

Winnies and Nickers

Pretty Pony Pastures

November 2008

Volume 3 Issue 5

Calendar of Events

Nov. 7—9 North American Horse Fest. *No classes.* This is the revitalized North American Horse Show in Novi at the Rock Financial Showplace.

Nov. 27—Thanksgiving Day *No classes.* Enjoy the parade, don't eat too much turkey.

Nov. 29—Thanksgiving Saturday. *YES! classes.* Regular schedule. If you cannot attend, please sign out.

Nov. 30—Thanksgiving Sunday. *No classes.* Enjoy the weekend. Volunteers day off.

Dec. 24—Jan. 1—Christmas/New Year *No classes.* Have yourself a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Welcome Holly Schools

Students from the Special Ed classes—Patterson Elementary School will join us for five weeks (November 5—December 3) for Therapeutic Riding classes. The classes will start at 10:00 am and end at 1:00 pm. There are 16 students who plan to participate.

To make work smoothly, we will have four stations set up. Riding, grooming, activity and snack. Our Tack Room has become our Activity Room so the students can have a place to eat and be out of the elements should the weather turn to winter..

Many of these students have ridden before, but some may be new to horses. Some will be able to ride with just a leader, others may need two side walkers in addition to the leader.

If you, or someone you know can assist us for five weeks, we would appreciate the help. A few volunteers have stepped forward, but, we can always use more hands.

Awards and Dedication Ceremony

The weather was beautiful for our second annual Awards Day. Reverend Linda Dominick began the activities with a dedication of our new barn.

Everyone enjoyed the different Macaroni and Cheese Dishes that were competing for the "best" this year. The winner was Nancy Starr. As the winner, she earned 50% of the entry fees for the contest. Congratulations Nancy! And you must share that recipe with us.

The riders were presented with Certificates of Achievement that denoted their current level of riding. It was thrilling to see so many riders move up one or two steps in the program. We now have riders as the Intermediate Level as well as Novice and Beginner.

Certificates of Appreciation were also distributed to those businesses and individuals who helped us with our **Not-so Xtreme Farm Make-over**. We are ever grateful for the long hours that were put in. We could have never done it without you. Thank you ever so much. If you are receiving this newsletter, but did not get a certificate for volunteering, please let me know and I will arrange to get it out to you.

Another horse?

Meet Caitydid, our newest member of our herd.

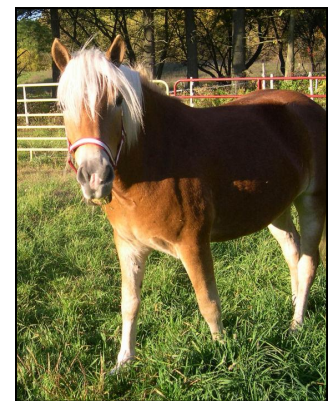
Caity is four years old and belonged to the same people that we bought Poppie from last November.

Caity has no "real" training. Our vet said she was *fluorescent green*. No matter what, we think she's beautiful!

Caity will spend the winter learning how we expect our Haflingers to act. This means plenty of ground work before we even think of getting on her back.

Caity is related to most of our other horses as her great grandfather is Winterstein.

Be sure to say "hello" to her when you come for your lesson.





Pretty Pony Pastures

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Welcome New Riders and Volunteers!

We would like to welcome our new riders, Jordan, Caitlin, Griffin, MichaelAnn, Katie and Gillian, and volunteers Sue, Maude, Margie, Alex and Kelsey to our program!

We have just designed *new* Pretty Pony Pastures t-shirts. They will be worn by all staffers at the North American Horse Fest AND will be given out to our long-standing volunteers. If you want to “earn” one of these beautiful t-shirts, all you need to do is commit to volunteering for 12-weeks.

The mom of two of our riders does this as a side business. If you have a group that is looking for shirts, caps, or other items, I will be happy to provide the information.

On-line Calendar



We now have an on-line calendar that lists all of our classes, events, and other activities. We are hoping this will help when you are trying to schedule your time. You can link to the calendar from our

Web site—www.prettyponypastures.org or go directly to—
<http://freecal.brownbearsww.com/Prettyponypastures>

And speaking of calendars...please remember to write the rider name on our **sign out** calendar when you will not be here.

If your rider is sick or another emergency occurs, please call as soon as you know. By calling my cell phone 248 245-0014. Once I am in the arena, I do not get messages left on the business line until after all the classes have been completed.

Weather Reminder

We can't ignore it...even though we are still enjoying warm weather, winter is coming. Here are our guidelines for canceled classes:

- Temperature or wind chill 20⁰ or less
- Traveler's advisory in effect
- Snowfall of 4 inches or more (check to see if our drive is plowed)
- Winds gusting to more than 30 mph
- Severe weather (snow, ice, wind, temp, storm) warning

If in doubt, please call our hot line at **248 245-0014**. We try to post closings as early in the day as possible.



Holiday Shopping



Our holiday ornaments are once again available at CafePress—<http://www.cafepress.com/p3riding>. This year we are featuring Slick Chick!

Slick is our rescue horse. She came to us as a very underweight three-year old filly. We have brought her weight up to a respectable level, she has had extensive ground work, has been handled by groups of children and we have been riding her for the last three months. She is very calm and willing. We plan introduce her as a regular team member of our therapeutic riding program this spring.



Planning to buy books, movies, CDs, games, toys, electronics, health and beauty items, sports, outdoors, and so much more is available through Amazon.com. Please access Amazon through our Web site at http://www.prettyponypastures.org/gifts_shop.htm We will receive a donation of 5% on most orders. This costs you nothing, but does help support our riding program

If you are looking for horse items for your rider, visit www.horse.com. If you do order on-line, please enter **ppp** in the Country Care Code box and our facility will receive a 5% contribution based on the cost of the items you purchased. This is a win-win for both you and us. Don't forget, helmets and riding pants make GREAT Christmas gifts.

Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle

Now that our building is pretty much done, we are looking at what we still need and what we don't need any more. Our Tack Room is now our Activity Room. This includes a small “lunch” area for our volunteers who spend long hours with us on Sunday and Wednesday. If anyone has a small, countertop microwave that they are not using, would you consider giving it to us? With the cold months ahead, it would be very handy for a quick cup of soup. Also, we have building material leftover. Once it is inventoried, we will post a list and anyone who has volunteered will have first pick at the items for a reduced price. Once volunteers have had their pick, the items will be available to anyone who wants them.