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Happy New Year to all of our McGinnis Meadows friends!

It is hard to believe that 2017 is here already. It seems every year the time goes even faster. I am not much for New Years resolutions but it is a good reminder to make the most of every day!



Madison-Chuppa & Buzz Sandwich!

The snow continued to fall this week, with another 6 or so inches yesterday. Stephen has been kept busy plowing and keeping all the roll up doors on the buildings operating properly despite the snow build up.

The indoor work continues as well and the Davis house remodel is progressing nicely- the framing is complete and now the sheetrock masters are hard at work!

The snow at the ranch has made for some fabulous scenery as well as fun playtime! Randy and Dori spent Christmas day visiting our neighbors Sue and Will, (who doubles as our awesome chap maker). They left their truck at home and made the trek over the

mountain by snowmobile!
I spent some time checking out my new xc skis- what a treat to be able to ski on endless trails with such beautiful scenery and peacefulness. And, we have had several sightings of Sue and Jerry, Dori's parent's, out cruising on their sleds as well ...you can't ask for a better playground!

Misty morning at the ranch



Our guests this week were working from several different perspectives. Helen and Richard

continue their journey of exploring horsemanship here at the ranch. This time they brought their instructor Candy and her granddaughter Madison with them. Federico, a recent intern and frequent guest here at McGinnis, and his wife Heli returned, along with Cathy who is also a frequent visitor! They all worked really hard at improving their understanding and skill, and for Heli it was only her second week on a horse- she did great!



Candy & Chalkeye working on united circles

On the horsemanship front, this was a great week for making breakthroughs and gaining a better understanding of how to help the horses through situations that they may encounter. Roby gave a demonstration on a green horse of how to get him through the scary “monsters” outside the arena (read, the snow falling off the roof!). Our guest horses are pretty well fool-proof with this kind of stuff, so it was really helpful to be able to see the process one might use on a less experienced horse in real time. By the time Roby was done with his ride, the horse was walking on a loose rein and changing eyes without a hitch. While you cannot prevent a horse from getting scared it is important that the rider always has more influence on the

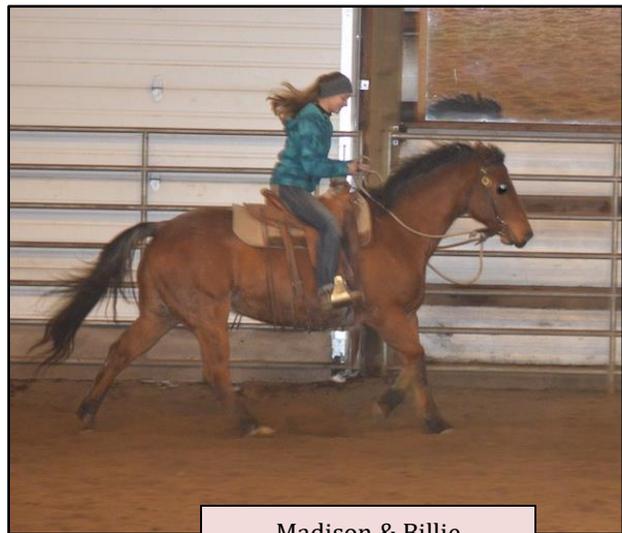
horse than any outside occurrence or object.

How small is the rectangle you are able to maintain on your horse even when the monsters are after him?

Madison’s favorite discipline is barrel racing. She worked hard all week learning how to build a foundation that will help her horses be able to dial the energy up with control, and equally important, be able to dial it back down. She was also learning how to move the front and

hindquarter’s as needed. Throughout

the week we asked her how she might apply what she was doing to her horses at home. How cool it was to see everyone working towards the same goal of having a soft and responsive horse!



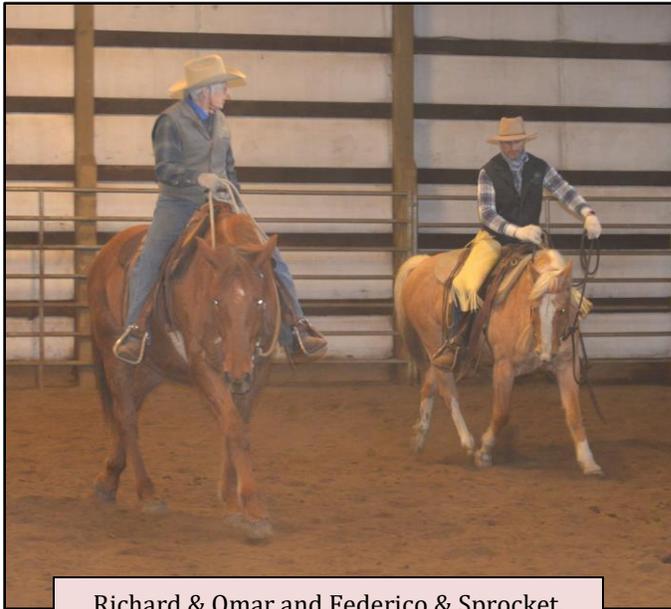
Madison & Billie

The weather is supposed to be turning colder next week so we are getting ready for it around the ranch. The horses are already very furry but it wouldn't be surprising if they grew even more hair.

Here are some photos of what everyone was up to this week. Here's to many more wonderful experiences as we head into 2017!

Until next time,

Janice



Richard & Omar and Federico & Sprocket.
Here Federico is getting a nice leg yield.



Levi & Dori always smiling!

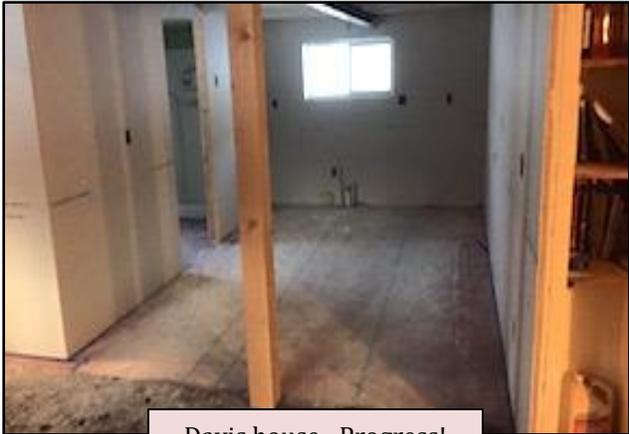


Richard starting off by asking for lateral flexion.

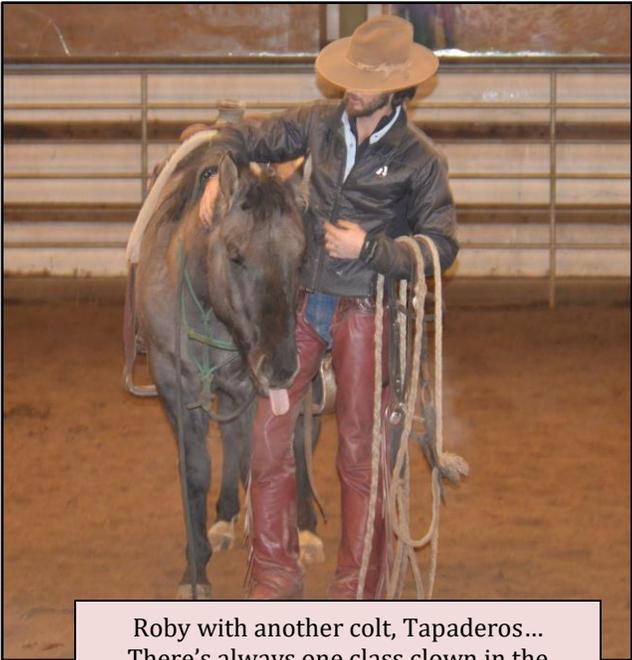


Helen & Emma

Federico riding Sprocket on one of the newer MSU colts



Davis house -Progress!



Roby with another colt, Tapaderos...
There's always one class clown in the bunch 😊



Sue & Jerry heading back out for more fun



Sue & Mr. Magoo