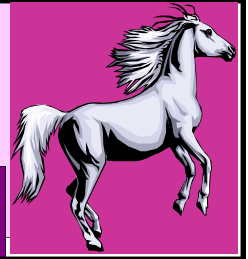


ROYAL SALUTE NEWS



September 2007

Owner/Trainer: Jackie Alkin

Birthday Thank You's From Jackie

Individual Birthday Gifts:

"Clever Clasp" & Notebook
Black Leather Halter
Make-up
Princess Diana Book & Homemade Cheesecake
Dressage Saddle Pad
Morton's Steakhouse Gift Certificate
Purple & Red Flowers

Dianne Bubb
Susan Girard
Carol & Montana
Ann & Sara Kerr
Alexis
Leslie, Cody & Jewell
Linda & Rhiannon

Group Gift: Trip to U.S. Nationals in Albuquerque - Oct. 26 & 27

Gene, Alexis, Buns & Romeo
Rebecca & Joyce Nolan
Sandra & Chevy
Amanda
Montana
Dianne & Euryk
Susanna & Dually
Sally & Sky
Lucian
Becky
The Kerrs & Slick
Linda, Rhiannon & Ace
Leslie Thomas
Mary & Angela

Savannah & Charisma
Erin
Lorre & Miagi
Heather, Sunny & Monster
Jessica, Spirit & Preacher
Sheryl & Amadeus
Susan & Maggie
Carol & Liza
Miki & Jazz
Dianne & Ally
Michele, Dante & Gin
Katie, Cathy & Feather
Pat, Durango & Amigo

A Thank you from
Katie Harmon:

"To Everyone at Royal Salute, I want to thank everyone for being so supportive to me when I was getting ready for Youth Nationals. I really appreciate everything you all have done for me. Thank you so much, you guys are all wonderful!"

A Thank you from
Miki Durfey:

"Thank you everyone who supported me and wished me luck going to Youth Nationals! You were all great support and it meant a lot!"

Upcoming Shows:

- ◆ The last Mini Circuit of the summer is on Saturday, September 22nd.

- ◆ Sport Horse Nationals is in Lexington, Virginia, September 26 - 30

Horses & Riders Competing: Rhiannon & Ace
Jackie & Angel
Jackie & Chance Command
Jackie & Hey You Star

- ◆ VSAHA Community Show at Reach 11

This is a “tweener” show, meaning it’s bigger than a mini-circuit, but smaller than an A-rated show (open to all breeds). There will also be a used tack sale at this show.

Congratulations to Ace!



Ace earned his Legion of Excellence and now has a “+//” after his name.

Confiscation Alert!

Jackie has lots of treasures in her confiscation box, and it is overflowing with gloves, helmets, and saddle pads, etc. This is all tack that you have left out and Jackie has confiscated. If you are missing any equipment, you might want to check with Jackie to see if she has it.

The cost to bail your items out of confiscation:
\$1 per item!

WANTED:

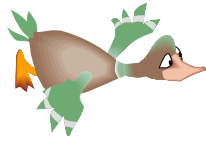
Babysitter!

Michele and Gin are looking for a babysitter to watch Dante for approx. 1.5 hours so she can ride at 4:30 or 5:00pm on weekdays and/or a weekend morning.

Michele is flexible, but would prefer Tuesday and Sunday if possible. If you're interested, please call 602-721-4621

Back to School...

Now remember, school children, you need to do your school work and get your homework done in a timely manner. Most importantly, keep those grades up! Your riding and your horses are a luxury; if your grades suffer, your lessons and barn time will be taken away from you.



A Quacker's Tale

By: Sheryl Spohn & Amadeus

It was an ordinary day at Royal Salute. The ducks were just getting ready to enjoy themselves. "Quack. Quack. Come on. Let's go watch that funny **four** legged animal. Amadeus is his name. Line up boys and girls. Nice and straight now.", ordered Captain Duck.

"What's he doing, Captain? Why isn't he going in a nice straight line?" "Well he's doing some silly thing called a leg yield," replied the Captain. "The General with the long braid is trying to teach that two legged thing on his back."

Just then Captain caught sight of a big splashing and thrashing over in his favorite pond. At the same moment the General heard the splashing and turned to look. "What's happening over there? Don't tell me the turkey has fallen in!", she shouted as she leaped off the bench and ran toward the pond.

"Quack Quack. Quack. Quack. Hustle hustle. Let's go look and see what the fuss is all about. Turkey can swim can't he? OK now. One Two. One Two. Make that line straight like a feather." And in a perfectly straight line the ducks marched over to the pond.

As the ducks lined up in a, that's right, a perfectly straight line to watch the proceedings, horse and rider rushed out of the arena to go help. Of course the horse could care less about the turkey, but it seemed as if his rider wanted to help. She jumped off, tossed the reins over the wash rack and proceeded tohelp?

General was down on her belly stretched out on the bank. With feet higher than her head, she was reaching down in a gooey oozy green mass feeling around for a blob of turkey that was submerged. Rider, name unknown and on her belly also was trying to help by scooping deep in the muck with a big shovel.

The ducks were excited. "Quack. Quack. The turkey is a goner, he can't swim silly fellow. Wait! The General has him by the neck. She's pulling him up...his neck is stretching....stretching....ouch! That must hurt. He's flapping his wings. Come on. The Great Gander up in the sky helps birds that help themselves.Why are those two humans laughing? This isn't funny. One is stretching the poor fellow's neck and the other is cutting his legs off with that shovel."

"Captain! General is standing in the pond. She has Turkey in her arms. Quackray. Quackray. He's saved, but General doesn't look very happy. Doesn't she like our gooey oozy green pond?" clamored the excited ducks.

As soon as Mr. Turkey gets on the ground he shakes his straggly wet feathers giving the two humans a great bath. He looks around, straightens his rather crooked neck and acting as if nothing had happened, saunters off.

"Quack. Quack. Well boys and girls the show is over. March along now. Time to get busy," quacked the Captain. And with that the line of ducks marched off once again in a perfectly straight line ready for their next adventure.

As far as the horse, he was totally embarrassed with the slime covered humans and their raucous laughter. Since nobody was paying any attention to him, he quietly left the scene looking for more suitable companionship.



A Summer Day At Royal Salute

By: Sarah Givens

My perfect summer day begins like this: I wake up as soon as I sense the light coming through my curtains. It's summer, and today is a Royal Salute day. I get my riding clothes on, and go downstairs to eat breakfast. After that, I grab my helmet and water bottle, and head out the door.

When I reach my riding stables named Royal Salute, I can smell the three day old manure in the giant dumpster. I can also hear the sound of a tractor and neighing horses being fed. I walk over to the barn and set down my water bottle and helmet on a big tack trunk. Then I go say hello to my riding instructor, Jackie Alkin. Jackie gives me tasks to do, such as moving jumps around, distributing salt blocks to horses' stalls, cleaning out stalls, cleaning and organizing the tack room, or washing and grooming horses. Here are some of the animals that I encounter throughout the day.

The cereal, Cocoa Puffs, is small, brown, and **very** round. So is a miniature donkey named Cocoa Puff. When she first came to Royal Salute, everybody thought that she was going to have a baby Cocoa Puff. Jackie was even going to call it Cheerios, to match the cereal names. It turned out that Cocoa Puff was (how should I put this?) **FAT!** Since there would not be a baby Cocoa Puff in the near future, Jackie put her on a strict diet of less food, more exercise, and no more eating my strawberry yogurt! Like so many diets that celebrities try, this one failed, too. As part of her self-improvement for Cocoa Puff, Jackie also wanted this ball of "fluff" to have a bath. It took two adults, two teenagers, one child (me), one halter, one lasso, a long crop, and *a lot of pulling* to get this donkey onto the wash rack so she could have her bubble bath. Jackie no longer questions that it took Cocoa Puff's previous owners *an hour and a half* to get her into a horse trailer. *All that hard work was worth it...* for about five seconds. As soon as we let "her royal roundness" loose, she made a beeline for the dirt! Even though she is fat and strong willed, she is very cute and friendly. Everybody loves little Cocoa Puff!

If you spend any amount of time at Royal Salute, you will meet "The Three Stooges." Larry, Curley, and Moe are three goats that are fun to hang out with. They are hard to tell apart, because each goat is small, black, and has a chubby tummy that must be filled at all times. Hence, the continual search for "nibbles." They are known for their voracious appetites! Our Bible says to pray without ceasing, but *these* goats **eat** without ceasing!

Sometimes, I see a pony named Taurus. He is a dark brown pony and is the son of one of the lesson horses named Gemini (but she's a whole different story!). Taurus is very cute and friendly. He is lovable and likes to be petted. He is not only cute, though. He can do a trick, too. When you poke the side of his mouth, Taurus will stick his tongue out at you. He is an amazing little pony, for sure. Jackie is very lucky to have him.

Another horse that does a funny trick is a horse named Bert. If you wave a carrot, or other treat, up and down in front of his lips, Bert will flap his lips up and down and make a funny noise. Bert is also very big and strong. He is a sweetie and everyone loves him very much. Bert is very friendly and kind. He is lucky to live at Royal Salute, where his talents can be shown to everyone.

In these next paragraphs, I am going to talk about a few of the horseback riding lesson horses. Their names are Gemini, Compass, Charisma, Riley, and Danny. They all have a lot of personality.

First, let's start with Gemini. She is one of the older lesson ponies. Gemini is getting a little too old now, so the younger, more inexperienced children ride her. Even though little kids ride her, Gemini is the best bareback pony in the world. Gemini is a gentle little pony with a mind of her own. It would take me pages and pages to tell about all the "pranks" she pulls when people ride her, so I will only mention a couple of her pranks. One of the pranks she pulls is to run right out of the arena if you leave the gate open. Another stunt she pulls is to pin her ears back and act like she is going to bite you. (She's very good at scaring away little girls who don't know her!) The reason that she does this is because you need to ride her, but she does not want to be ridden! However, she has never bitten anyone in her life. Gemini has a nice, smooth gait and can be very speedy. Yes, Gemini is a very fun pony.

CONTINUED..

A Summer Day At Royal Salute (Continued)

Next, let's talk about Compass. Compass is a kind and gentle lesson horse that has tons of energy. He is very strong and powerful, too. Compass has big, strong legs and a powerful, broad chest. Compass is very fun to ride because he is very motivated. He always likes to keep going, and works very hard at everything he does. He is a very talented jumper. Compass came from Sweetwater Stables, the riding stable next door to Royal Salute. Sweetwater Stables has only horses living there. Unlike Royal Salute, which has ducks, chickens, pigs, and many other animals that Compass had to get used to being around. Now, Compass loves his new home very much. I was actually the first "Royal Saluter" to ride Compass. And now many people ride him and love him, too.

Another lesson horse that I am going to talk about is named Charisma. She is a spoiled horse that is being leased by my friend, Savannah. Everything that Savannah puts on Charisma is pink and sparkly. Charisma is a fast horse and is very gentle. Charisma has a great personality. She likes to keep moving forward. Her gait can be a little bumpy, though. Charisma is fun to ride because she is very energetic. She is also very obedient.

Next, I will describe Riley. Riley is the shortest lesson pony at Royal Salute. Riley is very plump and always likes to eat. Sometimes he will even try to take a bite out of you. Riley is a very evil pony. He never likes to work, so he has figured out ways to not be ridden. For example, as I was riding Riley one day, he decided that he did not want me on his back anymore. So, when I cantered by a narrow space in between stalls and a turn out, Riley squeezed right up to it until he reached the end of this narrow fit. It took me a while to get him backed out of there. But even though he is evil, he is very cute and that is why I put up with him. Not that many people like Riley, but I do. I love you, Riley!

Last, but not least, I will describe Danny. Danny is a kind, gentle lesson horse with a personality of his own. He has a smooth gait, too. Danny is one of Jackie's favorite horses. He is very obedient and easy going. He likes to bob his head up and down and rub his head on you until you are very dirty! Danny is such a special horse.

Being able to visit with these animals is such a gift. I wish that everybody had the chance to spend a summer day, or any day, at Royal Salute.

