JUNE 2025 VOLUME 51 NO. 6 OKLAHOMA EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

ALOHA OETRA NATIONAL TRAILS DAY June 6-8 Robbers Cave State Park,

Friday night 7:00 pm Join the whole club for "the Gathering" for fun and desserts. Hatmania- Wear a hat that has significance to you. Saturday Join the club for a free lunch at the Boy Scout camp Saturday Afternoon 4-6 pm crafts and games at the Pavilion Saturday Evening 6 pm Hawaiian Luau dinner at the Pavilion, bring a dessert to share. Dinner provided by OETRA. Sunday Sermon on the Mount

> Reservations 918.465.2562 or okstateparks.reserveamerica.com Contact Jeanette Zeller 405-414-2401 or president@petra.com

Check out details for these and other upcoming events on page 3!

Jun 6-8 National Trails Day Robber's Cave

Jun 14 Strawberry Moon Just for Fun **Ride** Hickory Creek WMA

Jun 28 Meeker 60th Anniversary Parade

Aug 9 Sturgeon Moon Just for Fun Ride Hickory Creek WMA



TRAIL RIDE

Wilburton, OK



Clean up your your equines, polish up your tack and represent OETRA in the Meeker 60th Anniversary Day parade June 28th @ 11 am. Meet at Meeker High school parking lot at 10 am. Wear your OETRA T-shirts (available from Phyllis Dragus \$20 each 405-590-9223) Equines should be parade ready. Nonmembers welcome. Please wear patriotic colors. More info: Dawna Weaver 405-213-6560

OETRA BOARD

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Advertising/Media: Terri Folks & Pam Ehlers

> Historian: Terri Folks

Membership: Larry Zeller

Rules and Parliamentarian: Larry Zeller

> Webmaster: Larry Zeller

Trail Ambassadors: Sherry Robinson

Nominating Committee: TBD

June 2025,

We're just days away from National Trails Day at Robbers Cave, June 6 -8. We have so much planned and it's going to be fun. Don't forget to bring your important hat with it's story to share on Friday at 7pm. Saturday is a full day with meeting for lunch at the Boys Scout Camp, a beautiful horseshoe craft, games and the Hawaiian Luau with food and fun. Don't forget to bring a dessert to share!

It's already half way through this year and it feels like it's mostly rained and flooded our trails. I'm sure hoping the second half is dryer. I have been able to log 200+ miles and hope to get many more the last five months. I hope you are logging yours. If not start now. We have prizes starting at 50 miles up to 500+.

June is a busy month for OETRA. We have a Moonlight ride, a Playday, and a Parade. Be sure and check the online calendar at <u>OETRA.com</u> for details. Our new

website is so handy to use now. We've been tweaking it to work through any bugs and its getting easier all the time. Check it out to keep up to date on events.

It's time to make your reservations for Fall Color Ride. It does fill up fast so use recreation.gov to get a site now. It's Oct 31- Nov 2 at Cedar Lake.

As you ride always take your trimmers and snip as you ride. It helps keep the trails passable and takes a



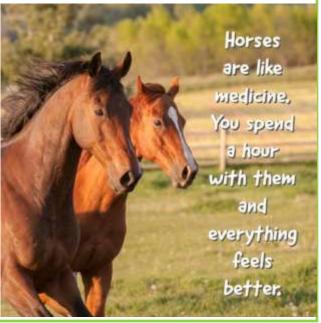
little bit of work from a lot of people.

<u>Also</u>: Extending a big **Thank You** from the club for the donation from Gwen Mills in memory of Joyce Bell.

See you on the trails

Jeanette

President's Message



The Trail Rider

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for Fun Ride Hickory Creek WMA

3 Jun 28 Meeker 60th Anniversary Parade

4 Aug 9 Sturgeon Moon Just for Fun Ride Hickory Creek WMA



1 Jun 6-8 National Trails Day Robber's Cave - Jeanette Zeller 405.414.2401 president@oetra.com. Reservations: okstateparks.reserveamerica.com or 918.414.2401. See front page for details.

Jun 7 Mohawk Park St. Jude Ride - Contact Perri Burnett, 918.521.7755.

2 Jun 14 Strawberry Moon Just for Fun Ride Hickory Creek WMA Marietta, OK Carolyn Grayson, 580.465.9330, cigrayson@sbcglobal.net or Jimmy Walker, 580.341.8201

3 Jun 28 Meeker 60th Anniversary Parade Meeker, OK Contact Dawna Weaver 405.213.6560. See flyer on front page for more information.

4 Aug 9 Sturgeon Moon Just for Fun Ride Hickory Creek WMA Marietta, OK Carolyn Grayson, 580.465.9330, cigrayson@sbcglobal.net or Jimmy Walker, 580.341.8201

Sep 13 Woolaroc Fall Trail Ride - visit www.woolaroc.org for information

Sep 26-28 Roman Nose Hills Trail Ride All meals provided! Ride the beautiful hills surrounding Roman Nose Hills State Park, as well as the unique park trails. Guided rides in groups <30, including a gaited group. Hot lunch and rest stop on the trail! Primitive camping on Wolfe Ranch, just before entrance to Roman Nose State Park on Hwy 8A, near Watonga, OK. \$75 per rider, \$50 children 12 and under. Donation of items for live auction appreciated! Negative Coggins, no stallions. For more info, call 580-541-0155 and see www.romannosehillstrailride.com

Sep 27 Homecoming Just for Fun Ride Hickory Creek WMA Marietta, OK Carolyn Grayson, 580.465.9330, cjgrayson@sbcglobal.net or Jimmy Walker, 580.341.8201

Oct 31-Nov 2 Fall Color Ride Cedar Lake Come join us for a spooky but fun weekend! Friday at 6pm come dressed in your finest hobo outfit for hobo games and food. Dinner will be provided by OETRA. Saturday join in a murder mystery ride during the day. Bring your prize-winning chili for the chili cook-off at 6pm. Prizes will be awarded. Cornbread and desserts welcome. Sermon-on-the-mount Sunday at 10am. Make your reservations at https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232303 beginning 4/30/25 (must be 6 months out) Contact Teri Wyatt 405.250.5558, tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com, Jeanette Zeller 405.414.2401 president@oetra.com

(Continued on Page 4)



Nov 14-16 Arrowhead Just for Fun Ride Canadian, OK. Reservations @ <u>TravelOK.com</u>, shoe/boots required. Pens are first come first served. Dinner in Krebs Friday. Ride and movie 15th, Chili dinner provided. Desserts welcome. Contact Sherry Robinson 918.231.9868

Dec 6 OETRA Christmas and Awards Party Chandler OK - More details coming...

Note: Rides not in bold font are listed on behalf of other groups. Please direct questions to the contacts for those events.

C Lazy U Ranch in Granby, Colorado by Nancy Allen

Someone asked me to report back after my stay at the C Lazy U in Granby Colorado. It was THE MOST AWESOME experience of my life!!

I attended a 5 day retreat with Barbra Schulte and Julie Goodnight. Barbra is in the Cowgirl Hall of Fame for cutting and Julie is a trainer who had a TV show on RFDTV for 12 years. Both are so friendly, warm and funny and are anxious to share their knowledge.

Each day we had a workshop/lecture/discussion followed by a lesson with each and a trail ride with the ranch's wranglers. We were in 3 groups of 13 based on experience/ability and were matched with a horse who we rode the whole weekend.





It is a luxury guest ranch. Darling cabin/ room, gourmet food, many extras like live music Saturday night, campfires for morning coffee and evening s'mores. Gift shop, spa, hot tub, pool, lots of other activities for families

who don't want to ride as much as we did.



It was so wonderful to meet ladies from all over the country. We were all sad to leave on the 5th day! The mountains are beautiful and the trail rides up into them were breathtaking! We lucked out with perfect weather, 60's, until the last morning when we awoke to snow!

They have over 200 horses who pasture together. Each morning they ring a bell and the wranglers herd them all into the pens to prepare for their jobs or the farrier or vet. It is so amazing to see them all moving together and to hear their thundering hooves. Each evening they "jingle" the horses out again where they spend the night.

The pictures of the mountains can't even show how beautiful it is there. My cute mare is named Gabby and she was wonderful.



Cedar Lake

- Carolyn Grayson With time being a issue our group came to ride and

With time being a issue our group came to ride and enjoy the sights, sounds, and scenery in the 40 hours we had to work with.

Awesome views and great weather. Red Lick Creek and Cedar Creek were full and running. The foliage was out but the views always amaze.

A big thank you to all the workers and riders!





The Trail Rider

Page 5



Do you love to ride your equine? Do you love to ride Oklahoma's equine trails? RIDE OKLAHOMA is an OETRA program where you track your mileage on each of your rides. At the end of the year, OETRA will present mileage awards (EVERYONE GETS A PRIZE) at the annual Christmas Party in Chandler. Must be an OETRA member to participate. You can even track your mileage riding at home!



Form is on the OETRA.com website.

May the lord Smile on you and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:25

Sardis Lake History

Article from the Sardis Lake at Potato Hills Central Equestrian Friends Facebook Group, posted by Susan Bates.

Save Oklahoma History—by Nick Joye Jonas.

The Old Sardis Store

Sardis was a community in northern Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, six miles northwest of Clayton.

A United States Post Office was established at Sardis, Indian Territory on February 20, 1905. It took its name from the nearby Sardis Indian Mission Church, (Cont. page 10)



Hickory Creek News-by Carolyn Grayson

The Wounded Warrior Ride, sponsored by Gene Autry Roping Club, had 27 riders, 16 trailers, and covered 8 miles in 3 hours. A variety of different riders made for an atmosphere broadening weekend.

Due to record rainfall Lake Texoma levels caused Hickory & Oil Springs Creek to be uncrossable. Hickory Creek is normal if Lake Texoma level is 622 ft. On Saturday 5/17/2025 (Wounded Warrior Ride),

the level was 634 ft. With lots of sand, rock, and hills you can ride anwhere but into flooded areas. As of 5/19/2025





Lake Texoma level is 632 ft. Looks like it will be normal by June if the weather settles.

(Continued on page 6)





HICKORY CREEK FROM PAGE 5

The weekend of June 14th will be the "Strawberry Moon Ride." Primitive camping Friday and Saturday night, with potluck suppers. Water truck and pens available upon request.

We will ride out early Saturday morning, as well as Saturday night. Or come ride out at your leisure. Happy trails!



JUST IN TIME FOR TRAIL SEASON *TRAIL ETIQUITTE*

These are still good rules to follow when going on a group ride. Today we have cell phones instead of walkie talkies (providing there is a good cell signal). Submitted by Terri Folks

GUIDELINES for TRAIL LEADERS (From The TrailRider Newsletter 3/94)

BEFORE THE RIDE:

- 1) Get your own drag rider and gate-opener for helpers
- 2) Assign drag rider or gate-opener to periodically move out to the side to re-count riders.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES to take on ride, packed by leader or helpers:

- 1) Hoof pick & jackknife
- 2) Pliers & wire cutters
- 3) Hole punch
- 4) Extra leather strings or long shoestrings
- 5) 25 ft. cotton rope
- 6) Halter and lead rope
- 7) Easy Boot (optional)

8) Basic first aid supplies: leg wrap, Cut & Heal, wound powder, baby diaper BEFORE DEPARTURE:

- 1) Introduce yourself and your helpers.
- 2) Tell riders how long you expect to be gone.
- 3) If group will not return to camp for lunch, did everyone bring his own sack lunch?
- -- OR -- If buying furnished lunch on the trail, did they bring money? (Continued on page 7)



Spring Wilderness Ride at Heaven's Gate By Sherry Robinson

I pulled into Heaven's Gate with two horses. I don't typically carry two but Nugget was fitted with Scoot Boots and this was a test to see how they hold up in the rocky terrain. I separated her and my other main mare, Day. The next day 18 riders were saddled and the trailers and drivers were there to pick us up and haul to a trail head at Horsepen. These trails were put in by Susan Bates, D'Anna Miller, Colin Walker, and many other volunteers.

The Wilderness rides allow us to ride new trails that are too far from camp. It has gained significant popularity. Now that Dee has a host, Brigitte Schoof who is a trained chef, it makes staying there a treat. We ride all day, come in to camp about 4 pm and have dinner by 6. Nugget's boots held and we rode about 13 miles with a stop for lunch. Nugget started off good at first, but later in the day she became more forward. I moved her to the back due to crowding the horse in front. She and I were getting dirty looks from the horse she was crowding. Darrell Buerky was riding drag on a big Quarter horse named Hoss and told me to put her behind his gelding, he doesn't care about a



horse crowding him. Nugget finally calmed down and I made a mental note, "Maybe I should just have her on hay and not Alfalfa and Timothy grass pellets."

The next day I decided not to ride and helped drive by following the drivers to the trail head in Colin's van to carry drivers of the trailers. The owners of the truck and trailer were riding so we had volunteers move the trucks and trailers to the final trail head. This group had 6 trailers to ferry 28 horses and riders from the drop off to the next pick-up spot. This took all day to accomplish, we had about a 50 mile round trip and we had more trailers then drivers, so we had to return to get the last 2 trailers and move them to the trail end. I got back in time to get a shower before the crowd came in.

The Wilderness ride costs are your campsite and your donation to the drivers to help reimburse fuel and their time. The ride is from Wednesday to Saturday. The terrain is riding over some rough rock and you have to make sure your horse is in shape to climb steep hills and negotiate the descents. Heaven's Gate will have



another ride this fall too.





Trail Etiquette—from page 7

4) Leader has a walkie-talkie back to base camp (today we all have cell phones). If a rider has an emergency, the leader will contact camp and will not proceed until arrangements have been made so that rider will not be left alone.

Trailer will come for horse if necessary.

ADVISE GROUP OF TRAIL ETIQUETTE:

1) Don't pass the leader.

2) Don't tailgate. One horse length between is good.

3) Red ribbon on tail of horse that kicks.

4) No galloping up from behind.

5) If passing, say so "passing on the left," etc.

6) Usually go single file through a gate.

7) Stay with the group. If you need otherwise, ask leader's permission.

Remember, the leader is watchful for safety hazards such as bogs.

8) If you wish to go slower or faster, ask the leader to change the pace. We all want fun.

9) Don't flip branches or reins.

10) Warn those behind you of hazards coming up. (Low branch, hole, wire)

11) No crowding at waterhole. Encourage your horse to drink. Stay close, quietly while other horses drink.

12) Leave extra space between horses when going into and out of ravines.

13) Wait if others are breathing their horses or taking respiration reading.

14) If leader indicates horses should stop and rest part of the way up a long hill, stand your horse sideways. He gets more rest that way.

15) Rest stop: Porta-potties are strategically placed. If a rest stop is needed elsewhere, women will go one direction, men another. (Bring your own toilet tissue.) Tell the leader if you need a stop. if you have no need, hold someone else's horse.

16) Tell leader if you need to stop for any reason...tack adjustment, dropped item, unruly horse, etc.

17) Tell leader if you have an emergency need and must return to camp.

A RIDER MUST NOT LEAVE THE GROUP FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT TELLING THE LEADER.

(Continued on page 10)

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TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 1 - 30, 2025

Balance 3/31/2025	\$ 24,926.90	
Income		
Dues	\$ 692.39	
Newsletter mail fee	\$ 35.00	
Hankies	\$ 106.00	
Donation	\$ 4.00	
	\$ 837.39	
Expenses		
Newsletter mailing	\$ 40.63	
Hankie Mailing	\$ 11.55	
Website (MailChimp)	\$ 19.50	
Club Insurance	\$ 760.00	
TA Supplies	\$ 76.77	
Grants (Mohawk)	\$ 98.53	
	\$ 1,006.98	
Net Income	\$ (169.59)	
Bank Balance as of 4/30/2025	\$ 24,757.31	



Membership Application

Please apply and pay online at <u>www.oetra.com</u> if possible. If you must pay by check, mail this completed form and check to OETRA, 6608 N Western Ave, PMB 220, Oklahoma City, OK 73116.

* Required information	
Select Membership Type*: Individual \$25 Family	/ \$35
Select Newsletter Type*: Online \$0 Mailed \$35 _	Total annual dues enclosed*: \$
First Name(s)*:	
Last Name(s)*:	
(Phone description examples: Home, His cell, Her work, etc)	
Phone 1 description*:	_ Phone 1*:
Phone 2 description:	_ Phone 2:
Phone 3 description:	_ Phone 3:
Address*:	Address 2:
City*: State*:	Zip*:
Emergency Contact: Relat	ion: Phone:
Referred by:	
Your email address*:	
Publish contact info in Members Only online directory?	(Yes if unchecked): Yes: No:
I do hereby release and hold harmless the Oklahoma Equestrian Trail Ride death, illness, or injury to myself, my guest(s) or horse(s). Additionally, I au services in case of emergency without incurring financial liability.	
Signature:	Date:

Trail Etiquette—from page 8

18) If you are not using a trail bridle, preferably do not tie horse with bridle reins. Bring along a halter and lead. Tie high enough the horse won't get his foot over the line.

19) Whatever trash you bring in--paper, bottle or can--you should take out. Fruit peelings (biodegradable) are okay.

20) WHEN GROUP MOVES OUT: Leader calls out "#1" (for him/herself) and has everybody count off so we know exactly how many riders are in the group.

Sardis from page 5

which appears to have named itself after the Biblical city of Sardis.

During the early 1980s, Jack's Fork Creek was impounded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who built Sardis Lake. The lake, a flood control project, also held tourism potential and Oklahoma State Highway 43 was straightened and paved with blacktop from the interchange at Daisy on the Indian Nation Turnpike to the lake, where it crosses the dam and connects to Oklahoma State Highway 2. This allowed for easier road connections to other parts of the state highway network. At this writing tourism has not been promoted heavily or its economic benefits realized at the lake.

In order to make way for the lake the community of Sardis was emptied. Its cemetery, now located on an island in the lake connected to the shore by a short causeway, is at the approximate location as it was originally, but the tombstones now sit on landfill and are many feet higher than originally. The graves they denote are below the bottom of the lake. The earliest gravestones are dated 1875, a testament to the community's early establishment.

Roman Nose Ride, April 2025

Posted on Roman Nose Trail Ride Facebook page:

We had a great ride in spite of the rain! Actually, the rain was very pleasant! Temps were perfect! The pastures were more lush than I've ever seen them! We had brave souls! Friday evening ride on the Wolfe ranch was amazing! Nicest ride I've had there! We just flipped Saturday around to be a leisurely morning listening to the pitter patter of rain on the roof, then headed out

for an afternoon on the trails! We enjoyed the small groups! It was a trail guide treat!



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CampName	Trail Ambassador(s)
Arcadia Lake	Terri Folks, 405.760.8229, trfolks@gmail.com; Kim Carlton, 405.226.3828 kimcarl- ton2@gmail.com
Arrowhead State Park	Sherry Robinson, 918.231.9868, sherrybr2023@gmail.com
Bell Cow Lake	Volunteer Needed!
Billy Creek	Susan Bates, 936.825.1441, stmb216@hotmail.com
Cedar Lake Equestrian Park	Teri Wyatt, 405.250.5558, tnwalkinghorsegirl@yahoo.com
Cherokee National Park	LeeAnn Dreadfulwater, 918.316.1100, tenkiller7@gmail.com
Cherokee Wildlife Mgt Area	LeeAnn Dreadfulwater, 918.316.1100, tenkiller7@gmail.com
Choctaw Municipal Park Equestrian Trails	Brian Brawley, 405.694.0155; Cathryn Brawley, 405.413.6836, katiegate000@aol.com; Vicki Fraser, 940.435.3159, vjfraser1@gmail.com
Copan Lake	Nikki Wommer, 505.486.0420, ladybugranchnm@gmail.com
Draper Lake (Lake Stanley Draper)	Vicki Fraser, 940.435.3159, vjfraser1@gmail.com
Duncan Lake Equestrian Park	Camellia Foster, 580.251.5824, 5802515824a@gmail.com; Mitzie Smith, 580.467.3066, catpawfarm5331@gmail.com
Foss Lake	Volunteer Needed!
Heyburn Lake, Sheppard Point	Perri Burnett, 918.521.7755, perri.burnett@gmail.com; Vanessa Conn, 918.724.4549, vanessaconn@gmail.com
Hickory Creek Wildlife Man- agement Area	Carolyn Grayson, cjgrayson@sbcglobal.net; Jimmy Walker, 580.341.8201
Horse Pen Creek	Susan Bates, 936.825.1441, stmb216@hotmail.com
Hugo Lake, Kiamichi Park	Kendra Staggs, 580.326.4125, staggsranch@yahoo.com; Susan Bates, 936.825.1441, stmb216@hotmail.com
Kaw Lake	Volunteer Needed!
Keystone Lake, Walnut Creek	Tiffany Buckley, 580.761.5034, BUCKLEY.TIFFANY@GMAIL.COM; Melissa Snyder, 918.807.1306; Hollye Moore, 918.706.6073, crazycowgirlcorral@yahoo.com
Lake Carl Blackwell, Hunts Meadow	Kim Reinhardt, kimreinhardt45@gmail.com
Lake Ellsworth at Fisherman's Cove	Saralyn Jameson, 703.216.3979, saralyn.2006@gmail.com
Lake Texoma State Park	Darcy Schulke, 580.795.6405, schulkdar@aol.com
Lake Texoma, Platter Flats	Ron Craig, 580.513.5407, rcraig@choctawnation.com
Liberty Lake	Julia Cameron, 405.513.1120, lazyjfarm@sbcglobal.net
Meeker Lake	Forrest Billingsley 405.517.9150
McGee Creek State Park	Pat Faulkenberry, 580.239.0087, hendersonspottedsaddlehorses@yahoo.com
Mohawk Park	Perri Burnett, 918.521.7755, perri.burnett@gmail.com; Vanessa Conn, 918.724.4549, vanessaconn@gmail.com
Oologah Lake	Cheryl Marx, 918.640.7114, cherylmarx@aol.com; Jaimie Overton, 918.892.1042, ho- jo1221@gmail.com
Pashubbe Trail Head	Susan Bates, 936.825.1441, stmb216@hotmail.com
Prague Lake	Janis Baldwin, 405.204.0866, Janis.Baldwin48@gmail.com
Robbers Cave State Park	Sherry Robinson, 918.231.9868, sherrybr2023@gmail.com; Lesa O'Hair, 918.465.7447, lesaohair@gmail.com
Roman Nose State Park	Ben Neufeld, 405.999.2662, bpneube@yahoo.com; Shirla Geis, 405.368.5212, bsneufeld@hotmail.com
Salt Plains State Park	Susan Koontz, 580.596.6997, skoontz54@gmail.com
Sardis Lake	Kendra Staggs, 580.326.4125, staggsranch@yahoo.com
Sportsman Lake	Joyce Cox, 405.990.9592, joycecox7072@gmail.com; Glennell Jones, 405.613.1600, shawkingly@att.net, Kathy Rodrigues, 405.464.7635, twinpinesok@gmail.com
Stroud Lake	Janis Baldwin, 405.204.0866, Janis.Baldwin48@gmail.com
Thunderbird Lake	Cindy Kerr, 405.412.3630, cindy@kerrteam.com

OETRA presents Clinician

Line 200, 2025 Viburton, OK Arena \$300 MEMBERS \$350 NONMEMBERS LIMITED TO 10 PARTICIPANTS AUDITORS: FREE LUNCH: \$5

Chris will provide the tools concorrect issues with your horse, focus ig on michods used on a ranch. Topics include machaining the desired gait, riding with a loose rein, and improving control with maneuvers like backing and turns. Participants can address specific questions in an interactive environment each day.

Save your space \$100 non-refundable deposit. Book at oetra.com or mail a cheo to OETRA, 6608 N. Western Ave. PMB 220 OKC, OK 73116





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