



YOU HEARD IT AT...

THE HIGHLINE



Hello Everyone!

I'm writing to you from the front porch of a little building at the Piiholo Ranch on Maui. This is where my daughter Brianna has been working for the past two years. It's my first time to see where she has been making her way on her own and I must say, she's doing all right. When I asked her what I should bring, she said bring your swimsuit and your mud boots (muckers). So far I've only used the muckers! I've heard her talk of the red dirt and mud and I've been experiencing it first hand! I have been feeling so fortunate to have this time with my daughter participating and sharing in her life. This ranch is a trail-riding outfit and like any ranch there's the daily chores that need done that entail caring for the livestock; feeding and doctoring. The horses come in about the same time as ours do at home during our summer season and are brushed out, grained and saddled for the day's guests. I don't know how it can be, but time goes by much slower around here. It's not that I'm on "vacation" either, even Brianna has said how it goes by slowly even after two years. There are other crewmembers that mostly take the rides out anymore and Brianna keeps everything running smoothly for them. While they are out on their rides, she rides the "rough string" (horses that aren't ready for guests yet). The style of horsemanship that we do hasn't caught on over here yet. People like what they see in how Brianna gets along with the horses, but just haven't carried it out for themselves. We rode and she showed me the country our first day together. She was riding one of her horses and working through some issues throughout the ride. Being my child, I just watched her and we enjoyed our day. The next day she gave me one of her horses to ride and we headed for their outdoor arena. "Okay" she said, "you've watched me ride now. What do you see and what would you do?" The floodgates opened! I just poured out everything we've been working on at home with her and she just absorbed everything she could. I would work with my horse and she would practice everything with her horses. Here and there I would even work with her horses to show her what we look for.

For two years we've been giving Brianna her space. She'll be 21 in April and although there's a lot of distance between us, I feel I've got my daughter back. Her leaving home to find her way in the world has been an awkward time as I'm sure many of you out there have experienced with your kids leaving the "nest". A whole new area in our family's lives; "Pristine" ground. She's like any young person finding her way out in the world, but we still have that common bond of the horses and the journey we are all on with this horsemanship. I am excited having now seen and walked in her shoes over here, to continue this new level of our relationship.

I've called the ranch a couple of times and it sounds busy as ever. Danica's says we're getting plenty of reservations and we're at 75% booked for the 2008 season. The riding, roping, and saddle cleaning continues, and all sound to be in good cheer. The temps are still in the single digits and below zero range but it's stayed clear. Here it's been in the 70's and 80's. Brianna and I will try to make it to the beach on Sunday before I go home the next day. No big, I'm doing exactly what I want to be doing while I'm here, working side by side with my daughter and sharing this common bond we all have with these horses.



The first day it “misted” on us. Very pleasant actually, I know of hotels in hot climates that try to emulate the same effect. Now I know where they get the idea!

Here’s that famous red dirt.
See Brianna’s stylish
muckers?



I thought I would share with you some warmth and sunshine this week. Hard to believe it was 28 degrees below zero when I left Montana!

I’ll close this Highline for now. I have to go hug my daughter again! Corny runs in my family.

Dori

