

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

March 2024

Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Day Bent Tree Ride Saturday, March 16*

Let's enjoy a little time on the Bent Tree horse trails while celebrating St. Patrick's Day early. Ronda Erway will lead a ride from the BTSC horse park through a Bent Tree loop. This loop will include a stop for lunch at her farm on Kelso Rd. where you can also visit the mini-cows. Plan to meet at the horse park and be ready to ride out at 11:30am. Remember to wear green, pack a lunch and expect a 1.5h ride time.

Ronda

**Note the date – ride changed from Sunday, March 17th to Saturday, March 16th.*

Omoksee Saturday, March 30th

We are getting ready for the 1st Omoksee scheduled for the year! We will start the event at 11:00 am. This is a BYOE (Bring your own everything) event meaning please bring your lunch to eat between events as well as a chair if desired. We would love for some of our social members to come join in the fun!

We will run 5 events including the 3 standard runs (pole bending, batons, and tomahawk balls). Depending on time we will run one or two mystery events.

Last year's Omoksee was a much-improved event due to so many volunteers helping set up, switch between events, tear-down & very importantly running the judges stand by keeping track of riders, marking times, and announcing winners/ribbons.

(Continued on page 2)

Bull Mountain Ride Wednesday, March 20th

OVERVIEW: This Ride will be held on Wednesday due to weekend high-volume biking-**BRING LUNCH.**

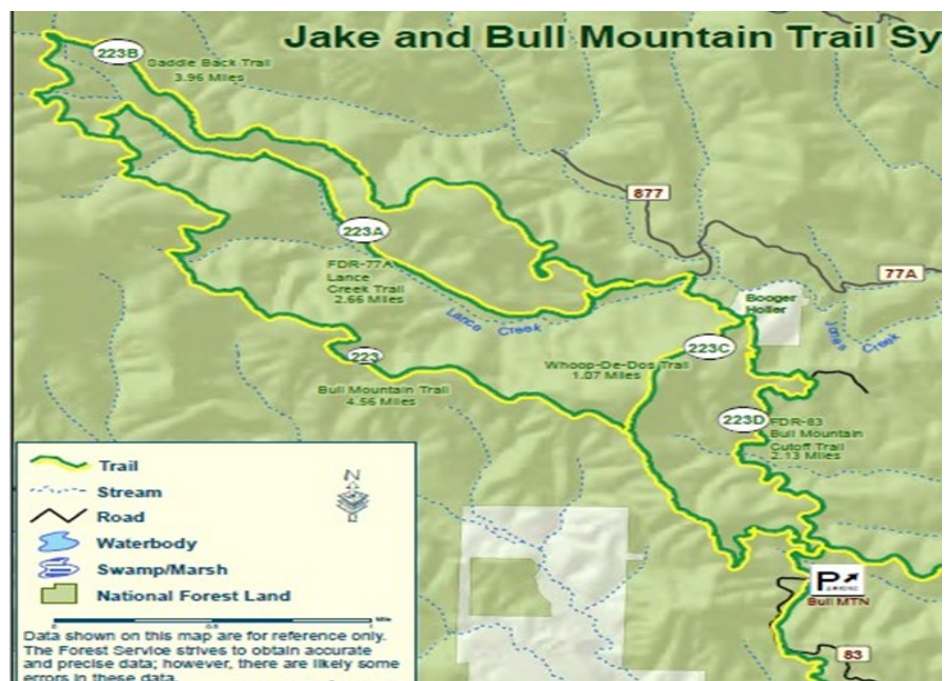
TRAIL DESCRIPTION: We will take the Bull Mountain Trail (223) to the Lance Creek Trail (223A). We will lunch in Booger Holler (A beautiful spot next to Lance Creek). Then we will decide if we are returning via the Whoop-De-Doo trail vs. the Cut off trail (only about a half a mile difference really) for the return portion.

This trail is considered moderate. Once we turn off the gravel approach service road, the trail has an elevation gain of about 1,486' over the next 4.0 miles. With an average of 5% grade. The Lance Creek descent is 575' descent over the next 2.4 miles. If some of you want to break off & ride in a smaller group, that's fine too, just let me know.

RIDE OUT TIME: 10:30AM! The Bull Mountain parking lot is a gravel one-lane road approx. 1.5 miles of slow going and curves. I estimate that to take about 20 minutes to get to the top. So, keep that in mind for arrival time. It is about an hour and 20-25 minute drive from Jasper (including the dirt road portion).

CONTACT: Please email me to RSVP – would like to have an idea of how many are coming! LisaSylvia3@gmail.com

Lisa



President’s Column

For those of you who read my column in the last newsletter and were looking forward to a second installment on adapting to subdivision living, all I have to report is a newly discovered axiom in home buying: ALWAYS determine if your vehicles will fit in the garage BEFORE you buy the home. That’s all I have to say. Now on to club business.

Bob Crowl reports that our membership renewals are on track with last year. As a result, we now have \$1,800 in the club’s account and this is after paying for insurance and ribbons for all our arena events. With some more dues money scheduled to come in the Treasury should make it to \$2,000 plus. This year’s planned social events will probably eat up a substantial portion of that balance. That’s okay.

Lastly, at our last Executive Committee meeting we decided there’s no need for the March work day at the horse park. Not enough to do. Hurrah!

Get out and ride.

Rich

The Spring Ride

Scent of Spring blossoms enveloping the air
 Tiny white petals floating all around
 Sound of hoofbeats reverberate on the ground

Taste of salt on my lips
 Streams of air making mane and tail flow
 Spring warmth awakening my soul

Sensing a lifting of the back and a swing in the hips
 Feeling the shift of weight
 Listening to the exchange of breath

We read each other’s intensions
 Horse and rider communicating through time and space
 Not by magic but through resonance and grace

I take it all in
 Not wanting it to end
 The horse brings me back here time and time again.

Author Unknown

Submitted to the Newsletter by Lisa Sylvia.

Omoksee (Continued from page 1)
 We will require the same this year.

We look forward to seeing everyone again.

The fee again this year is \$10/rider. Don’t forget a current coggins. Contact via text – Lisa Sylvia – 770-401-8333 as we need a headcount to know how many will be in attendance. Also, if you can help in the Judges’ stand, please let Lisa know. Currently Sandy Stephenson is a volunteer. Thanks Sandy!

Claire

**Harmony Mountain Weekend
 May 9th-12th**

HOWDY HOWDY!! Join us May 9-12 for a weekend of riding the beautiful hills of Western North Carolina. The Mountain Laurel should be blooming and the weather picture perfect. Those who plan on coming Thursday, we will ride in Dupont Forest one day and Pisgah Forest the other day. Both provide long or short loops.

We have 10 box stalls and 2 pastures for horses at a cost of \$25 per horse per night. We provide shavings. We have two trailer hookup spots available and could put two other trailers in spots if you don’t need a hookup. As for humans, our VRBO is spoken for but our neighbor has an AIRBNB 1 bedroom/1 Bath and she allows horses. Search “Couples retreat at White Squirrel Farm or msg me and I’ll forward the link. There are so many vrbo’s in the area you shouldn’t have problems. There are also hotels in Brevard, which is 6 miles away 😊.

We’ll plan on eating out Friday Night and I’ll cook something simple on Saturday Night. Everyone can bring their own Breakfast and Lunch fixings.

For those wanting to come that don’t ride, there is unlimited hiking, breweries, shopping in both Brevard and Hendersonville, Asheville is 25 minutes away, golf courses, and beautiful waterfalls!!

Any questions, just give me a call at (678) 313-5611. We would love to have you join us for the FUN. Five brave individuals have already signed up!

Pete & Bambi

**Super Bowl Party Recap
 Sunday, February 11th**

We had 21 members participate in the Super Bowl party at Club Tamarack’s Fire-side Lounge. Catering with a cash bar was done by the Tavern at the 19th Hole. To make the game interesting for those of us who haven’t followed the NFL much this season, we played Super Bowl Squares. First quarter winner was Ronda Erway. Second and third quarter winner was Susan Hannah, and fourth quarter winner was Tommy Mathisen. Below is a picture of the souls who hung around to watch the Kansas City Chiefs win over time.

I went to the party thinking that I’d have a couple drinks of my favorite wine. As Janet and I left after the party, the 19th Hole staff handed me a free liter bottle of Chardonnay. Not sure why. 😊

Rich

Editor’s note: Picture on the following page.

**Dawson Forest Ride Recap
 Thursday, February 15th**

Joann Hartin led a group through the ‘lollipop’ loop of Dawson Forest. Ronda Erway, Jabo Patterson and Doreen Penny joined the fun for a 5.5-mile ride. The 2.5h ride time included a relaxing lunch break by the Etowah River and gave everyone time to catch up.

Ronda

Editor’s note: Picture on the following page.

New Events Scheduled

We’ve added a couple new events to this year’s calendar. Hopefully you’ve already noticed an article on this page about a May weekend trip to Harmony Mountain in Horse Shoe, North Carolina. Pete and Bambi are planning a fun filled weekend of riding and dining. You won’t want to miss this one. Also, on June 8th CTHA is planning a Poker Ride at Jake Mountain. While not a BTSC event, it’s important that we support this fund raising effort for the Jake/Bull Mountains Trail System. Mark these events on your calendar!

Rich



As we all know, there are some people who will never leave. Here are the people who stuck it out at the Super Bowl Party until the Chiefs won in overtime. Half of them didn't even know who was playing!



Ronda Erway, Jabo Patterson, And JoAnn Hartin enjoying the Dawson Trails.

Cheyenne Frontier Days July 19-28, 2024. See you there!



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 Weekend/Holiday 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

The Saddle Club has 72 members. I am expecting another 7 – 9 membership renewals in the next few days. I understand the Post Office has mail delivery problems that hopefully will be resolved in the near future. Several membership renewals took a long time to get to me and I know of at least two that I never received. I am keeping my fingers crossed that postal service distribution center issues can be resolved soon. As soon as I have renewals that I understand are in the mail I will distribute a 2024 membership roster.

If you know someone who is interested in joining our Club, please have them send a completed 2024 membership application to me for processing. They can contact me at 770-757-8596 if they have any questions. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events.

Bob

**Bent Tree Saddle Club
Treasurer's Report**

February 23, 2024
Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$700.58
Debits		
Date	Description	Amount
02/07/2024	Horse Show Ribbons	(\$264.42)
02/11/2024	BTCI Room Rental	(\$170.00)
02/11/2024	BTSCI Cash Bar & Food	(\$621.87)
02/12/2024	BTSC Insurance	(\$531.00)
TOTAL Debits		(\$1,587.29)
Deposits		
01/16/2024 – 02/23/2024	Membership Dues	\$2,300.00
02/12/2024	Super Bowl Party Fees	\$ 449.55
TOTAL Deposits		\$2,749.55
Ending Balance (as of February 23, 2024)		\$1,862.84

Bent Tree Saddle Club - Executive Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Present: Rich and Janet Vigue, Lisa Sylvia, Ronda Erway, Beyonca Padgett,
Judie and Jason Uchitel, Bob Crowl.

Meeting called to order by Rich Vigue at 7:00 p.m.

1. Treasurer's Report

Ronda reported that the current balance is \$1,862.84.

2. Membership Report

Bob Crowl reported that membership for 2024 is currently at 72 members. 9 more potential members have given verbals.

3. Agenda Items

- a) Super Bowl Party – Cost saddle club \$342.32. There were 21 people that attended. Net revenue was \$445.
- b) Next social event – Kentucky Derby. Discussion regarding the venue. Discussion regarding attendance at social events.
- c) Calendar – Discussion on 2 new events added to the calendar. Harmony Mountain trip and Jake Mountain Poker ride. Workday on 3/16 is cancelled.
- d) SuperHorse Competition – Recommendation that only weekend and holiday events count toward points. Vote taken. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:01 p.m. Respectfully Submitted by Beyonca Padgett, BTSC Secretary



2017 Lazy L & B Ranch Dubois, WY

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

March 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Bent Tree Ride
17	18	19	20 Bull Mountain Ride	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Omoksee
31						

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, March 16 th	Bent Tree Ride	Horse Park	Ronda Erway
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	TBD	Rich & Janet Vigue
May 9-12 th	Harmony Mtn Equine	Horseshoe, NC	Bambi Dillingham
Saturday, June 1 st	Hillside Farm Challenge	Hillside Farm	Jim & Lisa Sylvia
Saturday, June 8 th	CTHA Poker Ride	Jake Mountain	Cindy Groom
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



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