

SEDRA Annual Meeting Minutes 2006-07

Meeting Date: June 23, 2007 Location: Livestock Pavilion, Ocala

Called to Order: 2:05 pm by President Ruth Ann McMahon

Attending:

RuthAnn McMahon - President
Carol Thompson – Awards Secretary
Caren Stauffer - Treasurer
Jackie Baker - Director
Jean Shaw – Director

Nan Soistman - Director
Roxanne Ciccone – Alternate Director
Kim Huck – Alternate Director
John Shaw – Alternate Director

Absent: Bany Cranmer – Corr. Secretary
Maris Ramsay – Ride Secretary
Chrissy Poole - Director
Marissa Poole – Jr. Director

Secretary's Report, Minutes from the last annual meeting were included in the program & read by the membership. Motion from the floor to accept minutes was passed.

Treasurer's Report was included in the program & read by the membership. Total income for the year is \$13,705 with total expenses of \$11,840 resulting in net income of \$1,865. The combined bank balance of both accounts was \$10,534.

- ★ Ride managers fee has been lowered from \$150 to \$125 which includes one additional insured. \$25 will be added for each additional insured party.
- ★ 2007-08 Budget will remain essentially the same.
- ★ Motion made & passed to approve Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports:

- **Protest Committee:** No protests were filed for the second year running.
- **Sanctioning Committee:** There were 14 Endurance and 6 CTR's sanctioned last season including 2 new CTR's & one new endurance. Upcoming year has 9 planned CTR's, 16 endurance rides, with return of some old rides plus a few new ones, including some out of state. Carol Thompson reminded members to volunteer for at least one ride.
- **Rules:** Carol Thompson reminded the membership that the rule books are online. She can provide a hard copy to anyone who needs one. Ride managers will continue to receive a hard copy in their sanctioning packet. There are several new rule proposals this year.
- **Publicity:** Website has been updated again & is constantly being improved. Not only are now we co-sanctioning many AERC rides, we are reaching out to increase membership through Horse & Pony, many other Fla. publications, & as many breed associations as we can. We would like to keep the mentor's list updated, please let Caren know if you would like to be a mentor. Now have a Ride Managers' Resource. Would like to improve ride results posting, add Driving information, Trail information, etiquette & safety. We will hold a cover contest for the directory again next year.
- **Membership:** Currently we have 203 members compared to last year at 199. Ruthann brought up Honorary Membership, which is a lifetime membership. We currently have 3, Carol Thompson, Eileen Cornwell, & Tom Hamilton, who were co-founders of SEDRA. 2/3 of the membership must vote to approve honorary memberships. This year, Rob Thompson was nominated. The membership voted overwhelmingly to approve.
- **Drug Testing:** All CTR's turned in their drug testing & no violations were found. The chain of custody form is found on the website. Questions from the floor were raised on the cost per blood sample, which is \$110. Also from the floor was a question on how the random sample is chosen. One ride manager offered that at her ride, 4 samples are pulled & numbered, and then a non-riding volunteer chooses one. At Maggie's Gallivant, all 4 samples were sent in & the lab randomly chose one to test. Rules state that 10% of horses entered should have blood pulled.
- **Appeals Committee:** No appeals have been filed.
- **Trails Committee:** • Mounting blocks – SEDRA has mounting blocks available that can be installed at any trailheads where the land manager will allow them.
 - ★ SEDRA is actively helping to organize public work & cleanup days for public trails. SEDRA members will get volunteer miles for working these.
 - ★ SETC (Southeast Equestrian Trails Conference) – Helen Koehler reported that the 2007 conference will be in Knoxville in July. 2008 will be held in Charleston, SC, 2009 will be in Gainesville, Florida. Federal trails administrators will be piggybacking with SETC in 2009, there will be many well organized organizations attending such as IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association). Equestrians must become more organized in order to preserve our use of trails. A Florida chapter of Back Country Horsemen, a nationally recognized organization, was recently formed which is a step in the right direction.
 - ★ Jackie Baker & Kim Huck attended a SCORP 2007 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan meeting where it was recognized that equestrians need to unite, organize, & voice their comments to officials.

Rule Changes: Process for recommending rule changes was discussed. Any member can recommend a rule change to the BOD, who will discuss the request & if approved, will write a proposed change which is presented to the general membership for a vote.

- ★ Helmet rule – requires that all riders wear approved helmets at all times when mounted or driving in a Competitive Trail event. Discussion was held on pros & cons, the penalty was discussed. Because the rule change is worded as mandatory, riders not adhering to the rule will be disqualified. Jodie Moore suggested that this rule be stated on the ride entry form.
- ★ Fairness & Impartiality – Family members of judges may compete in Mileage Only, if MO is offered. Horses owned by judges or those where the judge has a financial interest, may only compete in MO where it is available. No discussion.
- ★ Veterinarian Trail Judges – if the Trail judge is a veterinarian, they may score metabolics on their own score sheet. Discussion was held – Con: vet judge is hired to judge while lay judge is not, therefore it might take away from the hired judge's opinion. Pro: you have another opinion which gives more scoring criteria. Proposal was raised from the floor to do this as a trial year, membership voted to vote on permanent rule change.
- ★ Riders' Declarations – Riders' should make declarations on the score sheet; the declarations will be verified by the judges. Discussion centered on where to write the declarations & whether anyone really looks at them.
- ★ Mandatory 10 minute hold – remove word "optional". No discussion.
- ★ Mandatory Hold of at least 20 minutes (TRIAL YEAR) – Pulse check at 10 min, add a metabolic safety check by the vet during the hold. Hold is added to total ride time. Con – do we need an extra 10 min on a 25 mile ride? Pro – it was offered that we've had as many metabolic problems on 25's as on longer distances; this is for the safety of our horses.
- ★ Shorten 1-1/2 hr final exam time to 1 hr in extreme conditions – Discussion centered on common practice. The intent is to allow flexibility to shorten time to 1 hr with steward's approval.
- ★ Sick or injured riders – substitute riders may complete the ride for the horse to receive mileage only. Pro – this might keep a rider from continuing to compete when they shouldn't. Con – this is a team sport & the team should complete.

BYLAWS (cleanup): • BOD members must be members in good standing

- Committees
- BOD – allowing for another member if no junior is available, redefines directors & alternates
- Quorum – clarification of officers &/or directors
- Membership – clarification of day member fee.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Linda Gasparini gave a brief summary of the new driving division and explained that four rides have already agreed to open the rides up to driving. FHA's distance clinic has also been opened up to drivers. Distance driving clinic will also be held, probably in September.
- Maris is looking for a volunteer to take over transporting the scales to the rides.
- Special award nominations were read to the membership.
- **BOD Elections:** The nominees were read & introduced to the membership & nominations were taken from the floor. The new SEDRA Board of Directors were voted on, accepted and presented.
- Rule Changes: All Rule & Bylaws changes were approved by the membership.

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Ruth Ann McMahon – President
Kim Huck – Vice President
Carol Thompson – Awards Secretary
Bany Cranmer – Corresponding Secretary
Maris Ramsey – Ride Secretary
Caren Stauffer – Treasurer
Jean Shaw - Director
John Shaw - Director
Julia Shewchuk - Director
Nan Soistman –Director
Brenda O'Donnell – Alternate Director
Cindi Moore – Alternate Director
Dot Gould – Alternate Director
Monique Rawson – Jr. Director

Treasurers Report

South Eastern Distance Riding Assoc
Treasurer's Report 2006-07

Checking Account as of 5/31/07 – 5434.33

May 31, 2007

Jun '06 - May 07

Ordinary Income/Expense

Advertising Programs	784
Award Programs	2,964
Educational Programs	2,508
Miscellaneous Income	30
Sanctioning Programs	1,445
SEDRA Membership	5,020
Trails Preservation	952
	<u>13,705</u>

Advertising Programs Expense	1,921
Award Program Expense	7,191
Educational Program Expense	493
Membership and Administrative	371
Sanctioning Program Expense	1,635
Trail Preservation Program	230
	<u>11,840</u>

Net Ordinary Income 1,865

SEDRA Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Checking	5,434.33
Petty Cash	100.00
Wachovia CD	<u>5,000.00</u>

Total Checking/Savings 10,534.33

Total Current Assets 10,534.33

TOTAL ASSETS 10,534.33

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity	4,300.20
Retained Earnings	4,369.16
Net Income	<u>1,864.97</u>

Total Equity 10,534.33

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 10,534.33

We have earned 252.56 of interest from our CD, our statement will not reflect interest earned till the date of expiration. We pretty much stayed in line with our budget with the exception of a few unexpected but useful and very much needed expenditures in our Sanctioning Program, water tanks, scales, and Pinnies; Advertising program, our website upgrade and awesome income contributions from sponsors \$1,700 placed in our Educational Program! Another \$700 contributed will offset the production of our program, Directory and supplement out Volunteer Award Program. Our Trails Preservation Program received contributions from our generous membership and The SEDRA Sentinel Advertisements. Our Sanctioning income has nearly doubled and we have tried to cut costs by providing forms through our web site! This year,07-08, our budget will be revised to reflect any forth coming projects brought forth in our first Board meeting and include the increased sanctioning numbers.

Because of high costs of insurance we went with a different company that quoted us half the price for the same amount of coverage. We received a refund check from Creelman's (\$700) and that amount has been absorbed by additional costs incurred from Ride Managers number of additional insured's requested...this year the insurance costs will remain consistent across the board to SEDRA, the insurance program offered will be \$125 to include one additional insured and any extra certificate requested will be \$25 each to be covered by the Ride Manager.

Publicity – Our ears should be burning....people are talking about us! For a lot of reasons....but most of all because we have fun at our sport, we enjoy ...ourselves, our mounts, our friends, the fresh air and the challenge of what mother nature has in store for us!

Long Distance Rides sanctioning has increased, one reason is that we are actually promoting these rides not just providing the sanctioning; something that AERC hasn't done....yet. And at the same time give our membership and others the information they need to compete safely, healthy and happy!

With more rides....we need to increase the participants, our membership and our volunteers ...we are encouraging, informing and educating the public and our membership of trail issues, training rides, breed updates by....

Reaching out in print publications....

- Horse and Pony Articles, Everything Equine, The Salt Block, FL Horse Capital and different Breed Publications
- I do need help with North FL, GA, AL Publications.

Reaching out electronically...

- The SEDRA Sentinel and the Special Edition are being read locally, regionally and nationally... even placed on other distance riding club's web sites; this has encouraged distance riding related vendors to purchase advertisements and offered sponsorships monetary and/or product donations! We will have new section, Distance Riding Business Directory, Your Distance Riding Resource. (or something along those lines) to provide listings to these vendors...this will help inform those new or interested in the sport, or existing members have easy access, a click away to ordering supplies for the next ride!
- Email list is over 2,000 and growing ...to include all equestrian riding clubs/disciplines, breeds, boarding facilities, etc.
- 20 Distance Riding and Breed Chat Groups

Encourage Other Breeds to Participate!

- We are a 2007 Sponsor of the AHA CTR National Championship and we have been approved on the national level for the Open Event Incentive Program (OEIP). We will continue to improve our ongoing relationship with the AHA,
- Appaloosa Breed -Sponsored a Youth Trail Class at the National Event, placed us in their program and advertised our organization, we will be working on a partnership with web site interaction regarding the sport of long distance riding.
- Morgan, Paint, Paso Fino, Saddlebred, Spanish Mustang, FL Cracker Horse Breeds, have expressed a lot of interest in recognizing our members that compete with their breed, hopefully a program can be set up this year! We will continue to work on bringing in other breeds as well!
- Request members with unregistered horses in our distance program to update the breed information with Carol or myself...

Have information on the sport available.....utilize the information highway!

- Thanks to Teri Hunter, websbyteri.com, encouraged us to upgrade our web site's software...we now have the capabilities to update, change and add new content on a daily basis. It is still new to both Teri and I, so throughout the summer months we will continue to fix the few bugs that we have encountered along this educational process. We have come a long way, and have few more miles to go!
- Informative Articles on the Sport, Health issues, Traveling, Mentors List, etc.
- Maintain and update our Mentor List and a chat group to share information.
- Ride Managers Resource- Lets help RM maintain a smooth running event! Send in your suggestions or tips!
- Ride Results and pictures
- Incorporate the revived, new and improved Driving Division into the web site, with informative articles, guidelines and resources!
- Provide information on Trail Issues, Safety, Etiquette, Maintenance and Fundraisers!

Our directory has a new look with contact information and a lot of useful surprises. We will have the cover contest again, so start taking a camera to the competitions; send in your favorite photo anytime, and at the same time share your experiences....the good and the bad...these photos will be used for the Sentinel, Directory/Program Cover Shots and the Year End Power Point Presentation!