

IRISH RUN FARMS MARCH 2017 NEWS

Greetings from Irish Run! Although spring is technically a few weeks away, I believe it has arrived early in Iowa. I am not at all disappointed and the horses are frisky with excitement. Come down to the barn and enjoy the warm sunshine and a hack in the park. It is heavenly! We have lots of news to report so read on....

Daniela and Gilberto have developed several tools for fire safety. If you missed our boarder meeting, please see Daniela. You can never be too careful and it is best to be prepared. A hearty **thanks to our own Suzanne Hartline and her firefighter husband Ross for consulting!**

Show season has arrived! Trainers Sue and Melinda have put together a show schedule, which I have attached. Check it out and let your trainer know if you would like to participate. Our annual **Spring Irish Run Fun Show will be Saturday March 25.** Come support the barn and your equine friends. What better way to get ready for show season? I have attached the class sheet - it is sure to be a FUN day!

Our new Pony Club director is Melinda Baszczynski and she is off and running! Last month Pony Clubbers enjoyed a trail ride through Water Works park and reviewed fire safety at the barn. If you would like to join Pony Club, see Melinda. **Many thanks to Alison Herr for her years of Pony Club leadership.**

March 31-April 2 is the Iowa Horse Fair! As in past years, "everything equine" will be available at the State Fairgrounds that weekend. Our own **Camie Stockhausen will be one of the leading presenters and Daniela, Calla Whipp and "yours truly" will be riding with the "Hooves in Harmony" Drill Team.** Don't forget to check out my Icelandic horses in the Parade of Breeds, stallion presentation and breed demonstration.

Guðmundur (Mummi) Skúlason will be at Irish Run April 22-23 for a clinic in dressage and Icelandic riding. Mummi is a graduate of Holar University in Iceland and holds an international training certificate. He is in high demand in Denmark, Sweden and Iceland with dressage and Icelandic riders. I can say honestly that he is a horse whisperer and miracle worker. Watch for clinic flyers on the board and let Daniela know if you would like to ride.

A belated thanks to Barb Schmidt and Karen Maresh for the mirrors in the indoor! Barb donated the mirrors and Karen creatively painted them. They are terrific - thank you ladies!

A few reminders:

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE FAST ON THE GRAVEL ROAD OR IN THE PARKING LOT!!! We have lots of youngsters and animals at the barn, so keep their safety in mind. A few minutes extra in your travel could save a life or prevent an injury.

With the spring thaw and soft ground, **please do not lead your horse across the center lawn!** Once again, I am trying to encourage the grass to grow :-)

As you already know, it is the "**season of mud.**" It is always difficult to keep the paddocks from being dangerous this time of year. Please feel free to ask Gilberto or Mikayla to bring your horse in for you. I will be adding some rock to the gate areas and some clay in the paddocks as soon as it is feasible. Be careful and thank you for your understanding.

My sincere thanks to you all for the friendly atmosphere at the barn. It is a joy to ride with you and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Virginia