



BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER January 2011

Upcoming Events

2011 Kick-Off Meeting Saturday, January 22nd

This year's kick off meeting will be held January 22nd at Club Tamarack in Bent Tree. Social hour will be from 6:00 to 7:00. A wine and beer cash bar will be open all evening. Dinner will be served at 7:00. Connie from the 19th Hole will be serving traditional-style pizza, salad and soft drinks.

This is going to be such a cool evening with the talented Tater Patch Players doing a skit set in the Bent Branch Saloon in the late 1800's. I have no doubt it will be a knee slapper. We encourage you to dress in 1800's period attire, but it is not required. It's just for fun, so see what you can come up with. Either way, come and enjoy a relaxing evening with us. We will also hold a general meeting, so some time will be put aside for that. We will hear from Rosemary about the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch in Montana. And what is a general meeting without knowing what money we do or do not have. Tami with her down-to-earth style will let us know! I will talk about the 20th anniversary celebration.

Entertainment will start just after the meeting, so get your smile muscles in shape and your tickle bone ready, because this will be a fun evening.

Prepaid nonrefundable reservations are \$20 per person payable to BTSC and must be received no later than Saturday, January 15th. Send your checks to Georgianna Hunter, 220 Coach Whip Court #20454, Jasper, Georgia 30143.

Georgianna

Super Bowl Party Saturday, February 6th

Are you ready for some football!!!!

BTSC Super Bowl enthusiasts will again be able to watch the action on The Big Screen at Pendley Creek Stables! The game will be played in Dallas, Texas, and for those of you who did not get your tickets to be right there in the stands, just bring your tailgate fixin's to the barn for a great evening of football, fun and food.

This year, there is a good chance one of the local teams will be playing. No, not the Pickens High School team; it looks like the Atlanta Falcons have a real good shot at making it to the game.

Kickoff is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on February 6th, so let's plan to start the festivities around 5:30 so everyone can get a good seat. This year let's do a bring-your-own favorite football tailgate-party food and drink, with maybe a little extra to share with the crowd.

Please bring your own chair, lounge or cushion ... whatever you like to sit on for a game. We will provide ice, cups, plates (paper of course) and napkins. So get on your team colors and come cheer for the winner.

Contact Keith Hunter with questions at khunter@etcm.com. or at 706-253-7299.

Keith

Bent Tree Trails Assessment Tuesday, February 8th

The Bent Tree trails have provided so much enjoyment to our club members and clients of the Bent Tree stables, but they are now in need of some serious help. Over the last 20 years we've seen bare-bones maintenance on these trails. Many of the trails suffer from serious erosion due to water runoff. Some of the trails have eternally muddy spots that are like quicksand ready to swallow any easy boot that gets anywhere near them.

The Bent Tree Board of Directors has stepped up to the plate and allocated \$5,000 toward trail maintenance in 2011.

On Tuesday, February 8th, Mike Riter, founder of Trail Design Specialists of Snellville, Georgia, will tour the trails and provide us with an assessment of what he thinks can be done to improve the quality of these trails. Mike started his company approximately 20 years ago and has built it into a nationally recognized and sought after trails creation/maintenance company. After the tour, Mike will meet with Mike King, Bent Tree General Manager, and a member of his staff to review his findings. The saddle club is funding this assessment utilizing the monies raised from last August's golf tournament and a couple individual donations.

It is very important that both the Bent Tree staff and the tool-wielding heavy-lifters of the saddle club be present to learn as much as we can from Mike Riter about the new state-of-the-art techniques for trail construction and repair. If you would like to participate in this meeting, please send me an e-mail at richvigue@ellijay.com.

Rich

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

First, I want to thank Rich for a great past year and lot of fun and education along the way, and thank Janet for keeping him on course. (Just kidding, maybe not.)

I think that we need to look at the past 12 months and remember the people who we have lost and learned from. And in looking back, remember those animals large and small who gave us unconditional love. I know I will.

In this month's newsletter there will be information about the kick-off meeting and our 20th anniversary celebration.

Looking over the calendar, I was so surprised how much this club does together and all the hands it takes to make things happen. Each month be sure to look over the calendar because just like the weather it will change. With that said, we need leaders, new leaders - no experience needed, you can do it, contact me at ghunter@etcm.com.

As we know, Val and Jena are not running the O-Mok-Sees this year. Yes, it is true and personally I will miss their energy. It will take a committee to take their places. Our brave committee members are Janet Vigue, Margy Lohman, John Wilder and Keith Hunter. So they will be calling you for some help. Just say yes.

Judy Heilman has invited us back to Mt. Rogers, Virginia, again. If you did not go last year, you missed some of the most spectacular sunsets and wonderful times.

Rosemary is leading the club to the Montana dude ranch in September.

Rich and Janet have a new event coming in March, and I will let him tell you all about it.

Look out! More fun is on the way.

Georgianna

Montana Bound September 4 thru 11



The deadline for getting reservations to Nine Quarter Circle Ranch is quickly approaching. Please don't forget to mail your deposit to the ranch by February 1st. When you start looking at flights for the week of September 4-11, remember that this is Labor Day weekend and plan accordingly. You may want to go out a few days early or stay a few days beyond the 11th. The weekend of the 4th will be busy around Yellowstone as it is a holiday weekend. If you are planning to visit other areas before or after going to the ranch, you should know that some places close down after Labor Day, including ghost towns in the area. Most of West Yellowstone and its attractions do remain open.

If you are looking for a place to stay while visiting Yellowstone, David and I stayed at a great place in West Yellowstone that has beautiful cabins. It's called Hibernation Station. Their rates go down after Labor Day, and they are about 1 mile or less from the entrance to Yellowstone. We highly recommend this place, and you can check them out at www.hibernationstation.com. There are lots of hotels/motels in West Yellowstone to choose from, but after checking out several, this was our favorite. And if you prefer to travel to Bozeman, there are many of the typical chain hotels available there as well.

If you decide to fly into Salt Lake City and drive to the ranch, there are plenty of things to see along the way. There is Idaho Falls where you can stop and see the Snake River; Pocatello, which is a decent-size college town; Dillon, Montana, home of the University of Montana Western (a neat college town); a scenic drive to Virginia City and Nevada City, two ghost towns, which close after Labor Day; Ennis, Montana, which has a very nice hospital if you are in need of one (ask me, I've been there); continue across 287, a beautiful drive that passes Quake Lake and Hedgen Lake. Then it is a short drive to West Yellowstone or to Nine Quarter Circle. The drive could be 6.5 to 7 hours, but if you try to see anything along the way, it would take longer for sure. Depending on which airline you choose, you could also fly into Idaho Falls, cutting off about an hour of the drive. Next month, I'll bring you in from Bozeman, which is north of the ranch. West Yellowstone is south of the ranch.

I hope this information has been helpful. No matter which direction you decide to come from, there is beautiful scenery all the way just getting to the ranch. And then there is the five-mile driveway leading to the ranch. Get your cameras ready! See ya next month.

Rosemary

Secretary's Report

As of the writing of this article, we have 37 paid members for 2011. Dues must be paid by Monday, February 28th in order to remain an active member. After the 28th any unpaid members will be dropped from the list and will no longer receive the newsletter. The newsletter will contain important information that you won't want to miss reference the 2011 "20-year celebration" throughout the year. This deadline is especially important for non Bent Tree property owners, so please get your membership forms and checks in. There is a membership form at the end of this newsletter. Please send it to me signed with a check made out to BTSC for the correct amount. Mail it to: BTSC c/o Rosemary King; 1000 Matthews Road; Jasper, GA 30143. Thanks in advance for taking care of this in a timely manner.

Rosemary

Trim-a-Tree/Christmas Party Recap

Eighteen saddle club members got into the Christmas spirit at Pendley Creek Stables Friday night December 10th. Martha had the tree in its stand and ready for decorating. Janet and I had fully charged eggnog ready to go; however, this group came prepared with their own cheer. The decorating definitely got more creative as the night went on. In less than 90 minutes the tree and the loft were ready for the following night's annual Christmas party. We then met for dinner at Dos Margaritas where a large table awaited us. It was good fun.

Sixty people attended the Christmas party the following night, Saturday, December 11th. Thanks to Julie Heinsman, we actually had tables and chairs to eat from. This year, all the food was provided by club members, and we did not go without. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Stan Adams entertained us with a few songs from his recent CD and later on in the evening led us in singing Christmas carols. This year's award winners were Julie Heisman - the Gloria Skinner Founder's Award, Bobby Delay - the Volunteer Award, Don and Nickie House - the Spirit Award, and a special recognition went to Jena Finley and Val Jacobson for all their efforts with the O-Mok-Sees over the last few years.

Feedback indicates that most people had a really good time. I truly enjoyed it right up until I tried to help a couple female members get their car out of the pasture.

Rich

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$4,349.34
Deposits	
Memberships	1,020.00
Checks written	
Walt Hyzer reimbursement	132.40
Barbara Hutson	59.91
Georgianna Hunter	548.64
Rich Vigue	52.95
Martha Prince	99.00
Angel Flight	50.00
Scholarship fund	1,308.00
Ending balance	\$3,118.44

Keeping our Trails

Just a quick note about Garland Mountain, Jake Mountain and state parks workdays:

State Parks - Date is March 12. In the past we have gone as a club to Fort Mountain. Larry Wheat is the coordinator for Fort Mountain. His e-mail is l.wheat@mindspring.com.

Jake Mountain - First workday is January 8. No other dates are scheduled right now. Debbie Crowe is the coordinator. She will keep us posted.

Garland Mountain - Normal workdays are on the second Saturday of each month. However in March it conflicts with the state parks workday. Instead, they will probably schedule the March workday on the first Saturday. Cindy Young is the coordination. Her e-mail is Cdingodog1@aol.com or call her at 770 517 9550.

We can also contact Larry Wheat if we have questions.

Georgianna

*At Montana East:
Chief to Spirit,
"Where's the grass?"*





A BTSC Retrospective

In the small continuum of time that defines my life, there is an even smaller block of time, yet not insignificant, that identifies my connection to the Bent Tree Saddle Club. Though I fall a little short of the full twenty years of its existence, it must be something close to that since I know that I have lived in Bent Tree since 1988. At the beginning of my tenure as a resident of Bent Tree, I was always going down to the Bent Tree Stables, either by myself or with visiting friends, to rent a trail horse (or two) for what would always be a most enjoyable ride around the mountain trails of Bent Tree and the surrounding area.

It was either due to my somewhat slow-to-socialize behavior, that I was not aware of the founding group of club members, or maybe it was due to my pre-occupation with my other sport of the time, kayaking, that I just simply wasn't interested in participating in another organization that involved attendance at club meetings.

However, sometime during the early to mid-90's, when I was out riding with Pete Dillingham, Stable Master at Bent Tree, I was approached by Pete about joining the Bent Tree Saddle Club. I of course said, "Why?" Pete touted all of the intrinsic reasons of equine education, group trail riding, camaraderie, etc., etc. Not sensing that any of these reasons sparked any excitement in me, Pete then added one more reason. He explained that it was very important for the future longevity of the riding program at Bent Tree that the Board of Directors get feedback that there is an interest in the riding program not only from horse lovers who live in the area, but specifically horse lovers who live in Bent Tree. It is important to clarify to the readers of this article, that the prevailing feelings in regards to the riding program at Bent Tree, at that time, was certainly precarious at the least. There were even rumors of conversations that discussed bulldozing down the stables and turning the land into residential building lots.

Pete's last reason for joining the Bent Tree Saddle Club was compelling enough for me. Being a Bent Tree resident and one who in fact utilized the facility and one who was certainly interested in its longevity, I jumped right in and declared that I would definitely join the club. However, this was prefaced by one condition. I said to Pete, "But don't expect me to go to any meetings!"

Over time, my slow-to-socialize behavior got interrupted by several saddle club members who some may refer to as having fast-to-socialize behavior. I won't mention any names, but not long after being a "member," I was approached one day while riding my horse by none other than Janet Vigue. Janet stopped me for what I thought at first was just polite conversation, but quickly turned to purpose. Janet said to me, "Hey, you're a saddle club member, right? And you have computer word processing skills, right? So, how about becoming an officer of the saddle club, i.e. secretary, and doing the newsletter for the club?"

Now, I like to consider myself to be someone who doesn't take benefits from any group without some measure of giving back. And computer word processing/publishing was really not a big deal to me. So, I said to Janet, "Well, I really don't mind doing the newsletter, and I really don't require an official title like 'Secretary', and there really is one condition that I need to make clear up front." Janet said, "Okay, what's that?" And I replied, "Just don't expect me to go to any meetings!"

Then after a few years of doing the newsletter, those fast-to-socialize people, interrupted me again, but this time the plea was even more demanding. They wanted me to be, of all things, president of the saddle club. I gave it serious consideration and concluded that the payback that I owed to the saddle club for all of the good support they were doing for the longevity of the riding program at Bent Tree was certainly warranted. So I said "Yes, I will agree to be president of the saddle club but only on one condition, that I don't have to go to any meetings ... Oh, \$&%#!!" Yup! Those fast-to-socialize bastards finally did it to me. Now I had to go to the meetings. I was after all, the president.

In retrospect, it really wasn't that bad. The meetings were more interesting than I would have thought, and the club members were, and still are, a pretty darn nice group of folks. And best of all, the longevity of the riding program at Bent Tree is more secure today than anyone had ever expected. Here's hoping for another 20 years, at least, of a Bent Tree Saddle Club.

Keeve

Byron Hutson
404 791 6609



THE BARN BUILDER
BETTER BUILDING SINCE 1974

Farm Planning, Designing and Construction

Reiki
For companion animals
Offered by:
Lisa H. Robinette
Usui Reiki Master
770-355-5849



Photography by Jena Finley

JRV Realty of North Georgia
Specializing in Horse Farms and Land

Rich Vigue, Broker
770-289-7272

www.RichVigue.com
Rich@RichVigue.com

Fern Creek Healing Center

Jan Hester
770-893-2105

www.ferncreekhealingcenter.com

QXCI BIOFEEDBACK THERAPY
for your horse or other pets. Reduce the stressors in your pet's life that lead to disease or emotional/behavioral problems.

NATURAL HOOF TRIMMING
Help your horse travel the way that nature intended. Save him from painful hoof problems later (or sooner) in life.



Bringing you and your horse together

Natural Horsemanship Training:
Lessons, Spring & Fall Clinics.

Onsite Services:
Cozy Cabins w/Horse Lodging,
Trailer Hookups, Great Meals.

Pete & Bambi Dillingham
931-946-7383
www.FireflyAcres.com



A STATEMENT OF RUSTIC ELEGANCE

Lakota Cove is located on 26 acres in the beautiful North Georgia Mountains. We feature the country's top rustic furniture builders, rustic lighting, design services and accessories for the home

Linda Magness
770-893-3495
770-893-3497 Fax

Equine Massage Therapist

10 Years of Experience
Deborah Sorenson
678-452-2114
www.equitherapies.com



Certified Horsemanship Instructor

Elaine Kaiser

Western or Dressage Instruction
"Learn to Connect"
Jasper, Georgia
Horsey1207@gmail.com
Cell: 706-331-8479
Home: 706-253-2693



Get Horse Smart at Stillwater Farms

Real life lessons
Unique fun-filled birthday parties.
Farm visits/rides
Fieldtrips
Summer Barn School

See our website
www.stillwaterfarms.net
or call **Barbara Hutson**
at 706-429-0070.

2011 Officer

President: Georgianna Hunter
 Vice-President: Bob Crowl
 Treasurer: Tami Tyson
 Secretary: Rosemary King
 (Newsletter Editor: DJ Suberk)
 Bent Tree Liaison: Jan Lorenzen
 Board Appointees:
 Barbara Hutson
 Betsy Robbe

**Saddle Club
 Hotline and Website
 770-893-1489
 www.BTSC.info**

Check the hotline or
 website if weather
 threatens to interfere
 with a scheduled event.

BTSC January 2011 Fridge Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 RSVPs due for Kick-Off Party
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Kick-Off Party and General Mtg.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

BENT TREE SADDLE CLUB CALENDAR - 2011

To suggest or lead an event please contact Georgianna ghunter@etcm.com or Bob bobpeggy@windstream.net

January	22 Kick Off/ General Meeting	Georgianna and Volunteers
February	6 Super Bowl Party/ Pendley Creek Stables 12 Work Day Garland Mountain Work Day 20 Bruce Prince Memorial All-Day Ride	Keith Hunter Need Leader Rich Vigue
March	5 Horse Park Clean Up 12 20 th Anniversary Celebration 19 Team Penning 26 O-Mok-See #1	David King Georgianna and Volunteers Rich and Janet Committee
April	3 Trailer Trip Ride 16 O-Mok-See #2 23 General Meeting/Fun Show 29, 30 and May 1 Firefly Acres	Need Leader Committee Need Leader Pete and Bambi Dillingham
May	7 Kentucky Derby Party 8 Local Ride 14 Obstacle Course 28 O-Mok-See #3	Lee and Ann Burger Need leader Kathy Hardin Committee
June	12-19 Mount Rogers Trip, VA 25 Shoot Out 28-30 Youth Week	Judy Heilman Keith Hunter Bob and Keeve
July	1-2 Youth Week 16 Poker Night	Bob and Keeve John and Gail Heinsman
August	6 Quarry Ride 20 Game Night/ Dinner	Georgianna Betsy Robbe
September	3 Local Ride 4-11 Montana Dude Ranch 17 Garbage Can Cook Out/ General Meeting 24 Horse Show	Need Leader Rosemary Julie Heinsman Jan and Tami
October	8 O-Mok-See #4 12-16 Fall Trip 29 K-Bar-K Picnic/Fun Day	Committee Need Leader Rosemary and David King
November	12 Moderate Trail Challenge 19 Thanksgiving Dinner/ General Meeting	Rich and Janet Peggy and Bob
December	3 Top of the World Ride 9 Trim the Tree 10 Christmas Party	Jena and Vall Keith and Georgianna Keith and Georgianna

BTSC Executive Committee Meetings

January 7, February 4, March 4. Held at the Bent Tree Cottage

August 5, September 30, October 7. Held at the Horse Park

Bent Tree Saddle Club – 2011 Membership Application
(Payable to Bent Tree Saddle Club)

Name: _____ Reg (\$30) _____ (First member must be a regular membership for \$30)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Are you a Bent Tree property owner? (Y) (N) Do you board a horse at Bent Tree Stables? (Y) (N)2nd: _____ Reg (\$30) _____ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) _____3rd: _____ Reg (\$30) _____ Social/Non-Rider (\$20) _____**DUES AND SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE (below) MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.** New member 2011 Dues are effective October 2010 through December 2011. Renewal Dues apply to the calendar year.
Mail application & check to: **Bent Tree Saddle Club, c/o Rosemary King, 1000 Matthews Road; Jasper, GA 30143****ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, NOTICE AND RELEASE**

THE UNDERSIGNED does hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators acknowledge that the activities engaged in and/or participated in are covered by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 4-12-1 through 4-12-5 and that **Bent Tree Community, Incorporated and Bent Tree Saddle Club** are **Equine Activity Sponsors** as contemplate thereunder and further acknowledge that he has received the **Warning** as required in OCGA 4-12-4 (Warning required effect of failure to comply with notice requirement). The warning is as follows.

WARNING**Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activity, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 for the Official Code for Georgia Annotated.**

I acknowledge and fully understand that Equine Activities and particularly "Trail Rides" and cross-country horseback riding over obstacles, steep and rough terrain and with unknown riders and horses can be dangerous activities. I wish to participate in these activities knowing they can be dangerous. I accept and assume all the risks of injury (including death) to my horse, my property and me. Members of the Bent Tree Saddle Club will not knowingly ride on private property without the property owner's prior consent. When I do ride on private property I do so at my own risk. Use of protective helmets is recommended. If I choose to ride without a helmet, it will be at my own risk.

Should I require medical assistance for any reason during any Equine Activity and not be in position to obtain, request or authorize such treatment at the time, I hereby authorize the Equine Activity Sponsors to obtain such medical treatment or emergency care as they may deem necessary or desirable and I agree to hold the Equine Activity Sponsors harmless with regard to any such emergency care or expenses arising therefrom.

The Equine Activity Sponsors do not condone the drinking of alcohol or taking of drugs at Equine Activities. If you are taking any drugs or medications that might affect your ability to participate in any Equine Activity or otherwise do not have the experience, knowledge, or ability to participate in any Equine Activity, please do not participate.

Acknowledged and agreed:

1: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

2: Signature: _____ Print Name _____ Date: _____

Sponsor Members' Signatures – 2 sponsors are required (only for new applicants who are not Bent Tree Property owners)

1. _____

2. _____
