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Issue 7

Greetings everyone,

Another week has gone by, which technically means we are one week closer to spring. Mother Nature isn't buying it though, and we are in the midst of another snowstorm. The temperatures are supposed to really take a dip this coming week, so luckily the horses still have a lot of winter hair!



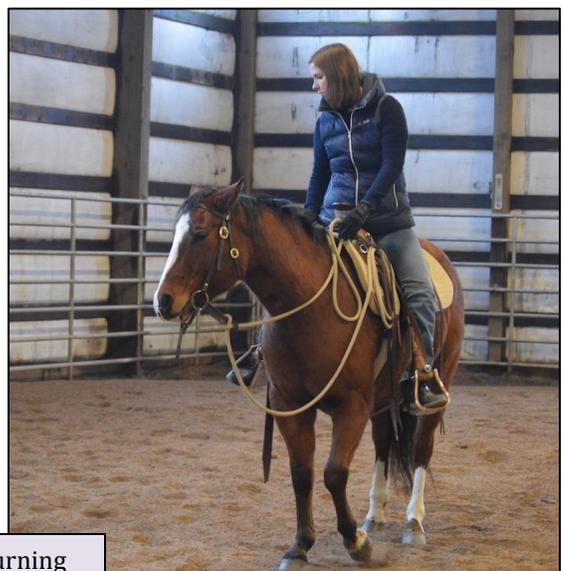
The snow is falling steady this morning

We had a smaller but wonderful group of guests this week. Simone from Germany, stayed another week with us. She was joined by Renate from Canada, who was visiting for the first time.

Simone made huge gains this second week, and had a blast in the process- she is working on seeing how quickly she can get back here again to continue her

horsemanship journey!

When asked what her biggest breakthrough was during her stay, she said it is learning to use her hips and legs fluidly. Often times, when we start off, we are aware of what our body is doing, but then when we ask for more movement, or a different movement, our brain disconnects from our body- which most times means our body stops moving. If we ever want our horses to follow our seat and legs, we have to be very clear about what our body is doing. If we don't use our hips for movement, the horse will never be able to find the stop or



Simone and Mighty, working on turning her body in union with the horse.



Renate and Jasper. Renate was super focused throughout the week and it paid off

slow a gait without us having to use our reins. Simone figured this out and had some of her best rides the latter part of this week. She was pretty excited about it when she saw how well her horses responded to it.

Renate also made great progress in just one week. She began with a limited exposure to this style of riding and really had to work hard at getting her seat more forward. She studied hard and focused on it so that by Thursday she was able to have nice fluid moves on Jasper, and even

cantered him on a loose rein around the arena- a sure sign that her legs and seat were working properly!

With a smaller number of guests this week, the wranglers got to ride a bit as well. Stephen spent his week's vacation in horsemanship every day and was able to get caught up with what Shayne is teaching now. One thing about the ranch, Shayne's riding and teaching is always evolving. It makes it challenging to keep up sometimes but the end result is always that you become a better rider with a deeper understanding of what we are trying to achieve.

Brenda also rode this week and is working hard at being a leader to her horses. She is a great study and rides just about every night in the arena often times after everyone else has long left for home. Mr. Magoo is her absolute favorite and you can tell she just beams when she has the opportunity to groundwork, ride or even just brush him!



Stephen and Twizzle. Stephen is working on feeling the reins to his horse's mouth... Steady but they have life.

The office remained very busy this week, and many of you have heard from me either through email or phone. I often get asked if we have online booking as an option. We do not, and this is by design. Because McGinnis Meadows is different than a dude ranch, we want to be able to convey this to someone who expresses interest in visiting. But even more importantly, in this day of electronic devices, texting, emails and messaging—we really just want to be able to talk to folks!

We are doing our best to prevent this from being a lost art ☺

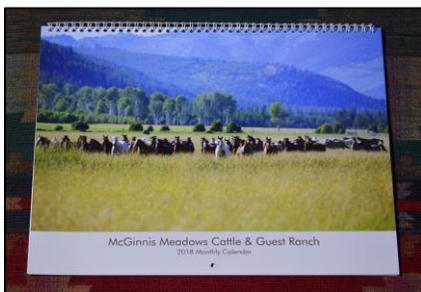
Sue also continued to be busy with housekeeping this week, finishing up the deep cleaning so that when you come to the ranch things are sparkling. Some of you may remember Erin from last season? She is back with us this year and has been helping both Sue and Miriam. She stays pretty busy between both jobs!

Nathan finished his week before he leaves for vacation tomorrow, getting lots of horses trimmed and any pending chores that needed completion.

Des had a couple of more rides on Chupa, one of Shayne's young colts. If you haven't seen it yet, there is a cool video she posted on our Facebook page showing some of the preparation work that happens before the rides. Methodical and purposeful, these horses rarely find trouble. All of the groundwork and consistency that Shayne, Des and Roby are developing, really makes these horses comfortable and in a good frame of mind for learning. It will be fun to see where all of their horses are at the end of winter with all of the progress they are making already.



Sue digging deep!

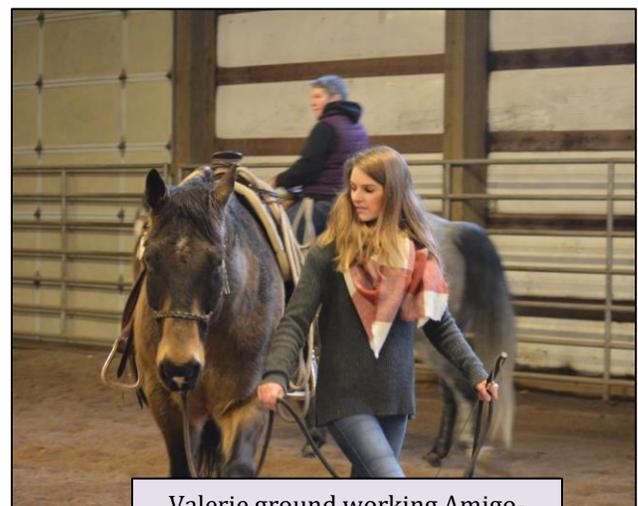


Here's just a couple of reminders for you- it is still only February which means there are a solid 10 months remaining in the McGinnis Meadows Calendars! All proceeds go to our new internship fund.

If you'd like to help support this project, contact me and I can get you a calendar shipped out right away- there's only a few left, and they feature some of your favorite horses and people ☺.

That's a wrap on this week!

Happy Trails until next time,
Janice ☺



Valerie ground working Amigo- here she looks for a good expression.



Not sure what the attraction is, but some of these horses just like the high road!
(L) Windchester, (R) Catman.



Early morning sunrise



Erin, always smiling!



Scott is getting a real nice feel and softness in his horses now