

Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride No Frills!

55/25 – **SUNDAY**, September 1, 2024

AERC Sanctioned

Camp Opens **Saturday**, August 31 at 9:00 AM

Stallion Owners & Riders: Please contact us for pre-approval for your stallion to compete.

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 according to AERC rules. All equines must pass thorough vet checks before and during the event before they may continue. After the ride, the equine must pass another check before being awarded completion.

Directions: Kennard is 16 miles east of Crockett and 36 miles west of Lufkin. **From** “downtown” Kennard, 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 this direction, the dirt portion of the road is rather narrow. There is room for vehicles to pass, but it is tight. This is how we go in and out with our trailer most often, but we drive slowly.

From Houston via 45: 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 at FM 358. Cross FM 358, onto a dirt road, & continue until it ends at a T. Turn right and it will be 1.8 m to camp. You will turn left into the pasture.

From Houston via 59: In Corrigan, turn West on to Hwy 287 towards Groveton. Just after Groveton, turn right on FM 3154. Follow directions above.

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. Please be considerate of all campers and do not take up more than your share of the limited shade.**

You are responsible for the containment of your horses. All dogs must be kept on a leash.

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 is one small food store with a gas station. There is also a Family Dollar. Pennington is about 6 miles away and has a small store and feed store. Groveton is thirteen miles away and has a grocery store and several convenience stores. There is a small café, but it closes at 8:00 on Friday, 2:00 on Saturday, and is closed on Sunday. Lufkin and Crockett will have anything you may need, but they are a bit farther (approx. 30 miles). **Remember bug spray for equines and humans.**

Camp will not open until 9:00AM Saturday. ***Please call to make arrangements if you must arrive before Saturday – this is a working farm and horses may have to be moved.***

Come Have Fun with Us in Davy Crockett National Forest!
The Unicorn Hunt
September 1, 2024

Trails: Trails consist of 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/Forest Service dirt roads which contain stretches of rock.

Hoof protection of some type is not a requirement, but it is **strongly recommended** for all distances.

***The folks in Kennard have been working hard for months to get all the Piney Creek Horse Trails cleared and marked. There has been a considerable amount of bad weather in this area and Bo Parrish has been working and will continue to work on cutting trees out of the trail and repairing footing where necessary. All of us will be working on overhead clearance and moving the cut trees out of the trail.

***There will be at least one out-of-camp check in each distance.

We will have vehicles available to carry supplies to the out-of-camp check. We recommend you have adequate supplies to send to the check as well as 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.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER: Please send the entry form filled out to the best of your ability, a copy of the negative Coggins for every horse you are bringing, a copy of current AERC membership card and a check or other form of payment. *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. This is especially important with an out-of-camp check to plan.

Fees are listed on the entry form. ALL riders must present current AERC membership card or be charged a \$20.00 event membership fee.

If the pre-entry deadline (August 23) date slips up on you, notify us by e-mail by that day, and you will still receive the discount.

Refunds: 100% if you are not allowed to start the ride or if you cancel 24 hours before the ride.
“No contact & no shows” will have 20% deducted from their refund.

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. Also, please bring your Coggins papers to registration.

Ride Managers: David Fant/Sylvia Fant

Trails: Sylvia Fant/Amanda Fant/Katrina Mosshammer

Head Veterinarian: Dennis Seymore DVM

Control Veterinarian: Natalie Lord

Control Veterinarian: TBA

Schedule (all times subject to change)

Saturday: Registration – 2:00 PM - ?
Pre-ride vetting – 3:00 to 7:30 P
Ride meeting –7:30 PM.

- Start Times: Tentative: 55 milers will start at 5:00 AM. Final start time will be announced at ride meeting. 25's will start at 7:30. These times have been selected to have ideal flow in the vet checks.
- Awards: Approximately one hour after last 55 mile completion.

Ride Rules:

1. The equines are under the control of experienced ride veterinarians who will do everything possible to help you evaluate your equine to make it possible 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, in camp, on trail, or in a vet check.
3. Ride management will refuse entry or disqualify any rider that presents a danger to and/or behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner to anyone before, after, or during the ride, in camp, on trail, or in a vet check.
4. Proof of a negative Coggins test dated within 12 months 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 and presented to the secretary at registration.
5. The ride is open to all breeds of equines (horses, mules, ponies, etc.). The equine must be at least 60 months of age as of ride date to enter the 55 mile. Equines entering the 25 mile limited distance ride must be at least 48 months of age as of ride date.
6. A junior rider is a rider who was under the age of 16 as of December 1, 2023. Juniors must be accompanied by a competent adult sponsor entered in the ride, must list the sponsor on the entry form, must ride with the sponsor at all times, and must arrive in camp 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 pulse criteria within 30 minutes of arrival in camp during and at end of the ride or be disqualified.
10. There is no minimum time limit for completion in any distance. Maximum ride time, **INCLUDING HOLDS**, for completion is 13 hours 15 minutes for 55 milers, and 6 hours for 25 milers. Twenty-five milers may take a full 6 hours on trail with another 30 minutes to meet criteria. To receive completion, the endurance rider may present his equine for pulse at any time during, but not longer than, 30 minutes after crossing the finish line. 25 milers must meet criteria with 30 minutes of reaching camp, LD ride time stops when pulse criteria has been met. The equine must be metabolically fit to continue and have no gait aberrations that are consistently observable at a trot. The 55 milers 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 the completion check or when pulling for any reason. The head vet will discuss BC criteria at the ride meeting.
11. Riders are responsible for all farrier and vet fees that may be individually incurred.
12. Dogs must be leashed or physically confined to the rider's camp at all times. **NO DOGS IN OFFICE/VET AREAS.**
13. Camp fires are weather dependent. Please check with management before you build one; this will also be discussed at the ride meeting.
14. Please keep tobacco and alcohol in your own camping areas. Please dispose of all cigarette butts in your trash.
15. **NO SMOKING** on trail. Anyone smoking on trail will be subject to disqualification.
16. 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.**
17. All riders are responsible for their guests and crews. Any rider can be disqualified based on the behavior of his crew, guests, and/or horses.
18. **A "tie" at the finish line will occur only if it is not possible to determine who crossed the finish line first.**
19. Absolutely **NO** running or trotting through camp. Infractions are cause for disqualification.
20. No changes in trail will be made after the start of ride unless safety concerns dictate a change.

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 sfant2008@hotmail.com .**For Email PLEASE put the words "Unicorn Hunt" in the subject line.**

Please pre-register. Include entry form completely filled out, copy of negative Coggins result and current AERC membership card. Checks can be held until after the ride IF REQUESTED.

Please note:

If you have pre-entered but are not allowed to start, you will receive a full refund.

If you cancel 24 hours in advance, you will also receive a full refund; however, "no contact, no shows" will have 20% deducted from their refund.

Please mail entry on or before **Aug. 23, 2024** to receive the pre-entry discount.

If you miss the mail deadline, e-mail sfant2008@hotmail.com by the deadline to receive the discount .

Unicorn Hunt Entry Form

Sunday, September 1, 2024

Rider Information:

Name _____ AERC # _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Jr: _____ Age _____ Junior Birthday _____

Sponsor _____ Email Address _____

Rider & Tack Wt: (circle appropriate division)

Fwt (160 or below) Lwt (161-185) Mwt (186-210) Hwt (211 or more)

Young Rider (16 to 21 years old as of Dec 1, 2023) Junior

Horse Information: **If you plan to bring a stallion, please contact us for pre-approval.**

Name _____ AERC# _____

Breed _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Color _____

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

Entry Fee: (Circle distance) 25 miles \$135 50 miles \$135 Juniors \$85

DISCOUNTS (Please mark all that apply)

_____ - **\$10 discount Pre-entry** (postmarked by Aug. 23, 2024)

Juniors \$85 entry fee with no other discounts

Additional Fees

_____ + \$10 USFS Trail Usage Fee

_____ + \$20 - No AERC card

\$ _____ **TOTAL** Please make checks payable to Sylvia Fant.

**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 September 1, 2024 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 Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride.

Upon acceptance of my application for entry in the Unicorn Hunt Endurance Ride held September 1, 2024 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 any time. I acknowledge that I assume full responsibility for the safety of myself, my party and the animals I bring. By my signature, I hereby waive all rights to file a claim or lawsuit against 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 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. I also agree to allow and be responsible for any necessary emergency medical treatment for my horse should it be needed.

Any Known Drug Allergies: _____

Any Medical Condition: _____

I have read and understand this liability release.

Rider/Parent
Signature _____ Date _____

Emergency
Contact _____ Phone _____

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

Phone 936-655-4048 or email sfant2008@hotmail.com for more information.
Our mail runs a little slowly so please mail no later than August 23, 2024.