



# Gallopin' Greetings

## Our Horsemanship Program 2005

Last year was a year of much progress for Spring Willow Farm. The facility underwent many transformations. Like the larger outside arena, expanded trails out back, new paint and roofs to the barns to name a few projects. Just lately a new run-in shed was completed. Although we didn't get to a few of the planned projects it was a very productive year.

We are looking forward to this year. Now that our arena is large enough we can offer open competitions here. We have scheduled many for this year. Almost one every month. Also the new shed has freed up some limited stall space for students interested in acquiring their own horses. These are more services we can now offer our students.

A few things you will find different when you return. Probably the biggest thing is Riley has moved on to

a new home.

In the last few months it became more and more apparent to us that Riley needed this change. We have had the pleasure of leasing Riley from his owner to use as a school horse for the last three years. I think we can all agree he has been wonderful to work with however we felt it would be best for him if he could have a less active lifestyle. He moved shortly after the holiday break started and is doing great in his new home. To fill in, we have a new horse. His name is Micro Chip aka "Mickey". He is a very cute 14.1 hand, 7 year old haflinger gelding. He is owned by Adri's Mom. She graciously sent him over for us to use. I'm sure he will develop his own fan club among the riders soon.

We are continuing the SWF student council this season. The council holds meetings every first Saturday of the month here at the farm. All registered students are welcome to attend all meetings. The council plans to organize several extra activities for the students after each business meeting. The council is currently putting together a calendar with pictures of the school horses. I will have all the SWF activities already printed on it for the students convenience. You can buy yours when you resume your lessons. All proceeds from these calendars will go to future student council projects. Read more about them and other events in the new SWF student council column in this newsletter.

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## 2004 Holiday Gathering

The 2004 SWF holiday gathering for all the students, took place at the Congregation of Mendon/Uxbridge Unitarian church on Maple street in Mendon center on Saturday December eighteenth. About sixty students attended.

The party started with a few activities while we waited for all to arrive. Coloring pictures, school horse word search and

barn bingo. New this year was the karaoke singing which was a lot of fun!

Yummy food donations were enjoyed by all and awards were handed out. Then finally everyone took part in the Yankee Swap. Lots of calendars and stuffed horses this year.

A special Thank You to all that contributed to the barn gift!



Members of the SWF student council singing: Shannon Mc Keon, Stephanie Glynn, Pamela Swanson Kevin Hadfield & Kelley Marathas

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### Winter Lectures Series

More details on the barn bulletin board

#### January

15th Buying a Horse/Then What?

22nd Understanding the horse

29th Colors & Breeds

#### February

12th Horse show volunteer etiquette

19th Horse first-aid horse

26th Equestrian exercise & yoga



# Lesson Length Changes & Winter Riding Suggestions

Winter riding creates certain challenges. First and foremost we need to stay warm. Both during the time in the barn aisle with the horse and also when riding. Here are our suggestions for staying comfortable for riding in the winter.

First, we are trying a new shortened grooming and tacking time during the first quarter of this riding season. This is in effort to keep riders from becoming too chilly. We feel we can do this because our horses wear blankets and have clipped coats. *This will only work if students are punctual* so we are counting on your co-operation for this to work. The new schedule will be 15 minutes before and after each lesson instead of 30 minutes. For example; a 3:30 group lessons will be finished at 5:00 instead of 5:30 for this quarter of our schedule.

As for clothing, we have found layering clothing works best, because as most riders know when we become active during our rides we heat up. Peeling off the outer layer works well to keep comfortable. So wearing one heavy jacket isn't what we would recommend. Instead wearing a turtleneck, a sweatshirt or sweater with some kind of polar fleece pullover or vest, then a lighter jacket is best. Our Farm jackets work well as long as you have sufficient layering underneath. Instructor's still need to see the form of the riders so bulky long jackets that come down below the students hips don't work well. Riders may wear heavier jackets while handling the horse before and after they ride, as long as they remove them before they ride.

We do recommend investing in winter riding boots and gloves. The feet and

hands seem to feel the cold the most so these make it much easier to stay warm. Inexpensive stretchy fleece gloves with the rubber dots work fine for the winter. Some snow boots work too but please bring them in first so we can approve them. *Boots must fit in the stirrups safely.*

Fleece riding pants are great and we highly recommend them! Wearing sweats over your breeches works okay too. Riders should always wear tight leggings or breeches as their bottom layer so their legs don't become chaffed.

For your head, fleece helmet covers are nice to have. Sometimes a headband fits under the helmet over the riders ears too.

Finally, the tackroom will be heated all winter so everyone is welcome to warm up in there.

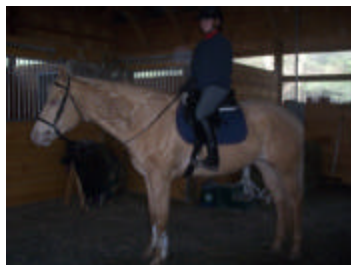
## Barn Updates/News...



- 10/16/04 Tag sale : the new student council was in charge of running the tag sale. All the profits from the swf commissions from the sales went to the student council for future activities.
- 10/30/04 Halloween Party: every year the party gets bigger and better, thanks to everyone who helps put it together.
- 10/31/04 2nd Open Field Day Competition: this event went well in spite of several riders that parted company with their horses. *None of our SWF riders.*
- 11/6-7/04 SWF fall student show: we had a beautiful weekend with only one mishap of horse kicking. The rest was great!
- 12/11/04: New horse for sale Beau arrived at SWF
- 12/18/04 SWF holiday Gathering: Enjoyed by about sixty students that attended.
- 12/21/04: Riley moved to his new retirement home.
- 12/21/05: Mickey our new school horse arrives.

## Barn Bulletin Board

- 1/3/05: Lessons resume for 2005 season
- 1/8/05: Student Council meeting 3:00pm to 4:30pm all reg. students welcome to attend. After meeting activity snowman contest (weather permitting)
- 1/15-22-29/05: Saturday afternoon winter lecture series. all Parent/students welcome to attend.
- 2/5/05: Student Council meeting 3:00pm to 4:30 After meeting activity, TBA
- 2/12-19-26/05: Saturday afternoon winter lecture series. all parents/ students welcome to attend.
- 2/22-25/05: school vacation Horseplay Days
- 3/5/05: Student Council meeting 3:00pm to 4:30 After meeting activity, unmounted horseshow.
- 3/13/05: AAPH Open Horsemanship Mock Meet, look for details on flyers in barn aisle.



Horse For Sale: \$6500 or b/o  
7 yr old 16.1 hand reg. QH Pal gl.  
Call the farm for more info

## Our Horsemanship Program 2005 continued...

We recommend all students support this project by purchasing one.

Our winter lecture series begins on January 15th. They will take place on six Saturday afternoons in January and February. The dates are listed above in the Barn Bulletin Board section. Look for the sign-up sheet with the topics and times posted on the board in the barn aisle when you return.

Make sure to read all about our new quarterly scheduling and rates, in the article enti-

itled "Scheduling Adjustments & Rate Changes for 2005". We are hoping this will make scheduling less confusing for everyone's busy schedule.

Finally we are looking forward to a great 2005 season with all our students and horses.

\*There has been several changes to the winter schedule so your not sure about your lesson time please give us a call.

# IMPORTANT PLEASE READ!!

## Quarterly Lesson Scheduling & Rate Adjustments for 2005

In hopes to run our program more efficiently, we have searched for a better way of scheduling our lessons. Last season a great deal of time was exerted on weekly scheduling and rescheduling, this made us decide to set the schedule up on a quarterly basis for 2005. We feel this has become necessary so we can concentrate more on the quality instruction we enjoy providing to our students.

Quarterly scheduling will allow a student to lock in a lesson time for a twelve week period. If a student has accepted a space in a weekly or bi-weekly lesson (group, semi or private) that time will stay the same for that quarter. Payments must be made according to the scheduled lessons for that time frame. Payments will need to be received by SWF during the first week of each month. Payments may also be made quarterly if the student prefers. Single weekly payments are no longer allowed for regularly scheduled lessons.

In efforts to keep our rates down this season, with the rising costs of taking care of our horses, we are adjusting the use of our 10% discount service. The discount is **now** only available when making your lesson payment on a quarterly basis or on the monthly basis if more than one family member is registered into the program and attends regularly scheduled lessons. Otherwise our regular rates applies each month (\$30 for groups, \$35 for semi and \$40 for private, per lesson). Annual registration fees will remain the same (\$25 per student or \$40 per family).

When a scheduled lesson is missed;

- Make ups for missed lessons are only offered if space is available.
- It is also the responsibility of the student to do the re-scheduling.

We will review the schedule each quarter for changes otherwise the time for lessons during that quarter must remain set.

Quarterly scheduling will be as follows;

- 1/3/05 to 3/31/05,
- 4/1/05 to 6/30/05,
- 7/1/05 to 9/30/05,
- 10/1/05 to 12/21/05.

*Exact amount for lesson payment will be determined by the day of the week student attends.*

For the clients that prepaid for their January lessons in December, we will offer a grace period of this new policy for January. The new policy with full rates will begin for them in February or they may still opt to pay for the rest of the first quarter to receive the discounted rate. For all other students this new policy will take effect in January when lessons resume.

If you have any questions about this policy or scheduling please call the farm or talk to your instructor at the first lesson.

## SWF Hosts a Mock Open schooling Horsemanship Meet in March

On March 13th we are hosting a Mock Open schooling Horsemanship Meet. This events purpose is to create awareness for the Horsemanship Meets AAPH (American Association for the Progression of Horsemanship) is developing. This Meet is open to the public and free of charge. All students are welcome.

This event will be very interactive for all who participate. Some people will take the role as exhibitor, some as evaluators and still others as scores. Our hopes in doing this event is to let more horse-people try this new format of com-

*This events purpose is to create awareness for the New Open Schooling Horsemanship Meets being offered by AAPH*

peting with their horses. So they will come back and compete at the actual Open schooling Horsemanship Meet we have scheduled to take place here on May 14th & 15th this year.

The Meet will operate very similar to the Meet we held last July but with a lot more guesses involved. There are many activities that will need to be helped along so we would appreciate any students that would volunteer to help. Ask your instructor or look for more information about this event posted on the board in the main aisle.

## SWF Student Council Column

Hello Everyone,

We hope everyone had a great vacation and enjoyed the holiday spirit. The student council is coming along and we are piecing together some ideas for everybody to enjoy. When lessons restart for the New Year, school horse calendars will be available to purchase. It should be a fun way for everybody to keep track of events throughout the year and give the opportunity to have a picture of your favorite school horse on your wall! On January the 8th the monthly Student council meeting will take place. If the weather keeps up, we will have some fun playing in the snow and having a snowman contest after

the meeting. We would love for you to come and bring your ideas! On March 5th, the annual un-mounted horse show will take place, which is a fun day in which you can run around and play fun games with your friends. Entry forms and more information will be in sometime during the month of February, we hope you can attend this fun event. We hope that this year can be filled with excitement and fun activities that you will enjoy!

From the SWF student council officers.

### Lead line Corner



Adri says, "Have a great winter and I'll see you in April."

If you like feel free to sign up for the Winter Lectures. ?



SPRING WILLOW FARM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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*Fun & Safety While Learning  
Horsemanship!*

Look for Our new  
website coming soon

## Scheduled of SWF Events in 2005

More events may be added to the SWF schedule. Check the bulletin board each visit for updates.

### January

- 8th Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 15th 22nd & 29th Winter Lecture series (times & subjects TBA)

### February

- 5th Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 12th 19th & 26th Winter Lecture series (times & subjects TBA)
- 22nd –25th School Vacation Horseplay Days

### March

- 5th Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30 /Unmounted Horse Show (after SCM)
- 13th Mock Open Schooling Horsemanship Meet

### April

- 2nd Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 17th SWF open 2-phase
- 19th-22nd School Vacation Horseplay Days

### May

- 7th Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 14th –15th AAPH Open Schooling Horsemanship Meet
- 21st Tag Sale 9:00 to 2:00 /Turnout Seminar (time TBA)
- 22nd Open Field Day Competition

### June

- 4th Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- **11th -12th Spring Student Show**
- 26th Open Field Day Competition
- 27th -7/1 Summer Horsemanship program

### July

- 2nd Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 18th-22nd Summer Horsemanship Program
- 24th Open Field Day Competition

7/31 -8/8/05 No lessons

Closed for Summer Break

### August

- 13th Student Council Meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 15th-19th Summer Horsemanship Program
- 28th Open Field Day Competition

### September

- 3rd Student Council Meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 11th SWF 2-Phase
- 25th Open Field Day Competition

### October

- 1st Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 16th Open Field Day Competition
- 22nd Tag Sale 9:00 to 2:00 / Turnout Seminar (time TBA)

### November

- 5th Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- **5th-6th Fall Student Horse Show**

### December

- 3rd Student Council meeting 3:00 to 4:30
- 17th Holiday Gathering

12/21/05– 1/4/06 No lessons

Closed for Holiday Break