

January 2014 Newsletter



Where you and your horse
can have fun!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!!

Florida Horse Park Event

DON'T FORGET!!! January 18-19th will be our combined extreme cowboy race and obstacle challenge event. The 2014 event will be held at the Florida Horse Park with the race on Saturday, January 18th and the Obstacle Challenge on Sunday, January 19th. Details are on the attached flyer. **EXCA racers, this will be a double point event!** We will be out on the cross country course for both events!

All full service campsites are reserved for this event, there are plenty of primitive sites available.

There will be an order of go, so get your entries in early and specify if you want to ride with someone in the obstacle challenge.

January 4th Schooling Day & Judges Clinic

The January 4th Schooling Day is full, however, there are spots open for the judges clinic if you are still interested in becoming a certified SOCA judge. If you would like to be put on the waiting list for the schooling day, please let us know.

SOCA dues (\$10) are due January 1st!
Please renew at the first event of the year.
Dues help fund the highpoint awards and administrative costs of the club.

2014 Events

- 1/4/14** – Schooling Day/Judges Clinic at Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL (**Flyer attached**)
- 1/18-19/14** – Florida Horse Park – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) on Saturday and Obstacle Challenge on Sunday. (**Flyer attached**)
- 3/8/14** – Obstacle Challenge – Greene Acres Stables, Plant City, FL (**Flyer attached**)
- 4/5/14** – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) - Green River Farm, Gaffney, SC
- 4/26/14** – Obstacle Challenge – Rocking K Ranch, Hernando, FL
- 5/23-24/14** – Extreme Cowboy Race – EXCA Nationals (Triple Points) Shelbyville, TN
- 6/28/14** – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) – Pontotoc County Agri-Center, Pontotoc, MS
- 9/13/14** – Obstacle Challenge – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL
- 9/27-28/14** – Extreme Cowboy Race SE Regional Championships (Triple Points)- Green River Farm, Gaffney, SC
- 11/15/14** – Obstacle Challenge Championships (double points) – Rocking Horse Stables, Altoona, FL

Extreme Cowboy Racers

Reminder to pay your dues to the EXCA before the season gets started!

Southern Obstacle Challenge Association
P.O. Box 1479, Bushnell, FL 33513

352-217-2448

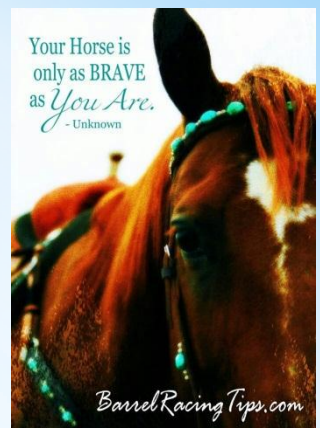
southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com

www.southernobstaclechallenges.com





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SOCA SURVEY RESULTS

Below are some of the key findings from the survey last month
There were over 75 responses from SOCA members

High Point Awards Choices:

- #1 – Buckles
 - #2 – Custom Saddle Pads
 - #3 – Directors Chairs
 - #4 – Trophy Stirrups
 - #5 – Rope Cans or Bags
- Other ideas: Trophies, gift cards (tack & gas), bridles, breast collars, halters, jackets, coolers, glass stand up pictures.

Event Award Choices:

- #1 – Tack Items (Bridles, Breast Collars, etc.)
 - #2 – Hay Bags, Bridle Bags, etc.
 - #3 – Totes & Duffle Bags
 - #4 – Grooming Supplies
 - #5 – Trophies
 - #6 – Spur Straps
 - #7 – Picture Frames
- Other ideas: Picture of horse & rider on course, gift cards, money, logo merchandise, treats, rope halters, buckles.

Degree of difficulty for obstacles:

- 82% - Just right
- 7% - Too difficult
- 5.5% - Too Easy
- 5.5% - Do not attend challenges

Dates, details and previous months
newsletters can be found on the SOCA
website at
www.southernobstaclechallenges.com

- Regarding the question about clinics, the majority responded that they want to spend under \$400 for a clinic and most would like to see Craig Cameron do a clinic. However, Craig's clinics do not fall into the price range that most will be willing to pay. We will continue to explore other clinic opportunities for our members.
- We had a number of venues suggested to us and we will look into these for next year, however, the majority of the suggestions do not already have obstacles at the facility, so these will not work for us. If you find others throughout the year, please feel free to contact us!
- **Thank you** to all of the folks that volunteered to become judges or help at events.....We will be in contact!!!
- We had A LOT of comments and suggestions that we are working on. We appreciate the kind comments and also those that give us something to work towards. Some of the ideas have already been implemented, while some can be used in the future.
- PLEASE NOTE – If you offered to help or suggested something where we need to know who you are, but didn't put your name or email address, we don't know who you are!!! The answers were anonymous, unless you put your information in there.





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SOCA Member Spotlight

Meet your fellow SOCA Members

Maureen (Mo) Earle

Horse(s) name and breed: Cabo is a 12-yo QH gelding and Whodat is a 3-yo QH mare

Occupation: Emergency Department RN

Other activities besides SOCA (horse related and non-horse related): Trail riding & dog training

Family: Married, no children, 6 dogs, 2 horses

Other interesting facts about you and/or your horse (what you like to do, anything you've won, goals, etc.): I don't really consider myself all that interesting. We are new to North Central Florida, coming north from South Florida about 5 years ago. Recently, I decided to fulfill a life long dream at 52 years old....I was going to learn how to ride a horse. Prior to getting involved with horses, my time was spent dog training, obedience and protection sports, as well as protection type competitions. I currently own 6 dogs, Belgian Malinois and German Shepherds. I have also held many Canine Good Citizen classes as an AKC CGC evaluator, but the more I learn about horses, the more time I want to spend with them. I have friends throughout the United States and abroad that I have met through dog training and competition, I hope to make new friends in the horse world. I found at the SOCA obstacle challenge everyone was very friendly and helpful, even to the novice rider, like myselfit encourages me to keep working at it. I am very interested in Clinton Anderson's Philosophy and train my horses using his method. The first picture is Whodat, the middle picture is during one of my dog training sessions, we were practicing bite work, and the last picture is Cabo.



We need more Member Spotlight Bios.....Please email your information and pictures to southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com





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Featured SOCA Charity....The Key Training Center

Kathy Beville and her son, Danny Hochadel, have been involved in SOCA since it started in 2012. In fact, Kathy was a volunteer judge at every one of the Obstacle Challenges in 2013, while Danny worked to reset obstacles. Even when the drive was over two and half hours away, these great folks made the trip to help make our events even better. We can't say thanks enough to Kathy and Danny, or any of our great volunteers.

As a non-profit organization, SOCA is always looking for ways to give back to the community, especially when it benefits our members! To say a special THANK YOU to Danny and Kathy, SOCA made a donation to The Key Training Center, where Danny is a resident.

The Key Training Center, a private nonprofit Florida 501(c) (3) organization, is dedicated to serving adults with developmental disabilities. Since 1966, the Key Center has offered Kindness, Love, Dignity, and Respect to individuals and their families. They offer a myriad of programs and services to meet the social, vocational, residential/housing and advocacy needs of Citrus County and West Central Florida. Funds to support the Center are derived from Voluntary Health Agency Grants and assistance at the Federal, State and Local Government levels... together with private/public contributions. The Key Center is the only facility of its kind in Citrus County and the surrounding areas providing vitally needed community based services to over 300 developmentally disabled adults. The Key Center has served over 2,500 developmentally disabled citizens since its inception in 1966.



Danny (far left) presenting the SOCA check at The Key Training Center



Kathy Beville

SOCA needs more volunteers & judges!!!

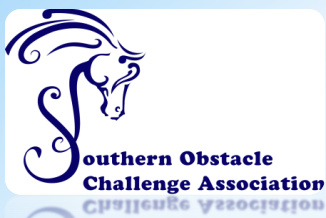
Please attend the judges clinic on January 4th to become certified (see attached information).

Would you like to help in other ways? Please email us at southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com

If you have news that you would like to submit to the SOCA newsletter, please email it to

southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com





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2014 High Points

In 2014 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 2014 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 SOCA EXCA race, with the triple points at the Nationals in May and Regional Championship races in September, 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.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!!!

SOCA would like to thank our 2013 corporate sponsors

Rick & Jane Peniston - Stellar Marine - Walker Pond Farm – Gator Horse Trailers
Darby Oaks Stables - Linda & Jerry Harrington/Trailhead Ranch – Great Getaways Travel

SOCA would like to thank our 2013 buckle, division and ribbon sponsors:

Janie & Wayne Van De Walker - Bernie Duncan – L & M Awards
Tony & Claudia Gilstrap - Electric Supply - John Steele – Rocking T Ranch
Jim & Tami Karr - Ocoee Animal Hospital - Animal Clinic of Windermere
Huddle House of Shelbyville



SOCA Members.....
Please help us get sponsors for 2014
Check the SOCA website
for sponsorships information.



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