



# The Equestrian Center, LLC



## Hoof Prints & Happenings Newsletter

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**Spring is HERE!**

So we heard it was a LONG winter in the Northwest and we were glad to enjoy the unusually warm temperatures with an increase in rainfall in the Southwest desert.

TEC will officially re-open **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. Those who have contacted me over the winter and are waiting to bring your horse for training please see our training description below and contact us for details.

Remember we also offer *facility membership* with access to our round pens, Dressage, Jumping, Gaming arenas, conditioning track and more.

For those of you who have made inquiries about our Full Immersion Camps this may POSSIBLY be the last year they are offered. **DON'T MISS OUT!!!** We know times have us all financially strapped but these intensive and intellectually stimulating fun filled camps are designed to help you and your horse LONG TERM with your partnership, safety, clarity in communication and QUALITY of your rides. See details below.

Living minutes from the Mexico border... The pictures below were taken from a group fund raiser founded by friends of a man whose wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. Seven years later, she is healthy, and yet the vaqueros continue the gathering. 75 riders, a LIVE band playing music on a flatbed truck drove ahead of the group, and the women were busy cooking tacos and passing out beers on another trailer. Last but not least was the porta potty trailer- talk about an experience!



## **Stimulus Act Impacts Horse Industry**

Release: February 25 2009

The 2009 Stimulus Act signed into law by President Barack Obama contains provisions that impact the horse industry, the American Horse Council said in a February 24 memorandum to the industry.

The measure contains the bigger write-off for horses and other property purchased and placed in service during 2009, the AHC said. The benefits were part of 2008 tax stimulus legislation, but they expired at the end of 2008. Here is an overview of what the Stimulus Act does:

### **Expensing allowance**

The first incentive allows an owner who purchases a horse or other business property and places it in service in 2009 to expense up to \$250,000 of the cost. The "Section 179" expensing allowance applies to horses, farm equipment, and most other depreciable property.

Once total purchases of horses and other eligible property reach \$800,000, the expense allowance goes down one dollar for each dollar spent over \$800,000.

(To illustrate the expensing allowance, assume a horse business purchases \$750,000 of depreciable property in 2009, including \$650,000 for horses. The business can write off \$250,000 on its 2009 tax return and depreciate the balance. If instead, purchases were \$900,000, the expense allowance would go down by \$100,000. In either case, the amount of the purchases not expensed may also be eligible for bonus depreciation.)

### **Bonus depreciation**

The second incentive continues the 50% first-year bonus depreciation for horses and most other depreciable property purchased and placed in service during 2009. It applies to any property that has a depreciable life of 20 years or less.

The property must be new, meaning the original use of the horse or other property must commence with the taxpayer. For a horse to be eligible, it cannot have been used for any purpose before it is purchased.

(To illustrate expensing and bonus depreciation, assume that in 2009 an owner pays \$500,000 for a colt to be used for racing and \$50,000 for other depreciable property, bringing total purchases to \$550,000. The colt had never been raced or used for any other purpose before the purchase. The horse business would be able to expense \$250,000, deduct another \$150,000 of bonus depreciation (50% of the \$300,000 remaining balance), and take regular depreciation on the \$150,000 balance.)

### **State and local sales taxes**

The act provides all taxpayers with a deduction for state and local sales and excises taxes paid on the purchase of new cars, light trucks, and recreational vehicles through 2009. The deduction phases-out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$125,000 and \$250,000 for taxpayers filing a joint return.

### **Net operating losses**

Current law permits net operating losses to be carried back to the two years before the operating loss occurs and carried forward to the 20 years after the loss. For 2008, the bill would extend the maximum carry-back period to five years for small businesses with gross revenue of \$15 million or less.

### **Estimated tax payment relief**

The act reduces the 2009 required estimated tax payments for some small businesses.

Please call the AHC if you have any questions 202-296-4031 Fax 202-296-1970.

American Horse Council, 1616 H Street NW 7th Floor, Washington DC 20006

Email: [AHC@horsecouncil.org](mailto:AHC@horsecouncil.org) Web Address: [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org)

<http://us.mc01g.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=AHC@horsecouncil.org>

## Ask the Trainer

Topic\_Info: Sticky horse or Confidence Issue

Location: Indiana Date: March 29, 2009

Question:

Hi Samantha. I'm hoping you can help me with my arabian mare. I started her under saddle myself one year ago. We did extensive ground work. She has always been a nervous and exciteable horse, though has made great strides in the past six months. My goal for her is endurance riding and I have hit the wall on training. We have a two fold problem, but I think it is the same problem, just different outcomes of the same issue. When riding her alone on trail she is content at the walk, though always vigilant rather than relaxed. If I move her up to a trot, or a canter, at some point she will slam on the brakes, or spin back. When ridden in a group of three or more (does great with one other horse along) she is the opposite, she wants to charge ahead of the other horses and will not settle in and relax unless she is way off ahead of the pack. It is important that this 5 year old be started slow at distance, and learn to be confident at the trot, and save the canter for a few years down the trail. Am I right that this is a confidence issue? If so how do I correct it and build her confidence so she is not either balking or rushing with no middle ground? We currently have 500 logged trail miles and I thought that time would make it better for her, but so far it has not. Our first LD ride is coming up soon. I'd sure like to re-group and work out the problem and not have a sticky horse. Thanks so much. Love your forum.

Answer:

You are absolutely right that this is all about your horse's lack of confidence and general lack of "feel good attitude" towards life. The "wet saddle blankets" theory, which is focused on exposing horses to miles and miles of riding allows for many gaps in their understanding, clarity and confidence. Depending on your awareness, clarity and "black and white" standards, will affect how clear the communication is between you and your horse- there could be a million things inadvertently missed, skipped or ignored.

Somehow, someway at some point your filly became convinced that human interaction was probably not going to help her feel better about life, either on the inside emotionally and mentally or on the outside physically.

People easily get distracted by the movement or accomplishment of an entire task, whereas with many young horses, just as with children, they need scenarios presented in small pieces that they can successfully (meaning how they FEEL about it,) negotiate. Having your horse accomplish a lot less, but feel a lot better about what is being asked of her, in the long run will be far more productive, than forcing her through tons of tasks that she continues to get more stressed out about.

Horses can become naturally be willing, confident and successful if someone is supportive of them "trying" when asked or introduced to something new. But this approach takes much longer and more patience and many times horses are rushed through the motion of accepting something rather than truly acknowledging, addressing and feeling good about whatever has been presented.

There starts to be a build up of worry and lack of confidence in the horse every time something "new" is added for them to tolerate. There is only so long horses can tolerate situations before they emotionally have a melt down. It seems that unless a horse is completely blowing up or dramatically resistant, we humans tend to ignore the hundreds of little ways they try to tell us something is bothering them. Then when they have been pushed to their limit we humans act surprised and wonder where the horse's dramatic behavior came from.

By the time a horse has been pushed to its limit, it is pretty convinced that the human factor is not a good thing. A lot of the time the horse has probably ended "training" sessions with feelings of worry and stress. They then bring residual feelings from the previous session to the next and so on. Soon there is a huge amount of built up tension- like a ticking bomb waiting to blow. So why would the horse continue to put itself into an uncomfortable situation again? The only thing they can do in their defense is to either flee (what you have described when your horse is around a group riding out,) which is natural being a prey animal, or they can become aggressive by bucking, kicking, rearing, and so on... If the horse tries aggressive or defensive behaviors and ends up "safer" in their mind than when she trusted a human, their behavior tends to become consistently more volatile. The more they realize their dramatic behavior keeps humans at bay, the more they will continue.

So is it possible to undo this behavior? Well we must address the emotional and mental status to address the physical actions we are seeing from the horse. Remember, the physical behavior is a mirror of what the horse is feeling on the inside. If a horse is calm and quiet and has "warm fuzzy" feelings, typically she'll maintain a calm and happy like demeanor and behavior. If a horse is stressed or worried on the inside, he'll show a antsy, jiggling, hurried, etc. behavior. In my experience when working with a horse like this, there is lack of clear communication and mental availability between you and your horse. Under "safe" or "quiet" circumstances you will need to evaluate just how much your horse can not only hear what you are asking of her, but her level of willingness to try and address what you are presenting. You will also need to evaluate how much "try" she has in her and if something does bother her, how quickly she can "let it go." In some of these areas do not be discouraged if you need to go back and start from the beginning again. Clean slate. Start with catching the horse in the pasture, can she come up to you on her own and feel good? Can you lead her and she be happy and maintain a slackness in the lead rope? Can you touch her body, just with your hand, and can she stand quiet and happy?

If you raise your level of awareness and sensitivity when working with her, she will start to "tell" you what she feels okay about and what she does not. Another problem with people, we don't BELIEVE our horses when they are trying to tell us politely that they are having a melt down. Try to embrace these and help your horse get to a better emotional spot, rather than just "shutting them down" and forcing her to have to keep all of her worry, fear and frustrations inside. Slowly you will piece together stressful areas for her and areas that she still feels good about. This can help you start to address the real issues and worries at hand. From here, you want to find ways of increasing her "feel good" moments when you're working with her. The amazing thing about horses is that they can be incredibly forgiving, even if they should not be. The more she associates a positive experience when being worked with, the more she will be available to try harder for you when you are asking something of her. You will look to increase a trusting partnership and mutual respect to encourage positive and confident feelings and behavior and eventually her distrust will lessen greatly.

Keep in mind some horses that have become extremely reactive and aggressive can take a lifetime of working with them to gain their trust, and others are able to let go pretty quickly of past experiences. Do not set expectations for her because you are guaranteed to be disappointed. Instead keep in perspective all the times she tries and acknowledges what you are asking and when she wants to please you.

Soon you will realize the other horses are not the issue, if your horse is mentally with you throughout an entire ride, if she does show concern for leaving, passing or returning towards the other horse's riding out, you'll have the aids to ask her to think, address and move towards something alternative and she'll be able to let go of her concern for the other horses.

Especially if you are viewing this horse as a long term riding partner, in my opinion, most injuries are a result of emotional break down's in horses. Keeping any horse, but certainly a competitive one mentally and emotionally happy, only increases their physical soundness over the years. Good Luck, Sam

## Horse For Sale

“ASA”



“Asa” is a five year old Halflinger that was sent to be started by Sam several years ago. He has a heart of gold, a HUGE personality and is LOOKING FOR A JOB! Green broke to drive, enthusiastically jumps, ponies/can pony off of, easy keeper, good riding out on trails alone or with a group. Great for farrier, excellent ground manners, UTD shots/teeth, trailers, works at liberty and much more! This guy has a great foundation and is ready to be “finished” in whatever direction you desire! Easy to ride, but needs intermediate rider offering a long term home with TURNOUT. Asa is currently located in Yuma, AZ- if you are interested inquire ASAP – there’s room in our trailer returning to Sandpoint in May. He’s a steal at \$3500!!! Contact Sam

## Upcoming Clinics

**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](mailto:sam@learnhorses.com)

## 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 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>

## 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](http://www.learnhorses.com/2006/tec_registration-non-java.html) page ([http://www.learnhorses.com/2006/tec\\_registration-non-java.html](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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Call Toll Free 866-904-0111 Pacific Time**

## VALENTINE'S DAY PARADE DOWNTOWN YUMA 2009



## 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](http://www.learnhorses.com/pony_pals.htm)

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