



Issue 1

January/February 2004

## **Our Move to Saddle Valley**

When we became the proud owners of Saddle Valley Farm, Alex and I not only bought a new business but also bought into a whole new lifestyle. As most of you know by now, we moved here from an apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. It was a big move both physically and emotionally, but we are ready for the change. The eclipse took place on the night after we moved in. We took it as a positive sign. It felt like it was there just to welcome us - a totally open sky and no lights to interfere - it was truly magical.

Farm life suits Alex's internal clock perfectly since he always starts his day really early in the morning. Besides his love of horses, he loves the outdoors and the chance to ride around in his Pick-up and John Deere. Max and Dallas (our pups) are also thrilled with the change. I have been getting us settled, teaching myself to bake and learning the roads. I generally have a great sense of direction - but find I often go in circles here - especially at night. I can finally find my way home without getting lost, a good beginning.

It's been fun meeting all of you and we appreciate this built in community. We hope we can create the kind of environment that is fun for you and safe for your horses.

We wish you a happy holiday season and year ahead.

*Elaine and Alex Morrow*

## **Barn Improvements Underway:**

We are excited about the changes we are making to the barn...

### **Barn entrance**

If you've been around the barn lately you've seen that the Barn entrance is being expanded and renovated. The hallway is being widened so that the double doors going in from the porch will now lead into a wider passage and though a second set of double doors into the front aisle. Besides improving the appearance, it will be airy in the summer when the doors can be left open and will improve "traffic" flow. Blue stone is being put down on the floors of the offices and the entranceway - which should look great.

### **Viewing Room**

The viewing room is being fixed up so that it can be a welcoming place for you, your families and friends. A TV with cable has already been set up (we've seen at least one patient husband watching football - and children safely entertained while Mom was riding.) Next step - Heating the room. Then some redecoration to make it cozy and comfortable. We hope to have it completed sometime in January.

### **Other Improvements so far...**

- You may have already noticed new crossties around the barn - a small thing but important for safety.

- Next to come are new nameplate holders for each stall. You can then order a nameplate for your horse. Having them all the same will look a lot better than the current mix of brass and paper signs.
- We will also be ordering a small note board for each stall so that you (and we) can leave messages and we can include important info available to the staff.
- There is an on-going process of keeping the fences in good shape – which will be stepped up as the weather improves, and we plan to begin painting them in the spring.
- We are determining the best approach to take with the laundry room. Suggestions are welcome.

### Horse Sense...

*To err is human -- but to blame the horse is even more human.*

## Paul Belasik Dressage Clinic – Saturday December 20th

We thank Elizabeth Bartolo for arranging for Paul Belasik to run a dressage clinic at Saddle Valley. Paul is known internationally for his training techniques and for his books, a highly regarded trilogy which includes *Riding Toward the Light* (1980), *Exploring Dressage Technique* (1994), and *The Songs of Horses* (1999).

There was excitement in the barn on Saturday morning as those signed up for the clinic with Paul began to arrive and prepare. Elizabeth rode her three horses, Seoul, Miles and Remy, Jaqui Jacobs rode Benson, and Amigo (a horse she is training that was trailered over for the occasion), Janet Ferguson rode Maestro, and Sarah rode Montana.

Everyone was nervous – but that was probably a good thing – since the adrenaline helped.

Each rider said that as Paul worked with her, he was able to make a difference that addressed her specific issues. He stressed classical seat position - a plumb line from shoulders, hips, to heels, and a light yet firm controlled seat that is connected to the horse's back. He considers the seat to include the thighs, hips and waist.

***New Year's Eve...  
Get together at the Morrows  
Come One! Come All! 8PM  
Bring a dish if you wish!  
RSVP to Elaine (610) 588-1561  
or just show up.***

Lunch break at the Riverside was also a new experience for most. Some were a bit leery at first – it seemed like to rough place. But with Alex's assurance those taking the clinic and those auditing proceeded in and had a great lunch (the fries can't be beat). The clinic was hard work and everyone needed a break from the tension. Then it was back to the arena.

We were lucky to get Paul to come on short notice. Timing is everything – and he happened to have an open date when Elizabeth called just three weeks before. We hope to be able to arrange clinics on a regular basis. Let Jaqui know if you are interested.

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### Top Ten Reasons I Love Horses

10. Always wanted to be Dale Evans
9. Get to wear cool outfits
8. Free Fertilizer for the Garden
7. Get to sit High
6. Get to Brag about saddle sores
5. Do not have to change the oil
- Get to say “Howdy” and “Cheerio”
- They don't shed in the house
2. Can park anywhere, and...
- #1. A sugar cube and apple make them happy!

### Welcome to the Barn:

- Elizabeth Bartolo and Seoul (Warmblood), and Remy and Miles (Thoroughbreds)
- Charleen Cole and Promise (Palomino)
- Casey Guttendorf and Gracie (Thoroughbred)