

## July Aug at the Stables



Busy Months! Bet you think I must have fallen off my horse and couldn't get to the computer to write. But no, that hasn't happen. I've just been riding horses from morning , 7 am to 7pm, 6 days a week , then on my day off from lessons, I've been taking my favorite horse and going for a 4- 8 hours ride, Just for the fun of it!!!

I don't remember when I last wrote a story, I think I even wrote a story and saved it somewhere, maybe I should check my computer for it. So now you are probable wondering how or why and I riding that many hours. Well, it's simple. I had 6 horses I was breaking and training and then I had all my normal students, about 15 who want to ride, ride , ride. So I just HAVE to ride all day to satisfy all these folks. Of course I don't mind. It's wonderful to get to do something so great as ride a horse all day. Sometimes I even get to ride my favorite horse Monet. Through a few other kids like to ride her too!!

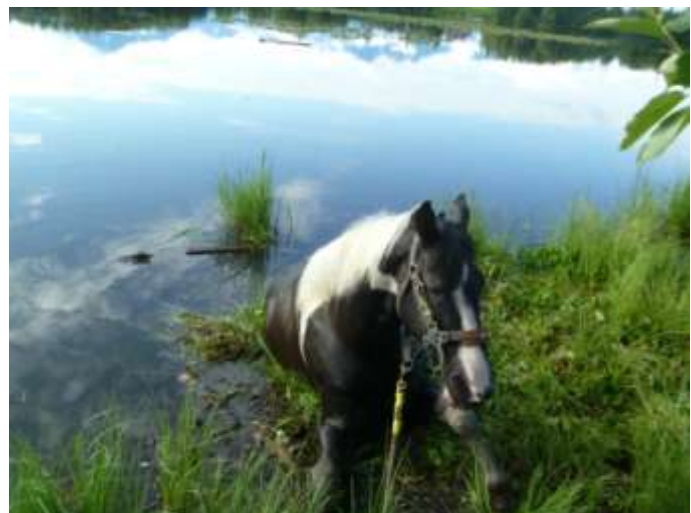
So I'm going to add some pictures of some of the rides we have been on and tell you a little about them.



First there was the Girl Horse Camp in July. It was 4 days long and went from 9am-1pm. We rode for a least 2 of those 4 hours then clean and brushed and feed horses for the rest of the time. The girls were actually sad when their mom's showed up for they weren't done cleaning the stalls yet! We all got a big kick when one 9 year old girls said " OH MOM, did you have to come so soon?"

Then there was our Talkeenta ride. It was supposed to be

about 10 miles but ended up being 19 miles. We missed a trail and ended up on the wrong side of a swamp/lake. Our guide who supposedly was use to the area trained to walk us around the edge of the swamp but after a while I called it quits and we all went back and walked our horses home by the roads. You see if you get a horse stuck, it's very hard to get them out of mud up to their bellies. I'd already done that once that week and didn't want





to do it out in the wilderness with no chance of help.

Two weekend ago, we went up to King River and had a wonderful ride. The trails were used by four wheelers so were kind of rutty and it had rain so there were mud puddles and slippery trails. A few of the horses who riders couldn't control them very good that almost fell due to trying to walk on the steep sides and then slopping to the bottom. Thankfully all the horses

managed to stay standing.

This week I've had the owners of 3 of the horses I've been training for 2 months staying with me for 5 days to get to know her horses. I broke the two older ones to ride and the baby (9 months) to lead and behave. We managed to ride every day but not as much as I wanted for the weather turned totally nasty for 2 days with high winds and strong rains, then we got a break from the rain and finally today we actually had sunshine. The horses both did wonderful and I can only hope they did as well when they get home. They live about 5 hours away.



After a hard week of work, where my horse Monet might have to read the signs to tell us which way to go. She is really for some time off!!!



This is actually the swamp/lake, our guide was walking us around. I took the picture from the road for we were really close but I didn't see any way over. You see the lakes in Alaska are almost like quicksand, the bottoms are really muddy and deep. We actually got all the way to the tree with the arrow but there was still a lot of water. I think I wrote about this ride so I'll attach the story.



This is a picture of one of our therapy riders and my horse Riko. I think the horses enjoyed the classes as much as the kids!!! Can't show faces so I blocked it out.

There's a video on you tube about our therapy program. It's a bit long but it shows my horses and me helping them. Its under Susan Butcher Family Center. Check it out if you can.

We that pretty much sums up July and Aug at the stables. We rode, then rode some more and finally got out for a ride or two!!!