

IRISH RUN FARMS
April 2017 News

Happy Spring from Irish Run!!! I affectionately say that Iowa's four seasons are: snow, rain, heat and autumn. Sadly, there is some truth to that. We are now in the season of "rain" which in turn translates into "mud." Ah, well at least it is warmer! Come down to the barn and enjoy the first signs of spring shooting up from the ground. The grass is beginning to green and I see hostas and tulips poking their leaves up. The horses are all frisky – it is their favorite time of year!

Show season is upon us! We ban last weekend with the **Fun Show which was FUN, FUN FUN!!!** Honestly, I cannot remember a better turnout for an IRF fun show. Thank you so much to the many riders and parents who come to support the barn and our friendly horse community. Even with a date change for bad weather and a last minute replacement judge, it was a spectacular day. Highest honors go to Daniela for organizing, Sue and Melinda for superb coaching, Gilberto for preparation and Kirby and Mikayla for last minute judging. We have several shows coming up in April, including **the first "D" Series on April 29-30**. Let your instructor know if you would like to ride! The show schedule is posted on the board in the aisle and I have attached it to this email as well.

The **Irish Run Pony Club Riding Center** has been busy! Last month they met twice; first for a **mounted meeting focused on jumping instruction, and then for un-mounted meeting to discuss preparing for rallies and organizing**. They are also holding "study sessions" to ensure a solid foundation of horse management knowledge. Good things to know! On **April 8th we will learn about nutrition** and on **April 15 a mounted meeting is scheduled**.

It is time for the **2017 Iowa Horse Fair!!!** This year's fair **begins tomorrow at the state fairgrounds**. We have several Irish Run riders exhibiting and our own Camie Stockhausen is one of the main presenters. Here is a link to the schedule:

<http://iowahorsecouncil.org/2017-iowa-horse-fair-full-schedule/>

but look for these fun events:

Tomorrow (Friday March 31) Hooves in Harmony Drill Team in the Pavilion
(Daniela, Calla Whipp and yours truly)

Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 am; Icelandic Breed Demonstration in the East Arena
(Addy Brody, Daniela, Kirby and yours truly)

Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m. Stallion Presentation in the Pavilion (yours truly and Gosi)

Saturday at noon; Parade of Breeds in the Pavilion (Daniela or yours truly)

Saturday, April 1 at 4:15 p.m. Gaited Horses in the Pavilion (Daniela, Kirby and yours truly)

Camie will be all over! Try to check out one of her presentations!!!

The **Kathleen Lindley Beckham clinic** will be held at Wildwood Hills Ranch in St. Charles **next weekend, April 7-9**. Kathleen is a friend of **our own Sue Hughes, who will be riding**. Auditors are welcome!

Are you interested in a **summer horse camp**? Melinda is putting together some fun horse activities for the summer. Dates are **June 19-23 and July 10-14**. More info to come, but please see Melinda if you are interested!

Irish Run is hosting a clinic with **Guðmundur Margeir Skúlason on April 21-23, “From Ground to Saddle.”** Guðmundur or Mummi is a highly acclaimed rider and trainer in Iceland who is in great demand in Denmark and Sweden as well. Mummi focuses on the principles of dressage and is terrific for riders of any discipline. I have attached a flyer, let me know if you want to ride!

It is time for another episode of **Barn Improvement!** We will be **starting with the paddocks** (as soon as it stops raining long enough to work on them ☺ Gilberto will be scraping them and then we will add clay and some rock. I know the mud is tough, so thank you for your patience and understanding. If you do not have proper footwear, ask Gilberto or Mikayla to lend a hand.

Please remember to put your **personal items away and write your name on anything you put in the washer**. If we don't know who something belongs to, it likely ends up in the schooling tack room.

Please, please please let us know when we are out of something (like bleach, soap or tack cleaning supplies) and/or if something breaks. Everyday brings a new challenge and it is much easier with your help. Write a note on the board, or send us an email. Thank you!

Our hearts go out to Sue Hughes and the Cleveland family (Shay, Laurie and Dana) on the loss of their beloved Lex Luther. Sue began her 29 year journey with Lex when he was only four years old. They shared a lifetime of memories from the show ring to the trails. He may have been “only” 15.2 hands, but he could jump four feet and Sue credits him with teaching her to ride. In recent years, Lex shared his immense heart with the Cleveland family, becoming a best friend to Shay. There are no words to describe the warmth of a horse's unconditional love. Thank you Lex, for sharing yourself with so many. You will be greatly missed.

I am continually overwhelmed by the kind camaraderie that I feel at the barn. Thank you to all for supporting each other and Irish Run. I hope to see you all soon – **come to the Horse Fair!**

Virginia