

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The March 9, 2009, meeting of the Big Bend Horseman's Association was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Wade Smith. He stated that we are committed to starting our meetings on time and we have already broken that commitment by starting this meeting late. We also plan to start our horse shows and other events on time.

He explained that he was the interim president and the current officers were also interim officers who would only be serving for six months, or until August, 2009.

Wade introduced our guest speaker, the Jefferson County Administrator Roy Schlecter, who said he would 'try to get us up to speed on the arena'.

They are currently putting in the limestone road. He told about the building on the property. It cost the county almost \$70,000. to move it to its' current location.

The power company is coming in the next couple of days to put in the electricity. A well driller is coming tomorrow (March 10, 2009) to drill a well. He should be done in a couple of weeks. The handicapped ramp is completed.

"Everything we have to do by the end of the grant is done because the road department is doing it. They are doing about \$200,000 in site work," said Schlecter.

All the drainage and drainage pipes are currently being installed under the road to the retention pond. The building will be finished. The arena floor will have three to four inches of sand on top of the current foundation.

The panels are here and a contractor is on board to install them when the 'site' is ready for it.

"The county will get the check for \$200,000," said Schlecter. "We will have a bare bones site. We (the county) have to finish the rest. All of the site work will have to be done for the county to receive the grant money, and it is happening. David Harvey and his road department have busted their 'buns' to get it done to this point."

Schlecter said that Henry Gohlke is putting together a possible plan for rent/insurance on the arena.

"You have a project here that has a huge potential," said Schlecter. "Have an event out here and bring some of the people out here. Start having events out here and people will come and bring money to the County. Give us until the beginning of May (to work on the arena) and see how it looks then."

He took a few questions from the members, then finished at 7:45 p.m.

After Schlecter left, President Wade Smith told those present that he and some other members (Guenter Maresch and Jed Dillard) had met with Mr. Gohlke, who had mentioned the club, BBHA, might be in charge of the arena and we might use it for free.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Secretary Kathy Shepard reviewed the minutes from the Feb. 9, 2009 meeting. They were approved.

Wade said all who had attended the previous meetings had decided that we wanted to be a fun club for the members. The members would decide what we wanted to do.

And, the membership is not just for horse owners, but for 'horse people', whether they own a horse or not.

He said the Board of Directors had reviewed several "Purpose Statements" presented to the Board of Directors. The board had chosen:

"To promote and improve equine activity, competition and health throughout our region."

We had decided on the name Big Bend Horseman's Association, because we wanted to be more than just Jefferson County. We wanted to start out concentrating on the counties touching Jefferson County, which are Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, Leon and Thomas and Brooks Counties, in Georgia, as well as Jefferson County.

Kathy Shepard and Peggy Jordan gave the treasurers report. We have set up an account at FMB with \$90 dollars in membership checks and a \$100 donation to the club. We have a tax I.D. number, Articles of Incorporation and a web site.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board has separated the position of Secretary/Treasurer and added a director. Kathy Shepard will remain as secretary and Peggy Jordan is the new treasurer. Sherri Dean is the new director. Both of these positions are interum, also, and will last until Aug.

The associate, or youth, membership category is not yet listed on the membership application. It is for youth under 18 years of age who do not have any other family members involved in the club. The fee is \$10 and does not allow them to vote. Guenter said he will revise the membership applications to include this category.

Wade told members we are now looking for sponsorships. We will have sponsorship packets available in April. Leonia Maresch , who is in charge of preparing the packets, will tell us about them at the April meeting. She will have the packets ready then.

Possible participation by club members in the Watermelon Festival was discussed as either riding horses or putting a float in the parade. Someone also suggested we have a booth.

Wade said that we will have a table/booth in the upcoming Southern Music Rising event in Monticello on April 16, 17 and 18, thanks to Leonia. It will have information about our club. Leonia asked for volunteers to help with this undertaking.

The 'Extravaganza' was discussed. Wade said he would like to get someone with all different types of horses performing, kids playing, BBQ, politicians, demonstrations, and other types of horse activities at our Extravaganza. Henry Gohlke liked the idea and thought it would be a great way to have the grand opening of the arena, when the arena is ready. Sherri Dean will be spearheading the Extravaganza committee.

Beth Thorne ask if we were concentrating on the arena and only horse shows, or is trail riding and putting on trail rides in the county also on our agenda.

Wade assured her that trail riding was also a part of our agenda, as well as horse shows, equine demonstrations and other fun events for our members.

Jed Dillard, the County 4-H horse representative gave some information about the 4-H horse clubs and the Extension Office.

Tim Barfield brought up the committees, which were discussed at our Feb. meeting. The committees that now have a chairperson include:

Awards:	Cindy Hughes
Education:	Peggy Pope
Fund Raising:	Leonia Maresch
Publicity:	Rhonda Radtke
Show:	Sally Bek
Trail Riding:	Karen Shivers, Jill Endicott

Extravaganza: Sherri Dean  
4-H: Jed Dillard  
Facility: Guenter Maresch

Committees still needing chairpersons are: Membership and Special Events.

Wade reminded everyone that our next meeting would be April 13 at 7 p.m. He appreciated everyone coming and reminded them to check our web site. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Kathy Shepard, Secretary, BBHA, March 11, 2009