



# Florida Sport Horse Club Newsletter

## February 2020

<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>

[floridasporthorseclub@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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- **Saturday, February 22, 9:00am:** Club ride at Gator Creek. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, February 29, 9:00am:** Club ride at Tenoroc. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Tuesday, March 3, 11:30am:** Club dine-around at Harry's Seafood, 101 N. Kentucky, Lakeland
- **Saturday, March 7, 9:00am:** Club ride at Lower Green Swamp. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, March 7, 10am:** Pony rides at the "Day without Disabilities" at the Bunch Ranch
- **Saturday, March 14, 9am:** Club ride at Catfish Creek. Trail boss Del Jones
- **Monday, March 16, 6:00pm:** Club dinner with monthly meeting, **Golden Corral**, 4532 S Florida Ave., Lakeland.
- **Saturday, April 4, 8am-Noon:** Horsey meet-&-greet at Tenoroc Kids' Fishing Derby
- **Wednesday, June 3, 5pm-7pm:** Horsey meet-and-greet for the Cub Scout Evening Camp. Astrid Evans, coordinator

**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.

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.

# News

## WELCOME to our newest members!

- **Valerie Stowell** is a part-time Floridian; she, her husband and 2 Appaloosas summer in New York.
- **Dawn and Mikayla Harper** just joined at the end of the February meeting. Dawn has a Paint and lives in Lakeland.

We had a HUGE crowd at the February 17 meeting, with 36 members and 9 guests, to hear Polk County Sheriff's Detective **Jay Scarborough's** presentation. His excellent information can be found below the "Tips & Activities" portion of the newsletter.

The next **club dine-around** will be Tuesday, March 3, at 11:30 at Harry's Seafood Bar & Grill at 101 N. Kentucky, Lakeland. **PLEASE** RSVP Janet via email ([jm\\_schneider@msn.com](mailto:jm_schneider@msn.com)) by Friday, February 28 if you plan to come; it's okay to squeeze in a couple of extra people, but we grew from 12 RSVPs to 18 souls at Lang's for the February dine-around. We LOVE to see everybody, but it does cause a bit of strain at the restaurant if we don't come close to our original reservation number.

The "**Day without Disabilities**" is coming quickly on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Bunch Ranch. We can use a lot of people and BIG pony-ride-type horses for this! Please let Janet Schneider know if you can help.

The club has been invited to do a **horsey "meet-and-greet" at Tenoroc's April 4<sup>th</sup> Kids' Fishing Derby** from 8am till noon. This will be a fairly small thing for us; 1 or 2 horses with a table similar to what we had at Circle B Bar (helmet, horseshoes, grooming tools, saddles, etc.). The purpose is to show kids that horses are a great way to see the natural world.

We've been invited back to the **2020 Cub Scout camp!** Last year was the first time we've showed off our horses to the cub scouts, thanks to Astrid

Evans. This year's event will be Wednesday, June 3, 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.

The club's pony rides at "**Animal Day**" at **Colt Creek** on Saturday, February 8 were a big success, as always. We logged 53 individual riders, some of whom rode multiple times. A special thanks goes to those who brought our 8 horses, to the Neelys for those wonderfully large mounting blocks, coordinators Karen Turbeville and Del Jones, the chauffeur-of-the-day Patty Jones and, of course, all those who came to lead and walk beside the horses. Our volunteers for the day, who contributed 108.5 hours to the park:

Del Jones	Molly Jones
Patty Jones	Karen Turbeville
Mike Charron	Ben Cazort
Barbara Charron	Barbara Lassiter
Myra Bell	Maureen George
Greg George	Rae Gayer
Melody Cazort	Susan Buchanan
Karen Sidell	Astrid Evans
Mary Lou Waugh	Mary Futch
Ronica Neely	Alexis Neely
Cathy Botts	Doris Haynie
Valerie Stowell	Janet Schneider

Plus Myra's friend Kathy and Mary's sister Jemy!

Last month Susan Buchanan and Judy Cloninger talked about their wristbands from <https://www.roadid.com/>, that have their customized emergency information. We have learned that the company is willing to give a 20% discount to clubs by giving a coupon that will be good for 20 days from issuance. Each person will then order her/his own wristband.



They come in a variety of colors and styles, with the least expensive at \$19.95. Several people have already expressed an interest, so Janet Schneider has followed up with the company. See the 20% off code in your emails; if you didn't receive it, please contact Janet.

The club received a very nice **thank you note from Circle B Bar** for participating in the 2020 Water, Wings & Wild Things. It's nice to know we're appreciated—and of the very few pictures included, Ellie Crowder's Percy is featured.

You made this event...



And these faces possible!



You're amazing!

To Our Amazing Vendors-

Thank you for all the hard work you put into making the 2020 Water, Wings, and Wild Things Kids Festival such a huge success!

We were blown away by the awesome activities and displays that each of you brought for this event. We have received so much positive feedback from the students and teachers that attended. You helped 2,227 students, chaperones, and teachers learn more about the water, wildlife, and wilderness of Polk County. This event would not be possible without you.

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of vendors who create memorable outdoor experiences for these students.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, dedication and hard work!

Sincerely the Polk County Environmental Lands Program



**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 and Barbara Charron celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** on February 14 at the club's Colt Creek campout. It was lovely of them to sacrifice their romantic candlelit dinner to instead share their joy over a campfire with us!

**Ellie Crowder** has found a new loving home for Percy. We celebrate her generosity in sharing Percy with others, while we sympathize with her loss of a wonderful companion.

Seven club members (Susan Buchanan, Karen Sidell, Cindy Jones, Louise Short, Alexis Neely, Bob Warthen, and Janet Schneider) took part in **Lower Green Swamp's February 8<sup>th</sup> moonlight ride**, along with 15 or so other riders. It was gorgeous, and all the horses did very well considering their experience in riding in the dark.

Janet Schneider has found inexpensive Velcro leg bands that can be used as identification on your horses when camping or in time of emergency/disasters. You can write a name or phone # on



them, and because they're Velcro they will tear off if caught. They're a whopping \$6.49 for a package of 10. <https://www.qcsupply.com/>.

**Rae Gayer and Cathy Botts** have been doing Sunday rides around 3pm at Tenoroc. If you want to join them, please call and let them know.



**Carla Hart** is selling her very nice 1999 2-horse trailer. It's a straight load with ramp, with a tack room in front. \$4,700.



**Astrid Evans** is looking for a good home for her horse. "ID be a Cool Bay" (barn name Scout) is an almost 6-year-old registered QH gelding. He is about 15.1, very solidly built with good legs and feet (barefoot). He walks, trots and canters on both leads, and has gone over over small cavaletti and cross-rails. He has a super comfortable canter. He is very quiet, but is still green and needs more miles under the saddle. He will test his rider and needs someone with experience. Scout has good ground manners, loves treats and will come to you in the pasture when called. Scout is up to date on all shots, had his teeth done last spring and re-checked in November. Video available upon request. \$4500, negotiable to a good home. 863-648-4897

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](mailto: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

**Guest Speaker: Polk County Sheriff's Detective Jay Scarborough, Agricultural Unit  
February 17, 2020**

Jay Scarborough is a lead detective with the Polk County Sheriff's Agricultural Unit, with many years of experience. He is a certified animal/equine cruelty expert, owns 3 horses, and leads the Polk County Mounted Sheriff's Unit. He chairs the state-wide committee tasked with tracking Florida's horse thefts and slaughters. In his off-duty hours, he manages a 400-cattle ranch. He provided the following information pertinent to horse owners in Polk County.

As of 2018, there were just over 708,000 people in Polk County. The county has 9 Agricultural Deputies (like Detective Scarborough), more than any other county in Florida. 72% to 75% of the land is still agricultural. As hard as it is to believe, about 20 horses every year are found wandering around the county and are never claimed. They are generally turned over to Hope Equine Rescue in hopes of finding a good home for the animals.

In the last 18 years, there has been only ONE verified horse theft in the county. Two horses and a trailer were stolen and tracked to Clewiston, where the trail was lost. They have not been recovered. There is currently one suspicious horse disappearance from Old Polk City Road, but no evidence has been found to confirm theft.

There has never been any horse slaughtered in Polk County.

Up to 4 years ago, all the horse slaughters were south of Alligator Alley, mostly in the Miami area. It is part of the Cuban culture that when thoroughbreds are done with their racing careers, they are slaughtered for meat. When Cuban people emigrate to the U.S., they continue their tradition of eating horsemeat; the only way to get it, though, is through the black market where the meat can sell for anywhere from \$7 to \$40 per pound. Thoroughbreds are preferred, as the meat is leaner and more marbled; the preferred cuts are the shoulder and backstrap. The horses are generally killed quietly by cutting the jugular vein; the killers take only enough meat to fit in a few coolers.

Only 3 horses have been slaughtered north of that Alligator Alley line: 1 in north Manatee, 1 in south Manatee, and 1 in Sumter County. The 2 in Manatee were typical of the slaughters in the Miami area; the 1 in Sumter was atypical, with the horse almost completely filleted and skeletonized.

It is wise for you to post "No Trespassing" signs on your property. The standard rule is to post one sign on each corner, each access point (like a driveway or gate), and one every 500 feet of fencing. If your land borders a lake or canal, post one on the shore as well. Polk County (and many other counties) has an **"Agricultural Watch Program,"** developed as a means to identify ownership of agricultural properties and consists of a "No Trespassing By Order of The Sheriff" sign listing the property/business owner's name and a code number. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Crimes Unit at 863-534-7205 or via email at [AgriculturalCrimes@polksheriff.org](mailto:AgriculturalCrimes@polksheriff.org). The packet to apply for the program is posted in the "Useful Documents" portion of the Florida Sport Horse Club's web page (<https://floridasporthorseclub.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/polk-county-sheriff-ag-watch-packet.pdf>).

If you live on a private road, place your "No Trespassing" signs liberally along your property line at the private road. Placing one sign at the start of the road will not be enough, considering your neighbors have their own guests coming and going.

Those hoping to find horses to steal DO NOT stop by the side of the road and take pictures of the animals. As hard as it may be for us to comprehend, those who stop to admire our animals are generally from places that don't have such opportunities and are truly just wanting to take pictures as souvenirs. If you see people like this, you may either safely approach and ask their business or call the Sheriff's office and ask for a deputy to investigate. The non-emergency number is 863-298-6200. But it is not against the law to stop by the side of the road and take pictures, and the deputies can only ask questions.

Those who are thieves may drive by during the day but generally have not been found to stop. They'll return at night to see where the horses are (barn, pastures, etc.) to scope out accessibility. If the horses appear to be too difficult to reach or catch, or if there are too high probabilities of getting caught, they'll go elsewhere.

If you find trespassers on your land, use discretion! If you feel comfortable approaching, do so and ask their business. Inform them they are on private land and must leave. Carry your cell phone so you can call 911 if necessary; video the interaction, people and vehicles. Videos are far better than still pictures for law enforcement. If you don't feel safe in approaching, CALL 911! The Sheriff's department can dispatch someone quickly to your location. Again, take videos of the people, activities and vehicles.

Remember that carrying guns to threaten others can backfire on you. Unless you are directly threatened and are in fear for your life, shooting somebody can land you in prison. Attackers have also been known to take the guns away from the homeowners and shoot them. The castle law (a legal doctrine that designates a

person's abode or any legally occupied place (for example, a vehicle or home) as a place in which that person has protections and immunities permitting one, in certain circumstances, to use force (up to and including deadly force) to defend oneself against an intruder, free from legal prosecution for the consequences of the force used) ONLY applies to one's home—not the barn or any other part of your property. Shooting a vehicle or other property is also illegal. It is best to call 911 and watch from a safe place.

You DO have the right to detain trespassers on your property, if you can do so safely, while waiting for law enforcement.

There are a number of things you can do to protect and watch over your property and animals:

- If possible, don't leave your horses in pastures where they can be seen from roadways.
- Keep horses in the largest open area possible at night. If thieves have to work hard to find and catch your horses they'll go elsewhere.
- Don't keep halters on your horses; hide the halters/lead ropes where they can't be easily seen or found. Do not hang them on gates or stall doors.
- Lock your stall doors.
- Plant spiky or thorny plants along fence lines. If trespassers have to climb through blackberry bushes they may choose an "easier" property.
- Get a fence that is hard to climb and/or cut. Use a heavy schedule wire that is tougher to cut.
- Chain and lock BOTH sides of the gate, both opening side and hinge side. Use a very heavy gauge that can't be easily cut (an octagon is recommended), and heavy tempered steel locks.
- Use lighting where appropriate. Solar lighting is coming down in cost and can be placed in barns, at access points etc.
- Barn dogs can be good or useless, depending on the situation and property. They may be so used to people coming around that they do not alert to the "bad guys," or they could get excited when horses are running and chase the animals.
- Consider cameras that you can monitor via your cell phone, like game cameras. The infrared are best, because they don't use a flash that will alert trespassers to their presence and work well in darkness. Place a bit of electrical tape over the little red light that shows when a picture is taken. Place cameras high—10 feet or greater—since people don't generally look up. Be sure to get the angle correctly when placing them. These cameras need a wifi signal and a monthly/annual subscription, depending on the number of pictures they take. Bushnell or SpyPoint are good brands; SpyPoints are easier to set up. Fake cameras may be better than nothing, but the real cameras are coming down in cost and can give better value.

For more information, you are welcome to contact Detective Scarborough through his office (863-534-7205) or via email ([jscarborough@polksheriff.org](mailto:jscarborough@polksheriff.org)).



**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.