



BLUE RIDGE TRAIL RIDERS – newsletter #164, January 2009

NOW is the time to renew your membership! Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families.

The next newsletter in April will just go to paid members. Send to Linda Bettner.

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
Lucy Scanlon, Secretary...494-7654...Norris...merrymountlps@earthlink.net
Terri Marie Carnes, Director...865-579-9955...Seymour...(E-12/09) Steve Landers, Director...423-462-2386..Riceville...(E-12/09)
Sandy Maloy, Director...865-932-0229..Straw.Plains...(E-12/09) msandramaloy@aol.com
Lezle Jenkins, Director...865-988-4928... Lenoir City. (A-12/10) jenkinsl@k12tn.net
Meriwether Montgomery, Director...865-671-1291...Knoxville, (A-12/10) maydo162004@yahoo.com

Check out our website! www.blueridgetrailriders.com. There's some good basic stuff here and the latest brochure often is displayed but much of the info is years old. We really need someone who has the skill and can take the time to bring this up-to-date. **PLEASE** volunteer for this project! Incidentally, if you'd like a copy of the charter, mission statement, or By-Laws I have them in electronic form and can send them to you; I think they are also on the web-site.

Next Meeting will be on the first Tuesday of April, April 7 at 7:30 pm. We will meet at Copper Pointe Apartment Homes Office at 401 S. Gallaher Rd. We will have six meetings this year: Tues Jan 6, Tues April 7, Tues Jun 2, Tues Aug 4, Sat Oct 10, Fri Dec 4. Please bring friends, visitors, potential new members! This is a cozy place to meet and snacks and sodas are a great addition.

Directions: From I-40, take the Gallaher View Exit #379 and drive south crossing over Kingston Pike at the light. Buddy's Barbecue is on the southwest corner. Go past Bearden High School on your left, and Copper Pointe will be past that on your right. Look for the sign out front and the 6 flags. Drive in and bear left. The leasing office is just to the left past the tennis courts. You can park on either side of the street. The office phone number is 865-690-7940. If you get lost, call Meriwether's cell 865-771-2797.

Last Meeting began early with a Board Meeting to discuss some Club business. Cindy King has resigned as a Director and has been replaced by Meriwether Montgomery. Steve Landers has asked to resign but his letter of resignation hasn't been received; Kerry Dunaway has said she'd be willing to fill the spot, but we'd like to know of other members who'd be interested in serving on the Board – now or in the future. (We appoint or elect some new directors every year and those now serving would like to share the job with some new faces) At some point we need to choose a Chairman of the Board.

In order to keep our non-profit status, BRTR must educate trail users and do some trail maintenance. If the emphasis is more on a social club with mostly riding activities, we must make a point of documenting the occasions when we are educating and maintaining. To meet the state requirements our gross receipts must be under \$25,000. I think we can meet these rules!

The Treasurer's Report listed the following recent payments: \$300 to Bandy Creek to reserve stalls for Oct, 2009; \$140 to Judy for expenses; \$500 to Lucy and Joanne for conference travel expenses; \$129 for our website. Our balance is \$9133.80; \$2737.24 in checking and \$6396.56 in a Money Market account. We discussed the twelve committees and hope to have them active by the next meeting. None of these jobs are difficult or time –consuming, so please consider which one would fit your interests.

Admissions and membership– acknowledges new members, answer questions, and sends out a new member packet to include receipt for dues, current address list, recent newsletters, and a letter of welcome from the President. They also check that the new names are on the current newsletter list.

Auditing – checks that the Treasurer's Records are in order.

Education – part of our Club's mission is to provide information on horse care, trail safety and trail

maintenance, both to members and to the general public. They should plan seminars and speeches for this purpose.

Fund-Raising and Finance – plans events to raise money for the Club or for a charity of our choosing. Such plans must be approved by the Treasurer and the President.

Newsletter – collects information for the newsletter and helps with its production (printing, folding, mailing). The newsletter editor also is the Club secretary and maintains files of all Club interests and activities.

Nominating – develops a slate of candidates for elections.

Parliamentarian – advises the meeting on the proper procedure for conducting business, following Robert's Rules of Order.

Political – tries to stay updated on land-use issues – local, state, and federal – that might affect horse riders. They especially keep track of developments at the Smokies, Big South Fork, and Cherokee National Forest or any other area of special interest to BRTR. They will develop or implement necessary plans for study or action in response to any local, state or federal development of interest to horse riders. In the past this has involved attending meetings or recommending that BRTR donate funds to support a special legal concern.

Program – plans speakers for meetings.

Recreation – plans the rides for the year and helps the newsletter editor with maps and directions, and the ride leader with logistics.

Web-site – works on keeping the web-site current and up-to-date since this is the way the public learns of our existence. Hopefully this may include a place to post photos from our rides.

Due to the nature of their job, the Treasurer is on the Fund-Raising Committee, the Vice-President is on the Recreation Committee and the newsletter editor is on the Newsletter Committee.

EVERY MEMBER should belong to at least one committee! It's an easy and enjoyable way to participate in Club activities. PLEASE call Mary Sonner (865-573-1544 – 7-9 pm only - or 865-607-2998 her cell) to choose where you would like to serve.

After the discussion of horses on wet trails at Haw Ridge in the last newsletter, Joanne suggested that perhaps the Park should be closed from December to March to let the land heal. Areas that have hardened trails – like Norris – that aren't damaged by riding when it is wet should be publicized. On further contact with the Friends of the Haw Ridge, the feeling was that this was a short-term problem and further education of user groups would take care of most of it.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to planning our rides for the year. The full list with dates and leaders appears at the end of this newsletter. Please cut it out and keep in a safe place! I've included reservation-information for those areas where camping might be possible. Since I save the information on our rides from year to year, please alert me of changes in phone numbers, driving directions, or possible trail routes.

A new area for our schedule is the Long Branch Lakes Equestrian Center which is across the street from Fall Creek Falls State Park; we have put it on the schedule for May. Mary Sonner has already checked it out and they have 19 miles of trail established (with connections to more trails in Bledsoe State Forest) and camping is available (free primitive camping in a nice cove!). It is about a two-hour drive from Knoxville (taking the Interstate to Crossville or Dayton).

Next Month's Trail Ride will be on the second Saturday, February 14, to Chuck Swan Wildlife Management Area near Sharp's Chapel. Lucy Scanlon (865-494-7654 OR 865-254-1269) will meet riders at the Check Station with maps. If the weather is questionable, call Friday evening before 10:30 pm. Please plan to arrive about 10 am, ready to ride at 10:30 am. Bring your Coggins!

Directions: Follow I-75 or I-40 to I-640 and get off on US441N (Broadway) toward Halls. Follow US441N through Fountain City and Halls. Near Walmart, US441N turns left but you stay straight on Hwy33N to Maynardville. In about 22 miles cross Norris Lake on a long metal bridge and 1 mile later look for a LEFT turn to Chuck Swan WMA (big brown sign on the right). Travel 10.3 miles on Sharps Chapel Road into Chuck Swan (Road splits at 1.3 miles: stay LEFT; road splits again at 5.3 miles: stay RIGHT). Upon entering Chuck Swan WMA, travel 0.5 miles to the checking station and park there. Park tightly and DO NOT BLOCK any roads! Start riding on Long Hollow Road only (NO HORSES allowed on Main Forest Road). Most of the trails are old forest roads with good footing; this is an area of rolling hills and some access to Norris Lake.

From I-81: Take 25E exit (Morristown/White Pine) Travel north on 25E for 39 miles to Tazewell. (Road splits at 15.8 miles: turn LEFT; road splits at 16 miles: turn LEFT; road splits at 18.8 miles: turn RIGHT).

In Tazewell turn LEFT at the first red light onto Hwy 33S. Go 12.7 miles and turn RIGHT into Sharp's Chapel Road. Follow directions above.

Last Month's Trail Ride The January Ride to Lone Mountain was cancelled due to cold, rainy weather.

MEMBER NEWS

We offer our sincere condolences to Steve and Sherry Landers; Sherry's mother passed away on January 2 surrounded by a loving family.

Thomas and Karen Isaacs are the proud parents of a little girl born on Christmas Day. Madeleine Joy was a month early and weighed in at four pounds.

REGIONAL NEWS

Smoky Mountains National Park The News-Sentinel recalled the founding of the GSMNP in its Sunday Jan27 edition. Most of the land was owned by lumber companies who wanted it to become a national forest so they could still cut virgin timber. But Anne Davis had seen the parks in the west and thought the Smokies were their equal; using Jim Thompson's impressive photos and lots of letters to prominent politicians, she convinced the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association and the Southern Appalachian National Park Commission that this was the place. Mayor Morton of Knoxville saw the potential in having a Park so close. In 1925 Davis convinced the City of Knoxville to put up 1/3 of the money to buy out the Little River Lumber Company; the state of TN put up the rest. The struggle to raise money to buy out the other interests went on for several years in both TN and NC, but a \$5 million commitment by John D. Rockefeller turned the tide and the Park became a reality in 1934. Roosevelt made his memorable dedication speech on Sep 2, 1940 at Newfound Gap.

Big South Fork NRR has received a \$200,000 stimulus package to encourage more tourism in areas where the coal industry is in decline. The plan is to encourage economic development while preserving natural beauty.

The Nature Conservancy has bought another 4200-acre tract in Fentress County which is notable for its many caves, at least one of which has a pictograph drawn by ancient Indians over 1000 years ago. This land ties in with previous purchases by the Conservancy and the state of TN, making a large block for use as a wildlife corridor. It will ultimately be managed by the TWRA.

Did you watch the Inauguration? BSF Ranger Sue Duncan rode in the parade as one of 20 sidesaddle riders from the Southern Ohio Ladies Aside. They were #23 in the line-up and only got about 20 seconds on TV (if you blinked, you missed it). Sue's horse Janie was the one with the blaze; Sue made her own outfit which featured a fleece-lined blue cape with military buttons.

Safety tip: Don't park beside the barn! The barn manager dumped the last load of manure and parked the Polaris behind the barn. Somehow it caught fire and an alert driver (event rider Peter Green) saw the smoke from the road, drove up to the farm and pushed the ATV away from the barn. He then rushed in and grabbed the fire extinguisher and started putting out the fire while others moved horses. Everything was OK except Green's truck which burned up. The Fire Dept is now teaching the barn staff on how to use extinguishers, what kind to have, how to keep them charged etc. Have you had your extinguishers checked lately?

Horse-gear Trade-athon at our April meeting As you go through your barn, your tack room and your trailer this winter, set aside the items you no longer need and plan on bringing them to our April meeting. Perhaps we want to pick a local charity (Horse Haven? STAR?) to receive the proceeds of some items while the larger ones would benefit the owner. Look for details as the time gets closer! Y'all come!

Clinics

NOW thru May, Tuesday nights from 5-10 pm at Roane State Expo Center at Harriman- Open Arena! Barrel racers, pleasure riders, etc. both inside and outdoor arena; activities can be alternated by the hour. Cost: \$5 per nose, equine or human. FMI Stan at 865-310-7169.

Feb 23-28 American Farriers Convention at Marriott Convention Center, Chattanooga. Cost:\$10. Feb 28 is Horseman's Day with booths, lectures etc and John Lyons speaking on "Teaching your horse to stand for the farrier". FMI Kim Simmons, 865-660-4669 OR www.AmericanFarriers.org.

Feb or Mar, 2009: Building Sustainable Trails with Mike Riter. Fall Creek Falls State Park. SABCH will be the sponsor; FMI check with Joanne Mitchell, jfgmhorse@bellsouth.net OR 865-250-1645.

Apr 23-26: Benefit Ride to Support Our Trails at East Fork Stables in Jamestown, TN. Sponsored by the Back Country Horsemen of North Georgia, 706-265-5045. Ride Fee Donation: \$60 covers five meals, auction, live music. Reservations for you and your horse, call 800-978-7245. Do it NOW!
May 1-3: QuarterFest 09 at Miller Equestrian Center at MTSU, Murfreesboro, TN. Clinics with Curt and Tammy Pate, Jeff Griffith, Julie Goodnight; Performances each afternoon and Extravaganza Friday night. Be sure to check out the SABCH Bridge-Building Exhibit with BRTR members Bobby and Joanne Mitchell! Reservations: www.aqha.com/quarterfest. Your horse is invited too!
July 9-12 Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC), Gainesville, FL

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

Feb 14: Chuck Swan WMA, Sharps Chapel. Lucy Scanlon, 865-494-7654, 865-254-1269.
Mar 14: Harmon Den (N Cherokee NF). Judy Mitchell, 865-475-6475, 865-254-1579. Reservations: 828-622-3203.
Apr 7: BRTR Meeting at Copper Pointe. 865-771-2797.
Apr 11: Abrams Creek/Top of the World (GSMNP). Meriwether Montgomery 865-671-1291, 865-771-2797.
May 9: LongBranchLakesEquestrianCenter, Spencer, TN. Mary Sonner 865-573-1544, 865-607-2998. Reservations: 931-598-0830.
Jun 2: BRTR Meeting at Copper Pointe. 865-771-2797.
Jun 13: Station Camp at Big South Fork. Ann Hall 865-986-7409. Reservations: 423-569-3321.
Jul 11: Big Creek in the GSMNP. Marilyn Spoon 423-587-5924. Camping? I need a phone number!
Aug 4: BRTR Meeting at Copper Pointe. 865-771-2797.
Aug 8: Tremont in the GSMNP. Joanne and Bobby Mitchell 423-337-6194, 865-250-1645.
Sep 12: YoungBranch Horse Camp at Citico in S Cherokee NF. Janice Butt 423-884-2760. Reservations: 877-444-6777.
Oct 8-11: Fall Weekend at Bandy Creek, Big South Fork. Reservations made in advance; sign up in newsletter.
Oct 10: BRTR Meeting at Big South Fork in the Group Camp Pavilion.
Nov 14: MeadowCreekResort near Greeneville, TN. Meriwether Montgomery 865-671-1291, 865-771-2797. Reservations: 423-613-0748, 423-613-5675 OR www.meadowcreekfarm.com
Dec 4: BRTR Meeting and Christmas Party at Copper Pointe. 865-771-2797
Dec 12: Wilderness Road, Harrogate, TN. Judy Mitchell 865-475-6475, 865-254-1579.
Jan 5, 2010: BRTR Meeting at Copper Pointe. 865-771-2797.
Jan 9: Norris Watershed, Norris, TN. Lucy Scanlon 865-494-7654, 865-254-1269.

FMI on long-distance riding go to: www.aerc.org or www.natrc.org. **News?** Please send to Lucy Scanlon at address below - or call 865-494-7654 - or E-mail: merrymountLPS@earthlink.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
Lucy Scanlon
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