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Hello guys and gals!

This week just seemed to fly by!

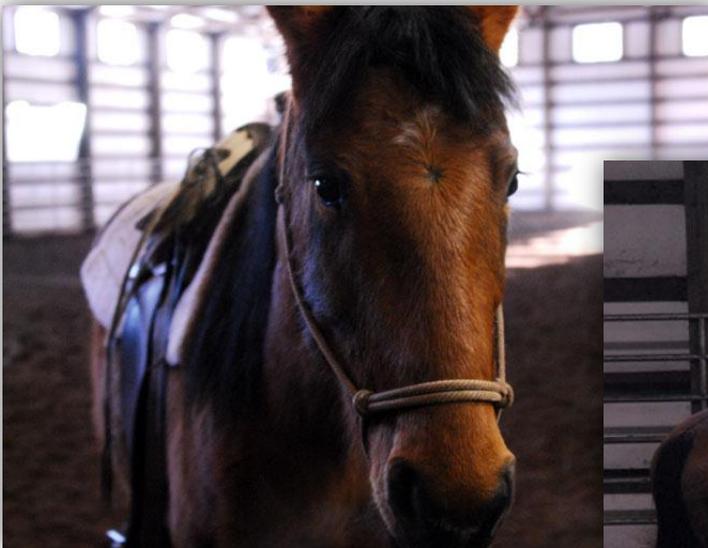
Shayne, Jo-Anne, Randy and Dori made it home from the Legacy on Wednesday afternoon. I think Randy was filled with relief upon seeing that the ranch hadn't burned down while he was gone! In fact, he was more than pleased to find the saddling barn and the shop looking better than they ever had!

Pat started working for us a few weeks back and he's completely taken over the shop/mechanical work around the ranch and is doing a stellar job. In addition to Pat's mechanical expertise, he's also been a chef, run a kickboxing school, and had begun teaching Colby the mixed martial art of Kempo! He's certainly a pleasure to have around.

In addition to Pat, Chris joined us as a wrangler this week and is already fitting in perfectly with the crew. He's pretty handy and is already starting colts with us. He's also quite the roper! Shayne's already trying to claim him for his roping teams during the season.

Dori put the first ride on her first colt this week as well! It's so neat to see how far Dori has come in her horsemanship this last year. I don't think there's anything that she wouldn't do! I'm really proud to be able to call her a comrade and a friend.

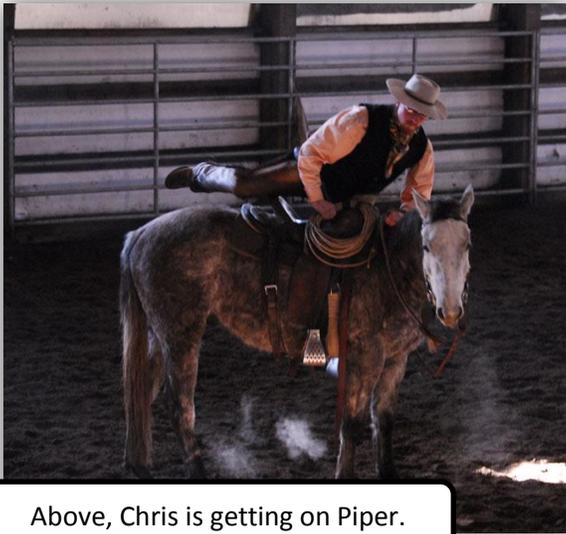
This colt finally settled after feeling the need to wad up and then sprint off. Shayne's giving her a reassuring rub.



Awww just look at that face! This is Jupiter, one of our 3 year olds.

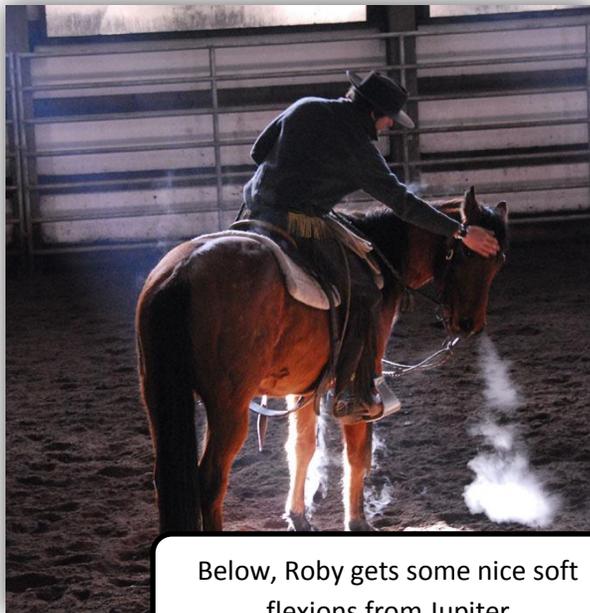


It was quite the experiment that Shayne set out to accomplish with this set of colts that the crew rode yesterday. For weeks they did everything BUT ride the horses, and every bit of work from the ground or fence was done with the colts already in their snaffle bits. The horses were used to ropes, tarps, flags, anything you could think of. By the time the crew finally got to climb on their backs yesterday morning the colts acted as if the whole ordeal was old hat. They moved out easily, their flexions were fantastic and their mouths were QUIET. It's a shame all horses don't get such a great start in life.



Above, Chris is getting on Piper.

These colts have their tails loose, ears forward and are moving out without being bothered.



Below, Roby gets some nice soft flexions from Jupiter

We brought the cattle in yesterday afternoon and worked in teams of three. Heading up the long side of the arena, the middle person would drive the steer up to the fence at one end of the arena. The person on the right hand side of the steer would set up their horse for a turn. When they were ready they would nod to the person working on the left side and that person would influence that steer to make a turn back down the arena, drawing the cutter's horse to make a nice turn. The goal was the get the horses to hook onto the steers and turn with them without the use of a lot of rein.

It was good work for the horses and each horse just got better and better. After a few runs I became the

permanent "middle person" since my horse had more of a tendency to get unsettled in close quarters with the steers. Shayne had me riding her with the flag while getting the job done to keep her mind busy and her attitude more-or-less pleasant.

We spent the end of the day roping a few of the smaller steers. Roby had been riding our horse Levi and getting him comfortable with ropes again after a roping accident in November which left him a little touchy. Roby headed a steer on him and held him for practice shots before one of the guys caught him. Both Roby and Levi did great.

Here, Shayne is demonstrating walking united circles while maintaining longitudinal flexion, really focusing on getting that jaw to roll under. To change direction he changes flexion, leg yields over then continues a circle in the opposite direction.



We also had a bunch of cabinets installed this week in our continued lodge renovation. The cabinets are going to give the kitchen staff a lot more room to work and tons more storage space. And they look great too! Now we're just waiting on the countertops to be installed and we'll be all set! We're also going to get one more table and chairs for the dining room. Once we have that I think the project will be complete.



I'm really looking forward to our group next week! We've got four repeat guests and one new guest who I'm sure will become like family in no time.

Take care and have a great weekend folks!

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