



Yahoo!!

# January 2015 Newsletter

Where you and your horse can  
have fun!



## Happy New Year!!

### Florida Horse Park Race & Challenge

SOCA's first event for 2015 will be the combined Extreme Cowboy Race and Obstacle Challenge to be held at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala, FL on January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. There are already a good number of pre-entries for both events and they are coming in daily.

The race course should be fast and fun, while the obstacle challenge should provide some new twists on old obstacles!

Details can be found in the attached flyer, so please make sure you get your stall and campsite reservations in, as well as your entries. **NOTE:** Campsites are only 110 Hookups. Please plan accordingly!

Please note that the race entries will close Friday evening – We will not be taking entries the day of the race!

**Rancho PasoLuna is offering an exciting new prize program for gaited horses competing in the Novice Division – See details on page 2 and enter today!!**

**SOCA MERCHANDISE WILL BE  
AVAILABLE AT THE JANUARY EVENT!!**

**New SOCA Logo T-Shirts - \$15  
SOCA Decals - \$5**

### 2015 Events

**1/10/15** – EXCA Clinic, Bushnell, FL

**1/17-18/15** – Florida Horse Park – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) on Saturday & Obstacle Challenge on Sunday (**flyer attached**)

**3/7/15** – Obstacle Challenge – Greene Acres Stables, Plant City, FL (**flyer attached**)

**3/21/15** – Extreme Cowboy Race – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL (Not a buckle race!) (**flyer attached**)

**4/18/15** – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) - Green River Farm, Gaffney, SC

**4/25/15** – Obstacle Challenge – Rocking K Ranch, Hernando, FL

**6/5-6/15** – Extreme Cowboy Race – EXCA Nationals (Triple Points) Winchester, TN

**6/27/15** – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) – Pontotoc County Agri-Center, Pontotoc, MS

**7/11/15** – Schooling Day & Judging Clinic- Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL

**9/12/15** – Obstacle Challenge – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL

**9/26-27/15** – Extreme Cowboy Race SE Regional Championships (Triple Points)- Green River Farm, Gaffney, SC

**11/14/15** – Obstacle Challenge Championships (double points) – TBD

**11/28/15** – Extreme Cowboy Race - TBD (Not a buckle race)

Southern Obstacle Challenge Association

352-217-2448

P.O. Box 1479, Bushnell, FL 33513

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





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Even though you've  
**been bucked,**  
kicked, bit & stomped  
**NEVER GIVE UP**

*Cowgirl Tuff Co.*

### Pictures from the 12/27/14 EXCA Clinic



### **NOTICE- Novice Gaited Sport Horse Award Program**

- Open to all gaited breeds entered in the Novice Horse & Rider Division at the five SOCA Obstacle Challenges in 2015. Gaited breeds include (but not limited to) Paso Finos, Peruvians, Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses, Icelandic Horses, etc.
- To be eligible, the horse and rider must not have won any obstacle challenges. You must indicate on the entry form the gaited breed you are entering. This is for the Novice Horse & Rider division only
- \$175 Prize purse for every SOCA obstacle event for 2015 – Ties will be broken by obstacle time.
  - \$100 to the highest scoring gaited horse in the Novice Division
  - \$50 to the second highest scoring gaited horse in the Novice Division
  - \$25 to the third highest scoring gaited horse in the Novice Division
- Ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> to accompany checks
- High Point Year end award of:
  - 1st place \$500
  - 2nd place \$250
- The objective of this program is to bring new gaited horse riders into SOCA Obstacle Challenges. This program was developed by and is being sponsored by gaited horse enthusiasts who want to encourage other gaited horse owners to participate in trail obstacle competitions.
- **Sponsored by Rancho PasoLuna of Dunnellon, Florida**



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THANKS TO ALL OF OUR  
AWESOME  
VOLUNTEERS!!!!  
SOCA WOULD NOT BE  
SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT  
EACH OF YOU!!

### Changes to Obstacle Challenge Divisions for 2015

- Divisions for 2015 will remain Youth, Posse, Novice, Non Pro, Open/Elite & Green Horse.
- Riders will be asked to move up to the next division if they place in the top 3 at least 3 times during the year (starting with 2014), with the exception of Youth & Green Horse.
- Green Horse (training division) is not a high point division - one win and you move up to the riders appropriate division. A horse is considered Green for one show season and then they must move up.
- Posse will be open to any posse members, however, they can also show in any division (except Novice) that defines their skill level.
- Youth will be limited to a maximum of three entries per event.

### SOCA CELEBRATES.....

### Diane McMurtrey, President of SOCA

Diane McMurtrey, a native Floridian, got her first horse at the age of 3. By the age of 10, she received her first Tennessee Walking Horse and fell in love with the breed for life. Diane acquired her first show horse in her late twenties and found that she was hooked on competition. She had her son on a horse at 5 weeks old and now, at 26, he is still a horse addict! In 2009, Diane attended her first EXCA Race and knew that she wanted to be a part of the sport in some way. In November of that year, she attended the EXCA World Championships in Topeka, Kansas. Craig Cameron announced at that event they would be having a class to train judges. Diane knew instantly that was for her and soon achieved the distinction of being a level 5 judge, of which, there are only three of in the world! She has judged the EXCA World Championships a record four times!



Obstacle Competitions are her passion. So much so, that along with Tracy Pinson and Lisa Steinbach, they started the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association in 2012. It is truly a labor of love. Since judging is her forte, Diane has trained our own SOCA judges to provide the best opportunity for our members to compete before knowledgeable folks.

Diane is the proud owner of TWH Geldings, WGC Pay At The Pump and Cash's Exclamation (Turbo), as well as Harry the donkey and Precious the mini donkey.

Diane (the proud mama) will be quick to tell anyone that her son, Matthew, recently graduated from Stetson Law School and has started his career as a lawyer.

**SOCA is honored to have her as our president and we thank her for her tireless efforts!**

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## Charities benefiting from SOCA



The Key Center



Daytona Beach German Shepherd Rescue



### THE OBSTACAL COURSE, by JP Tyson

I read in the paper of a new game, obstacal challenge was its name

All that was requied was a dollar and a horse,  
And to wander around a few gagets on a course

Well had me a fine ole nag, li'll bowlegged and a back that sagged

He worked a few cows , pulled a few logs, I hunted some deer and maybe a few hogs  
So I figured I could handle the sissyfied couse, run circles around any spoiled city horse.

I came to a funny bridge to cross, the ole nag said no with a mean head toss

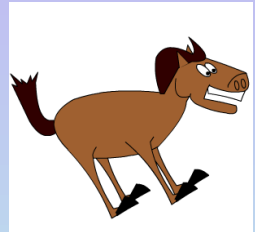
I put the spurs into his ornery hide, he sit down and I went off with a slide.

I came to a hole filled with milks jugs, the ole man stopped and wouldn't budge.

I took off my hat and swatted his head, he took off and dumped me in a hedge.  
They gave me a rope and said pull the wagon, I said no problem like I was braggin.

The ole cuss made one step, perked his ears and was full of pep.

He took off like a bat out of (well), ran through the ribbons and made a new trail,  
We went through the water, knocked down the benches jumped the sidepass logs and even the fences.  
When it was over I was belittled and much wiser, I loaded my pony and went for some Budweizer. .



**If you have news that you would like to submit to the SOCA  
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**\*\*Please note:** This directory is a service for our members, SOCA does not sanction or endorse these facilities. If you would like to add your facility to the list, please send information to:

## Obstacle Practice/Schooling Directory

**Kick N Back Farm** has got well over 50 obstacles spread out both on and off trails.

Many are in the woods and closely mimic both SOCA, as well as other trail competitions. We also have arena style obstacles. We have everything from the "scary" horse killing objects to finesse style challenges to help people at whatever level they want to work. Located in Ocklawah, FL 352-895-2564.

- Minimum of 5 to schedule weekdays or evenings. Also offer night obstacles and host clinics.
- Prices: One on one \$50; Groups of 5 plus \$40; Play days \$25 (check for scheduled events)  
Clinics are \$40 with lots of hands on help and we serve lunch for \$5  
Current SOCA members \$5 off clinics if signed up in advance
- <https://www.facebook.com/KnBFarmObstacles>



**Steele Stables** - 110 Highliner Road, Crescent city, FL 32112 (no email)

FaceBook-open to public under **Windy Steele** - Call or text [\(386\) 559-0687](tel:3865590687)

\$20 per horse for obstacle course on Sundays.

Located right next to Welaka State forest with Beautiful trails, bathrooms, stalls & camping for a \$2 per person forest donation.

Call for next available openings. No concessions available.



**Greene Acres Stables** - Owners Pam and Ronnie Bacon 813-727-0502

Email [twhcasper2@gmail.com](mailto:twhcasper2@gmail.com) 5041 Reece Road, Plant City, FL 33567

Cost for schooling your horse \$20.00 Per horse - Negative coggins required.

Plenty of obstacles and still adding – Schooling and lessons available.



**Time to Shine Equestrian Center** - Located in Lakeland, Florida. Right now practice days will only be a couple days a month, but no set schedule due to the summer rains. We will also be having scheduled obstacle challenges and will be updating our Facebook page. Phone is 863-559-4589



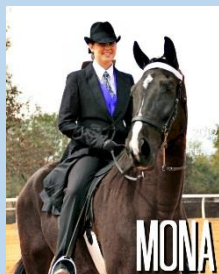
**TROT Ranch** - 25 Acres of Fun, located in Geneva, Florida. All ages and disciplines of riding are welcome. Shaded trails, open fields, over 50 obstacles providing the perfect place to, have fun, enhance confidence and build trust. We provide creative obstacles from low to high challenges that build and test your skills in a safe and controlled environment. You control the pace and intensity with expert guidance when you need it. Whether your goal is to win obstacle challenges or simply have fun with your horse TROT Ranch is here. Bring a friend or book a group. **For more information go to our webpage: [www.trottranch.com](http://www.trottranch.com). To schedule a session or lesson email [jane@trottranch.com](mailto:jane@trottranch.com) or call 407-349-9351. Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trot.ranch](https://www.facebook.com/trot.ranch)**







# Shelby Ratliff



My mom bought me my first horse, Mona, when I was twelve years old. Mona was a handful... she was 16 hands, three years old, and I could not ride very well at the time. We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into. We put Mona in training at Darby Oaks Stables and Wayne Conkle gave me riding lessons. Wayne has helped me develop my riding skills and my love for the Tennessee Walking Horse breed for the past several years. After competing with Mona in rail classes for some time, my interest in versatility slowly increased. I watched Tracy Pinson and friends at the barn work on obstacles and practice for EXCA races, and I knew it was something that I wanted to participate in. Wayne and Tracy continuously help and support me.

Rebecca Adams very kindly allowed me to ride her horse, Paulie, my first year in the EXCA. I could not have asked for a better horse to be introduced to the sport on! Paulie showed me the ropes on how to canter and how to operate many obstacles. I am so thankful Rebecca allowed me to have this opportunity!

Vaudry Edge was very generous last year and allowed me to keep one of his horses, Dillon, in Florida for the year to ride and compete with. I rode Dillon in every SOCA EXCA race last year, as well as many Obstacle Challenges and a FWRHA horse show. Over the past several years of riding, Dillon may have been the horse that taught me the most.

Tracy and Wayne allowed me to ride Cowgirl and Brad Pitt in EXCA races as well as Obstacle Challenges the past two years in SOCA as well. They were two of my favorite young horses at Darby Oaks Stables.

Mona gave birth to her first foal last March, Vinnie. I hope that he will be able to be competitive in SOCA and the EXCA too one day.

I want to express my gratitude for Wayne, Tracy, Rebecca, Vaudry, and the entire Darby Oaks family! In the past several years I have made more friends in the equine world than imaginable. Everyone has great attitudes and are very supportive. I look forward to seeing everyone in SOCA this coming year!

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR INFORMATION!!!**

**We need more Member Spotlight Bios.....Please email your information and pictures to [southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com](mailto:southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com)**



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## 2015 High Points

In 2015 SOCA will award high point obstacle challenge winners in the following divisions: Novice, Youth, Non Pro, Open Elite and Posse. Points from each of the 2015 SOCA Obstacle Challenges will be totaled, with double points at the obstacle challenge championship in November. The horse/rider team with the most points will be the high point champion. Based on the feedback from members, the high point award will be custom SOCA buckles.

Regional Championship buckles for the Extreme Cowboy Races will be determined by points accumulated at SOCA events only. The horse/rider teams accumulating the most points at each designated SOCA EXCA race, with the triple points at the Nationals in June and Regional Championship races in September and double points for State Championships in January, April and June, will be awarded the high point buckle in the following divisions: Pro, Non-Pro, Ride Smart, Novice, Intermediate, Youth, and Non-Pro.

## 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.

**Dates, details and previous months newsletters can be found on the SOCA website at**  
**[www.southernobstaclechallenges.com](http://www.southernobstaclechallenges.com)**

**SOCA dues (\$10) are due January 1<sup>st</sup>!**

**Please renew at your first event of the year.**

**Dues help fund the highpoint awards and administrative costs of the club.**

**Extreme Cowboy Racers**

**Reminder to pay your dues to the EXCA so your points will count!**

**Serenity Ranch Photography By Jr. Adams**

**Don't forget to check for your photos:**

**[www.serenityranchphotography.com](http://www.serenityranchphotography.com)**

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Serenity Ranch Photography  
Dade City, FL

Jr Adams  
SerenityRanchPhotography.com  
serenityranchphotography@outlook.com



## THANKS TO OUR 2015 SPONSORS!!!

**SOCA would like to thank our 2015 Corporate Sponsors**  
**Rancho PasoLuna - Glonek Trucking- Auto Taxi Transport**  
**Stellar Marine – PenBrooke Farm**  
**Serenity Ranch Photography – Walker Pond Farm**  
**Performance Marketing Services – Darby Oaks Stables**

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Fax - 352-568-3351  
tracy@performance-marketingllc.com  
www.performance-marketingllc.com



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stellarmarine.net

**Corporate Sponsor**  
**Walker Pond Farm**  
**Diane McMurtrey**  
**Winter Garden, FL**

**SOCA would like to thank our**  
**2015 buckle, division and ribbon sponsors:**

**Glonek Trucking**  
**Auto Taxi Transport**  
**Kelly Gifford & Boo Man Choo**



**SPONSOR OF THE 2015 OVERALL HIGHPOINT AWARD – HEARTLAND FARMS**

**Can we please add you to the list?**

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