

WELCOME

The Ride Smart Club is the best place to better your horse and horsemanship. Follow along with Craig on the journey to enhancing your skills and becoming a better horseman. Be sure to check ridesmartclub.com often for new content and videos.

LETTER FROM CRAIG

I always believe in giving the horses a job to do, and one of my favorite things that is really good for the horse is camping or packing with your horses. I find it so relaxing and a great change of pace because it gets you out of the arena and takes a lot of stress off the horses, yet you're still progressing them. It doesn't matter if it's a one day adventure, a three day or a five day adventure. This is going to be good for you and your horse.

People may think you need a pack horse, but who I pack are my good saddle horses; I'll ride one and pack the other. And when I say packing, I'm talking about putting a cross buck or saw tooth type saddle on with panniers. The panniers are then loaded with food, tarps tents, etc - whatever I need to take with me on the trail. I like to introduce the packs to the horse in a round pen or in the arena and then get out on the trail.

I've had a lot of different experiences packing and through these situations you can learn and you can grow. And not all of these experiences are positive, strictly speaking, because well, things can happen. But uncomfortable circumstance still amounts to experience. And it's through experience that you learn. For instance, one time I was packing hunters into the wilderness of the Sierra Mountains in California. It was fall and we had a pretty long pack string - I was leading 6 or 7 horses that were all packed with tents and gear and food and everything that goes along with a hunting camp. That particular year the ground hornets were especially bad. Being from Texas, I had never heard of these "meat bees" before. So as we would come through the trail, the horse's hooves on the ground would bring these bees out of their nests to attack my horses and me! And boy, it definitely it got very western at that point! These bees really swarmed and stung hard. Before you know, the pack string broke loose from us and all the equipment, food, pots and pans, everything, was going everywhere.

We eventually got it all repacked and situated of course, and we were on our way again. But through that we learned that when we saw the bees, instead of slowing down and stopping, we would SPEED UP. If someone saw the bees on the ground or one of the nests, they'd shout, "roll it!" and we'd get moving down that trail so the bees would have a harder time catching up on and getting top of us. We learned to move out and get away from those bees!

These are the type of experiences that we learn from. It's not always the things that go right that we learn the most from; it's usually the things that go wrong. Those are the things that we remember that we tell the tales about and that we laugh about later.

Don't be afraid to get out there, ask something different of yourself and your horse. Have fun with it, be safe, ride smart and enjoy the ride!

Your friend, Craig Cameron

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Thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Craig Cameron & the Ride Smart Team Craig Cameron Ride Smart Horsemanship



