

Rainbow Ranch

Ranch Hand News

Hi everyone, and welcome to the ninth edition of Ranch Hand News. I hope you enjoy reading it, as much as we enjoy putting it together. And as always, we welcome your input.



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Soggy Spring!

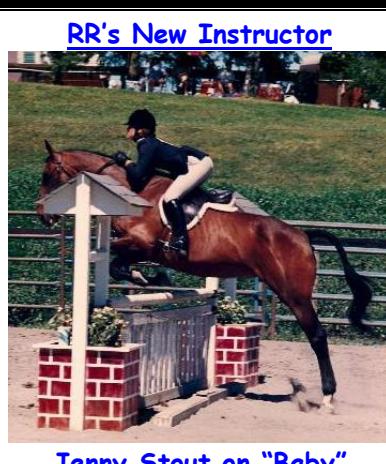
With the arrival of Memorial Day, this spring is waning to its official close. It's no big news to anyone that this spring has been a wet one. By the third week of April, we were 300% above normal rainfall amounts

for our area. This pushed back opening day for Pony rides a week past Mother's Day, but now that May is almost over, the flowers are blooming and RR is drying out and ready for summer fun.

Mother's Day Trail Ride

It was a beautiful day, and three of our Moms (and three mares) ventured out for the first trail ride of the season on Mother's Day. Plenty of sunshine and no bugs added to the wonderful day.

Kim, Jenny, and Marilu not only enjoyed the ride, but surveyed the trail for any new obstacles created by mother nature this past winter. They reported that no downfall blocked the trail, and made their way easily to the ruins and back. This could be the start of a new tradition for RR. I'm pretty sure by next year we can round up a few more Moms (and mares), to add to the ride.



Jenny Stout on "Baby"

Well you won't see Joe in a set of britches any time soon, or even in this lifetime, but with Jenny's addition to the RR family, we will now be offering for the first time English riding lessons for beginner and intermediate riders given in private lesson format. Jenny brings her 28 years of experience to the

RR lesson arena, and will be offering along with other specialized lessons, Showmanship and braiding clinics in the near future. Check the bulletin board for dates and times.

Even with Jenny's short tenure here at RR, she has proved her ability to form a unique relationship with a new horse in very few sessions. Joe is looking forward to the day when Jenny will take over all the lesson programs at RR. Please check the web site and the bulletin board for clinic dates, download riding program registration forms, or contact us via e mail or call 908-453-3661 for more information.

Register Now for Riding Programs

This season's riding programs will be filling up soon, so be sure to secure your spot.

Pee Wee Riding (Ages 5 to 7)

A five week program giving the young rider an introduction to riding,

Beginner Riding (Ages 8 to 12)

A eight week program giving the rider an understanding of horses, riding, and safety, from the ground up.

Private lessons (open to all ages)

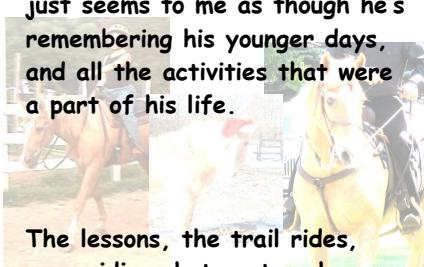
Private and Semi Private (2 riders) lessons geared specifically to individual levels of experience. One hour lessons on a flexible schedule.

Skippy Enjoying Retirement



The event was not marked with a gold watch, but it's been about a year since we pulled Skippy's shoes as he entered his

retirement years. In the picture above he is enjoying his first taste of this year's spring grass. He spends his days with RR's other retiree, Mac. The "Old Guys" as they are affectionately referred to; spend their days munching on hay, enjoying a good roll, and watching the other horses and ponies get worked in the round pen, rode in the arena, groomed, etc. Even though the EPM that ended Skippy's riding days still affects his walking, when he gets his turn in the grass field, he still manages to lope a few feet, and even throws a small buck in the air. Sometimes I spy him just standing there, his eyes barely open, kind of day dreaming. It just seems to me as though he's remembering his younger days, and all the activities that were a part of his life.



The lessons, the trail rides, even riding shotgun to a horse drawn hearse, not really that long ago. He has a lot of good memories to dwell on as he enjoys his retirement.

One of RR's own has Started:



Earthworms Plus sells three kinds of earthworms. What are earthworms good for? Bait, Castings, Compost, Education, Gardening, Poultry feed, Small pet food & Science projects.

To order, E mail Carman at: earthwormsplus@yahoo.com.

Or for more information, go to www.earthwormsplus.com.

Save \$5-\$7 when you pick up your merchandise. For steeper discounts, visit Earthworms Plus at the Sergeantsville Farmers Market on Saturdays, from 8:30- noon or the Hackettstown Farmers Market, on Mondays from 2- 7 pm.

Sophie goes in training



Sophie, a pretty Pinto mare, stands at just about 14 hands, is pictured above at about 3 years old, on the day she was purchased. After spending about a year at RR trying to find her niche, it was decided that Sophie would join Lino and enter a training program at The RHO Horse & Cattle Company, under the tutelage of Tom Riley. After evaluating her, Tom believes she will make someone a fine show pony after her training is complete, and maybe even a jumping prospect. At this writing Sophie has been there about a month, and hopefully should be ready for someone to take home in about a month or so more. Anyone interested in checking her out up close and personal, can contact Tom of RHO directly at 908-510-9289.

Best Picture of the Quarter



Best Joke of the Quarter

A bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down the road when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times. When she is about to hand him another batch again he asks the little old lady: 'Why don't you eat the peanuts yourself? We can't chew them because we've no teeth,' she replied. The puzzled driver asks: 'Why do you buy them, then?' The old lady replied: 'We just love the chocolate around them.'

A Therapeutic Touch

A full service Massage Studio, right here on Rainbow Ranch.

To schedule a human massage contact Marilu at 908-319-7381

We also are offering Equine massage for your horse or pony, either on RR, or at your barn.

To schedule an equine massage contact Colleen at www.equinekneadsllc.com

Down the Road a Bit

- * Showmanship Clinic TBD
- * Michelle's Welcome Home BBQ
- * July - Pow Wow 2011
- * Aug - Lino comes home?
- * E mail us any stories, pix, or jokes you would like to share with the RHN readers.

Until next Time:

Happy Trails to you, and Yours.