

Web address: www.sftrdade.org



SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.

P.O. Box 924946

Princeton, Florida 33092

(305) 4-HORSES (446-7737)

VOLUME XXXVIII

ISSUE VI

FEBRUARY 2016

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

SFTR Black Eyed Pea Ride



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE TRAIL RIDERS

Jan. 30th Saturday - Grand finale of the Cattle Drive.
Come and watch the cows and riders ride in after 5 days out in the wilderness.

Feb. 1st Monday - General Meeting at Latin Mix Rest.
11368 SW 184 St.

Feb. 5-7th Friday thru Sunday - Picayune campout connected to a ride at Babcock Ranch in Punta Gorda.

Feb. 13th Thursday - St. Jude's Saddle Up Ride.
TB: Debi Cat-Priest.

Feb. 20th Saturday - Everglades National Park trail ride. TB: Manny Alvarez

Feb. 27th Saturday SFTR Yard Sale at Robbie's cow pasture!

Feb. 28th Sunday Renee & Brian's Ride. 10am ride out.
TB: Renee & Brian Reynolds

Feb. 29th March 6th Monday thru Saturday - Osceola Wagon train and trail ride.

Mar. 4- 6th Friday thru Sunday - Picayune campout connected to a ride at Pepper Ranch.
TB: Robyn & Curtis Anderson.

Mar. 12th Saturday - Va. Key BEACH Ride! It is finally here. All riders must be **PREPAID** to be able to go on this ride.

OFFICERS

ALL AREA CODES ARE 305 UNLESS STATED

President

Wayne Hershberger 206-1698
whersh1835@aol.com

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Nelson Rodriguez 431-1895

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Secretary

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Domingo Hernandez 786-253-6639

Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez 479-6640

Juana Cabrera

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Deda Maldonado 302-8312

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Sandy Fobb 807-4903

Funnel Cakes

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Wayne Hershberger 206-1698

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OPEN OPEN

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Deda Maldonado

Hurricane Stalls

Debi Catarineau-Priest 274-7484

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Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez

Merchandise

Debbie Brunson 505-7103

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Manny Alvarez

Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez

Sunshine

Debi Cat-Priest catpriestplace@bellsouth.net 274-7484

INFORMATION HOTLINE

446-7737

305-4-HORSES

SFSPCA: Laurie Waggoner

825-8826

Printed by: Lumo Print

246-0003

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.

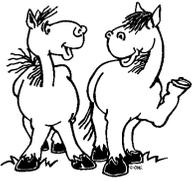
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33308

TRAIL MANNERS

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

- **UNDER 16 MUST WEAR A HELMET.**
- Be aware of the effect **your** actions have on others, their horses and their property.
- Do not upset your co-rider's 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 ON ANY SFTR EVENTS.**

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



2016

Dates and Places

2016



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

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**

- Jan. 30** **Saturday - Grand finale of the Cattle Drive.** Come and watch the cows and riders ride in after 5 days out in the wilderness. Kenansville Silver Spur Arena (NOT Kissimmee). 589 First Avenue, Kenansville.
- Feb. 1** **Monday - General Meeting at Latin Mix Rest. 11368 SW 184 St.** Come on out and meet with the club. 7:00 PM dinner, 8:00 PM meeting. Speaker: Trailer Depot
- Feb. 5 - 7** **Friday thru Sunday - Picayune campout connected to a ride at Babcock Ranch in Punta Gorda.** We will camp at Picayune then leave early Saturday morning to drive to Babcock. It is about 1.5 hours. Babcock Ranch is private and you can only ride it when they have this fundraiser. It is a \$50 min pledge. We will arrive back at Picayune in the evening and take a short ride on Sunday morning before we head home. Please RSVP to Andrea 305-216-2461 or pasocoto@aol.com and I will send you more details. You do not have to go to the Babcock ride with us.
- Feb. 8** **Monday - Board Meeting at Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez's home** 15022 SW 149 St. 7:00 PM social, 8:00 PM meeting. RSVP to 305-479-6640.
- Feb. 13** **Saturday - St. Jude's Saddle Up Ride.** TB: Debi Cat-Priest. We will start from Robbie's Feed. 22390 SW 177 Ave. **Registration is at 9:00 AM, Ride out at 10:00 AM.** \$35 minimum donation. Three highest money collectors will get prizes. 20% discount at Robbie's if you collect \$35 or more donations. For more info call Debi 305-775-1820. See article in this newsletter.
- Feb. 20** **Saturday - Everglades National Park trail ride.** TB: Manny Alvarez. This ride will take us through the Pineland Trails of the Long Pine Key Area. We will ride out at 10:30 AM from the Pine Glades Lake trail head (see article in this newsletter). Call Manny for more info 305-395-9343.
- Feb. 27** **Saturday - SFTR Yard Sale at Robbie's cow pasture! 22390 SW 177 Ave.** Time to sell some of your stuff that is crowding your house and barn!! \$5 members, \$10 non-members. No RSVP necessary, just come on in. 7:30AM to 1:00 PM. Please feel free to advertise this on you FB and/or Craigslist! The more advertising the merrier.
- Feb. 28** **Sunday - Renee & Brian's Ride.** TB: Renee & Brian Reynolds. 23655 SW 154 Ave. 10:00AM ride out. We will have lunch we get back and Brian will cook for us! RSVP to Renee 305-338-8192.
- Feb. 29 thru March 6th** **Monday thru Saturday - Osceola Wagon train and trail ride.** The Osceola County Wagon Train & Trail Ride Inc. is proud to present our 28th year of providing a fun filled week of horseback riding with beautiful Florida scenery in a family oriented atmosphere. <http://osceolatrailride.org/>
- March 4 - 6** **Friday thru Sunday - Picayune campout connected to a ride at Pepper Ranch.** TB: Robyn & Curtis Anderson. We will camp & ride at Picayune on Friday & Saturday, then on the way home Sunday we will head out about 8:30AM and stop at Pepper Ranch to ride and have lunch, 6315 Pepper Ranch Rd. Immokalee, FL 34142. This is a day riding facility just off 29 in Immokalee, that is very beautiful. We are setting it up this way as it would be a very long day ride to try to see it. Picayune has small paddocks, water, a beautiful pavilion and portolets. RSVP to Robyn at 239-250-6186.
- March 12** **Saturday - Va. Key BEACH Ride!** It is finally here. All riders must be **PREPAID** to be able to go on this ride. Please fill out the form in this newsletter and mail in with your payment of \$20 per horse. Cars pay at the gate. Everyone **MUST be a SFTR member before this ride.** It is too confusing to try to collect money and memberships at the beach. Your name will be on a list at the gate to let you and your horses in. Bring your current coggins with you. Please do what you can to keep your horses under control. Any questions, please call Andrea 305-216-2461 or Augie 305-582-1557. You can go to sftrdade.org and go to memberships, then you can pay by PayPal. **If you have anyone going that is not a member, they have to join BEFORE the ride.**



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings to our fellow trail riders! One month of 2016 is gone. Some activities that have taken place are the annual Black-eyed Pea ride and the Candy Cane ride. Thank you to the Vinas and Carolina and Sylvia for trail bossing these rides. Reports from both rides have been five star reviews.

Another event that has been rejuvenated is the Books and Broncs Literacy Program. This is a big undertaking for the club and Bonny George Jr. has stepped up big time to spear-head this project. The actual events started in December, but she started much earlier to put together the "first touch" events at several elementary schools. The big culminating event was held at the Homestead Rodeo grounds on the Thursday before the rodeo. Thank you, Bonny, for accepting this huge responsibility and for all the work you put into these events. Thanks also, to all of you who aided Bonny by your attendance and help through all of this. Our membership is a selfless group of people, willing to do whatever is necessary to 'get the job done'.

Are you ready for the second month? As usual, the month of February is packed with opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors on your steed. The annual St. Jude's Ride is on the 13th. All members are welcome on this ride, but to get the benefit of a twenty percent discount (does not include feed) at Robbies, a donation of at least \$35 needs to be made to St. Jude's. It is a great ride, don't miss it! Look at the events page for more local rides and camping trips.

This is the time of year to start making nominations for the SFTR board of directors. Please give some thought regarding whom you would like to lead your club. Then, send your nominations to Andrea Sante. Make sure you identify the position for which you are making the nomination. For example; I want to nominate (Joe Somebody) for president. The positions are president, vice-president, treasurer, or board. Your participation in this process is vital for a successful club!

As you know, February 14, is a special day. A day when many people take the opportunity to show that "special" person in their life how much they are loved. That is all well and good, but do not forget about the other 364 days of the year. Expressions of love should be given everyday.



Wayne Beulberg



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR SFTR OFFICE

It's that time of year to accept nominations for all of the Board. **Positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary (appointed), Treasurer and (7) Board of Directors.** The President and Treasurer are not going to run again this year so please think of a person who would be worth of those positions and treat the club like family.

Think about who you would like to nominate and call or email Andrea Sante with their names. You can nominate as many people as you want. We will contact each person and ask them if they would like to accept their nomination.

The Board makes all the decisions for the upcoming year and welcomes fresh ideas. It is a lot of fun and you get to know a great group of people by keeping in touch with the pulse of this organization.

In April we will list all the people who accepted their positions and in May we will VOTE at our General Membership meeting.

We will have the ballot box at one of the rides before the May meeting so everyone will get the chance to vote. Please exercise that option as these are the people who will be running your club. We really need the membership to get involved.

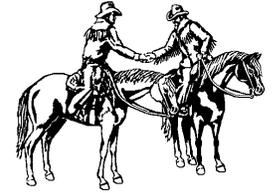
We have anonymous balloting. You **MUST** come to the General Meeting to vote anonymously. Our banquet is scheduled for May 21, 2016 at 94th Aero Squadron.

Contact: Andrea Sante (305) 258-7780 or pasocorto@aol.com

We have 274 family and single members that have joined or renewed for the year. Thank you very much!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Becky Brewer Naples, FL 34117	Sheri and Hannah Dorta Naples, FL 34120	Diana Kerskie Naples, FL 34119	Teresa Peoples Naples, FL 34117	Jodi Walters Live Oak, FL 32060
Cher Compton Naples, FL 34120	Ann and Doug Jones Naples, FL 34117	Leah and Mike LeMaster Naples, FL 34117	Pam Plenge Naples, FL 34117	
Elizabeth Costa Miami, FL 33183	Tony and Natalie Kardol Homestead, FL 33031	Charles McCormick Naples, FL 34116	Debe St. John Naples, FL 34120	



DISCOUNTS ARE OFFERED TO SFTR MEMBERS BY THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES.

OK Feed Store	22801 SW 177 Ave. (Krome) Miami	246-3333
Reins of the Night Reflective Gear	horsbuf@aol.com	479-6640
Robbie's Feed and Supply	22390 SW 177th Ave. (Krome) Miami	247-1256
Silver Palm Feed	15585 SW 232 St. Miami, Fl.	245-0048
Sunset Feed & Supply	7650 S.W. 117 Ave. Kendall	271-0341
Sunset Country	16300 S.W. 296 St. Homestead	245-2935
VetteSmith Inc. Body shop	10750 SW 188 Street. Miami	252-1256

NEWSLETTER AD RATES

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1/2 Page Ad \$40.00 per issue.

1/4 Page Ad \$30.00 per issue.

Deadline for all articles & ad copy is the 10th of each month!

Always ask Proprietor for amount of discount & availability.

COLLIER COUNTY TRAIL RIDERS UNITE

A group of Collier County trail riding enthusiasts, mostly from the Golden Gate Estates area, have joined together in an attempt to have horseback riding trails included in the plans for a new regional park near the Collier County fairgrounds. The plans for this Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park show a 160 acre multi-use park that looks very similar to other parks in the county. The group, currently being referred to as the Golden Gate Estates Horse Owners, is asking for a simple bridle path that would run around the perimeter of the park and a suitable parking area for trailers with adequate turn around space.

This park is being built in the middle of Collier County's "horse country". It is the perfect place to have equine accommodations. The park planners repeatedly say they want to build a "trademark" park that is different from all the other county parks but are failing to realize they could do exactly that by letting it be equine friendly. The GGEHO feel that horseback riding trails would make this park unique and set it apart from the others.

Collier County has the reputation of being unfriendly to equine activities. They are living up to their reputation by not including trails in the park plan to date and are repeatedly attempting to redirect trail requests. The GGEHO group is working diligently to change this. A written petition has been circulated and currently has over 275 signatures of Collier horse enthusiasts supporting trails at the park.

Representatives have attended public park planning meetings and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meetings in an attempt to voice their desires. Members have written letters to advisory council members and county commissioners expressing the request for trails. The most recent development is that two separate meetings were held to further unite the Collier trail riding enthusiasts and to encourage them to join forces with South Florida Trail Riders, Inc.

If you would like more information and to help us get equestrian trail in the above park, please contact Robyn Anderson at 239-250-6186.

SUNSHINE REPORT

A Sympathy Card was sent to the family of long time member and fellow-camper, Carlos Cardenas. A Get Well Card was sent to Elena Ramos who is recovering after spending some time in the hospital. A Get Well Card was also sent to Tyra Hearn whose father is recovering from a stroke. A Sympathy Card was sent to Dee Vinck on the loss of her long time best friend & pup, Austin.

Please know many prayers and well-wishes are with you at this time.



On a brighter note, a Best Wishes & Congratulations Card was sent to Carol Hill & Rafael Weng who were married on December 31st!

A Congratulations Card was sent to Taylor Pearce on her published book "Let's Rodeo" to be used in the Books & Broncs Literacy Program.

And we look forward to meeting Mollie Zell's new horse, Dude! *Please contact Debi Cat-Priest if you need a card sent to a SFTR member.*

APPLY FOR YOUR COGGIN'S CARD

Get an E-card to keep in your wallet or on your saddle. This looks like a credit card with a picture of your horse and all the coggins info. This link is the application.

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/onestop/forms/09206.pdf>



REDLAND HERITAGE FESTIVAL

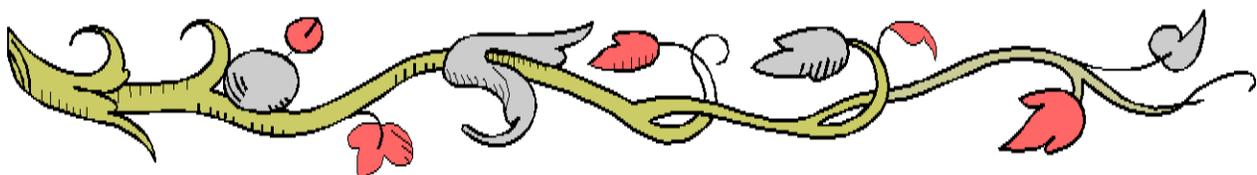
The Fruit and Spice Park held its 41st annual Heritage Festival the weekend of Jan 9th and 10th. SFTR was invited to have a booth to share information and goodwill with our Redlands community in an effort to promote the club and possibly gain some new members. Bonny George Jr., David Ruiz and Debbie Brunson set up and opened on Saturday with Newsletters, contact cards & bumper stickers to give away along with SFTR merchandise, Horse feathers and bracelets to sell. Deda and I joined David and Bonny on Sunday and helped with the breakdown.

Thanks to Bonny and David for dedicating their whole weekend to SFTR, they are prime examples of the kind of people that make up SFTR. I give a big THANKS to Jim Stribling from the park for including SFTR in the event.

~ Mike & Deda

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jorge Cepero	Eric Hershberger
Barbara L. Park	Stacey Jacques
Tonya Alvarez	Joanna Jacobs
Iva Hegg	Meaghan Senzig
Cher Compton	Marcela Alvaro
Dianne Peles	Bradley Swigert
Ciro Fonseca	Zerryn Snow
Bonny George Jr.	Susan Boyd
Becky Brewer	Lourdes Herrera
Bill Guzman	Fred Cox
Sue Coffman	Dick Miller
Carol Hill	Michael Schulte
Glenn Hutton	Rafael Weng
Heather Septer	Don Brecker
Jorge Ramos	Todd Evans
Gerardo J. Diaz	Eddie Vazquez
Jana Sheeder	Crystal Vinck
Cyndi Gonzalez	Andrew Bauta
Sylvi Cruz-Alvarez	Christina Fiebeck
Debbie Furton	Joy Gilpin
Natalie Perlin	Katherine Becerra
Julie Marchandise	Tori Shinner
Jennifer Barnes	



Happy Valentine's Day!



*Come
Support
This Great
Cause!*

From All of Us at



*St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital
Join us & the SFTR's
February 13th for
Saddle-Up for St. Jude
Registration starts at 9am &
Trail Leaves at 10am.
Hope to see you all there!*

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK RIDE

We are once again heading out to ride the horse trails at the Everglades National Park. The ride will take place on **Saturday February 20, 2016**. The ride will take us through the Pine-land Trails of the Long Pine Key Area. It includes several miles through the largest remaining Dade County Pine forest in the world, 8,000 acres. We will also ride through an open saw grass prairie, hardwood hammocks, and old agricultural lands now part of the everglades restoration project.

Due to the rocky nature of the oolite and limestone footing, it is highly recommended that your horses be shod or wear protective boots. Because the terrain is also slippery and at parts uneven, this ride will be a mostly walking ride. If you, or your horse, have the "need for speed" this ride is not for you.

Bring water and lunch with you on the trail. Also bring your own water and bucket if you want to water your horse after the 4-5 hour ride. There is a clean lake at the trail head, inhabited by alligators, where you can draw water with a rope and bucket. The shore is too rocky and high for horses to reach down and drink. The trailhead and the trails are totally primitive. No bathrooms, or should I say, you have over half a million acres of unisex bathrooms with built in privacy shrubbery. Just make sure you know the difference between poison oak and the endangered Shadow Witch Orchid.

We will ride out at 10:30 AM from the Pine Glades Lake trail head (directions below). Please do not call a few minutes before the ride asking us to please delay the start. This is a long ride that requires an early start, so in fairness to all who get there on time we will have zero tolerance for delays. If you have never been there, or it's been a while since you been there, meet me at the **Robert is Here Fruit Stand at 9 am (I'll be leaving at 9 am sharp) and follow me to the park.**

To get to the park go south on 192 ave or 217 ave to SW 376 Street (State Rd. 9336) AKA Ingraham Highway. Turn

west and go to the park entrance. You will have to pay a per vehicle admission. At the toll booth (exactly) reset your odometer to "zero". Continue west on the main road as if you were going to Flamingo Point. At 8.7



miles slow down and start looking for an unmarked hard to see dirt road on your left. The road is at exactly 9 miles from the toll booth providing you have not installed aftermarket large rims and/or tires in your vehicle. If you miss the dirt road, making a U turn will be very difficult, if not impossible. Go about 1/2 mile on the dirt road and you will see the lake. Park on either side of the road but leave room for rigs to get in and out. Do not park in the open space near the lake as this is the only place we have for turning the trailers. If you park there you will be blocking a lot of people.

If you **are coming from Broward**, take the Turnpike South and drive it until you run out of turnpike at Exit # 1. Continue on S. Dixie Hwy (US 1) to SW 344 St and turn west. Go west to 192 ave (Robert Is Here is on the corner) and either wait for me there or continue to the park.

As always. Don't leave home without your Coggins. Contact me if you need any additional information or words of encouragement.

Manny Alvarez
redlandtrail@aol.com
305-395-9343



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THE GREAT 2016 ST. JUDE SADDLE-UP AND MOVE 'EM OUT!

Saturday, February 13, 2016

Hay, Trail Riders,

Just a few more weeks to gather sponsors and saddle up for the children at St. Jude! In addition to all the fun, food, prizes and discount shopping, we have another opportunity for you and the children to win! So fill-up your sponsor sheets, and plan on having a good time at THE GREAT 2016 ST. JUDE SADDLE-UP AND MOVE 'EM OUT! benefit ride.

There's plenty of trailer parking at Robbie's Feed, 22390 SW 177 Ave., with registration beginning at 9:00AM and the ride moving out at 10:00AM.

Once again, we have great gifts to go with a great cause! Collect a minimum of \$35 and we'll feed you lunch, shop at Robbie's Feed with your special 20% discount (excluding feed) and get a Saddle-Up LAPEL PIN and T-SHIRT! \$75 add a BASEBALL CAP, and for \$150 Black Gloves with the St. Jude Logo!

Did I mention the PRIZES for the top three money makers?! You could win a Coggins Test & Summer Shots from Dr. Franklin's office, a \$125 Gift Certificate from Robbie's Feed or a dinner for two at a popular restaurant! So be a WINNER and ink-in SADDLE-UP for February 13th, collect all those checks from your sponsors, enjoy the ride, eat your lunch and then go shopping!

Collection forms have been emailed out, if you need on please call. Thanks, and see you on the trail!

Debi Catarineau-Priest
305-775-1820



Time for a Change...

Although your club officers and Board have always done their best to promote the SFTR, some have voiced their need to step down, or need a new person to come into their position - so that individual may "learn the ropes" in a timely fashion. Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings now to see how they are run. This is your chance to step up, learn what is expected in the position you might like to try, and bring your new views and energy to our club!

Check the inside front cover of the newsletter for the Officers, Board, Sec., Treas.; or committee you would enjoy heading. We could really use back-ups in all capacities, in case illness, accident, change of location, old age, family issues, etc., should befall the current individual. So please review the entire list of those who have helped keep the club running, and seriously consider coming forward. Nominations are currently being taken for officers & Board, and if there is a committee or other position in which you would like to participate, your interest and vitality would be appreciated.

You may contact Pres. Wayne Hershberger, any Board member, or Andrea Sante to give your name and capacity in which you would like to be involved. If you have asked for a change, as some of your officers have, then step up and take the reins – the SFTR only continues when the members are involved at all levels in the club! ~ *Bonny George, Jr.*

Books & Broncs... a Hit at Leisure City & Laura Saunders Elem. !

A timid first grader nervously walks from the security of their teacher & class line, toward a horse looming larger than ever imagined. The horse lowers his muzzle to smell the little hands about to touch for the first time, his soft, clean muscled shoulder. Then the magic begins... The warmth of the skin, the patient horse standing motionless so the youngster can conquer their fear, and suddenly the child's face illuminates with sparkling eyes and a smile that says it all! And so it went at our

last two school visitations – our horses building, even in those with disabilities, courage and understanding. The student gleefully returns to their friends, beaming with newfound confidence, is handed a **Let's Rodeo!** book and settles into a familiar group to begin reading – often looking back to the horse that created their magical First Touch moment.

Many thanks to each of the SFTR volunteers who gave their time, enthusiasm, and equine to making our school visits a success. Now we SFTR prepare with the Homestead Rodeo Assn., the grand finale to this season's joint literacy project – Kid's Day at the Rodeo grounds! ~Bonny George, Jr.



VA. KEY BEACH RIDE
Saturday, March 12, 2016

Horse pool if you can / We are limited to 30 trailers / MUST be PREPAID to attend.

Riders names: _____

Riders names: _____

Riders address: _____

Riders phone number: _____

Riders e-mail address: _____

Registration fee per horse: \$20.00

Number of horses attending: _____ @ \$20 each = _____

Total due: _____

Vehicles with no trailers will pay a separate fee of \$7 at the gate.

Warning: Under Florida Law, An Equine Activity Sponsor or Equine Professional Is Not Liable For An Injury To, Or The Death Of, A Participant in Equine Activities Resulting From The Inherent Risks of Equine Activities. (Florida Statutes 773.01 - 773.05).

I will abide to trail safety rules and give consideration to my fellow riders.

Signatures of all people attending:



BLACK-EYED PEA RIDE

Happy New Years trail riders! Once again, JC and I would like to thank all of the riders who came out to ring in a brand new year amongst fellow friends doing what we love most...enjoying a ride on our horses and indulging in some good food!

We had a nice ride around some agriculture fields and then winding back through the Bonanza neighborhood.

When we arrived back at Rancho del Cielo, the horses were watered and bathed and all of us riders were ready to eat!

As usual, we had black-eyed pea recipes that were delicious but once again, Maria Vidal's dish won over the judges palette. Congratulations Maria and thank you to all who brought dishes to share. Grill-master JC cooked up some juicy burgers and hot dogs compliments of Vina and Sons Food to go with the beans.

We enjoyed a beautiful day together and look forward to many more happy trails!

Lynn Vina



Ocean Waves Presents
QSF-Quilt South Florida
 "A Gallery Show of Fiber Arts"

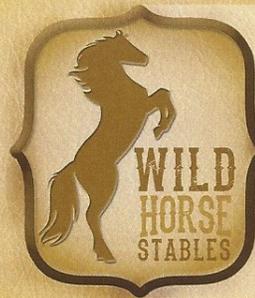
February 12 - 13, 2016
 Fri. & Sat. 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM



First United Methodist Church
 622 North Krome Avenue, Homestead, FL 33030



Additional Information:
quiltsouthflorida.com



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SFSPCA Horse of the Month "Lottie"



28 y/o • Arabian • Grey • Mare • 14.2 hands

Lottie is a purebred Arabian mare, found stray and picked up for Miami-Dade Ag Patrol on June 7, 2015. She came in emaciated, but with no other issues. She has rehabilitated nicely and is an absolute sweetheart, very friendly and gets along well with other horses. Note: she is a companion horse only (not lame, just deserves a nice retirement). Won't you give Lottie a loving, forever home?

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

**UPDATE ON January
HORSE OF THE MONTH, Caprichosa
STILL NEEDS A HOME!**

PARADE TEAM NEWS

With the last Parade behind us, I want to once again send a HUGE THANK YOU to our Parade Team Members for another great year! We wouldn't have a Team without all of you and I don't just mean in front of the crowds! Thank you for your suggestions, reminders, smiles and all the extra hands! The addition of the FFA kids to our Team had a wonderful impact and made the Chairperson's job soooo much easier! I so much enjoy the camaraderie and appreciate the support!

Now is the time to wash all your equipment, yes, all your equipment can go in the washing machine. It takes off all the salt and grime and prevents your buckles from corroding if you keep it clean.

Our first parade of the 2016-17 season will be the July 4th Key Biscayne Parade.

If you think you might be interested in joining our Team just let us know and we'll help make it happen! You'll need to order your shirt and tack, so don't procrastinate and come help promote your club, enjoy your horse, and have a great time! We look forward to welcoming you to our Team!

Hope to see you on the trail!
Debi & Craig



2nd ANNUAL POKER RUN & FUNDRAISER

Saturday, Feb 20th, 2016

Location: Picayune Strand State Forest
Naples, FL

Registration at 9:00 AM

Ride will Benefit:

Horse Rescue of South Florida, Rescue/Rehab Off Track Thoroughbreds

Cost: \$25 for Run and Park Entrance Fee

Lunch: \$10 burgers, brats, salad, chips,

Dessert & soft drink

Cash payout for 1st place, prizes for 2-5th place

Register: www.horsescueflorida.com

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We will also have some obstacles on the trail!

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VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am so proud to be part of the SFTR board this year and would like to encourage everyone to get involved in the many activities the Trail Riders offer. It is amazing to see how involved the club is in the community. I have always said that it takes a very special and loving person to care for animal and I have seen it in all club members and it is this reason that I decided to get more involved with the club and offer as much assistance as I can and joined the board.

To see the inside works of the club as a board member and to see dedication of our board members is very inspirational. If there is a problem that needs addressing we work together to come to a solution and make it better. This organization is well established and is well respected in the community. We are involved in several charities and are always open to new ventures.

We all love our horses and this is something we all show during our rides, camping trips and parades. We are living in a crazy time and I feel that our involvement in an organization such as the SFTR allows us to forget for just a moment and enjoy those trails and bond with our amazing horses.

I would like to encourage anyone that might be considering becoming a part of our organization, don't hesitate you will not regret it. It will give you a feeling of accomplishment and pride. There is still lots to do and we need more dedicated and committed individuals like my co-board members. I'm so proud to be a part of such selfless club and call SFTR my family members and thank them for all they do and have accomplished to keep our trails from disappearing. So join us and come out to the meetings, get involved in our events and lets have some fun.

Regards,
Nelson Rodriguez



HORSES ALSO HAVE DREAMS

The night was a bright moonlit night with a cool breeze blowing on my white Lippizan coat. The night animals made soft noises and I was tied out next to Graffiti, which made me very happy. We were in a wonderful State Park and I was quietly munching my hay when a big horse transport truck that pulled into an auction barn next door shattered the still of the night.

I could hear horses being unloaded with screams of fear, anger and uncertainty. In the paddock next to me the four horses were herded in and the gate abruptly closed and the truck pulled away into the night. My curiosity got the best of me and I walked closer to the fence, as my rope would let me.

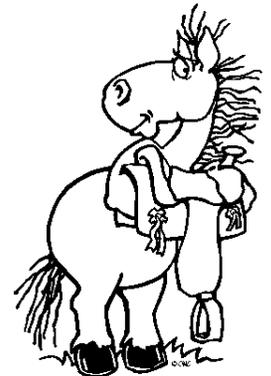
In the paddock were a draft horse, palomino quarter horse, a Paso Fino as well as a warmblood grand-prix jumper. My first question to all of them was "why were they put into that paddock"? The answer was, they were to be sold at auction the next day. That statement was unknown to me because I didn't know what being sold meant. I asked why they feared being sold. The first answer was, not knowing who the new owner would be and if they would be kind and caring horsemen. The draft yelled out to me that his previous owner was O K, but all he ever did was plow fields. Up and down, over and over again. He said he was not mistreated but could not face anymore plowing. The quarter horse said all he ever did was work on a cattle ranch. Herd cows, rope cows, bulldog cows and he was sick of it. Being terrified of cows I could relate to not facing anymore cows. I asked the Paso Fino what his story was. He said all he ever did was show in a ring. Corto, largo and sometimes fino over and over again. For him it was a stall or a show ring. I didn't understand all that Spanish talk but tried to understand. The big warmbloods story was about the same as the Paso. In a stall or training in a ring and show jumping in a ring. His problem was that he wasn't grand-prix quality and if they kept on, his legs would be destroyed.

I was confused by these strange horse activities because I never tried plowing, being a cowpony, Paso gaits, or even show-jumping So my advice to them was in whatever way they could, find a South Florida Trail Rider for an owner. The four horses cried

out, what's a South Florida Trail Rider??? I shouted back, IT'S THE BEST OWNER A HORSE COULD EVER HAVE. They asked me why? I said for starters "you all could be in our parade team". Your owners would clean and shine you up, sprinkle glitter on your hoofs, mane and tail. Then you would strut down the streets making hundreds of people happy, as well as your owners proud. No matter what breed you were, all are welcome. More fun than that, you could go on our camping trips. (They all asked, what's camping?) Camping is when your owner takes you to a different State Park or wildlife management area and we go riding in all these wonderful new places. Then there are the Key Biscayne Beach rides. I said, this is where we go to the salt-water beaches and ride in the surf and sand. This is great fun. Oh, some of the other events are costume parties. All our owners try to out-do each other with the best costumes for both rider and horse One time I was dressed as a unicorn and won prizes for my owner. The best part of being owned by a SFTR is that you never know what's coming up next and it's never boring. Some of our members sponsor local rides and fund-raisers, and they are exciting and unusual.

I wished the four horses well and hoped they would find a South Florida Trail Rider for their new owners. I told them that they would be treated well, have the best vet, dental and blacksmith care their owners could provide. They would be loved, cherished and honored as the magnificent creatures we are. Most of all, our owners let us be HORSES, in every sense of the word.

South Florida Trail Riders, their horses' dreams have come true.



By: *Valancianna, as told to Joan Williams*

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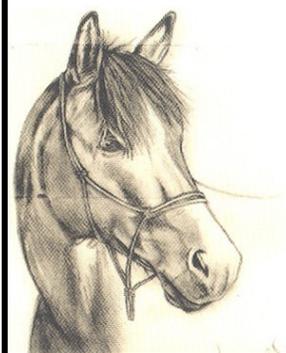
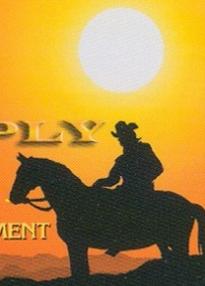
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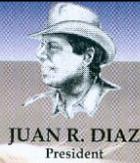
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FOR SALE: Palomino gelding, part Saddlebred. 10 y/o, 15 hands. Good looking, easy keeper, trail rides, lesson horse. \$1,500; **Reg. Paint mare**, black & white, 12 y/o, lesson horse, trail rides, does it all. \$3,500. Alexis 305-394-1994.

BOARDING: Full board, quality feed, O&A hay, 12x12 stalls w/paddocks, fans, auto water, turn-out area, lights in round pen & arena w/ jumps. Stalls cleaned 2x's day. Lots of trails, swimming pond for horses. \$530 month. Alexis 305-394-1994.

FOR SALE: 2003 CM 2 horse BP straight load trailer. Ramp, small dressing/tack room, easy to pull, in great condition. \$4,000 obo. Veronica 305-934-8353 or dreambig0725@aol.com

BOARDING: Full Board, CBS center aisle barn, 12 x 12 matted stalls, auto water, shavings, quality feed 3 x day, stalls cleaned twice daily, turnout on weekdays, caretaker on premises. Top Notch Stables 305-281-8996.

FOR SALE: Crestridge trail saddle Guffey Elite model . Like new, Roping tree, endurance stirrups, natural fleece, supracor seat. Medium tree with backbone spacer. Seat is 16'. Beautiful, designed to free up the shoulder of gaited horses, but is a good on any horse.\$1000. Include breast collar, doesn't not match but works. Sandy 305-807-4903

BOARDING: Full board at White Star Farms. 15 beautiful acres to ride on. Large arena, covered roundpen w/lights and fans. Stalls cleaned 2x's day, quality feed & hay, Turn-out. Close to Greenway trails. Please call Andrea 305-216-2461.

REPAIRS: Saddle repairs, buy and selling used tack. Dianne Peles: 305-938-0572.

FOR SALE: 18 y/o black & white TWH mare. \$1,800 obo, good home could possibly reduce the price. Good natured, no health issues, barefoot, stands well for farrier. Super easy keeper (a little fat). Fort Myers. (239) 731-3265. Can email pics.

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FOR SALE: Trail feathers and Paracord bracelets for St. Jude's. Thank you to all who bought for Jingle Bell. We raised \$1,438.26. Let's do the same for St. Jude's. \$5.00 each. Call Dave 305-989-3618. Any color combination available.

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

FOR SALE: Handmade horseshoe decor perfect for any room, barn, etc. Contact Country Creations at 754-800-WELD or visit horseshoedecor.com find us on facebook fb.com/horseshoegifts

FOR SALE: 17" Circle Y Western Trail saddle, dark brown leather, great condition. \$800. Kelly 305-215-1353.

FOR SALE: High pressure services is offering a new way to get your place cleaned and help St. Jude and Villa Lyan Autism ride. Get your place cleaned and half of your price will be donated to each charity. Call and let us clean your barn, trailer, or home, business. Let's make all our goals for our rides and get our stuff cleaned at the same time. 305-989-3618.

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