



Endurance Rides, Inc.

Old Dominion Newsletter

Dedicated to the sport of endurance riding

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*Old Dominion Endurance Rides, Inc.
is a 501(c)(3) not for profit
organization*

Website & on-line Newsletter:
www.olddominionrides.org

Advertising, articles, ride results,
and information relating to
endurance are welcome for
inclusion in the newsletter.
Photographs of members are also
welcome.

2007 Membership Dues are due!

A New Look

OK. By now you have noticed *something is* different about the newsletter.

Yup! You got it! We're now on-line. We still may be riding horses, but we're definitely cruising in the 21st century with a brand new, comprehensive website, and a colorful new digital newsletter.



In the upcoming months we'll be expanding, improving, improvising, experimenting, and generally having some digital fun to bring you more information, more photographs, more great stuff to read.

A Peek inside...

- The No Frills Endurance Ride - one of the best ever!
- The Old Dominion June ride – a new site and old trails
- Fort Valley – Autumn days and lots of rides
- Thanks to the USA East Cranberry Ride for their support
- Membership – Renewal Time!
- 2007 Raffle Horse – Asgard's handsome star Legalas
- Volunteerism – a fun way to make our rides happen!
- OD's New Home?
- A Fond Farewell to two OD Board Members
- The Fight for our National Forest
- The OD Seminar – from wannabee to ready-to-ride
- Calendar of Upcoming Events

We'd LOVE to print your stories, photos, and tales of the trail – no matter how outrageous. Face it, we all have our moments ... and we're happy to share yours! So don't be shy – since we've got the digital world at our fingertips, the skies are the limit. E-mail our Newsletter Editor, Lani at give2bute@aol.com



Rides Rides Rides



No Frills Endurance Ride

On the 2nd weekend in April the mountain trails in the George Washington National Forest echoed with the hoof beats of 87 horses and four stalwart Ride and Tie teams, as one and all enjoyed the 3rd annual No Frills 30/55 endurance ride from the Crandell's lovely farm in Star Tannery..

Ride Manger Extraordinaire, Kate Geier, once again spearheaded the management team for this perennial spring opener favorite, with one significant change in the ride camp location. As entertaining as those "tractor pulls" were in the back field at the conclusion of the ride last year, the front field was drafted for use this year. With the handy-dandy exit at the bottom, everyone would find it easy got out under their own power, despite the inclement weather.

But the skies were still clear and bright during the ride briefing on Friday night, which was held right before dinner. Kate informed the crowd that the away hold will be in a new area (not far from the old area) with LOTS more space and more room to move about. Volunteer crews will be available to help, but no personal crews are allowed in due to forest service restrictions.

The nighttime skies were cheery and full of stars, but every rider knew we would be dodging a bullet if the approaching nor'easter didn't catch up with us the following day. Sure enough, we all woke to overcast skies, and cooler temps. But it really was the perfect weather – horses were fresh and keen, and the first loop with an 8 mile warm-up was perfect for getting the horses geared for the next 10 miles of mountain climbing and crest-walking. Thankfully the weather was still clear and afforded some spectacular views that were just awe-inspiring.

The new vet check was a dream with plenty of room and a full banquet of delicious food for both the two legged and four legged competitors.

By the time 55 mile riders were hitting the first part of the 2nd loop – a beautiful 25 mile stretch through some of the loveliest regions of West Virginia, the weather began to take a downward turn. Snow and sleet, gentle, but persistent, began to fall at the crest of the mountain, catching riders by



Along the North Mountain trail at No Frills

surprise, but now unaware. Most horses were still wearing their rump rugs from the morning, and riders were bundled up against the cold, and ready for the worst. Fortunately, Ma Nature wasn't too unkind – everything coming down from the heavy skies was soft and forgiving. So there was plenty of time to look around and enjoy the beauty of the trail and it went up and down the mountain, taking us into some deep woodland hollows where the lichen covered rocks glowed with an eerie green phosphorescence. At the ¾ way point the riders passed a trot-by with Dr. Nick, Dr. Lynn and her wonderful assistant Jan who was armed with a huge bag of carrots. I doubt there was a horse alive that was going to pass by that opportunity for a yummy snack, and more than once Jan found herself the happy center of attention from a mob of horses.

Off again with just 8 miles to go, and just at about the point where one was really ready to ask when the trail would end, it deposited you right back at the vet check again. Mmmmm! Food and rest! A PB&J never tasted so good, even in the now gentle drizzle of cold rain. Horses dove into their food, chowing down like there was no tomorrow.

Then off again on the final leg – a rolling, easy 7 miles of nice gravel roads to the finish line, and the final vet check just a short walk across the main road and then a trailer race home to beat the weather that was coming in.

A very special THANKS to all the ride staff, volunteers, landowners, friends, and supporters for making this ride one of the best!



Old Dominion Ride

The Old Dominion 25/50/100 Mile Ride is still rock’n and roll’n... making June *the* month for endurance riding! We are no longer hosting the ride from the 4-H center due to loss of trail from housing developments. Instead, we have been welcomed by the Fort Valley Stables to host the ride from their lovely facility this year – which means lots of open space for ride camp, the NC trail at our fingertips, and no housing developments to despoil the trail.

The new trail, which is being configured by our own NC guru Bob Walsh, will be designed for a LD, 50, and 100 mile division. This is a gorgeous trail with some long fast stretches interspersed with some good climbs up and down the Massanutten. Be sure to bring your camera – the views are spectacular! The change in trail means that, this year, the Shenandoah River will be a pleasant view from the distance at the top of the Massanutten and from the spacious gravel roads alongside, rather than having to make the obligatory splashing route from bank to bank



View of the Shenandoah Valley from the OD trail

Joe Selden, Nancy Smart, and Bob Walsh are coordinating the ride, and plans are already underway for our biggest event of the year. All the pre-ride activities will be held in the big back field at Fort Valley Stables.

For more information on the OD ride, please visit our website at www.olddominionrides.org

Fort Valley Ride

October in the Shenandoah Valley – there is no more beautiful time of year to enjoy the Massanutten in the cool midst of autumn. We have no doubt that Mother Nature, as she does every year, is going to charm riders with mountain trails dazzling with trees of gold and red.

Claire Godwin, our intrepid Ride Manager, is planning a fabulous two days of rides in the Massanutten with the Fort Valley Stables as our base camp. Two days of Limited Distance (30 miles), plus two days of 50, and a 2-day 100 will offer a cornucopia of riding pleasure on some of the most scenic trails anywhere. We will also offer a Ride and Tie for those riders who are adventurous (crazy?) enough to run the trail as well as ride.

So mark October on your ride calendar for a wonderful weekend in Fort Valley.



OD Members Karen Bohn and Barb Horstmeier riding along the Fort Valley trails near Kennedy Peak

A “New” OD home

For the past few years the slow destruction and loss of the original OD trail from housing developments has prompted the OD Board of Directors to start looking at moving to a new venue. OD VP Bob Walsh has been working diligently on scouting out a new site with plenty of land, good location to the fabulous trails in the George Washington National Forest, and in close proximity to great amenities.

With the assistance of Tom Sites, and Jerry Fruth of the AERC Trails Committee, several sites were explored, but the one that stood out was land in the Bryce area owned by Bryce Resorts. This land offered practically everything the OD had hoped to find.

In January, Bob and OD President Flora Hillman were invited to talk to the management team of Bryce Resorts. This was followed up by a written brief on the OD and endurance riding that was hand presented to the Bryce BOD. We were delighted to hear that the BOD was very favorable towards the possibility of renting the land to the OD, and how impressed the Bryce staff was at seeing the No Frills in action. Their response was WOW!

In the upcoming months we will be giving a full presentation to the Bryce BOD to hopefully make a new home a reality. So...stay tuned!

USA East Cranberry Ride

Major kudos and special thanks to endurance superstar Patti Pizzo once again for her ongoing support of the Old Dominion. For the past several years Patti has given the proceeds of her 2 day USA East Cranberry Ride to the Old Dominion. Her generosity provides major funding for the big 100 mile Old Dominion ride in June.

We are delighted to say that a number of our members volunteer to help every year at this early spring NJ ride, as well as get the jump on the ride season by entering for a trot through the miles of pine barrens of the Wharton State Park in southern New Jersey. It is a great early season ride, with great food, great volunteers, lovely sandy trails, and overall great fun. Thanks, again Patti!!

a fond farewell

To Retiring Board Members:

Susan Brehm – who has “gone west” to re-settle in the land of her birth-- the Lone Star State of Texas. Susan is a former OD V-P, and also was Ride Secretary for a number of our rides. She loved endurance with a passion, and teamed with her horses “Buddy” and “Gus” she enjoyed hours riding the Massanutts on the OD trail. Photos taken during some of those rides are on the AERC website’s photo album, and two photos are featured in a book written by former US Under Secretary of Commerce, Bruce Smart, called “The Community of the Horse - Partnership”.

Vikki Kingslien - who has “gone north” to a charming little farm in the rolling hills of South Dakota – the state in which her ancestors first settled upon coming to America. Vikki was the OD Board Secretary, and also 2-time Ride Manager for the OD – a tremendous, and daunting, undertaking that she performed with tireless energy and incredible precision.

The OD was indeed lucky to have both these wonderful members on board for the years they served, and will truly miss them. We wish them all the best in their new ventures.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st, so if you need to renew, now is the time!! Membership in the OD is the best way to support the sport of endurance, and we offer tons of amenities for all ages and all distances.

- Annual \$25
- Family - \$35
- Lifetime - \$400 (the best value!!)
- Lifetime Family - \$500 (even better!!)

Send your check in today so you don’t miss out!

Lani Newcomb, OD Membership
149 Spring Street ~ Herndon, VA 20170

Clinics and Seminars

On March 3rd the OD presented the seminar "Going the Distance" to a very attentive, very eager crowd of endurance rider wannabees who kept our lecturers yakking practically non-stop about our favorite subject from 9AM to 5PM.

Once again our Seminar Guru, Bonnie Snodgrass, roped in some of our best talent to educate, enlighten, and entertain the group of 31 eager participants who packed the Blueberry Commonhouse in Vienna, VA for a day long feast on all things endurance.

1. Judy Ricci presented the extremely popular **Training and Conditioning The Horse**
2. Lani Newcomb DVM and Kathy Broadus DVM spoke on a serious and very well received **Recognizing Health and Injury Problems and Treatment Options**
3. Flora Hillman on **AERC Ride Procedures**
4. Mike Krens, farrier and rider, used a hands on, show and tell approach to his lecture on **Shoeing the Distance Horse**

It was clear that the four topics of this year's seminar are really the hot issues for new and novice competitors. The endurance saddle display also was a stellar hit with many curious questions and knowledgeable answers flying through the air during break-time as the participants quizzed the saddle owners on everything from stirrups to saddle fit.

An excellent day from start to finish! Thanks Bonnie!



Some of the endurance wannabees participants at last year's Endurance Riding Clinic enjoying a refreshing pause in a creek after climbing up and down the Massanutts

Volunteers Wanted!



Find out how much we *really* appreciate volunteers when you sign up to help out at the OD rides and events. We can always use helping hands at the rides and clinics, and you'll learn tons about both endurance rides and how the organization runs them.

To volunteer please contact Lani at give2bute@aol.com or go to our website at www.olddominionrides.org for more information on volunteer positions available.

A BIG Thank You to our No Frills Volunteers!

Ann & John Crandell, Jeff Crandell, Diane Hypes, Lisa Stanton, Karen Bohn, Kibby Treiber, Holly MacDonald, Judi & Pete Ricci, Joe Selden, Henry Mulbauer, Nancy Smart, Rob Wright, Elisa Miller, Jack Weber, Vicky and Les Croney, Bob Walsh, Dorota Raciborska, Flora Hillman, Susan & Mark Trader. Bonnie Snodgrass, Barb Horstmeier, Claire Godwin. Thanks also to our delightful farrier Mustafa Tehrani, our fabulous photographer Hugh Macdonald, our wonderful vets and all the support staff who helped them. And a very special thank you, and pat on the back, to the host of wonderful volunteers who helped so capability and with such bright and happy smiles at the vet check, and at the dinner on Friday night.

2007 Old Dominion Raffle Horse

The Old Dominion Endurance Ride, Inc. is proud to present the 2007 Raffle Horse a purebred Arabian donated by **Asgard Arabians, Inc.**



*2007 Raffle horse - Legalas
bay purebred Arabian gelding - foaled 2005
by Momentus MG out of BHR Lanna (*Tamerlan)*

Since 1998 Halldis and Tom Sayvetz of Asgard Arabians have donated one of their purebred Arabian horses every year to the OD as a raffle horse. Many of those raffle horses have gone on to have fabulous endurance careers with their happy owners with outstanding placings in AERC endurance rides.

Raffle tickets are available at all OD endurance rides and clinics, and from any of the OD Board Members at any time. Contributions towards the raffle are tax deductible - please make checks payable to the Old Dominion Endurance Ride, Inc (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.) This year's winning ticket will be pulled at the final OD ride for 2007 - the Fort Valley Ride in Fort Valley, VA. Winners need not be present to win.

Tickets are \$5 each, or \$20 for 5.

For more information on purchasing raffle tickets please contact
OD Board Member **Jack Weber** at

Asgard Arabians also offers many outstanding horses for sale for endurance, show, and sporting disciplines. Several of Asgard horses are competing at the top endurance rides in the US and abroad, and also at the highest level of international FEI.

Asgard Arabians is located in Sinks Grove, WV 24976.
To schedule an appointment please call (304) 645-1670
or visit their website at www.asgardarabians.com



Old Dominion Endurance Ride, Inc. 2007 Membership Form

Name: _____

Family Members: _____
(fill in for Family Membership only)

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____
(Please print clearly)

Annual Membership: Individual (\$25 – 1 vote) Family (\$35 – 2 votes)

Lifetime Membership: Individual (\$400 – 1 vote forever) Family (\$500 – 2 votes forever)

Check is enclosed. Credit Card payment this year only Renew annually automatically
(credit card only)

Name on card _____

Card type: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card # _____ Expiration Date: (month) _____ (year) _____

Card 3-digit CID Code (found on back) _____

I would like to volunteer to help at rides clinics other events

I agree to uphold and adhere to the rules of the Old Dominion Endurance Ride, Inc.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Checks should be made payable to “Old Dominion Endurance Ride, Inc.”

Please send completed membership form and payment to:
Lani Newcomb - OD Membership
149 Spring Street
Herndon, VA 20170

Contact: (703) 435-1911 or e-mail: give2bute@aol.com

www.olddominionrides.org

The Fight For Our National Forests

At the opening of our January OD Board of Directors meeting, the George Washington National Forest Lee Ranger District's Jim Smalls talked about the National Forest Service's new Revision Plan for actively involving the public in the preliminary stages of determining future usage for the George Washington National Forest. Plan Meetings were scheduled, and our membership was invited to attend to voice their needs and concerns as it relates to equestrian activity. The opening meetings at the designated FS locales were so well attended with many different types and varieties of sports clubs that the FS posted additional meetings to accommodate the overflow of people wishing to come to the meetings.

However, those meetings have recently been postponed as the FS is now being sued by the Wilderness Society in California. The WS does not like the open meetings that have been put into effect by the Bush administration, and wants to retain the old way of revising the plan which involves doing environmental impact studies and then sending them out for public comment on everything before it is put in the plan. The old procedure allows the Wilderness Society to go to the legislature and get their support through an Act of Congress.

The GWNF is approximately 1,200,000 acres, and the figures on the acreage that the Wilderness Society wants is overwhelming. They are asking for approximately 590,000 acres to be put in wilderness. Since the Lee District – which we use for our endurance rides - does not have any acreage that is designated wilderness, it is a big target. If the WS even get a small portion of what they want, the Old Dominion ride as we know it is in big trouble. As many are aware, the Big Horn ride out West was put out of business by this same thing.

This battle for control over the NF is basically a political battle and the opponent is a very wealthy lobbying group that pays their lobbyists to get what they want. They use state and local government entities to pass resolutions of being in favor of wilderness areas so that when it goes before the Senate and House they have all these resolutions to say, yes, this is what the general public wants - "I am for wilderness areas".

Let's face it -- who can be against wilderness? There-in lies their power to remove public land from public use.

Our own OD BOD member, Diane Hypes, will be keeping us updated, and will be working closely with Ranger Jim Smalls regarding the progression of this highly critical matter. When the Plan meetings are (hopefully) re-instated, we encourage all our membership to attend and voice your support for the continuance of equestrian usage in the National Forests.

For more information on the GWNF Revision Plan, please click on this link: www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/

Upcoming Events Calendar

The monthly OD Board of Directors Meetings are at 6:30PM the 2nd Saturday of every month (unless specified otherwise) at the M.A.R.E. Center located 1 mile south of Middleburg, VA on Halfway Road (Rt 626). Turn left at The MARE Center sign on Sullivans Mill Rd (gravel road) and go down the road to the buildings and parking lot on the right. The meeting room is in the low white building adjacent to the parking lot. Meetings are open to all our membership.

For updated information on rides visit our website at: www.olddominionrides.org

- April 21st - OD Board of Directors Meeting/Conference Call, 6:30PM. M.A.R.E. Center, Middleburg, VA
- May 12th - OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM
- **Jun 8-9th - [Old Dominion Endurance Ride 25/50/100 - Fort Valley, Shenandoah County, VA.](#)**
- Jun 16th - OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM. (Third Saturday of the month due to the OD June ride)
- Jul 14th - OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM.
- Aug 11th - OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM.
- Sept 15th - OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM. (Third Saturday of the month due to Allegany Shut Up and Ride (NE) on Sept 8th)
- Oct 13th - OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM.
- **Oct 27-28th - [Fort Valley I & II 30/30/50/50/2-day 100 Endurance Rides \(2 days\), Fort Valley, Shenandoah County, VA.](#)**
- **Oct 27-28th - [Fort Valley I & II 30/30/50/50/ Ride and Tie, Fort Valley, Shenandoah County, VA.](#)** • Nov
- 10th - Monthly OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM.
- Dec 8th - Monthly OD Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30PM.
- Dec TBA - OD Christmas Party. Time and location TBA.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HORSES FOR SALE

For Sale: Two experienced Mountain horses. 7 year old gray mare, 15.2, proven brood mare. 12 year old sorrel gelding, 15.1. Both have done 30 and 3-day 50 mile rides. Both have fox hunted 2 seasons. These are versatile horses that have good minds, safe for all levels of rider, but enough forwardness to give the experienced rider a lot of fun. Both priced at \$6500. purswell@vt.edu, or 540-552-5264 evening or leave message. 8/06

For Sale: 1999 Arab gelding (3/4 imported Russian, 1/4 Crabbet), 16+ h., Bay, big boned with generous heart girth. Great walk & trot. Willing & forward moving, ready for work. \$4900. 540-364-9558 oakledge84@yahoo.com 8/06

For Sale: Attention Heavyweight riders: Two half-Arab (half spotted draft) pinto geldings for sale. Full brothers: one 3 year old - one 4 year old. 15.2hh. great bone, extremely athletic movers (like Friesans). Would also make a great driving pair. \$15,000 each or \$25,000 pair. Contact: hollyhillwebers@aol.com 8/06

For Sale: Thurman Haralson (Hayselden Perseus X Aladdin's Rhiann) 7 yr chestnut Connemara gelding, 15.1 H, inspected & approved. Excellent mind, disposition & bone. Could do hunting, Pony Club, competitive, pleasure. Placed in over fences classes and combined tests.

Thurman Bramley (Landgate Bluebeard X Thurman Raven) grey yearling Conn gelding with excellent conformation, bone and disposition. Should stay large pony.

Thurman Apple Strudle (Landgate Bluebeard X TF Granny Smith) 2005 grey Conn/Arab colt. Beautiful, correct; dam is half sister to Jeannie Waldron's TF Red Rambow. VA **Thurman Farm (540) 955-1215**. 9/05

PADRON'S DESTINY OFFSPRING FOR SALE:

Debi Gordon's stallion, Padron's Destiny (PD), has sired several endurance champions already and the next one is just hanging out at her farm waiting to make you a star. To arrange a visit or for more information email Debi at debig54@aol.com or call (301)349-5709.

USA Carson: This 6 year old grey gelding has it all: size (almost 16 hands), beauty, movement, power, nimbleness, trail experience, good manners, kind disposition. If something scares him he just stops, doesn't bolt. He hasn't competed yet but has all the potential to be amazing.

USA Jetta: She's a beautiful 14' 3" 9 year old bay mare who is both a trail horse and a new mother. She's never competed on the trail but knows all the ropes. She's a fabulous mother and should be considered suitable for either pleasure riding, competition, motherhood or all three. Her first baby (nickname "Carly") was born in March and is also for sale. She's ridiculously friendly and BLACK AND STUNNING!

USA Tempest: Jetta's 7 year old sister is slightly smaller, a chestnut, with a sweet, willing to please temperament. Tempest is green broke and moves with flash and lightness. The dam of both Jetta and Tempest also gave birth to USA Top Star (100 mile champion) and USA Maverick, top endurance competitors.

So Azsome: The first offspring of Debi's 100 mile champion Arab mare, Saizahra, Azsome is a 3 year old black bay gelding. Loaded with looks, attitude, sweetness, movement.. He's not broke yet, but knows all the right ground manners.

Layla Z: She's the 2 year old full sister to Azsome, a black bay filly, she's very flashy and proud and stunning.

Easy: a 6 year old gelding who got that name, because he's just easy. He's technically a half Arab, because his dam was a 15/16th Arab cross paint mare. At least one of his full siblings is competing in endurance (USA Rave). Easy is a handsome bay (about 15 hands), green broke and never been off the farm, but he's a sweetie and would love to find a purpose in life. 9/05

EQUIPMENT/SERVICES/SUPPLIES:

Thermohorse Equine Thermography. Thermal imaging for saddle fit evaluation, localize hoof and soft tissue inflammation, training aid for performance horses. Debbie LaBerge, Certified Thermographer. PA (717) 529-2158 info@thermohorse.com

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BOARDING: Rollingwood Farm has openings for several horses for boarding. Stall Board is \$330/month. Deluxe Field Board, which includes two indoor grain feedings/day is \$180/month. Large pasture with woods and two ponds. Dressage and jumping lessons available. Bobbie Aldred **703-754-8666** or e-mail bschumacher703@aol.com

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New Equestrian Facility! Adj. GWNF, Along **The OD Trail**, 100x350 Ring–Lights Soon, 75ft RP, HS Fence, Pastures, Large Stalls & Run-Ins, Indiv. Feeding Prog. Reasonable Rates -Boarding, Lay-ups & Retirement Call Mary, 540-933-6431 evenings.



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- 1st – AERC National Championship 100 Mile Ride

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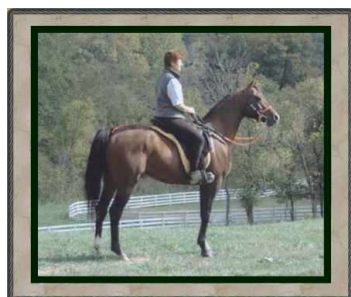
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<http://www.rideandtie.org/>

Shenandoah Trail Riding and Horseman's Association

A nonprofit equestrian association formed in 1988 to promote various levels and distances of trail riding in the GWNF and Shenandoah Valley, including multi-day and over-night rides, judged pleasure rides, trips, parades, events, and a whole lot of horse fun for everyone.

Family membership is \$15, individual is \$10.

Call the club's "horseline" at (540) 984-7297 for a recorded message on the latest updates regarding upcoming club events.



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To all our Ride Volunteers

Thank You

for making our rides such a success.

We love you all!!