

From The Horse's Mouth

Southeast Endurance Riders Association Newsletter

April 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When it comes to competition, there are many things that can make you stand out, excel, be left in the dirt, or just give the appearance of “being an endurance rider.” There is one in particular that has evolved over the years. It was once a single-celled type organism that has morphed into a multi-faceted machine. It can be simply “the make it or break it” for someone trying to win. It can be your best friend, literally, or it can be a paid stranger. It is the most watched, analyzed, and talked about of the endurance scene...it is the pit crew.

If we start at the bottom of the ladder, you will find the endurance rider that has no crew or that “sponges” (no pun intended) off someone else’s crew. These are the folks that come to the rides for the sheer joy of being out in the woods with their horses. They may not be the most competitive of riders but they make for a good showing. These folks are the “minimalists” of the world, surviving on tree bark and letting their horses just relax and graze peacefully at the end of a rein in vet checks. They always seem to be happy unstressed people and no problems seem to ever come their way. It could be the endurance god’s way of blessing those of the simple life. The endurance god knows that this simple being is not, and could not be put, in a position to alter their state of tranquility so there would be no fun to put this calm creature in a situation to make him squirm. This person would simply adapt to the new surroundings, much like a chameleon, and easily fit in again.

At some point though, some of these riders start to morph. The simple creature becomes a bit unsatisfied by the happy-go-lucky life he leads. Sometimes, the human nature of being greedy or competitive starts to kick in and takes over his straight forward brain. It is at that time that we start to see the first signs of the metamorphosis taking place.

This stage can be subtle, with the rider now bringing a bucket, a hay bag, and maybe a small collapsible cooler for people snacks. The rider arrives at the vet check, walks over to his way out-of-the-way spot to where he has dropped his items. At this stage, he is never in the line of traffic to the pulse gate and is there on the outskirts of the hustle and bustle. He may un-tack if required, feels for a pulse because he has no heart monitor or stethoscope, decides it’s time to present his horse and walks over to vet through. After doing so he then proceeds back to his own little corner of the world to watch peacefully as the rest of the riders chaotically vet their horses through. He doesn’t fret over whether his items are brought to the vet check, he doesn’t fret over location, and he doesn’t fret over anything. He has packed all the horse needs in the canteen bag, along with electrolytes and duct tape. He waits out the hold time, and has all ready to leave on time. This is still a rather simple world for this horse/rider team to travel through.

Later we might see this one person team bring another person, like a junior rider, a friend, or a spouse, to a ride for “company.” He gets used to the luxury that his “company” affords him or this one-man team decides that they are ready to “move up” in speed or distance...and to do so, you need a CREW. This is sometimes a four letter dirty word...or curse. Crewing is not for the weak, not for those that are strong willed, and certainly not for everyone. At this stage, the crew will consist of friends or family members, or sometimes the person at the barn that wants to learn about endurance. I like to refer to this stage of crew members more like *suckers*. These can be recruited in the beginning for free, but after a few rides, the rider may need to provide extra benefits. Sometimes that

can be as simple as a Walmart rotisserie chicken. This volunteer crew may be saddled with more than one horse, many buckets, and a million different tasks. Tack changes can be life or death battles, feed and which horse gets what squirted down his throat. Where did the darned bit go!!! Who has my helmet!!! I have found that it is best to have one crew sucker (I mean volunteer) for each horse. That way, in all the rush, shouting and swearing, at least this one poor person only has to try and answer to one slave master. Of course there will be conflicting issues, sometimes between crew members and sometimes between crew and riders. Side note *** I threw a heart monitor about 30 feet at Joel one time at the Biltmore 100, not because I was mad at him, but because it wasn't working. Let me say this: If someone sees this type of behavior along with a string of words that shouldn't be shouted in public, you will get LOTS of people that jump up and offer to take a pulse for you. And after all the fuss, you still never leave the vet check on time.

The highest level of crewing would be the professional crew. This is only for those that can afford it. Or at least those that want to take out a second mortgage to look like they can. At this level, the rider is no longer physically engaged in the crewing. He will arrive into the vet check, dismount, and step gracefully off to a place where of course no mud would dare be. He will then hand over his trusty steed and only give a minimum of instructions. That being because these are Professionals and know what to do, and they are being paid well for that expertise. During the hold, they will see to ever need that the horse could ever have. He is massaged, fed, cleaned of all dirt/mud. He is brushed, blanketed, given all the high priced supplements to make him perform better. He will have at least 3 people at his beck and call, while in the quiet comfort of the touring bus, his owner is receiving the human version of the same. At no time is there any fussing, cursing, or throwing of fits (or heart monitors). Everything works like a well oiled machine. Then at the end of the hold time, the rider emerges from his abode and walks over to the mounting block that was placed right before his next step, and mounts. He turns, glances at the GPS timer, and leaves the vet check, precisely on time.

So, have we really evolved? Or have we just turned into something that looks like it has changed for the better? Do the horses really benefit from all the fuss, all the gadgets, all the extra supplements being shoved down and at them? In all this rush have we lost the real purpose of the sport? Have we lost the real companionship with our horses, our friends, and our fellow riders? Are we living true to our endurance heritage?

With that said, I think I need to contact my crew and buy that chicken.

And remember, don't sweat the small stuff.

Jody



Happenings from the SERA list

The AERC National Championship rides needs your help!!!

SERA is a proud supporter of the upcoming championship rides to be held near Henryville, IN. Please, contact the ride manager Amy Whelan at: Arabsrun@foothills.net if you will be able to help work the rides.

I know many of us will be competing, and that is also a great way to support, but to you riders, maybe give up part of your pit crew so that they can help out. I know that I am sacrificing a wonderfully trained crew member for the cause.

Also, start thinking of what you can donate to the **SERA auction**. We need to be cleaning out the barn, trailer, or house for those items that we don't use, but someone else might need/want. These funds go to support the 100 Jacket program that is active this ride season. Does anyone have a horse that they would like to donate??? A breeding??? Think big people !!! ☺

Submitted by: Jody Rogers-Buttram



Shelters in a Storm

Yes, it's getting close to the start of hurricane season. If you have provided the SERA website with information regarding the availability of room for evacuees, please take a moment to review that information. And, if you can provide a place, please go to <http://www.seraonline.org/hurricanerelief.htm> and add your farm to the list.



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.

The Endurance Adventures of Ms. Sera

By Jody Rogers-Buttram





SERA 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.



News from the States

Greetings to all from your 2008 SERA Kentucky Director:)

Greetings from your Kentucky Director:)

Hope all of you are getting out to ride your horses. It's been a miserable winter for some of us with the ice, snow and flooding. Diesel is up to \$4.25 a gallon here:(We have had so much rain in my area, plus the 24 earthquakes. This has been such a strange winter/spring! I am glad Spring is on it's way:)

Hope this finds you all well.

Sending out a few things about Trail Work Days in Kentucky and Upcoming Events. Please let me know if you have any questions or need to send something. Till next month....

~Diane Fruth

SERA Kentucky Director

Upcoming Public Meetings – make your voice heard!

Wednesday, May 21 – 6 p.m. @ Fairdale High School (1001 Fairdale Road) – the first public meeting to begin developing a comprehensive master plan for the 6,191-acre **Jefferson Memorial Forest**. For more info:

<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/MetroParks/parks/jeffersonmemorialforest/Master+Plan+Public+Documents.htm>

Healthy Hometown Pedestrian Summit and Community Walkability Plan – make your feet happy!

The city's first-ever Pedestrian Summit takes place on May 9-10. While not everyone is a driver or a cyclist, *we are all pedestrians* at some point in every day. The Pedestrian Summit and Community Walkability

Plan will – with your help –establish priorities to make sure that the community's limited resources for pedestrian projects are used wisely!

To learn more, get involved or take an online survey, visit <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Health/MHHM/PedestrianSummit/>

Trail Work Days In Kentucky

The work day at the A J Jolly Park Horse Trail that was scheduled for Saturday, March 15 was postponed. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

The trail work day scheduled for March 8, 2008 at the Red River Gorge near the Powder Mill Trail has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

The next date for the general Backcountry Trail workdays for all interested parties at Mammoth Cave NP is 19 Saturday May 17. All workdays will meet at 9AM CST at the Maple Springs Trailhead/Parking area in Mammoth Cave National Park. All tools will be provided.

Larry Johnson
Park Ranger
Mammoth Cave NP
270-758-2150

Work Day Report:

We had a really good project day at the park (Saturday, April 19). It was a beautiful day, even if we did get sprinkled on! Eight members of our group participated, along with two Sierra Club and two BGLOB (Bowling Green League of Cyclists) volunteers.

Five MCETRA volunteers worked two hours lopping brush on First Creek trail: Billy Morgan, Doris Dorsey, Marsha Stewart, Brenda Cecil, Bonnie Fields

Three MCETRA volunteers worked for eight hours. They brought their horses and chain saws and cut 30 trees and marked 20 downed trees with GPS for removal by park personnel: Valerie Stokes, Mary Hamilton, Mike Nicholas

Also - the following members worked 6 hours on Friday, April 18. They packed concrete and supplies into the Raymer Hollow crossing and set 3 tie posts. They also cut 3 trees on the trail along the way. Valerie Stokes, Mary Hamilton, Mike Nicholas, Fran Reef, Bill Reef

Many thanks to everyone who participated! **Our next project day is Saturday, May 17.** Hope to see you there! Remember - Our participation in the park is vital--not only to maintain and improve the trails, but also to cultivate a positive relationship with park management.

Bonnie Fields,
MCETRA Secretary
Please visit our website: www.mcetra.com

AERC CONVENTION 2009

It is so cool that next year's AERC Convention will be in Louisville, Kentucky.

The information Kathleen (AERC Executive Director) gave me: Galt House February 20th-22nd, 2009.

More information later...

REMINDERS:

For a calendar of 2008 equine activities throughout Kentucky please visit the Kentucky Horse Council calendar of events at http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/equine_calendar.shtml

For a calendar of Trail Riding activities including meetings throughout Kentucky please visit Kentucky Trail Riding at <http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/trails/index.shtml> and click the trail calendar link.

If you would like to have your equine event added to the Kentucky Horse Council event or trail calendar please respond to this email including event specifics, date(s), time, location, and contact information.

The deadline for Kentucky Horse Council scholarship submissions is May 1, 2008. For more information on Kentucky Horse Scholarships please visit <http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/scholarships.shtml>

The Northern Kentucky Horse Network has a website they would like to announce: www.nkyhorsenetwork.com
If you have any information, questions, etc, Contact Anna Zinkhon (President) Anna.Zinkhon@fuse.net
(859) 801-1781

For those of you following the KY Recreational Trails Authority bill status, as you know it passed the Senate earlier this week, and today (Friday) it was referred to the House Tourism Development and Energy Committee.

If you would like to express your support of the bill to your representative, that would be great!

Here is the link to who is on that committee:

[http://www.lrc.ky.gov/committee/standing/TD&E\(H\)/members.htm](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/committee/standing/TD&E(H)/members.htm)

And here is a link to find out who your House Representative is, if you don't know:

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/whoswho/county.htm>

Thanks for all the grass roots support for this very important bill for the Trail Riders of Kentucky!

Friends of the Trail: Last year, the KY Horse Council started a small group called "Friends of the Trail" with representation from each of the major trail groups, plus Chair of the KY Recreational Trail Authority. This group's purpose was primarily to share information about trail projects, trail concerns (land managers perhaps talking about closing trails, etc.), and general trail education, for example, a speaker on GPS mapping. This year, we would like to invite all trail or saddle clubs to send a representative. Just to keep the group from getting TOO large, please no more than two (preferably one) person per group. If your group is involved in significant trail riding and trail support activities, it would certainly benefit you to attend! The group meets every other month starting in March on the THIRD THURSDAY at 6:00 at the KY Horse Park. The 2008 dates are: March 20th, May 15th, July 17th, Sept. 18th, and Nov. 20th. The KHC office will send out a reminder to all who would like to be on the list, including location. (Note: we can meet at other locations as long as it does not put undue travel demands on those attending.) We hope to get the new State Parks Commissioner to speak to us in March (waiting for confirmation).

The **AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL CONVENTION** in Washington, DC is June 16-18, 2008.
Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill; www.horsecouncil.org. Any information contact: Kathie Luedeke
kluedeke@horsecouncil.org

Better Horses Radio show now being broadcast in Lexington: Saturday 7:00am WLXG 1300 AM

As a member of the **Kentucky Horse Council** you are always welcome to attend board meetings. The KHC board meets every month in 2008 through November. Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Location of the board meeting may change based on the number of attendees. For a complete schedule of KHC Board meetings please visit http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/equine_calendar.shtml. Please note: the November board meeting will be held on the same day as the Annual Member Meeting which has not yet been scheduled.

If you would like to attend any of the KHC board meetings please RSVP by responding to this email or calling 859-367-0509 or 800-459-4677.

KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL OFFERS EQUINE ABUSE INVESTIGATION SEMINAR

Lexington, KY, April 10, 2008 – On May 22 & 23, 2008, the Kentucky Horse Council is offering "Equine Abuse Investigation: A Hands-On Seminar", a class designed for **Animal Control Officers, Sheriffs, and other local and state officials** who may be involved in Equine Abuse cases in Kentucky. Any cruelty investigator that does not work with horses on a regular basis will benefit from this instruction.

This two day class provides information and training on procedures for handling reported horse abuse or neglect. The class covers horse handling and safety, hoof anatomy and problems, body condition scoring, trailering tips, examination for illness or injury, minimum horse care standards, working effectively with your county and state resources, Kentucky's abuse laws and "The Link: Animal Abuse and Violence Against People."

"Offering the equine abuse and investigation class is one of the many ways the Kentucky Horse Council remains committed to the health and welfare of the horse," commented Kentucky Horse Council President, Madelyn Millard. "Because we rely on the expertise and involvement of county officials when there is a horse in distress, we want to support those officials with resources and education."

The course will be taught by instructors from Day's End Farm Horse Rescue of Lisbon, Maryland, an organization established in 1989 which cares for horses that have been confiscated in abuse cases across the state of Maryland. Additional instructors will include specialists in Kentucky's police and legal system, as well as Kentucky equine veterinarians.

The class is available to all local and state officials and is offered at the Jessamine County Extension office and the Kentucky Equine Humane Center, Nicholasville, Kentucky. Tuition is \$50; however, funds are available for scholarships as well as per diem reimbursement.

For more information or to enroll in "Equine Abuse Investigation Class," please contact the Kentucky Horse Council at 859-367-0509 or email admin@kentuckyhorse.org, or visit www.kentuckyhorse.org.

World Equestrian Games:

This is so cool....be a volunteer!! Help with the Games!!

~Diane

SERA Kentucky Director

From the KY Horse Council:: Press Release AND Volunteer Requirements (bottom)



Volunteers coming from around the World

LEXINGTON, KY—In the first ten days since the launch of a new Web-based volunteer registry system, nearly 4,000 new volunteers have already signed up online for the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. The World Games 2010 Foundation estimates that at least 6,000 volunteers will be needed to work before and

during the Games, to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park from September 25-October 10, 2010 in Lexington, Kentucky.

"The response we have received is heartwarming and overwhelming," said Cathy Rutter, Director of Community and Volunteer Relations for the Foundation. "We have received hundreds of emails from people all over the world, who want to volunteer their time, efforts, and resources to help make the 2010 Games a success. With this early response, I am confident that these volunteers will have a huge impact on the Games."

Volunteers from 49 states and 46 countries have signed up so far. More than 1,300 registered volunteers live in Kentucky, and nearly 700 people from states surrounding Kentucky have signed up. International volunteers from Russia, France, Chile, South Africa, and Thailand are just a few among the nearly 400 people from around the world who have already registered.

"This is the highest response of international volunteers that we have experienced on *TRS, The Registration System*[™]," said Florence May, President of Simply Hospitality, who coordinates online event management. "This global outpouring of enthusiastic interest mirrors the world-class level of these championships."

The World Games 2010 Foundation still needs several thousand volunteers, and the online registry is still open. To volunteer for the 2010 Games, please visit www.feigames2010.org and click "Get Involved." Those among the 17,000 people who had previously registered on the Games' Web site should update their profile to reflect any volunteer interests, now that a new volunteer system is in place.

All volunteers will be required to go through an orientation and training program before they can begin to serve with the Foundation. Volunteers will receive a variety of benefits for their efforts, including official 2010 Games apparel and volunteer credentials.

Volunteers will be able to specify the areas and dates in which they would like to serve at a later time. Volunteer opportunities include a range of tasks, from office assistants to competition duties. Those seeking volunteer opportunities within each discipline must list their related experience when filling out the online profile, in order to be considered.

The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park September 25-October 10, 2010, are the world championships of the eight equestrian disciplines recognized by the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), and are held every four years. The Games have never before been held outside of Europe; nor have all eight disciplines ever previously been held together at a single site— both firsts that will be achieved at the Kentucky Horse Park. The 2010 Games are expected to have a statewide economic impact of \$150 million. It is anticipated that more than 600,000 spectators will attend the 16-day competition.

Key volunteer information the 2010 Volunteers need to know:

Benefits

Some of the benefits that the 2010 volunteers will enjoy:

- Exclusive apparel items designed for volunteer identification during the 2010 Games, and as souvenir keepsakes;
- Customized credentials for volunteer identification, and access to volunteer assignment area(s);
- Volunteer hospitality (food, beverages) provided for volunteers while on duty;
- Recognition throughout the community in a variety of media forums;
- Post-Games volunteer reception event; and

- Such additional benefits that may be developed by 2010 Games sponsors and partners.
- **Requirements:** All volunteers must sign a waiver prior to volunteering, and if under the age of 18 a parent or guardian, must also sign. **Legal waiver will be accepted during on line registration and will be signed during orientation;**
- **Language:** All volunteers must speak fluent English;
- **Competition Operations:** Competition Operations is limited to volunteers with specific experience in the respective discipline. Therefore position placement in competition support, dressage, driving, endurance, eventing, para-equestrian, reining, show jumping and vaulting will require prior approval from the Competition Director and the respective Discipline Managers. Placement in these areas will be based on experience and availability. **General registration is currently open in the respective disciplines. Specific opportunities and shifts will become available as the September 25, 2010 date approaches. Those opportunities and shifts will be regularly communicated through e-mail notification. Be sure to check your e-mail often for those opportunities;**
- **Orientation and Training:** All volunteers will be required to select a date for orientation during which they will receive information specific to the 2010 Games and their respective volunteer opportunity. Additionally, volunteers will receive branded apparel, credentials and special instructions for their volunteer opportunity;
- **Availability:** Volunteer opportunities begin now and will run through the 2010 Games, September 25 through October 10, 2010. The number of volunteer shifts per day will be based on the calendar of activities and competitions scheduled. Volunteer opportunities and shifts will be communicated on a regular basis through e-mail. **You must have an e-mail address to volunteer;**
- **Lodging, travel and Meals:** 2010 Games volunteers will be responsible for their own travel and hotel accommodations. The Games will provide meals during respective volunteer shifts.

NEW HOTLINE FOR KENTUCKY HORSE OWNERS

Lexington, KY February 25, 2008 – In an effort to support the needs of the horse and horse owner in Kentucky, the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC), in partnership with the Kentucky Association of Equine Practitioners and the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, has established a HOTLINE (1-866-634-0030) for Kentucky horse owners. The hotline is a network to connect resources – hay and other equine feed, vet and feed funding, rescue facilities – with Kentuckians who need those resources.

Designed as a tool for all horse enthusiasts, the hotline is a centralized hub of information that collects and shares all types of equine resources. Using the new hotline KHC will build upon already existing information sources that include equine rescue groups, hay alternatives for horses, helpful equine groups and resources throughout Kentucky. The hotline is an opportunity for people to volunteer their assistance and resources to assist horses in need, particularly now when the weather is cold and hay is very high priced. It is also an opportunity to identify alternatives to traditional approaches to feeding and managing horses in a drought year.

“The hotline is a means for the Kentucky Horse Council to meet the needs of the Kentucky horse owner and address the issue of the unwanted horse. This is the type of networking that defines the mission of the Kentucky Horse Council,” commented Board President, Madelyn Millard.

The hotline is the result of a Horse Industry Emergency Roundtable held on January 23rd, 2008. Participants in the roundtable - including a number of breed, veterinarian, rescue and animal control groups - had a lively and in-depth discussion of the difficult hay and unwanted horse situation in Kentucky. Solutions, problems and difficulties addressing the growing concerns were discussed and this hotline was one of the suggested tools.

The assistance provided through the hotline will be supported by donations to the SOHO (Save Our Horses) Fund. Donations can be made to SOHO online at http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/SOHO_donate.shtml or by mail to Kentucky Horse Council, 4063 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 2, Lexington, KY 40511. To identify a resource for Kentucky horses and horse owners or for assistance call the HOTLINE at 1-866-634-0030.

ABOUT THE KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL - The Kentucky Horse Council is the result of a grassroots effort to combine the voices and interests of all horsemen, in order for horsemen to band together in support of all horse breeds and all disciplines in the state of Kentucky. The Kentucky Horse Council provides educational programs, grants, scholarships, personal liability insurance, trail riding programs, an annual statewide equine industry directory and opportunities for networking with other horsemen across the state of Kentucky. For more information, visit www.kentuckyhorse.org, where there is a link to the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association.

Trail News from Georgia:

Second Statewide Equestrian Workday at GA DNR Properties – Another Success !

(by Gloria English with contributions from equestrian crew leaders)

On **Sat. March 8th, 2008** equestrian trail riders from all over Georgia attended the second statewide workday organized at the 5 GA State Parks that have horse trails and also, at one of the DNR Wildlife Management Division's properties that has horse trails. The primary purpose of our volunteer workday was to show our support of horse trails and horse camping facilities within our GA DNR state properties. Some differences with this year's workday were: besides working at the 5 state parks, equestrians (primarily Endurance riders) also worked at the GA DNR Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Center which falls under the Wildlife Management Division of DNR. Another change this year was that we decided the event would be "rain or shine"; however, no one expected the snow showers with hail and sleet combined with 25 degree temperatures.

Understandably, many of the pre-registered volunteers opted not to come out in the flu-prone weather; however, many "die-hard" trail riders did show up. Each location had enough volunteers to accomplish most of the tasks scheduled for the day, which had been pre-determined by the equestrian crew leaders and their park personnel. Each volunteer worked a minimum of 4 hours - tasks included: performing light-to-heavy trail maintenance, installing tie posts, building mounting blocks and manure bins, trash details, repair of restrooms, and sand & gravel work. A brief workday summary for each of the 5 GA State Parks and also Charlie Elliott WMC is provided at the end of this article.

This year, each state park participant received a Georgia-shaped hat pin embossed with the logo shown above. The volunteers at Charlie Elliott received nice "horse" keychains as their appreciation gift. With left-over funds from our 2007 Workday event, combined with much appreciated donations from the Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association (CTHA) and Southeast Endurance Riders Association (SERA), all participants were also given morning snacks and bottled water and lunch drinks. The Coca-Cola Corporation provided all the state park volunteer lunches, which were very much appreciated. SERA provided the funds for the lunches at Charlie Elliott. GA DNR supplied the needed work materials such as lumber, sand, gravel, concrete mix, and various motorized equipment. Trail maintenance equipment was also provided by gracious individuals and other organizations (these are noted within the location write-ups).

We also appreciate all those who helped to spread the word about our workday event, with a special thank you to:

- GA Dept of Ag - Farmer's Market Bulletin – Carlton Moore Editor
- Horse South Magazine
- The Trail Rider Magazine
- The numerous horse clubs who published our event flyer in their club newsletters

A sincere **thank you** is given to all the GA Equestrian Volunteers (some who traveled many miles and several who worked many days on this event to ensure its success).

Georgia equestrians truly appreciate our safe places to ride and camp with our horses. We hope workday efforts like this encourage our public land managers to consider more equestrian trails and facilities here in Georgia.

Summary for each March 8th 2008 DNR Equestrian Work Day location:

[A.H. Stephens Historic Park](#), Crawfordville, GA 30631

Equestrian leaders: Linda Kundell and Mike Medlock

33 attendees accomplished the following:

- Finished the bathrooms.
- Readied the camp sites for use (widening most of the camp sites so that they can accommodate rigs of various sizes).
- Cleared and enlarged many of the tie out areas for the horses.
- Worked on a historic spot on the trail.
- Began work on the equestrian bulletin board.
- Started clearing the area for the manure bin.

[Charlie Elliott Wildlife Management Center](#), Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Equestrian leader: Margaret Clower - Southeast Endurance Riders Association (SERA)

15 attendees accomplished the following:

- Replaced and repaired all 4 corners on bathroom.
- Built 2 hitching posts at water spigot.
- Repaired handicap ramp.
- Installed "Keep Out" signs on old barn.
- Filled in holes on horse trail.
- Treated for fire ants at trailhead.
- Picked up and removed trash.

[F.D. Roosevelt State Park](#), Pine Mountain, GA 31822

Equestrian leaders: Tina Maddox & Ron Cook - Back Country Horsemen of Middle & South GA (BCHSG)

22 attendees accomplished the following:

- Cleared by hand brush, trees, and debris from approximately 10 miles of trail.

BCHSG has tentatively set a workday on June 21 to return to FDR and remove large dead trees along the trails that are a hazard to trail riders.

BCHSG continues to support and urge the creation of horse camping near the stables at FDR to allow more riders to enjoy the 20 plus miles of horse trails there.

[Fort Mountain State Park](#), Chatsworth, GA 30705

Equestrian leaders: Larry Wheat and Susan Shedd - Back Country Horsemen of North GA (BCHNG)

16 attendees accomplished the following:

- (2) crews constructed improved drainage channels so that water from the old talc mines would drain off the trail.
- Built 3 high-line areas near the Ernest mine and improved equine access to water at that popular location.



Tools were provided by the Cherokee County Saddle Club and the US Forest Service, Conasauga Ranger District. The Fort Mountain Stables provided use of their tractor end-loader, in addition to being gracious hosts and providing free parking for the volunteers.

[Hard Labor Creek State Park](#), Rutledge, GA 30663

Equestrian leaders: Gloria English, Rick Jones, and Randy Brown.

48 attendees accomplished the following:

- Built manure bin for main equestrian parking lot.
- Built a fourth mounting block.
- Installed 6 more tie posts.
- Spread gravel and leveled Equestrian Campsite #9.
- (2) chainsaw crews cut up and removed fallen trees on both the Lake Brantley and Lake Rutledge trails.
- Boyd Russell brought his Skid-steer and cleaned drainage trenches along Lake Rutledge trails.
- Picked up and hauled off trash from Lake Rutledge site.
- Spread sand in wet areas of equestrian arena (since weather did not permit painting of the arena fence, as planned).

[Watson Mill Bridge State Park](#), Comer, GA 30629

Equestrian leaders: Diane Ayres and Joan Grant

51 attendees accomplished the following:

- Completed (4) re-alignments on the Green Trail. Initial clearing was done with chain saws and a mini excavator and finish work done with hand tools. (Volunteers David South and Weyman Cochran provided their excavators for workday use. Trail tools were provided by SORBA and were greatly appreciated.)
- Cleared a large area where hitching posts and possibly an additional picnic table can be installed at the rest/lunch spot near the river.
- (2) manure bins were constructed by volunteers and supervised by Park Manager Lee Moon. (Concrete pads for the flooring of these bins had been poured prior to the workday.)
- Installed proper drainage and repaired stalls at both Barns #1 and #3. This work was done with the help of a mini Skid-steer provided by volunteer, Weyman Cochran. The gravel used for this task was provided by DNR.

In conclusion, despite the inclement weather, each volunteer left with a sense of accomplishment of the work performed and knew that indeed, they had "made a difference" by participating in our **2nd Statewide Equestrian-DNR Workday**.

Anyone wanting more information may contact:

Gloria English 404-210-9779 GEandTripleT@bigfoot.com



CLASSIFIED ADS

2001 Sooner Gooseneck trailer: Two horse aluminum slant load with sleeping quarters. This trailer has low miles; was bought brand new off the dealer lot in 2003 and then sat for two years without use due to rider injuries. It has drop down windows with screen and sliding glass windows as well as drop down grates. It has a walk through door between sleeping quarters and horse stalls. Collapsible tack area in back of trailer with tree rack that can be moved to the sleeping quarters. Air vents; carpet; curtains; wall and floor cabinets; tack hangars; screen door and tandem axles with Goodyear tires with lots of miles left. Priced to sell at \$10,000. A real bargain at that price! Contact Susan Kain @ (828) 670-8097 home, (828) 77908097 cell. This trailer is in the Asheville, North Carolina area.

Have something to sell? Send in an ad!



Longstreet's Charge

May 24, 2008

50/25 miles

Remember when an "Endurance Ride" was expected to be *rugged*, not a gallop on a groomed course? When you didn't expect to be riding through yards and on the shoulder of paved roads? When crews traveled out on the trail to meet you and got an idea of the terrain you were covering? When you felt like you were conquering the kind of challenges your ancestors faced on horseback? When you were proud to wear your completion T-shirt because other riders knew you had done something not just *anyone* would try? Well, welcome to Longstreet's Charge, an ENDURANCE ride of the old tradition. Breastcollars recommended. Pads not a bad idea. No dress-code: no collars...no problem.

The trail begins at a primitive camping field with no amenities, follows a dirt railroad bed past abandoned iron mines into the "Pocket" a dramatic horseshoe canyon whose waterfall is a favorite for local rappellers. After crossing through the abandoned pocket homestead, riders turn up the rugged 3-mile North Pocket trail. You won't be galloping or trotting up this one...you'll be *picking* your way up. The Confederate Army didn't know much about designing "sustainable" supply routes. Once on top you've earned the gorgeous views on 25 miles of mountain top trail; most of which is single track, often with brow views (but well back with plenty of width). The mountain laurel will be in full bloom as you sponge from icy Laurel Creek. All vet checks except the finish are at the same away location under the oak trees of a mountaintop field. Crews will have an idea what the riders have accomplished because they have driven up the mountain admiring the same views the riders have enjoyed.

Some consider this ride "tough" but the horses disagree. The completion rate tends to be higher than many so called "easy" rides, thanks to the terrain-induced slower pace. If you enjoy amazing scenery, riding in undeveloped areas with other riders who enjoy an endurance course, you may have what it takes to earn the popular "Ride'em Like You Stole'em" T-shirt. We don't *give* them to you...you *earn* them.

For more information and the full flyer/entry form, please go to www.seraonline.org or email Angie McGhee at rides2far@juno.com.



Virginia Highlands Endurance Challenge

August 22/23
50/25 both days

ATTENTION: NEW RIDE = "VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS ENDURANCE CHALLENGE"...

Or, short version: "VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS"!! The ride will be held on the Virginia Highland Horse Trails (VHHT) on August 22 and 23, 2008. SAVE THOSE DATES! Base camp will be in at Jubilee Park in Ivanhoe, Virginia adjacent to the NEW RIVER. The trail starts along the river, heads up a gorgeous creek lined by rhododendron then climbs the first mountain and heads for Chestnut Knob and beyond. Ninety-nine percent of the ride is in the beautiful and rugged Jefferson National Forest. There will be 25 mile and 50 mile rides offered on each day of competition. The trail will have minor changes between the first and second days. Vet checks will be away, one easy to get to and one that we will "explain" ... but not to worry, it will be a piece of cake. Dr Otis Schmidt will be head vet; he has one excellent and experienced vet with him (Nicki, of course), and I will try to find another and two rookies from NCSU that we will break in, Dr. Alice and Dr. Kristin. Tom Sites will be providing Bon appetite – Rocky Mountain oysters (one of Nicki's personal favorites) and other surprises, so there will be meals. We hope volunteers will be as plentiful as the mountain berries. We have verbal permission from the Forest Service so watch for word of final written approval in this newsletter. We are sanctioned by AERC and sanctioning by SERA is pending.

If you have ridden in the High Country of Grayson Highlands don't worry, we do not have the rocks like they do or like Old Dominion; the climbs are not as steep as Leatherwood or as slippery but they are longer. There are no death defying drops like Tevis but there are some gorgeous look outs. Do expect a mountain ride and a tough workout for you and your partner that was designed by Gina Hagis and Nancy Sluys. Expect any kind of weather, perfect to thunderstorms, cool or hot - you never know in the mountains. The trail is superbly and permanently marked, and if you get lost the bears will find you. Mountain streams will be drying in August, but Tom and Gina Hagis guarantee water stops with full water tubs, sponge buckets, and hay for horses.

The Jefferson National Forest is over 400,000 acres and has over 400 miles of trails for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders; we will not use all of them. We hope to have written approval from the Forest Service soon and will keep you posted. From base camp you can ride one way 80+ miles to Elk Garden and the trail takes you over some gorgeous high country with incredible views. Karen Isaacs has recommended that we not hold a 2-day 100 this year but she and Thomas want a 1-day 100 in the future!!

Jubilee Park is only 12 miles from I-77 and the Poplar Camp Exit. The roads are paved the entire way and directions will be perfect (are you reading this Jody and Joel?). There is one tricky corner when you turn onto the camp road but we will get you in and Tom Haggis will park you. This will be one of the prettiest campsites you have camped at. The camp site is flat as a pancake and you can walk, ride, or float in the New River which borders the campsite. There are high cliffs on the opposite side. Camping is primitive so bring your drinking water and turn off your generators after 10:00 p.m. There will be a "Dog Jail" for all dogs not on leash, and bail will be set at \$20. The ride will use VHHT and not the NEW RIVER TRAIL (NRT); however if you come early please ride the NRT for fun. This trail has perfect footing, is an old RR bed, affords no conditioning but the views are gorgeous. From base camp you can go north or south for miles, the entire trail is 50+ miles! Make sure your horse is bike broke, pedestrian broke, and bridge broke or you will be broke. There are bridges spanning the New River; none of these are on the trail but they will get you to Foster Falls and other scenic spots

on the NRT. Signs advise how to travel. Lots of other users will be on NRT this time of year but none will be motorized. You may also want to get a temporary fishing license, float the New River (rentals about 10+mi. away), and visit scenic spots: Ravens Cliff is close and gorgeous; Grayson Highlands State Park is a drive but it has wild ponies and the Appalachian Trail and the High Country; and we will tell you of others. If you want to test ride the trail between now and August just contact any one of us and we will be glad to take you out and show you the trails that are on the endurance ride and some that are not. You really need to see Ravens Cliff, Bear Den, Cripple Creek, and other spots that we love. We also suggest you Google search the following if interested: Mt. Rogers, Virginia Highland Horse Trail, New River Trail. You might also want to Google Earth Ivanhoe, Virginia or 1338 Powder Mill Road, Ivanhoe, Virginia 24350. If you Google Earth, click on the blue dots and they will show you scenic spots, some of which you will ride by.

Ride Management Team:

Ride Manager – Don Meuten don_meuten@ncsu.edu or 919-496-7236

Ride secretary and THE boss – Nicki Meuten, 808 Brantleytown Road,
Zebulon NC 27597

Assistants: Dawn Osborne and Laura Cullins

Trail Masters – Gina Haggis and Nancy Sluys

Mr. Everything – Tom Hagis

Chef – Tom Sites

Head Vet – Dr. Otis Schmidt

Treatment Vet – TBA

Photographer – Becky Siler



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 SERAgA@bellsouth.net or 4050 Buck Smith Rd, Loganville, GA 30052.



SERA SANCTIONED RIDES

As listed on the SERA Website
Check the website for updates

2008 Ride Calendar

April 26, Hallelujah Moonlighter, 50/25, Camden Hunt Country, Camden, SC; Ride Manager: Lucie Hancock, 803-428-3924, lbhbhnck@ftc-i.net

May 3, Biltmore Challenge, 100/50, Asheville, NC; Ride Manager: Cheryl Newman, 828-665-1531, cherylnewman@charter.net

May 10, Florida Stampede, 60/30, Green Swamp West, Dade City, FL; Ride Manager: Todd Garrett, 941-737-2119. Floridastampede@yahoo.com

May 17, Blazing Saddles, 50/25/fun ride, Long Leaf Trailhead, DeSoto National Forest, Laurel, MS; Ride Manager: Terry Price, 601-946-7437, johnterryprice@bellsouth.net

May 17, Red Barn Run, 50/25, Chester, GA; Ride Manager: Cheryl Perry, 229-686-2278, cperry60@alltel.net

May 24, Longstreet's Charge, 50/25, La Fayette, GA; Ride Manager: Angie McGhee, 423-316-9036, rides2far@juno.com

June 20/21, GERA Fundraiser, 50/25, 50/25, Dawson Forest, Dawsonville, GA; Ride Manager: Sandy Thomson, 423-316-9036, sandyatdock@aol.com

June 28, Region XII Round Up, 100/50/30, Big South Fork NRRRA, Oneida, TN; Ride Manager: Eric Rueter, 865-599-3954, BSFER@knoxvilleArabianHorseClub.com

September 4/5/6, Big South Fork Pioneer, 50/30, 55/30, 100/50/30, Big South Fork NRRRA, Oneida, TN; Ride Manager: Eric Rueter, 865-599-3954, BSFER@knoxvilleArabianHorseClub.com

October 2/3/4, Alabama Yellowhammer Pioneer, 55/30, 50/25, 50/25/10 mile fun ride, Talladega

October 25, Hallelujah Benefit, 100/75/50/25, Camden Hunt Country, Camden, SC; Ride Manager: Lucie Hancock, 803-428-3924, lbhbhnck@ftc-i.net

SERA Sanctioned Rides for 2008

December 1, Blackwater Boogie, 50/25

December 15, Goethe Benefit Challenge, 100/50/25

January 12, Gator Run III, 50/25,

January 18, Delightful Trails, 55/25/10 mile fun ride

February 2, Bugaboo, 50/25

February 8/9, Camp Osborn Boy Scout Pow Wow, 2-day 100/50/25, 75/50/25/10 mile fun ride

February 23, Lost Posse Run III, 50/30/15 mile fun ride

March 1, Lee County Lizard Run, 50/30

March 8/9, FITS, 50/35, 100/55

March 15, City Slickers, 50/25

March 15/16, Sand Hills Stampede, 55/30, 55/30

March 28/29, Leatherwood Mountain Extreme Challenge, 50/25

March 29, Ponce de Leon Pirate Run, 55/25

April 5, Florida Ag Museum, 50/25

April 5, Trace Tribute, 55/25

April 18/19, Chicken Chase I, II, III, 55/30, 50/25, 50/25

April 19, Million Pines Classic Elevator, 50/30



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) 2007-08 Ride Calendar

Apr 26, Hallelujah Moonlighter, 50/25, Camden, SC; Ride Manager: Lucie Hancock, 803-428-3924, lbhbhnck@ftc-i.net

May 3, Biltmore Challenge, 100/50, Asheville, NC; Ride Manger: Cheryl Newman, 828-665-1531, cherylnewman@charter.net

May 10, Florida Stampede, 60/30, Green Swamp West, Dade City, FL; Ride Manager: Todd Garrett, 941-732-2119,

May 17, Red Barn Run, 50/25, Chester, GA; Ride Manager: Cheryl Perry, 229-356-1987, cperry60@alltel.net

May 24, Maggie's Moonlight Gallivant CTR, 25, Holder Mine Recreational Facility, Trail 10, Withlacoochee Forest, Inverness, FL; Ride Manager: Brandi Bobst, 352-302-3804, racengirl1@yahoo.com

June 20/21, GERA Elevator, 50/25 both days, Dawsonville Forest, Dawsonville, GA; Ride Manager: Sandy Thomson, 678-300-4500, sandyatdock@aol.com

Oct 25, Hallelujah Benefit, 100/75/50/25, Camden Hunt Country, Camden, SC; Ride Manager: Lucie Hancock, 803-428-3924, lbhbhnck@ftc-i.net



2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 30th of the month to be published in the NEXT month's newsletter. If provided electronically just type into an email message or a file attachment in Microsoft Word or Excel. Help me get the newsletter in a timely manner and get in your input early!

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