

Happy New Year

Stoner Ridge Farm

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The Best of 2021

January 1, 2022

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Reflections from Charlie

I know I don't have to point out the fact that 2021 was anything but normal. However, through all of the strangeness that was 2021 there are plenty of things to be grateful for. In the spring Erin and I were able to buy a home and farm very near to where I was raised. A big portion of my family, as far back as my great grandparents raised their families on that same road. Now I have been given the opportunity to share it with Erin, Ruby and my nieces and nephews. It's great to be back home. Moving during show season is no small task and the amount of help and support we received during that time was amazing.

Around the barn we were fortunate to work a great group of horses this past year. We also had the chance to sell some nice horses along the way, that will represent the breed well in their new homes. In the show ring, we introduced some young horses to their first season and also enjoyed some seasoned horses. Then in September as most of you know, Erin, Ruby and I all had covid - just in time for the International Show. This was an experience that I won't soon forget. The out pouring of concern and support that my family

received was phenomenal. My crew here at the barn pulled together and worked their tails off for me and our clients. I even pulled Bob out of retirement and always appreciate his help and experience. The attitudes of my clients and their willingness to adapt and support us during that time was beyond amazing and greatly appreciated. It only proves something that I've always known, SRF definitely has the best Clients and Crew, in the industry.

Thank you all for a great 2021. We're looking forward to what 2022 brings.

~ Charlie



January of 2021 came in like a lion with cold, bitter winds. Horses had to have ice broken in their water troughs and given extra portions of hay. They were ridden less on



the most bitter days but even did more ground work when it was frigid.

While we were safe and warm at home, gathering groups together continued to be restricted due to covid. Many schools were virtual but they began gradually phasing children away from their Chromebooks back into classrooms by the end of the month. Zoom continued to be the primary meeting place rather than in person gatherings. Going into 2021 none of us imagined that we would see so many variants, or that we would be having our fourth surge in January of 2022! Even in the midst of the pandemic, the good Lord has held us firmly in the palm of His hand and life, as we know it, has continued here on the farm. The barn continued to be a source of refuge and stability. Charlie trained horses, Bob gave lessons, I completed newsletters and sent out the invoices. Ruby went to school. Erin continued working with her yarn in hopes of festivals to come. The rhythm of life continued. Planning began for the show season. The Kentucky Horse Park was reserved for the International. The Judging Clinic was scheduled with the hope that we would have more opportunity to show in 2021. Charlie also

began to bring horses up from the big field to put back in training. In **February**, the weather was even colder and more challenging. We had freezing rain and several inches of snow on top of all the ice. The electricity was off for a couple of days! Even so, training continued. The RMHA Awards Banquet ended up being held virtually on February 20th. We all viewed High Point

CONGRATULATIONS to

WOF Wind Commander / Ann Day
First Place
Geldings Trail Pleasure High Point Award



award winners on our devices instead of having the event. Julie Tucker did an outstanding job putting everything together with pictures and text. Julie Brown's Axel and Julie Tucker's Angel were added to Charlie's schedule for training. More horses came up from the big field for training. Additional shows were added to the calendar and suddenly it was **March**. We continued to have record setting weather, but this month was much warmer than usual. There was flooding across eastern KY then it got up in the 60's! Unfortunately, winter wasn't quite finished with us yet and we had even more cold weather. Ann and Melisse brought WOF and Broker to get them tuned up for

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



happy
NEW
Year!

Remembering (con't)

the show ring. Mary K. brought her handsome Dandy for a little tune up. Charlie also received JoAnn Green's pretty grullo, Lilly, for training. Barbara Hopper continued to come for lessons on Stormy and Silver . . . that is until she bought her sweet mare, Mindy. Those two were simply meant to be together. We had lots of visitors during the month. Nancy came to check on her boy. Kelsey and Sarah came to check on her Charlie, and Teddy, before their trip to West Virginia. We

also enjoyed the company of Kirstin and Rogerio who brought their beloved Shadow to Ruby. The Judge's Clinic was held at SRF on the 27th with many auditors and judge candidates in attendance. We celebrated Easter at church and with our extended family. It seemed covid was in decline. Before we even realized it, **April** was upon us. The weather began to get warmer and we were looking forward to show season. Charlie also continued to work with Tim and Marcia's filly, Chicka, as well as Leslie's colt Trooper and switched him out for her gelding, Magnus. Steve and Susan's filly, Sierra, was also doing great. Silver, Simon, Merry Go Blue, and Jim had breeding opportunities. We got Blueberry bred as well as Sydney. It is exciting to look forward to a couple of new foals in 2022. We were also excited for Charlie and Erin since they decided to purchase a new home and 50 acres in Bourbon County. In **May** we had our first show of the season in Lee County. It was also Ruby's first show with Shadow and they won both their classes! It was also Sierra's and Angel's first show ever and they both won! We congratulated



Julie Brown and Axel on their Amateur Show Pleasure win also. Our second show of the season was the Sharon Copher Memorial in Owingsville where Jim won his western class with Charlie. WOF came in a close second with Mary Kelley. All the horses made solid rides but the highlight of the evening was Simon's Show Pleasure Championship win. He was awesome. Charlie and Erin closed on their Buffalo Trace property and started packing for their move to Youngs Mill. In May we also had a health emergency with Jazzy. She had a terrible infection that was resolved after a week at the Woodford Clinic. We were all so thankful that she was going to be ok. In **June** Janet Berkin brought her filly, Sarah (One Chance Fancy x Gold Nugget) to work with Bob for a few days. On the 5th, we hosted the RMHA Youth Clinic here at the farm. It included Liberty Training, Trail Obstacle, and rail work. In addition there



was an equine dentist and chiropractor who explained the value of these services to the youth. It was a great day! The second week of June found SRF at the Bluegrass RMHA Showcase in West Liberty, KY. Angel, owned by Julie Tucker, had a great show winning the Men's CTP with Charlie, the Amateur CTP and Ladies CTP with Julie T., then Charlie placed reserve with her in the Championship! What a great night for Angel and Julie! Axel was reserve in his Amateur class with Julie B. and in the Show Pleasure M/G class with MK. Likewise, Simon was reserve in

his Stallion class and in the Championship. Marietta was reserve in the M/G Trail and 5th in the Championship. It was a great night to show horses!

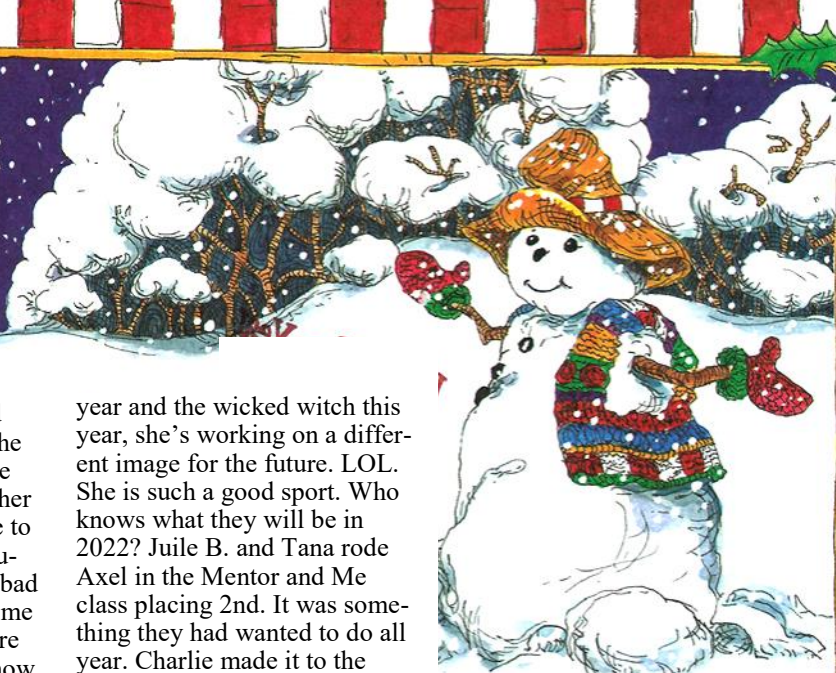
Then Charlie and Erin moved to their new home. So many people came to help! We are truly blessed. The next weekend it was showtime again. SRF traveled to Harrodsburg for the Saddle Up for a Cause Shows which were a benefit for Andrea and Keith Kirkpatrick. Kirstin and Rogerio were able to join us from Atlanta. It was great to have them. JoAnn also joined us to see her filly, Lilly show for the first time. She received a 1st, 2nd, and two 5ths! Ann showed WOF and received a 1st place in the Novice Trail class. Steve and Susan were able to join us as well. Steve made some great rides winning with Marietta! Justin showed Broker for the first time winning both his classes! Melisse also won one of her classes with him. Ruby also did well with Shadow placing 3rd in CTP 12-17, in western, and in the Championship. We were thrilled with Simon's Show Pleasure win and Axel's 3rd in such hot competition. Later that week, Page lost her father on the 21st. Our hearts are sad for her and her family. We continue to lift them up in prayer.

July brought several horse shows including the Lee County Youth Classic where we had a very wet but a very good time.



Simon, Jazz Master, Marietta, and Broker all had first place wins. Shadow, Angel, Jim, and WOF all had a 2nd. Next was the Gaited Gala. The horses all did so well once again. Angel had three 1sts, WOF had two 2nds, Axel had two 2nds, Broker had two 2nds and a 3rd, Jim had two 2nds, and Marietta had a 2nd. Finally, we went to the Tollesboro Show. Shadow and Ruby did great winning both their classes. WOF and Sierra won, Simon had a couple of 2nds, and everyone else placed as well. There were sad times in July as well. Don Copland lost his brother and Page lost her grandmother. The city of Carlisle had massive flooding resulting in over a million dollars worth of damage. Ruby didn't go show in order to help her track team provide help to her community. Through it all, we pray and give thanks for the blessings we do have. In **August** planning was well under way for the International. We were getting excited to go back to the Kentucky Horse Park. We went to the Mountain Horse Celebration and the Red Neck Barn/Bill Corey Memorial where the horses were awesome! We were excited that the Get Your Pink on Show was coming up. Sadly, though, the morning we were to head out to Owingsville, Erin was sick. Plans quickly changed. Everyone jumped in to help so the horses could be shown. Charlie, Ruby and I decided it would be best if we didn't attend due to the possibility of

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



exposing others to Covid should that be what was going on with Erin. As you know, she did test positive so it was good we stayed home. In a few days, Charlie and Ruby began showing signs of being sick and tested positive as well. Again plans changed had to be changed for the upcoming International.



On **September 7**, the Stoner Ridge Farm crew moved horses to the Kentucky Horse Park for the 33rd annual International Show. It was a much different move-in day since Charlie and his family couldn't attend until they were well and their quarantine was over at the end of the week. Cole, McKayla, Page, and Mary Kelley did everything it took to make the show happen. Bob came out of retirement to help show conformation and western as well as helping in other ways. Charlie had talked to clients about what changes he thought would be best. They were all so kind and supportive. Everyone said whatever worked out best for him was ok. Since Ruby was sick too, they did make the decision to leave Shadow at home. All the other horses that had been showing were able to come. Justin Sharkey's soccer games were canceled so he was able to come. We embraced the theme "Horses and Heroes" in our decorating and so appreciated Donnie and Mary K. coming to help us get set up. The stalls looked amazing.

Kirstin and Rogerio had planned to come but with the increased positivity rate, we advised them to come another time when it was more safe to be in a crowd. Steve and Susan's horse, Nugget, had a bad abscess so Susan stayed home to take care of him. We sure missed these folks at the show.

Suddenly, Wednesday morning was upon us. Bob and Mary Kelley headed for the ring. Jim and Sierra won their Conformation classes! Jim went on to win his Conformation Championship and then he placed 3rd in the Grand Championship Conformation class.



McKayla had a great show. She really did a wonderful job with Marietta placing 3rd in the Mares Trail Championship and 4th in the Grand Championship. She also placed 1st with the Sierra in the CTP 3 yo Championship. Mary Kelley did an awesome job in her conformation classes and with Sierra, Jazz Master and WOF as well as with Lilly placed well in all their classes. Melisse won the Novice Show Pleasure class with Broker and Justin placed in both his classes with him. Melisse and Ann came up with a cool idea for the costume class - The Wizard of Oz. It was great and was so much fun! Justin, Julie B. and Shelby all dressed up. They ended up winning 1st place! It was awesome. Ann vowed that she isn't going to be green next year. After being Shrek last



year and the wicked witch this year, she's working on a different image for the future. LOL. She is such a good sport. Who knows what they will be in 2022? Juile B. and Tana rode Axel in the Mentor and Me class placing 2nd. It was something they had wanted to do all year. Charlie made it to the KHP on Friday to show Jim and Simon in the Championships. Ruby had hoped to show as well but just wasn't up to it. This crew right here, sure stepped it up that week. We couldn't have asked for people with a better work ethic or a better attitude than what we had. Clients and friends all jumped in to help in so many ways. Julie Tucker had her plate full as the ISC chair but she still made time to bring hamburger casserole to us and help in many other ways. Ann and Melisse brought food on several occasions. Donnie and Mary K joined us during the show and then came back to help us tear down our decorations. In ways it was a really tough week. We missed Charlie and his family but it was also a good week. The horses performed well and demonstrated great training. Friends were so helpful and so caring during a challenging time. We left with more hope for the future thankful for wonderful horses and fantastic people who love them. **October** put on a beautiful display of color and new opportunities for folks at SRF.



*And now we
welcome
the new year.
Full
of things
that have
never been.*

~ George Elliot

Charlie and Ruby joined Dolly Pierson to represent the RMHA at Equitana USA held at the Kentucky Horse Park from the 1st - 3rd. Under the direction of Julie Tucker they demonstrated the Rockies way of going. Charlie rode Marietta, Ruby was on Pepper, and Dolly had Heart. Julie was their announcer and pit crew. I was able to help Julie some in the booth and talk to a few folks about the RMH. While the crowd wasn't large it did provide an opportunity to share our gaited horses. Also in October, Charlie started several young horses and we welcomed some new clients as well. The next weekend Bob and I made a quick trip to Murfreesboro, TN to take Erin and Ruby to SAFF, an important fiber festival. Erin's vehicle was in the shop and we kept thinking the work would be done but no. Oh well, it did give us a chance for a short time away. The following weekend found us at As-

bury University for our first E.T.S. competition. With all the sickness, Charlie hadn't been able to get the trail obstacle horses qualified for the KHBIF Trail Program. Sierra, WOF, and Jazz Master did well. Barbara and Leslie also had great performances on their horses. **November** arrived with the SRF crew busier than usual. Charlie held a Trail Obstacle Clinic on the 19th. There were 5 folks who brought horses as well as several auditors. Folks helped out by bringing soup, sandwiches, cookies, and brownies. It was great to see how willing people are to help. Everyone had a good time and learned a lot. Charlie hopes to have more clinics in the future. Sweet Jazz Master was sold and went to a new home. We sure will miss him! In **December**, Charlie continued work with the young horses and enjoyed visits from their owners. Christmas was celebrated with family giving thanks for Christ's birth and the loved ones we hold dear.

Looking Forward to a New Year in 2022

Dreams and goals are before us. So much of what we do depends on what we really want or need in our lives. The New Year is the time we look back and look forward. Our horses are such a huge part of our lives. There are so many choices about how to enjoy them. SRF has always been dedicated to helping our clients help their horses to the fullest extent possible. As you ponder, dream, and set goals for 2022, reach out to the folks at SRF. We love making good things happen! Blessings to all! May you all have a happy and prosperous New Year!

Important Dates

Jan. 1 - New Years Day
Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 22 - RMHA Board Mtg.
Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day
An in person RMHA Awards Banquet as well as a virtual presentation is planned. The date will be announced soon. The festivities will be held at the RMHA new office location at the Bluegrass Stock Yards in Lexington, KY.

 The Rocky Mountain Horse Association would like to announce...



New location:
 4651 Ironworks Pike, Ste 156
 Lexington, KY

at the Bluegrass Stockyards

Seeking the Positive

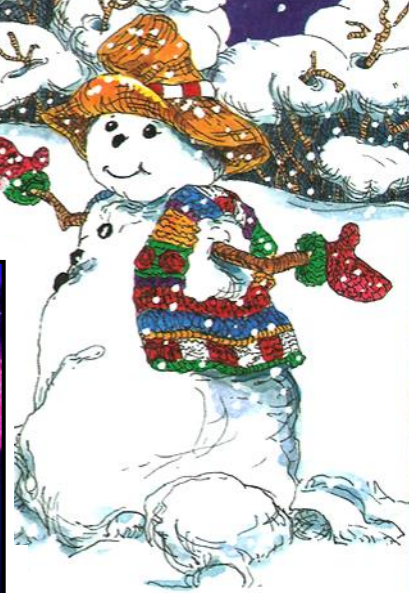
2021 has been a year that we will never forget. There have been trying times, sadness, disappointment and fears. Even so the year has taught us that God's plan is always best and how important it is for us to trust Him. We have learned to savor every moment with family. We have learned patience and resiliency. We have come to appreciate quiet times at home and the continuity of life on the farm as we care for the horses here. Even when it's hard, we must stay positive for we are truly blessed.

If you need a little help, Maggie Smith provides positive quotes and essays about new beginnings and how they are opportunities for transformation. It's as true this year as it was last. Here is just a sampling of what you will find in



her book, *Keep Moving*, in case you need an extra dose of positivity:

- Get back up. Dust yourself off. Remember that you're playing the long game, and trust that over time, the good days will outnumber the bad. Do what you can to make this day more livable than yesterday.
- You can think about the past, casting your mind back, or think about the future, casting your mind forward, but you live here, in the present. Keep your mind here the best you can today.
- Be brave enough to ask for help when you need it. There is no merit badge for Doing All the Hard Things Alone. Reach out.
- Stop focusing on what is behind you. It's growing smaller and smaller, miniaturizing in the distance; stop squinting at it, as if it has answers. Today, keep your eyes on where you are going, not where you have been.
- Your life is your own, and your work is your own, and those things can be anything you want them to be. It is up to you.
- Let go of the idea that things could have happened differently as if this life is a Choose Your Own Adventure book and you simply



turned to the wrong page. You did the best you could with what you knew-and felt-at the time. Now do better, knowing more. Keep moving.

As we look forward to 2022, we are thankful for the Lord's blessings. May we ever listen attentively and follow the light that is shining upon our path.

Happy New Year!!!

Lyngle

A Footnote from Charlie

We are still trying to get settled in at the new farm. At the time that we bought the new place, lumber was at an all time high, so we decided to hold off on any plans to build a barn. We may end up running some cattle on it for now. Sometime in the future, my goal would be to build a barn and have my training operation at home. As for now, nothing will change for us at SRF.



2022
 Happy New Year

