



BLUE RIDGE TRAIL RIDERS – newsletter #166, June 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
Lucy Scanlon, Secretary....494-7654...Norris...merrymountips@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
Lezle Jenkins, Director...865-988-4928... Lenoir City. (A-12/10) jenkinsl@k12tn.net
Kerry Dunaway, Director...865-964-5417..Seymour (E-12/09)

Check out our website! 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. Soon there will be recent newsletters there as well. And we should be able to add pictures. Many, many thanks, Harriet!

Next Meeting will be on the first Tuesday of August, Aug 4 at 7:30 pm.

We will have six meetings this year: Tues Jan 6, Tues April 7, Tues Jun2, Tues Aug 4, Sat Oct 10, Fri Dec 4. Unfortunately, Copper Pointe has asked us not to meet there any longer, so we need to find a new location for our August meeting. We need a spot that is fairly centrally located to accommodate our diverse membership; several spots were mentioned at our meeting, but none has been chosen as yet. Please check out spots in your area and let Mary (865-607-2998) know if you find something! In October we'll meet at Big South Fork and our Christmas Party in December will be at the Sonners in south Knoxville – so we just need a spot for August.

Last Meeting Eleven members and one guest got together at Copper Pointe to discuss business and enjoy some great snacks. First we discussed plans for National Trails Day at Big South Fork and at Wolf Creek in the north Cherokee. Then we reviewed our plans to buy a grill and griddle for the Big South Fork Weekend in October to make it easier to cook our own meals. Marilyn had found some good choices online for \$400 including shipping. But the McCrackens, who already have the perfect grill, are planning to come this year so we can put off that purchase for another year. Judy and Marilyn will organize food for Friday evening (Tex-Mex style); Mary Sonner has a crew to handle all the food and clean-up on Saturday. Mary suggested that perhaps we could feed our members (not their guests) for free as a way to say thank-you, but it was pointed out that the modest amount we make on this weekend helps pay for our insurance. ALL MEMBERS must sign up to help with the preparation or the clean-up of one meal during the weekend.

There was some concern about the security of our stalls reservation since Bobby and Greta York have a new place near Crossville, but they appear to be running both places. For entertainment we decided to ask Don Britton from the Lakeway Riding Club who is a cowboy poet of sorts. To pay for his driving up there we plan to feed him and provide his stall and campsite (for him alone – not for all his friends). At the August meeting we will have to finalize our meal plans and decide how best to store everything we need to prepare the food. It would be best to have a covered, lockable truck to keep it all together. Mary reminded us that we need another director who will be in charge of Membership. This person's job would be to make new members feel welcome, to answer their questions, to be sure they get on the newsletter list, and know how to get to the next ride.

Mary did say that we needed to be looking for a new President for January, and I must add that we will also need a new Secretary.

We heard about a Horse Rescue of 13 horses by the Humane Society of Jefferson County. 3 horses in the group died and 5 are available for adoption. There is one filly who needs surgery for a hernia and can

only be adopted after she has fully healed. Hillary Coombs has volunteered to keep the filly for her convalescence and has established a fund, Hannah's Hospital Fund, to pay for the surgery. BRTR decided to donate \$100 to the Humane Society of Jefferson County to help cover the expenses of this filly.

Judy Cagle reminded us of the issue of Horse Slaughter; the Tennessee Legislature is considering a bill to make it possible to open a Slaughter House in TN. She pointed out that not all animals sent for slaughter are unwanted and unsound; many are young and healthy and stolen. People equate killing cattle and hogs to killing horses, but they aren't at all the same. We don't eat horses and we raise them to be companions animals: to work and play beside us. When they can no longer work, their end should be treated with respect and dignity – not brutal butchering. We need a solution for unwanted horses and sick horses since many cannot afford the cost of euthanasia, but slaughterhouses make money selling horse steaks overseas and encourage horse theft for a quick profit. There are two bills in the State Legislature that have cleared the House but have been stalled in the Senate. HB1428 would establish a TN processing plant if the Federal ban on such a plant is lifted; this would require Congress to authorize the states to regulate such an industry since the federal government won't fund such an endeavor. The Humane Society of the United States is firmly against this proposal and has discussed it at length on their website; the interest in horse slaughter is really driven by a profit motive not a great number of unwanted horses. We need more Horse Rescue facilities. Mike Faulk from Kingsport has blocked HB 1428 and a companion bill, HJR245, to oppose the federal ban on exporting horse meat. He recognizes that the current practice of transporting horses to Mexico and Canada isn't a viable solution as well as being inhumane. Faulk feels that the legislators don't understand the issues and haven't heard enough from grass-roots horse people. We need to write our representatives to stop these bills and to inform them of a better solution. To make up your own mind on this issue, call Judy Cagle at 865-771-5738 and go the website, hsus.org. *Our equine friends deserve better.*

Next Trail Ride will be on the second Saturday, July 11 at Big Creek on the North Carolina side of the Smokies.) This is a 6 mi old jeep road gradually rising along the creek until it reaches Walnut Bottoms which makes a good lunch-stop. Footing is very solid and there is plenty of water. For a summer ride this is a pleasant shady route; if we wish we can make a longer trip toward Mt Sterling or Mt Cammerer. (Check the map before you come so that you're aware of the distances and elevation changes that would be involved here) There are some private camping areas close by which can accommodate large rigs.

Since this location is about a 3-hour drive from most of Knoxville, we will plan to arrive at 9:30, ready to ride at 10:00 am. Directions: From Knoxville, take I-40 east. At the split with I-81, continue east on I-40 almost to the TN-NC line. Exit 451, Waterville Rd. Follow signs to Big Creek Horse Camp. As you come down the ramp, turn right; go across the bridge and turn left, following the creek for about 2 miles. At the stop sign keep straight. Look for the Day-Use Area. Marilyn Spoon is the contact person; if you are planning to go please call her the night before at 423-587-5924.

PREVIOUS 2009 TRAIL RIDES: In May the wonderful trip that Mary had planned for us at Long Branch Lakes Center had to be cancelled due to really bad rain, thunderstorms and flooding. But in June a good group of about 15 gathered at Station Camp Campground at Big South Fork and rode for five hours on the trails near there. Several stayed in the campground and others went to cabins in the area, so they all could ride on different trails the next day. The weather was pleasant: overcast with no rain. The only mishap was that Judy and Don had a horse that fell in the trailer and was lying under another horse; they were able to get the horse out safely and no one was hurt.

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 – on the State Park side of the area. The Park has received a \$100,000 grant from the TN Trails and Greenways Commission to build a sustainable trail along the lakeshore from the old cabins to Upper Clear Creek Road (in the Norris Watershed). It has taken a few years for this to become a reality as the Park carefully flagged where they wanted the trail to go; an added challenge is that in many places the grade is very steep and the soil is shallow. Last fall the trail went out to bids; all kinds of contractors bid on it including one with much experience in building trails that work in tough situations (and he had the small-size equipment to minimize damage to the land). His bid was turned down and the contract was rewritten so that a local mine contractor could qualify for the job. During the winter the trail was

constructed with some variations from the flagged route to alleviate some of the severe grade issues. At the eastern end of the trail – where the grade is gentle and the soil is deep and friable – the construction looks great and with a bit of handwork on the out-slope it may become a sustainable trail. However, at the other end, near the Dam where the grade is very steep and there is little soil, the trail will need lots of work to become safe for hiker, biker or horseman. This has been a very wet spring with many torrential rains and lots of run-off. The steep switchbacks and the connector at High Point have eroded badly. At best the machine just made a bench into the hill; if a crew had immediately followed to install water bars and final grading, some of it might have held. 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.

Smoky Mountains National Park

This is the 75th Anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park! There are many articles in the paper about the beauty and history of the Park and many projects to renovate and improve it. This year the Park has received \$64 million which will create 1500 jobs; those workers will be improving 32 miles of horse trails, restoring 61 cemeteries, painting and reroofing many buildings. Several roads will be repaved and rehabilitated. Over half the funds (\$34million) comes from the Federal Highway Administration to complete the fifth cantilevered bridge on the “Missing Link” section of the Foothills Parkway in Blount County; hopefully this highway will be finished and opened by the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.

Big South Fork NRR

National Trails Day, June 6 Marilyn and Josh Spoon worked hard setting posts and rails in the switchback close to the Bandy Creek barn where the horses avoid the bridge and cut through the creek.

Cherokee National Forest On June 10 BCHET held its National Trails Day Event at Wolf Creek Parking Area. While one crew set some posts around the area, Marilyn Spoon, Josh Spoon, Judy Mitchell and a couple of others trimmed branches on the trail. Karen Isaacs was there with her new baby.

Clinics

July 9-12 Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC), Gainesville, FL

Aug 21 Tack Sale/Swap at STAR, Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding, 11800 Hwy 11E, Lenoir City. Usually from about 4 pm- 8 pm.

July or August, Barefoot Trim Clinic. Jim Apple, a farrier from Nashville, would like to plan a clinic in the Chattanooga area to show people how to trim their horse's hoofs and keep them in shape between professional trims. If interested call Catherine at 423-236-4843 or email at bossmare22@peoplepc.com.

Homes wanted

Appaloosa mare, 22 yr old, retired show horse. BRTR member Paula Lopata (865-607-8188) needs someone to provide a home for a treasured friend. The mare can't be ridden but is easy to care for.

18 Arabians need homes! Julie Hall forwarded a message from a Virginia horse person. A guy inherited 18 horses and doesn't know what to do with them! Call Leslie Gassmann, 770-597-0181 for more information. There might be a good trail horse or endurance horse in this bunch! (PLEASE make plans in your will for your horses as well as your children and grandchildren!).

For sale or trade

TWH gelding, black and white, 8 yr old. A great trail horse; he's had all his shots and Coggins for this year. I would trade for an older horse that would be happy with occasional riding only. BRTR member Linda Lambert, 865-376-2355.

Boarding available

\$200 per month with Lloyd and Pat Smith at 720 Fox Road. Call 865-966-8313. Ask BRTR members Suzie Campbell (865-693-8078) and Betsy Blackstock (865-671-3638) about this place!

Wanted: two children's mounts

Sherry Landers needs a couple of gentle, reliable mounts for her grandchildren. She wants to get them hooked on horses before they discover boys and cars!

Steve would like to try a gaited horse. Call Steve or Sherry at 423-745-1683 or email

SherryHLanders@aol.com.

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

Jul 11: Big Creek in the GSMNP. Marilyn Spoon 423-587-5924. Camping? Call Marilyn!

Aug 4: BRTR

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 Gary&Mary Sonner, 2612 KimberlinHeightsRd, Knoxville: 865-573-1544, 865-607-2998.

Dec 12: Wilderness Road, Harrogate, TN. Judy Mitchell 865-475-6475, 865-254-1579.

Jan 5, 2010: BRtr Meeting.

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

PO Box 7

Norris, TN 37828

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

NAME (s) _____

PHONE _____

1. **CAMPSITE:** I will/will not be sharing a campsite with _____

Check which days you will camp:

	Electric(\$22)	nonelectric (\$19)
THU	_____	_____
FRI	_____	_____
SAT	_____	_____

Fee x days = _____ \$ **Total due and payable to BSF on arrival**
 (BRTR will assign and reserve your site)

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

Please stall my horse next to _____'s horses.

THU _____
FRI _____
SAT _____

Stall fee x days = _____ \$ amount payable to BRTR

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

Prep – come 1 hour before meal time

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

How many to help? (if you eat, you work!)

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

4. **MEALS** – how many for each?

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

Bkfst fee x persons x days = _____

Dinner fee x persons x days = _____

Total _____ \$ amount payable to BRTR

5. **TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO BRTR**

Meals _____ + stalls _____ = _____ \$ **TOTAL DUE**

Mail to: Linda Bettner, 1165 West Hwy 11E, New Market, TN 37820

