



Dec 12, 2015

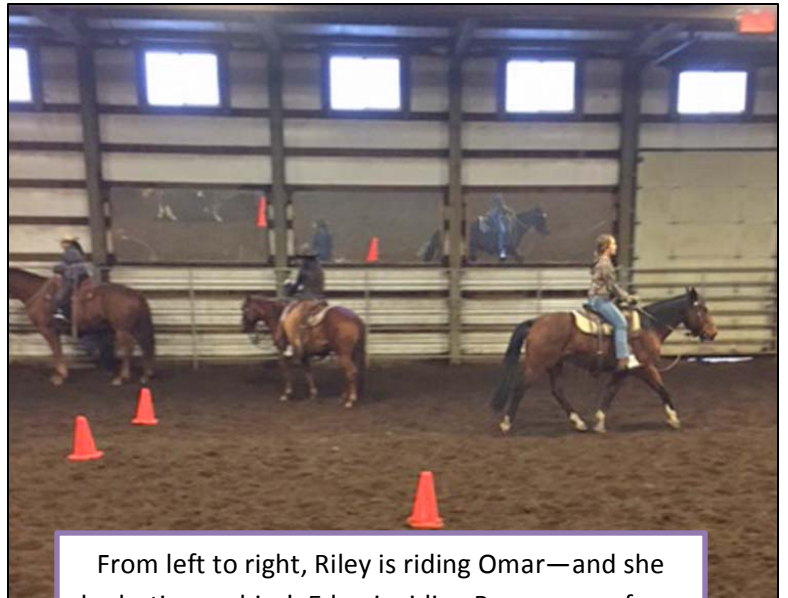
Volume 12

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Hey guys!

Our weather this week was wild! On Sunday we still had snow-covered meadows. By Wednesday, we had gotten so much rain that all the snow had turned to mud and the creek was nearly overflowing! Then by Thursday afternoon, we had gotten about 3 inches of fresh snow. Needless to say, we're thankful for straw pathways for the horses and us and for Stephen grinding the icy driveway and parking lot! This is the moisture we had been looking for all summer. It's sunk into the ground now with a layer of snow above it--which should make for a healthy spring.

We had four guests riding with us this week--Debby who is a repeat guest, Kelly who is her best friend, and two sisters from Washington, Shauna and Rachel. Debby worked on breaking some



From left to right, Riley is riding Omar—and she looks tiny on him! Eden is riding Pecos, one of our four-year-old colts and Rachel is trotting over to the next set of cones on Cheech

old habits of keeping her hands very narrow, which made it hard for her to keep her horse in proper flexion laterally, which in turn was hurting her leads. Once she started getting her horses shaped up properly, she was nailing her leads!

Kelly had been in a bad horse accident in the summer and came with a little bit of hesitancy in her riding. We also worked with her to get her

Check this out!!!! An ERMIN was in the arena this week! Shayne hasn't seen one of these little guys in 10 years! What a treat 😊



My victory look! Someone had knocked down a cone and Booker and I worked on reaching a foot until we got it stood back up! Success 😊

hands wider as well as to sit a little taller in the saddle, riding on the balls of her feet. That allowed her to move more freely, and ultimately more safely on the horse. By Friday she was loping on both leads with comfort and ease--after not having been confident enough to lope in 5 years!

Shauna and Rachel were able to audit Buck's Spanaway clinics this fall. They both had somewhat limited riding experience, but were wanting more and headed out to the ranch together. They both learned to use their legs and their body position to get life in their horses, and we're even doing 360-degree cow turns!

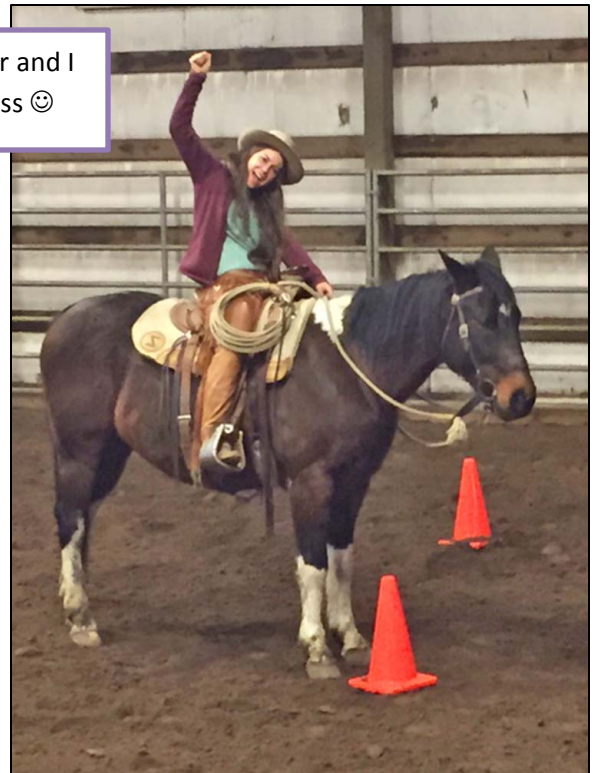
This was Bailey's last internship week and it was challenging in some ways and empowering in others. He struggled with one of the guest horses in his "string" this week, but really learned to step up his game with a colt named Jasper that he rode as well. We hope to see him at the ranch in the future!

Randy found a nice Christmas tree for the lodge and Amy has begun getting the ranch very festive-looking for Christmas. It certainly looks like Christmas outside this year!

Have a happy Sunday!

Des

Always makes me smile to see the wild turkeys milling around the ranch.



We kicked the mares out onto the Elk pasture so that they could just move out and be horses for awhile. I think they're adjusting quite well! Here they are during one of our snowier days.