

BILTMORE™

Equestrian Center

Biltmore Challenge Endurance Ride

<http://www.BiltmoreEndurance.com>

May 2, 2009

SEDRA SERA AERC 50, 75, and 100
AHA Local USEF FEI SR FEI YR

2009 Sponsored by: BLUE SEAL FEEDS
ADVANCED BIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS GENIE STEWART-SPEARS
RUNNING BEAR FARM SHORTY'S SADDLE & TACK TAYLORED TACK

The Biltmore Equestrian Center located on the grounds of George Vanderbilt's historic Estate in Asheville, NC, will host the fifteenth annual Biltmore Challenge Endurance Ride on May 2, 2009. All riders will be entered in the AERC Open category. Optionally, a rider can also enter the FEI category (senior or Young Rider). An AHA Local ride category is also optional. As an AHA local ride, sweepstakes points can be accumulated for nominated Arabian and Half-Arabian entries. In addition, we will have team competition.

Built in 1895, the Estate trails promise a challenging ride along the French Broad River and over rolling hills and low mountains. Pads are often used but are not necessary. We recommend that all horses be shod. Breast collars/cruppers may be helpful. Each loop will circle back to a central judging area adjacent to the main camping area. Weather is somewhat unpredictable in early May, but it is usually humid with temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s.

Length of Stay Passes. As part of the need for security on the Estate, and to provide a more official mode of access for attendees to the Estate grounds, entry will require a name pre-supplied to the gate guards. Names for the 'gate list' are allowed one per rider and one named crew member as part of the ride entry fees. Entry must be via the main gate. On the Estate, including at the ride site, colored wristbands will be required to be worn as visible proof of permission, and can be used for re-entry. Additional permits may be purchased for additional named crew members for \$25 each. *Note: Children 16 years old and under are free, but still must be on the gate list and wear the wristbands.*

ENTRY FORMS/PAYMENT: Please return entry form and signed waiver, if not already done, with your deposit or full fee. **All final payments are due by April 7.** Fees, except for \$25 deposit, are refundable with notice received before Monday, April 20; partial prior to April 29; none thereafter. You **MUST** bring Coggins test papers to check-in or send a copy valid through May 3, 2009 in advance. Non-AERC members must pay day fee of \$15. There is a \$25 late fee for downgrading after April 7.

Questions? Call Cheryl Newman at 828-665-1531 or cherylnewman@charter.net or equestrian@biltmore.com. Cancellations after April 29 please leave message at 828-225-1454 (Biltmore Equestrian Center). Also check the web site: <http://www.biltmoreendurance.com>.

AHA: The 2009 Biltmore Challenge a "Local Ride" for AHA Distance Ride points at all distances. To be eligible, the rider and owner must be 2009 'Competition' members of AHA and the horse must be AHA registered. To earn sweepstakes points, the basic requirements are: 1.

Have entered an Arabian or Half-Arabian in the event. 2. Have paid the annual enrollment fee of \$100 before the event. This can be done by phone to AHA or by downloading the enrollment form (www.arabianhorses.org, click on Sweepstakes.) You can enroll later but will not receive any retroactive points toward end of the year prize monies. 3. How points are scored: You receive one point for every horse you beat on the ride (regardless of breed) and one point for yourself up through fifth place. More detail is readily available at the AHA website.

FEI: Biltmore is hosting six FEI competitions: a 50 mile ride (CEI*), a 75 mile ride (CEI**) (tentative), and a 100 mile ride (CEI***); plus the same distances offered to Young Riders. Young Riders are eligible from the beginning of the year they reach the age of 16 until the end of the year they reach the age of 21. AERC juniors may enter any FEI ride as Seniors IF they are eligible to ride unsponsored (over 500 miles and with parental and USEF permissions). Separate qualifications and entry form are required for the FEI component at each distance. Please contact ride management on the requirements as they are in flux at this time, but will include USEF membership (horse and rider), and USEF high performance fee (\$35).

TEAM COMPETITION: Open to all riders within the 100-mile, 75-mile, and 50-mile AERC competitions, form your own team of three or four riders, with time for the top three finishers on each team counting towards awards. This is a good opportunity to practice team riding.... Check out how strategy and opportunities change in this environment! Entry at ride registration or ahead of time (send an email), no additional fees. At least two teams must be formed at a distance to qualify for a team competition.

CAMP: Camping is primitive in large open pastures. Corrals are limited to 15' by 15'. No camper hook-ups; city water at spigots; Portajons. Open fires are prohibited; charcoal grills OK. Dogs MUST be ON LEASH at all times and confined (not tied) when you are riding. Multiple motels / restaurants within 2 miles. On first-call-to-reserve basis, we have 6 stalls @ \$25/day, 4 large paddocks @ \$20/day/horse, 6 pipe pens @ \$15/day. The Biltmore Equestrian Center phone is: 828-225-1454. Guest barn stalls and paddocks are located about 3/10 mile from Registration and Judging / Crewing area, but you may set up camp at the paddocks / barn area. Signs will be posted.

Camp opens on Thursday, April 30. If you plan to arrive earlier, please indicate it on entry form and be prepared to pay extra camping and trail fees. All entry to the grounds will be through the MAIN GATE of Biltmore Estate (open 24 hrs). All **trailers** will also exit through the main gate. If you have extra vehicle driving with you, please note driver name on entry form. *All entering the Estate must have individual names on the Gate List ahead of time.* Follow Horse Event signs to camp.

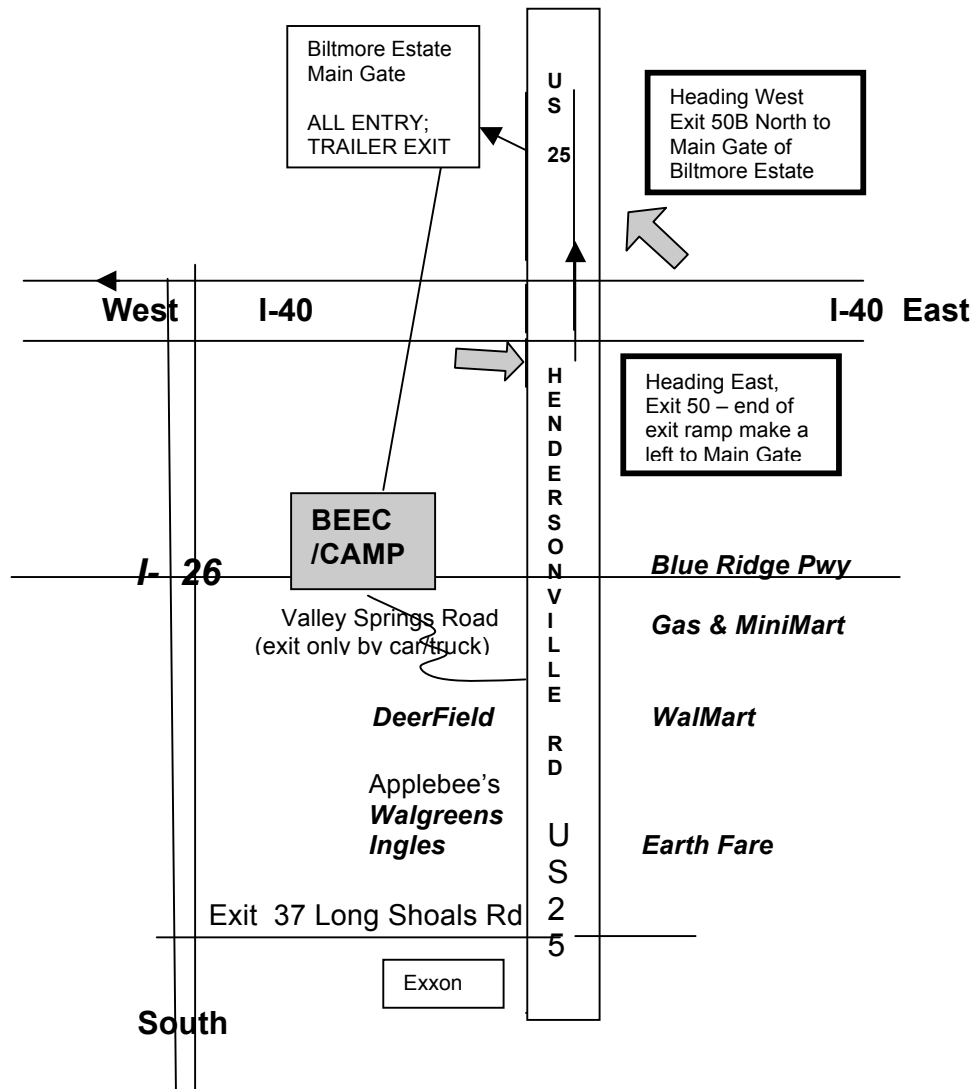
DIRECTIONS TO CAMP: If approaching Asheville from the EAST on I-40, take Exit 50B, US 25 NORTH. Follow signs to entrance to Biltmore Estate, turning right off exit ramp and moving into the LEFT lane to prepare for the turn into Estate Entrance.

If approaching Asheville from the WEST on I-40, take Exit 50, turn LEFT off the exit ramp at the light, following signs to Biltmore Estate Main Entrance. Stay in the left lane after your merge into traffic.

If approaching Asheville from the SOUTH on I-26, continue to the junction with I-40 EAST. After you get on I-40, take Exit 50 and follow directions as above.

After you pass through the first archway (Lodge Gate), continue to bear left to go past the Ticket Booth. Follow signs to "Horse Event" past Deer Park Restaurant. Watch for oncoming traffic and stay well to the right side of road. Cross the large stone bridge and go straight onto gravel road, which will bear right, allowing turn for large trailers. Signs will direct you to camp area near the outdoor arena. Do NOT try to drive through fields before you get to camp area.

If you go out the “back gate” (between the Main Barns) to eat or get groceries: Follow the dirt road under the Blue Ridge Parkway overpass and bear to the left until you arrive at a paved cul de sac. Continue on paved road to intersection at Valley Springs Road. Turn left onto Valley Springs and follow this road to Hendersonville Road. See map. To return, go through the Main Gate of Biltmore Estate.



RULES: All AERC/SERA rules apply to Open riders. Equines must be at least 60 mos. old for 50/75/100. No juniors on stallions. Junior riders must be at least 8 years old. Rules regarding discourtesy to officials and protest procedures are stated in the AERC Rules and failure to observe them may result in disqualification.

No ties. Any dead heat will be decided by a coin toss.

USEF and FEI rules apply to the FEI divisions.

PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR IS REQUIRED during competition, and for all juniors whenever mounted prior to and including Saturday.

SMOKING: Smoking is prohibited on trails; OK in camp or at judging check.

WHO'S WHO
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Cheryl Newman Anne Ayala
Elizabeth Bush (Biltmore Equestrian Center)

PLANNED CONTROL JUDGES 2009
Nick Kohut, Head Control Judge, President 100-Mile Vet Comm
Doug Shearer, President 50 and 75-Mile Vet Comm
Art King, Foreign Vet Delegate
Mike Bridges, Trish Harrop, Ann Stuart
Karen Reynolds, Treatment Vet

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday	May 1	10 A.M. – 4 P.M.	REGISTRATION
		1 P.M. – 2 P.M.	FEI INSPECTION AND INITIAL JUDGING
		2 P.M. – 5 P.M.	AERC OPEN INITIAL JUDGING
		5:30 P.M.	RIDER MEETING
		6:30 P.M.	BANQUET
Saturday	May 2	6:00 A.M.	START 100-MILE
		6:30 A.M.	START 75-MILE
		7:00 A.M.	START 50-MILE
Sunday	May 3	8:30 A.M.	AWARDS

JUDGING CRITERIA: Finishing criteria will be Fit to Continue. At checks all holds will be gate into hold, with 64 pulse requirement, unless control judge staff determines otherwise. Horse must meet this criteria within 30 min AERC / 20 min FEI of arrival at check or be disqualified. Other criteria may be included in rider packet or announced at rider meeting if weather is a factor. CRI will be used at least twice, including final judging for Best Condition. CONTROL JUDGE DECISIONS ARE FINAL!

FIT TO CONTINUE: A horse must recover to pulse rate of 64 or below within 1 hour of finish for AERC completion; 30 minutes for FEI completion. As soon as pulse is down, a horse may be brought for the final exam, but MUST be presented within the allotted time to avoid disqualification. Horse must be metabolically stable so as to demonstrate fitness to continue. Synchronous Diaphragmatic Flutter (thumps) must not be present at the time of the control judge's exam for any checkpoint including post-ride exam. There must be no gait aberration that is consistently observable under all circumstances that results in pain or threatens immediate athletic performance, exam to be conducted at trot, straight out and back, without prior flexion or palpation. Any soreness or wounds that affect horse's ability to go on may be cause for non-completion.

A horse may not have received medical treatment by a vet or layman prior to final exam. A horse must not require treatment for a soundness or metabolic problem. A horse that a ride control judge advises should be treated, but treatment is refused by rider or owner, shall be considered in the same light as a horse that has been treated and disallowed completion.

FARRIER: Jeff Pauley will be the ride farrier. He will be on the grounds 1 pm Friday and during ride Saturday. **To make an appointment in advance please call Jeff at 828 712 2343.**

MASSAGE: Michael Beesley will be the equine massage therapist on the grounds. **To make an appointment in advance please email Michael at intouchwithhorses@att.net or call 772 340 0898.** Lelia Canter will be the human massage therapist on the grounds. **To make an appointment in advance please email Lelia at SbanjoC@aol.com or call 828 380 0982.**

AWARDS: Completion awards for all riders. Team awards to first three teams; Top 10, Best Condition (BC) and 1st-to-Finish Awards; Junior, Rear Guard, Middle-of-the-Pack, plus other awards as sponsored.

FOOD: Friday evening dinner is included in rider fees. Extra tickets are \$25 for non-riders. Ben's burgers and fixin's are available Saturday evening for \$12 per person **by reservation**. Coffee and rolls will be served at Awards on Sunday morning. Horse feed/hay are available by prior arrangement with BEC.