



Happy New Year

January 1, 2025

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The Best of 2024



We have so much for which to be thankful here on the farm. Our families, friends, and horses are well. With each passing year, we learn and grow realizing there is always a new goal or dream to pursue. We overcome sadness and celebrate the joys. We teach others and take opportunities to share. We continue to meet new folks who are awesome, and we celebrate those folks with whom we share our lives. It is time to take a look back, and remember all the good times we had . . .

We were glad to put January behind us! **February**, though, proved to have lots of erratic weather. We also had more temperatures in the single digits. Ruby had her Chapter Degree Promotion Ceremony with Dad in attendance. We were so



thankful that the proposed Bluegrass Station airport runway was repealed. It is hard to imagine an airport across Clintonville Rd.! Mary Kelley was extremely busy with her work at Claiborne. Several foals were born every day. Eventually, over a hundred fifty hit the ground. We were really glad that Steve got to come to the farm and see his horses in February. He had RMHA Strategic Planning and since the RMHA Awards Banquet was held in **March**, he was able to go. At the banquet, the RMHA judges were randomly drawn for the International. The awards for the Trail, Show, and Versatility Programs were announced. Even though Ruby won several high point awards (including Youth 12-17 Show Pleasure and The Show Pleasure Championship, she had an important track meet and was unable to



attend the banquet. We sure missed her. We were excited, though, when we learned Olivia was the recipient of the Youth Award of Excellence! We congratulated her on so much success in 2023. It was a great time! Dr. McVey came for vaccinations. Ruby was here to assist. We were excited that Bob and Julie were released from PT and were able to get back in the saddle again. Show horses were brought back in the barn and suddenly, there was lots of riding to do. It was good Ruby and Olivia were back. **April** 2nd was a tough day weather wise. There were many tornadoes in our area. SRF was spared but Hidden Rose Farm over on US 627 sustained great damage. Folks quickly came to help. Luka and Jonathan's barn was also greatly damaged in April. We're so thankful nobody was hurt. Bob and I replaced roses in front of the arena. Bob also bought a new Dodge truck. Ruby and Olivia were working hard with extra curricular activities at school as well as riding here. Ruby completed archery for another year. She was running hard with the cross country team and attending lots of FFA functions. Olivia was voted in as the Clark County FFA Pres-

ident—a great honor (that comes with lots of responsibility). Julie T., Mary K. and I headed north to the Equine Affaire to shop and enjoy the clinics. KHBIF vouchers were mailed. Ruby, Charlie and Erin went to Myrtle Beach for a track competition. Julie B. and Barbara had great success at the Cowtown Trail Obstacle competition. In **May**, we had our first shows of the season. We went to the Spring Kickoff where Dilly and AJ got to show for the first time. Most horses placed first or second. Mary Kelley won the Trail Pleasure Mares and Geldings and the Championship with Mack (B & T's Slamma Jamma) owned by Larry and Brenda. It was a great show for SRF. On Sunday, we all had good eats at Windy Corner. Melissa was our host. It was such a fun time! School wrapped up for the year. Bryan and Carter graduated. Ruby and Olivia increased the amount of time they were able to ride here at the farm. Julie T. began trail riding her horse, River. Charlie conducted a very successful clinic at the Suncrest Arena in SC. Lots for folks were able to benefit from their experiences. We had two shows at Carter County. Ruby had a state track



Year in Review

January of 2024 was cold, as to be expected. Horses outside kept their head buried in the hay rolls. They were ridden less and round penned more when it was necessary to keep them from sweating on especially cold days. The temperature made it to 7 below.

Life here continued. Charlie rode and watched out for his cows at home. I completed newsletters and sent out the invoices. I did spend a couple of weeks in Hardinsburg with the grand kids while Eyvonne and Bobby were in Europe. Ruby went to school and ran track. Erin continued working with her yarn, fiber and headbands. Bob and Julie T. were still recovering from shoulder surgeries and going to physical therapy three times a week.



As long as we have memories,
Yesterday remains.
As long as we have hope,
tomorrow awaits.



Remembering (con't)

meet on Friday but joined us on Saturday. There were lots of wins and reserves. Black Market Diamond, She's All Mine (with Olivia), and B & T's Slamma Jamma (Mary Kelley) won their classes. Leah did a great job on WOF's Glamour and Style, placing in her class. Mary K. and Donnie were with us. She brought some of those great brownies of hers. Saturday also brought success for SRF. Red River Dia-



diamond, WOF's Wind Commander (Ruby), Diamond Broker (Ruby), WOF's Glamour & Style (Mary Kelley in the Trail Championship) and Olivia in youth were winners. It was another great night for SRF. **June** was another busy month for SRF. The hot days of June were full of horses, family and friends. Erin was getting ready for Ruby's 16th birthday party, Charlie was busy getting ready for the Pink Show, and Bob & I were getting ready for our 50th anniversary party! Jennifer Allen is so appreciated for all she does to give to cancer research. Everyone is glad to help. We also appreciate all that our horse show friends do. Thanks to Leah for organizing Chic-Fil-A for lunch (with contributions from Julie B., Julie T., and me). Melisse brought that wonderful Italian Beef, salad, and fabulous chocolate cake for supper. Mary K. provided cook-



ies for us too. Oh yummm! The Pink Show was another good one. Diamond Broker won three of his Show Pleasure classes - Mary Kelley (Mares and Geldings), Melisse (Amateur) and Ruby (Youth Championship)! Ruby also won both her classes with B & T's Slamma Jamma. Black Market Diamond won both his CTP classes with Charlie and Olivia won the CTP Youth Championship on She's All Mine! All the horses performed so well! Charlie took time to ride several horses in Virtual Trail Obstacle classes. He can compete here at the farm and the points count for KHBIF! Both Ruby and Olivia attended FFA camp in June to prepare for their leadership roles as Junior and Senior members. **July** brought several eventful happenings. SRF went to three shows - Owingsville where Black Market Diamond won the Western class and Olivia won on WOF's Glamour & Style - Tollesboro where Ruby won with WOF's Wind Commander and Olivia won with Mary Kelley's mare again - Harrison County where Ruby won with B & T's Slamma Jamma, Mary Kelley won with Diamond Broker, Leah won with Mary Kelley's mare as did Olivia for the third show in a row! Woo Hoo! Ruby took on the responsibility to ride four of Martha Gilley's sweet spotted horses. She did a great job with them. It was a great but busy time! Suddenly, it was **August**, and planning for the International was well under way. It was great that so many of you were able to help sponsor the show! We were getting excited to go back to reserves over the two days. The horses were in great form and everyone worked hard to make it happen!!! On August 11th, it was a sad day here at SRF. Barb's Stormy Knight passed away due to complications from a bout of colic. There will never be another one like Stormy. He was everything you could hope for in a horse. He could win in the show ring with every level of rider, perform perfectly in trail obstacle, or be the very best lesson horse ever. He will be forever missed. When **September** arrived, we are all focused on the RMHA International! We are always excited about the horses, and what we think they can accomplish at the show. Charlie had worked hard and had them at their peak performance level. Mary Kelley, Ruby, and Olivia had honed their skill and made preparations for success. Leah had been riding Julie B.s horses and working with her. Cole had come to most shows so he was ready to help at the International. Every client had contributed to the SRF Sponsorship. There were sever-



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the Kentucky Horse Park to "Rock the Runway". Leah designed our awesome SRF Tee Shirts. We had one more show before the International -



White Pine, TN for the two "A" shows. Leah and I drove sepa-



rately with both Charlie and Julie T pulling trailers. It was once again, a great opportunity for SRF. There were 13 wins and 14



with them. It was a great but busy time! Suddenly, it was **August**, and planning for the International was well under way. It was great that so many of you were able to help sponsor the show! We were getting excited to go back to reserves over the two days. The horses were in great form and everyone worked hard to make it happen!!! On August 11th, it was a sad day here at SRF. Barb's Stormy Knight passed away due to complications from a bout of colic. There will never be another one like Stormy. He was everything you could hope for in a horse. He could win in the show ring with every level of rider, perform perfectly in trail obstacle, or be the very best lesson horse ever. He will be forever missed. When **September** arrived, we are all focused on the RMHA International! We are always excited about the horses, and what we think they can accomplish at the show. Charlie had worked hard and had them at their peak performance level. Mary Kelley, Ruby, and Olivia had honed their skill and made preparations for success. Leah had been riding Julie B.s horses and working with her. Cole had come to most shows so he was ready to help at the International. Every client had contributed to the SRF Sponsorship. There were sever-



*Believe in yourself and all that you are.
Know that there is something inside you
that is greater than any obstacle.*



ads in the show program for SRF. The ladies all had a plan to keep everyone fed and it all

worked great! I don't even know where to begin re-counting everything that happened. In many classes, SRF was first and second again this year. Olivia and Ruby had 5 or 6 classes where they were 1st and second! Mary Kelley did a great job showing her mom's colt, Silver's Diamond Dealer, in con-



formation - winning the Championship. Diamond Broker was 3rd in the Geldings Show Pleasure Championship. Her mare, WOF's Glamour & Style was awesome! She placed 1st in her qualifying class, 2nd in the Mares Trail Pleasure Championship, and third in the Trail Pleasure Grand Championship. We're so proud of all Mary Kelley has accom-



plished with "Ember" this year. Olivia

won her qualifying class and the Youth Grand Championship! Julie Tucker placed 2nd on Ember in the Senior Rider class and went on the place 4th in the Amateur Trail Pleasure



Grand Championship! How awesome is that? Julie Brown had a great show too! HCR's After Midnight was wonderful with Olivia win-



ning the Youth Show Pleasure qualifying class and the Championship! In addition, her

three-year old, AJ, won his conformation and under saddle classes! Unfortunately, Elite's Hallelujah had a soft tissue injury and didn't do as well as they hoped but Leah did get to show "Axel". Mary Kelley also showed WOF's Wind Commander along with Ruby who showed him in the youth



Country Trail Pleasure classes. Charlie showed him in Adult Trail Obsta-

cle and Pole Bending. Then Ann showed Amateur and Melisse showed in the Adult Water Glass Class. Mary Kelley



won the 6-9 YO Western class and got reserve in the Western Grand Championship! Ruby was 1st in her Youth Country Trail Pleasure class and placed reserve in Youth Trail Obstacle, Youth Western, Equitation, Water Glass and in both the Youth Country Trail and Youth Western Grand Championships. Charlie's horses

stepped up to the plate for sure at this year's International. He and Ruby showed B & T's Slamma Jamma. They placed 2nd in the 6-9 YO mare and Gelding class and Ruby placed reserve in the Youth Trail



Pleasure class and the Championship. Larry and Brenda were also pleased that She's All Mine did so

well. It was her first year to show. Olivia won Equitation and the Youth Water Glass class with her and placed well in her other classes as did Charlie. That brings us to Black Market Diamond. He was able to rise to the occasion and do great things winning the Country Trail Gelding Championship, Western Grand Championship, and the Country Trail Grand Championship! In addition, he won the Rea Swan Versatility Award and the Sam Tuttle Me-



morial Award. If there was ever a horse that spoke for himself, it is Black Market Diamond! Congratulations to Steve and Susan! Other horses and exhibitors from SRF who won Special Awards at the International include Ruby who won



works hard at the International, there is a lot of fun too. Melisse and Ann put 100% of their effort into the costume class each year. That may be why they have won four years in a row!



*Hoping that your
year is filled
with
good fortune
& grand adventures!
**Happy
New Year***

the Sara Gwisdalla Versatility Award and WOF's Wind Commander who won the High Money Horse Saddle. Congratulations Ann! Even though everyone



works hard at the International, there is a lot of fun too. Melisse and Ann put 100% of their effort into the costume class each year. That may be why they have won four years in a row!

It is impossible to say how appreciative we are for the help from everyone! Mary Kelley, Cole, Ruby, and Olivia washed horses, cleaned stalls and so much more. Mary Kelley and Charlie kept things moving. Mary K., Donnie, clients and friends who came, thank you! Folks helped decorate.

*May 2024 be filled with joy,
laughter, and success for family and
friends. . . Happy New Year!*

They brought food and joy. We work together and we're a family! So much work (97 classes) but so much fun! Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! When the International was over, Several of "our people" went trail riding. Julie B. and Leah went to Cave Run, Julie Tucker also took River out on the trails with friends. Charlie and Ruby completed another Virtual Trail Obstacle competition. In late September, Steve and Susan lost their sweet mare,

Sundown Special. She was one of the last living Kilburn Chocolate Sundown grand daughters. She had several nice foals while she was here at SRF. We sure will miss this beautiful girl. **October** put on a fantastic display of color this year. With the end of the show season for us, many horses were turned out to just enjoy being a horse. Olivia suffered a break in her ankle and had to wear a boot for several weeks. Fortunately, she was able to ride when six of us went to Wilderness Resorts in the Big South Fork area. Melisse, Mary Kelley, Leah, Julie T., Bob and I had a great time. They rode 16 miles the first day and nine on the second. I stayed back in the cabin and enjoyed being in the woods and reading. Everyone brought food and games. It was a blast! In **November**, all the information was sent in the KHBIF for our trail obstacle competitions, and Award of Excellence for Ruby and Olivia were sent in. We'll be looking forward to those announcements on February 1st at the RMHA Awards Banquet. Charlie started five new coming three year olds - Sunshine (for Karen and Jeff Royer), Aladdin (for Rob and Diana Hastings), Maverick (for Julie and Bobby Tucker), Gin (for Larry and Brenda Watson), and Bonnie (Steve and Susan Heuslein). So we have enjoyed watching them



learn. He also had a clinic here at the farm. Kristen Miller bought Blue Mountain Girl and later she and her husband came back and bought Chicago Blues. They are having great adventures together. We celebrated Thanksgiving with families, shopped on Black Friday, and cyber Monday. It seemed that Thanksgiving was a little late this year but we jumped in on our decorating and suddenly it was **December**. Ruby rode Pepper along with her friend, Shelby and her Quarter horse, in the Bourbon County Christmas Parade again. Everyone had a great time and Pepper just did the best! he RMHA announced the High Point Awards but not before the newsletter went out so they are posted on the last page of this newsletter. We had a Christmas get together here at the house. Friends gathered for tacos and deserts that were brought by friends. We had over 25 folks to come and, we thoroughly enjoyed it. Erin continued her circuit of festivals and had a very successful fall. The DeAtley family all went to Mustard Seed Hill in Millersburg one night. It is a great holiday venue and is simply beautiful at Christmas time.



As we look back over the year, a lot of what is in the newsletter is about the wins and how the horses have excelled. Certainly, that is cause for celebration. However, we also need to look at how much WE have all grown and what we've accomplished in our lives and in our horsemanship. It has been wonderful to see clients gain confidence and make strong connections.

Thank you,
thank you, thank you
for another wonderful year!



Looking Forward to a New Year in 2025

Important Dates

- Jan. 1** - New Years Day
- Jan. 18** - RMHA Board Mtg.
- Jan. 15** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb. 1** - RMHA Membership meeting and Awards Banquet
- Feb. 14** - Valentine's Day
- April 26** - RMHA Youth Show in Lee County
- Nov 9** - 10 RMHA Show in Waco, TX
- March 28 - 29** OGB RMHA "B" Horse Show in Baker, FL
- May - 10 - 11** RMHA, Peruvian Horse Show, World Equestrian Center, Ocala, FL

Prayers Please

While we are forever thankful for God's many blessings, there are times when we need to ask for strength and healing. I talked with Kristen Santos earlier in the week. We have had a long relationship. She bought her first horse from us about 15 years ago after spending a week learning about the Rocky Mountain breed. Kirsten had suffered from polio as a child so she did have some special requirements when it came to riding. After several great years with Shadow, Kirsten realized she needed a different home for him. So Shadow became Ruby's horse. Kirsten missed him terribly but was glad he came "home" to Ruby. She showed him for a couple of years and

this past he was one of her virtual trail obstacle horses and the horse Bob uses for lessons. Kirsten and her husband Rogerio moved to Brazil, his homeland, after he retired back in June. They had dreamed of this move and prepared for it for some time. Sadly, Rogerio has become very ill with Stage 4 cancer. They are glad to be surrounded by family but Rogerio will not be with us much longer. Please pray for these two dear folks. Pray, if you will, for Rogerio's needs to be met during his final days and that the Lord will strengthen Kirsten as she cares for him. My heart just aches for them. Please continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones. Sometimes the holidays are hard for them. I lost my Aunt Jill Fugate (my mother's sister) a few days ago. She and my Uncle Leonard have been having a hard time of it. They have been in a nursing home for awhile. I am thankful for Arizona Roberts who has been undergoing chemo treatments for cancer. She just finished up her sequence on Dec. 24th and went for scans. Praise the Lord, her tumor was GONE. We are so thankful for this miracle!

We all have many needs. Please pray for us all in this New Year. Pray for our youth. Pray for the economy. The world can be a scary place. Let us have faith that God will put his hedge of protection around us and He will shine his light on our path and keep us safe.



Happy New Year!!!



RMHA Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet

*You are cordially
invited to the
Rocky Mountain Horse
Association
Membership
and the
High Point Awards
Banquet*

*February 1, 2025
(time to be announced)
DoubleTree Hilton
2601 Richmond Rd.,*

SRF Versatility Awards

High Point Youth Versatility
Ruby DeAtley
and
WOF's Wind Commander
Bronze



RMHA High Points



Trainer of the Year Charlie DeAtley



Youth of the Year Ruby DeAtley

Western Pleasure

1st Place Black Market Diamond
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners
2nd Place Wind Commander
Ann Day, Owner

Country Trail Pleasure

Stallions Country Trail
1st Place Black Market Diamond
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners

Mares Country Trail
2nd Place She's All Mine
Brenda & Larry Watson, Owners

Geldings Country Trail
1st Place Wind Commander
Ann Day, Owner

Youth Country Trail
2nd Place Ruby DeAtley
3rd Place Olivia Warner

Youth Country Trail
Championship
2nd Place Olivia Warner
3rd Place Ruby DeAtley

Country Trail Championship
1st Place Black Market Diamond
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners

Trail Pleasure

Stallions Trail Pleasure
2nd Place Red River Diamond
Julie Tucker, Owner

Mares Trail Pleasure
2nd Place Chicago Blues
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners

Geldings Trail Pleasure
1st Place B&T's Slamma Jamma
Brenda & Larry Watson, Owners

3-Year-Old Trail Pleasure
1st Place After Hours
Julie Brown, Owner

Youth Trail Pleasure
1st Place Olivia Warner
2nd Place Ruby DeAtley

Ladies Trail Pleasure
1st Place Mary Kelley Tucker

Men's Trail Pleasure
1st Place Charlie DeAtley

Youth Trail Pleasure
Championship
1st Place Olivia Warner
2nd Place Ruby DeAtley

Trail Pleasure
Championship
2nd Place B&T's Slamma Jamma
Brenda & Larry Watson, Owners
3rd Place Chicago Blues
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners

Show Pleasure

Mares Show Pleasure
3rd Place Sydney's Little Honey
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners

Geldings Show Pleasure
1st Place DHS's Diamond Broker
Melisse Sharkey, Owner

3-Year-Old Show
Pleasure
1st Place Silver's Diamond Dealer
Julie Tucker, Owner

Youth Show Pleasure
2nd Place Ruby DeAtley
5th Place Olivia Warner

Ladies Show Pleasure
3rd Place Melisse Sharkey

Amateur Show Pleasure
3rd Place Melisse Sharkey

Youth Show Pleasure
Championship
1st Place Ruby DeAtley

Show Pleasure
Championship
2nd Place PBF's Simon Barjonah
Steve & Susan Heuslein, Owners