



Issue 2

February/March 2004

The Buzz around the Barn

It's hard not to begin talking about the weather. Since we moved to Saddle Valley there have been unusual extremes – rain and snowfall highs, temperature lows – and several warm spells in between – just to complicate the mix.

We are all getting used to sub-zero and single digit arctic temperatures, give a sigh of relief when the thermometer hits 25 and cherish those few sunny days that reach 40. With all the snow, ice and mud, turnout has been a challenge. On icy days, there has been limited “turnout” for the horses - in small groups in the indoor arena -- to let them blow off steam.

With the deep cold – the water buckets froze – not to mention pipes and hoses. Keeping everything safe and flowing has been our first concern. We've met the challenge and thank our great staff for their hard work in getting us all through these difficult weeks. We trust the worst is over and look forward to sunny days ahead.

Through it all we have been able to take a moment to appreciate the beauty of Saddle Valley and our surrounding area in the snow. When the sun is shining, the glistening fields look like an ocean of snow that goes on forever.

The New Year was welcomed in with a celebration at our house. It was lots of fun for all that came. The food was plentiful – with everyone bringing something delicious. It was a great group. Besides those boarding horses here, some neighbors and some that work around the farm came. The real fun began with the Keraoki. We learned that most of us can't carry a tune (but are good sports and got into it anyway) ... and a few can really sing (Patty put the rest of us to

shame). The focus was on Motown and Rock. We need to get some new CDs for the next party. Alex and I continue to appreciate being part of this ready-made community and were very happy to bring in the New Year together.

Elaine and Alex Morrow

Horse Sense...

*Tell a gelding, ask a mare,
discuss it with a stallion.*

Up-date on Barn Improvements:

Barn Entrance

The Blue Stone is down in the entranceway. The double French doors to the barn are installed. We think it looks great!

Club Room

Now that the major part of the renovation is completed, Alex has moved from the large office to the smaller one to the right of the entrance. The larger office is being turned into a clubroom to provide a comfortable place for all of you to hang out – and give you easier access to the kitchen area and bathroom. So far the Blue Stone is down, next comes painting and furniture. It won't be long!

Viewing Room

The viewing room is almost done. It's been cleaned, painted. Next step – some new comfortable seating. Cable and TV are hooked up and ready – for your children, friends, husbands, grandparents who may have to wait while you ride or get a lesson.

Other Improvements...

The wash stalls have new drain covers for your horse's safety – and both hydrants have been replaced and are now working well. We're still working on nameplates and determining what to do with the laundry room.

New Vitality in Lesson Programs

Announcing the formation of “Saddle Valley Riding Academy

Jennifer Lehrman (Jenn) is bringing her unique, comprehensive children’s riding program to Saddle Valley. Jenn has combined her years as a seasoned rider and trainer with her experience as a certified teacher of Elementary Education and Special Education to create a unique approach. Her students will master the basics and build on those concepts to form a complete understanding of the skills needed to succeed – in or out of the saddle.

Under this program, in addition to learning to ride, beginners will learn all about horses and horsemanship. The program consists of five sessions, each with specific goals. Each session generally runs six weeks. However, as the sessions become more advanced, students will grow at their own pace. Classes will be in groups of 3 but will focus on the needs and wants of each student within the group. Over time, we expect classmates to form close bonds and become true riding buddies.

Jacqui Jacobs continues to bring European training methods to Saddle Valley

Jacqui, a member of the British Horse Society, generally focuses on more advanced training including dressage instruction. On almost any day (or evening), you will see Jacqui in the arena urging her students (human and equine) to be the best that they can be. And from the smiles on her student’s faces, they are achieving just that.

Western Instruction and Training Flourish under Charlie Transue’s Direction

You’ll also see Charlie Transue busy training horses and giving lessons – mostly western. In fact, Charlie is currently teaching barrel racing to one of his students. What most people don’t know is that Charlie is also an accomplished Driving instructor.

**Special Valentine’s Event at SVF:
Attention All Geldings!
Party at Promises Stall --
Only Hot Mares Invited.
Midnight -- BYOH**

(Notice found on barn bulletin board on 2/13)

Swap and Shop

Why keep all the “stuff” you haven’t used in years? If you have saddles, blankets, tack etc. that you don’t need anymore – just let Elaine know (610) 588-8715 and we will list it in the next newsletter for sale or swap. Or, if you are looking for a particular used item, same thing. The newsletter goes to folks on the farm – but also to other horse folks in the area. So we may reach someone who is looking to buy or sell just that item.

Horse Euphemisms:

He’s mouthy/he’s lippy – *He Bites*

He’s not good on his feet – *He kicks*

He lacks impulsion – *He won’t go*

He’s a handful – *He is out of control*

He needs an advanced rider – *Bucks, Bites,*

Kicks, and /or Rears

He’s lost his brio – *He’s scared out of his mind*

He’s just being silly – *He is being hazardous to your health*

I’ve been around horses all my life – *Steer clear – accident waiting to happen.*

Up-coming Events at Saddle Valley...

Five Horse Shows Scheduled:

- May 15th – ESCDTA Dressage Show
- May 22nd – Penn /Jersey Hunter/Jumper Show
- June 20th – Penn/Jersey Western Show
- July (date to be determined) – Driving Show
- August 8th – Penn/Jersey Hunter/Jumper Show

Three Parelli Clinics on the Calendar:

- April 9th and 10th – Gated Horse Clinic given by David Lichman
- April 11 – One day Beginner Clinic
- April 28th to May 6th – Level 3 Course given by Aimee Brimhall (Sunday off)