



Indiana Fox Trotter Association Newsletter January 2021

Howdy Trotters!

A new year brings new hope and I hope all of you have a great and healthy 2021. My name is Sharon and, in addition to maintaining the web-page, I'll be preparing the newsletter this year.



We'd love to share your stories about rides and activities, tips, suggestions, or just fun antidotes. Not all of our members are on Facebook and depend on this newsletter for information and fun. We've included a guideline for sharing your experiences at the end of the newsletter. Please e-mail your articles to me at s.serguta@mymetronet.net.

Welcome

A warm welcome to our new members, Tracey Yeager and Lorraine Hanley. I'm sure everyone looks forward to meeting and riding with you. The current list of members is on our website (a link is below) and includes email addresses and resident city, so you can reach out to people close to you. Our club isn't just about group activities, it's about making new friends.

Business

Officers

Cheryl Gramling, President
Kathy Shafer, Vice President
Carol Heingartner, Treasurer
Rita Shrader, Secretary

Board of Directors

Joanne Hadaway, North Representative
Eric Shafer, North Representative
Jill Uselton, Central Representative
Terri Tucker, Central Representative
Vicki Hagerman, South Representative
Linda Ramsey, South Representative
John Heldt, Additional Director

Meeting Minutes are at the end of the newsletter

Fun Stuff

Current Planned Trail Rides:

Any changes or additions to this list can be found here: <http://www.infoxtrotters.com/trail-rides.html> along with links to campgrounds that we visit.

MFT National Trail Ride at Deam Lake - May 14-16 Hosted by Kathy Shafer

Hoosier Horse Camp - June 4-6

Fundraising event hosted by John Heldt
Ask for IFTA sites when making reservations

Farmlane/Waterloo Recreation Area, MI - July 9-11 Hosted by Cheryl Gramling and Carol Heingartner

Brown County - Sept. 17-19

Hosted by Kathy and Eric Shafer

O'Bannon Woods - October 1-3

Hosted by John Heldt

Salamonie Lost Bridge - October 9

Day ride hosted by Kathy Shafer

Meet at the day camp area at 10am -

email Kathy Shafer if you plan to go

Any member wishing to host a ride, please contact a club officer with information about the ride.

Gaited Clinic

Plans for this year's clinic are underway. It will be held at Crown Haven Center in Russiaville on April 10-11 with Mike and Joy Meizler as the clinicians. Mike trains horses while Joy trains people. Joy has ridden, shown and raised gaited horses her entire life. Mike is a professional horse trainer with more than 30 years' experience training colts. Complete bios are available [here](#).

We'll be mailing out a flyer once all the details have been finalized.

Mini Bios

I think it will be fun to include mini bios of our members in each of the newsletters. I think everyone would be interested in how we "got into" horses and what horse activities we've participated in. Just to get us started, I'll go first.

Sharon Serguta Bio

When I was a teenager, one of my older brothers had a horse for a while. He used to take us to the farm where he kept her and we would get to ride the various ponies and horses there. Riding consisted of getting on, kicking to go and pulling back on the reins yelling "whoa" to stop. Otherwise, the horses went pretty much where they wanted to go.

In 1995 I talked my husband, son and sister into going to a dude ranch for vacation. We went to Colorado and had a wonderful time. I highly recommend a dude ranch as a family vacation. Lots of family activities and you are with a small group of individuals so you get to make some new friends.

That was the extent of my contact with horses, until 1997 when a series of family tragedies struck and made me realize how short life can be and started me thinking about what I had or hadn't done in my life. I gave up on playing the piano and tap dancing, but I told my husband I wasn't going to give up the dream of horses. So I signed up for riding lessons.

The lessons were wonderful. Not just the riding, but being around the horses, grooming them, etc. I took lessons for about six months when I announced to my husband that I was going to buy a horse. After he picked his jaw up off the floor, we discussed it in length. He totally understood my position on life, but not my wanting to own a horse. But, he supported my decision, and after researching the various breeds, I decided on a Missouri Fox Trotter.

I purchased Heaven Bound's Carmel Clown "Mel" in 2002. Owning him helped bring me through one of the toughest times in my life and a deep depression. He gave me a reason to get off the couch and go outside into the sunshine. And since I board him, he gave me the opportunity to meet new friends who share my interest and understand what having a horse means.

It's been a long learning experience with ups and downs (as in me on the ground), but I've enjoyed it tremendously.

Please submit your mini-bio to me at s.serguta@mymetronet.net

Indiana Fox Trotter Association

Minutes

December 5, 2020

The meeting was held at the Cafe of Hope, Huntington, Indiana, and also virtually via Zoom. Those in attendance, in person and via call, included Cheryl Gramling, Carol Heingartner, Rita Shrader, Sam Gerhardt, Vicki Hagerman, Terri Tucker, Kathy Shafer, John Heldt, Carol Rush, Sandy Fox, Katie Hochstetler, Cathleen Wilke, and Brenda Horvath. Diane Barton attended as guest.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order shortly after 11:00 a.m. by President Cheryl Gramling who reviewed the minutes from the January 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted and reviewed.

Treasurer Report with Membership Updates

Treasurer, Carol Heingartner, reported the IFTA balance as of October 2020 statement as \$4,068.51. In January, renewal letters are sent to members due to renew. Historically, a grace period has been provided. The current membership is 36. Details surrounding the Affiliate Annual Report were reviewed. Carol Heingartner made a motion and it was seconded to reimburse Cheryl Gramling for membership card expenses and meeting room expense. The motion was approved unanimously.

2021 Fundraiser(s)

It was agreed the annual Tack Auction fundraiser will be held at Hoosier Horse Camp, Norman, Indiana, June 5 and 6. John Heldt will call to request camping sites be held for the IFTA. Typically, HHC will hold sites for a limited amount of time and will remind the IFTA prior to releasing sites. This year, a substantial amount of nice, used and/or new tack will need to be donated to assist in fundraising efforts since this fundraiser did not take place in 2020.

The IFTA also has a substantial number of items to sell, and discussed setting up a booth at the C Bar C Equine Roundup scheduled for April 29 through May 2.

Donations

Annually, the IFTA donates \$100 each to five 501c3 organizations. While final donation decisions will be made at the January meeting, some organizations discussed included ITRA, Fox Trotter Rescue, Magical Meadows, Love Way, Reins to Recovery, Reins of Life, Summit Equestrian Center, and Back Country Horsemen.

2021 Clinic Ideas

An April clinic with Mike Meizler at Rosebud Ranch was discussed with the group supportive of holding a clinic to include a farrier if possible. President Cheryl Gramling will reach out to Mike Meizler and Rosebud Ranch.

Newsletter

The goal(s) of the newsletter was discussed as well as ownership for production, frequency and content. Some of the newsletter topics suggested include meeting and ride information, breed education, and quarterly publication. Rita Shrader is willing to assist with content creation and editing. Newsletter production ownership will be discussed with others and reported at the January meeting. A suggestion was made to create a template to provide submitters with a guideline for their trail/camping stories.

Trail Rides 2021

Trail Ride locations and dates will be finalized at the January, 2021 meeting. Please let a board member know if you have a location suggestion or would like to host a ride (a great way to meet members).

Hoosier Equine Council Event

The Hoosier Equine Event will be hosted by C Bar C in Cloverdale, Indiana, April 19 through May 2, 2021. The IFTA is a group member of the Hoosier Equine Council. As discussed previously in the meeting, the IFTA will plan on having a booth there.

Website Update

We are currently looking for a new website solution as our website design software is outdated and cannot be upgraded. Sharon Serguta found that Godaddy (which is what we use now) has new design software. Sharon has tested the new version and plans to create a site with the new software and then transfer the IFTA account information over.

Open Discussion/Unfinished Business

- A discussion surrounding the format for future meetings, conference call and frequency took place with all in attendance supportive of an in-person/conference call format. It was noted that the Zoom format works well to reduce what would be substantial travel time for some members. It is hoped that attendance may increase with the Zoom format going forward.
- National Trail Ride - to be discussed in more detail at next meeting.
- It was noted that elections are next year.
- Bylaws should be reviewed (note: bylaws were delivered via email to the Board following the meeting).
- An in-person and/or Zoom meeting will be held January 23, 2021.

- The IFTA did participate in the most recent Celebration Book.
- Cheryl Gramling noted there is "A Good Foundation and Horse Show" to be held at the Hoosier Horse Park, 105 S Kern St, Nineveh, IN 46164, April 24-25, 2021.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

IFTA Submit A Story!
Optional Outline for Submission
Submit your story to: s.serguta@mymetronet.net

Where did you go and when?

What did you like about the campsite accommodations?

What did you like about the horse accommodations?

Describe the trails; scenery, difficulty, and condition.

What were some unexpected surprises?

Would you visit this location again? Why or why not?

What other activities did you participate in while in the area?

I'm proud of my Fox Trotter because: