

Big Bend Horseman's Association

Meeting Minutes July 8, 2009

Meeting opened at 7:00pm by President Wade Smith.

Peggy Pope introduced Alice Crum and Cynthia Perkins from the Florida Whips Association. Florida Whips is a statewide driving society. Both Alice and Cynthia gave very interesting information on what type of activities you can do while driving a horse, including pleasure and showing. They had wonderful pictures to share and brought an example of a show cart and an everyday cart. The sport of driving is open to any breed, including mules and burros, and all can compete. The women offered to come do a demonstration at a show when the weather is a bit cooler. They gave out their contact information as well as that of the Florida Whips.

Peggy Jordan gave the Treasurer's report. Current balance in checking account is \$3,286.22. She deposited \$1,096.00 from our first show (gross). The report was accepted as presented.

Wade reminded everyone that we now have BBHA caps available for purchase. They are \$20 and the club will make a small profit on the sale.

Show Secretary Sally gave a report on our first show held at Evil Twin Farms. Many thanks to Sherri and Gordon for letting us use their farm. The show had a fantastic turnout with 13 horses in the very first class. Participants enjoyed the fact that we allowed casual dress and many requested that we continue that. We had many compliments on everything from the judge to the facility to the announcer. Many thanks to EVERYONE who helped in any way in helping get the show up and running. Also, Gary Canada and Leonia and Guenter Maresch took photos which are now posted on our website. Gary Canada is a professional photographer and offered the club to sell show photos and share the profits with the club. His website can be reached by a link on the Big Bend Horse Website. Our next judge will be Katrina Cochran.

Our next trail ride will be September 26th at Dixie Plantation. We will have to pay a fee for use of the Plantation and a guide. We will be planning on charging a small fee to cover this and also use it as a fund raiser. The ride is open to everyone, you do not have to be a member to participate in this ride. Also, Wade is communicating with Dixie Plantation about possible participation in their annual Midnight Sun Horse Show. This show is the first weekend in October.

The new By-Laws were accepted by the club and are posted in their final form on the website. Many thanks to Guenter for his hard work on this project.

Our Agricultural Agent Jed Dillard gave a report on the Encephalitis problem in Florida and South Georgia. Recently 2 horses in Tallahassee and 3 horses in Madison came down with the mosquito borne disease. Over 40 horses in the state have been identified. Many of the horses die or have to be euthanized. There is not a cure, only supportive treatment. However, there are very effective vaccines available for all three types of encephalitis as well as the West Nile virus. The state has put out an advisory for all horse owners to be sure their horses are vaccinated correctly. If you are unsure of your horse's status, please contact your vet.

Jed Dillard also updated us on the spread of an invasive species of grass: Cogon grass. It spreads by both rhizomes and seeds. The Department of Agriculture is offering eradication assistance to those who have this invasive grass. There will be a Pasture Management Meeting on August 27th, here at the Green Industries Building for anyone interested in pasture improvement.

Rhonda Radtke updated the club on our outreach activities. She has had articles published in various papers, public service commercials on radio stations, and has WCTV ready to give us some community time before our next horseshow.

The next county commission meeting is July 16th and Wade will be participating and representing BBHA.

Sherri Dean has been updating our website daily. WWW.BigBendHorse.com All information on the club is there and available for you to view

The next membership meeting will be August 10th at 7:00pm The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Bek, Secretary
July 8, 2009