



BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

Jan/Feb 2024



BTSC Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 11th

Location: Club Tamarack's Fireside Lounge

Time: 5pm

Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres with a Tailgate Theme & Cash Bar:

Four varieties of Wings; Potato Skins; Two Bite Hot Dogs;
and Spinach-Artichoke and Queso Dips with Chips.

Game: Kick-off: 6:30pm

Wagering: Super Bowl Squares

Cost: \$23

Act now!

Prepaid reservations required by Monday, February 5th. Send check to BTSC, c/o Rich Vigue 1426 Bluffs Ridge Way Canton, GA 30114. Call or Text Rich with any questions at 770-289-7272.

President's Column

Dateline: 7am Friday, January 12th Canton, GA

Janet and Rich (that's me) have a new home. Montana East is a thing of the past and we are now located in a 55 and over adult community in Canton.

As I write this President's Column I am sitting at my desk in our new home enjoying the view outside my office window. My neighbors are preparing to have breakfast seemingly oblivious to the fact that I'm basically part of their household. No long-range binoculars needed.

When we closed on this new house the HUD Statement had a line item for a survey of the new property – just \$275 – which I thought was a very reasonable fee. Having not seen the survey, I asked for a copy. That's when the extent of our downsizing hit home – no pun intended. Janet and I have downsized from a 60+ acre property to a .15/acre corner lot. Yep, that's right – there's a decimal in front of the 15.

We've been here for several days now, and our neighbors can't wait to get acquainted with us. I am equally determined to put that off for as long as possible. I don't make any eye contact and when I do hear a hello, I just wave and keep moving. Fortunately, Janet never goes out of the house unless it's a direct shot from out of the garage in her car. Kind of like the Bat Cave opening up for the Batmobile. How long we can remain strangers to these people (who must be bored out of their minds) remains to be seen, but I'm going for a record here. Why am I writing about all this? That's simple. It is 7am on the sixth day of residency here and the house doesn't yet have internet nor TV connectivity. I'm the one who is bored.

Not wanting to let go of our preferred way of life, we still have Socks and Fat Boy who are now in excellent hands at the Bent Tree Stables and most importantly, we will remain very active in the Club. As President, I want this club to have an outstanding year for the membership. The Executive Committee has put together the 2024 Calendar of events which is located on page 6. This is a living document i.e., we expect some changes as the year goes on. Please look it over and mark those events that appeal to you on your calendar. Feel

free to contact any EC member with suggestions for additional events. Your input is appreciated. Let's end up the year looking back on it and saying, "What a Ride!"

Rich

Editor's Note: The above article was written using some poetic license, however, the author assures the Publisher that there is no duplicative language in the article.

Obstacle Course Workday January 20th

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. is the workday to put away the items belonging to the obstacle course. If enough people turn out for this we should be able to complete the tear down in a little more than an hour. I need someone with a pick-up truck to help out. We can use the truck to ferry heavy items to the storage place.

Judie

Christmas Party Recap Sunday, December 3rd

The 2023 Christmas party was held at Pendley Creek Stables party room on December 3, 2023. Food was provided by Chef Michael from the Tavern on The Green at the 19th Hole. Chef surprised me by donating all the food he had prepared and saved the BTSC over \$400.00 Rich Vigue put together a great video of events for the year 2023. Thank-you Rich. Music and dancing followed dinner and a good time was had by all.

This year the Volunteer Award was given to Bobby DeLay because of the many times he has stepped forward (or Joyce volunteered Bobby) for projects BTSC needed completed. The Spirit Award went to Bob Crowl for his work between the BTSC and the Bent Tree Board and for the many times he went above and beyond his position as liaison to the board. I had fully intended the Founder's Award to go to Rich Vigue. However, he declined before I had a chance to do so. Rich does deserve an honorable mention as he has been with the BTSC since its beginning and has worn many hats with the club. This year I did not award the Founder's Award to anyone else.

Judie



Mary Pauley, Martha Prince, Bobby & Joyce Delay enjoying the evening the Saddle Club way.

2024 Super Horse

This year we are re-instituting a yearlong Super Horse Award. All our 2024 riding events will offer Super Horse points. These events include both trail rides and arena events. Each trail ride will offer 1 point. Points garnered in arena events such as the fun and horse shows, obstacle competition, and Omoksees will depend on the horse's order of finish. The idea is to recognize a horse that has it all. The focus is on the horse. Riders can vary from event to event so if you're uncomfortable with a particular event have someone else ride your horse. The horse doesn't need to participate in all events and probably most won't be able to. However, the more events your horse is in the better the chances it has.

This award is meant to be a fun thing and to encourage our members to come out and ride with us. There's no financial incentive, but a lot of bragging rights are at stake. Let's have fun with this.

<u>Per Arena Event</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Per Trail Ride</u>	<u>Points</u>
First Place	6	In Attendance	1
Second place	5		
Third Place	4		
Fourth Place	3		
Fifth Place	2		
In Attendance			
No placement	1		

Membership Report

At the close of 2023 the Saddle Club had 85 members. Counting new members that joined toward the end of 2023 and recent renewals we now have 31 members as we begin 2024. We welcome Ralph Morse as an honorary member. Ralph is Bent Tree Board of Directors' liaison to the Bent Tree Stables Committee. I'm expecting many more renewals before the end of January so if you have not mailed your 2024 membership renewal please do so. Also, when completing the application please indicate your willingness to lead or support Club activities in one or more of the categories listed near the bottom of the application. A 2024 membership application is attached to this newsletter.

If you know of someone interested in joining our Club, please have them complete an application and send it to me for processing. Or have them contact me at 770-757-8596 if they have any questions. As you can see from reviewing our 2024 activity calendar contained in this newsletter, we have a fun and exciting year planned. I am looking forward to seeing you at our 2024 Kick-Off meeting/Super Bowl party in February and other Club events this year. Happy New Year!

Bob

Bent Tree Saddle Club Treasurer's Report

December 15, 2023

Prepared by Joyce Delay, Treasurer



Beginning Balance		\$910.64
Debits		
Date	Description	Amount
12/11/2023	#1196 Ronda Erway (Xmas party)	(\$ 19.13)
12/11/2023	#1197 Rich Vigue (projector)	(\$ 95.23)
12/03/2023	#1194 Judie Uchitel (plaque)	(\$ 15.70)
12/03/2023	#1195 Chef Tip	(\$ 80.00)
TOTAL Debits		(\$210.06)
Deposits		
TOTAL Deposits		\$0.00
Ending Balance (as of December 15, 2023)		\$700.58

Per 2024 Treasurer Ronda Erway, membership dues since the above report are \$820.00.
Current balance as of January 11, 2024 \$1,520.58

Bent Tree Saddle Club - Executive Committee and General Meeting

Present: Judie Uchitel, Bob Crawl, Ronda Erway, Beyonca Padgett, Joyce DeLay,
Bobby DeLay, Rich Vigue, Sandy Stephenson and club members.

Meeting called to order by Judie Uchitel at 6:48 p.m.

1. Treasurer's Report

Joyce DeLay reported that the current balance is \$910.64.

2. Membership Report

Bob Crawl reported that membership is currently at 85. We have several new members going into 2024 and Bob introduced them to the club.

3. Agenda Items

- a) Judie noted that the food we ordered from the Tavern for the Christmas dinner was graciously donated to us by the Tavern, so we did not have an expense there.
- b) The slate of officers for 2024 was announced and voted on. The club approved. Kathy Hardin made a motion to approve, Joyce DeLay seconded. The slate is as follows:

President: Rich Vigue
Vice President: Lisa Sylvia
Treasurer: Ronda Erway
Secretary: Beyonca Padgett
Bent Tree Liaison: Bob Crawl
Appointee: Megan Mathisen
Past President: Judie Uchitel
- c) Membership applications have been placed on each table. Please consider going ahead and renewing for 2024.

Meeting Adjourned - 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted by Beyonca Padgett, BTSC Secretary

2024 Executive Committee

President: Rich Vigue
 Vice-President: Lisa Sylvia
 Treasurer: Ronda Erway
 Secretary: Beyonca Padgett
 BT Liaison: Bob Crowl
 Past President: Judie Uchitel
 Appointee: Megan Mathisen

2024 Positions

Membership: Bob Crowl
 Newsletter Ed.: Rich Vigue
 Email Distrib: Ronda Erway
 Website Admin: Jim Sylvia

Visit our website

at

www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com



Join our Group Page on Facebook

February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 Mail Super Bowl Party checks	2	3
4	5 Prepaid Super Bowl Party reservations due	6	7	8	9	10
11 Super Bowl Party	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

2024 BTSC Schedule of Events

Below is a proposed agenda of events and is subject to change. Please refer to it throughout the year. Each newsletter will highlight the upcoming events and give recaps (including pictures) of previous months' events.

Saturday, Jan. 20 th	Arena Clean-up	Horse Park	Judie Uchitel
Sunday, Feb. 11 th	Super Bowl Party	Fireside Lounge	Rich & Janet Vigue
Sunday, Mar. 17 th	Bent Tree Ride	Horse Park	Ronda Erway
Wednesday, Mar. 20 th	Workday	Horse Park	Judie Uchitel
Wednesday, March 20 th	Bull Mountain Ride	Bull Mountain	Lisa Sylvia
Saturday, March 30 th	Omoksee	Horse Park	Claire Eubanks
Saturday, April 20 th	Prince Cabin Ride	Horse Park	Rich Vigue
Saturday, May 4 th	Kentucky Derby Party	Fireside Lounge	Rich & Janet Vigue
Saturday, May 11 th	Prince Farm Ride	Horse Park	Kathy Hardin
Saturday, June 1 st	Hillside Farm Challenge	Hillside Farm	Jim & Lisa Sylvia
Saturday, June 15 th	Fun Games Horse Show	Horse Park	Lisa Sylvia & Megan Mathisen
Saturday, June 22 nd	Dawson Forest Ride	Dawson Forest	Ronda Erway
Thursday July 4 th	July 4 th Parade	Jasper	Keeve Krasner
July 19 th -28 th	Cheyenne Frontier Days	Cheyenne, WY	Rich Vigue
Saturday, Aug. 24 th	Garbage Can Cook-out	My Mountain Peace	Julie Heinsman
Saturday, Sept. 7 th	Chickamauga Ride	Chick. Battlefield	Ronda Erway
Saturday, Sept. 21 st	Jake Mountain Ride	Jake Mountain	Rich Vigue
Saturday, Sept. 28 th	Omoksee	Horse Park	Claire Eubanks
Saturday, Oct. 12 th	Garland Mtn/Cook-out	Garland Mountain	Sylvias & Delays
Wednesday, Oct. 16 th	Jake Mountain Ride	Jake Mountain	Rich Vigue
Saturday, Oct. 26 th	Obstacle Course	Horse Park	Judie Uchitel
Saturday, Nov. 9 th	Thanksgiving Dinner	Club Tamarack	Rich & Janet Vigue
Sunday, Nov. 10 th	Ellen Stara Mem. Ride	Garland Mountain	Rich Vigue
Saturday, Nov. 16 th	Poker Ride	Horse Park	Ronda Erway
Saturday, Dec. 14 th	Christmas Party	Pendley Creek	Rich & Janet Vigue

Lisa Sylvia

Agent

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Photography by Jena Finley

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Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2024 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 2024 dues are effective October 2023 through December 2024. 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.