

# Newsletter



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## Falling Star Ranch

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## Highlights and Updates from the Falling Star Ranch

Spring is finally here after a long, cold, and snowy winter. It's been a long time since we've sent out the last newsletter, but that doesn't mean nothing has happened here at Falling Star Ranch. Just the opposite! 2008 was another busy, exciting and fun-filled year here at our ranch in Dunster. While the weather wasn't exactly co-operative during the summer and fall and rain was the order of the day, we still managed to pull off a few events. In June, Falling Star Ranch hosted a very successful three-day horsemanship and reining clinic with Chris

Irwin Gold Certified Trainer and Coach Trish Hyatt from Vancouver Island. At the end of July, we held our first-ever kids camp, and for three days participants from as far away as Jasper and Invermere learned a lot about horses, proper horsemanship and riding. In September, Birgit was invited to give a demonstration on equine body language during the Valemount Wagon and Saddle Club's family fun day. It was a great opportunity to show what we do here at Falling Star Ranch.



**Birgit doing a demo on equine body language at the Valemount Wagon and Saddle Club's family fun day.**

Thank you all for a successful 2008 and we hope to see you all again this year.

## Falling Star Ranch has many exciting events planned for 2009

### Kids Camp

After a very successful first-ever kids camp, Falling Star Ranch is planning to hold one or two horse day camps for kids during the 2009 summer break.



**Kids camp at Falling Star Ranch in Dunster**

### Horsemanship and Reining Clinic

Trish Hyatt, a Chris Irwin Gold Certified Trainer and Coach, will be coaching another horsemanship and reining clinic at the Falling Star Ranch, June 6-8.



**Trish Hyatt coaching Pat during a horsemanship and reining clinic**

Besides regular riding lessons, Birgit is also planning on holding horsemanship clinics, workshops and demos on various topics. If there is anything in particular you would like to see, please email us at [fallingstar@valemount.com](mailto:fallingstar@valemount.com). Check our website at [www.fallingstarranch.ca](http://www.fallingstarranch.ca) for dates and info on upcoming events or to register. Birgit is also accepting horses for training starting in May. Please call or email for more information.

**A HORSE'S PRAYER**

Feed me, give me water and care for me,  
 And when the day's work is done, give me shelter,  
 A clean bed and a wide stall.  
 Talk to me – your voice often substitutes for the reins for me.

Be good to me and I will serve you cheerfully and love you.

Don't jerk the reins; don't raise the whip;  
 Don't beat and kick me when I don't understand you.  
 But rather give me time to understand you.

Don't consider it disobedience if I don't follow your commands.  
 Perhaps there is a problem with my saddle and bridle or hooves.

Check my teeth if I don't eat, maybe I have a toothache.  
 You know how that hurts.  
 Don't halter me too short and don't dock my tail;  
 It's my only weapon against flies and mosquitoes.

And at the end, dear master,  
 When I am no longer any use to you, don't let me starve.

But rather be kind  
 And provide me with a quick and merciful death  
 And your God will reward you for it here and in the hereafter.

Let me request this of you  
 And don't regard it as disrespectful  
 If I ask it in the name of Him  
 Who was born in a stable like me.  
 Amen

**Author Unknown**

**Feature Horse - FS Firewater, Barn Name Shooter**

FS Firewater (barn name Shooter) is our newest herd member. Shooter is a registered part-bred Arabian colt.



**Marc visits with Shooter**

Shooter was born on June 28, 2008 to our red dun quarter horse mare MoJo. His daddy is our beautiful bay Arabian stallion EA Shades of Fire.



Shooter was born on a hot summer morning on a lush green pasture. Pat, one of our volunteers, was the first one "at the scene". She had missed the birth by minutes and even got to help Shooter out of the sac.

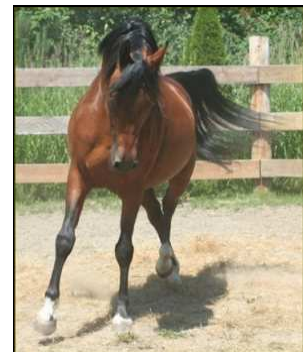
Shooter is MoJo's third baby, and the second one by Fire.



We are once again very pleased with the cross and are looking forward to the first foal out of our blue roan quarter horse mare Blue in May.



Shooter is offered for sale at \$1,200 before April 30. Afterwards price to increase to \$1,500 (includes gelding).



**Shooter's sire EA Shades of Fire**

Fire is standing to outside mares this year. For info please visit our website.

**DO YOU KNOW A HORSE'S VITALS?**

**Body temperature:** 37.5-38.5° Celsius at rest (higher after exercise, in the afternoon, in young horses, after a large feeding or if the horse is stressed; a horse in shock will have a lower than normal body temperature)

**Respiration rate:** 8-16 breaths/minute at rest

**Pulse rate:** 32-40 beats/minute at rest (exercise, eating, stress and excitement will increase the pulse; foals from birth to two weeks: 100 beats/minute; foals up to one year: 55 beats/minute; stallions: 28-36 beats/minute)

## Horseshoeing and Hoof-Care Seminar

Gary Schwartz Farrier Service and The Farm Store are sponsoring a free two-day hoof-care and shoeing workshop.

The workshop will cover fundamentals of trimming and shoeing, the effects of trimming and shoeing on the horse's foot, and what a proper trimming and shoeing job should look like.

The workshop will be taught by Edmonton farrier Jason Wrubleski.

Wrubleski received his training at Olds College in Alberta and has been a farrier for ten years. He runs a successful farrier business with two employees in the Edmonton area. Wrubleski is also the vice president of the Western Canadian Farriers Association, an American Farriers Association Certified Journeyman Farrier, was a member of the Canadian Farriers team in 2007, and is a clinic farrier at vet a clinic in Edmonton.

**The workshop will be held at the Gibson farm in Dunster on March 27 and 28 from 10am to 4pm.**

Please bring a lunch. Coffee provided.

**For more info contact Gary at 250-569-3319.**



## Volunteers A Big Part Of Falling Star Ranch

Volunteers are a big part of Falling Star Ranch, and last year we hosted several volunteers from Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Holland.



Pat from Switzerland riding Fire



Bianca from Holland with Shooter



Corinna from Germany biking



Marina from Austria jumping Sam



Marcia from Holland with Bandit



Urs from Switzerland harrowing



Susanne from Switzerland riding Cody



Tom from Switzerland on Machlon



Bianca and Corinna trail riding