



The Highline – 12-20-08 Volume 3: Issue: 51

Hello Everyone!

It's the kid again. Well winter is officially here. We have about two feet of snow on the ground and the weather channel is saying we're going to get more this weekend along with below zero temperatures. Thankfully, we've all been through this kind of weather before so keeping everything running is pretty much old hat by now. It has made riding all the colts a little bit tough though as we have to let everything thaw out



first, including our brains. They seem to be handling it just fine, with their fluffy winter coats it doesn't even phase them. Thank goodness for heated indoor arenas!

We have a new recruit for the next few weeks, Sandy from Washington state. She came out to see how her three horses were doing and to brush up on her horsemanship skills. She also got to shovel snow for the first time. It was a momentous occasion! We're enjoying having her around and showing her all the cool stuff we've been



working on.

Well, the reason I'm writing this highline is because my parents are currently in Minnesota. They decided to head out in the middle of the week to try figure out what's wrong with Randy and why his shoulders are hurting him so much. I was struggling to find the right words to say to describe the status of things, so I thought I would let my mother tell you guys in her own words.

Hello everyone! I'm writing to you from a Rochester, Minnesota. I'm currently at a computer in our hotel looking out the window at a blizzard outside, which makes me think of home. Randy and I caught a quick flight



here on Thursday as our close friend David Knighton got us an appointment at the Mayo Clinic to see his good friend John Jones. Both are brilliant doctors. I've been lightly mentioning here and there in the last Highlines that Randy hasn't been up to par. He's had a chronic pain in his shoulders mostly, that has him pretty well incapacitated for him. He hasn't been able to ride, cut wood, drive around in Gizmo, putter around in his shop – THAT'S NOT OUR RANDY. We've seen many doctors in town but no one has been able to diagnose the problem. The pain having started 51 days ago, we're all worried and thankful for this opportunity to have him seen at the Mayo Clinic.



The Clinic is enormous! There are several large buildings all hooked together with what they call “the Subway.” We were expecting subway cars, but it’s actually a tunnel system that you walk through. There’s of course access to all the clinic buildings, but there are also shops, educational centers, food courts, and no Starbucks but a Carribou Coffee! The majority of the Subway is carpeted, but there’s one area with high ceilings and lots of marble that had Christmas Carolers who stood and sang for passers by all day. The acoustics made four people sound like a whole choir! When I said earlier that the place is

enormous, we’re on the 17th floor of one of the buildings. Needless to say, stepping off the shuttle and entering this place was somewhat overwhelming. We’re great at directions out in the woods, but we kept having to look at our map to see which way was North! We can now relate to what many of you go through when you enter our world! Not once during the day though, did we wander aimlessly for more than a few seconds when either a staff member or just regular folks would help us. Randy went through a whole battery of tests, 12 hours we were there in all. With the enormity of all the surroundings, the people still made it feel like home and the time went by comfortably. The incredible stories we listened to, this is truly a special place. The kindness doesn’t stop at the door either, the whole town supports this welcoming warm feeling.

At the end of the day, we spent well over an hour with Dr. Jones gong over all the test results. Fortunately, nothing points to anything malignant, but it may be an aggressive arthritic condition that was brought on by something environmental. We are going to see a Rheumatologist on Monday and we’ll see where we need to go following that. We feel we are getting closer to figuring out what this is and are most relieved that so far this isn’t leading down a malignant disease path. We so appreciate the immediacy of this place. Randy, for the first time, has expressed that this pain has actually made him realize how mortal he is. Wish us well in finding what it is so we can treat it. I feel we are in the best place we can be.

The snow continues to fall and we’ll hang around the cozy lobby of our hotel. Randy’s found a spot next to the fire place and 20 foot tall Christmas tree to settle in at.

The ranch is in good hands with the kids as the snow comes in. Randy and I are so thankful for what we have and so thankful for this experience as well.

Signing off for now.

Dori





Well everyone, I hope you are all ready for the holidays and that you have your family and friends close. My parents are flying back on Christmas Eve. I can't wait for them to be back, but at the same time we're all hoping they figure out this problem so Randy can go back to being Randy. This ranch isn't the same without him puttering around on Whiz Bang plowing the driveway, or riding Joey and busting a move on a cow. I think he's the hero of all of us here and we're all pulling for him.

I can't believe Christmas is already here. Another year is almost over. Pretty soon we'll be partying like it's 2009! :) Have a great week everyone! We here at the ranch send you our warmest wishes for the holidays!

Sincerely
Brianna