



The Highline – 03-01-08 Volume 3: Issue: 9

Hello Everyone!

Where did last week go? The season is moving up on us at break neck speed! Just 15 more days until our first guests arrive! We've got two really fun repeat guests coming, Susan Evans from Austria, and Jules Niemiec from England. Susan is ready to roll her sleeves up and help with the calving, and Jules is ready to stand back and take the pictures. It'll be great seeing them both again.

Let me run down the activities of the week, outside first: Spencer and Joe have been doing all the feeding, Kathy has been on tack cleaning and oiling duty, C.J. is still the night midwife, and Wes has been the day time midwife. We're up to 22 calves now. Over all the cows have minded their tempers, and we've been careful not to provoke their tempers! Never look a new momma cow in the eye, and never show fear! We had one calf that just didn't have the energy to get up and suck; Wes put her in the head catch and milked her about a couple pints worth and I bottle fed the calf. Up she jumped! Amazing how just that little bit made all the difference. We brought mom back into the jug and she was nice enough to let me help the calf suckle. Even touch her. A couple of times while steadying the calf, she reached over and licked my hand; now that's an awesome feeling to have a 1500 lb. animal touch you, and not in a threatening way. Really cool.

On the inside Woody has been preparing some scrumptious lunches and is succeeding at filling us up on his desserts! One of our housekeepers started this last week and is on the major task of spring-cleaning everything from top to bottom. The lodge is really looking sparkling clean and fresh, even the Buffalo is getting a shampoo! Charlene our new housekeeper was getting woozy on top of the ladder, so fearless Danica is taking care of all the high spots.

I've been ordering fun stuff for the gift shop. We're really close to stocking it. I had some time one day this week and ended up starting the cleaning of the game room. Just being anal! I've got to have my surroundings clean and in order before I can start on a project. Danica has been pecking away at pricing everything, so when the time comes to put everything in, it won't be such a monumental task. I'll still have to have the game room clean so we can spread everything out first.

We've continued with riding in the afternoons and all of us are making great strides in our horsemanship. Friday Shayne was able to ride with us and Spencer was the star pupil of the day. Randy's been working with him and he's really just opened up



and is soaking everything in. Spencer's standing out by the entryway greeting people driving by right now with his Star Pupil of the Month smock on. (Just kidding) Yesterday we worked on turn-arounds with reins and our flags and then without the reins. We then pulled out a couple of logs and used them as a cavaletti; well something to move our horses over for lead changes. What a rush that was! We loped figure eights and cued for flying lead changes at the logs. Horses are amazing. I really learned to just set my body in the right position and let my horse do the rest. I've been riding Goose lately when I'm not riding Easy, and I need to carry that same trust I felt on Goose over to Easy. He and I are still struggling with our "dance". We both try to lead and I believe my leading has been a bit forced. Easy senses my tenseness right now, and really shows his dislike for what I'm doing. One day it was literally like we were arguing the whole time and I just had to quit for the day, as I wasn't getting anywhere. Randy rode him for a few minutes and got a completely calm expression from him. Hmm. I studied where Randy's hands were, how he carried himself, and one of the biggest differences I saw was how natural he was up there. As if to say, "Ain't no big thing. We're just heading this way." I thought about my ride all that night and the next day, and when I rode Easy the next afternoon, relaxed but accurate, we had a much more pleasant time together. One might think Western riders have too much saddle between them and their horse, a beg to differ, they can feel every little nuance we project.

We've been getting rain at night and 40 degree sunny days from what I could see out of the windows of the lodge and through the doors of the arena. I haven't been outside at all to take pictures for you this week. The hours just flew by and before I knew it, it's now Saturday. Randy's got us all wrapping things up by 1:00 pm today, following Woody's lunch of course, so we can get some time for ourselves. Randy and Joe got the Belgarde Place opened up so the boys can move in this weekend and set up their own rooms. They're excited to have their own space.

Woody just rang the dinner bell. Have a great week everyone and I'll work to get outside more this week to get some pictures for you!

Dori