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Issue 1

Hi guys,

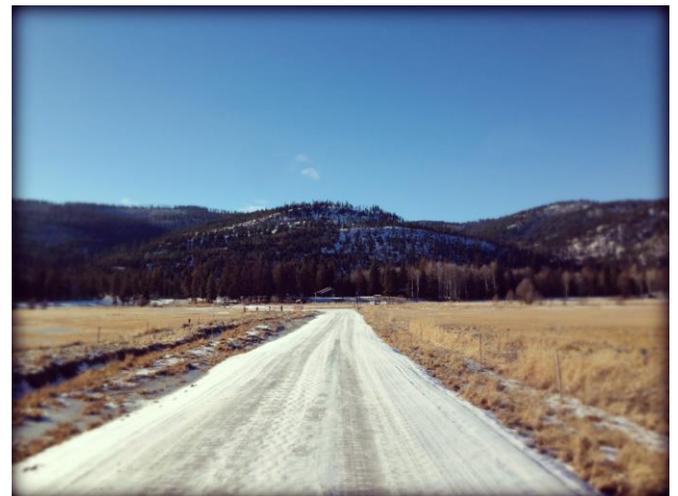
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

Our New Year's Eve was pretty relaxed. Roby and Chris built a bonfire outside for our 6 guests and we spent the evening telling funny stories. I think we all made it to bed by midnight—Eastern Time ;)

Thanks so much to all of you who sent us cards, letters and emails wishing us happy holidays. Your kindness in keeping us in mind is much appreciated.

Things are clipping right along and everyone is good and settled into "winter mode." Each morning the boys take turns feeding the livestock. We've had to put out a bit of straw throughout the pastures to make extra trails for the horses because instead of fresh fallen snow, we've got more ice than anything out there right now! We've got some nice ice cleats for us and the guests, so everyone has been staying upright.

The increasing refinement of the horsemanship continues to blow us all away. This week the guests worked on riding with one rein in circles at the walk and trot,



This was what the ranch looked like today

then up to the lope focusing on weightlessness. Of course some leg yielding and turnarounds were thrown in for good measure as well.

Randy and Nolan finished the last of their electrician work in the arena and the shop. Nathan helped Nolan out wherever he was needed. Chris and Roby got done a little early on Saturday, and braved the storage area in the office—organizing and throwing away anything non-essential. It was a HUGE help.



Randy and Joey are demonstrating a nice stop!

This is important work...

In honor of the New Year, Chris suggested that we all try to work on our potty mouths. The crew put together a list of unacceptable curse words. The list went through several revisions before we decided the changes were complete. Any time one of us slips up, we have to put 25 cents into the Curse Jar. In just two days, the Jar has gotten a whopping 15 dollars in it!

With all the money going into the Jar, we weren't sure what to do with the accruing funds. Roby wanted to donate them to charity. Chris and Nolan wanted to put them towards a big party. Shayne and Nathan want to spend it on buying more beer kegs. I thought I'd wait till the jar was good and full and head off to Murdoch's for a shopping spree.

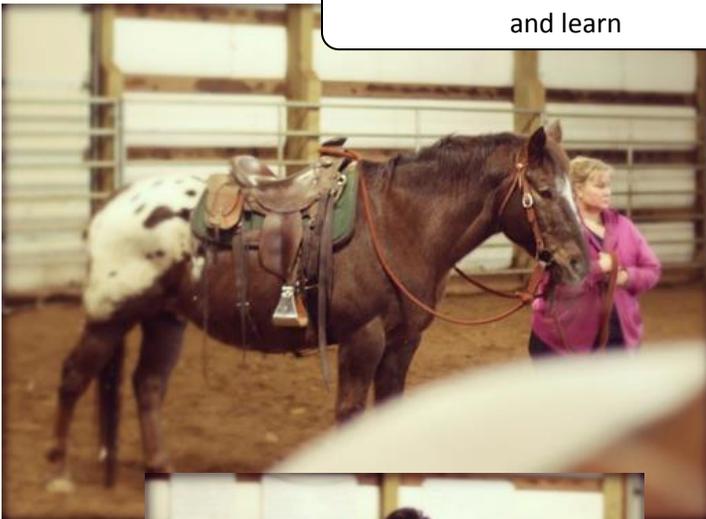
I'm kidding of course! I'll spend it on food and fuel too ;)

Have a great week guys,

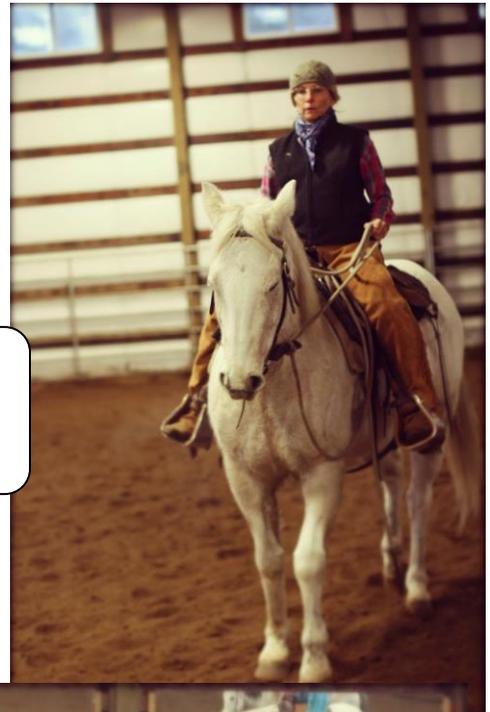
Des



Ann came out with her pony to ride and learn



Hold and wait!



Kennedy and Cheech



Can you say, weightless? Nice!

