



FETA Newsletter

Spring 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is popping up all over, renewing our resolution to get out and enjoy the fabulous FETA trails. The trails have never looked this good coming out of winter even with the ice storm. Our generous landowners enjoy seeing you out there, and appreciate a friendly wave as you pass by.

It is also time to renew your FETA membership. The majority of your dues goes to maintaining the trails, particularly on land owned by non-riders. But there are a variety of other benefits to membership and they are always growing to include additional events. The renewal materials will be mailed out around April 14th, so look out for them.

We have many new members who want to meet other riders and learn the trails better so we have scheduled Spring Clean!! for April 15th and a New Member Welcome Pot Luck Dinner on June 14th. More on those later, but please plan to come and enjoy yourself.

We appreciate the support and help of our members, without whom it would be impossible to keep this fabulous trail system open. In a time where it seems that developers think that a few miles of 'private, exclusive' trails is what riders want and cut off their neighbors, we are very fortunate to have landowners who understand and appreciate our long tradition of hospitality and the benefits of a large, diverse trail system for our equestrian community to enjoy and preserve.

Happy trails and Ride Friendly.

Dot Moyer 🐾

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

- Membership year: May 1st through April 30th
- Renewal deadline without penalty: July 1st
- Eligibility: New membership: Residents of/ horses boarded in Polk County, NC or Landrum or Campebello, SC. Renewing 'Out of Area' members who have maintained continuous Riding or Supporting Membership since 2002. *Out-of-area members who do not renew by July 1st will lose their grandfathered status.*
- Required: A copy of your current coggins for all horses used on the trails.
- All membership forms signed and returned.
- * Permission to use trails may be limited by any landowner for any reason.
- * Members must obey all FETA rules and are responsible for the compliance of their guests. Members are responsible for the behavior of their horses and their guests.

There has been some confusion about permission granted to FETA by landowners. FETA has secured permission FOR ITS MEMBERS to use private property WHEN THE TRAILS ARE OPEN if they act IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES while RIDING ASTRIDE OR CARRIAGE DRIVING. Walking, with or without your dogs and horses, is not allowed without landowner permission. Ponying horses is a safety hazard and is not permitted. Riding when the trails are closed is not permitted. Please don't jeopardize our permission!! *Respect our landowner's wishes and comply with permitted use.* Thanks! 🐾

TRAILS REPORT

As you are all aware, the ice storm left widespread damage. Our Trail Maintenance crew has done a wonderful job cleaning up many, many, trees. Thank them if you get a chance.

Thanks to the Rubini's hospitality our crew, headed by Dave Maxwell, has been busy in Stoneybrook and several exciting new trails are to be reported. The new Stoneybrook Ponds trail is nicely laid out, with good scenery, and is a great alternate route. Thanks to the Murphys, Lomaxes and Maxwells. Thanks also to the Picones, the Deavers and Nancy Pemberton who have opened up new trails on their properties connecting to Skip's Trail.

A new trail, running parallel to Old Barn is in the works. It will lead from the junction of the Lily Pond and Old Barn intersection to the top of the Waterfall, and should provide a nice alternate route.

Please note. It is terribly dry and we are in the Spring fire season. I want to remind everyone to be on the lookout for potential problems. With so much fuel from storm damaged wood lying about, and the lack of any soaking rain in the foreseeable future, any fire could quickly get out of hand. Please remind all that you know and/or encounter that smoking is prohibited on the trail. This includes riding, walking, taking a saddle break, etc. Since January, the N.C. Division of Forest Resources has responded to 1,219 wildfires. During the same time period last year the state had seen 920 wildfires.

Everyone please be careful on the trails, refrain from smoking, and keep our trails, woods, and homes safe.

David P. Smith 🐾

FETA TRAILS WORK DAY

The trails suffered considerable damage during the ice storm in mid-December and several other bouts of adverse weather so a clean up day was organized for mid-January. Despite postponement from Saturday to Sunday, 21 people met at the FETA parking lot at FENCE on Sunday, January 16th, picked up their picnic lunch which was provided by Dot Moyer, divided into four work crews and went off in different directions. Everyone agreed that it really was a fun work day and, by the end, a great deal of trail clearing was accomplished and a new trail cut between Stoneybrook and Pretty Bottom.

Participants were Carol and Gary Ten Broek, Dean Gregory, Katie Gordon, Laura Bierly, Ned Frybarger, Barbara Madill, Randi and Bob Wetzel, David and Zach Smith, Bob Lesowitz, David Wilson, Lisa Weiss, Holly Fisher, Shelly Marquis, David and Ann Maxwell, Joe Picone, Bill Kerns and Dot Moyer.

Here's a picture of some of the Fields Edge Crew.



L to R: Katie Gordon, Laura Bierly, Barbara Madill. 🐾

NOTICE:

The Jorgenson's Cotton Patch trails connecting with Burris and Long Lane Trails are temporarily closed. Heavy machinery work is in progress. The trails will be opened in several weeks, but we need you to stay off the landowner's trail until complete.

As always, thanks to the Jorgensons for their hospitality. 🐾

A WORD ABOUT SAFETY HELMETS

Many thanks to all our members for their compliance with the safety helmet requirements of our major landowners, later adopted by FETA for all trails. ASTM/SEI certified safety helmets have been shown to dramatically reduce the number and severity of head injuries. Many of us have hard heads, but they are no match for trees, rocks, the ground or horses' hooves. Our main interest is in your safety and the preservation of our trail system, which is dependent upon landowner's confidence that we do everything possible to protect them.

To be effective your helmet must fit properly, have properly adjusted straps, have not been involved in a prior impact and be less than 5 years old. Helmets work like the crumple zone of an automobile. If it has been in an accident, its integrity will have suffered even if you cannot see anything wrong with it. For \$40, you can buy a perfectly comfortable, adjustable, ventilated model, so don't take any chances.

For those who want shade protection, check out Helmet Shades, www.helmetshades.com (800-447-0799). They have Western and "Aussie" models that our members seem to be happy with. 🐾

SPRING CLEAN!!

We had so much fun and got so much done at the trails clean-up day in February that everyone wanted to do it again. So we have scheduled a Spring Clean!! Day for the trails on Saturday, April 15th. With your tax returns just filed we figured you might need to work off some frustration!! Meet for assignments in the FENCE parking lot at 9 a.m. sharp!! Lunches will be provided for all who reply by April 12th to Dave Smith at smittyc7@alltel.net or 275-2873. 🐾

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME PARTY

Come welcome our new members at a Potluck Supper at FENCE on June 14th. FETA will provide the main course and soft drinks. Bring anything harder yourself. Please bring a salad, side dish or desert to share, as well as serving utensils.

We will have the big trail map for you to look at and sign ups for people to hook up with other riders. No guests, please, just FETA members so we can get to know each other better!!

Watch out for more information in your membership renewal package but put the date on your calendar now! 🐾

A GREAT DEAL FOR HORSE OWNERS

Membership in the North Carolina Horse Council is \$25/year, and includes a \$1M excess personal equine liability policy. This is a great deal, and one you should check out. Call the Horse Council at 1-800-529-9206.

People do not recognize that they may be liable for accidents or injuries caused by their horse while being stabled or ridden, and the damages could be substantial. FETA releases protect landowners, not members whose animals cause injury. Personal liability umbrella policies and excess liability policies like these offered by our NC Horse Council are a prudent way to protect your assets. 🐾

EXTRA..... EXTRA.....

A recent landowner survey discloses that the overwhelming majority of our landowners will not waive FETA rules and DO NOT want to be asked. All but one allow hiking, so just ask them as a courtesy, but they DO NOT allow loose dogs.

Best news is they all report that most FETA riders are good guests! 🐾

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 15 Spring Clean!! Trails clean up day -
contact Dave Smith @ 828-275-2873
or smittyc7@alltel.net
- Jun 14 Pot Luck Dinner to welcome new
members at FENCE 6 p.m.
- July Safety Fair at FENCE
- Oct 7 Annual Meeting and BBQ at FENCE

**FETA / FENCE
trail status
828-859-9021, X21**

**To report trail problems
contact David Smith at
828-275-2873 or
smittyc7@alltel.net**

**FETA
P.O. Box 1453
Columbus, NC 28722**

PARKING LOT CLOSINGS

Please note that the FETA parking lot and/or the cross country course will be closed on the following days:

- April 1-2 FENCE Horse Trials
April 22 Steeplechase
April 23 Spring Event
May 13-14 Horse Trials
May 28 Horse Trials

Call the FETA trails number to check status 🐾

CLASSIFIEDS

Brush cutter Billy Goat Outback Honda self-start engine. Self propelled. Never used. Paid \$2,600 will take \$1,900 O.B.O. Jean Wessel - 894-0643. 🐾

Jack Russell Terrier free to good home. Male. 8 yrs. old. Sweet and likes to cuddle. Afraid of small children. Jean Wessel - 894-0643. 🐾