



# May 2012 Newsletter

## Southern Obstacle Challenge Association

Where you and your horse can have fun!

Yahoo!!



### April 28<sup>th</sup> Schooling Day & Judging Clinic

Another awesome turnout!! The April 28<sup>th</sup> Schooling Day was a great success for SOCA and our members. Many of you trained hard during the day and had great success negotiating those obstacles that caused you trouble in the beginning – Many even mastered that dreaded water box! We received great feedback from members that enjoyed the day.

The judging clinic not only turned out several qualified judges, but also helped competitors improve their skills to garner additional points when negotiating obstacles.

At the end of the day, we had a mock Extreme Cowboy Race so folks could put their new skills to work. If you haven't tried an EXCA race, there will be a chance on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the RO Ranch in Mayo, FL. After the regular sanctioned races, there will be a non-sanctioned race. Come give it a try, but beware, it is addictive!

Now that everyone is warmed up and ready to go, check out the calendar and pick out your next event! We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

### Get your entries in early!!

For the May 19<sup>th</sup> Extreme Cowboy Race, those first to enter get to run last! For those of you new to Extreme Cowboy Racing, the competitors that go last have the benefit of watching the strategy of the other riders. In addition to the sanctioned and non-sanctioned races, there will be cow sorting on Saturday night and a trail ride on Sunday morning. The flyer is attached to this newsletter, be sure to check it out!

The order of go for the June 9<sup>th</sup> Obstacle Challenge in Dade City will be determined by the receipt of entries – First to enter is first to get through the course! Also, if you want to ride with somebody, please make sure you mark that on your entry form. We will have several judges this time, so we expect that it will go much quicker. This is an evening event and we hope to get everyone through before dark. There are lights at the facility, but those going last will definitely have a different dynamic with shadows and lighting. Another incentive to get those entries in early.

The flyer for the June 9<sup>th</sup> event is also attached, please make sure you read through the rules as a few have changed since the last challenge.

**Thanks to everyone who has supported SOCA,  
we have grown to over 100 members in just three months!!**

For more information, a membership application or a sponsorship form, contact:

Southern Obstacle Challenge Association

P.O. Box 1479, Bushnell, FL 33513

Website – [www.southernobstaclechallenges.com](http://www.southernobstaclechallenges.com)

Email – [southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com](mailto:southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com)





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### What's Going On!

#### WEBSITE

- The SOCA website is up and running! Please spread the word and send everyone to [www.southernobstaclechallenges.com](http://www.southernobstaclechallenges.com)
- The website will have all event flyers and information, as well as membership and sponsorship forms.

#### EVENTS ARE BEING FINALIZED

- Check the revised calendar of events as some of the dates and locations have changed. SOCA is working hard to get the schedule set for the year so everyone can get the dates on the calendar. Event flyers and entry forms will be posted to the website as they are available.
- Don't forget there will be prizes and payback at all events!

#### FACEBOOK

- Southern Obstacle Challenge Association has a group page where members discuss events, ideas and post questions. Please join us and give us your ideas!
- Got an idea for a different obstacle? Please post it on Facebook!

Thanks to those who responded to the on-line survey!

### Quote of the Month

A good rider can hear his horse speak to him, a great rider can hear his horse whisper, but a bad rider won't hear his horse even if it screams at him!

### 2012 Tentative Calendar of Events

- **March 24 – Obstacle Challenge** at Darby Oaks Stables in Bushnell, FL.
- **March 31 – Obstacle Schooling** at Walker Pond Farm – Contact Diane at DMcmurt349@aol.com.
- **April 28 – Obstacle Schooling Day & Judging Clinic** at Darby Oaks Stables in Bushnell, FL.
- **May 5 – Extreme Cowboy Race** at Circle E Guest Ranch in Winchester, TN. Trail riding, camping, and cowboy racing!
- **May 19 – Extreme Cowboy Race** at R.O. Ranch Equestrian Park in Mayo, FL. Flyer attached.
- **June 9 – Obstacle Challenge Evening Challenge** at Diamond B Ranch in Dade City, FL. Flyer attached.
- **June 23 – Extreme Cowboy Race** at Green River Farm in Gaffney, SC. Flyer coming soon!
- **September 8 – Obstacle Challenge** – TBD
- **September 29 - Extreme Cowboy Race** (Regional Championship) at Green River Farm in Gaffney, SC.
- **October TBD – Obstacle Clinic and Schooling Day** – Learn from World Champion EXCA and Versatility competitors and judges!
- **November 17 – Obstacle Challenge Championship** – Rocking Horse Stables, Altoona, FL.

### We Need Your Help!!!

Corporate, Division, and Ribbon sponsorships are available – Please help support our events so we can give away great prizes and payback!

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### Thanks to our sponsors!

SOCA would like to thank our corporate sponsors

- Stellar Marine
- Walker Pond Farm
- Darby Oaks Stables
- Kathy Zeis & Texas Joe Black
- Trailhead Ranch – Jerry & Linda Harrington
- The Snowbunnies!

SOCA would like to thank our division and ribbon sponsors:

- Mary Palmer & Starry Night Farms
- Tina & Billy Miller
- Bernie Duncan
- Marc & Denise Hall – Ocoee Animal Clinic
- Watson Dental Care
- Florida Walking & Racking Horse Association
- Janie & Wayne Van De Walker

.....can we add you to the list!?!? Check the SOCA website for details on sponsorships packages.

### Purpose of SOCA

#### OBSTACLE CHALLENGES

- Divisions for all levels of horses and riders
- Open to all breeds
- Payback in all classes, prizes, and ribbons
- Ten to fifteen obstacles
- Some events will be in arenas – others will be on the trail

#### EXTREME COWBOY RACES

- Sanctioned Extreme Cowboy Races with divisions for: Pro, Non-Pro, Novice, Ride Smart (55 & Over), Youth, Young Guns, & Green Horse
- Open to all breeds
- Practice races for anyone that wants to try a cowboy race for the first time
- Payback, prizes, and ribbons

#### CLINICS/SCHOOLING DAYS

- Learn to negotiate various types of obstacles
- Schooling days will allow you to practice obstacles with the help of others, and without the pressure of competition.

We want your input!

Check out the SOCA group page on Facebook and give us your ideas!

### Volunteers or Event Hosts

*We need your help!!!*

If you would like to help at any of our events or if you would be interested in hosting an event, please email us at [southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com](mailto:southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com)

### Affiliate Program

Interested in hosting your own event? Check out the SOCA Affiliate Program on the website – We will help get you started and promote your event.

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