

# Happenings Around The Ranch !!

## MJ Rising H Ranch News

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### Late Summer/Fall 2006

Greetings to all

During a summer filled with record-breaking high temperatures and wildfires raging around us, we've been blessed with a full schedule of clinics, a waiting list of horses scheduled to come for training, and more requests than ever from people wanting to buy MJ Rising H Ranch-trained horses. God is Good!

*We have several new horses on the [Sale Horse](#) page and always have a few that haven't made it to the website yet. If you don't see one that fits your needs, give us a call and we will work to find one that will. Our goal is making long-term horse/owner matches with an eye on quality, not quantity.*

We are always profoundly grateful and extremely blessed with the huge success of our clinics! Thanks so much to all of you who have ridden in or audited our clinics, whether it was *Trail*, *Versatility Ranch Horse*, or *Stock Dog*. We continue to be impressed with your ongoing search for more knowledge as you strive to take your horsemanship skills to a higher level. We look forward to creating a long-term program aimed at the proficiency you seek for excellence on the trail, in the arena, or working around the ranch.

"Thanks" is not nearly a big enough word from us to our clinic hosts! You are the GREATEST! Your enthusiasm and commitment to our program keeps us keepin' on. Our 2007 clinic dates are filling fast so if you are interested in hosting a clinic in your area, please contact us for information on our *host benefit package* as well as available dates. For clinic information see [Schools/Lessons](#). For current photos of this summer's clinics and shows see [Ranch Photos](#).

On the subject of our clinics, we're excited to offer premier instruction at the 2006 Fall Oregon Mountain Trail Championships in Eugene. We will be offering *private and group lessons* on training for Mountain Trail competitions, horsemanship, and rider requests during the entire week following the first show. We will be available for *preparing and coaching riders* for your classes at both shows (to include all the Novice and Explorer classes). We are also offering *video consultation of your classes* from prior Mountain Trail shows, so bring those videos or DVDs and learn valuable tips for improving your runs. Plans are being finalized at this time, so keep checking our website for more details or call to get on our class, coaching, or video review lists. This is a great hands-on opportunity to

learn everything you want to know -- from the judges' perspectives on showmanship and horsemanship styles to inside tips and techniques for winning ways! For information on Oregon Mountain Trail Championships go to [www.oregonhorsecenter.com](http://www.oregonhorsecenter.com) and/or watch for the Oct. 2006 issue of *Western Horseman* for a good article by Fran Smith on this fun show (*including mentions of MJ Rising H Ranch*). Also see the [Ranch Photos](#) section of our website for updated pictures.

Our warm thanks also go to Fran Smith for the very fine profile she wrote about *MJ Rising H Ranch clinics and training program*, to also be featured in Oct. 2006 *Western Horseman*. What a nice surprise by a super nice lady! This article will also appear in our [News/Events](#) section after October 15, 2006.

Other clinic highlights include our week-long Trail Riders clinic at Deadwood Outfitters, on the edge of The River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho. With 16 terrific riders, awesome mountain settings, and incredible hospitality from hosts Tom and Dawn Carter, we wanted to stay for months instead of just one week! This is a "must go to" clinic for 2007 so check our schedule for the latest dates and plan to join us. See [www.deadwoodoutfitters.com](http://www.deadwoodoutfitters.com) for more information.



A big thanks to Jill Bridges, Lori VanTassel, Rygh Olson, Rena Olson and Jamie Headings for all their help at our Cowgirl Up! Retreat held at Cornucopia Lodge -- we couldn't have done it without you! It was a fun learning experience for 18 lady riders from California, Washington, Idaho, and several locations in Oregon. They enjoyed a smorgasbord of

instruction including cattle work, ranch roping styles, horsemanship, navigating difficult trail obstacles, evening entertainment, and day rides in the beautiful granite-peaked mountains near Halfway, OR. See [Ranch Photos](#) for more pictures or [Schools/Lessons](#) for detailed information on the retreats, and make your plans to attend in 2007!

We have been blessed so far this year with a successful show season, not only for ourselves but also for 15 of our students and their MJ Rising H Ranch-trained horses. The spring Oregon Mountain Trail Championships saw us bringing home Champion or Reserve Champion in all our divisions. Congratulations to our students and their horses -- Tammy Harty and Bunny, Dee Myers and Tucker, Marilyn Bunnell and Cruiser, and Jill Bors and Diesel -- who either won or placed in their divisions. You go girls!

The weekend of June 23-25, 2006 will be forever etched in our memories as "Marathon Moments"! Thursday evening we met student Tammy Harty in Elgin, OR for the First Annual Cowboy Trail Challenge ([www.losthorseranch.net](http://www.losthorseranch.net)). The Challenge is a cross between Craig Cameron's Extreme Cowboy Race and the Oregon Mountain Trail Championships. In just its first year, it's clear this event is slated to grow rapidly! The first round ended with JoLinn as Champion and Tammy as Reserve Champion in the women's division, and Mitch as Champion in the men's division. The top three women and top three men came back for the final round, which ended in time-only due to waning daylight. That round saw Mitch winning overall Champion.

We loaded in the dark and made it back to Baker City, OR about midnight. Got up early, met with the judges for our walk-through for the Mountain Trail Classics at Eastern Slope Ranch near Baker ([www.easternsloperanch.com](http://www.easternsloperanch.com)), then quickly loaded horses and headed a couple miles away to the OTEC Ranch Rodeo where Mitch, JoLinn, and students Tammy Harty and Paige Kochen showed in the working cow-horse class. Mitch captured Reserve Champ there. Then we loaded up, rushed back to the Trail Classics where we showed for two days and coached all 10 of our students. JoLinn won Open Champion and Bareback Champion; Mitch won Adult Champion; and all students either won or placed in their classes as well. Good job all! Needless to say, an exhausted crew headed home for a couple days of R&R



**Next up was the Bell-A Ranch's AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse in Burns, OR. Mitch won Overall Reserve Champion in the AQHA Division; JoLinn won Overall Champion in the All-Breed Division; and student Tammy Harty, showing in her first Versatility show, placed in several classes including Reserve Championships in Ranch Conformation and Ranch Trail. Our sympathy and "hard luck award" go to student Paige Kochen, whose horse Patrick got sick before the show and had to be pulled from competing. Just wait 'til next year!**

**While at the Bell-A Ranch we had the awesome opportunity the day before the show to further our skills under the instruction of world champion cow-horse trainer, Teddy Robinson. What an incredibly gifted man as a trainer and as a teacher. We just can't say enough good things about Teddy and his teaching style. Thanks again, Teddy!**

**Speaking of gifted horsemen and teachers, Mitch recently had the opportunity to accompany hackamore and bridle-horse clinician Mike Bridges (see Aug.2006 Western Horseman) to southern California where Mike was teaching a clinic series. During record high temperatures (118 one day!), Mitch was on hand to help Mike and learned a huge amount in the process. We continue to be greatly blessed by our friendship with the Bridges family: Mike, Jill, Roy and Justin.**

**Many exciting changes are in the works for our 2007 clinics and training programs, so be sure to watch for our Nov./Dec. annual newsletter. If you are not on our mailing list, please get your address to us so we don't miss you.**

**By now you've seen that the common threads throughout our summer have been "blessed" and "blessings". We continue to be grateful and blessed by our relationships with all of you. God Bless You All!**

*Come Ride With Us,*

*Call or Email Us --*

*Til we meet down the trail again*



**Mitch & JoLinn Hoover  
&  
The MJ Rising H Ranch Gang**