

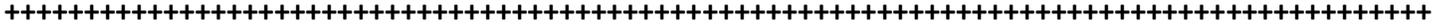


Florida Sport Horse Club Newsletter

April 2020

<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>

floridasporthorseclub@gmail.com



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

Calendar of Club Rides and Events:

NOTE: Email or message members for any pickup rides

All official rides are postponed until the Stay-at-Home order is lifted. Pickup rides are ongoing; please contact Del Jones, Karen Turbeville and/or Barbara Lassiter for more information.

- **Monday, May 18, 6:00pm:** Telephone meeting OR usual club dinner with monthly meeting, **Golden Corral**, 4532 S Florida Ave., Lakeland. Stay tuned for more details.

Most riding areas are still closed; Green Swamp West, Hampton Tract (off Rock Ridge Road), and Hilochee are open. Upper Hillsborough (accessed off Hwy 54) is open with a day pass granted by SWFWMD.

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.

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.

Officers:

President:

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VP for Trails:

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<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>



News

"**May you live in interesting times**" is an English expression which purports to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. While seemingly a blessing, the expression is normally used ironically; life is better in "uninteresting times" of peace and tranquility than in "interesting" ones, which are usually times of trouble. We are certainly living in interesting times at the moment, and hope you are all coping well. If not, PLEASE let your club members know! We will do our best to help.

Mike Charron chaired our first meeting via teleconference for our April meeting on the 20th. It certainly wasn't as much fun as our usual dinner and face-to-face meeting, but it was still good to hear everybody's voice and continue the club's business.

We have a new **camping subcommittee**, co-chaired by Barbara Lassiter and Karen Turbeville! More people have expressed an interest in more camping, and Barbara and Karen have stepped up to help. They will advertise proposed campouts, make the reservations, serve as points-of-contacts for club members, and organize all those pesky little details that make the campouts fun. If you want to go to any of the planned campouts, please contact Barbara and Karen.

- The first campout to consider is **Thursday November 26 through Sunday November 29 at Green Swamp West**; this place fills up fast, and reservations must be made by August 1.
- A second campout is proposed for the week between Christmas and New Year's, also at Green Swamp West.

Liability insurance for the club has been discussed at the last 2 meetings. It's not something we've ever had, but we've learned that most other clubs carry it for the protection of the club officers and members. Susan Buchanon was kind enough to research options for us; ironically only one

company is willing to provide insurance to the club, since we haven't had a policy before. It would protect the club, officers and members if it were sued by a nonmember. There was a fair amount of confusion about exactly what would be covered; the agent told Susan that if a horse caused an accident that injured a rider, the insurance would not pay. There were other questions that could not be answered so Susan will ask the insurance agent if she would attend the next club meeting via teleconference or face-to-face to explain the policy more fully. Stay tuned.

Another part of club liability is our **bylaws**. We don't allow stallions at club events, place restrictions on dogs (must be kept on leashes and can't come on rides), and require that all members sign a "hold harmless." Something we have NOT addressed in the past is **Nicole's Law** (http://laws.flrules.org/files/Ch_2009-105.pdf), the Florida law passed in 2009 that requires riders younger than 16 to wear a helmet when riding on public lands. For the first time in many years, we DO have riders that fall under this law. Because of this, members have voted to add this point to the bylaws: "As per Florida law, any person under 16 years old must wear a helmet when riding club events." PLEASE know this is not to discourage our younger riders, but to keep them safe and obey the law. We know helmets can be expensive; the club does have a few that can be loaned out (please contact Janet Schneider). The updated bylaws are included at the end of the newsletter.

A further offshoot of the discussion was that of **guest riders on our club rides**, of whom we've had several in the past year. We welcome all folks on our ride, but in future will require them to sign a hold harmless before joining us on the trail. It will be the responsibility of the designated trail boss to get the releases filled out and signed by the guests, but we ask the help of all riders to identify these

folks, welcome them, and steer them to the trail boss to get this done.

Our club has traditionally participated in a number of community events each year. It's been noted, though, that many people vote enthusiastically at the meetings to support an event but then aren't able to come out on the date to help in the work. Club officers want to emphasize that it's truly okay for any of us to say "No, I can't (or don't want to) do that. It's tough for the club to make an event successful if we don't have enough people, though, so we are asking everybody to do a quick reality check BEFORE voting "yes" or "no for an event. We ask that you DON'T vote to support an event unless you think you will be able to come to help.

Because our events typically have a lot of "moving parts," Del Jones has suggested that **each event has a designated coordinator and assistant coordinator** to ensure success. Members voted to approve this at the April meeting.

There will be **no club dine-around** in May due to the COVID-19.

If any club members need or want **cloth facemasks** for themselves or their families, contact Janet Schneider. She even has some with an equine pattern.

Club members continued the discussion about our participation in the Annual Bunch Ranch "**Day Without Disabilities**" event. Those who attended last month's pony rides expressed a great deal of

concern that the size of the event has outgrown the club's ability to safely provide rides to the participants. No decision was made about 2021 yet, but if you have comments or opinions to offer we would appreciate hearing them.

The **2020 Cub Scout camp** has been rescheduled for July 6-10 (exact day for the horsey meet-and-greet is unknown at the moment); setting up at 4:30 with the activities open from 5pm to 7pm. Only a couple of horses for the kids to pet and see are needed; please contact Astrid if you are willing to help.

New people have joined us on many 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.

Review our club on Facebook-- 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.

Name badges are here--Each person can pick his or her button up at each meeting and dump it back in the bag at the end. Friendliness is knowing everybody's name. Please return them at the end of each gathering!



Tips & Activities by Members:



Mike Charron is back to riding, and we are glad!

Congratulations to **Riley Williamson** on her graduation from high school.

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/>. Happy Trails, where we hope to see you soon!

Florida Sport Horse Club, Inc. Bylaws

1. The club is open to all breeds and sexes of horses and any riders or non-riders interested in horse oriented sports.
2. Yearly dues are collected in August of every year. Individual or family memberships may be purchased. Those members joining March or later of each club year will pay half of the annual membership fee.
3. Out-of-town visitors/family of members may participate in club rides when accompanied by “their” member. Local non-members may participate in their first 3 club rides with no obligation other than to sign a hold harmless agreement. They will be asked to formally join the club for more events.
4. Meetings will be held monthly; officer elections will be held each August.
5. Club colors are blue and gold.
6. Members are responsible for a current Coggins for each of their horses brought to club rides/events.
7. Children under 12 years of age must have adult supervision.
8. No stallions will be allowed on club riding activities.
9. Dogs brought to club events must be kept on leash, and are not allowed on trail rides.
10. Any additional entry fees (to state parks, shows, other events) will be paid by the attending individuals. For events requiring a deposit, there will be a non-refundable fee due by a date set by the coordinating club member, according to the event and scheduling timeline.
11. Officers may serve multiple years.
12. Officers and their families will not pay dues during their terms in office.
13. Any expenditure must be approved by a minimum of 2 officers, and must be reported by the Treasurer to members at the monthly meetings.
14. All members and guests participating in club functions involving horses shall sign a hold harmless agreement.
15. As per Florida law, any person under 16 years old must wear a helmet when riding club events.

Revised 2020



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:

Florida Sport Horse Club
c/o 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.