

BILTMORE™

Equestrian Center

Biltmore Challenge Endurance Ride

<http://www.BiltmoreEndurance.com>

May 5, 2012

AERC 50, 75, and 100

SEDRA SERA AHA Local; R12 100-mile Championship USEF FEI SR FEI YR

2011 Sponsored by: ABAXIS DELTA MUSTAD EQUILIBRIUM SHOES
BLUE SEAL FEEDS BILTMORE WINERY
APEX GENIE STEWART-SPEARS RUNNING BEAR FARM
TAYLORED TACK THE SETTLEMENT AT THOMAS DIVIDE

The Biltmore Equestrian Center located on the grounds of George Vanderbilt's historic Estate in Asheville, NC, will host the seventeenth annual Biltmore Challenge Endurance Ride on May 5, 2012. All riders will be entered in the AERC Open category at one of the offered distances (50 miles, 75 miles, 100 miles). Optionally, a rider can also enter the FEI category (senior or Young Rider). An AHA Local or Regional (100) 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.

Once again, we will be using trails on the West Side of the French Broad with some new, excellent views of the mansion.

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' automatically include the 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 10.** Fees, except for \$25 deposit, are refundable with notice received before Monday, April 23; partial prior to May 3; minimal thereafter. You **MUST** bring Coggins test papers to check-in or send a copy valid through May 6, 2012 in advance. Non-AERC members must pay day fee of \$15. There is a \$25 late fee for downgrading after April 10.

Questions? Call Cheryl Newman at 828-665-1531 or cherylnewman@charter.net or equestrian@biltmore.com. Cancellations after May 3 please leave message at 828-225-1454 (Biltmore Equestrian Center). Also check the web site: <http://www.biltmoreendurance.com>.

AHA: The 2012 Biltmore Challenge 100-mile ride is the AHA Region 12 Championship ride (Anne Ayala steward). The 50 and 75 mile rides are "Local Rides" for AHA Distance Ride

points. To be eligible, the rider *and* owner must be 2012 'Competition' members of AHA and the horse must be AHA registered. To qualify for the Region 12 100-mile Championship, the horse must have successfully completed at least 100 lifetime miles of competition, of which up to 50 miles may be earned in an AHA Regional or National Championship Competitive Trail Ride. All endurance completion miles must be from AHA, AERC or FEI Recognized/Sanctioned accredited endurance rides of a minimum of 50 miles distance. Additional, separate release form required. Sweepstakes points can accrue on all these events per AHA rules.

FEI: Biltmore is hosting six FEI competitions: a 50 mile ride (CEI*), a 75 mile ride (CEI**), 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 additional entry/release form are required for the FEI component.

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 1/2 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, May 5. 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.*

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.

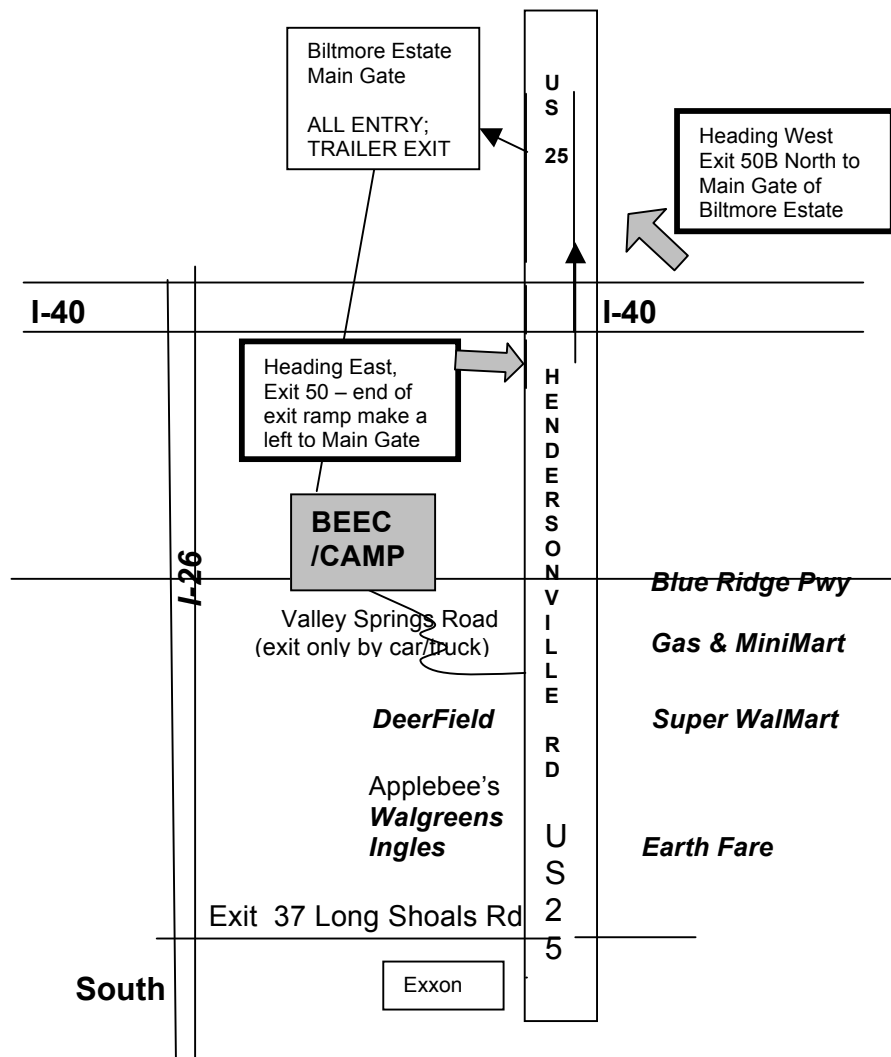
If approaching Asheville from the SOUTH on I-26, continue to the junction with I-40 EAST. After you get on I-40, take Exit 50 and follow directions as above.

If approaching Asheville from the NORTH on I-26, get onto I-240 EAST to I-40 WEST. Take Exit 50B, and follow the directions above.

Pass through the first archway (Lodge Gate), and go "straight" past the Ticket Booth. Follow signs to "Horse Event" or BEC making several turns. 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 except for AERC placings. A dead heat will be decided by coin toss or rider agreement.

USEF and FEI rules apply to the FEI divisions.

PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR IS REQUIRED whenever mounted.

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 2012

**Nick Kohut, Head Control Judge, President Vet Comm
Art King, Foreign Vet Delegate**

**Olin Balch, Julie Bullock, Ken Marcella, Ann Stuart, Thomas Timmons
Lynne Johnson, Treatment Vet**

AHA STEWARDS

Anne Ayala, Cheryl Newman

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday	May 3	Afternoon	CAMP OPENS
Friday	May 4	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 5	6:00 A.M.	START 100-MILE
		6:30 A.M.	START 75-MILE
		7:00 A.M.	START 50-MILE
Sunday	May 6	8:30 A.M.	AWARDS

JUDGING CRITERIA: Control checks will all be 'gate into hold', with 64 pulse requirement, unless control judge staff determines otherwise. For non-finish checks, for AERC the equine must meet this criteria within 30 min of arrival at check or be disqualified; FEI equines have a 20 min from arrival. Horses must be judged 'fit to continue'. Other criteria, including exit exam, may be included announced either in rider packet or at rider meeting if weather is a factor.

Finishing criteria will be Fit to Continue including recovery. For AERC completion, recovery is to pulse rate of 64 or below within 1 hour of finish. For FEI, the time is 30 minutes. As soon as pulse is down, the equine may be brought for the final exam, but **MUST** be presented within the allotted time to avoid disqualification.

Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI) may be used, including final vetting for Best Condition.

JUDGE DECISIONS ARE FINAL!

FIT TO CONTINUE: Horse must be metabolically stable. Synchronous Diaphragmatic Flutter (thumps) must not be present at the time of the control judge's exam for any checkpoint including post-ride exam. Gaits must exhibit no 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: Equine: tbd

Human: Nancy MacDonald will be the human massage therapist on the grounds. **To make an appointment with Nancy, call her at 828 225 5022.**

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

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