

EQUESTRAINING ADVENTURES!

New Home for the Horses: Snow Creek Ranch



**Picking your own grass is great !
(even under the snow)**

DAY 1

The horses were looking forward to the promised move and happily loaded into the trailers for the trip to their new home at Snow Creek Ranch. They quickly relaxed into a well-deserved and new routine of R & R for this month of January. They have their spacious run-in shed, many sheltering trees, heated water trough, their green hay, and wide open acres of cured grass, that they eagerly uncover by pawing with a front hoof. And of course, a dinner of grain and supplements, and cozy blankets on demand. No complaints about the service have been heard from the herd! Snow Creek meanders through the back meadow and provides water for the young steers pastured there over the winter. When summer comes, the creek promises places to stay wet and cool for hot horses and humans. Beavers are busy building as we plan for work this Spring on an amazing obstacle course, fun for horses and riders.

Handmade by

Nate



Leather saddlebags to hold supplies for those super long trail rides!



Anna Kopriva with Sammie the Arab X gelding, dressed in camo for the season!
(Sammie will be part of our lesson program at Snow Creek Ranch.)

It is blessed wintertime at last. *The cold and snow may seem unwelcome at times but we are thankful for the many gifts it brings—rest and rejuvenation for the plants, restoration of our water sources, limiting the lifespan of harmful insects—and the incredible beauties of the snow covered landscape. Look for tracks in the snow to discover what resident wild creatures call this home.*

Riding outdoors in the winter is a very different experience from a trot around the indoor arena. First thing? Comfort! **Dress in layers** and wear socks with long pants with leg warmers/half chaps. Avoid slippery pants that will make you slide off the saddle. Keep **hand warmers** at the ready to slide into boots and **remember your gloves**. Then you will be well-suited to enjoying this magical environment! it is a surprising fact that the horses begin to shed their long winter coats in February, but they start early to be ready for the coming “summer fashion”. Riders beware of what you wear, because horse hair is **guaranteed to stick** to your cozy furry clothes.

“Life’s possibilities are best seen from the back of a horse!”

EQUESTRAINING

There are new horses here at the Ranch whom you will get to know and work with. We will have **Sammie, Ollie, and Henry joining our lesson program**. Sammie has the reputation of being almost perfect. Ollie is a big guy, a handsome paint horse, and shares Calypso’s belief in **get up and go!** Henry is not rideable—he is a tiny mini—but boy can he pull a cart! He is great for teaching **driving**, especially when you aren’t old enough to get a license. Be careful not to get a speeding ticket from the Ranch patrol....

Where to find us? A big reason a ranch is known as a spread, in the lingo of the West, is that it spreads out in all directions! Enter at the **main gate** with the pillars and Ranch sign address. The driveway is shaped like a long U and curves around so that you exit on the opposite side.

Headquarters for EquesTraining are in the barn at the curve of the **U**. Our Office and main tackroom, and the loft Studio are through the sliding double door entrance at the north end. You may park in front of the log at the edge of the drive, there. The horses live in a **very large pasture** on around the U as you go up the **exit side** of the drive. For your convenience, and so nobody gets lost in the woods, **we will plan** on having the horses at the barn for you to groom and tack up when it is your lesson time.

Riding areas we will be introducing you to include all of the **ranch territory**, sooner or later. The outdoor arena near the barn at Headquarters is accessible unless the ground is too frozen. Snow is not a problem, but **look out for ice** where there has been a lot of car & truck traffic. The horses typically enjoy frolicking in the snow and we will give you **a grand tour on horseback** in the wide open spaces of their domain. Our plans call for holding horse care lessons, off-horse vaulting practice, and related pony club topics inside barn Headquarters and the Studio, upstairs. If the driving conditions are not good, we will **reschedule** lessons, accordingly.

The next **page** of this newsletter shows the tentative **days and times** for **lessons** for February (and the rest of the winter, probably) for our regular riders and new students, also. It remains somewhat negotiable, please let us know **what works** for you. I am ready to connect with several students about pairing up and **sharing** a lesson, now that we have additional horses. It can double the fun of **horning around** when you have a **friend** with whom to enjoy the time!

Happy Trails!

Star, Carolyn, Nate, & the Herd

Text/Call: 720-785-0980 (Star) 512-797-0556 (Carolyn)

Website: www.EquesTraining.com

EquesTraining at Snow Creek Ranch (owned and operated by the Kopriva family)

10997 Spruce Mountain Road

Larkspur, CO 80118

Weekly (WORK IN PROGRESS) Lesson Schedule *(Tuesday through Sunday)*

(b) means already booked (o) is open for booking

Tuesday

9-10:30 (b) 10:45-11:45 (b) 4:30-5:30 (b)

Open Times 12:45-1:45 2:00-3:00 3:15-4:15

Wednesday

10:00-11:00 (b) 11:30--12:30 (b)

Open Times 1:00-2:00 2:15-3:15 3:30-4:30

Thursday

9:30-10:30 (b) 10:30-noon (b) 1:30-2:30 (?) 4:00-5:00(b)

Open Times 2:45-3:45

Friday

1:00-2:00 (b) shared lesson, 2 people

Open Times 2:30-3:30 3:45-4:45

Saturday

9:30-11:00 (b) 1:30-2:30 (b)

Open Times 11:15-12:15 12:30-1:30 1:45-2:45 3:00-4:00

Sunday

11:00-Noon (b) 12:30-1:30 (b) 2:00-3:30 (b) 3:30-4:30 (b)

Open Times 10:00-11:00 (makeups only)

Please confirm your lesson time with the Instructors!

See next page for Saturday Vaulting Program Information

New! New! New!

Vaulting Program

Group Lesson (8 students, maximum)



Avni showing off her signature move on Calypso!

Meets:

Saturdays 9:30

to 11:00 am

(1 & 1/2 hrs)

What it is:

gymnastics on horseback taught in a structured, safe, progressive program.

Who it is for: any active child or young person who enjoys horses and doing something different!

And for: any rider who wishes to gain more confidence through improving balance, agility and coordination.

Details and Prices found on INFO page of www.EquesTraining.com Sign Up Now!

BEGINNERS and EXPERIENCED RIDERS BENEFIT

Vaulting is a suitable and safe horsemanship activity for many children too young to ride independently off the longe line.

Longeline lessons with the vaulting surcingle incorporate balance and coordination exercises tailored to the needs of adult riders.

Vaulting is easily adapted to the individual needs and abilities of a wide range of students while taking place in a social group setting.