

December 1, 2019

Merry Christmas from Stoner Ridge Farm

Foundation First Mountain Horse Training™

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Thanksgiving Blessings

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. Whether your family lives near you or they are miles away, we hope you will be able to spend some time with them - in person, on the phone, or Facetime, it is wonderful to hear from those we love. We are so thankful for our family, our friends, and our horses. According to Mark Twain, "The good life is built with good relationships." How fortunate we are that horses have helped bring so many wonderful folks into our lives. We have been truly blessed!

*We thank you, Lord, for
the blessing of family,
friends, homes, and horses.
Thank you for a bountiful
table and the peace of your
spirit. We're thankful for
health and heart.*

*Thank you for your Son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ.
We celebrate his birth this
Christmas!*

SRF Fall Shindig

November 30

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more
Information on see p. 3



Stoner Ridge Farm





At the Barn

... Republished from last year's newsletter. "At the Barn" spoke to my heart, and it's worth a second read. ~ *Lyngle*

Horse people and their families are more than familiar with the phrase "at the barn." This morning as I drove laps on the tractor, working the arena in the still air at the barn, I got to thinking about how much of my life I have spent "at the barn" and what that phrase insinuates for horse "lifers" like us. "At the barn" means I can run a tractor and use a shovel and a pitchfork. I am familiar with PVC and pipe



glue and a sundry tools. It means I can wrestle a hay bale, manage a wheelbarrow full of poop, and drive a water truck. "At the barn" says I work in the heat without melting, bundle up against the cold without complaint, and invest hours upon hours in the management of an entire world outside of my house. I take on great responsibility "at the barn" because there are animals there that depend on me and my work ethic and dedication to their well being, health and fitness. Because I spend so much time "at the barn", I must be tougher than most and more grounded than some because I work in the elements day in and day out taking care of the animals that feed my

soul. I know that regardless of how hard real life can be, there is always refuge "at the barn" where there are the soft sounds of crunching hay, the smell of shavings, the breath of horses, and responsibilities that create sense of peace, stability, and simplicity.



"At the barn" means that my house isn't always clean and that dinner is sometimes comprised of grilled cheese or cereal. "At the barn" means I might be gone 10 minutes or several hours depending on what chores call out to me or how much quiet time I need to myself. Often times it is dark "at the barn" because the responsibilities that demand my attention happen before the sun comes up or long after it has fallen below the horizon, but that's ok because we wouldn't have it any other way. My children are learning the value of "at the barn", which means they work hard and have responsibilities other kids don't. Horses can't be stored in a closet like baseball bats or soccer balls. The world "at the barn" doesn't stop because they are tired or lazy or sick or would rather be on vacation or because the calendar says it is a holiday. "At the barn" is a priority that cannot be overlooked because living breathing animals await our arrival and attention.

Some days we fuss "at the barn" because we would like to be at the house or at the lake or even just in front of the TV, but despite those days, we know that we could never live without "at the barn." Those of us who have spent our lives "at the barn" know that the barn and everything that happens there is an irrevocable part of who we are; it is a special kind of DNA that cannot be denied or altered. Undaunted by heat or cold or damp or dirt or fatigue, we know that the one thing that could actually do us in would be the inability to be "at the barn".



Important Dates



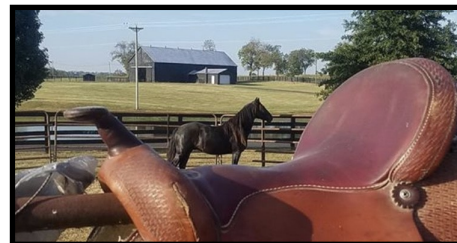
Nov. 23 RMHA Board Mtg.
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 25 Christmas Day
Jan. 1 New Years Day
Jan. 18 RMHA Board Mtg.
Feb. 8 RMHA Banquet, Boone Tavern, Berea, KY
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
March 20 - 22 Road to the Horse, Alltech Arena, KHP, Lexington, KY
April 2 - 5 Equine Affaire Columbus, OH
April 25 Spring Showcase, West Liberty, KY
***May 20 - 23** Appalachian Horse Revival possible "A" RMHA Show, Morehead, KY
***May 29 - 30** Old Dominion Horse Show possible A Show
June 27 Redneck Barn/Bill Corey Memorial, Lee County,
***July 17 - 18** Summer Celebration, NC
July 25 Gaited Horse Gala, West Liberty, KY
***July 24 - 25** Rockbridge, Lexington, VA
***Aug. 8** Mountain Horse Celebration, West Liberty, KY
Aug. 22 Pink Show, Owingsville, KY
 Sept. 9 - 12 RMHA International (increased to 4 days)
Sept. 24 - 27 Equitana USA, Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY

***Tentative**



SRF Fall Shindig

On Nov. 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. come join us for a day of tack shopping with Diamond A, a clinic with Charlie, and equine dentistry with Phil Flynn, all at SRF. Phil will be offering his dental work at a discounted rate. Be sure to let Charlie know if you're bringing a horse for Phil to see. At 12:30 Charlie will be offering a FREE "colt" starting clinic with a 3 y.o KMSHA filly. She will be offered as a silent auction item to an approved home at the end of the day. There will be other horses for



sale upon request. If you're looking for a trail mount or a horse to finish out, we may just have what you're looking for. Soup and chili will be available for lunch. Donations will be appreciated and will be given to the Herrington United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited. Come on out and have a great time with us!

The RMHA General Manager, Bill Nelson, retired last week. The current office staff, Cyndee Davis and Shawna Smith, will be taking up the slack. We wish him well in his retirement. In other RMHA news, the Board voted unanimously to add an extra day to the RMHA International which will run from September 9 - 12. Start making plans now to join us for fun times!

Busy Times Continue

We always enjoy folks coming to visit us at the farm. Back in October, Janet and Mike Berkin were here. She wanted to do some lessons with Bob over the course of a few days. It was obvious Janet had been getting some practice time in. She did a great job. After lessons, we got together with Glen and Val Johnson as well as Mike and Janet for a great supper at Perico's. Unfortunately, the second day Janet was here, she was sick and wasn't able to ride. It was great to see them, though,



and know they are doing well. Nancy was able to come and ride Stormy several times this fall. They are quite a team. Stormy is such an awesome fella. Pam Martinolich and our girls from Mount Sterling, Taylor and Laura, have been coming to ride him while he's been here also. As the winter approaches, Nancy likes to have Stormy at home so we loaded him up and headed out to Brookville last week. He has lots of pasture there and a great place to relax. We are very appreciative that Stormy gets to stay with us part of the year. We always miss him when

he's not here, but it's good for him to be home some too. Steve and Susan were here last Wednesday. They wanted to spend some time with their horses and see the new gray colt that Charlie started for them a few weeks ago. They, along with Charlie, made the decision to geld Blue and Jazz Master while they were here. Doc got that taken care of already. While Steve and Susan were visiting, we did make it out to Trackside, a new restaurant in Paris. They had live music and a great menu. We sure enjoyed getting to see them even though their visit was short. We miss friends during the winter months of no horse shows.

We are thankful for life's blessings. Folks are great! The horses are healthy. Even on days when the mud is knee deep or the wind chill is frigid, we are blessed!