

Christmas 2005



Dear Family, Friends, Clients & Colleagues,

Webster's Dictionary defines the word **GRATEFUL** as "*an expression of thankfulness*", and defines **THANKFUL** as "*an expression of showing gratitude*". Both words together express our thoughts of reflection for the past year. In the whirlwind of horses to ride, lessons to give, clinics to teach, shows to compete in and mile after mile to travel, the thread that continues to weave through our thoughts is that of being ever **GRATEFUL** and **THANKFUL** for all of you! Each one of you have touched our lives in some way or another, some for a brief moment and others forever, leaving us with a blessing that we'd not had before knowing you. Thank you for all your encouragement, kind words, advice, prayers and faith in us.....you are the reason we keep on keepin' on!

In addition to being **GRATEFUL** and **THANKFUL**, we are **BLESSED** by those of you (you know who you are!) who have encouraged us ever so strongly to "think outside the box". As a result of your prompting (or pushing?...hmm), we have expanded our program to include some huge new ideas as well as some ideas we've been working at on a private level for several years and are now expanding and offering to the general public due to an increase in demand and a slight change of focus for us.

ON THE SHOW FRONT..... it was a busy, successful year so we'll just hit a few of the highlights. The first event of the season for us was *AQHA/IQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Show* which found JoLinn winning the All-Breed Championship and Mitch placing 3rd overall in the AQHA div. with a 1st in Trail and high placings in the 4 other events. Then JoLinn traveled with customer Dee Myers to show in both of their first *Gaited Horse Show in Eugene*. Dee's Foxtrotter, Dandy, had been with us for months and JoLinn was so proud

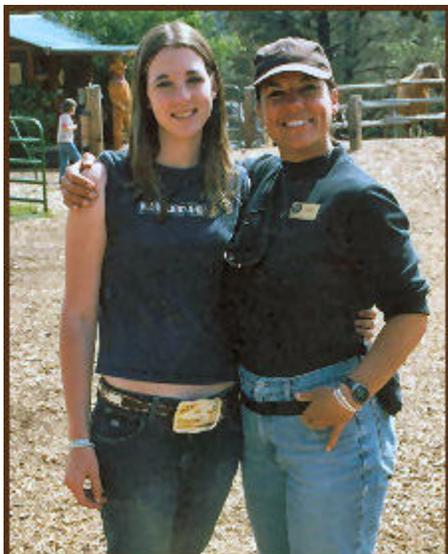
to bring home top 3 placings in all her classes as she was up against the "real-deal" gaited horse trainers. [\(click here for student success stories\)](#).

The whole family placed well at the spring *OTEC Ranch Rodeo* in Baker City and then it was on to *The Bell A Ranch Horse Classic (AQHA Versatility)* hosted by the gracious Shelman Family in Burns. We came away from there with All-Breed Champion for JoLinn and Mitch as 3rd overall including Champion Ranch Conformation (Rygh was chief groom so next year he's gonna show!).

Then it was on to the newly formed [Mt. Trail Horse Classics at Eastern Slope Ranch \(click for show info.\)](#) in Baker City. Despite the fact it was the hottest week of the summer with nary a shade tree in sight, we came away with the Open Champion, Res. Champ. Adult & 3rd/In-Hand for JoLinn, and Adult Champion & 3rd/Adult for Mitch. Sept. found us at the fall *OTEC Ranch Rodeo with Mitch tied for the All-Around Saddle*, but try as we may we were the elusive 1pt short of the win....congrats to Ann Hammon and thanks for making him work so hard at it he even ran barrels & poles with you (now that was a sight!!

It was like a big reunion when we hit the [Oregon Mt. Trail Championships \(click for show info\)](#) in Nov. We gave clinics opening night, had a vendor booth, showed 3 horses and were proud to have 5 students and their horses showing as well (click for student success stories) Among the honors we brought home were Mt. Trail Open Res. Champion & Reserve Champion & Top 5 placings on Show Pleasure Trail for Mitch. JoLinn earned daily high score on the Mt. Trail course Friday and Saturday (all divisions) with Saturday's score being the highest scored run of the entire 3 days (over 600 runs!). She ended up with Top 5 placings on the Mt. Trail course in Open, Bareback and Adult divisions. If you've never been you're in for a pleasant surprise!! Take a look at our Photo Barn. Somewhere in there we fit in some wins in Team Sorting & Team Branding too!

ON THE HOME FRONT: We stand in "awe" of what God is doing in our kid's lives..... Our favorite saying has become "Whoever said that life gets quieter when your kids start leaving home forgot to tell that to our kids!!" With only 1 of our 6 children still at home, life is just as busy as ever. See our Family & Friends page for a glimpse of what's happening with them.



Ramie and Kim Meeder, founder of
Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch
in Bend, Oregon

On a serious note, JoLinn & daughter
Ramie (16yr) trekked
to Bend to spend some time at Crystal
Peaks Youth Ranch.
Both had read Kim Meeder's book, Hope
Rising, and
just had to check it out.
Words can't express, check it
out for yourselves on line at
www.crystalpeaksyouthranch.org! A note-
worthy cause if there ever was one.

Now it's time for rest, catch-up, riding at home, holidays
and time with family and friends before we start all over
again come spring. We invite you to grab a cup of
something warm, find a cozy chair by the fire and join us
on the pages of our ranch holiday newsletter as we try to
fill you in on the new & the old, biz and family, good &
not so good! Be sure to check out the [clinic flyer](#) for
exciting new clinics dates and our unique new "[Basics to
Bridle](#)" program. We will also be bringing an exciting
"old" venture up from the back burner to the forefront
with our [Ranch & Small Acreage Consulting](#) endeavor. If
you're ever up this way stop in, we'd love to visit with
you!! For now, gather your loved ones close, be ever
THANKFUL, ever GRATEFUL, and may your
BLESSINGS overflow. Til we meet down the trail.....



Photo courtesy of Western Horseman

God Bless you all!!