



Florida Sport Horse Club Newsletter

2077 W. Lake Hamilton Drive, Winter Haven 33881

May 2017

Calendar of Club Rides and Events:

Dedicated to trail riding and the preservation of the many riding areas in Central Florida.

All club rides begin at 9:00 am. unless otherwise noted

Officers:

President:

Mike Charron
mike@rps-fl.com
863-670-4727

VP for Trails:

Barbara Lassiter
Barbgeiger123@comcast.net
863-534-3459

Treasurer:

Judy Cloninger
jrcloingerwh@gmail.com
863-588-1179

Secretary/Newsletter Editor:

Janet Schneider
jm_schneider@msn.com
863-858-6848

<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>



- **Saturday, May 20, 9:00am:** Club ride at Tenoroc; Barbara Lassiter, Trail Boss
- **Saturday, June 3, 9:00am:** Joint ride with Triple B at Tenoroc; Karen Turbeville, Trail Boss
- **Saturday, June 10, 9:30am:** Club ride at Lake Louisa. Susan Buchanon, Trail Boss. Bring a lunch!
- **Monday, June 12, 6:30pm:** Club dinner at Reececliff's, 940 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland. Karen Turbeville, Coordinator
- **Saturday, June 17, 9:00am:** Club ride at Lower Green Swamp. Karen Turbeville, Trail Boss
- **Monday, June 19, 7:00pm:** Monthly meeting, St. John's Methodist Church, Winter Haven, Room 206
- **Monday, June 19, 10:00-11:00am:** Pony rides for the Polk City Public Library reading program

We're switching to an abbreviated riding schedule during the hot summer/vacation months. Remember you can always email club members to get a pick-up ride!

Please RSVP Barbara Lassiter for club rides! If nobody responds by the Thursday night before the ride, it will be cancelled.

- email her at barbgeiger123@comcast.net
- Call her at 863-534-3459
- Keep up with the club rides and "join" via our Facebook Page (Events section).

Those wanting to ride other days—please contact Barbara Lassiter and/or Karen Turbeville, or email club members directly.

If you need more information or directions for any of the rides, contact Barbara. You can also check the "Upcoming Events" section of our web page at <https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>, or the "Events" section of the Florida Sport Horse Club's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaSportHorseClub>.

News

WELCOME to new member **Leila Sisson!** Leila boards at the same stable as Susan Mayrant, and recently bought Champ from Ellie Crowder.

Lorraine Sullivan was also a welcome guest at the May meeting. Thanks go to Astrid Evans for bringing her.

We have 2 proposed dates for our **annual barbeque/membership dinner**. Would you prefer Saturday, **August 5** or Saturday, **August 12**? We'll be voting at the June meeting, so if you can't be there PLEASE LET MIKE CHARRON KNOW YOUR CHOICE! Barbara and Steve Lassiter have graciously offered their home for the occasion.

Our NEXT club dine-around dinner will be 6:30pm **Monday, June 12** at **Reesecliff's**, 940 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803; please let Karen Turbeville know if you're coming by Friday, June 9.



The April 22nd **Colt Creek State Park work party** was a huge success, with over 20 horse people working to clear the fields designated for the expanded primitive camping AND new day parking area near the existing equestrian camp. We even got to park there for our May 6th club ride. The permanent culvert has yet to be placed, and until it is we must use the usual day parking area.

Another huge thanks went out to non-horse club members **Margaret and Gerry Von Ehr**, who not only came out for the work day but continue to support the horse community. Your officers made a quick decision to invite them to the club's May

lunch as a tangible token of our gratitude. We cherish the people who help us.

We also delivered the FSHC **picnic table** to the Colt Creek staff on April 22nd. It has been placed in the newly cleared equestrian day parking area



under a beautiful oak tree. A special thanks go to Mike Charron for trimming all the low-hanging limbs so that the table has the best location. We've already received a very nice thank you note from Colt Creek staff for the club's donation.

AND....now that the new areas are almost ready to use, thoughts turn to the lack of **water**. Since we've already got water in the campground, it would be a smaller project to continue the line. The Friends of Colt Creek have already discussed this, and have offered to pay half of the expense up to \$2500.00. Karen Turbeville is meeting the contractor on May 19 to obtain a quote. The horse community truly came together in 2015 to raise over \$8000 and bring a water line into the existing campground; we're hoping that the same thing will happen now, especially since the cost will be much lower.



Save the Date!

Laura Branch is again asking the club's help in providing **pony rides** from 10:00 to 11:00am on Monday, June 19th to kids who



meet the Polk City Library's summer reading goals. The event will be held at Freedom Park in Polk City,

at the corner of Hwy 33 (Commonwealth Ave.) and Berkley Road. Laura says "Every year the kids and adults tell me how this is their only exposure to horses, and they anxiously await the annual event." Laura has been involved in this program for several years; we salute her commitment and civic responsibility. If you can help, please let Laura know (cell 970-372-9032, email alaskabranh@gmail.com.)

If you do bring your kid-safe horses to the library program, you can also ride on the Van Fleet trail which is on the other side of the street from the park. Horses are welcome on the grass strip beside the pavement; beware, however, of the numerous hikers, dogs, joggers and bicyclists.

And one last thought for helpers at the Library event: the Country Angels restaurant is just north of the park on Commonwealth Blvd. They have great shakes and huge, cold iced teas. Consider having lunch there.



We are fortunate to have members who support a wide range of community goals. **Kathy Grinstead** has learned that **the Polk County Special Olympics** is trying to start an Equestrian Program; Kathy's Rockin W Ranch has offered to become the county's Special Olympic (SO) training site. Because of the many financial burdens that Special Needs families shoulder in supporting their children (young and adult), the SO program is committed to healthy sports and activities that don't cost the special athletes any money out of their own

pockets. We all know that equestrian sports are particularly expensive. Regardless of who hosts the SO equestrian barn in Polk County, it will need special fundraising to support the program. Polk County has never had a Special Olympics Horse program; we all know personally of the benefits of horse love and horse sports, and research shows many additional benefits to those with special needs. Kathy asked for our support at a recent fundraising lunch on May 5; the organizers stated that if 20 equestrian supporters came to the lunch, they would start the groundwork to begin a horse program. We are gratified to report that **23** horse people came out! We will publish reports as things evolve, and please feel free to contact Kathy for more information.

We hear there's going to be a **hay shortage** in our future, as the nationally-bad weather has affected crops.

We are considering contracting with a Brandon company to produce our **silk-screen logo for club t-shirts**. The company would "store" the logo sheets for us, and members could buy their shirts individually as desired rather than us having to have a minimum of 25 shirts before placing an order. Are you interested?

Help grow the club! Our newest ploy is to have our meetings listed in the "Events" section of the Lakeland Ledger. This is free for us; so if you see strangers wandering around St. John's on club nights, be sure you ask if they are looking for us!



Tips & Activities by Members:



Congratulations to Janet DelCastillo, who has a lovely article about her in the May 2017 issue of "Haven." Read it for yourself at <https://haven.partica.online/haven/may-2017>. Thanks go to Donna Fellers for spotting it!

Karen Turbeville has found that "Happy Jack" has cured her horse's itchy mane. It can be found in the dog care aisle of most stores.

Donna Fellers dined out with friends on Mother's Day. When she tried to pay her bill, she found that it had already been paid by a young man who said she reminded him of his mother!

Susie Jacobs is still having issues after surgery for a broken collarbone.

Tom Mayrant is now a distributor for EquiDerma products.

Janet Schneider will be (mostly) out of email and Internet contact from June 6 through June 26. If you need to get in touch with club members, please use your member list of contact the other officers.

Join the club! Meet some great people who love their horses. What are YOU doing? Let us know, and send us pictures--we'd love some action shots of you and your horse! Send to jm_schneider@msn.com. Follow us on Facebook, and visit us online at Facebook <http://www.flahorse.com/fshc/>. Happy Trails, where we hope to see you soon!