



17 Days till Christ~Mass

Good news, the horses have been getting out daily because the ground freezes overnight. And, I thought it was going to rain for two weeks. I should have faith in our Pgh weather! Did anyone see the snow on Saturday? Oh, and how about that big flame down the street? That is gas coming out of the ground. Some how they (Range Resources or Halliburton) tap it, then light it on fire and then somehow it gets into a pipe line. It lit up the whole area, and you could see it while traveling on 79 south when passing Canonsburg! They call us the Appalachian Basin and say there is a lot of gas trapped in these hills... The hills have gas..! Below is a photo taken at night. But, as fast as the light appeared it is now gone. The ignited gas is now being shipped through pipe lines in the woods to...well, (no puns intended) not sure who benefits...



Our three new horses Damian, Tupper and Won-Ton have settled in. They like the turnout and evening feeding, in addition to the rest of the catering.

Has anyone noticed the new paint in the upper barn? We washed the walls and painted the inside of the stalls a fresh white! It brightens it up!

Yesterday we got all the heated water buckets put in the back stalls. Today we will do the upper barn. Spoiled, spoiled, spoiled...



Horizontal balance ~ the horse
Vertical Balance ~ the rider

And because you all know I am the stretching queen here is Amanda stretching her half saddlebred. I like how straight this horse and rider are. She is perfectly in the middle of the saddle, and the horse is straight too. Amanda has vertical straightness or alignment - her head is in the middle of her shoulders, and her shoulders are above her hips. Her horse is the same only it has horizontal straightness or alignment. Meaning, her horse's head is in the center of its shoulders, the shoulders are in front of the hindquarters or hips.

This horse is also nicely round while on the aids as she is stretching down. You can tell the horse is round because she is giving at the poll. This horse, however, could step more under itself and the rider as you can see that the horse is under tracking, and at the same time her nose is behind the vertical. So if Amanda lets her horse stretch even further down by giving the reins a little, this will help it to lengthen the back muscles engaging the hind legs to come more under. Of course, a rider does not want to allow the horse to stretch further down if it is going to cause the horse to loose balance (or, its carrying ability) and fall onto the forehand. A rider should only allow more stretching when the horse maintains balance and does not fall forward. How do you do this, on the circle of course. Do you understand all the underlined words, if not just ask!



That is all folks till next time, happy shopping.

"Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere I go....."

