

From The Horse's Mouth

Southeast Endurance Riders Association Newsletter

April 2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we attended our first ride of the 2007 ride season in Memphis, TN this past month. The City Slickers is one of my favorite rides; there is just something special, if not a bit strange about riding your horse through a perfectly groomed recreational area. I loaned one of my horses, Petit Jets Aries, to a long-time friend of mine, Dr. Charles Borden, to ride in the 50 mile ride. Charles bred and raised Aries because I urged him to get a "Jet" horse like mine. Charles never got the chance to compete on her, though, because I bought Aries out from under him. Charles is also one of my new recruits back into the sport. He was been very successful in the past and now has a new horse he is bringing along. Charles plans to again be an active member in AERC and SERA.

This brings me to this month's message. Do we really know *who* SERA is? We know what we are, and what we stand for, but do we have a really clear idea of *who* we are? I asked my right arm and pit crew master, Laurie Underwood, to help me out with some non-scientific research on the topic. After many long hours of volunteer work on her part, we now have a much better insight of just who we are.

Laurie went through the current 2007 membership list and created a "super" spreadsheet of data of rider statistics. There are many useful findings that she uncovered.

If you take an overall broad look at the information, SERA members by and large have high completion rates in all distances. To me, that points to a couple of important items. First, the education process of new riders must be working. The SERA new rider briefing is producing a better educated rider. In addition to the briefings, we have some excellent handouts which answer nearly every question a new rider could ask. Second, I believe another reason for the success of new and old riders alike is our vets. I think we all know that if a horse possibly has an issue, the rider can count on the friendly and informative vet attention that we cultivate here in the SE region. Our SE vets want to see us do well in the rides. I believe we are like their children and that they are proud of us. I find myself constantly looking for their approval of a job well done.

Another bit of information which jumps out is that we are attracting new riders. I believe that this is also due to the positive influence that SERA is having on riders. SERA not only gives new rider briefings, but it sponsors clinics, and provides tools and mentors, all of which contribute to the general friendly environment one finds at our rides. Endurance is growing all over the world, but SERA is doing its fair share to produce new, informed riders.

Another very encouraging finding is that SERA members are willing, as a whole, to migrate up to the next level. We discovered that 41% of our current membership has *already* tried a 100 mile ride. Given the overall trend in AERC of a decline in 100 mile starts and available rides, I found this a wonderful fact. This information should make us all feel more comfortable about our rides in the SE region. If we have a strong base for building new riders, riders that will move up to the longer distances, and smart riders, ride managers should be able to continue to hold well-supported rides.

The only downside that came out of our informal research was that we have a small number of junior riders. I realize that this sport attracts mostly individual adults, and a few families. If you know of a young person that wants to try the sport, perhaps you can offer to haul them to conditioning rides or to actual events. Endurance is one of the best forms of education that we can give to kids. It teaches them responsibility, compassion for their horses, and the best part is that it can keep them out of other trouble. And sponsoring a junior has a major plus. It allows you to have a built-in legal rabbit horse!!!!

So go out there and have a wonderful spring at the rides. Enjoy your friends, your horses, your great vets, and all that we are in this sport. Be proud of who SERA is, what SERA stands for, and what we all have accomplished through SERA membership. We might just call ourselves, "Successful Endurance Riders Association."

Remember, "Don't sweat the small stuff."

Jody



Happenings from the SERA List

CORRECTION: Last month's Happenings listed the starting date of the proposed 100 mile jacket program as December 1, 2008. It should have said December 1, 2007.

Other News:

SERA has lost the sanctioning of the Old Dominion rides. This was reported to the Board this past month by the current President of the Old Dominion Board. The reasons given by the OD Board President were:

1. The OD Board was uncomfortable with imposing another group's rules on Old Dominion ride entrants.
2. The OD Board objected to paying a sanctioning fee for all riders entered, whether or not they were SERA members. The Board does not feel that SERA sanctioning attracts enough SERA members to warrant the sanctioning.

The SERA Board attempted to discuss the issue for a possible solution. However, due to some rides going on at that time and other absences, the SERA Board had very little discussion on this matter.

A proposal of offering some type special sanctioning was fielded, but those Board members who responded were not in favor of this idea. No other solutions have been offered, and so in 2007 the Old Dominion rides will not be SERA sanctioned.

The Board would like to hear from the members on this issue. Do you think that it is important for SERA to remain involved with the Old Dominion Rides? Do you think a special sanctioning solution should be offered? If so, what type of special sanctioning? Do you have an idea of how to solve the problem? Any and all input from the membership is welcomed.

Please contact your state representative and voice your opinion. We need your feedback in order to make the types of decisions that best serve the members' interests.

Submitted by: Jody Rogers-Buttram



Joe Baker, long time horseman and endurance rider, passed away March 14th. In the words of Joe Schoech, "We've lost a very tough, kind and giving man."

BAKER, JOE B., Joe Baker of Sanford passed away March 14, 2007. He spent almost his entire 80 years in Sanford where he was born in 1927 to Dr. Clifford and Bertha Baker. He attended Sanford schools and graduated from the University of Georgia. After serving four years in the Air Force he returned to help his father at the family dairy farm and cattle ranch on CR 427. In more recent years his business interest was in real estate development and investment. His life long interest in equestrian events took him from cutting horses to building the first polo field in Seminole County. He and his wife JoAnn hosted and participated in many polo tournaments in the 80s. Their interest then turned to endurance riding where they maintained their competitive spirit in races all over the country. Joe competed in 25-mile endurance rides until he was 77 and continued to enjoy riding the rest of his life. He served on the Sanford City Commission and two terms as mayor in the 60s, he then moved on as one of the original members of the Sanford Airport Authority. He was thought of as a fair and honest community leader and his interest in the city of Sanford never waned. He leaves his wife who he adored for 26 years, JoAnn Saunders Baker; his children Susan and her husband Gregg Banden, Cindy Baker, Stephen Baker and his wife Jackie, Lisa and her husband John Cather, Kristin and her husband Carter Edge, Dietra and her husband Sean Garden, and 10 grandchildren. According to his wishes, his family will be holding a small private ceremony in his memory. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a contribution in Joe Baker's name to Freedom Ride, Inc., 1905 Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810. 407-293-0411. www.freedomride.com

Published in the Orlando Sentinel on 3/16/2007



100 Mile Jacket Program

The following is the criteria for this award:

1. Any SERA member entering their first one day 100 mile ride at a SERA sanctioned ride and completing said ride will receive from SERA a monogrammed jacket in celebration of their accomplishment. This jacket will be delivered at the SERA Convention.
2. Any SERA member entering their first one day 100 mile ride at a SERA sanctioned ride will only have to pay the entry fee to the 50 (55 or 60) mile ride. SERA will cover the difference between the 50 and 100. The details of how the reimbursement will be worked out.
3. Funds for this program will be raised at a silent auction at the next SERA convention (2008). The shortfalls from this auction will be covered out of SERA general funds.

This program will not take affect until the 2008 ride season (starting Dec. 1, 2007). If any member would care to voice their opinion in favor or against such a program, I strongly urge you to contact your state representative and be heard. SERA is your organization and I want to encourage each of you to become involved.



USEF/FEI Steward/Judge Introductory Clinic

In hope that you, or some of your friends, will be interested in becoming a USEF/FEI Steward or Judge, we will be holding a Steward/Judge Introductory Clinic on Thursday, May 3, in connection with the Biltmore Challenge. There will be an especially strong need for Stewards at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY, and this is a good opportunity to get your licensing process underway. Being a Steward at WEG usually involves access to many of the activities of other disciplines when you are not actively serving in Endurance.

If you will email Anne Ayala (kenayala@charter.net), she will send you details on the Procedure for becoming a Steward, an application for the Clinic, and the Pre-Reading list for the Clinic. There will be opportunity to do your first apprenticeship at Biltmore if you choose, or you can attend the Clinic and then do 4 apprenticeships at other rides (two must be FEI).

Hope to see many of you at the ride and some of you at the Clinic!!



AHA Region XII 2007 Endurance Challenge

In an effort to induce the Arabian / Half-Arabian Endurance community to join and participate in the organization which protects and governs the heritage of the very horses that they ride, Region XII of the Arabian Horse Association is presenting the following challenge to the Arabian / Half-Arabian Endurance community.

Join an AHA Region XII "local" club as a "Competition" member, ride a registered Arabian / Half-Arabian in a Endurance Ride (LD's included) in three (3) Region XII states (AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN,) and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Bronze Level Polo Shirt. Ride in four (4) states and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Silver Level Jacket. Ride in five (5) states and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Gold Level Fly Sheet. Ride in six states and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Platinum Level Rain Sheet. A Region XII Endurance Challenge Championship Blanket will be awarded to the rider with the highest mileage occurring within the region, which has ridden in at least five (5) states. There will be one high mileage award for endurance and one high mileage award for limited distance. The miles track with the rider. Sound easy? That is how it should sound. This is Region XII's way of asking for your support in promoting Arabian / Half-Arabian horses as the world's most lovable, and versatile breed. QUESTIONS: Call Eric Reuter 865.599.3594 (eric@rueterconsultinginc.com) or Cheryl Van Deusen 386.566.4820 (cvandeusen@gmail.com) for more information or R12endurance@gmail.com

The Arabian / Half-Arabian Endurance community has complained long and hard that AHA does not do anything for them. Well now is your chance! Become an AHA member through your local AHA affiliate club, load up your horse and RIDE! There will be local club AHA membership forms available or you can join through Arabian Distance Riders Club (AHA # 12277) by filling out a form or joining on line through www.arabianhorses.org – a one year membership costs \$45 for adults.

Official Rules:

1. Horse MUST be a registered Pure Bred, Half-Arabian or Anglo-Arabian.
2. Current horse registration owner MUST be an AHA competition member in good standing for this year.
3. Rider MUST hold a current AHA Competition Card and be a recognized member of a Region XII affiliated club (i.e. be counted as member through the AHA).
4. For a ride to count the competitor must only earn a completion. Placements have no meaning in this challenge. Provide your AHA membership number to RM.
5. The period of the challenge will coincide with the AERC ride year (December 1 through November 30).



City Slickers Ride Photos

Check out the ride photos at <http://www.picturesdanieltook.com>



SETC-Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference

I would like to extend an invitation to the SERA membership to attend this year's Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference. This conference will take place in Knoxville, Tennessee, this year on July 19-21. Both SERA and AERC sponsor this conference each year. At this time, the agenda has not yet been published, but there are always very interesting presentations. I will have more information as the year progresses. If you would like to attend, please email me at lori@lorisumrall.com.

The purpose of SETC is "to bring together people who are concerned about the future of the natural and cultural heritage of the trail experience from the back of a horse."

Lori Sumrall, Southeast Trails Chair



News from the States

TENNESSEE'S FOR ME

Hi all! Just returned from the CITY SLICKERS ride. I just wanted to share a bit about it with you. First of all the weather was great on Friday and bit too hot on Saturday. Friday we had 34 50's start and 28 25's start. On Saturday we had 19 50's, 46 25's, and 22 fun riders start; all in all it was a great turn out. Ride manager, Terry Silver and her crew of volunteers delivered organization, well marked trails, and great food. I think everyone would agree there was an overall feeling of camaraderie, challenge, and excitement among the riders, crews and spectators.

This was the first year for a multiday ride at City Slickers and I do believe it can be judged as the best City Slickers ride as of yet. This ride has become very popular and seems to grow continually each year. My sense is that all will be looking forward to next year's ride in the city of Memphis, Tennessee.

Now on to our feature article for the month of April. This month I would like to introduce one of our longest standing members of SERA, Marie Threadgill. Marie has been a

member of AERC for 21 years and has also been a member of SERA since the early pioneer days of our southeast organization. She has acquired close to 8,000 miles, which include 25, 50, and 100 mile rides as well as numerous top tens and BC's. She has competed in ride and ties and is also an accomplished marathon runner. In fact she holds the record in the state of Tennessee for completing the Andrew Jackson Marathon in 3 hours 58 minutes at the age of 55! No woman has broken that time record at any marathon completed in the state of TN for a number of years.

Marie lives in Wildersville, TN with her husband Jim, their two dogs, 1 cat, and 2 horses. Currently Marie has been riding Invincible Majik, a very accomplished grey Arabian. They have competed together for the last 3 years and have acquired over 2,000 miles with no pulls. Marie and Majik completed 2 100's in 2006, her favorite being The Old Dominion. Marie said, "This ride was by far the most challenging ride since I have been riding endurance. Receiving my silver OD buckle gave me a great sense of accomplishment. Majik and I became one and to me, he seemed more attentive and physically fit then he's ever been."

Marie used to compete up front, but lately has begun to feel the "race" doesn't seem as important anymore. More meaningful to her are the miles she can accumulate on Majik and the pleasure of a completion without any lameness or metabolic issues.

Marie is not only a long standing member in the endurance community but also a person of high integrity, a person who puts her horse's health and welfare before all else, and most certainly an endurance rider we can all learn from.

Thanks Marie! You are an inspiration to us all.

Next month, look forward to a feature article on the newest member of SERA.

Take care and ride safe.

Debra LaComette
Your Tennessee State Representative

GREETINGS FROM YOUR KENTUCKY DIRECTOR:

Sorry I don't have more, but it all went with my ole computer that crashed:(so I do not have too much to report this month:

Remember the LBL EXPRESS is May 18th & 19th, 2007 this year! We are sanctioned with SERA and SEDRA, plus it will be an AHA ride. Riders please check with AHA to make sure you have your competition cards--they are different from the membership cards. Call or email me if you have any questions: 812-499-5745

hikryrdg@evansville.net

Hope everyone is doing well, see you on the trail!

~Diane

~Diane Fruth-LBL EXPRESS RIDE Manager
Golden Pond, Kentucky
(near Cadiz, Kentucky)

Wrangler's Campground
AERC, AHA, SERA, IAHC, SEDRA and OAATS Sanctioned
May 18th & 19th, 2007
25 & 50 Miles Rides, 2-Day 100, Sat. 10 Mile Fun Ride
www.lbl.org (lbl's website)

KENTUCKY TRAIL NEWS

Subject: Mammoth Cave Backcountry Summit Committee Workday 4-21-07,
EARTHDAY!

Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2007 07:26:41 -0600

The next Backcountry trail workday will be held at Mammoth Cave on Saturday, April 21, 2007, (Earthday!) The trip will meet at DOUBLE J Stables at 9AM, and depart shortly thereafter. The project will be to complete trimming/lopping the corridor for the reroute of the McCoy Hollow/Wet Prong spur trail, which connects Collie Ridge Road with the southwest end of Wet Prong. All tools will be provided. This important reroute will completely eliminate 3 treacherous hills many of you are familiar with on this trail. The American Hiking Society completed approximately half of this reroute during their workweek last week, and our trip will be trimming and lopping the second half, getting it ready to actually dig the trail. We should work until early afternoon. Please spread the word and bring all interested people. Please call if there are any questions.

Larry Johnson
Mammoth Cave NP
(270)758-2150



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE - 'Cheerio': Unregistered Arab Mare, Bay, 15 years, 14-2. Has done 5 - 25 mile Endurance rides and 6 CTR's including a 2 day 50. No issues, Easy keeper, Sound. Good horse for junior, inexperience rider, grandma. Loves hugs and being ridden. \$2,500. Call or email Catherine Whiteacre 352.472.6335
cwhiteacre@msn.com

04/07

Have a horse, saddle, trailer, or other stuff to sell? Send in your ads!



SERA Membership

Membership runs from December 1st through November 30th. Single membership is \$25 for the year. Family membership is \$30. If you haven't renewed already, please do so now. You must renew by March 1st in order for the rides prior to that date to count for year-end awards.

Renew online! Go to:

https://linux9.domainnameservers.net/~serao2/new_membership.htm

Renewal forms can be downloaded and printed from

http://www.seraonline.org/sera_web_application.htm.



Ride Managers

Your ride flyer may be posted to the SERA website. There is no limitation on the number of pages. To add your ride flyer to the website, please submit it in Word, txt, or PDF format to teri@websbyteri.com and place in the subject of the email line "SERA Ride Entry Form." For publication in the newsletter that is distributed through the US Postal Service, the ride flyer must be no more than two pages and must be sent to Tamra Schoech at SERAg@bellsouth.net or 4050 Buck Smith Rd, Loganville, GA 30052.



SERA SANCTIONED RIDES

As listed on the SERA Website

Check the website for updates

2007 Ride Calendar

April 21, Million Pines Classic Elevator, 50/30, Soperton, GA; Ride Manager: Wesley Crowe, 912-529-3956, soppharm@planttel.net

April 28, Witch Dance I, CANCELLED, Rowlandhardware@bellsouth.net

May 5, Biltmore Challenge, 100/50, Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC; Ride Manager: Cheryl Newman, 828-665-1531, cherylnewman@charter.net

May 12, Blazing Saddles, 50/25, Longleaf Horse Trails, Laurel, MS; Ride Manager: Terry Price, 601-605-6079, farmerprice@earthlink.net

May 18/19, LBL Express, 2-day 100/50/25, 50/25, Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, KY; Ride Manager: Diane Fruth, 812-985-2151, hikryrdg@evansville.net

June 22/23, GERA Fundraiser, 50/25, 50/25, Dawson Forest, Dawsonville, GA; Ride Manager: Raylin Patterson & Sandy Thomson, 770-844-0344, gamudduck@aol.com & sandyatdock@aol.com

September 6/7/8, Big South Fork Pioneer, 50/30, 55/30, 100/50/30, Big South Fork NRRRA, Oneida, TN; Ride Manager: Eric Rueter, 865-986-5966, Eric@RueterConsultingInc.com

October 4/5/6, Alabama Yellowhammer Pioneer, 55/30, 100/50/25, 50/25/Fun Ride, Talladega National Forest, Heflin, AL; Ride Manager: Tamra Schoech, 770-554-1545, tschoech@bellsouth.net

October 13, Red Barn Run, 50/25, Chester, GA; Ride Manager: Cheryl Perry, 229-686-2278, cperry@alltel.net

October 27, Witch Dance II, 55/35, Tombigbee National Forest, MS; Ride Manager: Raymond Rowland, 662-456-3854, Rowlandhardware@bellsouth.net

October 27, Distance Horse Classic (formerly the Hampton Classic), 50/25, Green Swamp West, Dade City, FL; Ride Manager: Teri Hunter, 863-859-4005, teri@distancehorsegear.com



SEDRA Ride and Event Calendar

South Eastern Distance Riders Association upcoming ride season will be very busy! Now is the time to plan for your winter riding, endurance or CTR or driving. Go to www.BlackProng.com if you would like to stay for a while--an awesome camping/training facility in the Goethe State Forest. Come and have some fun in the sun! This calendar will be updated soon so look for updates at www.distanceriding.com. Please look at what's scheduled so far for this year:

South Eastern Distance Riders Association (SEDRA) 2006-07 Ride Calendar

Apr 21, Million Pines Classic Elevator, 50/25, Soperton, GA; Ride Manager: Wesley Crowe, 912-529-3956, soppfarm@planttel.net

May 5, Biltmore Challenge, Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC; Ride Manager: Cheryl Newman, 828-665-1531, cherylnewman@charter.net

May 18/19, LBL Express, 2-day 100/50/25, 50/25, Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, KY; Ride Manager: Diane Fruth, 812-985-2151, hikryrdg@evansville.net

May 18/19, Maggie's Gallivant CTR, 25 miles, Cross FL Greenway; Ride Manager: Brandi Bobst, 352-302-3804, racengirl@yahoo.com

SEDRA SPRING CLINIC

April 27-29, 2007

Lake Louisa State Park

“Things Your Father Never Taught You
(Because he was busy teaching your brother)”

Join us for a weekend of Riding, Learning, and Camaraderie.

Clinic will be limited to 50 participants and equines 4 years or older. Each class will be 45-60 minutes each, taught in small groups that will involve hands on training for subjects regarding distance riding, trucks, trailers, and the wildlife you may encounter! We encourage you to bring your horse, though you do not have to! Proof of horse Coggin's test must be up to date and negative.

After the classes, we can ride until dark. Lake Louisa State Park has 20 miles of permanently marked horse trails. Stay the night, enjoy the pot luck dinner, and ride again Sunday morning. Clinic fee include classes, lunch on Saturday, and Pot Luck dinner. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided at Saturday night's Pot Luck, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

The park campground is reserved exclusively for our use for the whole weekend. Plan to come for the clinic, and stay to ride. Horse water, a few paddocks, bathrooms are available. No electric. Park rules will be enforced. All dogs must be on leash.

Tentative subjects to be covered:

- TIRES: selection, rotation, changing a flat, greasing the bearings
- 12 volt electrical systems: learn the basics for installing tack and loading lights, fans, and a battery operated water pump
- Easy boots: Fitting your horse and foaming
- Toxic plants
- Distance Training with a GPS and Heart Rate Monitor (concentrating on Garmin 201, 205, 301 and 305).
- Horse feet and horse shoes: Selection of horse shoes for the terrain and hoof type, angles for front and hind; help your farrier help you.
- Emergency Preparedness: Horse first aid kit, Roadside requirements.

Maris Ramsay, Clinic Manager 352-394-1286 (evenings please) or MarisR@aol.com



**2007
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers:

President - Jody Rogers-Buttram (AL) (256)974-4957 3farm@earthlink.net
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seraboard@lists.theneteffect.com
www.seraonline.org

Send newsletter submissions to: Debbie Parsons sabalpalmfarm@tampabay.rr.com



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Debbie Parsons, 1803 E Trapnell Rd, Plant City, FL 33566
(813)754-6197 sabalpalmfarm@tampabay.rr.com

All articles must be received by the 25th of the month to be published in that month's newsletter. If provided electronically just type into an email message or a file attachment in Microsoft Word or Excel.

SERA sanctioned rides are entitled to a single printing of a ride flyer, front and back, one page only or a full-page ad, free of charge (8 ½ x 11). Multiple printings, or a longer ride flyer, will incur additional charges. All sanctioned rides are listed on the SERA website.



ADVERTISING RATES

SERA members - 25 word classified ad (personal items only) free for 3 months pending space availability.

Non-members - \$.20/word, with a \$5.00 minimum

Display ad - Camera ready copy (per insertion, discounts for multiple runs).

1/8 page - \$10

1/4 page - \$15

1/3 page - \$20

1/2 page - \$50