THE GREEN BEAN SCOOP

Director’s Message

We are quickly come to the close of another ride year and another successful program for Green Beans! I hope you have been reading your AERC Magazine and seeing how much we have accomplished, as well as enjoyed fellow bean’s stories throughout the year in our column.

A few reminders:

Get your activities submitted ASAP! (by Nov 30th) We are starting to validate the submissions with AERC.

⇒ ACTION REQUIRED!!! We would like all 2019 members to complete this form BY DECEMBER 15th, even if you did not submit any activities this year. We need this form to verify your address as well as helping us with some fun year end awards.

http://greenbeanendurance.org/season-end-form

• You can renew your AERC and Green Bean Memberships for 2020 online now! https://aerc.org/Join_AERC Renew by December 1st and be entered into a drawing to win $500 worth of tack from Taylored Tack.

• If you know anyone wanting to join, send them this link: https://aerc.org/static/2020NewMbr.aspx. New members receive a 15% discount courtesy of EasyCare Inc!

• Did you ride one more ride than in 2018? Don’t forget about the “Ride One More” program from AERC! https://aerc.org/static/RideOneMore19.aspx

• Convention 2020 is approaching! Hope to see you in Jacksonville! https://aerc.org/convention

Awards/Stats—Final calculations are under way!

Watch for a Special Edition for the wrap-up in December/January!

Wishing every bean (and family) very Happy Thanksgiving!

-Griffin

http://www.greenbeanendurance.org/
**What has the Green Bean Program meant to you?**

Two of the members of the Hoof Hearted team gave their feedback on the importance of teams to them:

**The Green Bean Program meant a lot to me this year, surprisingly more than I thought it would. This program has given me a place to be confident, unsure, question, and learn without being ridiculed for not knowing. It’s a very beneficial program that gets riders involved even if their horses are out of commission. It’s almost a safe haven from the bigger issues of AERC. It seems to remember that endurance riding is supposed to be fun. Being part of a team has been such a blast. We’ve cried, celebrated, pulled each other through, and honored each other and our horses and that’s just during a ride! We’ve learned as a team we’re actually a little more competitive than we thought both with each other and other teams, in a good sportsmanship way. Who knew that we’d be checking every week to see what place we were in and figuring out how we can get to the next ride to get more points even if the only prize is bragging rights in the things we accomplished? It’s been fantastic to be a part of and I can’t wait for next year!** - Sam DiMuzio

Picture from Left to Right: Danielle Morgan on Magic, Sam DiMuzio on Apache, and Heather Manzo on Dahlia

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**One day my friend, Melinda, mentioned that she would like to start endurance riding. I thought that sounded exciting and also thought that it would be good condition for the horses for our big game hunting in the Jarbidge Wilderness. Melinda was happy to let me tag along so I decided to give endurance a try as well. I have a 1/2 Quarter and 1/2 Mustang mare named Magic. Melinda has a beautiful BLM Mustang named Mona. We started conditioning our mares together in the Sand Hills up behind our house in N. Red Rock, Reno. Our first ride that we had our sights set on was the LD at Red Rock Rumble in October 2018. That is where I met our now Green Bean team captain for Hoof Hearted, Sam DiMuzio. Melinda and Sam were already good friends. We were not the Hoof Hearted team we are now at the RRR time, but once Sam asked a few girls to join, I was all in to being on a team! Teamwork makes the dreamwork! Sam had done Pony Express rides and some endurance rides already. Sam is one of those kinds of people who shares her knowledge and helps whenever she can. She is patient and just a joy to be around. Sam was instrumental in helping Magic and I through the vetting in process, through keeping my vet card safe, and everything through making mash to making sure to not miss a P&R. When checking in to RRR and getting our ride packet that first LD, I was given a sample of pellets and Tami Rougeau’s business card was inside of the bag. The business card of Tami’s had an incredible action shot of her on a horse climbing a cliff!! That card instantly made me think “I want to do THAT!” I later found out that it was her cougar rock photo from Tevis, and I want to do “THAT”! even more. Melinda showed me some videos after of cougar rock and I was blown away at what they were doing.

Melinda and I completed that first LD at Red Rock Rumble and we were both hooked. When is the next ride? That would be Rides of March. Great! Well as I signed up for AERC, the Hoof Hearted Green Bean Team, NEDA and NASTR, I thought I was off!. Well, the universe had other plans, and three surgeries later I finally got to ride almost 6 months into the ride season. But thank goodness for volunteering! That kept me in the learning and growing state even though I was pouting like a little girl that I couldn’t ride.

The Hoof Hearted Green Bean team was Sam, Melinda, Heather, Tammy and I. One of the amazing things about the Green Beans is the support you get from your teammates (and of course other nice riders). The team constantly pushes me and I love it! Four of us signed up for the Endurance 101 clinic where we started to meet the lovely riders we would soon be riding with throughout our Green Bean journey.

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http://www.greenbeanendurance.org/
What has the Green Bean Program meant to you? continued

I learned how to help Magic on the trail on hills, I learned not to look at any of the holes, that I need to look 25 feet down the trail, and trust my horse. Green Bean endurance means helping others and being brave enough to ask for help. It has helped me keep my ego in check and above all else how to REALLY care for my horse. I have a selfish problem by nature and volunteering took me out of myself and showed me the pure joy that I get to feel to be a part of a ride, the joy of the feeling of even just holding someone's horse while they use the restroom. And, I have been lucky enough to experience volunteers do that for me when I was brave enough to venture to Gold Country LD by myself in order to make up lost points from my late season beginning. Green Bean endurance shows me how to persevere but be patient. It gives me attainable goals and keeps me involved in my horses health and mine. As for Hoof Hearted, we plan to remain a team for the next ride season! To finish is to win! I now have 200 miles and have just completed out first 50 at the Open 50 at the Nationals in Ridgecrest on Nov 2nd. What a blessing horses are. What a great thing this Green Bean Endurance program is - Danielle Morgan

Many of us have been through human and/or horse trials and set-backs, disappointments and growth opportunities in our Endurance journey. Jessie Zarudzki shared her feedback on the program this year and how much it has meant to her to be back riding:

I learned I wanted to not be an individual but be a part of a team as I really like having the support. This year was a struggle for me as I didn't have the finances to afford rides and I was dealing with a lot medically, but once again I learned how supportive the Green Bean and AERC community is. I really needed that support and push to keep going despite everything that was happening.

My Arabian rescue pony was older and had retired and I was debating if I should have gone gaited due to my spinal condition. I kept trail riding just for fun with my Arabian and thought maybe, just maybe I could bring her back for one last ride and I thought about that almost the whole riding season. Over the summer an endurance friend contacted me asking me if I was ready for a gaited horse yet and I said not really. Well, that friend forwarded me the information anyways and I fell in love with the horse just from the picture! ha-ha. I then had to go and see her and try her out. She was super green and really didn't understand her gaits and just wanted to shoot forward and run, but she was young and I knew I could grow with her. She had big shoes to fill, but it was the best thing for my back and body.

Being a part of the Green Beans really brought me back down to earth and made me realize it is always a good thing to go back to the basics. My walker was moving along faster then anyone had pictured she would, so we participated in our first endurance ride at the Blackwater Swamp Stomp in an LD. That was my best ride yet, where I felt all of my horses gaits. I soon realized I should've been riding gaited all the time! I'm looking forward to future rides with her.

(Picture above from BWSS courtesy of Melissa Yopp)

After that ride I wanted to do one last one with my Arabian as she had proved she wanted one more and so we headed for Biltmore. I struggled the first 15 miles as my Arabian did have it in her and dragged me along! For the last 10 we really connected and I had the most beautiful and fun ride ever with her.

I couldn't have done any of this if it wasn't for the support of the Green Beans. I loved talking with others in the community and realizing that anything can definitely happen as long as you push yourself and just try. Being a Green Bean this year was worth it, one for realizing it is great to go back to the basics, and two for realizing everyone is working on something and a lot of it was similar to what I was working with. Thank you Green Beans and AERC for a wonderful year! - Jessie

Blogging Beans

Amy McKenna https://quantumchrome.blogspot.com/
Griffin Keller https://motoringdownthetrailsriding.sport.blog/
Jaime McArdle https://drawingboardlessons.wordpress.com AND https://greento100.com
Katherine Serna https://theworldofsega.wordpress.com/

http://www.greenbeanendurance.org/