



The Equestrian Center, LLC



Hoof Prints & Happenings Newsletter

Volume 2

Issue I

Nov 2006- Jan 2007

Happy New Year!!!

*We hope your new year is off to a good start. Below are a few reminders for the spring season.

Morning sky Yuma, AZ



TEC 3 Part Clinic Series

In the upcoming summer TEC will again be offering a three-part clinic series over course of the summer. Each two day clinic will lay the foundation for the following session. Although it is highly recommended, participants do not need to sign up for all three parts.

Who may Participate: All experience levels of riders ages 10 and up are encouraged to participate or audit the clinics.

Number of Participants: A minimum of 5 participants and a maximum of 8 will be accepted for each clinic. You must register AND mail us your nonrefundable deposit (if the clinic is cancelled your deposit will be returned) to reserve a space. Please see our [TEC Clinics Registration](#) form for details." Auditors are welcome.

Description

Assessment: The end goals are described on the [Assessment](#) web page. Your own horse is required. This will be a group setting so that all can see what we are looking for/at.

Ground Work: Having focused on the ability to assess, we now must decide what, how and why we can influence our horse in order to lay the foundation for a trusting and respectful relationship.

Riding: Private & group riding sessions. Our focus will be to assess our horse's mind and find a common ground to have a successful ride (all disciplines welcome). Auditors welcome - see [TEC Clinics Registration](#) page for fees.

Facilities: All clinics will be held at TEC. Limited stabling available --see TEC clinic page for more information. Porta Potty onsite. Tent camping and motor home parking available (sorry, no hookups).

Fees: See TEC [registration forms](#) or [pricing](#) for a list of fees

Assessment

June 9th/10th

Ground Work

June 30th/July 1st

Riding

August 4th/5th

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Happy New Year

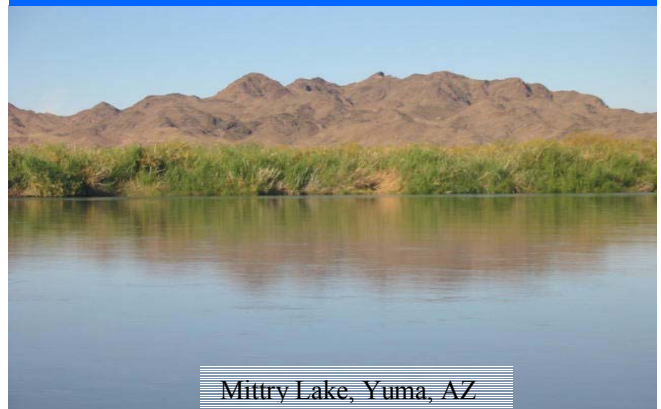
TEC's 3 Part Clinic Series

Full Immersion Camps

Full Training Programs

Ask the Trainer

Ask the Trainer Forum



Mittry Lake, Yuma, AZ

Full Training Programs

At TEC we customize training programs to suit both the owner's and the horse's needs within the owner's budget. We offer training packages from one week to six months. We ask that horses are current on shots, vaccinations, worming and hoof care. Included in the training package is training and either grass or alfalfa hay.

A horse is brought in for a week long evaluation of its mental, physical, emotional and educational status. We discuss our evaluation with the owner and choose the best direction to help the horse gain confidence, experience and education.

Our goal is to encourage horses to "try" for their owners in any situation- from catching them in the pasture to jumping fences to crossing natural obstacles, we are looking for the horse to have a positive experience when they respect and work with us. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Full Immersion Camps

Horses playing in irrigation. Yuma, AZ



Enroll your horse in our
[Charm School](#)

TEC will re-open in April 2007

As a "Thank you" to our supporters we will have an Open House in June and offer a Round Pen Demo Day. If you would like to find out about having your horse participate please click [HERE](#).

Ask the Trainer

QUESTION: I have a trainer who believes in backing your horse up if it's misbehaving and not doing what you ask. Another trainer said this isn't good because you will teach your horse to rear. It has always seemed to work well so I would like your opinion? He says to back a few steps and then ask your horse to go forward. If the horse won't then back up again. He says backing up is much harder for the horse than going forward so eventually the horse gets the message.

TEC ANSWER:

My first reaction is that asking your horse to back if he is misbehaving is not addressing what is CAUSING your horse to misbehave--it is rather suggesting an alternative behavior to what he is coming up with on his own. That means that your horse may back as you ask him to, but most likely he will maintain feelings such as anger, frustration, insecurity, and worry about whatever caused him to initially misbehave. Whatever is bothering him could be any number of things ranging from a specific object to a movement you asked him to perform.

If it appeared the horse was misbehaving, I would first try to address what is bothering my horse. Then I look to see if I can present that object or movement in a manner that allows him to both accept what I have suggested and also encourages him to feel good about trying to address what has been asked of him. Horses are very quick to decipher if you work with them in a "you will accept this" forceful manner or a "could you think about accepting this" less aggressive manner. The more your horse realizes that you consistently are SUPPORTIVE of his trying (even if he does not totally accomplish what you would like), the more reason he has to try to accept what you ask.

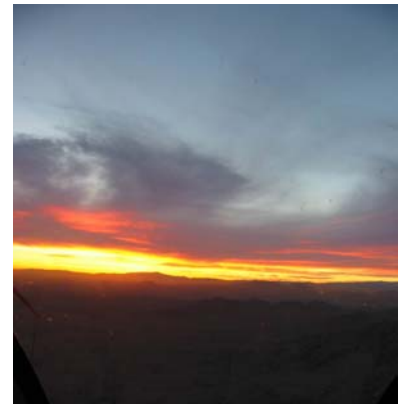
The ideas mentioned above can be achieved whether you are working your horse from the ground or riding him. Generally it is easier to start on the ground and ask something of your horse, get to a place where he feels good and accepts what you are asking, and then mount and ask the same thing of him. Most people do not give enough credit to their horse for the amount of try and effort the horse can have; many times we expect them to resist or reject what we are forcing upon them. If we change our attitude from demanding of them to working with them, our horse can change his attitude from resistance and fear to enthusiastic effort full of try.

As for the actual act of backing up, it is a specific movement, just as shoulder-in, half-pass, walking or a turn on the forehand. Personally I do not using backing as anything more than a movement I ask of my horse. There are cases where people get into patterns with their horses: every time the horse is "naughty" the person backs them. It does not take long before the horse learns the routine and starts to anticipate backing every time they get into an issue with their rider. The more the horse anticipates this routine, the more it tends to resist going forward at the risk of getting something "wrong." To prevent being "punished" and backed, they start to offer backing as an alternative before it is ever asked of them. There are also the cases where a horse is so tight and uncomfortable inside that they can rear when asked to back, but this would probably also be the case if you asked much else of them. If a horse is that frustrated, it will do whatever it takes to protect itself from those bad feelings including rearing, bucking, and other aggressive and fearful behavior. Good Luck, Sam [READ OTHER QUESTIONS HERE](#)

We have had so many requests for "camp weeks" from those individuals who would like to experience more than a one-hour training session with their OWN horse. In response, we have decided to offer a camp that will be a full immersion course with sessions continuous Monday through Friday focusing on Assessment, Ground Work & Riding. Sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. We are restricting this course to a maximum of eight riders. There will only be TWO of these camps offered in the summer 2007 season.

The focus of the clinic will depend on the participants and their interests. Our goal is the help riders and horses raise their level of awareness, increase their clarity in communication, to be safe and to have fun! Whether you are a trail rider, jumper, pleasure or endurance rider, we encourage participants of all ages, disciplines and levels. Auditors may pay a daily or a discounted one-week fee. As of January 1st 2007 we will be accepting a non-refundable 50% deposit to guarantee participant slots.

Included in the price will be: daily unmounted theory discussions, tack/equipment fitting & usage, individual/group instruction and pasture board (grass or alfalfa hay) for your horse. Please see our TEC clinic [registration](#) page.



*THE SMALL PRINT

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