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Hello everyone,

I'm back from visiting family for the holidays and am glad that a combined total of 36 driving hours is behind me! My new truck drove without problems and the roads were altogether pretty darn nice—so I'm thankful for that.

When I left, the ranch was still clinging to the last bits of snow from our last storm. Now there's none to be seen! Looks like we may be getting some rain and snow this week though.

The renovation of the old deck into a new BEAUTIFUL dining area is nearly complete. The floors are nearly dry from their final coat of wood finish and now it's just a matter of getting the lights and fan up, and getting the wood stove moved in. The views from the large windows all around are just amazing. I think that those of you coming out here next year are in for a real treat!



Here's a view from the outside...

This part is facing the meadows





Here's a couple views from the inside...



We had five guests here this week. Keith and Lise have been to the ranch several times, always working hard to further their horsemanship skills. Sue came for her first week to the ranch last August and took no time coming back for more horsemanship and cattle work.

Keith L., a retired Sergeant Major in the army, and recently graduated from farrier school came to the ranch looking to learn more about this Brannaman style of working with horses.

Lastly we had Pat, who claims she hadn't ridden in 30 years but wowed everyone with her riding skills and tireless devotion to working on horsemanship, despite her aching bones at the end of each day. I wish I could have gotten to know the group better because it sounds like they were a real pleasure to be around.

Friday morning was spent working on horsemanship and Friday afternoon was spent setting shots and breakaway roping on the steers. The boys wasted no time bragging to me how much fun they all had knowing ol "Broken Wing" couldn't participate! Grrrr.



It's Ropin' Alley! Everyone lined up and took turns as the steer made its way down the line



Randy's getting some good work done on Tess, a client horse



The group is bringing the steers up and around for their roper



After work, the lot of us headed down to the Davis place and gave Erin a surprise birthday party! All day long the boys told her that there was going to be a big meeting regarding "housing" with Randy and that Erin was the main "culprit" for everyone getting a talking-to. Even Randy joined in and mentioned that he'd see them all later for the "talk." Poor Erin was worried all day about what this was all about! Even after the balloons fell and we sang happy birthday she double-checked to make sure there really was no "meeting." It was a little cruel, but nobody is exempt from the jokes around here ;)



Have a great weekend everyone!
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