

From The Horse's Mouth

Southeast Endurance Riders Association Newsletter

May 2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you haven't looked around yet, you may be missing the ride year. My mother always told me that time flew as you grew older ... I think she was right. Seems like we all just paid dues yesterday (at least, most of us have), but the ride season is well underway, the points are quickly accumulating, the weather is warming up, and summer will soon be here.

This is the time of year that many new people, sometimes a friend of a friend, decide they would like try an endurance event.

As you may know, AERC lost a great lady with the passing of Maggy Price. I shared the trail with Maggy many times. Once Maggy literally took me to her camp and gave the rain coat off of her back so that I would not go without. Maggy was the originator of the "Add One to AERC" campaign. In Maggy's honor, I would like SERA's members to try and "add one to SERA." What greater acknowledgement can we give to someone who selflessly worked for our sport than to continue her work for future generations of endurance riders? I know she would be proud.

But, we must remember that bringing a new member to the sport also carries with it responsibility. As we learned last month, SERA has a growing number of new members, so we are doing something right. But just because we bring them in and start them in an educated manner doesn't mean that they can be "released" into the pond. Sometimes these new riders need extra help, extra attention, and extra guidance. Think of it this way: A lump of clay that sits there is still just a lump of clay, but a lump of clay which is molded and guided becomes a beautiful piece of art. So, let's talk about molding our clay.

To mold is to shape an object. We should try to help shape our new endurance riders. This guidance can take many forms, but I feel that good trail manners and responsibility is vital. How many times do we see a new rider that may not know to ask before moving into the water trough with three other horses? Not that the horses are necessarily going to act badly, but it is just a display of good manners to ask permission. Or, how many times do we see a new rider flop a sponge down in the creek next to our horse's face, crowd others in the vet lines or even fail to ask someone on the side of the trail if they need help. Sure, we think "everyone" knows these things. But we did not start this sport knowing the secrets and it is not right to expect that new riders instantly understand protocol or trail etiquette. We have to shoulder the responsibility to enable our new riders to continue to learn and grow. Oftentimes, shouldering that responsibility comes in the form of setting a good example.

This is not an easy task to tackle. It must be done nicely and with tact. If you are conditioning with this new rider, one approach might be to begin a conversation about trail etiquette and rider responsibility. You might tell a story about the last ride that you attended without a crew, and how grateful you were to have the ride management take your things to the away vet check, even if you **did** have to get your items out of the bag and lay them out for your horse. You could explain that is not the ride manager's job to "furnish" the away vet check, but it is a nice surprise when they offer that help. Or perhaps you could mention a time when you vetted your horse through and the vet offered some advice on electrolytes, shoeing, or even how to trot out the horse, and you THANKED him for helping you to better understand your horse and the demands of this sport. Another example would be to let your new rider know that if he is in the vet check and his horse drinks all of his neighbor's water, the water should be replaced. You would want your neighbor to do the same for you.

It also wouldn't hurt us "old riders" to pay attention and take advice when it is offered. I think we all know that the endurance community is very giving and sharing.

Endurance is an extreme sport. In order to succeed, we ALL have to listen to the advice of others. And none of us are above it, no matter the miles, the wins, or the championships. So as you are guiding that new SERA member, let them know that endurance is a lifetime learning experience. Let them know that we all have to work together on this shared trail. Let them know that we are ALL here to help and respect one another. There truly is no better way to spend time with your friends and your horses than on an endurance trail.

And remember, don't sweat the small stuff.

Jody



Happenings from the SERA list

SERA has been approached by a ride manager outside of the SE region requesting SERA sanctioning for their ride. The ride is Michaux Madness, and as of now, the RM is not a member of SERA.

After some discussion by the board of directors, it was stated that sanctioning would require the RM to join SERA. All state representatives voted in favor of sanctioning this ride, pending the membership of the RM.

Submitted by: Jody Rogers-Buttram



Blood Analysis Machine

Several years ago the SERA BOD decided to invest in a livestock scale to support the members to learn about their horses on an endurance ride. It has turned out to be one of the best investments we could have made as an organization.

Three years ago we decided to follow this up with a blood analysis machine. These are significantly more expensive than a livestock scale, but the benefits are also significant. We started a fund to collect the money necessary for the machine. This year we went over the top with a large contribution made in the memory of Michael Bailey.

Today I am happy to report that we have a blood analysis machine. We also have sufficient funds to support it until we get our program up and running. While the livestock scale doesn't have any inherent operational cost – the blood analysis machine does. There is a nominal cost per analysis. This cost will have to be passed on per use. However, SERA members will get a significant discount over non-SERA users. We are in the process of determining just how we are going to run the program.

Initially this will be used to support our treatment vets. We will design a program where at selected rides, riders can have analysis performed to determine the status of their horses and use that information to correlate with their horse's other parameters so they will have better knowledge of their horse. However, this program needs to be coordinated with the AERC since the vet committee is discussing the limit the use of such machines.

We would like to thank everyone that has contributed to the fund. We would especially like to thank the friends of Michael Bailey that made a generous contribution in his name. We would also like to thank the SERA members for their patience.

Look for this program to debut this fall.

Happy Trails
Truman



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.



SERA Members at the Biltmore 100

SERA was well represented at the Biltmore 100 this month. We had many members to complete the 50 and the 100 mile rides. The ride conditions were less than perfect, but we shown through the rain with solid performances and riders taking care of their horses. To those that didn't complete, they demonstrated effort and care for their horses. Pulling from a ride is the hardest, but best thing to do for the welfare of our mounts sometimes. SERA proved that we care about our equine friends.

Congratulations to Steven Rojek on Finch for the outstanding winning performance in the Biltmore 100 with a ride time of 10:16.

Congratulations to Josie Mcghee for finishing her first 100 mile ride !!!!

To Allison Bailey for her great attempt on her first 100...way to go, next time will be a success.



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

I believe it would be fair to say, even though it is in my own backyard that the TRACE TRIBUTE RIDE was a gallant success. We had a great turnout; somewhere in the neighborhood of about 100 riders, give or take. The endurance participants, spectators, and volunteers braved a cold and wintry late season frost. Thanks to this, the horses fared quite well. These types of weather patterns remind us all of what ENDURANCE really stands for!

Ride manager Angie Fura and her crew of volunteers ran a smooth, organized endurance ride while providing a friendly, warm and thrilling atmosphere. The trail distances were well calculated by April Johnson and excellently marked by the local volunteers. Thank you all for your time and hard work.

The auction organized by Camille Riley and the many sponsors who donated auction items for our trail maintenance fund should also be well commended. We do so appreciate all who participated.

I believe a good time was had by all and hopefully y'all will be back for next year's Trace Tribute annual ride. Stayed tuned for Trace Tribute future ride dates.

Now on to other news. I am very excited to introduce a new SERA member from Tennessee/ Mississippi, Sarah K. Smith. Sarah has been a member of AERC since 2003. She began her endurance career with just a few part time LD rides in order to become more acquainted with the sport of endurance. She grew up with horses. Her mom was a barrel racer and both of her grandparents were avid horse riders as well. The first horse she started trained was an Arab. She has acquired extensive miles on the trails as she spent much of her free time when growing up riding in the mountains of Washington State. It was during that time her interest for the sport of endurance was sparked.

Sarah and her husband Greg Smith, relocated from Washington state to the southeast 6 years ago. They bought property that includes a 34 stall training and boarding barn. Sarah manages the boarding facility and is also instrumental in the training of horses. She teaches new riders, conducts hunter jumper schooling activities, and trains endurance horses for various clients. You could say her life IS horses.

Sarah is currently competing 2 horses. The first is HA Pure Profit, her 10 year old Arab gelding. He has competed in LDs and she has just completed her first 50 with him at City Slickers this past March. She came in 6th place. The other horse is GCF Maixim Magic, an 8 yr old Arab gelding whom she is riding and training for her friend Ellen. Sarah says, "I love the sport of endurance and feel the riders who participate in this are on the whole a great group of people. In comparison this is unlike some of the other equine disciplines I've been involved with."

Sarah has several goals within the sport of endurance. She plans to continue on with 50 mile rides, but she has also discovered training other people's horses is extremely rewarding. What she finds exciting is watching the various stages of development as the horse transforms from being green to advancing towards middle of the pack riding to the possibility of a top ten finish.

We are very excited Sarah has chosen to be involved in our sport and also look forward to her participation as a new member of SERA.

Take care and ride safe,

Debra LaComette
Your Tennessee State Representative

NEWS FROM ALABAMA

The Alabama state representative, Jody Buttram has recently been elected to the Liaison panel for the Bankhead National Forest. She was nominated by a current panel member, Charles Borden. Qualifications for the panel were her background in GIS and mapping. This panel is made up of professionals from many different areas such as biology, environmental groups, preservation of archeological finds along with endangered animal groups. This panel is responsible for the improvement, maintenance, and management of the forest lands and all of the recreational areas

within the forest. They meet quarterly to discuss many items, including the horse trail system and how to better serve the equestrian community.

The Bankhead National Forest Service is very willing to work with any equestrian groups to keep the existing system in place and control problems that occur in erosion of the trails due to high traffic use of the trails. There are some areas that are in need of bridges to be constructed in order to protect endangered mussels and still continue to use the trails in that area.

Currently the horse trails consist of 27 miles of single path trails made up of three loops, an 11 mile loop, 6 mile loop and a 10 mile loop. Trail access is in the form of an overnight horse camp with permanent outhouses and running water located at one end of the trails and a day parking area located at the other end of the trail system. Discussion within the Liaison Panel is to expand the trails and the overnight camping to allow for higher volume and also of expanding or creating another overnight parking area to help move the higher traffic volume to the other end of the system.

Another horse group located in Birmingham, AL is also looking to become involved with the Forest Service. Joe Schoech was contacted by the Birmingham News and interviewed for the paper. Joe will be working with Jody and Lori Sumrall with the group and the Forest Service. They hope that SERA and AERC can help to fund some trail work on the horse trails. The goal is to someday be able to have another endurance ride in the forest. There is private land available to have the campsite and still have access to the trails. At this time however, we are working to have a good relationship with the Forest Service.

Submitted by: Jody Buttram-Alabama State Representative



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

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, hikryrdq@evansville.net

May 26/27/28, Michaux Madness, 55/30, 75/50/30, 50/30, Machaux State Forest, Mt Alto, PA; Ride Manager: Skip Kemerer, skippykimerer1@aol.com

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 NRA, 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

2008 Ride Calendar

April 5, Florida Ag Museum, 50/25, Florida Ag Museum, Rt 1 & Old King Rd, Palm Coast, FL; Ride Manager: John Pavlos, jpavlos@aol.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

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

May 26, Hallelujah Moonlighter, 50/25, Camden Hunt Country, Camden, SC; Ride Manager: Lucie Hancock, 135 H. And H. Rd., Dalzell, S.C. 29040, 803-428-3924, lbhbhnc@ftc-i.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

June 23/24, SEDRA Distance Seminar - Year End Banquet and Awards, Marion County Agricultural Center, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala, FL 34470. For further info contact: Carol Thompson, PO Box 302, Mims, FL 32754 321-794-8235, CarolYThompson@msn.com

Oct 20, Hallelujah Benefit for St Jude's Children's Hospital, 100/75/50/25, Camden Hunt Country, Camden, SC; Ride Manager: Lucie Hancock, 135 H. And H. Rd., Dalzell, SC 29040, 803-428-3924, lbhbhcnck@ftc-i.net

Oct 20/21, FHA 25 CTR, ReNab Ranch, Withlacoochee Forest, Lecanto, FL; Ride Manager: Chrissy Pool, 352-621-0215, cpool@tampabay.rr.com

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

Nov 10/11, Boggy Creek CTR 27, Seminole State Forest, Camp Boggy Creek 30500 Brantley Branch Rd, Eustis, FL 32736; Ride Manager: Nora Mask 1120 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761, 407-656-1120, Cyberpony@aol.com

Nov 30/Dec 1, Blackwater Boogie, 75/55/30, 50/25, Coldwater Recreation Area, Blackwater River State Forest, Milton, FL; Ride Manager: Christina Schiro, PO Box 369, Pensacola, FL 32591, 850-206-3237 (cell), ckschiro@yahoo.com

Feb 16, Far Out Forest Endurance, 100/50/30, Far Out Forest Farm, Ocala National Forest, Altoona, FL; Ride Manager: Ed Oathout, Far Out Forest Farm, PO Box 828, Altoona, FL, 352-669-7798, Fax 352-669-7925, Faroutfarmfl@aol.com

March 29, Ponce De Leon Pirate Run, 55/25, Ponce De Leon, FL; Ride Manager: Kim Williams, 1242 Double Pond Rd, Ponce De Leon, FL 32455, 850-859-2461, fax 850-547-5958, kjwmystique@yahoo.com

April 5, Florida Ag Museum, 50/25, Florida Ag Museum, Rt 1 & Old King Rd, Palm Coast, FL; Ride Manager: John Pavlos, jpavlos@aol.com



2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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(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