

BILTMORE™

Equestrian Center

28<sup>th</sup> Running of the  
Biltmore Challenge Endurance Ride

<http://www.BiltmoreEndurance.com>

Remembering Anne Ayala, October 16, 1940 – December 27, 2012

**Friday May 5, 2023: 25 mile LD and 50 mile endurance**  
**Saturday, May 6, 2023: 30 mile LD and 55, 75, and 100 mile endurance**

**AERC      SEDRA      SERA**

**The Biltmore Equestrian Center** located on the grounds of George Vanderbilt's historic Estate in Asheville, NC, will host the twenty-seventh "annual" (except for Covid, floods....) Biltmore Challenge Endurance Ride on May 5 and 6, 2023. Two days of competition will be offered: Friday, with distances of 25 and 50 miles; and Saturday with distances of 30, 55, 75, and 100 miles. All riders will be entered in the AERC Open or Limited Distance category. In addition, we will have team competition in all distances.

Built in 1895, the Estate trails promise a challenging ride along the French Broad River and over rolling hills and low mountains. We recommend that all horses have hoof protection, and potentially pad at the 50, 75 and 100 mile distances. 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 excellent views of the House. At this time, we have over 40 miles of marked trail on the West Side that we exploit.

*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. Entry fees for the ride automatically include the rider and one named crew member for the 'gate list' for each day ridden. **For the 75-mile and 100-mile rides, the entry fees extend to two named crew members on the 'gate list'.** 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 \$55 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 full fee. **All entry fees are due by April 28, 2023 (closing date).** That is, any entry not fully paid by April 28 is accepted only at management discretion (not guaranteed, and \$40 late fee will apply). Fees are *fully* refundable if cancelled prior to April 29 close of business; then except for \$50 through April 30, then 50% if between May 1 and May 3 (but pre-arrival). After that, at management discretion. You **MUST** supply Coggins test papers valid through May 7, 2023 in advance (paper, scan, photo, all accepted). Non-AERC members must pay day fee of \$15. Payment by credit card will incur additional charges (roughly 5%).

Questions? Call Cheryl Newman at 828-665-1531 or [cherylnewman@charter.net](mailto:cherylnewman@charter.net) or [equestrian@biltmore.com](mailto:equestrian@biltmore.com). Also check the web site: <http://www.biltmoreendurance.com>.

**TEAM COMPETITION:** Open to all riders in all competitions across both days. So, 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, 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 hydrants; Portajons. Open fires are prohibited; charcoal grills OK. Dogs **MUST be ON LEASH with you or corralled 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 @ \$50/day in the Guest Barn including shavings and muck-out, some large paddocks @ \$30/day/horse (about ½ mile from camp) and some paddocks @ \$50 day/horse close to the action, 6 pipe pens @ \$20/day. A new barn is open close to the action at \$50 / horse / day, no shavings, no muck-out. The Biltmore Equestrian Center phone is: 828-225-1454.

Nominally, three nights of camping are included in a ride fee. If your rig horses plan on multiple days competition, up to four nights camping are included in two days ride fees. For example, horse 1 in the rig goes Friday and horse 2 goes Saturday, camping from Wednesday through Saturday night are covered.

Camp opens on Wednesday, May 3. 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). Everyone will also exit through the main gate. If you have extra vehicle(s) 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.

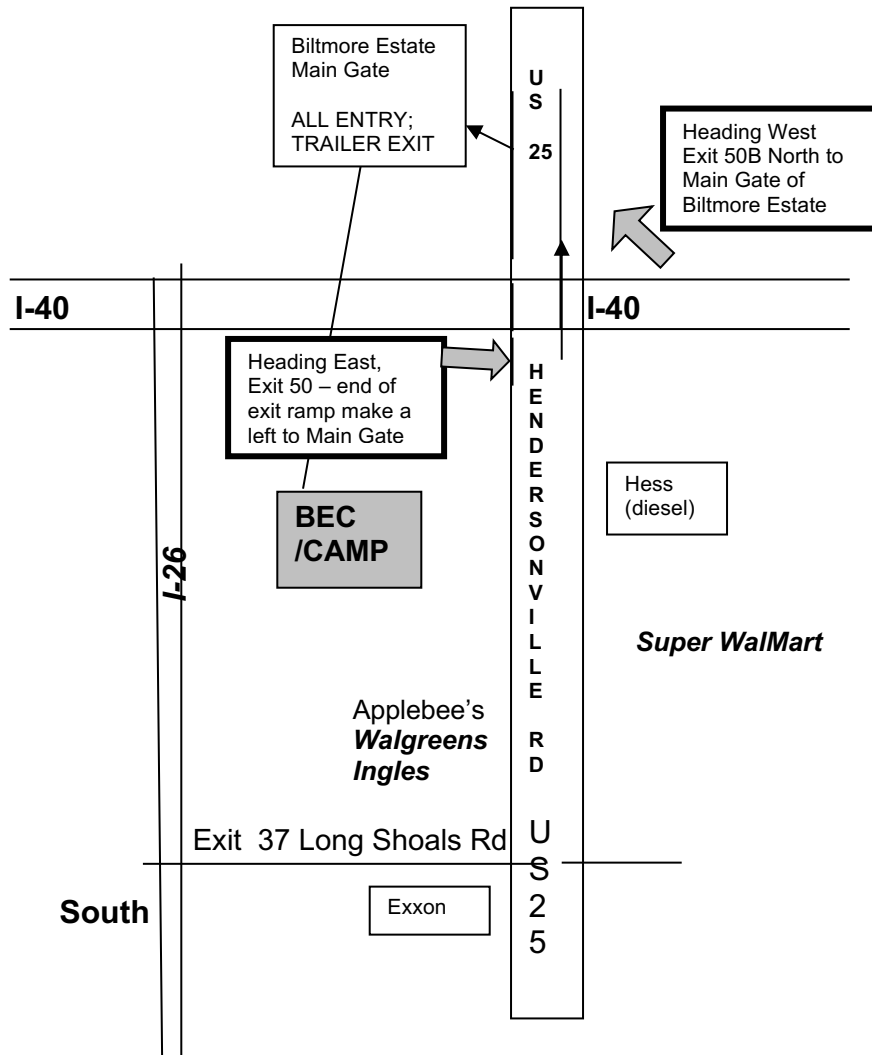
If approaching Asheville from the WEST on I-40, take Exit 50, turn LEFT off the exit ramp at the light, following signs to Biltmore Estate Main Entrance. Stay in the left lane after your merge into traffic.

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 main 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.

All entry and exit must be through the main entrance to the Estate.



**RULES:** All AERC/SERA rules apply to Open riders. Equines must be at least 72 mos. old for the 100; 60 mos. old for 50/75; 48 mos. old for LD. No Juniors on stallions. Rules regarding discourtesy to officials and protest procedures are per AERC Rules and failure to observe them will result in disqualification.

No ties except for AERC placings. A dead heat will be decided by coin toss or rider agreement.

**PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR IS REQUIRED** whenever mounted. No exceptions.

**SMOKING:** Smoking is prohibited on trails; OK in camp or at judging check.

**WHO'S WHO**  
**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Cheryl Newman

Rachel Kelly and Elizabeth McLean (Biltmore Equestrian Center)

Stephanie Laplante and Stagg Newman – trails

Bonni Hannah, Rachel Kelly, Beverly Brock, Jacki Wisler– volunteer coordinators

**PLANNED CONTROL JUDGES 2023**

Duane Barnett, Head Control Judge, President Vet Comm

Art King, Nick Kohut, Ken Marcella, Ike Nelson, Amy Spies

Lynne Johnson, Treatment Vet

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday	May 3	Noon	CAMP OPENS
Thursday	May 4	11 :00 AM – 4:00 PM	REGISTRATION
		1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	AERC OPEN VET-IN
		6:00 PM	RIDER BRIEFING
Friday	May 5	6:30 AM	START 50-MILE
		8:00 AM	START 25-MILE LD
		1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	REGISTRATION
		1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	AERC OPEN VET-IN
		2:00 PM	FINISH 25-MILE LD
		6:30 PM	FINISH 50-MILE
		6:30 PM	RIDER BRIEFING
		7:00 PM	AWARDS FOR FRIDAY
		7:30 PM	DINNER (if any)
		Saturday	May 6
6:30 AM	START 75-MILE		
7:00 AM	START 55-MILE		
8:00 AM	START 30-MILE LD		
3:15 PM	FINISH 30-MILE LD		
4:00 PM	AWARDS 30-MILE LD		
8:15 PM	FINISH 55-MILE		
Sunday	May 7	12:30 AM	FINISH 75-MILE
		6:00 AM	FINISH 100-MILE
		8:30 AM	Completions awards and Breakfast

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Control checks will all be 'gate into hold', with 64 pulse requirement, unless control judge staff determines otherwise. For non-finish checks, the equine must meet this criteria within 30 min of arrival at check or be disqualified. Horses must be judged 'fit to continue'. Other criteria, including exit exam, may be included and would be 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 open completion, recovery is to pulse rate of 64 within time limit described below. 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. Allowance for finish line at 1.2 miles from vetting arena: per AERC rule 6.2: after the walk back to camp all pulses must be down within 30 minutes. 20 minutes allowance for the walk has been agreed between ride management and the head control judge. SO: for all open competitors (non-limited distance) in the open endurance events, the net time post-finish line to get your pulse is 50 minutes. This is allowed at the final discretion of the Veterinary Commission and Ground Jury and finalized at the rider briefing, and in the Program of the event. Equines have up to an hour post-finish line to pass non-pulse criteria (that is 10 extra minutes to a net of one hour).

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

**JUDGE DECISIONS ARE FINAL!**

***FIT TO CONTINUE:*** The equine must be metabolically stable. There must be no gait aberration that is consistently observable under all circumstances that results in pain or threatens immediate athletic performance, exam to be conducted at trot (or equivalent), straight out and back, without prior flexion or palpation. Any soreness or wounds that affect equine's ability to go on may be cause for non-completion.

An equine may not have received prohibited (AERC Rule 13) medical treatment by a vet or layman prior to final exam. An equine must not be in need of medical treatment for a soundness or metabolic problem. An equine 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 an equine that has been treated and disallowed completion.

**FARRIER:** Mountain Farrier Service / Jeff Pauley will be the ride farrier. He or a colleague will be on the grounds during rides Friday and Saturday (til around 6pm). **To make an appointment in advance please call Jeff at 828 712 2343.**

**MASSAGE:**

*Equine:* Lauren Lukert will be the equine body worker (note: she plans to ride Friday). She will be on site starting Wednesday. **To make an appointment with Lauren, call her at 828 779 3276.**

*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. Top 10, Best Condition (BC) and 1<sup>st</sup>-to-Finish Awards; First Junior, plus other awards as sponsored.

**FOOD:** Friday dinner \$25. Profits from this meal go to Hope for Horses, the local equine rescue.