



## **BLUE RIDGE TRAIL RIDERS – newsletter #170, December 2009**

*Time to pay your dues: \$15 for individuals; \$25 for family. Send to Linda Bettner.*

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

Betsy Blackstock, President...865-671-3638...Knoxville...[bblacks453@charter.net](mailto:bblacks453@charter.net)  
Holly Scarlett, Vice Pres...865-995-9535...Friendsville...[rca1159@aol.com](mailto:rca1159@aol.com)  
Linda Bettner, Treasurer...475-4300... New Market... [lostcreekautoworks@charter.net](mailto:lostcreekautoworks@charter.net)  
Janice Butt, Secretary...423-884-2760...Vonore...[janicefb@cox.net](mailto:janicefb@cox.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)  
Judy Mitchell, Director...865-475-6475...Jefferson City (E-12/11)

Check out the Directors! I think the President will appoint two new ones and I'm not sure about the two due to be elected in 2009: were they re-elected?

**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. And soon we should be able to add pictures. Many, many thanks, Harriet! **IF YOU FEEL THE NEWSLETTER IS SLOW GETTING TO YOUR DOOR, CHECK THE WEBSITE; IT WILL BE THERE!** (Harriet is fast too!)

**We plan to have six meetings this year** (unless the members vote for a new plan!). They will be on Tues Jan 5, Tues April 6, Tues Jun 1, Tues Aug 3, Sat Oct 9, and Fri Dec 3. Make a note of it!

**Next Meeting** is perhaps the most important one of the year because we plan our rides for the entire year. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 5 – the first Tuesday of the year! We will meet at St John's Cathedral in downtown Knoxville. The address is on Cumberland Avenue but the parking lot is on Church Street (This will confuse your GPS!). Directions: Take US 441 (N or S – Henley St) into Knoxville. Turn at the light onto Church Street. Go through two traffic lights. (Pass Lawson-McGhee Library). The Parking Lot for St John's is on your right in the middle of the next block; parking is free after 5 pm. Enter through the glass doors at the back of the church and go straight ahead into the Great Hall where we will meet. Please bring friends, visitors, potential new members! Snacks and soda are always welcome and a great addition to the meeting. Also think about where you have ridden this year; perhaps you have a new place (with adequate trailer parking please!) for us to go. We try to plan an equal number of rides in each direction from Knoxville so that the driving will even out over the year. This would be a great time to pay your dues, if you haven't already!

**Last Meeting** was our Annual Christmas Party which was held at Gary and Mary Sonners' home in South Knoxville. Fortunately they had lots of outside decorations to keep us from getting lost! 27 people attended, including a few from Lakeway Riding Club. The Club did the ham and turkey and everyone brought delicious salads, veggies, bread and desserts. We had a brief business meeting. We learned that Horse Haven had just received 15 of the 84 abused horses from Cannon County and we voted to send them \$500 to assist in their care. This was the time to elect officers for 2010; Betsy Blackstock agreed to be President; Holly Scarlett will be Vice-President; Linda Bettner will continue as Treasurer; Janice Butt will serve as Secretary; and Judy Mitchell will be an elected Director. This slate was accepted by acclamation. Betsy said a few words of acceptance and welcome, and the meeting was adjourned. We then enjoyed a Greedy Santa gift exchange. Per usual there were several items that were exchanged three times and became dead, but the trading was not quite as wild as it has been previously.

We are welcoming a new slate of officers! Let's give them all the support we can as they learn their new jobs! Don't grumble about the past; work toward a brighter future for this Club!

**Last Trail Ride** was supposed to be at Wilderness Road near Harrogate, but the forecast was for a cold windy day and Judy Mitchell decided to cancel it.

**Next Trail Ride** will be at Norris on the second Saturday, January 9. Lucy Scanlon (865-494-7654) will be the contact person for this ride; if the weather is questionable, please call by 10 pm Friday to check on the status of the ride. We plan to be ready to ride by 10:00am and will do about a 12-mile loop to the Lakeside Loop; shorter loops are possible and our route back can be somewhat longer if the weather makes it possible. These trails are wide and safe with a cherty gravel tread which sheds water pretty well. There is some single-track which may get slick in wet weather; many single-track trails are closed to horses and are so posted. (Any signpost with red lettering is not for horses). Directions: from Knoxville take I-75N (signs say Lexington, KY) to Exit 122, Norris-Clinton. Turn right on Hwy 61N and go about 1.7 miles. Just beyond the Museum of Appalachia, turn LEFT on US441N (one block before the stoplight) and drive about 3 miles to the parking lot on the left across the street from the TVA Fisheries Lab. You will have just passed the Lenoir Museum and Grist Mill; the parking lots on the left across from the Museum are used by fishermen. Parking will be tight as this is a popular winter riding area, so please consolidate trailers if you can. Day-use only. For maps go to Anderson County Welcome Center at Exit 122(Lucy will bring some maps).

**Pasture Maintenance – Fire ant killer:** Larry Bird (865-988-7478) has used a product by Spectracide which includes a Preventer Bait and does a thorough job of destroying the nests. It is available at your local Coop or Tractor Supply for \$19.97 for 5 lb. Check with him for the best time to apply it.

Lucy Scanlon has heard that Liquid Garlic (from the Health Food store) is also an excellent killer of fire ants – cheap, effective and non-chemical.

Do you have trouble with Buttercups? (Don't we all!). Spray your pastures with 2, 4 -D ester (be sure to get the right kind of 2,4-D!) in March when the temperature gets to 60 F. I also try to hand-spray around the fence lines and places where the tractor can't get. Spraying must be done early while the plants are small to get a good kill; repeat every 3-4 years depending on how much reseeding you get. Livestock avoid buttercups because the sap blisters their mouth, so the plants thrive and reseed.

**Dates to remember:** Rides and Meetings of BRTR! CUT OUT AND SAVE! Stick it on your frig!

Jan 5, 2010: BRTR Meeting to plan rides for the year.

Jan 9: Norris Watershed, Norris, TN. Lucy Scanlon 865-494-7654, 865-254-1269.

**FMI on long-distance riding** go to: [www.aerc.org](http://www.aerc.org) or [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org). **News?** Please send to Janice Butt at address below – or call 423-884-2760-or email: [janicefb@cox.net](mailto:janicefb@cox.net)

Try to get it to me by the 15th of the month. We accept free horse-related classifieds from members.

**Dues:** \$15 per year. Make checks payable to BRTR or Blue Ridge Trail Riders and send to the TREASURER: Linda Bettner, 1165 West Hwy 11E, New Market, TN 37820. If you need to check on your status, call Linda at the office, 865-475-4300.

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Blue Ridge Trail Riders Newsletter

Janice Butt

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