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Hi folks,

We had unusually warm weather this week, with temps near 40 outside and feeling even warmer. Much of the snow around the ranch has melted down in the meadows and on the mountains around the ranch.

We had three guests here this week—Charles and Joyce from Tennessee and Kathy from California. Charles has had his horse Brinkley here in training for the last 3 months and rode him for the first time since bringing him over. He worked hard to maintain the softness that Roby has put in him. Brinkley wasn't the easiest client horse Roby's ever ridden, and was pretty braced up throughout this body when he first came. Charles hadn't had the horse for long but knowing this, he sent the horse to us. You could see his muscles tense up in every movement from groundwork to riding at the beginning. Brinkley has now relaxed and he's let down enough to get very supple.

I remember Roby loping him right at the beginning of the training. Brinkley nearly fell over from lack of balance!



Joyce doing groundwork with Romeo



Kathy practicing her roping!

On Saturday before Charles came, Roby was loping circles all around the arena and doing flying lead changes in both directions with ease. Charles will leave Brinkley for the duration of the winter in partial training so that this newfound softness can get more solid in the horse before Charles picks him up in May.

He and Joyce and Kathy worked hard to correct their body position in order to be more effective with their legs. Shayne also spent some extra time during the week making sure that they could use their leads ropes

with more precision in their groundwork.

JJ and Miriam have begun gathering items for Christmas decorations around the lodge. JJ had the cute idea of grabbing feed bags and hanging them over each rail leading upstairs to the office in the lodge. Each feed bag will serve as our Christmas stocking, filled with any gifts we want to give one another.

They're also going to make x-large gingerbread men and customize them to look like all the staff! I can't wait to see how they turn out 😊

Have a great week everyone!

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Our intern Kersten is starting to get ropey too!

