

Upcoming Events

REMINDER Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, May 1st

The Saddle Club's annual Kentucky Derby Party will be held at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, May 1st at the 19th Hole in Bent Tree. Although post time is not until 6:00 p.m., you will want to arrive early to pick your horses and place your bets. Your cost for dinner will be \$15.

Lee and Ann

Workday at Bent Tree Stables Saturday, May 8th

HELP! We need volunteers!

A workday is scheduled for the Bent Tree Stables on May 8th. We'll be getting started at 9 a.m. Throw some tools in your truck and come on over and pitch in. Lunch and drinks will be provided. Don't worry about being bored, standing around and waiting ... no way! We have so many projects and repairs to tackle that I guarantee we will put you right to work. Contact Vickie at vmustangsally@yahoo.com if you have any questions and to sign up to be there, so the planning can begin.

Vickie

General Meeting Saturday, May 15th

Plan to attend our next general meeting at the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park on Saturday May 15th at 4:00 p.m. There will be a short meeting and an educational equine presentation followed by a cookout in the pavilion.

Becky King, certified Parelli Level 3, will discuss with us what she calls "Horsenality" – an analysis of your horse's personality – to help develop the right approach in training/working with your horse. Becky trains horses out of Lonesome Creek Equine Training Center in Canton and has worked with several Saddle Club members. During her presentation, Becky will work with two horses supplied by Saddle Club members. She is looking for one horse that is excitable and frisky, and one horse that is quiet and laid back. Each needs to have had some ground training. If you have a horse you'd like her to work with, please let me know.

No reservations are required. The cookout will be the usual BTSC MO – BYOEExC.
Rich

O-Mok-See!!! Saturday, May 22nd @ Noon

We were going to write this article backwards and make you hold it up to a mirror to reveal its secret content. We thought it would make it more interesting since you've all seen this article at least seven times in the last two years. That was a lot of work so we just left it the same – especially since the content isn't so secret.

The next O-Mok-See is on Saturday, May 22nd at noon. The back gate will open at 11:00 a.m. for trucks and trailers. Please contact me at jfin@tds.net if you plan to trailer through the back gate so I can let the gatekeepers know how many vehicles to expect. The entry fee is \$10 per horse and rider. You may ride more than one horse, but it is an additional \$10 per horse. You MUST present a current negative coggins to participate. NO EXCEPTIONS! All BTSC members are encouraged to come out, enjoy the day and cheer for your favorite contestants! We'll also continue with the post-event BYOEExC (bring your own everything except charcoal) cookout.

We plan on handing out the correct ribbons this time so you surely won't want to miss this exciting event. Other event leaders will appreciate it as well. We look forward to seeing you.

Jena & Val

Prince Memorial Ride Sunday, May 16th

Our fifth annual Bruce Prince Memorial Ride has been rescheduled to Sunday, May 16th. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this time. We will leave from the Bent Tree Saddle Club Horse Park at 10:30 a.m. The back gate will open at 10:00 a.m. We will ride to the Prince cabin and have lunch there. This is a fairly demanding ride as there are some steep climbs and rocky areas. We will stop along the way several times to give the horses a break, including a stop at the Bruce Prince Memorial sign. There will be plenty of opportunities to reminisce about Bruce and recall our fond memories. The ride should last about 3 to 3½ hours.

Please let me know if you are coming. Martha will be serving lunch at the cabin, so we need an accurate head count. If the access road is not passable, we will let you know so you can pack a lunch. Also, I need a head count for the back gate. Please advise me of your plans by calling 706-692-9825 or e-mailing bobpeggy@windstream.net. We will be checking for negative coggins at the Horse Park. Martha and I are looking forward to seeing you.

Bob



Our Claire and Jet.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This is my third attempt at this month's President's Column. The first two drafts fell on the cutting room floor as a result of the swift, sharp knife wielded by my self-appointed editor-in-chief. While Janet may be possessed of truly awesome social skills, she leaves those at the door when dealing with yours truly. I am honored by the fact that I receive such unfiltered commentary from a truly knowing individual. The club has a lot going on. What follows is a quick overview of what your Executive Committee has been up to of late.

First, Don House is leading the charge on the Bent Tree Saddle Club Scholarship Fund. The launch has occurred with a press release that has appeared in the Pickens Progress. See the "update" article on this page to get all of the details. A lot of thought has gone into this, and we owe a great deal of thanks to Don and his committee including, Charles Cates, Val Jacobson and Rosemary King. We are giving something back to the community. Everyone can be proud of the club and what these people are doing.

Secondly, Georgianna Hunter is heading up a 20th Anniversary Committee planning for a major event next year in recognition of our having lasted as long as we have. Georgianna gave us an update at the April General Meeting, and we'll be hearing a lot about this in the months ahead. Go Gigi! Almost sounds like a Maurice Chevalier song.

Third, not to be outdone by his wife, Keith Hunter is heading up a Membership Committee to look at our membership demographics and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. As Rosemary reported at our last General Meeting, we are at 133 members with 42 percent Bent Tree property owners.

If you have any input on any of these endeavors, please feel free to contact the committee chair. We would like to hear from you. If you don't want to contact the committee chair, call Janet. I'm sure she will give me a complete report and marching orders to boot.

Rich

BTSC Scholarship Program Update

As announced last month, the BTSC Scholarship Program is officially underway. The announcement to the general public was in the Pickens Progress on Thursday, April 22nd. An article will appear in the Bent Tree Echo in May. The guidance counselor at Pickens High School has been contacted and briefed on the program.

The application and instructions are ready, and they can be requested by contacting the committee at Bent Tree Saddle Club Scholarship Committee, 2860 Tamarack Drive, #20618, Jasper, GA 30143 or at scholarship@btsc.info. Applications should be returned to the same mailing address. The committee will then review the applications. The announced deadline is May 21. We would like to make a decision by early June and make an announcement of winners or co-winners in June.

Please spread the word to eligible candidates: Seniors in high school graduating in 2010, or persons recently graduated from high school who are enrolling in college, or students who are already in college undergraduate or graduate school in equine-related studies. College location is not restricted. We encourage family and friends of eligible students to contact them and provide information on how to apply.

Special thanks go to Rosemary King who produced the application package, Val Jacobson who has handled all the publicity and outreach, and Walt Hyzer for setting up the e-mail address for application requests. Thanks also to Rich Vigue and Bob Crowl for setting up the logistics to handle mail requests and receipts.

Also, please support the 2nd Annual Montana East Shootout to be held on June 12th. This is the major fund raising event for the 2011 scholarship awards.

If you would like to discuss the program, please contact me or another member of the committee.

Don

BTSC.info

The Bent Tree Saddle Club website is up and running. The site is feature rich but is not viewable by the general public. Users are required to "log in" to the site to so much as see it. A user's manual was distributed to all members several weeks ago. Thus far, approximately 70 members of the club have registered to use the site.

I made registering as simple as I know how: all that is required is you navigate to www.btsc.info click on "Register," enter your name and e-mail address and click register. That's all there is to it - a password will be e-mailed to you. Once logged in, there are several activities users may engage in. All registered users may post articles of common interest to club members. Please remember articles should not be blatant ads for goods or services; there is a special place on the site just for that. Posting articles is quite easy; it does not require any knowledge of computer programming. If you want to post an article and are uneasy about doing it the first time, give me a call and I'll walk you through it.

The event calendar is an online version of the club's event calendar.

The gallery has been our most successful and popular area of the site. Pictures of events have been posted by members for everyone to enjoy. If you have pictures that would be of interest to the club and you want to share them, just beam them over to me and I'll take it from there. Please include a description so that I have some clue what the event was. So far, members have elected to share over 500 pictures, so keep them coming. Just remember, to view pictures you must be registered on the site.

Classifieds are that special area for anyone to post goods and/or services for sale. It is very easy to place an ad. Simply log into the site and click on "Classified" then click on Place an Ad. Fill in the blanks and you are all done. Ads will automatically delete themselves after 45 days, you may readvertise as often as you like. Please remember to remove your ad after the item is sold. You may include up to four pictures with your ad, I suggest that you resize them down to 640 X 480 pixels. If that last part is Greek to you, let me know and I'll get you started. whyzer@gmail.com.

Walt

**Shootout at Montana East
Saturday, June 12th**

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, June 12th to participate in the Shootout at Montana East. Keith Hunter will be conducting the event again this year, and proceeds will benefit the Bent Tree Saddle Club Scholarship Fund. This event was a big success last year, and we expect a large turnout this year. It is a one-of-a-kind event for our club that allows members and guests to participate in a day of safe firearms shooting while contributing to a worthy cause. Specific details will be provided in the June newsletter. However, mark your calendars now.

Rich

*Here we come Nickie, and
boy are we hungry!*

All-Day Ride Recap

Saturday April 3rd was a sunny, pleasant day for an all-day ride. The weather cycle of weekend rain that we've been having all year finally took a break. The riders left the Saddle Club Horse Park on time at 9:30 a.m. and picked up more riders at North Wind Farm and Windswept Farm. As we rode down Soquili Trail, I counted 19 riders. Not bad for an all-day ride.

The ride traversed a new trail from Hickory Cove to Quail Walk, crossed the Dubose property to Fitts Road and crossed the Copeland's pasture that had a large herd of cattle grazing in it. Then, we broke for a late morning snack prior to the climb up to the old CCC Road just below Big Canoe. The climb up to that road was our first encounter with bushwhacking (a rigueur du jour with the all-day ride). By the time we had ridden the CCC Road and Monument Road, everyone was ready for a late lunch at the Houses' place.

As usual, Nickie and Don were excellent hosts. Don had placed a water trough near the picket line, which the horses really appreciated. Nickie let us all in her house even though we looked like a bunch of saddle tramps. She had prepared two pots full of chili, as well as salad, coffee, sodas, dessert items and bags of trail mix. She even had some OTC medicine available for those who required pain relief. Needless to say, the food was a very welcomed sight to people who had just spent five hours in the saddle. What a great stopover!

The tired and sore riders got back to the horse park around 5:00 p.m. This really was an all-day ride. Yahoo!

Rich



*We descended on Nickie's kitchen like a
swarm of bees*



*Bobby and John, definitely feeling better
after lunch*



Firefly Acres Recap

Wow, we had another fantastic weekend at Firefly Acres. Thirty-one people and twenty-four horses made the journey from Georgia to Tennessee. Mother Nature could not have blessed us with better weather. Both Redbuds and Dogwoods were showing off their beautiful color.

After lunch on Friday, a large posse of horses and riders headed out on the trails behind our farm. Other than Marianne trying to learn how to ice skate on her mare, the ride was beautiful and uneventful. Although, I understand John Wilder got another tree named after him somehow. Later, a large group gathered on Jena, Val, Margaret, and Hanna's porch for pre-dinner drinks ... if you can imagine that! Even in Tennessee they are the hosts of the party!

Saturday was another beautiful day, this time the riders split up. Half went to Dale Hollow Lake, where Pete took the scenic tour ... an additional hour of trailering time I am told. (his excuse...a wink!) The other half of the group headed up to Long Branch Lakes and, miraculously, didn't get lost. Some of us decided to hike at Rock Island Park and then visit some of the local nurseries. Others just hung out in the Pavilion or read books. It reminded me of our trip to Ireland all those years ago, when we would gather for dinner and everyone had different stories to tell about their adventures that day.

Sunday was another glorious ride behind our property, and then it was time to head home. Pete and I sadly waved the last trailer goodbye, and reminisced with stories about great friends. It's one of our favorite weekends of the year, and we already look forward to the next visit! Thanks for coming everyone!

Bambi



*When le chef is happy,
everyone is happy.*



*It's those girls again:
Kim, Gigi and Kathy at happy hour.*

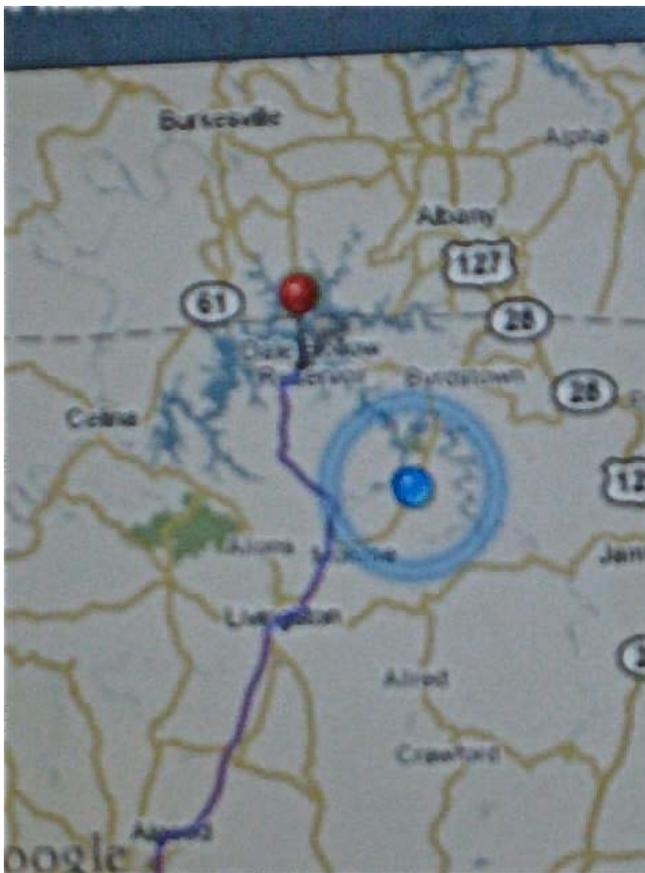


Dinners at Firefly Acres are wonderful. Thank you Bambi.

LOST

Every trail ride with Pete is an adventure. This time, even the trailering included some bushwhacking.

*It was a Pete classic!
The blue dot is where we were, and the red dot is where we should have been!*



The long drive was quickly forgotten. The Dale Hollow Lake was stunningly beautiful on this cloudless day.

April General Meeting Recap

After three months of cancelled events due to bad weather, we hit a hot streak. The all-day ride on April 3rd, the Firefly Acres weekend of April 9, 10, 11, and then our general meeting at Russ and Whit Wright's farm all were nice, pleasant days.

We started the general meeting with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. on their screened porch and migrated to the barn for the actual meeting and dinner. Thirty-five members attended the event.

Dave Perkins, Southern States Representative, gave a timely presentation on pasture management and how, by maintaining a good healthy pasture, you can cut your feed costs substantially. Tami Tyson, who arranged for Dave to come to our meeting, added much to the presentation and discussion with her extensive knowledge of equine nutrition and pasture management.

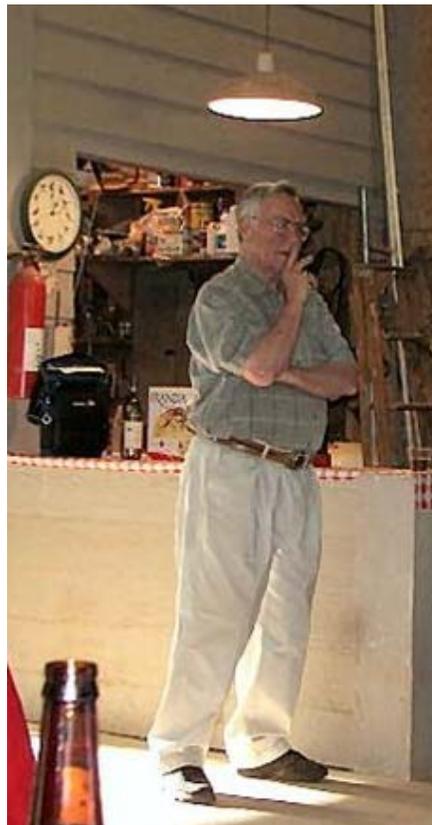
A delicious dinner catered by Jasper's 61 Main consisted of lasagna, salad and tira misu. You can tell a lot about people by examining the trash that's left-over after an event. Russ has done some extensive analysis of this event's refuse and has decided that solid food, while important to all of us, is secondary to liquid nourishment. Something we should all keep in mind when planning future events.

Thanks to Russ and Whit for opening their farm to the club. It was fun to have an event there again.

Rich



Dave Perkins from Southern States gave pointers on how to improve our pastures. If you have any questions, ask John.



Our man Jim under the spotlight ...



Roger, Lee and Keith. Hey, these guys were really paying attention! Oh, the subject was how to spend less money to feed their wives' horses. Ann doesn't look too worried.

BTSC Drill Team Update

April held the beginning of a new activity for Bent Tree Saddle Club members. The best part was that we actually had good weather for our first three sessions with no cancellations. We started out slowly with three members at the first session learning how to ride boot-to-boot in a straight line at the same speed. That session progressed into doing turns in alignment and other fun drills. Rosemary King has been kind enough to share some pictures on the website if you are interested in viewing some of our activities. Our second session increased to four members, to even things out a bit, and then our last session we had five members, which was a bit more challenging. With some grace, we managed to pull off a Mini Sweep, the Pinwheel and a Full Team Crack. We certainly aren't ready yet for the Rose Bowl Parade or any other such activity. I'm anticipating seven members for the last session in April. We could use one or more riders if anyone is interested. Contact me at kathardin@tds.net. Even though I may be accused of being a tough drill-master, I do allow for some good laughs after I yell and scream at horses and riders. I sure could use a microphone. As soon as everyone learns their right from their left (maybe by next year) we'll be able to put on a demonstration for the club. Until then..."Forward HO".

Kathy

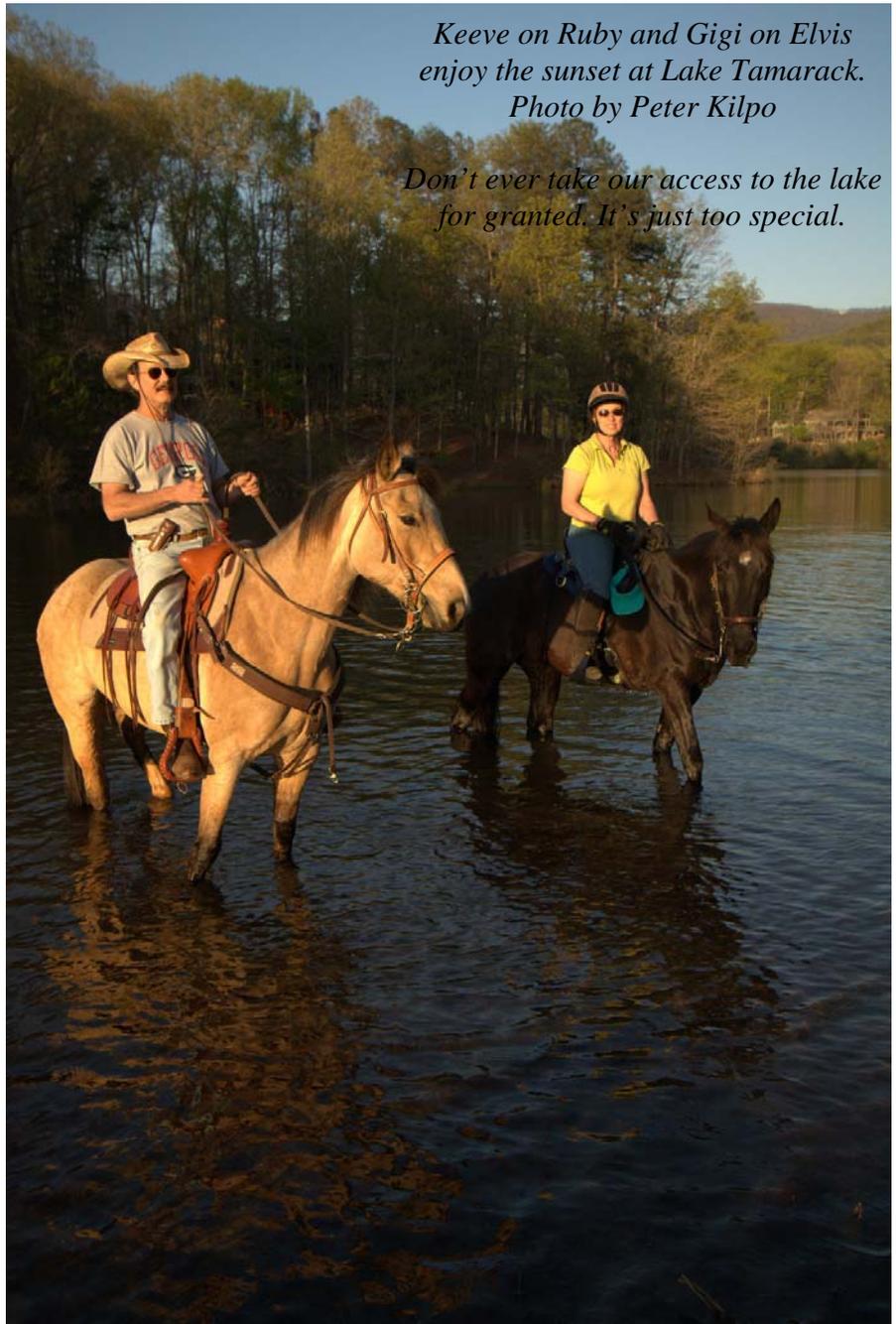
Secretary's Report

Our total for club membership is now 135. The two newest additions were included in the latest contact list that I e-mailed on April 17th. If you somehow missed that e-mail, let me know and I will send it to you again.

It is with great sadness that I share the news of three of our members who have lost part of their equine/canine families in the past week. Kim Rinaldi lost her beloved horse CiCi after a short, but difficult, struggle with ulcers in her stomach on April 21st. On April 23rd, Pete and Bambi Dillingham lost their beloved and devoted, Blue Heeler, Nipper. They still do not know what caused her sudden death. Both of these beautiful critters were with us at Firefly Acres just a couple of weeks ago. I am sure that everyone shares in the heartfelt sympathy that goes out to Kim, Bambi and Pete. While this is a very difficult time for all of them, I hope they find peace in knowing that CiCi and Nipper lived privileged, full lives and were truly loved. And yes, it is very hard right now, but, "It is better to have loved and lost, than not to have loved at all." We have to believe that this is true.

I think some of you may be getting tired of so many e-mails coming at you. My job as secretary is to pass the info on that someone feels like the members might benefit from. The good news is that all you have to do is hit "delete" if you are not interested. In the meantime, someone else may find the horse, the dog, the medical information, or trailer they have been looking for. So please, don't shoot the messenger!

Rosemary



*Keeve on Ruby and Gigi on Elvis
enjoy the sunset at Lake Tamarack.
Photo by Peter Kilpo*

*Don't ever take our access to the lake
for granted. It's just too special.*

Byron Hutson
404 791 6609



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2010 Officer

President: Rich Vigue
 Vice-President: Georgianna Hunter
 Treasurer: Tami Tyson
 Secretary: Rosemary King
 (Newsletter Editor: DJ Suberk)
 Bent Tree Liaison: Jan Lorenzen
 Board Appointees:
 Don House
 Barbara Hutson

**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 May 2010 Fridge Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Kentucky Derby Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Volunteer Workday at BT Stables
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 General Meeting
16 Bruce Prince Memorial Ride	17	18	19	20	21	22 O-Mok-See #2
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Fun Show & Memorial Day Picnic
30	31					

2010 Bent Tree Saddle Club Calendar

May			
	1	Kentucky Derby Party	Lee & Ann Burger
	8	Volunteer Workday at BT Stables	
	15	General Meeting – HP	Rich Vigue
	16	Bruce Prince Memorial Ride	Bob Crowl
	22	O-Mok-See #2	Jena/Val
	29	Fun Show & Memorial Day Picnic	Claire Eubanks/Julie Heinsman
June			
	5	Workday at Jake/Bull	Rich Vigue
	12	Shootout at Montana East	Keith Hunter
	19	General Meeting	Bubba & Beth/Don & Nickie
	21-27	Mount Rogers, VA Trip	Judy Heilman
	27-7/3	Youth Fest	Keeve Krasner/Bob Crowl
July			
	4	BYOE Picnic & Fireworks HP & BT	
	17	Poker Night	John & Gail Heinsman
August			
	7	Golf Tournament	Charles Cates
	14	Movie Night	David & Rosemary King
September			
	4	Horse Show & Labor Day Picnic	Jan Lorenzen/Tami Tyson
	25	Obstacle Course	David & Rosemary King
October			
	9	Garbage Can Cookout & Gen. Mtg	Julie Heinsman
	23	O-Mok-See #3	Jena/Val
	27-31	Fall Trip	Julie Heinsman
November			
	13	Moderate Trail Challenge	Rich Vigue
	20	Thanksgiving Dinner & Meeting	Bob & Peggy Crowl
December			
	4	Top of the World Ride	Jena/Val
	10	Trim a Tree	Janet Vigue
	11	Christmas Party	Janet Vigue

BTSC Executive Committee Meetings:

6/04, 8/06, 9/11, 10/08 at Horse Park; 11/12 at Bent Tree Cottage

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!

**Yes, we are having a Fun Show
Saturday, May 29th**

Last year we got rained out twice ... let's keep our fingers crossed for good weather. Our fun show is scheduled for Saturday, May 29th at noon. The back gate will be opened at 11:00 a.m. for trailers. We have four classes planned with the first one being the always popular ride-a buck. Bring your own dollar! The winner of this class takes all the dollars! All the classes are fun and none of them are timed events!! After the show, we'll have the usual BYOE except charcoal cookout. Please RSVP to Claire or Julie: mymtpeace@tds.net or ceshuman51@hotmail.com.

Julie & Claire

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$4372.50
Checks Written	
Arena repairs	
David King	\$ 44.29
David King	\$ 284.39
Bob Crowl	\$ 78.00
reimbursements	
Rich Vigue	\$ 37.64
Whit Wright	\$ 575.00
Deposits	
Dues/general meeting	\$ 760.00
Scholarship fund	\$1235.00
Ending Balance April 28,	\$2878.18

Tami