



BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Upcoming Events

Prince Cabin Ride Saturday, April 20th

We will leave the Horse Park at 10:30am and take a leisurely ride past Sharptop Mountain going through the Burnt Mountain Preserve and up to the Prince Cabin. Pack a lunch. We should get back to the Horse Park around 2:30pm. Let me know if you plan on joining us. I can be reached at 770-289-7272 or via email at richvigue@ellijay.com.

Rich

There will be pre-race betting and we'll have the most recent odds available. We will also have the traditional hat contest for the ladies. Georgianna Hunter has won this event the last several times that we've had it. Will someone else please, please win this year? I've heard from one participant who's ready to kneecap her if she wins again and I don't want that to happen at a saddle club event.

Reservations are required no later than Wednesday, May 1st. I can be reached at 770-289-7272 or via email at richvigue@ellijay.com. Come join in on the fun and bring a friend.

Rich

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

Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, May 4th



The 150th Run for the Roses will be held on Saturday, May 4th. This year's Kentucky Derby Party is being held at Rocco's Pub in Jasper. Janet and I met with the management earlier this month and were very pleased with its desire to host the club.

While reservations will be required there is no prepayment. Everyone will order from the menu and pay for their food and drinks. Consistent with the occasion, Rocco's will offer a special of Kentucky Hot Browns and maybe some mint juleps. Its private room has a capacity of 40 people so guests are welcome and encouraged.

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 1bedroom/1bath 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

Prince Farm Ride Saturday, May 18th

There will be a local ride from the BTSC Horse Park May 18th. I haven't finalized the plans yet but would like you to save the date and let me know if you want to participate in this fun ride past Sharp Top Mountain and down along Champion Creek. The trail is fairly easy for any level of rider. I am happy to have lunch brought in but would like suggestions of what you would like. Sandwiches, barbeque, etc. There aren't many available trails from Bent Tree anymore so we are fortunate that Martha Prince is welcoming us to picnic at her farm on Champion Creek.

I will provide more details in the May issue of the newsletter with departure time and food decision, so mark your calendar and look forward to a great ride! I can be contacted at 404-218-6360 or via email at kathardin39@gmail.com.

Kathy



President's Column

Have you ever been talking on your cell-phone while driving down the road only to realize that you completely missed your turn and you've driven several miles out of your way? A few years ago I discovered that I can do that ahorseback. Georgianna Hunter and I were participating in a poker ride at Jake Mountain. As we left the trail-head, Georgianna asked if I had a map to which I replied there was no need for a map - I knew these trails. About two hours later I suddenly realized that I had no clue where we were. We were having a great conversation and I had missed our turn.

Georgianna had the opportunity to recall that ride when we returned to the Bull Mountain trailhead last week. Our ride leader, Lisa, was convinced she didn't need a map to navigate the Bull Mountain loop. She knew those trails. She hadn't been in the saddle for an hour when she led Keeve, Janna, and Karie down the wrong trail. When I heard what she had done, I planned to really tease her when we got back to the trailhead. Later on, just as I was about to launch that verbal assault I saw Georgianna sitting there looking at me. End of game. The jig was up before it even started.

The club has had a couple very good rides this past month and we finished it with a fun Omoksee. Let's keep this momentum going. Last Sunday it was a nice day so I saddled up and rode up to the Horse Park. While sitting on Fat Boy in the arena a trailer pulled in. About a half hour later a second trailer came in. Before I knew it, we had 6 saddle club members making use of the Horse Park arena. It wasn't a designated event. Just members having some fun and enjoying their animals.

We have a good thing going here. Come join in on the fun.

Rich



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

Ronda Erway, Megan Mathisen, Beyonca Padgett, Rich Vigue and Sandy Stephenson enjoyed a little time on the Bent Tree horse trails and celebrated St. Patrick's Day early. The loop included a stop for lunch at Ronda's farm on Kelso Rd. where we were joined by family and friends to have some social time and visit the mini-cows and donkeys. The luck of the Irish was with us as the weather was great and everyone had a nice ride.

Ronda



Left to right: Cindi McLeod, Sandy, Beyonca, Tommy Mathisen, Megan, Ronda, Randy Erway.

Bull Mountain Trail Ride Recap Wednesday, March 20th

The club's trailering ride at Bull entailed beautiful temps, blue skies, and no wind for a change. In other words, the weather was perfect. We had 10 riders. We split up with Gigi, Ronda and Kathy out front, then Keeve, Janna, Kari and I followed a little behind (at first). Julie, Bob and Rich rode drag position.

After a while, I took a right at a split in the trail, while explaining to Keeve I didn't need no stinking map because I knew the trails like the back of my hand! Only to find out about 7 minutes in, that indeed I had taken a turn slightly early (like at least 3 miles early).

Deciding not to turn back allowed this group to have lunch at Booger Holler by the famous and beautiful Lance Creek. Meanwhile the other half had lunch at the top with beautiful long-distance mountain views at the old rusted out truck. The wrong turn ultimately turned out to be fun as we passed the other group on the uphill swing and got to say hi in passing.

There were at least 6 dismounts to crawl under or around downed trees which should be taken care of soon by SORBA's volunteer group.

As my group reached the original turn off, not 5 minutes later, who came riding up drag? None other than Rich, Julie and Bob. In the end, we all came back in the same order as we started out.

The Bull Mountain Lance Creek loop may be the best equestrian circuit in North Georgia. The trail follows much of Lance creek and it was flowing vigorously and showed off lots of small waterfalls through the mountain laurel and Rhododendron. Until our next ride, Happy Trails to you all.

Lisa



O-Mok-See Recap Saturday, March 30th

We've been doing O-Mok-Sees for 20 years now. We've seen quite a few kids compete in this event and grow up over the years. With the truly young ones, we've placed buckets on top of the barrels so they could reach those balls in the Tomahawk Ball Run event. We've encouraged them on and truly enjoyed seeing them progress with their horsemanship and become young adults.

Saturday, March 30th had perfect weather for an O-Mok-See. Watching Elise Eubanks, Maecy Cook, and Rose Rhys compete was special. No advantage was given to these younger equestrians and they rode away with a bunch of ribbons. Elise almost won the whole thing. Her mom, Claire, took first place for the overall event and Elise lost out of outright second place when Julie Heinsman beat her in a handicapped foot race. We love the kids, however when it comes to ribbons, we show no quarter. In the next O-Mok-See, I'm taking Elise and her mom in an Exacta. Thanks to everyone who participated; to Sandy and Cindy for calling the shots; and to all the volunteers who made the event the big success that it was.

Rich

Elise Eubanks



Maecy Cook



Rose Rhys



Hey, where's my ribbon?

News from Bent Tree Stables

On Monday, March 25th, the stables held a ribbon cutting for the new three stall run-in shed in one of the upper paddocks just outside the front gate of the Bent Tree Stables.

More than 20 people attended the event, including members from Bent Tree Community staff, Board of Directors’ members and the Stable Committee members. There were also individuals from the public on hand to celebrate.

The run-in-sheds are important for the horses so they can seek shelter in case of inclement weather and literally protect themselves against the elements of nature. I said to those in attendance “We love our horses. Our horses are our family. We care about the needs of our horses.” “This new three stall run-in-shed signifies growth. Because of this structure, there is more housing space, so we can have more room for kids to attend summer camp; there is more room for an additional rider on the trails, and there is more room for lessons,” Janna Medved, saddle club member and Bent Tree Barn Manager said.

This concludes a project three years in the making and modeled after a photo of a run-in shed built by Steve Brown located on the property that he and Kim own. Bent Tree Stable committee members and saddle club members Mark Krasner and Bob Crowl deserve the credit for nurturing the plans over this time period so that the funding and the commitment to build it became a reality.

Keeve



Membership Report

The Saddle Club has 77 members. The Club’s 2024 membership roster is now on the Club’s website. I am expecting several more membership renewals in the next few days. Also, I recently met a new boarder at Bent Tree Stables, and I expect a membership application from him soon.

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**

March 24, 2024

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance | | \$1,862.84 |
| Debits | | |
| Date | Description | Amount |
| 03/10/2024 | Jim Sylvia (web site) | (\$ 48.88) |
| 03/24/2024 | CTHA (Jake/Bull Donation) | (\$200.00) |
| TOTAL Debits | | (\$248.88) |
| Deposits | | |
| Date | Description | Amount |
| 02/12/2024 | Correction Allen Financial | \$ 21.00 |
| 03/22/2024 | Membership Dues | \$180.00 |
| TOTAL Deposits | | \$201.00 |
| Ending Balance (as of March 24, 2024) | | \$1,814.96 |



STABLES SPRING CLEAN-UP

Sat. April 13 - 10am - 1pm

All Folks are Welcome

Things to do:

- Clean and Blow the Loft
- Pressure Wash Saddle Pads
- Clean Stalls and Doors
- Leather Condition Saddles & Tack
- Store Winter Blankets
- Clean Kitchen, baths, classroom
- Rake Barn Aisle

What to Bring:

- Bleach - Rags - Sponges
- Scrub Brushes
- Brooms
- Leaf Blower
- Pressure Washers

What to Wear:

- Clothes that can get dirty
- Hat - Boots
- Closed Toed shoes
- Gloves: rubber or garden
- Bandana
- Mask and Eye Wear (if blowing)

Questions?

Call the KEEVE at Stables
(706) 692-6322



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

April 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|----|----|----|---|----|----|----------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Stables Spring Clean-up |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Prince Cabin Ride |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 Derby Party Reservations Due | 2 | 3 | 4 Kentucky Derby Party |

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, 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 May 18 th | Prince Farm Ride | Prince Farm | Kathy Hardin |
| 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 | Poker Ride | Horse Park | Ronda Erway |
| Sunday, Nov. 10 th | Ellen Stara Mem. Ride | Garland Mountain | Rich Vigue |
| Saturday, Nov. 16 th | Thanksgiving Dinner | Club Tamarack | Rich & Janet Vigue |
| Saturday, Dec. 14 th | Christmas Party | Pendley Creek | Rich & Janet Vigue |



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