



## **BLUE RIDGE TRAIL RIDERS – newsletter #167, August 2009**

*The sign-up for the October weekend at BigSouthFork is enclosed; reserve your stalls NOW!*

### **The officers and directors are as follows (A-appointed; E-elected):**

Mary Sonner, President...865-573-1544...Knoxville. Judy Mitchell, Vice Pres...865- 475-6475, Jefferson City  
Linda Bettner, Treasurer....475-4300... New Market... [lostcreekautoworks@charter.net](mailto:lostcreekautoworks@charter.net)  
Lucy Scanlon, Secretary....494-7654...Norris...[merrymountlps@earthlink.net](mailto:merrymountlps@earthlink.net)  
Terri Marie Carnes, Director...865-579-9955..Seymour..(E-12/09)  
Sandy Maloy, Director...865-932-0229..Straw.Plains..(E-12/09) [msandramaloy@aol.com](mailto:msandramaloy@aol.com)  
Lezle Jenkins, Director...865-988-4928... Lenoir City. (A-12/10) [jenkinsl@k12tn.net](mailto:jenkinsl@k12tn.net)  
Kerry Dunaway, Director...865-964-5417..Seymour (E-12/09)

**Check out our website!** [www.blueridgetrailriders.com](http://www.blueridgetrailriders.com). Harriet Spiegel has done a fabulous job of updating the website! It looks crisp and new and includes the current slate of officers and the current ride schedule. If you missed a newsletter, they are on the web! Also you will find there our mission, charter, bylaws, and the duties of each officer. If you need another form to sign up for the BSF Weekend in October it is available on our website! And soon we should be able to add pictures. Many, many thanks, Harriet!

**Last Meeting** was held on Tuesday August 4 at St John's Cathedral in downtown Knoxville. Thanks to Sandy Maloy for arranging this location which proved to be easy to find and very centrally located. Nine members showed up – including Sandy who was bucked off a horse recently and broke her pelvis and a leg! Sandy will check to see if we could make this our regular meeting spot. We discussed our plans for the Big South Fork Weekend: We will stay in Group Camp E which costs \$75 for the whole group; we have reserved 30 stalls and 5 corrals (any extras need to be turned back in by Sep 8). No meals will be served on Thursday; often a group goes to Bacara's (good German food!-reservations are advised: 931-879-7121). Friday will be Tex-Mex (chili, fajitas, tacos) and Saturday will be barbecue from Hangin' Hog (we'll pick it up and provide the fixin's). Marilyn and Josh Spoon worked at Big South Fork on National Trails Day (June 6); BRTR would like to participate in Public Lands Day on September 26.

Under New Business the consensus of the group was that BRTR needs new leadership. President and Secretary must be changed this year, and a couple at the meeting expressed interest in those positions. After over 10 years' service it would be kind to change the Treasurer and the Vice-President. The job descriptions are on the web-site (under "About us – charter and bylaws"). We will also need two directors this year. With a new team in place it may be easier to address the goals of BRTR members.

Insurance was the next hot topic, and since we needed a larger, more informed group we decided to call a Special Meeting on Tuesday November 3 at 7:30 pm at St John's Cathedral. Our current policy is with Equisure which covers our 12 rides a year for \$1137.75. Mary, Linda, and Lucy have electronic copies of the full policy and would be happy to forward the policy to anyone who would like to read it; then come to our meeting in November and we can decide what is the best solution for us. As a 501c4 non-profit corporation our officers and directors need some liability protection. A determined lawyer can get around a signed waiver, particularly if there is any case for negligence; our Treasury is substantial but a lawsuit could involve the resources of the officers. Joanne has corresponded with Lynda Hill who helped draft the TN Equine Liability Code; Lynda's short answer was to keep the insurance, but we hope she might be able to come to our Nov 3 meeting and discuss the nuts and bolts with us.

Holly Scarlett suggested some activities to increase interest and involvement in BRTR. Her idea was to have a Reward Patch system where you would acquire points for coming to a meeting or ride, working on a trail etc. The patch would be issued for 100-250 points accumulated. She also suggested that we need more exposure: ball caps, pens, bumper stickers etc that will get our name out where people will see it. Having a Fun Day was another activity to bring folks together (we could get extra Liability insurance for a

one-day event). All it would take to get any of these ideas rolling would be a few people saying "Let's do it!"

For our educational segment, Judy Mitchell offered a hand-out on "30 Tips for Better Trail Riding". Great advice on getting your horse used to unusual stuff before going on the trail and then some courtesy pointers like waiting for the horse behind you at water stops or when crossing a road. And finally and most important: *Remember that you represent ALL equestrians when you hit the trail so be sensible and courteous to other trail users!*

**Next Meeting** will be on Saturday October 10 at the Big South Fork Pavilion in the Group Camp. It will be held after dinner in the Pavilion and before our speaker (Don Britton).

We will have six meetings this year: Tues Jan 6, Tues April 7, Tues Jun2, Tues Aug 4, Sat Oct 10, Fri Dec 11. Mary and Gary Sonner plan to host our Christmas Party in December at their house in South Knoxville; they would like to move the date to Friday Dec 11 to avoid several conflicting events. Mark your calendar NOW!

**Next Trail Ride** will be on Saturday and Sunday, Sep 12-13 at Citico, near Vonore, in the Cherokee National Forest. The contact person is Janice Butt from Vonore (423-884-2760). We like to plan a summer weekend at Young Branch Horse Camp since the trails are shady and there's a very good swimming hole. Don't forget your suit! The trails are mostly old forest roads some along the creeks and some climbing up into the mountains. Maps are available. Although reservations are possible (reservations are through [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com): 877-444-6777 with a \$10 fee), they aren't necessary unless you choose to stay on a holiday weekend (which we aren't). There are the usual metal pole tie-out stalls and also some sturdier wood tie-outs that are more enclosing. There is also a small corral if there are a few friendly horses that don't like tie-outs). Although you can get water from the creek, it will be easier to bring horse and people water from home. From Cedar Bluff, it takes almost 2 hours to reach the camp. Directions: From Knoxville, take US 129S (Alcoa Highway). After you pass the airport there is a fork in the road and you bear right, staying on US 129. After passing Foothills Mall, US 411S will merge with US 129 and you'll follow the combined roads until US 129 turns off. (alternate route: take I-75 to Exit 81 -Lenoir City- and turn east on US 321; go over the dam and turn right on TN 95; at junction with US 411, turn right.) Stay straight on US 411 to Vonore; watch for signs for Sequoyah Museum. Turn left at Hardees on TN360S. After about 6 miles, bear left on County 455 (TN360 turns right over a bridge). Follow Citico Creek Road for another 9 miles past a settlement of cabins. Stay straight on the gravel road (FS 35-1) for almost 4 miles until you reach Young Branch Horse Camp. IF YOU JUST PLAN TO RIDE ON SATURDAY, plan to arrive at 9:30, ready to ride at 10 am. For day-use parking: please continue past the Horse Camp for another mile and turn left; go across a bridge; this shady cul-de-sac is the parking spot for day riders.

**Last Trail Ride** was on August 8 at Tremont in the Smokies. Seven riders joined Joanne Mitchell for a beautiful cool ride to Mark's Cove for lunch and on around the loop to Panther Branch Trail. There was definite evidence of trail work: the weeds were cut back on the main trail and several stream crossings on Panther Branch had been filled and stabilized. In one section the trail had been rebuilt in long steps which were quite easy for the horses to negotiate.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **Norris Dam State Park**

Many of you who have ridden in the Norris Watershed this spring have noticed a new trail – the Lakeview Trail – BE very careful if you venture onto this trail! Near the Lakeside Loop it may be OK to ride it, but near High Point you'd be smarter to stay on the High Point Trail which parallels this new construction. There is one section where you are warned: "STEEP! STEEP! 1200 ft"; what they don't tell you is that the 1200 feet is vertical feet! A good time to get off and lead your horse.

**Norris Watershed** (the Watershed and the State Park are separate entities who share a long border so that we ride back and forth without noticing that the "ownership" has changed. The Watershed is the Town Forest for the City of Norris; Lucy is on the Board that governs the Watershed).

Hunting Season: No other activities are allowed in the Watershed when a Hunt is in progress.

Archery: September 26-October 4. Muzzle-loader/Shotgun: November 21-29.

Poker Ride on September 20, Sunday – The Medford Fire Department is sponsoring a short ride through the Watershed to raise money for Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children. They will charge \$10 per horse to participate and \$5 for each hand of poker played; prizes for the winners. They plan to send horses out about noon on Sunday to ride about an eight-mile loop, beginning and ending at the former

TVA Aquatic Lab (the usual parking lot for Watershed rides). For more information call 865-426-2621. September 6 Norris Dam Hard Trail Run The Knoxville Track Club is sponsoring a run on this day so there may be lots of people in the Watershed.

The Watershed is open to all users during the Run and the Poker Ride, but it helps to be forewarned that you won't be alone!

### **Smoky Mountains National Park**

On Wednesday September 2 there will be a rededication ceremony of the Park at Newfound Gap. Those that have helped the Park over the years have been invited to send a representative, and BRTR was honored to be invited! However, we didn't find anyone who could go at that time.

There is finally a new Volunteer Coordinator for the Smokies, Dana Soehn, who started work this month.

### **Big South Fork NRRRA**

The Park will have several projects available for those who want to work on Public Lands Day, Sep 26. Another date to put on your calendar! Check with Wally Linder or Sue Duncan for more details; if you know of a project that needs doing, let them know and maybe it can be part of the plan.

There's a meeting on Sep12 in Winchester, KY to discuss the Future of the Sheltoewe Trace Trail. It starts at 9:30 am and includes lunch.

### **Cherokee National Forest**

Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen (SABCH) had a class on Large Animal Rescue on August 20. Jim Holland and his Legion-of-Honor Arabian Sunny demonstrated the use of slings and discussed what you need to know in this situation. The outside demonstration was about over when the heat lightening passed directly over the arena, causing car alarms to go off; the people were spooked but Sunny kept his cool.

SABCH is the group working hard on trails in the south Cherokee so that in future years there may be many more horse trails to enjoy when we go camping at Young Branch.

### **Green" Programs – AQHA and Tractor Supply Co**

The AQHA STEP Program (Stewards for Trails, Education, and Partnerships) works to protect trails and our access to them. They encourage any equestrian group to contact them with an idea for a project; those with the most community involvement and the biggest impact on trail sustainability will be considered for a grant to further their project.

#### Making your horse operation more earth friendly:

1. Install gutters and downspouts to divert water from high traffic areas.
2. Plant trees as dust barriers and to protect stream banks.
3. Use organic fertilizers such as rock phosphate.
4. Use biodegradable shampoos and cleaners around the barn, Channel wash water into the grass so it can be absorbed into the soil.
5. Mow weeds before you rest a pasture; mowing weeds reduces mosquito habitat.
6. Install bird houses for those insect-loving birds.
7. Set out trimmed animal hair for lining bird nests or add to the compost.
8. Test the well water to see what your horses are drinking.
9. Install automatic waterers to reduce waste and keep water cleaner.
10. Use wood byproducts (wood pellets or straw pellets) rather than virgin wood products for bedding. ALWAYS avoid black walnut shavings because of potential laminitis complications.

**Where will you...ride, drive, race, compete, raise foals, grow hay?** This is the question asked everyday at the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) office in Lexington, KY where they note that land is lost to development at the rate of 250 acres per hour! They look for ways to encourage us to maintain open lands and also to encourage communities to be horse friendly ("Horses make Good Neighbors"- a booklet to share with zoning and planning officials). Many of us either have some acreage or know someone with a lot of land who wonder what will happen with it when they are gone. Don't wait! Do something NOW! Find out how to put a Conservation Easement on your land! You can establish the terms (such as only one house can be built) and your zoning board will reduce the taxes on this property because it is no longer available for development. Rules vary from state to state, but I manage several shore-front lots on Cape Cod, MA where the taxes are over \$8000 per year; the lot with a "no-build" restriction has taxes of \$668 per year. If you want to preserve open space – maybe without farming – that



**BRTR FALL RIDE AT BIG SOUTH FORK**  
**Bandy Creek Stables and group campground**  
**October 8-11, 2009**

**NAME**  
 (s) \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. CAMPSITE:** Check which days you will camp: Group Camp E  
 nonelectric \$5 per person per night

**THU** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FRI** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAT** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PERSONS x \$5 X** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAYS = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. STALLS** – How many horses? (\$15 per stall per day)

Please stall my horse next to \_\_\_\_\_'s horses.

**THU** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FRI** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SAT** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **HORSES x \$15 x** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAYS = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. WORK DETAIL** – plan to help with one meal during the weekend

**P= Prep** – come 1 hour before meal time

**C= Clean-up** – plan to stay about one hour after meal is finished.

How many to help?

	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	
<b>THU</b>	xxx	xxx	(no meals served)
<b>FRI</b>	_____	_____	
<b>SAT</b>	_____	xxx	(Mary has planned meal and crew)
<b>SUN</b>	_____	xxx	

**4. MEALS** – how many people for each meal?

	<b>Breakfast (\$5)</b>	<b>Dinner(\$12)</b>	
<b>THU</b>	xxx	xxx	(no meals served)
<b>FRI</b>	_____	_____	
<b>SAT</b>	_____	_____	
<b>SUN</b>	_____	xxx	

Breakfast fee(\$5) x persons x days = \_\_\_\_\_

+ Dinner fee(\$12) x persons x days= \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL MEALS COST \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO BRTR**

Campsite Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Meals total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Stall total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ =

**GRAND TOTAL DUE \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **TO BRTR**

**Mail to: Linda Bettner, 1165 West Hwy 11E, New Market, TN 37820. Deadline Sep 8.**