

Trail Rider Challenge & Xtreme Saddle Series 2009 Official Details & Rules

www.TrailRiderChallenge.com

Kelli Paulson 402-427-5515

Description

The Trail Rider Challenge (TRC) is a unique event that encourages you and your horse to develop a partnership based on trust while having fun and meeting other horse people. Your partnership is then scored on an obstacle course designed to challenge your skills at all levels and encourage good horsemanship.

Purpose

This event will give you the opportunity to set some new fun goals with the possibility of winning money and prizes too. The TRC is about having fun, building confidence, promoting good horsemanship and challenging you and your horse to new levels. It is an encouraging, supportive group of people who want to learn and challenge themselves.

Dates & Locations

June 13, 2009	Kick-off Event	Five Star Stable, Bennington, NE
July 11, 2009	Special Rookie Division	Kelli's, Tekamah, NE
August 1, 2009	Special Over 50 division	Log Barn Stable, Plattsmouth, NE
September 26, 2009	Special Colt division	Kelli's, Tekamah, NE
October 24, 2009	Final Round & Awards Party,	Location TBA

Divisions

Three divisions will be at each event and have year-end prizes.

1. The **Trail Rider Division** is scored, not timed, non-competitive and confidence building.
Open to all ages of horse and rider.
2. The **Xtreme Saddle Series Division** is scored, timed, competitive and challenging.
Open to all ages of horse and rider.
3. The **Youth Division** is for 18 and under (January 1). The Youth division has 3 options.
 - A. Beginner Youth can enter a very simple walk trot class in the arena. Beginner Youth cannot compete on the other courses.
 - B. The regular Youth Division will be held on the Trail Rider course.
 - C. Regular Youth may also enter the Xtreme Saddle Series and compete with the adults.

Special Divisions: Special Divisions will be completed with the Trail Rider Division. A rider may enter their score in the Trail Rider Division and /or the special division. The horse and rider go through the course once. Their score applies to the division(s) they enter.

Special Divisions are:

July 11 - Rookie Division	Riders who are competing in a TRC for the first time and who have not competed in a TRC in the past.
August 1 – Over 50 Division	Riders are 50 years old or older.
September 26 – Colt Division	2 & 3 year horses, proof of age required (registration papers or other proof – other proof must be cleared with show management before the event)

Horse Eligibility

Horses may see a course only once. A horse may compete on both the Xtreme Saddle Series Course and Trail Rider Course. The exception is the beginner youth course: a safe horse is welcome to give multiple kids a good ride.

Open to any breed and riding discipline.

Show is approved for PAC (APHA) points and several other breed association programs. Please bring your paper work with you. Check ahead of time for your breed rules.

Exhibitor Order will be determined by show management and posted. You must compete in this order.

Prizes & Awards

See 2009 Prizes & Awards List

The sum of the top 3 scores from each horse and rider team count towards year-end awards in each division and the trophy saddle for the Xtreme division.

Entry Fees

Xtreme Saddle Series Division: \$65

Trail Rider Division: \$55

Youth: \$35

Beginner Youth: \$10

Special Divisions: If horse and rider compete in Trail Rider Division it is an additional \$20.

If horse & rider compete in the Special division only the entry fee is \$35.

How to Enter

Entries close 30 minutes before competition begins.

Entries may be mailed in ahead of time.

Entries postmarked one week in advance will be entered into a drawing for feed & prizes.

Spectators

Kickoff Event: Spectators \$10 – includes dinner. Children 12 and under free.

Other Events: \$7. Children 12 and under free.

Bring a lawn chair.

Xtreme Saddle Series and Trail Rider Challenge OBSTACLES

Xtreme Saddle Series obstacles will be more difficult than Trail Rider course obstacles.

Most obstacles will come from this list. Show management has the right to be creative.

TYPICAL OBSTACLES:

1. GATE - Opening, passing through and closing the gate.
2. CROSSING OBSTACLE – poles, logs, bridge, water, ditch, or tarp
3. DRAGGING OBSTACLE – log, tire, tarp, pallet, etc
4. ROPE A STATIONARY STEER – judged on horse, not rider's roping ability
5. LOADING INTO A TRAILER
6. REMOVE, CARRY AND REPLACE AN ITEM - slicker, bucket, ball, flag, saddlebag, etc
7. BACK or ride thru & around obstacles or up and down hill
8. SIPEPASS over a single pole or poles.
9. JUMP - Lope over a small jump (log or small barrel). Youth may trot.
10. MAILBOX – Approaching the object and handling an item
11. THROUGH – Cowboy curtains, tunnels
12. NATURAL TERRAIN - brush, sticks, downfall areas, ravines, hills, debris
13. MOUNTING – From fence, block, log, windmill
14. CIRCLES or Straight Line– trot, lope, lead changes, slow, fast
15. SMOKE - campfire
16. LOUD NOISES
17. MAZE or tight fit
18. PICKIN UP HORSES FEET
19. PONY A HORSE (Xtreme division)
20. MANUEVERS - Pivots, rollbacks, stops, weaving or pattern
21. CATTLE – Move from pen to pen (Xtreme division)
22. WATER – crossing, sprinkler, carry, creek

A course walk through for competitors will be 30 minutes before competition begins. It is the competitor's responsibility to fully understand the course and rules at this time. Obstacles must be completed in the designated order. It is acceptable to ask the judge where to go next.

SAFETY

Obstacles are designed with safety in mind. However, if you feel an obstacle is beyond the abilities of you and/or your horse you may skip that obstacle. You will receive a zero for that obstacle but will still receive a score for the course.

Helmets are encouraged but not required.

Competitors and parents/legal guardians of youth assume all responsibility when on the grounds and participating in the event.

An adult is allowed in the arena when the Beginner Youth compete.

RULES

1. Open to any discipline of riding and breed(s) of horse.
2. Horse can go through each course only once. Exception: beginner youth.
3. A rider may exhibit multiple horses.
4. All riders must sign a release form. Riders 17 years or age and under must have parent/guardian signature on release form.
5. Riders must pay a non-refundable entry fee.
6. Riders may not consume alcoholic beverages before or during their ride. A rider will be disqualified if it appears that the rider is using drugs or alcohol.
7. Equines must be serviceably sound horse and in good condition as determined by the judge.
8. Horses may be shown in any division if the rider is eligible for the division.
9. It is expected that each horse shall be treated humanely with kindness and respect at all times. Horses should have the opportunity to display their great natural ability not hindered by drugs, surgical alterations or inhumane treatment. Our position is to hold to the highest standard of integrity in treatment and care of the horse.
10. The judge always has the option of disqualifying an exhibitor for safety reasons, disrespect or misconduct.
11. No whining, moaning, complaining or sniveling of any kind. There shall be a one-year ban on crybabies and poor sports and a three-year ban on jerks. The object is to have fun and to better our horsemanship.
12. No horses on the course before their turn.
13. If you choose to lead your horse through an obstacle you must remount before moving toward the next obstacle.
14. If you happen to fall off your horse and you can regain control with out assistance and remount you may do so. If your horse leaves the course you are disqualified.
15. The judge shall have the right to blow whistle and ask contestant to move on to next obstacle. Upon the third refusal rider should move to the next obstacle.
16. Failure to complete an obstacle results in a zero for that obstacle and a one-minute time penalty, not a disqualification.
17. It is permissible to change rein hand to work with an obstacle.
18. Please respect the facility, treat it well and clean up after yourself.
19. Show management has the right to add additional rules if necessary. Rule additions will be posted at registration table.

TACK & ATTIRE

Attire: Boots with a heel are mandatory. Dress should be appropriate for the weather and the event, neat and functional. Show clothing not required.

Numbers: the show secretary will issue each rider one number. The number will be displayed in a visible manner. Failure to do so results in disqualification.

Tack must be safe, humane and in good working condition. If show management determines an item to be unsafe or not humane the exhibitor has 10 minutes to correct the problem and return to the course.

Snaffle Bits and Bosals: Any horse may be shown 2 handed using a snaffle or bosal.

Horses that are shown in bit with a shank should be ridden one-handed. Use of two-hands penalized.

Discouraged Equipment: Mechanical hackamores, tie-downs, draw reins, martingales, and wire chinstraps strongly discouraged and will be penalized.

JUDGING

Each contestant will perform the required trail pattern individually. The best trail horse will be willfully guided with no apparent resistance. Any movement made by the horse on it's own or deviation from the pattern must be considered a lack of control. Credit will be given for smoothness, calmness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority in performing the various obstacles while using controlled speed. This event is intended to display the versatile working ability of a horse.

Riders will abide by the ruling of the judge. All judges' decisions are final.

The competition time keeper/time clock will record the entry/competitors time. The official timer will have the final time decision and may not be challenged.

Scoring: Each obstacle will be worth 10 points for a possible total score of 120 points. Points can be given in .5 increments.

Scoring system;

- 0 – Not Attempted
- 1 – Attempt made, uncooperative horse, 3 refusals
- 2 - Attempt made, uncooperative horse, 2 refusals
- 3 – Attempt made, uncooperative horse, 1 refusal
- 4 – Obstacle complete with hesitation, rough but done
- 5 – Obstacle completed with slight deviation or hesitation
- 6 – Obstacle completed as expected
- 7 – Obstacle completed smoothly and willingly
- 8 – Obstacle completed willingly with finesse
- 9 – Obstacle completed willingly with a higher degree of difficulty
- 10 - Obstacle completed willingly with a higher degree of difficulty and extreme finesse

Time

10-minute time limit for all divisions or as posted at walk through.

Xtreme Saddle Series: Time points are given in 20-second increments. Time points are given in addition to the exhibitors score for obstacles.

- The fastest time is awarded 15 pts
- Exhibitors within 20 seconds of the fastest time receive 13pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 12pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 11pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 10pts.β
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 9pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 8pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 7pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 6pts.
- Exhibitors within the next 20 seconds will receive 5pts.
- Points are awarded based on the fastest time and 3 minutes thereafter.

In the event of a tie score , the fastest time will win.