



Horse Tales

Issue 8

November/December 2004

Looking Back – and Ahead

We came to Saddle Valley just about a year ago. We've been through lots of ups, downs, and changes over our first year. It has been a total learning experience — and you definitely learn from mistakes and experiences. We now have great staff in place, good sources for hay, improved feed, a good pasture management program, wonderful lesson horses, and great boarders (horses and people). We also appreciate those taking lessons and love to see how they have grown since starting at Saddle Valley.

The Barn renovations have worked out well. Everyone seems to enjoy the clubroom — especially this time of year.

Now that the show season is over, and facing snow and lows in the teens, it's back to focusing on the weather and getting through the winter months. We are determined not to let a few cold months get in the way of fun activities on the farm.

Our Pre-Holiday Party

Our Turkeyfest in November was an eating extravaganza. It was a full house — and a full table — with everyone bringing a special dish. The menu included antipasto to begin, main dishes of deep fried turkeys and kabobs, side dishes of Spanish rice, and an assortment of pastas, and desserts galore. We thank everyone for coming - and for bringing something yummy. And, besides the food, the company couldn't have been better.

What better reason to plan another party. Let's bring in the New Years together. You are invited if you board or take lessons at SVF — or are a SVF Groupie.

*We Wish a Very
Happy New Year
To all of our
Saddle Valley friends --
Our Staff, our boarders, our
students and, of course,
Our horses
We look forward to sharing lots of
good times in 2005*

Planning Our 2005 Season

We have firmed up our expanded Penn Jersey show schedule and are working on several others including the Irish Draught Horse Society's National Show in the fall.

Saddle Valley Farm 2005 Horse Show Season

May 22nd

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. English Show

June 26th

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. Western Show

August 21st

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. English Show

September 18th

Penn Jersey Horse Show Assn. Western Show

Clinics Under Discussion

We are excited to have been asked to hold clinics by three well-known horse-training groups and are trying to work out the details.

- Ryan Gingrich - (July) — Ryan is a popular John Lyons trainer - successful in teaching his conditional response training methods to help meet the individual goals of his students (rider and horse).
- Kenny Harlow (Sept) — Kenny is a certified John Lyons Trainer, and studied with other top trainers .His specialty is working with problem horses and has achieved success with many horses that other trainers have deemed insane or unable to be trained .
- Pat Parelli — We hope to be able to reschedule the Natural Horsemanship Beginner Clinic that we were working on this fall.

We ll keep you apprised of the status.

Horse Behavior: rub your head on the area of your human that you just nuzzled

CHEWING: Hey, it's YOUR stall - 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 she s 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 play. 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.

FRESH BEDDING: Be sure to wait to urinate until you are back in your freshly bedded stall - this lets your humans know how much you appreciate their hard work.

NEIGHING: Because you are a horse, you are expected to neigh. So neigh - a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you communicating with other horses and with them. Nothing makes your human happier so "Neigh! Neigh, Neigh..."

NUZZLING: Human s love to be nuzzled. (Try taking a BIG drink just before nuzzling then to dry off).

Nuzzling may get you a treat

Welcome to the Barn

<i>Horse</i>	<i>Owner</i>
Ben	Sarah
Contangel	Joanne
Rebel	Nikki & Marie
Jazz, Pine & Shady	SVF

Congratulations to Tom and Wendy, new owners of Secos, and...

Welcome home to Ashley with Promise and Goldika (2 of her herd)

And a Special Welcome to our New Riding Instructor:

Diane Kewesham

And new Stall Technician:

David Jones

Open House December 26th

As an introduction to Saddle Valley Farm, we hosted an open house on December 26th and plan to do more as the year progresses. We served hot dogs and sodas. Folks were invited to come see Saddle Valley and watch a lesson or two. Look for more open houses and enjoy the BBQ and experience Saddle Valley. But you do not have to wait for an Open House — call anytime or just drop by.

Did You Know:

Some may think that in horseback riding the only one getting exercise is the horse. Not true!

The average hour workout with a horse will eat up between 300 and 350 calories. You'll burn up another 150 to 200 calories in the half-hour it takes to groom, saddle, and clean your horse. Even carrying hay burns calories.

An hour of horseback riding is comparable to walking/running 4 to 5 miles or bicycling 10 miles. Of course — to maximize the benefits you need to stay away from the candy in the clubroom

***Our best to Ian Ackroyd-Kelly -
So glad you are on the Mend.***