



Indiana Fox Trotter Association February Newsletter Issue 7, Volume 2



MARCH CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Indiana Fox Trotter Association will be on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Blackhawk Winery, located at 28153 Ditch Road in Sheridan Indiana. The meeting will start at 11:0am. Please bring a dish to share such as sides, salads and desserts.

On the agenda at this meeting will be the Hoosier Horse Fair, 2017 trail rides, and final plans for our July clinic.

If you have suggestions for the agenda please email or text John Heldt prior to the meeting.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2017 MEETING

1. Call to order at 11:15 by Pres. John Heldt. Members present, John, Sandy Fox, Shirley Evans, Jill Uselton, Eric and Kathy Shafer, Leslie White, and 3 new guests/members Carol, Cheryl and Pam.

Minutes read by secretary Kathy Shafer from the December meeting, all approved with one correction. Motion by Sandy and seconded by Eric.

Treasurer's report by Sandy Fox: Previous balance \$3670.98. Income \$180 on memberships, \$1284.43 expenses, balance \$ 2566.55. Therapian riding was sent a donation of \$300. Riding for hope \$300. Love way was decided on last meeting to receive a donation also but after finding out it received a substantial donation it was discussed and decided upon to change it to Reins of Life or Magical Meadows. Shirley motioned to make a donation of \$300 to the 3 different areas and not Love Way at this time. Leslie seconded and all were in favor. Then Shirley motioned to have a donation of \$300 made to Reins of Life, seconded by Leslie, all in favor. Sandy is also to send a check for the deposit of Crown Haven for our July clinic.

2. Current Officers:

Pres. John Heldt

Vice Pres. Leslie White

Secretary Kathy Shafer

Treasurer Sandy Fox

North directors Eric Shafer, Shirley Evans

Central directors Jill Uselton , Casey Martin

South directors Vicky Hagerman, Donna Burkhardt

3. Confirmation of Officers: Eric made a motion to approve officers, Jill seconded, All were in favor.

4. Membership Campaign: The multi year discount was discussed. As stated in previous meetings it will continue.

5. 2017 HHF Stallion, Miller Time will be back. Buck and Billie Jean are pleased to bring him back for us.

John was asking if we had enough curtains for both booths, he will look into it.

Demo horses will be John and Leslie's horses. Booth decorations we want to change some background and pictures.

Thursday will be set up and asking for volunteers to help out . Sunday tear down from 4-5 PM and again asking for help.

6. 2017 Fund raisers: Horse shoe art. John has made boot racks, wine racks and crosses. Leslie and Shirley will bring in what they

had left from last year. Eric wants to do a 50/50 drawing at the next meeting.

7. Clinic: We still are looking for a clinician. Saturday will be the clinician and Sunday will be an obstacle course, colt starting

possible trail ride. Shirley will work on the flyer for it.

8. 2017 Trail rides: In May the ride will be at Hoosier Horse Camp and will be a National trail ride, May 19-21 John will host it.

* Potato Creek June 2-4, Shirley and Sandy to host

Midwest Trail ride June 23-25 John host

* Wild Cat Creek Horse park Oct. 13-15 Shirley hostess

Brown county state park Sept. 15-17 John host

O'Bannon Woods Sept 29-Oct 1 John host

* Tippecanoe state park June 30-July 2 Shirley

* Salamonie Lost Bridge Aug 18-20 Shirley

* This denotes rides shared with Red hats and Purple Chaps

Promotional items were shared with the group, stickers and mugs. We will sell stickers and mugs also at HHF.

There was a discussion on having shirts ordered. We will sell what we have and then decide to possible order some.

Next meeting will be March 4 at Black Hawk Winery at 11:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 motion by Eric and seconded by Kathy

MEET OUR OFFICERS

Leslie White, Vice President

Hello! First of all I would like to say how proud I am to be a part of the Indiana Fox Trotter Association! Promoting this wonderful breed is what got me involved with the club. I have been a member since 2014, and shortly after that became one of the Directors for Southern Indiana. I became involved helping out with our booth at the Hoosier Horse Fair, making horseshoe art I donated to the club to sell and raise money, and in 2014 and 2015 I have participated in the breed demo showing my horse along side with John Heldt and his horse promoting the Missouri Fox Trotter. In 2017 I was nominated for Vice President by Dave Martin who had to reluctantly step down due to his very busy schedule.

My husband, Jeff, and I have been married for 34 years. We own an automotive alignment shop in Bedford, and I have a cleaning business. We have three "fur" babies, Brady, a Labrador, Barney, a Beagle Mix and Honey, a barn kitten the mother abandoned and I bottle fed her (of course she has been a house cat for 10 years!) We have two Missouri Fox Trotters, Smokey, TJ, and a retired Walker/Saddlebred, Chance. For those of you who know me, know my animals are my world! We got involved with the Fox Trotter when Jeff's back could no longer take the ride of a Quarter Horse. We found a good home for our Quarter Horse and began the search. I'm sure most of you can agree it can be quite a task searching for a new horse. After many, many calls and looking at different gaited horses we decided the Fox Trotter was the breed for us. Our good friend, John Heldt, breeds and sells this awesome horse but he didn't have anything the size my husband needed. In 2006 we found Smokey, then a 4 yr. old, in Missouri. He has been a wonderful horse! When I had to retire Chance, we bought a Fox Trotter from John, Lucky. He was out of a mare owned by Betty Horn and by Cast Iron Wizard, owned by Charla McCullough. We only had him a short six years when he coliced and there was nothing to save him. He is buried on our farm. John offered to me Lucky's half brother, TJ. TJ is out

of one of John's brood mares and by Cast Iron Wizard. TJ turns six this year and I couldn't be happier with this guy! We are a great fit together and I love riding him and teaching him tricks. Jeff doesn't get to ride as much as he used to, we would burn up the trails! His back and legs just can't take long rides. We still ride some together, but very short rides. He is an avid hunter and has always encouraged me to go camp and ride with my friends. I have met so many good people in the club and really enjoy our scheduled rides!

Some of my favorite things to do are trail riding and camping. Traveling and seeing new places. I love gardening and landscaping. And of course, spending time with our dogs!

I hope to be a good Vice President to the club. I plan on being involved again this year at the Hoosier Horse Fair, our clinic and all of our planned rides! I am starting a new article in the newsletter titled, ...As Seen Through The Ears Of A Horse. I will write about different camping trips and experiences that we have been on to give the reader information on a camp perhaps they might wish to visit. I hope you all enjoy them! I look forward to a great year of IFTA events with great friends!!



IFTA WEBSITE By Shirley Evans

Be sure to check out the club's website at www.infoxtrotters.com for the latest about meetings, trail rides, clinics and pictures. I have recently added photos from the 2016 clinic, the new membership form along with the 2017 Liability Waiver that all members need to sign each year.

Gettysburg... As Seen Through The Ears Of A Horse! By Leslie White

Horses and trail riding are a passion I'm positive I share with all the Indiana Fox Trotter members, so I thought each newsletter I would share some trail riding experiences...as seen through the ears of a horse!

Last summer my husband Jeff and I took a trip to Gettysburg, PA to ride the Battlefield with our two Missouri Fox Trotters. It was a long pull from Southern Indiana, but I always think half the fun is getting there! We arrived at the Gettysburg Horse Park late in the afternoon. The girls in the office/camp store were so nice and helpful. They wanted to make sure our horses were settled in after a long trailer ride, so they directed us to our site and told us to come back at our convenience that eve or next morning to check in.

The camp is a nice size. It is an older camp and is expensive per night. But they are the only camp that has direct access to trails at the Battlefield. In fact, I couldn't find any other horsecamp in the area. They do have regular non horse campers mixed in among the horse campers. But most of the sites are pretty large and have gravel pads with water and electricity. Some sites have sewer hookups. You can choose sites that have corrals in a central location, or from several stall barns. We picked a site that had a double corral that was more than big enough for two horses and it was directly behind our site. So nice to relax and watch horses.

That evening we walked with our dogs around the campground. They have several permanent camper sites which the owners had so cleverly landscaped! After a nice walk we headed back to camp to relax.

The next morning we were excited about riding the Battlefield. We had to get an early start because we were meeting my sister and her husband later that day. They live in Lititz, PA about hour away. He is retired from the Air Force and worked at the Gettysburg park as a tour guide. He is also a Civil War Reinactor so he really knows his history and wanted to give us a guided tour...by car. Jeff and I were saddled and on the trail by 7am. It was very foggy and gave a feeling of awe as we entered the Battlefield trail. The trail around the park is only about 11 miles, however, they had four consecutive storms that blew trees down on Big Round Top that had closed several sections of trail so we could only ride about 3/4 of the trail and turn around. Which was good because by then the fog lifted and we could really see the monuments, original homes, barns and cannons. The park has over 3,000 monuments. You could

spend several days going around reading the plaques. We so enjoyed our ride on that Hallowed Ground and the feeling of being in the same place of such an important part of history. We met my sister and her husband they first took us to the historic part of the town of Gettysburg to a small restaurant famous for its Philly Steak and Cheese...yum! We then started the auto tour. He took us to the edge of town and showed us where the first shot was fired. From there we spent several hours looking at the different battle areas and monuments. It felt as if we were in a PBS documentary! So very interesting!! One fact I found interesting was the monuments with the person on his horse, if the horse was posed with one foot off the ground, that person was wounded in battle, if the horse had two feet off the ground that person was killed, and if the horse had all four feet on the ground they survived. They say there is no written code among sculptures, but the monuments at Gettysburg pretty much hold true to this.

We spent one more night in Gettysburg and the next day we moved down to Virginia to finish out our week. I would highly recommend going to ride the Battlefield, or even going without horses. The park has a stable and they can take you out on their horses and give a guided tour. There is so much to see and learn, we will definitely go back!! Until next time, see what you can see through the ears of a horse!



One of the farms



McPherson Ridge Major-General John F. Reynolds



On Little Round Top looking down on Devil's Den



Major-General Meade