

Issue 7 August/September 2004

Our Shows -- Gone but not forgotten

Irish Draught Horse Society 2004 Northeast Regional Horse Show

The show was held on September 10th and 11th. There were three segments – certification of new horses into the Society, a horse show, and a horse sale. Three Judges were flown in from Ireland to certify the horses and judge the show. The horses (and riders) began arriving on Thursday night. The first to arrive was Riley; a magnificent gray dappled stallion standing over 17 hands high. Horses coming from as far away as Toronto and Virginia followed Riley. They were all awesome and we enjoyed welcoming the horses and owners to our B&B.

THE IRISH DRAFT HORSE

Irish Draught horses were bred by Irish farmers in the early part of the 20th century to work the land throughout the week, go fox-hunting all day Saturday, jumping anything he faced, and then be ready to bring the family to church on Sunday morning. Standing over a lot of ground, the Draught has an exceptionally strong and sound constitution, great stamina and an uncanny jumping ability. In addition, this breed possesses a fabulous temperament made up of willingness, intelligence, docility, and common sense.

The Show included a Dressage portion judged by local judge Lynn Roscioli. The Dressage classes demonstrated the lovely grace of these powerful horses. The Jumping events were very exciting. The horses seemed to float over the jumps with ease and elegance. All the special characteristics of this impressive breed came shining through as we watched the show.

The weather was as perfect, as the day. We had a BBQ going, and I heard one person say it was like a big picnic and horse show all rolled into one.

As usual, a big contributor to the success of the show, and the comfort of our quests, is the great attitude and attention to detail of our wonderful staff. We thank them for their dedication and great work. And volunteers Ian and Elaine Ackroid-Kelly (announcer and Administration), were indispensable as usual.

Parelli Natural Horsemanship Clinic-We are working on bringing a beginner clinic to SVF sometime this fall. Space will be limited. Please see Alex if you want to reserve a spot

Penn Jersey Horse Show Association English Show

Our last Penn/Jersey English show was held on Sunday, August 8th. The weather was perfect and the attendance huge. One of the best parts of running our horse shows has been the chance to meet so many wonderful people. This includes the Judges we have had for each of our shows. We thank Judge John P. McGinty for a great job and for keeping everything running smoothly. We also thank Karen Nelson, technical representative of the Penn Jersey Association for trouble shooting and all of our wonderful volunteers (Brooke, Elaine, Haydie, Ian, Inga, Michelle, Stacy, and Tracy – could not do it without you).

Congratulations to all our show winners. We wish we could give ribbons to everyone participating – to us you are all winners.

Country vs. City Living

City Guy: "I want to ride a horse."

Country Guy: "OKAY - Do you want an English

or a Western Saddle?"

City Guy: "What's the difference?"

Country Guy: "One has a horn and one doesn't."

City Guy: "I'll take the one without the horn.

I shouldn't be running into much traffic.

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Horseback Riding Puts Girls (and

Women) in the Spotlight

Go to any barn and you will see that the female of our species dominates it. What is it about horses? In a world of bright plastic toys, blockbuster movies, the Internet, and shopping malls, what is it about this four-legged animal that seems to capture the hearts and imaginations of so many young girls and girls at heart?

Few sports allow girls the spotlight in the center of the arena the way riding does. In fact, riding is one of only two Olympic sports where men and women compete as equals. Horses encourage girls to be competitive ---while at the same time forging a strong partnership with the horse. The added bonus of caring for another living, breathing creature completes the equation. For girls, the additional duties around the barn are as much a part of the sport as the activities in the arena. The Olympics may be over – but the Olympic spirit lives on at Saddle Valley.

Welcome to the Barn

Horse

Owner

DANTE ZIP Brie (and Mary) Nikki (and Marie)

& Congratulations Kari and Kelsey new owners of beautiful Dune

Lessons! Lessons! Lessons!

Jenn's Barn Rats....
(Her girls, & girls at heart)

Alexia, Brooke, Carol, Chris, Courtney, Erika, Erin, Gabriella, Grace, Haydie, Jessica, Julie, Kaitlin, Kristen, Laura, Lisa, Mary, Marisa, Meagan, Michelle, Nikita, Natasha, Paige, Sabrina, Samantha, Sarah, Tamara, Tia, Tracy,

And a few brave Boys: Adam, Jake, and Tajae

And Charlie's Angels...
(Talk about women riding)

Charlene, Cindy, Denise, Diane, Harriet, Jane, Jennifer Joyce, Julienne, Katie, Kelsey, Kim, Lisa Lorissa, Lynn, Meagan, Nicole, Nikki, Sandy, Sharon, Stacy, Tonya, Wendy,

And a few good men: Tom, Posha, Chris & Matt

"Saddle Valley Barn Rat" tees are in stock (Charlie's Angels "tees under consideration.)

Saddle Valley Barn Show & BBQ Scheduled for October 2nd – 9 AM

All boarders and riding students are invited to participate. There will be classes for English riders, Western riders, and some just for fun.

So mark your calendars and stay tuned for the details.

Ask Mr. Ed (True or False?)

Horses see things 10 X larger than they are and they have limited depth perception.

Horses can see color.

Horses have two blind spots. One is directly behind them and the other is directly in front of them.

Horses expend more energy lying down than they do when they are standing up.

Horses can communicate how they are feeling by their facial expressions.

When spoken to, horses distinguish tones rather than particular words.

Mr. ED says these are all true!

Our Saddle Valley Horses... Beginning with the End in Mind.

Our first goal in the selection of a new horse for our lesson program is safety. We look for calm, sane, well-trained horses. But we don't stop there. We understand that many of our riders want to go beyond just taking lessons. They dream of the chance to own a horse. So we look for great horses that we would want for our own. We understand that owning a horse is a big commitment - financially and emotionally. We have created a leasing program to enable our riders to experience "ownership" without taking such a big plunge. This includes half leases and lease/purchase options. We are proud of our lesson horses and are happy to see that our riders must agree - since they are taking advantage of these opportunities.

Notice to Boarders Re Horse Blankets

We have collected some Winter Horse Blankets that have been left around the barn that need to be cleaned. Please see Alex to claim yours. Unclaimed blankets will be cleaned and used for our school horses.