



SERA NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEAST ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Spring is Here and the Riding is Great!!

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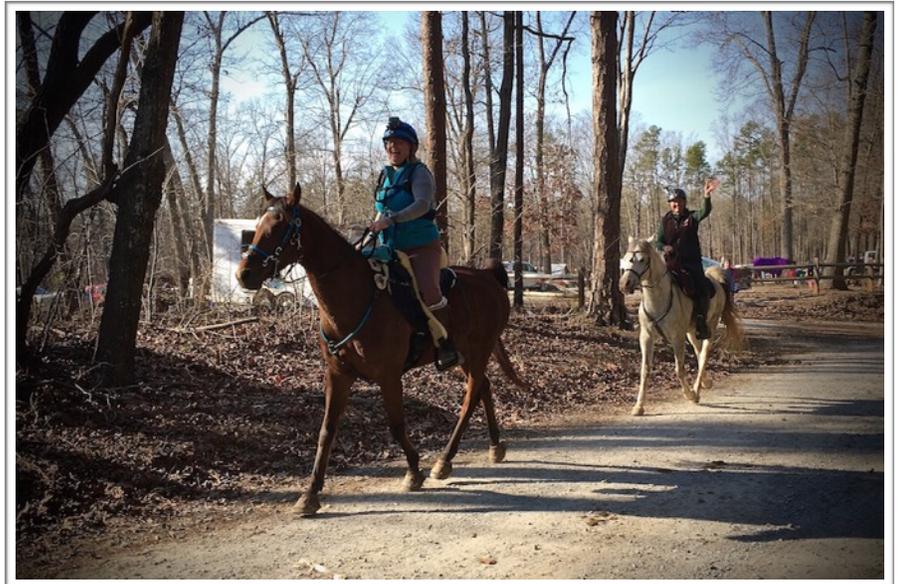
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Nancy Sluys

Hopefully most everyone has gotten to a ride by now and I sure hope they have gone well! As we motor along in the season, here are some ticklers to ponder.

Things to think about mid-season:

Have you looked around at how many volunteers it takes at every ride to make your day go well? Maybe it's a good time to say Thank You!



Have you stood back and honestly assessed your horse's body condition score? When we see them every day sometimes we don't see weight loss or gain and now's the time to adjust if needed.

Are you sticking to your training plan or letting other things influence you-- whether to do more miles, more speed than usual or the other direction and dropping training rides? We can all benefit from a self check-in so we stay on track.

Are you diligently checking your tire pressure before you haul? Some people say low tire pressure is the biggest cause of blowouts, which are our nightmares.

When is the last time you cleaned your feed buckets in your trailer? Getting to a ride with moldy buckets or feed still left in them just makes more work for ride weekend.

If you have the unfortunate luck to get pulled and your horse is ok, do you think about wandering up to the vet check to offer help? Seems like afternoon checks can be when volunteers get thin and I don't think any ride manager would ever say no to more help.

Most importantly, are you still having fun? This sport is exactly what we make it and if riding isn't putting a smile on your face, why not? I wish everyone the very best of luck, adventure and successful rides!

Happy trails!

Sudi

EDITORS LETTER -

Hi Folks, well Spring is here and the ride season is in full swing! I hope everyone is having a great time on the trails and setting some great riding goals. I have some good ones to help my motivation along throughout the year. Zanie is coming back after a year off and our plans include a 50 at the Biltmore to get back into the game with a possibility of the Old Dominion 100 and a road trip in September for the Ozark Trail 100. For Danny the mule, introduction to the sport, working up to 50's and trying for SERA Freshman Horse (mule) of the Year. Snap started well in Florida but had some lameness as well as some control issues (which probably caused the lameness) at Take No Prisoners so I am laying off rides for a while with him and going back to some dressage, basic training and solo trail rides to build confidence. My homebred, Summer, will do her first 50 sometime this year, if all goes well. Able is looking good in the pasture but haven't had time to do much with him so I guess I'll save him for later or maybe find a rider for him. I would also sell him to the right person (hint hint) since I just have way too many to ride right now! Meanwhile a delightful 8yr old junior rider has come my way to learn how to ride so maybe she can help me get all these guys ridden!! Whew!! See you on the trail!!

Nancy Sluys



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TAKE NO PRISONERS AT KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC by Nancy Sluys

The SE Region experienced a new ride this year managed by Vic and Vance Stine and Lara and Tim Worden. The ride was located in the historic Kings Mountain State Park where the battle of Kings Mountain took place changing the course of the Revolutionary War. The park had recently added a new trail loop with the help of SERA/AERC members, who donated many hours to help with the work. The new loop is a single track, technical trail that winds through the beautiful hardwood forest. Combined with the existing loop the ride utilized both loops for a comfortable four loop 50 miler.

The weekend was not the best for me as lady luck was not in my favor. I stepped out of my trailer and into a hole that was hidden under the leaves, badly spraining my ankle. Being the tough (and sometimes not so smart) endurance rider that I am I wrapped it up and didn't even think of not starting the ride the next day.

Ride day dawned cold and crisp as I hobbled over to mount Snap and head over to the start of the ride. My ankle hurt but was well supported by my wrapping job. Snap was amped up as Holly (who had travelled to the ride with me) and I had decided to start our horses separately. She was trying Rennie's first 50 and wanted to start in the back. In order to give her room I started closer to the front. Too close it turned out. Snap hit the trail at a quick pace and was a little hard to rate. He was looking for his new buddy and would not be consoled. He locked onto the front runners and it was all I could do to keep him at a pace that was close to sensible. My ankle was screaming and I was not riding properly.

We came into the first vet check and Snap vetted through just fine with all A's and a good CRI. I figured he hadn't gone too fast for his conditioning so I relaxed some. Going out on the second loop was another story, though. As we hit the gravel road leaving the vet check he felt off on the left front. Dang! I brought him back for the vets to check and decided to pull him. I was disappointed but my ankle was fine with that decision!!

Holly went on to finish her horse's first 50, tying for the turtle position with 3 other riders including Cheri Swerbinski on her horse Deacon for their first 50 mile completion too! Ride management did an excellent job on this new ride and we are all looking forward to going back!



Photos by Nancy Sluys



Holly Schenk & Rennie and Cheri Swerbinski and Deacon finish their first 50s, tying for turtle!

A Photographer's Tale story and photos by Linda Touns

As a photographer and nature lover, I am drawn to all things of beauty, and so it was in November of 2007 that my camera and I fell in love with a little slice of heaven in Altamont, TN. Settled along the edge of the Cumberland Plateau, the Skymont Scout Reservation is home to the Cherokee Area Council for the Boy Scouts and opens its doors to the civilian public only once a year for AERC.

A few years into my professional photography business, I was contacted by Larry Jordan and asked if I would like to photograph the AERC Skymont event. After expressing my enthusiastic, "Yes!", we arranged to meet there the weekend before. I went straight to Skymont from another photography event, arriving in the dark after many a twisting turn and wondering just where I had stopped. Larry helped me set up a quick camp for my horses for the night, and we chatted in the cabin for awhile about the ride and the Scout Reservation.

After a driving tour, I left in the morning, but hardly made it home and spent that week in the hospital. But Skymont had already sunk its hooks into me, and so I snagged a girl friend and enlisted her help to make sure I was back to photograph the ride that weekend. This AERC ride is a fund raiser for the reservation, and so it is the rare time those that are not scouts allowed on the property. The riding trails used are essentially untouched from year to year, and I can attest neither is the camping area, as I've found things I know I forgot to pick-up sitting just where I left them a year later!

Endurance riders love the diversity and adversity of their competition. It seems that mother nature loves to give them her best at Skymont. In 2007 it was clear and very cold. Riders, horses, workers, and volunteers were bundled like Eskimo's and hot chocolate was lovingly plied into your hands at every turn. I sat in the back of my truck that year with a generator running my coffee maker, an electric blanket, and my electronics to get me through the day. Friday night and Saturday night we ate the glorious food made by scouts that had volunteered to cook for us in the banquet hall. Buford regaled us with funny stories of how Skymont had originally been a hunting preserve for the wealthy.



Dining hall at Skymont

In November 2008 I was back and had the time to scout a bit more of the ranch looking for different photo opportunities. Mother nature decided cold wasn't enough, and gave us a light dusting of snow that night. I loaned a power cord and a plug from my generator to my camp neighbor, and learned the challenge of walking with many camera battery packs tucked into my clothes so that I could keep taking pictures.

The Skymont ride was not held in 2009. The challenges of putting on a ride with limited access and cold weather, needed to move on to a new group to manage it. Those that had experienced the lure of Skymont rallied behind the ride and pleaded for it to continue. This challenge was taken up by Ike Nelson and many others.



Ike Nelson and helper

November 2010 dawned clear and cold... and windy! All that week I had looked forward to an opportunity to have some fall color to the photos, since fall had arrived late to the area. But alas, most of it had blown away upon my arrival. Trail master Wendy ** helped me learn the trails better and how to get around and Buford had gotten comfortable that I would respect the ranch, giving me greater freedom than ever before to explore Skymont. Despite this, I had to sadly come to accept I would not be able to take a photo of the competitors with the view off the Cumberland Plateau in the background. There is simply not an area I can back far enough away from the trail and capture this shot. Many people don't realize that my whole life has revolved around owning horses and participating in equine competition of all kinds all the way to a national level. My family story is that my mother, Judy Jesse (whom some of you know), brought me home after my birth and set me upon a horse before taking me inside our home. She always believed horses provided a freedom and partnership found through no other means, and I am inclined to agree with her. So in 2010, I asked to compete Skymont on my own horse on Friday and photograph Saturday. I was very excited about finally seeing all the trails stride by stride as the riders do. Fortunately, Daniel Johnson picked up the slack for my not being able to photograph on Friday, and per my request, took many photos of me and my friend during competition.

It had been over 20 years since I had competed in AERC, and the thrill was very much as I remembered it. Friday was very cold and it had rained all night making the trails slick under the fallen leaves and pine needles. Yet, it also made the trails quiet. I can still close my eyes and remember riding the edge of the plateau through the knee-knocker trees, where the pine needles were so thick, you only heard the sound of your horse breathing and the hollow ring of the ground under their hooves. The glimpses of the plateau from the edge were hypnotizing, and I sorely wanted to just stop and soak up the view. But I traveled on, stride by stride, finishing the competition in good health and proper time.

My body was not impressed at getting up at 5am the next morning to photograph after a long day of competition. I truly wasn't sure how to get out of the bed without face planting into my kitchen table, and so between my girl friend and I, laughing hysterically the entire time, I safely got out of bed and on my way. The best way to get past being sore is to move, but I couldn't move much and still take pictures. However, my adoring husband gave me a great back-up plan, and that was a new 2011 Ford truck that had luxurious heated seats. Let me tell ya, those were put to good use!

That year I also put to good use the 4x4 part of that new truck. Saturday was day four of steady rain, and Skymont turned into a muddy bog everywhere. It was a very thick and sticky mud too, and I know that by the time I left the ride, my new truck literally had 5" worth of it stuck under the fender wells! Despite the weather, people kept smiling and working, riding and helping.

In 2012, my husband Marcus was able to join me to help at Skymont before moving to his next U.S. Army duty station of Korea. It was a good thing he came, because that November was the coldest yet and by Friday morning everything had turned to ice making the trails hazardous. While he burrowed into his army gear to stay warm and plied me with hot coffee, I kept myself warm between riders with walking in place and taking pictures of the ice formed over the leaves. It didn't warm up that year!



Linda's husband, Marcus, in 2012 6

Sadly, due to many accumulating spine injuries, I was unable to work in 2013 and the Skymont ride was moved up into October, hoping to get away from the bracing cold and wet. Skymont was moved up to the beginning of October in 2014, but mother nature was unimpressed. 2014 had seen drought across the region, and workers at Skymont had spent many hours hauling water out onto the trails to keep horses cool and hydrated. However, for five days straight before competition, it rained. Not a gentle rain, but a deluge complete with fog making visibility farther than your horses ears a stroke of luck. People got stuck just driving into Skymont, let alone trying to make camp and leaving. But everyone banded together and helped in every plausible way. I know that I will not be the first to say that despite every hardship at Skymont that year, all of the workers and crew were exceptional. On everyone's lips was how courteous and helpful everyone was, making sure every effort was made to find the good about the ride and its workers.

I have always prided myself as a photographer that works very hard to capture at least one good photo of everyone. I've worked in blistering cold, blazing sun, snow, mud, and dust. But never until that year have I worked in rain and wind that tried to flatten you to the ground! It was too much to sit in for hours on end, and so I sat in my truck draped in rain coats weighted down with blocks of wood, camera and lens ensconced in two protective sleeves made for the job. I love the photos from that year, it's easy to see how hard it is raining, and yet smiling faces abound!

Even so, ride management had taken a toll trying to find easier ways to run and manage the ride. I know I and many others spent a considerable amount of time that year encouraging all of those that put so much time and effort into making it an event I look forward to each and every year.

2016 saw Skymont held in one of the area's worst droughts ever, and Buford retired with a new head scout master. The workers were challenged to get water out on the trails and handle the largest crowd Skymont had seen thus far, thanks to its stellar reputation. This was the first year riders weren't bundled in clothes or rain gear, but got to ride with focus and smiles along the way. It was warm and I was able to get to places to photograph I had not been able to use before. Moving the ride up in the calendar year gave me more light to work with, making the photos more beautiful than ever.

Each year I have driven home wondering what the next year will bring. As fall approaches, I look forward to seeing Skymont again and seeing nature in a raw and untouched way. I know of many people that think of this ride as I do. The HAM radio club from

Nashville that helps at the ride each year, since there is little to no cell signal, saw their own national president fly his private plane from Alaska to see its mysteries. I've met people that have come from far and wide, and say the challenges of Skymont will bring them back yet again.

So if the fall of 2017 approaches and you find yourself looking for something different to do and see, come to Altamont, TN. I encourage you to bring a rain coat, cold weather gear, and most certainly some hot cocoa! Despite the challenges, you will love the drive and wont find a more helpful crew of smiling faces anywhere. Those of us that have been captured by the beauty of Skymont, would love to share it with you.



The Continuing Adventures of Danny the Endurance Mule! by Nancy Sluys

In the last issue I shared with you Danny's trip to the trainer and the start of our conditioning. Well, Danny has proven to be a great student and very athletic and I find myself challenged to make his lessons and rides exciting enough so that he doesn't lose interest. I try to work with him at least four days a week if not more to keep him moving forward with weekends for riding in the mountains of Virginia. Nothing I have thrown at him has tired him out in any way so I decided to use the Leatherwood 25 mile LD ride as part of our conditioning. I needed to challenge him physically and mentally to see where we were in our training.

This was our first camping trip together and not knowing if he would stay in my electric pen, I decided to house him on my High-Tie on the trailer. Danny didn't think much of that and challenged it right off the bat by lunging and pulling on the rope. When he realized that it was not going to break he spent most of the time backed up with the rope taunt and a sour look on his face. I figured he'd get used to it after a while so I just ignored his antics until he made peace with it!



He took everything in stride, vetting in like a pro and enjoying the excitement around camp. I was nervous about how he would be at the start of the ride so I let most of the riders go before we walked quietly out of camp. I was very proud of the way he handled it, just letting those silly horses run off while conserving his energy for the day ahead.

I had one tense moment after we entered the woods on a single track trail. The trail switched back several times to go down a

steep hill. Danny heard the horses above him on the upper switchback and not knowing what it was bolted forward for about 10 strides before I got a handle on him, giving me a bit of a scare. As soon as he realized that it was not a cougar ready to pounce from above, he settled right down to business again.

He kept a very steady and sensible pace and didn't really care about the horses around him. Good thing because there were a few around us who just could not settle and kept running up on us. I finally let them go by and we had some nice trail to ourselves for a while. I was really enjoying his no nonsense attitude and he was feeling solid and safe. He handled the rough terrain and footing really well and was able to skip down the hills with the agility of a deer. We came into the first vet check at an average speed of about 8mph. It didn't feel that fast because he was so efficient in handling the terrain that he could make time where many of the horses could not. I was starting to understand the advantage that these mules have in endurance!!



Photo by Becky Pearman

We came into the first vet check and he looked like he was already recovered so I just pulled the saddle and went to the pulse box without even a sponge on his neck. He was at 52 by the time I got there and when I got to the vet it was 48! I guess he was handling the ride just fine!!

Heading out on the second loop the trail leaves straight up a very steep hill right across from the vet check. I was concerned that he would not want to leave his buddies and his feed tub (a common habit of a mule). He did start to balk a bit at the sight of the steep hill but I reached down and tapped him on the butt with my saddle string and that was all it took! He bounded right up that big hill and on to loop two!!

I was really enjoying my ride as evidenced by the big grin that I couldn't keep off my face. He did not buddy with any horse and sometimes we rode with folks and sometimes alone. He just kept the same steadfast pace all day, never seeming to tire. He was doing his job and he loved his job!! As we came into the finish at camp he still looked unstressed so, once again, we pulled the saddle and went directly to get our pulse time for the finish. Once again, no problem, he was recovered. He vetted out with all A's and his first AERC experience was in the bag!



Photo by Becky Pearman



Two weeks later I decided to do an NATRC competitive trail ride to give him another kind of distance riding experience. We headed to the Brick House trailhead in Whitmire, SC for the Carolina Derby NATRC ride. I was going to be mentoring my junior rider, Mikayla Nunn, on her first ride in the Open Division (50-60 miles in 2 days at a pace of 4-6mph). Normally I would start a new animal in the Novice Division but since Danny's physiology was so superior I opted to start him right into Open. He did not disappoint and lost no points on soundness or conditioning. In NATRC you also have some judged obstacles along the way and Danny didn't think much of these. He didn't see why we had to stop to sidepass a log or back up and he was quite antsy and not wanting to stand and wait his turn. This let me have a chance to see some holes in our training and gave me something to work on and by the second day he was performing much more smoothly and was a little more patient. We did about 55 miles in the two days of competing, really kicking up Danny's conditioning.

Our next endurance adventure was the 30 miler at Biltmore about 3 weeks later. The weather did not cooperate and the rains came in, turning the trails into a muddy mess by the second day when we were to ride. Before the start I was asked by another rider, Natalie Muzzio, if I would ride out with her as she was riding someone else's young horse. I was happy to have the company since the ride started along the road next to camp and I knew Danny would want to go back to my horse, Zanie, who had ridden the day before. I put Danny on the outside of Natalie's horse and we got out of camp just fine.

We stayed together all day and we had a delightful ride. Danny was fine to ride in front or behind and we both took turns in the lead. Once again, Danny's steady pace got us efficiently and safely down the muddy trails. I marveled at his sure-footedness as his little feet held to the trail with nary a slip on the muddy surface while the horse's bigger feet could not hold traction, sliding a little on almost every step. We rode carefully with the intent of finishing with sound animals.

We came upon many sights and sounds throughout the beautiful route through the working farms of the Biltmore Estate, encountering many species of animals such as pigs, cows, sheep and goats. Not to mention bikes, hikers, baby carriages and segways! Both kept their heads for the most part except for the last mile into the vet check where we passed the overflow camps where there were horses with blankets running in the paddocks, tarps flapping, a tent blowing across the field on the right and dark bushes blowing in the wind on the left. We laughed and laughed as we coaxed the two of them to maintain forward motion so that we could get to the vet check!

At the vet check and the finish Danny came in already at criteria so once again we went right in. I guess I don't have to waste a lot of time and energy with water buckets and sponging and such because he doesn't seem to need it! I'm going to love this low maintenance animal!

So far Danny's training and conditioning are coming along better and faster than I had ever expected. He is very intelligent and only has to be shown once or twice a thing before he knows it. His physiology is amazing and his steady and efficient way of going insures me of many stress free miles in the future. The only problem that is arising is, of course, saddle fit! I thought the DeSoto saddle I've been riding him in was fitting just fine, and it was at first, but he is changing so quickly with his new found fitness that it is now too wide in the front and putting pressure under where my legs are and causing some white hair to come up. Mule's backs are confusing and not like horse's. So, now on to saddle fit! That might be the subject of my next article!



My First Ride Season

by Rachel Land

My first endurance experience was volunteering at the Run for Horses ride at the Biltmore in September '15. I had my 5 month old son strapped to my chest the whole time. It was amazing. Shortly after that ride, I reached out to find a mentor so I could learn about the sport in more detail before I felt comfortable to enter a ride. I had just gotten an appaloosa mare and I had no clue how to condition her for a race. I had grown up in the saddlebred show world, and knew nothing of trail etiquette let alone riding for 50 miles. I contacted one of the mentors listed on the AERC website and she referred me to a woman who lived just down the road.

Clare Summers showed up one day to pick me and mare up for a 10 mile conditioning ride. It took about 2 hours to finish and I smiled the entire time. When we were loading up the horses and driving home, I rattled off so many questions about the sport. She gracefully answered every one and shared her knowledge and wisdom with me.

The following January I entered my first 25 mile LD at Broxton Bridge. Learning how to set up camp was quite the experience and I am so glad Clare showed me everything I would need. My instructions from Clare to just complete the race was to just keep a nice steady trot the whole ride. It was so relaxing, refreshing, but also exhilarating at the same time. Clare had taught me what to expect during the vet check and how to make sure my horse had everything she needed. Coming in to the final vet check to pulse in I couldn't believe I just rode 25 miles, it was over all too quickly. When the timer returned my vet card she said, "Great job, number 8!" I corrected her and said my number was 11. She then replied, "No honey, you came in 8th place!" When I got back to the trailer to take care of my mare, Clare happened to be going in to camp and I told her I placed 8th and her jaw hit the floor. Then she said calmly, "I told you if you'd just keep an easy trot that you'd finish! Great job."

I was hooked. I couldn't wait to join AERC and schedule my next ride. At the next ride I entered 2 25's back to back. On the first 25, I was pulled after the first loop for a sore back, which was quite the learning experience on its own. Vet's contradicted each other and being a newbie, I didn't know the rules about talking to the head vet until it was too late. I did get a firm talking to when Clare heard about it and she quickly taught me how to get things done right the next time. The second 25 was a breeze, we finished mid pack. The next ride on my schedule was the Biltmore Challenge. I signed up for a 50 on one of Clare's amazing athletes, Dream Chance, and Clare and I rode together the whole ride. We tied for last place, and let me tell you, I will NEVER try to get a turtle again. It was way too much work to go slow. The very next day, I rode my mare, Tawny in the 55. This was my first ride to have many challenges. Since my mare was so young I thought it best I start well after all riders had headed out on the trail. As I approached the start, I realized I had left an important piece of gear behind, and had to go back to get it. So I actually didn't start until 15 minutes after everyone else. Then on the first loop about 8 miles in, my mare pulled a front shoe! Of course we vetted in with all A's since we walked in, got the ride farrier to put a new shoe on, and off we went again. We were flying trying to catch up, but I must have taken a wrong turn at some point because it took much longer to finish the loop than I had expected. During my last hold as Tawny had her head buried in a pan of feed, the wind decided to pick up quite a bit and up went a tent came down on top of a horse standing right in front of Tawny. Needless to say, she was quite spooked and was getting out of there as soon as possible! Fortunately Clare's



Photo by Becky Pearman

husband was holding her and as soon as she pulled him out of the chair he was sitting in, she felt that was enough and stopped and proceeded to bury her head in her feed pan. At last we were heading out on our last loop and then my curb strap broke! A little baling twine made for a quick fix.

Since my mare had gotten all A's at every vet check and was pulsing in like a champ, I decided we would take it up a notch on the last loop. I knew we were in dead last because of the late start and lost shoe, so I was also in a hurry to finish in time to get a completion. When we finally came to the finish line I was elated especially when I learned we did not turtle!

Clare and I have had quite a few more rides together this year. One of the most fun rides was the Fall South Mountain Lottery. What a great, but tough, ride! Clare let me ride Dream Chance again and we were able to ride together the whole time. We tied for 8th place and Chance won High Vet Score and Best Condition. I am beyond grateful for everything Clare has taught me. I know my first ride year would have been full of many more down's than up's if it weren't for her advice and tutelage. To top it all off, at the end of the 2016 ride season I was awarded with the Southeast Endurance Riders Association's Freshman Rider of the year award.

Our friendship was a very unexpected one. I never thought I would be such great friends with a woman old enough to be my mother. She challenges me to be a better person, and to not give up on my dreams and passions. She willingly shares her knowledge, tack, truck, trailer and horses to help me; all with no benefit or personal gain on her part. I highly recommend every new, young, or inexperienced rider to find a mentor in your area. I am so glad AERC has started the new mentor program. Maybe in a few years I'll join up and pass on my knowledge to a newbie.

In August I learned of the Mongol Derby while watching TV one evening. I immediately called Clare to ask if she had heard of it, and of course it was on her bucket list. I challenged her to think about whether she really wanted to do it, and to start taking some steps to get there. She called me the next day and told me she had submitted her application. Then she quietly said that she would love to go with another endurance rider. I laughed it off and said that I didn't know of anyone else as crazy as she is. But that night, I realized I DID know someone that crazy, myself. But there was no way I would be able to go. I have 4 young kids. I couldn't afford childcare, let alone the hefty entry fee. Besides, I am a green bean in Endurance Riding. But then I started thinking about how I grew up riding a shetland pony with nothing but a halter when I was 2. I showed Saddlebreds for years, winning countless ribbons, Medallions, a National Championship, and Second at the World's Championship all before the age of 13. I was a performer at the Dixie Stampede in Branson, MO and learned how to trick ride. I was even one of the Ostrich Jockeys.



Clare confirmed that I was more than able. I decided through hearing from her, the best horsewoman I'd ever ridden with, that I was able, that I could do it. So I submitted my application thinking that they would NEVER pick me. The Adventurists contacted me shortly after receiving my application to get an interview set up. I got



an email just a couple days after my interview letting me know I had been chosen as one of the riders. About a week and half later Clare received her invitation and we both sighed in relief. You see, there was NO WAY I was going to this race without her by my side. She was the one that helped dust off the passion of horses and riding and adventure that I had buried long ago. We are a team; and now we are preparing for the adventure of a lifetime next August. If you'd like to follow along with us on our year of preparation and training go to www.StrongAndCrazy.com

Remaining 2017 SERA Sanctioned Rides

- 05-28-2017 - 05-28-2017 * [Camp Osborn Summer Slam - NEW LOCATION!](#) - Sylvester, GA
- 06-09-2017 - 06-10-2017 * [Old Dominion Endurance Ride](#) - Orkney Springs, VA
- 06-17-2017 - 06-17-2017 * [Dawson Forest 25/50 Elevator Ride](#) - Dawson Forest - Dawsonville, GA
- 07-15-2017 - 07-15-2017 * ***** CANCELED ***** [Broxton Bridge Moonlight - SE FEI Fundraiser](#) - Broxton Bridge Plantation - Ehrhardt, SC
- 08-25-2017 - 08-26-2017 * [Iron Mountain Jubilee I & II](#) - Ivanhoe Horse Show Grounds - Ivanhoe VA
- 09-08-2017 - 09-09-2017 * [SERA Benefit - Big South Fork](#) - Big South Fork NRRA - Oneida/ Jamestown, TN
- 09-30-2017 - 09-30-2017 * [Sand Hills Stampede](#) - Sand Hills State Forest - Patrick, SC
- 10-20-2017 - 10-21-2017 * [Fort Valley](#) - Fort Valley, VA
- 11-10-2017 - 11-11-2017 * [Broxton Bridge - USA SE FEI Fundraiser](#) - Broxton Bridge Plantation - Ehrhardt, SC

Scenes From SERA Country



Photos by Nancy Sluys & Becky Pearman



Missed reading about your favorite ride??
That's because you didn't send me your ride story!! Please help me keep this newsletter interesting and send me your stories, tips and news!!!
email- minglewood@surry.net
Deadline for the next issue
July 1, 2017
Thank You, Nancy Sluys

