



We came, we showed, we conquered! The HorseSense show team had a great trip to school and compete at Chattahoochee Hills in Nov 2016. Full recap on page 2.

Coming Up Soon...

Level Up Clinic—Jan 21

Get your new year started off right with our 4-hour clinic including both mounted and unmounted instruction designed to boost you towards your next Levels ribbon. The clinic runs from 1pm –5pm. Just \$40 per participant, but you'll need to submit an online or paper form by Jan 15 to avoid the late fee! Bring your study guide binder, or talk to Nikki or Dana about starting your own.

Ground Games Clinic—Feb 25

Our popular Saturday clinic covering basic training and groundwork skills returns in February. This is a hands-on unmounted clinic for ages 10 and up, strongly recommended for lessees and new horse owners. Participants are welcome to bring their own horse or request a school horse, but our horses are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to get your form in ASAP!

CONGRATULATIONS

to the following students for achieving new Levels since Oct:

Yellow Horsekeeping:

Abi Call

Orange Horsekeeping:

Marissa McAuliffe

Momo Lee

Camp Season 2017—Plan Your Horsey Summer Adventure NOW!

It may be cold and wet outside right now, but it's never too early to start thinking about horsey summer plans. We're excited to announce our lineup of day camps for 2017, with a few offerings and some important changes.

Red/Yellow Level Up Camp—June 7-10

Green/Blue Level Up Camp—June 14-17

Orange/Purple/Teal Level Up Camp—June 21-24

Level Up Camps are perfect for motivated students ready to take their skills to the next level while still enjoying a summer camp experience. This year, we're offering three camps geared towards our beginner, intermediate and advanced students—but **each camp will be limited to six participants** to allow for more individualized instruction. Students should talk to Nikki about availability for each camp and submit enrollment forms ASAP to ensure their spot.

Novice/Rising Rider Camp—July 5-8

We've combined our Novice and Rising Rider camps into one big, fun, beginner-friendly camp. This half-day camp is appropriate for all students in Rainbow and Red Level, ages 6 and up, as well as new riders interested in their first HorseSense experience. Half-day sessions include mounted and unmounted instruction with lots of games, horsey crafts, and a Saturday showcase followed by an awards ceremony.

Mounted Games Camp—July 12-15

We missed our old weekend mounted games extravaganza... so we've brought it back as a four-day summer camp! This half-day camp features three days of mounted clinics and unmounted skill drills designed to teach and improve mounted games skills. We'll wrap up with a fun and friendly games tournament on Saturday. This camp is open to all riders Red Level and above—teams will be grouped according to ability—but is limited to ten participants.

Quadrille Camp—July 28-30

Everyone's favorite choreography camp, where we spend one intense weekend learning to perform mounted drillwork, with music and costumes galore. We learned in 2016 that this camp will fill FAST, so check on availability and submit your enrollment at the first opportunity.

www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/daycamps_clinics.htm

We are still saving dates for Power Up Camps—let us know if you'd like to design your own customized one-day camp in 2017!





HorseSense on the Road

Our show team finished their 2016 season with a bang, traveling to **Chattahoochee Hills** for their eventing schooling show Nov 11-12. Huge congrats to **Marissa** and Jay, who placed first in both their combined test and 2' show jumping classes, proving that goal setting and hard work pays off!

Momo placed 2nd in the Tadpole CT with her new horse Lyon, improving her dressage test by a whopping ten points, and made the most of an educational 2'6" show jumping round. **Mia** and Romeo placed third in their Amoeba division and **Journey** and Hitman placed fifth. We also had successful showings from **Kadence** and **Grace** in their Chatt Hills debuts, building lots of confidence over fences, and **Rebecca** coached a nervous Dewi to completion in her dressage and jumping rounds.

Of course, the highlight of any trip to Chatt Hills is the opportunity to school cross-country. We had a great deal of fun learning to ride through water and jumping around the course, joined by show team newcomer **Tyler** who was also a HUGELY helpful Ground Buddy during Saturday's competition. Special thanks also go to Ground Buddies **Emma** and **Bethany** (who also provided us with video footage of both the schooling and competition), to **Rebecca**, **Amanda** and **David** for hauling horses (and delivering coach's coffee!), and to our wonderful and supportive parents who pitched in all weekend long (and learned a lot about eventing scoring in the process!).



We are looking forward to returning to Chatt Hills in spring and fall of 2017, as well as traveling to several other beginner-friendly schooling shows. Students interested in joining the show team must be riding at a minimum of Blue Level and have served as a Ground Buddy at one or more outside shows. For more information, talk to Nikki or visit:

www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/showteam.htm



*As always, we had a lot of fun with our Trick or Treat Games Competition, with six colorfully costumed teams playing Novice and Masters mounted games. Congrats to the **Gallop-ing Marshmallow Ghouls** and the **Smashing Pumpkins** for their division wins.*

Get Back to the Barn With Horsekeeping Days

We're setting aside a couple of Saturdays this winter to focus on our working students — or any student participating in the Horsekeeping Levels who wants to expand their horsey knowledge. Each day will cover a different topic and include hands-on experience in grooming, feeding, tack care, etc. This is a great opportunity for motivated students to get checkmarks towards their next Horsekeeping ribbon!

Horsekeeping days will be offered **Jan 14**, **Jan 28**, and **Feb 11**, from 1-6pm. There is no charge, but students must come prepared to work and learn, and RSVP at least three days prior. Please contact Dana for more information.

Ponies for Lease/Sale

Everyone's favorite Haflinger is in search of a second partner, with riding skills Orange Level or equivalent, to help him stay fit and reach his full potential. Jay is currently being offered for an **on-site quarter lease** (two riding days per week for \$50/month) with potential showing opportunities. He is an all-around pony with experience in mounted games, trail obstacles, groundwork, show jumping up to 2'6" (with scope for more), cross-country and lower-level dressage. Looking for a confident rider with quiet hands and legs, preferably Orange Level or above. Contact Nikki if interested.



Sadly, Katie will be offering Stormy **for sale to a good home** in 2017. A perfect move-up pony, Stormy is a fun and forward ride for a confident child, but will need reconditioning in order to jump or show. Please contact Katie directly for more information.



Changes to Our Schedule

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

- 🐾 There will be no afternoon lessons Sat, **Jan 21**, due to our [Level Up Clinic](#). Students are encouraged to attend!
- 🐾 There will be no lessons Sat, **Feb 25**, due to our [Ground Games Clinic](#). Come join us for a fun day of learning training techniques and playing with our horses!
- 🐾 There will be no lessons Sun, **Feb 26** or Wed, **Mar 1**, as Nikki will be out of town. Makeup lessons may be available the following Thurs—talk to Nikki if you are interested in rescheduling.

Need riding gear?

Check the [HorseSense](#) exchange box first!

Our box of used riding apparel currently includes paddock boots and breeches in adult and small child sizes, half chaps, show shirts and a show coat, riding gloves, two pairs of ladies tall boots, polos and some fun equine-themed T-shirts.



All items \$5 for [HorseSense](#) students!



Bundle Up— Winter Weather is Here!

Dark evenings and winter winds have returned to Hy-View Farm. While horseback riding is a year-round sport, it can be challenging to ride while frozen! Here are a few tips to keep you warm and comfy during winter lessons:

- 🐾 Dress in lots and lots of layers. Tights or leggings are an inexpensive way to add warmth to your riding pants without hindering flexibility. We suggest several long-sleeved, close-fitting layers under a weather-resistant coat. (Please try to avoid poofy ski jackets... your instructor can't see your form when you wear them!)
- 🐾 Gloves are a *must* on cold days—we prefer lined riding gloves, but anything with a grippy palm is acceptable.
- 🐾 While hats do not work with riding helmets, there are helmet covers available with fleecy ear flaps. You may also be able to stretch a headband over your helmet.
- 🐾 Finally, we love *Hot Hands* pocket warmers! Keep them in your pocket to warm your hands during breaks, or try out their heated insoles for your boots.

Class Schedule Winter 2017

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

www.HorseSenseRidingAcademy.com/lesson_schedule.htm

Rising Rider

Rainbow through Red Level, ages 5-8

Beginner

Red through Green Level, all ages

Advanced Beginner

Green through Blue Level, ages 8 and up

Intermediate

Orange & Purple Level, ages 8 and up

Advanced

Teal Level, ages 10 and up

Boss Mares

Yellow through Blue Level, ladies only!

Homeschooler's Special

Red through Yellow Level, all ages

Green through Blue Level, all ages

Private Lessons Available:

Call for availability

Fri @ 4:30

1/2 hr, \$30

Wed @ 5:30; Fri @ 5:30

1 hr, \$35

Thurs @ 5:30; Sun @ 4pm

1 hr, \$35

Thurs @ 4:30; Sun @ 3pm

1 hr, \$35

Wed @ 4:30; Sun @ 5:30

1 hr, \$35

Thurs @ 10am

1 hr, \$35

45min, \$30

Fri @ 3:30

Wed @ 2:30; Fri @ 11am

Select Saturdays

1hr, \$45 or 1/2 hr, \$30

OUR NEW RATE SCHEDULE applies to **new students** as of February 1, 2017.

If you are currently in regular (weekly or bi-weekly) lessons at [HorseSense](#), the rate change does not apply to you — it's one way we reward you for your commitment to learning.

We do reserve the right to charge current rates to any student who repeatedly fails to keep scheduled lessons.

Our class schedule is currently full!
Prospective new students may contact us to schedule an assessment lesson, after which we will add you to a group at the first available opportunity.



2017 Event and Clinic Schedule

Stuff happens, so all of this is subject to change! Check our website and newsletters for the latest schedule revisions.

 **NEW!** = NEW EVENT/NEW FORMAT

DATE		EVENT or CLINIC	COST	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
JAN 21	*	Level Up Clinic	40.00	Jan 14
FEB 25	*	Ground Games Clinic	60.00	Feb 18
MAR ???	*	Outside show/hunter pace: check newsletter for updated info.		
APR 8	*	Level Up Clinic	40.00	Apr 1
APR 22	*	Chattahoochee Hills Schooling Show - confirm with Nikki by Apr 8		
MAY 6	*	Spring Fling Games Competition	30.00	Apr 29
MAY 13	*	NEW! Mother-Daughter Clinic	40.00	May 6
JUN 7-10	*	Level Up Camp: Red-Yellow Levels	350.00	May 31
JUN 14-17	*	NEW! Level Up Camp: Green-Blue Levels	350.00	Jun 7
JUN 21-24	*	NEW! Level Up Camp: Orange-Teal Levels	350.00	Jun 14
JUL 5-8	*	NEW! Novice Camp: Rainbow-Red Levels	350.00	Jun 28
JUL 12-15	*	NEW! Mounted Games Camp	250.00	Jul 5
JUL 28-30	*	Quadrille Camp	100.00	Jul 21
SEP 9	*	End-of-Summer Barn Party	FREE	RSVP by Sep 2
SEP 23	*	NEW! Not-Your-Typical Schooling Show	15.00 + 5.00/ class	Sep 16
SEP30	*	Just Jumpers Schooling Show	15.00 + 5.00/ class	Sep 23
OCT 28	*	Trick or Treat Games Competition	30.00	Oct 21
NOV ???	*	Outside show: check newsletter for updated info.		
NOV 25	*	Level Up Clinic	40.00	Nov 18
DEC 16	*	Holiday Barn Party	FREE	RSVP by Dec 9

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)