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# Horse Tales

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Issue 21

Spring 2010

## **Saddle Valley -- Waking Up after a Long Hard Winter**

What a gift – Every day gets greener and more beautiful. It seemed like this winter would never end – but here we are, enjoying the crisp cool mornings and warm sunny afternoons. And not just us, of course, the horses are relishing the sweet grass of spring. Each year, after the long difficult winter months, we wonder if the pastures will ever come back. And here they are green and lush as ever.

*The wonders of nature!*

And Alex is back to being a mowing maniac – a never-ending job here on the farm.

We had some die hard riders who managed to keep their lessons going all through the brutal winter. And many more are now back in the saddle. It's great to be busy and seeing the farm in full use again.

## **Spring Events**

**Lots happening & planned:**

- **Spring Clean Up day (4/24)**
- **Spring Barn Show/BBQ (4/25)**
- **Western PJHA Show (5/2)**
- **Summer Riding Day Camp (begins 6/21)**

**(First session reserved for campers age 6 through 8 years old)**

**-See page 2 for the details-**

## **Staffing Changes**

**We say farewell to Bob Getz who, along with Stephe, got us through the long hard winter. Thanks to both.**

**We welcome Amber Akers, our new stall tech. She is a great addition, with her extensive horse experience (including Barrel Racing Completion).**

## **Friday Night Round-Up Join the Fun...**

Nancy, one of our terrific instructors, is running a group lesson every Friday night from 5 - 6PM. Regardless of who your instructor is - you are welcome to join the group. It's a great way to get in some extra practice - and - at the same time - get to know some of the other students. If you ride with Nancy - just talk to her. If you have another instructor and want to try it out - just call Elaine. (Cost - \$20)

## **Alyssa & Alex begin training Summer ...**

Summer - our filly born the first day of summer 2008 - is turning two. She is now in training and doing great. Alex recruited Alyssa Berardi to partner with him in this process. They are using natural horsemanship techniques and are very excited with her progress. They expect Summer to be under Saddle by her birthday in June.

## **Update... Gray Dapple Thoroughbred Rescue moves to it's own farm**

The folks running Gray Dapple have found a farm of their own to move all their rescue horses to. Now all their horses can be moved to one place - which will be more cost effective and efficient for them. We wish them well as they continue to do their good works.

## **SVF Welcomes Eagle and Rachel**

*We wish you years of happy riding*

Welcome too - Sherma and Bill

\$30 per person for 2 - 4 riders

## Quarterly Barn Show April 25<sup>th</sup>

Just for Saddle Valley Students, our barn shows are a great way to experience showing, get ready for show season, meet other SV riders, and just have fun. Talk to your instructor about signing up. Class List and entry forms are in the barn. Show starts at 10 A.M. (informal attire)

BBQ following the Show.

Family, friends & spectators welcome

## SVF Summer Riding Day Camp Enroll Early and Save\*

- Campers ride 2x each day
- Get a "care horse" for the week to learn all about their care and handling
- Learn feed, anatomy, shoeing etc.
- Have so much fun will not want to go home at the end of each day

The week closes with a horse show and BBQ. You will be able to see for yourself how far your child has come. Parents, relatives, and friends are invited

**GREAT INSTRUCTORS, GREAT HORSES,  
SMALL GROUPS (6-10 CHILDREN PER SESSION)**

June 21 - 25 is a special session - reserved for children ages 6 - 8. The other sessions are for ages 8 and older.

June 21 - 25,	July 5 - 9	July 12 - 16
July 26 - 30	Aug 9 - 13	Aug 16 - 20
	9:30 - 3:30	

Early drop-off and late pick-up available

**\*Sign up before 5/15 and save \$50.**

## Trail Riding Lessons at Saddle Valley Farm WE LOVE BEGINNERS!

(Experienced riders are welcome to tag along)

*IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO RIDE WITHOUT A  
GUIDE OR GO REAL FAST- ADIOS PARTNER  
WE CAN'T HELP YOU!*

*But if you are looking for a fun,  
leisurely ride -- on wonderful  
horses - we're the barn for you.*

## 2008 Saddle Valley Farm Horse Show Season

**May 2nd**

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. Western Show

**August 22nd**

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. English Show

**September 26<sup>th</sup>**

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. English Show

Participants and spectators welcome

Come Share in the fun!

BBQ breakfast & lunch available

## April 24<sup>th</sup> - Spring Clean-up

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### (For our Adopt-a Highway road)

Saddle Valley Farm is responsible for cleaning South Main Street from the farm down to Martins Creek. This is a bit challenging since it runs along a curvy creek - and since people seem to think it is a great place to toss their cup, cans, wrappings, etc.

- WE will gather at the barn at 9:30 AM
  - BBQ & treats following clean-up.
- (Look for Sign-up Sheet in barn)

### Tips Horses Give Each Other

**CHEWING:** Hey, it's YOUR stall so go ahead and do what you want to make it more "homey". Chew on your stall wall, the fence or any other wooden item ... leave your own mark!

**DINING ETIQUETTE:** Always mix your hay with your fresh bedding. This challenges your human, the next time they're cleaning your stall - and we all know how humans love a challenge (that's what they said when they bought you - right?).

**DOORS:** Any door, even partially open, is always an invitation for you and your human to exercise. Bolt out of the door and trot around, just out of reach of your human, who will frantically run after and chase you. The longer it goes on, the more fun it is for all involved.

**FRESH BEDDING:** It is perfectly permissible to urinate in the middle of your freshly bedded stall to let your humans know how much you appreciate their hard work.

**GROUND MANNERS:** Ground manners are very important to humans; break as much of the ground in and around the barn as possible. This lets the ground know who's boss and impresses your human.

**NEIGHING:** Because you are a horse, you are expected to neigh. So neigh - a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting the barn and communicating with other horses.

**NUZZLING:** Always take a BIG drink from your water trough immediately before nuzzling your human. Be ready to rub your head on the area of your human that you just nuzzled to dry it off, too.

**SNORTING:** Humans like to be snorted on. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family horse, to accommodate them.

**VISITORS:** Quickly determine which guest is afraid of horses. Rock back and forth on the cross-ties, neighing loudly and pawing playfully at this person. If the human backs away and starts crying, swoosh your tail, stamp your feet and nicker gently to show your concern.