



FETA Newsletter

Fall 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tally Ho! Foxhunting is returning to FETA Country!

They don't call it Hunting Country for nothing, folks. 'Riding to the Hounds' has been tremendously influential in the development of Polk County, and primarily responsible for its equestrian culture. Architect Carter Brown visited Tryon in the early 1920s and fell in love with the countryside and sporting opportunities. Relocating to the area, Brown founded the Tryon Riding and Hunt Club and Tryon Hounds, and recruited numerous influential equestrians and lovers of the sport to the area over the years.

The old Tryon Hounds trails are the backbone of the FETA trail system. While Tryon Hounds had to eventually move further from Tryon and Columbus and the interstates into less developed territory, their old hunt trails are a lasting legacy to future generations, and one we should be most grateful for. A map from the late 1920's shows the trails and 'hunt courses with jumps' in the area around Tryon. I am proud to say that virtually every trail shown east of Tryon has been preserved or rediscovered and restored, thanks primarily to FETA's hard work led by many also associated with Tryon Hounds.

After many years absence, Tryon Hounds is going to be returning to some of their old hunt territory. Five hunts are scheduled this fall in the area bounded by Peniel Road, Smith Dairy Road, Route 74 and Bill Collins Road. The FETA trails in that area (which we call the North Peniel Trails, and includes Maude Carr's Thickety Ridge, Ed Cochran's farm, Frank Smith's Dairy and Honey Hill Farms, and the Peniel Road Parking Lot) will be closed until noon on those days to avoid anyone getting hurt. Running into the hunt can be very scary to most non-participating horses. The dates are 10/17, 11/14, 12/1, 1/26 and 2/20. Please make

a note to yourself to ride elsewhere on these mornings.


Anyone interested in Tryon Hounds and its history should contact FETA members and Joint Masters Bonnie Lingerfelt or Kerry Holmberg.

Speaking of hunting, the annual turkey and deer seasons start soon. Please remember that the land you are privileged to ride on also hosts many other users. Hunters, authorized and unauthorized, should be expected, and discretion is the better part of valor. Wear bright colors, make lots of noise and avoid riding in poor light. If an area is closed for hunting season or the trails are marked closed (as Pretty Bottom often is) please respect the landowner's wishes. It is only fair that we share. Remember, FETA trails are not in a public park, but private property which landowners can use or share at their sole discretion.

All this enjoyment of the outdoors reminds me to be thankful for the vision and generosity of the people who created and nurtured this fabulous trail system, and for the folks today who keep it going. We will be having our Annual Meeting and BBQ on October 27th at FENCE. Please plan to come. Return your enclosed reservation form and enjoy the fellowship, meet new friends and thank the landowners who are our generous hosts!

Thanks to all the hard working FETA Board of Directors who have agreed to serve another term. These volunteers devote many hours of their personal time to ensuring that our trail system is the best we can make it. Special thanks go to long-suffering Nancy Mahler, who has served on the FETA Board since its inception in 1993 and without whom there probably would be no FETA!

Ride Friendly! Ride Safely!

Dot Moyer, President 



ANNUAL MEETING AND BARBEQUE

Mark your calendars for the **October 27th FETA Annual Meeting and BBQ** at FENCE. In addition to the great food, it is a super occasion to thank our FABULOUS landowners, without whom there would be no FETA trails!

So plan to come and enjoy what is always a wonderful event. Please, everyone, respond on the enclosed form while you are thinking about it! We always have a great time. 🐾

KUDOS TO BUSINESS FRIENDS

Many Thanks! to all our wonderful contributors who made the new trail projects possible. In total over \$5,000 has been contributed during 2007 for the cause. This allowed us to complete many miles of trails without dipping into our 'rainy day' emergency fund. (Remember rain?)

We are especially grateful to our business supporters, who have really stepped up to the plate to help FETA. We would like to thank members Reed McNutt, owner of McNutt Service Group of Tryon (Heating and Air Conditioning), and Madelon Wallace, WWE Realty, for their generous contributions to the trails; Lillie Brown, ReMax Advantage Realty of Tryon, for sponsoring the FETA Safety Fair and the WHOA DOWN!! Campaign; Steve and Cathleen Gospodindoff, owners of SG Power Equipment of Hendersonville (chain saws, trimmers, small power tools, and farm implement and equipment repairs), for providing equipment, repair services and knowledge; Paul Fairchild for webpage design and computer technical support, and Brian Madey, for his restoration of Dark Horse Lane near FENCE. Of course, we always appreciate the support of FENCE in the use of its facilities for our community events.

We know you will want to thank these generous business supporters for their efforts. 🐾

HELP WANTED

As fall rolls around, with cooler temps and fewer snakes, FETA starts working on trails. We have several areas where we need some additional trails help and we will be working on some new projects. If you would be interested in several hours/week of trails clearing and repair and trailblazing, we would love to talk to you about joining our crack trails team. Call or e-mail Dave Smith, Trailmaster, for details. 🐾



RULES REMINDER:

NO SMOKING ON THE TRAILS!!

Hard to believe, but there have actually been a few riders seen smoking on the trails. This is a VERY serious violation of the rules even in normal weather. Smoking during the horrible drought we are experiencing is unbelievable. Needless to say, it is not only cause for termination of your membership, but if you start a fire you could be legally liable for the damage, not to mention summarily shot by a landowner!

Please remember that FETA rules are mostly just common sense, and show respect for the landowners and other riders. When you think you are too important to have to follow these landowner-requested rules or that you won't get caught, stop and think what you are risking. FETA landowners depend on the Board and membership to enforce these rules, and people who just do whatever they feel like without regard to the landowners have had their riding privileges suspended and terminated.

You would be surprised how many people notice what is going on out there and how many rules violations we have to deal with. Please don't make us have to be calling you about this. Exercise common sense and respect. The Golden Rule. 🐾



THIRD ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR A BIG SUCCESS!!

Over 100 people gathered to learn how to keep themselves safe on the roads at the 3rd Annual Horsemanship Safety Fair held on July 25th at FENCE.

FETA, the Foothills Riding Club and Collinsville Equestrian Trails Association joined forces again to present a great program. Clinician Gunner Roza, an expert in trailering safety, gave a 'mini-clinic'. Most participants failed the 'pop quiz' miserably, and were shocked to realize how ill prepared they are for any kind of road emergency. Gunner has agreed to bring her day long clinic, and her trailer mechanic partner Mike Henn, for her usual full day clinic on October 13th. (See article).

Maureen Gallatin (author and editor) and Becky Seiler (trainer and former Disney horse manager) teamed up to teach the cues required for a 'road worthy' (and trail worthy!) mount. Demonstrations on junior member Bergen Jorgensen's Arab Gelding, Lance, taught participants how to train their horses to be safe on our increasingly busy roads.

The 'WHOA DOWN' brochure, co-sponsored by FETA, was distributed. The information in this brochure has been exhaustively researched, and spending a few minutes to understand it could save your life. If you share the brochure with your UPS, FedEx, lawn service or other commercial road users or neighbors, you might avert a tragedy and save a life - maybe YOURS. For additional copies, please contact Lisa Krolak at (828)279-9643.

MANY thanks to Lillie Brown and Bonnie Lingerfelt, ReMax Advantage Realty, Tryon, NC, Maureen Gallatin, Inspired by Horses, and the Equine Alliance of the Carolina Foothills for their sponsorship of this project. 🐾

FENCE TRAIL SIGNS

FENCE trails are color coded with arrows to indicate trail direction. For the most part FENCE trails do not have name signs. The color coding is to help EMS in the event of help being needed.

A yellow 'NO' arrow means that you must not ride further on that trail unless you are a FETA member, as this will take you off FENCE property and onto a private property FETA trail. 🐾

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: TRAILERING SAFETY CLINIC

Gunner Roza, a popular clinician from the Charlotte area, gave a wonderful mini-clinic at the Horsemanship Safety Fair on keeping you and your horse safe in your trailer on the roads. It was an eye-opener for everyone, many of whom were shocked at how ill prepared we all are for the foreseeable road accidents which are a matter of 'when' not 'if' they will happen.

Gunner has agreed to come give her full day trailer safety clinic on October 13th. She will bring her co-clinician, Mike Henn, master trailer mechanic, who will cover trailer mechanics and safety issues. This is a full day clinic, and will be worth every second you spend at it. What you learn could truly save you, your companion and your precious horse. You need to come and learn.

The cost of the clinic is \$25 for the day (a true, and subsidized, bargain). We will do a lunch 'pitch in' and have a great time. Please see the enclosed flyer for details. 🐾

'HORSE SENSE'

-- SAFETY CORNER --

What is the correct and safe way to pass other horses on a narrow trail?

Well, since they say that the rear is the 'business end' of the horse, it makes sense to position that part so it doesn't cause any damage to the passing horses. Whoever is yielding the right of way should pull off to the side and leg yield the horses' hind end AWAY from the trail and passing horses and 'face' the oncoming horses. Stopping for a friendly chat is nice, but keep your attention on the horses in case any are getting nervous or stressed around the unfamiliar horse(s).

And, it goes without saying, we hope that you NEVER ride up on another horse within kicking range. Lots of horses take this invasion of their personal space as a threat, and act accordingly. And whose fault would that be? The horse's, who is only doing what instinct tells him, or yours? 🐾

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 13th Trailer Safety Clinic
Oct 27th Annual BBQ and Meeting

NORTH PENIEL TRAIL CLOSINGS

Oct 17th)
Nov 14th) Tryon Hounds
Dec 1st) Hunt Dates
Jan 26th) until 12 noon
Feb 20th)

FETA PARKING LOT CLOSINGS

Please note that the FENCE parking lot will be closed on the following days:

Sept. 22 FRC XC Schooling
Oct. 5-7 TR&HC Horse Trials
Oct. 27-28 FRC Horse Trials & Kids @
 FENCE Fall Festival
Nov 11 Hunter Pace 🐾

FETA

P.O. Box 1453

Columbus, NC 28722

**** PLEASE ****

**** PLEASE ****

phone for trail status
BEFORE you ride

828-894-0496

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