

## Upcoming Events

### Garland Mountain Ride Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Friends of Garland Mountain keep these trails pristine, and they recently just finished another weekend of work and replaced the old picnic table at the bottom of Sorrel.

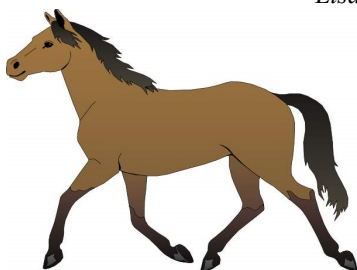
Plan to arrive at the parking lot by 10:00am and ride out by 10:30am. We'll tentatively plan to return to the parking lot around 1:30pm. This is a ride with a gathering afterward. So, bring an appetizer to share, your drink preference and a camp chair!

The plan is for everyone to park in the dirt circular area on the right side when you first pull in. We'll pull around and form a circular area. Jim and I will bring a table that we will set up in the middle to put the food on when we return.

I will be leaving the trail head at 10:30. Assuming trails are in good condition with little rain, the current plan/route is to take Palamino to Buckskin to greenway to Chestnut. Depending on time, we'll then either take Roan, or start back on greenway to Dapple to Ellen's way and up Sorrel back to the trailers. If you want to ride on your own, or break out into faster or slower groups, that is great too. Just plan on being back for gathering after!

Please let me know if you're planning on participating. I can be reached at 770-401-8333 or LisaSylvia3@Gmail.com.

*Lisa*



### Obstacle Course Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

This year's Obstacle Course will have a Halloween theme. I have a committee of 3, Kathy Hardin, Sandy Stephenson, and myself, working on the course. This year's course will be an improvement and more challenging than last year. There will be some great new and some return obstacles.

The course will not be open to practice until the 26<sup>th</sup> which will level the field as it is impossible for some members to practice during the week. However, practice time will be October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 11:00 a.m. We will break for lunch between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at which time the fun begins.

During last year, the club has undergone the expense of building a new item, the titer totter, which is permanently in place at the horse park. Also, the Obstacle Course is a bit more expensive to run. I am borrowing items where I can, and purchasing items that cannot be borrowed. Therefore, the board has agreed to charging \$5.00 for the practice session and \$15.00 to participate in the Obstacle Course competition.

Pack a lunch and plan to be at the Saddle Club Horse Park on Saturday, October 26, 2024, for some great fun and a chance to challenge your horse. Those members who do not plan to compete, please come to the horse park and root for the riders.

Due to the fact it takes a lot of effort to set the course up, please let me know if you plan to participate in the Obstacle Course no later than Friday, October 18th. I also can use some help in setting up the course on Thursday, October 24th at 10am. My telephone number is (404) 226-0287.

*Judie*

### Ellen Stara Memorial Ride Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

Get ready for the trail riding event of the year! It will be a BTSC/CTHA/Friends of Garland Mountain collaborative ride in memory of Ellen Stara, a long-time member of all three organizations.

Thanks to Bill Stara, we have received permission from the Southeast Trust for Parks and Land to visit Staraland on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The ride starts from the Garland Mountain Trailhead with registration at 10am and ride-out around 10:30am.

Maps to Staraland will be provided at the trailhead and, unlike most of our trail rides, riders will ride out in individual groups of their choosing and travel at their own pace. Box lunches and bottled water will be provided at Staraland.

The cost for the event is \$10. Payment may be made by check or cash at the event. **Reservations are required by Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>** and can be made by texting 770-289-7272 or via email at richvigue@ellijay.com.

*Rich*

### 2025 Officers Wanted

It's that time of year again when the Executive Committee seeks new officers for the next year. Most of the current EC has been part of the Committee for the last two or more years. It's time for a change. We need a few souls to step forward to lead this club in 2025. Here's an opportunity to make a difference with the club. Please do not call me to recommend someone else. **If you have any interest in giving back to the club in any officer position, please give me a call at 770-289-7272.**

*Rich*

**President’s Column**

“If I had a mind to rent pigs. I’d be mighty upset. A man that wants to rent pigs won’t be stopped.”

Augustus McCrae

“Don’t get between a woman and her horse.”

The first quote has nothing to do with the topic of this article. It is just one of my favorite quotes from Lonesome Dove.

The second quote is mine and I’ve said it many times as a humorous adage that definitely has a bit of truth in it. All men, who have been married to a horse owning woman for any amount of time, have seen this in action and know its truth. When I first started selling horse farms I had the unfortunate experience of gaining valuable first-hand knowledge of this. I learned very quickly that no matter how outrageous a claim a woman makes about her horse and its well being, the only safe course of action is to nod your head and move on.

I saw this in action once again at last month’s BT Board Meeting. The usually staid atmosphere of the meeting was moving along quite nicely with several people speaking at the open mike session of the meeting advocating for their particular point of view. Suddenly, all decorum was lost. It was as if a bomb had gone off. It became a “You’re a liar! No, I’m not!” kind of affair. I wasn’t sure how it would end. I was hoping someone had a couple of those old flintlock guns and that we might see a duel to the death at ten paces. It took a while for the President of the Board to regain control of the meeting.

Finally, near the end of the meeting, the proverbial screaming banshee got its pound of flesh. Once again, my oft quoted saying was reinforced. The Board voted to terminate the Stablemaster contract and to cease day-to-day operations of the stables effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. There may have been other underlying issues. I don’t know. What I do know is that a motion was made. There was no discussion. A vote was taken. It was unanimous.

As of this writing, the Bent Tree Board does not have any long-term plans for the stables and we are being advised to stay tuned. Also, we have an offer from a Board member to come address the club at our next meeting. I plan to take him up on that (See adjacent article.). For now, the Saddle Club still has use of the trails and Horse Park.

What impact this will have on the club remains to be seen. However, at the very least we need to give serious thought as to the club’s future. We started this process at last week’s General Meeting. The Executive Committee could use some help with this. My heart is with Bent Tree, but my brain says it’s time to do something different. I do not have any zealotry for a particular course of action. If you do, then make it known.

While all this is going on, the Executive Committee is starting to look for next year’s officers. Now is the time for someone with a particular vision to come to the rescue.

*Rich*



**End of Year Bash  
Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

We have scheduled a Party and dinner at Bent Tree’s Tavern at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole for Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> starting with cocktails at 6pm.

Bill Pound will provide background music during the cocktail hour and dancing music after dinner. Some of you may remember Bill from the 2019 Kickoff dinner at 61 Main and the 2019 Thanksgiving Dinner at the Tavern at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole.

We will have a short general meeting at 7pm during which BTCI Board Member, Ralph Morse, will address the club with an update on the stables plans. We will also discuss the status of the club and our plans for 2025.

Menu details and pricing are forthcoming and will be announced by email later this month. Mark your calendars now. Seating is limited, but as always, spouses are welcome. This will be our last social event of the year. I hope to see you there.

*Rich*



**LET’S TOP OFF THE  
YEAR WITH A  
BLOWOUT!!!**

**Chickamauga Battlefield  
Ride Recap  
Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday, September 7th, Kathy Hardin, Georgiana Hunter and I traveled to Chickamauga Battlefield National Military Park.

It was a gorgeous day to ride the 9-mile outer loop. Georgiana was able to start the ride, but her horse had other ideas, leaving her unable to complete the ride. Lunch at one of the many park monuments gave us time to catch up and appreciate the scenery.

*Ronda*

**Jake Mountain Ride Recap  
Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Jake Parking lot was empty when I pulled in with my rig around 10am. A few minutes later Kathy showed up. Then Ronda came in and by 10:30 Sandy and Cindi arrived. We had the parking lot to ourselves. Little did we know that we'd have the trails to ourselves. No other riders. No bikers. Just us. It was a great day for a ride through the Jake Mountain trails.

Prior to the ride I checked my horse's back and there was a very small spot of bare skin. Jazz had recently gotten over a silver dollar size sore that Leslie Elliott graciously treated while Janet and I were out exploring Wyoming. Halfway through the ride we came across Forest Service Road 28-1 that went back toward the Jake Parking Lot. I dismounted, took my saddle off, and checked Jazz's sore. It had spread to the size of a quarter. Not wanting it to get any worse, I put the saddle back on him and lead him all the way back leaving my comrades (I'm not referring to Kamala's people here.) to finish the ride without me.

After some thought I've decided that Jake Mountain and the Forest Service are responsible for that sore getting bigger. Those trails are too hilly and need to be fixed. All those hills caused my saddle to rub on that sore. I plan on going to its next meeting and demanding that something be done. I'll also spread word about this unfortunate episode on social media.

Maybe, just maybe, the Forest Service might close the trails. Then I'll feel vindicated and those of you who like Jake can go ride somewhere else.

*Rich*



**Leading a ride has its challenges. Just ask Kathy.  
I think there was a Juro on the other side of the helmet.**



**2024 BTSC Schedule of Events**

Sunday, Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Garland MountainRide/Cookout	Garland Mountain	Sylvias & Delays
Saturday, Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Obstacle Course	Horse Park	Judie Uchitel
Sunday, Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ellen Stara Memorial Ride	Garland Mountain	Rich Vigue
Saturday, Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	End of Year Bash/General Mtg	Bent Tree 19 <sup>th</sup> Hole	Rich & Janet Vigue

**BTSC Paraphernalia**

The club has a couple items ready for distribution to club members. As part of the agreement struck with BTCI we have ordered club identification tags to be placed on members' tack when riding in Bent Tree. Also, recently we ordered new saddle club hats and gave them out to the participants of the Hillside Farm Trail Challenge. Both orders had minimum quantities. As a result, we have an excess amount. The Executive Committee has decided to give the tags free to members who need them and to sell the remaining hats for \$20 each. These items will be available at the October 26<sup>th</sup> Obstacle Course Event on a first come first served basis. Come and get'em!



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

September 24, 2024

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer

Beginning Balance		\$1,611.59
<b>Debits</b>		
Date	Description	
9/20/24	Rich Vigue (BTSC Tack Tags)	(\$ 199.99)
Total Debits		(\$ 199.99)
<b>Deposits</b>		
Date	Description	
9/20/24	Hat sales (King, Wilder, Williams)	\$ 60.00
9/24/24	Garbage Can Cook-out	\$ 60.00
Total Deposits		\$ 120.00
Ending Balance 9/24/2024		\$1,531.60



**2024 Executive Committee**

President: Rich Vigue  
 Vice-President: Lisa Sylvia  
 Treasurer: Ronda Erway  
 Secretary: Beyonca Padgett  
 BT Liaison: Bob Crowl  
 Past President: Judie Uchitel  
 Past, Past Pres. 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](http://www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com)



Join our Group Page on Facebook

# October 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Garland Mountain Ride/Cookout	14	15	16	17	18 Reservations Obstacle Course	19
20	21	22	23	24 Obstacle Course Setup	25	26 Obstacle Course
27	28	29	30	31		



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