

December 2025 Newsletter

Final Event of 2025 Crowned High Point Champions!

The final 2025 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 2025. Congratulations to all of the event and high point champions!

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

FIRST 2026 EVENT!

February 28th and March 1st at the Florida Horse Park. Extreme Cowboy Race on Saturday and an Obstacle Challenge on Sunday!

Flyers for all 2026 events are on the SOCA website. It is never too early to enter! For the races, first to enter is last to run. For the challenges, early entries given order of go preference.

2026 Tentative Events

2/28-3/1/2026 – Florida Horse Park – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) on Saturday & Obstacle Challenge on Sunday..

4/4/2026 – Obstacle Challenge, TBD

5/2/2026 – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) The Canyon – Hodges, AL

5/29 – 5/31/2026 – Extreme Cowboy Race – EXCA National Championships, Champions Arena, Celebration Grounds, Shelbyville, TN (5X Points)

9/11/2026 –Clinic – Lee Hart

9/12/2026 – Extreme Cowboy Race –SE Regional Championships - (Triple Points) Chicopee Agricultural Ctr, Gainesville, GA

10/10/2026 - Obstacle Schooling Day – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL

11/14/2026 – Obstacle Challenge, Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL

We need 2026 sponsors....Can you please help!?!? Every little bit helps pay for awards, buckles, ribbons, etc. The sponsorship form is attached and donations are tax deductible. Thanks!!

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

Southern Obstacle Challenge Association

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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**

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Key Training Center

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

Key Training Center on behalf of
Kathy Beville and Danny Hochadel



Low Rider Dauschound Rescue
on behalf of Vickie Oliva



Tunnel To Towers Foundation

T2T.ORG

Tunnel To Towers on behalf of
Renee Lewis



Wedgefield Kitty Project

Private Group Of Volunteers Rescuing
Abandoned & Stray Cats And Kittens
Through Fostering, Adoption And Trap
Neuter Return In Orlando, FL

Wedgefield Kitty Project on
behalf of Janine Charles

November 15, 2025 Obstacle Challenge Winners



Novice



Green Horse



Intermediate



Open



Youth

Obstacle Challenge High Point Champions



Novice



Youth



Intermediate



Open- Elite

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November 15, 2025

Obstacle Challenge Results

Order of Go	Rider	Horse	Div	TOTAL	Total Time
1	Meredyth Crews	Dibs	GH	147.00	27.43
2	Carly Renault	Tuco	GH	141.00	22.46
3	Kelly Farnsworth	Sassy	GH	140.00	34.15
4	Jazzy Durgin	Bridget	GH	133.00	24.66
5	Jazzy Durgin	Money	GH	132.00	31.92
6	Curt Steinbach	Blue Shakerag	GH	125.00	42.63
7	Hannah Smith	Leia	GH	89.50	30.09
8	Tim Haupt	Echo	GH	83.50	49.8
1	Jenna Bishop	J-Low	I	141.00	28.1
2	Kimberly Paquette	Absoluteontherocks	I	137.00	30.08
3	Mo Earle	Whodat	I	131.00	26.65
4	Carol Yapolo	Dillon	I	126.00	24.25
5	Karen Ketchum	Bindi	I	126.00	32.9
6	Nancy Biddinger	Rooster	I	109.00	40.29
7	Maggie Young	Iceman Vintage Spark	I	106.00	43.87
8	Tim Haupt	Mercy Reigns	I	95.50	24.15
1	Joni Nathanson	Blue	N	130.50	37.51
2	Laura Sirak	Chief	N	127.00	75.44
3	Julie Testa	Boone	N	123.00	52.25
4	Frances Hamlett	Fate	N	117.50	29.13
5	Mary Baujan-McLeod	Prince	N	111.00	44.48
6	Katie Hennessy	Lindor	N	105.50	5.65
7	Diane Brooks	Drifter	N	90.50	78.44
8	James McLeod	Ranger	N	86.00	57.21
9	Megan Hennessy-Seq	Finn	N	26.50	109.31
1	Margo Cook	Luna	O	145.00	26.63
2	Jazzy Durgin	Bulletproof	O	137.50	24.76
3	Cathy Rotola	Nick	O	137.00	25.87
4	Lesia Roe	Cat	O	136.00	28.48
5	Lisa Cusimano	Sierra	O	130.50	22.7
6	Connie Lloyd	Larks Grey Twist	O	128.00	30.67
7	Terri Glonek	Tuff Lil Texan	O	98.50	25.77
1	Alexa Jackson	Bibi	Y	143.50	31.2
2	Gina Gatto	So Charming	Y	135.50	30.56
3	Maddie Jones	Drifting Thru Poco	Y	135.00	97.18
4	Meredyth Crews	Clark	Y	134.50	22.59
5	Mason Jones	I'm Gonna Rip It Up	Y	128.00	45.24
6	Meredyth Crews	Dixie	Y	116.00	30.01
7	Kailey Hetherman	One Tuff Cowboy	Y	114.50	48.56



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FINAL 2025 HIGH POINT STANDINGS

Congratulations to All!

SOCA RACE HIGH POINT - 2025

Young Guns Divison Results			
NO BUCKLE			
1	Maddie Jones	Drifting Thru Poco	250.173
2	Sadie Reilly	LEO's Pride	220.706
3	June Trommsdorff	Patch	207.412
Novice Divison Results			
1	Chase LaMontagne	Indigo	1969.060
2	Cullen Green	Buster	1759.727
3	Terri Glonek	One Tuff Cowgirl	1703.654
4	Charles King Sr.	Gus	1358.461
5	Terri Glonek	Tuff Lil Texan	1352.403
6	Charles King Jr.	Champ	1331.285
Green Horse Results			
NO BUCKLE			
1	Hannah Howe	Peppy Jac Kingwood	1813.786
2	Dennis Tipton	Trendys Classic Jac	1457.718
3	Mike Jeffers	Bucky	1277.263
4	Tim YoHo	Gentry	1140.625
5	Jazzy Durgin	Only 2X The Money	1124.985
6	Angie Jones	Barbie	1110.511
Non Pro Divison Results			
1	Tracy Pinson	Tuff Struck Gold	2655.671
2	Tracy Pinson	2X T-Buck	2617.671
3	Laura Green Hart	ShesaOsaLenaCat	2200.737
4	Rick Peniston	Savvy Gun Play	2135.259
5	Gina Gatto	So Charming	2054.967
6	Tyler Howe	Indiana Cowgirl	2044.194
Intermediate Divison Results			
1	Angela Graham	Jack	2272.195
2	Lisa Steinbach	Tuff Struck Gold	2268.944
3	Edward Brown	Spook	1904.984
4	Michael Garman	Newt	1481.015
5	Alecia Grissett	Pepper	1403.436
6	Diane McMurtrey	I'm Gonna Rip It Up	1196.378
Youth Divison Results			
1	Gina Gatto	So Charming	2071.301
2	Meredyth Crews	Dixie	1962.787
3	Braylie Sturgeon	Roger Diablo	1640.887
4	Braylie Sturgeon	Dollar	1523.033
5	Jordan Jeffers	Champ	1454.611
6	Brooke Baldwin	Redden's Photo Finish	1271.058
Ride Smart Divison Results			
1	Tracy Pinson	2X T-Buck	2682.402
2	Lisa Steinbach	Tuff Struck Gold	2426.955
3	Angela Graham	Jack	2403.043
4	Rick Peniston	Savvy Gun Play	2201.466
5	Vaudry Edge	Rojo Willy John 2	1960.722
6	Tracy Pinson	Tuff Night At The Ritz	1748.370
Pro Divison Results			
NO BUCKLE			
1	Jazzy Durgin	BulletProof	2117.083
2	Hannah Howe	High Flying X Tex	1842.108
3	Lee Hart	Lumpy	1567.040
4	Lee Hart	MOSU Freckle Lena	1154.453
5	Angeline Saliceti	Samson	1150.555
6	Lee Hart	Crimson Contender	1092.342
Open Divison Results			
1	Gina Gatto	So Charming	2122.944
2	Tyler Howe	Indiana Cowgirl	2281.171
3	Jazzy Durgin	BulletProof	2114.447
4	Lee Chapman	Pistol Pete	1877.888
5	Lee Hart	Lumpy	1569.395
6	Chase LaMontagne	Indigo	1536.694

SOCA OBSTACLE CHALLENGE HIGH POINT - 2025

Rider	Horse	Total	
Novice Division			
1	Julie Testa	Boone	359.00
2	Laura Sirak	Chief	348.50
3	Frances Hamlett	Fate	344.50
4	Joni Nathanson	Prime Time Spook (Blue)	244.00
5	Mary Baujan-McLeod	Talk About Prince	219.50
6	Daisy Jones	Dutton	215.00
Youth Divison			
1	Alexa Jackson	BiBi	411.50
2	Maddie Jones	Drifting Thru Poco	340.50
3	Kailey Hetherman	One Tuff Cowboy	285.50
4	Gina Gatto	So Charming	258.00
5	Meredyth Crews	Dixie	235.00
6	Meredyth Crews	Clark	134.50
Intermediate Division			
1	Jenna Bishop	J-Low	418.00
2	Kimberly Paquette	Absoluteontherocks	382.50
3	Karen Ketchum	Bindi	327.00
4	Tim Haupt	Mercy Reigns	321.50
5	Denise McMeekin	Macky	262.00
6	Anne Hanley	Spirit	241.50
Open Elite Division			
1	Lesa Roe	Cat	416.00
2	Margo Cook	Luna	408.50
3	Lisa Cusimano	Sierra	396.00
4	Connie Lloyd	Lark's Grey Twist	392.00
5	Terri Glonek	Tuff Lil' Texan	265.00
6	Jazzy Durgin	Bulletproof	137.50



Why Do Horses Pin Their Ears?

Horses communicate through body language. Their ears are one way they express their feelings. Pinned ears are not usually a positive behavior. The horse is likely stressed or unhappy about something in their environment. By paying attention and acknowledging that something is wrong, you can address the situation and improve it for your horse.

A Horse That Pins Their Ears

There are a few common reasons that a horse may pin their ears. Typically, this behavior indicates an unhappy horse. You'll need to evaluate their environment to see what is causing the reaction.

- **Defensive:** This horse is letting others know they better stay away. This often happens around feeding time when they're warning other horses to keep back.
- **Agitation:** Something is happening to the horse that they don't like. Some examples can include a horse fly attempting to bite them or a rider using their spurs too aggressively.
- **Discomfort:** If the horse is experiencing pain or discomfort, they may pin their ears in distress.
- **Dominance:** A dominate horse will move other horses out of the way through pinning their ears. They may even try it on a person. It can be followed by a bite or kick, so be careful.
- **Focused:** Sometimes, a very focused horse can put their ears back. They may have full concentration on their rider.
- **Fearful:** If a horse feels threatened or uncertain in a particular situation, they may pin their ears.

The best way to determine why your horse is pinning their ears is to observe the other parts of their body, including their eyes, tail, lips, and legs. Ask yourself what is happening to them that may be causing the reaction. Lastly, address the behavior if necessary.



10 Inspirational Quotes About Gratitude And Horses

Horses are an incredible blessing in the lives of many. They have a way of bringing out the best in a person. From the life lessons they teach you to the barn friends you've made because of them, there is no doubt that they have a way of shaping lives. Let these inspiring words remind you of how truly grateful you should be to have these magnificent animals in your life.

Quotes on Gratitude

- “There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.” — *Winston Churchill*
- “A horse is the projection of people's dreams about themselves — strong, powerful, beautiful — and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence.” — *Pam Brown*
- “Gratitude turns what we have into enough — and every ride into a blessing.” — *Unknown*
- “Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance.” — *Eckhart Tolle*
- “Be thankful for the journey, not just the destination — the horse already knows the way.” — *Unknown*
- “When you climb into the saddle, be ready for the ride — and thankful for the journey.” — *Old Cowboy Proverb*
- “Gratitude is the key to good riding — thankful riders create confident horses.” — *Stacy Westfall*
- “No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.” — *Winston Churchill*
- “A horse doesn't care how much you know until he knows how much you care. Put your hand on your horse and your heart in your hand.” — *Pat Parelli*
- “Start each day with a positive thought and a grateful heart.” — *Roy T. Bennett*

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SOCA would like to thank our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

Darby Oaks Stables – Diane McMurtrey & Walker Pond Farm
Performance Marketing Services -Stellar Marine – TWHBEA

The Ranch @ Traders Hill



Performance Marketing Services

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EXCA Extreme
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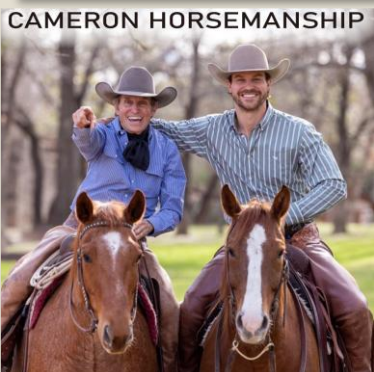
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2026 SPONSORS NEEDED!

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 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

SOCA would like to thank the following for Product Donations:

Adequan, AHC Products – Animed, Cameron Horsemanship, Hooey, Jacks Inc/JMI Pet Supply, JT International (Tough-1), Life Data Corp & Farrier's Formula, Platinum Performance, Rocking "S" Tack, Spurr's Big Fix, Straight Arrow (Mane n' Tail & Cowboy Magic), Stud Muffins, Tom Balding Spurs, Tribute Equine Nutrition, Triple Crown, TWHBEA, US Rider, Vetericyn, Durango Boots and Winners Circle Horse Supply

