



Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization News

October 2019

FORT VALLEY RIDES COMING UP

Once again, the ODEEO is hosting a number of events at the Fort Valley Rides, to be held on Friday, October 25, and Saturday, October 26.

As usual we will have a 30-mile limited distance ride and a 50-mile endurance ride each day. In addition, on Saturday there will be a 16-mile intro ride for new horses and/or new riders, which will be led by Karen Wade. It's a great way to ease into endurance riding! We will also have 15-, 30-, and 50-mile ride and ties on both days.

And the highlight of the weekend: the drawing Saturday night for our Asgard raffle horse, donated by Tom and Halldis Sayvetz. (See separate story.)



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The Bylaws Committee has proposed changes to the May 1999 Bylaws to bring them into the electronic media era. The Board of Directors is giving you, the Membership, the documents for you to review in advance, so that they can be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on December 7, 2019. According to the existing Bylaws, amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at the Annual General Meeting. Therefore, if you would like to vote on the amendments, please plan to attend the meeting, which will be held in conjunction with our annual Holiday Party. Check out the attachments to read the current Bylaws, proposed new ones, and a chart of changes.

PARTY AND ANNUAL MEETING

Put it on your calendars: December 7, 6:30–10 pm at The Clubhouse at Skyline Ranch Resort, 751 Mountain Road, Front Royal, Virginia 22630.

Potluck dinner. BYOB. Please RSVP by November 2 to Lenora Keener (lwsowers@aol.com 540 622-5092).

Contact the resort at (540) 635-4169 for overnight reservations.

And don't forget the silent auction. It's always a good fundraiser for the ODEEO, but it depends on contributions from all of you to be a success. Your donation(s) don't have to be horse related – just about anything will sell. Email Lenora Keener (see above) or Nancy Smart at longevityfarm@verizon.net with your contribution. You can either bring it (them) to the party, or drop off with Lenora or Nancy.

OD BOARD

The OD board usually consists of 15 members (we're currently down to 13) who serve three-year terms. Each year, five board members have to be reelected or replaced. Elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party on December 7. You must be present to vote for the Board of Directors and Officers, as well as the changes to the bylaws.

The five members whose terms are up this year are Diane Connolly, Evelyn Baig, Bob Heltibridle (the current president), Joe Selden, and Jack Weber. All are running for re-election, but any or all can be challenged by any OD member willing to give the time and energy it takes to serve on the board. The five people running for the board with the most votes will win the election.

Board meetings are generally held at 6:30 pm the second Saturday of each month at the MARE Center in Middleburg, Virginia. A complete listing of the Board meetings can be found on our website at www.OldDominionRides.org.

If you are interested in running for the board, please contact Bob Heltibridle at bobheltibridle@gmail.com.

2019 OD Endurance 201 Clinic by Karen Wade

Fourteen folks eager to learn about endurance participated in the annual Endurance 201 Clinic, held at my farm near Winchester, Virginia. Most were women in their 30s through 60s, but one man and a 12-year-old girl also took part. Thirteen participants rode in the afternoon—nine on their own horses and four on mine—and eight camped Friday night with their horses. Volunteers Sonja Knecht-Hoshi and Duane Martin also camped Friday, and the group had a nice potluck/cook-out dinner.

The format was the same that we have used for the past several years, with participants rotating through stations, each of which covered different topics important for successful completion of an endurance ride.



Lani Newcomb, DVM, explains vet check procedures

We had several new facilitators, including Duane on Camping, Sonja on Training and Conditioning, Bob and Janice Heltibridle on Crewing, Lisa Troutman assisting Lani Newcomb, DVM, with Vet Checks, and yours truly, Karen Wade, on Tack and Equipment. Jack Weber was back to talk about the important topic of safe Trailering. Dale Weaver came as a mentor for his 12-year-old neighbor (who rode Dale's Mustang, Cheyenne) and contributed his input as they rotated through



the stations. Carolyn Blocker was here to observe and get ideas for an ECTRA clinic.

The Stations segment was completed in the morning. After a lunch break, participants had the opportunity to ride a “sampler” of 5–6 miles of endurance-style trails, with stream crossings, rocks, steep ups and downs, and even a little bridge. We encouraged clinic riders to take the next step and participate in the Introductory Ride at Fort Valley October 25–26.

Jack Weber discusses safe trailering at the clinic.

In May of this year we held a mini-clinic, which unfortunately was shortened from 2 days to 1 by heavy rain. Despite the weather, we had eight enthusiastic participants, one of whom went on to complete her first LD at Iron Mountain on our venerable Appaloosa, Kody.

2019 RAFFLE HORSE

Truthful is a 4-year-old bay mare. Her sire Syndicat (Bandjo de Falgas × BHR Tamersyn by *Tamerlan) is a Russian/French/Crabbet stallion with great conformation, whose get are proving to be outstanding endurance horses. Her dam is Truly (Stratagem × Trojkaa by *Moment). Truthful is a high-quality mare, and her temperament is ideal. At age four, she is ready to begin her career right away!

Truthful will be at the Fort Valley ride for all to admire before the drawing for her Saturday night at the ride—but you don’t have to be present to win. Tickets for the drawing are \$10 each, 3 for \$25, 5 for \$40, or 10 for \$75 (best deal). You can buy them online via PayPal (email Dawn Hilliard at phantomhorse13@hotmail.com for instructions), at the Fort Valley Ride or entry form, or by contacting Bob Heldibridle at bobheldibridle@gmail.com.



Truthful as a 3-year-old

The OD organization extends heartfelt thanks to Halldis and Tom Sayvetz of Asgard Arabians, who have donated one of their purebred Arabians to the Old Dominion every year since 1998 as a fundraiser. Many of those wonderful horses have gone on to fabulous endurance career.

RAFFLE SADDLE

Once again this year, the ODEEO has a second raffle to offer as a fundraiser—a saddle. It’s a Living Bar. and the retail value is \$2,800. The winner will be drawn at the annual OD Holiday Party on December 7, but you don’t have to be present to win. See or email Evelyn Baig to get your tickets, which are \$5 each or five for \$20. She can be found

at the Fort Valley Ride or reached at Baige73@hotmail.com.



The Old Dominion Ride by Diane Connelly

Weather was unheard of perfect—cool and sunny—for the annual Old Dominion Ride, held as always on the second Saturday of June.

Despite the wonderful weather, turnout was low for the 100—only 18 riders started—but no doubt because of the weather we had an 83% completion rate, which is probably a record. Normal completion rates are 55–59%. It was an all-woman field, including eight first-time OD 100 competitors, several of whom were doing their first 100. And, incredibly, one woman's entire distance riding experience before the OD had been two 25s!

Holly Corcoran, riding Poete, was first to finish and also won High Vet Score, AERC BC, and the Old Dominion Trophy, judging for which is done Sunday morning so the vets can check how well the horse recovered overnight.



Holly Corcoran and Poete with all their awards. —Photo by Becky Pearman

The 50 -mile ride had a 74% completion rate, and every single rider who started the 25 finished.

Unfortunately we had a major glitch with the 50-mile awards ceremony. There was a problem with the computer system (known as ERIC) that we use. The names of horses and riders didn't match up on the start list, which is the list used to keep track of everyone during and after the ride. Our wonderful timer, Henry Muhlbauer, would not and could not release the results until it was corrected, which took some time. The management team and I have taken a number of steps to ensure that that error is never repeated.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Just a reminder that, unless you're a lifetime member, it's time to renew your membership in the Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization—or become a member if you aren't already one.

Members keep us afloat, both financially and with their volunteer work.

It's not expensive, and members get ride discounts that actually total as much or more than their dues, which are—

- Individual (\$25/year)
- Family (\$35/year)
- Lifetime Individual(\$400—one-time payment only)
- Lifetime Family (\$500—one-time payment only)

New members will get a rider information packet, as well as a map showing how to get to, park, ride, and camp at various points on our 100-mile trail.

So, join the Old Dominion and bring a whole new level of fun to your endurance riding.

SAVE THOSE COUPONS!

The ODEEO (also known as the OD) can use them—*them* being the coupons found on the side of Southern States feed products. They include coupons from Southern States, Legends, Triple Crown, and Tribute Equine Nutrition, and each is worth either 25 or 50 cents. The OD collects them and sends them to Southern States when there are enough to make it worthwhile. So send your coupons (trimmed is always nice but not imperative) to our treasurer, Susan Trader, at 16813 Clarkes Gap Road, Paeonian Springs, VA 20129. She'll take it from there. And thank you.

