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Chilly, challenging and cheerful – those are three adjectives I'd use to describe this week. We had cool temperatures, dropping to the mid 20's a few mornings but raising back up to the high 50's in the middle of the day. Each afternoon everyone would be all layered up for the ride over to Shayne's outdoor arena but within 15 minutes of riding and working on horsemanship the guests were taking off jackets, scarves, sweaters, and gloves like it was summer time!

We jumped head first into our first winter horsemanship week of the season! Roby spent all of Monday morning teaching groundwork then once the afternoon came around Shayne had the guests quickly advance to loping on straight lines. Every week is different here at McGinnis and is catered to the guests we have and what will benefit them the most. Winter horsemanship is very individualized and formulated day-by-day, totally dependent on what shows up in our guests and in our horses. We don't go off a set schedule or agenda and that makes for a unique experience each week. Helen and Richard are with us this week and have been visiting the ranch for years now. They will be back to ride with us the week after Christmas so it will be neat to see what we will work on with them a couple months from now.

Jodi and Richie are back from Canada and were able to get outside and help with weighing cattle on Monday and Tuesday. Kathy finished her second week with us and boy did she improve!

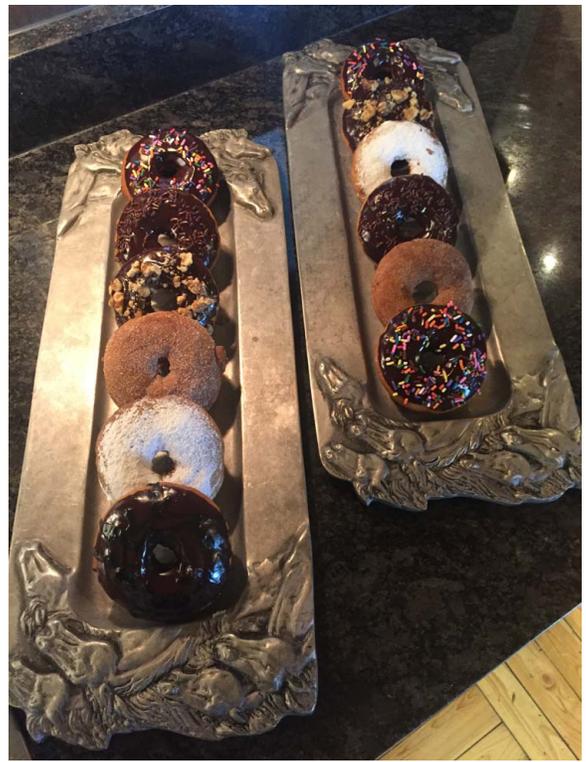
Federico is back again and he will be here for 2 weeks. Federico is Italian and grew up in Italy but now lives in Estonia! How neat. We love meeting new folks but there is something special about having a week with all repeat guests.

We've got lots of "end of season" chores going on this week- Dori and Amy are heading up the deep cleaning and organizing, Chuck is cutting and stacking firewood, Stephen and Jerry are out dragging the fields (before they're covered in snow), Roby is focusing on our 4 year olds that had only a handful of rides on them 2 years ago. And as for me, I'm making sure I've got all the interns organized for this winter along with our guest reservations for the next few months. Since we will have so many interns, we are trying to keep our weekly guest counts low. If you're waiting to make your winter horsemanship reservation, don't! We already have a pretty steady flow of guests each week throughout the winter.

We have one more week until Buck Brannaman's clinic in Whitefish! I think everyone can agree that this clinic is a little different than the others, as its Horsemanship II and all the folks riding in it have ridden with Buck extensively over the years. From the ranch we will have Shayne, Randy, Dori, Des, myself, Roby, Nathan and Eden riding in it. I know some of our guests are coming to spectate – cant wait to see you all!



Hope everyone  
has a GREAT  
Halloween  
weekend!!  
~Stephanie



Debra made INCREDIBLE enchiladas with Spanish rice on Tuesday! I would have loved a picture of the enchiladas but they were eaten so fast I didn't get a chance! Dare I mention the doughnuts!? Melt in your mouth, pumpkin flavored and crazy good!



I TOOK THIS PICTURE ON THE DRIVE IN THURSDAY MORNING. IT'S HARD TO SEE BUT THERE WAS FROST OVER THE MEADOWS AND ALL OVER THESE LITTLE TREES! WINTER IS COMING.

AND the winner of the pumpkin carving contest is....  
JANICE!

She did a great job carving this horse head!

