

Southeast Endurance Riders Association

# **SERA** *NEWSLETTER*

January  
Volume 1, issue 3

The American Quarter Horse Issue

Dr. Patricia Harrop and her registered American Quarter Horse, Slam The Book at the Biltmore in 1997.



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Photo Credit: Genie Stewart-Spears

## **NEW** Inside this Issue

Featured Breed  
The American  
Quarter Horse

Importance of horses  
in Life

A Newbie's story  
Of coming into  
distance riding

Saying Goodbye  
To Anne Ayala

Convention  
Information

### **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

2012 ride season has come and gone!! Hard to imagine that it went that fast. Hope all of you had a successful season and all of your ride goals were met and more. The SERA year was good and we had the added plus of having the National Championship in our region and being able to be one of the sponsors. Thanks again to all of the SERA volunteers, and there were many, who worked to make the AERC National Championship a success!

The 2013 ride season has already gotten underway and we have already had 2 rides completed before the calendar year starts. January will have 2 more FL rides, (Gator and Piney Pig), and February will have Pow Wow in GA and Blazing Saddles in MS. So if you haven't renewed your SERA membership remember to do it by March 1 and get your ride results retroactively posted. A good place to renew your membership would be at the annual meeting later this month. We will meet at Amicalola Falls State Park on Jan 18-19 2013. Friday evening the 18<sup>th</sup> Lynne Kenelly will give a presentation on pacing based on some of the material we acquired from APEX. Saturday morning will bring the GERA and SERA business meetings and then an update on AERC from our AERC directors. After lunch we will have a presentation by Dr Don Mueten on understanding what the results mean from the blood analyzer. This will be followed by Dr Lynn Johnson on treating a metabolic problem with a treatment plan including the lab results. We will have our awards dinner and presentation in the evening, followed by Towson Ensberg and the Men of Soul. I hope you all will make an effort to come join us for this necessary, educational and fun event!! More information about the meeting can be found on our website- [www.seraonline.org](http://www.seraonline.org).

I have enjoyed serving as your President for the past two years and hope that we have taken this organization in the direction that benefits the sport of endurance riding and all of our members. I hope that you have your ride season planned and that I can see you down the trail!!

# *Featured Breed ~ The American Quarter Horse*

In the 17th century, colonists on the eastern seaboard of what today is the United States began to cross imported English Thoroughbred horses with assorted "native" horses such as the Chickasaw Horse, which was a breed developed by Native American people from horses descended from Spain, developed from Iberian, Arabian and Barb stock brought to what is now the Southeastern United States by the Conquistadors.

One of the most famous of these early imports was Janus, a Thoroughbred who was the grandson of the Godolphin Arabian. He was foaled in 1746, and imported to colonial Virginia in 1756. The influence of Thoroughbreds like Janus contributed genes crucial to the development of the colonial "Quarter Horse." The breed is sometimes referred to as the "Famous American Quarter Running Horse." The resulting horse was small, hardy, and quick, and was used as a work horse during the week and a race horse on the weekends.

By 1940, the American Quarter Horse Association was created, and the breed was then formalized. It was the foundation stock for ranchers and cowboys alike. It became known as "America's Horse".

The Quarter Horse can be different body styles based on the foundation of breeding. The horses can be anywhere in size from 14 hands up to 16 hands. Some may be a bit larger, the hunter type horse, where there may be more influence of Thoroughbred breeding. The stock type horse tends to be shorter, thicker, but very fast and agile.

The Quarter Horse is also known for being one suitable for a large variety of jobs. He may be seen in the show ring, working cattle, jumping fences, track racing, etc. It appears that he can do many different types of work, and do it well.

The American Quarter Horse Association does recognize the outcrossing to the Thoroughbred, from which a large part of it's breed was based. This cross is known as the Appendix Registry.

Doris Von Sierakowski Roesch, a former SE rider, competed on a Quarter Horse. Quarter Horses became a part of her daily life when she worked at a large Cutting horse facility in the southeast.

She grew up in Europe and was used to Warmblood horses. Upon arriving in the USA, she continued her favorite Equestrian sport of endurance riding with a Morgan horse and a small mule.

After some especially trying training sessions with an unruly young Quarter horse gelding, her boss asked her to take this horse and ride it at her next endurance event. She did and he finished third in a 25 mile ride. The following Monday she took him to work and found his stall occupied by another horse. Her boss insisted that he did not have room for that horse and told Doris to take him home.



Soon his papers arrived in the mail and she was now the owner of a pretty gelding, named Doc O' Schlitz, also known as Tornado.

Some of the best Cutting Horse blood was pulsing in his veins. He was a 14'3 hands , jet black, power house. Not one hair on his stout body was anything but black.

During some of her first endurance rides, she was told by veterinarians and fellow riders, that this horse was in no way suitable for the sport of endurance riding. He was a black, heavy muscled, Quarter Horse and too high strung.

Tornado was not a people horse. He did what he was asked to do and gave it his all. He preferred to be unsaddled and let go in his pasture after riding. Brushing or washing was not anything he enjoyed. But he truly loved to be ridden, no matter how far the miles.



Doris Von Sierakoski Roesh and Doc O' Schlitz

The following is a summary of his years of endurance riding:

Tornado won multiple 50 miles endurance rides, and one-day 100s as well. Most of the time, he would place in the top five at any distance. To top that off, he also won three Best Conditions.

Doris joined the American Endurance Ride Conference in 1986. Tornado competed in Endurance rides since 1984.

Quote from Doris about her horse Tornado: “After all those years and all those miles we rode together, I can’t recall one day that I did not enjoy Tornado. He was always a challenge, he was a friend, a teacher and my special horse that I will never forget. He was a TORNADO. And above all of this he was an American Quarter Horse.”

In the SE region, we have had other very successful AQHA registered horses. Slam The Book (see cover photo), owned by Dr. Patricia Harrop competed in 5535 endurance miles in more than one region of the United States. He completed these rides between the dates of 1984 and up to 2005.

Slam The Book has been just as the American Quarter Horse should, an all-around horse. He has competed in track racing, jumping, dressage, polo, working cattle, pulling buggies/carts and timed events. Proving once more how athletic this breed is and how varied a scope of work they can perform.

Slam The Book also entered and completed four of the prestigious Race of Champions, three 100 mile rides and one two-day 150 mile ride.

In the NE region, another outstanding individual has left his mark representing the Quarter Horse breed.

Old Meadow Jim, owned by Wendy Mancini didn't even start a career in distance riding (CTR) until he was 14 years of age. Then at the ripe old age of 19, he started his endurance career, entering 50 mile endurance rides. He amassed 5120 miles of endurance in his very long time in distance riding. Jim competed well into his 20's, and finished five one-day 100 mile rides.

Today, we have a more breaking into the sport of distance riding. One of those would be Crowheart's Gypsy King, owned by LB Farms and ridden by Lucas Blankenship. The mare is a massive, ranch type Quarter Horse, 96% Hancock foundation line breeding. Even though she weighs in at over 1100 lbs., she has successfully entered and completed all six of the Limited Distance rides she has started.

Crowheart's  
Gypsy King  
And Lucas  
Blankenship  
Taken at  
The Blazing  
Saddles ride  
Held in MS.

Photo  
Credit:  
Stephanie  
Henderson



One representative of the Appendix registry would be Beau Mack of Boston Blackie, owned by Joe Schoech of the SE region. He completed 1265 endurance miles and 770 Limited Distance miles. Again, this was a large, black horse, one that might not be considered first when selecting a distance mount. But, once again, it was proven, that the athletic, tough, and versatile blood could, and would cover the miles.

So, if you are interested in a horse that the entire family could use, from showing, competing on the trail, working on the farm, or just being a great part of the family, perhaps the American Quarter Horse is the one you need. Own a part of America, own "America's Horse".



# **A Father's Explanation of Why He Had Horses for His Children ~Author unknown**

**My daughter turned sixteen years old today; which is a milestone for most people. Besides looking at baby photos and childhood trinkets with her, I took time to reflect on the young woman my daughter had become and the choices she would face in the future.**

**As I looked at her I could see the athlete she was, and determined woman she would soon be. I started thinking about some of the girls we knew in our town who were already pregnant, pierced in several places, hair every color under the sun, drop outs, drug addicts and on the fast track to nowhere, seeking surface identities because they had no inner self esteem. The parents of these same girls have asked me why I "waste" the money on horses so my daughter can ride. I'm told she will grow out of it, lose interest, discover boys and all kinds of things that try to pin the current generation's "slacker" label on my child. I don't think it will happen, I think she will love and have horses all her life.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she has compassion. She knows that we must take special care of the very young and the very old. We must make sure those without voices to speak of their pain are still cared for.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned responsibility for others than herself. She learned that regardless of the weather you must still care for those you have the stewardship of. There are no "days off" just because you don't feel like being a horse owner that day. She learned that for every hour of fun you have there are days of hard slogging work you must do first.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she learned not to be afraid of**

**getting dirty and that appearances don't matter to most of the breathing things in the world we live in. Horses do not care about designer clothes, jewelry, pretty hairdos or anything else we put on our bodies to try to his natural world, he doesn't care if you're wearing \$80.00 jeans while you do it.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she has learned to learn on her own. She has had teachers that cannot speak, nor write, nor communicate beyond body language and reactions. She has had to learn to "read" her surroundings for both safe and unsafe objects, to look for hazards where others might only see a pretty meadow. She has learned to judge people as she judges horses. She looks beyond appearances and trappings to see what is within.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she has learned sportsmanship to a high degree. Everyone that competes fairly is a winner. Trophies and ribbons may prove someone a winner, but they do not prove someone is a horseman. She has also learned that some people will do anything to win, regard-less of who it hurts. She knows that those who will cheat in the show ring will also cheat in every other aspect of their life and are not to be trusted.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she has self-esteem and an engaging personality. She can talk to anyone she meets with confidence, because she has to express herself to her horse with more than words. She knows the satisfaction of controlling and teaching a 1000 pound animal that will yield willingly to her gentle touch and ignore the more forceful and inept handling of those stronger than she is. She holds herself with poise and professionalism in the company of those far older than herself.**

**Because my daughter grew up with horses she has learned to plan ahead. She knows that choices made today can effect what happens five years down the road. She knows that you cannot care for and protect your investments without savings to fall back on. She knows the value of land and buildings. And that caring for your vehicle can mean the difference between easy travel or being stranded on the side of the road with a four horse trailer on a hot**

**day.**

**When I look at what she has learned and what it will help her become, I can honestly say that I haven't "wasted" a penny on providing her with horses. I only wish that all children had the same opportunities to learn these lessons from horses before setting out on the road to adulthood.**



## A look at “getting into the sport” of distance riding from a newbie family~ Brian Crisp

Trail riding and the hopes of entering an endurance ride came to a sudden stop in 1992. I was a senior in college while my childhood horses, three purebred Arabians and a registered TWH, remained on my parent’s farm in North Alabama. Dad, who had been their primary caregiver, broke the words, “Son you’re going to have to do something about these horses.” He raised cattle and commercial chickens. In his view, horses were nothing more than moochers; eating all the grass on the farm that could be fed to cattle. I agreed to their sell and used the money to purchase a diamond ring and proposed marriage to a beautiful girl I had met in the café at Samford University.

In the spring of 2012, twenty years after leaving the horse world, my wife was gifted two horses from a coworker. Our ten-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter were immediately enamored with the horses. They began riding lessons and went to summer horse camp. Upon hearing the news of our new adventure, an old friend awakened the dream of entering an endurance competition. Our family soon adopted an Arabian horse from a horse rescue program and a part Arabian from another family already involved in the sport. This past fall Jonathan, my son, and I set out for the Yellowhammer Pioneer Ride near Heflin, Alabama. He and I entered the ten mile fun ride. Nearing the last marker I heard the words behind me say,



“Daddy, we did it!” I was glad our horses finished the ride well. I was pleased Jonathan and I made it through. I was grateful for the encouraging words from seasoned riders, but I was most grateful for the opportunity to spend quality time with my son.

Our desire in 2013 is to learn all we can about the endurance sport and to complete some 25 mile rides. We have been organizing a ride notebook, keeping all our needed documents together and printing information about the rides we plan to enter. Jonathan has been researching sport horse nutrition and was selected by Floyd County, Georgia 4-H to participate in or a District Project Achievement. We have a long way to go in getting our horses where they need to be, and acquiring the best gear and gaining knowledge. But we are enjoying the journey and are looking forward to meeting other horse people, horse lovers learning about endurance along the way.



**Brian and his extended family and one of their horses. The Crisp family live in Cedartown, GA.**

Editor's Note: Brian and I have been long time friends. He was a just a teen age kid while I was in my mid 20's. We lived less than two miles from each other. I didn't work, and he would ride his large pony, June, over to my house each day and follow me on conditioning rides....bareback. He and June would make every step my arabs did. At that time he voiced his interest in getting into endurance. I for one, hope that he makes it and I think he is on his way. He was bitten by that bug a long time ago.

Jody

## Saying Goodbye to another member of the endurance community~ Anne Ayala.

The endurance community has just lost a champion, advocate, ambassador with the death of Anne Ayala. She compiled a record of over 3700 miles in her remarkable partnership with Overlook Nuryev, better known as Beau. Beau and Anne were the recipients of the 2000 AERC Pard'ners Award given annually to a horse and rider team that best exemplifies the unique bond between horse and rider. She was the visionary and driving force behind bringing the trail system at the Biltmore Estate up to the par that one rider regarded as an endurance rider's DisneyWorld. Those trails have been the underpinning for the 3-day Western North Carolina 3-day 100, for multiple NATRC rides, for Mountin' Hopes Fall Fling, and for the Biltmore Challenge endurance ride. Not only was Anne a rider and trail master, she was an organizer par excellence -- Anne had the vision, energy, and determination that saw the opportunity for the Biltmore Challenge, and executed on it, creating one of the premiere endurance rides in the country, attracting competitors from around the world. That background brought the National Championship ride to Biltmore in the fall of 2012.

Anne supported the endurance community in other ways -- advocating International endurance competition, becoming a sought-after Judge, Technical Delegate and Steward in multiple countries. Anne used her recognized organizational and people skills to bring smooth operations in multiple venues -- and it certainly helped that she spoke English, French, and Spanish.

After being stricken with cancer in 2004 just before the spring Biltmore Challenge, Anne saw the ride through as ride manager, and came back the following year, in 2005, vowing that would be her final year managing the ride. After the 2004 and the 2005 rides, Anne wound up in the hospital, so this was a wise decision. After that sequence, she continued helping organize the ride using her extensive contacts with ride volunteers to ensure the smooth operation of the ride while not having primary responsibility. As ride

manager during those subsequent years, I can attest that Anne's focus and commitment to the success of the ride and its quality was unwavering.

Quite amazingly, from 2005 to 2011, Anne's cancer was in remission. During that period, in addition to her officiating at endurance events and helping organize those at Biltmore, Anne help found, and became treasurer of A Partnership for Endurance Xcellence (APEX). She did all the 501C3 paperwork to ensure that it would be a recognized not-for-profit entity, and did all the tax returns required each year. Anne identified clinicians who would be effective in the endurance community -- and to the sport horse community at large. She was instrumental in bringing Centered Riding clinics with Susan Harris to Biltmore Equestrian Center, helping burnish the image of the equestrian instruction of that facility. After over five years of operation, the Board of Directors of APEX decided to close down the organization, and transfer the assets to the Southeast Endurance Riders Association (SERA). Despite being ill with the resurgence of the cancer, Anne honchoed all the required paperwork to make the transfer of the assets to SERA fully successful.

Address for sympathy, to her husband of over 50 years: Ken Ayala, 5 Vaux Court, Asheville, NC 28803.





## **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*

**Guest Speakers:**

Dr. Don Meuten, DVM- Blood Analysis  
Lynne Johnson, DVM-Treatment at rides

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

# The Endurance Adventures of Ms. Sera

~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](http://www.seraonline.org)





## WHY SHOULD I JOIN SERA?

Remember we are on  
the Web:  
[www.seraonline.org](http://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.

**For sale:** Offering up a fantastic home bred and raised mare. Petit Jets Legacy, aka Squirrel. She would make a wonderful CTR/LD/Trail/Sport horse in hand show prospect. She has done a limited amount of LD's and one 50 endurance ride. Due to an injury I don't think she will make a fast/hard 50+ mile horse. Trust me, I would love to keep her myself, and if she doesn't sell, I will and ride her slow. Perfect conformation, coming 10 years old in the spring, 15 hands, registered 7/8 arab, 1/8 paint. Petit Jets Rose is her Granddam, Jets Gaelic Storme her dam, I have raised both of them. She is suitable for an intermediate child to ride, no bad habits and very nice on the trail. Just the perfect horse. Contact Jody Buttram at 256-476-7339 or email for pictures/video at 3jfarm@earthlink.net.

# **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](mailto:3jfarm@earthlink.net)



Outta here till Next time !!!!