



## Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization News

October 2018

### FORT VALLEY RIDES COMING UP!

Once again, the ODEEO is hosting a number of events at the Fort Valley Rides, Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20. 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 an 18 mile intro ride for new horses and/or new riders, which will be headed by Karen Wade, Nick Irianni and Lisa Bykowski. It's a great way to ease into endurance riding!

And we will have 18, 30 and 50 mile ride and ties on both Friday and Saturday.

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

Trails are going to be a bit different this year because flooding has left some of them impassable. But rest assured they will still be beautiful and challenging.

Ride manager Claire Godwin says her husband and noted chef Pete is cooking day

and night to make sure no one drops any weight competing.

Please email Claire at [crgdvm@aol.com](mailto:crgdvm@aol.com) to volunteer. You can get your entry form and more information from our website: [olddominionrides.org](http://olddominionrides.org).



*Fall foliage at Fort Valley. We hope it will as spectacular this year.*

### FORT VALLEY CLINICS

This year, the Fort Valley ride is offering two free clinics: one to teach riders about saddle fit and another to help riders improve their skills.

The ABC's of Saddle Fitting Clinic will be presented by Jackie Fenaroli, President of Stonewall Saddle Company, on Thursday, October 18 from 11am-3pm. The clinic will provide you with the tools to improve your horse's comfort, as well as your security as a rider. You will see, in real time color, what is really going on under the saddle.

Jackie will also offer private one hour fitting appointments Friday and Saturday. Cost will be \$250 with pressure mapping of up to two saddles or \$125 without mapping. Payment is by cash or check. If you buy a saddle, cost of the private fitting will be deducted from the price.

Diane Sept, a "connected riding" instructor, will offer free "riding posture balance" instruction in your own saddle. Among other things, she will teach riders rotation in the saddle, which she says leads to less fatigue of both horse and rider.

Diane will be available Thursday afternoon around the time and place of Jackie's saddle fitting clinic, and Friday morning. You don't have to sign up in advance – just show up and she'll be there to help you.

## RAFFLE HORSE

Tamburitza is the 20<sup>th</sup> horse Tom and Halldis Sayvetz of Asgard Arabians have donated to the ODEEO to help us raise the money needed to put on our rides. She will be exactly 3 years and 5 months old when raffled at the Fort Valley Ride. Tom says "she is a strong, sturdy filly with excellent bone, standing 15.1 now. She is by Stratagem x Tamborin by Bandjo de Falgas, so a full sibling in blood (dams are sisters) to last year's raffle horse Towards. Her temperament is phenomenal for an Arabian: not only is she sweet and cooperative, she's also remarkably calm and

unexcitable. She proved this in June at the ODEEO Ride, which she attended for "camping" experience. When walked around the busy grounds packed with trailers, horses and pickup traffic, she was flatfooted and unreactive. She should mature into a fine endurance horse, and a fabulous family horse and friend for anybody."

Raffle tickets are available from any of the ODEEO Board member at any time. You can also order them by emailing Jack Weber at [fortvalleyrider@gmail.com](mailto:fortvalleyrider@gmail.com) buying them from his at the ride. Tickets are \$10 each, 3 for \$25, or 5 for \$40 (best deal). Please make checks payable to the Old Dominion Equine Endurance Organization.



*Tamburitza*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The ODEEO annual Christmas party, general membership meeting, board elections and silent auction is set for December 1, 6:30-10pm, at the at Skyline Ranch Clubhouse in Front Royal. The ranch has many riding trails as well as options for stalling or penning your horse and staying the night. Contact the ranch for reservations at (540) 635-4169. Check out their website at [skylineranchresort.com](http://skylineranchresort.com). RSVP Lenora Keener at [lwsowers@aol.com](mailto:lwsowers@aol.com) or (540) 622-5092.

## 2018 ENDURANCE 201 CLINIC

By Karen Wade

After weeks of rain, we had beautiful weather for the annual Endurance 201 Clinic on Saturday, Sept. 29. Facilitators included Mary Howell for Training and Conditioning, Jack Weber for Trailering, John Lyttle for Horse Camping, Diane Connolly for Tack and Equipment, Bob Walsh, Teri Carroll (and team) for Crewing, and Lani Newcomb for Vetting. Lenora Keener brought a sampler of the OD Yard Sale, and Paulita Neff had a Freeform Saddle display. Kim Lyttle helped with registration and Sonja Knecht-Hoshi represented the Green Bean Endurance program. Nick Irianni, Kaitlyn Behr, and Lynn Hottel were on-trail mentors.

Sixteen aspiring endurance riders participated, including two veterinarians. As usual, most attendees were ladies of a certain age, but we did have two teenagers and one young man. The majority of them also took part in the mounted afternoon portion of the clinic. The only mishap was a horse that encountered an aggressive stick on the trail, which allowed Lani to show off her professional skills.

Quite a few of the clinic participants plan to attend the Fort Valley ride in some capacity.



*Diane Connolly on tack*



*Dr. Lani Newcomb explains vetting during a ride*



*Bob Walsh talks about crewing*



*Finally -- on the trail!*

## DRAG RIDERS

By Duane Martin

The Old Dominion endurance rides cover some of the most beautiful and technical trails in the endurance riding world. It takes a large team of people to prepare the trails and to put on the events. Drag riders are a key part of that team.

The same factors that make the trails so scenic - the mountains and valleys, often far from roads - mean that we also need to provide riders who follow the last competitor. Their primary purpose is safety, to call for help if it is needed. Since there is little or no cell phone coverage on many parts of the trails, the drag riders carry radios to stay in touch with ride management. Even those radios can be limited in the mountains, so the drag riders can also communicate with another part of the team, the ham radio operators whose gear provide communications over the entire region.

Finally, the drag riders can ride out to get help. They deploy in teams of two per loop, so one can go get help while the other stays on the scene. So when you see them in their bright yellow vests, thank them for providing riders the peace of mind of knowing that help is on the scene or only a call away.



## BOARD ELECTIONS

It's time for nominations for the ODEEO board. If you are interested in running and therefore contributing to the workings of the group, please send your name and a brief description of what you would like to accomplish as a board member to Bob Walsh at [hideaway6725@gmail.com](mailto:hideaway6725@gmail.com) by November 15, 2018.

The board generally meets the evening of the second Saturday of each month at the MARE center in Middleburg, VA. It is expected that all board members will attend except in unusual circumstances.

### 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.



