

Upcoming Events

Hillside Farm Trail Challenge Saturday, June 1st

This year we have 16 riders – 18 Entries - 6 Volunteers – Thank you all! Also, this year we will be having a professional photographer and Baseball Caps! If any other members are interested in baseball caps this year, we have 20 extra to sell. Just email me @ LisaSylvia3@gmail.com if you'd like one. White and Navy options, first come first serve on color and hats. \$25.00/each. Sample of one below.

Lisa



Dawson Forest Ride Saturday, June 22nd

I will be leading a ride at the Dawson Forest Horse Trails on Saturday, June 22nd. Meet in the parking lot at 10:30am to ride out at 11am. The ride should last about 3 hours and include a lunch break, so don't forget to pack a lunch.

Please RSVP to me at rrerway@gmail.com or text 402-540-3338 if you will be joining us.

Ronda

Omoksee Returns for a Triple Event This Year! Saturday, June 15th

This thrilling event is making a comeback on **June 15** @ the Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena! Event starts at **10AM** (We are moving up an hour due to warmer days). The cost is \$10.00/ rider and if you haven't sent your Coggins to Lisa Sylvia, please do – LisaSylvia3@gmail.com.

We've had many new members this year, so maybe it's time to recap just what Omoksee's are all about. The word originates from the Native American word for "riding with a purpose," Omoksee combines speed, skill, and precision in a thrilling display of horsemanship.

For those unfamiliar, an Omoksee is a timed event where horse and rider navigate through a series of challenging obstacles, showcasing their agility, control, and bond. Our Omoksee's are three main events – Baton Relay, Ball Toss and Poles. There are two "mystery" events from barrel racing to barrel weaving or maybe something of a surprise thrown in. The day rounds out with each rider having entered 5 events and two runs per event – fastest time counts.

The decision to bring back Omoksee comes as no surprise as our members have so much fun and it's our biggest arena turn out each year as it captures the hearts of riders from ages 13 to 80.

But in all honesty, we are a riding club having fun on all our own personal levels while enjoying the sense of camaraderie and community it fosters among the members.

And just a heads up – We are planning a cookout for the October Omoksee this year! More to come in future newsletters!

Lisa



President's Column

May has been a good month for the Club. It started with a fun Kentucky Derby Party. It included a reunion of sorts with the Dillinghams in North Carolina. The Prince Farm ride was well attended and the rain on the way back to Bent Tree just added to the adventure. All that was just an appetizer to what's being served up in June.

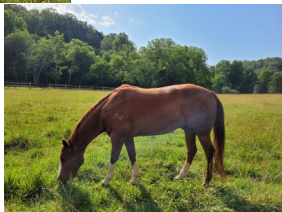
This Saturday the Sylvia's are hosting their annual Trail Challenge. This event has become our flagship riding event. It's a first class occasion in a first class setting. If you're not signed up as a contestant or volunteer you should drop by anyway just to enjoy the camaraderie with fellow horse people. Riders are going off starting at 10:30am. I guarantee it will be the riding event of the year.

On June 8th, there's CTHA's fundraiser Poker Ride at Jake & Bull. On June 15th is this year's second edition of the Omoksee in the Saddle Club Arena. Then we close out the month with a trail ride at Dawson Forest.

Each of these events is covered somewhere in this newsletter. Make it a point to participate/spectate at at least one of these events. They should be fun.

The last five months have been eventful for Janet and me. We have dramatically changed our way of life and, at the same time, we have lost two cherished equine members of the family. What hasn't changed is our involvement with the Saddle Club. As is normal for any club, the membership has evolved over the years, but the spirit of this club has not. We are fortunate to have such a great club and people to call our friends. We need to preserve what we have. Come out and enjoy our events. They are building memories.

Rich



**Kentucky Derby Party Recap
Saturday, May 4th**

We had 23 members sign up for the annual Kentucky Derby Party which was held this year in Jasper at Rocco's Pub.

The private room was perfect for us. The food was excellent including the traditional Kentucky Hot Browns. The track condition was muddy. The betting was fierce with some people actually employing strategies on which horse to pick: winning record, mudder, odds, etc. There was some serious decision making prior to post time. Randy Erway wore out the calculator button on his cell phone.

The race came off on time around 7pm and Mystik Dan won by a nose. Maybe it was a whisker, not sure, but it was a very exciting race and photo finish. I think it was 20 minutes or more after the race before the winner was confirmed. Out of the betting pool came Ronda Erway who was the only one to bet on Mystik Dan. Her strategy – Dan had previously won in muddy conditions. She didn't need a cell phone nor calculator. Just a little research.

The traditional hat contest was won by Sharon Eikenberry. Finally, a different face under the winning hat. Congratulations Sharon. Chuck Ewing, confirming that he is a cis-male, won an impromptu floral arrangement award for his hat creation. Carol recently told me that it is still on his night table.

I'm sure the close and exciting race was a major contributor to a very fun event.

Rich



Sharon Eikenberry and Chuck Ewing enjoying bragging rights in the annual hat contest.

Harmony Mountain Weekend Recap May 9th – 12th

Janet and I joined Lisa Sylvia and Julie Heinsman for an extended weekend at Pete and Bambi Dillington's Harmony Mountain Equine in Horse Shoe, North Carolina. We delayed our Thursday morning departure due to some heavy rain in the area, but were able to get there in time for a fabulous meal prepared by Bambi. That night we laid out a weekend of riding and fine dining. There was also a lot of reminiscing going on. Just what the doctor ordered.

On Friday Pete, Julie, Lisa, and I rode the trails at Turkey Pen Gap in Etowah, NC. We came across a few hikers, otherwise we had the trails to ourselves for approximately 3.5 hours. No incidents, just a great ride on a beautiful day. That night Pete, Bambi, Julie, Lisa, Janet and I feasted at the Falls Landing Seafood Restaurant in Brevard, NC.

On Saturday, Bambi joined us for a ride at Guion Farms in the Dupont State Forest. When we arrived at the parking area there was one horse rig and approximately 20 cars with the usual bike racks. Not a problem for us intrepid riders. Actually, while on the trails we met quite a few hikers (mostly families with kids and dogs) and a lot of bikers. I've never met such courteous hikers/bikers on the trail as we came across that day. It was very pleasant with no issues. Just a bunch of people sharing the trails on a beautiful day. That prompted me to check out the Dupont State Forest website and also call the President of the Friends of Dupont State Forest. She shared with me the extensive education program they have put together about sharing trails and that they are seeing the results of their efforts. It can be done.

Saturday night, Pete and Bambi had chores they needed to do so Lisa, Julie, Janet and I had dinner at Brandy's on Main in Hendersonville. Another upscale restaurant. We sat next to a piano player who took requests and we had a few _____. You can fill in that blank however you want.

Rich



Julie Heinsman, Bambi Dillingham, Pete Dillingham, Rich Vigue, Lisa Sylvia
Getting ready for the trails at Guion Farm in the Dupont State Forest

Prince Farm Ride Recap Saturday, May 18th

What an awesome turnout! Despite a chance of rain on May 18th, 19 riders showed up for a great ride starting from the Horse Park and venturing over to Martha Prince's farm where she greeted us and made us welcome. An additional 6 people joined us at Martha's for Bigun's BBQ sandwiches along with tater salad and coleslaw. There was a choice of 3 different cookies and candy to boot.

The highlight of our return ride was when Joyce felt a little sprinkle and wanted to stop to put her raincoat on. I said it was just a light shower and we didn't need to stop. A few minutes went by and it began to rain harder so Joyce was very grateful we finally stopped to put on rain gear. My horse wanted to turn her butt into the driving rain but we pushed onward. At least it was warm so it wasn't too uncomfortable. For those who weren't prepared for the weather, I am certain they will heed my suggestion of bringing rain gear with them next time. By the time we returned to the Horse Park, our feet were swimming in our boots. Being the head trail master and coordinator for the event, I passed around a hat for tips, but it came back empty. Can you believe that!

Thank you Martha for accommodating us.
Until next time, Happy Trails!

Kathy





Summer Camp Donations

On May 7, the club became aware of a 9 year old girl, Mila, who wanted to attend one of the Stables summer camps, but due to some serious family and financial issues her mom just couldn't afford the tuition. I did a post on our Facebook Page and sent an email to the membership on May 7th asking for donations. The response was overwhelming.

In less than 24 hours, we raised the necessary funds for Mila. I presented a check for \$500 covering her tuition to Keeve and Janna at the Prince Farm ride. Donors included Bob Crawl, Joyce and Bobby Delay, Calamity Jane Doe, Ronda and Randy Erway, Chuck & Carol Ewing, Susan Hannah, Cathy and David Jones, Megan & Tommy Mathisen, Judie & Jason Uchitel, Rich & Janet Vigue, and Donnie & Denese Williams.

Rich



Bent Tree Saddle Club Treasurer's Report

May 24, 2024

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$1,951.77
Debits		
Date	Description	
5/4/24	Rich Vigue (Derby Party expenses)	(\$ 31.93)
5/14/24	Bent Tree Stables (Camp Scholarship)	(\$500.00)
5/19/24	Biguns Barbeque (Prince ride food)	(\$280.61)
5/22/24	T-Shirts Plus (Trail Challenge caps)	(\$507.74)
5/24/24	Kathy Hardin (Prince ride dessert)	(\$ 29.90)
Total Debits		(\$1,350.18)
Deposits		
Date	Description	
5/6/2024	Derby Auction	\$ 50.00
5/6/2024	Memberships	\$ 80.00
5/15-19/2024	Scholarship Donations	\$450.00
5/23/24	Scholarship donation	\$ 50.00
5/23/24	Prince ride payments	\$355.00
Total Deposits		\$985.00
Ending Balance 5/24/2024		\$1,586.59

Membership Report

The Saddle Club welcomes two new members, Thomas Mott and Randy Taylor.

We now have 83 members. Thomas lives in Bent Tree and boards his horse, Shakonohey, at the Bent Tree Stables. Many of you know Randy who was an active Club member for many years. It's good to see him back. We look forward to seeing Thomas and Randy at future events.

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 Club events.

Bob

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

June 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 Hillside Farm Challenge
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Jake/Bull Mtn Poker Ride
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 OMokSee
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Dawson Forest Ride
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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

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, 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	Omoksee	Horse Park	TBA
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
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

Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association
Jake and Bull Mtn. Poker Ride (Equestrians Only Event)
Sponsored by CTHA



Saturday June 8, 2024

Proceeds from this event will be for ALL Trail Improvements

Registration Check-in 8- 9:30

Lunch Served 1:00 p.m.

Ride Starts 9:30

Prizes Awarded 2:30 p.m.

\$40.00 per rider

\$15.00 per non-rider (entry includes lunch)

Each Participants donation covers 1 poker hand and lunch

Extra poker hands can be purchased for \$7.00

There will be cash prizes awarded for the best 3 poker hands

Pre-Register and pay by June 3rd FEE \$35.00 + CTHA Token and 1 Bonus Card

!!!NEGATIVE COGGINS REQUIRED FOR EACH HORSE!!!

(You will be turned away if you do not have one with you)

If entering the day of the event, you must pay by Cash or Check only
we cannot accept credit/debit cards

Release of liability waiver required at check-in

Children (16 years and under) Must ride with an adult. Wearing helmets is recommended

Dogs not permitted on the trails during the event & **must be leashed and confined while in camp**

CONTACT: ride.ctha@gmail.com/_ermamc1107@gmail.com for additional information and entry form or

Contact us through CTHA website: Ride-CTHA.org

CTHA

www.ride-ctha.org



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