



### Big Gallops and Big Smiles at In Unison Farm Hunter Pace

As always, the In Unison Hunter Pace is a highlight of the HorseSense year! This year's pace, held **Oct 6**, was attended by **Bluebirds Dana** (riding **Zahtar**), **Nicole** (on **Cole**), **Nancy** (and **Shiloh**), **Bethany** (on **Brave Kitty**), and **Maura** (riding **Biscuit** in his very first off-farm event!). All enjoyed a beautiful ride through Kingston Downs, with a little galloping on the side. The *Gone Away* division was represented by **Nikki, Angela and Katie K.**, forming a fast and furious all-*Paint* team with **Chase, Payton and Peter Pan**. Congrats to ribbon winners **Nikki, Katie**, who survived her first drop fence with style; and **Bethany**, who can gallop with the best of them!



Biscuit is very proud of himself at the Hunter Pace!



### Join Us for a HorseSense Holiday Barn Party and Workday at Kiker Farm!

Construction is underway at the new Kiker equestrian facility and as moving day draws closer, we're getting excited! Come see the farm and join us for a community workday on **Saturday, December 15**, from 10 AM—3 PM. We will be moving boxes and hauling equipment, putting up fence, and/or assisting with barn construction, with jobs available for all ages. Beverages will be provided; bring folding chairs and a potluck dish to share at lunchtime.

The workday will be followed with our annual end-of-year barn party. Be sure to bring an appropriate pony treat (whole apples, horse cookies or peppermints preferred) to stuff school horse stockings!

The Kiker farm is located at **842 Orchard Road** in Ellijay. Contact Nikki or Dana for directions or more information—and please RSVP by **Dec 12!**



### CONGRATULATIONS

to the following students for achieving  
new Levels since August:

#### Red Horsemanship:

Beth Petrillo  
Hannah Walker  
Lexi Cantrell  
Kalli Bassett  
Mary Elizabeth Walker  
Megan Bird

#### Yellow Horsemanship:

Abigail Cantlay  
Jenny Lee  
Lauren Cole  
Momo Lee  
Sydney Horton

#### Green Horsemanship:

Katie Courtney

#### Blue Horsemanship:

Elodie Frezier  
Lucy Sabine  
Marissa McAuliffe

#### Orange Horsemanship:

Amber Jeffares

#### Yellow Horsekeeping

Katie Kiker

#### Green Horsekeeping

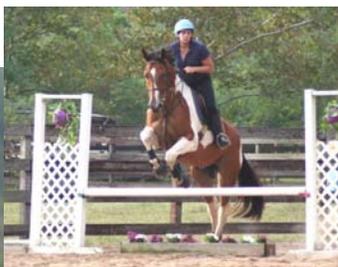
Elodie Frezier  
Katie Kiker  
Shayla Finley

Our next ribbon day will be Dec 15, 2012.



### Not-Your-Typical Schooling Show: Our Biggest Show Yet

Our popular fall schooling show grows a little each year, and our 2012 show, held on **Sept 29**, was no exception: we welcomed 37 competitors and over 150 separate entries, filling our equitation, games and ground pole classes to the max! **Congrats to Brandy Yates for winning 2012 Champion and to Elodie Frezier for Reserve Champion!** Huge thanks go to our tireless judge **Brooke Davidson**; to our pinch-hit announcer **Callian Trujillo**; to photographers **Carla Yates-Cole** and **Angela Parn**; to ring-crew extraordinaires **Evan Surrusco** and **Brian McAvoy**, who worked a transformation on the farm yet again and did a little scorekeeping on the side; to judge's assistant and bringer-of-coffee **Bob Surrusco**; to all of our volunteer gatekeepers, timekeepers and runners for keeping the show on track; and to all of our competitors, for demonstrating excellent horsemanship and reminding us why we love horse shows.



### HorseSense Halloween - All Fun & Games!

We had a great turnout for our fourth-annual Trick or Treat Games competition, held **October 27**. Pairs teams battled it out in Halloween-themed games—everything from Pole-tergeist to Monster Mash!—in both the Novice and Masters divisions. It was a close race, with only a point separating the top two teams in both divisions, but our eventual winners were *Pumpkin Spice* (**Shayla Finley** and **Hayley Horton**) in the Novice division, and *Smashing Pumpkins* (**Maura Davis** and **Nikki Surrusco**) in the Masters. As always, huge thanks to our ring crew for keeping things running smoothly!

### Announcing our New Quarter-Lease Program!

Want a taste of horse ownership without the commitment of a half or full lease? We are now offering a new program for qualified students who would like to quarter-lease a school horse. For \$50 a month, quarter-lease students will be able to come and ride one additional day a week, as well as have first dibs on the horse for regular lessons and camps. (By necessity, the additional day must be a day of Nikki's choosing, when the horse is not already scheduled to work!)

As with our full and half-lease programs, a minimum of Green Level experience is **strongly preferred**. Students must agree to all riding and horse care expectations, and be enrolled in our Horsekeeping program, actively working to expand their unmounted knowledge. In the event that a leased horse becomes lame or otherwise unfit for work, we will provide a substitute ride if possible, but no make-up days are offered for inclement weather. Ask Nikki or Dana for more information!

#### These horses are currently available to lease:

**Biscuit** is a 15.2hh Quarter Horse gelding, jumping 2'6" courses and schooling Training Level dressage. He needs a confident, enthusiastic rider who can motivate him to work. Biscuit is available for lease on **Thursdays**.

**Hitman** is a 13.2hh grade pony, a lesson veteran capable of jumping 2'-2'6" with ease. He can be strong, so not suitable for a timid rider. Hitman is VERY fat and needs a dedicated young rider to help keep him in shape! Hitman is available for lease on **Mondays**.

**Sage** is everyone's favorite school horse, 15.1hh and gentle. She is smooth and easy to ride on the flat and over low fences; she does require a rider with good leadership skills! Sage is available for lease on **Thursdays**.

#### WELCOME

... to our new students: **Aly, Kalli, Journey, Tera, and Tamra!** We hope you enjoy all that HorseSense has to offer.

... to **Katie Kiker's** beautiful pony, **Bella's Stormy Night**.

... and to our new horse, **Merlin!** We're looking forward to working this sweet Thoroughbred into our lesson string soon.



### How to Weather Winter

While horseback riding is a year-round sport, there is no denying that riding during the coldest winter months can be uncomfortable for the unprepared! Here are a few tips to help you conquer your cold-weather rides:

**Dress in MANY layers!** Breeches and riding tights can be layered, or worn under stretchy jeans and chaps. Layering long-sleeved shirts and sweaters with a close-fitting vest or jacket will keep you insulated from wind and allow you to shed layers if you overheat from the ride. Please do not wear your puffy ski-jacket to your lesson—your instructor cannot see you underneath it!

**Fingers and toes are the first to get cold.** Gloves are a must; riding gloves with a grippy palm are strongly preferred. It is worth investing in a lined pair for cold weather. Silk liners worn under regular socks can help keep your toes from freezing.

**Carry pocket warmers**, such as Hot Hands, to warm your fingers during breaks. You can also find thin heated insoles for your boots.

Take advantage of your horse's warmth: **hug often and ride bareback!**

### 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 Saturday, **Dec 15** due to our barn-raising workday and holiday barn party. Hope to see everyone there!
- There will be no lessons **Dec 24** through **Jan 1**. The horses will be having their first Christmas vacation as they adjust to their new home. Lessons will resume on **Jan 2** with an unmounted session in the new farmhouse, with video/photo analysis and goal setting for the new year.

Call or ask Nikki for more information!



Trail riding was a good reward for our **Nov 10th Level Up Clinic** students! We had 12 enthusiastic participants, all of whom worked hard to further their riding and horsekeeping knowledge.

### Class Schedule Fall/Winter 2012

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/guidelines.htm](http://www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/guidelines.htm)

#### Rising Riders

Rainbow Level, ages 5-7

#### Beginner

Red through Green Level, ages 8 and up

#### Intermediate

Blue Level & Orange Level, ages 8 and up

#### Advanced Intermediate

Orange & Purple Level, ages 8 and up

#### Advanced

Purple & Teal Level, ages 8 and up

#### Just For Adults

Advanced (Orange/Teal Level) on Wed;

Novice (Red/Blue Level) on Sun

Sun @ 3:30pm

1/2 hr, \$20

Wed @ 4:30pm, Fri @ 4:30pm

1 hr, \$30

Thurs @ 4:30pm

1 hr, \$30

Sun @ 2pm

1 hr, \$30

Fri @ 5:30pm

1 hr, \$30

Wed @10am, Sunday @4:30pm

1 hr, \$30

#### Private Lessons Available:

Call Nikki for availability

Select Saturdays; Wed @ 5:30pm, Fri @10am

1hr, \$40

Look for our  
2013 calendar of  
camps, clinics  
and special  
events coming in  
December!



## FOR SALE: Used Riding Apparel, Tack, & Books



We are reducing our inventory and have TONS of horsey goodies for sale—all items must go! Boots, chaps and tack available at huge discounts:

### Used Apparel Box—All Items \$5!

**Ariat half-chaps**, black, leather, child M and adult XL

**Suede half-chaps**, black w/ fringe, adult L

**Suede half-chaps**, brown w/Velcro, adult M

**Tuffrider show shirt**, short-sleeve, baby blue, child 16

**Tuffrider pull-on breeches**, purple, child 16; beige, child 8

**Devonaire breeches**, beige, child M

**Riding Sport breeches**, black knee-patch; green full-seat; both size 26

**PADDOCK BOOTS**—children's Ariat size 13; unsized Equileather; Saxon size 13; ropers size 11 1/2; and more.

### Quality Used Tack:

**Child's all-purpose starter saddle**, 15", brown. \$60 OBO.

**Play saddle**—17", billets/tree no longer riding safe. \$10

**Wintec stirrup leathers**, 54", black, like new. \$10

**Henri de Rivel stirrup leathers**, 60", black. \$10

**Wintec gullet plates**, narrow through medium-wide. \$5-10

**Laced reins w/ rein stops**, brown, like new. \$10

**Wintec polo wraps**, set of 4, white, never been used. \$10

**Leather breastplate**, brown, full-sized. \$15

**Figure-8 noseband**, chestnut brown, full-sized. \$10

**Standing martingale**, full-sized, dark brown. \$10

**Stirrup irons**—Fillis, peacock, hunt. \$10/pair.... and more!

**Middle-grade horse fiction**—*Saddle Club*, *Double Diamond Ranch*, *High Hurdles*, *Thoroughbred*. \$25 cents apiece!

**Tie-dye horse T-shirts**—\$5 each!

Contact Nikki for more information.

## Portrait Session Special!

Want professional portraits taken with your favorite school horse? Aly Rattazzi of **Rather Be Riding Photography** is offering a great deal on mini-sessions, just in time for the holiday season! For just **\$30**, each student will receive a CD of high-resolution, professionally edited photos, containing 15-20 shots taken with the school horse of their choice. Christmas-themed props will be available. Students are welcome to dress up for their photos—but please include horse-safe footwear! (*If riding shots are included, please remember that liability laws require that all riders under 18 must wear an approved helmet.*)

Photo shoots will be available on weekday afternoons after school: our first two sessions are planned for **Monday, November 26**, and **Tuesday, November 27**, weather permitting. In the event of rain, an alternative day will be scheduled. **Additional days may be available by special request, depending on availability of school horses.** Sessions will run on a first-come, first-served basis from 3:30PM until dark. Contact Nikki to reserve your school horse; for questions related to the photo sessions themselves, contact Aly directly at:

**Ooper007@hotmail.com**  
**678-654-3628**



Check out Aly's work at:

[www.facebook.com/Rather-Be-Riding-Photography](http://www.facebook.com/Rather-Be-Riding-Photography)

# www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com



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And be sure to subscribe to our HorseSense YouTube channel:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/Nenya217> (or type "Nikki Surrusco" into the search field)