



Where you and your horse
can have fun!

January 2017 Newsletter



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

January Event

REMINDER!!! January 14th and 15th is our combined Extreme Cowboy Race and Obstacle Challenge at the Florida Horse Park. We already have a number of entries in both events. If you haven't sent your entries or made your reservations, please do so now! The flyer/entry/reservation form is attached and is on the website. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Order of go and stall/camping information will be emailed the week of the event.

SPONSORS NEEDED!!!!

SOCA is a 501c3 Non Profit Organization, so donations are tax deductible. Small or large, **ALL** donations are appreciated!!!

Sponsorships help us provide better events for you, including prizes, educational funds for our youth, donations to charities and buckles for high point awards. Email us at southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com for more information and forms. Sponsorship forms are also included with this newsletter

THANK YOU!!!

**THANKS TO ALL OUR JUDGES,
VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS!!!!**

SOCA dues (\$10) are due January 1st!

Please renew at your first event of the year.

Dues help fund the highpoint awards and administrative costs of the club.

2017 Events

- 1/14-15/17 – Florida Horse Park – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) on Saturday & Obstacle Challenge on Sunday (Flyer Attached)
- 2/25/17 – Obstacle Schooling Day & Judging Clinic – Rocking K Ranch, Hernando, FL (Flyer Attached)
- 4/8/17 – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) - Green River Farm, Gaffney, SC
- 4/22/17 – Obstacle Challenge – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL
- 5/13/17 – Extreme Cowboy Race (double points) – Pontotoc Agri-Center, Pontotoc, MS
- 6/3-4/17 – Extreme Cowboy Race – EXCA Nationals (Triple Points) – Celebration Arena, Decatur, AL
- 7/8/17 – Obstacle Schooling Day – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL
- 8/12/17 – Extreme Cowboy Race (Double Points) – Chicopee Agricultural Center, Gainesville, GA
- 9/9/17 – Obstacle Schooling Day – Darby Oaks Stables, Bushnell, FL
- 9/23-24/17 – Extreme Cowboy Race SE Regional Championships (Triple Points)- Green River Farm, Gaffney, SC
- 11/11/17 – Obstacle Challenge Championships – Florida Horse Park, Ocala, FL

**2017 Events flyers are on the website at
www.southernobstaclechallenges.com**

Southern Obstacle Challenge Association

352-217-2448

P.O. Box 1479, Bushnell, FL 33513

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YOUTH RIDERS – GET READY FOR 2017!

YOUTH RIDERS

Bernie Duncan Memorial

Youth Educational Fund

Starting with the 2016 show season, SOCA will award \$500 to the high point youth rider at the Obstacle Challenges and \$500 to the high point youth rider at the Extreme Cowboy Races.

The youth/horse combination must compete in all 2017 SOCA Obstacle Challenges to be eligible for the \$500 Challenge Fund Award.

The youth/horse combination must compete in all 2017 SOCA Extreme Cowboy Races to be eligible for the \$500 Race Fund Award.

The Youth must be a paid member of SOCA for the 2017 season. The same youth can win both awards if they attend all races and challenges.

Congratulations to our 2016 Winners:



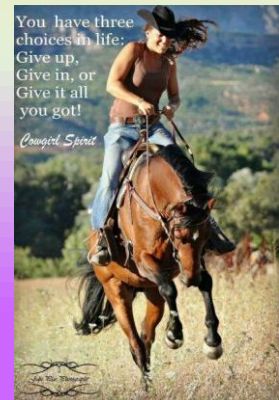
Stephanie Walters
Obstacle Challenges



Casey Hiser
Extreme Cowboy Races

REMINDER: CHANGES FOR 2017 OBSTACLE CHALLENGES

- Divisions for 2017 - Youth, Posse, Novice Horse & Rider, Intermediate Horse & Rider (currently called Non Pro), Open/Elite & Training
- Riders will be required to move up to the next division if they place in the top 3 at least 3 times in that division, except Youth. This is cumulative!
- Training division is judged, but not scored – You will get a card for the judges to give a score, but they won't be tabulated or prizes given. Simply training.



If you have news that you would like to submit to the SOCA newsletter, please email it to southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com

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NOTICE

The below notes were sent to all SOCA judges in preparation for the coming show season. We are publishing to our members so you know what judges have been instructed to do and look for.

NOTES FOR JUDGES – OBSTACLE CHALLENGES

- Once an obstacle has been engaged, rider may not start over, only proceed from where horse left obstacle. If horse balks and refuses in the obstacle, rider may not choose to start over. Horse must always show forward motion.
- Once an obstacle is completed or 60 seconds has been called to move on, rider must move on to next obstacle, EVEN IF there is no one waiting for the obstacle. No schooling or training can be allowed. Judging requires concentration and it is unfair to our judges to have to be aware of the horse's presence if the horse becomes unruly. Even a short moment of relaxation helps the judges be prepared for the next rider.
- Completing the obstacle is not enough anymore. Our riders have all improved. Judges need to be watching for horsemanship skills. Quiet hands, using leg and seat aids quietly, no clucking or other aids. Use of reins or crop to move horse forward should be penalized. Use of reins or aids to punish horse should be penalized heavily.
- It is the rider's responsibility to read the course and obstacle instructions. Specific questions are welcome, but judges are not there to explain every obstacle to every rider. If a rider asks questions, directions should be given before rider performing obstacle and not repeated once rider has engaged obstacle. Be sure your instructions are clear and understood and if rider makes a mistake, do not instruct until obstacle is complete and scored.
- Each obstacle is allowed 60 seconds to complete. Riders must stop attempting obstacle, retrieve score sheets and move on when instructed by judge. Any violation of this will be considered disrespect of SOCA judges and will be given a score of 0.
- We ask that riders who want to ride in groups, please be aware if an obstacle bunches up and break up your groups to proceed to the next obstacle and move along alone or in smaller groups.
- All riders should approach the judge with scoresheets and not wait for the judge to come to you. That's a lot of steps in a day. Please be respectful of judges and help them do their jobs when possible.
- Please do not ask to see your scoresheet or attempt to take a photo. It takes time from the judge and riders behind you. Scoresheets are available after the awards ceremonies.
- There should be a penalty for horses being out of frame, head tossing or any signs of distress when stopping.
- Even if a horse performs an obstacle, there should be a penalty if horse cannot stand still at any time during the obstacle, when appropriate. "Hot feet" means that a horse is nervous about the task. SOCA rewards a calm, willing attitude.
- For questions or comments, please contact Diane McMurtrey at dmcmurt349@aol.com.

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Each year, SOCA makes a donation to charities on behalf of our judges/volunteers that go above and beyond by judging at all of our obstacle challenges. Here are the recipients of this year's donations!



Adamsville Baptist Church Food Pantry in Wildwood, FL on behalf of Lisa Ratliff



Daytona Beach German Shepherd Rescue on behalf of Keith Earle

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY®

“ Cancer didn't bring me to my knees—it brought me to my feet. ”
— Michael Douglas

Evie - leukemia survivor

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LLS on behalf of Mike Woodard, announcer for all SOCA obstacle challenges



Special Olympics Florida on behalf of Kathy Beville & Danny Hochadel

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**THANKS TO OUR 2017
SPONSORS FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT.....YOU
ARE APPRECIATED!!**

SOCA would like to thank our 2017 Corporate Sponsors

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Tyson Colt Company
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**WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD YOU
TO THE LIST!!!!**

**SPONOSORSHIP FORMS ARE
ATTACHED. THANKS!**



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Serenity Ranch Photography
Dade City, FL

Jr Adams
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THANKS AGAIN TO OUR 2016 SPONSORS!!!

SOCA would like to thank our 2016 Corporate Sponsors

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Thank you to our 2016 buckle, division and ribbon sponsors:

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2017 High Points

In 2017 SOCA will award high point obstacle challenge winners in the following divisions: Novice, Youth, Intermediate, Open Elite and Posse. Points from each of the 2017 SOCA Obstacle Challenges will be totaled and the horse/rider team with the most points will be the high point champion. Based on the feedback from members, the high point award will be custom SOCA buckles. Ribbons will be awarded to 6th place for high point.

Regional Championship buckles for the Extreme Cowboy Races will be determined by points accumulated at SOCA events only. The horse/rider teams accumulating the most points at each designated SOCA EXCA race (with the triple points at the Nationals in June and Regional Championship races in September and double points for all State Championships) will be awarded the high point buckle in the following divisions: Pro, Non-Pro, Ride Smart, Novice, Intermediate, Youth and Young Guns.

To be eligible for high point buckles, SOCA members must have attended all challenges or races.

SOCA dues (\$10) are due January 1st!
Please renew at your first event of the year.
Dues help fund the highpoint awards and administrative costs of the club.

Purpose of SOCA

OBSTACLE CHALLENGES

- Divisions for all levels of horses and riders
- Open to all breeds
- Payback in all classes, prizes, and ribbons
- Ten to fifteen obstacles
- Events will be in arenas and on the trail

EXTREME COWBOY RACES

- Sanctioned Extreme Cowboy Races with divisions for: Pro, Non-Pro, Novice, Intermediate, Ride Smart, Youth, Young Guns, & Green Horse
- Open to all breeds
- Payback, prizes, and ribbons

CLINICS/SCHOOLING DAYS

- Learn to negotiate obstacles
- Schooling days will allow you to practice obstacles with the help of others, and without the pressure of competition.



Extreme Cowboy Racers

Reminder to pay your dues to the EXCA so your points will count! If you aren't sure if you are current, check the EXCA website under the club page.

If you have news that you would like to submit to the SOCA newsletter, please email it to southernobstaclechallenges@gmail.com

