



# Old Dominion News

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

February 2011



## Old Dominion Partners with ECTRA at MD Horse Expo

by Bonnie Snodgrass

On January 20-23, two great organizations partnered again to bring endurance and competitive trail riding to the equestrian public. Last year, I had the idea to pool our volunteers and efforts for the four days of the Maryland Horse World Expo in Timonium, MD. We had such a good time that we got it together and did it again for 2011!

Cate Peloquin (ECTRA member and officer, ECTRA ride manager and AERC competitor) and I (AERC, OD and ECTRA member) recruited volunteers from both groups together to man the joint booth. We were pleased to get Brenda Senseney and Nick Kohut DVM back as speakers again. Together they gave a demonstration in the arena on the basics of endurance riding. On the following day, they conducted a seminar about the Eastern Competitive Trail Riding Association brand of CTRs.

I had a great time talking to visitors at our booth, explaining about both types of distance riding, handing out candy to lure them into the booth, then talking their ears off and sending them out with handouts and ride entries. I'm getting good at this!

Although it takes personal time to staff a booth, we gain new members and volunteers. In order to grow our sport, we need to reach out to prospective members any chance we get. The time spent at the Expo was well worth the time and effort!

Note: If you will be involved with an upcoming horse event and want to make use of the Old Dominion display to help promote our organization and our sport, please contact Susan Trader, susntrader@loudounwireless.com or 540.882.9721. ♦

## Volunteers Needed April 8-9 to Help with No Frills Ride

Please contact No Frills ride manager Mary Howell at countshiloh@gmail.com, 804.932.9328 or 434.906.1778 if you or someone you know is available to help at the No Frills Ride in Star Tannery. Volunteers are asked to arrive by 5pm on April 8 to attend a pre-ride briefing and receive parking passes if driving to the vet check in the National Forest. ♦

## OD Member Aiming for July 27 Young Riders' Championship

The Old Dominion rides have proven great preparation for Andy and Lisa Green's oldest son Forest, who at age 14 completed his first FEI 80km ride in Florida on January 29, coming in first place as well. To finish qualifying for the North American Young Riders Endurance Cup (NAYREC) in Kentucky on July 27, Forest just needs to complete another 120 AERC miles, for a total of 500 miles.

The NAYREC event will be held on the same course at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington as the 2009 World Endurance Championship pre-ride and 2010 World Endurance Championship.

"I got to help my mom at the WEC pre-ride when she was trying out for a spot on the U.S. team," said Forest. "It will be neat to get to ride the same course as her and the other U.S. team members - I just hope it isn't as rainy and muddy as it was back in 2009!"

Forest's horse, EL Nino, was sired by the Crandell's stallion Bold Soldier and raised and trained by OD drag rider Zoe Sollenberger. ♦



## Good Times at the OD Holiday Party!

More than 70 attendees enjoyed Old Dominion's Holiday Party, held on December 11 at the Blue Ridge Shadows Resort in Front Royal, with more than \$2500 raised at the Silent Auction. Many thanks to all who participated and/or donated items to this annual event!

Officers Claire Godwin (President), Joe Selden (Vice President), Susan Trader (Treasurer) and Mary Howell (Secretary) were re-elected to serve another term, and all of the directors up for election were re-elected.

In her "State of the OD" address, Godwin outlined a successful year, in which the OD balance grew to \$34,980.13, including a \$13,000 AERC grant. For the 2011 June ride, the Old Dominion plans to build a pavilion at Orkney Springs that will cost approximately \$24,000; leaving a \$10,000 balance to cushion against unforeseen circumstances. Donations to the OD basecamp improvement fund are still needed and are much appreciated.

The evening culminated in recognition of this year's Triple Crown winners and humorous superlative awards. Those receiving this award (or their designee) are pictured above. ♦

## President's Message



The Old Dominion board is hard at work planning a productive and successful year for our members.

Following our April 9 No Frills Ride, which serves as a fundraiser for our June Ride, we are planning to offer a training ride over Memorial Day weekend (May 28-29). More information on this will be posted on the OD website and published in the next newsletter, and this event will also serve as great preparation for the June ride.

Our education committee chairperson, Bonnie Snodgrass, is working to arrange a spring training ride that will feature endurance farriers demonstrating new concepts in hoof care and hoof protection for the endurance horse. For those of you planning to enter all three Old Dominion rides this year, rejoin now if you haven't already. Not only is membership required to be eligible for the OD's Triple Crown awards presented at our Annual Meeting in December, but you'll receive coupons off your entry in each of the three rides totaling the annual cost of membership, so that in effect have no additional cost to join.

Finally, as the Old Dominion works to further improve our basecamp at Orkney Springs with the building of a pavilion, we will send out notices to all members of "work days" at Orkney. Try to come and be a contributory part of this organization! We'll love you for it! Now - go give your horse a big hug and let him know that SPRING is coming! Regards,

*Claire Godwin*

## OD Board of Directors

<b>President:</b> Claire Godwin	crgdvm@aol.com 204.687.1450
<b>Vice President:</b> Joe Selden	longevityfarm@verizon.net 301.934.3824
<b>Secretary:</b> Mary Howell	countshiloh@gmail.com 804.932.9328
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Bob Walsh	bwalsh@creelman.com
Jack Weber	hollyhillwebers@aol.com
Karen Wickens	wickenswish@comcast.net

## Upcoming Old Dominion Events

- March 12** OD Board Meeting at the MARE Center
- April 9** No Frills Ride, Star Tannery, Virginia
- May 14** OD Board Meeting at the MARE Center
- May 28-29** Training Ride, Orkney Springs, VA
- June 11** OD 25, 50 and 100 miles Rides
- July 23-24** Ride & Tie Weekend, Orkney Springs, VA
- Oct. 22-23** Fort Valley Rides, Fort Valley, VA
- Dec. 10** Holiday Party & Awards, Front Royal, VA

## OD MEMBER PROFILE: MARY PROWELL



Mary Prowell and Snickers

**What do you do for a living?** I am a small animal veterinarian in Mt. Airy, MD. When I first started working back in 1975 our practice also included horses and farm animals. I heard about the OD 100 from friends involved with CTR and one of my goals became to complete the 50.

**When did you get involved with the Old Dominion Endurance Rides?** My first serious attempt at endurance was with a ½ Arab Palomino named Mynte Condition that I rode in CTR's and finally the OD 50 in 1995. We finished 17th! This horse bucked me off many times in the years I owned him and had some really strange behavior. I biopsied him suspecting Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy and the results came back confirming this. I adjusted his feed, but he never was right and I ended up donating him to Cornell for a research project on the disease. My next horse was Snickers, a ½ QH/Arab. On our first OD 50 he was 8 minutes overtime. The next year he was 13th and we also successfully completed the OD Triple Crown that year. But he wouldn't eat well on rides and it was hard to get his pulse down to 60 and stay there. I eventually bought Logarithmic from Tom Sayvetz----a full brother to Lojic and Lojistic. We did several CTR's and 50s, including a few in Top Ten, before I decided we did not fit personality-wise and sold him to a friend. I'm currently riding a friend's Morgan and having fun trail riding. I would have liked to have tackled a 100 miler, but am not sure I'll ever do another endurance ride. I still want to stay involved as a volunteer though!

**What is your current role with OD?** When the OD was looking for June ride volunteers last spring, it was time to give back a little to what was an important part of my life for awhile. I served as an ambulance driver at the 2nd hold, Laurel Run, and ended up working very hard!

**What do you like to do when you're not riding?** When I'm not working or trail riding I'm trying to keep my house clean and the yard mowed. Or getting hay or firewood. I sometimes bird watch or take the dogs for a walk in the woods. ♦

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

## Virginia Horse Council Annual Meeting Set for Feb. 26

The Virginia Horse Council, which recently led the successful grassroots effort to defeat the "Hunting on Sunday" legislation introduced in the both House and Senate during this year's Virginia General Assembly, will be holding their Annual Meeting in Weyers Cave on Saturday, February 26.

Speakers include Deb Balliet, CEO of the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource; and update on trails development projects around the state from National Parks and Virginia Dept. of Forestry staff, and an emergency horseshoe removal lab by Scott Pleasant DVM and Journeyman Farrier Travis Burns.

Registration is \$25 for members, \$35 non-members and includes lunch. Details online at [www.virginiahorsecouncil.org](http://www.virginiahorsecouncil.org). ♦

## Buy Southern States Feed? Save Those "POPS" & Help the OD!

The Old Dominion participates in the Southern States "S.H.O.W." Program, which allows us to collect and submit proof of purchase coupons from the side of each feed bag (or delivery receipts if you purchase feed in bulk). Last year, participation in this program provided over \$460 to the OD!

To help make this year even more successful, please either bring your POPs to an OD event and hand them to one of the board members, or mail them to: Dana Abernathy, 2935 N. Mt. Pleasant Rd, Greenbrier, TN 37073. ♦

## Chain Saw Certification Class Offered March 5-6

To make sure we have enough chain-saw certified volunteers to keep the trails used by the Old Dominion passable following winter storms, please consider taking part in the chain saw certification class that will be offered at the Lee Ranger District office on March 5-6, 2011. The class is free; call Wade Bushong at 540.984.4101 to register in advance.

Re-certification is required every three years, and you also have to keep current in CPR and First Aid. at the Lee Ranger District office in Harrisonburg beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The Lee Ranger District is also hosting a day-long Trail Users Meeting workshop on March 12 that all those who enjoy area National Forest trails are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 540.984.4101. ♦

## New OD Logo Items Available

The Old Dominion Store nows offers both long and short-sleeve t-shirts either printed or embroidered with the OD logo, for just \$10 or \$15 each, as well as sweatshirts or short sleeve polo shirts for \$25, fleece vests for \$30 and fleece jackets for \$35. Embroidered OD baseball caps are \$15 and ride card holders are \$10.

Store Manager Sam Austin is also considering ordering more of the OD logo wineglasses that were so popular at the Holiday Party that they sold out! To order items that Sam can either have delivered or bring to the No Frills ride for pickup, call 540.746.8614 or email [s.l.austin@comcast.net](mailto:s.l.austin@comcast.net). ♦

## Member Classifieds

**Three cute, smart, registered Dartmoor pony crosses** (13.1-13.2) and one purebred. All started under saddle and have been out on the trail. They easily carry adults up to 140lbs. Also posted under Starlet, Beauty and Dandy on [www.virginiaequestrian.com](http://www.virginiaequestrian.com). Price negotiable to very special long term homes! Free lease with option to buy may be a possibility in the right situation. Contact [annebuteau@yahoo.com](mailto:annebuteau@yahoo.com) or 434.263.4946

**Treeless saddle by Treadstone.** Leather, with changeable, lightweight fiberglass pommel. Cantle has removable foam insert. Double stitched stirrup attachment. Size 21 which is a 16.5-17" seat and only 11 pounds. Used 3 times lightly. \$475 OBO. Jenny Jones 703-989-1889 or [jenjones7068@yahoo.com](mailto:jenjones7068@yahoo.com)

**Ford front end replacement bumper/brush guard** by Ranch Hand. Fits 2005-2007, F250, 350, 450 and 550. Heavy duty, 2" receiver hitch. No welding for installation; \$1200 OBO. Jenny Jones 703-989-1889 or [jenjones7068@yahoo.com](mailto:jenjones7068@yahoo.com).

**Cadence Farm:** Providing supplements and equipment for the trail horse and distance rider. We cater to the novice, and have the experience to provide experts with the services they needs. Allow us to infuse rthym into your riding! [www.cadencefarm.us](http://www.cadencefarm.us)

To have your classified ad included in the next issue, e-mail [countshiloh@gmail.com](mailto:countshiloh@gmail.com) or call 804.932.9328. ♦

## A Message from Long Run Farm

*Thanks to all the owners and riders of Bold Soldier-bred horses who have done so well over the past year!* - Linda Crandell

Forest Green on **EL Nino** - 1st at the Piney Pig 50 last month, 3rd & BC at the Fort Valley Ride in October 2010

Ann Mebane Crandell on **Saba Shams** - 1st & BC at the Carolina 100 in November 2010 and 3rd in the OD 100 in June 2010

Claire Godwin on **Sundown Reveille** - 3rd at the Mustang Memorial in November 2010, 1st & BC at the Alabama Yellowhammer in September 2010

Lisa Green on **LR Amana Tabi**, Top Ten in the AERC National Championship 100 in October 2010, 2nd in the Virginia Highlands Ride in August 2010

Mary Howell on **LR Amana Tabi**, 2nd & BC at Ride Between the Rivers in August 2010

Shannon Constanti on **LR Bold Greyson**, Top Ten in the AERC National Championship 55 in October 2010 and 2nd in the Tevis 100 in July 2010

Michelle Rice on **LR Bold Greyson**, Grand Champion in the Maryland 3-Day 100 CTR in September 2010

Eone Willemsen on **LR Bold Greyson**, Top Ten in the OD 100

**Debbie Bullis** on **LR Jasuur Melika**, Top Ten in the OD 100

Karen Wade on **WBF Soldiers Rose**, Top Ten in the OD 100 and both days of the Fort Valley 50

*I'm sure I've missed some of Bold Soldier's offspring and would appreciate hearing from any of you!* [linda.crandell@verizon.net](mailto:linda.crandell@verizon.net), 410.867.0483 or 410.533.3289. ♦

# My Kind Lady

by Marie Weber, as told by her palomino Missouri Foxtrotter "Goldie,"  
who competed in distance riding from 1978-1990 and passed away in 2008 (part 1 of 5)

Hello, I've lost my home! The old man is gone! From the first moment I can remember, he was there, like my momma. I grew to rely on him as I did my momma, for he was the fun and good times in my life; his attentions sparked my horse's curiosity. The old man did something new each day, as well as brushing me with a soft brush and massaging me with his hands. I liked that – it was a wonderful feeling and made me aware of my body parts all the way to my tail. Being a horse, there is such a long distance between my head/brain and my tail that what happens at the back end is mostly reflex action, which means: it happens before I think of it. It was a wonder to me to be able to think of what was going on where I could not readily see. I can see real good behind a-ways-out – but up close, it's just instinct.

I miss the old man, although my life has not been dull with the recent changes, but the pleasure and the sense of security I felt are gone. I still remember the day when the old man showed me the halter, put it on my head, and moved my head around with it after attaching a lead line. He walked me around our stall, moving into my space and then pulling me away with him. I thought the new game fun until he took me out of the stall, leaving my momma behind. Not acceptable! I let him know I did not want to leave my momma. I leapt around, rearing and kicking out. He didn't seem to mind my fuss; he just kept saying in a reassuring voice, 'easy boy,' or 'settle down son.' After I tuckered myself out, the old man walked me around for awhile, like we'd done in the stall. Once I began to respond, as I had in the stall, he put me back with my momma.

My acting-up had made me real tired, so I was glad to be back with my momma for a snack and a nap.

The old man came back the next day. He put the halter on again to take me out of our stall. I decided to run past the old man and leapt out of the stall ahead of him. Boy! Did I get a shock, for I fell flat on my side when the lead line went taut while my body motion was still propelling me onward. That was the moment when I learned just how much control the halter and lead line gave the old man. He talked softly to me, a bunch of gibberish, but it calmed my fears, for among the gibberish I heard the words 'easy boy' and 'settle down son,' while he groomed the dirt off my coat with his hands. I began to listen for those words, they were a warning to me that I might be getting into trouble, and that I should control myself.

The old man was always surprising me with the things he could do. He could even control nature. One day, he took a branch off a bush and used it to keep the flies from biting me. My tail was so short that it only served as an emotional flag, so I felt grateful for his attentions. I think that might have been the day I started thinking of the old man as a human-horse; not my momma, but like a human papa. He had gained importance to me; he was the interesting part of my life.

That's how the first three years of my life progressed and they were wonderful years. When I was full-grown, we went in parades where I fancy-stepped all over the place. I went to horse shows and competed in the ring with other horses. A lot of times they hung ribbons on my bridle. The old man always gave me a special treat when he took a ribbon off my bridle. I learned to pull a cart too, and we went flying down the roads with other horses also pulling carts. Life was good. What I liked best though, were the days we went riding in the woods – my spirit soared, for nothing made me happier than trail riding. Pulling a cart on the roads often made my legs sore, and going around a ring time and time again at the shows was truly boring, so I often acted up. But, being in the woods, or the fields, that was pure heaven, horse life as it should

be. The pleasure in my life had been learning from the old man. The fun had been going places with him to do new things. The satisfaction had been learning to be a team with him – knowing and doing what was right for the moment. I felt wonderful when he said, "Good boy!" and patted me on the neck where my momma used to nuzzle me.

One day the old man didn't show up. I missed him. We were in the pasture and thought he'd soon be there for us; but we never saw the old man again. Other people came and loaded all of us on a big trailer and took us to an auction. I never saw my momma again. I was distressed by all these new changes and the sometimes rough and unpleasant people, so I acted up a lot.



**Goldie when Marie Weber first purchased him**

The old man told me about horses that acted up all the time, he called them freak-a-zoids, adding, "And people who like to ride horses that have no sense or training are yahoos." The lady that bought me liked my acting up – she was a yahoo. What she didn't know was that I settled down after a mile or two, for acting up can be tiring. The yahoo spurred me to keep me jumping around ... besides being tiring, it was now hurtful and unpleasant ... and she made my mouth sore.

One day, the yahoo put a new rider up on me, and put me at the end of a long line of horses. I didn't like being at the back of the line, I liked being first, the way it had been with the old man. I behaved for a bit, and lulled my rider into letting his guard down. At the first clear shot, I took off for the head of the line. This caused a panic among the riders, and greatly upset the yahoo, who was riding some freak-a-zoid out front.

After that, time passed. A few people rode me for short distances. Mostly, I behaved myself, glad to get out of my stall, but life had settled into a very dull routine. The only fun times were the days they put me in the paddock with the ponies while they cleaned my stall. Those little guys were full of life and liked to play. We frolicked and tested our mettle against one another. Size is of little importance when it comes to ponies, for they are the craftiest creatures in the world.

One day, while frolicking with the ponies, a long white car pulled into the driveway and stopped. I left off chasing the ponies for a better look, for cars didn't usually stop there. We were being watched. I put my head over the rail to get a better look at the person driving the car. Our eyes locked. I felt a thrill and gave a little nicker. The car moved forward.

I was returned to my clean stall and introduced to the lady who was driving the white car. She reached out to give me a piece of carrot, but the yahoo pushed her hand aside and said, much to my indignation, "He might bite you." Then I heard her deep soft voice say, "He won't bite me, I've been doing this for a long time." I was thrilled. In some way, she sorta reminded me of the old man.

The day got even better; I was tacked up and the lady took me out for a ride on the trail through the woods, just the two of us. I knew the moment she put her butt in the saddle that she had ridden before, but I also knew that she was not lettered or skilled. But lettered or not, she had good hands, hands like the old man and I loved her instantly for that. I behaved that day, no funny stuff; but she kept giving me a command, 'trot'. I didn't know what that command meant, so I just collected myself when she said it, and gave her a ride as smooth as air. It paid off big. She hired a trailer to take me to her home, and went ahead to get a stall ready for me. GREAT DAYS IN THE MORNING! I HAVE A NEW PERSON! (to be continued) ♦