



Old Dominion News

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November 2010



2010 Fort Valley Ride Report

Perfect weather heralded this year's Fort Valley endurance rides, held on Friday and Saturday, October 22-23. Fitchetts Field was again used as basecamp, which enabled all of the vet checks to be held in camp.

On Friday, 27 of 29 riders completed the 50 and all but 1 of the 13 LD riders successfully completed the 30 mile ride. Valerie Kanavy, a local landowner who provided access to trails on her property for the last loop of both distances, won the 55 riding Gold Destiny. Best Condition went to Eone Willemse of South Africa on LM Parys. This was Willemse' 16th and final AERC ride before she returned home after representing her country at the World Endurance Championships in Kentucky.

On Saturday, 81 riders enjoyed the spectacular fall scenery, with 32 out of 36 riders completing the 50 and 40 of 45 LD riders finishing the 30. Danielle Duffy on All Tu Kool won the 50 and junior rider Forest Green on PL Nino earned Best Condition.

A total of 24 horse and rider teams who completed at Fort Valley also earned the Triple Crown Award for completing all three Old Dominion-sponsored rides in the same year. ♦

Forest Fires Close Fort Valley Trails

On November 14, forest fires broke out on Kennedy Peak and Burner's Gap in the Lee Ranger District, requiring the U.S. Forest Service to close several trails at the southern end of Fort Valley, just north of Luray. The fires, which are believed to have been caused by humans, affected about 220 acres. Trails that have been closed include the Kennedy Peak Trail and Massanutten Trail from SR 675 to Habron Gap, as well as trails east of Crisman Hollow Road. For more information, call the Forest Service at 540.984.4101. ♦

See You at the Dec. 11 Holiday Party!

Invitations to the Old Dominion's Holiday Party on Saturday, December 11 at the Blue Ridge Shadows Resort in Front Royal have been mailed. If you missed receiving an invitation and wish to attend, please contact Joe and Nancy at longevityfarm@verizon.net or 301.934.3824 by December 1st. Tickets are \$45 per person, part of which helps cover the cost for our landowners to attend. To reserve a room at the Holiday Inn, located just off Exit 6 of I-66, call 540.631.3050 and ask for the OD discount of \$85 per room.

We will again be holding our Silent Auction during the evening's festivities. It's not too late to donate items! If you have something a horse-oriented person might enjoy -- such as a

massage or vacation accommodations, the OD needs and appreciates your donations. E-mail countshiloh@gmail.com or longevityfarm@verizon.net with details.

OD members are encouraged to arrive early to attend the General Membership Meeting, which gets underway at 5 pm. A cash bar will be open from 6 until 11 pm, with dinner and awards beginning at 7 pm. Bidding for Silent Auction Items will close at 8 pm.

We'll again recognize Triple Crown winners, in which the same horse and rider team completes all three of OD rides offered each year in any distance. A listing of this year's winners in on page 2 of this issue. ♦

OD Silent Auction Items

Here is a list of items that have been donated to date:



- Ride Entry to the August 2011 Virginia Highlands Ride (\$90 minimum bid)
- Ride Entry to the March 2011 Sand Hills Ride (\$90 minimum bid)
- Equine Emergency Kit (\$200 minimum bid)
- Lift ticket and ski lessons at Massanutten Resort (\$120 minimum bid)



- one horse massage at the 2011 OD ride by Karen Zelinsky Kite (\$50 minimum bid)
- horse and pony blankets (\$50 minimum bid)
- leather horse interference boots (\$50 minimum bid)
- numerous horse-themed gift items (\$5 to \$15 minimum bid)
- signed copy of *The Horse in Virginia: An Illustrated History* (\$40 minimum bid; details below) and lots more!

OD members who attend the Holiday Party will have a chance to meet Julie Campbell, author of the recently published book *The Horse in Virginia: An Illustrated History*. Campbell is Associate Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Washington and Lee University. Book summary: Virginia's horse tradition goes back 400 years, to when horses accompanied some of the first settlers in Jamestown. Since then, the state's special relationship with the horse has never waned. Virginia has been home to some of the most famous individual horses, including the great Triple Crown champion Secretariat and Misty of Chincoteague, one of the most beloved horses in all



of children's literature. Significant figures in the Commonwealth's history have almost invariably enjoyed a special bond with horses, from George Washington—whom Thomas Jefferson called "the best horseman of his age"—to Robert E. Lee, who rode into battle on his well-known gray Saddlebred, Traveller. This tradition has continued into the present day. The book is beautifully illustrated throughout, including numerous historical depictions of the horse by painters, photographers and commercial artists. The equine tradition in Virginia is unique and enduring. Additional copies of this book will be on sale at the Old Dominion holiday party for \$40 each. ♦

2010 Old Dominion Triple Crown Winners

Rider	Horse	Old Dominion	RBTR	Fort Valley	Total Miles
Rebecca Bianchi	HA Batez	100	50	50/50	250
Karen Wade	WBF Soldier's Rose	100	50	50/50	250
Pete Fields	WPTR Sure Fire	100	50	50	200
Maryanne Maynard	This Bud's For You	100	50	50	200
Miriam Anver	Hail to the Chief	55	50	50	155
Daryl Downs	Sheik	55	50	50	155
Forest Green	PL Nino	55	50	50	155
Dean Hilliard	RA Sultan	55	50	50	155
Ashley Kemerer	Tarsu	55	50	50	155
Steven Overgard	Hammerin Hank	55	50	50	155
Tracy Reynolds	Hardmoney Lane	55	50	50	155
Valerie Weil	The Peace Speaker	55	50	50	155
Anne Buteau	Comedy of Manners	55	30	50	135
Cat Carter	TheSpuroftheMoment	55	30	50	135
Emily Richardson	Crimson Sage	25	30	50	105
Jenner Brunk	Django's Guitar	25	30	30	85
Amie Chenault	Benjamin CLark	25	30	30	85
Beth Leichti Johnson	LW Cody	25	30	30	85
Elisa Miller	Beowolf	25	30	30	85
Brenda Senseney	JP Jackpot	25	30	30	85
Greg Senseney	Aabra King Ala Kazam	25	30	30	85
Susan Trader	Wild Rose	25	30	30	85
Theresa Trader	Little Man	25	30	30	85
Heather Werts	Serene Zeliza	25	30	30	85

Each of the above riders will receive a special Triple Crown award and a \$25 credit towards their 2011 Old Dominion ride entries. Congratulations to everyone who successfully completed this year's Triple Crown!

Horse Thieves in Fort Valley ? - A True Story

by Martha Ann Romoser

The Sunday before the Fort Valley ride, as I drove by my horses' paddock on the way home from church, I did not see my horses. "The flies must be bothering them," I said to my husband. "They are probably in the barn."

When we continued up to the barn, however, my two grey Arabians were nowhere to be seen. A quick check of the tackroom also showed no one had ridden them away. I phoned my neighbor to see if he knew anything.

"Well yeah," he said. "They're on a stock trailer heading for Orange, Virginia."

"What!" I gasped.

"Well, this farmer who had his little girl with him had your horses on his trailer when he stopped to look the the Angus calves I have for sale," the neighbor continued. "He told me that you were giving your horses away, and even though nobody was home, his GPS told him he had the right place."

The neighbor added, "I couldn't believe you were doing such a thing, but he seemed so sure of himself!" The neighbor explained that the farmer bought two of his calves, loaded them in the trailer behind my

horses, and headed for Orange. He continued, "But now the farmer is headed back now that he realizes he's got the wrong horses!"

"Do you know his name or phone number?" I interrupted. The neighbor retrieved this information from the caller ID on his phone. I immediately called the number and left a terse voice message, asking the person to bring my horses back immediately.

Then picking up the conversation with my neighbor, I asked, "How did he know he had picked up the wrong horses?"

"Somebody up the road by the lake had three horses he wanted, and they called him to ask why he hadn't come to get them yet. That's when he realized he didn't pick up the right horses."

Foremost in my mind were two stolen mares that had disappeared from Fort Valley last spring without a trace. A \$1000 reward was offered for their return, to no avail.

Would this farmer who had my horses have a change of heart and not bring them back? With my heart in my toes, I went looking for the people who were giving away three of their horses. They were waiting in their driveway, with the young Arabians tied to a

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President's Message

Thanks to all of you who came to the Fort Valley ride this year. Pete and I enjoyed putting it on again, and it does get easier each year! Special thanks to Mike Cleveland who took videos of the riders out on trail. Some of this footage was played for a couple of weeks on Endurance.net, so our Fort Valley riders are famous now!

Our next project, as your Board of Directors, is to get our baecamp pavilion built, hopefully in time for the June ride. We are getting our permits and last bids in now. It will be really nice not to have to go off site to hold our briefings and awards ceremonies!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the holiday party, and cheering for the lucky Triple Crown Winners!

Regards,
Claire Godwin

Old Dominion Board of Directors

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Member Classifieds

Bumper-Pull Trailer: Sized for ponies or small horses, this step-up trailer has just been reconditioned and has a recent Virginia state inspection. With built-in mangers in each stall, it measures 72" tall and 72" deep from manger to back door. Located near Richmond, VA; asking \$800 OBO. Contact Sarah at samschic@live.com or 812.360.6459.

To have your classified ad included in the next issue, e-mail countshiloh@gmail.com or call 804.932.9328. ♦

VHC To Offer Liability Insurance Through Membership

The Virginia Horse Council recently made general liability insurance through Equisure available to members at a cost of just \$20/year for \$1 million in excess liability coverage. This policy is similar to that offered to American Endurance Ride Conference members, and acts as an excess liability policy over your general homeowner's insurance when it's limits are exhausted.

For those of us with "escape artist" horses, or who regularly ride on private property with permission from neighbors, having such a policy offers peace of mind in a society where plaintiffs are often awarded liability-related claims in excess of \$1 million.

More about the liability insurance policy for VHC members is available by calling toll-free 888.467.7382. ♦

Volunteers Needed For Timmonium Horse Expo

For many years, the Old Dominion has partnered with ECTRA to staff a booth at the Horse World Expo held in Timonium, Maryland each January.

"In doing so, we are seeking to have more people learn about the sport of endurance and become involved with Old Dominion events," said board member Bonnie Snodgrass.

The upcoming Expo will be held January 20-23, and volunteers are again needed for short 4-hour shifts to help staff the ECTRA and OD booth. For more information, please contact Bonnie at chicamuxen@netscape.net or 301.246.4934. ♦

APEX Clinic Set for March 12-13 in Asheville, NC

A Partnership for Endurance Excellence, or "APEX" is hosting a centered riding clinic at the Biltmore Equestrian Center in Asheville, North Carolina on March 12-13, 2011. The full weekend clinic will include two sessions each day with Susan Harris, an internationally-known clinician. Attendees will be divided into small groups, and the event promises to not only improve your riding, but help you improve bond you have with your horse.

Details and more information is online as www.apex-us.org. To register, contact Cheryl Newman at cherylnewman@charter.net or 828.665.1531. ♦

Mark Your Calendars for 2011 OD Events

- N**ext year's Old Dominion events are scheduled as follows:
- No Frills - Saturday, April 9, 2011
- June OD Ride - Saturday, June 11, 2011
- Ride & Tie Weekend - Saturday-Sunday, July 23-24, 2011
- Fort Valley - Friday-Saturday, October 21-22, 2011.

Old Dominion members will again receive coupons that can be applied to either your ride entry or items purchased from the Old Dominion store, so if you're not a life member, please renew! ♦

My First Ride & Tie

by Daryl Downs

Hello, my name is Daryl Downs and I would like to formally announce my retirement from endurance riding. Ok, maybe we won't go that far, but on September 18, I learned something new... Ride and ties are AWESOME!

It all started when I had the idea to bring my young Al Marah Arabian to the Chesapeake CTR in Maryland. After speaking with Al Marah, we decided not to put the youngster in an event just yet; but I still wanted to go. I contacted Cate Peloquin, ride manager, and asked what my options were. I told her if someone needed a rider or anything else- I would be happy to help. Cate thought for a bit and emailed me back a day later, asking if I would want to put a team together for a ride and tie. Without thinking much, I told her I would try, and it wasn't long before my e-mailbox blinked "Give2Bute@aol.com has sent you an email."

I am sure many of us endurance riders, have seen them. Whether it is Lani, Janice or any other crazy soul, they are trucking down the trails horseless while we wonder "is everything ok?" then "why are they smiling?"

I learned first-hand in Fair Hill, Maryland exactly why they are smiling—they are having fun! Now you may ask, what is fun about riding a horse for a few minutes, hopping off, tying them to a tree and running on foot before your partner (hopefully) comes up and trades you a horse for their chance to run some? I will tell you!

Originally I had written an email to a runner friend, Nicole Young, and asked if she would be interested in doing the 15 mile R&T (baby steps), and she agreed to try it. After not discussing it more, our plans pretty much dissolved and I was primed to volunteer instead. A few days later, Sandra Fretelliere sent me a text, asking if I would like to replace her as Janice Heltibridge's partner in the 30 mile R&T, as Sandra could not make it. I thought for a second... "Gee, 30 miles means 15 miles of running..."

"Daryl, you have never run that many miles. It might not be too smart to jump into this many miles..." So, in normal Daryl-fashion, I ignored my rational thoughts and agreed to take the challenge! It wasn't long before Janice and I were bouncing emails back and forth and getting prepared! After joining Ride & Tie's membership, and asking a million questions, I was ready to rock!

September 17th, I arrived at Fair Hill to meet my partner and our mount. We would be using a grey Arabian mare named "Frisky" for the competition. With that, we checked the saddle fit to my tiny butt and then headed to bed. I was told there would only be two teams, ours and Lani's (consisting of Lani Newcomb and Kathy Broaddus). Morning came fast and I was ready to roll with my "Crandell socks" and "Flash" sleeveless T-shirt. I would be starting the race on Frisky, while Janice would start on foot. Lani was with me on her Belgian and we were off! Janice and I had planned to ride 6-7 minutes each time, then tie, in order to keep our legs fresh throughout the day. I tied Frisky after 7 minutes and began running through the woods. After about 20 minutes, Janice came cantering up behind me and hopped off on the right side, while I hopped on from the left side- a smooth transition! We would continue this process throughout the day.

I learned MANY new things, during my 30 mile adventure. One lesson learned is that only one partner gets to cross streams on a horse, the other... gets their shoes wet. I was enjoying my run when I came to my second water crossing of the day, where Bob Walsh happened

to be drag riding and was just in time for the show. Sitting atop his horse Lojic, he watched eagerly as I went knee-deep stumbling through the creek, with him shouting "Get those Crandell socks wet, Flash!" That I did. Janice caught up about 20 minutes later (letting my socks dry some) and I hopped on ol Frisky. We were close to the end and Frisky was, well, frisky. She was pulling and knew exactly where she was. She was awesome! Against Frisky's will, I tied her up one last time and went running towards the finish, arriving at the finish line in a ride time of about four and a half hours, not far behind Janice and Frisky.

I would HIGHLY recommend a ride and tie to anyone and everyone. You are not only taking care of a horse, like in endurance, but you are also taking care of yourself and another human. These competitions take teamwork to a whole new level, and let me tell you, it's exhilarating! I plan to try many more of these events and will be looking for other teams to step up and challenge themselves to something new. I might even let you borrow my Flash shirt for good luck, maybe.

Special thanks to Janice (for being an amazing partner), Frisky (for putting up with me), Janice's husband and Liz Moran (for being awesome crew), and Lani (for being Lani)!

Challenge yourself, and try a ride and tie as soon as possible! For more information, visit <http://www.rideandtie.org/> or email DarylDowns1@gmail.com for first time tips. Lani loves questions too (Give2Bute@aol.com). ♦



Horse Thieves, continued

fence, and seemed to know immediately that I must be the owner of the two grey Arabians in the farmer's stock trailer.

It was a windy afternoon, and one of the tied horses had injured himself by getting his rope caught behind his ears, leaving a nasty gouge behind one ear. A suitable medicine could not be found to put on the wound, so I offered to get something from my own supply.

As I pulled up to my house, I saw a big stock trailer parked in front of my barn, and my two horses were already back in their dirt lot, munching hay. What a relief! I didn't have much to say to the farmer from Orange except to thank him for bringing my horses back. I did not let him know what I thought a brazen and stupid thing he had done taking horses when no one was home, and without any instructions on their care, feeding, shoeing, rideability, etc.

As I recovered from the shock of what happened, the more mind boggling whole episode became. What if that farmer had not stopped at my neighbor's house to buy the cows? How would I have gotten his name and number? What if he had changed his mind and decided to keep the horses instead of the three he was supposed to take?

My horses now have microchips – and if yours don't, I hope you will get this simple procedure done by your vet after you have read this! I also hope you will never experience anything similar to what I've just described! ♦