



Fall Schooling Show a Huge Success!



Our seventh annual Not-Your-Typical Schooling Show took place on October 8, 2011, and was undoubtedly our biggest and best show yet! Over thirty competitors participated, from Rising Riders all the way up to our Teal-level veterans, with

friendly new faces from neighboring farms and as far away as Cartersville. Riders began the day by showing off their equitation on the flat, followed by our popular mounted games, with three divisions trying their hand at five different races. The afternoon was spent over fences, with show jumping equitation classes ranging from ground poles to 2'6". Points accumulated throughout the day were tallied and ribbons awarded to our Grand and Reserve Champion. It was very close, but our eventual winners were **Holly Kamin** and **Lucy Sabine**. Congratulations to you both!

It takes an army to put on a show of this size, and we have many people to thank for our wonderful day: our popular judge Brooke Davidson; Bob Surrusco, who announced classes non-stop from 9am to 6pm; Carla Yates, who juggled scorekeeping with managing her team of horses and riders; Brian McAvoy and Evan Surrusco, who transformed Fowler Farm into a truly beautiful place; the Martin-O'Sullivan family, who provided our concession stand to raise money for their school's special needs program; Katie Courtney and Reesa Frezier, for keeping the warm-up ring chaos to a minimum; our excellent team of timekeepers and ground crew; our hard-working Ground Buddies, who made this show possible for all of our new riders; our even harder-working and patient school ponies, who worked a record number of classes on a warmer-than-average day—and to all of our students and competitors, whose smiling faces reminded us of why we love horse shows!



Follow all the latest news at HorseSense on our Facebook page! Search for "HorseSense Riding Academy"

Mock Foxhunt Scheduled for Nov 19



Come enjoy the beautiful trails and support our local therapeutic riding program at our **6th Annual Mock Fox Hunt**, held **Nov 19, 2011**, at Flat Branch Farm. We're holding this event a bit earlier this year, in hopes of avoiding our ritual freezing rain! Riders follow a paper trail laid out by our helpful "fox"; several riders designated as "hounds" lead each group. We will be offering three different "flights" geared towards riders of varying levels of ability:

-  **First Flight:** for horses and riders fit and experienced enough for 2 hrs of strenuous riding, including some galloping.
-  **Second Flight:** a gentle walk-trot ride, suitable for students Yellow Level and up
-  **Pony Ride Flight:** for small children or new riders, ages 4 and up

Proper hunt etiquette will be observed; formal attire is preferred but not required. There is a capping fee of \$10, and all proceeds go towards **Angels on Horseback**. All of our students are invited to attend, with *limited* school horses available on a first-come, first-served basis, but we **MUST** have plenty of notice to arrange trailering! For more information, please visit our website:

www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/mockfoxhunt.htm

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following students for achieving new Levels since Sept:

Rainbow Level:

Isabelle Campbell

Red Horsemanship:

Lucy Sabine

Yellow Horsemanship

Marissa McAuliffe

Green Horsemanship:

Elodie Frezier

Blue Horsemanship:

Heather Courtney

Our next ribbon day will be Dec 1 , 2011.



American Eventing Championships: Well Worth the Trip!

On Sept 10, 2011, several HorseSense students and families made the trip down to Fairburn and the beautiful Chattahoochee Hills for the American Eventing Championships. We had a blast watching the cross-country and stadium competitions, walking through the beautiful stabling complex and the oh-so-tempting trade fair, eavesdropping on Olympians schooling in the warm-up arena, and taking hundreds of photographs. We also had the joy of watching former HorseSense camper Sarah Murphy capture the Junior Training Level Championship with her horse, Flagmount's Irish Riverstone!

As always, watching these upper-level riders (many of whom are professionals or former members of the United States Equestrian Team) was a hugely educational and inspirational opportunity. Chattahoochee Hills offers several three-star events each year, and will hold the USEA Championships for a final year in September of 2012. Mark your calendars—it is well worth the drive!



Maura says...

"My trip to Chattahoochee Hills was a very exciting and inspirational experience for me! The riders showed very good sportsmanship, even if they were in last place, and they were very proud of their ponies no matter what. It was really cool to meet some of the riders and their ponies, too! So from that experience I think I am inspired to do my best, and be proud no matter what the color of the ribbon!!"

Welcome to our new students: Sydney, Haley, Lauren and Abigail! We hope you enjoy all that HorseSense has to offer.

HorseSense Cleans Up at Hunter Pace!

HorseSense riders had a great day at the In Unison Farm Hunter Pace, held at the always-spectacular Kingston Downs on Oct 1.

Kendall and Cayenne scored a blue ribbon in the Bluebird division, while Shayla and Peter Pan came in third. Hitman and Kaitlin had a fun ride securing their second place in the Cast and Run division, while Angela and Nikki came in just a minute and a half off the optimum time to earn first and third in the fast and furious Gone Away Over Fences. There was a unanimous agreement among all participants that the best part of the day was galloping around the outside of the huge steeplechase track!

The spring hunter pace will be held in March of 2012.



Quadrille Video Online

Footage of our fabulous Quadrille campers in action can now be found on YouTube! Check out the 2011 performances at the following urls:

Party Ponies:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jvac5ZyELO>

Pyschodramatic:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWxv9H2GhKM>

Games in the News

Congratulations to the **Candy Capers** and the **Smashing Pumpkins**, winners of our 3rd Annual Trick or Treat Games. We had a great morning of races, close competition (the Master's division was decided by a single point!) and lots of smiling faces. Special thanks to Brian McAvoy for providing us with a nice hot bonfire!

Our popular Mounted Games Camp takes place Nov 12-13, with the tournament running from **10pm to 12pm** on Sunday. Best of luck to all our campers!



Have a HorseSense Holiday

It's almost time to wrap up another great year! Join us for our **holiday barn party** to ring in the Christmas season.

When: Saturday, December 10, 2011, from 2pm to 6:30pm

Where: The bunkhouse at Fowler Farm

What: Anyone who wants to ride should arrive at 2pm ready to participate in our traditional community barn project! Weather permitting, we'll have a free ride in the arena. We will also break out the Christmas decorations, award Levels ribbons, and fill out riding goals for 2012 before digging into our usual pot-luck supper.

Bring: Beverages for your family and a dish to share in the pot-luck (we will provide hot spiced cider!).



Between Dec 11 and Christmas, students are also welcome to bring goodies for equine stockings. Horse treats must be healthy, non-perishable (ask us about rotten carrots in stockings...), and appropriately packaged. Peppermints, commercial or homemade horse cookies, and whole or dried apples are all safe and appreciated stocking stuffers.

Christmas Shopping?

The good news about the horse bug is that it makes gift shopping a breeze! Here are some suggestions for the enthusiastic rider in your life:

 Christmas is a great time to update the **equestrian wardrobe**. For the new rider moving out of the Red Level, consider a pair of half-chaps to improve comfort and security in the saddle. Fleecy breeches and warm winter gloves are always a popular choice, and students with goals of showing will need a show shirt, coat and tall boots. Ask us if you need help locating riding clothes suppliers (we know some good sources!) or selecting appropriate gear for your child.

 Want to surprise someone with an all-expenses paid horse experience? We can provide **gift certificates** for lessons, pony rides, camp, even a month of half-leasing for qualified students. Just ask us for details!

 Keep in touch with your favorite school horse and learn more about their lives by adopting them as a **Dream Horse penpal**. Our horses always have lots to say!

Horses for Lease & Sale

Have you dreamed of having a horse of your own? Half-leases are a great way to get a taste of horse ownership before making the full commitment to a horse, and they help us keep our school horses fit and happy. Our half-lease arrangement allows you ride three days a week and use the horse for lessons and appropriate camps.



We have a potential half-lease available on Fowler Farm's black Arabian gelding, **Halik**, for a qualified student. Halik is an old campaigner with years of Pony Club, jumping, dressage, games and trail riding behind him. He has been out of work for almost a year and will need to be *slowly* brought back into condition. At 14.3hh, he is a perfect size for a child or a small adult!

Lessees should be enrolled in regular lessons, well-matched with the horse and prepared to

participate in our stable management co-op. Green Level in both Horsemanship and Horsekeeping is preferred. For more information, please visit our website at

www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/horses_sale_lease.htm

After four great months with Jody, **Baileys on the rocks** is back on the market and needs a home ASAP! Bailey is a 15.2hh Thoroughbred gelding, 14 years old, with hunter pace and lower-level eventing experience. Jumps 3', currently barefoot, and FULL of personality.



Bailey is eager to please and forward, and prefers a confident rider with a steady leg. Sale price of **\$1800** is very negotiable to a good home—will consider a free lease to the right person!

Contact Nikki at

(706) 636-2123 or at gamespony@yahoo.com if interested.

COMING SOON... official HorseSense gear!
Want a polo shirt to show off your favorite riding school? Ask Dana for more information!



Winter Weather is Here

Shorter daylight and decreasing temperatures means only one thing... winter riding season is upon us! Here are some tips for getting the most out of your cold-weather lessons:

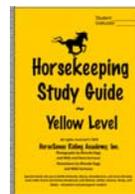
- 🐾 Dress in layers. Tights can be worn under breeches or jodhpurs for an extra layer of warmth. Pile on the sweaters, but leave your big, poofy ski-jacket at home—your instructor can't see you inside of one!
- 🐾 Fingers and toes are the first to freeze. Riding gloves (with an appropriate grip) are a must in cold weather, and consider investing in a pair of silk liners and/or socks to help keep away the cold.
- 🐾 HotHands or similar pocket-warmers are a great way to defrost mid-lesson!

Gentle reminder: unless we experience extreme weather such as driving rain, ice or snow, your lesson WILL NOT be cancelled! If the conditions (including footing) do not permit riding in the arena, we will have an unmounted session in the barn or bunkhouse. There is *much* more to horsemanship than sitting in the saddle!

Changes to Our Schedule

A few of our regularly scheduled classes will be moved due to conflicting event schedules in the upcoming months:

- 🐾 There will be no lessons available the week of Thanksgiving (Tues, **Nov 22** through Sat, **Nov 26**), as Nikki will finally be taking a few vacation days!
- 🐾 There will be no lessons available Saturday, **Nov 13** due to our Mounted Games Camp, and Saturday, **Nov 19** due to the Mock Fox Hunt.
- 🐾 Lessons *may* be unavailable one Sunday in early Dec due to cross-country schooling. Makeup lessons will be available. Ask Nikki for more information!



Don't forget: we have study guides to help accelerate your progress through the Levels! Revised Red Horsemanship and Horsekeeping are in stock along with Yellow Horsekeeping. \$8, or 2 for \$14. Available online or at the Riding Academy.

Class Schedule Fall/Winter 2011

*Classes will be held **rain or shine**, with unmounted Horsekeeping sessions if we are unable to ride. Students are required to take 1-5 private lessons before advancing to the next class. For more information, please visit:*

www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/lesson_schedule.htm

Rising Riders

Rainbow Level, ages 5-7

Rising Riders - Homeschooler's Special

Rainbow Level, ages 5-7

Beginner

Red & Yellow Level, ages 8 and up

Beginner - Homeschooler's Special

Red & Yellow Level, ages 8 and up

Intermediate

Green & Blue Level, ages 8 and up

Advanced Intermediate

Orange & Purple Level, ages 8 and up

Advanced

Teal Level, ages 8 and up

Private Lessons Available:

Call Nikki for availability

Sun @ 3:30pm

1/2 hr, \$20

Fri @ 11am

1/2 hr, \$20

Wed @ 4:30pm, Sun @ 2:30pm

1 hr, \$30

Wed @ 10am, Fri @ 10am

45min, \$25

Sun @ 4:30pm, Thurs @ 4:30pm

1 hr, \$30

Fri @ 4:30pm

1 hr, \$30

Wed @ 3pm

1 hr, \$30

Select Saturdays; Thurs @ 10am

1hr, \$35

Look for our
2012 lineup of
camps and
events in the
Jan newsletter!