



The Highline – 11-16-08 Volume 3: Issue: 46

Hello Everyone!

It's Saturday late afternoon. We came back from Kalispell a couple of hours ago, Randy picked up a bug in Washington that's settled into his joints and he's a sore hembre. The doc didn't find anything serious thank goodness, but he's shuffling around like the old man Tim Conway played on the Carol Burnett Show. I just read the last couple of Highlines that Brianna wrote. I sure love that kid; all the kids actually. They did a terrific job while we were away. We came home on Sunday and jumped right in first thing Monday morning. It's sure good to be home. Junior finished up dragging the meadows, and he, Randy and C.J. immediately got to work on winterizing all of the cabins and the staff housing. Kathy and Danica got the last of the cleaning done on the staff housing and Danica has been buried under a mountain of laundry all week in the game room. Wes and Brianna have been pulling shoes off the horses and trimming feet – I walked in the arena to work one of the horses at the start of the week and found them both under horses working away. It was really cool to see Brianna learning to shoe. When they weren't pulling shoes, they were riding colts. I was able to talk some about the things we learned at the clinics but not in great detail yet. It'll be easier when we're all horseback and things have settled in more. On the way home from Washington I wrote a bunch of notes that stood out to me to share when the time is right.

This week my focus was on the Gift Shop. I'm putting together a page on the website with our Christmas sale so I've been taking pictures of EVERYTHING! No need to go far for the perfect gift, just check out the website. I'll send out an email when I have it up. Hopefully by next weekend it'll be finished. I've stepped back into making lunches and it has been a joy to see the excited faces come in to eat each day. Friday the vet came out and continued floating horse's teeth. He and his helper also joined us for lunch. Conversation amongst us was warm and family like – life is good here. With all the changes going on in our nation, ranch tradition of working together to care for this land, each other, and the livestock continues here.

This weekend C.J. and Kathy went to visit her parents and to see C.J.'s daughter, Vanessa. Wes and Brianna headed out to eastern Montana to pick up a horse that she's going to ride, and Shayne and Jo-Anne headed back to North Bend, Washington. It's just Randy and I, Danica, and Junior left here. All is in a good place and quiet.

The clinics; I had a BLAST of a great time! We all did. The first one was in Spanaway, Washington and we worked on Horsemanship 1 in the mornings, and Horsemanship 2 in the afternoons with some roping. The first evening we were there the weather was beautiful. We settled the horses into their corral, got settled in ourselves in the hotel, and then went out to dinner with Shayne and Jo-Anne, Buck, and his sidekick for these last couple of weeks of the season, Hal. We all talked of our summer's highlights and turned in early.

We had an extra day before the clinic started, so Randy and I went to the arena and got each of our horses acquainted with the facility. The arena was HUGE! The last time we were there, it rained constantly and was very cold. This day was the last of the good weather, but even though it rained the rest of the time, it stayed

comfortable temperature wise. We turned the horses back in to their corrals and rested the remainder of the evening.

There were a good 20-25 people in the clinic, and Buck managed to keep all of us really busy the whole time. I rode Easy in the Hackamore, and Rocket too. Randy rode Joey in the bridle, and his colt Quick in the snaffle. Shayne rode Tom in the bridle and his new colt "Chip" in the snaffle. We focused closely on everything Buck said and did and even though the arena was full, we each were absorbed in carrying out the next move Buck called out as if in our own little world. Everything we did was really nothing new, but just refinement of what we've been working on with our horses. To watch Buck is like watching a master, and like Randy said, when we ride with him everything from the basics on up to the advanced moves is redefined. Each of us carried home a better understanding of, for example, the "soft feel". I'm amazed at how we continue to learn. The next clinic we did a lot of roping and at dinner one night just in talking about a certain shot, he moved his hand as if he were holding a rope, and the grace that was there was an art form; not the look of a spasm like I have! That fluid movement he had stays clear in my mind. Rocket was very patient with me, and with the image I have of that fluidity, I'm going to get there by gosh! (I brought my ropes home to practice with and I see Randy was thinking the same thing as he brought home one of the roping dummies).

Well we have a lot ahead of us and with my notes and Randy's and Shayne's instruction I'm sure our horsemanship is going to be intense and LOTS of fun since we have new games we can do with our roping too!

I promise I will have some pictures for you next time. I'm still walking on air and just really getting my feet on the ground this last week.

Have a wonderful week ahead and I'll keep you posted on the Gift Shop Sale!

Dori