

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2020

Special COVID-19 Edition

Montana East Trail Challenge Saturday June 13, 2020

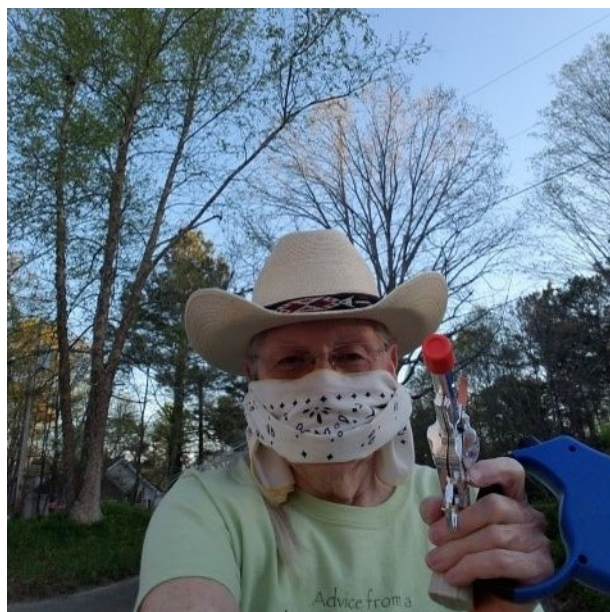
Janet and I really would like to have the Challenge this year as scheduled. However, due to the coronavirus we need to take some precautions. Earlier this year we announced that Montana East was opening a new line of business offering over/under betting on the number of times the President used the word "incredible" or its derivative "incredibly" in the daily Coronavirus Task Force Briefing. This has been so successful that we're opening a new product line in time for the Montana East Trail Challenge. We are making horse masks to prevent asymptomatic infected animals from spreading the virus.

Since this is a launch of a totally new product, we need to retool our assembly line and require new raw materials. If you are planning on participating, please send us an old or used bra. The bra is your entry fee. We will convert that item to a horse mask for use on your horse at the Trail Challenge. If you are a petite lady with a tall or large horse send us the bra anyway. We will trade that bra with someone who is more endowed but with a smaller horse. You can rest assured that this will be a quality product. Janet is in charge of the assembly line, and I will personally oversee quality control. If this is successful, we will begin national marketing of the product. We would like to have different styles for the discriminating buyer and are thinking of naming the different models after the donating person. Your name could end up on horses nationwide.

Together we can make this year's Trail Challenge the most memorable one yet! This is your opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new and titillating business. Montana East go brag!

(Okay, I apologize. This shelter in place in driving me nuts.)

Rich



*Jo West
takes social distancing
enforcement into her own
hands.*

Who is this? If they are not members of our club, they should join.
This is the kind of team we want with us in a pinch.
Just go with the flow and improvise.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank goodness for horses during this time of "stay at home". At least we can give them a hug without wearing a mask and get some exercise riding them. I personally am being challenged to teach my new horse to load in the trailer. Many people I have talked to are enjoying the free time to complete projects that have been on the to-do list for awhile but, like me, I think we're all getting antsy to return to a somewhat normal life. At least we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel.

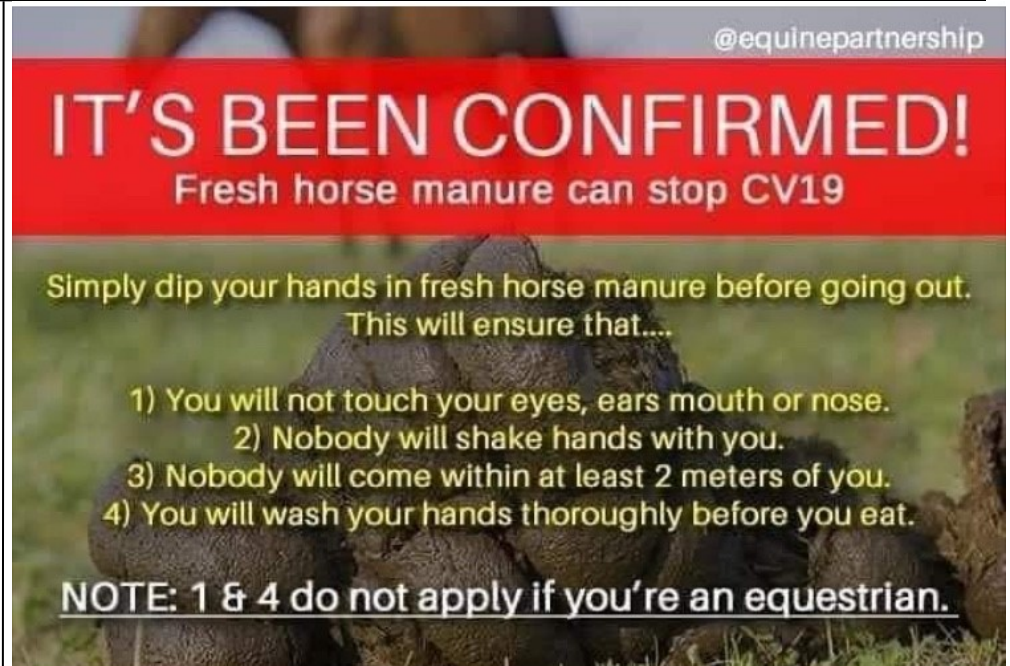
Since BTSC jokingly stood for the Bent Tree Social Club in the past, it is impossible to currently live up to that name. All events have been cancelled for the month of May to include the Derby Party, Dressage Competition, Prince Brunch Ride and the Omoksee. We will attempt to reinstate some of these once we know the State of the Union. We will keep the Dressage Competition, Trail Challenge and the Obstacle Competition on the June calendar for the time being.

I am anxious to display our new umbrella for the judges stand and to spend time with all of you again soon. I pray all of you stay healthy and that Betsy Robbe has a speedy recovery from her recent incident. Enjoy the pictures in this "comic issue" of the newsletter. Thanks to those who have shared them with us.

Kathy Hardin



Oooooohhhhhmmmmmm



Faucett Farm Saturday, April 4

Claire said, "Let's Ride." So that's what we have been doing. Barbara Auchter, John Wilder, Claire and DJ. Everybody was on their usual mounts except Claire, who rode 4-year-old Lili. Amazingly, Lili was perfect. Claire learned that although Lili is the children's horse, she has wonderful forward gaits and is totally calm even when left behind in the group. What a gem.

We stopped for lunch by the stream and just enjoyed a beautiful spot on a beautiful day. Wisely, Ranger took a nap during lunch while Rusty kept himself busy trying to dig a hole. Oh well.

Thank you to Donny Faucett for sharing this wonderful place with us.

DJ



Ranger taking a snooze.

Climbing Pott Mountain Saturday, March 27

Does anyone know the elevation of the top of Potts Mountain? Is it as high as Sharptop? Now, when you ride the Sharptop loop, you don't go all the way to the top, but on Potts Mountain you can ride to the summit! We did it during the great lock-down of 2020.

We set off from Claire's farm with Elise Eubanks, age 9, on Lili, Arabella Wunn, age 10, on Ranger (Wilder), Claire on Dance and DJ on Rusty and Daisy the very old beagle. Claire knew the way up, and Ranger knew the way down. If you check out the date, you will realize that we did this before the leaves were out. There was just a blush of green, but we could see out across the huge valley below and over to the next mountain. Just spectacular. It was a long gradual climb to the top, but we all made it. At lunch Daisy politely sipped some bottled water, dug a hole under a log and took a nap in the cool dirt.

After a leisurely late lunch at the top, we discussed a strategy to get Daisy into the saddle for the ride home, but Daisy would have none of it! Off she went on an interesting scent. What an independent spirit! Meanwhile, we realized that it was a very long way back. Oops! But, not to worry, Ranger remembered a shorter way back: straight down the steep side of the mountain. Never hesitated, never missed a step and Arabella had a grand adventure being out front on the old pro. Elise did terrific with her young horse. Never made a wrong move. DJ and Rusty took up the rear, watching and reminding the kids to keep their heels down and heads up during the long slide. What an adventure.

DJ



Daisy Eubanks, what a trooper. She may be a Georgia hound, but she is New York

.....Tough
Smart
Disciplined
United
Loving

and



Arabella Wunn, Marc's granddaughter, on Ranger, age 28 and Elise Eubanks on Lili, age 5.



Claire demonstrates the most dangerous way to mount your horse. What a dedicated teacher!



Before and after work on the trail between Bent Tree Stable and Martha and Mary's farm.



News from Bent Tree Stables

Email: k1@earthlink.net

It feels like a long and dark tunnel. That is, having to wait out this unprecedented plague, the Corona Virus, that has everyone's life on hold. Since horses must be fed and cared for, chores never stop at a boarding stable. But all other activities, trail riding, arena rides, lessons, etc. are at a virtual standstill. I do believe that there will be a light at the end of this tunnel and that everything will eventually be back to business as usual.

In the meantime, there is no shortage of work to be done such as, cleaning and organizing of tack, keeping the horses fit and trail ready, taking reservations and planning for summer horse camp, building new hay huts out of wooden pallets, and maintaining and repairing our trails. And as far as trail maintenance goes, a big hats off to Bent Tree Community and its building and grounds crew. They managed to repair a giant erosion hole along the Pendley Creek Stables access road and add some crush and run stone down the horse trail path leading out from the back of the barn. For all of this, Bent Tree brought out the big equipment machines and the expert crews that operate them. Many thanks to Tom Fowler, Tim Carver and all of the crew.

I am optimistic that sometime in May we will start to see activity getting back to normal. So get your riding boots ready to go. And remember to call the stables if we can help you or a friend with a horse ready to hit the trails.

Happy trails (I hope and pray),

Keeve

Trail Work Update

What better way to get some exercise, enjoy your friends at a safe distance and get some work done. Kathy, Rhonda, new member Laine, DJ and Mattie the dog have been hard at work fixing the trail network directly behind the Schultz farm. A few ticks, some sunburn and poison ivy and we are about two thirds of the way to having our old trail system there opened-up again

Love that battery powered chainsaw that Kathy brought along. Plenty of power, very light weight and easy to start. If any of you guys out there are wondering what you could get as a gift for your trail rider lady, this is the item.

DJ

2020 Membership Report

The Club has 99 members as of May 24, 2020. We extend a warm welcome to new members Bill and Alicia Klenk who just moved from Newnan, Georgia to Bent Tree. They board two horses at Five Points Performance Horses equine facility in Talking Rock and look forward to riding our trails. They are avid participants in numerous horse activities. Alicia is a professional equine photographer. We also had one 2019 member renew since my last report in the March newsletter. Go to our website for the latest version of the 2020 Club directory. I'm looking forward to seeing our new members as well as other members at future Club events after social gathering restrictions are lifted. If you know anyone that might be interested in joining the, Club please have them contact me. Stay safe and be careful during this difficult time.

Bob



What a dilemma. So many sticks to carry.
Mattie (Hardin) finally just sat down to watch what those crazy humans were doing

Treasurer's Report 04/20/20

Balance 03/23/20	\$ 2,923.52
Deposits:	
Membership	\$ 40.00
Clothing Payments	\$ 401.00
Expenses:	
Prepay BTSC Clothing Order	\$ 474.70
BTSC Arena Umbrella Replacement	\$ 239.98
Balance 04/20/20	\$ 2649.84

Jim

June Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for updated event info, articles and photos is **May 27**

Newsletter will go out on June 1st

Send to Email address: dj.suberk@gmail.com

Articles must be a WORD .doc,
and font must be Times new Roman, size 10

Photos must be in **jpeg format**.

2020 Executive Committee	2020 Positions	
President: Kathy Hardin Vice-President: Marianne Torchia Treasurer: Jim Sylvia Secretary: Ronda Erway BT Liaison: Bob Crowl Past President: Rich Vigue Past Past Pres. Keith Hunter Appointees: Bill Stara Leslie Elliott	Membership: Bob Crowl Newsletter Ed.: DJ Suberk Email Distribution: Rich Vigue Website Admin: Jim Sylvia	Visit our website at www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com
		Join our Group Page on Facebook

Potts Mountain Cemetery



Look what we found way back in the woods on Potts Mountain. Would love to know how a Padgett came to be buried with the Potts family.

Claire, Elise Arabella, Kathy and DJ trekked back there a second time last week. Kathy rode her new 3-year-old Tennessee Walker, Poppy. She did great. We went in the evening and poor Arabella got totally spooked. It all turned out fine because Ranger took good care of her. That horse is a saint.

DJ





Poppy and Peek Hardin.



Arabella says she is really missing her friends at school, but it's a good time to get out all of those toy horses.



Charlotte, Marc's granddaughter, carefully follows DJ's rule that you must wear a helmet when you are on a horse.



This little guy came into the world with a perfect white mask over his nose and mouth. He is good to go out in public. Nine-month-old colt Tea Rex is owned by Tammy Steinbrecher and was born at her farm. He is Tennessee Walker.

What have the Delays been up to?



*Joyce on Stormy and Rose Merrill on Candy. Looks like they are at Garland.
That's Bobby, working as usual.*

BTSC 2020 Calendar of Events

To add event or volunteer, contact Kathy Hardin @kathardin39@gmail.com or 404-218-6360

Date	Event	Location	Leader(s)
June 13, Saturday	Trail Challenge	Montana East	Rich & Janet Vigue
June 27, Saturday	Obstacle Competition	Eubank's Farm	Claire Eubanks
July 4, Saturday	Parade	Downtown Jasper	
	Cookout	Horse Park	Rich & Janet Vigue
July 6, Monday	Lake Swim	Lake Tamarack, BT	Claire Eubanks
July 11, Saturday	Educational Series	Horse Park	
August 1, Saturday	Educational Series/Gen. Mtg.	Horse Park	
August 8, Saturday	Heat of the Summer Party	BT Beach Pavilion	Rich & Janet Vigue
August 15, Saturday	Picnic	Lake Lanier	Jo West Jo West
September 12, Saturday	Horsemanship	Horse Park	Jan Lorenzen
September 16, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
September 19, Saturday	Local Ride	Prince Cabin	
September 26-27 weekend	Equitana	Louisville	Not Club sanctioned
September 30, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
October 1-4 weekend	Trailering Trip	TBD	Lisa & Jim Sylvia
October 14, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
October 17, Saturday	Horse Show	Horse Park	Claire Eubanks
October 28, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
November 1, Sunday	Trailering Ride	Chickamauga	
November 7, Saturday	Omoksee	Horse Park	Rich Vigue
November 14, Saturday	Thanksgiving Dinner	TBD	Rich & Janet Vigue
December 12, Saturday	Christmas Party	Pendley Stables	Kathy Hardin



*If you decide to stay at home, then at least get the grass mowed.
That's TJ (Williams).*



Cheyenne (Hartin)and Blue (Hunter) at Dawson Forest.



That's the red roof of the Bargain Barn across the valley.



(Top left) DJ and Rusty take in the view from the Sharptop Trail.



(Top right) It's Bambi on the loose with a weed wacker. Take cover!!

Pete, "I can't believe I am only three." No, that can't be the caption. So I asked Bambi the significance of the three candles. She said, "those were the only candles she could find."

