

Trail Markers

The Official Newsletter of the
Texas Endurance Riders Association

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Summer 2010

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Year End Awards Program



Howard Polden, Kelly Carper-Polden, Scott Godwin
Photo by: John Nowell

Managing My First TERA Ride

by Scott Godwin

It was during Easter weekend of last year that I watched, admiringly, as Robin Howze effortlessly directed dozens of people and brought together the highly successful (and profitable) Old Glory 2009. I was amazed to learn later that it was her first attempt and decided there and then that ride management was in my future. Shortly thereafter I committed to managing Old Glory 2010.

As I set about planning for my first ride, I dissected the different aspects and came up with the three crucial elements required to have a ride, any ride. You must have help in the form of a ride management team as well as additional volunteers. You have to have a location on which to hold the ride.

And you must have riders!
My wonderful friends and riding partners quickly stepped up to help in the organization of our ride. Howard Polden and Kelly Carper-Polden became speed dial #1 and #2 in my life. We walked, talked, cussed and discussed so many aspects and scenarios that we knew what each other were going to say before a mouth was opened. Their energy and commitment to the success of our ride was amazing! Jennifer Masters, owner of The Feed Station in Austin, agreed to seek out donations for awards. As a result, we had more stuff to give out than award titles to give it out to. Laura Strausberg took on the task of arranging and giving our new rider briefings, and Kristi Unsell managed the phenomenal volunteer turn out that came and made our ride a success. Many other friends pitched in at so many levels that I won't attempt to name them all for fear of missing someone.

On to the location... through some stroke of fate, I contacted Kris Herzog, a member of the Storm family at an opportune time. She and other members of her family had been discussing ways in which they could share their beautiful family property, and at the same time develop a revenue stream to help offset expenses on the ranch. After several "get to know you" meetings, Kris and her uncle Scott, graciously opened their property to Howard, Kelly and I so that we could begin to map out trails. No such event had ever been held on this property, and though they provided a beautiful aerial picture of the ranch, there had been no systematic mapping of the various roads, tracks, paths, water locations or gates. This effort consumed the late Summer and early Fall of 2009. The ranch was closed to us for deer season and we had a window of time



WWW.TEXASENDURANCERIDERS.ORG

WWW.AERCENTRALREGION.ORG



RESCHEDULED 2010 CENTRAL REGION CHAMPIONSHIP

WHEN: OFF ROAD WARRIOR I & II

Saturday, November 13 – 25 and 75-mile

Sunday, November 14 – 50 mile

WHERE: Trace Trails, Athens, Texas

HOW TO QUALIFY:

25 Mile Qualifications: 150 lifetime AERC Miles Limited Distance or Endurance Miles on rider, 150 lifetime AERC Miles Limited Distance or Endurance Miles on Horse. Of the 150 lifetime AERC miles, 100 Limited Distance or Endurance miles as a team.

50 Mile Qualifications: 300 lifetime AERC Endurance Miles on Rider, 300 lifetime AERC Endurance Miles on Horse. Of the 300 lifetime AERC Endurance Miles, 100 miles as a team.

75 Mile Qualifications: 400 lifetime AERC Endurance Miles on Rider, 400 lifetime AERC Endurance Miles on Horse. Of the 400 lifetime AERC Endurance Miles, at least one 75 or 100 mile AERC ride as a team.

AWARDS: All entrants will receive a participation t-shirt. Also top ten Belt Buckles, Trophies for the Champions, a horse cooler for Best Condition, and First Place Junior Awards for each distance (*sponsored by David and Sylvia Fant*).

CONTACT INFORMATION: Monica Chapman is your CR Ride Manager, 913-471-4840, LM-Farms@ckt.net. Michael Campbell, 254-698-1965, mcampbell1@hot.rr.com; Susan Keil, 913-856-3660, susankeil@yahoo.com; or Mike Maul, 713-725-7776, mmaul@flash.net.

Remember, The Off Road Warrior I & II is the last ride in the Texas Challenge Series so make sure you attend!

SEE YOU THERE!!!!

continued from front page...



Photo by: John Nowell

between deer season and Spring turkey season to tighten things up, then the ride was upon us.

Riders were the final ingredient needed to make OG 2010 a success. We agreed early on that we wanted to bring in new people. Howard, Kelly and I are committed to growing our membership, and feel that only by bringing in new riders from different back grounds will endurance remain a viable sport. We decided to hold introductory rides both days and began to seek out hardy individuals that would try something out from under the covered arena. We also sought non-riders in the hope that long distance minded athletes from other sports might give us a try. "Friends of Old Glory 2010" was established on Facebook and ended up having 131 fans, many of these being outside our normal rider base. Howard and Kelly put together beautiful poster size flyers that blanketed business's windows throughout the Hill Country. Kelly and I went and spoke to local 4H groups and barns. Howard talked it up among his running and bicycling buddies. Because none of

us had managed a ride before I feel we were less constrained by what was "normal" and reached outside the box to bring in new faces. We hoped for 125-150 riders for the weekend. We ended up with 227 total starts. Something worked!



TERA Treasurer Report

Beginning April 30, 2010 through July 15,
2010

Beginning Balance \$10,225.74

Expenditures

Yahoo Internet fee - 3 mos. \$38.85

Equisure Insurance for the year \$2,885.00

Reimbursement to Carol Kight - petty cash
\$100.00

Old Glory Expenses \$10,712.95

Pollock Printing - TERA decals \$467.64

Total Expenditures \$14,204.44

Deposits

Old Glory Deposits - up to date \$14,202.50
*Included ride fees, new membership fees,
sales from t-shirts and caps*

Total Deposits \$14,202.50

Ending Balance \$10,223.80

Carol Kight, Treasurer
July 15, 2010

The Editor's Musings...

Member's Input!

Howdy folks! My name is Todd Hezeau and I am going to be your new editor for the TERA newsletter, "Trail Markers". I am very excited about the job and looking forward to doing the newsletter for TERA. I would like to ask that you, our TERA members, please provide me with some input and suggestions of the things that you would like to see in the newsletter. Mainly, your ideas, your stories, your poems, issues you wish to have discussed, articles you maybe want more info on, anything that you would like to see and read in the newsletter. The more stuff you include the better because after all, this is your newsletter and newsletters that are fun and informative are much more enjoyable to read. Just let me know what you would like and send it to me.

I will also be including a classified section for members of things that maybe you don't use anymore that others might be able to use like tack and saddles and such, even horses, so if you have something to sell let me know. There will also be availability to place ad's in the newsletter, so for you vendors out there that want to advertise, contact me for rates.

I can be reached at 469.261.8733 or you can e-mail me directly at maccwall@yahoo.com. So send me your stuff. I'm interested in seeing what you have!

Safe Riding,
Todd Hezeau



Summer 2010

Texas Endurance Riders Association

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