

IRISH RUN FARMS April 2016 News

HOT NEWS FLASH!!! Irish Run was chosen as the recipient of free tickets for all boarders to the 2016 Rolex – April Fools! Wouldn't that be fun??? A few of us are going though, so let me know if you have an inkling to join us. Spring is in the air though; the days are longer and we have been blessed with some warmer temperatures and sunshine. Come down to the barn for some quality time with your horse and horse-loving friends!

Please give a **Hearty Irish Run Welcome to our newest boarders: Talia Chafee and Bella, and Kirsten Hickman and Budget.** Many of you may already know these lovely ladies, as both have been friends of Irish Run for many years. **Talia** used to board at IRF during her “single” days. She is now married and has two young daughters! Talia and her husband own and operate a Float center (sensory deprivation tank/Floatation REST center) in West Des Moines. **Bella** is her “opinionated” APHA mare. Since we have last seen her, 4 1/2 years ago, she has had two foals; one is now in Germany and one in southern Missouri. Talia and Bella primarily ride dressage, but play around a bit in the jumper ring. They are also looking forward to riding in the park! **Kirsten** Hickman is a well known rider in the Des Moines area. She has judged several of our fun shows and will be joining us again next weekend. She has served as whipper-in for the Moingona Hunt and has shown extensively in Iowa. **Budget** is her trusty gelding who is going to be used in the lesson program. The **Cleveland family also has a new mount – Lex** is the good natured (30 year!) bay gelding currently residing in the back barn. He belonged to our own Sue Hughes and is now going to be **Shea's new buddy. Welcome ladies and horses!**

Sadly, **we will be wishing “Happy Trails” to Becky Neitzke and Daimler,** who plan to move to the Chicago area later this month. Becky has been a long time friend and dressage instructor at Irish Run. She is a fine rider and kind and knowledgeable horse woman and will be sorely missed. Chicago is not that far away though, so we should plan a road trip to see Becky!

This weekend is the **Iowa Horse Council's Annual Horse Fair featuring Everything Equine!!!** Several Irish Run friends will be riding (including yours truly ☺) There are horse events all day long beginning today at noon through Sunday at 4 pm. Vendors for the avid equestrian will be selling everything imaginable. Our Pony Clubbers will be volunteering. Come out to the fairgrounds and join us! Here is our schedule:

Saturday (April 2)

9 a.m. Gosi in stallion exhibition in the Great Oak arena

10 a.m. Gosi in stallion exhibition in the Pavilion

Noon – Parade of Breeds in the Pavilion (featuring Hler and Simat Whipp on her Saddlebred)

1:15 – Hooves in Harmony Icelandic Horse Drill Team in the Pavilion (featuring Kirby, Calla, yours truly and trainer Mummi from Iceland)

5:15 – Gaited horse presentation in the Pavilion (featuring Mummi, yours truly, Daniela and Simat)

Sunday (April 3)

9 a.m. Gosi in stallion exhibition in the Great Oak arena

Noon –Parade of Breeds in the Pavilion (featuring Hler and Simat Whipp on her Saddlebred)

The **Irish Run Pony Club Riding Center** is growing! In March, members learned about pre-purchase exams and had instruction in jumping from Rae Doerring. **Our next meeting is April 9 at 4 pm**; members will learn about trailer safety. We have scheduled D3/C1 ratings on May 14. If you know anyone interested in Pony Club, please let us know....it is fun and a great learning experience. Members range from age 6 -25.

Our **Irish Run Spring Fun Show will be on Sunday, April 10!** Our own Kirsten Hickman will be judging and prizes are from my recent trip to Cuba! We will again have a dressage class or two and we are adding a favorite from Icelandic shows – the beer/cider class! Riders carry a cup of beer or cider and try not so spill any while riding and increasingly faster speeds. It is really fun! Spread the word – everyone is welcome. We are still working on the “washer fund.”

April 23rd is Help a Horse Day at the Kruidenier Rescue Ranch Arena located at Animal Rescue League. Events will include dancing horses, a vaulting demonstration and the Icelandic horse drill team; Hooves in HarmonyOur own Judy Hand is the barn coordinator and is happy to give you more info!

Unfortunately our clinic with Canadian rider and trainer Katrina Merkies must be rescheduled for a later date. More info to come!

Spring cleaning is under way. Please take your heavy winter blankets home so that we don't store them with ours by mistake. You may see a new volunteer helping out around the barn. **Jamie Hillegonds** is an experienced eventor and comes several mornings a week to help out – thank you Jamie!

If you haven't met our new stable hands **Audrey Harryman** and **Warren Davis**, please introduce yourself! Audrey is an experienced animal lover who works at the zoo and joins the IRF team on Sundays. Warren comes to us from a ranch in Colorado and works 6 mornings per week. Both are friendly and helpful!

I know it is tempting, but **please do not graze your horse on the center lawn.** It has been seeded and fertilized and is finally starting to look good! Your are welcome to graze your horses near the firepit south of the arena, in front of the main barn or near the power station. Thank you!

I hope to see you all in person at the barn soon! Thank you for all you bring to the warm and inviting feeling at Irish Run.

Virginia