



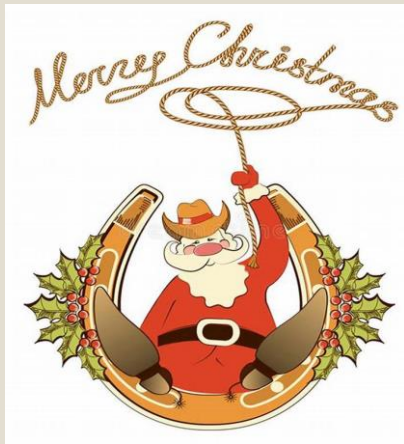
December 2024 Newsletter

November 16th Obstacle Challenge

The final 2024 SOCA event was an obstacle challenge held at Darby Oaks Stables in Bushnell, FL.

In addition to the challenge, year end high point awards were given out to the Obstacle Challenge champions for 2024.

We appreciate the judges, volunteers and competitors that make these events happen.



FIRST 2025 EVENT!

March 1st and 2nd at the Florida Horse Park. Extreme Cowboy Race on Saturday and an Obstacle Challenge on Sunday.

2025 Tentative Events

1/11-1/12/2025 – Craig & Cole Cameron Clinic – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL
POSTPONED – NEW DATE TBD

3/1-3/2/2025 – Florida Horse Park – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) on Saturday & Obstacle Challenge on Sunday..

4/5/2025– Obstacle Challenge, TBD

5/3/2025 – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) The Canyon – Hodges, AL

5/31 - 6/1/2025 – Extreme Cowboy Race – EXCA National Championships, Champions Arena, Celebration Grounds, Shelbyville, TN (5X Points)

7/12/2025 - Obstacle Schooling Day – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL

9/12/2025 –Clinic - TBD

9/13/2025 – Extreme Cowboy Race –SE Regional Championships - (Triple Points) Chicopee Agricultural Center, Gainesville, GA

11/15/2025 – Obstacle Challenge TBD

EVENT FLYERS FOR 2025 WILL BE POSTED ON THE SOCA WEBSITE SOON!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT MAKE THESE EVENTS HAPPEN!!!!

December 2024 Newsletter



Each year, SOCA makes a \$250 donation to charities on behalf of our judges/volunteers/announcers that go above and beyond by volunteering at all of our obstacle challenges. Here are the recipients of this year's donations!



**KEY CENTER
FOUNDATION**

Kindness, Love, Dignity and Respect

Key Training Center

Key Training Center | Promoting growth, choice and independence with kindness, love, dignity and respect.

Key Training Center on behalf of Kathy and Danny Beville



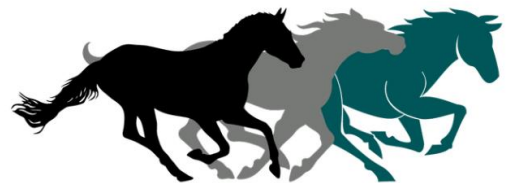
Low Rider Dauschound Rescue on behalf of Vickie Oliva



Tunnel To Towers Foundation

T2T.ORG

Tunnel To Towers on behalf of Renee Lewis



HIDDEN ACRES

RESCUE FOR THOROUGHBREDS

Hidden Acres Rescue for Thoroughbreds on behalf of Janine Charles

PICTURES FROM THE NOVEMBER 16, 2024 OBSTACLE CHALLENGE AT DARBY OAKS STABLES, BUSHNELL, FL



Green Horse



Youth



Novice



Intermediate



Open Elite



Novice



Youth



Obstacle Challenge High Point Winners

Intermediate



Open Elite



11-16-24 OBSTACLE CHALLENGE RESULTS

Place	Rider	Horse	Div	TOTAL	Total Time
1	Meghan Maharry	Thru	Y	132.50	77.72
2	Gina Gatto	So Charming	Y	109.00	103.27
3	Kailey Hetherman	One Tuff Cowboy	Y	103.50	111
4	Sawyer Roney	Blue	Y	32.00	215.06
5	Maddie Jones	Rip	Y	89.50	114.1
1	Cathy Rotola	Nick	P	146.50	75.69
2	Alexa Jackson	Sunshine & Whiskey	P	136.50	103.47
3	Lesa Roe	Cat	P	135.50	96.48
4	Terri Glonek	One Tuff Cowgirl	P	133.00	71.32
5	Margo Cook	Luna	P	129.50	73.22
6	Briana Tribett	Jasper	P	129.50	99.53
7	Connie Lloyd	Larks Grey Twist	P	123.50	106.95
8	Lisa Cusimano	Sierra	P	119.00	80.77
9	Matt McMurtrey	Scooby	P	101.00	47.52
1	Audra Gefter	Charlie	N	117.00	78.06
2	Tandi Wheeler	Cosmo	N	111.00	82.58
3	Donna Milliken	Black Pepper	N	103.00	194.16
4	Nicole Dalton	Chip	N	101.50	101.22
5	Julie Testa	Boone	N	98.00	107.62
6	Sara Aldridge	Jac Sings The Blues	N	81.50	124.75
7	Rebecca Holley Haupt	Tucker	N	41.00	185.83
1	Carol Yapaolo	Smart Brow Cat	I	120.50	86.49
2	Donna Bellusci	Caz (Chicago's Lad)	I	117.50	103.34
3	Barbara Van Winkle	Pepper	I	114.50	98
4	Anne Hanley	Spirit	I	102.00	102.25
5	Tim Haupt	Loomis	I	69.50	109.34
1	Diane McMurtrey	I'm Gonna Rip It Up	GH	111.00	136.09
2	Tim Haupt	Mercy Reigns	GH	102.50	83.84
3	Tiffany Goldsmith	Diamonds R The Law	GH	101.50	92.05
4	Phyllis Kirby	Elliott Rancher	GH	95.00	173.69
5	Leslie Burnett	Hollywood Smokin Fox	GH	86.50	205.16
6	Breanna Rozar	Dixie	GH	82.50	142.28
7	Audra Gefter	Arlo	GH	79.50	97.03
8	Janna Loeffler	Ariel	GH	36.50	98.58

FINAL 2024 HIGH POINT STANDINGS

SOCA RACE HIGH POINT - 2024

		Total
Young Guns Divison Results		
NO BUCKLE		
1	Brooklyn Baldwin	Drover 953.470
2	Brooklyn Baldwin	Redden's Photo Finish 865.017
3	Ellie Faber	Silver 349.103
4	Sophia Johnson	Faline 260.507
5	Knox Archie	Trigger 207.218
6	Trace Archie	Toby 201.358
Novice Divison Results		
NO BUCKLE		
1	Terri Glonek	One Tuff Cowgirl 1313.600
2	Alecia Grissett	Pepper 1068.240
3	Terri Glonek	Tuff Lil Texan 1059.793
4	Sandra Baird	Cody 1047.058
5	Jessie Baldwin	Stitch 967.790
6	Elizabeth Faber	Poco Hollywood Jess 941.481
Green Horse Results		
1	Hannah Howe	Moon 2127.191
2	Jen Peterson	Baron 1101.227
3	Vaudry Edge	2X Thirteendiamonds 1056.882
4	Carly Renault	Zek 1052.881
5	Mike Jeffers	Gus 884.052
6	Lee Hart	Reddens Autumn Rain 864.614
Non Pro Divison Results		
1	Tracy Pinson	2X TBuck 2581.349
2	Tracy Pinson	Tuff Struck Gold 2580.579
3	Rick Peniston	Savvy 2151.295
4	Vaudry Edge	Rojo Willy John 2 1818.737
5	Tyler Howe	Indiana Cowgirl 1681.134
6	Michael Garman	Newt 1592.489
Intermediate Divison Results		
1	Tyler Howe	Indiana Cowgirl 2625.501
2	Tyler Howe	High Flying X Tex 2529.038
3	Lisa Steinbach	Tuff Struck Gold 2321.555
4	Jamie Caldwell	Pepto Master 2286.707
5	Jamie Caldwell	Crimson Contender 1774.213
6	Edward Brown	Spook 1768.271
Youth Divison Results		
NO BUCKLE		
1	Gina Gatto	So Charming 1746.066
2	Meredyth Crews	Dixie 1502.517
3	Brooklyn Baldwin	Drover 1307.205
4	Brooklyn Baldwin	Redden's Photo Finish 1219.696
5	Jordan Jeffers	Lena 1178.427
6	Angeline Saliceti	Samson 1169.904
Ride Smart Divison Results		
1	Tracy Pinson	2X TBuck 2646.900
2	Tracy Pinson	Tuff Night At The Ritz 2616.085
3	Dennis Tipton	Pepto Master 2488.548
4	Rick Peniston	Savvy Gun Play 2456.255
5	Lisa Steinbach	Tuff Struck Gold 2377.114
6	Vaudry Edge	Rojo Willy John 2 1866.705
Pro Divison Results		
1	Hannah Howe	High Flying X Tex 2673.381
2	Runt Rageth	Rooster 1645.720
3	Bret Lambdin	LEO's Pride 1258.208
4	Chad Blunk	Eldon 1138.232
5	Lee Hart	Ruthie 1132.769
6	Rick Sandness	Sage 1090.435
Open Divison Results		
1	Rick Peniston	Savvy Gun Play 2596.147
2	Runt Rageth	Rooster 1656.947
3	Shannon Washam	True 1359.434
4	Kim Washam	Oakley 1333.260
5	Chad Blunk	Eldon 1095.154
6	Leanne Hale	Jigsaw 1093.238

SOCA OBSTACLE CHALLENGE HIGH POINT - 2024

	Rider	Horse	Total
Novice Division			
1	Audra Geffer	Charlie	385.50
2	Donna Milliken	Black Pepper	369.50
3	Nichole Dalton	Chip	364.50
4	Dusty Bremer	Diesel	261.50
5	Rebecca Hurm	Lovealotta Jack	257.25
6	Ashley Kranke	Nine Times Two	250.50
Youth Division			
1	Meghan Maharrey	Drifting Thru Poco	415.50
2	Gina Gatto	So Charming	359.50
3	Kailey Hetherman	One Tuff Cowboy	331.50
4	Brooke Bremer	Shades	209.50
5	Charlotte Kelley	Fitz	138.00
6	Madison Gullely	Rockette	130.50
Intermediate Division			
1	Donna Bellusci	Caz (Chicago's Lad)	384.50
2	Carol Yapaolo	Smart Brow Cat	381.50
3	Barbara Van Winkle	Pepper	367.00
4	Sarah Bremer	Rocket	265.00
5	Kimberly Paquette	Absoluteontherocks	262.00
6	Garey Wallace	Breeze	256.00
Open Elite Division			
1	Cathy Rotola	Nick	435.00
2	Alexa Jackson	Sunshine & Whiskey	428.50
3	Margo Cook	Luna	400.50
4	Lisa Cusimano	Sierra	393.00
5	Briana Tribett	Jasper	390.50
6	Connie Lloyd	Lark's Grey Twist	368.00

December 2024 Newsletter



For those of us who have spent time in the saddle, we've always recognized the beauty and strength of horses. But recent research suggests these majestic animals are also far more intelligent than we ever imagined. A [study from Nottingham Trent University](#), led by equine scientist Dr. Carrie Ijichi and researcher Louise Evans, has uncovered fascinating insights into the cognitive abilities of our equine partners.

Testing Horse Intelligence

The researchers set up a clever experiment to test the intelligence of horses. The task seemed simple at first: [horses](#) were asked to touch a piece of card with their noses to receive a treat. However, the rules soon changed. The horses would only be rewarded if they touched the card when a light was off, not when it was on.

Initially, the horses continued to touch the card regardless of the light's status, figuring out that they could still get treats without much effort. But the experiment took a turn when the researchers introduced a 10-second timeout as a penalty for touching the card when the light was on.

Adapting to the Game

The introduction of the penalty brought about an unexpected shift. The horses quickly learned to play the game correctly, only touching the card at the appropriate time to receive their reward. This change in behavior demonstrated the horses' ability to adapt their strategy when faced with a consequence, a level of cognitive processing that surprised even the researchers.

A New Perspective on Equine Intelligence

The findings suggest that horses are capable of "model-based learning," a sophisticated form of cognitive ability previously thought to be beyond their reach. What's even more fascinating is that this type of learning is typically associated with the human prefrontal cortex, yet horses, without a well-developed equivalent, managed to achieve similar results. This discovery hints at a different part of the horse's brain being responsible for such advanced thinking.

Changing How We See Horses

This study challenges our previous perceptions of horses and their intelligence, suggesting they possess a much higher level of cognitive ability than previously believed. As we continue to explore equine intelligence, this research opens up new possibilities for improving horse training techniques and enhancing our relationships with these incredible animals.

So, the next time you watch a horse in action, remember—they're not just strong and graceful; they're also smarter than we ever gave them credit for.

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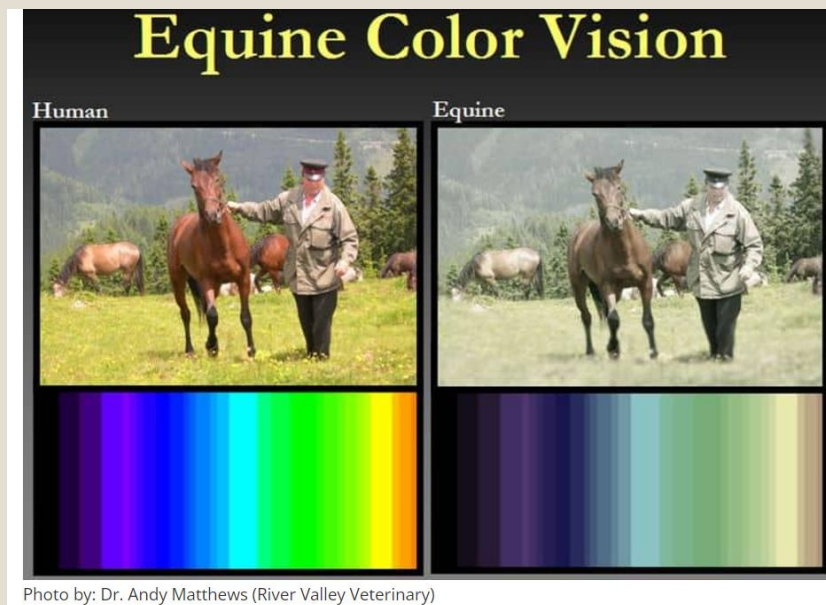


Have you ever wondered what the world looks like to your horse? Thanks to research, riders are now able to understand how their horse sees. You might be excited to know that they actually do see color. While their vision isn't like ours, they do experience more than just black and white.

What Colors Can They See?

Your horse is able to experience blues and yellows. Unfortunately, they do not get to see vibrant colors like red and orange. Because horses have two types of cone cells in their eyes, they have what is called dichromatic color vision.

In comparison, humans and primates have three types of cone cells. This gives us trichromatic color vision. Normal humans can see red, blue, green, and yellow. We also see a wide spectrum of intermediate hues between the primary colors. It's unlikely your horse sees any intermediate colors.



Other Factors

In addition to reduced color vision, your horse also views things a bit more blurred compared to us. They do have an edge on people in the dark though! Their eyeballs pick up light more easily because of the structure. A membrane, known as the tapetum lucidum, at the back of the eye is able to reflect light and aid their eyes in the night. It does take their eyes a bit longer to adjust to dark and light situations. You'll notice them blinking when you turn the barn lights on in the morning. They are trying to adapt to the change.

Understanding how your horse sees the world can be helpful with training and riding. They may react differently than us because of the way our vision varies.



*A horse's worth is not
measured by their ability to
win rosettes but by how much
they soothe our soul*

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December 2024 Newsletter

SOCA would like to thank our 2024 Corporate Sponsors

Darby Oaks Stables – Diane McMurtrey & Walker Pond Farm
Performance Marketing Services -Stellar Marine – TWHBEA
The Ranch @ Traders Hill



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Tracy Pinson
President
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Bushnell, FL 33513
Phone - 352-568-3309
Cell - 352-217-2448
Fax - 352-568-3351
tracy@performance-marketingllc.com
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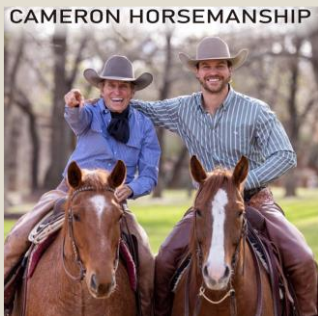
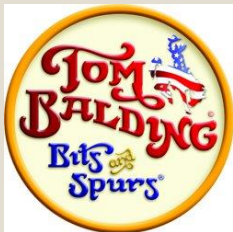
2025 SPONSORS NEEDED!

SOCA is a **501c3 Non Profit Organization**, so donations are tax deductible. Small or large, **ALL** donations are appreciated!!! Sponsorships help us provide better events for you, including prizes, donations to charities and buckles for high point awards.

THANK YOU!!!

SOCA would like to thank the following for Product Donations:

Adequan, AHC Products – Animed, Best Ever Pads, Cameron Horsemanship, Custom Embroidery by Maggie, Hooey, Jacks Inc/JMI Pet Supply, JT International (Tough-1), Life Data Corp & Farrier's Formula, Midcentral Ride and Slide & TS Whites LLC, Mrs. Pastures Cookies, Platinum Performance, Rocking "S" Tack, Spurrs Big Fix, Straight Arrow (Mane n' Tail & Cowboy Magic), Stud Muffins, Tom Balding Spurs, Tribute Equine Nutrition, Triple Crown, TWHBEA, US Rider, Vetericyn, and Winners Circle Horse Supply, and Winner Circle Horse Supply



SOCA NEWS

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
- Events will be in arenas and on the trail

EXTREME COWBOY RACES

- Sanctioned Extreme Cowboy Races with divisions for: Pro, Non-Pro, Novice, Intermediate, Ride Smart, Youth, Young Guns, & Green Horse
- Open to all breeds
- Payback, prizes, and ribbons

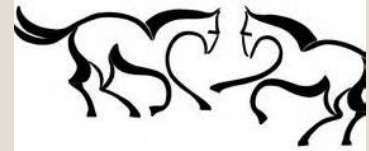
CLINICS/SCHOOLING DAYS

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

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, JUDGES & VOLUNTEERS THAT MAKE OUR EVENTS POSSIBLE!

Extreme Cowboy Racers

Reminder to pay your dues to the EXCA so your points will count! If you aren't sure if you are current, check the EXCA website under the club page.



SOCA dues (\$10) are due January 1st!

Please renew at your first event of the year. Dues help fund the highpoint awards and administrative costs of the club.

If you have news that you would like to submit to the SOCA newsletter, please email it to southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com