

Competitive Trail Riding competitions require many volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about the sport consider volunteering at one of the many events listed on the ride schedule at www.ectra.org.

Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association welcomes you, whether to ride or learn more through volunteering.



What is ECTRA?

Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association is a member based, non-profit organization vitally interested in encouraging the growth and understanding of distance riding and driving. Our goal is achieved through rider education and sanctioning standardized, veterinarian judged competitions throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region.

A sanctioned event ensures consistent judging methods designed to ensure that each horse is evaluated as an individual.

Events are open to all horses, mules or ponies over 11 hands and at least 48 months of age on the day of the event for rides under 29 miles. For events over 28 miles the minimum age is 60 months. Ride distances range from 10 miles (conditioning distance or intro ride) to 100 miles.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- ⊞ Networking opportunities and opportunities to share information with other members
- ⊞ Mileage tracking and extensive awards program
- ⊞ Informational newsletters and website
- ⊞ Fun and camaraderie

ECTRA

C/O MARILYN MILES, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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www.ectra.org



ECTRA

EASTERN COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE ASSOCIATION



COME RIDE WITH US!

www.ectra.org



HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1. Visit and/or volunteer at an event near you. Ride and contact information can be found on the ECTRA website – www.ectra.org - under “Ride Calendar & Entries”.
2. Suggested conditioning programs can be found in the ECTRA Rider/Driver Handbook (available on the ECTRA website) and on many other websites as well as in books dedicated to Competitive Distance Riding.
3. Attend a clinic or try a conditioning distance ride (CDR) which range from 10 to 15 miles in length. Details on clinics and CDRs can be found on the ECTRA Sanctioned Ride List on the website.
4. Find us on Facebook at “The Eastern Competitive Trail Riding Association”

IS COMPETITIVE DISTANCE RIDING FOR YOU?



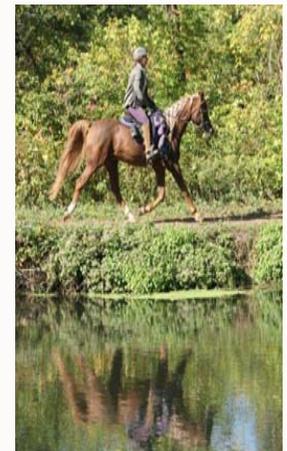
Some of the types of terrain and scenery you will see at ECTRA rides

COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES/DRIVES are **not** races. Any horse, mule or pony, when conditioned and ridden/driven properly has an equal chance to win, regardless of age, sex or breed.

Events are timed over marked trails ranging from 10 to 100 miles and are held over one, two or three days. No obstacles are incorporated into the course, other than those that occur naturally. Any known hazards are marked and riders/drivers are told about them ahead of time. Riders and Drivers travel approximately 5 ½ to 7 miles per hour with one mandatory hold during each day's ride. At the hold certified judges evaluate the horses to ensure no undue stress is being placed upon them.

Each horse starts the ride with 100 points and is evaluated prior to the ride and again at the finish on soundness, way of going and general metabolic and physical condition. Points are deducted in changes observed from the initial judging to the final presentation. Horses are placed based on their final score; the one that shows the least change over the course of the ride wins.

- ☞ *If you want to partner with your horse, build trust and friendship and allow him to develop his natural athleticism and good sense ...*
- ☞ *If you want miles of beautiful and diversified trails to explore with your horse...*
- ☞ *If you want to learn more about conditioning your horse to maintain soundness over many miles and years of riding...*
- ☞ *If you want to meet wonderful people...*
- ☞ *If you enjoy camping with your horse or want to try it...*



Then “YES!” Distance riding is for you!