



# Florida Sport Horse Club Newsletter

## May 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.

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<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>



### Calendar of Club Rides and Events:

**NOTE: Email or message members for any pickup rides**

- **Saturday, May 23, 8:30am:** Club ride at Colt Creek. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, May 30, 8:30am:** Club ride at Marshall Hampton Reserve (Thornhill). Mike & Barbara Charron, trail bosses
- **Saturday, June 6, 8:30am:** Club ride at Hampton Tract (Rock Ridge Rd.). Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, June 13, 8:30am:** Club ride at Lake Louisa. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Monday, June 15, 6:00pm:** Telephone meeting (time at 7pm) OR usual club dinner with monthly meeting, **Golden Corral**, 4532 S Florida Ave., Lakeland. Stay tuned for more details.
- **Saturday, June 20, 8:30am:** Club ride at Tenoroc
- **Monday-Sunday, November 23-29:** Club campout at Green Swamp West

**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 new members **Melanie Swartz** and **Linda Allison (LaCroix)**! Linda rode with us for the first time at Gator Creek on her spotted saddle horse; Melanie is a friend of Susan, and we look forward to meeting her.

You could tell we were horse people at our second teleconference meeting! NOBODY said “hi” when calling in—but there were a ton of “Hay, theres...”

Thanksgiving is coming! Yes, it is only May but **FSHC has a camping trip coming up the week of Thanksgiving (Monday Nov. 23 through Sunday Nov. 29)**. With the COVID-19 issues there are a lot of unknowns at this time, but we are moving forward with plans. The campout will be at Green Swamp West (off River Road in Dade City). There is NO electricity but there is a portable or vault toilet, non-potable water, a few pavilions, fire rings, and it's free. The club will be taking care of getting the required permit for everyone. Things to know:

- Thanksgiving week at GSW is extremely popular & permits are limited. **You MUST let Karen T. and Barbara L. know by August 1st** if you plan to camp with the club.
- There are 2 equestrian campgrounds, Ashley & Cumpressco. Some who are going have plans to camp longer than the club's reservations & will be at Ashley, which is the larger campground. Others like the entertainment of the cows & donkeys who live next to Cumpressco. Both campgrounds have the same basic amenities and are fairly close by horse (10 minutes) or car (5 minutes).
- Karen Turbeville and Barbara Lassiter are our camping coordinators. **To make your reservation, you must contact them** and tell them:
  - Which days you'll be camping
  - Your preference of campgrounds

Regardless of which campground you choose, we will meet up for daily guided trail rides. We are planning some shared meals; More info will be coming along later.

Susan Buchanan has done a great job at researching **liability insurance** for the club. After much discussion, though, members agreed that the club would be paying a great deal of money for something that would not really benefit the club. The decision was made to continue as we have without insurance.

The **Lake Louisa bridge painting** is actually coming to pass. Several months ago the club voted to paint a textured surface that will not only prolong the life of the wood, but also provide better footing for our horses in wet weather. Park Manager Rachel Nunlist is asking that we try to complete the work on weekdays rather than a weekend, so we're planning to start on **Monday, June 1**. Since 2 coats are required and we need to factor in drying time, we'll do the painting in 2 days--the first coat on Monday, and the second coat on Tuesday. The paint will be applied with rollers; **we're looking for 2-3 volunteers for each day**. Please contact Janet Schneider if you're interested in helping.

Del Jones provided a very informational discussion about **trailer safety** at the last meeting. Please see his talking points below.

Members may recall that the Simple Green company very graciously donated 4 gallons of its “Deck & Fence Cleaner” for the Lake Louisa bridge. The shipping department, however, sent 16 gallons instead and, when contacted, the

company rep said we could keep it all. 4 gallons will go to Lake Louisa, and another 4 gallons will be donated to Colt Creek. The club will keep another 2 gallons for future projects, leaving 6 gallons up for grabs. For a “reasonable donation” (Mike's words) to the club, members may take possession of the unclaimed gallons. The list cost on Amazon is



Deck and Fence Cleaner, 1 gal.  
★★★★☆ 1  
\$22<sup>45</sup> (\$22.45/Each)

\$22.45, so use your own judgement and, if interested, contact Janet. Checks can be mailed to our treasurer (Susan) and gallons picked up from Janet.

#### General updates on riding areas—

- 🐾 **all have reopened** at the moment, although state parks have **limits** on the number of visitors. Some people have gone to Alafia and Little Manatee and were turned away.
- 🐾 **Lower Green Swamp**, also, has been packed with rigs almost every day.
- 🐾 **Tenoroc** still has its safety check-in procedures. You must remain in line in your vehicle on the entrance road. When you reach the front of the line, you'll be instructed to exit the vehicle and walk to the office front window to provide your vehicle's tag #, make, and color. Once registered you can return to your vehicle and park. The washout on the south loop has been fixed.
- 🐾 **Colt Creek** has large rocks on the trail in one of the boggy spots between markers 5 and 6. There is also now a pedestrian boardwalk on the short trail between markers 7 and 10, with a wide swath of big rocks running beside it for vehicle traffic. Both areas are NOT good for horses; the park management has been contacted about the issue.

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

Thanks go to **Del Jones** for getting signs to post at each club ride! The signs show our logo, the usual liability warning, etc.

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. And remember—guests riding with us must sign a hold harmless that the trail bosses will provide.

**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:



We should all breathe a sigh of relief each time we arrive home safely after a ride. **Myra Bell and Dandy** were not too badly injured when an inattentive driver ran into the side of the horse trailer. Dandy was trapped for a while, but came out with "just" scrapes and bruises; Myra's back didn't fare too well, but is doing better now.

**Donna Fellers'** Chancey was recently injured when he fell in the barn. He's doing better now but will be out of commission for a while yet.

**Del Jones** is looking for a decent stock trailer; if you know of one, please let him know.



Barbara Charron highly recommends OTC Jug, an electrolyte paste that's very helpful in hot weather. It is available online or at Tractor Supply.

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!

## Trailer Safety Tips

Del Jones has been shopping for a new trailer, and shared his wisdom with the club at the May 2020 meeting:

- 🐾 Check the tires, hitch, lights, and doors before moving off **each time. Walk around the rig** to ensure everything looks as it should. Pranksters have been known to disconnect rigs from their tow vehicles at trailheads.
- 🐾 Consider using a hitch lock to prevent theft. Keep your trailer hitch locked both when detached from your vehicle and when towing.
- 🐾 Get the **wheel bearings** repacked at least once per year.
- 🐾 Ensure that your **equipment is rated for the weight** of your trailer, horses and equipment. Hitches, balls and chains should all be rated for a weight greater than what you actually tow. The towing capacity of your vehicle should also be higher than the weight you haul; you may need to upgrade the suspension system to safely tow a horse trailer.
- 🐾 Keep a sharp watch for **rust, weld cracks, and other signs of deterioration**.
- 🐾 **Watch your speed** when towing! Your horse becomes the end of the crack-the-whip in the trailer. You must have slow stops and accelerations to keep your horses on their feet and safe. Likewise, take corners far slower and wait for the trailer to line up behind your vehicle before accelerating into the straight-aways. Keep 3 times as much distance as usual between you and the cars in front.
- 🐾 **Do a reality check on your own driving:** get a friend to ride in your trailer as you take a test drive. If the friend can maintain his/her footing around turns and general driving, you are doing well. The friend can also tell you if the trailer is stable without bouncing, and if the noise level is acceptable for your horse.
- 🐾 Pull the mats back and **check the trailer floor** regularly.

- 🐾 Drive with your **lights** on.
  - 🐾 **Cross your safety chains** under the hitch. If the trailer comes off the hitch, the chains should catch the weight and stop the trailer from plowing into the ground.
  - 🐾 Before loading your horse, walk inside the trailer and **check for sharp protrusions, wasps' nests, and other hazards.**
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## THE EQUESTRIAN GROUP

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### Horse Trailer-Safety Checklist

Check these safety points before hauling.

- As a matter of course, clean your horse trailer out after every use. Even with rubber mats, the urine and droppings will take their toll on the floorboards if they are left to sit.
- Regularly washing the exterior of the trailer will give you the opportunity to check for rust, leaks in the roof, broken windows etc.
- Check the wooden floorboards, the ramp or tailgate, divider etc. for signs of rot. Also check the hinges, springs and latches to make sure they are secure and in good working order. Replace any parts that are rotten, broken or missing.
- The trailer hitch itself should be kept well lubricated and should be checked for missing parts. Make sure the chains are in good repair.
- Without the trailer jack, it would be impossible to lift your horse trailer on to the little ball on the bumper pull of your truck. Keeping it lubricated and cranking it every now and then, when it's not being used, will stop it from seizing up and becoming useless, just when you need it most.
- The brakes should be checked every time the trailer is hitched, to make sure they are working. Regular professional maintenance is recommended.
- Correct tire pressure will make it easier to tow the trailer and will save wear and tear on the tires. Replace any worn tires. Make sure pressure is correct. New tires can blow on a hot day due to not enough air.
- **IMPORTANT** if you have a gooseneck trailer, when turning around DON'T pivot your trailer and don't allow the wheels on the inside to just sit and turn in a circle. This will cause the treads to break lose in your tires and eventually you will blow a tire.

#### Each time you hook your horse trailer up:

**Before Hitch Up** – Make sure your vehicle is rated to tow the weight. Check hitch the carefully. Check balance of trailer, make sure rig is level, make sure lights and brakes work, if not, remove rust on hitch. , you should make sure the lights and turn signals work. Check the wiring and replace any bulbs that need replacing.

**Before You Load Up** - Check trailer for bees, remove any moldy hay, put fresh hay in trailer, and prepare horse to be loaded. Take last bathroom breaks, etc. Load horse.

**Before You Leave** - Walk all the way around the rig, check that all doors are secured, Open or unsecured doors are a common occurrence. The hitch is correctly attached and the plugs are all in order, remove wheel chocks.

## **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.**