



Web address: www.sftrdade.org

SOUTH FLORIDA TRAIL RIDERS, INC.



SCAN ME to view online

P.O.Box 924946 Princeton, Florida 33092

VOLUME XLVII

ISSUE VII

March, 2024

AUTISM RIDE



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE TRAIL RIDERS

**Sun 3- Ciro's East Everglades Ride,
TB Ciro Fonseca; 136 St./187 Ave. trail head**

**Tues 5- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW.
Special guest speaker: Ra Schooley – Local equine/
agricultural issues!**

**Sat 9- St. Jude Ride, TB Mike DaCunha;
Robbie's Feed Store. Lunch Chili , Bring sides.**

**Wed 20- Last day to sign up for Youth Fair Jun-
ior's Obstacle Challenge TB Bonny George, Jr.**

**Fri 22-25- Camping: Black Horse Resort, Ocala
Natl. Forest.**

**Sun 24-Youth Fair Junior's Obstacle Challenge,TB
Bonny George, Jr.**

See more inside...

OFFICERS

ALL AREA CODES ARE 305 UNLESS STATED

President

Lisa Morgan 786-271-4933

Vice President

Mike Maldonado 331-7599

Treasurer

Michele Wright 793-1482

Secretary

Helve Longoria 378-6829

Board of Directors (in alphabetical order)

Dennys Cabrera 786-208-6001

Ciro Fonseca 786-326-4599

Michelle Goostree 546-5678

Belinda Hebert 786-298-7044

Susie Randolph 323-4038

Alternate

Tyra Phillips 992-2769

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Camping

Renee Reynolds 338-8192

Emergency Management

Belinda Hebert 786-298-7044

Funnel Cakes

Patricia Perez 954-707-3331.

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 331-7599

Bonny George, Jr. & Carol Hakanson

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

Welcoming

Holly Thommes 338-4192

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.

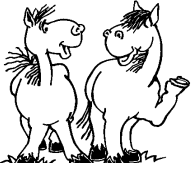
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33308

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**

March 2024

Sun 3- Ciro's East Everglades Ride, TB Ciro Fonseca 786-326-4599; 136 St./187 Ave. trail head, arrive 10am, ride 11am. for approx. 1.5hrs.

Tues 5- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW. Dinner 7pm,meeting 7:30 Special guest speaker:
Ra Schooley – Local equine/agricultural issues!

Sat 9- St. Jude Ride, TB Mike DaCunha 786-308-8082; Robbie's Feed Store. Arr. 9am register donation, ride 10am for approx. 1.5hrs. Announce winners of highest donation prizes, Lunch Chili , Bring sides.

Sun 10- Broward SFTR Fun Show

Mon 11- SFTR Board Meeting; Mike & Deda Maldonado's home 25700 SW 212 Ave; 305-331-7599. 7pm dine, 7:30pm meeting.

Thurs 14-17- Broward SFTR Camping, Colt Creek.

Wed 20- Last day to sign up for Youth Fair Junior's Obstacle Challenge TB Bonny George, Jr.
Text: 305-431-1431 with name and number.

Fri 22-25- Camping: Black Horse Resort, Ocala Natl. Forest.

Sun 24-Youth Fair Junior's Obstacle Challenge,TB Bonny George, Jr. Ag. check-in with Coggins 10-11am, Registration 11-12:30pm, Warm-up & Judges meeting 1-1:30pm, Start 2pm.

April 2024

Tues 2- SFTR General Meeting, Homestead VFW. Dinner 7pm,meeting 7:30.

Fri 5-7 - Broward SFTR camping, Hickory Hammock.

Sat 6 -Virginia Key Beach Ride #1,TB Mike Maldonado 305-331-7599. Arr 9am,out by 3pm.

Mon 8- SFTR Board Meeting; Helve Longoria's home. Dine 7pm, meeting 7:30pm.

Wed 10-14- Broward SFTR camping, Potts Preserve.

Sat 20- Country Fest (old Cattle Show), Tropical Park, TB Bonny George, Jr. 305-431-1431 Opening Ceremony & horses meet & greet. Arr. morning, start 12noon. Dedication to the late Manny Alvarez.

Sun 21- Country Fest, same as above!

Sun 28-Virginia Key Beach Ride #2,TB Mike Maldonado 305-331-7599. Arr 9am, out by 3pm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Trail Riders,

Congratulations and a huge shout-out for the Funnel Cakes volunteers!!!! Thank you all for your support in this event. We had a good sales report & remember this is our only fundraiser for just the SFTR. These monies help fund our trail & beach ride permits, insurance for rides, parades, & other events, & defrays member cost of banquet meals!

We also had our 14th annual Autism ride this past month. The venue was different, and the donations still went to Whisperings Manes for Autistic children to enjoy horse therapy lessons & horsey things. Thank you all for participating.

I do want to apologize for the lack of my participation. I have had several family matters/problems and the death of my sister, as well as having trouble with truck & trailer. I hate missing so much, but it has been unavoidable. Thank you to Mike Maldonado, our Vice President, for carrying the weight on his shoulders, & Bonny George Jr. for always picking up the loose ends for me.

This is what the club is about – we are like family. People coming together for our 1 main goal: HORSES, & the fun we can have with them, but always remembering our friends. Please, we really need to see more people come participate in activities and to help. I ask you all as members, please try to help whether you ride or not.

A special "thank you" to Ra Schooley for going to the city meetings for us & sharing the news of urban laws which are adversely affecting our rural equine community. Ray is an airline pilot, but he always seems to find the time to go to these meetings to advocate for us & the horses. We need members who don't work (are free in the daytime) to join in this fight in order to save out green spaces for riding. Your attendance in a yellow/gold SFTR T-shirt let's the commission know we are a large and concerned group of voters. Again remember, without your help we will lose more spaces of what we currently have. Both agriculture & equine green spaces are at risk!

Our up coming events are as follows: Ciro Fonseca will Trail Boss his East Everglades Ride, Mike DaCunha will TB the St. Jude Ride & Bonny George Jr. will TB the Juniors' Obstacle Event at the Youth Fair - & yes, we still have camping in Ocala with TB Renee Reynolds! So get involved, even if you may not ride, it's going to be a fantastic month!

Thank you,
Lisa Morgan
President
South Florida Trail Riders



Lisa Morgan

Around the Paddock – Cooler Days Allow for More Activities

Congratulations to Varela FFA/SFTR grad, Gaby Dean for her new job at Disney! Cheers also to the Varela FFA/SFTRs Anthony Perez & Isabella Altamirano who placed 3rd in the team competition at the District Parliamentary Procedures competition. Awesome! In horse competitions, Barbara Ruiz Gonzalez & Piney received an Honor Roll certificate for their 2023 show season; & they placed 6th in NAHUS, Novice Amateur Hunter Under Saddle. Piney was also worked in a "first" - cart pulling. Her other horse, Dante, made his riding & driving debut also, in the Fla. Paint Horse Club show. Well done! In cutting horses, Lynn Vina & Boogie have been in herd work, & Jr/Am ranch trail training & challenges. Locally, Melissa Sandness & Spruce won the Championship in Jumper division at Plantation Acres, while Janelis Egozcue ran clean barrels, did well in goat tying with a hurt wrist, & smoked poles with a 23.1 to take 4th at a NJR show! Great to hear our members are diversifying their skills & that of their horses!

In travels- Vicky Maitland went to WEC for the 6 Horse Hitch Series & Ann-louise Oudin & Bette Brown were also there. Wonder if they found each other? News has it that Trey & Kelly Pearce have been snowboarding the powder at Telluride; and hitting the no. Fla. trails have been Debi Catarineau-Priest, Renee Reynolds, Laura Micali & Andrea Sante as they rode the Great Fla. Cattle

Drive Reunion together. Good times! Melissa Sandness took a break to visit San Francisco & Sharon Perrin was on a cruise. Why mention travels after our friends return home? In case other members would like info on those locations, they have reliable people to reach out to for information!

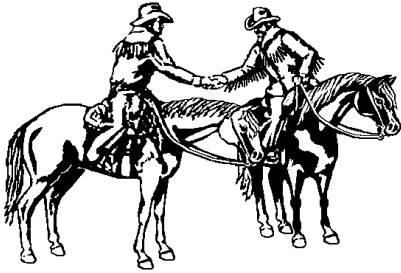
Good luck to our trail & show members, but all of us need to take time to address a local issue – the urban sprawl of non-regulated venues springing up in our area. Please consider helping to save our agricultural areas, & our green ways and trails by attending important community meetings. Come to our next General Meeting, Tues. Mar 5, where Ra Schooley will be our special guest speaker! (see Ra's Round-up & Gen Meeting articles). Then there is a very important community advisory council meeting in Homestead Wed. Mar. 6 (9-11am) where you can voice your opinions. Read the articles, come to our Gen Meeting and hear the info concerning our area first hand! Then attend the meeting Wed. Mar. 6 if you can. We need to come together as a club, to help our community & our horses. To move with the growth of the area, but also safeguard a rural life for ourselves & our horses.

~Bonny George, Jr.

We have 199 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.



Paula Dysle
Wimauma, Fl. 33598



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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Agustin Saavedra
Cindy Proietti
Claudia Delgado
David Ruiz
Eddy Ruiz
Eduardo Cutie'
Elizabeth Hames
Elliot Soto
Emily Morgan
Jon Dunleavy
Kathleen Monahan
Kim Cates

Laura Michele Riley
Lydia Michelle
McDaniel
Maria Panedes
Miriam Wohlers
Nari Bauta
Pedro Brito
Samantha Torcise
Samuel Maldonado
Suraya Hogans
Susan Judah
Vanessa Cuadras

Vicky Martone
Zalman Peles



Future Events

SFTR General Meeting - Tues. Mar. 5

Calling all SFTR to come to our General Meeting, Tues. March 5, to hear our Public Relations chairman, Ra Schooley, explain what is happening with the **State Agritourism law**. This is the hot topic which local zoning, code & police are NOT following through on. Ra spoke at our Feb. meeting & briefed us on key issues which have major negative effects on our equine community. He & some of us have attended other meetings since & there is even more info!

The venues along Krome, & proliferating throughout the Redlands, are not compliant with current laws. They are lobbying to have their bounce houses, loud music venues, ATV rentals, etc legalized. Problem then arises with increased traffic, carnivals opening next to your home (or horse pasture), closing of boarding barns to convert to these venues, etc. Additionally, farmers & other locals are having to deal with trespassing of motorized vehicles through their fields & private property – not to mention more eyes on your horses that were once secluded & safer.

As Trail Riders you should want to keep our trails open, canal-

ways accessible, & not have to deal with the influx of unregulated urban sprawl. There will always be change & growth, but turning our area into the wild west is not why we enjoy our homes & horses. **COME** to this meeting to hear first hand what is happening, how it affects us all, & what it already (and in the future) means for our horses! (see Ra's Round-up in this newsletter)

Remember, we meet on the **first Tuesday** of each month, so our next **General Meeting** will be **Tues. Mar. 5**, at the **Homestead VFW** post. The VFW is 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 & current Agritourism affairs affecting our equines. Come support your club & get involved – see you there! ~Your Board

~Your Board

Ride the East Everglades With Ciro Fonseca

Come join Trail Boss Ciro Fonseca as he leads a great ride in the East Everglades, **Sun. Mar. 3**. We will start at the 136 St trail head. From Krome Ave/177 Ave. go west on SW 136 St. As you pass 187 Ave, **slow** down to cross the bridge. Just as you cross the bridge turn left down along the canal. **Arrive 10am to ride out 11am**. The herd will ride along the levy and trails out in the east glades for about 1.5hrs. Junior friendly ride & all juniors **18-under** must wear a helmet (Fla Law).

After the ride, sodas & water will be provided – bring your own lunch or snack! Even if you don't ride, if you are in the area, come for lunch & socialize with good riding buddies about 12:30. So gather your SFTR friends for an adventure, bring your chair & your trail lunch for the after-ride social time. The east Everglades ride is always quiet, interesting & fun. Let's make Ciro's event a great one!

~Your Board

We Wear Red & Ride - For St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital

This year our 28th annual **St. Jude fundraiser ride** will take place on **Saturday, March 9**. Mike DaCunha will Trail Boss the event, and **All SFTR**, whether you ride or not, are also welcome to come join us with their donations & visit with good friends!

Trailer to Robbie's Feed Store **west** cow pasture. We are **not** using the pasture next to Krome! Enter on 224 St. along the palm tree lined driveway on your right (just past the store) & then turn **LEFT** into the west pasture. Park anywhere in the cow pasture, but do **not** block the gates. Do **not** try to enter through the Krome Ave. gate! Plan on the following:

8am- Gates open **9am**- Sign-in / registration and donations

Donations are **not** required to ride with us, but on behalf of St. Jude, we would appreciate any \$20-\$30 (or more) donation. Sponsor form in this newsletter!! The link directly to St. Jude for on-line donations is featured on our Facebook page & our web page... but **only** donations registered **on-site at the ride** will count for the prizes. We have no way to access on-line donations at the ride.

10am- Ride out for a quiet junior & cart friendly ride, approx. 1.5 hrs in the west rural area. All juniors 18-under **must** wear a helmet.

11:30-12:00pm- Back to the trail head at Robbie's to announce the top donors. Robbie's will award a \$100 gift certificate to the **3 highest amounts collected**, then there will be one 50lb. bag of the new Tribute brand feed (each) for the **4th & 5th highest**, & Mike Maldonado will donate an equine sculpture to the **6th highest**. (So get donations from your friends & neighbors and win one of the 6 prizes!)

We will have sodas & snacks available for all participants & members who attend after the ride. Even if you don't ride, come share a snack as we support the cancer research & treatments provided to children at St. Jude's Hospital.

NOTE: Please wear "**Red for St. Jude**". Western attire with **red**, or your **red SFTR T-shirt**! Let's show the community a great wave of **red** as we ride along! Please be generous to the St. Jude Kids!

Contact Mike DaCunha for more info: 786-308-8082.

It's Nomination Time for SFTR Board & Officers Nominate Yourself or a SFTR Friend!

As our 2023-2024 ride season is rolling into spring, we ask all our members to think about nominating people for the SFTR Board & Officers - 7 Board members, Pres., Vice Pres., Treas. & Sec. To have a club **grow** with the times & **include** the ideas of all its members, new Board & Officers are needed. Our current volunteers in these positions have worked hard this past season to offer a wide variety of rides & activities, and have continued many of our traditional events as well. We ask each member to please **nominate a fellow member (or yourself!)** who would help our club & encourage everyone to participate – whether you

ride or not, you can offer valuable input.

Email Andrea Sante (pasocorto@aol.com) with your nominee's name. We need your **nominations by March 20** please. Nominations are in March, in April and the beginning of May we vote at meetings, rides & events. The last day to vote is at the May General meeting. The new Board & Officers will be sworn in at our end-of-season banquet, Sun. May 26.

Please consider volunteering for a position – our club always benefits by new ideas!

~Your Board

Come to a Board Meeting – Listen, Learn & Voice Your Opinions

We have mentioned before that ALL SFTR are welcome to attend all Board meetings – this IS your club!! Each month a meeting is hosted locally & a reminder email will now go out to the membership giving a number to call for the meeting host. You then call the number for directions – some locations are tricky to find.

At the 7:30pm meeting held the first Monday after the General meeting, the Board covers old business, new issues that have arisen & discusses ways to keep the club moving forward for everyone's benefit. The Board tries to resolve negative issues (YOUR comments would be welcomed!) & also tries to

accommodate the wants of the members as best they can in planning events. These are points where YOUR input is very helpful! To gain greater participation in all activities we need to minimize the negative & add to the positive. The way YOU can help is by attending a meeting & speaking your mind to your Board!

Mark your calendar for, **Monday, March 11, 7:30pm**. The Board meeting rotates to Mike & Deda Maldonado's home. Call 305-331-7599 for their directions & up-dates in case of location change. We value & need your input, so please come!

~Your Board

Ride at Tropical Park in the Country Fest Event

All SFTR riders and non-riders are invited to participate as we do the opening ceremony at noon for Country Fest at Tropical Park, on **both Sat. Apr. 20 & Sun. Apr. 21!** This was previously called the Miami-Dade Cattle Show, now up-dated & in its 17th year. The SFTR for years has opened the event on the weekend, with riders & lead-line equines featuring English & Western tack. We are hoping to also have cart & wagon drivers as well! **Free admission & free parking** if you can participate for a couple of hours. Also **free stalls**, so you can stay & enjoy all the presentations.

Flag riders will enter the arena to present the colors. Then, a tribute will be given to our late friend Manny Alvarez. Following this will be all SFTR riders & those on lead-line, and driving units. Everyone *circles the arena – those riding at a faster pace (trot, canter) along the rail, and those who choose to go slower or have junior riders on lead-line may circle closer to the center of the arena.* After a few circles, we stop along the arena fence to allow the public to meet our horses from the stands. Riders with a horse **not** tolerant of the public may exit. After circling again & our exit, we generally spend some time outside in a grass area to allow the public to bring their children up for photos. Our members explain who we are, where we

ride, & encourage the community to help save our green spaces. You may remain mounted or with a lead-line as you represent our club, & then leave as needed. Free stalls (bring a water bucket) are available for those wanting to stay the day & watch all the shows!

We park the trailers in the back lot, & arrive early to tack-up & warm-up the horses to the venue. Restrooms available & food/beverages for sale on site. You will need a current negative **Coggins with you**, to show at the rear entry gate. Juniors 18-under **must** wear a helmet (Fla law). Attire for all – your best western!! Tack can be English or western. This is a chance to ride a safe, big arena & thrill those who wish they could ride as we do. The SFTR Parade Team, dressed in western attire & trail tack, should volunteer for this activity & help **carry flags** - and **ALL SFTR** members who want a rare opportunity such as this are encouraged to participate, whether riding or in-hand, & carry a flag also! Remember, there will be free stalls so you can watch the other equine events for the day(s). Please **RSVP** to TB Bonny George, Jr.: 305-431-1431, so we can put your name on the entry gate list! Community service hours for juniors who wish to volunteer to help! You will receive detailed info by email prior to the event.

~Bonny George, Jr.

33rd Annual Ride-A-Thon at Babcock Ranch

8000 State Road 31 Punta Gorda, FL, USA—**\$80 Donation** to Benefit Special Equestrians - Saturday, April 20, 2024

We will head out Friday morning to layover at Lee County Pose Arena which is only 15 minutes from the entrance of Babcock Ranch. On our way to the Arena, plans are to ride Alva's Caloosahatchee Regional Park MTB Trail for a 12-mile ride before pulling into the arena for the night. There are no facilities at the arena and no fees.

Saturday morning we'll be on the road by 7:00 AM to ride our horses through the beautiful trails of Babcock Ranch. Gates open at 7:30 AM. This ticket also includes: trailer parking, bagged breakfast, and lunch voucher at a food truck of your choice. Food trucks will have additional food available for pur-

chase. Vendors, raffle & auction tickets will also be available for sale.

At their website you can also create a Champion Pledge Page which includes VIP Parking available for top pledge earners! Be a champion for Special Equestrians!

Please visit this link and sign up!

[Ride-A-Thon – Special Equestrians](#)

Then let me know you'll be joining us so I can plan for Park and Arena parking.

Hope to ride with you on the Ranch!

Debi Catarineau-Priest 305-775-1820



**SOUTH FLORIDA
TRAIL RIDERS, INC.**

Sponsored by

Robbie's Feed & Supply

22390 SW 177th Ave
Miami, FL 33170



**St. Jude Children's
Research Hospital**
Finding cures. Saving children.

PLEDGE FORM

| NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | \$\$\$\$ |
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RIDER NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

Make your tax-deductible (501c3) donation check to:
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



SUNSHINE REPORT



We send our heartfelt sympathy to Lisa Morgan & family, as they lost her mother, Cynthia Hatley. A memorial service was held recently to recollect her life well lived. Sporting an arm sling, Carol Hakanson is on the mend after a trip & fall while leading a visually impaired horse. The trip didn't do much harm, but the horse unknowingly stepping on her humerus left her with a broken arm! Seems Michelle Londono suffered several instances of cerebral bleeds over the last year or so. Hopefully she is healing & enjoying better health this 2024!

We send our condolences to Gabbie Pagan & Carlos Perez for having lost their faithful canine, Ready. Their side-kick who loved to meet people. The Rainbow Bridge also had Donna Hakanson's 26yr old horse, Breeze, trot across. A great trail horse who taught so many people how to ride – she will be missed.

Congratulations to Becky Card-Swerdloff for the

birth of her grandson, Princeton; & to Olga & Mitch Horn who have a new granddaughter, Stella Mia! Wishing a Happy 7th Anniversary to Colby & Catherine Stroud, as they get set to soon move up to north Fla.

In pet additions: Vicky Maitland is overjoyed to announce a new fur-friend in the family- a beautiful 2yr old Golden Lab named Annie. Also new on Gabbie Pagan & Carlos Perez's farm are two fillies born out of Bet Hesa Cat & Bet Hesa Smokin Cat. And it seems while Ashley Leonard is managing with lambing time; Emily & Lisa Morgan are up to their knees in goat kids- 14 bahahas for them!

Help us spread a little Sunshine, on sad times & joyous occasions. Let any Board member know news of your fellow SFTRs. Until next month, smile & stay warm & safe!

~Your Board

SFTR Camping Calendar 2024

Mar 22-25 Black Horse Resort Ranch, Umatilla, Fla., Camp in the Ocala National Forest with full hook-ups (water & elec.), stalls, paddocks, bathhouse, swimming pool, dogs on leash permitted. Info found at black-horseresortranch.com Reserve with JoAnn Cosgrove 352-434-1204 or 352-434-2526 and then notify TB Renee Reynolds, coconut_ldy@hotmail.com that you have reserved!

April 12-15 Lower Wekiva River State Park/Fechtel Tract. The best GPS address is 38015 Swift Road, Eustis, Fla. Camp with TB Donna Hakanson, but **reserve** thru the Wekiva Springs ranger booth: 407-553-4383. Know your vehicle type, license plate number, & payment information. Be patient getting thru their system. Info found at www.floridastateparks.org/learn/horseback-riding-fechtel. After you reserve, contact Donna Hakanson: 321-759-1605 & let her know you reserved!

June 11-24, Buffalo River, Tenn. If you want to camp in Ala. on your way to Tenn. this summer, you **need to register now** for our annual SFTR big club camp out! Renee Reynolds will TB the trail ride through the hill country dotted with beautiful water crossings. Camp with good friends in the SFTR, the full trip is about 2 weeks, but you can join for any portion of the adventure. You can even stay longer at the Buffalo River, as daily rates apply. You have the dates & you **must reserve NOW**, so you won't be left out!!!

Then let Renee Reynolds know 305-338-8192.



SUMMER BOARDING IN GEORGIA



Beautiful 2.5 acre pasture plus shelter per horse.

Only 2 pastures available. May thru November.

Full board \$450 month (plus)

Great place to send your horse off for the summer hurricane season since it is too hot to ride.

2 hours to Jacksonville airport.

Cottage or hotels nearby to visit your horses.

Call or text Andrea Sante 305-216-2461

Emergency Management: Why Is My Horse Biting Me?

(part #2. Part 1 in Feb 2024 newsletter)

Last month we detailed some reasons a horse might bite. Until you know why your horse is biting you, there won't be an effective way for you to tackle the problem. Here is more information to train you & your horse and avoid an emergency room visit!

Aggressive Pinning- During feeding some horses are even more likely to bite, displaying food-aggression. Try to train this type of aggression out of the horse outside in the open. Put the food down on the ground & stand close to it, signaling your horse to come over. Have a lead rope ready. Your aggressive horse will pin its ears & try to close in on the food bowl. You cannot allow this type of approach, so you swing the rope. Your horse should back off. If, on the next approach, your horse is still being aggressive, swing the rope again. Make it clear you mean business by stepping toward your horse if you need to, but do **not** hit your horse. Repeat until your horse finally decides to stand close to the bowl with ears unpinned & a calm attitude. Then, back away from the food. At this point, there is a really good chance your horse will re-pin the ears. You don't want that, but you also don't want to chase your horse away, because on the whole, it is behaving. So, slowly & calmly, show it the rope. When it sees the rope, it should un-pin its ears. You can then let it eat. Over time, as you train aggressive behavior out of your horse at mealtimes, & be less likely to try to bite you.

Burn off excess energy - Sometimes a horse gets tired of standing in its stall, especially if it's young & has energy. So, when you let it out of its stall, it may immediately become excitable. If you then tie it to groom or do other chores, chances are good it may try to bite. Too much restrained energy. To solve this problem, burn off some of the extra energy. Give your horse something to do, moving around, following your directions, etc. Done for a few minutes, you should be able to continue with

your tie-off activities with a horse that will stand still, & not try to bite.

Other reasons to bite- Horses may also bite due to lack of chewing action needed during the day. If turned out all day, the horse would do a lot of grazing. When it's in a stall, it still expects to "graze." Provide plenty of hay. If you are not offering enough hay or grass, it may feel the need to use its mouth on other surfaces. So, it may bite/others or crib. The solution is simple, make sufficient hay or grass available.

Don't encourage biting - Your own proximity or cues may be setting off your horse. If you're petting your horse without really thinking about it & he nudges you, if you do not correct that incident you are encouraging more nudging. With horses, nudging can rapidly progress to nibbling & biting. Big mistake is thinking "no big deal" the first time your horse nibbles at you or your clothing. Letting it go tells your horse he can do it again. If you keep petting your horse during the nibbling, you are actively encouraging this. To keep this from taking place, be mindful of your own proximity & body language with respect to your horse. So, try not to let yourself slip into these habits. Pet your horse consciously with intention, & be aware of his responses. If your horse keeps nudging at you anyway, whatever you do, do not react with aggression. If you swat, your horse is going to think, "Yay, playtime!" You will then be dealing with a frisky horse that is really going to go in for a bite. Either **1**-distance yourself from the horse calmly, or **2**-engage, but in a way your horse doesn't expect. Perhaps instead of swatting your horse's nose, try rubbing it. This is something your horse won't mind at all & may alter his mental pattern.

Next month will be another installment of this important issue. Learning what provokes a horse to bite & how we can train our horse not to bite, will perhaps save you (or someone else) from a serious injury.

~Belinda Hebert

SFTR Annual Banquet Set for Sunday, May 26

This year we will celebrate our club's 46th year with our end-of-the-year banquet on **Sun. May 26**. A beautiful banquet will be held at a banquet hall on Coral Way, across from the Youth Fair grounds. Tables & chairs draped in our club colors & a nice dance floor will accent the open bar & a great meal served at your seat. Dinner will be: bread & butter, salad, main entree & 2 sides, dessert, & a professional DJ for music. Dinner, beverages & open bar all included for: \$35 adults (if paid by Apr. 15) & \$40 adults (if paid by May 12). Child prices & menu will be listed in an **email** sent **soon** to all members, with an on-line link where to pay; or you may also pay by cash/check.

We will have cocktails approx. 6:30pm & start our event at about 7pm. Dinner will be served and comments & awards will lead into dancing and raffles! Dress evening casual or country, be sure to wear your dance shoes & remember we will have awesome raffles set up by Deborah Brunson! Please call Deborah with your donated raffle items, gift cards, company services gift certificates – 786-916-9422.

The venue & included amenities will be a pleasant change from past locations – so mark the date and let's try a new place. Watch your email for more info so you can reserve your dinner at a discount!

~Your Board

Ra's Round-Up ... Urban Influx & Ill Effects on Our Rural Areas

Enough is enough! Over the last few decades, Urban sprawl along with land use changes, has continued to force horse activities out of Miami-Dade County. Last year, the Univ. of Fla. completed a study on our agriculture industry in Miami-Dade. They found that if we keep losing agricultural land at our current rate, agriculture will not be viable in a few years. That should alarm all of us. It is time for our club to join forces with other organizations & stop this trend.

The largest threat to our equestrian community is a proposed county ordinance that removes a lot of regulations that are currently in place to ensure the tranquility of our rural area. Our state has a generous Agritourism statute/law which prevents our local governments from adopting any ordinance that would overshadow the state's allowances. Unfortunately, the **proposed amendment** changes **will** allow activities on agriculture lands that are **not allowed** by our state regulations. These uses would not have to be "ancillary (directly connected) to and directly supportive of agriculture". Some of these activities would include, ATV rentals, water parks, mini golf, outdoor concerts, up to 3 food trucks per property, zip lining, bounce house parks & pub games. The ordinance will prevent the county's ability to ensure the activities are part of a farm operation & remove their ability to enforce the regulations.

These prohibited activities are already happening. There are people getting kicked out of their barns so the owner can convert the barn into a wedding/party venue. We are suffering from extremely loud music, train horns, screaming DJs & firework shows. The ATV rental tours are aggravating farmers, which forces the landowner to blockade some of the dirt roads & **our** access to trails. Food, water, sewage, & zoning inspection/regulation/enforcement at these venues is questionable – which affects health, safety & our fragile ground water supply. Tons of litter, bottles & cans are being left from guests who are parking (illegally) on the sides of the roads.

We **need** to be heard! Let's **stand together** and **convince** our **commissioners** to **reject** these proposed ordinance changes. Up-dates on commission meetings will be sent to the membership via email. At the **next meeting** we need to all Trail Riders to attend will be **9-11am, Wed. Mar. 6**. Location: Homestead Ag. Center on the SW corner of **288 St & 187 Ave** in Homestead. Anyone who wishes to voice their opinion will have 2 minutes to speak. Contact Ra Schooley: 305-801-9662 for more info. We need a show of strength in **yellow/gold SFTR T-shirts** at these Agricultural Practices Advisory meetings, as concerned voters. Don't let them fence us out!!!!

~Ra Schooley

Star Gaze at Fruit & Spice Park



Many Thanks from Whispering Manes

As the Program Director of the Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center, I was honored to attend the 14th annual Autism Ride. It was a beautiful day for a trail ride! This is always a really special event for our program, where 100% of the donations collected by the So. Fla. Trail Riders go to scholarships for children who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to learn about and ride horses.

The scholarships are ear-marked to schools who make the equine-assisted program part of their school curriculum. The students visit our facility weekly & learn about grooming, feeding and riding.

Since our inception in January 2012, I've personally had the chance to come out to 6 SFTR rides. It's always a happy event!

We are also very thankful to Robbie's Feed for again generously supporting the ride and our mission. The community support for our program is overwhelming, and we are grateful to everyone who came out this year, and in years past. Together we are touching the hearts & minds of so many special needs & Autistic children in our community – one horse lesson at a time.

Thank you all again!

~Robin Bramson





Pine Lake . . . Too Many Signs

Ben Kroner brought the donuts to start the day right – a clear morning down inside the Everglades Natl. Park, with clear skies & a light breeze. As Trail Boss, I was happy to see Kim Cates & Abby Goostree arrive, as well as Amanda Borque. Juan Rodriguez (Tato) pulled in at the lake, as did Laurie Waggoner, & Natalie Perlin with her big white horse.

When we headed out around the lake we came upon “Warning- Burn in Progress” signs! This signaled my needing to determine an alternate route. We had no way of knowing the section was in a controlled burn program. I went off trail a bit to see if there was a way around the zone, but soft sinking watery terrain & rocks sent me back to the group after a few minutes. If BB couldn't make it, the shorter horses surely wouldn't. We meandered along and never saw or smelled any burning & had a double-back when a

turn was missed. I apologize to everyone for the missed turn. Hard to navigate down there, especially with the warning signs along our previous years' route, & wanting to keep our group safe.

To my regret, the ride turned out too long for both horses & humans – again, my sincere apologies! We returned via a shorter route, but Amanda's horse finally had enough, so she dismounted & walked. Although the long way was dryer, this shorter route took us along a very wet & rocky trail. Overall the ride was a good adventure, except for Amanda walking 40min. to give her horse a respite. I was concerned for her, but she is one strong, brave & determined woman, with a big heart for her horse! Sorry for choosing what turned out to be a long ride due to the Burn signs.

~Mike Maldonado



Funnel Cakes 2024



SFSPCA Horse of the Month "Cappy"



Cappy

Breed Paso Fino

Sex Gelding

Year of Birth 2017

Height 13.2 hands

Arrival to Farm September 2023

Cappy was rescued after he was found walking stray in Miami Dade County. He was rescued as a stallion but has since been gelded. Cappy has been turned out with the other gelding at the rescue.

He is green under saddle, so an experienced rider is preferred.

Contact Laurie at

Laurie@helpthehorses.com for adoption info.

Donations can be made at

www.helpthehorses.com

Rocko, last month's horse,
was adopted.



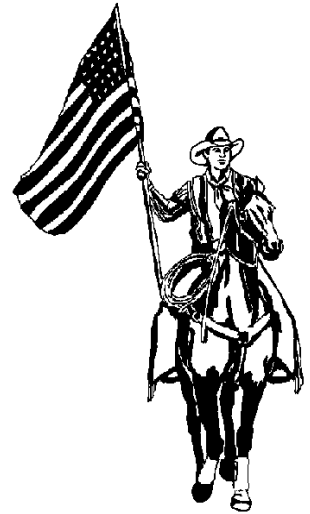
PARADE TEAM NEWS

We really had a great parading year last season and I am hoping for an even better Parade Team this July (as we start the new season). Come one, Come all - to join our SFTR Parade Team! During this down time, a great way to get prepared & ready for parades is to be involved in local rides and especially desensitizing events. We will hopefully have more activities in which ALL SFTR, including even the youngest juniors, can join in our practices & participate in the next season.

In the mean time, attend as many rides as you can to exercise your horse & meet fellow members' horses. Get those juniors involved now, before the summer heat. It all helps when we are in formation in a real parade!

I hope everyone so far is having a fantastic 2024 year so far. Stay tuned, more to come!

~Lisa Morgan



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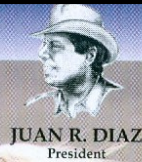
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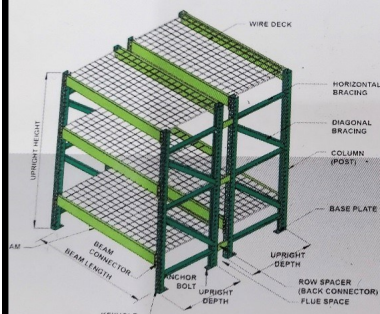
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- ☐ **RENEWAL**
- ☐ **ADDRESS CHANGE / FILE UPDATE**
- ☐ **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$35.00 PER YEAR)**
- ☐ **SINGLE MEMBERSHIP (\$30.00 PER YEAR)**
(Applicant Must Be 18 Years Of Age)
- ☐ **DUAL MEMBERSHIP (\$20.00 PER YEAR)**
Must be a full paying member of Broward SFTR
Membership runs from Sept. 1st through Aug. 31st of each year.

NAME (1) _____ DOB _____ NAME (3) _____ DOB _____

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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DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL? ☐ YES

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Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

All listed names above must reside at the same address.

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