

Hot off the press! Don't miss the August Ride Smart Club Newsletter!



Be sure to check the [Ride Smart Club Website](#) often for new content and videos!

## Letter from Craig

August brings adverse weather conditions, with the scorching heat and blazing afternoon sun, it may seem like a good excuse to just sit around and become a couch potato, or what I like to call a horse potato!

People ask me, "How do you ride when the weather's bad?" In August, I will do as much riding as I can. Just because it's hot and sunny does not mean you have an excuse to get lazy! This is a time you can take advantage of indoor arenas and indoor events. Try to ride early in the mornings or late in the evenings. Longer days in the summer months enable more flexibility in times to ride, take advantage of this. Summer is a season full of horse shows and events, attend a few to ride or watch, observe and learn. I avoid the sweltering summer heat in the afternoons by taking time to clean and oil my tack and equipment.

You may have to alter your usual routine to stay cool and avoid the summer heat, but it is still a great time of year to go to the barn. For more tips to keep you riding smart this summer, check out my blog post [Summer Horse Care Tips](#).

Your Friend,

Craig Cameron



## Q & A with Craig and Cole

### Question:

I have a horse that will not stand still when I go to mount. What can I do to fix this? Once I step on, I back her up a few steps, is this okay to do?

### Answer:

If this was my horse I would warm her up by loughing her around on a lounge line or in the round pen, sending her around 15 times each direction until I got the fresh off of my horse. Then when I was ready to mount after loughing her, I would put one hand on the saddle horn, one hand on the cantle and rock the horse back and forth until she is balanced and squared up, and standing on all four feet. Then I would get up on the side of my horse, not seated just on the side and if she started to walk I would check her up with the reins and ask her to stop. When she was completely stopped I would swing my leg over and sit down softly. If my horse started to walk off I would back her a step or two, then pet her and make her wait 30 seconds to a minute, creating the habit of standing still and waiting for my cues to move off. Doing this continuously, consistently and repetitiously will teach your horse to stay put and wait on you as you mount.

Send your questions to Craig at [doublehornd@lipan.net](mailto:doublehornd@lipan.net)

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### Upcoming Events

August 9-12, 2017 -- [Ride Smart Trail Ride & EXCA Race at Cook Forest Campground](#)  
Clarion, PA

August 25-27, 2017 -- [Ride Smart On the Road Horsemanship Clinic](#)  
Warren, PA

September 1-3, 2017 -- [Ride Smart On the Road Horsemanship Clinic](#)  
Lynnville, TN

September 8-10, 2017 -- [Ride Smart On the Road Horsemanship Clinic](#)  
Plain Dealing, LA

[Click Here for More](#)

Upcoming Events!

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