



Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization News

July 2018

HENRY RECEIVES THE AERC HERO AWARD

The AERC HERO (Helping Endurance Riders Often) Award is given by local endurance groups to someone who goes above and beyond to help that group. That certainly applies to the OD's own Henry Muhlbauer, who has worked with us as head timer since our first OD ride in 1974.



Henry has never missed a ride in all those years, now including No Frills in April, the OD June ride and Ft Valley in October. He does not “just” do the finish line timing. He is also our electrician, PA man, and lighting

specialist. And he does it all with his own supplies, hauling everything to ride camp in a storage trailer – all of which he purchased with his own money and for which he refused reimbursement.

Each year Henry does more to improve base camp. Thanks to him, we now have permanent electricity at the big tent, in the pump house, and below the pump house for the ride management trailer.

He provides all the lights, speakers, electrical wiring, and PA systems throughout camp and at the away vet checks.

What would we do without Henry? It's hard to imagine. No one deserves the HERO award more. Thanks, Henry!

BIG CHANGES AT THE OD

The venerable endurance riding group known as The OD has completed the reorganization, update, and upgrade that were begun early this year. We are now the Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization, Inc.—the same group you've always known and loved. With the name change, we put in place a number of innovations to move us into the digital age.

The first was development of a 100% digital entry form for all our endurance rides. The rider emails the form, a copy of the horse's

Coggins and a copy of the PayPal payment if applicable to the ride secretary. This was a much welcome step forward as most riders prefer to pay online rather than mailing a check or a paper entry with their credit card number.

We also have a new Facebook page that includes all three OD rides and other events we host. The new page acts as a network social media facilitator, and as an additional door to the website.

In another important update, our webmaster overhauled the entire OD website. The new website features a user-friendly homepage, is designed as a bulletin board for upcoming events, and includes a link to our Facebook page. All things pertaining to the old organization, such as articles and ride results, are archived on it. You can find it at www.olddominionrides.org.



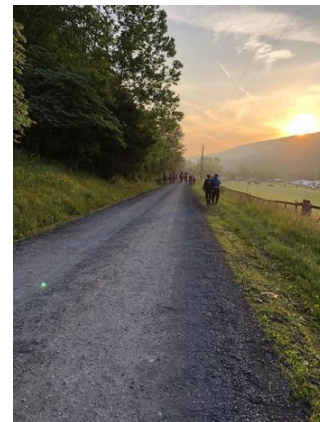
Our webmaster also designed a new logo, which pays homage to artist Patty Ruffner of Marshall, VA (d. 2004), who designed the original OD logo in 1974. It also includes both a motto "Discover Your Distance" to encourage all level of riders, and a slogan: "Building Partnerships Along The Trail" to

show our commitment to all who make our rides possible.

OD RIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the bad weather this spring, which made it difficult for riders to get their horses conditioned, the Old Dominion had a large turnout, with 135 entries, of which 31 were in the 100 mile ride on Saturday.

Record rainfall the week before the ride made for a real challenge when it came to parking rigs in only 2/3 of the field space. But everyone doubled and sometimes tripled up in one-rig spaces so we were able to squeeze everyone into the dry parts of the field.



Riders on the road at the start of the 100 mile ride

A big bonfire on Wednesday night and the addition of a "swimming hole" (300 gallon water trough) were big hits in camp.

The ride proved to be more challenging than normal with deteriorated trail conditions from weeks of rain and then severe thunderstorms that popped up in the early evening Saturday, bringing several inches of rain and hail and 50 MPH winds.

Even so, 18 finished the difficult 100 miles. Congratulations to all!

EVE BAIG WINS BIG AT THE OD

Eve Baig, a relative newcomer to endurance, won both the Old Dominion Trophy—the premiere award of the OD 100—high vet score, and the Cavalry Trophy at the 2018 Old Dominion 100, riding GJR Bella Cinderalla (Bella).



Eve Baig and her awards

Eve completed her first ride (30 miles) at Fort Valley in 2014, her first 50 in 2015, her first 75 and first 100 in 2017. She competed Bella for the first time last year at No Frills, and they went on to finish four more rides

But they almost didn't start the OD 100. At the vetting in, the vet saw an "inconsistency" in Bella's gait. Eve re-presented Bella a few hours later and got a thumbs up from the vets. So she decided they would start, but she would ride cautiously (if you consider riding Cavalry – meaning no help whatsoever from anyone during the ride – cautious). Eve was one of six riders who started in Cavalry and the only one to finish still in the division, despite the horrible weather.

There's no doubt we'll be seeing more of Eve and Bella in the years to come.

2012 OD Clinic Grad Top-Tens the 2018 OD 100

By Karen Wade

In 2012 Kaitlyn Behr was a 21 year old beginning rider, whose only experience was walk/trot in an arena. In 2018 she completed the OD 100 in the top ten.

Kaitlyn contacted me about borrowing a horse for the first OD endurance riding clinic that year, and started riding our Appaloosa, Kody, who taught her how to sit spooks and bucks. Three weeks after the clinic, she completed the 30 at Fort Valley, mentored by John Lyttle and his Morgan mare Pearl. She continued to compete with Kody through 2015, accumulating 85 LD miles and 155 endurance miles in between giving birth to her first two children.

In 2015 Kaitlyn met Cerrillos Bey Starr (AKA "Lucky"), a small, nondescript 13 year old bay Arabian mare who ended up at my farm because her owner could no longer keep her. She was very green and would not go through a stream, over a log, or under a branch without a meltdown. Kaitlyn decided to take her on as a challenge, and their first ride was the 30 at No Frills in 2016. Kaitlyn was pregnant at the time with her third child and said she thought she was going to die for the first few miles until Lucky settled down. Their first 50 together was the 2017 OD. In 2018 they completed the 25 at Leatherwood in the snow and both the 55 and the 30 at No Frills.

By that time Kaitlyn and Lucky had become a real team, and Kaitlyn decided they were ready for another challenge, the OD 100. Although Lucky only had two previous rides

of 50+ miles, they both performed like old pros (fortunately one of Lucky's greatest talents is eating), and were one of only 18 horse/rider pairs out of 31 starters to successfully finish the ride.



Kaitlyn and Lucky

The pair has now completed 9 rides together, with 6 Top Tens and a 100% completion rate.

Our next AERC Endurance 201 Clinic will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2018. If you and your horse want to be superstars like Kaitlyn and Lucky, that's the place to start! Please see the OD website (www.olddominionrides.org) for details.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

This year, the OD board is lucky to have four new members – all young (relatively) and eager to contribute to the organization.

They are:

Eve Baig, who as a relative newcomer to the sport, finished this year's OD 100 in 5th place, riding Cavalry, and won high vet score, the Cavalry Trophy and – most impressive of all – the OD Trophy, which is awarded to the top ten horse judged to be the

best conditioned on Sunday morning after the ride. Eve says she really hopes “to bring new ideas while on the board along with new sponsors to help offset the costs of the rides.”

Emily Carrico has been the OD ride secretary for five years. Three years ago she took on No Frills and last year rounded out her personal “triple crown” by becoming ride secretary for Fort Valley. She says she does “the job because I love love LOVE this group. I joined the OD board this January and within a few months took on the role of Secretary. I hope to make the ride entry process flow smoother and work with other OD members to make better use of technology.”

April Dobson started endurance and competitive riding in 1995 and now has over 4,000 miles (including both endurance and competitive) and counting. She says, “What I enjoy most about this sport is not only the challenge of getting down the trail but also the bonds we form with our horses and the friendships we make. My hope as a new board member is to help spread the word about how much fun we have and to encourage new membership.”

Sonja Knecht-Hoshi says endurance riding “was in the back of my mind for a long time as something I wanted to try. In 2014, I entered my first competitive trail ride. It was one of the toughest things I've ever done on the back of my horse, but I was hooked. The next year I turtled the No Frills LD. Last year was my best season for endurance with 230 miles and my first 50. My crowning achievement so far is winning my division of the national Green Bean Endurance Challenge.” Sonja says she hopes she can help the OD and the sport by bringing to the Board “the perspective of the challenges a new rider faces and must overcome.”

2018 Board Members

Karen Wade – President
Lani Newcomb, DVM – Vice President
Emily Carrico - Secretary
Susan Trader – Treasurer
Eve Baig
Diane Connolly
April Dobson
Pete Fields
Bob Heltibridle
Lenora Keener
Sonja Knecht-Hoshi
John Lyttle
Duane Martin
Joe Selden
Jack Weber

OD WORK DAY

On May 12, 19 hardy souls showed up at basecamp to begin the yearly task of getting it ready for the ride season.



Although there was much more work to be done, the group accomplished a lot, including mowing the entire camp, putting electrical lines in trenches and cleaning the pump house.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 28-29 Clinic: Ride and Tie Weekend with Clinic, Night Ride and Tie, Day Ride and Tie, and Night Riding/Horse Camping. Contact JaniceHeltibridle@gmail.com

August – No Board meeting

September 29 – 9am-5pm – Clinic: Endurance Riding 201, Winchester, VA, followed by a board meeting. Contact Karen Wade at kew@shentel.net.

October 19-20 – Fort Valley Rides, Ft. Valley, VA. Contact Ride Secretary Emily Carrico at mzstumpy@gmail.com.

November 10 – 6:30pm Board meeting, MARE Center, Middleburg, VA (if needed)

December 1 – 4:30pm Board meeting, Board elections, Christmas Party, Skyline Ranch Resort, Front Royal, VA. Contact Lenora Keener at lwsowers@aol.com.

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ENDURANCE ORGANIZATION**

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For questions or comments on the newsletter, contact Nancy Smart at longevityfarm@verizon.net