



FLORIDA FOXTROTTER ASSOCIATION

**December 2018
“HOT TO TROT”**

HELLO AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE HONOR OF BEING YOUR PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS!! IT HAS BEEN MY PLEASURE TO WORK ALONG SIDE OF MY VERY SUPPORTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, AS WELL AS MANY OF YOU FFTA MEMBERS AT THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD THROUGHOUT MY TERM OF OFFICE.

I AM VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS COMING IN AND LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING THEM CONTINUE TO HOLD FUN AND INFORMATIVE EVENTS THAT CENTER AROUND ALL OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS....OUR MISSOURI FOXTROTTERS!!!

I HOPE THAT YOU ALL HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I AM SURE I WILL SEE YOU SOON AT ONE OF THE FUTURE FFTA EVENTS!!

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

REBECCA MORSE

PRESIDENT FFTA 2016-2018

Let's give a Big Welcome to your new 2019 FFTA Board

Pam Harrell	President
Linda Balyeat	Vice President
Nancy Chretien	Treasurer
Peggy Litt	Secretary
Sue Touchton	Board
Marty Ratliff	Board
Tammy Heaton	Board

It's the MOST Wonderful Time of the Year

Yes, it is and there are a few good reasons for that.

First, it is November, and thankfully, after a LOOOONG, HOT Summer it is finally cooling down enough to ENJOY riding again and not just suffering through it.

Second, it is a good time to renew your FFTA membership to continue enjoying all the fun, and informational activities we have planned for this year. The Christmas camp and ride in early December at the Suwannee is always a festive and fun weekend. Can you say Fabulous Christmas Light Show!

Third, It is the BEST time of the year to take advantage of our two for one membership sale. Spread the news to your friends. They don't even have to ride. They can enjoy camping and good food and friendly camaraderie. All new members joining from now until the end of the year enjoy the activities for the rest of 2018 and continue their membership perks through 2019.

Fourth, But not least, it's the time of the year we start thinking about Holiday gift giving. Why not give someone a gift that will last all year by gifting them a membership to the FFTA. The cost has NOT gone up in YEARS. It is still \$15 for a single membership and \$25 for a family membership. The membership pays for itself in reduced and free meal costs throughout the year.

Check this newsletter for a membership application, or contact Nancy Chretien
nachretien@yahoo.com

I am Thankful to be a part of this amazing, diverse group of people.



2018 BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Rebecca Morse	352-516-5685	imofsunnyblessedfarm@gmail.com
Vice President:	Steve Nave	352-267-5120	steve.nave@thevillages.com
Secretary:	Ann Hays	904-468-0081	hays5671@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Nancy Chretien	315-730-3471	nachretien@yahoo.com
Board:	Marty Ratliff	727-946-7411	martyratliff@knology.net
Board:	Linda Balyeat	352-422-4876	no email
Board:	Joan Fitzgibbons	410-703-0043	jmf425@verizon.net

Website: www.floridafoxtrotters.org

Check out our new updated Website!

<https://floridafoxtrotters.org>

CLASSIFIED SECTION

Ross Harper Training and Farrier Service! Specializing in Missouri Foxtrotters but can handle all breeds. Now taking new clients 352-843-3427



Dixieland Western/Endurance Saddle. 17" seat with extra padding, 6 1/2 " gullet, 30 lbs., Amish made, excellent condition, comes with breast plate and reins, color black, stirrups have extra padding. Steel Equi fit tree \$850.00 Jeanne Millette, 561-308-1025, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34953

2019 Calendar of Events FFTA website <https://floridafoxtrotters.org>

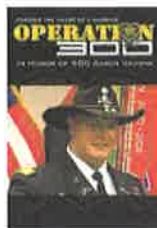
Don't forget to carry your Coggins with you on the trails

- January 19** Carl Balyeat Trail Trotter Award and ride to be held at the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Greenway Land Bridge Trailhead
Ride out at 10am and bring a sack lunch.
Award for miles ridden will be announced at lunch
- January 19** Ocala Western Dressage Series I
At Ocala Horse Park
- February 7-9** SSRMHC Gaited Charity Event
At the Florida Horse Park
See flyer attached
- February 23 & 24** Ocala Western Dressage Series II
At Ocala Horse Park
- March 2** Western Dressage for the Gaited Horse Clinic
Clinician Tori Blankenship
Friday night will be a round table discussion
More information to come
- March 16** The Gathering to be held at Black Horse Ranch Resort
More information to come

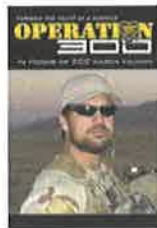
FORGING THE HEART OF A WARRIOR

OPERATION 300

IN HONOR OF SOC AARON VAUGHN



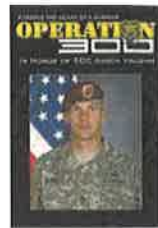
LTJG
TODD CLARK
DOD: JUNE 8, 2012



NAVY SEAL
ADAM BREDIN
DOD: MARCH 17, 2010



NAVY SEAL
JASON FREIVALD
DOD: SEPTEMBER 11, 2008



1ST LT
JESSE ALAMY
DOD: MAY 17, 2007

1st Annual SSRMHC Gaited Charity Event February 7-9, 2019



11008 South Hwy 475 Ocala, FL 34480

Featuring:

A 2-day sanctioned B RMHA show, multiple gaited breeds, as well as open gaited classes, schooling classes, obstacle course and an entire day devoted to socializing, riding and relaxing on Ocala's famous Greenway trails! RV hookups and stalls available. * Fuzzy winter horse coats welcomed and celebrated!!

Thursday Feb 7

Arrival
Group Trail Ride
Evening Social Potluck

Friday Feb 8

Saturday Feb 9
Horse Show
Obstacle Course Fun!

This event is not just about sunshine, trail riding and winning ribbons! Each exhibitor will be given the name and face of a fallen warrior, to ride in his honor. They will compete in memory of the Brave men and women who fell to defend each and every one of us! Every dollar of profit will be donated to our Charity, Operation 300, to support the timeless work they do to bring joy and hope to the kids and wives of these fallen Men. It is our way to give back, while at the same time, promoting, educating and enjoying the horses and lifestyle that we love!



While some will argue that Ocala is second to Lexington as the Horse capital of the world, it cannot be denied that Ocala is THE Mecca of equine shopping in the world! From hay warehouses to feed mills, horsey consignment to HUGE tack stores, boot shops and MORE!

For More Information, please contact Melissa Grimes (520) 873-7749 or Tara Stone (941) 786-7002 or visit www.ssrmhclub.com

Are you Looking for a Companion?



Available for Adoption from a 501c3 Rescue.

Boxer/Hound mix puppy. 12 weeks old. Neutered male with 2 sets of vaccines, parasite free, micro-chipped, using potty pads. Sweet disposition, quiet, and loves people and other dogs. Ready to go to his forever home. Being fostered by Nancy Chretien. For details Contact nachretien@yahoo.com or 315-739-3471 call or text. Please share. Thank you



WISHING YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sheila Gayner	December 2
Jinni Nytko	December 4
Chris Zack	December 10
Norman Hensick	December 11
Jim Woodward	December 13
Glenn North	December 20
Sue Owen	December 22
Mimi Adams	December 24
Terry Zack	December 25
Judy Mruz	December 28
Judy Spillman	December 29

RE-CAP OF THE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND AT THE SUWANNEE

"Over the River, and through the rain, to the FFTA Christmas Party we Went"

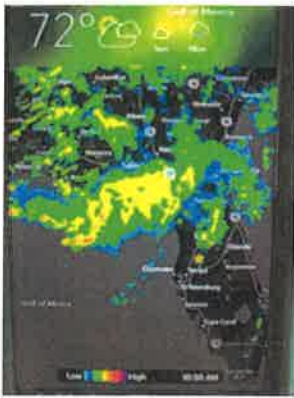
And yes they did come in spite of the weather forecast, and the actual rainy weather. Horse trailers, motor homes, and cabins sheltered the many members who came to celebrate the Annual FFTA Camp and Ride Christmas party. For those who were lucky enough to arrive on Thursday and Friday, the trail riding was pleasant and abundant. The rain started at 9 PM on Friday night and didn't let up. On Saturday, some rigs were moved to higher ground and horses moved from paddocks to the safe dryness of stalls. The rain didn't "dampen" people's spirits as they found ways to entertain themselves and enjoy fellowship without horses. One group stayed dry at the cabin rented by Judy Mruz and Ann Hays while watching videos of The Great Florida Cattle Drive 2016 and Florida Cracker Cowboys provided by Judy Cloninger. Judy Mruz, who was celebrating a very special birthday, made the most of her Birthday Mobile by transporting people back and forth to the barn and their campers. The decorations on the Birthday Mobile were amazingly still there on Sunday morning.

By 6 PM people began to arrive at the dinner wearing DRY, colorful Christmas themed clothes and smiles. The room was beautifully decorated for the festivities and everyone was greeted by our own perky and pretty Christmas Elf, always the consummate hostess, Ann Hays. Brightly wrapped and bagged presents began to appear under the tree and ornaments for the ornament exchange game filled paper bags. Silent Auction items, generously donated by members, filled the table at the front of the room. We watched the rain pour down while we played the "Right, Left, Across" ornament exchange game. Laughter filled the air and no one cared about the rain. While we played, the food was put out and it smelled fantastic. As usual there was plenty of food deliciously prepared by the Suwannee chefs. The dessert counter overflowed with donations from members. We sang Happy Birthday to all our members who have December birthdays (of which there are several, and a few were there) and celebrated with a December Member Birthday cake. We enjoyed watching each other choose and open a gift while we got high on sugar from the bountiful dessert offerings. Before everyone left Ann Hays announced the winners of the silent auction which made \$210 profit for the club for which we gratefully thank our donors, and generous bidders and buyers. At the end of the evening, most everyone filtered out to drive through the famous, fabulous Spirit of Suwannee Christmas lights. Some of us practiced our "ooo's and ahhh's" while waiting in line. As usual, they were spectacular. The rain slowed down enough for us to drive through with our windows down to see them better, while friends in our vehicles shouted out, "Look at the Swans, Look at the jumping frog, Look at the raccoon, etc. " When you have multiple sets of eyes you don't miss anything and you enjoy the experience even more because of who you are sharing it with.

We went to bed on Saturday, hopeful of a group ride at 9:30 Sunday before heading home. It had rained most of the night and it was still very damp. A few hearty souls saddled up and set out to make the most of their weekend plans. The rest of us packed up and got an early start home. I was headed south and by the time we got to Ocala, it was hot, dry and sunny. Oh well.

It was another festive annual FFTA Christmas celebration in spite of the weather. The members who were able to come made it that way. I commend you all on your persistence, good nature, and dedication to the club. For those who weren't able to come we sincerely missed you. We are already making plans for next year so please watch for the dates and send any suggestions to the FFTA board.

Happy Holidays to you all!!



The weekend was Full of rain and storms



What better way to handle the bad weather, watching videos of the Cattle drive Jon Cook, Kelly Graddy And Nancy Chretien attended



Christmas Elf! aka Ann Hays



Best Christmas hat Chris Zach



Silent Auction table



ready of the Christmas Ornament Story



Presents ready for the Gift exchange



Christmas feast is ready to gobble



Lets eat!



The Christmas lights are always
a special treat to go through



Friday afternoon was the driest day
Ann Hays, Judy Mruz, Kelly Graddy and Linda Balyeat

Thank you, from the treasurer,

As the treasurer and newly elected membership chair person, I was a bit overwhelmed with the several transactions that were necessary on Saturday evening at the Christmas Party. Everything is organized and accounted for thanks to the help of several members.

I would like to thank Linda Balyeat and Judy Cloninger for help with distributing and recording numbers for the auction and gift exchange as well as collecting the dinner payments.

I would like to thank Ann Hays and Judy Mruz for helping in a number of ways that I can't even count, including setting up the Auction and taking membership renewals, and payments for the Silent Auction.

If there is anyone I forgot please forgive me. I was collecting ornaments and bagging them, and yes, socializing.

Isn't that what it's all about?

Nancy Chretien

FLORIDA FOX TROTTER ASSOCIATION

The Florida Affiliate of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association

Membership Application/Renewal 2019

Name _____ Birth Date _____

Other Family Members Wishing to Join _____ Birth Date _____

Other Family Members Wishing to Join _____ Birth Date _____

Other Family Members Wishing to Join _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ e-mail _____

*****NOTE: The newsletter is sent via email. Initial here if you prefer a hard copy _____*****

Your specific interests: Clinics _____ Shows _____ Trail Riding _____ Other _____

Member of MFTHBA? Name _____ yes _____ no _____ membership # _____

Name _____ yes _____ no _____ membership # _____

Name _____ yes _____ no _____ membership # _____

DUES: _____ Single Membership: \$15.00 _____ Family Membership: \$25.00

Please make your checks payable to the Florida Fox Trotter Association. Thank you.

Hold Harmless Release

For and in consideration of the activities, services and fees paid, Participant hereby does forever and finally release, remise, acquit, satisfy and forever discharge the Florida Fox Trotter Association (FFTA) of and from all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suit, debts, dues, sums of money, bonds, billings, contracts, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, which may arise for or against the FFTA for the activities of the Association. This document is meant to be a full and complete release from any and all liability that may arise from participating in the activities of the FFTA. This release is given freely and voluntarily by the Participant.

Signed (include legal guardian under 18 years of age)

Date

Other Family Member(s)

Date

Please submit this form and your membership fee to:

Florida Fox Trotter Association
c/o Nancy Chretien
2113 Jasper Way
The Villages, FL 32162

Revised: September 2018

Group Trail Riding Manners



Are you a first time trail rider? Are you riding an inexperienced horse on the trail? Is the group riding out on a chilly morning? Does your horse sometime have an attitude toward other horses? Has your horse not been ridden often because you just have time to ride it now and again? Is your horse a high energy horse that is sometimes difficult to control? Not everyone has a “perfect horse” that has hundreds of miles of trail riding under its belt. What happens when we all get together to have a group trail ride? Our first and foremost desire is for everyone to have a safe ride. Here are a few suggestions to have every ride be a good experience. These suggestions may seem like basic logic, but they are quite important.

1. Make sure each trail ride includes a trail boss (who leads and who knows the trails), a drag rider (who brings up the rear), and that all riders have a map of the trails. No one passes the trail boss and no one is allowed behind the drag rider for safety reasons.
2. Don't assume that everyone is an experienced rider and that every horse is an experienced horse.
3. Ride your horse for several days prior to the trail ride so that you know how to handle the horse. Every time you ride your horse, have some form of groundwork that you do with it – 5 - 15 minutes. That will help the horse get rid of its excessive energy before you get on him. That will help the horse focus on its job and get rid of the silly behavior that often is experienced in the first 15 minutes of the ride.
4. The group should begin the ride at a slow speed and should not leave until EVERYONE is on his/her horse and is ready to go. Whenever a group takes off at a fast speed, the horses all get excited and it could be a recipe for disaster.
5. The group should be very aware of any problems any rider is having with a horse. Everyone needs to stop until that horse and rider are comfortable with continuing.
6. Do not ride too close to other horses. (Any horse that kicks should wear a red ribbon in its tail so that others are warned of this behavior.)
7. If necessary, divide the trail group into several smaller groups. Those who want to go fast and those who are okay with going slowly and “smelling the roses along the way.”
8. Group needs to help those who are inexperienced on the trails. (For example, if a horse is reluctant to cross water, take the time to help them do it.) If the group needs to slow down, do it. Remember, safety is the first priority.
9. Although some riders do not like to wear helmets, it is the best practice for safe riding.

There are certainly other suggestions, but these are some to help us all enjoy a safe trail ride.



Debbie Hagenbuch-Reese, Ann Hays, and Kathie and Jim Woodward attended the Palatka Christmas Parade Friday evening after Thanksgiving. We represented the FoxTrotter Horse and Historical Impressionists of Florida, Inc. It was great fun!



Thank you Hunter who had the most Important job "pooper scooper"



Great Turnout!



Jim Woodward



Teresa Mikelson has a new addition on her farm. Meet Isabel, a 14.3 Foxtrotter mare and previously owned by FFTA member, Judge Skinner. We all look forward to seeing Teresa on the trail riding one of her new horses, Amos or Isabel.