

IRISH RUN FARMS

October 2015 News

A Hearty Hello from Irish Run! It is my favorite time of year. The crisp air of autumn has arrived, the skies are clear and sunny and the horses are very happy! Come down to the barn for a trail ride through our beautiful Water Works park, a lesson, or just to visit your favorite equines and equine loving friends.

Please welcome our newest boarder Laurie Cleveland and her horse Nala! Laurie is not new to Irish Run but has changed her status from leaser to owner. (Alas Ducky will miss her ☹ - thankfully Ducky still gets loads of attention from the Coopers ☺). Nala is a 5 year Thoroughbred/Percheron cross, chestnut mare currently living in the back barn. She is **big and beautiful!** Congrats to Laurie and Nala – we are happy to have you join our barn family. We also want to say **welcome back home** to **Alison Herr and Max,** and **Becky Neitzke and Daimler.** They all spent their summer away from IRF but have come back to the barn and we are thrilled. It is a joy to see you ladies and horses!

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Irish Run Fall Fun Show** on **Saturday, October 31st.** We will again start with a costume class for both riders and horses so start planning! **Lunch will be a chili cook off – who makes great chili????** Lots of game classes, including **Ride-a-Buck, Musical Horses** and **Egg and Spoon,** as well as our **traditional equitation and jumping classes,** with ribbons and prizes. Our judge will be the honorable Kirsten Hickman. Funds raised will go towards a new commercial washer – which we really NEED! Come one, come all – it will be **FUN, FUN, FUN!!!**

The **Irish Run Pony Club Riding Center** has been busy! Members have been going to regular cross country outings as well as having monthly meetings at the barn. On **October 24 members are invited to hunt with the North Hills Hunt.** Let Alison or Daniela know if you would like to go. If you don't want to ride, you are welcome to join the "whoopie wagon" or follow in a utility vehicle. **October 25** is the **Raccoon River Pony Club Hunter Pace** and **all riders from Irish Run are invited.** If you have never ridden a hunter pace, it is a blast! Let Daniela know if you would like to haul a horse and ride. **Pony Club membership applications for 2016 are due next month** so let Alison know if you would like to join or know someone who would like information about Pony Club. We also are planning a **rating in November** so start studying if you are planning to participate. **Pony Club really needs adult volunteers!** If you enjoy young riders and learning about horsemanship – let us know. We will gratefully accept any help!

Our first fall **Pony Club beginner lessons for adults and youth** are underway on Wednesday evenings. If you happen to see a bewildered beginner, introduce yourself and give them a hand. Hopefully we will see them all riding in the fun show and become barn regulars in the future. Our **next session begins November 4** – tell your friends!

Alas, **barn improvement season** is coming to an end. We certainly made a lot of progress though. Thank you Daniela, Dago and Gilberto! Almost all of the **jump poles have been repainted**, the barn **vehicles have been cleaned and serviced**, the **west barn aisle hydrant is now functional**, the **wash stall has been repaired with new wood, sealant, paint and concrete**, the **stalls have been scrubbed** and the **whole barn looks and smells CLEAN**. The **rings are being harrowed daily** and the footing is great. Dago is **now refinishing the picnic tables** and our **new manure removal system is working well**. We are still working on moving the barn office and hope to expand the back lot fence before winter arrives. Please let us know if you see any repairs that need to be made.

With cooler weather approaching quickly, some of you may want to dig out your horse's sheet and blanket. If you are a stall boarder and would like to add **blanketing service**, please let Daniela know.

Be sure to check out the **IRF apparel** at <http://justqmagine.qbstudios.com/IRF> or on the website. Support the barn with a shirt or hat. Let us know if there is a particular item you would like to see – we will be adding fall apparel soon!

We are planning a **barn bonfire for Friday, October 9th at dusk**. Bring some hot dogs or marshmallows to roast and a beverage to drink or share. This is weather dependent so watch your email for an update. All are welcome!

A friendly reminder to clean up after yourself and your horse. Manure in the barn aisle is not only unattractive, but is unsanitary and attracts flies. Please pick it up immediately. We do not always recognize individual tack and supplies. Give the area a second glance before you leave and make sure you have collected all of your personal belongings and cleaned up after your horse. If you are the last to leave in the evening, make sure the office and tack rooms are locked and the lights in the barns and arena are off. We are very appreciative!

Thank you to all for making Irish Run such a friendly, helpful and fun environment. It is a joy for me to come to the barn every day. I hope you agree and that we will see you soon!

Virginia