



Course Brook now has a sign on Brush Hill Road!

# Course Brook Farm

Volume 15 Issue 8

December 1, 2015

## Open House

We had a great day for an open house on December 5<sup>th</sup>...

The farm looked fantastic as we opened our doors for our open house. Several people came by to watch lessons taught by Erika and Stephie and to tour the property. Attendees enjoyed hot beverages and delicious desserts.

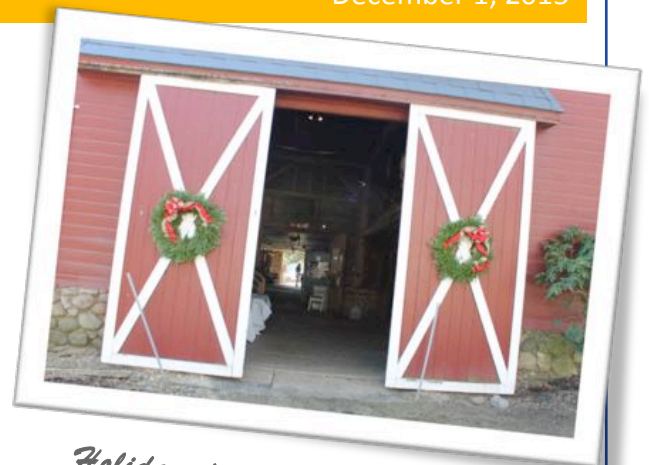
Erika taught a lesson in the indoor with Elizabeth Gill (Quizz), Madison Haney (Dublin) and Meredith Ehrenzeller (Lacey) as demo riders. Each pair took turns going over cavaletti and even did some cavaletti work without reins!

Stephie set up an exciting jump course outside which included serpentine and angles. Anna Speth

(Chance) and Taylor Freundlich

(Noodle) put on a great

performance, tackling each exercise with tenacity.



*Holiday decorations adorn the barns!*



## Newsletter Winter Hiatus:

We hope you have enjoyed hearing all our boarder news over the past 9 months. As we head into winter, the newsletter staff will take a break, rest their creative juices, and return with more great news in April!

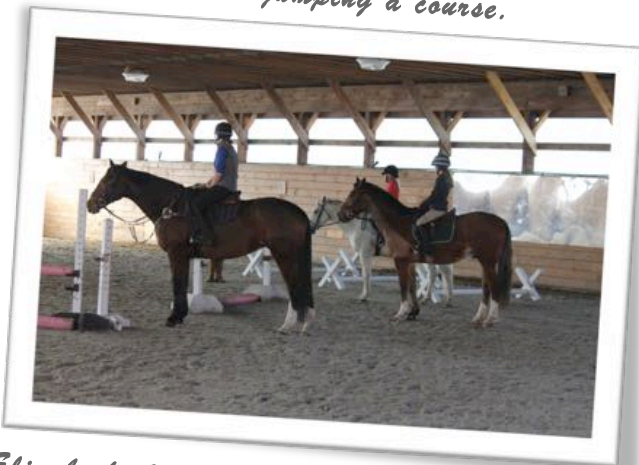
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We had a great turnout with several boarders and a few people who had never been to Course Brook stopping by to enjoy refreshments and take a tour.

Thank you to all the staff and boarders who helped make the farm look so fantastic!



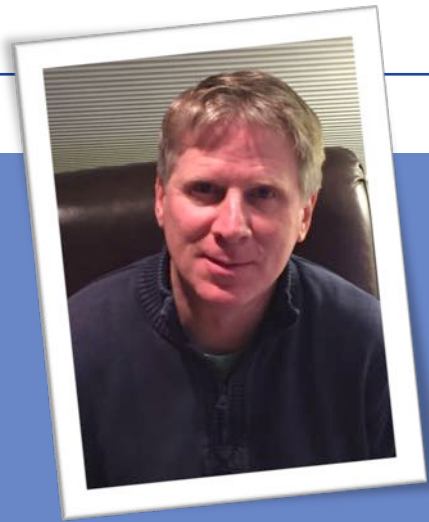
*Taylor and Noodle jumping a course.*



*Elizabeth, Maddie and Meredith awaiting instruction.*

## Holiday Party

Thank you Matt for hosting a wonderful party on December 12<sup>th</sup>! So many members of our barn community came and brought amazing food to share! We all look forward to Nici's mac'n'cheese, Stephanie's amazing salad dressing and Kristie's cheesecake. This year a few people participated in a secret santa gift exchange. A great time was had by all!



A very special thank you...

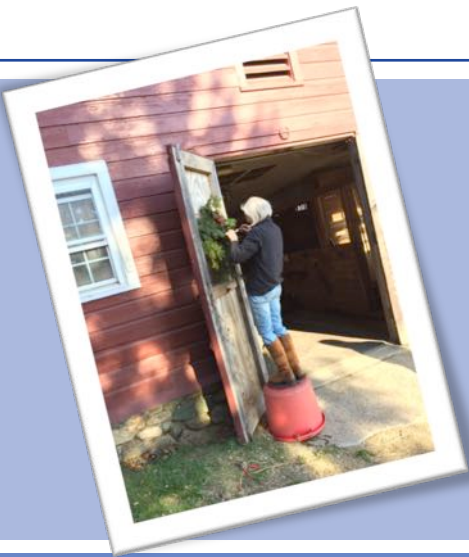
We would like to thank Doug Haney for his wonderful photos. Doug and his wife, Laura, have been active volunteers since joining Course Brook with their daughter, Madison and her horse, Dublin.

It is thanks to people like Doug and Abigail Klenk that we can share so many moments throughout the year with people in our newsletter and on Facebook.

Thank you, Doug!



*We had a great audience for Erika's lesson with Elizabeth, Maddie and Meredith!*

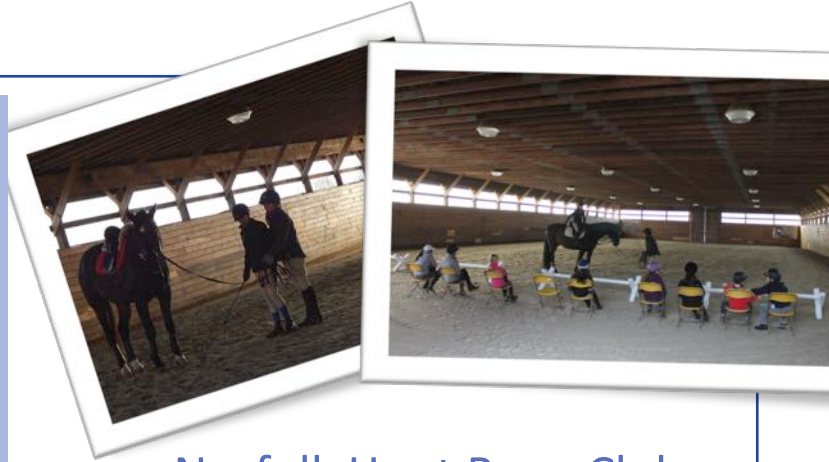


## Decking the Stalls

In preparation for the open house on December 5<sup>th</sup>, Kristie Gill, Sue McNally and Dacia Callen decorated the barn!

Dacia spent a day cutting greens on her property in Sudbury. Sue had a knack for making beautiful swags, incorporating some lovely, donated giant ornaments. Kristie used her skills to whip up a couple of wreaths with big bows for the front barn doors.

Dacia and Sue are not new to the beautification of Course Brook Farm. They spent countless hours helping Janet Sinclair decorate the jumps for both of our October Horse Trials.



## Norfolk Hunt Pony Club

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Course Brook hosted the final mounted meeting of the year for NHPC. Erika taught lunging skills at three different levels.

Boarders Anna Creonte, Meredith Ehrenzeller and Madison Haney participated in the first group during which Erika lunged riders on Jamie or Cherokee. This group learned about lunging equipment and benefits.

Boarders Carlie Cichocki and Elizabeth Gill had private lunging sessions with their horses as part of the second group of experienced lungers and in preparation for C level Pony Club certifications.

The final group learned how to lunge a horse and included past boarder Emma Stiller. Pogue expertly helped the last group learn lunging skills!

Thank you to Janet Mitchell and Jenn Harrison for sharing your wonderful horses with Pony Club for this meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about lunging, stay tuned! It is on the list of our newly formed social committee (see below) as a possible clinic option this winter!

## Course Brook Farm Social Committee

Winter can be long and gloomy here in New England but at a place like Course Brook, with so many fantastic people with whom to while away the time, winter need not be dreary!

This winter the farm will have a social committee planning frequent events such as lectures, group clinics and other activities. Sue McNally and Sara Michas will be chairing the committee. Let them know if you are interested in helping plan events and stay tuned for a schedule and more information!

Sue: [smcnally1@verizon.net](mailto:smcnally1@verizon.net)

Sara: [sarabmichas@gmail.com](mailto:sarabmichas@gmail.com)



## Boarder News

- Welcome Carlie Cichocki and Buddy!
- Welcome Sarah Molyneaux and Mystaire!
- Welcome to Emily Carr and Hemingway!
- Good luck to Noodle, Foxy, Kirby and Minga as they make the trip to Florida! Have fun in the sun and we can't wait to have you back in the spring!
- Talia, Taylor and Nici, we will miss you all!

## Rica Trujillo: Sheep Farmer and Cheesemaker

Many of you know Rica as Ginger's and Jazz's owner but you may not know that she recently expanded her animal to include horned Icelandic sheep. She started with 4 ewes in August ranging in age from 5 months to 8 years. After retiring in September, Rica got serious in October, bought a ram for her flock and put him to work in November. She's pretty sure he was good at his job and all 4 ewes are pregnant!

When the grass was growing, the daily routine was pretty simple since they were out on grass. Rica would clean the barn and change their water bucket daily. Every 5-6 days she would move the electric netting to rotate their pasture so they would have fresh grass to eat. A big concern with sheep is the barber pole parasite. Since Iceland doesn't have barber pole, the sheep lack any natural resistance, making the rotating of pasture key when they live on grass. Now that it's winter they live on a "dry lot" - no grass for them to eat so they get hay twice a day. They really look forward to their hay!

Icelandic sheep have really long fleece, which is preferred by hand spinners. Rica sheered them in early October after practicing on Jazz. "Let's just say that Jazz looked a lot better than the sheep after I was done with them!" Rica said after clipping. They will need to be sheered again in March before they lamb and Rica is thinking about hiring someone to do it since they will be fully pregnant at that time. The lambs should be born in mid-April.



Rica bought the goats to further her interest in making cheese. She hopes to make feta and pecorino which are traditional sheep cheeses. Sheep don't give as much milk as goats so she won't have much milk to practice with as she hones her cheesemaking skills. Among the cheese makers Rica has met, there are few who make cheese from sheep's milk, primarily because there is so little. However, the cheese community is very excited to have her among their number and can't wait to see how she does!

We're pretty excited about Rica's project as well and will keep you posted on her progress!



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