



Florida Cracker Trail Association

Minutes and Newsletter

July 24, 2014

To All FCTA Members:

Attached are the minutes from the "After Ride" Meeting held on April 27, 2014. Thank you to Linda Hoke who was able to put them together in the absence of our Secretary, Ida Erwin, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Also, many members did not pick up their 2014 Ride Certificates, if you are interested in receiving your certificate, please let me know via an e-mail along with your complete mailing address and I'll get it to you.

Unfortunately, the ride held by Heartland Horses & Handicapped (HHH) on May 3rd was dampened by poor weather. This is a large fundraiser for the HHH, and the weather significantly hurt this effort, so if any of you pre-ordered a dinner and then were unable to attend or did not pay for your dinner, it would be greatly appreciated if you would make a donation to them. The FCTA supports this organization by purchasing the T-shirts for this particular ride. T-shirts are also available for purchase. Please refer to their website for more information and for their upcoming ride in the Fall.

Important information from the FCTA Board of Directors:

- Please note and plan for the 2015 Annual Cross State Ride! The official ride dates for 2015 are: Saturday, February 14th to Saturday, February 21st. We will begin planning the ride in September/October, 2014.
- Earl Lindsay, Linda Lindsay, and Kaye Hughes have each resigned from their positions on the Board of Directors. We thank these members for their commitment to the FCTA and will miss them greatly.
- The annual election meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2014 at Hickory Hammock.

Best wishes for a happy Summer! See you all soon!


Susie Randolph
FCTA Treasurer
Spete305@comcast.net

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	 <h1 style="margin-left: 20px;">FLORIDA CRACKER TRAIL ASSOCIATION</h1>
Attendees:	Executive Board, Board of Directors and Members Present (See Sign in Sheet)
	Florida Cracker Trail After Ride Meeting – April 27, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by President Charlie Mercer, who also welcomed guests in attendance.
	TOPICS
Hickory Hammock:	David, Camp Host at Hickory Hammock was unable to attend the meeting and asked Jeff, his supervisor, to speak on his behalf regarding issues that occurred at this night's camp location. Jeff stated that as a whole all went well with minor issues. One specific issue was that horses were cribbing on trees and asked that horses not be tied to trees at the Hammock. Jeff also asked that if horses were hobbled, to fill in holes as this is a safety issue to other campers. He further stated that if his assistance is needed for next year's Ride that he be contacted to provide what was needed.
Cleanliness of Camp Sites:	It is the responsibility of all riders and campers to ensure their camp sites are left in perfect condition, prior to the morning riding out. Do not leave your personal garbage behind. Also, do not use the ranch owner's garbage cans or containers for your personal garbage. Personal garbage can be placed in Pat's BBQ's dumpster.
Financial Report:	Susie Randolph presented the membership with a financial report, which included the following information: Members: 220 with the majority being riders Membership Fees: \$4500.00 Ride Fees: \$10,700 Saddle Raffle Sales: Financial Loss Beef Raffle Sales: Financial Loss Program Book: \$3,350 Auction Sales: \$4,000 Logo Wagon Sales: \$5,200.00

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	<p>A total of \$7,000.00 was added to the FCTA's bank account. The financial status for last year's Ride was not as good, we broke even.</p>
Logo Wagon:	<p>Logo sales increased due to the credit card machine and the organization skills used with the handling of money was amazing. The logo trio advised that they would like to see new stock become available next year due to the members asking for new items. A committee was established to purchase new merchandise for the logo wagon with the logo ladies: Julie Hinote, Linda Hoke and Debbie Weigand taking on this task.</p>
Special Thanks:	<p>Several members expressed their appreciation to the following volunteers for their services: Logo Wagon Ladies, Potty and Water Wagon Engineers, Pick Up Wagon Driver, Kathleen Fredrick for designing and organizing the Ride book, Debbie Weigand for the printing of the tickets, the group effort of erecting and disassembling the tent for the Friday night dance, Susie Randolph for her commitment to the FCTA for holding the positions of both Treasurer and Ride Secretary, and those who stepped up to assist the Park's family during their time of need. Chelsey Hamsher was recognized for her great job of entertaining and educating the children on the Ride.</p>
Earl Lindsey:	<p>Members expressed their concern regarding Earl Lindsey's accident, which occurred on the Osceola Ride. Wishes of a speedy recovery and prayers are being sent to Earl.</p>
Ride Concerns & Successes:	<p>Bus: During the Ride, problems with the bus company transpired, but were dealt with and no further incidents occurred.</p> <p>Port-O-Lets: The Port-o-lets are old and in need of replacement. Discussion was held on both the advantages of purchasing new or refurbishing the existing potties. The new style is plastic and is not as durable as the current style. A suggestion was made to building our own out-houses. However, after consideration was given to this suggestion, it was determined that out-houses would be a sanitation concern. A committee was formed to further review this need. Grover Johnson will be chairing the committee with George Massengale and Sharon Mercer being advisors.</p> <p>Keeping the meaning of the Ride in perspective: Donald Mixon suggested that members keep the correct perspective while participating in the re-enactment of the Ride. We were reminded that the public observes riders along the road side and the FCTA should be recognized as a respectable organization that follows the rules of the State of Florida and maintains its motto of "Keeping History Alive."</p> <p>Good Examples: Charlie Mercer mentioned that the majority of the membership is getting older and the next generation will soon be taking over the responsibility and leadership of the Ride. He stated that we should be setting good examples and making mature decisions for the next generation to follow. Charlie also stated that it takes a lot of work and members to organize and direct the Annual Ride. He encouraged all members to help with the work load, which will make the Ride organized and successful.</p> <p>Rules: Any rules not being followed should be reported to the Trail Boss. If the Trail Boss is unable to resolve the problem, it is to be taken to the Board of Directors. All members are asked to be courteous to your fellow riders, as you are making new friends and re-establishing past ones.</p> <p>Pat's BBQ: Pat & Ella were complimented on their service and meeting the needs of the</p>

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	<p>membership. There were no issues regarding the catering of the Annual Ride.</p> <p>Camping in Ft. Pierce – Fredrick Douglas Beach: This year campers and riders experienced problems entering this site due to the gates being locked. There was also confusion with a vendor running a business out of this location and not allowing FCTA members riding on the beach. This issue has been taken care of and riders and campers should not have the same problem next year.</p> <p>Harbor Point: A problem was encountered at Harbor Point when a young male (not FCTA member) acted in an inappropriate manner. Thanks to Ross Bunch and Jennifer Osterling’s quick actions, the problem was dealt with and is being resolved by Ft. Pierce authorities.</p>
Ride Book:	<p>Kathleen Fredrick, Chairperson of the Ride Book Committee, updated the membership on the process of completing the Ride Book. It was determined that a new means of contacting ad vendors is necessary to remind them of the due date, sizes and prices of ads. Charlie Mercer also encouraged members to buy personal ads for the Ride Book. Kathleen also asked that when submitting photos for the book to ensure that the photos are sent in a higher definition (larger file size).</p>
Small Equine (Mini’s – Ponies and Mules):	<p>Members expressed concern for the small equine (mini’s - ponies and mules), that were participating in the Annual Ride. Concerns included the safety of both the smaller equine, as well as the larger ones. Members stated that riders should be advised of this information prior to next year’s Ride. A final decision regarding this issue will be addressed at the Board of Directors’ Meeting.</p>
Entertainment :	<p>Entertainment for the Annual Ride was mentioned and it was stated by the membership that they would like to keep Jerry Mincey because his performance is pertinent to our motto of “Keeping History Alive.” Comments were made regarding the whip cracking contest stating that they would like to see more people in attendance to support the contestants. A new suggestion was made for there to be a “Cracker Trail Has Talent” contest. Chairing this committee will be Kathleen Fredrick with committee members being Susie Randolph, Bill Bigger and Christy James. A night for this event will be determined prior to the 2015 Ride.</p>
Wednesday’s Long Ride:	<p>Mike Strickland addressed the long ride that occurs on Wednesday. He stated that last year law enforcement followed the riders until dark. He welcomed all riders who may wish to continue until dark. Be reminded that per the Department of Transportation and Law Enforcement that after dark, riders are not allowed to ride on the road.</p>
Possible New Camp Site:	<p>A possible new camp site located in Lorida is being looked into. More information will be forthcoming.</p>
Passing of Monroe:	<p>It was announced with much sadness and many great memories that Monroe “The Life of the Party” and “The Man” passed away. Monroe was an icon to the FCTA as he was the longest participating animal in the Ride. A page will be dedicated to Monroe in next year’s Ride Book. Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie Hinote as she goes through this difficult time. Happy Trails to Monroe!</p>
Elections:	<p>FCTA elections are scheduled for October 25, 2014, tentatively at Hickory Hammock. The elections will include vacancies in the Executive Board and Board of Directors’ positions. In addition, the original By-Laws of the FCTA (from 1987) were carefully reviewed and revised</p>

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	by the Executive Board and Board of Directors and legal counsel. The elections in October will follow the guidelines stated in the 2014 By-Laws.
Saddle:	The question was asked why a Florida saddle maker was not making the saddle for the Saddle Raffle that helps to finance the FCTA scholarships. Julie Hinote stated that finding a Florida saddle maker, who can provide a good quality saddle had been tried, but no one followed through with the assignment. If someone in the membership knows of a Florida saddle maker who can produce the same quality of saddle, make contact with the person and advise the Executive Board.
Beef Raffle:	It has yet to be decided if the Beef Raffle will be continued during the 2015 Ride because of poor sales and because Earl Lindsey is retiring from his position as Chief Beef Raffle Ticket Salesperson. In lieu of beef tickets, a 50/50 chance raffle may be sold.
Adjournment:	A motion to adjourn at 3:40 was made by Grover Johnson, and seconded by Debbie Weigand.

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