



Florida Sport Horse Club Newsletter

May 2019

<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>

floridasporthorseclub@gmail.com



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

Officers:

President:

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

VP for Trails:

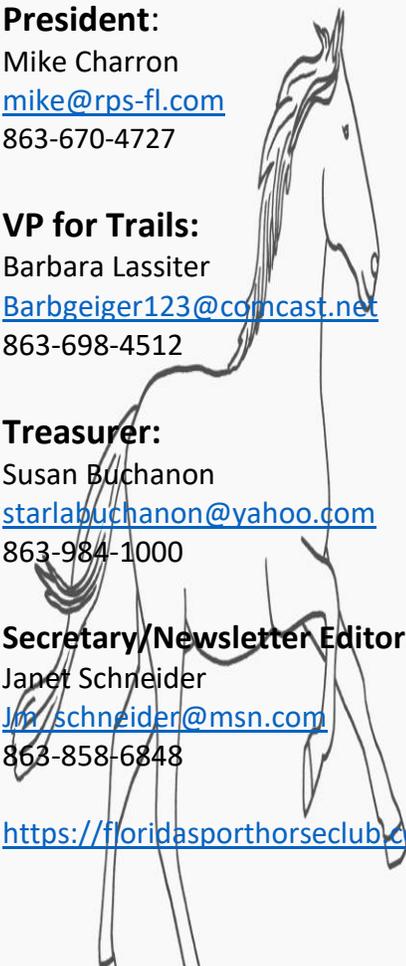
Barbara Lassiter
Barbgeiger123@comcast.net
863-698-4512

Treasurer:

Susan Buchanon
starlabuchanon@yahoo.com
863-984-1000

Secretary/Newsletter Editor:

Janet Schneider
Jan_schneider@msn.com
863-858-6848
<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>



Calendar of Club Rides and Events:

NOTE: Email or message members for any pickup rides!

- **Saturday, May 25, 9:00am:** Club ride at Lake Louisa State Park. Trail boss, Susan Buchanon
- **Saturday, June 1, 8:30am:** Club ride at the Hampton Tract, Rock Ridge Road. Trail boss, Del Jones
- **Tuesday, June 4, 11:30am:** Summer dine-around at Catfish Country, 2400 EF Griffin Rd, Bartow, Florida 33830
- **Saturday, June 8, 8:30am:** Club ride at Lower Green Swamp.
- **Monday, June 10, 9am-10:30am:** Pony rides for the Polk City Library reading program, Freedom Park
- **Saturday, June 15, 8:30am:** Club ride at Marshall Hampton Reserve, Thornhill Road.
- **Monday, June 17, 6:00pm:** Club dinner with monthly meeting, **Golden Corral**, 4532 S Florida Ave., Lakeland.
- **Wednesday, July 10:** Show-and-Tell for Cub Scout Camp Day (details below)
- **Saturday, March 7, 2020, 10am:** Pony rides at the "Day without Disabilities" at the Bunch Ranch

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

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.

For more information 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 Karen Thomas! Karen Turbeville met Karen on the trail at Colt Creek, and she has ridden with members on a number of occasions. She lives in Wesley Chapel and has 2 horses.



There was a record turnout at the May meeting to hear **guest speaker Polk County Sheriff Deputy Laurie Smith**, who works in the Environmental Unit with loose/neglected/abused horses, cattle and other livestock as well as to break up dog fighting operations. She is one of 14 deputies who work all over Polk County in 3 shifts so they can respond quickly to help animals in distress. We are fortunate in Polk County that the laws to protect animals are good, the deputies are certified animal cruelty investigators, and a qualified vet is available when needed. Some of her information:

- 👉 The department receives many calls from concerned citizens, especially during the winter from snowbirds. Some of the best reports come from mailpersons, delivery people, real estate agents and cable “guys.”
- 👉 Many of the calls are from well-meaning people who don’t know what they are seeing, such as “blind-folded horses” (wearing fly masks), “dead” (sleeping) horses or cattle, or animals with their heads “caught” in fences (really determined animals sampling grass on the other side).
- 👉 Investigators are restricted in their abilities. They can’t go into barns or over fences without permission unless they see an animal in imminent danger (such as no water in August).
- 👉 Investigators must follow very specific guidelines. They cannot just seize animals unless it is clear that the animals are in such

condition they will not survive without immediate intervention.

- 👉 Investigators respond quickly to loose horses/cattle. They will canvas the neighborhood to try to find the owners and, if not found, transport the animals to the “stockade” near Animal Control on Winter Lake Road. Interestingly enough, the deputies do not have the ability to scan for chips on site—hopefully this is done once the animals are brought to the stockade. Animals can only be held for 30 days; cattle go to auction, and horses placed with a rescue group. NOTE: Owners do not usually face any penalty/fines for loose animals unless a) it becomes a frequent occurrence or b) an accident results from the loose animal.
- 👉 Animals MUST show evidence of abuse or neglect before investigators can step in. If the owner is not feeding the animals but the neighbors are, there are no grounds upon which investigators can act.
- 👉 Neglected/abused animals CAN be confiscated. Investigators first try to work with the owners on 30-day monitored plans (which can be extended if progress is being made) to improve the horses’ health if too thin, needing medical care, etc. If the owners cannot/do not meet the plans, they are given the option to surrender the animals. If they do not choose to do so, the investigators can seize the animals. A civil case and a criminal case will then be filed against the owners.
- 👉 Written and oral testimony from witnesses can make or break a case against bad owners. Eyewitnesses turn a case from hearsay into fact.
- 👉 Hope Equine Rescue has been a godsend in preventing found/confiscated horses from going to auction. They have taken and

rehabilitated all horses given to them by the investigators.

🐾 One successful investigation involved an individual who had starved 20 horses. The horses were confiscated, although 2 had to be euthanized because of their condition. She was found guilty in criminal court, and had an injunction against her that prohibited her from owning horses during her probation. She moved to Hillsborough County, but bought more horses that were being pastured in Polk. She was discovered with the animals and, having violated parole, ended back in jail—and the animals were saved.

🐾 **All reports and inquiries are welcome. If you see an animal about which you have concerns, please call Deputy Smith and/or her colleagues at 863-534-7205.**

Deputy Smith also had some recommendations to protect our animals from thieves. Chain your gates, not just on the latch side but also the hinge side. Microchip your animals and get cameras for your property. Take good pictures of your horses from all sides, and have a written description that includes identifying marks and microchip number. Use a hitch lock on your trailers, both when attached to your vehicle as well as when parked. Leave halters out of sight.



The **Polk City Library pony rides** will be on **Monday, June 10 from 9am to 10:30am**. We've helped this very special program for several years, and hope to have a good turnout this year as well. It will be at Freedom Park on Berkley Road, just east of Hwy 33 in Polk City. Bomb-proof horses are needed as well as lots and lots of walkers. And consider—Country Angels restaurant is just a couple of blocks away, where we can go afterwards to drink several gallons of ice-cold tea and have lunch.

Your comments about the **Alafia River State Park** appear to have made a difference! The revised plan reads:

"The staff recommends approval of the proposed management plans for Alafia River State Park as presented, with the following significant changes:

- The proposed Lake Heron RV Campground concept will be removed from the management plan. The concept will be replaced by a proposed primitive equestrian campground in the same general area of the park.
- The proposed cabin area concept will be relocated from the northern portion of the park to an area to the north of the proposed Thatcher Road day use area.
- Rather than developing a new campground at the park, it will be proposed to redevelop the existing campground. The existing campground redesign will utilize the current location to reconfigure and add sites to the campground.
 - The proposed Three Finger Lake trailhead and picnic area concept will be changed to an equestrian trailhead and trailer parking area. The proposed paddling launch, bike racks, and horse corral will be removed.
 - Access to the proposed Three Finger Lake equestrian trailhead and primitive equestrian campground will be changed from a paved road to a stabilized, unpaved road. Existing park management roads will be used, where possible.



We're going to try a **summer dine-around** again, since many members don't ride during the hottest months of the year. Come for lunch on Tuesday, **June 4 at 11:30** to Catfish Country, 2400 EF Griffin Rd, in Bartow, just to have a good time. Please RSVP to Janet Schneider if you plan to come by Friday May 31st, so she can get a large-enough table. You can see the location and menu at <http://catfish.kaaltech.com/>.

Astrid Evans has been asked whether the club might be willing to bring 2 to 4 horses out for a show-and-tell for the **Cub Scout Day Camp** for the Gulf Ridge Council, Thunderbird District on **Wednesday, July 10**. This would NOT be for pony rides, but more of an informational and touching event. It will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 1820 Co Rd 540A, Lakeland, FL 33813. Astrid is in the process of getting more details, and will relay them as she gets the information. If you're interested in helping, please contact Astrid (home 863-648-4897, cell 863-529-8123, or aevans@tampabay.rr.com).

Mike Charron has spoken with Gaye Sharpe, Polk Parks, about the club helping out at the county's big **Circle B Bar** event (previously "**Water, Wings & Wild Things**") for second graders in January 2020. It would be an opportunity for the kids to meet and pet a horse, perhaps for the first time. Stay tuned for future details.

The date for the next "**Day without Disabilities**" has already been set for Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Bunch Ranch. The event will run from 10am to 2pm; members voted to support it, although all felt that giving rides for 4 hours would be too much for the horses and humans.

New people have joined us on a number of recent rides and meetings. If you see unfamiliar faces, please introduce yourself and invite them to club activities. People are welcome to join us a few times before they decide whether they want to become a member. Of course, anyone showing up regularly should be encouraged to officially join the club.

Heat-Stress 911

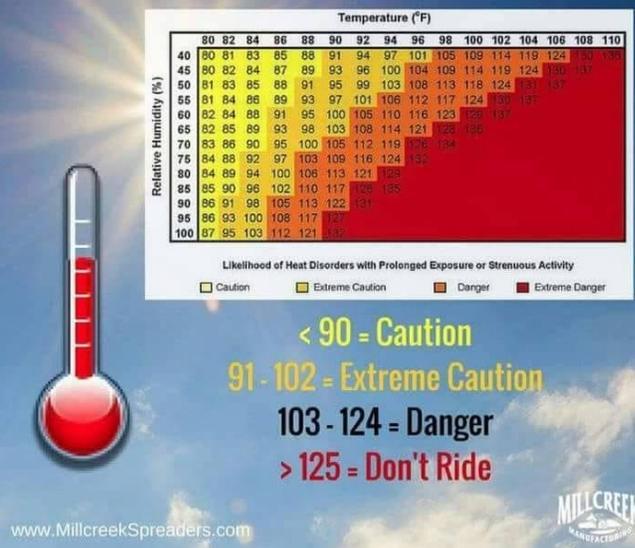
In spite of your best efforts, there's always a chance your horse will get too hot. If he seems weak or less responsive than normal when you open the trailer door, it's time to unload and check him out. The following signs mean he could be at risk of life-threatening heat exhaustion.

- Rectal temperature of 103 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Rapid, shallow breathing, with a respiratory rate higher than 30 breaths per minute.
- Heart rate higher than 60 beats per minute that doesn't decrease to normal (40 beats per minute) within 10 minutes of unloading.
- Dark-pink mucous membranes.
- Entire body is covered in sweat, with small veins popping out under his skin.

What should you do if you see these signs? It's time to take aggressive measures to cool him down.

- Take him to a shaded area, ideally where there's a breeze.
- Remove any blankets, leg bandages, or head bumpers.
- Sponge or hose him down with the coldest water you can find. Use ice, if available. Hose him off, scrape off the water, then hose again. By scraping away the water that heats up on his body surface and replacing it with cold, you'll maximize his heat loss via conduction.
- If you have rubbing alcohol available, apply it over his neck, chest, and large muscles of his hindquarters after you've hosed him multiple times. Alcohol evaporates more rapidly than water, allowing maximum heat loss via evaporation.
- Offer him fresh, cold water to drink.
- Monitor his vital signs every 10 minutes. If they don't show improvement within 20 minutes, call a veterinarian for help.

HEAT INDEX: *Is it too hot to ride?*



Thanks to Judy Cloninger for the safety posters!

Do you follow the club on Facebook? All our "stuff" is posted there. You can also give a **review** of our club there—what do you like about it, or that you'd want other people to know about us? Click on the "Reviews" link in the left menu, and find the question "Do you recommend Florida Sport Horse Club?" Click on (hopefully) "yes," and make any extra comments you'd like.

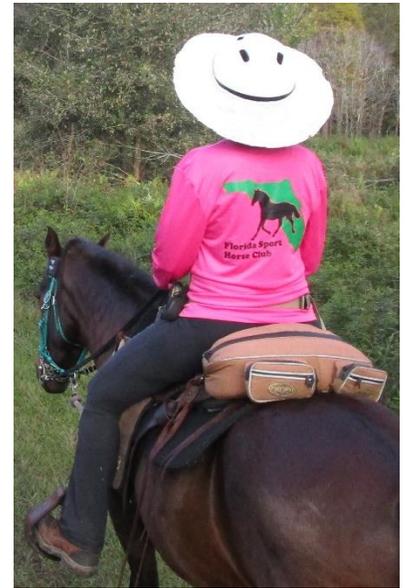
Our club was incorporated in 1988, according to our records. And our logo has undergone a few revisions along the way. We really appreciate Judy Cloninger for sharing the first 2 logos with us!



The first logo



The Second Logo

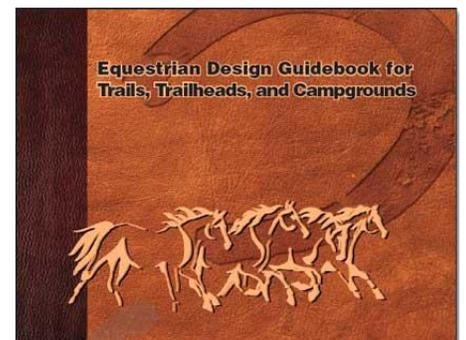


Our Current Logo...Notice the smiley face on the rider's helmet???



One of our VERY talented members, Janet DelCastillo, is a very gifted artist as well as horse trainer. When we were looking for a new logo, she was kind enough to come up with a few designs for our consideration. She came to the May meeting with a few vinyl stickers people could use on their vehicles and trailers. If you're interested, Janet MAY have one or two left.

We have another book for the club's library. With all the discussion lately about our horse trails, we thought it might be helpful to have access to established guidelines. "Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds" is a federal publication written in collaboration with the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the Forest Service. Janet Schneider will hold the print copy for the club; you can also view a copy of the book online at <https://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232816/pdf07232816dpi72pt00.pdf>.





Tips & Activities by Members:



Our sympathies go out to Myra Bell, who lost her Cracker Horse “Foxy” recently. And congratulations also go to Myra, who has found a very nice Tennessee Walker named Bling with whom to share the trails.



Susan Buchanon and Karen Sidell had a great time at the May 18th Moonlight Ride at Lower Green Swamp. It was a beautiful evening.

We were glad to see **Barbara Lassiter** and **Kay Losey** both at the May meeting! Both had hip replacements only a month ago, and are well on the way to complete recoveries.

We thank **Del Jones** for passing out little bottles with eye droppers, great for medicines, to club members!

Thanks also to **Bob Warthen**, who had extra tickets to the July 27 Extreme Mustang Makeover at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds. Seven lucky members scooped them up.

Cathy Botts has been very impressed by the art of Jerry Cowart, and encourages other club members to check him out.

If you need an animal sitter while you’re away, give **Susie Jacobs** a call at 863-325-6007. She’ll take care of your horses, dogs, cats and more.



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 <https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>. Happy Trails, where we hope to see you soon!



Florida Sport Horse Club, Inc
Membership New/Renewal Form
August through July, 20__ to 20__



Please complete the form and return it with your check, **payable to the Florida Sport Horse Club,**
by September 30. Welcome to our club!

Name(s) _____ Single \$15.00

_____ Family \$25.00

Joining before September 30? Add a 1-year subscription to Horse & Pony for an extra \$10. Yes _____

Total paid: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Birthday: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Emergency contact name & phone: _____

For and in consideration of the activities, services and fees paid, Participant hereby does forever and finally release, remise, acquit, satisfy and forever discharge the Florida Sport Horse Club, Inc. (FSHC) of and from all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suit, debts, dues, sums of money, bonds, billings, contracts executions, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may arise for or against the FSHC for the activities of the Association. This document is meant to be a full and complete release from any and all liability that may arise from participating in the activities of the FSHC. The Participant gives this release freely and voluntarily.

 Signed (include legal guardian if under 19 years of age) Date

 Other Family Member(s) Date

Please submit this form and your membership fee to:

Susan Buchanon
9210 Evans Road
Polk City, FL 33868
starlabuchanon@yahoo.com

**The newsletter is sent electronically and is posted on the club's web page each month. If you do not have access to email or Internet, please contact the Club Secretary so it can be snail-mailed to you.