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Hello guys and gals!

It has been wickedly cold here this week. Right now we're at -18 degrees with a high of 0 today. It's not the kind of cold that gives you goose-bumps...it's the kind that stings you, from your skin clear through into your bones. Thankfully, this cold spell will begin to dissipate in another week. By next Sat, highs should be in the high 30s, which is much more tolerable!

Our new radiant heat system in the arena was finally completed on Monday. It heats that building up with ease in this bitter cold. It could be as cold as it is this morning outside, and inside we're riding in our long sleeved shirts at nearly 50 degrees!

While I'm at it, talking about cold and winter and riding—I wanted to touch on our Winter Horsemanship Weeks. I know that Montana in the winter might sound a bit scary for some. BUT, out here you go from a warm lodge to a toasty arena and back, and that's about as close to the elements that you have to be! Of course if you WANT to be outside, you can help bring in the cattle in the snow, or head out and snowshoe or cross-country ski if you've got the gear.

Last year for Christmas, Dori bought some poinsettias in bloom. We ended up keeping them all year! They've grown twice the size but didn't bloom, so Dori arranged them like this and decorated them up beautifully for Christmas this year! Neat idea, huh?



Guess who came out to ride with us this week? Ol' Will the chap-maker!



In our winter horsemanship weeks we work on Buck Brannaman horsemanship, from basic to very advanced moves, in addition to some neat ways to work cattle. Of course, there's usually some roping that goes on as well. For the price, you'd be hard pressed to find a place with more individual instruction to more limited riders each week. Add that to the fact that you've got your meals and accommodations and it's really something to consider. If any of you have been on the fence about coming out, I can tell you that those who have, usually come back! There's just an air that you cannot get during the busy season, in the spring or summertime. Everything is more casual. You get to ride more horses. You see us starting and riding colts. Many winter guests get to put the first rides on the colts who have just entered the string, which is a really neat feel.

Next week we'll have our first guests of the winter and things will start getting back to "normal" again 😊

I'll close with some photos from last winter...

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