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It's December. Christmas is still to come. I find now that the interns have all left, Shayne and Des off to Costa Rica, Dori on a 2-month sabbatical, and this week Roby and Miriam off to the Dominican Republic, there is a pause in the air here. I am not sure how to define it other than something like the dusk before dawn. There is a stirring of something coming, but a lull and quiet meditation as winter settles in. Christmas will rise and makes its grand appearance, even if but singing of angels on distant hills. And in a few weeks guest will return, new interns will arrive, and all the staff will come back with their holiday stories. But for now, it is quite here at McGinnis.



The sun is shining at McGinnis Meadows Ranch



Sue driving the feed truck

Yet the intention of The Highline this week is not about Christmas coming or reunions, but about what is happening on the ranch. So, I will get my typing hands in gear and tell you about this week's activities.

Although many are gone for vacation, there are still a few of us that remain to keep things going. Sue is busy keeping up with ranch correspondences and bookings as well as making lunch to keep us all

well-fed. Nathan is busy winterizing areas of the ranch. Brenda is making sure the

Stephen “mechanicing”



herd stays healthy. And, Stephen is using his mechanical genius to customize Shayne’s new van that he will take on all his Buck Clinics that he attends.

Even though Roby and Miriam are off to the Dominican Republic, Roby spent the first three days of this week riding horses that are in our guest string. During the winter months, horses are ridden by Roby, Shayne and Des to give them a tune-up so to speak and start them on the right foot for the 2018 season ahead. Each of the McGinnis horses is remarkable in their own way – they carry guests over mountains and trails and bring new understanding about the horse through arena horsemanship. And as phenomenal as each of them are, they still need some special attention. So, for the past few days, Roby brought in 4-6 horses to ride

a day. Putting on his favorite tunes, Roby saddled up again and again working his magic on each pony.



Roby and Gunner working on the back-up with a soft feel



Roby and Malone working on engagement



Sue is all smiles with her boy Rowdy 😊



Cheech and I working on straight lines and a fast walk

Between our other duties, Nathan, Stephen, Sue and I work on our own horsemanship. It is a joy and a blessing to be able to ride somewhere warm and dry when it is cold outside.

Well, that is all for now. Stay tuned for next week when Sue and Brenda roll up their sleeves and start cleaning saddles – a whole bunch of them! And, these are no ordinary saddles.

Until next time,
Brenda

Nathan loves taking selfies 😊



Trouble looking for a friend to play with... looks like the pheasant has different plans for the afternoon



Chalkey, Jessie, Bennie and Chaos wanted to say hello and let you all know they are enjoying their winter vacation but look forward to seeing the you all again soon

