

IRISH RUN FARMS
March 2016 News

Greetings from Irish Run! Does anyone have **Spring Fever???** Mother Nature has been teasing us with some days of warm weather. Soon the tulips and daffodils will be showing their faces and we will be enjoying park rides with our horses. I am glad to say “hello” to March!

The **Irish Run Pony Club Riding Center** had a busy February. We discussed the **importance of stall cards**, and refreshed our memories on vital signs on February 12th. Last weekend members enjoyed **games on horseback** – Fun! March will be eventful as well. **On March 12, Alison will lead members through the process of a pre-purchase examination**; what to look for when buying a horse. **March 26th will be a mounted meeting with Rae Doerring** on hand for instruction in jumping.

If you need to change your riding lesson (or take an extra one!) during **Spring Break**, please let your instructor know!

Our own **Sue Hughes is back in the saddle!** Sue is a terrific rider and trainer and is **now offering training rides**. I have updated our Rate Sheet and attached it to this email.

We have several upcoming events! The **Iowa Horse Council Fair is April 1-3 at the fairgrounds**. All things equestrian, so come out and join the fun! Yours truly will be showing the Icelandics. Our **Irish Run Spring Fun Show will be on Sunday, April 10**. All are welcome! Come out and support your friends and the barn. We are still working on the “washer fund!” **April 23rd will be Help a Horse Day at the Kruidenier Rescue Ranch Arena located at Animal Rescue League**. **Our own Judy Hand is the barn coordinator** and is happy to provide more info. Events will include dancing horses, a vaulting demonstration and the Icelandic horse drill team; Hooves in Harmony. Put it on your calendar! Don't forget the Dressage Clinic with **Canadian rider and trainer Katrina Merkies on April 24th**. Please let Daniela know if you would like to ride.

With warm temperatures comes **spring cleaning**. It is time to think about taking those heavy blankets home. We will be cleaning the barn as well – **watch the board for updates on a barn cleaning day and BBQ!**

We have just seeded and fertilized the center lawn. Please don't walk your horse or drive the Kubota across the lawn. You 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!

The **studio renovation** is coming along. Pop your head in and see the progress! We are **planning to expand the back lot** in the near future. Hopefully we can do this without playing “musical horses.” Our apologies in advance for any disruption in routine.

My heart is breaking today over the loss of my beloved horse Porter, who died yesterday. For those of you who are new to the barn, Porter is the reason Irish Run exists. I used to say “I love him so much that I bought him a barn!” That is true, but he gave me so much more. He was my partner and we were a team. He taught me what it is to give your all in everything you do. He taught me what unconditional love is. He taught me to live each day to the fullest and stop and “smell the roses” – or eat the fresh grass! I had so many “firsts” with Porter; my first horse show, my first fox hunt, my first championship and Irish Run! I will so miss his regal bearing, which greeted me each morning when I walked down the barn aisle. Still, I am thankful for our sixteen years together and for all the happy memories I have with him. Horses have a way of healing all that hurts. Thank you for the many kind words so many of you have written about Porter. He was my “once in a lifetime horse” and I will always treasure his memory.

Virginia