



The Highline – 1-10-09 Volume 4: Issue: 2

Hello Everyone!

Remember when I said how much snow we were getting? Well all last week it down poured steadily for three days and nights! C.J. and Junior and even Randy were working like busy beavers shoveling snow off the roofs before they got too heavy. They were successful and even found some new and exciting ways to “get ‘er done”! C.J. only fell off twice! One slide off he managed to wing his way far enough from the building to land in some deep snow. The landing was soft enough but he was wedged in so deep he had to call Junior over to dig him out. Randy worked on our roof at home and when he got it started the whole two foot thick sheet of snow slid off slowly in one fell swoop. He was pretty proud of himself until he got off the roof and saw that it piled high enough to cover up to half of our living room windows (they are at least 5’5” from the ground. I know that because I have to wash them and that’s my height!). So very gingerly he cleared the snow off and away from the windows. We now have a 5’ high snow berm at our front door too.

We knew this would happen, but through all our efforts to keep driveways clear, there isn’t much we can do to help this matter; all the rain and thawed snow had to go somewhere (driveways of course) and then it FROZE! So now we all look like Tim Conway shuffling around everywhere. We do some fancy driving on it too. Sharp turns in our big trucks? No problem! Just turn the wheel and the back end just slides around pretty as you please. We’ve got homemade bumper pads now all along the sides of the roads too which come in handy. Welcome to Montana!

The outside feeding; Kathy says it was REALLY COLD! C.J. plowed out some handy feed lanes for the horses and cattle to move around freely, and for ease of the feed tractor and trailer to navigate. He and Kathy did all the feeding last week with C.J. doing the driving and Kathy pitching hay; she wanted to build up her muscles again! You can barely see her beneath the hat, hood and neck warmer!





This is at least 3 inches of solid ice.

I just stepped outside and took this picture.

On the colt riding front: We have two graduates from first grade, Patty & Mark Streissguth's horse, 2 year old Oscar, nicknamed "Whip Lash" by Wes, and Brooke Johnston's two year old Rowdy. Oscar or "Whip Lash", a real quiet sweet heart of a colt is a cow working machine! Fuzzy bay with his winter coat and kind eyed, he transforms into his alter ego "Whip Lash" when he's working cattle, ears pinned, eyes on the cow, eagerly waiting for your cue for the next move. When he's finished sorting, cutting, and roping, he just stands on the side lines with a leg cocked, back to his fuzzy faced kind eyed self. Brianna and Wes have done a terrific job with him, and only being two, we'll give him some off time to just be a horse, part of the herd and grow some more. Rowdy, another bay colt, is a bundle of good natured energy. He too is now comfortable doing everything from quiet horsemanship, to sorting, cutting and roping cattle. Brianna said I needed to add to the last Highline that she had also heeled a calf that day. Both colts have transformed into solid, trustworthy horses that can be on the "payroll" with all the quality time Wes and Brianna have put into them. During this vacation they will be able to grow and develop into a horse. When we pick back up with them, everything they've learned will still be there and more in that they'll have a better sense of who they are.

We took in two more colts this week, and Wes and Brianna got right to work with them. I'm envisioning Basic Training when the new privates just get off the bus! Both colts moved through their beginning groundwork with ease and open minds. Welcome Sailor, and Smart Little Jerry!

Here's Sailor.





And Smart Little Jerry.

Here I am buzzing around the arena on a great little filly that Brianna has been riding. What a go getter she is!



I'll wrap this up for this week. I've been working on the big project of updating pictures on our website. I have literally gone through at least 50,000 pictures this week!!

Have a great week!

Dori