Web address: www.sftrdade.org

# SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.

P.O. Box 924946 Princeton, Florida 33092 (305) 4-HORSES (446-7737)

VOLUME XLIV ISSUE VI FEBRUARY 2021

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE TRAIL RIDERS

**All activities under social distancing & wear a mask protocols.**

**Mon 1- SFTR General Meeting, on Zoom, 7pm. The speaker is a leading equine nutritionist, Dr Martin (Marty) W. Adams, with Cargill Feed & Nutrition.**

**Sat 6- Autism Ride, TBs:Domingo Hernandez and JC Vina;**

**Thurs 11- Camping, Thurs 11 thru Mon 15, Shangri-la,** Greenway in Ocala. **TBs:Wayne & Carrie Hershberger**

**Sun 21-Redland 100-Everglades National Park, Pine Lake;**
**TBs:Mike Maldonado and Colby Stroud.**

**Sat 27- Flying Horse Ride, TBs:Renee and Brian Reynolds**

**See more inside...**

## OFFICERS

**ALL AREA CODES ARE 305 UNLESS STATED**

| | |
|---|---|
| **President** | |
| Augie Saavedra | 582-1557 |
| **Vice President** | |
| Patricia Perez | 954-707-3331 |
| **Treasurer** | |
| Jessica Winer | 331-4642 |
| **Secretary** | |
| Barbara Ruiz-Gonzalez | 216-8802 |
| **Board of Directors** | |
| Bonny George Jr. | 233-1897 |
| Mike Maldonado | 331-7599 |
| Lisa Morgan | 786-271-4933 |
| Renee Reynolds | 338-8192 |
| Eddy Ruiz | 786-251-9920 |
| **Alternates** | |
| Sharon Quinn Dixon | 322-5153 |
| Barbara Ruiz-Gonzalez | 216-8802 |

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Camping** | |
| Renee Reynolds | 338-8192 |
| **Emergency Management** | |
| Belinda Hebert | 786-298-7044 |
| **Funnel Cakes** | |
| Jessica Winer | 331-4642 |
| Patricia Perez | 954-707-3331. |
| **Historian** | |
| Mike & Deda Maldonado | 331-7599 |
| **Hurricane Stalls** | |
| Debi Catarineau-Priest | 274-7484 |
| **Membership** | |
| Andrea Sante & Bill Guzman | 216-2461 |
| **Merchandise** | |
| Deborah Brunson | 505-7103 |
| Bonny George, Jr | 233-1897 |
| **Newsletter** | |
| Deda & Mike Maldonado sftr@watv.net & Bonny George, Jr. & Carol Hakanson | 331-7599 |
| **Parades** | |
| Lisa Morgan | 786-271-4933 |
| **Programs** | |
| Ben Kroner | 245-2403 |
| **Public Relations** | |
| Manny Alvarez & Megan Barnes-Rego | 304-0680 |
| **Sunshine** | |
| Michelle McDaniel | 562-0961 |
| **Junior Members Activities** | |
| Bonny George, Jr | 233-1897 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **INFORMATION HOTLINE** | **446-7737** |
| David Ruiz | **305-4-HORSES** |
| SFSPCA: Laurie Waggoner | 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.

- **18 & 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.

# 2021 Dates and Places 2021

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**

**February 2021 All activities under social distancing & WEAR a mask protocols.**

**Mon 1- SFTR General Meeting,** on **Zoom,** 7pm. The speaker is a leading equine nutritionist, Dr Martin (Marty) W. Adams, with Cargill Feed & Nutrition. Click on the meeting link http://sftrmiamidade.org/sftrmeeting/ Dr. Adams has many years of experience in equine nutrition issues and is a prolific author on the subject. Dr. Adams will educate us on some of the nutrition basics as well as update us on the latest equine nutrition research and trends. He will also be available to answer specific questions. Wondering what to feed your young horse, pregnant mare or senior gelding? How does the heat of South Florida affect our horses' nutrition needs? Dr. Adams has insight on all of these issues, and many more. We hope you'll share with us any specific question you'd like Dr. Adams to review in his presentation

**Sat 6- Autism Ride, TBs:Domingo Hernandez and JC Vina;** From the pasture at Robbie's Feed and Supply 22490 SW 177 Av register at 9:am , ride out at 10:am.

**Mon 8- SFTR Board Meeting, Barbara Ruiz-Gonzalez's** home 7:30pm.; 305-216-8802.
Please bring your chair/food/drink & mask.

**Thurs 11- Camping, Thurs 11 thru Mon 15, Shangri-la,** Greenway in Ocala. Bathhouse has hot showers & flushing toilets. A single high-line post on your horse-site, or bring your own line; or your corral. Water is close to each camp site, potable, but not for hook-up. Primitive- No electric, but generators may be used. Contact "Reserve America" at 1-800-326 -3521 or reserveamerica.com for on-line info & to make your own reservations. Then contact **TBs:Wayne & Carrie Hershberger** at 305-206-1698.

**Sat 20- Register now for Camping, Lower Wekiva/Fechtel,** *Mar 25-28.*

**Sun 21-Redland 100-Everglades National Park, Pine Lake; TBs:Mike Maldonado and Colby Stroud.** 9 miles from the entrance on the left. For information call Mike 305-331-7599. Arr. 9am, ride 10am.

**Sat 27- Flying Horse Ride, TBs:Renee and Brian Reynolds** Arr 9am, ride 10am. for a couple of hours We'll stop at a local food & milkshake spot along the way, so bring money or your own food. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing...even at the lunch stop. Juniors are welcome, so please wear a helmet if 18-under. All SFTR can join us at our lunch stop. call Renee for details! RSVP to Renee to plan trailer parking 305-338-8192.

**March 2021 All activities under social distancing & WEAR a mask protocols.**

**Mon 1- SFTR General Meeting,** on **Zoom,** 7pm. The speaker iTBA. Click on the meeting link http://sftrmiamidade.org/sftrmeeting/

**Thurs 4- Camping, Mar.4-7,Green Swamp West, TB:Dana** Proeger- **tentative.**

**Sat 6- St. Jude Ride, TB:Manny Alvarez and Mike Maldonado** at Robbie's Feed and Supply - on the NW corner of Krome Avenue and S.W. 224 Street Due to Covid precautions, we will not be serving food, beverages, or snacks. Please observe Miami-Dade mandates regarding masks and social distancing; and juniors 18-under must wear a helmet.

**Mon 8- SFTR Board Meeting- Sonny & Bonny George Jr's** home; 305-233-1897, 7pm. Please bring your chair/food/ drink/mask & agenda.

**Sat 20- Redland 100 Ride, TB Eddy Ruiz;** Arr. 9am, ride 10am. for a few hours. We will be stopping at a lunch spot along the way, bring money or your own food and drink.

**Thurs 25- Camping, Mar.25-28, Lower Wekiva/Fechtel, TB:Donna Hakanson- tentative**

# *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

Hello South Florida Trail Riders!

Another month has gone by. I hope you and your family are doing well. Your Board of Directors is working hard on setting the Virginia Beach Rides for April and May of 2021. If everything works out well, we will have a Saturday ride and a Sunday ride.

Coming up we have the Autism ride on February 6, 2021 and the St. Jude's ride in March. Please support these worthy causes. We are trying to set up rides every weekend of the month so that everyone can have an opportunity to do a group ride. I hope to see you and your horse on the trail.

Our camping Chairman, Renee Reynolds, has been doing a great job with the camping preparations. I hope that all of you get an opportunity to go camping with us.

I heard that the Black-Eyed Pea Ride was a great success with 20 riders. Wow! I hope that all of you had a good time! Continue to participate in our rides!

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover." – Mark Twain

See you at Trail's End!!!

Augie Saavedra
President
South Florida Trail Riders

## ALL YOUR RIDING TIME & MILES COUNT...
## THE *WILFREDO PEREZ* 500 MILE AWARD

Many of our members ride in their yard at home, some ride in an arena, some on trails, at the beach, in parades, or on camping trips. ALL YOUR MILES COUNT!

Willy Perez was a wonderful SFTR who passed away a while back. An avid rider & supporter of everything SFTR, he & Augie could be seen riding off into the distance...for miles. Willy's trail moved far & away, but in remembering him our club gives an award for each 500 miles you ride. Mark your calendar every time you ride, with the total miles (1 hr.= 3mi). All your miles, whether on a SFTR ride or on your own with other friends...count! This is a lifetime award, so some earn the 500mi in one season. For others, it takes 2-3 years or more of saddle time to accumulate the miles. When you have 100mi. Contact Augie Saavedra, our current President, and let him know. He will put you on his list. Give him up-dates, and when you reach your 500mi, let him know. Yes, it is on the Honor System. Yes, for some it takes seemingly forever to reach the goal. But think about the thrill you'll feel accomplishing such a feat! And you can earn the award for every 500 miles you record...hence, a lifetime award.

We had a great turnout at the Jan 1, Black Eyed Pea Ride, so keep the momentum going. Give your horse or pony the job it deserves and build the bond that makes both of you better companions. Mark your calendar NOW with at least the miles you have so far in 2021 (or continue the mile total you are already accumulating) - keep track of your miles. No age limit, so record your miles, your kid's or parent's miles. Let's see how many SFTR can earn this unique award! Contact Augie for helpful info and to let him know to add you to his list.

We have 230 family and single members that have joined or renewed for the year.

# Welcome New Members

WE WILL E-MAIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD IN 3 TO 4 WEEKS.

Julio Rosado and Lidia Rosado
Miami, Fl.33165

Susan Soderbergh
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33711

**NEWSLETTER**

**The DEADLINE for all articles & classifieds is:**

Submit your information here:
sftrmiamidade.org/newsletter

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-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** | 22390 SW 177th Ave. (Krome) Miami | 247-1256 |
| **Sunset Feed & Supply** | 7650 S.W. 117 Ave. Kendall | 271-0341 |
| **Sunset Country** | 16300 S.W. 296 St. Homestead | 245-2935 |
| **The VetteSmith Inc. Body shop** | 10750 SW 188 Street. Miami | 252-1256 |

## AROUND THE PADDOCK . . . A New Year and New Trails to Explore!

With the cooler weather we find ourselves busy with projects, & riding of course! A member always in the mix, Deda Maldonado, was voted Member of the Year by the Ocean Waves Quilters. Her amazing art quilts have been displayed all over the USA, and in other countries! Deda not only makes magnificent quilts, but has also been the curator of quilts & the organizer of international quilt shows... and we congratulate her on her achievement!

It has been great to see new club members out on their horses, & even new horses in the mix. Wonderful to see Jose & Maria Vidal & Tatiana Calas again in the herd! And the herd grows...seems Mitzi Weber has a handsome 9yr old Rocky Mountain horse, as her birthday present. Now there is a gift that will keep giving smiles! Dorys Garcia has a new 6yr. old Andalusian Militar mare – what a beautiful horse!Sadly, it looks like Bud is in retirement, due to Cushings & Ringbone. Augie's sturdy long-distance mount, Bud has seen a lot & carried Augie faithfully through everything from Everglades swamps to dense mountain forests. Not to miss a beat, when Armando Mitat heard the news, he generously offered his mare, to Augie. So... we are sad that Mandy won't be riding with us, but his horse has a new wonderful home! And so now some serious miles begin...

Remember you & your horse can accumulate yearly & lifetime award points when riding in the ETS- Equine Trail Sports. The group hosts obstacle & trail challenges, both in-hand & mounted, are for a weekend, & are nationwide. The next one is in Dunnellon, Fla on Feb 27-28. Zelda & I did one of these a couple of years ago & it was great! Safe, awesome trail challenges, wonderful people, creative obstacles & fun. Plus, ALL miles in the saddle count for our SFTR Wilfredo Perez 500 mile award!!!! See a separate article in this newsletter.

Speaking of saddle-time...Janelis Egozcue earned a 2nd place in the Whipping Wild Barrel Series, Youth Div. Way to go! Young Henry Vasallo was our TB at a recent ride off 136 St., & sister Loralei was riding along as well! Both made the Honor Roll last semester at Vineland K-8 Center, so with good grades & cooler weather, we hope to see more of this dynamic duo on the trail! On the Black Eyed Pea Ride were juniors Sarah Rotella & Sofia Stamatyades! It's wonderful to have our younger riders enjoy the great outdoors with our club! And did you see a familiar face recently??? Ashley Leonard drove down for a visit & took in an impromptu ride with several SFTR. She'll be back again, & insists she'll spend some more saddle time with us! Aaaah, saddle time...the best!

*~Bonny George, Jr.*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Andrea (Deda) Maldonado
Andres Lopez
Bernie Cruz
David Musselman
Deborah Witkind
Jon Henshaw
Juan R. Rodriguez
Kylee M. Fille
Laura Micali
Marcela Lombana
Nelson George Jr.
Olga Horn
Patricia Perez
Peter H. Shaw
Richard Perez
Rolando Lopez
Wyatt Waggoner

### "Nicole's Law"

**Effective October 1st, 2009**

**This law requires any child under the age of 18 years and riding a equine on any public lands, roads, or trails to wear a certified helmet**

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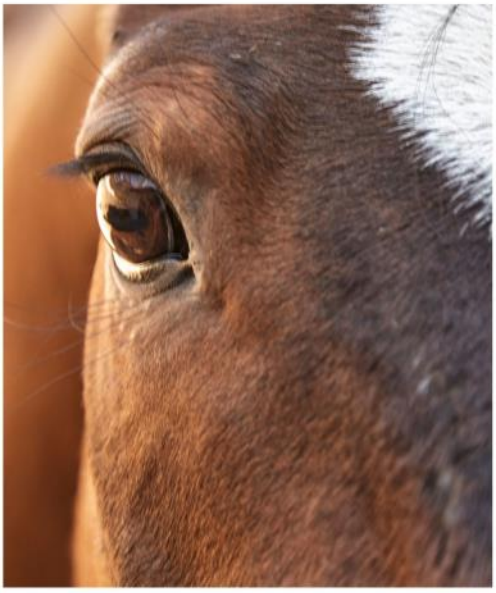

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# *Future Events*

## 2021 SADDLE-UP FOR ST. JUDE TRAIL RIDE

Every year the first Saturday in March is the annual SFTR fundraiser for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Over the years we have raised over $100,000 to help the hospital provide totally free world class cancer treatments and surgeries for children with cancer.

On Saturday **March 6**, we will meet as usual at Robbie's Feed and Supply - on the NW corner of Krome Avenue and S.W. 224 Street, in Miami's Redland District. Use the palm tree lined driveway on 224 St. immediately west of Robbie's. Due to Covid precautions, we will not be serving food, beverages, or snacks. Please observe Miami-Dade mandates regarding masks and social distancing; and juniors 18-under must wear a helmet.

All registered participants will receive a 20% discount on purchases (excluding feed) at Robbie's. Robbie will also give a Robbie's Feed Gift Card to the person bringing-in the most donations!

At this time we don't know what the St. Jude minimum donation required to get a free t-shirt or other prizes. We will let you know by email in the next few days.

## FLORIDA CRACKER TRAIL RIDE

If cowboy-style riding, in the outback is your favorite, but you'd like to be safe in numbers and have cooked meals awaiting you...this event is for you! The 34th Annual Cross State Ride, the Cracker Trail Ride, will be Feb. 13-20. Join the event for 1 day, a couple days, or all week - your choice! For information & to register on-line, go to the website: http://floridacrackertrail.org/annual-ride-registration . Most recent updates are on Facebook at www.facebook.com/floridacrackertrail/ . Pay online here: http://floridacrackertrail.org/shop/ , send the payment by mail, or indicate you will pay on the first day of the ride. It couldn't be easier.

Many of our SFTR have done this ride for years, so reach out for helpful hints, what to expect, etc. With the single or multi-day rides available, there is something for everyone. Adults, juniors, horses, mules & donkeys...they welcome them all! Don't miss the Jan 31, 2021 registration deadline for this memorable family event!

## RIDE THE EVERGLADES PINE LAKE ADVENTURE

On Sun. Feb 21, Colby Stroud and I will Trail Boss a Redland 100 ride (approx. 10mi, or about 3 hrs.) as we ride the Pine Lake trails inside the Everglades Natl. Park. The ride starts at Pine Lake & goes through the pine woods out into the grasslands. From there we ride over the high deer mounds, past an old python graveyard. The last leg of the ride back to the trailers at the lake will be along a narrow trail through a thick forest of tall pines, palmetto & holly bushes.

Directions: After you pay the **toll** & get a **map** at the Everglades Park entrance, drive approx. 9 miles & begin looking to your left for a gravel rock road. Drive slowly at the 9mi mark so you do not miss the road, as there is no place to turn around safely if you pass it! Drive along the rock road and you will see the lake. Go to the lake and turn around. Do **NOT** park **by** the lake, as it will block others from being able to turn around! If you would like to caravan with the rest of us, meet at the **Robert Is Here** fruit stand ( corner of SW 192 Ave & 344 St.) . Use US1, Krome Ave, 187Ave/Redland Rd to go south & make a right onto 344 St/Palm Drive. Go west to 192 Ave. , you'll see the fruit stand on the corner. We park along the road just past the Robert Is Here, along 192 Ave. Be there between 8-8:30am. We will **leave** at **8:30 sharp.**

You will be in the Everglades, so pack your own water, snacks, bug spray, etc. for the ride & have whatever you want to eat with you for lunch after the ride. Please wear your mask to off-load & tack-up. Share a ride with someone who has a National Parks Pass, & save on the admission to the park! Anyone wanting a shorter ride, please pre-arrange a riding buddy to be with you – we want everyone to stay safe. Hope we have a good turnout for this amazing area few are able to see. Please RSVP so we know who to look for in the caravan. RSVP text/call or Fb-PM: Mike Maldonado 305-331-7599 or Colby Stroud 786-521-5213.

*~ Mike Maldonado*

# ANNUAL AUTISM RIDE – FEB. 6, 2021

I hope you have all been doing well, staying safe and still enjoying your ponies during this unprecedented time we are going thru. At least we can still get some saddle therapy in while we keep our distance outdoors.

We will be having the 11th Annual Autism Ride on Feb. 6, 2021, again benefiting Whispering Manes. Things will be different, due to an abundance of caution. There **will** be a ride, but we **won't** gather for lunch or any of the usual activities following the ride. You are more than welcome to bring your own snack/drinks, & stay in your "social bubbles" after the ride is over. We need to stay cautious and safe until COVID-19 is a thing of the past!

I am in the process of procuring the location for the ride. I will notify everyone when it is confirmed. Since there are no after-ride activities, we stress that you do your best to collect your donations, as we will be missing out on the profits made from food, raffles, auction items & other contributions. Plan to arrive by 9 AM & ride out at 10 AM. Our Trail Boss may plan a nice ride, since we don't need to be back for the activities. Riders, walkers and buggy drivers will be welcome!

I'll send updates as they are confirmed, & you are encouraged to join our Facebook page (South Florida Trail Riders Autism Ride) where all the updates are posted regularly, along with pledge forms & flyers for you to print out & share. Easy & contactless online registration will also be available.

Wishing all a very Happy, Prosperous and SAFE New year!

*~Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez*

# THE FLYING HORSE RANCH … RIDE & DINE

Renee & Brian Reynolds will open their Flying Horse Ranch for a friendly ride on Sat. Feb. 27. Arrive at 9am, & ride out at 10am for a couple of hours. The plan is to stop at a local food & milkshake spot along the way, so pay to dine or bring your own food. Please wear your mask as you arrive, and maintain social distancing...even at the lunch stop. Juniors are welcome, so please wear a helmet if 18-under.

All SFTR are invited to join us at our lunch stop along the way. Please bring your mask, and either buy food or bring your own – call Renee for details! RSVP to Renee so they can plan the trailer parking at their ranch: 305-338-8192.

Hello Trailriders!

We hope 2021 is treating you well so far. We're fortunate with our horses that there still are ways for us to get together and enjoy our favorite trailriding activities even in COVID times. One of the ways we can get together is virtually, via zoom, which we plan to do for our next general membership meeting. Nothing is as critical to our horses' health and performance, whether on the trail or in the show ring, as what we feed them. We are privileged to have as the speaker for our meeting on **MONDAY, February 1st, beginning at 7pm,** a leading equine nutritionist, Dr Martin (Marty) W. Adams, with Cargill Feed & Nutrition. Dr. Adams has many years of experience in equine nutrition issues and is a prolific author on the subject. Dr. Adams will educate us on some of the nutrition basics as well as update us on the latest equine nutrition research and trends. He will also be available to answer specific questions. Wondering what to feed your young horse, pregnant mare or senior gelding? How does the heat of South Florida affect our horses' nutrition needs? Dr. Adams has insight on all of these issues, and many more. We hope you'll share with us any specific question you'd like Dr. Adams to review in his presentation.

Please mark your calendar for **MONDAY, February 1st at 7pm** for our next meeting. Below is a link to the meeting:

http://sftrmiamidade.org/sftrmeeting/

We hope to see you there!

Sharon Quinn Dixon
(305) 789-3503 - telephone
sdixon@stearnsweaver.com

# WE STARTED THE NEW YEAR WITH GOOD FRIENDS & BLACK EYED PEAS

The weather was perfect for our first ride of 2021! We had a great turnout, 20 riders (including juniors Sarah & Sofia) - most everyone wore masks and we all kept our distance. Bonny kept our sign-in sheet and took pictures, thank you Bonny. Helve, who brought Sarah, stayed and helped out while we rode & took pictures; and Lynn stopped by after the ride for a visit.

I wanted the guests to have black eyed peas so we would all have prosperity in 2021, so I made my favorite chili, but included black eyed peas! Deda served for us, with mask and rubber gloves, in red plastic cups with plastic spoons. There was barely enough for even Bill G. to have some – must have been good!!

We rode for two hours on mostly side roads, many unpaved, & saw fewer than 5 vehicles during the whole ride. Everyone seemed to enjoy the ride! Just a side note, for my first few years in the SFTR the Black Eyed Pea Ride was held at Jacky & Peter Shaw's farm, with often several of their own horses being ridden by friends. Well, in their tradition, we had three of my horses on the ride!!!

With so many SFTR on this first ride of the New Year, let's see if we can motivate more of our friends to join us on our local rides. You can stay safe, and still have a great day out with your horse, exploring the world around us. Saddle up for the Autism, Pine Lake & Flying Horse rides in February...see you there!

*~Mike Maldonado*

# WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE...

The 20th to 22nd of November was to have been camping at KICCO. "KICCO", short for Kissimmee Island Cattle Company, existed between 1915 to the late 1920's, and is pronounced Key-so. You pass thru River Ranch, which is known for it's Saturday night rodeos, camping, cabins, and a restaurant, to get to KICCO. River Ranch makes for fun evening activities. I've never ridden at KICCO, and I now still, have never ridden at KICCO lol. The Kissimmee River had flooded due to a tropical storm during what would have been our Nov 2020 dates, & so we changed the location to Dupuis. "We", being my co-trail boss Luis Valdeon & myself, knew that Dupuis would be flooded also, but at least we would have well marked trails. However the water was so deep that the SFWMD couldn't mow any part of the trails, so finding our way was a true adventure - only because we knew our way from many rides before were we able to navigate parts of the trail; and we created some of our own new trails. Wildlife was plentiful, we saw wild turkey, deer, wild hogs, and hawks.

I learned the hard way that you should always mix just a few Matchlight charcoal briquettes with many regular pieces of charcoal, that way the lighter fluid burns off faster. Luis insisted it was because I lit the bag on fire, but that's what it says to do on the instructions on the bag lol... light the bag and then wait for the lighter fluid to burn off. It was a delicious steak as long as you can stomach the lighter fluid taste! Luis wasn't dead the next day, his stomach was just fine! Me…nope, couldn't eat it, flavor was ruined. But all in all we had a good time and any riding with my friend, Luis, is great riding. And I'm still ready to ride KICCO….any takers?

*~Renee Reynolds*
*(*aka Camping Queen….
hey, do I get a Tiara for this position? lol)

## *Fabulous Florida Camping in February*

**Shangri-la – Feb. 11-15, 2021: Located along the Cross Fla. Greenway in Ocala. Bathhouse has hot showers & flushing toilets. A single high-line post on your horse-site, or bring your own line; or your corral. Water is close to each camp site, potable, but not for hook-up. Primitive- No electric, but generators may be used. Contact "Reserve America" at 1-800-326-3521 or reserveamerica.com for on-line info & to make your own reservations. Then contact TBs Wayne & Carrie Hershberger at 305-206-1698.**

**Green Swamp West - Mar. 4-7, 2021:** S.W.Fla. Water Manage.Distr., Dade City. Camp & ride beneath lush oaks, water spigot at each trailer (horse water only), no electric; & bring your own horse containment. Reservation window opens 30 days in advance. TB Dana Proeger. **RSVP** contact Renee Reynolds.
**Lower Wekiva River State Park /Fechtel- Mar. 25-28, 2021:** Reservation window opens 30 days in advance. It promises to be a magical full moon weekend!! TB Donna Hakanson. **RSVP c**ontact Renee Reynolds.
**Big So. Fork, Tenn. - Apr. 28-May 4** ( and **Whetstone Trails, S.C.** - Apr. 25-28)**:** Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area Bandy Creek Campground, Oneida, TN; dates: April 28 arrive – leave May 4, 2021. The B Loop is closest to the stables & we recommend that loop. We'll all be closer for sharing fireside stories & pot luck dinners, etc. The reservation window for that time frame has just recently opened, reserve now, later they will be booked. Campsites are $25 per night. Stalls are $15 per night. Visitors Center 423-286-7275, Campground questions: https://www.nps.gov/biso/index.htm , Headquarters 423-569-9778, Campground Office 423-286-8368, Bandy Creek Campground reservations: https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/232506 and 877-444-6777. Bandy Creek Stables: Text Melissa 561-635-2607, Text Bobby Gene 931-397-1680, Stable 423-286-7433 (not manned off season). **Tell** them you're with **SFTR** so our horses will be in the same area! Please make your reservations for you **and** your horse, then **let me know** your **site and stall numbers**. We strongly encourage all interested to reserve campsites and stalls **now**, before they fill up. Tell them you are with the SFTR so we can be together. If you need to, you can cancel your reservation for $10. For info-TB Renee Reynolds,Coconut_ldy@hotmail.com /text 305-338-8192.**Cecil Webb**- later in May, perhaps. **Please RSVP** to Renee Reynolds for **EACH** camp-out!!!

She will record your reservation & campsite number. **All** campouts: Sat. night covered dish to share.

# IF IT'S COLIC...IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

Emergency means an issue which bears immediate calculated action, utilizing appropriate means to safely & swiftly resolve the predicament. So colic, although not always life threatening, should always be seen as an emergency – warranting quick, thoughtful action to remedy further distress or complications.

Colic can be scary for any horse owner, and while a horse can colic at any time of year and in any climate, it's important to be aware of risk factors that come with the colder weather of the winter months. There are types and reasons for colic, but for many, impaction colic is the most likely form of colic to be caused by cold weather. This type of colic in horses is caused by obstructions in the bowel that may be caused by hard, dry chunks of feed. So what can you do to prevent colic in the winter? This is **not** meant to be a comprehensive guide, but here are two quick tips:

1. Make sure your horse is drinking enough water. Making sure your horse drinks plenty of water goes a long way to prevent impaction colic. There are a number of reasons why your horse may not drink as much water when it's cold outside, including: lack of sweat, & lack of a natural trigger to drink.
2. Add a loose salt/electrolyte to the feed. Horses need salt to stay hydrated, and salt can also make your horse want to drink more water. A salt lick is meant to be a supplement, but likely is not enough salt for your horse, and your horse is less likely to lick it in the winter. Add 1-2 Tablespoons of loose salt directly to your horse's feed every day. Adding water directly to your horse's feed and make it into a mash/slurry is another easy method for some hydration. Softening hay cubes by soaking them well before the meal in water, is also practiced by some. The idea is to help your horse increase their water consumption throughout the day, and thus make it less likely for the feed to become impacted.

Now, when things are going well, might be a good time to call your vet and discuss early warning signs of colic, discuss the feed/forage you are giving, ask about preventative measures (salt, etc), get any temporary medications your vet advises, & discuss what protocols your vet recommends you should do while waiting for his/her arrival. When in doubt, call your vet! They have the experience & means with which to treat a minor colic to prevent it from becoming a major issue.

*~Belinda Hebert*

# SFSPCA Horse of the Month "COPPER"

**Paso Fino • Gelding • Bay • 13.3h**

Copper is a 15-year-old Paso gelding. He was just gelded in December 2020. Copper is sweet, friendly, and easy to handle. He stands for the vet and farrier. He can be ridden by an intermediate rider possibly by an advanced beginner. Doesn't seem to be spooky but he has not been turned out with another horse yet. Seems like he will be great on trails.

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

SAMBUCA, last month's horse, is still available.

**Please remember to send your classified ad before the *15th* day of each month.**

Submit your information here:
http://sftrmiamidade.org/newsletter

## PARADE TEAM NEWS

With 2020 behind us, I am hoping for great things in 2021. I plan on spending some time riding, and doing parades next season...which would start with the 4th of July parade on Key Biscayne. Of course no Rodeo parade, but I will keep you informed of anything we might hear.

I hope to pass out last season's parade team gifts, as I see you all in the upcoming weeks. I have not forgotten you, and really appreciate your dedication to the SFTR Parade Team! Remember to get out on the trail & put some miles on your horse – the exercise is beneficial for both of you. There are local riding schools too, where you & your horse can learn a new skill or fix some old bad habits. Use these cooler months to mask-up & ride with our club, and stay connected. See you soon!

*~Lisa Morgan*

## *Dottie Kroner*

Best Wishes for her Move to Central Florida

Dottie Kroner has relocated to Central Florida to be closer to her daughters. It would be wonderful if her SFTR friends would send cards and letters to her. Dottie's new address is:

Certus Center
675 Veterans Memorial Pkwy
Apartment #164
Orange City, FL 32763

# 2020 TOY DRIVE REVIEW

As with everything else this past year, our club's annual toy drive was very different. Due to COVID restrictions and our own personal safety concerns, we were not able to able to have our large fundraising parties. However, we were able to host a trail ride at Tree Tops in September where we collected $80 from our attending members.

Though the Homestead Tree Lighting "parade" does not typically receive any donations, we were able to make an announcement over the parade's loud speaker asking onlookers to make donations directly to the Children's Home Society of Florida online. This year the parade was setup in station along Krome Ave in the historic district, so that people would be able to drive by to see all the typical parade participants. A huge thank you goes out to Lynn Stine, Phyllis McGrath, Juan Rodriguez, Bonny George Jr, and Christopher Rego for coming to represent the club!

Thankfully the club's annual Jingle Bell Jaunt event was able to happen due to the awesomeness of Bonny George Jr! She really stepped up to the plate when last minute to take over for me. Bonny, with the help of Heidi and Augie, handled the event with a turnout of 23 members, and they collected 27 toys and $198.

All of the money and toys that were collected are being held for use in the SFTR's 2021 Toy Drive. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the upcoming toy drive season, please send the Board or myself a message! Any and all ideas are welcome. Also, if you are interested in hosting a fundraising trail ride or helping in the planning for any future toy drive event, please reach out!

Thank you again for all your support.

*-Megan Barnes*

Patricia Arosemena-Romero
Office Administrator

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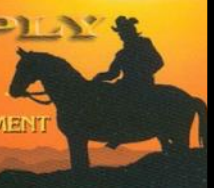

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## ODE TO BEN…

Oh Ben! Poor Ben! I'm not mad, to know you worried has me glad, but sad.
It shows how much you really care, though your concern I heartily share.
Oh Ben! Poor Ben! You're feeling so blue, you're a mighty good blacksmith, honest and true.
You shoe a horse with great care, to do it wrong, you do not dare.
In the shade of a tree, out of the hot sun, you do your work without much fun.
A horse kicks you and hurts you a bit - it gives you reason to sit.
We have a horse that drives you crazy, Peaches is her name, with her you can't be lazy.
Topaz the old Dun is also easy to shoe, and ol' Sugar readily picks up a leg for you.

*Note:* Some newer members don't know that Ben Kroner is not only a founding SFTR member, but enjoyed riding trails, the beaches & parades for decades. In his illustrious life he was, and still is, an accomplished farrier. We credit this gem from Cyrena Fulco, from back in 1969, as a kindly gesture to her farrier, Ben.

# IN MEMORIAM . . . PATTI FEHR

The South Florida Trail Riders family is in mourning because we have lost a long time member who was loved by many club members. Patti Fehr was a selfless, kind, generous, and loving person. Although not a rider herself, she was the quintessential "Horse Mom". She supported her daughter Michelle, in all of her horse related activities and took an active role in caring for "Ace" - the family horse. No sacrifice was too big when it came to Michelle and Ace.

Patti's contributions to the SFTR went beyond her involvement with horses. She was an active member who attended all meetings, volunteered with the young riders & their special events. More than that, she became close friends with many members who valued her counsel, her quiet way of listening and understanding problems that others were going through. She always found time for friends needing to chat or simply in need of talking with someone they respected and appreciated.

Patti was humble and did not seek personal glory. In the two years I led the SFTR Christmas Toy Drive, she was at the top of toy donors – bringing in more toys than big businesses & well to do folks. She would do it the hard way, collecting them one by one at the school where she worked & by knocking on friend's doors. She never accepted any public recognition or award, but was motivated by her faith, & her love of people. In my last toy drive she brought us nearly 200 toys & asked if I'd met my goal. When I replied that the count was still short, she didn't say anything, but three days later called to say she had another 40 toys.

Patti raised two wonderful kids, Michelle & Stephen, who are a testament to the kind of mother she was. Life was not always easy for Patti, having lost her husband Stephen, while he was still in his prime. Last summer she was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. In spite of medical treatments & countless prayers, the cancer never allowed the cure we'd all praying for. Patti, a firm believer in God, knew she would be reunited with her beloved husband. Her work on Earth was far from done, but her memory, teachings, goodness, and charity will continue to guide the lives of Michelle and Stephen; as well as the lives of all she touched. Rest in Peace lovely lady, you will be remembered.

*~Manny Alvarez*

## SUNSHINE REPORT

The SFTR family mourns the passing several good friends. Patti Fehr, a long time member & friend to so many in the club, will be remembered for her generous heart, her willingness to help anyone in need, & for her dedication to her family. Modesta Iturrey also suffered the loss of her son, Otto. We can recall how nice Otto treated everyone, even as an Agriculture Officer, checking our Coggins at the Youth Fair & Cattle Show events. He & his wife rode together, & had adopted a buckskin mare from the SPCA for their recently-bought dream ranch in Williston. Then there is Becky & Larry Swerdloff's 22 yr. old grandson, Aaron, who was fatally injured in a random shooting in Miami. He excelled in honors classes, played football, had graduated from Fire College as an EMT, & had his fathers & grandfathers passion for speed & cars. We are also saddened to hear of the passing of Diane Dorick. A member since 2008, she had a deep passion for horses, loved nature & always enjoyed a good laugh with friends. We send our deepest condolences to the family & friends of all these fine people. Not gone from our hearts, but rather just a bit far ahead on the trail.

Debi Catarineau-Priest had to say her last goodbye to her sweet Great Dane, Miss Madeline. April Victor also lost her dog, Brevo; & Lisa Morgan's 17yr. old pup Buddy also passed away. May these faithful canine family members frolic in open fields, and leave their humans with lasting memories always.

We are sending out positive thoughts to Dottie Kroner, as she is on the mend from a broken clavicle; and to Patricia Perez who recently had knee surgery. Patched up and ready for 2021, we wish both these fine ladies well.

Sharing life & adventures are Jannine & John Carroll, who celebrated their 46th Anniversary, Jose & Maria Vidal partied for their 25th, Ivonne & Gabriel Alvarez toasted their 12th, Stacey & Tyler Jacques, with their 10th (& a new baby Nigerian Dwarf goat anniv. present); and David & Carol Ruiz danced into their 2nd anniversary. We also heard that Renee & Brian Reynolds are grandparents again...with the arrival of cute little Brooke Marie Murphy. Congratulations all!

May each and every SFTR have a safe, healthy and active life – make the most of every day...and include spending time with your friends & riding your favorite steed!

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**Membership runs from Sept. 1st through Aug. 31st of each year.**

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