

Unicorn Hunt 2008

After almost 20 years of holding AERC/TERA endurance rides in the varied terrain of the sands of Matagorda Beach, the rock and hills of Bandera, and the Piney Woods of East Texas, Possum Walk Farms is offering several new opportunities this year.

The Unicorn Hunt will be AHA recognized for those of you riding for AHA achievement programs or sweepstakes money.

The Unicorn Hunt is the Central Region Championship for 2008. Monica Chapman and Michael Campbell honored us by asking that we host the first annual Central Region Championship. We consider this to be a tremendous responsibility and we hope we are able to host a ride that meets all expectations.

The Unicorn Hunt was also designated the last ride in the Texas Challenge Series. We hope that many of you are still competing in the series and that the Unicorn Hunt will be a great completion ride for you!

There are a few changes in the flyer as well as information about the out of camp check so please be sure to read the entire flyer. We have a "rain trail" we thought that we would never need to use on Labor Day but it proved to be a very successful ride saver in 2007.

Please call or email if you have any questions and please pre-enter to take advantage of the discount and to receive your T-shirt!

Unicorn Hunt
Endurance Ride
50/25 – August 30, 2008
100/50/25 – August 31, 2008
The 100 Mile Ride Will Be Offered Only If We Have Sufficient Pre-Entries

AERC Sanctioned – TERA Sponsored
AHA Recognized
Central Region Championship
Texas Challenge Series-Final Ride

IF YOU CAN'T RIDE THE RIDE, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!
PLEASE read the entire flyer as there have been many changes and additions this year!!

Endurance riding is an athletic event for both horse and rider in which the first goal is to complete the marked trail; the second goal is to ride this trail as rapidly as the condition of horse and rider allows. A qualified veterinarian and ride manager control each AERC sanctioned ride to a certain extent. All equines must pass thorough vet checks before and during the event before they are allowed to continue. After the ride, the equine must pass another check before being allowed a completion.

Directions: Kennard is 16 miles east of Crockett and 36 miles west of Lufkin. In “downtown” turn south off Hwy 7 between the Post Office and a small tan tin building onto CR 4625 (also called Broadway); watch for the “AERC Ride” signs from here. Eight miles from Hwy 7, turn right into private drive. This is a sharp turn, but large rigs can make it.

From Houston: Take Highway 19 from Huntsville to Trinity. In Trinity, pick up Highway 94 (right at the second stoplight) toward Groveton. Shortly after the "Y" intersection of 94 and 287, turn left on FM 3154. Take 3154 until you reach a stop sign. Cross FM 358, onto a dirt road, until it ends at a T. Turn right and it will be 1.8 m to camp. AERC signs will be placed from the 3154 turn until camp. You will turn left into the pasture.

Camp is in the first two pastures. Please pay attention to parking signs so that you do not park on the trail.

Camping: Private pasture (primitive camp - we will have port-a-potties) offers plenty of room for rigs and will accommodate panel or electric pens for the equines and/or tents for the humans.

There will be a separate area or areas marked for anyone who wishes to run a generator all night. There are fire ants in pastures – you may bring fire ant killer for your area. Watch for trail ribbons - please don't camp in trail. Please use pack-it-in/pack-it-out type camping, except for hay & manure (please scatter). Stock tank for equine water; please bring human water. Kennard is eight miles from camp; there are three small food stores with gas stations and one cafe. Pennington is about 6 miles away and has a small store and feed store. Groveton is thirteen+ miles away and has a grocery store. Lufkin and Crockett will have anything you may need, but are a bit farther (approx. 30 miles). **Remember bug spray for equines and humans.** Camp will be open from 9:00AM Friday. *Please call to make arrangements if you are arriving before Friday – this is a working farm and horses may have to be moved.*

Trails: Gently rolling hills down old logging roads, one-horse width wooded trails, and the permanent horse trails over natural forest floor through the Davy Crockett National Forest; there will be short connecting stretches on county dirt roads. Most trails, including the short road stretches, will be in the shade. Shoes are not necessary, but they are strongly recommended for 100 and 50 milers. Rock has been added to some sections of the 100 mile road loop, so we even more **STRONGLY RECOMMEND SHOES FOR THIS DISTANCE.**

It is possible that all distances may have one **OUT OF CAMP CHECK** on Sunday. A lot of logging is being done in the area, causing trail changes. We will let know ASAP when we have a definite vet check location. All checks will be in camp Saturday. We will have a vehicle available to carry supplies to the out of camp check. We recommend you have adequate supplies to leave in camp as it will be impossible to determine when the supply vehicle will return. Details will be discussed at the ride meeting.

Meals: We will offer barbeque and all the trimmings Saturday for a minimal charge. Meals will be provided for staff throughout the ride. Riders may purchase a meal for \$4.00 and non-riders may purchase a meal for \$7.00 while quantities last. *Food quantities will be determined using the pre-entry deadline, so please include your meal purchase for yourself and your crew/ family on your pre-entry.*

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER: *To avoid standing in a long line* - send the entry form filled out to the best of your ability, a copy of negative Coggins for every horse you are bringing, a copy of current AERC & TERA membership cards and a check or other form of payment. If you are competing in the AHA portion of the ride as well, please include a copy of both sides of your horse's registration papers as well as a copy of your competition card. There will be no way to make copies on site, so it is important to mail this or bring it with you on ride day. *Checks can be held until after the ride if requested.* Not only do pre-entries help you and us during registration, but they also let us know if we need to locate another vet to help the ride flow smoothly.

T-shirts will be given to pre-entries who start the ride only. If you want a t-shirt, it is doubly important you pre-enter! Thank you to Vicki Holzer and Eron Howell for their generous donation of t-shirts!! Fees are listed on the entry form. **100 milers are required to pre-enter. The 100 Mile Ride Will Be Offered Only If We Have Sufficient Pre-Entries.**

If the pre-entry deadline date slips up on you, notify us by e-mail (by the deadline), and you will still receive the discount.

Refunds: 100% if you do not start the ride.

ALL riders must present current AERC membership card or be charged a \$15.00 event membership fee. This is AERC policy.

Coggins on all horses in your trailer will be checked on arrival. Every horse in your trailer must have a negative coggins to be allowed on the property.

Ride Manager: David Fant

Ride Secretary: Amanda Fant 936-655-4048 or sfant@possumwalkfarms.com

Trails: Sylvia Fant

Head Veterinarian: Dennis Seymore, DVM

Control Veterinarian: Carter Hounsel, DVM

Control Veterinarian: Christina Romano DVM

Control Veterinarian:

Schedule (all times subject to change)

Friday: Registration - 3:00 PM - ?
Pre-ride vetting – 4:00 to 8:00 P
Ride meeting - 8:00 PM

Start times: Saturday: Riders will start at approximately sunrise Saturday.
Times for award meetings and Saturday registration will be posted at the ride when available.

Sunday: 100 milers will start at 4:00 AM. All others will start at approximately sunrise.
We will have 25 and 50 mile awards about one hour after the last finisher is in camp. 100 mile awards will be presented Monday morning with breakfast.

Come Have Fun With Us In Davy Crockett National Forest!
The Unicorn Hunt
August 30 and 31, 2008

Ride Rules:

1. The equines are under the control of experienced ride veterinarians who will do everything possible to help you evaluate your equine in order for you to complete the ride without hurting your equine. You must accept responsibility for your equine and yourself. The vets may disqualify any rider who has, in the opinion of the vets, abused his/her equine. The veterinarian's decision will be final in all matters concerning the safety and well being of the equines entered in the ride.
2. Ride management will refuse entry or disqualify any equine that presents a danger to anyone before, after or during the ride.
3. Proof of a negative Coggins test dated within 12 months for Texas and 6 months for out-of-state equines is mandatory. Each equine entering the camping area is required to have this proof. No entry will be accepted without proof of a negative Coggins test for each equine in their camp. Coggins papers will be checked at the gate.
4. The ride is open to all breeds of equines (horses, mules, ponies, etc.). The equine must be at least 60 months of age to enter the 50 or 100-mile rides. Equines entering the 25 mile limited distance ride must be at least 48 months of age.
5. A junior rider is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of December 1, 2008. Juniors must be accompanied by a competent adult sponsor entered in the ride, must list the sponsor on the entry form, and must finish within one minute of the sponsor. Failure of either to wait on the other will result in the loss of completion to both riders. Sponsors may be changed only at vet checks and only with the approval of ride management. AERC ruling for 14-16 year old/ 500 mile completion can apply, but all necessary paperwork must be presented. **ALL JUNIORS MUST WEAR APPROVED SAFETY HELMETS WHILE ON HORSEBACK** regardless of ride entry status.
6. All riders must be present and accounted for at the start of the ride. Management strongly recommends ALL riders wear approved safety helmets while on horseback.
7. The same horse and rider must pass all checkpoints, follow the ride rules, stay on the marked trail and do the loops in the correct order and direction to receive completion.
8. Vet criteria (pulse/respiration requirements, holds, etc.) will be discussed at the pre-ride meeting. Riders are responsible for understanding this information. All equines in each distance **MUST** meet ride criteria within 30 minutes of arrival in camp during the ride or be disqualified.
9. There is no minimum time limit for completion in any distance. Maximum ride time, **INCLUDING HOLDS**, for completion is 24 hours for 100 milers, 12 hours for 50 milers, and 6 hours for 25 milers. To receive completion, the rider may present his equine at any time during, but not longer than, one hour after crossing the finish line; 25 milers must present within 30 minutes of reaching camp and ride time does not stop until equine has met ride criteria. The equine must be metabolically fit to continue and have no gait aberrations that are consistently observable at a trot and must have a pulse of 64 or less; pulse of 60 or less for 25 milers at completion (unless stated otherwise at the pre-ride meeting). **RIDERS WILL DISMOUNT FOR ALL TROT OUTS.** ALL equines must see a Vet for completion check or when pulling for any reason. For Best Condition judging, equines must present for a 15-minute CRI, then a one hour post-ride check – 15 minute CRI time measured from the finishing time for 50/100; arrival into camp for 25 milers.
10. Riders are responsible for all farrier and vet fees that may be individually incurred.
11. Dogs are to be on leash or confined to rider's camp.
12. Camp fires are weather dependent. Please check with management before you build one; this will also be discussed at the ride meeting.
13. **Please keep tobacco and alcohol in your own camping areas.**
14. We welcome you to fish in our ponds, but please catch and release. **For safety purposes, please have an adult supervise all children under 12 around the ponds.**
15. All riders are responsible for their guests and crews. Any rider can be disqualified based on the behavior of their crews, guests, and/or horses.
16. **A "tie" at the finish line will occur only if it is not possible to determine who crossed the finish line first.**

We want everyone to have the best time possible at this ride, so please remember these guidelines are designed with that in mind. **HAPPY TRAILS!**

For further information call 936-655-4048 or email sfant@possumwalkfarms.com

For Email **PLEASE** put the words "Unicorn Hunt" in the subject line.

Please pre-register. Include entry form completely filled out, copy of coggins paper and current AERC & TERA membership cards. If you are competing in the AHA portion of the ride as well, please include a copy of both sides of your horse's registration papers as well as your competition cards. Mail-in payment is optional. Checks can be held until after the ride if requested.

Please note: We will only hold the 100 mile ride if we have enough pre-entries. Also, t-shirts will be awarded to pre-entries who start the ride **only**. **Thank you** to Vicki Holzer and Eron Howell for their generous donation of t-shirts!!

If you have pre-entered but cannot start, you will receive a full refund.

Please mail entry on or before **August 20, 2008** to receive the pre-entry discount.

If you miss the mail deadline, e-mail by the deadline to receive the discount.

Unicorn Hunt Entry Form

50/25

Saturday, August 30, 2008

Rider Information:

Name _____ AERC # _____ TERA # _____ AHA# _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Jr: _____ Age _____ Junior Birthday _____

Sponsor _____ Email Address _____

Rider & Tack Wt: (circle appropriate division)

Fwt (160 & under) Lwt (161-185) Mwt (186-210) Hwt (211 or more) Junior

T-shirt size Adult: S M L XL Child: S M

Horse Information:

Name _____ AERC# _____

Breed _____ Purebred Arab _____ Half-Arab _____ Reg # _____

Sex _____ Age _____ Color _____

Owner's Name: _____ Owner's AERC# _____ Owner's AHA# _____

SATURDAY

Entry Fee: (Circle distance riding and if you are riding AHA) 25 miles \$70 50 miles \$90

AHA Entrants: \$10

DISCOUNTS (Please mark all that apply)

_____ **\$10 discount Pre-entry** (postmarked by August 20, 2008)

_____ **\$5 discount TERA member**

_____ - 1/2 price -Juniors; no other discounts apply

Additional Fees: (Please mark all that apply)

_____ + \$15 - No AERC card (per AERC)

_____ + \$5 Camping Fee per trailer

_____ + \$5 USFS Day Permit Fee (Required by US Forest Service)

_____ +\$1 AERC Drug Fee (Required by AERC for any equine that will be on trail)

\$ _____ Please make checks payable to: Sylvia Fant SIGN RELEASE!

Please pre-register. Include entry form completely filled out, copy of coggins and current AERC & TERA membership cards. Mail-in payment is optional. Checks can be held until after the ride if requested. You will receive a full refund if you have pre-entered but are unable to start. Please mail entry on or before August 20, 2008. If you miss the mail deadline, e-mail by the deadline to receive the discount.

**Unicorn Hunt Entry Form
100/50/25
Sunday, August 31, 2008**

Rider Information:

Name _____ AERC # _____ TERA # _____ AHA# _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Jr: _____ Age _____ Junior Birthday _____

Sponsor _____ Email Address _____

Rider & Tack Wt: (circle appropriate division)

Fwt (160 & under) Lwt (161-185) Mwt (186-210) Hwt (211 or more) Junior

T-shirt size Adult: S M L XL Child: S M

Horse Information:

Name _____ AERC# _____

Breed _____ Purebred Arab _____ Half-Arab _____ Reg # _____

Sex _____ Age _____ Color _____

Owner's Name: _____ Owner's AERC# _____ Owner's AHA# _____

SUNDAY

Entry Fee: (Circle distance riding and if you are riding AHA) 25 miles \$70 50 miles \$90 100 miles \$150

AHA entrants: \$10

DISCOUNTS (Please mark all that apply)

___ \$10 discount Pre-entry (postmarked by August 20, 2008)

___ \$5 discount TERA member

___ ½ price - Juniors; no other discounts apply

ADDITIONAL FEES: (Please mark all that apply)

___ + \$15 - No AERC card (per AERC)

___ + \$5 Camping fee per trailer

___ + \$5 USFS Day Permit Fee (Required by US Forest Service)

___ + \$1 AERC Drug Fee (Required by AERC for any equine that will be on trail)

\$ _____ Total

Please make checks payable to: Sylvia Fant. Please complete your entry by signing the releases. Thank you!

**U.S. Forest Service Waiver
and
The Unicorn Hunt
Liability and Medical Release**

I, _____, acknowledge and accept that practicing for and participation in the Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride event, held in the Davy Crockett National Forest on August 30 and 31, 2008 involves the risk of personal injury. By my signature I hereby waive all rights to file a claim or lawsuit against the United States for any injury or damages which may occur during practice for or participation in the Texas Endurance Riders Association's Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride.

Upon acceptance of my application for entry in the Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride held August 30 and 31, in the Davy Crockett National Forest, I agree to abide by the rules of the AERC and the Unicorn Hunt. I understand endurance riding involves being in remote areas for extended periods of time, far from communication, transportation, and medical facilities; that these areas have many natural and man-made hazards which management cannot anticipate, identify, modify or eliminate; that horses can be excitable, difficult to control, and unpredictable; and that accidents can happen to anyone at anytime. I acknowledge that I assume full responsibility for the safety of myself and the animal I am riding. By my signature, I hereby waive all rights to file a claim or lawsuit against TERA, the ride management, all ride personnel, and all property owners over whose land the ride crosses, for any injury or damages which may occur during practice for or participation in the Texas Endurance Riders Association's Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride.

I agree to allow and be financially responsible for any necessary emergency medical treatment by any medical institution in the event of my injury or illness.

Any Known Drug Allergies: _____

Any Medical Condition: _____

I have read and understand this liability release.

Rider Signature _____ Date _____

Emergency
Contact _____ Phone _____

Mail to: Sylvia Fant,
3901 North Possum Walk Road
Kennard, Texas 75847

Phone 936-655-4048 or email sfant@possumwalkfarms.com for more information.

Please mail before August 20, 2008.