

From The Horse's Mouth

Southeast Endurance Riders Association Newsletter

November 2007



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The sport of endurance was based on one distance, the 100 mile ride. To me and many others, this distance is the top tier of performance for the distance horse. It is the end goal, the most perfected dance that a rider and horse team can perform. It is a delicate balance of knowledge, skill, and athletic ability that only they can conduct. It is endurance, pure and simple. Many of us are extremely passionate about 100 milers, while others see them as something that either they have no desire to do, or think that it is something that they cannot achieve. The 100 miler is not a mountain that cannot be climbed, nor is it a challenge that should be jumped into lightly. It is a battleground that only the fully prepared dare to stand upon with hopes of succeeding.

In this sport we hear all the time about the "respect" of the different distances. Sometimes riders feel that they are not given their due respect for their achievement. I am not going to say that some of this doesn't happen, but it comes and goes in all directions, toward all distances. This is not the platform for such a discussion. But it is an opportunity to try and explain the mystery, lure, and satisfaction of the 100 mile ride.

100 miles. That's a long way. I have heard it put that 100 miles isn't twice as difficult as a 50 mile ride. Logic says, "It's twice as long, it has to be." In many ways the 100 is more than twice as hard. Any problems which might show up in at the 50-mile mark have a tendency to increase more than twice over the next 50 miles. A tack issue is one of the worst problems to deal with throughout 100s. A rider can "get away" with tack that doesn't fit perfectly in a 50. But a 100 will bring it out and make it show its stripes. A poor shoe job is another prime candidate to stop your 100 mile conquest. Again, at a lesser distance, the horse can tolerate sub-standard shoeing, such as bad angles, unbalanced hoofs, and interference. Poor shoeing can and will cause the horse to go lame during the demands of a 100 mile ride. A rider that is not balanced will take its toll on the horse as well. A horse can compensate for many of our faults for 50 miles. Horses are extremely tolerant animals. But in a 100, the more tired or out of balance we are, the more the horse will have to work to overcome it, thus, causing fatigue and possibly a non-completion. So why do people do this??? Why do we want to work so hard in preparation, pay more money to enter, stay on the trail for hours after the rest of the camp is clean, dry, warm, fed, and sleeping? Why do we do this to finish in the dark with just a handful of people (if you are lucky) to see your grand adventure come true???

A 100 miler is not in it for the awards. Many times, the awards offered are the same as offered the other distances. They are given out to the 100 miler when most riders have left ridecamp. They are sometimes the leftovers from the other distances who already received their awards. But 100 mile riders gets their award on the trail, alone in the woods and in the dark with nothing but their horse who has so diligently carried them all day through all sorts of terrain and weather. They get their award when they try to tell someone about their ride, and have a hard time not getting just a bit emotional when replaying it in their heads. They get their award when they see how beautiful, fit, and still willing and able to go down the trail their horse is the next day. It is that kind of award that no trophy, blanket, or belt buckle can hold. Those are simply the "things" that remind us of what we and our horses have accomplished on that day.

A 100 miler is not in it for the points. Yes, of course we do score big with the collection of points. But the 100 mile rider gets their points with each mile spent on the trail. They get points by learning more with each ride about their horse, their capabilities as a team, and what works and doesn't work in their training. Unlike AERC points, the lessons can be used over and over again, not just for one ride season. 100 milers get points from each other. They may see or find some new trick or aid that will help them to complete that day, or use it on their next adventure. With each stride taken in a 100 mile ride, knowledge "points" are quickly added to the rider's "knowledge account" and will be used in every ride that follows.

The 100 miler also scores mega points with the accumulation of 100s and 100s of miles of some of the best time that can be spent with your horse. To be truly successful at endurance, the rider must be able to look into the horse's eyes, or just feel a very subtle change and know something is not right. This is an ability that comes only from thousands of miles together as a team. That is the difference between riders who enter and compete, and those who enter and succeed nearly every time. Those riders know within an instant if a hair is "not right." Those riders are usually 100 milers with a large cash pot of points that they earned from diligent riding.

The 100 miler is not in it for the fame. Many of the riders who are competing on different levels today are there for the reputation of success which might allow them to sell a horse, a supplement, or a training service. The 100 miler earns her reputation and fame from the vets that understand the demands of the distance, and care and knowledge that they must possess. These 100 milers feel the fame and pride that they hold for their horses, not themselves. It doesn't matter where they finished...just that they did something that only a special few can do or will even try to do.

A lot of people believe that successful 100 mile rides are about luck. I tend to differ with this in that I believe that 100 mile rides are about skill. 100 milers don't just "happen," You don't just "luck" your way through one, like you might a 50 or LD ride. It takes many things to come together in the right mix. It takes a passion for the sport, it takes a respect for the horse, and it takes a highly skilled rider to find the secret recipe and make it work. The 100 miler is not a place for the meek, the timid, or the uncommitted. It is a test of everything the rider has ever learned. It is a testament to the horse/rider team and their ability to go into a zone of competition that takes no prisoners. It is about being an explorer, an adventurer, and a warrior, all at the same time. It is about the character of endurance...the 100 mile ride. Long may it reign.

And remember, don't sweat the small stuff.

Jody



Happenings from the SERA list

Don't forget the SERA Convention date January 26, 2008. We are still waiting on confirmation for where.

Any questions about the convention should be directed to the convention manager, Laurie Underwood.

Please make plans to attend. Your presence is the best thing for our organization and sport. We, the board, need and want your feedback and ideas.

Don't forget that we also have the SERA Message Board for bouncing ideas, thoughts, or suggestions to the board members.

With the year coming to an end soon, keep in mind to get your dues renewed....don't want to lose any points or miles with the 2008 season starting up soon. Renewals can be made online at www.seraonline.org

Submitted by: Jody Rogers-Buttram



New 100 Milers!

SERA would like to congratulate these members on their first 100 mile completion !!!!

Farzad Faryadi riding Hot Desert Knight
Deborah McClary riding HH Trinity

Way to go guys....hope to see you at more 100s in the future.



SERA Membership

Membership runs from December 1st through November 30th. Single membership is \$25 for the year. Family membership is \$30. If you haven't renewed already, please do so now. You must renew by March 1st in order for the rides prior to that date to count for year-end awards.

Renew online! Go to: https://linux9.domainnameservers.net/~serao2/new_membership.htm

Renewal forms can be downloaded and printed from http://www.seraonline.org/sera_web_application.htm.

The Endurance Adventures of Ms. Sera

By Jody 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.

AHA Region XII 2007 Endurance Challenge

In an effort to induce the Arabian / Half-Arabian Endurance community to join and participate in the organization which protects and governs the heritage of the very horses that they ride, Region XII of the Arabian Horse Association is presenting the following challenge to the Arabian / Half-Arabian Endurance community.

Join an AHA Region XII "local" club as a "Competition" member, ride a registered Arabian / Half-Arabian in a Endurance Ride (LD's included) in three (3) Region XII states (AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN,) and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Bronze Level Polo Shirt. Ride in four (4) states and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Silver Level Jacket. Ride in five (5) states and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Gold Level Fly Sheet. Ride in six states and receive a Region XII Endurance Challenge Platinum Level Rain Sheet. A Region XII Endurance Challenge Championship Blanket will be awarded to the rider with the highest mileage occurring within the region, which has ridden in at least five (5) states. There will be one high mileage award for endurance and one high mileage award for limited distance. The miles track with the rider. Sound easy? That is how it should sound. This is Region XII's way of asking for your support in promoting Arabian / Half-Arabian horses as the world's most lovable, and versatile breed. QUESTIONS: Call Eric Reuter 865.599.3594 (eric@rueterconsultinginc.com) or Cheryl Van Deusen 386.566.4820 (cvandeusen@gmail.com) for more information or R12endurance@gmail.com

The Arabian / Half-Arabian Endurance community has complained long and hard that AHA does not do anything for them. Well now is your chance! Become an AHA member through your local AHA affiliate club, load up your horse and RIDE! There will be local club AHA membership forms available or you can join through Arabian Distance Riders Club (AHA # 12277) by filling out a form or joining on line through www.arabianhorses.org – a one year membership costs \$45 for adults.

Official Rules:

1. Horse MUST be a registered Pure Bred, Half-Arabian or Anglo-Arabian.
2. Current horse registration owner MUST be an AHA competition member in good standing for this year.
3. Rider MUST hold a current AHA Competition Card and be a recognized member of a Region XII affiliated club (i.e. be counted as member through the AHA).
4. For a ride to count the competitor must only earn a completion. Placements have no meaning in this challenge. Provide your AHA membership number to RM.
5. The period of the challenge will coincide with the AERC ride year (December 1 through November 30).



CLASSIFIED ADS

Have something to sell? Send in an ad!



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

2007 Ride Calendar

November 30, Blackwater Boogie, 75/55/30, Blackwater River State Forest, Coldwater Recreation Area, Milton, FL; Ride Manager: Christina Schiro, 850-206-3237, www.fiveflagsAHA.org, fiveflagsAHA@yahoo.com

2008 Ride Calendar

December 1, Blackwater Boogie, 50/25, Blackwater River State Forest, Coldwater Recreation Area, Milton, FL; Ride Manager: Christina Schiro, 850-206-3237, www.fiveflagsAHA.org, fiveflagsAHA@yahoo.com

December 15, Goethe Benefit Challenge, 100/50/25, Goethe State Forest, 11990 SE 21st Place, Morriston, FL; Ride Manager: Connie Caudill, 352-486-7040, blackprong@aol.com

January 12, Gator Run III, 50/25, Goethe State Forest, Tidewater Camp, Dunnellon, FL; Ride Manager: Connie Caudill, 502-609-4217 or 352-486-6739, conniecaudill@yahoo.com

January 18, Delightful Trails, 55/25/10 mile fun ride, Buena Vista, GA; Ride Manager: Kay Faulk, 229-881-3240, rbc854@planttel.net

March 15, City Slickers, 50/25, Shelby Farms, Memphis, TN; Ride Manager: Terry Silver, 901-268-1127, turquoisehorses@aol.com

March 15/16, Sand Hills Stampede, 55/30, 55/30, Sand Hills State Forest, Patrick, SC; Ride Managers: Patsy Gowen & Tim Worden, 803-329-0077, firefoxrun@comporium.net

March 29, Ponce de Leon Pirate Run, 55/25, Ponce de Leon, FL; Ride Manager: Kim Williams, 850-859-2461, kjwmystique@yahoo.com

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

April 5, Trace Tribute, 55/25, Primm Springs, TN; Ride Manager: Angie Fura, 931-682-2772, angie@TraceTribute.com



SEDRA Ride and Event Calendar

South Eastern Distance Riders Association upcoming ride season will be very busy! Now is the time to plan for your winter riding, endurance or CTR or driving. Go to www.BlackProng.com if you would like to stay for a while--an awesome camping/training facility in the Goethe State Forest. Come and have some fun in the sun! This calendar will be updated soon so look for updates at www.distanceriding.com.

Please look at what's scheduled so far for this year:

South Eastern Distance Riders Association (SEDRA) 2007-08 Ride Calendar

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

Dec 15, Goethe Benefit Challenge, 100/50/25, Goethe State Forest, 11990 SE 21st Place, Morriston, FL; Ride Manager: Connie Caudill, 352-486-7040, blackprong@aol.com

Dec 29-31, FHA 2-Day 50 CTR, 30/20, FL Greenway Trails, Ocala, FL; Ride Manager: Doug Shearer, DVM, 352-347-8030 Liveoak@Infi.Net

Jan 1, Gallop on the Greenway, 50/30, Ocala, FL; Ride Manager: Shelley Scott-Jones, 352-291-2242, Shelley.scott-jones@earthlink.net

Jan 10/11/12, Gator Run Pioneer, 55, 50/25, 50/25, Goethe State Forest, Tidewater Camp, Dunnellon, FL; Ride Manager: Connie Caudill, 502-609-4217 or 352-486-6739, conniecaudill@yahoo.com

Jan 19, Delightful Trails, 55/25/10, Buena Vista, GA; Ride Manager: Kay Faulk, 451 W H Odom Rd, Buena Vista, GA, 229-881-3240

Feb 2, Bugaboo Endurance, 50/25, Osceola State Forest, Taylor (Macclenny, FL; Ride Manager: Cindy Treece, 904-259-2522 or 904-497-8135, cetreece@yahoo.com

Feb 8/9, Camp Osborn Boy Scout Pow Wow, 2-day 100/50/25, 75/50/25/10 mile fun ride, Camp Osborn, Sylvester, GA; Ride Manager: Jamie Ginter, 229-777-9618, ericjamieginter@aol.com

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

Mar 2, Indian Hammock 30 CTR, Okeechobee, FL; Ride Manager: Jean Basinai, 863-357-3712, showmanBob@embarqmail.com

Mar 15/16, Sand Hills Stampede, 55/30, 55/30, Sand Hills State Forest, Patrick, SC; Ride Managers: Patsy Gowen & Tim Worden, 803-329-0077, firefoxrun@comporium.net

Mar 20-23, FHA 3-Day 100 CTR, 40/40/20, Ocala National Forest, Altoona, FL; Ride Manager: Sam Duval, 352-669-6166, Buddabellyhorsefarm@Juno.Com

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

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

April 19, Million Pines, 50/30, Soperton, GA; Ride Manager: Wesley Crowe, 912-529-3956, sopharm@planttel.net

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



2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President - Jody Rogers-Buttram (AL) (256)974-4957 3ifarm@earthlink.net

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Send newsletter submissions to: Debbie Parsons sabalpalmfarm@tampabay.rr.com



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

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All articles must be received by the 25th of the month to be published in that month's newsletter. If provided electronically just type into an email message or a file attachment in Microsoft Word or Excel.

SERA sanctioned rides are entitled to a single printing of a ride flyer, front and back, one page only or a full-page ad, free of charge (8 ½ x 11). Multiple printings, or a longer ride flyer, will incur additional charges. All sanctioned rides are listed on the SERA website.

ADVERTISING RATES

SERA members - 25 word classified ad (personal items only) free for 3 months pending space availability.

Non-members - \$.20/word, with a \$5.00 minimum

Display ad - Camera ready copy (per insertion, discounts for multiple runs).

1/8 page - \$10

1/4 page - \$15

1/3 page - \$20

1/2 page - \$50