



Horse Tales

Issue 24

Fall 2011

New Jobs for Alex & Elaine

As some of you know, in addition to managing Saddle Valley, Alex has maintained his other occupation and passion—managing investments. This spring he was recruited to work at Morgan Stanley doing this on a full time basis. So far he is having a great time immersing himself into the challenge.

What does that mean for Saddle Valley and me? Well – I am now managing things on a day-to-day basis. I have always and continue to run our lesson program, our summer camp and many aspects of our horse shows. Now I'm around most of the time, handling issues as they arise.

So far, since my taking this on, we have had a tornado, an earthquake, a hurricane and a tropical storm. Thanks to our great staff we have been able to deal with these events without too much stress. Alex gets to mow most weekends – the one job he really misses.

Girls Club - Happy Anniversary!

It's been one whole year since the formation of the Saddle Valley girls club. Last year's highlight was a trip to Medieval Times. But there were lots of other great experiences. The girls learned so much about horse medical care "straight from the horses mouth" as they say, when Dr. Forbeck came to teach. They had lots of fun learning horse anatomy and then painting the parts of the horses – right on the horses – who were very good sports about the experience. This was a great summer activity since washing the paint off the horses was a very wet affair. Movie nights up at the barn were also great – as was the popcorn, pizza and other yummy treats. We look forward to continued good times. Next club meeting is this Friday, Sept. 16th with a farrier demonstration by Boyd Gannon. Get in your \$25 dues for another year of fun, learning and sharing.

Horse Shows

PJHA Show September 25th

We look forward to hosting the last Penn/Jersey horse show of 2011 on Sunday September 25th. The class list can be downloaded off our web site -- www.saddlevalleyfarm.com. Go to the calendar in the News & Events section. We are hoping for a beautiful, *DRY*, day. Spectators are welcome to experience the show – and volunteers appreciated. Our breakfast sandwiches are delicious as is our BBQ lunch menu.

Barn Show & Halloween Costume Party -- October 23rd

Time is going so fast – I can hardly believe that we are talking about Halloween already. But it is just around the corner and time to think about costumes and treats (no tricks, please).

We call for our Beginners join the fun.

More beginner classes will be added. Ask your instructors which classes you should do. As always – no show clothing required. We will have a BBQ and costume contest following the show. And this year's best costume winner will get a \$50 gift certificate from Horseman's Outlet. So start planning your costume.

A Big Welcome to the Barn

Buttercup - & Donna
Forest - & Dawn
Lila - & Matt
McCartney - & Robin
Monke - & Alexandra & Michelle
Phoenix - & Jess
Stormy - & the Fuller Family
Remy - \$ Jess

& Baby and Robin (Very glad 2 yr old baby is doing so much better after a rough beginning.)

Remembering 9/11

I don't often talk about somber issues or my personal experiences. But today, as I write this newsletter, I am watching the 9/11 ten-year memorial. After lighting a candle, I turned the TV on to find the first moment of silence - and find myself riveted. It is difficult to relive, but important to remember those who perished in such horror, all that these families have lost, and how much our country has changed since that terrible day. Not many of you know that I worked in the World Trade Center and evacuated the building during the first bombing in 1993. Of course, it was nothing in comparison to what eventually happened - but makes it all the more real to me. On 9/11 I was out of the country on a vacation in France with several of my friends and co-workers who had evacuated the WTC with me. We sat watching CNN in disbelief. When we finally got back to NYC all had changed. Life goes on for the families who lost loved ones, for the city, and for us all - but in many ways changed forever. I am writing this to honor- in a small way - those who died and their families who have suffered such terrible loss.

Horse Sense

- Your horse can only be as brave as you are.
- Don't get mad, get even - better.
- Allow the horse time to digest your thoughts.
- Don't look where he is going, that's his job.
- Don't look at your horse - his ears won't fall off.
- Everything starts in the horse's mind, goes through his body, down his legs to his feet.
- Exaggerate to teach, refine as you go along.
- The four most handicapping words in the English language: can't, won't, don't, but.
- Imagination is more valuable than knowledge.
- Whether you think you can or think you cannot, you are probably right.

Summer Camp

This year's summer camp was fantastic. We so appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity of our camp staff - Anastasia, Rebecca and Vicky. As usual, our campers did not want to leave at the end of each day. With riding twice a day, scavenger hunts, horsy crafts, and more - there was hardly time in the day to do it all. We all loved our trips to the creek on those very hot summer days.

Since Anastasia was a Vet Tech - and is now off to school to become a Veterinarian, the kids learned much about horse care and anatomy. At the shows at the end of each camp session, it was clear how much each camper had

learned. From the beginners who were already trotting- to the jumping of our more advanced campers who ride here regularly - you could see a big improvement in just one week of hard work.

"Every time you ride, you're either teaching or un-teaching your horse."

Gordon Wright (cow puncher and rodeo star)

At Saddle Valley, One Size Does Not Fit All

Some Saddle Valley Boarders ride English saddle and some ride Western. Some are here with their first horses, and some have had horses forever. Some are breaking in young horses; some are working on their skills and preparing for Shows, and others simply enjoying a great ride around our trails. Our students are just as diverse. They range from 4 ½ to 70+, from beginner to advanced, and ride English, Western, Dressage, and even beginner barrel racing. Our riding instructors talents fit right in with the diverse goals of our boarders.

Nancy

Focuses on hunter/jumper, equitation and loves to teach dressage

Lori & Shelly

Love the diversity of teaching both English and Western disciplines, and are great at both

Amber

Great Western instructor, from the basics to Barrel Racing

Christina

We are excited to welcome **Christina** to the barn. She is starting in October 2nd. She has a great background and will also teach both English and Western.

No matter what stage they are at in their riding, what age, or what discipline, the love of horses and riding makes for strong bonds and great barn friendships.

"There are times when you can trust a horse, times when you can't, and times when you have to."

Anonymous

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