



BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

NOV - DEC 2022

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2022 is just about over and 2023 is just around the corner. This presents a clean slate for all of us to write on. I always look forward to a new year as it represents a new beginning for me. Also, I hope a new beginning for the BTSC.

The final event of the year was the Christmas celebration held at Pendley Stables. Please take the time to read about it in this newsletter. As president I awarded the Spirit Award to Christine Cobb and Ronda Erway, the Volunteer's Award to Jim and Lisa Sylvia, and the Founder's Award to Kathy Hardin.

The Executive Committee (EC) will meet in January to set the calendar for the year. As was mentioned at our Holiday party, we are looking for suggestions from the membership for this year's events. If you did not get the opportunity at the party or were not there, please send to me any suggestions you may have to make 2023 a successful year for BTSC.

The EC is looking at an obstacle course, treasure hunt, rides to Fausset Farms, Garland, and brunch at Prince farm. We are also looking at making a trip to a facility where we can ride and socialize. This would be an overnight or even a trip of a few days. We want this to be attractive to both our riding members and our social members.

The Sylvias have agreed to host the Trail Challenge again and has been scheduled for June 3. Also, I would like to get the Derby Party and 4th of July picnic in the planning stages early in the year.

If you are driving over the holidays, be safe.

Happy Holidays to one and all.

- Judie Uchitel

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It is time to renew your 2023 Club membership. We finished 2022 with 97 members. To date, we have ten membership renewals for 2023. I am expecting many more in the coming weeks. A membership application is attached to this newsletter. It would be much appreciated if you would indicate your willingness to lead or support Club activities in one or more of the categories listed at the bottom of the application. If you know of someone interested in joining our Club, please have them complete an application and provide it to me for processing. Or have them contact me at 770-757-8596 if they have any questions. I am looking forward to seeing you at 2023 Club events.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- Bob Crowl

Board members have received several inquiries regarding the BTSC web site. The BTSC web is found at benttreesaddleclub.com. The password (all caps) is **BTSCMEM**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022

President	Judie Uchitel
Vice Pres.	Christine Cobb
Secretary	Ronda Erway
Treasurer	Joyce DeLay
Bent Tree Liaison	Bob Crowl
Past President	Kathy Hardin
Appointee	Rose Rhys
Appointee	Bobby DeLay

2022 POSITIONS

Membership	Bob Crowl
Newsletter Editor	Christine Cobb
Email Distribution	Ronda Erway

Treasurer Report

10/12/2022 - 12/12/2022

Previous balance:	\$ 2,836.24
Checks written:	(\$1,393.18)
Deposits Total:	\$ 0.00
Refunds:	\$ 0.00
Balance	\$1443.06

Jan / Feb Newsletter - DEADLINE -

The deadline for updated event info, articles, and photos is **January 17th.**

email to:
christine.cobb@aol.com

Articles can be pulled directly from an e-mail. No need to format.

Please put BTSC at the beginning of the subject line when e-mailed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (continued)

Bent Tree Saddle Club - Executive Committee Consolidated Meeting Minutes 11/20/22

Meeting called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:40pm

Minutes

Meeting mins reviewed, amended and approved.

Treasurers Report

Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$2824.58.

Membership Report

Bob Crowl report that there are 97 members. New membership applications will be sent by email and added to the next newsletter which will be released in February.

Agenda Items

- **Christmas Party** – plaques being done now; food ordered; paper products purchased.
- **Rich Vigue** is working on a slide show.
- **Decorating** will take place December 2nd at 4:30pm with dinner together to follow.
- **Parking** – weather permitting will be in Martha's pasture. Signage and someone to direct traffic will be needed.
- **General meeting** will be held after dinner with introduction of new EC officer candidates. Kathy Hardin has volunteered to run election thereafter.
- **Newsletter** – changed to bi-monthly. Next newsletter will go out in January 2023.
- **Poinsette Gifts/Thank you cards** – given the limited riding this year, there are no Pointsette gift to be given this year. Judie Uchitel will send a Christmas card to the Deboise Family for allowing us to ride on their property for the Top of the World Ride.
- **Calendar for 2023** – the group discussed potential rides for next year. Everyone was asked to brainstorm ideas before the next meeting in February.
- **Newsletter Articles** – Deadline for material to be sent to Christine Cobb is December 28th. Release dates will be January 1-2, 2023.

Next meeting – February 20 or 22, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Ronda Erway, BTSC Secretary



Happy New Year
2023

Bent Tree Saddle Club



SECRETARY'S REPORT (continued)

Bent Tree Saddle Club - General Meeting Consolidated Meeting Minutes 12/03/22

Meeting called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:45pm

Announcements:

Judie Uchitel thanked all those who helped make the party happen. Special thanks to Pendley Stables for the use of the Facility, Chris Holiday for running the AV system and to Rich Vigue for the wonderful slide show.

Minutes

Meeting mins reviewed and approved.

Treasurers Report

Joyce Delay reported that the current balance is \$1,433.06.

Membership Report

Bob Crowl report that there are 97 members.

Agenda Items

- **Christmas Party** - Discussion on extra spending for party - \$875.50. Bob Crowl made a motion to approve additional funding which was seconded and approved by membership.
- **Calendar ideas for 2023 discussed by Judie Uchitel** - Current ideas include: Beach Party, Fausett Farm Ride, Horse Show, Omoksee, Garland/Stara Ride, Treasure Hunt on horseback and Drill Team. Everyone was asked to 1. consider volunteering to lead a ride or plan a social event and 2. to brainstorm ideas and communicate with the EC before the planning meeting in February.
- **EC candidates for 2023 were introduced by Kathy Hardin**
Kathy Hardin made a motion to vote to approve candidates; this was seconded and approved by membership.

President - Judie Uchitel

Vice-President - Ronda Erway

Secretary - Beyonca Padgett

Treasurer - Joyce Delay

BT Liaison - Bob Crowl

- **Volunteer Discussion**

Kathy Hardin opened discussion with membership about what they are looking for from the club in the future. Ideas included: having 3-4 social events, increased communication, getting young people more involved and getting more people to assist with the Bent Tree Stables.

- **Awards**

Judie Uchitel announced awards for 2022:

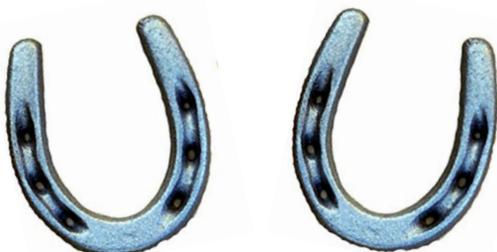
Spirit Award - Christine Cobb and Ronda Erway

Volunteer Award - Jim and Lisa Sylvia

Founder's Award - Kathy Hardin

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted: Ronda Erway, BTSC Secretary



I'd rather be riding.

A MEMOIR OF THE SHARPTOP RIDE

Saturday, November 12th



The weather was iffy with the likelihood of some light rain. If we were to reschedule to the following day we would have had sunshine, but temps in the 30s and 40s. The ride executive committee decided to risk the rain. Eleven BTSC'ers and one guest left the Horse Park at 11am. Riding in the normal Obama position of leadership, I surveyed this small brigade that was in front of me and wondered how many would have second thoughts about this adventure as the expedition unfolded.

We marched all the way to Champion Creek without an incident. The troops were enjoying themselves - almost downright festive. Everyone watered their horses, checked their cinches, and the real adventure began. As we started up the climb to the Bruce Prince Sign, we left behind two stragglers who were busy watering their horses. Only a few minutes after departure a loud scream signaling imminent death came from the general direction of the two stragglers. After a few minutes of suspense the two appeared with one afoot. Both seemed to be okay. It was the not to be forgotten near death experience where no one got hurt. The ride resumed with ponchos coming out due to a steady, light rain. Lunch was had at the Sign when I noticed some low quiet murmurs about heading back. I quickly took control of the situation and got everybody back in line.



We then broke camp and began our march to Sharptop. After passing the dilapidated barn we reached a junction in the trail where four riders went awol and headed back to the Horse Park. Leading from the back of the troops, I was helpless in thwarting their escape. We were now down to eight in the command, but in spite of the weather morale remained somewhat high. Marching up a very narrow, steep, rocky trail we encountered a large fallen tree at a location that was impossible to ride around. Not to be denied, a member of the group pulled out a hand saw and told me to get to work. After an exhausting effort enough was cleared that with some encouragement our horses could step or jump over a portion of the tree trunk. Upon watching the first two horses struggle a bit with the obstacle and knowing that we were coming back down this trail two more soldiers decided to desert and turned back. We were now down to six true stalwarts determined to accomplish our assigned mission. To paraphrase Alfred Lord Tennyson when he immortalized the Light Brigade; Half a league, half a league, half a league onward, toward Sharptop we rode. Ours was not to question why. Ours was but to do or die.



We started the ascent to the top and without any problems reached a spot where we established a base camp and prepared for the final assault on foot. JoAnn Hartin and I graciously volunteered to remain as sentries with the horses. The remaining four never say die members took on the final very steep ascent. After a few minutes a totally wiped out Debbie Meffert returned saying she'd had enough. Kathy Hardin, Debbie Liggett, and Lig Quigley made it to the top. They took a picture of themselves with a BTSC jacket draped across a makeshift sign. This picture will become to the Bent Tree Saddle Club what the iconic Iwo Jima flag raising is to the country.

Alas, I have run out of wine. The final six riders arrived back at the Horse Park at 4:15pm. Just another five hour ride like the good, old days. **What a ride!** - Rich

CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 3rd, about thirty people attended the party and enjoyed meal of turkey and ham along with all the sides delivered by The Tavern in Bent Tree. It was a BTSC-provided meal.

It was wonderful having the party at Martha Prince's barn. And we thank her for her hospitality.

There was alot of food left after the party, so I gathered it up and gave it to the fire department on Cove Road. They appreciated it very much!

Rich Vigue put together his annual slide show displaying activities enjoyed during the year. Thanks to Chris for getting the equipment up and running and presenting the show.

A general meeting was conducted and officers were elected for next year: **Judie Uchitel** (President), **Ronda Erway** (VP), **Beyonca Warkentien** (Secretary), **Joyce DeLay** (Treasurer) and **Bob Crowl** (BT Liaison).

We topped off the party with Annual Awards announced by Judie. *Merry Christmas to all!*

- Kathy Hardin

ELLEN STARA MEMORIAL RIDE - RECAP



Sunday, November 20th



The **Ellen Stara Memorial Ride** was a collaborative effort between the Bent Tree Saddle Club and the Chattahoochee Trail horse Association. Weeks before this event Accuweather forecasted that this day would be partly sunny with starting temps in the 20s and a high of 46° or so. As the days went on, the pros at Accuweather never changed that forecast. They were right. I went out at the crack of dawn to feed my horses. At the crack of dawn plus one second I was back in the mud room putting on some more clothing. It was cold in Talking Rock! I thought for sure we'd have some significant dropouts for the Memorial Ride, but I was wrong. We had 50 reservations (17 BTSC'ers) and only one person did not show. In lieu of riding, several people opted to drive to Staraland. Once everyone arrived we had 27 horses tied to the corrals (14 were BTSC) and approximately 55 people enjoying each other's company. We received lots of compliments for the box lunch provided by Biguns Barbeque. Biguns was very accommodating in providing these lunches and Janet and I recommend it for future events that need this kind of meal. Following lunch we had a short program at the Stara monument with 4 people providing remembrances of Ellen. A memento of the ride was provided to all participants. Many thanks to Christine Cobb who took the CTHA logo and customized it so that one side of the memento was specific to the event. Several people suggested this become an annual event. Maybe so, but I would definitely recommend a different time of year.

- Rich



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2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2023 Membership Application
(Payable to Bent Tree Saddle Club)

Name: _____ Reg (\$40) _____ (First member must be a regular membership for \$40)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Birthday(MM/DD) _____

Bent Tree Affiliation

Are you a Bent Tree property owner? (Y) (N) Do you board a horse at Bent Tree Stables? (Y) (N)
Are you a Bent Tree Lot Designee? (Y) (N) Do you rent a home in Bent Tree? (Y) (N)

2nd: _____ Reg (\$40) _____ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) _____ Under 18 Youth Rider* (\$40) _____

3rd: _____ Reg (\$40) _____ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) _____ Under 18 Youth Rider* (\$40) _____

DUES AND SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE (below) MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION. New member 2023 dues are effective October 2022 through December 2023. Renewal dues apply to the calendar year. Mail application & check to: **Bent Tree Saddle Club, C/O Bob Crowl 181 Grassy Knob Ct. #20326, Jasper, GA 30143**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE

THE UNDERSIGNED does hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators acknowledge that the activities engaged in and/or participated in are covered by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 4-12-1 through 4-12-5 and that **Bent Tree Community, Incorporated and Bent Tree Saddle Club** are **Equine Activity Sponsors** as contemplate thereunder and further acknowledge that he has received the **Warning** as required in OCGA 4-12-4 (Warning required effect of failure to comply with notice requirement). The warning is as follows.

WARNING

Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activity, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 for the Official Code for Georgia Annotated.

I acknowledge and fully understand that Equine Activities and particularly “Trail Rides” and cross-country horseback riding over obstacles, steep and rough terrain and with unknown riders and horses can be dangerous activities. I wish to participate in these activities knowing they can be dangerous. I accept and assume all the risks of injury (including death) to my horse, my property and me. Members of the Bent Tree Saddle Club will not knowingly ride on private property without the property owner’s prior consent. When I do ride on private property I do so at my own risk. Use of protective helmets is recommended. If I choose to ride without a helmet, it will be at my own risk.

Should I require medical assistance for any reason during any Equine Activity and not be in position to obtain, request or authorize such treatment at the time, I hereby authorize the Equine Activity Sponsors to obtain such medical treatment or emergency care as they may deem necessary or desirable and I agree to hold the Equine Activity Sponsors harmless with regard to any such emergency care or expenses arising therefrom.

The Equine Activity Sponsors do not condone the drinking of alcohol or taking of drugs at Equine Activities. If you are taking any drugs or medications that might affect your ability to participate in any Equine Activity or otherwise do not have the experience, knowledge, or ability to participate in any Equine Activity, please do not participate.

Club activities you are interested in leading/supporting. Please circle all that apply and include within circle the letter L (lead) or S (support) to indicate preferred role.

- * Trail Rides *Social Events *Equestrian Events * Arena/Trail Workdays *Newsletter *Echo Articles
- * Facebook Posts *Email Distribution

Do you own a horse trailer? Yes No (please circle one)

Acknowledged and agreed:

1: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

2: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Members’ Signatures – 2 sponsors are required (only for new applicants who are not Bent Tree Affiliates)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

*Youth Memberships are for those under the age of 18 as of the date of the application who are members of the household of a Full Member.



**Need Bookkeeping Help?
Call Janet
770-893-8175**

Lisa Sylvia
Agent



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