



Florida Sport Horse Club Newsletter

September 2021

<https://floridasporthorseclub.com/>

floridasporthorseclub@gmail.com



Calendar of Club Rides and Events:

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:

Del Jones
deljones314@gmail.com
863-221-6312

Treasurer:

Susan Buchanan
starlabuchanan@yahoo.com
863-984-1000

Secretary/Newsletter Editor:

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

Committees/Ancillaries:

Camping Co-Chairs: Barbara Lassiter & Karen Turbeville

Club Library: Karen Turbeville

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- **Saturday, September 25, 8:30am:** Club ride at Lake Louisa State Park (use the Lake Nellie entrance). Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, October 2, 8:30am:** Club ride at Lower Green Swamp. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, October 9, 8:30am:** Club ride at the Hampton Tract, Rock Ridge Road. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, October 16, 8:30am:** Club ride and monthly meeting at Colt Creek State Park. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, October 23, 8:30am:** Club ride at Upper Hillsborough Preserve. RSVP to obtain the gate code. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, October 30, 8:30am:** Club ride at Catfish Creek. Del Jones, trail boss
- **Saturday, November 6, 9am:** Veterans Day mounted scavenger hunt at Colt Creek
- **Sunday, December 12:** Club Christmas party. Time and place TBD

Take time after each ride to relax—bring your lunch or snacks, and share some quality time with club members.

Those wanting to ride other days—please contact Karen Turbeville, or email club members directly. Many riders have been joining in on the various weekday rides. During the summer, Mondays and Fridays are often spent at Tenoroc where the ride can be easily divided in to a 1.5 hour ride or up to 3 hours. Tuesdays through Thursdays vary in location with rides of about 2 to 2.5 hours max. The ride out time is 8am or 8:30am to beat the heat & summer rains. Come join us and get/keep your horse in shape for the fall riding season!

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

Most of the membership has already **renewed** for the next club year, which starts every August. We hope you'll renew too if you haven't already—the membership form is at the end of the newsletter.

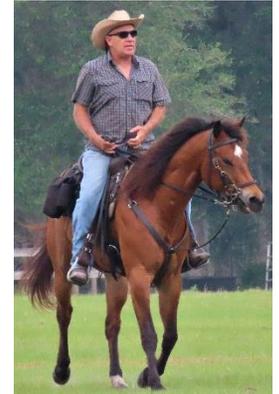
Donna Fellers demonstrated a major point at the September meeting: this club is blessed to have exceptionally strong leadership in our 2 top officers. While many riding clubs have struggled with declining membership and fewer activities, our club has continued to remain strong thanks to the collaborative efforts of **Mike Charron**, President, and **Del Jones**, VP of Trails (AKA Trail Boss). Both men actively participate in almost every ride, work party, social gathering, & public meeting in spite of working full time—quite an achievement when one considers all the behind-the-scenes work it takes to keep the club going. And we can't discount the fact that they are usually the **ONLY 2** men in the crowd!



Mike continues to be re-elected because of his dedication and personality. He actively works with Polk Parks, SWFWMD, and FWC in public and private meetings to represent the equestrian interests in our public lands. At work parties he's known as the chain saw king. He makes a point of talking to every member at the rides, meetings and parties, and if Del can't lead a ride it's usually Mike filling in for him. He and wife Barbara have frequently

hosted club parties—not a small thing when 40-50 people show up. Mike has a collaborative style of leadership; no actions are taken unless the other officers have been consulted and an agreement has been reached. He goes above and beyond for those members with emergencies and other issues—need a gate lifted off a trapped donkey, have a small shed moved, other “little” problems? There's Mike.

Del became an active member as soon as he joined; he's missed very few rides, and rapidly became our TIT (Trail boss In Training) before being elected Trail Boss. He stresses safety on each ride, makes a personal connection with each rider, and reaches out to guests



and even strangers in our parking areas. He's come up with a creative display to advertise the club at rides and shows up with cool tools for work parties. He has “troubleshooter” brake and electrical issues on members' trailers, visited members after accidents/illnesses, and offered to help those in need after personal crises. Most importantly, he tailors each ride to those attending. We've had some really long trips, and others much shorter depending on the needs and skills of the riders. If anyone needs help re-mounting during the ride, there's Del with his handy-dandy mounting stool. He also helps with tack repair and getting “impaired” riders (e.g. a broken foot) down from the saddle with no judgement as to why she was riding with broken bones.

Together these gentlemen keep us going. We couldn't ask for anyone better!



Donna Fellers did a quick show and tell at the September meeting with a buffalo skull her father found on their Alberta, Canada farm. She also brought several branding irons, one of which was also used on the family farm.

The **dine-arounds** are again on hiatus until the Covid rates decline. We hope to be able to start them back up in November.

The Thanksgiving camping trip at Green Swamp West is set, thanks to Karen Turbeville's perseverance. We are still on to camp at Green Swamp West Ashley Campground the week of Thanksgiving, arriving Monday, November 22 & leaving Sunday, November 28, 2021. Please let Barbara Lassiter or Karen Turbeville know if you would like to camp any of the days during that week. You can camp 1 night or all 6 nights. You can camp for a time, go home, & return any time during that week. **Make your plans to camp what days you can** and enjoy the Green Swamp daily rides. Triple B Riding Club & Cowboys for Christ will be joining us so **PLEASE only respond to one club for your RSVP.**

Equus Magazine has an extremely interesting article in its most recent issue on **"Equine Discomfort Ethogram,"** a detailed catalog of equine postures and behaviors showing pain. The work has been done by University of Pennsylvania researchers using a review of research data and 35 years' worth of consultation records for horses treated at the clinic. The researchers hope to help veterinarians and horse owners to better recognize and interpret the often subtle signs of pain in their horses. Best of all, the article is FREE online at [Equine discomfort ethogram--Animals 2021-02.pdf](https://equine.com/articles/Equine-discomfort-ethogram--Animals-2021-02.pdf).



Gaye Sharpe and Tabitha Biehl were contacted about our concerns with bicyclists on the **Marshall Hampton Panther Point trail** blowing past the horses in an unsafe fashion, with our offer of purchasing a few educational "share the trail" signs. The club has been thanked for the information (Polk Parks was not aware of the issue); since Polk County has its own sign-making department, Tabitha will handle getting signs posted on the trail.

Del Jones is working to put a **"Fun Day"** together for us—barrels, pole bending, etc. It sounds like fun!



Plans for the **November 6 Colt Creek Scavenger hunt** are continuing. The game will be a bit simpler this year; the little graphic known as "Kilroy" surfaced during World War II in very strange places, wherever U.S. soldiers were sent. Riders will have to find and count the Kilroys they find along the trail and turn in that number to Registration once they complete the ride. The rider with the accurate count (or closest to it) wins the basket donated by Dr. Katie Hennessey of Polk Equine. Riders can rack up a few bonus points with our "vocabulary quiz" of military language now in common use; most of us have NO idea of the origins of these words and phrases!

There will be a **special raffle** at the Scavenger Hunt, as well. Those who show their Friends of Colt Creek membership cards will be entered into the raffle; first prize is a \$100 shopping spree at the south Lakeland J&J Tack Shack, with second prize being a handmade quilt. Those with membership cards also get 1 free entry into Colt Creek each month, so the \$30 charge actually saves money if you visit the park often. Go to <https://friendsofcoltcreek.org/Join-the-Friends> to join. You may also join the day of the event, but you'll need to bring cash or a check.

Do you follow our Facebook page or web page? All our events, news, and tips are listed there. You can even review our club!

Want a club shirt? Email AnnMarie Connor at nascaramc@yahoo.com.

If you see unfamiliar faces at our rides and events, please introduce yourself and invite them to club activities. People are welcome to join us a few times before they decide whether to become a member. Of course, anyone showing up regularly should be encouraged to officially join the club. **And remember—guests must sign a hold harmless that the trail bosses will provide. Please escort the guests to the trail boss of the day!**



Tips & Activities by Members:



Karen and Sammie Turbeville are recovering well; **Doris Haynie** is home and steadily regaining strength. **Jessica Nodzak** is also recovering from a bad case of Covid.

It was great to see **Cheryl Kreitman** at Colt Creek. She isn't riding yet but is making slow process back to health.

Congratulation to **Barbara and Steve Lassiter** on their new grandson! Mother and baby are doing well.

Congratulations also to **Ellie Crowder**, who is now the proud owner of a lovely palomino mare.



Molly Jones is the proud owner of her first car, complete with loan payments! Welcome to the "adult world..." She completed her internship, but the boss was so impressed with her work that he offered to extend the intern position for another 2 years—AND it comes with funds so Molly can get her Master's Degree!

For the first time since March **Janet Schneider** was able to complete a club trail ride, making her VERY happy!



Classifieds:



Hand-crafted soaps from advanced certified soap maker Jane Gavin: essential oil soaps, and others. She now makes a Farriers' soap, inspired by Wayne Elkins and Dani Horton. She also has an all-natural citronella soap that is excellent for horses. Check out her web site at <https://www.soapforthesoul.com/>.

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**,
 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.