

Southeast Endurance Riders Association

SERA *NEWSLETTER*

November
Volume 1, issue 2

The Tennessee Walking Horse Issue



Lynn Kenelly with
Basha Bada Bing at
the AERC/AHA
National
Championship ride
held on the Biltmore
Estate
Photo Credit: Becky
Pearman

©2012 Becky Pearman Photography

NEW Inside this Issue

The Magic of the
Rock Bridge Canyon
Trails

Featured Breed
The Tennessee
Walking Horse

SERA Remembers
Michael Beesley

Young Riders
Championship Recap

Convention Time !!!

In every Issue:

The Endurance
Adventures of
Ms. Sera

SERA Awards

Mission Statement

List of BOD and
Officers

Classifieds

A Word from our President~ Dr. Ike Nelson

The end of ride season is quickly approaching and it looks like we may have a winter this year in Alabama. Hope those of you who need it have squeezed in a final SERA ride to earn or solidify some award. Speaking of that, those of you who did not make Skymont missed a heartwarming scene. Monica Rawson, a junior only a few short years ago, won the overall 50 mile ride, the Arabian Horse Association Purebred Region XII Championship, Best Condition in both and high vet score! The thing was, she was VERY excited, and not for herself, but for her horse!! I think a lot of us have lost that enthusiasm for a job well done by our partners in this sport and we would do well to regain some of that. So, that said, congrats Rose!

There are still 3 rides coming up in the southeast, KY Diehards, the Carolina ride, and Blackwater Boogie. The Carolina ride will offer a 100 mile ride and Blackwater will have a 75 on the first day. Blackwater this year is also a dual ride, in that you can finish out 2012 and start 2013 all in one weekend. Try to make one or more of these to ride or just to volunteer and help out a ride manager.

Also remember that in January we will have our SERA annual meeting and awards banquet Jan. 18-19, 2013. It will be held at Amicalola State Park in GA. On the 18th, in the evening, Lynn Kennely has planned an educational time based on the assets we were given by APEX. Our business meeting will be in the morning and we will have guest speakers for the afternoon. Make your plans now!

Also, let us remember Michael Beesley, and the contribution he made to our sport. I suspect that are quite a few of us who would not have had a completion at one ride one another, if not for Michael. He will be missed.

God's blessings for you and yours in the upcoming holidays and new year!! See you down the trail!

Ike

The Magic of Rock Bridge Canyon Trails

in Hodges, Alabama

By Jody Rogers-Buttram

You would have a hard time believing that anything of the magnitude of the trails at Rock Bridge Canyon could exist anywhere east of the Mississippi river. But there is such a place, a beautiful place, with high rock cliffs, deep water pools, water falls, and caves. The little town of Hodges, Alabama has given their all in an effort to create a most awesome equestrian trails system. With the help of grants, the Rock Bridge Canyon trail system is set to become one of a few elite trails in the southeast region.

There is already 25 miles of trails, those trails wind around the Bear Creek water basin, with plenty of water on the trails, even during very dry weather.



The plan is to add another 30 miles of Rails to Trails that connect to the newly built trail system. That could mean as much as 55 miles of trails, to which we do hope to hold an endurance event on at some point in the future.

The 25 mile trail system is currently open to the public for a fee, and that can be paid at the City Hall of Hodges, Alabama.

Two of our very own SERA members were big factors in the construction of this trail system. Bud Davidson, laid out the trails for the construction, while Lucas Blankenship was the grant writer for the entire project. Lucas has also spoken on behalf of this project in a trails symposium.



They are currently in phase two of the construction. This consists of building a camping facility. This trailhead will contain, a pavilion, restrooms, showers, parking and check in station. In the next phase they will construct full hookup parking, stalls and an arena. This facility will also host horse shows in the arena.

I have personally ridden these trails, and they are the most beautiful I have ever seen in any state that I have competed in. There is something magical about the pitted rock formations, the trees, the water falls, creeks and the toughness of the trail.

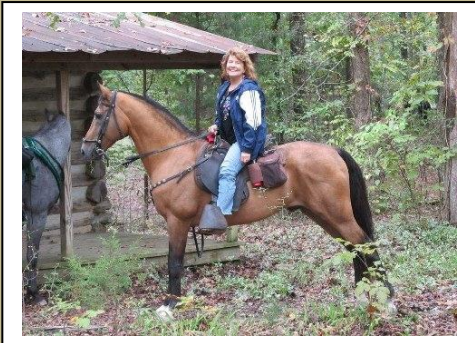


I look forward to holding an event on these awesome trails, sharing them with my fellow endurance riders, and I think that most of you will be as much amazed by them as I am.



Riders going through the “Sand Canyon” at RBC Trails.

Featured Breed ~The Tennessee



Walking Horse

By Truman Prevatt

During the late 1800's the middle Tennessee Valley was settled by settlers coming from Virginia and the Carolinas. They desired a smooth moving horse that was easy to ride over the large plantations and could navigate the rugged terrain of that area. They developed the horse that became known as the "Tennessee Pacer" out of the Canadian and Narragansett Pacer. These horses were known for being hearty and by their ability to cover ground. Paul Revere rode a Narragansett Pacer on his ride to warn of the British invasion of the colonies.

Later the Tennessee Pacer was refined by the introduction of trotting blood mostly from the Thoroughbred and Morgan. These two breeds also provided the foundations of the Standardbred. In the early 1900's an American Trotting Horse named Black Allen for noted doing a different gait. This gait became known as the running walk and is the signature gait of the Tennessee Walking horse. He was by a Hamiltonian Thoroughbred out of a Morgan mare. Black Allen was registered as the first Tennessee Walking Horse in 1935 as "Allan" and because of his propensity to throw his unique gait onto this offspring he is known as "Allan F1" - the most important of the foundation stock of the breed.

The Tennessee Walking Horse developed as an easy riding saddle horse for covering large expanses of land and the athletic

ability to navigate the ravine and crannies of the Middle Tennessee Valley. It is only logical that they would end up in endurance riding. There were a few throughout the 80's to the mid '90's. However, since about 2000, more are showing up at endurance rides. The TWH has all the physical attributes one would want in an endurance horse. They have the classic "radiator" build that leads to efficient cooling and slow twitch muscles that are so important to endurance. They come in all sizes from 14.2 hands to 16 hands and are a good choice for a rider that needs or wants a larger horse.

Many come with low resting heart rates and can be conditioned to have rapid recoveries. They have a selection of several gaits which range from a smooth trot, the running walk, the fox trot (a smooth broken trot) to various versions of a broken lateral gait that usually go by the term stepping pace, to a the rack of their kissing cousins, the five gaited American Saddlebred, to a smooth easy canter, and of course hand gallop and gallop. While there are many gaits they can do they all have one thing in common – they are smooth and easy to ride. The TWH is a less spooky and more stable than other breeds you may see at endurance rides, which tends to make for an easier ride and easier to deal with in the vet checks. Because of that temperament they tend to eat and drink and take care of themselves on the trail and in the checks.

Did I say the gaits of a TWH are smooth? I have been less tired riding a TWH a 100 miles than an Arab 50 miles. The TWH can do everything any other breed can do. They can win (and have won) the classic 50 mile endurance rides. They can succeed and have succeeded in 100 mile endurance rides. They can succeed and have succeeded in "big rides" like the Tevis Cup, the Old Dominion and the Race of Champions. They can win and have won best condition

in rides from an LD through a 100 mile ride. They can excel and have excelled in multiday rides.

There are many examples of the TWH in endurance. “Mr. Charles” (Long) was a legend when I started. He started endurance pre 1982 and rode several TWH’s. I met him in 1993 at the Heart of Dixie ride in the Bankhead National Forest. I was riding my TWH, Misty and Kathy was riding her mother Stormy. We finished a little ahead of Mr. Charles. I looked over and saw him riding into camp on his wonderful mare Sue’s Go Boy B. They were coming in at a good clip and Mr. Charles was smoking his signature cigar. It had an ash about two inches long and Sue was so smooth the ash was never displaced.

Then there was my wonderful mare Misty. She had a resting heart rate of 26, could recover with the Arabs, won a ride, finished top 10 about half her rides, did a sub four hour 50 (second place) won BC and best vet score on that ride. She was 6 of 8 on 100 mile rides – including a completion at the Race of Champions. My Arabian gelding, the Jbird, is a great horse. We are a Decade Team. But when push comes to shove – he’s the second best endurance horse I have owned.

More recently, Keith Kibler, who lives just over the border of the SE region in Southern Illinois is doing quite well on several of his horses including Kate (Silver’s Wild Kate). Kate has won and won BC in 50 mile endurance rides and won and won Best condition in 100 mile endurance rides. Kate now has 8 100 mile completions under her girth. Kate also has 3 Best Condition’s in endurance rides under her girth.

If you look nationally you find Susan Garlinghouse and John Henry. John Henry has the Tevis under his girth. With Sue he has

not only completed several Pioneer rides out West but he has won Pioneer rides out West.

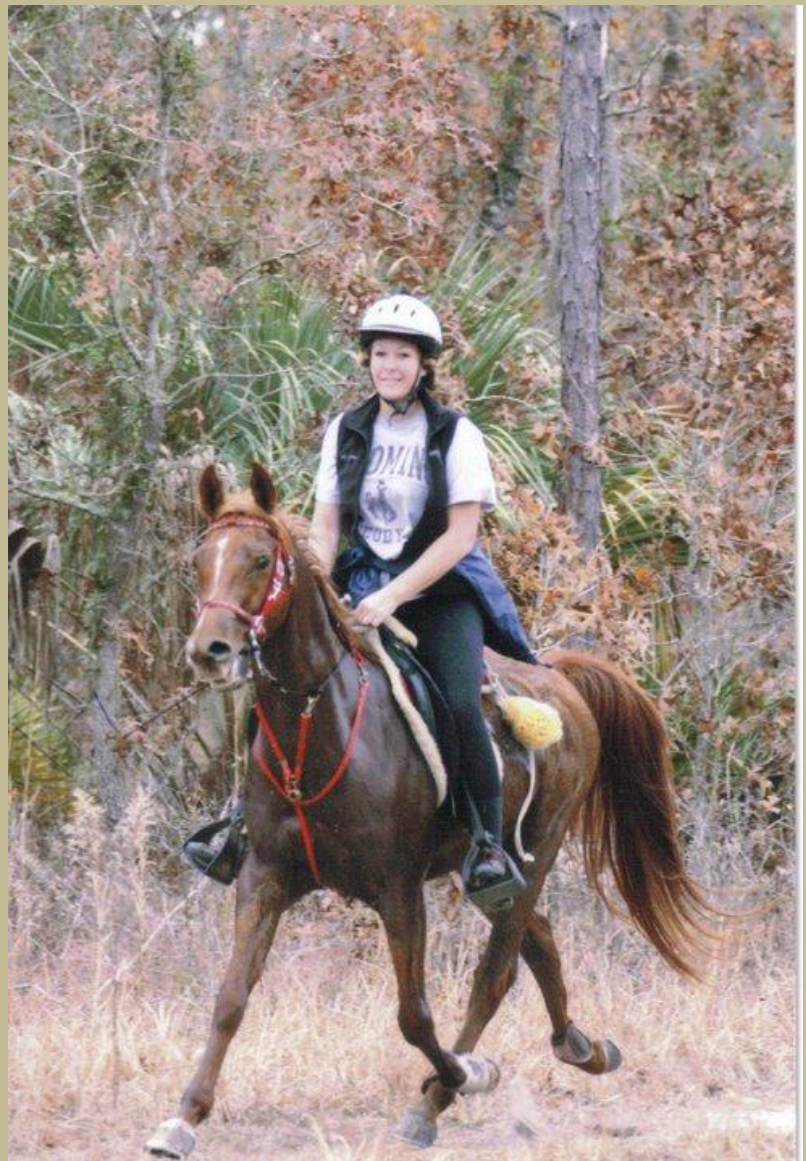
When you look farther you find the “golden cross”, the cross between a TWH and an Arabian. We have a prime example of that cross in the Southeast, Cash Bonus+/10, a.k.a. Cash Pony. Cash Pony has carried his junior rider, Joni Buttram, for several thousand miles, is 10 for 12 in 100 mile rides, including two AERC National Championship 100 mile Junior Championships. Cash Pony also came back from what should have been a career ending injury when his tendons were cut by something on the trail. He’s one tough little horse. I’d point to the TWH in his breeding for that toughness.

“Golden Cross”

Cash Bonus+/10 at
The Goethe Challenge
Held in Florida.

Photo Credit:

Becky Pearman



Lynn Kenelly and her TWH/Arab cross, Basha Bada Bing have ridden 1395 career miles with four one day 100's, including AHA-AERC National and Regional 100 mile championships.



Photo Credit:
Jessica Willis

Lynn and her “Golden Cross” Basha Bada Bing at Camp Osborn Pow Wow ride.

In KY, we have Amy Whelan and her gelding, Wallace Hill Shade, that have also done very well in the sport of endurance. This team has completed 1795 career miles and four one day 100's. Both Amy and Lynn's “Golden Cross” TWH horses, were home bred and their owners looking for more like them.

The TWH is a wonderful breed of horse. They are smooth. They can carry the tired old bodies of our aging population comfortably down many a miles of trail. However, with the right one and the proper preparation they can compete. If you are looking for a great companion that you can ride miles and miles and is sensible you should look at a TWH. I go back to the Heart of Dixie ride when I

saw Mr. Charles riding in on his wonderful Sue with his cigar and its two inch ash and an ear to ear grin on his face.

Truman Prevatt
And his TWH
On their way
To a Race of
Champions
100 mile buckle.



SERA Members Will Miss Michael Beesley

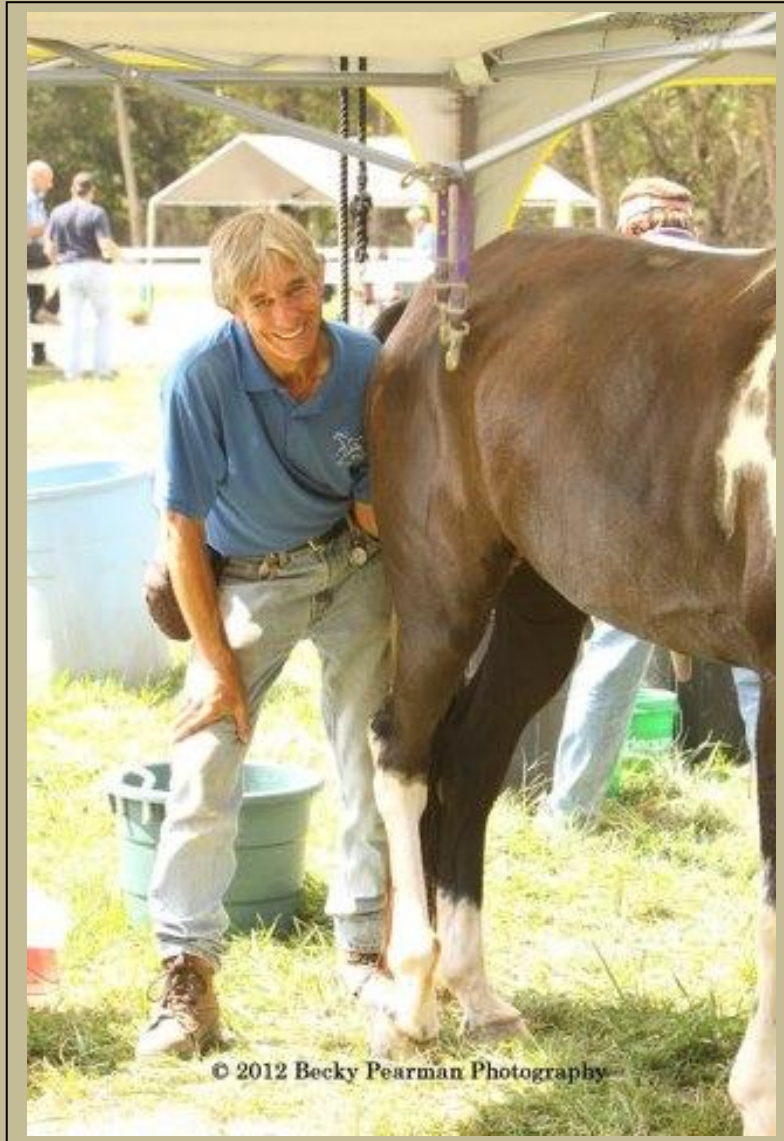


Photo Credit: Becky Pearman

Michael Beesley passed away suddenly October 25th. Michael was a constant, supportive presence at so many of your southeast region rides.

We will remember him for the many times he worked on our horses to help us complete a ride with a sound, healthy horse; we will remember him in the pulse box taking heart rates; we will remember him as an advocate for the horse through education.

The members of SERA extend their condolences to his family.

Michael Beesley passed away of a ruptured aneurysm. Michael has been a fixture at endurance events throughout the southeast and his presence will be greatly missed. Michael had a strong commitment to education and expressed to me many times that he hoped he was helping to raise the level of knowledge and understanding for riders concerning their own bodies and those of their horses. He was an active part of numerous research projects, the proud inventor of the "Beesley bucket" used in our urine studies, and committed to giving his educational talks at ride meetings. He was always amazed and encouraged, as all of us who work these rides are, that everyone was so willing to let us work on their horses. He considered it a privilege to be so warmly accepted by the endurance community. I spoke with Mrs. Beesly and she was surprised by the extent to which Michael was beloved by those he served and taught, she can be contacted at 9 Huarte Way, Port Saint Lucy, Florida 34952. Letting her know that we appreciate the time that Michael spent on endurance would help her with his loss. We will all miss his humor, his hands and his heart. - Dr. Ken Marcella

North American Junior and Young Riders Championship, Lexington, Kentucky, July, 2012

The Kentucky Horse Park was once again the venue for this championship event, which represents the top riders in the disciplines of endurance, reining, vaulting, jumping, dressage, and three-day eventing. To be eligible, riders must be between the ages of 14-21 and meet qualifying criteria. For endurance, which is a 4 star event, the young riders must have completed three 75 mile (120km) rides, the horses must have completed two 75 mile rides, and the horse and rider must have completed one ride together in under 10 hours. With only four FEI rides in the Southeast, it takes quite a bit of effort, training, and some luck to get qualified.

The Southeast came to Kentucky with a strong team of Young Riders: Cassandra Roberts, riding her own horse, CA Classy Marina; Kelsey Russell, riding "Dee", owned by Valerie Kanavy; Mallory Capps, riding Jeremy and Ellen Olson's horse, Noslos Lightning Strikes "Red"; Mary Katherine Clark riding Reminisonce "Sonny", owned by Lynn Kenelly; and Sydney Sumrall, riding her own horse, DCL Mooi Koedoe, owned by Christo and Lori Dinkelman. Also attending the event were Chef d'Equipe Cheryl Van Deusen, Team Veterinarian, Dee Dee Huff and massage therapist Mary Farris, along with about 30 family members and crew to support the riders. Much groundwork goes on behind the scene with our AERC Zone Representatives, Mary Farris and Lynn Kenelly,

along with Teri Hunter who represents us on the AERC International Committee.

As you can see, it takes quite a bit of planning and preparation to bring a team to a Championship event, and the Southeast Young Riders could not have made it there without the support of many of you who supported them by attending their Fundraiser Rides at Broxton Bridge, purchasing raffle tickets for ride entries, which were generously donated by over 25 ride managers, and the very popular raffle for the two year old filly donated by Dinkelmann Arabians. Our own Teresa Carroll was the lucky winner of the filly! The team was also sponsored by Tipperary, who donated new helmets to the riders, Megan Davis, who donated riding tights to the team, SnugPak who donated cante packs to each rider, and Mane and Tail who donated grooming supplies to keep the horses looking great! Broxton Bridge Plantation gives generously as the Gold level sponsors.

The horses and riders arrived at the Kentucky Horse Park and were treated to some fun events leading up the ride. On Tuesday evening, they were presented at Opening Ceremonies followed by a huge a golf cart parade to a Bar-B-Que and party with several hundred riders from all the disciplines. The Young Riders sure do know how to have a good time and participated in some dancing, photo booth, and bull riding all sponsored by Spy Coast Farms.

The next few days consisted of training rides in the morning, cleaning tack and getting the horses ready for vet in. The horses were required to

spend the night in the barn, which meant lots of trips to the barn to take them out on walks and let them graze. Finally, it was Friday, and time for the ride!

The morning of the ride, the weather was quite a bit cooler than normal for Kentucky in July and the 17 riders took off just before sunrise. There were riders from Canada, all over the US, and two international riders, Mauricio Evans from Guatemala and Gabriel Gagnier from Mexico. There was excitement in the air as they made their way to the first hold and it continued to be a thrilling day as the winners crossed the finish line in just over 6 hours. Katherine Gardner, riding for the Northeast Team on “Big Bucks” took the gold, Kelsey Kimbler, riding on “Fergie” earned the Silver medal and Best Condition, and Southeast Rider Cassandra Roberts brought home the individual Bronze medal. Mallory Capps came in just after Cassandra and finished in 4th place, while the remaining Southeast Team were unable to complete. The Canadian Team were the only ones who completed a minimum of three riders to earn Team Gold.

The Southeast Team is already getting geared up for their qualifying rides for next year. Go to their web page www.usaseendurance.com to view their rider profiles and see how you can help. Plan to attend their upcoming AERC ride November 10-11 at Broxton Bridge Plantation in Ehrhardt, SC and again for their AERC and FEI ride at the same venue in February, 2013. We appreciate your support!



left to right is-front row, Cheryl Van Deusen, Mary Katherine Clark, Sydney Sumrall, Back row, Cassandra Roberts, Kelsey Russell, Mallory Capps.

**SERA would like to send out a BIG
congratulations to ALL the SERA
members who rode or worked the
AERC and AHA National
Championship ride. You did us
proud !!!**



SERA / GERA CONVENTION INFORMATION

Please join us at the SERA / GERA Convention on January 18, 2013 and January 19, 2013 in Dawsonville, Georgia. SERA will hold an educational clinic on pacing hosted by Lynn Kenelly on the evening of January 18. On January 19, GERA and SERA will hold their members' meetings in the morning, followed by a guest speaker after lunch and then dinner and year-end awards. The evening will be capped off by the fantastic sound of Towson Engsberg and The Men of Soul. On Sunday Ike Nelson will offer "Cowboy Church" to those interested in attending.

Location and Accommodations

The event will be held at the Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge located at 418 Amicalola Falls Lodge Road, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534. Lodge rooms are available at a cost of \$85.00 per night. Call (706) 344-1532 and ask for group code "SE Endurance Riders". The hotel check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out is 11:00 a.m. Your reservations must be guaranteed to a credit card. If you do not have a Georgia Park Pass, please note that each vehicle will be charged a \$5.00 Park Pass fee.

Meals

- Dinner will be available on Friday, January 18 at the Lodge's Maple Dinner Buffet on an individual payment basis.
- Breakfast and lunch will be available on Saturday, January 19 at the Lodge's Maple Breakfast Buffet on an individual payment basis.
- The Awards Dinner Banquet on January 19 will be a buffet offering:

Grilled Boneless Pork Chops with Peppers, Onions and Mushrooms
Boneless Grilled Chicken Bruschetta
Toss Garden or Caesar Salad
Creamy Red Skin Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans Amandine
California Mixed Vegetables
Fresh Rolls with Butter
Assorted Fruit Cobblers
Coffee and Iced Tea

There will be a cash bar at dinner and beyond.

*Vegetarian Meals Available Upon Request – Please
Specify Your Preference When Making Your Dinner Reservations*

The cost is \$30.00 per person. Please email Alison Bailey at agbailey@carolina.rr.com with your dinner reservation by no later than Tuesday, January 8, 2013.



Rides Sanctioned by SERA for the 2012 Ride Season:

Goethe Challenge Endurance Ride

Lost Posse Run

Gator Run I and II

DuPuis Piney Pig Endurance Ride

Camp Osborn Boy Scout Pow Wow

Far Out Forest

Blazing Saddles

Fun in The Sun (FITS)

Red Barn Run

Spring Fling @ The Sand Hills

Land Between the Lakes

Biltmore Challenge

Leatherwood

Ride the Low Country: USA SE

Fundraiser Ride

Blue Ridge Endurance Ride

GERA – Fundraiser Elevator

Moonlight Ride in the Low

Country

Leatherwood Fall 75

Virginia Highlands Endurance

Challenge

Big South Fork

Adequan-AERC National

Championship Ride

Alabama Yellowhammer Pioneer

Raptor Run

Sandhills Stampede

Skymont High in the Cumberlands

Broxton Bridge: A USA SE

Fundraiser

Kentucky Diehards

Blackwater Boogie (Day 1 Only)



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 Dinkelman - 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 I JOIN SERA?

Remember we are on
the Web:
www.seraonline.org

SERA Board

President

Dr. 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 Multidays. 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**.

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: 2000 Four star 2 horse slant bumper pull trailer. Collapsible rear tack area with optional tack area in large dressing room. Drop down doors on drivers side. Has a sprayed in bed liner with heavy mats over to eliminate floor damage. \$8500.00 Call 256-614-0277 in Alabama.

Do you have a junior needing a solid, dependable horse? Check Rainman Gadaf's record on the AERC web site. Call 256-614-0277 for more details.

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 free.

Send to: 3jfarm@earthlink.net



Outta here till Next time !!!!