

Upcoming Events

Fall Trailering Trip to Big South Fork October 1-4

Well, plans have come together to head to the Big South Fork NRA to camp and ride October 1-4. Spruce Creek Acres will be our "home base". There are 13 miles of private trails in Spruce Creek and access to two trailheads in the Big South Fork NRA. They also have stables with campsites and paddocks as well as a nice pavilion we have reserved for our evening/dinner gatherings.

We have eight signed up so far. Some are staying in cabins at Laurel Fork Rustic Retreat across the highway from Spruce Creek, and some are camping at the Spruce Creek Stables. There are other campgrounds in the area, but cabin rentals are scarce this time of year, so if you decide you want to go, let me know ASAP and I will provide you with places to contact in the area.

Spruce Creek Acres/Big South Fork NRA is about 250 miles from Jasper. It takes about 4 to 4 ½ hours to get there. It is North of East Fork about 25 miles, but it takes about 30-40 minutes due to the curvy roads. The town of Jamestown is approximately 20-30 minutes away from Spruce Creek Acres.

It should be great riding weather by then and the leaves will be turning colors, so a beautiful time of year to be on the trail. Big South Fork is rated as one of the top riding destinations in the East. If you have questions or want to chat with me about the riding etc., please don't hesitate to call or text me at (678-612-3217).

Pack up and let's go ride!

Judy

Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, September 5

With numerous setbacks, the "Run for the Roses" will take place September 5th and the 25 people who responded to my emails will be at the BTSC Horse Park placing their bets. In accordance with COVID 19 guidelines, we are at the maximum number of people we can have in the group. I will start a waiting list in case someone cancels out and you didn't get a chance to RSVP by the deadline.

For those attending, bring money for wagers, masks if you feel more comfortable wearing them, chairs to sit out on the lawn, whatever you want to drink, and ladies wear your fancy hats for the best hat competition. The race doesn't begin until around 6:50, but the party will start at 5:00 to give us time to mingle, eat and be merry. Since we won't have trailers coming for this event, I will ask that people come through the front gate and let them know you are going to a Saddle Club event at the Horse Park. They have a list of Saddle Club members.

Our gathering will include a brief general meeting

Hope your horse wins!

Kathy Hardin



Future of the Saddle Club

If you are a Bent Tree property owner and a member of the saddle club, now is the time to speak out. There is within Bent Tree a small but vocal group of vigilantes who believe that our non-property owning members pose some kind of security threat and are sponging off of Bent Tree.

Please read the article on page three of this newsletter and contact Bent Tree board members about this mistreatment of our members. This article was published in the August issue of Echo.

Please speak out loudly and often in defense of this club that has done so much for Bent Tree for 30 years.

DJ

Prince Cabin Ride Saturday, September 19th

Are you ready for a traditional Saddle Club ride? Then join Kathy and me on Saturday, September 19th for an exciting ride up to the Prince Cabin located adjacent to the Burnt Mountain Preserve behind Sharptop Mountain. Kathy will lead the ride from the Horse Park at 10am. We should arrive at the cabin around noon where we will break for lunch. Plan to be back at the Horse Park around 2pm. We will arrange to have the Back Gate open at 9:30am for those who need access. Remember to pack a lunch and bring an attitude ready for adventure. Please let me know if you plan on participating and if you need back gate access. Email me at richvigue@elljay.com or text/call me at 770-289-7272.

Rich

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It has been a busy month planning and reorganizing events for the Club. There are lots of activities planned for September so be sure to take a look at the calendar. We have the Derby Party, Western Dressage Competition, Play Days and a trail ride to the Prince cabin. Then the first week of October a group is heading to Big South Fork in Tennessee to ride.

As we begin all these outdoor activities, we still need to practice social distancing to make certain everyone stays healthy. I am not aware of anyone in our Club having, or being exposed to Covid, so let's keep it that way.

As the weather gets cooler and the rain showers and storms subside, we will get out on the trails more, so be careful with the yellow jackets. Hope to see you soon!

Kathy Hardin



Cookie Monster loved all of the attention he got during the Bent Tree Stables' summer camps. This little girl came to riding camp in cowboy boots and a pink ballet tutu. Perfect!



BTSC Firearms Safety and Marksmanship Classes Recap

One can never know too much about how to protect yourself and loved ones. In particular, many of our members ride and camp in remote locations, so I thought it might be wise to hold these classes again.

We scheduled the classes for the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park and realized that Bent Tree has rules about displaying of firearms. I contacted the Bent Tree General Manager for permission and after discussion with the community's insurance, company permission was granted with the stipulation that no ammunition be present.

We held classes for 2 weeks to discussed firearm safety and handling in range environments as well as home defense and automobile. Of course, many shooting stories were shared, mostly by me. We started with safety rules and progressed into handling of firearms. The most important safety rules are:

Always keep the muzzle (where the bullet exits) pointed in a safe direction.
Always treat any firearm as if it is loaded.
Do not load until you are ready to fire.
Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.

As you can imagine, these rules vary based on the situation you may find yourself in. We did have discussions about specific situations and suggestions about how to handle those situations, the first being to run away if possible. We also discussed being ready if needed to protect yourself.

We are going to schedule some range time for the participants in the next couple of weeks to practice what we discussed in the classes.

I hope those who attended got some value from their time and will gain additional skills when to go perform live fire.

Keith

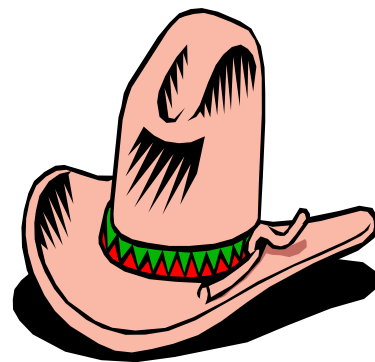
Play Days Are Here Again Wednesdays September 16 and 23 October 7 and 21

Our first play day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, at the Horse Park. Bring your horse and plan to have some fun! This first session will mostly be working with getting our horses acquainted with each other and you figuring out what you would like to do. We might start out by doing a few drill team maneuvers which will give the horses the opportunity to warm up and meet their playmates. I believe circles and backing are good basics for any horse. We can play with some obstacles too. Let me know if there is anything in particular you would like to play around with.

The fun will begin at 10:00 am at the Horse Park and the back gate of Bent Tree will be opened at 9:30. Anyone needing entry into the back gate needs to text Bob Crowl in advance at 770-757-8596 to coordinate opening. Bring a lunch if you have the time to stay and eat, or we can go on a trail ride afterwards. Let me know if you are planning to come. kathardin39@gmail.com

We will also have a play day on September 23 and two of them in October, so if you can't make it to the first one, maybe you can make it to the second one.

Kathy Hardin



Bent Tree Saddle Club—A Historical Perspective

Published in the Bent Tree Echo in August in response to a persistent attempt by a small but vocal group to exclude Bent Tree Saddle Club members who do not own property in Bent Tree from using the horse park.

The Bent Tree Saddle Club was founded in 1991 by a few Bent Tree property owners who were utilizing the Bent Tree Stables. It is a private club. At first you had to be a property owner to join. As the years went by, we began to admit non-property owners who were involved with the Stables. What we found was that these new members were our best volunteers in helping with various club projects around and for the Stables. We established a policy that non-property owners must have two sponsors to join, and that their applications are reviewed and approved by the club's Executive Committee. Club members must re-join on an annual basis. In the 30 years of our club's history we have only once denied a renewal application due to improper behavior by the member and that member was a Bent Tree property owner!

The Saddle Club Horse Park was built in 2005. Everything there was bought, built, and paid for by the Saddle Club. What was once an ugly site and dumping ground became what you see today. Much of the labor and donations to this ongoing effort came from the non-Bent Tree-property owners in the club. The construction of the pavilion was managed by a non-property owner (Randy Taylor). The construction of the bathroom facility was completely done by a non-property owner (Bobby Delay). The stone in the barbecue grill was donated by a non-property owner (Don House) and built by another non-property owner. The construction of the arch at the entrance to the park was coordinated by a non-property owner (David King) because he had the necessary knowledge and skill. The entrance sign was paid for by non-property owners (Allen & Kathy Hardin). The purchase and placement of the mare and foal statue was arranged and coordinated by a non-property owner (Rich Vigue). The funds for that statue were donated by non-property owners (Linda Magness and Amy Smith). Our track record over the past 15 years at the Horse Park has proven the worth of having non-property owners as members of the club. Also, in all those years we have never had a problem at the back gate caused by a non-property owner member.

Many riding clubs have folded up due to development taking over so much land that there is no place left ride, other than in an arena. Bent Tree has a unique situation in that it has a small core of a permanently preserved riding territory, but Saddle Club members who own land just outside Bent Tree have been very generous over the years in allowing club members to ride on their land. In addition, Rich Vigue recently negotiated access to the extensive trail system on county-owned land on Sharptop Mountain. In 2019, Rich Vigue, Bobby Delay, along with the stable master and Bob Crowl spent days doing chainsaw work to reopen those trails after the storms. This is priceless riding territory for Bent Tree's stable customers and the club members.

All of the events that the club has sponsored over 30 years have required knowledgeable leadership. No one really wants to be president. It is just too much work. So here is who has been willing to step forward be president in the last 15 years: Non-residents, from 2006 to 2010, David King, Val Jacobson, Claire Eubanks, Julie Heinsman, Rich Vigue. From 2013 to 2020 non-residents: Kathy Hardin, Janet Vigue, Bob Eikenberry (2 consecutive terms), Kathy Hardin again, Rich Vigue again, Kathy Hardin again. Three Bent Tree residents have been president, Georgiana Hunter (2011), Bob Crowl (2012), Keith Hunter (2018). The club has an extensive year around program of events that require knowledgeable leadership and many volunteers. The Cherokee County Saddle Club folded permanently a few years ago because no one was willing to be president again.

A real irony regarding the sudden concern about non-property owners in the Saddle Club going through the back gate to participate in Saddle Club events is that the back gate shed was built by a non-property owner member of the club and paid for by the Saddle Club. The club built that shed in the 1990s and placed it at the entrance to the Stables. It was used as a storage facility for club equipment. When the club built the Horse Park, the shed was donated to the stables. When Bent Tree redesigned and landscaped the back-gate area, it moved the shed to its current location there.

With all the sweat equity and financial contributions made by non-property owner members of the Saddle Club, it is very disheartening to learn that suddenly they are no longer an asset but are considered by some to be a threat to the community's security.

Join us at the horse park for any club event. Only Bent Tree property owners and members of the club can attend either as participants or spectators. Again, it is a private club. Please be sure to thank the leader of the event and the volunteers.

DJ Suberk



What's wrong with this picture?



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Julia Jorns

Rowdy the Rascal 2006-2020



If you have lived in Bent Tree or have been a member of the saddle club for long, I'll bet you recognize the dog in the photos with this article. He is the macho doggie who is famous for regularly swimming all around Lake Tamarac following a kayak. Since 2006, Rowdy did these marathon swims almost every summer afternoon. That first swim caused quite a stir. Someone called security to report that a woman was trying to drown a dog. Security met us at the spillway as we were coming ashore. Rowdy joyfully romped out of the water, grabbed a tennis ball and tried to get the officer to play with him. Clearly, the dog was far from exhausted. The officer just shook his head and left.

Fact of the matter is, that was the only way to get the young Rowdy to settle down. He galloped beside my horse GoldRush every morning for more than an hour. You would think that would have been enough exercise, but after a 20-minute nap, Rowdy was bored and ready to play again. That's when I hit upon the idea to have him swim beside my kayak. And what a grand time we had together for 15 years. His record distance swim was a 9-mile stretch of the Etowah River that goes right through Dawson Forest. He would run along the bank for a while and then leap in and swim for a while. I offered him a ride at about mile 7, but he just would not hear of it. When we got to the take-out point at Kelly Bridge, my white dog was covered with black river slime, stinking and thoroughly pleased with himself.

Rowdy came to me as a 7-month-old rescue. Rosemary and David King spotted him on the side of the road and brought him to meet me. I was hoping to adopt a small dog, so I kept asking David, "He won't get really big, right?" Look at his feet, he is going to be big, he said. Then we would talk some more and I would say, "not really big, right?" David was very patient; we went around and around like that about how big he would probably be. Poor dog was covered with mange. He was such an ugly puppy that I thought no one would want to rescue him. So, I came home with a Great Dane/Australian Cattle Dog cross. He grew up to be dignified and calm like a Great Dane and intelligent and athletic like a cattle dog. I would have cloned him if possible.

Rowdy topped out at 80 pounds. He was quite a sight in the kids' toddler bed, which he took over as soon as they outgrew it. Always gentle with the grandchildren, he was tactfully assertive with my 17-hand horse, nipping him on the tip of the nose to tell him to hurry up and get the bridle on so the trail ride could begin. He even learned to climb playground ladders and go down the slide with the kids. The children held onto his tail to be towed through the water at the lake. A favorite game was to throw a tennis ball off the back deck of my Alpine Drive log house. Rowdy would be trembling with excitement as he waited to see how far down the mountain the ball would roll. Then he would zoom through the house, out the front door around the house, down the mountain, grab the ball and come bursting back through the front door. The kids couldn't catch him to get the ball away, so they took to laying-in-wait just inside the front door. As he ran in, they would toss a throw rug over him and wrestle the ball away. He would do that as long as anyone was willing to play.

Gradually his interest in tennis balls grew into an obsession, so much so that when Marc was using a walker after knee surgery, Rowdy was constantly trying to rip the tennis balls off the feet of the walker. He also learned a great technique to train humans to throw a tennis ball on command. When those humans are doing yard work and digging holes for planting, you just keep dropping the ball right in the hole they are working on. Like magic the people pick up that ball and throw it down the mountain. Works the same with a manure bucket at the barn. They always take that ball out and throw it. Rowdy's crowning achievement with this training technique happened when the crew that was pumping out the septic tank all gathered around to look down in there and Rowdy drop in his ball. Believe it or not they got it out and washed it off for him.

Fourteen years is a long time for a big dog to live, but Rowdy was a rascal right to the end. He swiped his friend Shiloh's favorite balls, proudly brought them home and hid them under the bed. That's where I found his whole collection of toys yesterday. We sure do miss him.

DJ and Marc



What's the hold up? Let's get this kayak launched.



Heading out for an adventure.



Swim buddies: GoldRush and Rowdy.



Rowdy, GoldRush and DJ at the Montana East Trail Challenge. in 2008.



The wild horses in Dubois, Wyoming. June 2017

Secretary's Report – Executive Committee Meetings July 21, 2020

Arena water tank platform improvements underway. The search for new executive committee members is underway. Kathy Hardin and Rich Vigue are working on the process. Anyone interested in a position should contact them. Calendar modifications and future events will be based on horse park availability, distancing restrictions and venue restrictions with members safety of utmost importance. See Calendar with current changes. Bob Crowl reported that Tom Fowler, the BT General Manager, is satisfied with the current back-gate procedure where Public Safety is notified of those coming in for an event and they then open the gate at a specified time.

Aug 20, 2020

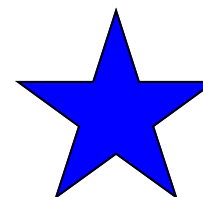
Thank you to Jim Silvia for completing the water tank project. Calendar event planning is underway. See newsletter articles regarding the Derby Party, Prince Cabin Ride, Fall Trailering Trip, Play Date changes and Christmas Party Planning. Kathy Hardin and Bob Crowl continue to work closely with BT Board Members regarding any BTSC concerns.

Ronda

2020 Membership Report

The Club now has 103 members. We extend a warm welcome to new members Janna Medved and Chris Feldt. They moved to Bent Tree in 2018 with their infant daughter Aviana from Slidell, Louisiana. Janna is Bent Tree Stables' barn manager and Chris is Bent Tree's director of communications and echo editor. I'm looking forward to seeing them at Club events. For the latest version of the Club directory go to the Club website. Please let me know if you know someone who is interested in joining the Club.

Bob



Treasurer's Report 08/24/20

Balance 06/29/20	\$ 3,101.86
Deposits:	
Membership	\$ 60.00
Expenses:	
Arena Water Tank frame and rock	\$ 220.20
Balance 08/24/20	\$ 2,941.66

Jim

October Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for updated event info, articles and photos
is **September 25**

Newsletter will go out on **October 1**

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 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	2020 Positions 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	

September 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5 Kentucky Derby Party
6	7	8	9	10 Dressage Practice	11	12 Dressage Show
13	14	15	16 Play Day/Trail Ride	17	18	19 Local Ride
20	21	22	23 Play Day/Trail Ride	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	Trip to Big South Fork	Trip to Big South Fork	Trip to Big South Fork



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)
September 5, Saturday	Derby Party	Club Tamarack	Kathy Hardin
September 10, Thursday	Western Dressage Practice	Horse Park	Jan/Gigi
September 12, Saturday	Western Dressage Show	Horse Park	Jan/Gigi
September 16, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
September 19, Saturday	Local Ride	Prince Cabin	Rich Vigue, Kathy
October 1-4 weekend	Trailering Trip	Big South Fork	Judy Heilman
October 7, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
October 17, Saturday	Horse Show	Horse Park	Claire Eubanks
October 21, Wednesday	Play Day/trail ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
November 1, Sunday	Trailering Ride	Chickamauga	(Leader??)
November 7, Saturday	Omoksee	Horse Park	Rich Vigue
November 21, Saturday	Montana East Trail Challenge	Talking Rock	Rich & Janet
December 12, Saturday	Christmas Party	Pendley Stables	Kathy Hardin



Big Yawn. All tucked into the toddler bed with DJ's granddaughter Gracie.
It was a dog's life.



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