



BLUE RIDGE TRAIL RIDERS – newsletter #169, November 2009

PLEASE NOTE! Date of our Christmas Party is Friday Dec. 11 (one week later than usual)

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)
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. 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!

Next Meeting will be our Christmas Party on the second Friday in December, Dec 11. It will be held at Mary and Gary Sonners, 2612 Kimberlin Heights Rd, Knoxville. If you get confused by the directions, please call 865-573-1544 or 865-607-2998.

We will plan to gather at 7:00 pm and the gift exchange will follow at about 8:30pm. The Club will supply ice, meat, hot drinks, eating utensils and plates. Bring soda if you want some!

Please bring a covered dish: vegetables, salad, bread or dessert. If you wish to participate in the Greedy Santa Gift Exchange, please bring a gift valued under \$15; try to stay pretty close to this amount. Each member of a family that wishes to participate in the gift exchange needs to bring a gift.

Directions: Take Chapman Highway (US 441) from Sevierville or Knoxville. At the light for Hendrons Chapel Road, turn north-east (LEFT from Knoxville, RIGHT from Sevierville). It is about seven miles from here to the Sonner's house. Hendrons Chapel becomes Kimberlin Heights Road and goes on past Johnson Bible College. There's a sharp right turn at the college and then a sharp left turn 1/8th mile beyond (Don't miss this turn!). On your right, look for Key Lane and a brick house. Then a little grey house with a long drive just beyond it: 2612 Kimberlin Heights Road. There will be lighted candy canes at the driveway entrance! This is a log home with stone on the front and will be lit up with Christmas decorations. Parking will be down by the barn.

From I-40: take the Strawberry Plains exit, and follow Strawberry Plains Pike to John Sevier Highway. Turn LEFT and travel past Five Rivers Industrial Park. On your right you will see Nina's Greenhouses. Turn LEFT on French Road toward Johnson Bible College. At the T-intersection turn left onto Kimberlin Heights Road. At the next T turn LEFT again and stay on Kimberlin Heights Rd and go past Johnson Bible College. Follow directions above thru the sharp turns to Key Lane and beyond.

We will also have a brief Business Meeting with elections for next year. Linda will accept dues for next year as well (\$15/individual; \$25/family). This is an important meeting! We need to elect a President and a Secretary as well as three directors. (A fourth one will be appointed by the new President and will be in charge of Membership). Holly Scarlett and Betsy Blackstock would be willing to serve as directors or Vice-President; Janice Butt is willing to become our secretary. Anyone who has attended four of the last 12 meetings (with six meetings a year that means four any time during 2008 or 2009) is eligible to run for office.

Last Meeting was held on Nov 3rd at St John's Cathedral to discuss our insurance policy and insurance in general. 13 members showed up for this discussion. Linda Bettner gave us a Treasurer's Report: we have \$8534.89 in the bank. At our Big South Fork weekend, we made a small profit of just over \$500 but

this was mainly due to the hard work of the cooks and some careful economies at the grocery store. Linda also reports that she has made our reservations at Big South Fork Group Camp for 2010. Marilyn Spoon, our insurance expert, gave us a brief run-down on exactly what our Insurance Policy with Equisure covers. This policy protects us from any bodily injury or property damage whether we cause injury to an outside person or a Club member. We are also protected if one member sues another. The policy will cover the monetary expense of courts and lawyers up to \$1 million. If we were to put on an event and had volunteer help like a farrier or a vet, they aren't covered under our policy. Our personal insurance excludes any liability protection for damages caused while we are in a business or a volunteer position which is why we need this coverage. For \$1137 we are covered for 6 meetings and 14 days of trail riding (Big South Fork is three days of riding, not one).

Joanne Mitchell checked with the CHTA Club in Georgia (a club with 150 members) who pay \$500 with one company for their four public events and \$937 with another company for Liability protection for their officers and directors. Janice Butt checked with several clubs, one of which offers a poker ride and riding lessons and pays \$600 for liability insurance. The US Equestrian Association offers coverage to its members if their horse hurts someone. So Equisure is offering similar protection for a similar price. Many of the local clubs do not have insurance, so why should we? Surely the waiver all riders sign will protect us! Actually, the waiver is a good faith instrument but doesn't offer any liability protection. This means that the officers and directors could be sued for everything they own – house, barn, horses, bank account, you name it. No one will serve in any position without some protection and a club dies without leadership. So we save \$1100 by not buying insurance; what would we spend it on? The insurance bill is usually paid for by the fall ride, but with the small number of people and minimal pricing we just covered half of it this year. It was also pointed out that those who complained about the insurance, didn't come to the meeting.

The decision of those present was that we should get all the coverage we need; insurance is one of those necessary evils. We want to keep insurance for our Club and for the rest of 2009 that will be with Equisure. The new board, working with the knowledge we've collected at this meeting, can decide on a different approach next year; renewal is set for mid-February.

We also discussed our slate of officers for 2010 and had several new members willing to take some leadership. But they felt they didn't know the Club well enough to become President. They suggested that we ought to have a step-up system where a director becomes a Vice-President and the VP moves on to President. Such changes could be considered by next year's Board.

Last Trail Ride took us to Meadow Creek in Greene County on a gorgeous sunny day. 13 riders went to the Fire Tower and the old 1880's hotel site. There was another group of riders on the trail that day which meant the parking lot was VERY full.

Next Trail Ride will be on the second Saturday of December –Dec 12 – the day after our Christmas Party! We will enjoy the Wilderness Road near Harrogate (close to Cumberland Gap) Since this is a winter ride, be sure to call Judy Mitchell, our contact person, the night before to resolve any weather problems. 865-474-6475 or 865-254-1579.

Plan to arrive at 9:30, ready to ride at 10 am. It is about 1 ½ hours from Knoxville. We will ride an easy, flat section of a "Rails-to-Trails" conversion; it is six miles long and ends in a grassy field where we will turn around and ride back: 12 miles total. Cumberland Mountain will loom above us and we will pass through a VA State Park- Wilderness Road - and an old railroad station at Caylor. There is a place to get water near the old quarry site. The trail has been extended to the Cumberland Gap Park, so we could ride an additional 3 miles from the parking area into the park and back again – a total of six extra miles.

Pay attention to the directions: most of it is very easy but there are several ways to get there. Directions: From Morristown, take 25E over Clinch Mountain to Tazewell. From Knoxville take I-40 and I-640 to the Broadway exit and follow US 441 through Halls, then continue on TN 33 through Maynardville, across Norris Lake to Tazewell. In Tazewell both groups will continue on US 25E to Harrogate (there's parking behind Hardees if you need a potty or food break). Continue on to the exit for US58 toward the town of Cumberland Gap, TN and Jonesville, VA (do NOT go through the tunnel). Drive about 4.5 miles and watch for Gibson Station Missionary Baptist Church (red brick church with white columns) on your left. Don't turn at the church, but go on to the next opening in the median beyond the church and make a U-turn; travel back on US58 west until you reach an unmarked parking lot on the right – just before you get back to the church. There is alternate parking if this one fills up. If you are driving from Kingston, Farragut, or Oliver Springs, it will probably be faster to go through Clinton on TN61 which you will follow to I-75. Drive north on the interstate to Caryville and then US25W to LaFollette. In LaFollette join TN 63 for the drive across Powell Valley where you will join US25E just south of Harrogate. Continue as described

above. I would guess this route would take 2 ½ hours from Oliver Springs.

REGIONAL NEWS

Norris 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.

Wanted to buy: Small aluminum horse trailer. Call Tykey Truett, 865-995-2468; 865-805-2431.
Truettlf@att.net

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

Dec 11: BRTR Meeting and Christmas Party at Gary & Mary Sonner, 2612 Kimberlin Heights Rd, 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 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 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.

.....
Blue Ridge Trail Riders Newsletter

Lucy Scanlon
PO Box 7
Norris, TN 37828