

NEWSLETTER

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB



July 2025

From the Editor

No Horses Allowed!

While reading the Pickens Progress a few weeks ago, I saw an article about Jasper's 4th of July Parade. To my great shock and dismay, it stated that horses were no longer allowed in the parade. Well, I couldn't believe my eyes when I read that!

For centuries, horses have played a pivotal role in our nation's history, and they hold a special place of honor. It's inconceivable that they are unwelcome and will be excluded from the procession, because horses and parades go together!

Last year, I rode in the parade for the first time, and it was an amazing experience! There were about 20 horses and ponies from Bent Tree Stables, the Saddle Club, and the Cowboy Church. After the procession of trucks, trailers, motorcycles, fire-trucks, police cars, Jeeps, etc., the horses were the stars of the show and the grand finale bringing up the rear. Decorated to



the red-white-and-blue nines, we captivated the crowd, especially the children. It was absolutely electric!

I wondered what had happened since last year to cause an abrupt change in public policy. Was the City trying to manage risk?

Did someone get upset seeing a manure pile on the road? No reason was ever given, but rumor has it that it was much ado about the poo, which every responsible rider would have gladly picked up and taken back home with them, if only asked.

I shared this news with the members of the Executive Committee and informed them that we would have to cancel our participation in the event. This caused a big flurry followed by a very heated discussion at our last meeting.

Although confused and letdown, we decided that this disappointment would not deter us from representing the Club in the parade anyway. So we're going ahead with

No Horses Allowed! (Cont.)

it but with a different spin. Instead of four hooves, we're opting for four wheels and stick horses. The Club intends to participate by rolling down Main Street on a flatbed trailer float pulled by a bright red pickup. Thank you, **Julie Heinsman**, for offering the transport.

CALLING ALL SADDLE CLUB MEMBERS!

We need you to come out and ride on our float, walk alongside, trot around on a stick horse, or carry our Club banner. We're getting together at Julie's house on Tuesday, July 1st at 6:30 PM to paint signs and decorate her trailer. Pizza will be provided.

Let's show our pride of country and love of horses, as well as pay tribute to all of those bygone steeds that helped forge this great nation!

That's why they call it HORSEPOWER!

Karie

The Epitome of July 4th

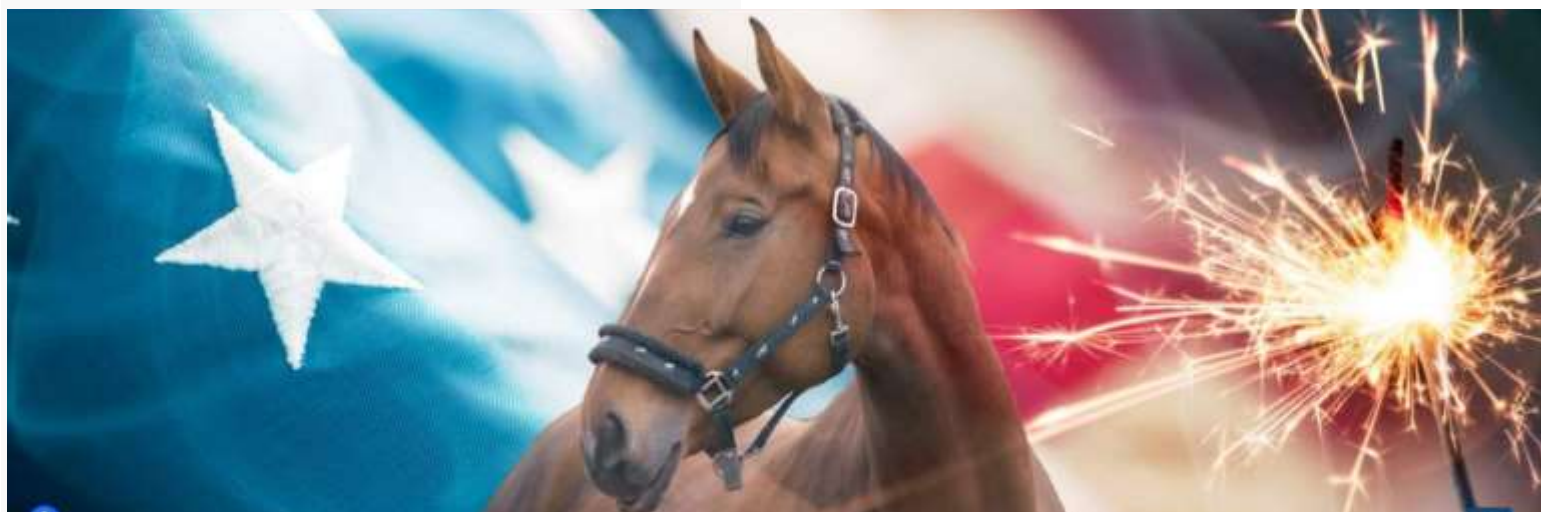
What does the horse have to do with the Fourth of July? Everything!

This holiday isn't just about fireworks and freedom. It's about remembering what it took to get here. Independence wasn't gifted—it was earned through grit, determination and sacrifice. The horse embodies that spirit. Its sweat built the roads, pulled the plows, and carried the flags into battle. Its hooves beat the rhythm of a new nation forming.

When we watch parades, with mounted steeds proudly trotting down Main Street, we're not just watching a tradition—we're glimpsing a living monument to the labor that made this day possible. The horse, in all its strength and humility, is a symbol of the raw effort behind American freedom.

And they should be in EVERY Fourth of July Parade!!

Lisa Sylvia





Independence Day Parade



Friday, July 4th, 10:30 AM, Downtown Jasper



Let's Celebrate the U.S.A.!

Since horses aren't allowed in the parade this year, we're going to roll down Main Street instead on a Fabulous Flatbed Float pulled by Julie's Pickup! All Club members and friends are invited to participate. You can ride on the float, prance around on your stick horse, walk alongside or carry the Saddle Club's banner. Come join us in the procession, and let's show everyone our patriotic horsepower!

- **Dress:** Jeans/blue bottoms, white shirt, hat, red bandana and lots of red-white-and-blue bling!
- **Meeting Time/Place:** 10:30 AM at Jasper Middle School parking lot at 339 W. Church St. across from Lee Newton Park.
- **Parade sets off:** 11 AM.
- **RSVP ASAP to Julie** if you can join us in the parade.

Everyone is welcome! Happy Birthday, America!

ATTENTION!

We need your help to make signs and decorate our Fabulous Flatbed Float! Join us at Julie's house on Tuesday, July 1st at 6:30 PM for a painting pizza party!

RSVP to Julie Heinsman at: mymtnpeace@gmail.com or 404-550-0270

Bent Tree Saddle Club is Bringing Back The Texas Hold 'Em Tournament!

Saturday, July 19th, 5:30 PM at Rocco's Pub



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Many of our past winners were first time players.
Each table will have an experienced player to help everyone along.
Beginner's luck is a real thing!

5:30 PM: Drinks and Dinner Off of Rocco's Menu

7:00 PM: Tournament Play Starts

Each player will start with the same number of chips. Your food and drink orders will earn you more chips. \$5.00 gets you a seat at the table and a shot at a prize.

Can't wait to read your Poker Face... See Ya!

RSVP to Julie Heinsman by July 12th at:
404-550-0270 or mymtnpeace@gmail.com



Who Says Smoking Isn't Cool?

I need an accurate headcount to order the food, so please:

**RSVP to
Julie by Aug. 20th
at 404-550-0270 or
mymtnpeace@gmail.com**

You can pay when you come or send to:

Julie Heinsman
516 Pleasant Union Rd.
Jasper, GA 30143

We're Doing It Again... The Ever-Popular Garbage Can Cookout!

**Saturday, August 23rd, 6:30 PM at
Julie's Mountain Peace Ranch**

Steaming corn on the cob, smoked sausage and potatoes in a garbage can over a fire. The juices blend together perfectly making it an awesome meal.

**Cost is \$10 per person and BYOB as usual.
Camp chairs are also encouraged!**

Plan on fun and games as well as a meal. The laughter at last year's cookout was off the charts. I smile just thinking about it! *Julie*



Hillside Farm Trail Challenge Recap - Sunday, June 1st



The 2025 Hillside Trail Challenge was held on June 1st at Sylvia's Farm in partnership with the Bent Tree Saddle Club. Despite a week of steady rain leading up to the event—and concerns about trailer parking in the mud—the skies cleared, and pastures dried just enough in time, and we were treated to a perfect day with sunshine and temperatures in the high 70s.

The event was originally scheduled with 17 riders, but due to next day rain

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delay, we ended up with only 12 enthusiastic riders participating and ready to test their skills. Riders included Claire, Elise, Carol, Lig, Deb, Kathy, Ronda,

Boby, Joyce, Georgianna, Megan, Lorraine and Abby.

The course covered approximately 2.5 miles, winding through scenic woods and open pastures. Riders also faced a series of four obstacles in the covered arena, followed by a final challenge ending the race with a 5-pole weave, then jumping off and walking, or riding your horse through a circular obstacle at the very end, before ringing the bell to stop the clock! We also combined the trail chal-

Hillside Farm Trail Challenge Recap (Cont.)

allenge with a poker card pickup, and riders had to stop and get five cards along the route. The two best hands were Elise Eubanks and Kathy Hardin. They each received a \$10 scratch-off ticket donated by Rich and Janet Vigue.

After the ride, everyone gathered at the Sylvia's barn and breezeway for a well-earned cookout featuring burgers, hot dogs served up by the ever-hardworking Jim Sylvia, potato salad, baked beans and cookies for dessert. Thank you, Karie, for the salad and cookies.

A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers that we

can always count on in this Club: DJ Suberk, Marc Ducharme, Janet and Rich Vigue (for managing the arena obstacles), Karie Kruse, Betsy Robbe (for spotting and photographing throughout the trail), and Keith Hunter and Bob Crowl (for keeping time like pros).

Most importantly, everyone stayed safe and had a fantastic time, which is always the top priority. Thank you to all who participated and supported the event.

Until next time, Happy Trails to You!

Lisa Sylvia



Congratulations to the Top Five Riders

1st Place – Claire Eubanks

Time: 21.12 min. | Obstacle time: 1.58 min.

2nd Place – Carol Ewing

Time: 21.19 min. | Obstacle time: 2.23 min.

3rd Place – Elise Eubanks

Time: 26.00 min. | Obstacle time: 2.40 min.

4th Place – Ronda Erway

Time: 28.01 min. | Obstacle time: 2.20 min.

5th Place – Abby Benton

Time: 29.42 min. | Obstacle time: 2.00 min.

Hillside Farm Trail Challenge



Hillside Farm Trail Challenge



Hillside Farm Trail Challenge



Hillside Farm Trail Challenge



Hillside Farm Trail Challenge



Hillside Farm Trail Challenge



Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Ronda Erway, Treasurer, June 25, 2025

Beginning Balance		\$2,240.87
Debits		
Date	Description	
6/2/25	Trail Challenge Fees less expenses	\$477.00
6/2/25	Trail Challenge Fees	\$60.00
Total Debits		\$537.00
Deposits		
Date	Description	
6/4/25	Karie Kruse - Trail Challenge expenses	(\$31.64)
6/24/25	FGMT - Trail work donation	(\$240.00)
Total Deposits		(\$271.64)
Ending Balance Date		
6/25/25		\$2,506.23

*Pending approved expenditures - Randy Taylor: Judge's stand repair for \$500.-

WE NEED YOU!



Join The BTSC Leadership Team!

It's time to start planning for 2026. We're looking for a few volunteers to help us lead the Club next year. If you have some free time, love horses and people of all shapes, sizes and colors, and want to make a contribution to the Club on a deeper level, why not join the Executive Committee? There will be open positions to fill next year, and we really could use your help!

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, we are able to bring you a fantastic variety of events and activities. You'll be part of a dynamic, creative, supportive team that's passionate about horses and friendship.

If you're interested, please contact any of the Executive Committee members [HERE](#) or send us an e-mail with the position you'd like to volunteer for at: infoBTSaddleClub@gmail.com.

Let's have some fun together and take the Club forward into 2026!

Membership Report

The Saddle Club has 71 members as we approach the end of June 2025. We welcome new members **Georgianna and Keith Hunter** of Rock Spring, GA. Gigi and Keith are former members, and it is great to see them back. Many of you saw them at the recent Hillside Farm Trail Challenge at the Sylvia's farm. We are looking forward to seeing them at upcoming events.

If you know of someone interested in joining our Club, please have them complete an application that is available on our website. If they have any questions, they can contact me at 770-757-8596. We are planning a fun and exciting year. See you at an upcoming event.

Bob

Click [HERE](#) To Join the Saddle Club!

We Welcome All Horse Lovers!

**Visit Our Website at:
BentTreeSaddleClub.com**



BENT TREE STABLES UPDATE



Additional progress has been made in completing identified Stables renovation projects. The Stables Committee together with input from an applicant for the Stable Manager position determined that these projects should be completed before reopening the Stables or within a reasonable time after opening. The Bent Tree Board of Directors provided funding for these projects.

Since my last article, contractors rewired the barn to bring it up to code and installed a new fire warning/alarm system. Volunteers, including Saddle Club members, have removed brush along the fence lines so fence repainting can occur and repairs can be made where necessary. Also, Bent Tree brought in dirt for grading the area above the arena and at the arena. In the immediate future, I un-

derstand work will focus on repairing horse stalls. Finally, as of this writing, contract discussions with an applicant for the Stables Manager position are continuing.

A big thank you to the Saddle Club members who have volunteered to date. Several came more than one day. These members are **Kathy Hardin, Susan Hannah, Cathy Jones, Michele Murray, Judie Uchitel, and me.** I will keep you posted on future workdays and hope to see you at one or more.

Bob Crowl

Thank You,
Saddle Club Volunteers!

—
Kathy Hardin
Susan Hannah
Cathy Jones
Michele Murray
Judie Uchitel
Bob Crowl

Newsletter Reminder

**You can contribute to
the Members' Corner, or
Buy, Sell or Swap your
Items/Services in the
Classified Ads...**

**Send information and photos to:
NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com**

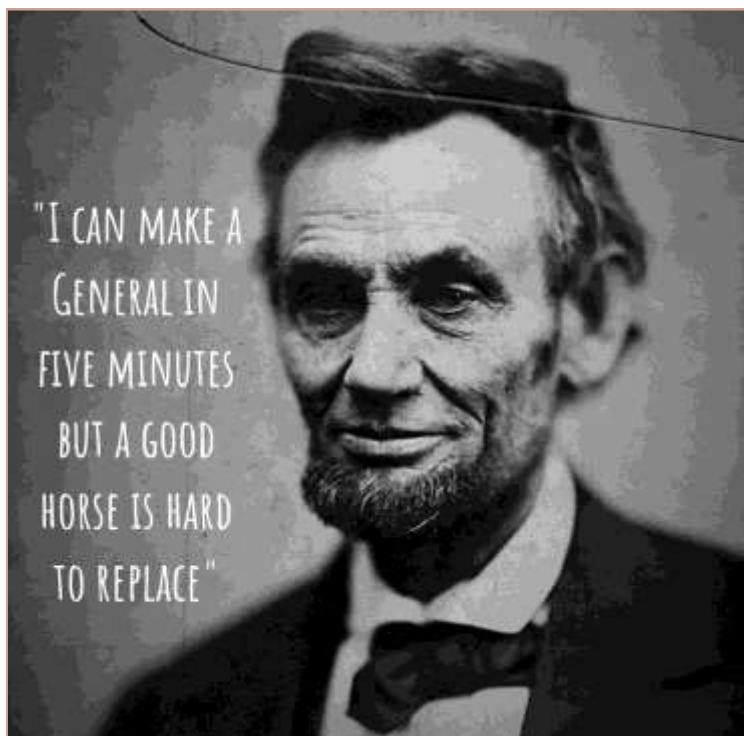


Photo Contest

What's Your Favorite Horse Photo?



It can be sweet, funny, sentimental,
or your proudest moment
taken at anytime and anywhere.

Win A Fabulous Prize!

Your photo must be of:

- Your horse(s),
- You, family, or friends and your horse(s)
- Your horse(s) and animals

Prize will be awarded at the Year-End Party on Dec. 13th

Send your entry with a brief description to: kariokruse@gmail.com

Deadline: Sat., Nov. 29th

[Click Here For Inspiration!](#)

Tips For Taking The Perfect Phone Picture Of Your Horse



In the age of social media, capturing beautiful photos of your horse has never been more important. Whether you're showcasing your horse's beauty or capturing special moments, your phone can be a powerful tool. Here are some essential tips to help you take stunning pictures of your horse with your phone.

1. Choose the Right Time of Day

Lighting is crucial in photography, and natural light is your best friend. The golden hours—shortly after sunrise and just before sunset—provide soft, warm light that can make your photos look magical. Avoid the harsh midday sun, which can create unflattering shadows and highlights.

2. Find the Perfect Setting

A beautiful background can enhance your horse's natural elegance. Look for settings that complement your horse's color and build, such as open fields, rustic barns, or lush greenery. Avoid cluttered or distracting backgrounds that can take focus away from your horse.

3. Get Your Horse's Attention

Capturing your horse's ears forward and eyes bright can make all the difference. Use treats, noises, or a friend's help to get your horse's attention. A patient and calm approach will yield the best results. There are great apps on your phone you can download that make animal noises that will always get a horse's ears up.

4. Focus on Cleanliness

Make sure your horse is well-groomed before your photo session. A clean, shiny coat, tidy mane and tail, and polished tack can elevate the overall look of your photos. Take the time to brush off dust and dirt for a polished appearance.

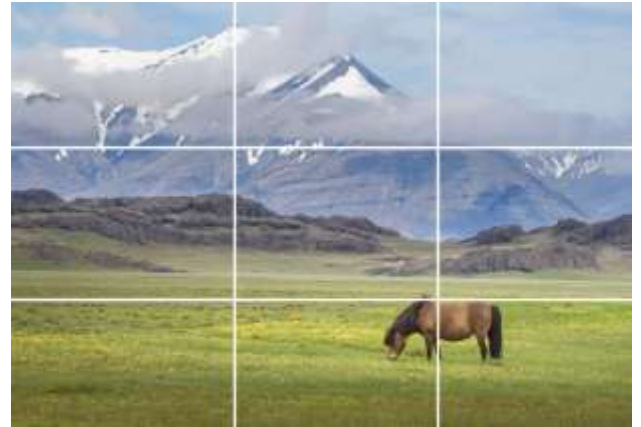
5. Experiment with Angles

Don't be afraid to try different angles to find the most flattering view of your horse. Shoot from different heights and distances, and consider getting down low for a more dramatic perspective. Capturing your horse from the side, at a three-quarter angle, or even head-on can offer unique and striking images.

Tips for Taking Photos (cont.)

6. Use the Rule of Thirds

Composition is key to a visually appealing photo. The rule of thirds is a simple yet effective guideline: imagine your photo divided into nine equal parts by two horizontal and two vertical lines. Place your horse along these lines or at their intersections to create a balanced and engaging composition.



7. Use Portrait Mode

Most modern smartphones come equipped with a portrait mode that creates a shallow depth of field, blurring the background and making your horse stand out. This mode is perfect for highlighting details and creating a professional look.

8. Keep Your Phone Steady

A steady hand is crucial for sharp photos. If you find it challenging to keep your phone steady, consider using a tripod or a stable surface to minimize camera shake. Many smartphones also have built-in stabilization features that can help.

9. Don't Over Edit

A little post-processing can enhance your photos, but less is often more. Use editing apps to adjust brightness, contrast, and color balance. Be careful not to over-edit, as natural-looking photos tend to be the most appealing.

10. Patience is Key

Taking great photos of your horse requires patience and practice. Spend time observing your horse's behavior and movements to anticipate the perfect moments to capture. The more you practice, the better your photos will become.

With these tips in mind, you'll be well on your way to capturing stunning photos of your horse that you can cherish and share. Remember, the best photos come from a combination of good technique, a calm approach, and a genuine love for your equine companion. So grab your phone, head out to the barn, and start snapping those perfect shots.

Article courtesy of Cowgirl Magazine

Recipe Roundup

Carrot & Apple Ice Cube Bites

Makes 12 Horse Treats

Horses love carrots and apples. So, why not combine them for a cooling summer treat? It's an easy way to cool your horse down and carrot and apple ice cube bites are very simple to make.

Ingredients

- 1 carrot
- 1 apple, deseeded
- Water or apple juice

Instructions

- 1) Grate your carrot and apple and mix together.
- 2) Divide the mixture evenly into the sections of an ice cube tray.
- 3) Top with water or apple juice.
- 4) Put the ice cube tray into the freezer for a couple of hours.
- 5) Let your horse enjoy quickly straight out of the freezer. They'll melt fast in the heat!

Keep your babies cool this summer!

Recipe courtesy of www.primestables.co.uk

Send your favorite homemade horse treat or rider recipe to: NewsletterBTSC@gmail.com

new MY HORSE

A new resource that answers questions that new horse owners face. From horse care how-to's and riding resources to fun equine facts and budgeting hacks, **MY NEW HORSE** helps new riders and owners feel equipped and confident as they enjoy life with horses.

**CLICK HERE TO
VISIT THE WEBSITE**



Keep Your Horse's Safety in Mind!

With the 4th of July nearly here, think about horse safety. Fireworks frighten many animals, including horses, dogs and cats. The loud booms and bright lights can cause your horse to have a melt down. Some may run through fences or slip and injure themselves. Proper planning can avoid this.



1. Stay with your horse while the fireworks are going off. At the bare minimum, hang out with them for just a few minutes to make sure they will be okay.
2. If you have to hire a sitter for the night, ensure they are experienced and have clear directions. A list of emergency contacts should be posted in the barn.
3. Keep them in a familiar spot. That may be their stall or a field. Please don't make any last-minute changes that they are not familiar with.
4. Check the stall or fence carefully. The fencing and stall should be secure without protruding nails.
5. If you want to leave them inside, then practice a few nights in advance. They should get familiar with their stall.
6. A fan or radio can also soothe a stalled horse.
7. If left out in a field, your horse should have their normal companions with them. The field should also not be near the fireworks.
8. Find out about local fireworks in your area so you know the dates and times they'll be taking place. You should also check with your neighbors.
9. For spooky horses, consider getting a sedative from your vet in advance.
10. You should remain calm, too. Horses can sense your energy.



Fireworks may be fun for those celebrating, but they can be loud and scary for horses. Hopefully, these tips keep your horse safe!

Article courtesy of BarrelHorseForum.com



July 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1  Pizza & Paints @ Julie's	2	3	4  Fourth of July Parade	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 RSVP Texas Hold 'Em
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Texas Hold 'Em Tourney
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Annual Schedule of Events 2025



Date	Event	Time	Place	Organizer
Sat., Feb. 1	Kick-Off Party	6:00 PM	Tavern at the 19th Hole, Bent Tree	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Feb. 22	Scavenger Hunt	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Karie Kruse
Sat., Mar. 8	Horse Park Workday	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park & Arena	Karie Kruse
Mon., Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Dinner	6:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Karie Kruse
Sat., Mar. 22	Poker Ride	10:30 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park & Erway Farm	Ronda Erway
Sat., Apr. 5	1st O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Sun., Apr. 13	Burnt Mount Preserve Ride	10:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Rich Vigue
Sun., Apr. 27	High Point Equine Bodywork, Masterson Method & Demo	1:00 PM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., May 3	Kentucky Derby Party	5:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Rich Vigue
Sat., May 10	Saddle Fitting Clinic, Cookout, General Meeting	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park	Julie Heinsman
Sun., May 18	Western Pleasure Event	Cancelled	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Megan Mathisen
Sat., May 31	Hillside Farm Trail Challenge	11:00 AM	Sylvia's Farm	Lisa & Jim Sylvia
Sat. Jun 7	Obstacle Trail Challenge	TBR*	Eubanks' Farm	Claire Eubanks
Thur. Jun 12 - 16	Big South Fork Trip	-	Big South Fork National Pk Jamestown, TN	Julie Heinsman
Sat., June 21	2nd O-Mok-See	Cancelled	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Fri., July 4	Independence Day Parade	11:00 AM	Main St., Jasper, GA	Julie Heinsman
Sat., July 19	Texas Hold 'Em Tournament	5:30 PM	Rocco's Pub	Julie Heinsman
Aug	Educational	TBD	Horse Health	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Aug. 23rd	Garbage Can Cookout	6:30 PM	Julie's Mountain Peace Ranch	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Sept. 6	Chickamauga Ride	TBD	Chickamauga Battlefield, Fort Oglethorpe, GA	Ronda Erway
Sat., Sept. 20	Educational	TBD	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Sept. 27	Final O-Mok-See	11:00 AM	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Lisa Sylvia
Thur. Oct. 2 - 6	East Fork Stables Trip	-	East Fork Stables Jamestown, TN	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Nov. 8	Ellen Stara Ride	11:00 AM	Garland Mountain, Waleska, GA	Rich Vigue
Sun., Nov. 9	Educational	TBD	Bent Tree Saddle Club Arena	Julie Heinsman
Sat., Dec. 13	Year-End Party and National Day of the Horse	6:00 PM	Rocco's Pub, Jasper, GA	Karie Kruse

*TBR—To be Rescheduled

Bent Tree Saddle Club

2025 Executive Committee

President

Julie Heinsman
(404) 550-0270
mymtnpeace@gmail.com

Past President

Rich Vigue
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Vice President

Karie Kruse
(706) 502-0212
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Past Past President

Jim Sylvia
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Treasurer

Ronda Erway
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2025

Positions

Secretary

Lisa Sylvia
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lisasyvia3@gmail.com

Membership
Bob Crawl

E-Mail Distribution
Lisa Sylvia

Bent Tree Liaison

Bob Crawl
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Website Support
Jim Sylvia

Appointee

Megan Mathisen
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Newsletter Editor
Karie Kruse



Visit Our Website:
www.BentTreeSaddleClub.com

