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Hello folks!

We all had a pretty nice week here at the ranch. On Monday, Dori and Erin took stock of gift shop inventory and the boys took care of some things in the arena. Randy let us all leave early for the day since it was Christmas Eve.

On Christmas day, Dori, Sue and Jerry spent the day cross country skiing. From the sounds of it, they had a blast! Shayne and Jo spent the day up at their place outside of Whitefish, skiing as well.

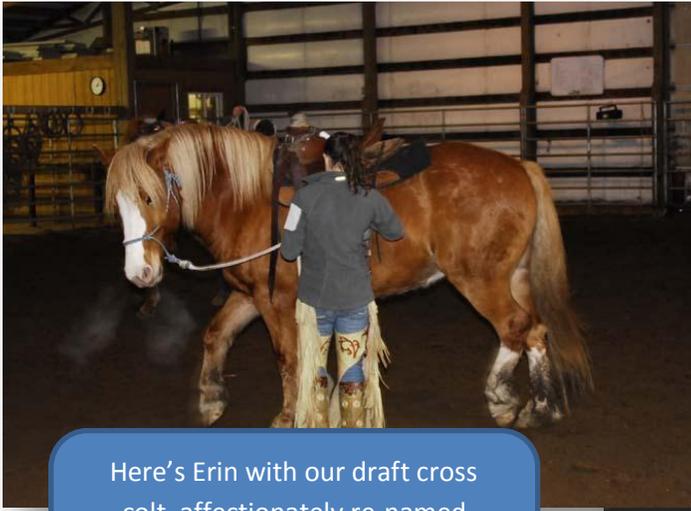


Jerry, Sue and Dori look like they had a blast!



Randy and the boys spent the afternoon roping steers and getting them more and more gentled. Colby said his goal is to eventually “bring a steer down” with just breakaway ropes. Some of them aren’t too far off!

Over the holiday, we had a fella named Chris come up. He’s been riding this way for several years and is working with us for a little bit to get a feel for the place. Between him, Colby, Erin and Dori, they started and re-started some of our older colts and have been working with them since Wednesday. From Wednesday on, they would spend half the day riding their colts and the other half of the day riding our client horses.



Here's Erin with our draft cross colt, affectionately re-named Donald Trump, or just "The Donnie"



Randy is flagging the colts, getting them ready for their riders. There's Rowdy, Donnie, Ted & Boone

Lizabeth, Diane and Cindy would be SOOO very proud of the horses they've left with us for training. All of them were doing spectacular flying lead changes on Thursday afternoon. Friday afternoon they were all being roped off of. There were two teams...one consisted of Randy, Dori and Chris, and the other team consisted of Shayne, Colby and Erin. I worked on both teams cutting steers from the herd and helping to bring them up the fence for the roper. It was good work for my horse, who can get unsettled when it comes to cattle and ropes. Shayne ended up riding her for a bit so that I wouldn't hurt my shoulder when she got to whirling around in the cattle. At first it looked like she was doing a Zumba dance down the arena, but by the end of the afternoon she was sitting quiet in the herd, unbothered by the steers right behind her, or bumping into her sides.

The next few weeks are going to be plumb full of horsemanship as we work with our colts and work on advanced horsemanship with our guests. Shayne and Randy have been preparing their horses for the long trip down to the Legacy of Legends toward the end of January. It's sure neat to watch what their horses can do, especially when you remember where they were at even a year or two ago. The changes in Wyatt are incredible and Irish is about ready for the hackamore!



Can you spy the elk in the trees?



Up here in the office I'm trying my darndest to get a whole new brochure prepared for the crew to take down to the Legacy with them. Add that to making a slideshow for the booth we're sharing with Kent Frecker, an updated website and a drastic increase in guest counts and you can see that there's a LOT going on!

2013 is looking to be a fun, productive year. We've got an amazing crew, our teachers just keep getting better, we get to ride horses every day and we live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. What more could a person ask for?

We're looking forward to meeting lots of new faces next year and being able to reconnect with those of you who will be returning to the ranch in 2013. Have a happy New Year everyone!

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