

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

Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Library

Attendees: Pat Brescia, Judy Brescia, Linda Giannino, Nicole Caruso, Jessica Eads, Rhonda Boatwright, Patty Tracy, Liz Shockley, Mary Gustafson, Elaine Meilahn, Sharon Peart, Amy Orr, Diane Hutchinson, Nancy Byrd, Hila Weaver, Kathi Watts, Ted Tanaka, Laura Mahoney, Judith Lovegrove, John Lovegrove, Robyn Harter

Loudoun County Animal Control/Sherriff's Office: Pat Brescia introduced Virginia Newsome from Loudoun County Animal Control and Deputy Tim James from Loudoun county Sherriff's Office.

Animal Control receives 12 – 15 thousand calls a year. Of these calls 600 are regarding lost livestock. An operation has been put into place to protect vulnerable livestock and in the event of an emergency to provide aid or help. It is important for the public to know that Animal Control is not just available to check the welfare of animals but is willing to assist in an emergency situation too.

Packets were distributed to the meeting attendees. The packet contains an emergency work book planning guide. It was suggested that all horse owners should have a disaster plan for their barn in case of fire or disease. The Warrenton State Lab will perform a necropsy for \$30.00. The packet contains contact phone numbers for available assistance. If you are hosting an event, it is imperative to have a safety plan in place.

The Sherriff's Office has developed a program to help get wandering livestock back to owners. This is a free service which you can sign up for. Once registered, if an animal is found wandering near your property, the Sherriff's Office will call you to ascertain if the animal belongs to you. Many times animals escape through no fault of the owner and it is imperative for boarding facilities to have owners' information.

Animal Control carries scanners to check for microchips and also offer a free microchip service. They will put the horse in the nearest fenced area if they do not have information regarding the owner. If the horses are injured, they will take them back to the Waterford office for treatment. Animal Control will also help when weather is causing a problem for owners to care for their animals adequately. This could be difficulties with a water supply or the inability to collect appropriate feed.

Mr. Pat Brescia introduced new club members in attendance.

The Treasurers Report was read.

Tack Sale Update: Patty Tracy and Ronda Boatwright organized the event. The only complaint received on the day was the lack of parking. Patty thanked all the people that helped during

the day. The speakers were set up on the stage and seating was a little limited. Approximately 200 people attended and the door prizes were popular. Tri State does not get much public exposure so events like this are important.

English Lessons: Mary Gustafson introduced the idea of a 'new members guide' which has already been posted on the TSRC website. The guide explains in detail how lessons are booked and billed etc. Mary welcomed any suggestions to improve this guide. Lessons will continue to be offered twice a week and the charges for each lesson have been raised to \$35.00 for a regular lesson as remuneration to the trainers needed to be increased. Mary Flood lessons at Frontier Farm will remain the same charge. Some issues have surfaced with TSRC using the Hampton Hill facility. This means that the club will probably use another venue for the foreseeable future.

Western Lessons: The plan is to utilize the Indoor at the Morven Park facility for Western lessons. Each rider will need to have a schooling pass to ride there. Ms. Laura Doyle from Morven is willing to work with TSRC. Each rider will have to fill out a waiver and supply a copy of their coggins certificate the first time that they ride there. It has not yet been decided where Western Camp will be held.

Summer English Camp: Robyn Harter outlined that the camp will be held on the last three weeks of June; Monday 9th, Monday, 16th and Monday 23rd. Last Frontier Farm owned by Sharon White is a fabulous experience for all levels of rider. Everyone who attends learns a lot and has a great time. There will be two groups each day and camp will run on four consecutive days from 5 pm to 8 pm. There will be a flat, baby novice, beginner novice, novice training groups. A thought was to hold the highest level first. During the next meeting the packets for camp will be distributed. If you would like to stable your horse at the facility during camp, the charge is \$50.00 per night. Camp cost is \$250.00. Lots of new jumps/obstacles have been added.

Volunteers: Morven Park is looking for volunteers for the Spring Horse Trials being held on March 29th /30th.

Judith Lafleur Lovegrove won the drawing for a free lesson.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th and will feature a speaker on the subject of Equine Lyme Disease.

Temple Hall: Temple Hall Regional Park TSRC ride will be held on April 5th with the purpose of advising the park on additional trails and other improvements.

Obstacle Course Day: Owner of the farm is consulting with insurance advisors.

Minutes submitted by Sharon Peart