

From The Horse's Mouth

Southeast Endurance Riders Association Newsletter

May/June 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have any of us ever stopped and wondered.... "What makes SERA function?" I can tell you that the answer to that question is "a group of hard working PEOPLE". SERA does not run itself. I would be willing to bet the farm that not many of us have not give much thought to this question. Those who have probably don't realize how many hours of volunteer work go into the SERA machine. The SERA machine is made up of all the spokes of the wheel which come together for a single purpose....to promote and support endurance riding in the Southeast region. In the past, I have written about the valuable asset of ride volunteers. This month, I would like to focus on the people that are not in the public eye for the work that they do for SERA. Those people are the members of the Board, the elected officials and those that put together the newsletters that the members enjoy each month.

Being a member of the Board of Directors is job that can be whatever a person makes of it. The state's representative is elected to provide input to the government end of SERA. Their job is to hear the opinions of the members of their state, and then represent those in Board discussions. Many times little or no input is given by members, in which case the representative only has his or her own input for decision making. This is why it is so important to use to let your voice be heard. We have all heard the saying, "If you don't vote, you can't complain about the outcome." Your state's representative is your vote. Email them, call them, or corner them at a ride. The main thing is talk about what you would like to see occurring in the organization. That way, they can bring it before the Board for discussion and a vote. The representatives also have a duty to take an active role in the discussions and voting. These discussions are mostly done via email, but can be conducted at meetings such as the annual awards or at some other time of the year when the Board members will be present at a ride. The representatives can add to the newsletter each month if they wish to, in the form of news from their states, short bios of their state's members or just input as to what is going on in their local trail work or ride scene. The point here is that it is not a "nothing" job. There is an obligation to be available for such group discussions, involvement and input.

The next group is the elected office holders: the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and the two AERC Regional Directors. The President has the task of writing a message each month, managing the board discussions, hearing from the membership on different topics, making the decision on the annual awards and convention, among others. When I took this role, I was totally green to what this job would be or what it would require time-wise and I was unsure how to try and represent SERA. After serving one term now, I am comfortable in this role and am no longer overwhelmed by it. The Vice President is there to support the President, lending an ear and advice from time to time. The Secretary/Treasurer is a task not many would like to tackle. She is saddled with the work of keeping the numbers of SERA, such as paying the bills, taking in all the dues and sanctioning fees, maintaining the financial records and keeping up with the tactical analysis work of the organization. This job requires many hours of hard work, and is a great responsibility. The Board also has the two AERC directors as members. They are there to offer a "higher" level of knowledge and to make sure that the functions of SERA work with the overall parent

organization...AERC. Their input is some of the most valuable and cannot be replaced. Nor can they volunteer time that they give to SERA.

Last, but surely not the least, we have two very important individuals. This would be the webmaster, and the editor/publisher of the SERA newsletter. All the information that is sent to the editor must be checked, re-formatted and put together into the fashion that we all magically see as the monthly newsletter. Many times, the work that is sent is not perfect and editing and proofing must be done before the newsletter can start to take shape. Then, after the information is gathered, corrected, re-formatted and arranged into the newsletter, it is shipped down the line to the webmaster. The webmaster has changes to do as well as last minute tweaking. The web site itself must be edited, the links put up, the site re-published and the mass email sent out to the members. Also, the webmaster is taking care of changes to the classifieds, email addresses, ride calendar and flyers and the links that are on the site. Again, these are many hours of volunteer work, just so that we, the members of SERA can look through an organized newsletter for a few minutes and then hit the delete button.

Then we also have the transportation of the various SERA "toys". Isn't it wonderful to go to a ride and find the scales there for your use? Or to have the new I-stat blood machine for your horse if you have a problem and the vet needs the valuable information that it can provide? Or to be riding a long 100 miler and have the nice lights and generator at the vet check? Or the microphone that the ride managers have provided for them so that you in the back row can hear at the ride meeting? Sure, the members did purchase these items but did you ever think about how they get to the rides? Who sets them up? Who stores and cares for them in between rides? I am not asking you to take over the system of keeping these items, only that we appreciate those that do. I am not asking you to personally help with the publishing of the newsletter, only to appreciate those that do. I am asking that we do our best to acknowledge, appreciate and be thankful for all of those that do carry on the day to day work of keeping SERA as the powerful regional association that it has become. SERA is the leader in the country in regional service, advancement and dedication to our sport and our horses. THANK YOU SERA !!!!!!!!!!!!!

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 !!! ☺



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.



CLASSIFIED ADS

1999 Adam Gooseneck trailer, 20' box, 27' overall, 2 horse stock. Walk-thru, large insulated and paneled camping quarters, tons of storage, propane heater (new tank), marine battery (new) runs lights, awning, good tires and spare. Shed-kept; excellent condition. New floor and all mats, lined. Brakes serviced; all maintenance records. \$5,500 for quick sale. Beck Bockoven, 864-836-8152, Rotherwood@msn.com. Trailer located in Marietta, SC.

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!

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

Kentucky:

Greetings from your Kentucky Director:)

Well, I don't know about everyone else, but I am so tired of all the rain:(Hope everyone is getting out to do some rides or just ride your horses:)

Not too much to report this month, have a great June!

~Diane Fruth

hikryrdg@evansville.net

(812) 499-5745 cell

ENDURANCE RIDING TEAM RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE KENTUCKY HORSE COUNCIL

Lexington, KY, May 15, 2008 – M. R. Riders 4-H Club of Campbell County was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Kentucky Horse Council. Members of the club compete as a team year round throughout the state at endurance riding competitions.

Typically the young riders and their horses compete by traveling an average of 25 miles over challenging terrain in a timed event. As they accumulate good scores and better fitness levels they enter endurance races of further distances. Those wishing to qualify for the 2009 US Endurance Riding team must be competing at 100 mile races.

M.R. Riders will use the grant to purchase blankets to protect their horses at winter competitions. Often during overnight competitions the youthful competitors camp with their horses at primitive sites which do not offer shelter for the animals. By covering the resting horses with blankets their muscles will stay warm, enabling them to compete more comfortably and safely.

“The Kentucky Horse Council is pleased to support the efforts of M.R. Riders 4-H Club. Endurance riding provides a great lesson in delayed gratification as the students condition themselves and their horses well in advance of competitions,” remarked KHC Board President, Madelyn Millard.

News for those with pregnant mares:

This information is from Dan Potter in UK's entomology department. He says: "I was checking some eastern tent caterpillar (ETC) trials on cherry trees along a fence row near Midway this morning. The ETC populations are dramatically up this year -- the highest I've seen since the MRLS crisis. The larvae are full size, many trees are totally defoliated and I saw very large numbers moving along fence rails and wandering out many meters into the adjacent pasture. On Monday, I was working on University Club golf course and saw wandering ETC on the putting greens at least 100 meters from the nearest trees. Maturation and wandering of ETC are a bit late this year due to the cooler spring. This would be a good time to get out an alert to farm managers that unless they have been aggressive in managing ETC, or removing host trees, they should keep pregnant mares out of pastures bordered by cherry trees or other hosts for the next several weeks. "

New Address for the Kentucky Horse Council:

Kentucky Horse Council

1500 Bull Lea Rd.

Suite 214C

Lexington, KY 40511

Phone & Fax remain the same:

Phone: (859) 367-0509 or (866) 634-0030

Fax: (866) 618-3837

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. To identify a resource for Kentucky horses and horse owners or for assistance call the HOTLINE at 1-866-634-0030.

KENTUCKY HORSE PARK OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO KENTUCKY'S NEGLECTED HORSES

LEXINGTON, KY (May 6, 2008) A number of factors have converged to make this a very difficult year for Kentucky's horses. Equine overpopulation, a challenging economy, and last summer's draught are among the causes of distress that have put Kentucky's horses in the national media spotlight.

"We've all been disturbed by the sight of neglected and starving horses in the news, and we are determined to do something about it. We're going to put our actions where our hearts are," said John Nicholson, executive director of the Kentucky Horse Park. He continued, "If everyone who benefits from the horse industry will pitch-in, it is possible that we could come close to eliminating the problem of unwanted horses in our state very quickly. The one thing that is not acceptable is for people to know that Kentucky's horses are in crisis and yet do nothing to help."

To that end, on Saturday, June 28, at 6pm, the Kentucky Horse Park will host the first annual *John Henry Memorial Equine Adoption Fair*, named for the park's beloved racehorse who passed away last Fall. John Henry spent the first several years of his life being unwanted, until he came into the hands of a trainer who recognized the value of a horse that the rest of the world saw as small, plain, ill-tempered and poorly conformed. John Henry rewarded those who finally wanted him by earning more than \$6 million for them on the track.

The *John Henry Memorial Equine Adoption Fair* will find homes for other unwanted horses by bringing together a number of equine adoption organizations to showcase their rescued, adoptable horses. It will also raise funds through a silent auction for the Kentucky Horse Council's *Save Our Horses* (SOHO) fund, which has already saved the lives of many horses and ponies across the state of Kentucky through its emergency horse hotline. The fund provides financial support for feed and veterinarian care when a good Samaritan or a county cares for a horse that has been confiscated due to its poor condition. In addition, the fund is providing an Equine Abuse Investigation Class to train local officials how to successfully identify horses that need help, and how to ensure prosecution when it is warranted.

The event will take place during the MidSouth Pony Club Mega Rally at the park, and in partnership with the Kentucky Horse Council (KHC). The public is invited, free of charge.

Grace Hobbie, Vice Regional Supervisor for the MidSouth Region of the United States Pony Club, said, "We see this as a great opportunity to help these magnificent animals find a loving home. Regardless of how they may look at the beginning of the relationship, they can turn out to be one of the best mounts you have ever had."

Ginny Grulke, executive director of the KHC observed, "The Kentucky Horse Park's Equine Adoption Fair is just one example of the creative solutions we must all come up with to find new, safe homes for neglected horses. The Kentucky Horse Council is dedicated to assisting the unwanted horse, and we are proud to work with the Kentucky Horse Park in protecting Kentucky's signature animal, to which we owe so much."

Nicholson concluded, "We believe the responsibility for the welfare of horses falls squarely on the shoulders of every Kentuckian, because every Kentuckian benefits from the horse industry. It is clearly within our power to fix this. It should be within our hearts as well."

For general information on the *John Henry Memorial Equine Adoption Fair* call 859-233-4303; for volunteer information contact Gina Beare at 859-259-4267 or gina.beare@khpfoundation.org ; for horse information contact Tracy Walker at 859-259-4262 or twalker@kyhorsepark.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A high-res photo is available for use with this release, and an ad is available for use as a p.s.a. by emailing crullman@kyhorsepark.com.

Park Hours and Rates: From March 15 through October 31, the park is open seven days a week. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children 7-12. Children six and under are always admitted free of charge. Admission includes the International Museum of the Horse – In Association with the Smithsonian Institution, the American Saddlebred Museum, and the John Henry Memorial Equine Adoption Fair.

A Partial List of Upcoming Equine Events

For more information and a complete list visit:

Equine Events: http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/equine_calendar.shtml

Trails: <http://www.kentuckyhorse.org/trails/cal/cal2008-05.htm>

- June 12 [Country Living - Yew Dell Gardens Fund Raising](#) Event to benefit Second Stride, Crestwood
- June 12 UK Diagnostic-Research Online Course on ENCEPHALITIDES (WEST NILE VIRUS, ETC.).
- June 19-22 [Ohio Valley Equestrian Trails Symposium \(OVETS\)](#) at Shawnee National Forest, Illinois.
- June 20-21 All Cowgirl weekend and trail ride at Mammoth Cave National Park
- June 21 [Xtreme Cowboy Challenge](#) at Red Barn Arena, Taylorsville, KY.
- June 27 Cowboys for Cancer "Ride for the Ribbon", Lakeview Park 6 p.m. - 6 a.m., Frankfort
- June 28 [EQUINE ADOPTION FAIR](#) 6 p.m. at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY.
- June 28 [KyQHA](#) Sturgis [Trail Trials & Trail Ride](#), Union County

KHC AWARDS GRANT FOR FARM WORKER ENRICHMENT CENTER

Lexington, KY, May 20, 2008 – The Kentucky Horse Council announced today the award of a \$3,000 grant to Blue Grass Farms Chaplaincy to provide classroom materials for an Enrichment Center.

The Enrichment Center will provide free classes, training, counseling, and health clinics to farm workers in at least 5 counties surrounding Lexington. Programs offered will be English as a second language, parenting, and GED tutoring. Additionally the center will provide free monthly health clinics.

"The Enrichment Center will be a great asset to farm workers and horse farm owners in Central Kentucky," stated Madelyn Millard, Kentucky Horse Council Board President. "Education and wellness are vitally important to the success of every team; and the Horse Council is happy to promote both for horse farm workers."

Services and classes at the Enrichment Center will be offered free to individuals working on horse farms and their families. Additionally perspective horse farm workers can attend educational classes at no charge. More information about the Blue Grass Farms Chaplaincy can be found online at www.bluegrassfarmschaplancy.org or by calling 859-219-0910.

News from MECTRA:

We had a really good project day at the park (Saturday, May 17). It was a beautiful day, and we got a lot accomplished! Seven members of our group cleaned up the Maple Springs day parking area and site 0 of the Maple Springs Campground. Many thanks to Billy Morgan for bringing his riding mower and weedeater, and to Linda Starnes for bringing rakes and a muck bucket. Below are the members who participated:

Billy Morgan
Kathy Morgan
Doris Dorsey
Linda Starnes
Bert Jolly
Bonnie Jolly
Bonnie Fields

We had four new members to join on Saturday, and they took garbage bags to collect trash along the trail as they rode:

Pat Griffin
Wendy Master
Helga Arms
Laura Checolinski

Several Sierra Club and BGLOB (Bowling Green League of Cyclists) volunteers worked on the Good Springs trail reroute and on Sal Hollow/Turnhold Bend/Buffalo trails.

June 7 Trail Ride Meeting:

We also had a meeting to discuss our upcoming trail ride on June 7. Linda Starnes, Ride Coordinator, is working diligently on this and has requested that members donate paper plates, cups, forks, and spoons. There is a \$10 donation requested for the ride, and this includes a meal provided by The KY Cattlemen's Association.

Please ride with us - and if you are going to ride - then please contact Linda Starnes by phone/e-mail/snail mail with the rider form. Linda's phone number is: 270-597-3429 and her email address is: starnesstables@msn.com. The donation can be given the day of the ride, but we do need to know the approximate number so we can have plenty of food.

Also - an important source of income for us is the Silent Auction - so we need members to ask area merchants to donate items for the auction. Each donated item will have a placard that indicates the merchant who made the donation. Please notify either myself and/or Linda before the ride with any items you may have received so we can get the merchant placards ready.

Musicians / Vocalists Needed! - Anyone that wants to bring their instrument or voice & would like to "pick" or sing during lunch - that would be great!

Many thanks to everyone who participated on the project day! Tell your friends about our upcoming trail ride on Saturday, June 7! Hope to see you there!

Bonnie Fields,
MECTRA Secretary

Please visit our website: www.mcettra.com

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

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.



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.



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

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

September 19/20, Blackwater Boogie, 50/25, 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

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, lbhbhcnck@ftc-i.net

2009 Ride Calendar

December 20, Goethe Benefit Challenge, 100/75/50/25 Elevator Ride with FEI 75/100, Goethe State Forest, 11990 SE 21st Place, Morriston, FL; Ride Manager: Connie Caudill, 352-486-7040, blackprong@aol.com

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

April 26, Hallelujah Moonlighter, 50/25
May 3, Biltmore Challenge, 100/50
May 10, Florida Stampede, 60/30
May 17, Blazing Saddles, 50/25/fun ride
May 17, Red Barn Run, 50/25
May 24, Longstreet's Charge, 50/25



2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President - Jody Rogers-Buttram (AL) (256)974-4957 3jfarm@earthlink.net
Vice President – Truman Prevatt (FL) (352)796-9272 tprevatt@mindspring.com
Secretary/Treasurer -Tamra Schoech (GA) (770)554-1599 SERAgA@BellSouth.net
Terry Price (MS) (601)605-6079 farmerprice@earthlink.net
Tom Sites (VA) goearth@shentel.net
Debra LaComette (TN) (931)682-3378 redponyhorse99@yahoo.com
Alison Bailey (NC) (704)843-6826 agbailey@carolina.rr.com
Patsy Gowen (SC) (803)329-0077 FireFoxRun@comporium.net
Diane Fruth (KY) (812)985-2151 hikryrdg@evansville.net

Susan Kasemeyer, AERC DIRECTOR (856)988-4617 NdurN@aol.com
Duane Barnett, DVM AERC DIRECTOR (336)332-1792 DocDuane@aol.com
Nina Barnett (TN) POINTS KEEPER (336)595-6999 coujurs1@aol.com
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 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

¼ page - \$15

1/3 page - \$20

½ page - \$50