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Hi guys and gals!

Sitting in on orientation this week, I knew it things were going to be interesting!

From one side of the room was Urban. He told us his name and said "I have been riding for many years, almost my whole life. But I don't know how to ride."

Next was Bernie. He told us, "I have only ridden a horse a couple of times. We do not own horses, but we *do* have turtles!"

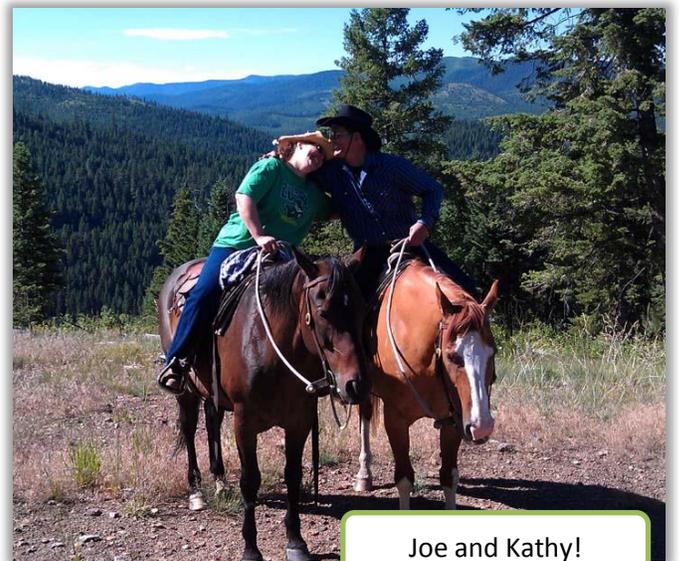
Then finally came Kathy who asked aloud what the difference was between this way of horsemanship as opposed to Parelli horsemanship. Mike Bruce stood up and started making the sign of the cross. Someone else said "the difference is that you get to ride!" Kathy thought about that for a minute, "I took the course and all it was, was games. And the

only game my horse seemed to like was the pointing game (where you point at an object and the horse walks to it.) But how is the pointing game going to help me with my riding?"

On Monday, the real games began. Kathy, who had lost a lot of confidence on a horse in a bad fall previously, was amazed that she was up and riding on the morning of day one! Kathy came with her husband Joe, who she didn't think would ride much. Kathy told me before they came out that "Joe's idea of riding a horse is not falling off!" Much to our delight, Joe rode all week.



Shayne is positioning Karina for the turnaround



Joe and Kathy!

The two were all smiles and jokes and were a pleasure to be around.

Lisa Marie, Katie and Allison came here from back east. Lisa Marie made huge strides in her horsemanship over the course of the week. She had some rough spots but by Friday she happily told us and all of her friends that she was now able to: Post the trot, get both leads, turn on a cow, leg yield, ride a circle and serpentine with legs and no hands, back arcs and understand how to get a soft feel in transitions. That's quite the list for someone who's barely been riding horses for a year!



Linda on Indigo. Linda and Terri were two friends that joined us from Oregon.

Dori and Billy out at graze. Dori let Hunter ride Billy on Friday and it was the highlight of his week!



We had quite a few overseas guests as well. Urban and Helena came from Sweden, Bernie and family came from Switzerland and Lisa and Hunter joined us from Australia. It's amazing how so many folks from so many walks of life all over the globe can come here and become one big family.

Next week we're going to have a very big family of new and returning guests, along with our good friend, Buck Brannaman. The next two weeks are our official "Buck Weeks" and the crew is working extra hard to make sure *everything* is perfect for *everyone* who will be joining us!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Des

It looks like Chris's dog Sage knows what she wants to do this weekend!

