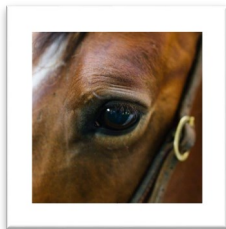


The Rustic Star Horse Boarding

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December 2016



Merry Christmas Friends!

Unbelievably, here we are again—another year has flown by (mostly on the couch for me), but nevertheless, the months have quickly passed. We truly appreciate your patience this year as Don managed the duties of both of us for most of the spring and fall. Don handled 100% of the first cutting on his own and still came in loving the farm every night. We've had weeds growing everywhere, loose fencing, barn floors that went days without being swept, and through all of that, not a single one of you ever voiced a complaint. I say this every year, but every year we know exactly how blessed we are to have each and every one of you as a boarder and a friend.

Inside this issue:

- Save the Dates
- Ladies' Weekend
- Brandi Lyons
- E- Team
- Reminders



Ladies' Weekend

If you haven't made it to Ladies' Weekend, we would love to have you come join us next year. Ladies' Weekend is one of the highlights of our year—every year. It is filled with uplifting conversation, horses, fine wine and amazing food. We spent 2016 at The Outback Lodge—an equestrian B&B that pampers the guests beautifully. We have selected the weekend of October 6th for 2017, so that it does not overlap with e-team—Double JJ is our destination. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due upon sign up so that we have firm commitments in advance so that we can plan accordingly.



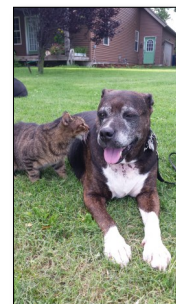
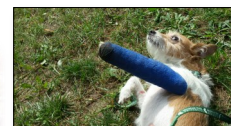
Save the Dates

Dec. 2: TRS Christmas Party
 Dec. 3: Jingle Bell Parade
 Dec. 12: Farrier
 Feb. 6: Farrier
 March 17: Paperwork for Spring Shots Due
 April 3: Farrier
 April 18: Spring Shots
 May 6: Dandelion Parade
 May 19: Judged Trail Ride Camping
 May 26: Memorial Day Camping Weekend
 May 30: Farrier
 July 10: Farrier
 June 16: Camping (destination undecided)
 July 21: Ionia Camping Trip
 Aug. 17-20: Brandi Lyons Clinic-arena closed
 Aug. 28: Farrier
 Oct. 6: Ladies' Weekend
 Oct. 21: Work Day (pig roast)
 Oct. 23: Farrier



“No heaven can heaven be,
 if my horse isn't there
 to welcome me.”
 ~Author Unknown

I feel as though I have lost so much in 2016—Holly, Tacoma, a knee, my heart, my balance, and my ability to ride horses pain-free. Yet despite all of the things that I have lost, I cannot help but dwell on the things that I have gained this year. Without my accident, I would not have known about my heart issues, and without losing Tacoma, I would not know the joy of owning Rose'. Don and I have gained a lovely daughter-in-law in Alyssa, and new boarders and friends. We have two incredibly irritating new dogs and goats—that we love regardless of how they have complicated our lives. The year 2016 has become the year of change for us and we are ready to welcome in 2017.



Email is probably the best way to catch either of us during our work day. As you know, Don and I both work away from the farm during the day. Our email addresses are on the back of this newsletter for your convenience.

Behind the Scenes

Don has spent the year doing all sorts of projects that may or may not be visible. There are six new support beams for stalls in the arena wing as large horses and aged wood do not necessarily go hand in hand. The lights in the front wing of the barn have been a much needed improvement. He's cleaned up and smoothed out the ground adjacent to the trailer area. We want to put a couple obstacles and jumps out so that the area can be truly utilized—especially for those e-team girls who would like some trail or jumping practice. Don has decided to return to work fulltime this year as some of the bigger projects are finished.



It's beginning (sniff, sniff)...

Our young ladies are growing up and the first two are graduating this year. We wish them well as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

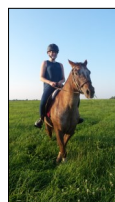
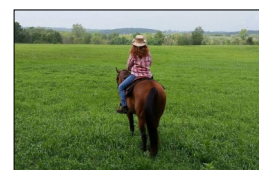
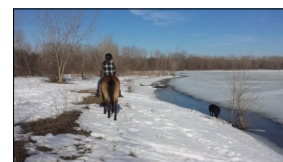
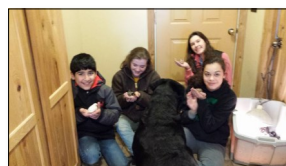
Congratulations to both Myah and Juliette. Always remember that no matter how far away you wander, your barn family will always be here waiting for you with open arms and a pony to ride.

We look forward to hearing about all of the great adventures that 2017 will bring—stay safe and carry pepper spray (or Myah, if you head north—bear spray).

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



If you bring family or friends to the barn they absolutely must sign a waiver—even if they're just brushing a horse or hanging out. Minors must have these forms signed by a parent. These waivers are on our website for your convenience.



Brandi Lyons carries on with the most trusted name in the horse industry.

Clinic at TRS

(great gift idea for the holidays)

Over the last 18 years, Brandi Lyons, daughter of John Lyons, has become admired and respected by horse owners and enthusiasts from around the country. You can find more information regarding her upcoming clinic being hosted by TRS on their website:

<http://lyonsnolimits.com>





OUR E-TEAM GIRLS



Congratulations go to Zeeland West and West Ottawa for making it through a very rainy season and doing well at Regionals. Nikki, Olivia, and Maddie represented Zeeland West while Myah represented West Ottawa. If you'd like more information on e-team, just ask one of these girls about what a great experience it has been as they push themselves to excel in classes that they had not tried before.

LESSONS

Scott Schuitema currently comes to the barn every other week to provide lessons. If you're interested in connecting with him, just give him a call directly. We've had a few requests for outside instructors for speed, jumping, etc., but for a multitude of reasons, we have opted against doing this. The primary reason is that riding instructors need to carry liability insurance for their students, which is something that most people do not carry unless they work full-time as a trainer or have their own boarding facility. *If you opt to ride during a lesson, please be mindful of the lesson and split the arena accordingly.*



Winter Reminders

- ♦ The wind can really blow the snow across both Van Buren and 124th, so if the weather is bad, please don't risk the roads—your horses will be safely taken care of during storms.
- ♦ **Lights:** Please use them as you need them, but use the same logic that you would use at home—if you don't need them, or leave an area, turn them off. Keeping our electric bill low is a key factor in our boarding rate.
- ♦ **Water buckets:** During the winter we purposely keep the stall water buckets empty while the horses are outside. We fill the buckets right before we bring the horses inside for the night.
- ♦ Remember that if your horse leaves a mess in the arena, aisle, drive, etc. you are responsible for cleaning it up before you leave. This includes sweeping up after your horse. Please do not skip this clean up duty—it makes a huge difference in the overall appearance of the barn. ****This also includes stalls for those times that you opt to leave your horse in the barn for showing, etc. during the summer when horses are not normally stalled nightly.**
- ♦ Don't forget to dress warm and in layers!

