or* the rider does not ride at least **75%** of the time in each quarter.

## Helmets



For health reasons, we are asking that all riders provide their own helmets. Helmets can be inexpensive—\$30 at Tractor Supply—and last three to five years if they are taken care of properly. That comes down to a cost of \$6 to \$10 dollars a year—or just pennies a ride.