



A R RANCH HORSE WHISPERS

Annual Holiday Edition

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The beginning of A R Ranch

So the big news this year is the opening of A R Ranch. Yup that's right. We moved from our 3 bedroom apartment onto a 23 acre ranch. The place isn't much to look at but it's a dream come true for us. We now have our horses right out the back door and plenty of room for riding.

The move came about when I lost my job in Nov. of '09. I posted an ad on Craigslist some time in March after I realized we were racking up a boarding bill that I was afraid would keep us buried in dept or cost us the horses.

A couple of weeks after the ad was placed I received an email stating this person had the perfect place for us. I called them and setup an appointment to come take a look. When I first arrived I about cringed. One look at the house and I was thinking "how am I going to convince BethAnne to move to this dump?" the place was a complete and

total mess. It's one of those places at first glance you think "I wouldn't let my dog live in that"!

To my surprise even after I described the place to BethAnne and told her to keep an open mind she was agreeable to the idea of making the move. Arrangements were made and the property management company approved our application. After a month of repairs when we came out to get the keys boy were we surprised. They did over \$3,000 worth of repairs

on the interior of the house and it looked perfect!

We took the first step in late April and moved the horses onto the property 2 weeks before our move-in date. On May 1st we made our move from the apartment to the ranch and have been extremely happy.

Around June we made arrangements for a friend of BethAnne's to board her horses here and what they pay in board pretty much pays for the feed bill for all 12 horses. Yup you heard right. I

have to take care of 12 horses on a daily basis. I wouldn't trade it for the world! It's a lot of work taking care of 12 horses and 2 goats but well worth it. Oh yeah, along with the corrals, storage sheds and what not we purchased that were already on the ranch we also got a couple of goats. The real amazing thing is the rent is less then \$100 more then we were paying for the apartment.



A R Ranch back door from the grooming stations

Additions to A R Ranch

Along with the move we also made some additions to the ranch. We rescued a couple of dogs from a craigslist ad. One of them was really old and we ended up having to put her down. We then purchased a registered black lab

puppy. So along with the horses, goats, guinea pigs and chinchilla we now have a couple of wonderful dogs as well. Besides, what's a ranch with out a couple of dogs? Chester (the rescue) and Ande (the lab) are right at

home and get lots of exercise running around the ranch. They're pretty good about staying on the property and not bothering the horses so I think we chose very well. We also added a female chinchilla and her huge cage.

Special points of interest:

- *David lost his job in Nov 2009*
- *We made a huge change for our family including the horses*
- *Horses are much happier on the ranch then they were at the boarding facility*
- *Had a wonderful home warming BBQ with all of BethAnne's co-workers*

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Daily Life on the Ranch

For those of you city folk who have no clue what ranch life is like here's a short explanation of what we do every day. My day starts at 5am every Mon-Fri. I get up and feed the horses. After that I have about 45 minutes or so to make lunch, relax a little and eat a breakfast if I choose before heading into town to work a full time job. After 8 hours or more when overtime is required I come home feed the horses, clean their stalls and fill their water buckets.

Feeding takes anywhere from 15 to 20 minutes or so depending on if we have to pull out a new bale of hay or we're working with one already opened.

Cleaning the stalls takes about 2 hours or more depending on the amount of manure generated that day which of course is also dependent on how much they've been fed. :)

Filling the water buckets is the easiest part of the day but takes a bit of time. Mostly all you have to do is stand there and hold the hose. Of course we're talking about filling up a roughly 30 gallon bucket that is probably close to half full and there are 11

of them to fill.

After all the animals are taken care of it's now around 8pm and guess what. I still have to make dinner. Our day usually ends around 9pm so that I can get 8 hours of rest. Of course that rarely happens because sometime in the middle of the night the dogs need to go outside to potty and even though BethAnne handles that it still wakes me up sometimes.



Sunset at A R Ranch

David Gets a new job

Well it took me around 6 months but I managed to land a part-time job.

I was hired by Family Health Centers of San Diego as a Print Technician/Driver.

My primary duties are printing out all the forms the clinics use on a daily basis. Funny thing is for the 1st month or so I worked part-time driving the route and making the deliveries to some of the

"The pay isn't what I'm used to making but it sure beats not getting anything"!

clinics and for the last 4 months of so I've been working full time making the deliveries.

I've had to cover for one of the drivers who injured his back and was put on light duty for several months and then was out a month on family issues.

I've only recently been able to actually do print shop duties and since I've been

putting in so many hours my part-time job has turned into a full-time job. My boss just needs to square things with HR and accounting to insure I'm properly compensated with benefits back dated to when I started putting in the 40 hour work weeks.

The pay isn't what I'm used to making but it sure beats not getting anything!

Gary stays a couple of days

Gary called me one day asking if we had a place for him for a couple of days. Seems they had a job here in San Diego for him and he wanted to stay with us to visit while he was here.

We cleaned up the spare room (was being used for storage) and got it all setup for him. I even setup a TV and DVD player for him.

He arrived Saturday afternoon and stayed through Tuesday leaving for home on

Wednesday. It was really great having him here and I'm glad we had the space for him. He worked nights on Monday and Tuesday so we took full advantage of Sunday and took him out on a trail ride.

He seemed to really like Cody so we paired them up for the ride. He did wonderful and Cody took good care of him. We didn't get to spend whole lot of time together



The three amigos, BethAnne, David and Gary

due to his short stay but it sure was good having him here for a few days and we visited in the evenings while I cleaned stalls. We hope things work out and he can come down and stay longer next time.



Mom and Dad come to visit

Thanksgiving turned out to be a wonderful family get together. Mom and Dad brought their trailer down and we put them on the RV pad with full hook-ups.

We all had a wonderful time while they were here. I cooked my first turkey for our first Thanksgiving in our new home and it was the first time we had mine and BethAnne's parents together in our home.

We took mom and dad out on a trail ride while they were here and they did great. We had mom ride Pearl and put dad on Cody. We seem to have match them up pretty well. Pearl did great with mom and Cody was wonderful with dad.

Mom spoiled the horses by giving them

carrots every morning and I think she made some new best friends. :) Dad help me out a lot during the week taking care of the horses and even helped clean stalls a couple of times. Of course I gave him the easy ones to clean.

It was really cool seeing their trailer parked on the RV pad every time I went out to the hay barn every morning and I know mom loved the view she had of our valley and the town below us.

We had a lot of fun with them here and hope they can come back soon and stay a little

longer next time. We're also hoping that we can get Gary and his family to some down with them sometime too and have a big family reunion type of deal. We look forward to seeing them again.



Wylene (Joyce), BethAnne, Larry and David getting ready to hit the trail.

Eddie starts learning to drive

So Eddie turned 16 this year. Wow where does the time go! As luck would have it with 23 acres to play on we actually have room for him to learn to drive.

So every chance we get we let him drive one of the rigs around the ranch. I let him use my truck to haul things to the dumpster and he uses BethAnne's rig to feed on the weekends.

"It's kind of neat watching him drive the rigs around the ranch"

He's doing quite well and has mentioned that the truck is easier to drive. I think it has to do with it's size compared to the Explorer. I've always found bigger rigs easier to handle.

It's a little scary knowing that in a short while he's going to need to work on getting his license and then we'll need to start looking for that 3rd vehicle.

I guess they all have to grow up some-time.

It's kind of neat though watching him drive the rigs around the ranch and I'm sure glad we have the room for him to practice.

The move

Well moving day finally arrived and we managed to move the entire apartment in one day. BethAnne's parents hired a moving company to handle the bulk of the load and they sure did a wonderful job. I only had to take one pickup load and that sure saved my back.

I hate moving but this time it was so worth it. I have never liked apartments and the quiet we have in the new home is so soothing.

So the movers show up and pretty much all I have to do is tell them what goes and what doesn't. The did everything! They loaded the rooms in order as much as possible and once the truck was full they headed out to the new home.

They even unloaded everything and put the boxes



Our New home the day we got the keys

and furniture where it was all supposed to go. Talk about lightening the stress load! I'm never moving again with out hiring a moving company.

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A R Ranch

That Ain't Right!

A R Ranch (Ain't Right Ranch) is the home of David Rogers, BethAnne Ackerman, Eddie Ackerman, Rainy, Pearl, Lovely, Sugar, Cody, Blue, Mohita, Pedro, Chester, Ande, Tickels, Laila, Mistletoe, Pumpkin, Jingle Bells, Jelly Bean, Draco and Xavier. I think that includes every one. :)

A R Ranch got it's name initially from mine and BethAnne's last names (Ackerman Rogers Ranch) but over the course of the few months we've been here a common saying around here seems to be "that just ain't right" or "that ain't right!" Thus the new name of Ain't Right Ranch.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thanksgiving was da bomb!

So we decided since mom and dad were coming down to visit we'd have Thanksgiving in our new home.

Now mind you this is the first time I've ever cooked a turkey and I had no idea what I was going to do.

About a week or so before mom and dad arrive I get some junk mail that just happens to include a recipe for turkey. I'm like hey why not. So I make a list of the ingredients I don't have and mom and dad go shopping.

The day before Thanksgiving dad and I get the bird out of the refrigerator and start getting it ready. We rub 2 cups of kosher salt all over and inside the turkey, put it in a plastic bag and place the bag in a large pot. We then fill the bag with enough water to completely cover the turkey and I tie the lid on to keep the animals out. We put the pot in the coldest room of the house (the main bathroom) and hope for the best.

Thanksgiving day dad and I get the turkey out and rinse it off as best we can and

stuff it with some baby carrots, celery and an onion. We then put the bird breast side down in an electric roaster mom and dad bought me at Wal Mart. After about 2 hours of roasting we turn the bird over and roast it for another hour and a half or



so.

During the roasting I also basted the turkey every 20 minutes. Mom used some of the drippings and made some really good

Dad carves the turkey

gravy. Once the cooking was down and the turkey had rested for about 30 minutes I let dad do the carving.

Dinner was served and it was one of the best meals I've ever had! The turkey was full of flavor and juicy. It was one of those melt in your mouth type of meals!

So needless to say everything turned out so well that I can't wait to do it again. BethAnne's parents liked the turkey so well that we're having one for Christmas too and using my new roaster again. Mind you they used to do Thanksgiving and I did Christmas. They usually gave me a nice large chunk of beef to cook for Christmas dinner so this year we're doing things different.

All in all it was a very wonderful Thanksgiving.

Happy Holidays!