



The Equestrian Center, LLC



Hoof Prints & Happenings Newsletter

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Toll Free 866-904-0111

hoofprints@learnhorses.com

www.learnhorses.com

Adventures of the winter move

In the past, Sam has been lucky with coordinating timing of her annual trek south (this year with ten horses and three dogs in tow) and the finicky fall weather patters. After six primarily uneventful 1440 mile journeys, her good luck ran out...

The adventure below is a summary of all long distance travelers' apprehensions... Normally she travels alone with her 42' trailer, but this year she decided to caravan with another rigs.

It all began during the loading of ten horses, cats and final loading at 6am in the dark when the husky pup wandered off. Luckily he decided to show up as the truck engines turned on.

Heading out Hwy 200 East she met up with clients at the Shell gas station in Superior, MT to pick up "Kenny" a pack mule that had been sold to a man in Tucson, AZ. Kenny had just packed out about 20 miles and made the three hour trailer ride to the gas station. He obligingly hopped out of his trailer into ours and we were on our way.

Beautiful clear blue skies in MT as they passed through Missoula and on to Butte, where they turn south onto Hwy 90 which takes you through Dillon, MT, back into southern ID, and then down through UT. Although mileage wise it is slightly longer route, safety wise it is better to travel on the major highways in case of emergencies.

As they turned onto Hwy 90 there was a tiny blue and white road sign that read "Hwy 90 closed in Dillon until further notice." Pulling off immediately at the middle of nowhere exit ramp, attempts to call the national weather broadcast and the MT roads dept (both or which did not answer) failed. The following would events in detail could fill a book so here are the facts: (cont'd → pg 2)

Travels South Sandpoint to Yuma



Kenny being transferred at gas station



Stuck on the ice Re-hitching to Good Samaritan



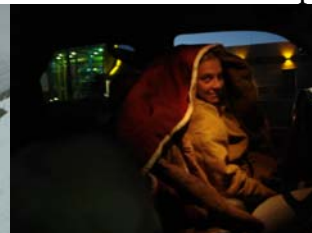
Filling water at campsite



Traditional road tripping



South of Salmon, ID



Staying warm



Feeding & watering time



Moving sheep in Yuma

(Travels south continued)

- Worst snow storm in 30 years hit Dillon and road was not cleared for four days- tourists, truckers and other travelers wound up staying at the University dorms because no more rooms available in the hotel
- Turned around in Butte and headed to Anaconda seeing a small road to bypass crossing the continental divide
- On small winding narrow road second rig (with no 4WD) towing four horse trailer got stuck in middle of the road when it lost all traction blocking all re-routed Hwy traffic
- 59' big rig with horses had to continue a mile up switchback road until Sam could jack-knife it into someone's narrow drive and head back down the mountain
- Rig initially stuck unhitched, re-hitched to a good Samaritan's truck (changing receivers, lifting height of trailer with car jacks, blocking tires with rocks, etc) and trailer turned around, then re-hitched to original tow vehicle while temps dropped to the single digits
- Eventually pulled into Missoula 8 hours after had originally passed through that morning to warm temps and clear skies, fed horses, got organized and headed to Wal-Mart for supplies
- Found the BUSSIEST Wal-Mart with the SMALLEST parking lot, Sam had to maneuver trailer through ¼ mi single lane curving road to exit and began trip south on narrow ID Hwy 93 (lovely scenic drive)
- Continued to Darby, still clear weather and temps in the 20s at 9:30 pm
- Debated driving the Continental Divide
- 45 minutes of excruciating climbing at 25 mph on the icy and snowy steep switchback climb up the Divide when first tow vehicle lost traction and came to a halt
- Sam's trailer weighing in at over 20,000 lbs could not regain traction either after coming to a halt
- Tow & sanding trucks called- two hours later after throwing sand by hand around all of Sam's tires, having smaller rig hooked up to tow truck (with horse trailer attached)
- At 4mph finished last 9 miles of the drive in about two hours made it to the top of the divide to a snow storm and negative temps
- Sam had to crawl inside trailers to blanket all horses, feed and water

(continued →)

(Travels south continued)

- Fell asleep exhausted at 1am in trucks with engines running to keep from freezing
- Woke at 4am before the sunrise to use previous snowfall as traction for driving down the Divide
- Again 4mph all the way down rigs lost sight and walkie- talkie service of one another within five minutes
- Arrived 1 ½ hrs later in Northfork, ID slept a few hours, fed & watered (refilled water at campground), got Coffee
- On narrow two lane twisting scenic road pass horse drawn homemade buggy with 6 saddle horses, four pack mules, and four hitched horses and ALL of the old man's possessions covered with a tarp
- Salmon, ID hit another storm with driving speed averaging between 40-45 mph due to rain, snow and icy roads
- Fed dinner and ran out of hay for horses with all towns closed for weekend as it was Memorial Day holiday
- Friends in Twin Falls, ID supplied extra hay and went to dinner to get out of vehicles after 36 hours of driving
- Got back on road and rear window in Sam's truck blew out leaving shattered glass scattered through the truck. Remainder of journey through southern Idaho and northern Nevada Sam was exposed to freezing temps and wind gusts in the middle of the night.
- Wrapped in horse blankets with one strapped between rear door windows to keep majority of cold out and heat cranked at 90 deg continued driving through the night
- Embraced warm temps at breakfast feeding in southern Nevada a few hours north of Las Vegas
- Got separated in Las Vegas and slowed down to 35 mph due to miles of road construction
- Parker, CA last gas stop and only 3 ½ hours north of Yuma credit card stolen at gas pump
- Pull into Yuma at 6pm to find property has been irrigated and is under two feet of water. Have to unload horses, turn on electricity and well, etc in flooded areas.
- Open house and find we have been robbed during the summer
- Kenny the mule's new owner has been waiting for two days in Yuma and arrives the next morning for his last 4 hour haul to Tucson

And THOSE were just the highlights! Anyone want to join us next year????

Ask the Trainer

Topic_Info: Anxiety- pony in stall

Question:

I have a 4 year old, almost 5, Paint mix pony. Every time I put him in his stall, he will try to jump out of his stall window and will act very frantic and spastic. If I have just ridden him, he will usually just lick his salt block and be ok, but still act like he wants out (walking in circles). He always eats his grain in his stall and is fine but as soon as he is done, he is determined to get out. We closed up his window but now he rears up and tries to knock down his door. I ordered Smart Calm Ultra for anxiety and am going to mix it with his grain. He is going to hurt himself! I don't know what to do! Is this the right thing to do?

Answer:

Thank you for writing. Anxious behavior such as weaving, pawing, chewing, neurosis, stall banging, etc. commonly is a result of stress and frustration. The first thing that comes to mind is that you have a young horse who wants out of a small confined area- how much exercise (without people handling him) does he get? How much socialization with other horses does he get to experience? Many times horses may physically look mature but are emotionally and mentally still very immature for a VERY long time.

Whether a horse is in a mentally strenuous training session or is frustrated about having to stand in his stall signs of anxiety can appear. Immaturity is a huge factor--if you relate your horse's current emotional and mental immaturity to that of a five year old child you might see some similarities. Diet can absolutely influence energy levels, but it's not a "cure all." In many behavioral issues the dramatic actions are taken because the horse has no longer been encouraged or allowed to be a horse with clearly drawn lines of what behaviors are accepted and those that are not.

If a child wants something and is ignored, typically he becomes louder or bigger in his attempt to get attention from someone who can help him with what he wants. The child also has a limited capacity to see alternatives about how he can communicate what he wants. So once he decides to act in a specific manner, he might continue this behavior until he receives

the desired result. If he does get what he wants, whatever action he made has now become a learned behavior. In many cases he will quickly associate a specific behavior with a specific result. This will become a pattern in how he communicates what he might be "asking" or "demanding." His conclusion will be: to get what you want, act a certain way, and you will receive whatever "it" may be.

Now let's relay this back to your horse. People tend not to notice most equine behavior until it becomes an "issue." Instead of addressing the initial small signs of distress or worry in your horse and diffusing them, they usually are ignored until they can not be overlooked.

As you start to raise your level of awareness you will need to address the small signs of him being bothered and not wait until they are big. You may have to redefine your standards of what is acceptable and what is not in his attitude towards you, his respect, and his mental available and his physical response to your actions.

Remember that the initial outward signs of stress may not be the same behavior you are currently witnessing when putting him back into his stall. So how do you work with him? I'd start by breaking down the "big" problem into attainable baby steps. This is one of those situations where the more time you have the better. Here are a few questions you might ask yourself:

What is your horse's actual behavior towards things in general--is he impatient in situations like: tacking up, standing, mounting, etc. or is it just at feeding time? If his anxiety is overall, you can start to address the areas mentioned above by literally taking baby steps--such as practicing "standing." I half jokingly tell clients to take a book out into the pasture to spend time "waiting" with your horse.

In many cases with an impatient animal there is also a lack of emotional maturity (disregarding physical age) which leads to a horse wanting to think fifteen steps ahead of where he may be physically at. If you can start to change any routine or pattern in how you interact with your horse it will help start him to learn how to "slow down" and have to (Continued on next page

(Ask the Trainer continued) consider whatever you) "currently" ask rather than acting with constant anticipation.

Do not just catch him and tack him up in the same spot--tack him up somewhere else. Get on in a different place. Ride back and forth from the barn to the arena or trailhead a few times without ever going in/on either. Mount and dismount. Mount, ride for a while. Then dismount and mount again. Every time you offer him the opportunity to "repeat something unnecessarily" think of it as another opportunity to practice for an improved result. Keep him on his toes...

How much trust and respect is there between you and your horse? The more your horse can trust you, the more available he will be for you to "show him" there is not need to panic about getting fed. If he is worried about being stalled, I would start to return him to his stall and then bring him out again throughout the day other than just at the "normal" times. You might catch him, groom him, and play with him in a round pen or turnout... Then put him back in the stall for a few minutes... Then I would catch him again and continue on with whatever I wanted to work on with him.

The more your horse is reassured that he does not have to melt down when stalled, the less anxious and obnoxious his behavior will become. Soon it will dwindle down to perhaps a little pawing and with maturity and reconfirmed positive experiences it will disappear altogether.

Good luck. Sam

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

Training Programs at TEC

At TEC we look to build mental availability in the horse's Sam works with in order to achieve the physical goals we set for ourselves and our horses. Customized training programs are designed to suit both the owner and the horse's needs along with a realistic budget. (Continued →)

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

(Training con'td)

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.

We currently have 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>

Unwanted Horses

Request from the American Horse Council for horsemen/women to take this survey. The Unwanted Horse Coalition's National survey to assess the magnitude of the problem of the unwanted horse will remain open until the end of January 2009. This is your members' final chance to participate. The Study on Contributing Factors Surrounding the Unwanted Horse Issue will be instrumental in filling factual gaps with actual data.

We still need as many people as possible to fill-out the 15-20 minute online survey. Again, the UHC is asking everyone with an interest in the welfare of horses to take this online survey at

<http://survey.ictgroup.com/uhcsurvey/>

North Rim Grand Canyon, AZ

As a change in pace was needed the day after Thanksgiving Sam headed 700 miles north to the AZ/UT border to visit Shane Johnson a reined cowhorse trainer and his family on their ranches located at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon in AZ.

Shane openly welcomed Sam, six of her horses and two dogs and offered them a glimpse into the past and an opportunity to participate in the traditional methods of ranching... Mocassin (Pipe Springs National Monument on the Piute Indian Tribe Reservation) & Fredonia, AZ along with Kabab, UT was the base for each trip.

Riding through phenomenal scenery that made time appear to have stopped in its tracks while hearing stories narrated by descendents of the two oldest ranching families in the area (dating back over 100 years) it was easy to forget modern day reality, technology and stresses.

Sam and her dogs took up residence at Lonesome Ranch, where holding corrals were built to manage cattle brought down from the mountains. There was a hand built log cabin with no running water or electricity, 20 miles from town and Sam was in heaven. It was great to fall asleep to the howling wind and soft falling snow as the oncoming winter storms would pass through the area...

Weather defined each day's duties which included gathering cattle along trails requiring up to 17 mile rides through snow, mountains, gullies, and vast amounts of open range; educating young horses in "real life" scenarios where you encountered bands of wild horses on the reservation; fixing fence, bringing in stray cattle, fall branding, doctoring, etc... It was the trip of a lifetime. To the left are a few pictures of the trip.

Although Sam didn't want the trip to end, luckily on her journey back to Yuma this time she beat the freak winter storm that brought SNOW to Las Vegas in December!



Full Immersion Clinics

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, enjoy cutting and working cattle, we encourage participants of all ages, disciplines and levels. Auditors may pay a daily or a discounted one-week fee. As of January 1st 2009 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 the Sunday 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.

Full Immersion Camp	Camp Dates:	Participant Fee:	Auditor Fee: Daily or Weekly	
Week 1	June 8-12	\$650	\$35	\$120
Week 2	June 22-26	\$650	\$35	\$120

To sign up visit our Registration page (http://www.learnhorses.com/2006/tec_registration-non-java.html) If you have any questions please feel free to email or call Sam!

**The Equestrian Center, LLC & Sam Harvey
Summer Operation Sandpoint, ID April- Oct
Winter Operation Yuma, AZ Oct-April**

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**E-mail us at sam@learnhorses.com
Call Toll Free 866-904-0111 Pacific Time**

Upcoming Clinics

Feb 4-8 Ground Work & Riding Clinic

Big Piney, WY
Natural Horsemanship Clinic

June 8-12 TEC Full Immersion Clinic 1

Sandpoint, ID
Natural Horsemanship Clinic

June 15, 16 & 17 Benewah County 4H

Fairgrounds St. Maries, ID
Natural Horsemanship Clinic

June 22-26 TEC Full Immersion Clinic 2

Sandpoint, ID
Natural Horsemanship Clinic

To participate or audit in either of these clinics please email sam@learnhorses.com

Pony Pals Program

Ride our horse/pony or yours! We prioritize safety (helmets provided or bring your own) and the importance of horsemanship. Depending on the individual's focus and attention span we include topics such as: catching the ponies, grooming, tacking & untacking, safe leading & tying techniques, mounting- from a block, from the ground and emergency dismounting, veterinary care, trim/shoeing information, stable management skills, trailer loading experience, and so on. We try to keep the lessons varied and encourage students to ride English, Western or both in enclosed arenas (starting in 60' round pens), over poles, on our "beginner trails" (with an instructor), playing an array of games that help improve balance, coordination and confidence in the student and much more! WE NOW OFFER A LESSON/PRACTICE PROGRAM! Visit link:

http://www.learnhorses.com/pony_pals.htm

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SAM AS A
GUEST SPEAKER OR CLINICIAN? EMAIL
HER TODAY TO FIND OUT MORE!**

sam@learnhorses.com

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