



Upcoming Events

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. The party will start at 5pm.

While reservations are 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.

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

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 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

Prince Farm Ride/Drive Saturday, May 18th

Spring is upon us with trees and flowers blossoming in the woods with mild temperatures and lots of sunshine. This ride will take place on May 18th, leaving from the Horse Park at 10:30 and arriving at Martha Prince's farm on Champion Creek around noon. The ride itself will not be too difficult so any level of rider will enjoy it. We will ride around to the other side of Sharp Top Mountain and meander down past the old barn. Sadly, it has fallen down now but the old barn wood is coveted by passersby.

We will have lunch next to the lovely flowing creek, provided by Biguns BBQ and delivered by none other than Joyce DeLay. Bring your own drinks and \$15.00 to pay for your lunch. Exact bills would be appreciated. Horses are not mandatory transportation. Motorized vehicles are welcome as an alternative so you may join in for lunch and good times with friends and comrades. You may invite friends for this event.

We should be back to the Horse Park no later than 2:30 or 3:00, depending on who rides the fastest horses. The rain date will be the following day, Sunday, May 19th.

So jump into spring with shiny clean horses and ride the beautiful trails that are so close and available to us. Contact me (text, call or email) at 404-218-6360 or kathardin39@gmail.com that you are attending, no later than May 13th so we can get an accurate food count. If you are late, you may not get the great BBQ lunch! Let me know if you will need access through the back gate at Bent Tree.

Kathy

President's Column

"These are the times that try men's souls." *Thomas Paine*

Paine wrote that during the American Revolution exhorting young men to join the fight. I read the above in high school and never forgot it. Whenever I felt pressure with something I was involved in (such as golf and pool ☺) I'd remember that quote. It reminded me that what I was doing was really small and insignificant. Never mind that I could be broke when it was all over. ☺

The Executive Committee is dealing with an important issue right now. Since 2005, the Horse Park has been our home base. We have treated it as our own and poured money and sweat equity into it year after year. All the while with recognition that it is sitting on Bent Tree property. At the same time, we've been very fortunate to have a significant number of members who are not Bent Tree property owners, yet they have made very significant contributions to the Horse Park. Over the years we have struck many deals with the Bent Tree General Manager at the time. All verbal.

Recently, there have been several people in Bent Tree, not knowing the history of the Horse Park, voicing outrage that we're not paying for use of the Horse Park and that there are non-property owners in our membership. In the past, we've just buried our heads in the sand with the hope that it would pass over. Well, it hasn't.

Recently, a Bent Tree document was published which summarized the results of a property owner survey that was conducted last year. Slipped into that document was a statement calling for the Saddle Club to be charged for using the Horse Park. Fortunately, that statement was removed from the final version that was approved by the Bent Tree Board. Subsequently, Bob Crowl and I met with the Board President to discuss putting in writing a relationship between Bent Tree and the club that would be satisfactory to both parties. We are working on that now. We will discuss this in the General Meeting that will be held during the Kentucky Derby Party.

If Thomas Paine were alive today, he'd be laughing at this. Believe it or not, I occasionally laugh at this too. That usually occurs after a couple chardonnays.

Rich

Hillside Farm 3rd Annual Trail Challenge June 1 – 10:00-10:30 Arrival. 11am First Rider Out! RAIN DATE – JUNE 2

Canter Through Nature on 2.5-Mile Equestrian Trail

Nestled within the serene confines of Hillside Farm lies an exhilarating adventure awaiting both seasoned equestrians and novices alike. The 2.5-Mile Equestrian Trail Challenge beckons riders to embark on a journey through woodlands with winding paths and rolling hills. This event promises not only a test of skill and agility but also a communion with nature that soothes the soul and invigorates the spirit. The trail winds its way through a picturesque farm-scape, offering a rolling terrain navigating both woods, fence lines and open pastures. Riders will start in front of their peers, ride to a covered arena with a few thrilling obstacles to allow your display of partnership and skill, where you and your horse shall conquer the obstacles with grace, athleticism, and unwavering trust in each other. Then you will exit the arena, head through one of three open fields. Then you will enter the tranquility of towering trees, their leaves whispering secrets as gentle sunlight filters through. As you venture deeper into the woods, the path leads you through pine-needle covered lanes that twist and turn through the maze lain before you and your trusty steed.

Price: \$30/rider - This includes BTSC ballcaps, rider entry fee & cookout immediately following. Don't forget to wear last year's T-Shirts!!!

Current Riders: 16 Riders currently signed up! Julie, Denese, Claire, Elise, Arabella, Rich, Ronda, Bobby, Joyce, Judie, Maecy, Megan, Gigi, Kathy, Aly (photographer), Lisa (non-compete)

Current Volunteers: 6 Volunteers signed up! Cindi McLeod, Sandy Stephenson, Keith Hunter, Bob Crowl, Jim Sylvia, Donny Williams, (Lisa Floating)

I MUST KNOW ASAP IF ANY VOLUNTEERS/RIDERS DECIDE TO CANCEL. IF YOU WISH TO BE ADDED AS EITHER, PLEASE CONTACT ME VIA EMAIL: LisaSylvia3@Gmail.Com

Scoring: There are several equestrians that ride strictly for the experience/partnership with their mount and the camaraderie of friends. But for those competing for a ribbon, as the clock ticks away, tension mounts within the beating heart of both you and your horse. Penalties may be incurred for deviations from the trail, or failure to retrieve cards where required. In the end the scoring for first through fifth place is a quest for glory against the relentless march of the clock. Details of scoring rules shall be announced on the day of the event. **So**, saddle up, embrace this challenge, and embark on an unforgettable day of fun and excitement with like-minded peers.

Lisa

Editor's note: Hallelujah! A pioneering first right here on the pages of the BTSC Newsletter. Three cheers for Lisa! Saying that you're not good at writing articles is no longer a valid excuse. Go ChatGPT!

Bent Tree Saddle Club - Executive Committee Meeting 4/11/2024

Present: Rich and Janet Vigue, Lisa Sylvia, Ronda Erway, Beyonca Padgett, Bob Crowl, Megan and Tommy Mathisen

Meeting called to order by Rich Vigue at 6:46 p.m.

1. Treasurer's Report

Ronda reported that the current balance is \$2,064.96.

2. Membership Report

Bob Crowl reported that membership for 2024 is currently at 81 members.

3. Agenda Items

- a) CTHA – Jake / Bull Mountain donation – BTSC donated \$200 which helped them achieve their fundraising goal toward trail maintenance. We received a very nice thank you card from them.
- b) O-Mok-See recap (from 3/30/24) – Successful event. Great turnout by participants and audience. Will make change to award ribbons after each event instead of all at the end.
- c) Horse Park funding request – would like platform added to obstacle course. Cost is \$50-\$75. Bobby DeLay agreed to build. Motion to approve by Lisa. Ronda seconded.
- d) Arena Maintenance – Megan will spray the grass with her jet pack.
- e) Old Platform – will tear apart and remove.
- f) Kentucky Derby Party 5/4/24 – will be held at Rocco's. They graciously agreed to let us use the room at no charge and are installing an additional TV. Will need to maximize attendance. Room will hold 40 people.
- g) Hillside Farm Challenge – Discussion on awarding ribbons and ordering hats with logo. Price will be \$25 to cover ride, food, and hats. Ronda made a motion. Rich seconded. The club will front \$400 with the understanding the club will be reimbursed \$200. Ronda made a motion. Lisa seconded. Also, a photographer offered to take pictures of the event for \$150. Financial breakdown will be sent to the EC. Decision will be via email.
- h) Discussion regarding possible fundraiser for Bent Tree Stables for the purpose of grading/improving/clearing the trail just outside the gate to the stables. This would require heavy equipment. The fundraiser would be a joint effort between BTSC and BT Stables Committee. Possibility that BT maintenance may be able to do this. Bob will discuss with BT Stables Committee. Decision pending.
- i) Possible Spring O-Mok-See discussion. Change event on June 15th from Fun Games Horse Show to O-Mok-See.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:30 p.m. Respectfully Submitted by Beyonca Padgett, BTSC Secretary



Come have lunch along Champion Creek Saturday, May 18th. Ride or Drive.

Membership Report

The Saddle Club has 81 members. During the last month we received four membership renewals. These are the renewals I said in the April newsletter that I was expecting. There should be no more that are lost or delayed in our postal service. Also, as mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Club's 2024 membership roster is now on the Club's website.

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 the Kentucky Derby party and other upcoming events.

Bob

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

April 26, 2024

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$1,924.96
Debits		
Date	Description	Amount
04/25/2024	Megan Mathisen (arena chemical)	(\$113.19)
TOTAL Debits		(\$113.19)
Deposits		
Date	Description	Amount
04/13/2024	Membership Fees	\$ 140.00
TOTAL Deposits		\$140.00
Ending Balance (as of April 26, 2024)		\$1,951.77

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

May 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Kentucky Derby Party Resv. Due	2	3	4 Kentucky Derby Party
5	6	7	8	9 Harmony Mtn Equine	10 Harmony Mtn. Equine	11 Harmony Mtn. Equine
12 Harmony Mtn. Equine	13 Prince Farm Ride/Drive Resv. Due	14	15	16	17	18 Prince Farm Ride/Drive
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Hillside Farm Trail Challenge

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, May 4 th	Kentucky Derby Party	Rocco's	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	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
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



Mountain View Pet Lodge

Caring for pets since 1988
Pet Boarding and Grooming
Suites Available

Owned by **Joyce Delay**
706-692-6604
[www.facebook/
MountainViewPetLodge](http://www.facebook.com/MountainViewPetLodge)

W. JASON UCHITEL
Attorney at Law

404-219-9247
misteru@uchitel.net

General Law Practice Since 1972

Specializing in:
Wills, Estates, and Probate Matters
Domestic Relations
Criminal Issues
Personal Injuries

No Charge for Initial Consultation
House Calls Are No Problem
Bent Tree Resident



Bringing you and your horse together

Natural Horsemanship Training:
Lessons, Spring & Fall Clinics.

Onsite Services:
3 Bedroom Apt w/Horse Lodging

Pete & Bambi Dillingham
(678)313-5611

Follow us on Facebook

Lisa Sylvia, Agent
770-401-8333
LisaSylvia3@Gmail.com
Web: SylviaTeam.Com
FB: Sylvia Team Real Estate

Jim Sylvia, Agent
770-401-8332
Jim.Sylvia3@Gmail.Com
Web: SylviaTeam.Com
FB: Sylvia Team Real Estate



Rich Vigue, Broker
#770-289-7272
www.RichVigue.com
Rich@RichVigue.com

JRV Realty of North Georgia
Specializing in Horse Farms/Property

Place your free Ad here

