

IRISH RUN Farms

APRIL NEWS

It's Spring! Really! The sun is shining, the grass is green and birds are singing and it is warming up! I am not sure I have ever been so thrilled to welcome the new season. It was a rough winter and I feared it would never end. The recent warmth and sunshine has my head spinning with ideas for barn projects!

The **show season** is starting up! Our first "D" series show will be at **Valley Park Stables on April 24-25**. We can just walk down the road. Let Rae know if you would like to ride and please come support the Irish Run riders in any case.

We are hosting a **clinic with Grand Prix rider Richard Rinehart on April 10-11**. Richard has a wealth of experience in the show ring and we are very excited to be the first barn in the area to have him as a clinician. There are still a couple of spots open, particularly in the young horses and low hunters if you know someone who wants to ride. If you aren't riding please come watch – you can audit the clinic for \$10 per day.

Thank you to all who participated in the **Fun Show** - a great time was had by all. About 20 riders competed and I can't even count the volunteers. Congrats to **division champions Ann Braverman, Kelsey Steele, Karen Maresh and Jane Heiny Smith**. Meghan Zaragoza took the blue ribbon for the chili cook off with a delicious recipe that includes chocolate and spices.

Sadly, we wish a **fond farewell to Stephen Haider and BenJobe** who have gone to live with fellow Arabians at Matthias Stables. We wish you the best!

As we all gear up for the show season it is time to take stock of our **equine related wardrobe**. My friend Sharon Triplett is selling the remaining stock of her tack store (SS Tack) **at cost!** She will bring lots of goodies to the Rinehart clinic if you have needs for horse and/or rider.

You may have all met the newest addition to my family – **Lulu the barn dog**. Lulu is a delight, but she won't start puppy training until May. I must confess that she has a particular affection for brushes. In other words, she likes to steal them from your brush box and hoards them in an empty stall or outside the barn. If you find something missing, she is probably the culprit. Let me know and I will try to find it and replace the item if necessary. In the mean time, try to cover your brush box if you can. My apologies for her behavior.

It is time for spring shots. All of the horses will be de-wormed, have their vaccinations and get their teeth checked next week. Check the board to see what day and time your vet is coming to the barn. You do not have to be present, but we welcome you if you would like to come. If you have another issue with your horse that you would like to have the vet consider, please let Rae or me know.

Anyone interested in **eventing**? Camie Stockhausen joins us at Irish Run to instruct in dressage and riding outside an arena, including skills for riding in the Park, cross country jumping of all levels and foxhunting. If you are interested, please let me know. Here is some more info on Camie:

Camie is a U.S. Eventing Association certified instructor who constantly expands her own education and shares those new insights with her students. She trains horses for eventing, foxhunting and combined driving, as well as simply for relaxed enjoyment. She has earned the Iowa Horsewoman of the Year Award and developed and campaigned the 2007, 2008 and 2009 ITBOA Eventing Thoroughbred of the year, and 2009 IaDCTA Prelim Eventing Champion and Reserve Champion Horses of the Year, as well as starting many horses for eventing and foxhunting. Her joyful and logical teaching style encourages riders to interact more effectively with their horses for a better connection in and out of the tack. More information can be found on her website, *HYPERLINK* "<http://www.camstock.net>" www.camstock.net

Did anyone lose their keys? I have **two sets of lost keys on the cork board in the barn**. One has a Subaru car key (looks like it was lost during the winter) and one has a Dodge key.

With warmer weather comes more activity at the barn – hurrah! Since we have two arenas to use, **I will try to keep the jumps outside and leave the indoor for flat work**. That won't work in the event of rain, but it will be nice the rest of the time.

Finally, just a **few friendly reminders**:

Please latch the gates to the paddocks when close them. If the gate has a snap on it, use it.

Be careful how long you graze your horse on the fresh spring grass – too much of a good thing can lead to colic. Also watch the board for notices about weed killer. I may apply something to the lawn this year, though I will always do it in sections so that the horses may graze safely.

If you bring a friend to the barn to ride your horse, please fill out a release for the new rider so that I can keep their medical information on file. No matter how wonderful your horse is, accidents happen and I want to be prepared.

Please do not use the outdoor arena for turnout and/or free lungeing. If you want to use the indoor, please have a lunge line handy if someone wants to ride.

If you see something that needs to be repaired, please let me know.

Thank you all for making Irish Run such a wonderful community of horse lovers. I hope to see you at the barn soon!

Virginia