

# Winnies and Nickers

Pretty Pony Pastures

November 2010

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## Changes in the Wind!

It's holiday time, days are getting shorter and colder!

As always we will be **CLOSED** for the **ENTIRE Thanksgiving Weekend** beginning with Thanksgiving Day—November 25th. **Classes will resume on Monday, November 29th.**

This year we are changing our winter schedule. **When we close on December 24th for the Christmas holidays, we plan to stay closed until February 1st.**

We had always prided ourselves that we stayed open all year, but, my records show that we are hardly open in January. For the past three years we were able to have five ride days in January. This doesn't seem worth the "living in limbo" of are we riding? Will it be too cold? Will we be snowed in?

That being said, we did have one year where we rode all of January and were closed in February. Should we have a very mild January, you may get an e-blast from me with the subject: **Let's Ride!**

I plan to use this time to reflect on the past year and our program and make any adjustments that I think are needed in the ride days, ride times, types of programs, etc. I hope you will take time for yourself and your family and enjoy!

### Cold Weather Riding

Always dress for the weather. We have already seen riders without gloves on the days that the temps were in the 30s. Their fingers often get cold faster than ours. It is no fun trying to hold the reins when your fingers hurt.

Knit hats can be worn under the helmet **ONLY IF** the helmet fits the way it would if no hat was on the child's head. A helmet that is perched on the head is not going to be effective if the child falls. Helmet covers are made from fleece and keep the head toasty warm. See me for more information.

Winter boots can be worn **IF** they fit in the stirrups.

Jackets should be short enough so the rider is not sitting on them. Sitting on a coat or jacket can unseat the rider very easily. It is also better to layer the clothes rather than wearing a thick, cumbersome coat.

**Email Address**—We try to be as green as possible. This means that we don't print and distribute unless necessary. If you change email addresses, please let me know. Also, please check your email in a timely fashion. I try to send out information as I get it because sometime classes are too hectic to remember to make announcements. Don't be left out of the loop!

### Calendar of Events

**November 12-14—Novi Equestrian Expo**—Discount tickets are available!

**November 20—Dressage Clinic**—*closed*. See information on other side.

**November 25-28—Thanksgiving Weekend**—*closed*—Enjoy the turkey!



**December 11—Dressage Clinic**—*closed*. See information on other side.

**December 18—Dickens Festival Parade**—**Holly**. We participated last year and had a lot of fun! See me to sign up!

**December 24-January 1—Christmas holidays**—*closed*. Classes resume Sunday, January 2nd weather permitting.

**January 2—January 31—Winter break**—*closed*. See *Changes in the Wind*.

**February 1—ALL CLASSES RESUME!**

### Welcome!

We have new riders and volunteers in our program.

Liam and Mira Kelly are riding on Monday evening and Nora and Ben Rodriguez are riding on Wednesday evening. Welcome to our riding family!

Our new volunteer is Liz Estes who is helping out on Monday evening. We look forward to working with you!

~Thank you!



## Pretty Pony Pastures

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## Dressage Information

Every four years the dressage tests change. The tests that we've been using for the past two years were dated 2007. I just received the entire set of changes, and yes, contrary to public belief, they did change the **Introduction to Dressage** tests. Not only did they change them, but they also added one. So now we have A, B, and C tests!

Some of these changes are major and for that reason, I will be attending two Dressage Clinics—one in November and one in December. I invite anyone who has been riding in the dressage schooling shows or plans to ride in 2011 to attend.



The clinics will be held in Frankenmuth. They start at noon and end at 5:00 pm.

The better informed we are, the better we will ride!

## Dickens Festival Parade

The parade route will begin at the VFW Hall at Airport and Saginaw, continuing south on Saginaw St through Downtown Holly and Ending at Sherman St. at the American Legion Post. Parade starts at 6:00 pm.

Last year we rode our "stick" ponies that were decorated with lights. Let's do it again this year!

## November Birthdays

The following volunteer has birthdays in November—

- Samantha Carlson
- Kathy Carter
- Brendan Iverson



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>o</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)

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.

## Awards Ceremony

We had a gorgeous afternoon and a great turnout for our **Annual Awards Ceremony**.

All of the riders received a certificate showing their level of riding. If you did not attend the ceremony, be sure to pick up your rider's certificate at your next lesson.



We also awarded our **Champion Riders** the ribbons they earned for high score at our **Giddy-up Go Horsey Show**.

Our volunteers were also recognized for their hours of service.



This year the recipients of the **Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award** were:

- Gloria Donal
- Regan Tackett
- Pam Martin
- Phil Martin.

The **Gold** awardees were:

- Amanda Martin
- Callie Keller
- Riley Keller



The winner of the **Salad Cook-off** was Kara Waltz with her Broccoli Salad!

**Great job, everyone!**