



# The Equestrian Center, LLC



## Hoof Prints & Happenings Newsletter

Volume 2

Issue IV

October- December 2007

### Enjoying the fall & winter!!!

An uneventful drive down to AZ, Sam, eight horses and the dogs and cats arrived to the warm desert and her enthusiastic clientele based out of Burchbrook Farms. If you and your horse would like to escape the colder climates please email for details [sam@learnhorses.com](mailto:sam@learnhorses.com)

**Toll Free 866-904-0111**

[hoofprints@learnhorses.com](mailto:hoofprints@learnhorses.com)

[www.learnhorses.com](http://www.learnhorses.com)

*Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes  
From all of us at TEC*

### Upcoming Clinics

**January 31-February 4 Kawaihoa Ranch**  
Northshore of Oahu, HI  
Private clinic with individual lessons avail.

**March 21-23 Rancho Dos Palmas**  
San Diego, CA  
<http://www.ranchospalmas.com/main.html> will be hosting Sam for a three day Ground Work & Riding Clinic.

If you would like to participate or audit in either of these clinics please email [sam@learnhorses.com](mailto:sam@learnhorses.com) for details.

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### New England Clinics Reviewed

This Thanksgiving Sam headed back to New England and offered several clinics. Holiday time is always a crazy time to travel and leaving out of the small Yuma, AZ airport was no different.

To start the adventure off the first flight was cancelled. Sam lost an entire day just trying to get to Boston where she did not arrive until 5:30pm on a Friday night to enjoy 1 ½ hours sitting in traffic to get out of the city.

The first clinic was sponsored by Fine Form Farm in Groton, MA, where Sam tried to make up lost teaching time and ended up at the facility until 9:30pm for enthusiastic students. (Remember she left AZ temps of 97 degrees and arrived into the low 30's.)



Wrapped from head to toe in horse blankets while teaching the rest of the clinic was an overall success and left many happy horses and owners.

Next she headed on to Ossipee, NH where a flurry of weather hit the area. Again enthusiastic participants and creative planning allowed the clinic to proceed.

Sam enjoyed visiting some of the more unusual locations where she enjoyed the company of some very curious auditors! There are talks of a week long clinic in 2008 in Maine.



Email [sam@learnhorses.com](mailto:sam@learnhorses.com) for details.

## Ask the Trainer

### Question:

Hello, I have a 5 yr old appendix, I bought him for eventing. I would call him "green broke" now. I have had him while I am a working student for an event rider. He has a sweet/push over personality. But he still has an attitude sometimes. I have been having issues when he gets really excited jumping. He was just basically throwing himself over a fence which was not comfortable, I had no control, and his head was incredibly high. The instructor I'm working with suggested jumper draw reins, which I think helped if I were to just jump one jump over and over and over. Then he started to bolt or stop and kind of rear. Just recently I have noticed my jumping saddle not fitting him anymore; it's leaving "sore" marks, white hair growing in. Would you think that would be part of his problem? The instructor I work with would say, "Too bad he should deal with it, he shouldn't act that way no matter what." I'm not sure I agree with that, because if something didn't fit me I wouldn't want to "listen." Also, is it odd that some days he won't pick up his right lead canter from a trot, like today every time I asked from the trot he would buck. But when I ask him from the walk he picks up his right lead no problem. I don't know if these are "Green" issues. Or maybe he just doesn't like to jump. Any suggestions?

### Answer:

Hello and I'm very glad for your horse's sake that you wrote looking for alternative suggestions and advice from what you have been receiving. Keep in mind when I work with horses my goal is that my horse is a happy, mentally available, physically participative partner. I do not get distracted by "my needs" and disregard my horse's because I am so focused on "the end goal."

No matter how much instruction or experience you have, if you go with your gut instinct when you think "That something might be wrong," you will probably be correct. There are many issues that need to be addressed in your questions and I only have a limited space to do so. Mostly I will offer you "new" thoughts rather than a step by step "how to fix it" answers.

**AGE-** At five years old your horse may be physically big, but mentally and emotionally your horse is still very much a baby and very immature. He is still learning what works and

what does not. Just because he may be physically strong and capable of jumping and being ridden, does not mean that mentally and emotionally it makes him feel good. From the things that you have mentioned, such as difficulty with leads, throwing his head, bucking, rearing, bolting, etc. he is telling you he IS having a problem with what you are asking. Your horse sounds very insecure and unsure about what is being asked of him. Also think of horse as someone with A.D.D. He will have the same difficult time in focusing on one specific task for a long period of time. Typically shorter, more quality rides have longer lasting results with youngsters rather than grilling them over and over doing the same task.

**ATTITUDE-** As mentioned above your horse is still YOUNG. I like for my horses to act like horses. Socialization in a herd setting, time to run around and find their balance and movement, and learning how to learn are all apart of their growing up. Depending on your boarding situation I would suggest offering your young horse as much time as possible in as much space as is available when he is not being worked.

**TRAINING STYLE-** I would suggest for you and your horse's safety you need to find a trainer who has respect for the horse and teaches in a manner that has the rider WORKING WITH the horse rather than trying to "FORCE" the horse with severe equipment such as the draw reins you mentioned above. If your horse is only five and already "needs" harsh equipment to "control" him physically then what will he need next year, and the next year, etc. The equipment does not stop or control your horse. It may be a temporary fix, but eventually he will build up a resistance to it and then it will take more equipment to maintain more "physical" control over your horse.

**BASICS & JUMPING-** If you do not have the basics on the flat down, THERE IS NO WAY you should be presenting your horse to a jump. Jumping is flat work with obstacles in the way. Your horse sounds worried and I have a feeling he has been telling you for a while that he is having a problem, but because he has been ignored, he has now progressed his behavior to more dramatic and obvious things such as bucking. (con'td on next page)

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**EQUIPMENT-** I offer you an alternative train of thought from the mainstream "make him do it" mentality. If you could change your horse's attitude towards being ridden, his flat work, his confidence with jumping, etc. and if he was happy mentally and emotionally to "try" what you were asking of him, how much equipment do you think you would really need? If on the inside he is available to hear what you are asking (not telling) him to do, then physically on the outside he will comply.

**ILL FITTING TACK-** YES that is a MAJOR problem. Keep in mind many horses do not stop growing until they are six or seven and depending on the work and lifestyle they are exposed to their muscles are constantly changing. If you have ever experienced a "kink" in your neck and felt how much of your body it affects and for how long, imagine how your poor horse feels. By the time white hairs are growing in, your saddle has not been fitting well for a LONG time. Every time you pull it out I am sure there is defensiveness from him towards it because of his painful association with it. The pinching created by the saddle affects his spine, inhibits his freedom of movement and quality of jump. Remember even if you change your tack it may be up to several months before his soreness from the old saddle goes away completely.

I would suggest an overall re-evaluation of what your personal goals are and if they are appropriate and in line with where your horse is at mentally, emotionally and physically. You may need to find alternative coaching or a different "barn" scenario that can help you address when your horse is asking for help, rather than ignoring his pleas. The wonderful news with horses is that they are incredible forgiving, and you can see immediate results when you start addressing the true problems at hand, rather than being distracted by the "symptoms."

Good Luck, Sam

For more Ask the Trainer advice or to submit questions please visit the link:  
<http://www.learnhorses.com/forms/forum.htm>

## Full Immersion Camp Deposit Reminder

Our fun filled Full Immersion Camps this past summer were a blast and we are already looking forward to next year's! The five-day camps are designed as intellectually stimulating, fun-filled learning sessions for both horse and rider. **We now have horses available for some participants depending on experience.**

TEC is accepting participant deposits as of January 1, 2008 for the summer's camps. Participants are welcome to bring more than one horse. Pasture and stall stabling available. On site camping ok (no hookups sorry) or stay nearby at a B & B or hotel. To view details and registration info please visit:  
<http://www.learnhorses.com/2006/camp.htm>



Yuma Schooling Show December 2007

## 2008 TEC Idaho Calendar of Events

*Please confirm all dates.*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>April</b><br>21   | TEC OPENS for the season<br>Full Training Horses now accepted |
| <b>May</b><br>25     | Round Pen Demo Day  |
| <b>June</b><br>23-27 | Full Immersion Camp Week 1                                    |
| <b>July</b><br>14-18 | Full Immersion Camp Week 2                                    |
| 28-Aug               | Full Immersion Camp Week 3                                    |
| <b>August</b><br>1   | Full Immersion Camp Week 3                                    |

Please click here to visit our current calendar.  
<http://www.learnhorses.com/calendar.htm>

## Summer Full Training Programs

At TEC, Samantha Harvey and the staff customizes training programs to suit both the owner and the horse's needs, along with 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. Horses do not need to be shod because we have mostly sandy footing. Included in the training package is training and either grass or alfalfa hay. Horses are kept with a maximum of three other training horses of the same sex in wooded pastures ranging from one to two acres. They are fed twice a day and have access to an automatic water system at the top of a slight hill- this helps with self-conditioning every time they go to get a drink of water and burning off any excess energy.

Over the past few summers we have had a waiting list- if you would like to enroll your horse in one of our programs please visit the link:

<http://www.learnhorses.com/training-programs.htm>

## Horses looking for Homes

TEC has been introduced to several nice geldings looking for homes. Their experience (from green broke to "Finished",) disciplines (All Around, trail, arena, etc.) their price range (from \$2500-\$9000,) and their location (SW and NW of USA) all vary. If you would like to find out more please email or call Sam.

**The Equestrian Center, LLC  
&  
Samantha Harvey**

**Winter Months of Operation  
Yuma, AZ October-April**

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**Questions or comments?  
E-mail us at [sam@learnhorses.com](mailto:sam@learnhorses.com)**

**Call Toll Free 866-904-0111 Arizona Time**