



MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Hi Everyone,

SLAINTE! St. Patrick's Day is a very special time, as it is a day steeped with tradition, and filled with Irish folklore straight from the Emerald Isle complete with stories and many witticisms. They say at the end of the rainbow you will find a pot of gold. Or if you catch a leprechaun he will take you to his pot of gold. But did you know that we all have already found our very own pot of gold? Really? How's that? Well.. ponder this if you will. It is often said that our members have a heart of "Gold". Or many times, we describe our trail riding days as filled with "Gold"en sunshine. Our trails here in Marion County are something we treasure like "Gold". The Irish have always had such a gifted way of turning a phrase, so perhaps this could be ours for SCTB: May you always have a wonderful horse to guide you, and good friends to stand beside you. May you always wear a smile with each and every trail mile. If you have already known these things to be true, then my friend there is no one on earth richer than you! Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone, and may we all have the luck of the Irish! Now that 'tis no blarney I can tell ye!

Happy Trails, and Safe Riding Always,



Board Members:

President	Joyce Tyson
Vice President & Trail Planner	Mary Ann Lichtenberger
Director & Trail Boss	Dorothy Montgomery
Secretary	Darlene Colucci
Treasurer	Sandy Bernstein
Director & Greenways Coordinator	Julie Olson



WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Karen Holgate



SPOTLIGHT MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

PLEASE MEET

ROY AND JANICE MITCHELL

Janice and Roy with Jest Dipty

Roy and Janice Mitchell reside in Keystone Heights, Florida, and enjoy riding Missouri Fox Trotters. Pictured with them is Jest Dipty, who is the half sister to the World Grand Champion Prince Jester.

Roy and Janice enjoy camping and trail riding with their horses. In the Summer of 2009, they went on a group ride from Mexico to Canada. Roy rode the entire route, 2,192 miles while Janice drove the support vehicle with water for the horses on the trail. This was an experience of a lifetime.

One story I'd like to mention about our trip is about Pike's Peak. For a few days, while on the trail, Pike's Peak was in view. On our next rest day we went to Colorado Springs to see this mountain. Janice did ride the Cog Trail to the summit, 14,110 feet and it was cold with snow and ice (and this was July)! It was awesome! Also, coming off the Mikelson Trail and riding into Deadwood, SD was an awesome experience with all the history of Deadwood -- and it was Bike Week !!! After we left there, we rode into North Dakota on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. This trail was beautiful, yet dangerous, and I would recommend this trail with its scenery to anyone who wants some thrills and adventure. Just a note -- Walmart looked good on our trip -- but the Canadian Border even looked better!

Janice and Roy were married in Truth or Consequences, NM on May 2 with a horse back wedding at the rodeo grounds where the group spent one of the weekends! On the trip we saw the backcountry of America as we traveled along the Santa Fe Trail, The Pony Express Route, The Mormon Trail, The Mikelson Trail and the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Although it is not known when it might air, part of this ride was filmed and may appear on RFD-TV Best of America by Horseback with Tom Seay.

We are looking forward to riding the trails with the Sun Country Trail Blazers.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR STORY WITH US JANICE AND ROY! Here are some website links that you might enjoy seeing and reading more about this cross country adventure:

<http://www.cograilway.com/aboutpikespeak.htm>

<http://www.sdgfp.info/parks/regions/northernhills/mickelsontrail/index.htm>

<http://www.mdhta.com/assoc.htm>

<http://www.deadwood.org/AboutDeadwood/History/>



THE TRAIL RIDE SCHEDULE

(And other events of interest):

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT UPATE:

ACCORDING TO STATE LAW, ALL RIDERS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 MUST WEAR A HELMET. SUN COUNTRY TRAIL BLAZERS MUST HONOR THIS RULING. SO, AS A RESULT, ALL THOSE RIDERS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A HELMET MUST DO SO, OR WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RIDE WITHOUT ONE. LET'S KEEP OUR TRAIL RIDES FUN AND ENJOYABLE. REMEMBER: SAFE RIDING ALWAYS.

STARTING IN NOVEMBER, OUR RIDERS UP TIME CHANGES TO 10:00. ALL RIDES WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY AT 10:00.
THANK YOU.



Saturday, March 13th SANTOS Riders up at 10:00. Diana Hancock is our leader, 390-2341. This is our St. Patrick's Day Ride. The club will provide a cake for dessert. Rain Date: March 14th.



Sunday, March 14th DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS. Riders up time now changes to 9:00 am.

Sunday, March 21st ROSS PRAIRIE. Riders up 9:00 Mary Ann is our leader 861-8336. Rain date. March 27th.



Sunday, April 11th SHANGRI-LA. Riders up 9:00. Flo Gordon is our leader 368-2647. This is our annual club meeting to renew memberships and elect officers. Please come prepared to renew your membership (\$15 single. \$25 family membership). The club will provide will meat. Please bring a drink

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR ALREADY!!!

THAT'S RIGHT, WITH APRIL RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, IT IS ELECTION TIME ONCE AGAIN!

Please find listed below a list of positions along with a brief job description for each. If you would like to nominate someone for one of the positions, or if you would like to run for one of the offices listed, please contact either Joyce Tyson at: 236-5658 Email: wittlehorse@aol.com, or Darlene Colucci at 237-0541 Email: sunblazers@gmail.com . There will also be nominations taken from the floor at the April 11th meeting at Shangri-la. We will compile a list of known candidates and will publish them in next month's (April Edition) issue of our newsletter. Once again, even if a candidate's name does not appear on next month's list, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April 11th meeting.

PRESIDENT: will preside over and conduct any general meetings, appoint committees, and promote the Club in any way for the advantage of Sun Country Trail Blazers, Inc.

VICE PRESIDENTS TOTAL OF 2 POSITIONS – Shall be responsible for the business of the Club, and, in the absence of the President, shall conduct any meetings as necessary.

TRAIL PLANNER – Shall be active in the planning and organizing of official Club and trail functions.

TRAIL BOSS – Shall be responsible for leading and planning and conducting the Club-sponsored rides. The Trail Boss may appoint committee members to help with the rides as necessary.

SECRETARY – Shall record business meetings, and help with any correspondence.

TREASURER – Shall handle dues and monies

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR/GREENWAY CO-ORDINATOR Public Relations Director – Shall spread goodwill, advertise, and write newsworthy releases.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2010 MEETING HELD AT THE 475A TRAIL HEAD

Here is a recap of the business discussed at the meeting with the members.

Discussion about proposed changes to the By-Law changes.

After a preliminary discussion of concerns, there was a motion to table the proposed changes to the By Laws until the next administration takes office. This motion was put to a vote and carried.

Membership Application Modification

It was discussed and agreed by the members present that the following changes will appear on the new membership application:

The ½ price for joining for ½ year will be available to new members only that join after October.

There will be an area on the application where the members can indicate if they do not wish to have their address, phone number and email address shared with other members, they would just need to check a box.

These changes were approved by the members present.

Donation:

It was further discussed that Sun Country Trail Blazers would donate a total of \$300.00 to a worthy cause. After discussion, it was agreed and passed by the members present that a total of \$300.00 will be sent to Horse Protection.

T-Shirt Update

It was re-confirmed to our members that there was a death in the family of our current vendor that made our club T-Shirts. New/additional vendors were being sought.

Upcoming Elections

Members were reminded that the Sun Country Trail Blazers elections will be taking place in April. If anyone would like to run for an office, or nominate someone to please contact Joyce Tyson.

SCENES FROM THE HOSPICE RIDE



Diana on Radikel

Ed on Zip

CONGRATULATIONS TO SUN COUNTRY TRAIL BLAZERS FOR COMING IN THIRD PLACE FOR THE CLUB TO RAISE THE MOST MONEY FOR HOSPICE! Now that is quite an accomplishment! Sun Country had 10 wonderful members to represent us at the ride.

The announcement was that there were over 200 horses present and that \$18,000.00 was raised for Hospice. Unfortunately, I was not able to find any write ups in the newspapers just yet on the event, but I will keep on looking!

THANK YOU DIANA HANCOCK FOR SHARING THESE WONDERFUL IMAGES FROM THE RIDE. THEY REALLY CAPTURE THE MOMENT!



THE RAVE REVIEWS ARE IN !!!!!



The Bowzer's Rock-n-Roll Party show WOWs them at On Top Of The World!

Thank you Marcia Blomer for putting together this wonderful fun night of entertainment! The band was nothing short of spectacular. Close your eyes and it was as if you were hearing those wonderful songs from the 50's for the very first time!

The band got everyone up on their feet, clapping, dancing, singing and laughing! After the show, there was an autograph session taking place, and the band and BOWZER himself stayed until every last person who wished an autograph or photo was taken care of! Truly an example of the bigger you are the nicer you are! It was a wonderful night to remember, and that is **NO** hand jive!

A NEW WEBSITE YOU MIGHT WANT TO VISIT

Do you know of someone that is new to horse back riding? Or perhaps a child that is learning about horses for the first time? Then you might want to check out this new website. www.DiscoverHorses.com DiscoverHorses.com is a vibrant new website created to introduce people to the wonderful world of horses. The product of a unique partnership by the Equine Network, American Quarter Horse Association, United States Equestrian Federation and the Kentucky Horse Park, as well as several other horse industry organizations and associations, DiscoverHorses.com appeals to the entry-level rider, the non-rider who has a passion for horses, and kids.

Thank you Janice Mitchell for sharing this website information with us.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK INTO:

MARCH ACTIVITIES

There is a series of Free Lectures at the Florida Carriage Museum – Thank you Jan Cross for sharing these opportunities

http://www.fcmr.org/wordpress/?page_id=1556

March 13th Western Riders is holding an obstacle challenge at the Ocala Fox Trotter Ranch. Click the link below for more information to their website. They are taking a max of 50 riders and pre-registration is required. Cost is \$50 per horse/rider

www.ocalawesternriders.com

LECTURE SERIES AT SILVER RIVER MUSEUM – Thank you Pat Davis for sharing this information.

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/Silverriver/>

APRIL 10TH River Rise Horse camping Facility RIVER RISE RALLY Trail Pace Thank you Jane Nunnally for sharing this information. Unfortunately there is a problem with their website. Below is a link which tells you a bit about the park.

River Rise Preserve State Park

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010. Rain date: April 17, 2010.

Friday registration and camping available from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Arriving after 6:00 p.m.? Please call ride manager Ed Bisch for the gate combination (352-222-0159) .

Saturday registration begins at 8:00 a.m.; event begins at 9:00 a.m.

Description: An event for all ages! ! Three separate trails with three separate paces. Choose between walking, trotting or unlimited. THIS IS NOT A SPEED EVENT! This is an elapsed time event with the winning rider coming the closest to the predetermined time. The person to complete the ride closest to the predetermined time will win. 1st – 3rd prize for each trail pace. 1st prize will be a \$50.00 gas card donated by the Friends of O'Leno. 2nd and 3rd place prizes to be announced at the event. Rules and regulations will be given at the event. Registration forms and additional information are available at River Rise Rally – Trail Pace. Per state law, helmets are required for all riders under 16 years of age. Horses must be in good condition.

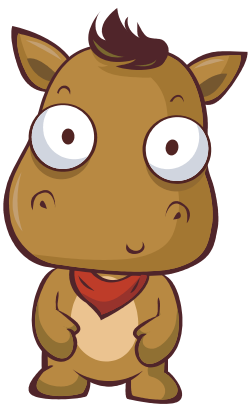
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/riverrise/>

**APRIL 24TH UF College of Veterinary Medicine, Large Animal Hospital Gainesville, FL
Healthy Horses: An Educational Conference on Successful Equine Health Care. The registration fee is \$39. Registration for students, graduate students and participants under 12 years old is \$15.**

<http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/equine/>

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR SHARING THESE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES!

ELEPHANT UPDATE: Thank you members for expressing an interest in visiting the All About Elephants facility in Williston. We understand that this facility will be closed from March 11 – April 25 th, so we will need to chose a date to visit this facility sometime after that. Thank you Paula Sheldon for letting us know about this wonderful place and for the update!



YOU DON'T SAY?!

Here are the answers to last month's riddles.

From the cartoon, Dudley Do Right, what was the name of his horse? **HORSE**

COMANCHE (This horse) was the Only Survivor of the Little Big Horn.

What was the name of the horse that Mark McCain rode on the Rifleman?

BLUEBOY

BUTTERMILK was the name of Dale Evan's horse.



With the return of warmer weather, great trail riding days can't be too far behind. So here is a timely article on first aid care tips for our beloved horses. It is sincerely hoped that this will never be needed, but it does bring peace of mind to know what to do in case of an emergency. Thank you Michael Colucci for sharing.

How to Provide First Aid For Your Horse

by: **Michael Colucci**

If your horse is in the field, and it suffers a severe cut, you will want to stop the bleeding as soon as possible. You will need to make a call to your vet, and there are steps you also need to take in order to provide first aid to your horse as soon as possible. You will want to stabilize the horse prior to the arrival of the vet.

The first thing you want to do is make sure you have a first aid kit available for the horse in advance. The first aid kit should have all the important constituents necessary for emergencies and small cuts. You always want to make sure that you have first aid readily available. You will want to make sure you have all the important tools you need, and you will want to know how to use them.

A commercially available first aid kit for horses will cost between \$39 and \$80. You will want to make sure the kit has a thermometer so that you can check the temperature of the horse. All horses should have a standard temperature of 99.0 to 101.5 degrees. The first aid kit should also come with a stethoscope so that you can monitor the heart rate of the horse. You can listen clearly to the heartbeat just under the elbow on the left side of the horse.

All first aid kits should have a flashlight, in case you have an emergency in the dark. You will also want to have electrolytes in case the horse becomes dehydrated. Warming up water and adding a small teaspoon of electrolytes can encourage water consumption by your horse. The first aid kit should also have neosporin, iodine, and hydrogen peroxide. Avoid using the hydrogen peroxide on wounds as it will destroy benign tissue.

You will also want to have wire cutters handy in the event the horse gets stuck in a gate or wire. You will also want to use a twitch which can calm your horse and keep him controlled in situations where it will be in great pain. You will also want to make sure you have a knife cutting bandages and other materials. You will want to make sure you don't injure your horse when handling the knife.

You will want to use the iodine solution to clean out any thick wounds. Any wounds which will be treated by a veterinarian within a hours of the injury should not have medications applied, and should only be flushed with iodine or clean water to prevent them from drying.



JUST TOO FUNNY!

What Horses Teach Us

Thank you for sharing Jane Nunnally

Here is something that we have all felt from time to time, or as the saying goes, now you know the other side!

Dear Owner,

When you are tense, let me teach you to relax.
When you are short sighted, let me teach you to see.
When you are short tempered, let me teach you to be patient.
When you are quick to react, let me teach you to be thoughtful.
When you are angry, let me teach you to be serene.
When you feel superior, let me teach you to be respectful.
When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things.
When you are arrogant, let me teach you humility.
When you are lonely, let me be your companion.
When you are tired, let me carry the load.
When you need to learn, let me teach you.
After all, I am your horse.

And now for the TRUE story.....

When you are tense, let me teach you that there are dragons in the forest and we need to leave NOW!
When you are short-sighted, let me teach you to figure out where exactly in the 40 acres I am hiding.
When you are short-tempered, let me teach you how to slog around the pasture for an hour before you can catch me.
When you are quick to react, let me teach you that herbivores kick MUCH faster than omnivores.
When you are angry, let me teach you how well I can stand on my hind feet, because I don't FEEL like cantering on my right lead today, that's why.
When you are worried, let me entertain you with my mystery lameness, GI complaint and skin disease.
When you feel superior, let me teach you that, mostly, you are the maid service.
When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to PAY ATTENTION. I told you about those dragons in the forest.
When you are arrogant, let me teach you what 1000 lbs. of yippee-yahoo-gotta-go horse can do when suitably inspired.
When you are lonely, let me be your companion. Let's do lunch. Breakfast and dinner sound good, too.
When you are tired, don't forget about the 300 lbs of grain that needs to be unloaded.
When you are feeling financially secure, let me teach you the meaning of "veterinary services".
When you need to learn, hang around the barn, I'll learn ya.

Sincerely,

Your Horse