



The Equestrian Center, LLC Hoofprints & Happenings Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2 January—April 2007



TEC is open for the season!!!

After a great winter in Yuma, AZ we have now returned and have reopened TEC. We already have horses being shipped in from around the country for training! Be sure to call or email sam@learnhorses.com to schedule a lesson or training week for you and/or your horse!

www.learnhorses.com/training-programs.htm



Sam & Taylor to Perfect

"It's the thought that counts!"

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Sam & Straight Up'n Dirty
Salome, AZ Clinic



Sam & Whitney

Yuma, AZ
Clinic
2/2007



Sam & Celtic Dragon

Ride the West Horse & Ranch Expo

Sam has been invited to return to the 6th annual Expo held at the Spokane Fairgrounds May 18th, 19th & 20th and will be teaching the following:

Round Pen Demo- "It's the thought that counts."

Cross Country Slideshow Lecture (around one hour)

Dressage- "Fine tuning the basics"

Anatomical Riding Lecture- (around one hour)

Hunter/Jumpers- "Feeling the ride"

SEEKING DEMO RIDERS

www.learnhorses.com/forms/ride-the-west.htm

Ask the Trainer

Riding the Trail Issues

My husband and I were riding two of our trail horses (both paint breeding stock, 11 and 7 years old) at a local riding park. It is not a new area to them and we've never had this problem before. The 7 year old mare, which is ordinarily quite easy going and cooperative, refused to go down a trail, even with the older gelding going with no resistance. After working with her there...turning while disengaging the hindquarters, figure eights always turning toward the trail, etc., my husband took her into an arena nearby. She worked fine at the end of the arena, away from the gate. However, when he tried to get her to walk toward the other end, she would balk, turn, back, etc. in order to avoid going any more than half way down the arena. He checked her thoroughly for any soreness, etc. Also, if he got off and hand walked her to that end she was fine but would not ride at that end, though she was still fine at the other end. Any thoughts as to what the problem may have been...and a possible solution?

TEC Answer:

Hello and thanks for writing. Your scenario is quite common among horses that are "fine until one day." I have found that each person's definition of "when his or her horse is fine" can differ. The movement of their horse distracts most people: he physically walked past a "scary spot," or he walked "totally calm" down the trail, or he "always stands with his head dropped." We must remember that just because our horse has done something a million times and may have been exposed to all kinds of situations, does not mean that the horse feels good about it. Horses are incredibly adaptable, but given the option to offer their real opinion or feelings about something sometimes shocks their owners who think they "know" their horse.

I was not there to witness the scenario with your husband's horse. I do know many people offer the idea "the way to a horse's mind is through his feet." I prefer to switch that

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"Pico de Gallo"

Round Pen Demo Day

TEC will be having an Open House this summer and is looking for a few demo horses to use in several "mini" round pen demos... If you would like to bring

was not there to witness the scenario with your husband's horse. I do know many people offer the idea "the way to a horse's mind is through his feet." I prefer to switch that and say, "The way to a horse's feet is through his mind," and therefore the TEC saying, "It's the Thought that Counts." The mare was not physically unable to walk down the trail or arena. She was mentally blocked or resistant to going in either place and therefore appeared physically resistant. Disengaging her hindquarters or asking her to physically change what she is doing will not help her feel better mentally and emotionally about whatever is troubling her. Was her head in the air listening to something that the gelding couldn't be bothered with? Were her thoughts in the arena focusing on every step she was taking with your husband or somewhere else? Could she have smelled something in the distance that had meaning to her but not the gelding?

If the trail and arena is a common ride for the horse, you might consider if you and your horses have become accustomed to "patternized" behavior or riding. On any day, could you at any point during the trail ride offer your horses something totally random such as turning away from her riding buddy and trotting off towards home and then turning around again and passing her buddy? Could you stop and talk for 10 minutes and does your mare feel happy about it? Could her buddy leave her and she maintain a warm, fuzzy feeling about remaining solely with her rider?

So how do you influence a resistant horse? By constantly changing the way in which you ask your horse to think her way through a ride, she will become more available mentally and emotionally. She will also become more trusting to share with you (and you will be more aware and sensitive) to hear when she first tells you she is having a problem. Randomly resisting to going forward usually is not random. How was her mood the day when your husband caught her? Where was her attention and focus as she was tacked up? How was she as she left home? There typically are small signs all along the way that there is "going to be" a problem or stress and the balance between the rider "hearing" the horse trying to warn them and what the rider does to help influence the direction of how the horse can either address or let go of the stress can completely alter the outcome of a situation.

Good Luck,
Samantha Harvey

www.learnhorses.com/forms/forums.htm

you would like to bring your horse please email sam@learnhorses.com

Sam & Tango 'Til Dawn



TEC FACILITY USE and MEMBERSHIPS

Come play with us! Need a location for your group activity, clinic, playday or event? We are easy access from Hwy 95 or Hwy 200, have LOTS of parking and multiple arenas... Or join TEC's Facility Membership program (individual and family options available) by the session, week, month or season!

www.learnhorses.com/facilities/rentals.htm

LIVE WEBCAST ROLEX KENTUCKY THREE- DAY EVENT

See all the action on NBCSports.com from the most exciting equestrian event in the country! For just \$7.99 you get all four days of coverage of the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event Presented by Farnam on NBCSports.com. You can enjoy dressage on Thursday and Friday, the cross country on Saturday and the show jumping finale on Sunday. All with multi-camera coverage throughout the course and commentary by Kerry Millikin, the 1996 Olympic individual Bronze Medalist and winner of the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event in 1987. Webcast Schedule:

- THU: 9:30 -11:30 and 1:30 - 3:30
- FRI: 9:30 - 11:30 and 1:30 - 3:30
- SAT: 9:00-12:00 and 1:30 - 4:00
- SUN: 1:30 - 3:30

Don't miss the one hour television highlights show on NBC, Sunday, May 6th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm Eastern.

Three 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

Full Immersion Camps

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 en-

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 www.learnhorses.com/2006/tec_registration-non-java.html 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 Ground Work Riding

ity 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.

www.learnhorses.com/2006/tec_registration-non-java.html

Camp Dates:	Participant Fee:	Auditor Fee:	
		Daily	Weekly
Week 1 July 9-13	\$500	\$30	\$120
Week 2 July 23-27	\$500	\$30	\$120

*THE SMALL PRINT

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