

TRAIL MARKERS

Official Newsletter of the
Texas Endurance Riders Association

Volume 7, Issue 1

Winter, 2008

Arranged Ties, Anyone?

The TERA membership has expressed an interest in addressing the issue of “arranged ties.” An arranged tie is one in which two or more riders agree to tie for a finishing position. This is different from a racing tie in which the Ride Manager is unable to determine who crossed the finish line first in a racing finish. AERC rules state that ties are allowed but give no further guidance. The rules also state that Ride Managers are allowed to have extra rules at their rides as they see fit as long as riders are notified of those requirements in advance. In the following pages are articles written by two TERA members with differing views on this subject. We understand that AERC rules define how this sport is conducted. It is not TERA's role to make additional rules, nor is it our desire to do so. However, we also understand that this is a concern to some riders. The TERA membership (at our Fall meeting) asked for a vote on this issue, again, remembering that this vote is for information only. After you have read the two positions, please vote for one of the following choices:

1. I believe that “arranged ties” should be allowed at all AERC rides.
2. I believe that “arranged ties” should not be allowed at all AERC rides.
3. I believe that “arranged ties” should be a Ride Manager decision and that riders should be notified prior to the ride of that ride's policy.

Please vote for one choice on your 2008 TERA membership renewal. If it is a family renewal, each family member gets one vote. Some people have already renewed their membership. If you have already sent your renewal in and not voted, you may contact Carol Kight at c_kight@hotmail.com to register your vote.

Brief Notes —

Changing of the Guard

I am pleased to announce that **Carol Kight** will assume the duties of Treasurer as of now. She will do a great job and if you have any questions feel free to direct them to her. I have served as your treasurer for over 5 years and have enjoyed the task, but it's now time to hand over the reins to someone else. See you on the trail 2008.

Donna Nicholson

Continued Support!

Ross Carrie, through his company Raven Environmental Services, will again help sponsor all TERA-sponsored rides for the 2008 ride season. He will contribute \$100 for each ride (\$200 for two-day rides). He encourages RMs considering putting on a ride to make it a TERA ride!

Time to Renew Your Memberships!

Inside of this jam-packed issue of *Trail Markers* you will find your 2008 renewal form. Take a few minutes to fill it out and send it to our new treasurer, Carol Kight. Her address is on the form, and on the back page of the newsletter. It's also time to renew that AERC membership. Make all of your points count! Be sure to renew before you get to the High Roller! (Or before you do any rides in December, wherever they may be!)

Happy Holidays to All!

TERA Year End Awards Program

All award recipients must be TERA members in good standing for the year for which the awards are being given. Awards are figured based on TERA sponsored rides only. Limited Distance and Endurance miles are calculated as separate mileages.

Overall High Mileage Rider is based on the mileage completed by one rider riding any number of equines.

Overall High Mileage Horse is based on the mileage completed by one equine with any number of riders.

The following awards are based on the mileage completed by one rider riding one equine:

Limited Distance High Mileage High Mileage Featherweight High Mileage Lightweight High Mileage Middleweight High Mileage Heavyweight High Mileage Junior

High Mileage Husband/Wife award is given to the couple with the most combined mileage ridden.

High Mileage Family award is based on the total miles ridden by two or more family members.

The following awards do not have to be given every year. These recipients are chosen by the Board of Directors and Officers

People

1994 – Linda & Bo Parrish
1995 – Darolyn Butler / Pat French
1996 – Ann Pfeiffer
1998 – Sylvia & David Fant

based on the following criteria:

Rookie Rider of the Year

New to the sport, may be endurance and/or limited distance; number of completions; positive attitude; seeking knowledge of the sport; overall contribution to the sport; and improvement/progression.

Volunteer of the Year

Support at TERA rides; contribution to TERA, riders, and equines; number of rides attended; positive feedback from riders, managers and other volunteers; support/promotion of the sport. Rider or non-rider.

Veterinarian of the Year

Contribution to TERA, TERA members and equines; number of TERA rides vetted; positive feedback from riders, managers, animals and volunteers, support/promotion of the sport; seeking knowledge and improvement in skills related to the sport, encouragement/education to riders, participants, one-time spectacular contribution (saving animal/human life, etc.)

Ride Manager of the Year

Safe, well-marked trail; superior organization—camp, registration, P/R and vet checks, availability of professional emergency personnel and equipment,

Equines:

1994 – “Uno” - owned by Darolyn Butler
1995 – “Spider” - owned by Jenny Simpson
1996 – Kash – owned by Bobbie Barber

general flow of things, etc; level of commitment—extra events, unique prizes, more than one ride, attendance at ride manager clinics; adequate vet staff—number of vets per riders, introduction & preparation of new vets; overall—sizable ride, new riders, and positive feedback.

Horse and Rider of the Year

TERA member & equine, but not limited to TERA events only, spectacular achievement, may be any distance; embodies spirit of AERC “To Finish Is To Win!” in relationship of mount and rider—concern of horse foremost; competitive but fair & honest.

Hall of Fame Person

Longterm contribution to sport; best exemplifies “To Finish Is To Win!”. Person must also have been officer, director, ride manager, regular volunteer, regular vet, etc. – someone who has given to the sport and TERA; does not have to be a rider.

Hall of Fame Equine

Cumulative lifetime achievement. Perhaps has overcome adversity and continued on. The horse people remember and talk about.

Trail Markers is published quarterly.
Deadline for the next issue is **March 1.**

Wanna be published?
Get it in!

New Texas Challenge Series!

by Dawn Carrie

We are initiating a new series award for horse and rider teams that complete all rides in the Series. The rides in the Series will change each year, but the selection method will remain the same - one ride will be selected from each of the different types of terrain: hill country/technical, Piney Woods, and flat/less technical.

Awards will be embroidered jackets, windbreakers, vests, or something similar, featuring the names of the horse and rider team. There will be an LD division and an endurance division. For two-day rides selected as part of the Series, horse/rider teams must complete both days.

Riders may nominate themselves and their horse into that year's Series for a one-time entry fee of \$25 prior to starting the first ride of the Series. Should a rider decide to enter the Series after completing the Series' first ride, the fee is \$40. No entries will be accepted after the start of the second ride. Nomination fees will be set aside in a special account to help support the Challenge Series awards.

The rides chosen for the 2008 Texas Challenge Series are: Heart of the Hills (March 8), Texas Bluebonnet Classic (April 26), and Unicorn Hunt (Aug 31-Sept. 1).

100 miler recognition

To recognize those horse/rider teams who do 100s, we have created the 100 Mile Triple Crown. A special award (we're still discussing options!) will be given to any horse/rider team that complete 3 one-day 100s in a ride year. The only requirement is that at least one of the rides be in Central Region, as we are committed to supporting our local 100 mile rides. There is no cost to nominate for this award; simply let us know when you complete your third one-day 100 for the year, along with a list of the 100s you did.

First-time 100 milers

Haven't done a 100 yet? Then this one's for you. Riders who complete their first one-day 100 will receive an award (still to be determined). We want to get more riders involved in riding one-day 100s. As Patti Stedman (NE Region) once said, the hardest part of doing a 100 is signing up. She's right! The rest is pure fun and quality time with your horse!

To nominate for the Texas Challenge Series, and for complete rules for all three awards, contact Dawn Carrie (rdcarrie@aol.com) or Rae Callaway (tallcarabians@sbcglobal.net).

TERA Treasurer Report May 17, 2007 to October 15, 2007

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,618.72	
Expenditures		Deposits
Postmaster - UPS	113.69	
Old Glory Expenses	500.00	Deposits
Porta Potties Old Glory	378.88	102.00
Barbeque for RM clinic	255.75	Old Glory Donations
TERA Awards	2,550.00	& memberships
Walmart-labels, ribbon	44.71	1,015.00
Newsletters & Postage	96.56	Deposit
Newletters & Postage	4.12	110.00
Internet 11.95 per month X 4	47.80	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>
Computer Shop- Laptop	790.21	\$1,227.00
Pollock Print 2008 Membership cards	29.56	
Case & Mouse for Laptop	40.88	Ending Balance
Rudy's Barbeque for Old Glory	666.01	<u>\$4,140.60</u>
Cash for Old Glory	100.00	
Kolb & Murray	75.00	
	<hr style="width: 100%;"/>	Donna L. Nicholson, Treasurer
Total Expenditures	\$5,705.12	

The Essence of Endurance

by Edie Booth (AERC #20)

Since Wendell T. Robie, founder of the Western States Trail Foundation, inspired our sport of endurance with the 1955 one day ride from Squaw Valley, Nevada, to Auburn, California, only a few things have changed in the sport. At that time good sportsmanship was expected, not legislated. AERC formed in 1972 with 10 simple rules. Traditionally, emphasis is on independence to achieve the rider's goal safe and sound. Basic to AERC is that each of us is responsible for our horse's health.

The sport allows for all manner of participation. It is for some a trail ride, others a horse race, still others a family outing. It allows competition in many distances. Folks participate in different ways as their private lives dictate. But the race has always been intrinsic in the event.

There is nothing wrong with people establishing records for their horse sales, or promotion of their business. It's just one more way of participating. But if our national organization is used for records to increase horse value, or promote the prowess of some 'expert', shouldn't the records reflect what the horse can actually do? Shouldn't the records show 'real' performance?

There has been a recent push to have TERA require ride managers to allow 'Pre-arranged ties' at the finish line. The vocalized argument has been 'for the safety and well-being of the horse' (never mind the desire to be first no matter what.) If it is much safer for the horses NOT to race to the finish line, isn't the choice of the responsible rider, to NOT race? If safety is more important than winning, as it should be, the rider needs to make that choice and finish accordingly. That choice follows the essence of AERC, taking responsibility for your own horse.

Five or eleven horses 'tied' for first does not show horse performance. It makes a cute photo but flies in the face of the endurance element of independence. Racing for first or not is part of it. But 'racing' competition has changed somewhat since the early days.

Novices are now riding horses who do not belong to them. They know they can be pulled through a ride on a fast horse without knowing anything about the capabilities of their particular rented horse. Some of the novices complete the ride by 'holding on' and letting the horse stay with his herd, and the 'expert' leads the pack. There are novices (not all) who have little horsemanship training and have not discovered the importance of having a good 'whoa' on a horse.

The 'pre-arranged tie' speaks to the deeper meaning of personal responsibility within the sport. Isn't it incumbent on the 'professionals' to train their novices in horsemanship (as well as the 'whoa')? More than one of us has been knocked off the trail by a herd-following, out-of-control novice passing where they shouldn't. A corollary to the AERC tenet that each rider is responsible for his horse, is that the rent-horse owner bears responsibility for training the rider. AERC membership should not bear an extra burden for someone in the business.

Not only is the 'pre-arranged tie' contrary to AERC original, traditional intent, it removes the rights of the individual from the Ride Manager. Ride Managers must have the freedom to govern the ride in the best way they can, not become burdened with a more difficult policy outside the tradition of AERC.

AERC allows ride managers latitude on decisions like this, and if a manager chooses, they can make their bookkeeping and awards more difficult with 'fake' ties.... OR, they could allow fake ties for the **lowest** place in the pack rather than the first place. OR, they could have a trail ride where everyone rides together and ties for first, like a little boys' T-Ball league with no score keeping and 'Everybody Wins!' OR, for those who want to tie and know how to ride, they can gallop in, stride for stride, and take their chances that the finish line official cannot tell who won--- have a real tie. But that might be a risk for those wanting 'prearranged ties': the possibility that first is determined by the wrong nose.

AERC is not some outside entity above and beyond all of us, dictating how things will be done. WE ARE AERC. Each of us makes up AERC. The rules and behavior are our collective responsibility. There is no one person who can 'speak for AERC', not someone who supposedly has umpteen million miles, nor someone who has been a member from the very beginnings, nor someone who is brand new with fresh insights. The sport is based on the democratic principle of a single person, a single voice. But we do have some deeper meanings in the sport and we have some long standing traditions.

Many who have ridden together helping each other in a ride and who don't want to race tired ponies at the end, decide in advance the finish order. In true comraderie of the sport, it is no big deal. Even though the racing element is traditional, it is the rider's choice if he wants to do it or not. So riders, evaluate the condition of your horse, make your choice, and don't involve the rest of us or the ride managers in the game of 'pre-arranged ties'.

Regarding Ties

by Darolyn Butler (AERC #25)

For reference, I submit the 2005 Coontail Caper rides for perusal, to simply look at as an example of how many people do finish in close proximity to each other. Just look at the finish times. Many of you know these riders as they are local riders. You know the people that are friends or relatives, and you know the ones that would probably prefer to run it off. By allowing ties, managers are not taking "the right to race" away.... They are simply allowing the riders to have a choice. When a person has ridden stirrup to stirrup with a friend or relative all day, it just doesn't always seem appropriate to risk life and limb for a ferocious race to the finish, whether it is for first place or 20th. Nor is it always comfortable to say, "Ah, you go across first." "Nah, you", "Nah you." I personally would love for my Jr.s to be able to tie with me. What a "hoot" for them, and it takes nothing away from my points either.

Many times brand new friendships are struck during the 50 or 100 mile race. Competitors have bonded, have assisted each other perhaps by sharing crew, supplies, hunting markers together, or maybe even catching their horse if they got spooked off and fell. It's a true dilemma; no matter which side of the "favor" one is on.... When both riders know that the only reason Rider A is there, is because Rider B made it possible by loaning them an easy boot, calling to them as they missed trail, or a dozen other possibilities that manage to happen out there on those long trails.

Some Managers quote that deciding how to divide the 1st place prize is an issue.... Well geez folks, in a sport where we are not too obviously racing for prizes anyway, I think a simple flip of the coin on the first place prize could be an easy solution; much better swallowed than a flip of the coin for the 1st place versus 2nd.

There are many riders that have no problem racing in the majority of the time. Those are the folks that can usually handle their horses and negotiate them through most dangerous situations. However, as our rides become larger, it seems: 1) Less and less thought is given to truly safe "run out" areas for the finish; 2) There are cars, parked too near or on the finish line; 3) There is moving traffic parallel to or near the finish line; 4) There are small children playing or other pedestrian traffic near the finish; 5) There may be 25 Miler/Novice Type riders right in the runway of the 50 mile racers.

There has been on going reference to high profile riders profiting by having several farm horses tie and receiving a #1 by that horse's name, inferring that that horse has an outstanding win record, thus increasing his price on the local and International Market. This is balderdash! A high profile rider is also going to be concerned about points. If this is the case, they will not want to share "TIED" points on their own record.

Number one, is it appropriate or even necessary for Ride Managers to want to morally control this situation? Who really cares if horses are sold for "big bucks" abroad? And, if you look at it, that in itself is good for our sport. There is no one I know that makes a living uniquely selling endurance horses. When one considers this sport that has no money remuneration, why not allow people to make their hobby pay off a bit once every few years with a nice sale? I well remember the day that we Ride Managers went so far in the hole when managing a ride, we really didn't want to even know how bad it was.

Those same Managers should be delighted that the sport has come far enough that Endurance horses are worth something slightly higher than the latest meat market prices. A horse selling for good sums adds interest to the sport. There are several riders in our area that have had some rather nice individual sales. They are not high profile and are not known for selling horses, and no one would think a thing about them tying for a 1st place or a 10th place.

Does winning 1st help their price? Maybe, but buyers are not computer illiterates now.... They not only check the horse's record, but go into the race results to see what race time was and how far ahead of the other horses their interest was. If it looks like a tie sham, then it will be quite apparent to the buyer. Frankly, if I was trying to build a horse's record, I would run off every race I could to try to capture that 1st place individually, not in a tie.

However, my main point in mentioning the above is to put to rest any idea that the whole "tie" thing is an underhanded way of increasing a horse's value for sale. AND, even if it did help.... So what????

We all love and appreciate our Ride Managers, but Ride Managers the AERC Membership is very concerned for the Welfare of the Horse. If for no other reason than this alone, it is very important that riders have this "tie option" available to them. Tired equines are much more likely to injure themselves or have metabolic stress after a hard race to the finish following a 50 mile or 100 mile campaign. Allow riders to exercise good judgment in coming in slowly in a tie without having to make the decision about who is going to finish 1st.

There is no harm done by allowing ties.... There is great potential for harm done if people are racing on an unsafe finish or horses not prepared for a full speed finish. The camaraderie of the sport is greatly enhanced by allowing friendly competitors to choose to tie.

Minutes of the TERA Board Meeting Held 18 October 2007 Kennard, Texas

The TERA board meeting was held at the LNB endurance ride, Kennard, TX. The meeting was opened at 5:00PM by TERA president Dianne Campbell. Officers present were Dianne Campbell, Ann Goolsby, Deb Stewart, Carol Kight, BOD present Kim Reeves and Dawn Carrie. Other members present: Michael Campbell.

Minutes from the Spring Meeting were read by the secretary and approved by the board.

Carol Kight gave the treasurer's report with a beginning balance of \$8,618.72, and ending balance of \$4140.66. Donna Nicholson has been a great treasurer for TERA and is now passing the duties of treasurer to Carol Kight.

The following topics were discussed:

OLD BUSINESS:

Belt Buckles

200 buckles have been received and will be used as end of year awards for riding achievement.

Awards

7IL ride manager approved the request to have the TERA end of year awards ceremony at the High Roller ride in December 2007. Information papers were passed out to the members explaining the guidelines for the Hall of Fame horse and person.

Parrie Haynes Fund raiser ride

Date conflicts will prevent it from happening this year. TERA will research the possibility of having it next year. Several new rides are coming up next year that will be TERA sponsored and these may preclude having a TERA ride at Parrie Haynes.

TERA ride form

A draft copy of the new form was passed out to board members for review. A motion was made to approve the form and was passed. December 1, 2007 will be the first month to use the form to request TERA sponsorship of the 2008 rides.

Laptop

The laptop computer has been purchased for \$790.00 and will be used by the Treasurer for records keeping.

NEW BUSINESS

A suggestion was made to have a Sportsmanship Award. The award would be subjective and voted on by board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.

Deborah Stewart
Secretary

2008 TERA & Central Region Ride Calendar

Nov 24 — Lone Star II 25/50

Hill Country State Natural Area, Bandera, TX
Debbie Allen 281-431-2993
adiamond2@ev1.net
7821 County Road 383, Rosharon, TX 77583

Dec 8 -- Hell on the Border 25/50

Midland, AR
Annetta Tinsman 479-639-2401
(horsewize@aol.com)
P.O. Box 349, Hackett, AR 72937

Dec 29 -- High Roller I 25/50

7IL, Cat Spring, TX
Linda Reznicek 979-865-0011
(Linda@7ILTrails.com)
5389 Mill Creek Rd., Cat Spring, TX 78933

Dec 30 -- High Roller II 25/50

7IL, Cat Spring, TX
Linda Reznicek 979-865-0011
(Linda@7ILTrails.com)
5389 Mill Creek Rd., Cat Spring, TX 78933

Feb 8 -- Freeze `R Burn 25/50/75

LBJ Grasslands, Decatur, TX
Bobby Wallis 972.962.2596
(GoldenCMK@aol.com)
8792 CR 135, Kaufman, TX 75142

Feb 16 -- Shanghai Trails/AHA 50

Pierce Ranch, Pierce TX
Cynthia Kovalchuk 281-961-5810
(cynthia.a.kovalchuk@nasa.gov) fax:281-244-9778
617 County Rd 52, Rosharon, TX 77583

March 1 -- Redland Express 30/50

Lake Carl Blackwell, Stillwater OK
Ann M. McFarland 405-964-6826
(dreamcatcher@mcloudteleco.com)
P.O. Box 734, Harrah, OK 73045

March 8 -- Heart of the Hills 25/50/75

Boerne, Texas
Chris Godsey (godsey2@gvtc.com)
March 9 -- Ride 'n Tie!!
518 Summit Trail, Boerne, TX 78006

March 15 -- Okmulgee Cougar Prowl 25/50

Okmulgee Game Management Area
Louise Burton
(firedancefarms@prodigy.net)
5220 Honey Creek Rd, Okmulgee, OK 74447

April 12 -- Sunflower Classic 25/50/75

Hillsdale Lake, Hillsdale KS
Susan Keil 913-856-3660
(susankeil@yahoo.com) fax:913.722.1890
30837 W. 231 St, Spring Hill, KS 66083

April 19 -- Last Hoorah! 25/50

Six O Ranch
Kim Reeves 817-558-7146
(kog@hpnc.com) fax:817-645-0146
11404 FM 200, Cleburne, TX 76033

April 26 -- Texas Bluebonnet Classic 25/50/100

Region 9 AHA Championship 50
LBJ Grasslands, Decatur TX
Carla Jo Bass 972-617-8233
(rebelcjb@yahoo.com)
1206 Tater Brown, Red Oak, TX 75154

FOR SALE: 10 Y/O Gelding, buckskin paint, 14.3, endurance #H34464, LD, trailrides, parades, novice rider ok, loads, clips, camps, very sweet personality. Contact Leslie Schubert (210)275-9011

www.texasenduranceriders.org

www.aerccentralregion.org

Texas Endurance Riders Association

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