



Web address: www.sftrdade.org

SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.



SCAN ME to view online

P.O.Box 924946 Princeton, Florida 33092

VOLUME XLVIII

ISSUE I

September, 2024

COMMEMORATING AMERICAN COWBOYS



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE TRAIL RIDERS

Tues 3- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW.
Special guest speaker, Bonny George, Jr. will have
photos & commentary of her trip to ride the Ozark
Mountains in Ark.

Sat 7- Felix Varela FFA/SFTR
Parade Team Orientation;
TBs Lisa Morgan & Bonny George, Jr.

Sat 14- 9-11 Freedom Walk, TB Colby Stroud.

Sat 21 - 22 Obstacle Challenge, TBs Bonny &
Sonny George, Jr.

Sat 28- Breast Cancer Awareness Ride,
TB Michelle Goostree.

See more inside...

OFFICERS

ALL AREA CODES ARE 305 UNLESS STATED

President Michelle Goostree	546-5678
Vice President Susie Randolph	323-4038
Treasurer Michele Wright	793-1482
Secretary Helve Longoria	378-6829
Board of Directors (in alphabetical order) Kim Cates	495-8820
Mike Da Cunha	786-308-8082
Belinda Hebert	786-298-7044
Mike Maldonado	331-7599
Lisa Morgan	786-271-4933
Alternate Holly Thommes	338-4192

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Camping Renee Reynolds	338-8192
Emergency Management Belinda Hebert	786-298-7044
Funnel Cakes Open	
Historian Mike & Deda Maldonado	331-7599
Hurricane Stalls Debi Catarineau-Priest	775-1820
Membership Andrea Sante & Bill Guzman	216-2461
Merchandise Michele Wright	793-1482
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 Ra Schooley	801-9662
Megan Barnes-Rego	304-0680
Sunshine Open	
Junior Members Activities Bonny George, Jr	233-1897

SFSPCA: Laurie Waggoner 825-8826

These are the two closest equine hospitals:

Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital **561-383-5437**
5320 South Shore Blvd. Wellington, Fla.

Palm Beach Equine Clinic **561-793-1599**
13125 Southfields Rd. Wellington, Fla.

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.



2024

Dates and Places

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

2024



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

SEPTEMBER 2024

Tues 3- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW. Dine 7pm, meeting 7:30pm.
Special guest speaker, Bonny George, Jr. will have photos & commentary of her trip to ride the Ozark Mountains in Ark.

Sat 7- Felix Varela FFA/SFTR Parade Team Orientation; TBs Lisa Morgan & Bonny George, Jr. 10am-12noon.

Mon 9- SFTR Board Meeting- Michelle Goostree's home;dine 7pm, meet 7:30pm.

Sat 14- 9-11 Freedom Walk, TB Colby Stroud, arrive 8am, register 9am, Ceremony 10am, start 11am, lunch after.

Sat 21- Obstacle Challenge, TBs Bonny & Sonny George, Jr., 9am-1pm.
Big rigs arrive. 8:30am, Gates open 9am, ride when ready, lunch 12noon.

Sun 22- Obstacle Challenge, Day 2. Same as above.

Sat 28- Breast Cancer Awareness Ride, TB Michelle Goostree. Her farm.
arrive 9am, ride 10am, lunch 12noon. Cart & junior friendly.

OCTOBER 2024

Tues 1- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW. Dine 7pm, meeting 7:30pm.
Special guest speakers Renee Reynolds & Debi Catarineau-Priest will present photos & commentary about the Tenn. camping trip.

Mon 7- SFTR Board Meeting- Michelle Goostree's home;dine 7pm, meet 7:30pm.

Sat 12- Sing-Along Ride, TB Michelle McDaniel.
Larry & Penny Park, arrive. 10am, ride 11am, lunch 12noon.

Sat 19- SFTR Yard & Tack Sale, TB Sonni Peles. New Life Sanctuary Church, 22755 SW 177 Ave, Miami. 9am-2pm; restroom avail.

Sat 26- Halloween Costume Contest & Ride, TB Tyra Phillips. Larry & Penny Park; arrive. 8-9am, costume contest 9:30am, ride 10am, lunch 11:30am.

COGGINS DAY CANCELED

Due to unforeseen circumstances & scheduling issues, this year's Coggins Day is not to be scheduled. We regret any inconvenience to our members – we tried! It is strongly suggested everyone seek their Coggins & vaccinations independently and soon. By Fla. Law, when you take your horse off your proper-

ty, whether riding or trailering, you must have a current negative Coggins in your immediate possession. Schedule your vet needs now, as we have a calendar of great events this fall. You also need your documents for camping areas, shows, clinics, etc.

~Your Board

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Trail Riders,

We are coming into the fall season with lots of great events coming up for everyone to enjoy! I'm sure everyone is looking forward to the cooler weather ahead....at some point! One of the great benefits of being a member is all the people you get to meet & relationships that are built through events and meetings. Recently, I was listening to a fellow member & someone who I now call friend & was ruminating on the discussion we had about people they had met along their journey as a Trail Rider. How their paths would have not crossed had it not been for the organization. So you see, it's not just the meetings that we attend or the events we participate in, it's the people that make the club fun & who become part of your circle. Who knows who you will meet & how they will affect your life, be it as a friend, future partner or supportive member.



We have a lot happening in the coming months. The 9/11 Freedom Walk on Sept 14, to show support for the VFW & those affected by 9/11. We are also making strides to add a new parade venue for Martin Luther King Day (details soon to follow), that will help strengthen our bonds & help give back to the community.

Don't forget that August was membership renewal month. September is the grace period for those who missed the sign up window. Don't miss the opportunity to continue being part of this great organization! New & current members will be getting a newsletter each month to keep them up to speed on the current & upcoming events--all the exciting things we have planned!

I look forward to meeting the new & returning members on the trail!!!

Thank you,
Michelle Goostree
President
South Florida Trail Riders

Michelle Goostree

Around the Paddock

Let Not Rain, Nor Heat, Nor More of Both Keep You From Riding

Yes it has been hot, & then the rains came. Then the repeat button was hit many times over. But no hurricane yet, so knock on a heavy piece of wood! Activities do slow as horses & humans have a hard time enduring the foul weather. It does give us each time to take trips, do other things, & tend to riding our equines on milder days. Or head to Ga. As Barbara Ruiz-Gonzalez did, as she and Piney won Grand Champion in the Ga. Paint Horse Club Show. Congratulations!

Those who have enjoyed Rachel Shearing posting her horse Miami on Facebook, better hurry & get one of his paintings ... he is headed north for retirement. What a great life with Rachel & Ra, & oh the tricks

Miami has learned!

In traveling, if you want to know about Madrid, ask Mariella Gonzalez. Simply amazing photos she has shared with us; & those from Natalie Perlin from Catalina, Ca. Meanwhile, Eddy Caballero has been basking in San Juan, P.R. Interested in those places? Ask them!

School is back in full swing & with that our General Meetings resume. Please come join us Tues. Sept. 3 at the VFW; and then return to the VFW on Sat. Sept. 14 for the Freedom Walk. Hope to see you at both!

~Bonny George, Jr.

We have 264 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.

Jessica and
Eleanor Diaz
Hialeah,Fl. 33015

Gustavo and
Christopher Fernandez
Miami,Fl. 33186

Jenny Silverio
Miami,Fl. 33186

Kathleen Fernandez and
Katia Corchon
Miami,Fl. 33186

Vicmarie and
Raquel Hernandez
Miami,Fl. 33183

Tori Skinner
Homestead,Fl. 33031

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
The VetteSmith Inc. Body shop

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

247-1256
271-0341
252-1256

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Amanda Bourque
Bridgid Napier
Carol Palmer
Daniella Levine Cava
Francisco Cabrera
Gina Milhet
Heather Steele
Isabella Altamirano
Ismary Anon
Jane Buffington
Jaxon Goldberg-Vivanco

Jeffrey Fobb
Joe Harper
John Lopez
Linda Rehse
Luis Bogardus
Maria Isabel
Jones
Marian Cruz
Mercedes C.
Gomez
Michele Wright

Nayda Buttner
Rebecca Fernandez
Red Zell
Regan Wolz
Robyn Sidney
Sharon Dixon
Stephen Starnes
Trenton Troike
Veronica Robert
Victoria Dunleavy
Wolfgang Fries



Future Events

SFTR GENERAL MEETING - TUES. SEPT. 3

Our next General Meeting will kick off our new 2024-2025 season. You can meet your new Board, tell them about your interests for this year, & hear about great activities coming this fall!

The guest speaker will be Bonny George, Jr., who will have photos & commentary of her mule riding trip to Caney Mountain Horse Camp in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas. Find out how you too can travel & camp with your equine, even in a little trailer!

Plan also for the **Tues. Oct. 1** Gen. Meeting when special guest speaker, Renee Reynolds, will give a great presentation of their rides & adventures at this past summer's SFTR camping trip to Buffalo River, Tenn.! You'll also hear about camping & other SFTR

events for the fall & winter.

As usual, we meet on the **first Tuesday** of each month, so our next **General Meeting** will be **Tues. Sept. 3**, at the **Homestead VFW** post - where we park for the Veteran's parade: 601 N.E. 2 Rd. (Campbell Dr./312 St. & then go south at the light at 1st Rd.; east of Krome, just west of US1). Dine **7pm**, meeting **7:30pm**- the room is spacious, the food is good & very reasonable. Bring your friends! We welcome them to come meet our great club members, hear about our up-coming calendar of events (including parades) & learn important environmental & junior's info. Come support your club & get involved – see you there!

~Your Board

SFTR ANNUAL OBSTACLE EVENT IS ALMOST HERE

Your horse can not be “desensitized” to everything, but we can train by encounters with strange objects. Each year there is only one local obstacle challenge – especially designed for safety & fun for riders of all ages, & equines of all sizes. Ride, lead-line, or ground-drive your equine! Mark your calendar for **Sat & Sun Sept. 21 & 22** to ride obstacles in an enclosed pasture setting at Bonny & Sonny George, Jr's **Obstacle Challenge!**

Parking is tight, so please trailer-pool. 4H or larger big rigs in 8:30am, gates for everyone open 9am, tack & ride when you're ready; lunch 12noon. Try water boxes, bumper-balls & bridges, tarps & noodles, flag/parade activities; teeter board, washing machine & cavaletti, barrels, spooky ghosts & road flares; drags, chutes, tires & bicycles, dry fire, teddy-tote & weave poles – and the ever popular "loose mule & emu roundup"! Open to **members only**, no day passes. August was renewal month, but if you are late joining, membership forms will be available on site (cash

or check to So. Fla. Trail Riders). Ride or lead line your horse, help your little junior rider or let capable juniors ride solo! There is usually a spare horse or pony to loan for those who are horseless & who would like to participate. All juniors (18-under) inside the obstacle area **must** wear a helmet, **no exceptions**. We suggest all riders wear a helmet – this is no average trail event!

Please RSVP asap (305-431-1431) so we can plan parking at our small place & in case of rain. An email with our address will be sent the week of the event. Restroom avail. Spectators bring a chair to sit under the trees to watch. Lunch provided: Pulled BBQ chicken sandwiches, cole slaw, baked beans; water/sodas. Please bring a small salad, cut fruit, dip/chips, or dessert; & **a chair** to sit for lunch! Hope everyone brings a SFTR friend & our juniors!!! See you & your “trusty” steed soon!

~Bonny George, Jr.

COME SHARE THE FUN ON THE SING-ALONG RIDE!

Trail Boss Michelle McDaniel will host a cheerful ride at **Larry & Penny Park** (Eureka Dr/SW 184 St & 127 Ave), on **Sat. Oct. 12**. As we ride, or walk & lead-line your equine or junior, we'll be singing songs for all to hear. No matter how well you sing (or not), the gentle sound of hoof beats will make it sound great! The trails all loop through the park, so long or short paths are options. Carts can find space as well. It is a safe place for newbie horses or riders,

& a quiet place for juniors (18-under must wear a helmet). Oct. is a little cooler & the shade from the pines helps as we weave along the trails. For now, arrive 9am, ride 10am, lunch approx 11:30am. If you have songs you like to sing, or hear, please let Michelle McDaniel know asap (305-562-0961) so she can make a list & soundtrack. Let's make this Sing-Along Ride a fun event by having a great turnout!

~Your Board

SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM – HOMESTEAD FREEDOM WALK - SAT. SEPT.

The SFTR has a 23yr. long tradition of participation in the Freedom Walk – honoring those First Responders who died or were injured in the NY terrorist attacks of 2001. The SFTR's commitment to family & patriotism for our country stands firm, & so we ask all members to ride, lead-line your horse or junior rider, drive your cart, come on your bicycle or wheelchair, or walk your family with us on **Sat. Sept. 14.**

CHANGE IN UNIFORM FOR 9-11 FREEDOM WALK PARADE

The 9-11 Freedom Walk parade will have a change in uniform this year! Please make sure you **arrive** on **Sat. Sept. 14** by **8am** across the street from the Homestead VFW. Sign-in with the SFTR & then tack up immediately. **Registration** for the VFW is **9am** to receive your bag of goodies and your special 9-11 T-shirt.

WE WILL BE WEARING THE 9-11 SHIRT FOR THIS PARADE!!!!

The VFW gives us a new shirt for this 9-11 commemoration every year. When we ride, we need to take part in promoting this event, besides riding our horses. Let us show ourselves as being a big part of

remembering the first responders who died or were injured in the terrorist attacks in NY.

Uniform will be blue jeans & light straw hat as usual for this parade. The shirt is the only difference. Juniors 18-under riding **must** wear a helmet! R-W-B helmet cover acceptable. We must be in uniform before 10am. The **Ceremony** starts at **10am** sharp, followed by the **parade** at **11am**. The VFW will treat everyone to a lunch after the event.

Please make sure you register with the VFW by 9am to get your uniform shirt. Anyone not in uniform will ride in the back at the end of our group (long sleeved plain white shirt, blue jeans, red bandana, light straw hat; same junior helmet rule). We should all be there on time!

Colby Stoud will be our Trail Boss for this event - thank you Colby, for stepping up. **Location:** Homestead VFW- 601 N.E. 2 Rd. (Campbell Dr./312 St. & then go south at the light at 1st Rd.; east of Krome, just west of US1). Any questions please feel free to text me, Lisa Morgan 786-271-4933 or Bonny George Jr. 305-431-1431.

~Lisa Morgan

SAVE THE TAAAA'S - BREAST CANCER AWARENESS RIDE

Sun. Oct. 6 Trail Boss Michelle Goostree as we promote Breast Cancer Awareness, by hosting a ride from her barn in the Redlands. We do not collect donations, but rather seek to remind the public that this killer affects both women & men.

The address for this short ride with good friends will be sent via email the week of the event. Plenty of parking, restroom; & a warm-up corral & round pen

available.

Arrive 9am, ride 10am, lunch 12noon. The trail is cart & junior friendly (all 18-under juniors riding **must** wear a helmet). Please wear your **pink** SFTR T-shirt to promote awareness!! Contact Michele Wright (305-793-1482) if you need a shirt, before they run out! See you there!

~Your Board

SFTR YARD and TACK SALE!

It's time to clean out your house before the holidays - box it up & bring it to sell!

Date: **Sat. Oct. 19**, from **9am to 2pm**.

Location: New Life Sanctuary Church - **22755 SW 177 Ave.** (across Krome Ave. from Robbie's). There is a big grass yard along Krome, & the church is graciously allowing us to **set up** about **8am**, & leave as you wish, but we must all be **out** by **2pm**. There is **no** fee charged for the space.

Each member will have space for their vehicle & tables/ground tarps, etc **you** bring. Small trailers will fit, if you have a lot to sell. Sonni Peles will be our Trail Boss - she & others will help you park. Restroom available; bring your own water, snacks, chairs, etc.

You **KEEP** all the **MONEY** you make - so bring all your clothing, books, toys, tools, jewelry, kitchen wares, furniture, electronics, sports equipment, games, bikes, decorations, etc. **It is also a TACK SALE!** Bring those saddles, bridles, buckets, brushes, show clothing, etc. that you never use. Turn everything into cash for the holidays.

You must be a current **SFTR member** to participate – so be sure to renew now so you don't miss important emails & newsletter info! Membership forms avail. On site. For more info, call Sonni Peles at 305-978-1274. RSVP as soon as you can, in case of rain or other changes for this event. Tell your friends & neighbors to stop in to a big yard sale. See you there!

~Your Board

HURRICANE STALLS – A SFTR MEMBERSHIP PERK

The stalls are all full at Tropical Park, but you can get on a waiting list by calling or text Andrea or Debi. This hurricane season is supposed to be a rough one, so keep your animals safe.

When a Hurricane Watch goes into effect, **the new barn contact, Alain Capiro**, will attempt to reach everyone to confirm you will take possession of your stall. If unsuccessful, he will reassign your stall for that hurricane to someone else. **Do not contact Alain unless a Watch is in effect.** Email Alain at Alain.capiro@miamidade.gov and/or call Alain at 786-376-6539 to let him know you **will** be using your stalls. Also text me, Debi Catarineau-Priest, at 305-775-1820 **only** if a **WATCH** is in effect. Your reservation fee per stall is \$28 and reserves a stall for this 2024 Hurricane Season. Once a Hurricane Watch goes into effect & you take possession of your stall, on the 25th hour you will owe Miami-Dade County an additional daily fee, plus an additional fee to **re-reserve** your stall for the remainder of the 2024 Season.

Second, upon arrival, **Alain will need to see your current Coggins papers!** Suggested

items: flashlight, garbage can for water (muck buckets work), a fly mask, your name & phone number, horse's name taped to your stall door, on the halter, & written on your horse; also a bale of hay to put in the stall so the horse has something to keep himself busy all the hours he is there, etc.

You can't leave anything but your horse at Tropical Park. Depending on the storm's estimated arrival, Miami-Dade County will lock the park gates.

Third, Once the Hurricane Watch is lifted, you have 48 hours to remove your horse. All stalls must be **STRIPPED** before leaving OR an additional charge per stall will be applied & you will be unable to reserve stalls in the future. Bring your own wheelbarrow & pitchfork to clean your stall out.

Due to Debi's own hurricane preparations, she will **not** be as responsive if you wait until the last 3 days before a storm to reserve stalls. You may not get a stall if you wait until then. Please reserve online now if you want a stall! Hope to see you on the trail – not at Tropical Park!

~ Debi Catarineau-Priest

CALLING ALL GHOSTS & GHOULS HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST & RIDE

Organize your Halloween costume for you & your horse, your junior & family! We will gather at Larry & Penny Park (Eureka Dr./ SW 184 St & 127 Ave) on **Sat. Oct. 26**. **Arrive 8:30/9am, contest starts 9:30am, ride 10am** inside the park on clear trails; lunch 11:30am (for **all** SFTR even if you don't ride). Dress yourself & your horse in costumes, ride or lead-line, for the contest. You can enter without a horse too, so dress-up that wheelchair or stroller! Nifty prizes!!! Juniors can safely ride solo along the trails, or be on lead line (18-under juniors **must** wear a helmet when riding, so work that into the costume!) Come join Trail Boss Tyra Phillips in



the fun as a solo rider, a walker or a family group – it's always a fun event for all!

~Your Board

COMMEMORATING AMERICAN COWBOYS

Our National Day of the American Cowboy Ride had perfect weather and we had a great ride! Each year we gather to reflect our heritage of cowboys by honoring their creed, by dressing as they might & by using tack familiar to their lifestyle.

I want to thank Robbie's Feed and Supply for their generous donation of the three gift certificates for the winners of our Cowboy Outfits contest!! Phil Stamatyades was our

Cowboy, Holly Thommes was our Cowgirl, and Abbygail Gregoire was our Cowpoke!! After the ride we had a great lunch & sat in the shade of the oak trees, being entertained by Wendy Stamatyades' new little piggie – who was also dressed in western attire & a cowboy hat!

Thanks everyone for riding with us!!

~Mike Maldonado



IT'S SEPTEMBER – HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SFTR MEMBERSHIP?

Regardless of when you joined this past season, ALL SFTR memberships must renew during Aug each summer. Sept. is a Grace Period – get your membership taken care of or you **will** be dropped as of Sept. 30. That means no newsletters, no email blasts about new rides or ride changes, no members-only events, & you'll be out of the loop.

In the July newsletter we published the Board passing new membership dues amounts - which hadn't changed in nearly 40yrs., despite rising costs. The Board passed a motion to keep the club sustainable with this fee change, which will help cover the costs of: annual insurance, newsletters & web fees, donations to our horse charities, fees for parks & beach events, storage room, reimbursement to Trail Bosses for their ride expenses (\$75 e. event with receipts), awards & prizes, banquet facility costs & amount to defray member's dinner cost, VFW contribution for our meetings, etc. Our members enjoy a full calendar of activities all year – for riders & non-riders, campers, etc. It is important to provide a variety of safe events, where all our members can enjoy time together, whether they ride or not.. The **new membership dues**, starting this summer/

Aug. for the 2024-2025 season, will be: **\$40 single**, and **\$50 family**. We think this is a small increase/fee compared to most other clubs, & yet take a good look at all the activities our club offers for your participation & enjoyment!

NOTE: If you do not renew your membership by Sept. 30 & are dropped – you **WILL LOSE** your **hurricane stall**. Hurricane season does not end until November!

There was the Auto-Pay option, but was **ONLY in Aug.** You may still renew/join for the coming year now in Sept. (or at any time). Payments made by mail: SFTR, PO Box 924946; Princeton, Fla 33092. On-line payments at <http://www.sftmiamidade.org>. Or bring cash/check to any meeting, ride or event.

Your Board handles club matters at each Board meeting, & remember: **all SFTR members** may attend & voice their interests or concerns! The next Board meeting will be at Pres. Michelle Goostree's home, Mon. Sept. 9 - watch your email for info or call Michelle at: 305-546-5678. Get involved & help plan how the SFTR can move forward to benefit everyone.

~Your Board

SO. FLA. TRAIL RIDERS – WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

In the SFTR club we ride horses in suburban areas, in the Everglades & state/county parks, & at the beach. We join together for the great times spent with good friends, & as a way to each enjoy our equine. We promote keeping green spaces open for all to enjoy & support efforts against equine theft & slaughter. We also participate in community events, to highlight organizations which also give back to the community. For those who do not realize our commitment to family & community, here is a very brief glance of what we do on behalf of others:

The July 4th parade on Key Biscayne, the Freedom Walk in Homestead & the Homestead Veteran's Day parade - where we help highlight patriotism. This year we hope to join in the local Martin Luther King parade, to promote inclusion, cooperation, a stronger sense of community, patriotism & (of course) our love of horses. Our Breast Cancer, St. Jude, & Autism rides help raise awareness & support these causes by donations. Our club also donates/supports equine rescues & rehabs, especially the local SPCA ranch in the Redlands.

To add cheer to confined patients at the Miami Jewish Hospital, we join in their mini Thanksgiving parade. With a focus on local children we ride in the

Parade of Elves & the Jr. Orange Bowl parade - which allows us to welcome Christmas to the urban community. For decades we annually hold the Jingle Bell Jaunt Toy Drive to provide toys for disadvantaged children in our immediate area. As well, we host the Books & Broncs Literacy Program, where we take our horses to local elementary schools so first graders can touch real horses & receive a reading book. The little learners return for a special Day at the Rodeo in Jan., to read to our horses, groom them & do dozens of fun equine related activities.

Some of our members make it a point to share their horses with horseless members, or those with special needs. Some members do training & clinics in local high schools, with 4-H & FFA students. Some members go camping locally in Fla., or in Ga., Va., Tenn., NC., Ark., Tex., & beyond. Some members are involved in horse shows, roping, cutting, & drill teams. All our members can host a ride or clinic event for the enjoyment or education of all, and yes ... we ride! So whether a toddler or an oldster; whether you attend a meeting or star gazing, a ride or a costume event, funnel cakes or obstacle challenge ... there is a place for everyone in the SFTR!

~Bonny George, Jr.





CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: 2/2, 2 story house on 3+ acres w/stables. Central heat/air. New hot water heater, new roof 2024. Six stall barn under shaded oaks with separate feed/tack area. Property fully fenced. Lots of extras. Borders 3000 acre wildlife preserve/equestrian park, 30 miles of trails. Close to stores. Fort Myers, Fl. \$480,000. Serious inquiries only. Lark 239-731-3265

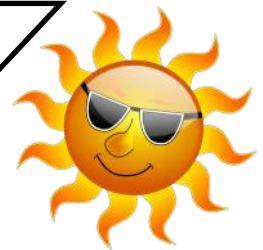
FOR SALE: 15" BOB MARSHALL SADDLE, Deb Sibley barrel racing model, Dark Oil leather with Chocolate suede seat, Diamond tooling, Silver trim, Hoofpick pocket, South-western pattern Skito Pad - \$1,300 - Text 305-773-8227 or call and leave a message.

SERVICE: Do you or your grandma have family photos on slide or negative formats??? We convert your slides or negatives into digital pictures to save forever, share and or publish on social media. visit <https://digitalphotos.watv.com/> or call 305-331-7599

FOR SALE: Saddles English and western from \$50 to \$700 call Mike 305-331-7599

SFTR Tank Tops FOR SALE!

Summer is here and it's hot outside, so call me for your tank tops!
All sizes in multiple colors available \$10 each.
Please contact Michele Wright 305-793-1482.



**For Sale: SFTR T-Shirts
Youth & Adult Tee's & Tank Tops**

**Many Colors
Available**



**Contact Michele Wright
(305) 793-1482**

SUMMER BOARDING IN GEORGIA



Beautiful 2.5 acre pasture plus shelter per horse.

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SUNSHINE REPORT



It seems we have to say farewell to some very good people...

We have lost an old time cowboy & very dear friend, Jose Ramon Sabines, who we all fondly called Pepon. Born the summer of 1945, Pepon trained horses & riders alike, enjoyed a good story & always offered an anecdote of his own, & made our equine world better with his horsemanship. He and good friend Manny Alvarez had a cowboy store together – oh what mischief they must have made. Now on the trail ahead, Pepon & Manny are once again swapping stories of their adventures.

We also sadly bid farewell to local legendary farrier, Terry Parke. After a fall Terry was hospitalized, where doctors found he had end stage liver failure & cancer. Living his life his way, as always, Terry chose to go home with his family, who stayed at his side – still listening to his jokes & stories of how much he enjoyed being part of the Lions Club & working with equines.

A kindly gentleman from Ohio who joined the SFTR to ride with us each time he traveled here to visit his daughter, John Shaughnessy passed away. Always with a smile & story to share, his friendship will be missed. And many may remember Joan Williams – an avid SFTR trail rider from the 90's. Joan passed away at 88 & will be remembered as a great friend on camping trips, adding her enthusiasm on trail rides or strutting her beautiful white Lippizan, Val, in parades.

Our condolences go forth to Lynda Rehse, who said goodbye to her magnificent horse, Rip. His flashy brown & white will be handsome as he crosses the Rainbow Bridge.

One of our good friends, George Smith, suffered a stroke while working at Robbie's Feed. Good thing there were cameras, as he was rushed to the hospital & treated within the golden-hour. Daughter

EvaMarie Tracy reported George is talking, telling stories & doing ok, despite loss of mobility on his left side. Eva came down from No. Fla. & took George back to stay with her & Patrick – good to have a loving family. We wish George a good recovery!

In surgeries: Jackie Richie & Michelle Goostree have their first hip done....second scheduled for later on after rehab is complete. We also hear Michele Wright is steadily improving with rehab, after her knee surgery. And Susanne Coffman is almost back to normal following her shoulder surgery last month – hurray! Meanwhile, we hope Sandy Fobb's sciatica is mellowing out, despite the storms that have rolled through Ft. White. Please, we need positive thoughts for a good friend, Debra Davis. Having had health issues a long time, she was hospitalized with pneumonia & heart issues. She is awake & aware and can be visited at Baptist main – or send an encouraging card as she awaits a heart transplant. For UTD info see David Chu's Facebook posts.

Encouraging thoughts to Donna Hakanson for her 19yr old Ken. Rocky Mountain Saddle horse, Diamond, as he is trying to beat a paralyzing issue called THO. Diamond did well with his surgery in Ocala & is home. Signs of his issue: droopy nose & muzzle on one side – like a stroke. Speedy recovery big guy!!

We send out three cheers to Debi East, who has retired from a long & full nursing career. Now there will be even more time for family & riding! And speaking of family – a shout out to Carlos & Yanelis Collado for their 2nd anniversary; & to Becky & Larry Swerdloff who toasted their 28th !! And our old friends Jorge & Elena Ramos have great news: daughter Vanessa is the newest member of the Marion Cnty. Fire/Rescue Dept. - good luck!

~Your Board



SFSPCA Horse of the Month "Tami"



Tami
Breed Miniature Horse
Sex Mare
Year of Birth 2004
Height 10.2 hands
Arrival to Farm March 28, 2024

Tami is a very shy and timid pony who struggles with trust, making her a special case for adoption at the South Florida SPCA. She needs a patient and understanding owner who is willing to invest the time necessary to build a bond with her. Tami requires gentle handling and must be caught each morning, currently only allowing one dedicated staff member to halter her due to the trust they've carefully built.

With the right person, Tami has the potential to become a loyal and loving companion, but it will take time, patience, and a deep commitment to her well-being.

Contact Laurie at

Laurie@helpthehorses.com for adoption info.

Donations can be made at

www.helpthehorses.com

Royal Harry, last month's horse, still not adopted.



PARADE TEAM NEWS

The 9-11 Freedom Walk parade is right around the corner, on Sat. Sept. 14! Remember, this is our community event in which we show our support for all first responders who either lost their life or were injured in the NY terrorist attacks. This year we have a special request from the VFW to wear the 9-11 T-shirt they will provide to each participant at registration.



(See separate article for more info.)

Please don't forget the Obstacle course coming Sept.21-22. This is a good way to desensitize your horse for parades, trails, and anything else you want to do with us – and it's a lot of fun! On Mon. Nov.11 we will be in the Homestead Veteran's Day parade, Sun. Dec.1 the Parade of Elves, & Sun. Dec.8 the Jr. Orange Bowl parade. Please mark these on your calendar – we need a strong Parade Team unit to promote the SFTR in our community & encourage other equestrians to join in our many activities. Plans for the Jewish Hospital Thanksgiving parade & the MLK parade in Jan. are also underway. So let's get together at the Obstacle course & talk, and have some fun while we get our horses ready to handle big distractions. Great food & great friends is always part of the Parade Team. Remember, you don't have to have a horse to join in the events. We are a big family & we do share, as well as it will help each member understand what we do in parades & the important role of a walker. Come one - come all!!!!

~ Lisa Morgan

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ARE YOU & YOUR HORSES PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY EVENT?

Living & owning horses in So. Fla. has special challenges, especially when dealing with emergency preparedness. It's every horse owner's responsibility to have an emergency plan in place – whether your horse is on your property or boarded out. You are the one to keep your horses safe, either by evacuation or ensuring they can be safely sheltered in place (at your farm or boarding barn).

Here are some important tips to follow to keep your horse safe:

Plan now for Emergency Sheltering- Be sure everyone involved with your horse knows the plan & include the barn address & driving directions, in your emergency kit.

Network with other equine owners- In a disaster, we all need to help each other. Neighbors, club members, etc. can work together to help horse owners who don't have a trailer.

Make a list of emergency contacts- emergency shelter, vet, family, etc. Keep this info on all your smart phones & in writing in your emergency kit.

Take photos & make a written description of each horse. Keep one in a safe place with you & a copy in your emergency kit.

Have a breakaway halter & lead handy for each horse. Mark/engrave the halter your contact info. Have duct tape handy so you can write info on it if needed, with a permanent marker. Include: your name, number, address, & an alternate contact number. If your horse has special needs or medical issues, write

the info on a luggage tag & attach it to the halter.

Microchip your horse. This is an easy, inexpensive way to help identify all your animals.

Have at least 3 days of feed, hay & water per horse, stored in watertight, secured containers. Important whether you shelter in place, but also in case you must evacuate. Include all medications your horse may need & label all of your equipment.

Teach your horse how to trailer. Spend time loading & unloading your horses so they are safe & willing to load in case of evacuation.

Keep trucks & trailers maintained & ready to move. Keep your gas tank full, particularly during Hurricane Warning days.

Make a Emergency Preparedness Kit for your horse!
First Aid kit

Info sheet- barn location, address, driving directions; names & numbers for vet, family, & names & descriptions & photo of each equine.

Leads, Halters, Shanks – mark halter with horse name & your contact name/number

3-Day supply of hay, feed, water, meds – mark meds with horse name & dosage.

Portable radio & flashlight & extra batteries, cell phone & charger.

Buckets for feed/water, tarp, shovel, water hose, duct tape, wire cutters.

Blanket/sheet, leg wraps, hoof pick, sharp knife.

~Belinda Hebert

SFTR 2024-2025 Camping Calendar

Feb 14-17, 2025 - A special camping event has been scheduled for Presidents Day weekend! We will go to **Nancy Slater's Obstacles & Ride**, in Lake Wales, Fla. Camp in your trailer with elec & water, or rent a cowboy cabin. Over 100 permanent obstacles in the shade of old oak trees on the property! Plus, we will pitch in to compensate Nancy to lead a ride into the outback of the Kissimmee River area, & take our horses for a swim in Tiger Lake, & visit a “cowboy saloon” along the way. Join for the day ride & obstacles, or stay the weekend. First, go to Nancy Slater Natural Horsemanship site on Facebook for info. Register **now**, before the cabins fill up. Call me for info **and** then after you register to be on the contact list: TB Bonny George, Jr. 305-431-1431.

April 16th thru 30th, 2025 - Andres Prida & Leo Perez will Trail Boss an excursion into the wild mountains of No.Carolina & Tenn. **Deep Creek, in Bryson City, NC has a limited number of sites.** Imperative you reserve **now**. The owner requires a deposit, but if you reserve & then change your mind, you should be able to find someone from our club looking for a space. For more info, contact Camping Chair. Renee Reynolds Cocanut_ldy@hotmail.com
Itinerary: **April 2025:**

16th, Wednesday - drive to a layover spot - TBD

17th, Thursday-drive to Hard Labor Creek, Ga.

18th, Friday- ride

19th, Saturday -drive to Deep Creek

20th, Sunday -Ride, Easter Dinner TBD

21st, Monday-Ride & 22nd, Tuesday -Ride

23rd, Wednesday-drive to Timber Ridge

24th, Thursday-Ride - 25th, Friday-Ride & 26th, Saturday-Ride

27th, Sunday Drive to TBD

Hard Labor Creek, 5 Hard Labor Creek Rd.; Rutledge, Ga. 30663

(706) 557-3001 or (706) 557-3002

Reservations: Hard Labor Creek State Park, Reserve America (800) 864-7275.

reserveamerica@reserveamerica.com

Deep Creek, Bryson City, NC

(828) 736-1270 or (828) 488-6961

<http://deepcreekhorsecamp.com> or james28713@aol.com

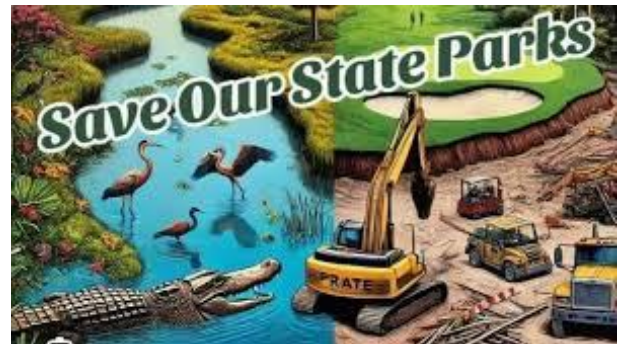
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SAVE OUR PARKS !!!

On social media you've seen posts about State Parks, such as Amelia Island, Jonathan Dickenson, Oleta & so many others – there is a proposal to section off large portions of State Parks to build golf courses, pickle ball courts & other venues. That means more noise, cement, pollution, & degradation of spaces designed to sustain natural plants & animals, seashores & migrating birds. Pollinators & insects, wild life of all kinds will have no sanctuary – many threatened species would totally disappear.

Floridians against such measures, which could also impinge on present equestrian trails, should listen to the news/social media for meeting updates. We are asked to wear white in support of saving our parks & trails.

Remember also that WE are the ones who must protect our fragile ecology in Fla. Keep our State Parks as a refuge for Nature & a rare treat for all citizens – hikers, bikers, & equestrians alike. Here's how you can HELP SAVE OUR PARKS:

Please call Governor Ron DeSantis: 850-488-7146 or 850-717-9337 or email at Governor-Ron.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com or via the link <https://www.flgov.com/email-the-governor/>

Contact your Florida Senator:
<https://m.flsenate.gov/senators>

Contact your Florida Representative:
<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/findyourrepresentative>
Use the link to fill out a quick & easy form. <https://act.audubon.org/a/floridastateparks>

or <https://floridawildlifefederation.org/action-state-parks-threat/>

Petition:
https://www.change.org/p/protect-jonathan-dickinson-state-park-stop-the-golf-courses?recruiter=47199073&recruited_by_id=6054b2a0-852f-0130-f0d8-00221964dac8

Share this info with other like-minded groups that want to protect our natural areas & parks.

Show up at DEP public meetings – we will try to alert everyone to the meetings, wear white please. See

<https://facebook.com/events/s/dep-workshop-for-jdsp-golf-cou/2809593986006824/> - perhaps updates will be there soon on rescheduled meetings.

Get involved!!!! These are YOUR parks. These are OUR open green spaces & trails. It is OUR Florida & should not be subdivided for special interest groups.



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NAME (2) _____ DOB _____ NAME (4) _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (H) _____ (W) _____ (CELL) _____

OCCUPATION _____ DO YOU WANT YOUR PHONE NUMBER PUBLISHED? Y N

NAME & DATE OF BIRTH OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS 1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____ 5) _____

HORSE INTERESTS: TRAIL RIDING, PARADES, CAMPING, SHOWS, BREEDING

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DATE _____ SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT _____

Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.
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