

October 2019 FF BCH  
General Meeting  
10/24/2019  
Old World

Welcome back snowbirds

A Motion to approve the June minutes was made by Calvin McDavid, second by Darlene Creasman and group approved.

Treasurer's report by Gary Reynolds. Motion to approve by Dave Van, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Fulcher and group approved.

Gary and Sally met with Forestry personnel Keith, Eddie and Lita. That brought up improvements that have been made at Tillis Hill. A new wash pad, concrete for new covered manure pit and shavings bin. They are going to repair and replace panels in the corral area. We are going to suggest dividing it in half to allow for more than one group of horses turnout at a time. This would be to prevent fighting amongst the horses. Sally also mentioned that future improvements should include a hand pump for water since water is a real issue in the forest. Our group would be willing to contribute \$2,000 to the project and do some fund raisers for the rest if necessary. Sally brought up with Forestry the attitude of operations towards us. Specifically on how they plow the trails and roads prior to burning. They have been using the big V-shaped plow which renders the trail unrideable for quite some time afterwards. Forestry stated that they have had a huge turn over in personnel and the plowing was due to undertrained staff and inexperience. Since then, Calvin and Gary have noted that recently plowed trails and roads have been done with the double disc implement which is much better. Sally brought up the fact that the equestrian community contributes greatly to local economy and the riding trails here draw a lot of revenue to the community. Also, there is a need for more law enforcement in the forest. Eagle Ridge is closed due to serious destruction by the mudders. She furnished pictures of the deep ruts and damage in that area.

Calendar:

Oct 25-26 Back Country Horseman of Florida State Annual meeting at Spotted Dance Ranch

Nov 23 Picnic at Tillis Hill

Dec 19 Christmas at Stumpknockers on the River

A vote was taken on shaved ham or pulled pork for the picnic. Pulled pork had highest vote.

Meeting Places: We need everyone to scout around and find some suitable places to hold our meetings. The venue needs to be able to accommodate 35-40 people and preferably have a separate meeting room. Some mentioned that Old World was fine. They seem to have improved service and food quality. Someone mentioned Buffet City in Brooksville which might be a possibility.

Volunteers: We need volunteers. Forestry is not going to maintain our trails. It is up to us. There are 7 Field Trial Trails that need painting. The following people volunteered for this task: David and Darlene and Andy and Sue will do purple and orange trail. Steve and Karen Rossman will do the Green Trail. Gary and Cindy Cyphers will do the Red Trail. Janice and Gary Reynolds will do the Yellow Trail. Fred, Gary, Sally and Calvin have cleared most of the trails.

We still need people to adopt trails to monitor and recon. Picnic tables need areas cleared and raked around them.

There is a Chain saw class coming up.

We have 3 people so far that have expressed interest. Gary and Darlene have also expressed interest.

Sally has permits for our group. Keep track your hours spent volunteering and turn in to Gary Reynolds so we can get recognition for our efforts.

Those who have earned T-shirts for volunteering will need to wait a while longer. There is a hold up on the shirts.

50/50 \$27.50 won by Steve Rossman

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM