Southeast Endurance Riders Association

SERANEWSLETTER

May Volume 2, issue 2

Through the Lens: Our SE ride Photographers



Southeast ride photographer, Becky Siler Pearman, working her magic at the 2014 Biltmore Challenge. Photo Credit: Nancy Sluys

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Man! Time seems to go by faster and faster. Thought I had just done this and our editor reminds me that was a while back! By the way, I want to take a minute and thank Jody for the tremendous job she is doing as our newsletter editor. You should too, the next time you see her.

We have a few more rides in the books since I last addressed you. As sometimes happens, things didn't necessarily go exactly as planned for a couple of those rides. If you have managed a ride you know what I mean, but if you haven't it can be difficult to understand why, in some cases, things have to change at the last minute. If you were impacted by any of this I hope you will keep your perspective and remember that sometimes things change for safety reasons and sometimes because God just rearranges things for us! I promise you the ride managers didn't want to have to change anything after all the preparation that had gone into the original plan.

Don't forget we have some rides coming up still in the next couple of months. Camp Osborn Summer Slam will be near the end of May and the Old Dominion is coming up in June as is the GERA Fundraiser ride. And Broxton Bridge Summer ride happens over the July 4th weekend. Hope you will get to go ride one or all of these. If not, consider helping out if possible. It is always appreciated! See you down the trail....

PS: Hope all of you saw Wesley Crowes picture on the April EN cover. Always nice to see a southeast rider on there.



Through the Lens:

A look at our ride Photographers

By: Jody Rogers-Buttram

We all love to come home from a ride with that special little print of our ride photo. What if we didn't have that luxury? Years ago, ride photographers didn't exist. And unless you have crew member with a camera, there were no memoirs of that day with your equine partner.

But not nowadays, we are very fortunate to have several very talented ride photographers. Many of which are or were endurance riders. So, they really know their business.

Not only are these photographers talented, but they are passionate and determined. They will be out on the trail, in the cold, in the rain, or in the boiling heat. All to save that moment and maybe make a little money along the way.

No matter which SE state you go to compete in, there is no worry, they gotcha covered !!!

Some things you may not realize about what goes into being a ride photographer.

Photographing a ride is balancing act of time and space. It takes time to get with the ride manager, look at a map and figure out where to go to position for the best advantage of light use. Lighting is crucial. If the light isn't in the right place, at the right time, the shot is just that....shot. It a race to get to that spot on trail *before* the first riders arrive. So as you are getting up early to start the ride, so are the ride photographers. They are getting up early to make your day one to remember. They are driving in the dim light of morning, on foggy back roads while eating a Little Debbie snack cake for breakfast. There is an artistic aspect of the location. Just like in real estate, with the right "Spot", it comes down to LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. We may be riding into the

shoot, and think, "what is this person thinking!!! Taking a picture HERE". Because all we may see is a soybean field and some weeds. But at the end of the day, we are amazed at the beauty of the photograph. Turns out that those "weeds" provide a magnificent field of color in the foreground and the soybean field provides a distant muted background that doesn't overpower the shot.

Timing the ride shoots between the LD and longer distances is a magic trick. Sometimes, it seems that ride photographers are in two places at the same time. Many times, LD riders go out on one loop, while the Open distances are on a different loop, and the start times may be together or staggered. That means that in order to get everyone covered, they are to do a juggling act of jumping from one location to another. But somehow, they DO. And we just seem to take it for granted.

Another obstacle for the photographer is to print or not to

print. We finish our ride, take care of our trusty steeds, clean

up, head to the dinner and awards looking for our special little mementos. In the meantime, back at the photographers vehicle, they have been very busy either driving into the nearest town with an hour photo shop, printing out hardcopies for us to look at and purchase. Or they may have digital files with a website that are uploaded in a few days for us order from with custom sizing or cropping. Either way, they are very busy little bees, setting up the viewing of the day, or arranging the files on their laptop. Often times if they are digital, the photographer entertains us through the dinner with a slideshow of all the riders. These can be great times with friends, laughing and bragging about our wonderful ponies and our pictures. Ride photographers generally only are paid what they sell. As riders, we need to be careful when posting ride photos to social media. ALWAYS be sure to give photo credit to the proper photographer. It is their lively hood, and we shouldn't take advantage of their work. They are truly artist, horse people,

friends and hard workers. Just imagine if we didn't have them. So, like some prized possession, we should be careful to respect them and our ride photographs.

Just remember, when you see that photographer up ahead, do the best you can to spread out that group you are traveling in, think "soft" or "happy" thoughts, heads up and try to relax your body overall. This will help them capture the best picture possible of you and your horse. And it wouldn't hurt to say a little THANK YOU after the ride when you gaze over their wares. ©

Hats off to the following and all they have contributed over the years in helping this region and others record our ride histories:

Becky Siler Pearman Jessica Willis

Peter Demott Susan Franklin

Genie Stewart-Spears Linda K. Toups

Barefoot Run Land Between the Lakes

Do you enjoy a ride through wooded trails and fields? Amaze at tons of wildlife such as deer, wild turkeys and views of a beautiful lake? Then the Barefoot Run @ Land Between the Lakes is the ride for you!!!

Located at the Wrangler camp of Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, KY, this ride showcases some of the best that the SE region has to offer to the endurance rider. Wonderful vets, ride volunteers and ride management makes for this to be a ride not to miss. This was the second year for new ride mangers, Aubree Becker and co-manager Silvia Graeter Roberts and they decided that a two day ride of 25/50 just wasn't enough. So this year, they held a two day ride with the first day a 25/50 and the second day had something for

everyone. A Limited Distance, and a 50/75/100, AND an introductory Fun Ride to get those new people started into our wonderful sport.

In the SE region, the weather in the spring can be something that no one knows how it will turn out for any ride. But, everything worked out and the best possible weather decided to show and bless this ride.

The Wrangler camp at LBL has all the amenities anyone could ask for, such as a manicured campground with tie posts for picket lines, pull in camping slots with fire rings and picnic tables, along with electrical hookups. If you prefer, there are stalls to rent, nice hot showers to wash all that endurance ride day dirt, toilets and even a camp store. Or if you are a simple type, there is a field for primitive camping as well. Oh, and one of the best things at a ride that could be warm, an onsite ice machine for cooling off our equine partners.

The vet check area has a large parking lot to park your truck in case you need something or to get back to your trailer in a hurry. A huge grassy field for setting up crew areas and grazing that the horses just loved. In fact hard it's hard to get them to eat anything but the grass while in the vet check. With a restroom facility within 40 feet of the vets, and an outdoor wash rack, crewing and riding is made even easier. This year there were TONS of volunteers. Ride management provided a food table loaded with fruit, snacks and some of the best tea ever for workers and riders. There was always someone to hold your horse, or hand you some snacks. Some of the volunteers had driven from Missouri to work at an endurance ride just so they could learn about the sport. The trails are part of a year round camping facility, and used by day riders and campers. They are permanently marked, but Ron Chapman was the trail master. And what a master job he did !!! It never is easy to make last minute changes

due to rain and flooding. He had to go out and re-work some of the trails right before the first day, because of a small area that had been flooded. But all of the trails used were in great condition and made for a wonderful time while aboard our horses.

In the LD ride on Friday, there were 23 starters and 20 completions. The ride was won by Amy Sumrall riding Solomon of Kortez in a ride time of 3:17. That same day in the 50 mile ride there were 26 starters with 23 finishers. Winning time was 4:10 in a dead heat run off between Lois McAfee and Bethany Booher, with Lois and her horse, LM Freedom taking home the win.

The following day in the LD ride, there were 35 starters and 28 finishers. A junior rider named Katie Clifford on Hearts Hope, bested the rest of the field and won the ride in a time of 3:13. In the 50, Lois McAfee took home yet another win by turning in a ride time of 4:26, with 9 finishing out of 11

starters.

North East rider, Kathy Broaddus riding Fougueus, won the 75, in 9:10, beating out a field of 7 starters. In the 100 mile ride of 7 starting horses, and 4 completing horses, Joni Buttram riding Cash Bonus+/10 won the 100 in a ride time of 13:26.

Overall, there was a great completion rate across the board in all the rides. That is proof that this is a very doable trail, even with many of the horses and riders being first time attempts at those distances.

With the ride being held on Easter weekend, the awards had an Easter theme. The first day, top ten awards were either colorful collapsible plastic tubs, or hand made wooden brush boxes, FILLED with lots of wonderful items such as lead lines, fly spray, and Easter eggs and candy. And of course Easter basket grass. The second day was made up of some the same goodies, but this time the awards were actual

baskets, complete with basket grass, plastic eggs stuffed with candy and filled with horsey goodies like treats and cookies. In the 75 and 100 mile events, the baskets contained a bottle of Barefoot Run wine, and wonderful items for the tired rider. But the most magnificent hands down, was the winner's basket in the 100 mile ride. It was a huge basket, filled with anything and everything imaginable for the horse and rider AFTER riding 100 miles. It contained such treasures as an electric heating pad, hot and cold compresses, soothing foot scrubs, Advil, Gold Bond powder, soft footie socks, a really nice headlamp for the loops after dark, a monogrammed hand towel and much, much more. But let's not leave out that horse, there was also a couple bottles of horse liniment and horse cookies. Oh, and to top that all off, a \$40 gift certificate to Running Bear Farm tack, who was the onsite vendor!!!!! So make plans to mark this ride on next year's calendar....it is one NOT to be missed

About a year ago, AERC announced that national Convention for the 2013 ride season would be held at the Sheraton Airport Gateway hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. Since it was going to be held in our own back yard, the SERA and GERA boards talked it over and quickly decided that we should throw our support into this



Convention and hold our own awards and business meetings in conjunction with AERC's. And so the odyssey began. We immediately began brainstorming ideas on everything from vendors to entertainment to sights to see in Atlanta, and over the next several months began to pull a plan together. We wanted this Convention to have a definite Southeast flavor and we wanted to treat AERC to Southern hospitality the likes of which it had never seen. Mission accomplished! When the Convention is in Reno, Western States Trails Association sponsors a meet-and-greet reception which is held right before AERC's regional awards. This year they were unable to come to Convention. Terry Wyatt and AgSouth quickly offered to sponsor the reception and AgSouth made a very generous donation for that event. Susan Kain offered to donate her time and materials to make a beautiful t-shirt quilt as a raffle fundraiser with all proceeds to go to SERA. She

made one for me in 2012 and I brought it for display at the SERA/GERA booth which Patty Gale put together and staffed. Nancy Sluys and her husband Bill played what they call mountain music during the reception, and listening to them immediately made it feel a lot like being at a ride camp in the Southeast. We were able to secure The Men of Soul to play at the dance that followed the regional awards, and Nancy and Bill and other band members played when the band took a break. Nancy sang songs she'd written – I had never before heard her sing and just loved listening to her voice. I think at least 140 people attended the dance, and the two bands played from 8:00 p.m. until Sudi Lenhart, Melissa Hamilton, Lisa Robles and Lisa Tyler (to name a few) shut it down. I couldn't outlast this wild bunch and went to bed around 11:30 p.m. but later heard they were having so much fun that the hotel all but had to kick them out!

Saturday morning came and we were expecting perhaps 50 people to attend the GERA/SERA business meetings and awards. I figured you guys would need to sleep in after the dance on Friday night but I totally underestimated you endurance folks! It was a good thing the room accommodated 150 people because SERA/GERA showed up in force and it was standing room only.

We knew we could count on the Southeast Region for support - it's

always been that way and you all have always stepped up to the plate whenever we've needed help or support. This Convention was no exception. I could not believe how many people were coming through the doors to attend this Convention! SERA's Georgia director, Patty Gale, came up with an idea that was a pure stroke of genius: she provided ribbons with a glue strip which read "SERA Member". We stuck one of these ribbons on the AERC badge of each SERA member which attended, and it soon seemed like everywhere I looked, all you could see were SERA members. Early on Kathleen Henkel had arranged for the Sheraton to set aside a specially priced block of hotel rooms. We blew through those and they had to set aside another block. After that, we had members staying at area hotels. On Wednesday I saw a guest list from the hotel which showed 291 rooms had been booked, many of them housing two occupants, and I later heard that about 100 people showed up to participate who had not preregistered. We have not received an official headcount from AERC, but by my estimate 500 people attended the Convention, and of those, 177 were SERA members. By the end of Convention, the Southeast and SERA had so impressed AERC's Executive Director, Kathleen Henkel, that she became a member of SERA! Kathleen later wrote and told me, "Laurie we could not have done it without your help and the assistance from SERA. It was a great marriage!"

Speaking of new members, we had a whale of a membership drive. New

members were signed up at the SERA registration desk and at the SERA/GERA booth. Patty Gale did a beautiful job with the booth and came up with creative ideas to encourage people to renew or join SERA. Here are just some of the new SERA members who signed up at the convention:

- Brenda O'Donnell
- Lindsay Campbell and Joe Ed Casillas
- Carter Housel, DVM
- Kathleen Henkel
- Lyn Owen
- Penny Markle
- Melody Blittersdorf
- Maria Ransone
- Kirsten Kimbler
- David Gagnon family
- Pat Leland
- Julie Hicks
- Lynne Gilbert
- John and Becky Pearman
- Alice Lowery
- Lucinia Dunn
- George Paris

- Kris Anderson
- Teresa Stephens-Bremer
- Christina Copeland
- Thersa Bagwell
- Lisa Tyler

Welcome to each of you and thank you for joining SERA.

And y'all didn't just show up to participate, you showed up to volunteer and make this event a slam dunk! Alice and Charles Farrar made a point of telling me that they were coming first to volunteer and second to participate. Charles was the bomb and along with Ken Cota helped direct the vendors and helped set them up as they arrived. Alice was invaluable at AERC's registration and proved to be quite a saleswoman: AERC had t-shirts and vests for sale, and it seemed to me that they were sold out when Alice got done doing her thing. Alice isn't the only saleswoman amongst us: Chris Littlefield took my quilt, draped it around her shoulders and paraded around the trade show floor, selling tickets and having a good time. It worked, as the guilt raffle brought in an even \$1,000 for SERA! (Chris, thanks for saving a spot for me.) Samm Bartee came with her pink and purple cast and hair and worked the SERA registration booth from Thursday to Saturday, and also stood "guard" at various seminars to be sure that those attending had the proper identification.

I cannot say enough thank yous to the volunteers but I'll try – you each mean a great deal to me. Thanks to:

- Ken Cota
- Samm Bartee
- Alice and Charles Farrar
- Chris Littlefield
- Patty Gale
- Tamra and Joe Schoech
- Rebecca and Ike Nelson
- Vic and Vance Stine
- Nina Barnett
- Nancy and Bill Sluys
- Lee Myers
- Lara and Tim Worden
- Kim Williams
- Terry and Jack Price
- Holly Schenk
- Debbie Parsons
- Diane Hawthorne
- Carol Thompson
- Catherine McKinnon and Tom Andrew
- Tara and Terry Wyatt

- Dr. Otis
- Sharon Wilson
- Jane Larrimore
- Alisa Waxman
- Helen Koehler
- Ruth Ann Everett
- Judy Clark
- Margaret Clower
- Alison Bailey
- Patsy Gowen
- Lara and Tim Worden
- Peggy Clark
- Fran Wilde
- Brenda O'Donnell

If you pitched in and your name does not appear on my list above, please accept my sincere apologies for the oversight - and my most sincere thanks for your help. This organization runs on volunteer support and we just cannot do it without you!

There is no doubt in my mind that the Southeast is the best region in AERC. The generous and fun-loving people of this region make it so. Thanks again and see y'all at the next ride.

Laurie







100 Mile Club:

Ruth Anne Everett on Jumpin' Jax Steve Rojek on Chi-Hi

Bronze Level 100 Mile Achievement Winners

Fury (owned by Don and Nicki Meuten)

FYF Dutch (owned by Don and Nicki Meuten)

Basha Bada Bing (owned by Lynn Kenelly)

Fine Tune (owned by Vickie Stine)

FYF InZane+ (owned by Nancy Sluys)

Silver Level 100 Mile Achievement Winners

Jumpin' Jax (owned by Mike and Ruth Anne Everett) Not Tonight (owned by Don and Nicki Meuten)

Best Condition - Open Division:

Emannuel Battyr (ridden by Terry Wyatt)

<u>Consistent Condition - Open Division - SPONSORED BY RUNNING</u> BEAR - TEDDY LANCASTER

Fadjurs Talisman (owned by Angie McGhee)

<u>Limited Distance Best Condition – SPONSORED BY LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES RIDE</u>

Amazing Niki Ku MHF (ridden by Alisa Waxman)

Open Mileage Champion:

Finderzkeepers (ridden by Bonni Hannah)

Reserve Open Mileage Champion:

Emmanuel Battyr (ridden by Terry Wyatt)

<u>Limited Distance Mileage Champion – SPONSORED BY JANA SMITH IN MEMORY OF STEFFANIE WADDINGTON:</u>

TLA Monkey Bzness (riddey by Tykey Truett)

Top Ten Open Division:

- 1. Cheryl Van Deusen
- 2. Nicki Meuten
- 3. Terry Wyatt
- 4. Bonni Hannah
- 5. Joni Buttram
- 6. Theresa Carroll
- 7. Jody Rogers-Buttram
- 8. Vickie Stine
- 9. Deborah McClary
- 10. Sudi Lenhart

Top Five Limited Distance:

- 1. Amy Sumrall
- 2. Tykey Truett
- 3. Alisa Waxman
- 4. Margaret Clower
- 5. Alice Farrar

<u>Freshman Horse of the Year – SPONSORED BY RED BARN RUN</u> (STEVE AND CHERYL PERRY)

Snake Eyes Leroy, owned by Cheryl Van Deusen

<u>Freshman Rider of the Year – SPONSORED BY FOSTER OLSON AND LELA NIELSEN</u>

Daniel Hallman

Junior Awards:

<u>Junior Grand Champion – SPONSORED BY CHRISTO AND LORI DINKLEMANN:</u>

Taylor White

Open Distance Champion:

Annie Whelan

Limited Distance Champion:

Lily Turaski

10 Consecutive Finishes

Basha Bada Bing (owned by Lynn Kenelly)

Fadjurs Talisman (owned by Angie McGhee)

Emmanuel Battyr (owned by Terry Wyatt)

Finale (owned by Jana Smith)

PW September Hero +/ (owned by Patsy Gowen)

KF Leprechaun (owned by Lara Worden)

Virtuoso SF (owned by Diane Hawthorne)

Niki Ku MHF (owned by Alisa Waxman)

Rockette Survivor (ridden by Lela Nielsen)

Chance of Freedom (owned by Lily Turaski)

TLA Monkey Bzness (owned by Lorena "Nana" Truett)

Solomon of Kortez (owned by Amy Sumrall)

DK Shadow Dancer (owned by Amy Sumrall)

SWA Amazing Finish (owned by Mike de Chant)

FYF InZane+ (owned by Nancy Sluys)

Fine Tune (owned by Vic and Vance Stine)

More Than Faith (owned by Theresa Carroll)

Finderzkeepers (owned by Bonni Hannah)

Bella (owned by Jessica Chambless)

Aliya Jewel (owned by Margaret Clower)

SMS Apache Shaddodanz (owned by Alice Farrar)

350 Miles in a Season

Vicki Stine and Fine Tune

Johnny Petras and CM Morrocco

Theresa Carroll and More Than Faith

Deborah McClary and Psyches Traveler

Nancy Sluys and FYF InZane+

Cheryl Van Deusen and Nazeefs Pinot Noir

Maris Ramsey and AM Bright Brighella

Sudi Lenhart and Wieago Steve Rojek and Chi-Hi Angie McGhee and Fadjurs Talisman Tamra Schoech and Rushcreek SUV Tykey Truett and TLA Monkey Bzness Alisa Waxman and Amazing Niki Ku MHF

Mileage Milestones

Don Meuten	5,000
Terry Price	5,000
Tom Hagis	5,000
Gina Hagis	5,000
Deborah McClary	5,000
Nicki Meuten	11,000
Cheryl Van Deusen	12,000
Jody Rogers-Buttram	14,000
Connie Caudill	18,000
Valerie Kanavy	19,000
Steve Rojek	23,000

Lawton Johnston Award

Laurie Underwood

The Endurance Adventures of Ms. Sera By Jody Rogers-Buttram



SERA AWARDS

THANK YOU to our SERA Year end Awards Sponsors

SERA would like to thank the following for their generous sponsorships of our awards:

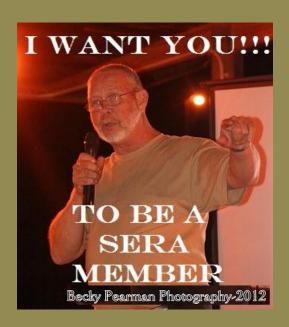
New Sponsors

Jana Smith - in Memory of Steffanie Waddington - sponsor of the LD Mileage Champion

Foster Olson and Lela Nielsen - sponsor of the Freshman Rider of the Year Red Barn Run (Cheryl and Steve Perry) - Freshman Horse of the Year LBL endurance Ride-LD Best Condition

Current Sponsors

Running Bear/Teddy Lancaster - Consistent Condition Christo and Lori Dinkelmann - Grand Champion Junior Please remember that some SERA awards require nomination by December 15th for more details, see SERA's website at: www.seraonline.org



WHY SHOULD LIOIN SERA?

Remember we are on the Web:

www.seraonline.or

SERA Board

PresidentDr. Ike Nelson

Vice President Terry Price

Secretary
Laurie Underwood

Treasurer Alison Bailey

Past President Tamra Schoech

State Representatives
Dr. Ike Nelson- AL
Helen Koehler-FL
Patty Gale-GA
Amy Whelan-KY
Jack Price-MS
Ruth Anne Everett-NC
Patsy Gowen-SC
Trish Harrop-TN
Mary Howell-VA

Sanctioning Director

Susan Kasemeyer

Director Joe Schoech

In the Southeast region of the AERC, teamwork is synonymous with SERA. The Southeast Endurance Riders Association was founded when endurance riding in the Southeast was in its infancy. Today endurance riding in the Southeast is only behind the West region in number of opportunities for our members to participate in the sport. In the Southeast there are riding opportunities for riders interested in all aspects of our sport from LD to Multi-days. While the opportunities for riders to participate in the historically foundation of endurance -the one-day one hundred mile ride - have declined to an alarming low level in the rest of the country, BUT the Southeast has maintained a steady number of eight over the last 10 years. SERA has been a big factor. SERA promotes endurance riding, supports riders and ride managers. The **SERA** team is the members that ride the rides and the managers that sanction their rides through SERA. In addition to the horse scales, a speaker system, flood lights and blood analyzer, SERA will have at many rides their projector and screen available to display whatever you want the riders to see pre- ride (trail maps, ride schedule, etc.) and/or post-ride (awards, etc.). If you have pictures (from previous years, or of the ride-site facilities or of significant trail intersections, or photographer), we can put up a slide show during registration and/or the meals, for example. You can email Joe Schoech what you want to display beforehand or put the data on a thumb(zip)-drive at the ride. Documents can even be scanned directly into a display at the ride site. We can also hook the projector up directly to your laptop, if you wish. If you want to show movies, just provide the DVD (no Blu-ray) and we can have a "night at the movies", if you like. We just need a little setup time and then we can make all or any of this happen. Please contact Joe Schoech for the A/V availability. If you want to be a part of the team that promotes the growth of endurance riding opportunities - you should join SERA. If you want to have the access of resources, scales to monitor your horse's weight and a blood analysis machine to help you understand the metabolic capabilities of your horse so you can better manage your horse you should join SERA. If you want a stable system of quality trails for not only running endurance rides but also for training and just hacking around you should join SERA. SERA's goal is to make endurance riding in the Southeast region the best it can be. If this is what you want you should join SERA.

SERA Classifieds

3JFarm Training/Conditioning Services

Let us do your conditioning for you, or start your green endurance prospect.

- Over 21,000 competition miles of experience
- 45 one day 100 mile ride experience
- · Numerous wins and BCs
- Endurance farrier with 27+ years of experience owner/operator.

Email 3Jfarm@earthlink.net for more info.







**** Limited slots available at this time ****

Contact for availability

Please be sure to make THIS newsletter YOUR newsletter !!!!

Send in any pictures, articles about upcoming rides, best way to get the word out about your rides guys!!! Stories of rides in the past that are informative and fun. Advertise you items, such as horses, tack, etc. that you have for sale <u>free</u>.

Send to: 3jfarm@earthlink.net



Outta here till Next time !!!!