

Tri-State Riding Club Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2014

Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Library

Attendees: Pat Brescia, Linda Giannino, Nicole Caruso, Jessica Eads, Rhonda Boatwright, Patty Tracy, Laurie Allen, Liz Shockley, Mary Gustafson, Elaine Meilahn, Sharon Peart, Vicky Rosa, Nancy Byrd, Amy Orr, Karen Kilday

Temple Hall Farm: Pat Brescia introduced Mr. John Moore from Temple Hall Farm.

The equestrian trails at Temple Hall Farm will have been in place for two years in May 2014. There are currently nine jumps and the Park Authority is pleased with how well the trails system has been received. The trail that previously took users out to Limestone School Road has now been improved, keeping riders in the confines of the park and off of the road. The trails have been built as ride or drive trails and include three water crossings, nine to eleven jumps which are made of pine logs built by an Eagle Scout, Mr. Brandon Camp.

John asked for input from Tri-State as to what further jumps, facilities or future improvements would be welcomed.

A mounting block was suggested, which could potentially be funded from Tri-State funds. Signage could be improved by either numbering or naming sections of trails giving easier orientation to users.

At present the park is closed in the winter; opening on April 1st and closing on the first weekend of November. During the open months the park closes on Monday's when mowing and general maintenance is performed. Dogs are not allowed in the park with the exception of service dogs. Consideration is being given to keep the park open year round.

It was noted that professional jumps would have to be of a certain standard which could cause liability issues. Staying with natural jumps but maybe adding water obstacles, bridges, ditches, banks or drop jumps would add variety and interest. A field could be used for a set of jumps instead of concentrating them on the trail. These would all be of interest to riders that compete on judged trail rides.

A fledgling driving program has been started by Tri-State and John Moore was asked if the Park Authority would be willing to allow Tri-State to hold a driving clinic in the park. Preference would be given to holding the clinic in an enclosed area as many of the participants are beginners. John Moore felt that one of the existing paddocks might be suitable. He asked if the general public could audit the lessons. The Park Authority and Tri-State insurance policies will have to be checked.

A trail improvement committee should be formed to provide information to the Park Authority. At the end of March it was suggested that Tri-State members ride the parks trails and suggest signage improvements. Also financial support and physical labor could be available to improve signage and the provision of a mounting block which would benefit the local riding community.

Date for trail ride: Saturday April 5th 2014.

An organized trail ride, open to the public was suggested; either a poker ride or baby JPR using obstacles on the trail.

The Treasurers Report was read.

Ten per cent of the clubs December 1st balance has historically been donated to a worthy cause. So far \$500.00 has been donated to the EMC. It was suggested that a memorial jump be purchased to Sharon White's mother and installed at her farm where it would be used by club members during summer camp. Another suggestion was to contribute to local paralympic dressage hopeful, Ben Harper.

Hunt Trail Ride: A hunt trail ride will be available to club members on May 17th, at Valley View farm in Hamilton with the Loudoun/Fairfax Hunt. Last year the ride was subsidized by the club and the plan is to do the same this year.

Tack Sale: The Tri-State tack sale is to be held tomorrow February 21st and is sold out. There will be speakers, door prizes etc.

Western Lessons: Many of the Western lessons in January and February have had to be cancelled. Wanda has asked to be included on correspondence when lessons are cancelled.

English Lessons: The regular English program will start in April and prior to this there is a jumping program offered at Sharon White's property.

Nicole Caruso won the drawing for a free lesson.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Peart