



SERA NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEAST ENDURANCE RIDERS ASSOCIATION

In This Issue-

President's Letter

Editor's Letter

SERA Convention

Highlights

SERA Award Winners

Tevis Tips from Claude
Brewer

Broxton Bridge Story by
Mary Howell

Scenes from SERA Country



SERA Convention Issue

convention photos by
Miles Cary



Vic Stine



What Horses Do





President's Message

Board of Directors-

President- Sudi Lenhart

Vice President- Patty Gale

Secretary- Laurie Underwood

Treasurer- Tamra Williams

Past President- Ike Nelson
DVM

State Representatives-

Alabama- Troy "Ike" Nelson

Florida - Helen Koehler

Georgia- Patty Gale

Kentucky- Amy Whelan

Mississippi- Jack Price

North Carolina- Ruth Anne
Everett

South Carolina- Patsy Gowen

Tennessee- Sudi Lenhart

Virginia- Lynne Johnson, DVM

AERC Representatives-

Sanctioning Director-

Susan Kasemeyer

Director- Duane Barnett, DVM

Newsletter editor-

Nancy Sluys

Yeehaw from your new President!!

Let's all have a great 2016 ride season-- full of great adventure, beautiful trails, healthy horses and new ride stories to tell!

We hope you will take a look at the SERA sanctioned rides and attend as many as you can in the coming year. And take a look at the mission statement for SERA:

Our goal is to promote endurance riding, encourage better care of endurance horses through rider education, and assist ride managers in providing quality rides.

With this mission in mind we are starting a new program to recognize new riders and SERA members willing to be resources at rides. Very easy, very simple. At the ride table we will have two color bandanas available to pick up and wear during the ride. Green for new riders; orange for SERA members. Pick one up, keep it, and wear it as you can during the ride weekend. This will help us know who is new so we can welcome them and help them know who they can easily ask questions to. Remember when you were new and overwhelmed and didn't know who to ask? Let's make that a little easier!

As this year gets underway, take a fresh look at all the ways SERA recognizes riders....we have some amazing end of year awards....

100 mile club

Best Condition. (Best Condition, Consistent Condition, LD Best Condition)

Mileage Championships (Open Champion, Open Reserve Champion, LD mileage Champion, 65 plus mileage Champion)

Division Awards (Top Ten Open, Top 5 Limited Distance)

Freshman Awards (Freshman Horse of the year, Freshman rider of the year)

Mileage Recognitions (Ten Consecutive Finishes, 350 miles in one season)

Junior Awards (Grand Champion, Open Distance, LD, 4-6 th placings)

AND new for 2017-- First 100 award sponsored by Mike and RuthAnn Everett

SERA is THE regional club that has increased membership in the Southeast region such that we are the largest region behind the west! Let's keep that status going-- if you haven't renewed yet please do so and if you have a friend getting started in endurance, encourage them to sign up!

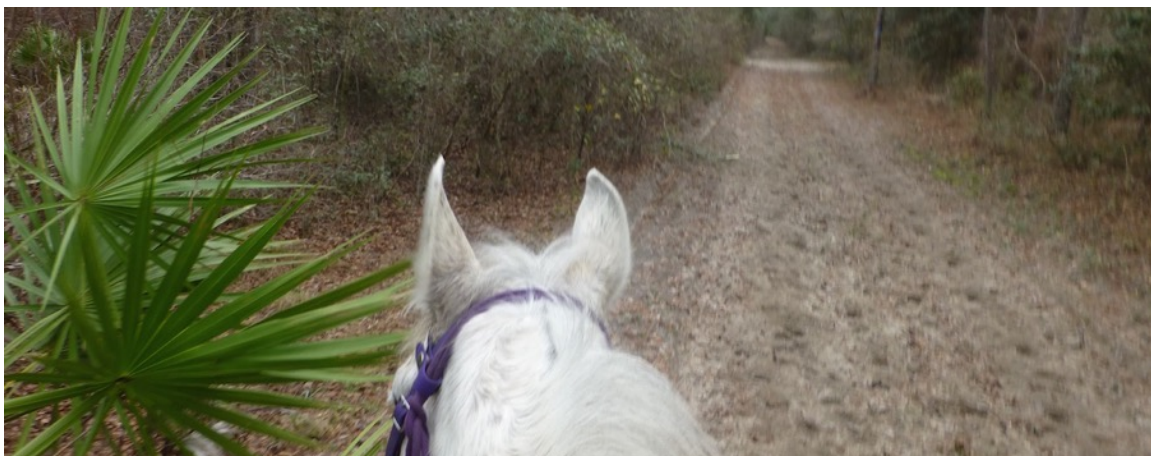
Happy trails!! Sudi

EDITOR'S LETTER

Hi Folks, well it's been a year since I agreed to take over the newsletter and I have had fun doing it. Thanks for putting up with my learning curve. I had hoped to get six issues out but only managed five. Hope to do better this year but it will also take some help from you!! Let me know what you would like to see in a newsletter. What kinds of things are important to you? More pictures? More informative articles? More education? More stories about people and their horses? I would also like to challenge you to become a contributor. This is your newsletter and only by having folks sharing stories, tips and knowledge will it be successful. If you had a great ride or a terrible ride but learned something by it we would like to hear about your experiences! Please consider writing a short story about what you learned that might help someone else. It doesn't take long, especially when it is fresh on your mind. Also, if you are like me and take pictures as you ride or around camp please send them to me. I love including as many pictures as possible being true to the old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words". Let's share the excitement we have about our sport! This newsletter is shared many times over across the internet so let's put our best face out there!

My email address is minglewood@surry.net. Please send me what you have even if you don't think it is much. You never know when a little thing might help another rider to succeed and isn't that what SERA is all about?

Happy Trails, Nancy Sluys



SERA CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS BY PATTY GALE

The meeting was held at January 16 - 17, 2016 at Amicalola Falls State Park in Dawsonville, GA. This year, we did something new by setting up a table in the foyer right outside of the meeting room. I had the pleasure of meeting many new endurance friends and enjoyed greeting many of you. Approximately, 70 members attended throughout the weekend.

On Friday afternoon, we had two excellent guest speakers. Dee Dee Huff, DVM presented “Drug Rules for Dummies and the Chemistry Crockpot” and Sudi Lenhart shared her own personal experience with moving up to 100 mile distances.

Dr. Huff’s experience with various equine organizations demonstrated just how complex the drug rules are. She shared her research and offered ways for riders to minimize the risk of an accidental drug test failure. For example, if you are feeding horses out of the same container at your barn and you have not completely washed it out, there could be traces of an illegal drug in the container. The horse not on the drug could test positive.

Sudi Lenhart, who started the sport in 2008 doing limited distance rides now has 8 100 mile completions, provided encouragement and good, sound advice. The session ended with several round table discussions. Each table had both riders who had completed numerous 100 mile rides and those that had not yet moved up. It was a good example of mentoring at its best. I had the pleasure of having Claude and Marion Brewer at my table and was in awe of their accomplishments. I will definitely take Claude up on his offer to give me pointers.

Friday evening, many of us had dinner in the lodge restaurant and had plenty of time for friendly camaraderie. Laughter was certainly good medicine.

Saturday morning started early with the Georgia Endurance Riders Association meeting at 8:00AM, followed by the SERA business meeting at 9:00AM. Dr. Ike Nelson started the SERA business meeting with a “State of the Organization.” There were 35 SERA sanctioned ride venues in 2015 with 59 ride days. Membership numbers are slightly down by 8 members. Ike then took us through several old business items with a decision made not to seek 501(c) (3) or 501 (c) (7) status.

New Business items included a review of the financial report, a decision to send someone to the NETC meeting in Raleigh, July 8 - 10, 2016, and an idea shared by Sudi Lenhart to mentor new riders. Finally, the business meeting ended with elections of new officers. Dr. Ike Nelson stepped down as President with Sudi Lenhart being elected. Patty Gale will remain as Vice President and Lauri Underwood will remain as Secretary. Alison Bailey stepped down as Treasurer with Tamra Williams being elected. SERA is very privileged to have had both Ike and Alison serve on our [4](#) board.

SERA Convention highlights continued.....

After lunch, Dr. Dee Dee Huff spoke to us about the SERA/GERA blood analyzer and the value of bloodwork for your equine partner. The blood analyzer is at many of the Southeast rides and is a very cost effective tool. A single profile is \$50 or you can have multiple profiles done for \$45 each. Many riders have blood drawn at the beginning of the ride and afterwards. If you are interested in knowing more, please reach out to any SERA board member or state representative.

The final speaker of the day was North Carolina State's Mike Yoder, DVM. He presented information to help us better understand the functional conformation of our performance horses. He presented good examples and shared his personal experience, ending with a good Q&A session.

Saturday afternoon, many attendees took a stroll down to the falls. It's a very beautiful location and getting out was a nice break.

Saturday evening started off with a very nice dinner buffet, followed by the annual awards for both SERA and GERA. The SERA award winners are posted on the web site so if you have not already done so, please check it out. A long standing tradition is entertainment by "The Men of Soul." This year was no different. I certainly enjoyed the dancing and fun.

Well, another year is in the history book. If you weren't able to attend, please mark your calendars for 2017.

photos by Miles Cary



SERA AWARDS RECIPIENTS - 2015 RIDE SEASON

100 MILE CLUB - 3 100 mile rides in a season

Vic Stine on Fine Tune (300 miles)

BRONZE LEVEL 100 MILE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - 3 100 mile rides

Vance Stine on Laissez Fare

Hannah Burton on WMA Salvation

Sudi Lenhart on A Long Way to El Paso

Sudi Lenhart on Wieago3

Joni Buttram on Cash Bonus +/-10

Diane Hawthorne on MD Virgo3

SILVER LEVEL 100 MILE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD- 6 100 mile rides

Vic Stine on Fine Tune



Sudi Lenhart

BEST CONDITION - OPEN DIVISION

Syrocco Cadence - owned and ridden by Meg Sleeper

CONSISTENT CONDITION - OPEN DIVISION-

Sponsored by Running Bear - Teddy Lancaster

Streak Afire - owned and ridden by Jane Moss

LIMITED DISTANCE BEST CONDITION -

Sponsored by Barefoot Rides - Aubrey Becker

Jaazil - owned and ridden by Melissa Hamilton

65 PLUS - Sponsored by Larry Mitchell

Lorena Truett



Melissa Hamilton

OPEN MILEAGE CHAMPION

Fougueux - ridden by Kathy Broaddus

RESERVE OPEN MILEAGE CHAMPION

LB Brimstone - ridden by Lani Newcomb

LIMITED DISTANCE MILEAGE CHAMPION -

Sponsored by Jana Smith in memory of
Stephanie Waddington

Carbonero Sin Par - ridden by Leatha Flowers

TOP TEN OPEN DIVISION

- 1 Cheryl VanDeusen
- 2 Clare Summers
- 3 Sudi Lenhart
- 4 Claire Godwin
- 5 Megan Davis
- 6 Deborah McClary
- 7 Kathy Broaddus
- 8 Lori Dinklemann
- 9 Meg Sleeper
- 10 Theresa Carroll



Lorena Truitt

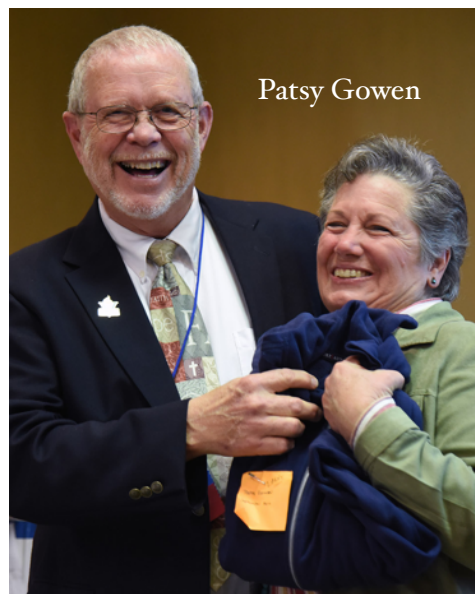


Lori Dinklemann



Nelia Rueter

photos by Miles Cary



Patsy Gowen



Lily Turaski



Theresa Carroll

TOP FIVE LIMITED DISTANCE

- 1 Leatha Flowers
- 2 Johnny Petras
- 3 Jane Larrimore
- 3 Kathy Broaddus
- 5 Lindsay Campbell

Johnny Petras



FRESHMAN HORSE OF THE YEAR - Sponsored by Dan Hallman

DCL Mooi Roccoby Baby - owned by Christo and Lori Dinklemann

JUNIOR AWARDS

JUNIOR GRAND CHAMPION - Sponsored by Christo and Lori Dinklemann

Hannah Burton

OPEN DISTANCE CHAMPION

Annie Whelan

LIMITED DISTANCE CHAMPION

Lily Turaski

FOURTH PLACE

Aubrey Williams



Hannah Burton

TEN CONSECUTIVE FINISHES

Streak Afire TTF - and Jane Moss
 Carbonero Sin Par - and Leatha Flowers
 TLA Monkey Bzness - and Tykey Truett
 Chance of Freedom - and Lily Turaski
 WF Felina -and Jenny Fox
 MA Jaxxon - and Jane Larrimore
 R-Kons Able -and Nancy Sluys
 Fine Tune - and Vic Stine
 Laissez Fare- and Vance Stine
 J-S Marshalldually- owned by Vic & Vance Stine, ridden by Hannah Burton
 WMA Salvation and Hannah Burton
 Cherwona- and Nelia Rueter
 Astaciana de Alrena - and Joe Casillas
 Pocita de Cosa Dulce- and Lindsay Campbell
 Zahen Cora Leo Sinsonte- Lindsay Campbell
 Mystique Temptation- and Kim Williams
 Gaila Whisper- and Aubrey Clendenin
 PW September Hero- and Patsy Gowen
 Jaazil- and Melissa Hamilton
 A Long Way to El Paso- and Sudi Lenhart
 East Meets West- and Patricia Clark
 Miss Fancy Pants- and Joni Buttram
 LR Georgie Girl- and Clare Summers



Jane Larrimore



Jane Moss



Clare Summers

350 MILES IN A SEASON

Vic Stine and Fine Tune

Jane Moss and Streak Afire TTF

Deborah McClary and Psyches Traveller

Deborah McClary and Ali Baba Moon Shadow

Jenny Fox and WF Felina

Nelia Rueter and Cherwona

Patsy Gowen and PW September Hero

Bonnie Hannah and FinderZKeepers

Claire Godwin and EH Ahmose+/
Claire Godwin and PL Mercury

Theresa Carroll and More Than Faith

Lori Dinkleman and DCL Mooi Roccoby
Baby

Lori Dinkleman and DCL Mooi Frangelico

Dana Reeder and LB Magnolia

Jane Larrimore and MA Jaxxon

Megan Davis and FYF Shabanni

Cheryl VanDeusen and Precious Bonita

Clare Summers and LR Georgie Girl

Clare Summers and Dream Chance

Gale King and Coup



Vance Stine

LAWTON JOHNSON

AWARD WINNER

Alison Bailey



2015 Becky Pearman Photography

A Simple Recipe For Doing The Tevis

From the Southeast- by Claude Brewer

Arrive at Auburn Fairgrounds about daylight on Tuesday. Set up camp - lead horse around to relax, explore and graze. Buy two different kinds of hay from Echo Valley Ranch.

Early afternoon, saddle up, lead or very carefully ride across No Hands Bridge to paved road - return to camp.

Wednesday - Take horse out at least once in the morning and at least once in the afternoon (you can use one of several turnouts, round pens, etc.).
BBQ -do not miss!

Thursday - Take horse out at least once in the morning and early afternoon. Saddle up - lead or very carefully ride across No Hands Bridge to paved road - return to camp.

Friday - No hurry, but try to get to Robie Park around noon, then ride out beginning of trail past at least one bridge, return to camp. Check in, eat, then ride meeting.

Saturday - Ride the way you usually ride in the Southeast - you will finish near or at the front.

Sunday - Watch or participate Best Condition. Attend the awards meal and ceremony.

Monday AM - Start Home.



Claude Brewer has over 13,000 AERC endurance miles including 40 one day 100 completions!

Staying Open to the Unexpected Joys of Endurance

Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs
That just because he doesn't answer, doesn't mean he don't care
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers

– Garth Brooks

At last month's Broxton Ride in South Carolina, I received a great gift of this nature. Young rider Hanna Weightman had come all the way from New Jersey to try to qualify for the North American Junior and Young Riders Championship on my mare Siena. Despite the beautiful job Hanna did riding her, Siena was pulled at the 30 mile mark for a minor lameness.

As my gelding Gryphon and I headed out by ourselves on the first of three 15-mile repeat loops, I tried not to think how hard it would be to trot past Siena's pen at both the beginning and end of each loop, six times total. Instead, I reflected on the unspoken prayer I'd sent heavenward just before heading down I-95, that whatever God's will, somehow this weekend I'd make a difference for others.

That black & white loop took us through my favorite section of Broxton trail, along a palmetto-frond decorated swamp, where I'd once crossed paths with an armadillo. The weather was perfect and by the end of the loop, I felt a bit better.

After vetting through without issue, I listened to Hanna's report from the treatment vet – Siena had no serious issue and should be sound soon. I wished she and her parents a warm farewell, promising to voice record the young riders meeting later that night so they could start their long drive home.

Heading out on the second of the repeat loops, I found myself riding with my friend Amy's husband Ricky, who was tackling his first 50. He had crewed for his wife the day before, and said he was feeling fine even though he'd hurt his back a few days earlier while moving hay. But he was worried about his mare, who hadn't had good gut sounds at the last hold. I noticed her eye looked a bit dull, and told Ricky I'd stay with him. We stopped at each water tanks with hay scattered around. His mare refused to drink, but grabbed a mouthful of hay each time. We also stopped to let our horses graze briefly on green grass by the trailside, with Gryphon's appetite seeming to influence Ricky's mare.

At the final water tank, the mare finally took a long drink and I had the joy of telling Ricky, "her eyes are bright and shiny now, you got this!" They ended up in 10th place.

I was a mile out of camp on my last loop when I came across a young rider and her mount in a patch of grass beside the trail. The rider, Kimmie, was trying to get the mare to eat but she seemed listless and uncaring. Another challenge! I explained to Kimmie that my young rider had been pulled and that I'd be happy help her get through the loop. Kimmie said this was the first 75 for both her and the mare, and that she was also trying to qualify for the North American Junior and Young Riders Championship that was to be held later in the summer.

“No worries I said, we’ve got plenty of time and just need to keep a steady speed.” Four riders doing “negative splits” passed us, but we kept to our slow, steady trot, stopping at each water tank. Gryphon showed his new companion by example that it was OK to eat. When Kimmie complained about not having chapstick, I loaned her mine and also tried to cheer her up with a “glass half full” perspective.

“We’re in the single digits now!” I proclaimed as we neared the loop’s midpoint, with less than 10 miles to go. “We probably won’t even need our headlamps,” I enthused as we passed the last water stop just after 6 p.m. We crossed the finish line just after dark, cheered on by her the horse’s owner and family.

Receiving a completion, followed by a hot shower and a hot meal, were not the only things that made my day complete. Witnessing Ricky and Kimmie’s pride and joy at their accomplishments was a wonderful answer to my prayer, as was the heartfelt thank you from the owner of the horse Kimmie had ridden. Even when an endurance ride doesn’t turn out quite as you’d hoped, stay open to the unexpected joys that may arise!

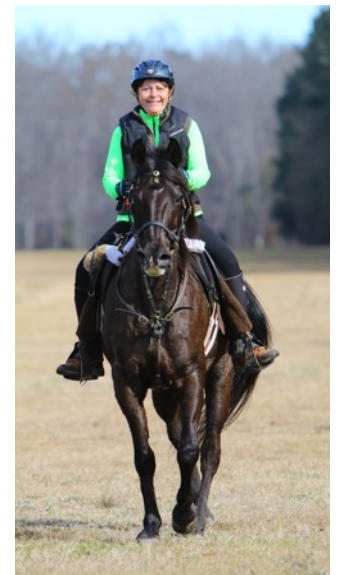
- Mary Howell, New Kent, VA



More Scenes from SERA Country!



**Photos by
Becky Pearman**



Please be a contributor!!

If you don't see a story about your favorite ride it's because you didn't write one!

Please send me yours!!

email- minglewood@surry.net

Deadline for the next issue

April 10

Thank You, Nancy Sluys



Happy Trails!!!