



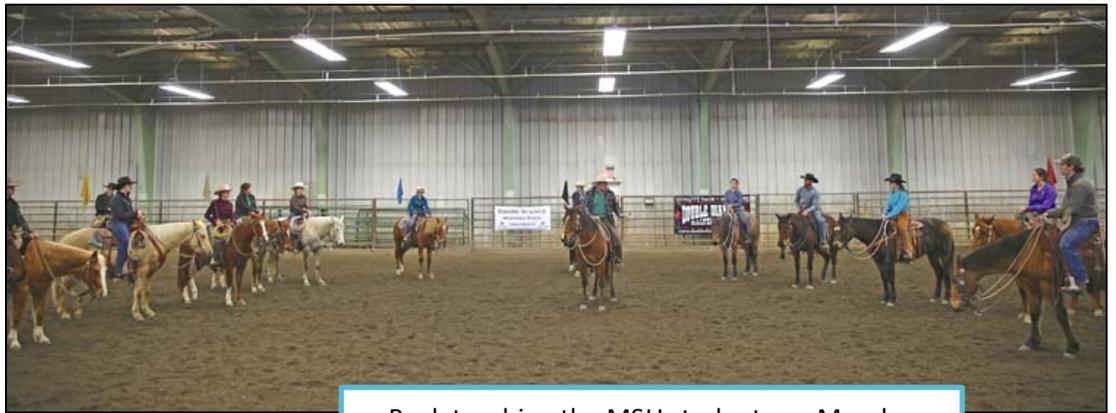
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Hey guys!

We're getting spring showers and it's only mid-February! So much for the snow. On the plus side, if it keeps going like this, we'll be riding outside in the next few weeks! Nathan is getting ready to start shoeing again (as we keep all the horses barefoot in the winter) and Eden and I are getting ready to get going in the round pen with a couple of colts.



Buck teaching the MSU students on Monday

On Monday, Shayne and I made a quick trip to MSU, as Buck was doing a mini-clinic for Reata's colt starting class. Shayne is on the boosters and between him and a couple others, pitched in to get the class some really nice colts to work with this year. They're pretty, well bred and each and every one of them is quiet. Buck put the students to the test—even having them gallop straight lines! All the colts held it together in every exercise. I lucked out and got to take lots of notes that we were able to take back to all of our wranglers and interns on Tuesday.

We had another intern join us this week, Anna. That makes 6 interns at the ranch now! It's been



Anna on Cheech with her neck rope

Kerbi doing figure eights with a neck rope on Shadow

so much fun getting to work with the same group of students day in and day out. They are all here to learn as much as they can—whether they are here for a month or here for 6 months. We can expand on so much, and they can begin to



comprehend so much more because the longer they are here, the more they begin to feel.

This week, Shayne had all of our interns riding around with neck ropes! First off, what a testament to the horses we have here that you can throw away your reins and still be able to stop, back, turn, lope, etc. The interns learned how much they relied on their reins and how, as soon as they didn't have them anymore, the horses moved out with ease and not one of them had a bad expression. Shayne had them doing everything that they'd be doing with reins—circles, straight lines, hind leading then front leading in a circle, trotting serpentines and figure eights and of course loping. The interns realized that they'd have to start getting more done with their legs in order to get the job done—but they figured it out and did awesome!

Anna was trotting and loping everywhere on Cheech. Kerbi was able to get Shadow doing figure eights with just a neck rope, where when she had reins, she was struggling with keeping him on course! Lori loped Isaiah out with ease where she previously had trouble. And Riley had some of the best stops on Bob that Shayne had ever seen.

We also had one guest this week—Tom! Tom came here for winter horsemanship once before and told me that he just hasn't found any other place quite like this. He really wants to improve himself to get better for his horse. It was really neat to see him on Roanie doing his serpentines through the cones with just his neck rope—and plenty of life of course!

Have a great weekend guys!

Des

Tom and Roanie working on perfect circles with flexion with a neck rope!

