



SEDRA SENTINEL "SPECIAL EDITION"

October 13, 2006

On the Road Again...

Excerpts from "Right on Schedule: Trailer Maintenance"

by: Sharon Biggs

September 2006 Article # 7449, www.TheHorse.Com

We rely on our trailers to transport our horses safely and reliably. So it stands to reason that we should pay close attention to their maintenance and soundness. But in the busy life of the modern equestrian, trailer upkeep can easily be pushed down on the list of "things to do." But remember--this is our horses' safety on the line, and putting off trailer maintenance can be putting your horse at risk of serious injury. To make the chore more manageable, we'll help you break it all down with tips on regular maintenance.

Preflight Checklist - Tom Scheve from EquiSpirit Trailer Company says it's wise to make a laminated comprehensive trailer checklist and refer to it a week prior to leaving for a trip. Included should be a reminder to inspect:

Tire and spare tire for wear This is very important to do frequently, because once tires begin to show a wear pattern, it can be difficult to stop, even if you've fixed the cause. Examples of wear include baldness in the center of the tire, which is caused by over inflation; wear toward the edge of the tires, which is an indication of under inflation; side wear, which can mean your axles are not in alignment or you've overloaded the trailer (do not overload in the future and have your tires realigned). Flat spots are the results of skidding tires (adjust your brakes and avoid slamming on the brakes).

Tire and spare tire for pressure Scheve warns that you could have a flat tire on rubber torsion suspension (now standard on most horse trailers) that will not appear flat, so it needs to be checked. If left unchecked, it could overload the other tire on the same side, and you end up with two flats and only one spare tire.

Randy Lewis, Featherlite National sales manager, says the tire pressure should be indicated on the certification or VIN label. To make sure you've got the right figure, check the psi rating (pressure per square inch) located on the side of the tire. Keeping tires at their maximum rating insures that they will flex less, thus ride cooler, and they will be less apt to blow from the heat. Odie Heck from Sundowner Trailer suggests using a tire pressure gauge to inspect pressure on a regular basis.

Brakes and brake adjustment "Test the trailer brakes by moving your rig a short distance before loading the horses and brake hard," says Heck. Scheve adds, "If the brakes grab and skid, slide the fine-tune setting on the controller until the brakes engage simultaneously, or slightly ahead of the tow vehicle brakes so that the entire rig brakes as if one unit."

Breakaway battery Check this with a battery tester. If it is a rechargeable battery, make sure it's charged.

A more thorough test is to lift each tire off the ground with a trailer-aid jack, pull the pin out of the breakaway switch, then try spinning the wheel. The brakes should have the wheels locked up. If the wheels spin, then the battery or wiring is faulty. Recheck the battery after testing to make sure it's fully charged.

Lights and turn signals Have a friend watch your brakes, turn signals, and running lights while you operate them from the tow vehicle to make sure they are all working. If they are not, check fuses, junction box, plug connector, overall wiring, and/or bulbs.

Door latches, hitch bolts Check for wear and tear that could cause a failure. If the horse area doors are secured by a small door handle latch only, make sure the door latch works easily and the spring loaded catch latches securely.

Bearings Wheel bearing care should be done by a professional mechanic unless the axles are EZ lube axles, which allow you to grease them with a grease gun without removing the wheels. However, Scheve cautions that EZ lube axles are easy to overgrease if you're doing it yourself. Over-greasing can blow out the bearings.

Floor If you have an aluminum floor, look for signs of corrosion. If your floor is wood, check for dry rot (soft or crumbling spots) and under the trailer for signs of deterioration on the cross beams supporting the floor.

Windows If the trailer has sliding windows, check that they slide easily. If they are drop-down windows, make sure they work and latch securely to the trailer. Make sure screens are in place to prevent debris from flying into the trailer.

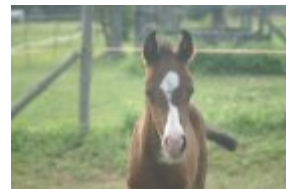
Lug Nuts Check that your lug nuts are tight and properly torqued. If you want to do this yourself, consult a mechanic the first time. Or you can just have this job done by a mechanic. For a quick inspection, walk around and feel each lug nut with a tire iron to see if any are loose. Note: Bolts tend to loosen more easily on aluminum rims than on steel.

- "Also include a reminder (on your list) to conduct basic cleaning chores and inspect the inside for wasp nests or other insects," says Scheve. "These are things that, if done ahead of time, should be rechecked the day of use."
- Finally, inspect the interior horse area for any sharp edges or hazardous protrusions and finish up with a general walk-around to look for any obvious defects.
- Once a year (perhaps at the beginning of the show or trail riding season), you should have a professional inspect the condition of the trailer brakes and adjust them if needed, check and grease the bearings, and make sure the wiring and the electric braking system between tow vehicle and trailer are in good working order. Also, have them check the undercarriage for wear or damage to the frame.
- Once hooked up on the day of use, another laminated "pre-flight" list should have you checking to make sure the coupler is secured, the breakaway system is hooked up correctly, safety chains are attached, and all turn signal, brake, and running lights are working.



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Recent pictures from Rob and Carol Thompson of Smoke Rise Symbol's colt, Chance, "he's a feisty one!"



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Horses have hoofs to carry them over frost and snow; hair, to protect them from wind and cold. They eat grass and drink water, and fling up their heels.... Such is the real nature of horses. -Chuang Tzu

<<<<< Upcoming Ride Highlights >>>>>



22nd Annual
River Run Endurance Ride
November 11, 2006

Location: The Linahan Farm is located at 5700 Coppage Road just east of Hahira, GA. and approximately 30 miles north of the GA-FL line on I-75.

Distances: 25 and 50 mile rides on well-marked trails and dirt roads. Water is available along the trail. Breast collars are not necessary.

Campsite: The farm has a large pasture area for camping. Water is available for horse and people as well as shower/bathroom facilities. Restaurants are in Valdosta and Hahira.

Food: Free chili and cornbread will be served Friday night. Donuts, coffee, and orange juice will be served Saturday morning. Grilled chicken and trimmings will be the Saturday evening meal. The rider's cost of this meal is included in the entry fee. Extra plates will be available for \$10.

Vet Check: Vet check-in will begin Friday afternoon. A current coggins is required. All vet checks have bathroom facilities and water with hoses. Soft drinks and bottled water are available for riders.

Directions: Take Exit 29 from I-75. Travel on GA Highway 122 **East** through Hahira. Go 1.8 miles from I-75 to Coppage Road. Turn right on Coppage Rd. Go 1.5 mi. to the farm of Willie and Pam Linahan. The farm is on the left at 5700 Coppage Road. Signs will be posted.

Coordinators:

Pam and Willie Linahan
5700 Coppage Road Hahira, GA 31632
(229) 794-2179

Judy and Corky Jordan
(229) 794-3533

Have a safe trip!
"To Finish is to Win."

Boggy Creek 27 Update

November 11 -12, 2006



Preparations for the fourth annual Boggy Creek 27 are well underway. The trails look great and the raffle items are pouring in.

Once again our friends at NewerSpreader have donated a manure spreader with agitator valued at \$705 for our special raffle. If you are the winner you can take home a fully assembled NewerSpreader or if space is an issue we will give you one in a box and you can put it together at home and your third option is have it shipped to your farm

(your cost for shipping, \$70). The NewerSpreader is our "incentive" raffle item. It is the carrot to encourage you to bring in other peoples \$\$ to benefit Camp Boggy Creek. For every \$27 that you bring in for Camp Boggy Creek you will get one raffle ticket for the NewerSpreader. \$54 gets you two tickets, etc. So bring in those donations and with any lucky YOU will be the one taking the NewerSpreader home.

Three other very generous items have been donate to the BC27 and will have their special raffles too:

Pat Parelli Level 1 Home Study Program, Halter, 12-foot Line, Carrot Stick, Savvy String, and Parelli Tote Bag (\$382), two Magic (Basketball) Tickets (third row seats) (\$130) and a pair of custom leather chinks complete with fringe donated by P & J Saddles (\$130)

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For instructions in "How To" collect donations take a lesson from Nancy Douglass. This is what she did in 2004. She created the following flyer:

**CAMP BOGGY CREEK**  
(A picture of Nancy riding Caliente here)  
**RIDE FOR THE KIDS**

On November 14, 2004, Caliente!, my equine partner, and I will be participating in a 27-mile "marathon" to raise money for Camp Boggy Creek. This camp provides a rare opportunity for children with serious or life-threatening illnesses to enjoy a week of fun, adventure and independence in a setting that provides complete medical care. It gives them a chance to normalize their lives by being with other children battling the same illness and helps them to cope with their day-to-day challenges long after their camp experience . . . and at no expense to their family!

**We are the able bodied.**  
**We are the strong.**  
**We can do for those who are not as fortunate as we are.**

Please help us help these brave children. **No donation is too small!** 100% of your donation will go directly to this 501(c)3. (No overhead!) You can make your check out to **Camp Boggy Creek** or put a buck or two in the attached envelope. Please include your name and address on the envelope if you would like a receipt and return it to me by November 11, 2004.

Many thanks for your support! Nancy and Cali

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Nancy displayed the above flyer where she works and the donations just started to come in. Nancy collected the third highest amount of \$\$ for Camp Boggy Creek that year. 😊



The Course Distance is 27 miles. Mileage markers will be placed every 5 miles, then every mile for the last 5 miles. Any participant going off course *must* return to the *same* point where he left the trail before continuing. Time allowed to complete the 27 miles is 4 hours 15 minutes to 5 hours. Time includes all vet and water stops.

Trail Checks There will be two P&R checks out on the trail. Both trail checks will be at the same location. You will need only one bucket for the trail. You may fill your (one) trail bucket with whatever supplies you would like ride management to carry out to the trail check area. You are limited to what you can fit into your water bucket. It is recommended that you first place your trail items into a plastic bag then place the bag into your water bucket. Mark your name on both your bucket and your bag to avoid confusion. Once the bucket truck arrives at the trail check area the buckets will be placed around the area at appropriate intervals. The contents will be removed and set next to your bucket. Then the water tank will drive around and fill all the buckets with water. Buckets will be refilled with water for the 2nd trail check.

Food Saturday night will be a covered dish meal. Ride management will provide main course & beverages. **Please bring a dish to share.** Coffee, juice & donuts will be served on Sunday morning. Trail snack and lunch for participants on Sunday.

Discount This is a benefit ride for Camp Boggy Creek. Any rider that includes a \$20 check (with their entry) made payable to **Camp Boggy Creek** will receive a \$5 discount on their entry fee. All donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.



Camping at Camp Boggy Creek Please remember that we are **guests** of Camp Boggy Creek. They have been very kind to open their facility to us. Please leave the grounds as clean as you found them. Pick up all hay and manure from your camp site and either take it home with you or put it on the manure pile next to the barn. **Stalls*** and use of the **covered arena*** for electric corals are available to the early entrants. All other horses will **camp out**. Any tree used for tying horses must have protection around it to guard against rope and/or horse damage. **Toilets** in the barn. **Toilets & showers** in

first cabin for all to use. Beds in the camper **cabins*** are available. The cabins are heated and air conditioned and have **toilets** and **showers**. The cabins are a dormitory type situation. There are nine beds to a cabin room. Please bring your own sheets, blankets, pillows & towels. If you choose to sleep in a cabin either stall your horse or make arrangements to have someone be responsible for your horse during the night. RVs are welcome, but no hooks-ups. No firearms or alcohol. No smoking in buildings and other designated areas. Special arrangements need to be made for dogs. ***Stalls**, use of **covered arena** & bed in **cabin** are available at an extra charge. See Entry page.

Raffle Many generous local merchants and horse businesses have donated items to our raffle. This is another way we can have some fun while raising money for the Boggy Creek Gang at the same time. Tickets may be purchased at the ride.

For more information please visit the calendar page at www.DistanceRiding.com or contact Nora Mask, at cyberpony@aol.com or (407) 656-1120

The Five Flags Arabian Horse Association introduces the

BLACKWATER BOOGIE ENDURANCE RIDE



25 and 50 Mile Distances Offered
Saturday, December 2nd, 2006



Coldwater Recreation Area Horse Trails System

Blackwater River State Forest * NW Florida Panhandle

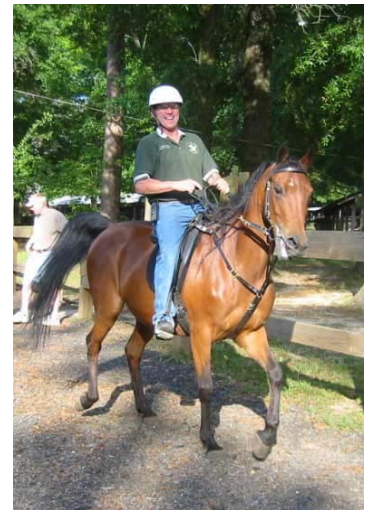
Unlimited Entries * 1st Time Distance Riders & All Horse Breeds Encouraged!

LOCATION: Ride camp and all vet-checks will be held at the 40-acre privately owned Blackwater Equestrian Center, 7039 Buddy Hardy Road, Milton, FL 32570.

TERRAIN AND TRAILS: Sandy, red-clay soil, and grassy horse trails and quiet dirt roads wind riders along the gently rolling terrain through long-leaf pine tree forests, streams and creeks, and over the occasional bridge. Shoes are not required for the average horse as gravel and rocks are minimal.

SANCTIONED: American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC), Southeast Distance Riders Association (SEDRA), and Southern Endurance Riders Association (SERA).

AMENITIES AND PERKS: Grassy treed fields to set up panel and electric corrals or picket lines. Horse water, porta-potties, brand-new 20 stall barn, hot meals, tack and craft vendors, ride photographer, farrier, and Bio-Scan services on-site. Cabins, electric/water campsites, bathhouse, canoeing/kayaking, and feed stores nearby. Lots of awards and goodies will be given out. Completion awards for all finishing competitors.



Christina Schiro on Ice

HELP FOR NEW RIDERS: There will be a special New Riders Meeting Friday night. For more information on endurance riding, including competition rules, conditioning, nutrition, and much more, please visit www.ffaha.org/BlackwaterBoogieER.

CONTACT: Christina Schiro at (850) 206-3237 (eves), (850) 595-4804 (days), or ckschiro@yahoo.com. Visit www.ffaha.org/BlackwaterBoogieER for ride entry, fees, and more information on the competition, facility, and trails. Pre-Registration is Strongly Encouraged.

GOETHE BENEFIT CHALLENGE 25/50/100
Goethe State Forest/Black Prong Trails/The "46"

Vet checks: 1pm on Friday **12/15/06**. **Ride is 12/16/06**.

Sanctioned: AERC and SEDRA

Camp: located on 46 acres in Steeple Chase off CR 326, 11990 SE 21st PL (private residence) Camp is on private property. Please do not do anything to jeopardize our permission to be here. Please do not tie anything to the fences. Camp is an oak hammock. Corrals and electric pens recommended. Water spigots and easy access. Please scatter manure and fill any holes. Please **NO FIRES!** \$15.00 grounds fee per horse. Dogs on leash enforced!



Terrain: Trails are mostly sandy/grassy with some gravel. Shoes recommended. Water stops along trails.

Vet: Doug Shearer. All checks in camp.

Meals: Dinner and continental breakfast for riders, extra dinners @ \$7.00.

[The Goethe Trail, Inc.](#) E-mail: blackprong@aol.com Connie Caudill, Ride Manager, (352) 486-6739 Fax: (775) 719-0969 1950 SE 111 Court Morriston, FL 32668 Helen Koehler, Co Manager, (352) 486-7040 or (352) 317-0273, visit www.DistanceRiding.com for more details and ride entry form.



Profit from this ride helps to perpetuate the shared trail system at Goethe State Forest. If you would like to donate to help the trails, your check may be made out to the **Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc.**



Thank you and have a great ride!

Dec 29, 30 and 31, **FHA 50**, Florida Horse Park at the Greenway Trails, Ocala, FL Contact Shelley Scott-Jones @ 352-861-0886 or Shelley.scott-jones@earthlink.net

2007

Jan. 3, 4, 5 and 6, **Gator Run I, II, and III Endurance Ride**, 25/50 miles each day at Goethe State Forest, Tidewater Camp, Dunnellon, FL. Contact Connie Caudill @ 812-967-5973 or Enduroride@aol.com

Jan. 25, 26, 27 and 28, **FHA 3-Day 100 Competitive Trail Ride**, Ocala National Forest, Altoona, FL. Contact Debbie Price @ hewasachallenge@aol.com or www.FloridaDistanceRiding.com

Feb. 10 and 11, **Withlacoochie Competitive Trail Ride**, 30 miles at Withlacoochie Forest, Lecanto, FL. Contact Jodie Moore @352-621-3231 or crackshotacres@aol.com .

Feb. 16 and 17, **Far Out Forest Endurance**, 25/50/100 miles at Ocala National Forest, Altoona, FL Contact Ed Oathout at 352-669-7798 or Faroutfarmfl@aol.com. **SANCTIONING NOT RECEIVED.**

Mar. 2 and 3, **Line of Pines Competitive Trail Ride**, 25 miles at Etoniah Creek State Forest, Florahome, FL. Contact LuAnn Wilson @386-659-1782 or Wilsonrd@bellsouth.net, Hope Binkley @352-669-1819 or cowgirlup88@clicksouth.net

Mar. 8, 9, 10 and 11, **Fun in the Sun Pioneer (FITS) (FEI)**, 25/50/35/55/100 miles, at Goethe State Forest, Dunnellon, FL. Contact Jan Stevens @ 406-784-2469 or circlebarranch@orangeweb.net.
SANCTIONING NOT RECEIVED.

April 20 and 21, **Million Pines Classic Elevator**, 25/50 miles in Soperton, GA. Contact Wesley Crowe 912-529-3956 or soppharm@planttel.net

May 4, and 5, **Biltmore Challenge (FEI)**, 50/100 miles at the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, NC. Contact Cheryl Newman @ 828-665-1531 or cherylnewman@charter.net

The Sentinel "Special Edition"

All ride flyers and entry information for our upcoming "Sanctioned Rides" runs in the Sentinel "Special Edition". This "should be" limited to one page, if space allows more can be added. This a part of our Sanctioning Program offered to our Ride Managers. Please be sure to have your completed forms and ride entry flyers turned in to the Sanctioning Secretary, so that you can take advantage of this newsletter, **the earlier the better!**

Let me tell you about our Sentinel Classifieds!

All listings run once in the "Monthly Edition of the SEDRA Sentinel".

SEDRA Members: We offer a free listing 25 words or less each month. Any additional will be 20 cents per word after that.

Non-Members: We offer a listing for \$5 minimum each month, 25 words or less, then .20 cents a word after that (name, phone number and email address counts as one word).

Display - Camera Ready Copy
(For each run, discounts for multiple runs)

1/8 Page - \$10
1/4 Page - \$15
1/3 Page - \$20
1/2 Page - \$50

The fees that you donate for your listing in the SEDRA Sentinel are contributions which you may designate to either our Trails Preservation Fund or our Educational Programs.

If you are interested, please forward your listing with your SEDRA member number to sedrasentinel@aol.com or I can give you mailing instructions so that you can send me your donation for the number of months you would like to run your listing.

Caren Stauffer
181 Riverwoods Drive
Chuluota, FL 32766
407-365-5601

Newsletter stats:

We have a mailing list that includes all our present members, past members (that have requested the newsletter), trail riding groups, other riding clubs that enjoy other equine disciplines such as Hunter/Jumper, Dressage, Reining, Hunter Pace, etc., Equine Vets, Vet Techs, Ride Managers and those that request our newsletter from our website, www.DistanceRiding.com, which averages over 600 addresses throughout the State of Florida, South Georgia and South Alabama. Not to mention, our Newsletter is often forwarded to friends, family, co-workers, and club members such as yourself!

www.DistanceRiding.com

SEDRA Mission Statement "...to educate, promote and encourage participation in equestrian competitive distance events throughout the southeastern United States..."

