



November 24, 2012

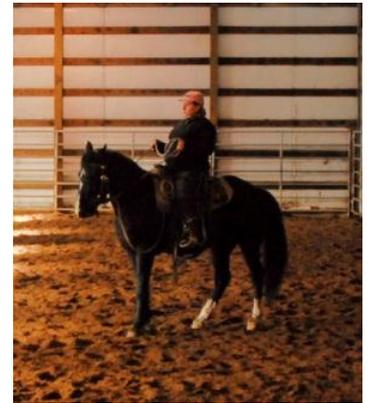
Volume 8

Issue 46

Hello everyone,

It's a rainy Saturday morning here at the ranch. The crew is all gathered around the table in the dining room lining out the day's plan. We've got all of our horses that we used in the clinics still in separate pastures, "the quarantine horses", no more signs of the sniffles so we'll be putting them with the main herd again this weekend. We have a "closed" herd which means they are only in contact with each other and no outside horses, so when we go to these clinics it's like little Johnny's first day at school! So other than our routine chores that's our big event of the day!

Desiree is on vacation but it entails a bunch of driving from state to state – when she described her agenda it sounded tiring to us both! I hope she's having a good time – probably experiencing better weather as she went south.



Our first guests of the winter season were Lizabeth and Mack from California. What dear folks they are! I believe we only get dear folks here! Lizabeth rode Lucy and made some great changes in her equitation. Between all of us sharing all we can, she described this place as a great buffet of knowledge in Buck's style of horsemanship, with Shayne and Randy as teachers, which is 45 to 50 years combined experience, and the nuggets us new kids on the block have to offer, she feels safe in what she'll gain here.



We worked on serpentines, engaged circles, half circles, backing (see how great Mack and Buster Malone are doing!), lateral flexion's, soft feel, fixing and keeping a float in the reins, upward and downward transitions. A cornucopia of great stuff! Then...we worked cattle in the afternoons and breakaway roped too! Shayne and Vanessa joined us on Friday which was a real hoot. Shayne is now my Drill Sergeant. He's on a mission to make me a better roper and rider and this bullheaded Sicilian is up for the challenge! We all are, Colby, Erin, Roby are all up for the challenge. Nathan, our new horse shoer, has jumped in to the mix, and Stephanie who is apprenticing with us for a year is on board too.

This week we've got 5 people joining us. Mack says he enjoys how we make them feel like they are cousins coming to visit and not just guests. So cousins Sue, Pat, Keith & Lise, and another Keith are coming to visit this coming week!

Have a great weekend!

Dori