



Web address: www.sftrdade.org



SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.

P.O. Box 924946

Princeton, Florida 33092

(305) 4-HORSES (446-7737)

VOLUME XLI

ISSUE VI

FEBRUARY 2019

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT, ALL VOLUNTEER, EQUESTRIAN ORGANIZATION



SFTR at the Cattle Drive Reunion

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE TRAIL RIDERS

Feb 2 - Sat. - SFTR Autism Ride
TB:Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez

Feb 4 - Mon. - General Meeting at Latin Mix Rest.
Spkr: Nutrena Rep. Adams. Topic will be Ulcers, etc.

Feb 9 - Sat - SFTR Yard and Tack Sale Robbie's
TB:Sonni Peles

Feb 10 - Sun. - Flying Horse Ride,
TB:Renee and Brian Reynolds

Feb 16 - Sat. - Everglades Redland 100 Ride.
TB:Manny Alvarez

Feb 23 - Sat. - Visual Snow Syndrome Awareness Ride
TB:Mike and Deda Maldonado

Feb. 24 - Sun. - Short, But Fun Local Loco Ride!
TB:Ashley Leonard and Vicky Martone

Mar 2 - Sat. - St. Jude's Ride Robbie's cow pasture
TB:Manny Alvarez

[See more inside...](#)

OFFICERS

ALL AREA CODES ARE 305 UNLESS STATED

President

Mike Maldonado 331-7599
mike@watv.net

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Julie Gonzalez 786-261-9020

Secretary

Jessica Winer 331-4642

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Heidi Stibitz 794-1257

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Ginger Krenz 773-9013

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Wayne Hershberger 206-1698

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Amanda Andujar 907-321-4886

Funnel Cakes

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Wayne Hershberger 206-1698

Historian

Mike Maldonado 331-7599

Deda Maldonado

Hurricane Stalls

Debi Catarineau-Priest 274-7484

Membership

Andrea Sante 216-2461

Volunteer Needed

Merchandise

Deborah Brunson 505-7103

Volunteer Needed

Newsletter

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Manny Alvarez

Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez

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Anna Kleinholz 786-286-0643

INFORMATION HOTLINE

David Ruiz

SFSPCA: Laurie Waggoner

446-7737

305-4-HORSES

825-8826

HORSE CHARITIES

The SFTR donates to these charities once a year. These charities are badly in need of donations. Please try to send what you can to help them. Thanks from the SFTR.

South Fla. SPCA

www.helpthehorses.com

P.O. Box 924088

Homestead, Fl. 33092

Horse Protection Association of Florida

www.HPAF.org

20690 NW 130 Ave.

Micanopy, Fl. 32667

F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

www.eiahorses.org

1840 NE 65 Ct.

Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33308

TRAIL MANNERS

Good manners is the grease that helps people get along with each other, avoiding friction.

- **16 & UNDER MUST WEAR A HELMET.**
- Be aware of the effect **your** actions have on others, their horses and their property.
- Do not upset your co-riders' horses.
- Ride at a quiet, controlled pace.
- **NEVER PASS OTHERS AT A GALLOP.**
- Keep a safe distance... don't crowd others.
- **STAY WITH A DISMOUNTED RIDER**
- Respect the property of others. (ie: lawns, farm fields, crops, groves, livestock, etc.)
 - Leave gates as you found them: Open gates should remain open. Closed gates should remain closed.
- **DO NOT PASS THE TRAIL BOSS or drop behind the drag rider.**
- Stay with the trail boss on the same side of the road. Do not split the road.
- Clean up after your horse. Pick up manure or spread it depending on where you are. Do not clean your trailers out when you unload.
- **NO PROFANITY AT ANY SFTR EVENTS.**

REMEMBER! If you mind your manners others won't mind when you and your horse return to ride.



2019

Dates and Places

Call the Hot-line for any cancellations
(305) 4-HORSES 446-7737

2019



Guest Passes are available for local trail rides. Each pass is \$5.00 One pass per person per trailride is required for non-members. This pass is not available for any beach rides, Team Penning or Parades. All area codes are (305) unless otherwise stated. TB=Trail Boss

- Feb 2** **Saturday - SFTR Autism Ride** -Riders Register 9am, ride out @ 10! Non-Riders come for lunch & fun @ noon
New location: Rancho Victoria 24949 SW 227 Ave Homestead, Florida 33031 **Requested Donation of \$35 for riders** *Proceeds benefit Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center* Assisting children w/ autism through horse assisted therapy. BBQ lunch, raffles & entertainment by the Folkloric RANCHO VICTORIA Family w/ their beautiful dancing horses! **TB:Sylvia Cruz - Alvarez 305-479-6640.**
- Feb 4** **Monday - General Meeting** at Latin Mix Rest. 11368 SW 184 St. 7:00pm dinner, 8:00pm meeting. **Speaker: Nutrena Rep. Adams. Topic will be Ulcers,etc. .**
- Feb 9** **Saturday - SFTR Yard and Tack Sale** Robbie's cow pasture 22490 SW 177 Ave. **TB:Sonni Peles 305-938-0572.** Start time 8am till 2pm. Vendors welcome, SFTR members \$5.00 a space, non members \$10.00 a space.
- Feb 10** **Sunday - Flying Horse Ride**, at 15455 SW 237 St. (enter from 154 avenue) **TB:Renee and Brian Reynolds** , arrive 9am ride out at 10am -approx 3 hrs Redland 100 adventure ride. Hearty BBQ! Bring a side dish to share and a chair to sit RSVP text Renee 305-338-8192, or FB PM.Non-member day rider passes avail. (\$5 for insur.).
- Feb 11** **Monday - SFTR Board Meeting** hosts **Mike and Deda's Rockin' M Ranch**, 25700 SW 212 Ave 7pm dinner 8pm meeting 305-331-7599.
- Feb 16 - 23** **Saturday - Fla Cracker Trail Ride**, Sat. 16 - Sat 23 (Not SFTR).
- Feb 16** **Saturday - Everglades Redland 100 Ride.** **TB:Manny Alvarez.**
- Feb 23** **Saturday - Visual Snow Syndrome Awareness Ride** at Rockin'M Ranch 25700 SW 212 Ave **TB:Mike and Deda Maldonado** 305-331-7599 (Deda just realized she has this syndrome); arrive 9am, ride out 10am. Ride for approx. 2 hours and lunch is rotisserie chicken, rice and black beans, coleslaw and whatever you bring to share. Bring a chair. Non-member day rider passes avail. (\$5 for insur.).
- Feb 24** **Sunday - Short, But Fun Local Loco Ride!** At 27901 SW 170 Ave. **TB:Ashley Leonard and Vicky Martone** Like short rides? Here it is! A 1.5hr leisurely local ride and then hamburgers & hot dogs. Arrive at 9am ride out at 9:30am. Lunch will be about 11am. Bring a side dish to share, and a chair to sit. Please RSVP at 305-506-7476. Non-member day rider passes avail. (\$5 for insur.).
- Mar 2** **Saturday - St. Jude's Ride** Robbie's cow pasture **TB:Manny Alvarez .**
- Mar 4** **Monday - General Meeting , Latin Mix Rest.dinner 7:pm meeting 8:pm**
- Mar 9** **Saturday - Glades to Bay Redland 100 Ride (first day)** **TB Augie Saavedra**
- Mar10** **Sunday - Glades to Bay Redland 100 Ride (second day)** **TB Augie Saavedra**

Visit our website for more: - [Rides & Events](#) - [2018 Tentative Calendar](#) - [Save the Date](#)

GRAB A DATE FOR YOUR RIDE OR EVENT!!!

We have tried to offer rides that are rural or urban, at lakes & in the Everglades, fun events like the costume contest & Halloween ride, obstacles, community service activities, fund raisers, camping in all parts of Fla & into Ga., parties, parades...and we try to encourage our members to host more rides and exciting events. With the cooler months upon us and the busy Rodeo events behind us, there are many who would like some shorter rides. It would be great to have some of you reading this newsletter and liking the idea of a 1-2 hr ride, to let us help you host a ride (the club covers your basic expenses) and you let us join you on a ride in your neighborhood or along a trail you enjoy! Being a Trail Boss is easy and a great way to have your regular friends along for a leisurely ride, but also a way to encourage more of our members to take their horse out from their normal pasture world to join in the fun. We do not have to park on your property, since many members stall at a

barn with insufficient parking for a group. We can help find a location to park along YOUR route. We will help with the publicity, assist you in deciding food or a destination lunch, & want you to enjoy opening your trail to the rest of us!

Go to the South Florida Trail Riders website & look at the year-long calendar, you'll see we are a very active club. There are dates open for rides, clinics, a practice show, almost any activity you would like to host! We try not to occupy both Sat & Sun in the same weekend, and Sunday rides would also be nice, since many people work on Sat. Some open dates are: March 16 & 17, Mar. 30 & 31; April 6 & 7, Apr. 20 & 21; and May 4 & 5. Please contact Bonny George, Jr. (305-233-1897), IdrathrBfish-in6@yahoo.com, or Facebook PM – and let us join you on the trail!

~Bonny George, Jr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Trail Riders,

Well, we started the new year off with a short ride and 13 riders enjoyed it. We need more of them. And if you work on Saturday we need Sunday rides too. In fact one is coming up Feb. 10th, the day after the yard sale, thank you Renee and Brian. I'm looking forward to some rides from members that haven't ever or in a very long time.

The riding season is not long enough, it starts getting too hot in May, so let's get started with some new local rides. Fun rides, game rides, theme rides or a clinic. If you need help any board member or long time member can guide you. Just ask me, I'll help you.

Just a reminder how it works; You pick a place to ride, from 2 to 6 hours long, you will get a different group of riders for the longer rides than on the shorter rides. Next you plan the arrival time and ride out time. You decide whether or what will be offered to eat after the ride and provide soft drinks and water. The club covers up to \$65 of your expenses and you can ask members to bring a dish to share. Sometimes the ride includes a stop at a fruit stand or restaurant for snacks or lunch (I remember ice cream or shake rides, and rides to Mango Cafe and Delio's). And some rides are just a ride and don't include eating, rare but it does happen.

Check the newsletter for up and coming rides and events and contact me or any board member for the schedule.

Ok, I think I typed "ride" way to many times. But I have one more.....

C'ya on the next ride,



Mike & Mama Mia

Mike Maldonado
President

Handwritten signature of Mike Maldonado in cursive script.

Guess which horse is next...

I believe the third or fourth horse I rode after joining SFTR in 2001 belonged again to Jacky and Peter. The thoroughbred mare off the race track was named Mama Mia. She had been purchased (rescued) skinny and with her hooves so bad from standing in mud for months that even after fattening her up and trimming her feet for months she still could not hold on regular horseshoes, she had to use a very light weight aluminum shoe. I remember the first time I went to tack her up she reared and fell back on her rump, but she was otherwise so gentle at ground handling that I decided not to tie her. I tightened her girth an inch at a time and walked her in a circle between each time. I ended up riding her for many months and even loped her through a grove of trees behind Augie in spite of her being blind in one eye. She reined so well that I could steer between the trees and a fairly fast lope. ~mike@watv.net

Hello SFTR family.



SUNSHINE REPORT



We have celebratory news and sad news, yet it is our news to share:

We have some incredibly sad news to relay to our SFTR family, concerning the passing of two beloved parents. Anne-Marie Morgan's mom, Cheryl Morgan, lost her battle with ovarian cancer this Dec. Our sincere condolences go out to Anne-Marie, her brother & dad, and hope memories of great family times spent with such a supportive mother will long endure. And as many of you heard about James Barrett's dad, James Paul Barrett, Jr., being T-boned by a semi last week...despite being air lifted to a trauma unit and staying the good fight, he passed away on Jan 22. Our profound sympathies go out to James & his family, and our thoughts are with you all.

In our pet world, Shelley Patterson lost her faithful pup, Cheyenne, after 15 great years together. We're sure your rescuing her from the Humane Society changed her life forever, and she'll be still watching over you from above. Also, our hearts go out to Christy T-paras for the loss of her beloved canine friend, Hannah. She was a wonderful companion full of life & very sweet – may the great memories you made together let you smile.

Dropping out of riding for a bit with knee replacement surgery is Cathy Goldberg (who sent daughter Sarah to parade with us in

her stead), and Tyra Phillips (no more jumping out of police cars to run down a bad guy...for a while.) Hope you two heal quickly! Now on the mend is Juana Cabrera, who underwent throat surgery in Dec. So glad to see you are improving and having better health & comfort this New Year!

With many more years of adventures ahead, a hearty Happy Anniversary to: Carol & Rafael Weng (3yrs); Tyler & Stacey Jacques (18yrs); and Jannine & John Carroll for their 44yrs! And wonderful news – Trey Pearce stopped the Rodeo Dance, dropped on one knee and asked his lovely cowgirl, Kelly Murphy, to be his bride! From all of us who have watched you two grow up in the SFTR, it is like having one of our own to congratulate. Cheers to you both!

Hopefully all our SFTR can stay healthy & happy after ringing in a new year. A special thanks to Bonny George, Jr. for providing me with all the latest SFTR news, making it possible for me to be successful at producing this report. Please keep those Sunshine notes coming to my email: annakrides@gmail.com or via text to my cell, 786-286-0643. Until next month, best always from your Sunshine reporter, - happy trails & great rides

~ Anna Kleinholz

We have 235 family and single members that have joined or renewed for the year. Thank you very much!

Welcome New Members

MEMBER CARDS TAKE 6-8 WEEKS TO PROCESS.

Diana Smith
Islamorada, FL 33036

Michele Londono
Homestead, FL 33031

Ralph Gonzalez
Miami, FL 33155

Tania Diaz and Sergio
Mederos Miami, FL 33183

NEWSLETTER

The **DEADLINE**
for all articles
& ad copy is:



Send to:
sftr@watv.net

PRICES FOR ADS ON OUR NEWSLETTER

Camera Ready Material

- Business Card size \$60.00 per year
- Full page Ad \$80.00 per issue
- 1/2 Page Ad \$40.00 per issue
- 1/4 Page Ad \$30.00 per issue

DISCOUNTS ARE OFFERED TO SFTR MEMBERS BY THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES.

Always ask Proprietor for amount of discount & availability.

Robbie's Feed and Supply
Sunset Feed & Supply
Sunset Country
The VetteSmith Inc. Body shop

22390 SW 177th Ave. (Krome) Miami
7650 S.W. 117 Ave. Kendall
16300 S.W. 296 St. Homestead
10750 SW 188 Street. Miami

247-1256
271-0341
245-2935
252-1256

A large graphic featuring a stylized palm tree on the left and a photograph of four people riding horses in the ocean. The photo shows a woman in a blue shirt on a dark horse, a woman in a blue tank top on a brown horse, a woman in a light blue shirt on a dark horse, and a man in a green shirt on a dark horse. They are all smiling and enjoying the water. The background shows a beach and ocean waves under a blue sky.

SFTR Beach Rides

Beach Rides are April 27 and May 11.
Renew your membership now, enjoy all our SFTR activities for free, and have timely info on beach ride details.
Don't miss out!

Save the Date!

Glades to Bay Ride March 9 & 10, 2019. We need RSVP's so we can get your t-shirt size for the ride. We need to know at least 30 days before so we can schedule a police escort and also order the t-shirts. No RSVP, No free-t-shirt!

Saturday-Meet at 9:00 AM at front of Everglades National Park. Must be there by 9:00 AM so we can move the vehicles to the Rodeo grounds and be shuttle back to the horses.

Sunday - Meet at the Rodeo grounds at 9:00 AM. Ride out at 10:00 AM to Biscayne Bay Park. Call Augie to RSVP 305-582-1557



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ann Peacock
Betty Duarte
Carlos Gonzalez
Casey Rosenberg
Deda Maldonado
Ellyn Robinson
Gigi Carbonell
Howard Goldstein
Jamie Diersing
Jessica Wilkins
Jon Henshaw
Kassandra Hernandez
Kathleen Alston

Laura Micali
Leidys Sosa
Leo Perez
Lourdes Barrios
Nancy Rouzier
Nelson George Jr.
Olga Horn
Patricia Perez
Peter Shaw
Richard Perez
Robert Tejidor
Rolando Lopez
Rosanna Castellanos



"Nicole's Law"

Effective October 1st, 2009

This law requires any **child under the age of 16 years** and riding a equine on any public lands, roads, or trails **to wear a certified helmet**

Business Card Ads
\$60 per year
This card could
be yours!



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Miami, FL 33142



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305-247-1256



2019 Autism Ride participants will receive a complimentary 20% off coupon

While Supplies Last | Exclusions Apply | Expires 3/31/19



**Free Spay/Neuter Clinic
for Cats Only**

February 1, 2019

Call 3-1-1

Miami-Dade County Animal Services Dept.
to Reserve Your Spot

Kids + Horses = A Day to Remember!

As the doors flung open on the school buses, a seemingly endless stream of little first graders poured forth, and like long ribbons of energy, they flowed into the Homestead Rodeo grounds. The culminating activity of our annual Books & Broncs literacy program – the Kid's Day at the Rodeo, was underway! Hosted by the Rodeo Assn., & assisted by the Posse & SFTR, this gala of horses and rodeo sports was again well organized by Dawn Pearce Cucchiara.

Our club volunteers had gone to two local elementary schools in Dec. with horses, for the First Touch encounter for the youngsters. At that time they received a book written by Taylor Pearce...*Let's Rodeo!* Having spent weeks practicing their reading skills, the students now had a chance to read to our horses, in the Reading station – and of course, pet the horse to whom they cheerfully read. The groups of twenty eager students rotated through 18 different stations, experiencing hands-on grooming, roping, saddle-sitting & rein work, seeing authentic cowboys & their gear, watch-

ing farriers forge work, walked through horse trailers/barn stalls/ bucking chutes and watched arena activities. They even saw livestock transport trailers off-load bulls and broncs directly below them, from their safe vantage point in the bleachers. By the time lunch rolled around for the hundreds of kids, our SFTRs who gave so willingly of their time & horses walked away with a glad heart that they had rallied to bring such joy & excitement to the lives of so many children.

I would like to thank Dawn and our small army of club members & friends who came out to share their knowledge, time, talents and equines for this huge community event. Although she & I coordinate the activity, it would not happen without the loyalty and generosity of our SFTR members, friends, and their herd of horses & ponies. In watching the reactions & smiles of the children as they participated in the day's events, I sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone all the more!

~Bonny George, Jr.



FUNNEL CAKE CITY

This was the Homestead Rodeo's 70th year. We were proud to be part of their celebration. Rain, wind, and a short crew could not stop US!! For the most part the weather was excellent.

We had a full crew on paper but due to circumstance beyond anyone's control we ended up with a smaller crew. It was still raining at 11:30 but stopped in time for us to set up, the wind was a big factor the entire day. Close to take down time the temperature dropped as a cold front went through. The rest of the time we had awesome weather! We reassembled our booth and were selling our Fabulous Funnel Cakes by 12:00. We did a brisk business with an excellent group of volunteers manning their posts.

The wind was blowing so hard at times, Mike helped by holding down the canopy and Sonny taped the joints of the canopy legs and pounded in more stakes so our canopy would not come apart. We are a group that overcomes any obstacle!! Thursday through Saturday were the best. We all had so much fun with full crews. What a well-oiled mean Funnel Cake machine we were. Our Crews all three days of the rodeo made South Florida Trail Riders proud. The demand for Fabulous Funnel Cakes was met in typical Trail Rider fashion.

Thank you so much for your generous volunteer response to my emergency emails for help. A special thanks goes to the tried and true crew!! We had some new faces join in and it's always a joy to watch them fit right in.

The weather was just right for one of our piping hot sugar covered confections we call Funnel Cakes. Our gallant group was all decked out in gold and black ready for the challenge and as Dany put it and I quote, "The profits started Funneling in"

There were moments of intense joy when the lost aprons and Ove-Gloves (I left them by the trash can to take home the night before instead of taking them to be washed) were recovered from "Mount Trash-More" AKA the dumpster by our hero Mr. Brad Hadley. He is a Boy Scout that went above and beyond the call of duty. His cape was only slightly soiled. (Mike found out later he actually had to change his clothes) Thank you forever Brad.

We added a new flavor to our fantastic Funnel Cakes. The idea came from one of our rookie members. Andrea suggested we add cocoa mix to a shaker. So along with the cinnamon we added the cocoa and it was a BIG hit. Thanks Andrea.

Last but not least and in no particular order are the gallant crew who made Funnel Cake City possible. Wayne, Carrie, Sonni, Sonny, Bonny, Jessica, Augie, Mike, Deda, Armando, Ana, Helen, Ginger, Mark, Taylor, Dany, Andrea, Sam, Nelson, Carolina, Rob, Elsy, Dorys, Sergio, Miriam, Sylvia and Eddie

What an awesome and amazing group of volunteers.
Thanks again guys.

~Wayne and Carrie Hershberger



9TH ANNUAL AUTISM RIDE

The 9th annual Autism Ride is just around the corner! We will be at Rancho Victoria this year, home of the Sifuentes family and the gorgeous Friesian and Andalusian dancing horses who have entertained us for the past 3 years. We are looking forward to a great ride led by JC Vina, our trailboss, who is very familiar with the neighborhood. After the ride, there will be a BBQ lunch cooked by Pig Floyd's BBQ and compliments of Vina & Sons Food Distributors. Invite your family and friends to join you after the ride for lunch! We will have our raffle and auction along with a beautiful folkloric dance by the Rancho Victoria group. They were wonderful last

year, as they stayed after the dance and layed down some of their horses and gave guests a great opportunity for pictures. There may be some other entertaining new activities also! All funds raised will go to Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center, where they will give scholarships to students with special needs allowing them to experience the benefits of horse assisted therapies. You can register online at <https://www.whisperingmanes.org/AR2019>. Remember that donations are tax deductible! Happy Trails!

~ Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez

AROUND THE PADDOCK... A Cold, Slow Start to 2019

The holidays behind us and one round of chilly weather, we all started the New Year with our own goals and plans. Let's all make the most of each day, & try to get out with our horses more! Whether you ride or walk your horse, the time spent is good for our soul and gives our equine partner a spark of enjoyment and excitement – not to mention it's all training time too!

Some of our members have been out there training a lot, and it appears we have a celebrity in the SFTR from the recent Arabian Horse Show at Tropical Park. Mikey Ancheta trained the Best Horse in the Show!! So kuddos for an amazing job and for fostering such interest and accomplishments among so many youth in our community! Remember the Miami Winterfest Paso Fino Show will be at Tropical Park, Feb 9 & 10. Several SFTR are entered – so stop in, support them, and cheer them on!

Winning in another sort of competition...our own Jaylyn Dorado won Little Miss Rodeo for the 11-12 yr old division. Jaylyn started riding with us this past year

with her proud parents Iris & Richard – even doing an Augie-Everglades ride; she has participated in parades with us carrying a flag and also joined the Posse to continue her equine adventures. We hear running barrels may be next? Congratulations to Jaylyn and her family – you all do us proud!

Celine d'Arbellas has Jesus jumping again in great form, and recently did a Marten's clinic in S.W.Ranches to further refine her skills. Riders, horse owner non-riders, trainers...we can all benefit by going to seminars and clinics. The more one learns, the better our communication and enjoyment with our equines!

And a special note about a lovely young lady...Megan Fickle is moving to Tenn and will start a cold, but adventurous, 2019 in a place many of us would like to visit to ride. Your smile and enthusiasm has brightened the lives of many and take with you our best wishes ... Happy Trails!

~Bonny George, Jr.

CAMPING DATES 2019

Feb. 16 – 23 rd	Cracker Trail Ride	Move trailer each day before or after ride.
March 23 – 24th (Confirmed)	Layover at Southeastern Arena. Unadilla, Ga.	Water, stalls, electric Costs: \$25 per stall, \$15 per trailer
March 24 – 31st Split days between camps. (Confirmed)	Jake & Bull Mountain – near Dahlonga, Ga	Saddle Horse Ridge in Monticello, Ga. Oconee National Forest
April 4th – 7th (Confirmed)	Alafia River State Park Lithia, Fl.	Electric, water, bathrooms, picket lines or stalls. Costs: Reserve America \$22 night plus \$7 for taxes
April 19 – 21st	St. Sebastian Preserve Fellsmere, Fl.	(60 days out to reserve, I will confirm in February) Needs a TB.
When you reserve, email Andrea your campsite number at pasocorto@aol.com All of the camping trips above will have a Saturday night covered dish. Any costs are subject to changes. Reserve America (800) 326-3521 www.reserveamerica.com		

Save The Date



SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS

AUTISM RIDE

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Riders Register 9 AM & Ride out @ 10!

Non-Riders come for lunch & fun @ noon

New location:

Rancho Victoria

24949 SW 227 Ave

Homestead, Florida 33031

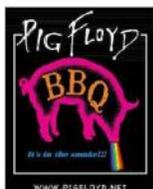
****Requested Donation of \$35 for riders****

Proceeds benefit Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center

♥ Assisting children w/ autism through horse assisted therapy ♥

*BBQ lunch, raffles & entertainment by the Folkloric
RANCHO VICTORIA Family w/ their beautiful dancing
horses!*

Thank you to our loyal sponsors...



For Information: Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez: 305-479-6640

MAR 2

St. Jude Saddle-Up ride. redland-trail@aol.com

MAR 9, 10

Glades to the Bay Ride

MAR 24

Youth Fair-Parade of Breeds

APR 27

Virginia Key Beach Ride

MAY 11

Virginia Key Beach Ride

MAY 18

Annual Banquet

JUL 4

Key Biscayne Parade

JUL 27

Cowboy Day

OUR BLACK EYE PEAS RIDE

Our Black Eye Peas Ride went pretty well. The weather was great. We had 13 riders and 5 that came for lunch.

Deda made rice and black beans and I made my not so famous chili because I forgot it on the stove to stay warm during the ride and they burned badly. The Black Eye peas recipe challenge went well since I was the only one that made any. Everyone said they were great so I won the saddle bags. I'm may save them for next year even though I won them fair and square.

Several of the riders preferred short rides so at about an hour

and a half we happened to be close so I asked who wanted to continue or head back and most wanted to return so we did. I think New Years Day has us short of sleep and maybe after too much champagne the night before.

All in all it was a fun ride and lunch even if I did have a huge pot of burned chili to consume by myself, lunch and supper for three days. I didn't want to waste it or admit it was horrible. lol!

~Mike and Deda





SFSPCA Horse of the Month "Snowflake"



Pony • Mare • White • 11.1hh • est. YOB 2003

Snowflake is very timid and shy, and would be best suited in an adult home as a companion pony. This pretty little girl leads, stands on cross ties, and tolerates the clippers.

RESCUE STORY: Sunday, September 2, 2018 was a very lucky day for Snowflake. We rescued her and Standardbred gelding Sir Valahad with Miami Dade Ag Patrol from deplorable conditions in the C-9 Basin area, infamous for illegal slaughter operations. The at-risk mare was absolutely terrified of people. She and her big friend enjoyed each other's company while in quarantine, especially when they grazed together in the turnout area outside their stalls.

Contact Laurie at Laurie@helpthehorses.com for adoption info. Donations can be made at www.helpthehorses.com

**Update on Horse
of Last Month, "PARIS"
HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED!**



Local rides in February

Sunday, Feb. 10- Flying Horse Ride. TB:Rene and Brian.
We will host the this will weave through the Redlands and finish back at our ranch, for a hearty BBQ! Trailer in at 9am to the Flying Horse Ranch, 15455 SW 237 St. (enter from 154 avenue) and we will ride out at 10am - for approx 3 hrs as a Redland 100 adventure. Please bring a side dish to share at our BBQ feast, and a chair to sit for lunch under the trees. RSVP text to Renee 305-338-8192, or Facebook PM, so we may prepare. Bring your SFTR friends, non-member day rider passes avail. (\$5 for insurance), juniors wear a helmet, and all SFTR are welcome to join us for lunch...just please RSVP!! See you there!

Saturday Feb. 23rd - Visual Snow Syndrome Awareness Ride at Rockin'M Ranch 25700 SW 212 Ave
TB:Mike and Deda Maldonado 305-331-7599 (Deda just realized she has this syndrome); Arrive 9am, ride out 10am. Ride for 2 hours and lunch is rotisserie chicken, rice and black beans, coleslaw and whatever you bring also bring a chair. Day rider passes will be available (\$5 for insur.) and juniors please wear your helmet.

See Deda's article below.

Sunday, Feb. 24th - Short, But Fun...the Local Loco Ride!

If you're looking for a short fun ride, here it is! **Ashley Leonard Vicky Martone** will TB a 1.5hr leisurely local ride and then serve up Vicky's signature hamburgers & hot dogs. Bring out your horse that needs to learn to trail, your juniors who want to ride along, or your SFTR friends who can't do long rides, and let's follow Ashley along one of her trails. Members have been asking for shorter rides & new places to explore, and here is an opportunity to get out to enjoy a new local area with good friends. Day rider passes will be available (\$5 for insur.) and juniors please wear your helmet.

Trailer to 27901 SW 170 Ave, and the group will ride out at 9:30am. Lunch will be about 11am, and all SFTR members are welcome to come share the relaxing BBQ. Please bring a side dish to go along with the burgers & dogs, and a chair to sit & enjoy the great outdoors. Plenty of trailer parking space and water for the horses. Please RSVP to 305-506-7476, so they can have enough BBQ meats ready. See you there!

SEEING DIFFERENTLY

I always thought I saw things differently from other people. I recently learned why that is more true than I realized.

I have experienced Visual Snow Syndrome for as long as I can remember, but I really couldn't explain what I saw because nobody around me knew about it. Later as an adult, I relayed what I saw to family and friends, only to find that it seemed like I was the only one. Since it was normal for me I considered that maybe I just couldn't explain it well. I used to think I was actually seeing the molecules of objects.

Recently, I was looking for answers to some technical problem, so I searched for an IT guy that I had learned from before. In looking through his videos on YouTube, I came across his discovery of something that had also bothered him his whole life. He described Visual Snow Syndrome and most of his experiences were exactly like mine. He posted a link of a foundation in the UK that perfectly explained the syndrome he and I have.

The name comes from the static that occurred on the old analog TV screens that those of us born before 1980 know as "snow", those moving dots that vaguely resemble snow flurries all over

the TV. We may have to find a new name since anyone under 40 may not even know what I'm talking about.

Some of the things I see or maybe I should say perceive, are the moving dots on just about everything I look at, a ghostlike trail after some things as they leave my line of sight, movement in my mind's eye when I close my eyes, and now in my older years faltering night vision. All of these issues, and many more are typical of Visual Snow Syndrome.

Here are some websites that have good information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQWE110LZp0>

<https://www.visualsnowinitiative.org/>

<https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/visual-snow-syndrome/>

<http://visualsnowsyndrome.com/>

<https://www.visualsnowinitiative.org/2018-visual-snow-conference/>

If you or anyone you know has experienced the above symptoms, I would be happy to share more of what I have experienced and learned. You can reach me at 305-302-8312.

~Deda Maldonado

PARADE TEAM NEWS



Thank you to everyone who participated in our last official event, the Homestead Rodeo Parade. We had a great turnout of 12 riders (including general club members), 2 in-hand horses, 2 walkers, and Dianna & Alberto Vasallo as our great poop-scoop team! We were honored to have SFTR member, Comm. Daniella Levine Cava, lead our club as we paraded down main street Homestead. Ashley Leonard proudly carried the USA flag right behind Ms. Cava, and together made a tremendous presentation! Thank you to Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez for driving the safety truck; to Bonny G. Jr., Juana Cabrera & Nicole for ground-support; and a special thank you to Ben K., for bringing the pizzas. Sharing stories by the members and pizza with Ms. Cava was the hit of the morning, and we hope to see her ride with us soon!

Just a reminder to anyone needing a make-up parades are coming up, if you'd like to qualify for the end of year gift. Our first make-up is the Parade of Breeds, Mar. 24th, at the Dade County Youth Fair. More details on this in the coming months. The

second make-up is the Miami International Cattle Show at Tropical Park, on April 13 & 14th (both days together = 1 make-up). Contact Manny Alvarez directly for all info, as he is the TB for all of these events.

I wanted to say a special thanks to all of you who participated in the parades this year; and a very special thanks for the new people who joined, as well as the people who came back this year. It was a trying year with the date changes, and I understand for those of you that were not able to attend, due to those date changes by our parade hosts.

I hope the up coming parade year will go as smooth as this year. I am also hoping to add an additional parade or two to the line up. More details on this as I get them. Our community really enjoys our involvement in local events. I think we all had an exciting year with the bandana changes, and the uniforms. The comments from long time spectators was very positive! We owe a big shout-out of appreciation to Miami Medical Consultants, for their sponsorship of our Parade Team this year – without their commitment to volunteer groups and youth involvement, our refurbishing of uniforms & equipment would not have been possible! I hope you all are happy with the changes I have made, and please feel free to email me at 01lisamorgan@gmail.com with any comments or changes you would like to see in the future. It is our Parade Team... together!

Again, my sincere thank you to all our members, our enthusiastic & dedicated FFA volunteers & parents, great families who have given of their talents & poop-scoop energy, and our SFTR juniors who helped make this one heck of a successful year!!!!

~Lisa Morgan
786-271-4933

01lisamorgan@gmail.com





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ISO: FFA student looking for used 2 horse aluminum trailer to transport goats. Please contact Sheila Dymond 305-986-0191

In between newsletters you can follow all SFTR activities in our Facebook Page. "South Florida Trail Riders"

FOR SALE: Roll a Way Saddle Racks by Ben-----75.00-----305-323-4328----free delivery...

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EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK RIDE FEB. 16, 2019



Saturday February 16 I will lead a ride through the Pine Glades Lake trail system. This is the southernmost portion of the park, not the east everglades section near Redland. The ride will be no more than four hours and we will ride through three distinct eco-systems including the last remaining forest of Dade County Pine in the world, approximately 7,400 acres. The park's total acreage is 1.5 million acres.

If you know how to reach the trail head at Pine Glades Lake, meet us there and be ready to ride at 10 am. Those not knowing how to get there meet me at the Robert is Here fruit stand. I will be

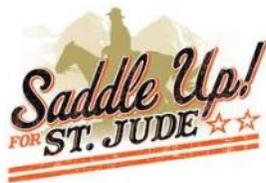
leaving from there at 8:30 am.

Bring a saddle lunch and plenty of water with you. After the ride I will have sodas and water. Bring water for your horses, or a bucket and rope to bail water from the lake but don't go in the lake as there are gators in that lake.

Mosquitoes are usually not bad at this time of the year. However, if you are sensitive to bug bites, bring your repellent.

The admission \$30 per vehicle making car pooling an attractive option. Manny Alvarez, Trail Boss redlandtrail@aol.com or contact me on Facebook.

~Manny Alvarez



ST, JUDE RIDE MARCH 2, 2019



It's that time of the year. When we come together as a club to support the granddaddy of all the fundraisers we do every year. The St. Jude Children's Hospital Research Hospital Saddle-Up ride is the oldest charity activity in the club's long list of supporting worthwhile organizations. Our ride will be held Saturday March 2 at the Robbie's Feed cow pasture. Gates open at 8:30 am. Registration starts at 9 am. At 10am we ride.

St. Jude Hospital treats the toughest childhood cancers and other pediatric diseases, The families never receive a

bill for the treatment, food, and lodging. As an Internal Revenue approved charity 501 (C)(3) all your deductions are tax deductible.

This year once again we have the generous support we've had from Robbie's Feed Store for over 25 years. All participants donating \$35 or more will receive a 20% store-wide discount (except feed) on the day of the ride. Robbie will also award a gift certificate to the person raising or donating the most.

I am looking to put together a team of four to help with the check-in and registration at the gate. Please contact me if you would like to help us.

Manny Alvarez, Trail Boss. redlandtrail@aol.com or reach me on Facebook.

~Manny Alvarez

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