



Old Dominion News

33715 Snickersville Turnpike Bluemont, VA 20135 • www.olddominionrides.org

Riders Offer June Ride Feedback

by Nancy Smart

The Old Dominion 25 mile limited distance ride and 55 and 100 mile endurance rides were all held on Saturday, June 14, based at the Old Dominion Endurance Rides' new location in Orkney Springs, Virginia.

A total of 143 riders started: 38 in the 25, 78 in the 55 and 27 in the 100. Amazingly, more than 70% finished the 25 and 55 mile rides; 63% finished the 100.

The weather, by and large, cooperated. It was sunny and warm, but afternoon thunderstorms soaked everyone and everything, bringing the temperature down and cooling horses and riders.

Feedback from the riders was generally very positive. Everyone seemed to like the new trails, and the vets and volunteers got kudos from almost everyone. Some examples:



Basecamp on Saturday June 14 (before the rains hit!)

- "The trail was challenging and beautiful."
 - "The volunteers were great. Very helpful and very friendly...The ride was a great experience."
 - "Management is always ready to help."
 - "Overall, the ride was very organized...the trail was very well marked and beautiful."
 - "Great ride. New location very nice...The trails were very nice...Parking very organized."
 - "New trails beautiful. Appreciate less rocks!" "I think you all did a great job. Great new trails...."
 - "Well staffed – volunteers, vets, farriers."
 - "Gus's bridge (nice touch!)"
 - "I liked the exit check...particularly in hot weather."
 - "The trail was challenging but not dangerous."
 - "Gate and go stops were well managed."
 - "Camp was well-organized." "Great trail. A true championship challenge."
- Under the "what I liked most" category:
- "Trail. Ride site." "(Ride secretary) John Marsh – so helpful." "Gorgeous trails. Technically difficult. Thank you!" "Love the color trail map – was very helpful. Nice camping field. OD! Gorgeous, difficult trail." "Great trails! Great vets! Great volunteers! Great meals!..." "Trail was great! Thank you for all your hard work."

There were some problems with trail markings, and several people suggested putting water tanks

out on the 7 ½ mile climb up Devil's Hole Gap that the 55s and 100s tackled after the first vet check at Rogers Field.

We will address (and fix!) both issues next year. A few people complained about the very early cutoff for the discount entry fee; the board of directors has discussed this policy, and again, this is something we will change for 2009.

Several riders requested that we serve meals and have ride briefings at basecamp. Unfortunately, this is logistically difficult: renting a tent large enough to hold everyone would be prohibitively expensive and Shrine Mont, our caterer, needs to serve somewhere near their main kitchen.

One person suggested not putting parking spaces right beside the manure piles and portapotties. Good idea!

We all agree the Pump Station vet

check used as the last hold for each distance had nowhere near enough room for trucks, horses (which shared a narrow road with vehicles) vets, pulse takers, timers, trot outs, etc. The whole situation was made worse by the fire truck arriving to refill the water tanks just as the largest number of horses were in – and that happened twice – once for the 25s and once when a large group of 55s were in!

However, our intrepid trail master, Gus Politis, has found a way to resolve this problem and has already arranged for us to use a large field instead of the Pump Station as a vet check next year.



The old basecamp barn used for registration

Other than that, comments were generally very positive. Thank you, riders, for taking the time to provide us with such great feedback. Of course we love the kudos, but we also appreciate the constructive criticism, because without it, we wouldn't know where there were problems, and we'd repeat mistakes.

So, look for an even better OD in 2009. Mark your calendars now for June 13, 2009 and see you all then in Orkney Springs! ♦



Jeannie Waldron DVM with junior rider McKenzie Canard and sponsor Lynne Gilbert, who both completed the OD 100 riding Jeannie's horses

OD Finalizes Basecamp Lease

At their August 16, 2008 board meeting, the Old Dominion Endurance Rides, Inc. Board of Directors approved a 10-year lease on the 20 acre field owned by Bryce Resort in Orkney Springs. Two 10-year lease renewals are also provided.

"The Bryce Resort owners have been exceptionally generous with allowing us to lease this 20-acre field, which will serve as a permanent basecamp for years to come, for just the cost of annual real estate taxes," said OD President Bob Walsh.

OD members will begin making improvements to the barn and parking area over the coming year and members can look forward to attending other events scheduled at the facility. Those interested in helping with these improvements and working on trails are encouraged to call either Bob Walsh or Gus Politis (Please refer to Board of Directors contact list on next page). ♦

2008 Old Dominion Board of Directors

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Old Dominion Board Meetings are typically held at the M.A.R.E. Center in Middleburg on the second Saturday of each month beginning at 6:30 pm. All members are invited to attend!

The Old Dominion 100-Mile Endurance Ride is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax deductible. For more information on such donations, please contact Jack Weber.

A Few ODD Riders Needed!

The Old Dominion Drag Riders (or ODD Riders!) are a small drag-riding safety team of experienced endurance riders with training in wilderness first aid, horse emergencies and amateur radio. We ideally need several more dedicated and independent riders to help cover all the miles of our challenging endurance rides. Please contact Zoe Sollenberger at 703.447.8636 or zoeand4dogs@prodigy.net for more information. ♦

OD Holiday Party Set for December 13

This year's Old Dominion Holiday Party will again be held at the Holiday Inn Leesburg and is set for Saturday, December 13. This year we have one large room -- last year's historic house setting was very quaint but challenging to circulate in!

The General Membership Meeting, officer and board elections will be held at 5:30, Silent Auction donations will be on display all evening and the cash bar will be open from 6-11pm, with dinner and awards getting underway at 7pm. We'll again recognize Triple Crown winners, in which the same horse and rider team completes all three of the rides offered each year: the No Frills, the Old Dominion and Fort Valley (in any combination of distances).



The Old Dominion has reserved a block of rooms; call 703.771.9200 by November 13 to receive the group discount. ♦

Silent Auction Donations Needed by December 10

Whether its a new (or like-new) piece of horse equipment, lying around your house or barn, or something a horse-oriented person might enjoy -- such as a massage or vacation accommodations, the OD needs and appreciates YOUR donations for our annual Silent Auction to be held during the Holiday Party. Non-horse items such as books, bird feeders, theater tickets and jewelry are also welcome. Please e-mail Lisa Green at forest3@shentel.net by December 10 to provide details, and bring your checkbooks! ♦



OD MEMBER PROFILE: Mary Howell

When/how did you get involved with the Old Dominion Endurance Rides? I attended an OD training event many years ago, in March 1999 at Hickory Lane (south end of Fort Valley), and remember riding behind Lani Newcomb as we zipped and zig-zagged around knee-knocker trees thinking "this is it!" Shiloh and I tackled our first 50 at NO Frills the following month and have taken part in OD rides every year since. When I was unable to compete, I helped out as a volunteer and discovered how many more people I could get to know on the ground than from the back of a horse!

What is your current role with OD? I joined the board last summer to help in making our move to the new location a success. I previously served on the board of directors of two other organizations and had a good idea of the time commitment this would require.

What do you do for a living? I have a Masters in Mass Communications/Journalism and serve as executive director for several trade groups, representing their concerns at the state and federal level as a registered lobbyist, organizing meetings and developing marketing initiatives. Non-profit salaries are not the highest, so I make extra money doing part-time interior house painting, which I really enjoy.

Do you own horses? I bought Shiloh as my first horse in 1995, when he was barely 3. He's made this sport easy and fun for me for many years, and is nearing 5000 AERC miles and well-earned retirement. My other horse, a playful half Saddlebred "Frankie" who is full brother to Dana Reeder's horse Charlie Brown, needs to finish filling out before he tackles a 50 - especially on OD trails!

Where do you live? I have 6 acres in New Kent County about 20 mile northeast of Richmond with lots of trails close by.

What do you like to do when you're not riding? My husband and I live near the Pamunkey River and enjoy boating. ♦



Want to be featured in an upcoming issue? E-mail your photo and answers to the above questions to countshiloh@gmail.com

Fort Valley Rides to be Held Oct. 24-25

American Beauty CTR Set for Oct. 5

by Claire Godwin

As manager of the October OD ride, I wanted to let you know that this year there will be some changes with the Fort Valley Ride, the third and last leg of the Old Dominion's "Triple Crown".

We will be setting base camp at Fitchett's Field, which is primitive with no permanent buildings or corrals. Fort Valley Stables were sold, I understand, earlier this year, but that's not why we're using a different basecamp. We are trying out some different trails to provide variety for those of you who do this ride every year, and we're always looking for ways to make the trail more enjoyable.

One of the reasons that I enjoy managing this ride is because it is truly the most beautiful ride that I go to, with fall foliage at its peak. If you've never done the ride before, do come -- and definitely bring your camera!

Another change is that we plan to do a central vet check, with all loops going out from Fitchett's. We reserve the right to change this, if last minute conditions dictate, but this should make things easier for those of you without pitcrew, and those of you with crew won't burn up so much expensive fuel driving from vet check to vet check.

Also different is that the ride will be Friday and Saturday, October 24th and 25th. In years past, we've done it on Saturday and Sunday, but that leaves us scrambling to get home and loading tired horses in the trailer on Sunday night.

We will be picking the winner of the 2008 Asgard Raffle Horse on Saturday night, so plan to stick around and be a part of the festivities. This year it's the lovely filly, Symetrie, three years old, and with Banjo as her Daddy, and Statistic as her Granddaddy, she's got it all.

The Fort Valley entry form has been posted on the OD website, www.olddominionrides.org, so be sure to sent in your entry before the early-entry discount ends! ♦

Trail Access Depends on YOU

Many changes at the federal level could result following the November elections, so this is an important year to take contact your U.S. senator and congressman to explain why access to national forests such as George Washington National Forest is important to you -- and vital to the preservation of our sport. The internet makes this simple; go to www.house.gov and www.senate.gov, enter your zip code and click on the contact option to send an e-mail.

In your own words, explain how being able to enjoy our country's natural resources on horseback fosters awareness of the importance of preserving them and contributes to conservation goals. For example, those who have received chainsaw training to legally operate this equipment not only help keep trails clear and open, but during a forest fire, their work can help wildland fighters get where they need to go to prevent the spread of fire. The American Endurance Ride Conference Trails Committee, online at www.aerc.org, can also assist with specifics on where and how to focus your efforts. ♦

by Mary Murphy

Those preparing for the Fort Valley Rides or just wanting to enjoy fall foliage are invited to the American Beauty 25-mile ECTRA-sanctioned competitive trail ride on Sunday, October 5.

Basecamp will be at Curtis Field, 2325 Boyer Road, Fort Valley, VA 22652-2035. Terrain is rolling country through woods and fields with gravel roads, so foot protection is required for your horse.

All entries must vet in by Saturday at 5pm. Saturday night dinner and Sunday breakfast will be provided, along with on-trail beverages and snacks, and Saturday lunch.

In addition to completion awards for all riders finishing the course in the prescribed time and on completion of final vetting, other awards include Grand and Reserve Champion, Top Junior, Best Arabian, Best Half Arabian, Best Morgan Best Appaloosa, and Best Grade Horse if entries warrant.

Contact ride secretary Virginia Ingram at 540-933-6071 for a ride entry form; the pre-registration fee is \$75 with a \$25 late fee for entries received after September 19.

For all other questions or to donate prizes, contact ride manager Mary Murphy at 540.933.6431 or e-mail her at mmurphy@eds.com. ♦

Virginians Named to USA International Team "Long List"

by Mary Howell

In late August, four Virginia residents were included in the 10 riders named to be in final contention to represent the United States at World Endurance Championships in Malaysia on November 8.

In addition to previous international endurance competitors John Crandell of Star Tannery, VA, Valerie Kanavy of Fort Valley, VA and Heather Reynolds (now residing at CreRun Farm in Doswell, VA), Lisa Green of Star Tannery was also named based on her mare's performance at FEI and other demonstration rides earlier this year.



USA Endurance

All of these riders have successfully competed at Old Dominion Rides over the years, showing that if you can survive Virginia's challenging trails, you can take your endurance goals almost anywhere!

Other long list members include Meg Sleeper, Kathy Brunjes, Jan Worthington, Ceci Staslyk, Ann Hall and Cheyl Dell.

Following a final selection process in Florida in mid-September, six riders will be named as the 2008 United States Endurance Team. The final team horses will remain in training in Florida through October to help acclimate for the rainy, humid Malaysian climate. ♦

Symetrie, the 2008 Old Dominion Rides, Inc. Raffle Horse

The Old Dominion Endurance Rides, Inc. is proud to present our 2008 Raffle Horse, a purebred Arabian generously donated by Asgard Arabians. Since 1998, Halldis and Tom Sayvetz of Asgard Arabians (www.asgardarabians.com) have donated a purebred Arabian each year to the Old Dominion organization, but this is the first year they have offered a FILLY as a raffle horse, and what a promising, correct filly she is. Symetrie combines the excellent metabolic ability of Statistic get with the size and trainability Bandjo gives his offspring.

Symetrie is a 2005 filly out of a Statistic daughter, Symmetrika, by the French-Russian stallion Bandjo de Falgas.

Bandjo stands 16 hands and represents some of the world's best racing bloodlines, with substance, strong hindquarters, great legs and impeccable feet. Symmetrika is a daughter of *Statistic, who also carries the lines of *Moment and *Tamerlan through her dam. For more than a decade, the Sayvetz's have been producing world class horses, and it seems they just keep getting better. Many OD raffle horses have gone on to have fabulous endurance careers with their happy owners, with outstanding placings in AERC and international endurance rides.

Raffle tickets are only \$5 each or 5 for \$20, and are available at OD events or from board members. Visit www.olddominionrides.org for details. Credit cards, cash and checks are accepted; please make checks payable to the Old Dominion Endurance Rides, Inc. This year's winning ticket will be pulled at the the Fort Valley Ride on October 24-25, 2008. You need not be present to win.



OLD DOMINION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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) Family (\$500 - 2 votes forever)

My check is enclosed. Credit Card payment this year only Renew annually

(credit card only) Name on card _____

Card type: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Card # _____ Exp Date: (mo) _____ (yr) _____

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: _____

Make checks payable to "Old Dominion Endurance Ride, Inc." Please send form and check or credit card information to:
Lani Newcomb - OD Membership
33715 Snickersville Turnpike
Bluemont, VA 20135
540.554.2004; 540.554.2285(f)
e-mail: give2bute@aol.com



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