



Sugar Hill Spotlight



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Hi!

I don't know where to begin to tell you about the fabulous month of August here at the farm. It began a bit quieter than usual because Zippity is no longer here shouting out the fact that it is meal time! She has been sent to a trainer for evaluation to determine if she is ready for a restart in performance training. Keep your fingers crossed because she likes to work.

Our newest employee got settled into her quarters and began work with zeal. Desiree has spent her first few weeks getting to know the mares and foals and is already having a positive impact on the foals learning process. Please be sure to introduce yourself to her at the first opportunity.

I departed for Canadian Nationals Competition shortly after. Though feeling a bit overwhelmed at first, the welcome was warm and I soon found myself caught up in the excitement. One never feels fully prepared to compete, especially in another new arena. But feeling sure that Jo would get me through safely allowed me some confidence and I was able to focus on mastering new skills that made my last minute lessons worth the effort.

Davis did SHF proud once again, taking home the Reserve National Championship Bronze trophy in addition to the rose garland and plaque! He will be shown at US Nationals in October. As in the past, you will be able to watch his class on the live feed from Tulsa. I will send info on that link next month.

Jo and I had only one class in which to compete and I wanted a clean performance. I went through the gate first and I had a blast! It was an adrenaline rush unlike any other I have experienced! It was not a perfect go by any means, but it

was clean and we got the job done. After the lineup and review by the judges, we were excused from the ring to await the decision for the Champion, Reserve and a lone Top Ten placing. There were six competitors, therefore just three of six would be used. Jo and I earned that third slot behind two more experienced riders. I was thrilled to find out that I placed second on one judges card and third on another card. Not too shabby for my 9th show class with Jo. Watching a video a little later, I realize how much work I have yet to do in order to make us better together. (Read that: I need to get much better, because Jo knows what he is doing!) But believe me, I look forward to each and every opportunity to work Jo in a lesson session because I always learn something new. I am so very fortunate to have found him and grateful to patient trainers who take time to help me get it right.

We've spent the past couple weeks saying good-bye to our departing, college bound, summer employees. I can only hope that Kait and Caitlin both learned valuable and useable information at SH and enjoyed their time with us. We enjoyed having them and wish them success at school this year. We will miss them.

The staff and I have enjoyed watching the foals grow while documenting their movement on video. We utilize Youtube to market the babies to trainers who perhaps cannot visit the farm to see them in person. So far they have been well-received and excitement is high for these exceptional fillies. You can see them too using the following links: type <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e67EDEIOxyc> For Barbie add e67EDEIOxyc
For Callie add IY2EVNEc-D0
For Ally add RMh4kR25j1Y
Enjoy!
Until next time, Betsy



Our Lesson Horses

It is with great pride that I begin to share with you background stories about our very special lesson horses.

Currently there are six trusty mounts. But before I mention them in order of seniority, I must go back and speak about Tu-Sann.

Though he is no longer with us, he was one of two that I consider the foundation of our lesson program.

Everyone started learning by riding Tu. He even put the staff through the process of being tested to see how good they were!

He was a seasoned show veteran, preferring the Western Pleasure discipline and he was known by many in the region.

He wasn't a big or tall horse, but what he taught you was immeasurable! You could not help but get better in the saddle with Tu-Sann underneath you!

Next month I will tell you about Pro-Dynamo.