

# THE TRAILRIDER

SEPTEMBER 2009 • VOLUME 35 • NUMBER 9 • A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF OETRA

## Get Ready for OETRA's Fall Rides!

### OETRA LABOR DAY RIDE September 4–7, 2009 Robbers Cave State Park Wilburton OK

#### Friday, September 4

6:30 p.m. Meet & Greet

#### Saturday, September 5

Various guided rides in the morning

5 p.m. General Meeting

6 p.m. Potluck supper

7 p.m. Talent Show

#### Sunday, September 6

Morning: Pancake Breakfast, \$3.00 per person. Fund-raiser for permanent corrals at Robber's Cave

Afternoon: Family-oriented horseback games

Show current Coggins. Event Fee: \$10 per person. Families of 4 or more \$40. Camping fee: \$18 electric, \$10 meadow (primitive)

**Chairmen:** Larry Zeller, Jeanette Zeller  
Contact: larry@okiepups.com 405-414-2401

### OETRA FALL COLOR RIDE November 6–8, 2009 Cedar Lake Equestrian Camp Ouachita National Forest Heavener, OK

#### Friday, November 5

6:30 p.m. Meet & Greet

#### Saturday, November 6

Various guided rides in the morning

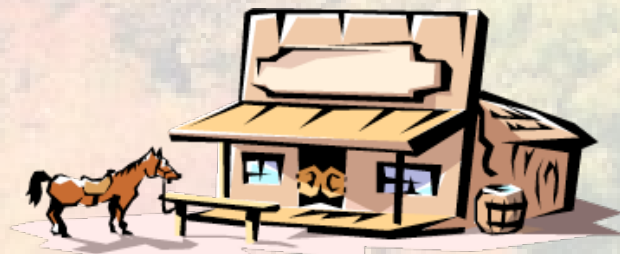
5 p.m. Member Meeting

6 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner

We need leaders for rides, whether slow, fast, short rides or long ones. Contact Tracey or Teri if you're interested.

**Chairmen:** Teri Wyatt, tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com 405-340-5491; Tracey Brauer, t.brauer@att.net 405-488-5141

### Sign-up NOW for Lunch at Harvey's Bar on Saturday!



Fall is here! Or at least it sure has felt like it these last couple of weeks! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for probably the most beautiful fall foliage we'll see in years at Cedar Lake. This late summer rain (and lots of it) is going to make the Fall Color Ride truly a ride to remember! Come early!

We're going to be eating lunch at Harvey's Bar on Saturday again this year. Start signing up if you're interested. Lunch will consist of a brisket sandwich, chips and pop for \$6.00 cash to Harvey's. Beer is extra.

Please contact Teri Wyatt by phone 405-340-5491 or email tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com to let me know if you'll be eating lunch at Harvey's.

Watch for more information about the scheduled events in October's newsletter! **Teri Wyatt, Co-Chair**

### OETRA GPS CLINIC October 10–11, 2009 Duncan Lake, OK

#### Saturday, October 10

9:00 a.m. Instruction on latitude and longitude and basic instruction to operate a GPS

Noon–1 p.m. Lunch break on your own

1–5 p.m. Poker Run using latitude and longitude. Grand prize for the highest hand GPS. Other prizes awarded.

6:00 p.m. Potluck dinner; club will provide meat, dance to follow

#### Sunday, October 11

Ride on your own

\$15/person. Duncan Lake map on www.oetra.com

**Chairmen:** Dee & Charlsie Hummel, Milt Alexander  
Contact: milt@netzero.com

# OETRA

[www.oetra.com](http://www.oetra.com)

## PRESIDENT

### **Milt Alexander**

918 706-8439 Bristow, OK  
milt@netzero.net

## VICE-PRESIDENT

### **Teri Wyatt**

405 340-5491 Edmond, OK  
tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com

## SECRETARY

### **Larry Zeller**

405 826-4374 Jones, OK  
larry@okiepups.com

## TREASURER

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

### **Eva Lambert** 2008–2010

405 386-4246 Choctaw, OK  
lambert1249@msn.com

## BOARD MEMBER

### **Harvey Sapp** 2009

918 812-0369 Oologah, OK  
horsezrus@yahoo.com

## BOARD MEMBER

### **Richard Keen** 2009–2010

405 693-4738 OKC, OK

## BOARD MEMBER

### **Phil Milliken** 2009–2010

620 879-5482  
psmilliken@gmail.com

## BOARD MEMBER

### **Jeanette Zeller** 2009–2010

405 414-2401 Jones, OK  
Jeanette@okiepups.com

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

### **Patricia Bradley**

580 977-7124 Enid, OK  
prbradley@fullnet.net

## HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN

### **Vickie Mitchell**

580 838-2503  
okharelycowgirl@yahoo.com

## PLEASURE RIDE CHAIRMAN

### **Mary Ben Marshall**

405 303-2005  
maryben@mbo.net

## WEBMASTER

### **Terri Folks**

405 348-1397  
trfolks@cox.net

## Horse Haulin' Tip

You're out on the road, have engine trouble in your truck, with horses in the trailer. Gosh—where is that insurance card? Don't know the phone number, out here in the sticks—where is that card? Solution: Enter your insurance provider (US Rider, etc.) in your cell phone!

## Trail Ridin' Tip



Need to open a square bale but can't find your knife or wire cutters? Slip a broom handle under the string or wire and twist until it breaks.

## Shopping at Horse.com Benefits OETRA!

OETRA gets 5% from orders made to Horse.com (formerly Country Supply). Eva Lambert, OETRA Treasurer, reported she received a check from Horse.com for \$57.61 made out to OETRA! Thanks to all of you who remembered to mention the care code when ordering supplies and other horsey goods from Horse.com.

**Horse.com**  
**Care code: OETRA**

## OETRA Merchandise

Order from Carolyn Black.

The order form is on the website

[www.oetra.com](http://www.oetra.com).

## Trail Maps

from various Oklahoma parks can be downloaded and printed from the OETRA website

[www.oetra.com](http://www.oetra.com)

*Handmades only*

**Black Oak Forge, LLC**  
**C.J. Ward**  
*Oklahoma Farriers College*  
*AFA Certified Journeyman*  
**Lameness, Performance & Pleasure**

**918-742-6194**  
Cell **918-697-7384**

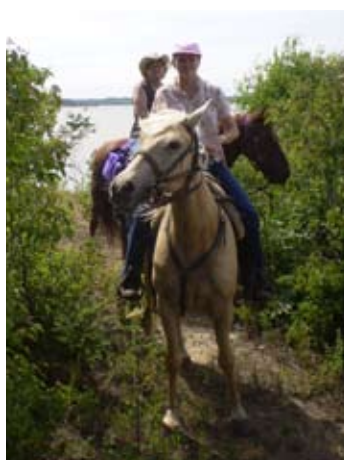
# Work Weekend at Kaw Lake September By Patty Bradley

OETRA and local riders around the Ponca City area have joined together to restore and maintain the equestrian trails at Kaw Lake, Oklahoma.

Several members of OETRA went to Kaw Lake in April to work on the trails from Sarge Creek, and several went in June to work the trails from Osage Cove. We made good progress at both sites, but much more needs to be done. The summer has sped by, and we've not been able to go back.

A work weekend is scheduled for September 25, 26 and 27 at Kaw Lake. The weather should be beautiful in late September!

Through Jim Anderson, Lead Ranger at Kaw Lake, we have free camping at Sarge Creek, in the group campsite (10 elec/water sites with a large pavillion) and sites A-1 through A-8 (also elec/water). They are already reserved for us, so no need to go online to reserve yourself. Altogether, there are 18 sites, first-come-first serve. Bring your own pens (panels or electric) for your horses. There are limited trees in the group site for picketing, but there are several



Jeanette Zeller and Diana Wood working the trails at Kaw Lake in June.

in the A area. They request we throw horse manure in the brush away from the campsites.

Please respond if you want to come! I'll be arriving Friday morning and will camp at the group site. Jim would like to know how many campers will be coming. If we do not fill up all 18 sites, we'll turn the extras back in so they can be reserved by the public. If you want to come for the day, there is a large meadow in the group campsite for day parking.

We'll meet Friday evening to meet one another and plan Saturday's work. If you come Saturday morning, plan to arrive by 9:00 when we'll prepare to ride out.

Saturday evening, we'll have a potluck dinner with meat provided at the pavillion.

Bring your trail tools, such as loppers, hand saws, nippers, marking tape (yellow and pink), enamel spray paint (yellow and pink), and so on.

If you have any questions, call or e-mail Patty Bradley at 580-977-7124 or prbradley@fullnet.net

## Lake Arcadia By Terri Folks

I had a fabulous meeting with Kate Kearby and Don Rubley, OETRA members and former trail masters at Lake Carl Blackwell. Don already had a large topographical map for us to review of the current trail system. He also had great questions for us in our discussions with the City of Edmond.

Kate and Don have walked the walk and talked the talk for building trails and working with an entity (OSU) on specific rules and guidelines. WHAT a BONUS for Lake Arcadia!

I have requested a topo map for their review that has the fence lines and boundaries we need to stay within for our new trail system. They have GREAT ideas and expertise.

So our next step after they can review the topo map, and scout out new areas possibly utilizing some of the "hidden" trails if they would indeed be good trails, is to get a meeting with the City of Edmond again, with Kate and Don in attendance.

Once we get moving on the new trails, we'll need to hold some work days to help clear the trails. Hopefully, our trails expansion will be a near-future possibility. I am not sure how soon the new parking area will be constructed, but the trails expansion is not a budgeted item.

## Prague Lake By Mary Ben Marshall

I exchange email with Linda White who lives close to Prague Lake and has worked a lot on those easy trails. She confirms that plans are being made to put in eight more RV campsites at Prague Lake, a barn with corrals, and a new trailer for the ranger. She says it will take time, but it's coming.



The back of Jean Riggs's helmet after a fall, showing a large chunk missing.

## A Close Call By Jean Riggs

Mary Ben Marshall really promotes the use of helmets and Glynda Wolf and I have only recently begun to wear ours. Last week they were put to the ultimate test in a display of synchronized human tossing by our horses.

My horse spooked on top of a dike and began backing down a very steep embankment. I kicked him to move him forward and he spun to the right. I almost came out of the saddle, pulled myself back in and he spun to the left. We both went tumbling down the hill. To add insult to injury, he ran back to the barn and left me stranded! It was a long walk back, but he and I went right back out and came back together the way it is supposed to be. I rode him a couple of days later and he was a perfect gentleman.

Glynda and I both had headaches but thankfully our helmets took the brunt of the abuse. Glynda's had a crack in it and mine has a chunk missing (see photo of missing chunk). Better the helmet than the head.



# 2009 Pleasure Ride Calendar

Mary Ben Marshall, Chairman

All Oklahoma Rides Require

Negative Coggins Within 12 Months

**Sept 4-7 OETRA LABOR DAY RIDE**, Robbers Cave State Park, Wilburton OK. **Sept. 5, 5:00 p.m. Meeting. Various guided rides. Sat. p.m. pot luck supper. Sat. evening: Talent Show in lieu of a dance. Everyone welcome to: sing, recite a poem, dance, do a skit, play a guitar – whatever your talent is. Comeshowus. Sun.: Family-oriented horseback games. Chairmen: Larry Zeller, Jeanette Zeller, Teri Wyatt, Harvey Sapp. EM: larry@okiepups.com 405-826-4374**

**Sept 4-7 CROSS COUNTRY TRAIL RIDE**, Eminence MO. 73 acre campgrd, shower house, indoor arena, Western Store, tack store, restaurant, dining hall. Vet, shoers, trailer repair on site. 3 meals/day, entertainmt. Fee \$125-\$230. Diff. groups riding at diff. speeds/length. Carolyn Dyer, 573-226-3492. Also Oct 4-10, Oct 25-31.

**Sept 4-7 FALL RIDE**, Indian Mounds Horse Camp, Clayton OK. Reservation required. Camping fee \$7/daily per person, children ages 10 & under free. Elec. campsites \$10/daily per hookup; corrals \$5 per horse/mule; stalls \$15 per horse/mule. Motor homes/campers avail. for rent, camping fees not included; bring your own bedding & cooking utensils. Rental horses \$10/hr or \$75/day. Current orig. neg. Coggins required. Trail guide service avail. upon request. Cook out over your open campfire or enjoy local cooking at several local restaurants. Jess Johnson 918-457-7162. Also Oct. 29-31. EM: trail-leader@earthlink.net

**Sept 5-7 LABOR DAY WEEKEND TRAIL RIDE**, Octavia OK. [www.j-dtrailriding.com](http://www.j-dtrailriding.com) 580-244-7261

**Sept 11-13 BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE**, benefiting T.H.I.S. CARES at Horse Heaven Ranch, Talihina OK. Please check out this wonderful organization at [www.thiscares.org](http://www.thiscares.org). Donated auction items are welcome to help raise funds for trail riding families in need. [www.horseheavenranchresort.com](http://www.horseheavenranchresort.com)

**Sept 12 MURRAY RANCH 4-H & ST. JUDE TRAIL RIDE**, in heart of Arbuckle Mtns. s. of Turner Falls, Chapman Ranch OK. Exit 47 off I-35. Sign-in 8 a.m. Gates close 9 a.m.; late arrivals not allowed to ride. Limited to 1st 50 riders. \$20/person includes sub-sandwich, chips, drink. \$10 min. collected @ gate for St. Jude donation. On trail—no dogs, no smoking, no alcohol. Pre-regis. required by Sept. 4 to Murray County 4-H Horse Club, Murray Co. OSU Extension Svc., 3490 Hwy 7 West, Sulphur OK 73086. Sponsor form avail. at OSU Ext. Bring your camera. For info: Murray Co. Extension Office 580-622-3016 or Dona Johnson 580-369-2924.

**Sept 19 WOOLAROC FALL TRAIL RIDE**, Woolaroc, OK. 12 mi. s.w. of Bartlesville OK. Gate opens 7 am Sat., ride begins 9:30. Approx. 5 hr. ride. Overnight prim. camp. avail. Fri. nt. \$30 includes lunch & dinner. Jan Tucker 918-336-0307 ext 11 or [jtucker@woolaroc.org](mailto:jtucker@woolaroc.org) or web site for flyer [www.woolaroc.org](http://www.woolaroc.org)

**Sept 19-20 BIGFOOT BOOGIE COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE**, Honobia OK. A-O/N/CP. Limit 60. Chr.: Anna Clawson, HC 68, Box 160, Honobia OK 74549 (918-755-4432); Sec.: Donna Gross, PO Box 451, Magnolia TX 77353 (281-714-7239)

**Sept 19 SHOESTRING RANCH 2nd Annual BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE** for Children's Hosp. at St. Frances. Donations accepted. Dinner \$5. Ride at 9 am. Neg. Coggins required. Liability releae required. No stallions. Turn left on 51 toward Stillwell & follow signs. From Tahl-equah take US 62/OK 51 e. to Stella's Hot Rod Store, rt. toward Stillwell on OK 51, follow signs. Robert Paris 918-316-0778; Judy Paris 918-316-0705.

**Sept 19 TRACE TRAILS COMPETITIVE TRAIL CHALLENGE**, Athens, TX. Fund raiser for NWAH Trail Ride Incentive Program. Trace Trails, 7960 County Rd 3914\*, Athens TX 75752. [www.tracetrails.com](http://www.tracetrails.com). Sandy trails, no shoes required. \$525 cash awards, great prizes. Prim. camp, water hydrant, food avail. Divisions: Open, Pleasure, Junior, Buddy. Special Award for high scoring gaited horse. Entry forms available. @ [www.ACTHA.us](http://www.ACTHA.us), <http://www.actha.us>. Info: Val 903-675-2953

**Sept 25-27 ROMAN NOSE HILLS TRAIL RIDE**, Watonga OK. 2 to 6-hr guided trail rides Fri., Sat., Sun. Benefits Watonga Hospital Founda. Benefit auction. \$50/rider includes prim. camping, 6 meals, entertainmt. Non-riders can purchase meal tickets. Park facilities nearby. Beginning this spring, park group camp avail. with A-frames for rent, each for 10 to 16 people. RV sites & park cabins avail. thru park. Jeff Fritz 877-782-2395, EM [wmhpress@pldi.net](mailto:wmhpress@pldi.net) [www.romannosehillstrailride.com](http://www.romannosehillstrailride.com).

**Sept 25-27 TAKE A RIDE ON THE WILD SIDE**, Okmulgee State Park, OK. 5 mi. w. of Okmulgee on Hwy 56. Sponsor, Oklahoma Charity Trail Riders. Benefit for Prevent Blindness Oklahoma. Thur. noon, campsites open; Fri. regis. & check-in noon to 6 pm, live band & dance 8-10 pm; Sat. regis. & check-in open 7 am. Guided rides 9 am in Wildlife Managemt. Refuge, varying length & speed, 3 meals furn.; auction & door prizes after 6 pm dinner. Sun. 2-3 hr. ride at 9 am w/light noon lunch for riders only. Adults \$35, early bird special by Sept 19, \$30; youth under 18, \$10. Check payable to Okmulgee Charity Trail Ride or O.C.T.R. Call Ivan/Flo 918-756-1685; Debbie 918-857-1493; Kathy 918-284-9817

**Sept 26-27 CHARITY TRAIL RIDE/CAMPOUT**, Ponderosa Campgrd., 1305 Ponderosa Rd., Pineville MO 64856. \$20 donation payable to NWAGHC Charity Events. Proceeds to Equestrian Bridges to benefit children w/autism. RV campsites \$20/nt. Stalls \$10 per stay up to 3 nts. Prim. camping \$15/nt. (over 4 adults \$5 ea/nt. Neg. Coggins required. Rides Sat. am. & pm, Sun. am. Diff. groups @ diff. levels. Live auction, music, dancing, Big Dog's BBQ avail. Reservations: 888-644-6773 toll free; 417-223-4081.

**Oct 3 HOOVES FOR A CURE TRAIL RIDE**, Bare Foot Ranch (a private working ranch), Haskell OK. Guided ride. \$15 registration fee, which includes a box lunch. Proceeds to be donated to local Susan Koman Foundation. for breast cancer. Trail saddle to be raffled. Charlotte Henderson 918-865-3430; Pam Godfrey 918-639-8501.

**Oct 10-11 OETRA GPS CLINIC**, Duncan Lake, OK. **Map on OETRA website. \$15/person. Sat. am – Classrm. instruction on Latitude & Longitude. Basic instruc. for operation of GPS. 12-1 pm, lunch break on your own. 1:00-5:00, Poker Run using Latitude & Longitude. Grand prize highest hand GPS, other prizes awarded. 6 pm Sat. – Pot luck dinner; club will provide meat. Dance to follow. Sunday ride on your own. Dee & Charlsie Hummel; Milt Alexander, milt@netzero.com**

**Nov 6-8 OETRA FALL COLOR RIDE**, Cedar Lake Equestrian Camp, Ouachita National Forest, Heavener OK. **Nov. 7: 5 pm Member Meeting (members only or join at the ride); 6 pm Pot Luck Dinner. Guided rides. Co-Chm. Teri Wyatt, [tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com](mailto:tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com) 405-340-5491; Tracey Brauer, [t.brauer@att.net](mailto:t.brauer@att.net) 405-488-5141**

**Nov 15 SADDLE UP FOR ST. JUDE'S TRAIL RIDE**, Horse Heaven Ranch, Talihina OK. Sponsor, SW Horse Trader. Sat. night: silent auction, door prizes, potluck dinner, meat provided, entertainment. Leigh Ann [lam@swhorse-ok.com](mailto:lam@swhorse-ok.com) 918-682-0653 [www.horseheavenranchresort.com](http://www.horseheavenranchresort.com) 918-567-4200

## Special Events

**Sept 12-13 OKLAHOMA FOUNDATION QUARTER HORSE REGISTRY SHOW**, Heart of Oklahoma Expo Ctr., Shawnee OK. Marilyn Duncan 405-392-2081 [www.okfqhr.com](http://www.okfqhr.com) Also Oct 17-18

**Sept 19 Equine Trick Training Clinic**, Claremore OK. Hosted by Pure Pleasure Gaited Horse Assn. (PPGHA) [www.ppgha.com](http://www.ppgha.com). Limited to 15 participants, unlimited observers. \$50 for participants, \$15 for observers. Advance regis. & paymt. due by 8/28/09. Janell Haymie 918-283-1305 [esptwh@hughes.net](mailto:esptwh@hughes.net)

# Trail Riding for the New Rider

## Basics from ol' cowboys...

So you have decided to take up trail riding? Let some riders who have been down that road offer you some tips.

First, get in a lot of practice riding close to home. Preferably with other riders so your horse will be accustomed to traveling with other horses. If your horse is inexperienced, it will be helpful to place him in between two experienced trail horses. Introduce him to every piece of tack at home which you plan to take on the trail ride. Some find it helpful to develop his/her own list of what to take – for the horse, for camp, and for you – so you won't forget anything. Be sure to include a flashlight for after dark in camp. If you use a long yellow slicker or ballooning poncho for rainy days, introduce your horse to that, too. One rider dismounted to put on his slicker, then his horse refused to let him get back on!

A short-legged rider with a tall horse might not be as agile as he needs to be, to mount. You can place your horse in a ditch while you stand on the adjacent high side; or use a handy picnic table; or if the ride site has a mounting platform, that's the easiest. Where a big fallen log is handy, step your horse across it, front feet only, and the log will provide you the extra height you need to mount.

You have already learned that tailgating the horse in front of you is taboo. Leaving a space the length of a horse is a safe measure. If your own horse might kick when the horse behind him comes too close, tie a red ribbon on his tail to warn that other rider.

Be sure your horse stands quietly on a picket line. An experienced rider will show you the proper length of the lead line so (1) the line is long enough to permit the horse to lie down if he needs to, and (2) the line is short enough the horse won't get tangled in it. When you have to tie the picket line to trees, use an extra cinch to circle the trees instead of a rope which will eventually kill the trees. Secure tight enough that the



cinch will not slip down the tree. Ideally the picket line should be high enough your horse can easily walk under it. If there are picket poles available, so much the better. Have you learned how to tie a quick-release knot? Some camps provide pole corrals.

When a group of riders plan to be out through lunchtime, each rider provides his own lunch, whatever his choice.

Often a rider needs to make a tack adjustment or simply needs a rest break. Do not be hesitant of asking your trail leader to stop. He won't mind, and you can take care of whatever is needed. (If the group is mixed company and a rest stop is needed, gals go in one direction, guys in the other.) No matter how snug you thought you drew up the cinch when you left camp, it is probable that after riding about five miles, you will need to tighten that cinch. Horses try to fool us by swelling out when we first tack them up.

At a watering hole, DO NOT CROWD. Where there is limited space for a few horses, take turns and be patient as each horse is offered the opportunity to drink.

Learn how to take a respiration reading on your horse. As your horse stands quietly while you are mounted, have another rider wearing a watch to observe his flank and count his breaths. On competitive rides the rule generally is that 18 breaths (in-and-out counts as one) in 15 seconds is the maximum. If your horse or any other in the group exceeds that reading, the WHOLE GROUP should with consideration remain quiet until the horse's reading drops below 18. Usually that will take place in less than 10 minutes. Obviously this might vary on a very hot day or with a horse not in good condition.

OETRA riders are pleased to help anyone on the trail or in camp. Either they will volunteer, or you can ask. All of us want everyone to have a good time, safely, doing what we like best. They are pleased to share what they have learned from their own experience. **HAPPY TRAILS! Mary Ben Marshall**

## Board Meeting Minutes–August 15, 2009

Milt Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:30pm on Saturday, August 15, 2009 at Patty's place near Tahlequah. Those present were Milt Alexander, Eva Lambert, Terri Folks, Teri Wyatt, Patty Bradley, Phil Milliken, Edd Alexander, Jeanette Zeller, and Larry Zeller.

June 2009 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

After much discussion about corral panels at Robbers Cave, the board voted unanimously to purchase 56 panels just like the 4 we already purchased at an approximate cost of \$4000. This will be enough to build 8 duplex corrals (16 total). Patty will arrange the purchase with the McAlester Atwoods store, and Milt will arrange pickup and delivery. More panels may be purchased later if we raise enough money from the upcoming Labor Day ride fund raisers.

**New Business:** Eva suggested that OETRA become an affiliate of Back Country Horsemen of America in lieu of the

Oklahoma Horse Industry Council. They are a national organization that advocates trail development and preservation on federal property. Cost is \$100 per year. The board voted unanimously to join.

Terri Folks gave an update on Arcadia Lake. A grant application has been made with the AQHA Stewards of Equestrian Trails for 2 picnic tables at a cost of \$500 each. Maps of the park will be obtained to determine exact boundaries so new trails can be planned. Development of the area is still in the planning stage. More information is available at the new website [www.arcadiaequestriantrails.com](http://www.arcadiaequestriantrails.com).

Patty gave an update on Kaw Lake trail development possibilities. Lake personnel are very willing to work with us if we decide to move forward. Patty will do more research and give a report at the fall color ride.

Larry made a motion to adjourn, Phil seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

# Trail Etiquette 101—The Basics kinkrest.com Submitted by Linda Polansky

Most wrecks and problems experienced on the trail can be avoided by using common sense and common courtesy. Make your ride, and your riding partner's rides, safer and more enjoyable by following these guidelines:

## Before You Mount Up

Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding in a group or on congested public or private trails. Busy multi-use trails are not the proper place for schooling green horses, and group members may prefer that you school your horse elsewhere.

Be sure to advise other trail users of your horse's temperament; e.g. a horse with a tendency to kick should always wear a red ribbon in the tail. Assume that not everyone will know what these ribbons mean, so be prepared to explain or take the necessary precautions to avoid trouble. If your horse likes to bolt, be sure that other riders are aware of this tendency and they are comfortable with you and your horse accompanying them on their ride.

## Riding in a Group

Ask if you can join a group out for a ride before assuming that you and your horse will be welcomed. Then, before the group departs, determine amongst the group members what the ride will entail, where it is going, and what gaits will be acceptable. If the group asks that you and your horse not accompany them, respect their request and ride elsewhere.

If your horse experiences behavior problems, dismount and remove your horse from the trail. Work on these problems in an enclosed area where you can safely address these concerns. In most cases, ride single file on a trail -- one behind the other. Stay to the right of the trail just like when you are driving a car to avoid collisions with other horses and riders. On wide firebreak or fire road trails, riders can ride side by side as long as they don't interfere with other riders and the horses get along. Horses can be competitive, and matching stride for stride can lead to an unwanted increase in speed.

If you are passing a horse on a trail moving in the same direction as you, let the rider and horse know you're approaching simply by saying, "Trail, please". The rider that is being passed should then move to the right as far as is safe or simply stop their horse for the approaching rider to pass. Like driving a car, pass on the left of the front rider or trail user, say "thanks" and keep on going. If horses begin to match strides, just relax. One will soon tire of the 'keep up game' and fall back. NEVER kick a horse into a gallop to get by. A gallop, lope, trot could upset the horse you're approaching. Just keep on walking -- and talking to your for-a-few-minutes riding companion.

## On the Trail

Don't run up behind other riders. You don't know if their horses are unbroken, green-broke, or aggressive and you may be setting yourself or your horse up to be kicked, or you may set off a dangerous bucking or bolting incident. Running up behind others without warning is just plain rude and inconsiderate!



Don't pass other riders without warning. When passing a green horse, that horse may kick at your horse, or take off bucking as you pass, setting off a chain reaction and putting other horses and riders in the group at risk.

Don't ride too close or crowd other horses. You are too close to the horse in front of you if you can't see the rear feet of that horse while you are sitting normally in your saddle, or if you can't count to three (3) before reaching an obstacle that the horse in front of you just passed.

Any closer than this lines you and your horse up in the kicking zone of the horse in front. A distance of at least one horse length (about 10 feet) should be maintained between animals on all trails. Don't tailgate!! Crowding on the trail is the same as tailgating on the highway—it's very annoying to the horse and rider being crowded, and sudden stops can end in multi-horse pile-ups that often end in aggressive behavior.

## Navigating Hills Safely

Walk your horse down hills. Use the hill as an opportunity to teach your horse to set his weight back over his hindquarters and pick his way slowly down the hill. A horse that rushes down the hill can crowd the horses in front of him, leading to aggressive behavior. On downhill routes, maintain at least three horse lengths between animals. You never want the horse in front to suddenly stop and you tailgate into the rider's saddle. Like driving a car, stay back and allow room for those sudden stops. If you can count the tail hairs on the horse in front of you, you're too close! When going uphill, keep at least two lengths between horses. Don't allow your horse to bolt off up the hill as this could cause other horses to bolt or buck.

## Controlling Speed

Walking is the acceptable trail gait. After all, trail riding is a pleasure experience. One isn't out to cover a certain distance in a specific time -- if you are, then join competitive or endurance rides. With trail riding, one is out to enjoy the country. See the trees. Smell the flowers. Catch a glimpse of a doe and fawn darting off into the tree shadows. Because that's what pleasure trail riding is all about, drifting along a trail while the rest of the world races out of control.

Never take off from a group of horses without warning or consent from the group as this can spark a chain reaction with bolting and bucking horses. If you want to ride at a faster gait, let other horses and riders know well in advance what you plan to do. If the group does not want to join your faster gait, move to the front and after you have gone a safe distance from the group, then move your horse into a faster gait.

## Respect the Land

Respect the land where you ride, and ride only along the edges of fields and on designated trails. Do not ride off onto adjacent land or farm fields or into areas that are closed to horses. Demonstrating respect and common courtesy to the land owners will ensure that you and your horse will be welcome to ride the trails for years to come.

*Continued on page 7*

**In Summary** *Continued on page 6*

1. Make sure that your horse has the temperament and training for riding in a group or on congested public or private trails.
2. Obey posted or agreed upon speed or gait limits, and use common sense in crowded areas. Cantering or galloping on crowded trails endangers everyone. Walking is the preferred trail gait.
3. Maintain appropriate distance between your horse and the horse in front of you—don't tailgate!
4. Walk your horse up and down the hills, staying to the right of the trail.
5. As a courtesy to others in your group, give verbal warnings for dangers on the trail (e.g. holes, low branches, approaching horses).
6. Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass.
7. Announce your intention to pass other trail users, and reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass on the left only.
8. Remove your horse from the trail if

you begin experiencing behavior problems.

9. Stay on the marked horse trails to avoid damaging crops or other sensitive natural features.
10. If you trailer to a location, do not clean out your trailer in the parking area. What you bring in, you must take out when you leave, and that includes droppings and shavings.
11. Other trail users may not be familiar with horses or their reactions to new experiences. Your horse may be another trail user's introduction to horses; what you do is a reflection of the local horse community.

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!**

Deadline for ads: 15th of the month  
Call Patty Bradley 580-977-7124 or  
e-mail prbradley@fullnet.net

Classified ad—4 lines	\$ 5.00
Quarter page	\$12.50
Half page	\$25.00
Full page	\$50.00

**OETRA Members to Remember**

*Keep these friends in your thoughts and prayers:*

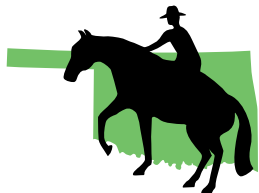
- **Shirley Smith** has been moved to Edmond Specialty Hospital, 1100 E. 9th, Room 106, Edmond, OK 73034. (405) 341-8150 is the main number, ask for room 106. She loves phone calls, cards and visitors.

**Treasurer's Report**

**7/26/09 to 8/26/09**

Balance Forward	<u>\$7,837.42</u>
<b>Expenses</b>	
2009 Directories	\$385.99
Labor Day Buttons	\$ 52.07
Newsletter	203.16
Subtotal	\$641.22
Ending Balance	<u>\$7,196.20</u>

**OKLAHOMA EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION**



**Renewals and Membership Application**

Send this form and dues to:

**Eva Lambert, 15701 SE 104th, Choctaw, OK 73020 (405) 386-4246**

**Make checks payable to OETRA**

**NOTE! New memberships from September 1, 2009 are in effect until December 31, 2010**

Renewal     New Membership

Family Membership \$25     Individual Membership \$20

Names \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

List children under 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Send newsletter by email (issue will be in color)     Send newsletter by U.S. Postal Service (issue will be black and white)

DO NOT include my information in the OETRA directory

# Health Papers Are Important! **By Teri Wyatt**

On our recent trip to Colorado, we had an unexpected delay while traveling back after our wonderful week of riding. Just about two or three hours out of Colorado Springs, I noticed a marked SUV approaching the on-ramp at a high rate of speed that I had just passed. Seconds later, he had both rigs pulled over—Rhonda and I in my truck, and the Zellers behind us. That's when I noticed the sign on his truck stating something about "livestock inspector". Oops.

As we carefully gathered our papers out of the glove box, he approached and asked us to remain in the truck as he inspected the Zellers. After looking at all four horses and papers, about 15

or 20 minutes, we were both given the approval to continue on our journey. I also had health papers on Boomer, just in case. I must say that he was friendly and courteous, but he was just doing his job.

I'm not sure what would have happened if we had not taken the time to get those health papers before leaving Oklahoma. I've heard that they can confiscate your horses, and even charge for the boarding. Whatever is true, we didn't have to worry about it! Larry commented that he thought the truck had been sitting on the overhead bridge as we approached, which would make sense as to how fast he got to us. With a pair of binoculars, he could easily see that we didn't have a front tag, which told him we weren't from Colorado.



Don't take the chance that you won't be stopped if you travel out-of-state. I never thought I would—and we are proof that it really can happen.

## "Favors"

If you are hauling a horse that belongs to someone else, even as a "favor" it is considered commercial use of your trailer. So when a boarder or friend "hitches a ride" with you (see USEA and USEF's share a ride program) legally you are engaging in a commercial transportation and are therefore legally bound by all commercial regs. Even if you rig says "private use only". Obviously if you are hauling other folks horses, it is not for your private use! **Editor**



**Oklahoma Equestrian  
Trail Riders Association**  
8801 NE 122nd Street  
Jones, OK 73049