



The infamous cookies!

Annual Christmas Party

TuDane Farm's annual Christmas party was hosted this year by Sue Walbert at her new house in Warrenton. Sue started the planning as Scrooge by saying that she didn't feel the need to put up a Christmas tree and ended up as Santa – decorating with lights, candles, garland, poinsettia linens, antique crystal and holiday treats. Sue was indoctrinated into the TuDane Party Hall of Fame for her exceptional hosting of the largest holiday party yet! Needless to say, I don't think she'll host again any time soon – it was a major undertaking and watching the youngsters enjoy the finished basement is enough to give any homeowner stress!!! Many thanks, Sue. At least 75 guests were present including lots of new children and

adults. A great time was had by all and the TuDane family seems more cohesive than ever. Many attendees enjoyed seeing me fight back tears and stumble through my "Giving Thanks" presentation (see below). We were also surprised by the wonderful gift from Torie and Devan of a basket of custom designed and monogrammed cookies. What great works of art, thank you! It was also a nice sendoff for Carlos and Angel, as they each shed tears on their goodbyes. The two gentlemen will certainly be missed. Applications for next year's host are now being accepted :-)



TuDaners enjoying the Christmas party!

Giving Thanks

In case anyone missed my teary-eyed presentation of thanks at the Christmas party, here it is again:

"I recently read an article at Thanksgiving about giving thanks to our horses, so I took a moment to think about all of the TuDane horses and what we have to thank them for:

Juno - for always being Diana's steady Eddie
Escolano - for giving Ann her childhood and her figure back and proving her unconditional love

Piggy - for giving Laurel the TuDane family and vice versa
Banker - for Brinkley and Petey, but more importantly, for teaching me how the rider/horse relationship has no bounds and how a horse can drive people to do whatever is necessary to save them (thanks Kerry)
Otis - for his sweet and gentle nature and his great teaching ability
Pharaoh - for his guaranteed good behavior - turned out or not

Amazing - for keeping Deanna in the tack
Cinco - for his unflappable show performances and always being able to count on him
Dusty - for giving Lynn back an important piece of herself
Ashton - for getting Sheila closer to the TuDane family-
Tarheel - for always being a mother's best friend
Dino - for showing Rachel that she can love more than one
Otter - for more things than can be listed, but especially for saving Rachel's sight

Nimrod — for giving Devan-confidence at the big jumps
Andrew - for giving Sue the confidence to get back in the saddle after her hip replacement
Sandi - for always giving me the potential to win the big class
Toccata - for showing us what years of dedication and training can produce
Diva - for reminding us about natural, great jumping style and scope
Hippy - for showing Kahti the meaning of good natured!"

TUDANE FARM

Winter Wonderland (Not!)

The weather this winter has certainly been a detriment to riding. Even if we had an indoor, we couldn't ride because we couldn't get to the barn. Fortunately we have a very nice heating system, refrigerator, microwave and hot water in the barn, so our wonderful grooms Damién and José, slept on air mattresses and showered in the wash stall for a week. Please reflect your thanks in their monthly tips!

The horses were finally able to

get out for a few hours a day and a few of us were able to get to the barn to lend them a hand and bring more food supplies. Thanks to Laurel and Ann for their extra help and support.

While the old José is in Florida with Wendy, Cinco and Sandi, Laurel has offered to work two days a week to give each of the guys a day off. Thanks a million to her!!

To remind everyone that they had horses, a horsey commu-

nity and instructors, we organized a tack room training session to get everyone together and give non-horseback instruction. We played the video "Get Connected" from the USEF, which proved quite informative and gave all of us inspiration for lessons to come. A copy of the pdf file has been emailed to everyone for permanent reference. I also found another useful manual online at www.usef.org/documents/licensedOfficials/huntereqmanual.pdf



The first TuDane tack room training session.



Wendy & Cinco at WEF

Congrats/ Welcome

A little late, but congratulations are in order to the following:

- Lynn Harrington on the lease of Delorian
- Sheila Keenan on the purchase of October Road
- Devan Graham on the lease of Nimrod
- Samantha Gritz on the purchase of Leo's Liam
- Mary Ryan on the purchase of Patrick and Maximus

A warm welcome to new student Lisa Jeans and her horse Mr. Rockstar (Rocky). And welcome back Spatz to the TuDane family of horses.

Results & Show Schedule

The last show season ended with a bang with Devan heading to Lexington to the VHSA Associate Finals with Tarheel and Trixie (Valeska). They garnered lots of ribbons on both ponies including a win with Trixie in the Short Stirrup Hunter Under Saddle. Even Tarheel, at her very old age, looked like a beauty all clipped up and braided and got a second in the Under Saddle! Congrats to Devan and a job well done by mother and head groom Torie. Thanks also to Kaitlin for her grooming expertise for the weekend.

Wendy and Cinco made the trip downtown to the Verizon Center in D.C. after qualifying on local weekend for the Local Finals. After a midnight and a 4 am schooling session, the pair were stars and were second in the class!! Thanks to Lynn for her grooming expertise and all the TuDaners who came to watch and support Wendy. Cinco was, once again, unflappable! What an experience it is to get a horse to even get off the van in the city, never mind walk down the sidewalk in the middle of the night, or enter a tunnel and peer through the ingate at the jumbotron!

And the new show year is off to a great start—only in Florida that is! Wendy and Cinco garnered primary colors their first week of showing in the 2'6" adults as a circuit warm-up. And this last week the pair won an Adult Amateur 51+ over fences class and placed in the top 6 in the U/S and other O/F classes. Congrats and send some of the warm weather up to us Wendy!!

When the weather turns here, maybe we can get to work on getting to some of the shows we published on our show calendar. Seems as though the Summerplace show on April 3 will be our first outing, followed by the Summerplace show the next weekend. I think we should plan a barn trip to the Upperville showgrounds one weekend after the thaw to inspect the new footing and determine if we'd like to participate there this year. I understand that the footing is expected to be excellent and it is such a wonderful show if the footing is nice. Also, many of you are expressing an interest in returning to Keswick, so mark that on your calendar.

New Staff

Please welcome new barn staff José Resendiz and Damién Olvera. Many of you may not have met them with the current weather conditions, but they are now fully acquainted with all of your horses and doing a wonderful job! Thanks guys!