
Canadian Endurance Riders Poised to Compete at World Equestrian Games

(reprinted with permission from Equine Canada's HorseLife magazine)

As the Championship at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen draws closer, Monday, August 21st, top listed Canadian endurance riders are priming their strategies. They are working closely with the Team Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, and keeping their horses sound and fit to meet the speed to compete against the best in the world.

"I think we may have a shot at a top ten, and if the riders ride smart we could finish a team", says Kay Melvin, Chef d'Equipe.

The World Endurance Championship, in UAE, in January 2005 raised the bar in terms of speed and the number of nations that surged past 9 hours to complete 100 miles, albeit under ideal conditions - tolerable heat, low humidity, generous water stops, a deluxe course, and vet check/crewing area devoted solely to the event.



The first place finish of just over 7 hours predicts that the future of international endurance riding will be about

racing, athlete preparation, and the fastest and most efficient crews working to shave off seconds as superbly presented horses fly through the vet inspections. While the German course won't see those speeds, the Aachen

website does suggest a pace of under 9 hours for the front runners to complete.

"When you look at some of the other countries who have the resources to bring along good, fast horses and enable their athletes to concentrate on training it would be difficult to compete at their level. Our riders generally have full time jobs and don't have the financial backing to enable them to have the time to train as you need to be at the absolute top of their, and their horse's, game," Kay adds.

Canadians are held in good regard because for the size of the endurance population and small number of international events, Canadians can, and do, finish top ten at this continent's most prestigious international Team FEI **** championships. They secured a bronze team medal in 2003 at the Pan American Endurance Championship. In 2005 we had a team

completion at the World Championships in Dubai, being one of only four teams to do so. We saw two top tens at the North American Championships (FEI****) on a slow and complicated course with unexpected heat and humidity that excused more than half the horses at the vet gates.

Beware the Hair

WEG riders have been told that if they plan to cut the whiskers off their horses that they should do it in Canada. It is illegal in Germany.

Coming forward from the WEC 05 and NAEC 05, with good depth of experience, are five riders and horses, poised to again compete for Canada:

Karen Badger and Bree
Julius Bloomfield and Avtar
Mary-Anne Dorchester and SH Rock
'N Roll
Linda Riley and Sir Century
Ruth Sturley and RBF Super Sport

Julius Bloomfield and Avtar (BC) have shown excellent results in the 10 hour range, which gets into Top Ten territory. Ruth Sturley and RBF Super Sport (Ontario) have also shown good speed under tough conditions, with Top Ten results. Karen Badger and Bree (Alberta) also completed the difficult NAEC in 2005. Linda Riley and Mary-Anne Dorchester (both from Alberta) will be testing themselves and their own horses at the Team level, off shore for the first time, looking for successful completions.

Kay Melvin, Team Chef, will be experiencing her first WEG but brings with her much valuable experience, having led several Canada East Teams in the past. One of her challenges will be to meet the complexities and difficulties of working with Team members mainly based in Western Canada, while living near Guelph, Ontario.

Team Veterinarian, Dr. James Carmalt, Clinical Associate in Large Animal Surgery at Saskatoon Veterinary College, will soon be moving into

general practice. He is also an FEI official. James headed the successful Dubai Team in 2005 as well as the Canada West Team in 2003. "Race day is drawing ever closer and the amount of planning is phenomenal, but as usual, the training and horse readiness is paramount," James states.

In addition, James will have Dr. Roxy Bell assisting him at the WEG. She is an experienced international Team veterinarian based in Alberta. James has also arranged for a veterinary student from Glasgow University (Scotland) to help the Team in Germany.

The World Equestrian Games for Endurance riders is the event of a lifetime. Doing well here means having competed against the best in the world, and with peers from other Canadian disciplines, showing the world Canada's excellence in horsemanship and sportsmanship.

Kay concludes, "We don't have a large number of horses to draw from so we will do the best we can; they [the riders] are all so proud to be representing Canada."

For more information contact: Monika Smith, smithpr1@telus.net or by phone, (403) 242-6162. Monika Smith is Interim Secretary of Endurance Canada, and a former Chef d'Equipe of Team Canada, Endurance, World Equestrian Games.

OUCH!!!

I know all of you will join me in wishing Maura a speedy recovery from her bad fall from her horse and resulting broken hip ! She has been up on her feet a couple of times since the surgery to pin the hip ... and is expecting to be recovered by the time she flies to Aachen. Again I want to thank Maura for all the help she has given me "behind the scenes", I couldn't have got everything done without her assistance and look forward to seeing her back on her feet in August over at WEG.
- Kay(Melvin) June 20th

Doing well, getting around on my crutches and walker, the need for pain killers is decreasing now using less than prescribed. Will be having my staples out next Wednesday. As of today it's been 2 weeks which is 1/3 of the way through my 6 weeks no weight bearing. My progress according to the health care folk is ahead of schedule, so here's hoping that will continue. Family and friends are doing my chores for me which I am extremely grateful for - Maura July 1st

2006 Canadian Endurance Points

Terre O'Brennan
National Awards Committee
Endurance Canada Committee

This year I am trying to update the standings as ride results become available. This is **a)** less work for me all at once, **b)** much easier to identify errors and omissions, and **c)** hopefully more fun for all concerned! We had a multi-day ride early in the year in BC that propelled a lot of people to the top, but as rides come in from other provinces perhaps we'll see that change!

I have also tried to identify riders by province. I'm guessing in a lot of cases, so if you find an error, please let me know and I will fix it. If there is any interest, perhaps, at year end I will sort the results by province as well.

At year end, I will also add a column for "overall", which will include rides by Canadians *not* in Canada - ie rides in the US or FEI rides in other countries. At some point in the future the **Endurance Canada** membership will have to decide how they want to recognize accomplishment: in other words, how to define our awards program? The program will evolve as we grow and formalize. Encourage all endurance riders to join **Endurance Canada!**

For the sake of discussion though, people have asked me why I am not including US rides at this time as they clearly reflect considerable accomplishment by Canadians. Trisha Dowling just placed 8th at the Fort Howes FEI 100 in Montana for instance. I myself have recently completed an FEI 100 in Idaho; Kim Hofmarks completed the "open" 100 held in conjunction with it. Last year, Julius Bloomfield and Ruth Sturley placed in the Top Ten at the NAEC in Maryland; Elroy Karius was 1st MW (and overall BC) at the AERC 100 Mile National Championship; Rae-Anne Wadey was 1st Junior! Elroy was also 1st MW in the 50 mile Championship (different horse!) Earle Baxter won the Heavyweight Division of the AERC Pioneer Award; Robyn Wadey won the Junior Division! JC Quick Quint (owned by Connie Rawski and ridden by Ryan) won the National Best Condition award! These are all, obviously, *huge* accomplishments! (and if I've missed any, I apologize profusely!) Why then, don't I count them?

For one thing, they are all being recognized by AERC, and in most cases by the Provincial organizations where these riders live. I don't see the point in duplicating these awards (especially with no monies!). Additionally, AERC does not view these riders as Canadian - they see them as belonging to the AERC region in which they reside. So they don't compare "Canadians to Canadians", they compare Canadians to the Americans living in the same region. There is one final consideration to bear in mind for the future, when we will probably have an awards system that recognizes 'foreign' rides, people who live near the US border have a significant advantage over those who live farther north.

An "open" award system- not separating 'domestic' from 'foreign' rides—could easily see a Canadian champion who did NO rides in this country. So, for now, I am keeping it "Endurance in Canada". This will eventually change to reflect the membership's wishes.

In the meantime, visit the website to view the standings—I will post to CanEndure@yahoo.com when I make updates. If you are not a subscriber to this group, perhaps you should join! It provides us with an excellent format for discussion and debate!

Feel free to contact me with corrections, comments, criticisms and kudos—my email address is on the webpage. And if anybody is expert at designing databases...eventually we will need one to track cumulative mileage and horse mileage, etc. Volunteers are wildly appreciated!

<http://www3.telus.net/toby trot/2006endurancepoints.htm>

CURRENT LEADER BOARD

Senior Riders

Karius, Elroy	BC	540
Jewell, Gail	BC	401
MacLeod, Tara	BC	279
Jacobs, Ashley	BC	276.5
Nicholas, Linda	BC	237.5
Cryderman, Myna	Man	225
Eagles, Tania	Ont	210
Dorchester, Mary-Anne	Alta	198
Laing, Sandy	BC	175
Holmes-Balmer, Barbara	BC	165
Benns, Wendy	Ont	160
Paleczny, Tom	Ont	160
Klein, Nysa	Alta	150
Rawski, Jim	Ont	150
Soulsby, Sybil	Man	150
Malkoske, Brian	BC	145
Ellis, Karen	BC	135
Osback, Norm	Sask	130
Baxter, Earle	Ont	125
Richardson, Louise	Ont	125

Junior Riders

MacLeod, Ariel	BC	235
Janzen, Jaylene	Alta	90
Fultcher, Charnelle	Alta	60
MacDonald, Katie	Ont	50
MacLeod, Makayla	BC	50



Great News for Endurance Canada!

We now have a treasurer! Linda Riley has kindly offered to be our Interim Treasurer! We will now be able to work on some terms of reference in this regard. Linda will be our contact person with Equine Canada, as all our funds go to EC, and are deposited into our endurance account with them. Thank you, Linda! We know how busy you are, getting ready to go to the World Equestrian Games, and we wish you and your Team-mates every success!

AND Ruth Carlson has agreed to Chair our Officials Committee for Endurance Canada. Ruth is a Level "O" 4 FEI Official, FEI Course Director and a member of the FEI Endurance Committee. She is indeed the most senior and knowledgeable of all our officials living in Canada, and will do her best to get our FEI judges list together and updated so that the Committee can make recommendations to Equine Canada/FEI as to the star-ratings. We need to be kept current and comply with EC and FEI requests, and encourage more participation in this area. Ruth just returned from New Zealand and Australia where she taught courses for Advanced Judges and Technical Delegates.*

*A big **thank you** to both of you!*

Want to be involved? What is YOUR interest and/or expertise?

The Sub-committees listed below would welcome your help!

Endurance Canada Sub-committees:

Membership – Chicki Jacques

Communication

Website – Brenda Miskimmin

Newsletter – Kathy Irvine

Media/public relations/marketing -

AERC Liaison – Terre O'Brennan, Elroy Karius

National Rules – Eve Comrie, Terre O'Brennan, Kerri-Jo Stewart, Joan Harris

National Sanctioning – Terre O'Brennan, Barbara Holmes-Balmer, Grant Balmer, Joan Harris

National Officials – Ruth Carlson

National Coaching/Education – Gayle Ecker, Monika Smith, Kaaren Lebert, Terre O'Brennan, Karen Duperron

Athlete Development Programs – Kaaren Lebert

National Awards Program – Terre O'Brennan, Barbara Holmes-Balmer, Anne Mackay, Grant Balmer

Veterinary Committee -

Thank you all for volunteering your time to Endurance Canada!

Endurance Canada is OVER 80 Members strong!!



2006 Membership Application Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Club Affiliation(s): _____

Individual Rider Membership Fee: FREE in 2006!

Associate Membership Fee: FREE in 2006!

(All 'founding members' of EnCan will receive a reduction in fees in 2007.)

ENDURANCE CANADA is about YOU, and for YOU. The Endurance Canada Steering Committee is establishing **national rules and policies; is working to provide Canadian **sanctioning** for all endurance rides; is developing a **nationals awards/recognition program** (2005 rankings were made available earlier this year); will build **educational and coaching programs**, for the grassroots to **international**; will support our riders representing Canada; will play an active role on the **Equine Canada's Sport Council**; has reserved a domain for a planned **website**: www.endurancecanada.net , and will establish other means of **communication** as well. Please show your support for EnCan by becoming a member TODAY! Thank you!**

Please return this form to:

Chicki Jacques, Membership Secretary

4151 Field Road

Kelowna, B.C. V1W 4G1

Phone: 250-861-5849 jacques4151@shaw.ca Fax: 250-764-7443

(To return by e-mail, save it as a document; put cursor on blank text space; fill in information; save it; e-mail as an attachment. The form can also be printed out, filled in and faxed to the above number.)

To assist the Endurance Canada Committee, and its commitment to becoming a strong national organization for ALL endurance enthusiasts, I would like to make a donation: \$ _____ . (For amounts of \$10.00 or more a tax receipt will be issued.) Thank you! (Please make your cheque payable to Equine Canada, but specify that it is for Endurance Canada.)

Would you like to work on any of the committees indicated above in red? We would welcome your involvement. Please describe:

North Wind Challenge
2006 Canadian Championships
August 31st - September 2nd, 2006,

L' Ange Gardien, Quebec

August 31st:

100 Mile Canadian Championship Endurance Event. Canadian Teams + all individual open riders are welcome. FEI***, AERC, CALDRA, OCTRA and AHA (Region 18) sanctioned.

September 3 rd:

A 50 mile Canadian Championship event. This is a Canadian Team event + all individual open riders are welcome. AERC, CALDRA and OCTRA sanctioned.

IN ADDITION – ENDURANCE CANADA, as the representative of the sport for Equine Canada, IS FORMALLY SANCTIONING THESE ENDURANCE RIDES.

Go to:

<http://www.northwindchallenge.com/endurance.html>

For:

FEI Requirements
Entry Forms
Vet Stops
Description of the trail
History of Endurance
FAQ
Fantastic Pictures!

FYI - COPY OF RECENT MEMO RE: THE NORTHWIND CHALLENGE



Memo to: Joann Kearnan, Leila Corrigan and Joan Hurd
The NorthWind Challenge Team

Re: Canadian Endurance Championship Event, August 31st and September 3rd, 2006

Date: June 20, 2006

From: Endurance Canada

We want to congratulate you on hosting this most important Canadian endurance riding event! We hope that you have a great turnout of endurance riders and that this encourages the sport of endurance riding to grow in Quebec.

As the sport and discipline of Endurance Riding develops its own national organization - Endurance Canada - and as we are now Equine Canada's sole representative for the sport, and therefore in a position to do so, we would like to formally 'sanction' this Canadian Endurance Championship, unconditionally, in order for it to be a truly Canadian event. There is no cost and no obligation. All Canadian competitors will automatically become members of Endurance Canada.

We wish to ensure that Canadian endurance riders are aware that Endurance Canada will have a significant role to play in events of this stature. In the future, once our terms of reference have been finalized and our rules and sanctioning policies are in place, regional, national and international level Endurance competitions will be sanctioned by Endurance Canada/Equine Canada, as required and mandated. Our sanctioning of this event will help us to establish a continuity of the event in years to come.

We would like to present all Canadian competitors with certificates acknowledging their participation and completion (in both official languages), and include them in our national awards program for 2006, recognizing their miles and points. Following the event, could you please provide us with contact information for these riders so that we can forward the certificates to them?

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I can only image just how busy you are! All the best, and good luck! We will continue to promote the Championships in our monthly newsletter. We regret that we are not far enough along in our development to be of more assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Daphne Richard
Interim Chair, Endurance Canada Committee

With sympathy...

Gerry Greib

This June, Gerry Greib passed away.

Gerry had been ill for some time. Even last year at his own FEI ride in Drayton Valley he made a special trip out of his hospital bed to visit the riders and volunteers. His voice was very weak as he told each one of us individually how much it meant to him to have them there.

This avid endurance supporter and fine horseman will be missed in the Alberta Endurance community.

Funeral went very well. John Zeise came and so did Roy and Vicky Cust. Ron had gotten home and came as well. Audrey was thrilled to see him. Audrey was so strong and talked about their beliefs. Incredible to hear that Gerry was almost a Lutheran Minister! Lots of CTR and Endurance people were in attendance.

It was very much a celebration of his life with fabulous photos on an over-head of his competitions, racetrack winners, etc. We hope to get Audrey to the Entwhistle (Darwell) ride, July 29th. Her groom, Carmeda, is going to start riding with her weekly and 'our' plan is for her to do the 25 with Audrey and her new horse Legacy. Special D is having a year off.
- *Christy Janzen*

I only knew the Griebs from 1990-1995 and Gerry was starting to get sick when we moved to BC. I was hoping it would

pass because he used to be such a vigorous man. He and Audrey were very close and enjoyed dancing together at AGM parties. They raised true performance Arabians that excelled on the track and then at CTR and Endurance. Christy had some of their offspring in Endurance. For everyone that knew them, there was no doubt that Gerry was very knowledgeable.

In 1993 my mare Shae Alanna (Penny's mom) was Alberta's CTR Lightweight Champion while Gerry's stallion was Heavyweight Champion. I bred them the following year and my current Endurance horse, Penny, was born in '95 at Christy's.

Gerry should not have died so young.
-*Brenda Miskimmin*

Mary Lutz

The Canadian endurance community, along with AERC and USEF, are devastated by the loss of Mary Lutz, who had such a positive influence on our sport, especially at an international level. Mary died on her 55th birthday, June 9th, the result of a freak riding accident, when she fell and broke her neck. She will be greatly missed by so many in the horse world. Prior to going to USEF, where she was the current director of the Endurance and Para-equestrian Programs, Mary had worked as a trail guide in Quebec and had been a therapeutic-riding instructor. She loved riding her 11 year old Oldenberg gelding, Hoagie, who she had bred, and they were enjoying the afternoon sunshine on that fateful day. We will always remember and be grateful for her commitment and devotion to our sport.
- *Daphne Richard*



Spruce Woods Endurance Ride

July 8th and 9th, 2006
25/50/100 miles in one day.
AERC sanctioned.

The 2006 edition of the Spruce Woods endurance rides promises to be a great event. CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp.) is making a TV documentary about endurance riding and is using the Spruce Woods ride as one of the events they are covering. They are also traveling to the Tevis, in California as well. This is going to be a high budget TV special so why not come and be part of promoting our sport. We would like to make this look like the fun family sport that it is so the more the merrier.

There will be a 25/50/100 mile AERC sanctioned ride on July 8th and a 25/50 on July 9th. We are planning a potluck

group supper on Saturday evening to help display the great camaraderie of the sport, so please come and participate.

These trails are always well marked and the campsite has electricity and showers. We will be using different trails each day for the 25 and 50 mile events. Spruce Woods Park is located in east /west center of the province about 50 miles from the US border.

For further information please call (204-534-2390) or e-mail Myna Cryderman at mcryderm@mts.net

TRISHA DOWLING DVM and
ZF MOCHA

2006 Fort Howes FEI*
8th Place!**

Only 16 out of 40 riders completed the 100 miles!

Trisha tells us that Mocha is a produce of 2 research horses at the Western School of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon – an Arabian sire and a Standardbred mare. Mocha, now 8,

has 1500 miles with 100% completions!



Trisha and Mocha were in **very** good company; this was the third and final observation ride for the U.S. long-listed riders hoping to land one of the coveted slots on the U.S. Endurance Team that will compete at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen in August.

Congratulations!

IF YOU WANT TO RIDE IN A FEI RIDE:

Please note:

If you plan to ride in an FEI ride, even in Canada, you must have permission from our National Federation, Equine Canada. It is further required that you be a member of the national sport organization – in this case, Endurance Canada. Endurance Canada has been recognized as the sole representative of the sport of ‘Endurance’ on the Sport Council and Equine Canada. You will find a membership form attached.

Please contact our Membership Secretary, Chicki Jacques, for more information.
jacques4151@shaw.ca

It appears that there is ONLY ONE FEI RIDE REMAINING IN NORTH AMERICA 2006

CANADIAN CHAMIONSHIP ENDURANCE RIDE

NorthWind Challenge FEI***

L’Ange Gardien, Quebec

August 31st

joann.kearnan@servicecanada.gc.ca www.northwindchallenge.com

NORTH AMERICAN ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP 2007

Rumour has it that both Fort Howes, Custer National Forest, Asland, Montana, and Colorama, New Prospect, Wisconsin have put in bids to host the North American Endurance Championship in 2007. Fort Howes would hold the competition in June and Colorama would be in September. Either one is great news for Canadians because of the proximity!