

## **TRI-STATE RIDING CLUB MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 7:11p at the Equine Medical Center by Robyn Harter, President.

**In attendance:** Robyn Harter, Sandy McCormack, Kim Ritola, Tom Ford, Mimi Ernst, Vicki Jackson, Gretchen Ritola, Jill Widdifield, Susan Payne, Linda Giannino, Pat Brescia, Judy Brescia, Hila Wever, Kathi Watts, Sharon Peart, Martha Hummer, Mary Gustafson, Elaine Meilahn, Liz Shockley.

**Western lessons:** Report by Susan Payne: Weekly Western lessons are taught by Stephanie Jennings at Ride On Ranch and Morven Park and by Mike Jennings at Ride On Ranch (where he often uses the mechanical cow). Western lessons are open to those with Western or English tack and basic equitation skills are taught with an emphasis on communication between horse and rider. The Western lessons can be geared toward Working Equitation and may branch into 'Trail Challenge' skills.

**English lesson signup:** Judy Brescia is now handling the English lesson signup and is planning on transitioning to an online system, Signup Genius, in the near future. Kathi Watts has set-up and tested the online system and it is nearly ready for use. She, Judy and Elaine Meilahn are exploring the benefits and possibly shortcomings of this system for TSRC use.

February lessons are full apart from one slot in the last lesson in February.

**English lesson scheduling and special clinics:** Elaine Meilahn is now responsible for scheduling lessons and the March schedule goes out to the membership tonight. Attendees at the meeting were able to sign up on the schedule which was passed around by Judy Brescia.

Elaine asked for suggestions for lessons offered by TSRC and Robyn suggested that she include the 'eventing level' of the lesson on the schedule, e.g., novice or training to give riders an idea of the height of the jumps to be used. Elaine agreed to include that information.

Suggestions were made for special clinics, with Linda Giannino asking for another Wendy Murdoch clinic this year and Elaine will ask Wendy for available dates, to fit into the TSRC schedule.

A special clinic coming up on March 31, 2019 is an In-Hand clinic for TSRC taught by Mary Flood. The description and sign-up will go out via email on Monday Feb 25.

Elaine asked for any feedback on offering a 'saddle fitting pressure mat' clinic and there was enough interest expressed by those at the meeting that she is going to explore the evidence that this technology is useful and, if so, aim to provide a clinic for TSRC in the coming year.

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**Camp dates:** Robyn Harter announced that the TSRC English camp at Last Frontier Farm will consist of three 4-evening sessions beginning on Monday June 10, June 17, and June 24, with two groups per evening. Instructors to be announced. Signup will begin at the April TSRC monthly meeting.

**Judged Pleasure Ride (JPR):** TSRC will be represented at the JPR awards banquet (this coming Sunday) by Karen McCarthy and Adair Soho.

The 2019 date for the TSRC fundraiser JPR at Camp Highroad will be June 29. Talia Czapski and Liz Shockley will be the organizers. Many volunteers will be needed on the day.

**EXPO:** The Loudoun County Equine Alliance is hosting an Equine EXPO on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 5-9p at the Stone Tower Winery. TSRC will have a booth with Judy and Pat Brescia, Mary Gustafson, Hila Wever and Elaine Meilahn representing the Club.

**Cross Country Schooling:** Elaine and Mary have proposed to add a cross-country (XC) jump to the course at Tru-Liberty Farm as a contribution in view of the many TSRC lessons held there at no charge and the continuing offer of TSRC XC schooling days at the Farm. The jump discussed by Ashley Russell and Elaine is a USEA regulation beginner novice ditch. TSRC would pay ½ the cost and Tru-Liberty would pay the remainder. One estimate has been obtained from JP Lawn Service Inc for about \$1,500. The need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> estimate (given that TSRC is a 501C) was discussed and Elaine will obtain an estimate from Eric Bull, of ETB Equine Construction, Scottsville, VA, a cross country course builder.

Mary Gustafson suggested that we also check on prices for an additional portable XC jump such as a beginner novice corner to add to our course. Elaine will get prices.

**Online program for membership signup:** Hila and Liz pointed out that, while use of PayPal for annual membership payments is convenient, too many members are failing to submit membership forms and waivers once they have paid their dues. Discussion centered on available online programs for membership signup. Kathi Watts offered to link the online membership form to PayPal. Liz, Kathi, and Hila will meet to proceed with this idea.

**Club Brochures:** The Club Brochures have not been updated and very few of the current version remain (although we have quite a few of an earlier version on hand). Robyn Harter moved to update the brochure and print more for Club use. Elaine seconded the motion and those present approved the motion unanimously.

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Discussion centered on the inclusion of a QR code on the brochure. Mary Gustafson volunteered to update the brochure and send a draft to a few members to review prior to printing. She will also consider the addition of an envelope sized TSRC card.

**Query on provision of lesson horses:** Several new members were unclear as to whether TSRC, as a lesson club, provided horses for use in lessons or offered opportunities for group trail rides for non-horse owners. They were referred to TSRC members, Christine Vitkus and Heather Heider, who may have lesson plans and horses for lease. The Club does not provide horses for lessons.

**New members present:** Gretchen Ritola, Sandy McCormack, and Vicki Jackson introduced themselves as new members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Liz Shockley reported that, after charitable donations for 2018, the Club currently has a balance of \$18,415.93.

Liz reported that she has sent all the form 1099s to the instructors for 2018 and also has submitted the IRS forms.

The Club insurance contract expires on April 1 and Liz suggested investigating other insurance companies. Liz and Elaine will meet with another company(s) in the next month to review their policies and consider changing providers.

**Annual TSRC trail ride:** Hila Wever suggested that TSRC again host a trail ride for members at Camp Highroad in October, 2019. Liz Shockley offered to organize. General enthusiasm for this idea.

**Drawing for free lesson:** Jill Widdifield won the random drawing among those present for a free lesson.

**Meeting was adjourned by Robyn Harter, president, at 8:35p**

**Respectfully submitted by Elaine Meilahn on behalf of Judith LaFleur, secretary.**