



# The Equestrian Center, LLC



## Hoofprints & Happenings Newsletter®

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### WELCOME to 2011

As in the last newsletter, the economy throughout the US has definitely taken a toll on all of us involved in all aspects of the horse industry. But with our best foot (or hoof) forward we shall continue on. I hope that this newsletter will help get you motivated with ideas, suggestions and tips for the upcoming season so that when the spring thaw approaches you're ready to ride!

### TEC Fall Recap

North Idaho had an amazing fall. With all of us inland empire residents thinking that spring was never going to arrive and our 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities occurring on a chilly 53 degree wet day- to have the fall temperatures remain in the lovely 70s to almost mid October was welcomed...

An uneventful drive south to our Yuma, Arizona winter base allowed us to narrowly miss the oncoming storms that then relentlessly blasted the northwestern states for the next few months.

For those of you who wonder about the effort and energy it takes to pack and make the 1440 mile journey south with 12-14 animals in tow- the reason speaks for itself - we've been in the high 70s and peaked at the low 80s over the last few weeks. And yes, we do have stalls available if you and your four legged friends need a warm winter getaway!



Sam "playing" with Data while giving him a "job" by pushing loose horses around the pasture...

### LET'S GET MOTIVATED

The "theme" you will find throughout this newsletter is to get you **MOTIVATED**. Over the past year or so I've noticed and experienced many of our daily activities (horse related or not) have a bit of a "doom and gloom" feeling. The "Ask the Trainer" questions submitted to my website have taken on a very "hopeless" feel with people writing about extreme situations with their horses from all around the world- New Zealand, Australia, England, United Emirates, and the USA.

Then there was the general feeling of riders hitting a "plateau" with their horses. I've had many people tell me they don't know why but last year they just didn't spend time with their horse as they had in the past... No real reason or event, just a general lack of motivation. The development of new organizations such as the [American Competitive Trail Horse Association](#) and the [Ranch Sorting National Championships](#) among others are trying to connect like minded horse people with one another while creating supportive gatherings.

Even if you don't have the finances or time to become a "die hard" participant, we all have the ability to create realistic and attainable goals for our equine partners and ourselves.

So this newsletter will hopefully not sound like a "sales pitch"- which most of you know I abhor, but rather a "pep" talk to get your brain to switch over from the "someday" or "maybe tomorrow" thought process in regard to working with your horse-to "why not now?"

For those of you who have ever been on a diet or work out program- riding is no different. Everyone is motivated by different "types" of diets and work outs and you need to sort out which "style" best suits you- the same goes for working with your horse. Let your first goal of 2011 be to find out "What motivates me?" Maybe it's riding with a "support" friend, learning a new discipline, attending a clinic?

WE all *know* once you start feeling some success or seeing signs of progress it's a lot easier to "stick with it"- and we also know that the hardest step is the first one. Give yourself a few options (with a realistic time parameter) and through trial and error start your search of what excites you to spend time with your horse and want to ride.

Don't be afraid to also find out what discourages you or what makes you start to say "tomorrow" rather than "today" when thinking about doing something with your horse.

So hopefully now that you're a little revved up- enjoy this issue of Hoofprints & Happenings!

## **Sam's Top 10 FREE Ways to Educate Yourself:**

There is a common theme among most quality horsemen in the world- Exposure, Exposure, Exposure. Since you may not have your life based around your horse "time"- below are easy ways to increase your exposure through simple and local options that will help "get you more miles" without having to spend a lot of money to do so.

### **1.) MILES GAINED BY SITTING ON THE FENCE**

Find out when the next horse gathering is happening in your area (4-H lesson/clinic, Pony Club lesson, competitive trail course, horse show, etc.) and just sit on the rail and watch. Let your common sense guide you. What horse and riders/handlers look "relaxed and happy" and which ones don't? Can you start to assess what the horse is doing – what degree is the rider's involvement- are they "reactive" or are they "taking" their horse for the ride? Did anyone offer their horse something that was new to you? (With a positive or negative result?) **WARNING:** Don't go home and randomly start asking your horse to do something "new" because you've witnessed someone else doing the same thing with their horse.

### **2.) You Tube**

Whether you are technologically "advanced" or not- one of the most amazing ways to "connect" is on You Tube. For free you'll be able to watch thousands of people and see what they are doing with their horses. From backyard riders to professional/international competitors- from quality to scary- you'll see it all from the comfort of your own home. Same warning.

### **3.) Horse Websites**

If you enter any horse terminology words or phrases in any search engine from [yahoo](#) to [Google](#) to [BING](#), you'll find thousands of websites that offer advice, articles, chat rooms and more. Take advantage of the opportunity to "mingle" with other horse people. Again, take it all in with a grain of salt. Something may work for one person that doesn't work for someone else. There is no one place to "easily" access or acquire quality information or education in the horse world. As with anything, if you ask ten trainers one question, you'll get nine different answers.

### **4.) Magazine's FREE Online articles**

Nowadays most horse magazines and publications have websites that the public can access for free- without being a subscriber to the magazine itself. Keep in mind that there are some of us whose priority is the horse, but it's rare and far between. The problem for someone relatively "new" into this part of the horse world is to recognize that the few quality trainers with documented information may be hard to understand or not clear in their communication with people as most of them are "old school" working cowboys and not natural people teachers... Many of these quality old timers are presenting ideas with the assumption you already have some miles under your belt- not for the newbie (which can be someone who has been around horses for a few years but never in tune with their behavior.)

### **5.) Learn from your local VET or FARRIER**

These are people who spend EVERY day working with a variety of horses. The next time you're around one of them, ask questions, and LISTEN. They'll have seen and interacted with horses at all different experience, confidence, and education levels. You can learn a lot.

### **6.) Check out your local FEED STORE or CO-Op notice boards**

Many times free and local events and notices are posted on the boards about everything from "horse clubs," to clinics (available to participate and audit,) to shows, etc. You never know what you'll find.

### **7.) While at the FEED STORE pick up the free newsprints...**

Even if the publications cover or are focused on a horse activity that "isn't your interest"- still spend time to read it. Look at the advertisers. Look at the upcoming events. You never know what might catch your eye that you hadn't thought of before.

### **8.) Check out your local University Extension Office**

They offer a host of horse related events/activities that you might never have known are happening in your town/area!

### **9.) Watch a local practice event- whatever the discipline may be!**

Most roping, sorting, team penning, and gaming events have weekly/monthly gatherings that are free to spectators. Don't just watch the action in the arena- watch how the horses are handled in the warm-up area, at the trailers, etc. Remember even if these western disciplines don't interest you or if you don't agree with what you see, remember that everyone can serve as an example, even if it's of what NOT to do.

### **10.) Keep a journal of what you see:**

If you find articles to read or watch local riding events, keep in mind it takes a LOT of time of just watching and being around the horses in order to sort out the theories and ideas you are witnessing. First it needs to become clear in your mind; then you can begin to experiment and apply them in real life situations. Write down what you've seen and your thoughts to help you sort out and understand the point of what is/was being presented. I've met too many people that can "talk the talk" but when they go to interact with a horse in "real time" they are at a complete loss. Plus, if the information you are "soaking up" is quality, it should be meant to stimulate your THINKING about what you are doing, rather than providing literal instruction on "going through the motions or steps" of some method or defined manner of training.

## Ask the Trainer

Topic\_Info: bit question and behavior problem

Website\_Info: Google Search

Location: Oregon

Date: October 21, 2010

Question:

I have new 14 year old QH/Arab mare that is almost out of control on the trail. She refuses to walk and just wants to trot or walk really fast. Getting her to slow down is a constant battle and she constantly tosses her head. If I say whoa she stops fine, but refuses to stand in place or go at a normal walk. I had a youth who is an accomplished 4H girl for the past 5 years ride her and she had the same problem and said she needed a bit that had more control. The horse came with a snaffle bit. She has scars inside her mouth and the corner of her mouth and I assume her previous owner must had had trouble controlling her as well, but at the same time I think she was the type of rider that like to ride hard and fast. What can I do to correct this horse, get it to walk at a normal pace, and what type of bit can I use to help me control her. I have already come off her and received an ER visit for a concussion. For ground manners this horse stands calm and perfect one minute and the next minute will turn her head around and bash right into you. Please offer any help or advice - my farrier said she is a great horse and she stands great to have her feet trimmed, but at other times she is horrible. I am not an experienced horse person, just average and could really use some help/advice.

Thank you

Answer:

Thank you for writing and I am sorry to hear the all too common story of "the bit not stopping the horse." The problem is that the bit does not ever stop your horse, your horse's brain, when it is her idea to stop, is what stops her physical movement. Your horse's movement (whether when you are riding her or working with her on the ground) is a direct reflection of her mental and emotional state. When she is feeling "warm and fuzzy" on the inside, she'll act calm and quiet on the outside. When she is stressed, bothered, worried, insecure, etc. on the inside, you will experience unwanted and sometimes dangerous physical behavior.

The issue is not the bit, your horse's excessive movement, or issues with the farrier- but rather she is having a lot of "problems" with life and doesn't know how to make herself feel better. The more you "force" her to tolerate a situation that bothers her, the bigger the "explosion" will be later. Your horse is asking for help. She does not have the ability to reason with herself on how to get to a more "reasonable" spot mentally, emotionally and physically. Even if she's experienced "the same" scenario many times

before, does not mean that she felt good about it. Horses and people all have their "breaking points" and your horse is reaching hers. Right now she is reactive (the most natural defense a horse has) rather than able to slow her brain down to address what is bothering her and to "think" her way through a scenario- this will be your job to teach her. But first you must have clear two way communication so that when you do something, it means something to your horse. The sooner she realizes you are there to help her through her fears, the more trusting she'll be, the more she'll ask you "what would you like?" when she is worried, rather than her current state of "taking over" causing potential injury to both you and her.

It sounds like your horse is rushing out of fear, and because each time she gets bothered she runs, and however you may eventually get her to stop, you most likely will have not addressed nor helped your horse "feel" better about whatever she was initially fearful of that caused her to run. So each time she gets scared, she resorts to what I called "patternized behavior." This behavior is something that horses and people suffer from. Typically under a stress induced scenario, we resort to trying the same option over and over again, rather than changing what or how we are doing something, in order to get a different outcome.

In your particular case, the more your horse believes she has to run, which is instinctive in her prey animal behavior, she will. The more she realizes you as her rider and partner are not aware, supportive or acknowledging when she STARTS to feel fear or bad about a scenario, the more she loses trust and respect for you and has less MENTAL AVAILABILITY in being able to "hear" or respond to your aids (i.e. like pulling on the reins to stop her movement). Her "tuning you out" is what causes the bit to become ineffective during moments of duress and trauma. The bit itself is not the issue.

You will need to step back and assess where the clarity or lack of between you and horse begins. People are the ones who are "slow" and "dull" in realizing what is happening. Horses don't do things randomly, so you'll need to believe your horse if she is showing signs of stress. You're going to first need to look at yourself- what do you do, how do you do it, what's your energy like, where is your focus, etc. and then you're going to have to assess how your horse responds to you. She'll tell you when something isn't clear, not understood, whether she's disrespecting or ignoring you, etc. You'll need to offer your horse a "clean slate" and assume she knows nothing. People are amazed at how much of the basics are often missed in a horse's education. Put no pressure on yourself or your horse that you "have" to accomplish a specific task by a certain time. Don't "work" your horse by the clock- if you have a great session after 20

minutes- leave her alone. Too many people harass their horses into frustration.

You'll need to start the re-education from on the ground. As you work with your horse you need to imagine that you can slow down time, so that nothing "suddenly" occurs. You will be watching for signs from her body that will tell you how she is feeling and what she is thinking.

Where are her ears? (They are indicators as to the direction of her thoughts towards the right and left.)

Where are her eyes? (Keep in mind each eye sees independently from one another and we want both eyes focused.)

How is her stance and weight distributed? (Is she standing square or with all four feet heading in four different directions in case she needed to "bolt"?)

How is the tension in her top line? (Is her neck and back shortened like an accordion?)

How are her lips? (Are they pinched and tight, moving like she is mumbling, or relaxed?)

How are her eyes? (Are there worry lines that look like "peaks" on the lid of their eye?)

How is her tail? (Tight, held at an angle, clamped to her hindquarters, swishing or relaxed?)

How is her breathing? (Does she sound consistent, heavy, and tight in her stomach?)

Even if you think it may only be a "slight" concern, I would stop and present my horse to address what is causing concern by focusing on one step (literally) at a time. Too many times the horse's brain gets WAY ahead of their body and they quit thinking about what they are doing. You will feel like when you start she is going to consider EVERYTHING except what you'd like.

Remember the ride begins when you go to catch your horse, not once you are mounted. If there are little "issues" as you are grooming her, tacking her, leading her, or overall handling her, and you ignore any feelings of concern, stress, worry or fear she may be carrying around mentally and emotionally, then by the time you get in the saddle those same feelings are going to affect and influence the quality of the ride you have.

None of this is a quick fix, but then again by 14 your horse is pretty confirmed about life and that people are not there to "help her" so you will not be able to rush her re-education process. In the long run it'll be worth it, in the

beginning you'll need to accept any level of "try" that your horse offers. Once she realizes you are acknowledging her efforts rather than taking advantage of them, she'll offer you more and more.

If you attempt a quick "fix" to her current running away with a more severe bit, you are only prolonging a problem that will continue to get worse until either one or both of you end up hurt. Your horse is not happy when she is running away, she needs your help and she does not have the ability to 'reason' through her stress. Your riding has become a game of tug of war, and in any case of a challenge of physical strength in a human vs. horse, the horse will always win.

Good Luck, Sam

## AZ On-Site Services Offered

### Ground Work & Charm School Colt Starting & Refinement

### Individualized Full Training Programs-

You & your horse- *affordable* packages by the WEEK

**Riding Lessons**- All disciplines & levels

**Clinics - Horse Evaluation- Overnight Stays**

**Lesson horses** Available for novice riders

Call 866-904-0111 or 208-290-7428 (AZ time)

### Follow Alternative Horsemanship with Samantha Harvey

Find the latest "current events & adventures" by visiting Sam's Blog, <http://learnhorses.blogspot.com> or on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/learnhorses?ref=profile>

## Off Site Services Offered

For those of you who are unable to "participate" in person- here are a few options for you to still learn from Sam:

**Video Lesson:** Mail her a 45 minute DVD of your ride or ground work session and Sam will offer a one hour CD instruction/evaluation/commentary.

**Phone Consultation:** Having a problem, issue or concern with either you or your horse? Have Sam help "talk you through" and offer some new thoughts and insights to get you on a roll! 30 min- 1 hour Sessions. Call or [email](mailto:learnhorses@learnhorses.com) to schedule Toll Free 866-904-0111

**Ask the Trainer:** Visit the "Answers" page and find loads of Q&A that can apply to most riders. There have been a lot of redundant questions so please review previously answered questions before you submit. Questions answered upon Sam's time availability.

Please click on the hyperlinks or email Sam for details on the above services.

# ACCOMPLISHING THE GOAL VS THE UNIVERSAL HORSE

Most people ride with a goal oriented perspective. They aim to show, trail ride, work cattle, etc. Most horses can be “okay” within the realm of their experience through [patternized](#)\* training: they become familiar with a jumping arena, dressage arena, cattle, or moving along a trail.

Below is a great quote from a client of mine that sums up the theme of this article:

***"I realized I now have so many questions. I never thought about my horse as "feeling" one way or another emotionally. I realized he is a lot like me. Always a bit hurried and rushed when not sure about how or what to do."***

**C.D., ID**

But what happens when you ask something new of your horse? A roping horse should be able to clamber over or even jump a small obstacle or fence presented to him. A jumping horse should not have a melt down and become impossible to "deal with" if he is passing an arena full of cows. He may want to stop, look, smell, and consider the cows for a moment or two, but then ideally should be able to continue on with his ride with no left over tension or stress from his encounter with the bovines.

Why not create horses whose minds are universally open and available to addressing any situation in a *reasonable* manner. So the million dollar question-how do you get a “mentally available” horse? First “tools” used to establish clear communication need to be developed. Can you direct your horse’s brain? Can you delegate with your energy the energy you want your horse to offer? Can you influence a change before your horse makes a decision?

For a person to create a respectful and trusting relationship with their horse, the rider has to become aware of the current state of their horse mentally, emotionally and physically. Through assessment, the rider will learn what his particular horse's current temperament is at any point in time. The horse will “tell” you where there are “blank” or unclear issues within his education. You will then understand how to influence the availability of his mind to create the enjoyable horse/partner that you would like him to be.

The following are two opposite ends of the spectrum of “thinking” horses I’ve encountered in the past:

I had a Thoroughbred who was 11 years old and had spent nine years on the race track winning \$90,000.

During his re-education I learned that when a situation arose that he felt was particularly stressful, he was reasonable if he was being *helped* by the person

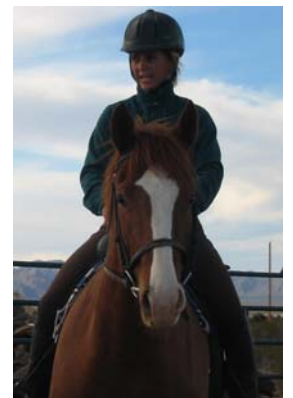


working with him. If left to his own devices in a stressful situation, he would completely fall apart showing the typical behavior of stress, worry, fear, and using his entire 17 H frame. But if someone used their clear “tools” to help slow his thought process to one step at a time, he could then consider what was being asked of him rather than getting overwhelmed by an unfamiliar scenario and becoming unreasonable displaying dangerous behavior. With accomplishment of each task his mind could become more available- relaxed- so that he could then be influenced to think his way through the situation rather than carrying an anxiety and “surviving” the situation. This helped build his confidence and expand his positive and new experiences.

His racing career had taught him through patternized workouts and racing how to function without thinking. His re-education had taught him how to think and make decisions in order to find a relaxed mental, emotional and physical state.

On the other hand, there once was a young Quarter Horse that I had lightly started at two

½ years old who had been the epitome of the “ideal” horse. He was open minded, his curiosity was enormous and his [“try”](#)\*\* was awesome. If he wasn’t sure of a situation he’d show you in a reasonable manner. Even in situations that would bother most horses, this youngster would naturally try to figure things out for himself.



After six months out to pasture to mature, his owner decided during his three year old year rather than sending him back to Sam, she’d find a trainer closer to home. Within several months of being with his new trainer, the owner wanted to sell the horse disheartened by his dangerous behavior. The horse had “suddenly” begun →

(Accomplishing the goal...cont'd)  
bolting, bucking and reacting irrationally and extreme in any situation that he deemed stressful. Not knowing what to do, she called Sam and offered her the colt.

Based on my initial experiences with the horse and how open minded he'd been, I was happy to buy him. Upon bringing him home, I found a complete change in the horse's character and realized this horse now approached life with a defensive attitude that appeared as a superficial physical aggressiveness. He'd display a false sense of security by acting overly confident and dangerously aggressive when around other horses.

On his own he could "think" his way through any situation. But he'd lost such confidence in people, that if he was being handled or ridden, he demanded to make all decisions, which if left to his own devices, allowed for a self-induced patternized behavior and thoughts that only reinforced his current fears, frustrations and unknowns.

He was not mentally available to allow or seek help from a person when stressed because he already [anticipated](#)\*\*\* a negative outcome if a human was involved. So he would rather react in an almost aggressive and flamboyant manner (as a defensive mechanism to protect himself) than slow down and have to work with a person to address his anxiety by thinking his way through it in small steps in order to come out with a relaxed, warm fuzzy feeling on the other side.

Given the two horses in the same stressful situation, I would probably rather ride the big TB who may have had less "real world experience" but whose mind was

more available to "hear" the help I was offering rather than the "independent" Quarter Horse who figured he could "deal with" things on his own terms.

This is often the case when working with a "bombproof" horse. The horse has enough experience and exposure to things that people feel he is "safe" to rely on. This is true as long as the person riding allows the horse to make all "major" decisions.

Some of the most dangerous horses I've seen when trying one out to buy were when the owner would go on and on about how reliable, bombproof, etc. the horse was. Too many times with the horses that fall into these categories, if the rider or person on the ground asks something of a horse like this that is different from the "normal or usual" way of doing things- these horses tend to react in the most extreme manner. Asking them to "think" about something that they may not find is important can cause them to have quite the emotional or physical melt down.

**\*Patternized-** creating or getting "stuck" in behavior or routine patterns

**\*\*Try-** positive effort shown by the horse in response to a request of any sort

**\*\*\*Anticipate-** horses who tend to be a few steps ahead of the rider in what they offer tend to be insecure about something; rather than waiting and being reprimanded for doing something wrong, they offer what they think is best ahead of time to avoid punishment -an exaggerated and over reactive thought, behavior, or movement in a horse to rush or avoid willingness, availability and effort to think his way through a situation

## **REORGANIZING: TEC'S FULL IMMERSION CAMPS**

Our goal hasn't changed- but we have shortened the camp length and adjusted the cost to help increase the opportunity for more people to attend. Sam's goal is to 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, enjoy cutting and working cattle, we encourage participants of all ages, disciplines and levels. Clinics offered at the Sandpoint, ID facility.

As of January 2011 we will be accepting a nonrefundable 50% deposit to guarantee participant slots. Price includes: daily unmounted theory discussions, tack/equipment fitting & usage, individual and group instruction and pasture board (grass or alfalfa hay) for your horse. Sessions will begin at 8 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. Horse arrivals are to be on Thursday night prior to the first day of the course. Free camping (sorry, no hook-ups) is available on the property. Participants must provide their own food and lodging. There is NO SMOKING on the TEC property. Dogs must be well behaved and remain on leashes at all times with their owners picking up after them. Auditors may pay a daily or a discounted one-week fee. To sign up visit our [Registration](#) page. If you have any questions please feel free to email or call Sam!

Full Immersion Camp	Camp Dates:	Participant Fee:	Auditor Fee: Daily or Weekly
Camp 1	June 10-12	\$450	\$35 \$90
Camp 2	July 15-17	\$450	\$35 \$90
Camp 3	July 29-31	\$450	\$35 \$90

## Bring Sam to your town!

### What kind of clinics will be offered???

People always ask “What do you teach?” And I tend to say “Everything.” My goal in teaching is to create a mental and emotional awareness in both the horse and rider, which in turn allows for a physical change. Who does this apply to? Everyone. Too many people are hopeful that the ride will work out. I offer tools (mental and physical) for the rider to feel like THEY are taking their horse for the ride, rather than “going” along with whatever their horse may be offering.

### What is the format?

These clinics are designed as confidence builders. They are what I call mentally stimulating rather than physically challenging. The formats vary depending on the participants and their goals. Typically the initial sessions are individual and then as the clinic progresses we add in group sessions. There is LOTS of discussion, laughter and fun throughout all sessions and I encourage other participants to watch and learn from other riders. This is not just about you and your particular horse; rather these clinics are about your OVERALL ability to see, assess, decide and proceed to influence. If you can mentally slow down what is happening, you have more time to influence and create the ideal changes. I want riders to walk away with the confidence to feel that they are “present” and able to affect what is about to happen, rather than responding “reactively” when working with their horse.

### So who does all this apply to?

**General Horsemanship-** This applies to everyone and all age horses. Your ride BEGINS when you *think* about going for a ride. If you are not mentally clear and present than you cannot expect your horse to be.

We are looking for a mental availability in your horse with him offering “What can I do?” Instead, most horses are like teenagers, their attitude typically says “Why should I?” This creates a continuous unnecessary resistance throughout the ride. In most cases the horse eventually “gives up”- but for me that’s not the point. Why not skip all that “gray” area.

This is not about a battle of the egos. Instead, learn how to create clear boundaries of what works and what doesn’t. The clearer you are, the more your horse can learn how to gain confidence as he



operates within the set “boundaries.” You set the tone for the upcoming ride in how you “converse” with your horse on the ground. A few questions to ask:

Does your horse greet you? Stand quietly for grooming and tacking? What attitude does he have towards life in general? Does your horse stand physically next to you, but is mentally “on the other side of the fence?” Does your horse line up at the mounting block without you having to “lead him?” Does he patiently open and close the gate? Does he care if you change the “routine” of where you ride or what you ask of him during the ride?

**Dressage riders-** Enjoy an anatomical lecture, learning about your body, where, what and how you use your aids. Break down commonly used “terms.” Learn how to continually assess your ride and offer a “conversation” using finesse to achieve balance, cadence, rhythm, collection, suppleness and lightness for quality movements.



**Trail Riders-** how many times have you “hoped” the ride would go well as you headed out? Does your horse have to move for twenty minutes before he can settle down? Can you leave a group of riders and head back towards them with your horse maintaining a relaxed and light feel? If you take a break does your horse stand? Can you ride at the front of the group, middle or rear without your horse getting stressed out?



**Gaming Riders-** Want to have a calm start and accurate ride? Learn how to help your horse to become balanced at high speed to increase your times. Are you dealing with an anticipative horse that tries to “take over” half way through a run? Let’s break it down into attainable “sections” that can be addressed to create a quality ride.



**Endurance Riders-** Does your horse get “amped” at the start of a race? Do you have a hard time keeping him at a consistent pace? Does he get stressed loading to head to a race? Does he recovery quickly after a long ride?

**Jumpers-** I like to say that jumping is flatwork with obstacles in the way. So many people separate their “warm up” from their “jumping.” Instead learn how to assess your horse throughout the warm up and



then influence his performance to have a quality jumping session. Does he increase his speed through a course? Does he “take over” two strides out from a fence? Does he land on the forehand? Are your flying or simple changes “sloppy?” Does he get “excitable” as you raise the fences?

**Cow work (in or out of the arena)-** NO CATTLE NECESSARY



As with any type of ride, TIMING is everything. Many horses know their job, and so they tend to anticipate, which means they then tend to take over during a ride, which then causes a constant struggle between horse and rider.

More effort and time is spent on “fighting” the horse, because the horse thinks he “knows” his job. Sometimes the rider does get in the way, but even if the rider’s timing is off, your horse needs to at ALL times be able to “hear” the rider’s aids and softly respond to them.

**Length of clinics, facility requirements & participants**

Most clinics run between 3-5 days. Anything less than that I find ends too soon. It usually takes a while for all of the theories to be mentally digested by participants to experience those “Aha” moments.

Obviously if you’re hosting a jumping clinic you’ll need to have either stadium or cross country jumps. Otherwise I’m flexible and creative. The ideal is to have access to a safe round pen, an arena (indoor or covered if weather will be an issue) and open space to “ride out.” I have a portable PA system so that all can HEAR no matter where we are riding.

Who many participate? Anyone who is enthusiastic about learning is encouraged to come and participate. Whether you have an unstarted horse, a “reliable” trail horse, or a performance horse you and your horse *will* gain a lot from these clinics. They are not designed so that you hear all the “same” information. I limit these clinics to ten riders so that all can receive the individual attention they need. Riders (if the facilities permit) can bring more than one horse to work with.

**Cost-** Depending on the length of clinic and number of participants I’m trying to keep these affordable. The cost ranges between \$350-750 per participant. This would cover my teaching fee- the host would have other costs for people boarding horses, facility fees, etc.

WHEW! So whether you might be interested in hosting a clinic (it’s really not as stressful as most people think), participating, or auditing- please spread the word! Feel free to pass this email on or print it out and post it on your notice board, tack store or barn! If you’ve received this email from a friend and would like to find out more about me- feel free to visit the website. Thanks for your time!

## Calendar of Upcoming Clinics

### June 10-12 TEC Full Immersion #1

TEC, Sandpoint, ID

### June 15-19

Copenhagen, DENMARK TBA

### June 20-24 Equine Retreat

Kootenai County Fairgrounds, C’da, ID

### July 7-10 Equine Retreat Benewah County

St. Maries Fairground, ID

### July 15-17 TEC Full Immersion #2

TEC, Sandpoint, ID

### July 29- 31 TEC Full Immersion #3

TEC, Sandpoint, ID

To participate or audit in these clinics please email [sam@learnhorses.com](mailto:sam@learnhorses.com)

**The Equestrian Center, LLC & Sam Harvey  
Summer Operation Sandpoint, ID April-Oct  
Winter Operation Yuma, AZ Oct-April  
Call Toll Free 866-904-0111 Arizona Time**

## Party Ponies

Let us bring our Party Ponies to your birthday party or celebration! Up to three animals -small child through adult size available for your event.  
Call 208-290-7423 or [email](mailto:email).

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