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Happy New Year folks! 2013 is already looking great!

The guys and gals outside have been busy riding colts and working with them in such a way that they'll one day be solid mounts for all of you to learn on and enjoy riding. Sometimes, watching them at the start they look like a tangle of hooves and legs but watching them find that center and start feeling of their riders is a really neat thing to see.

I couldn't help but smile as I watched Dori riding Mighty Mouse yesterday. At first he was just moving awkwardly beneath her. She kept a wide but distinct parameter and he started feeling of her and getting his correct leads each time in a circle. Not too long afterward she was turning him around, and with her timing just right, she had him crossing in the front every time.

We had just one guest this week, Catherine. She stayed here for a few weeks last Spring and saw the winter as the perfect time to return for another three weeks for some more horsemanship! I think she exceeded her expectations! She expected to start loping comfortably by the end of her stay, and she never even considered swinging a rope on top of a horse, but she was doing both in her first week!

Even I got to rope this week ☺ Shayne showed us all how we can swing a loop while using our wrist instead of our shoulder and throwing a smaller loop with a couple of coils instead of the swinging the big loops, which is what we're all used to doing! It was Bill Dorrance style roping and it was a test of muscle memory for sure. But it works! It was nice to be able to do a little bit of roping again after a couple of months and even better than that, with that swing, my shoulder felt OK the next day.

Knowing our guests coming in next week, there will likely be even more roping next week!

Have a great weekend! -Des

