



# Indiana Fox Trotter Association

## Newsletter

### June 2021

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## Howdy Trotters!

It's newsletter time! Word is that the National Trail Ride at Deam Lake on May 14-16 was a great one. Kathy Shafer shared some photos on the club's Facebook Group.

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](mailto:s.serguta@mymetronet.net).

## 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.

#### 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.

## Versatility Clinic



Thank you to all the participants and auditors at the Indiana Fox Trotters Versatility clinic.

### Cheryl Gramling

I learned what I need to do with Misty to get her into the gate and keep her there. We need to do more flexing and just regular exercise to get into shape. I take it for granted that she will be ready for a jog even though I haven't been riding her all winter.

I also enjoyed going through the obstacles and hope to make some for Misty at home so we can work on side passing and turning with leg cues. Mike Meizler, the clinician, was easy to listen to. He kept my attention during the clinic and reminded me of the importance of working with Misty off the trail so that I will be safe on the trail.

The second day of the clinic Beth Draper explained the importance of chiropractic and massage therapy for our horses. Beth showed us several horse stretches to do before riding and demonstrated the use of different therapies, such as red light laser and Magnawave therapy. I personally have not had chiropractic therapy for my horses, but it totally makes sense, especially since I need to go to the chiropractor myself from time to time. And I definitely enjoy a massage especially after a stressful time or when I get to feeling achy, etc. I'm sure

Misty would feel the same way after we go for a long ride.

Also on the second day, Katy Hochstetler demonstrated equine archery... that was really cool! She let us shoot her bow and it was interesting to see how our horses would react to the sound of the bow hitting the target. Misty did not like that sound or even want to go by the target. Then we finished the day with a fun game of Cowboy Polo. It was very challenging since the ball was somewhat flat. But those that participated had a great time and many laughs!

### Vicki Hagerman

We rolled in Friday evening and enjoyed chatting with clinician Mike Meizler. We shared some fun stories. Saturday morning Mr. Meizler began with ground work horsemanship. It was a good refresher for some, and new information for others.

After mounting up we continued working on softening, bending and getting our horses to listen when we whispered! Mike worked with each individual on any problems they were having. We then got to enjoy the obstacle course, which was very entertaining as always. Many horses were convinced that the "car wash" (strips of tarp hanging down from a PVC frame) was actually a horse-eating machine! Most horses made great improvements and became brave!

Saturday evening was pizza and wine and lots of hilarious stories! It was too wet out for a campfire, but we made believe! Sunday morning, Beth Draper came and demonstrated her skills in animal massage, Magnawave, Cold Laser Therapy, and adjusting horses. We were able to feel the way the Magnawave worked, and it was great to learn some new stretches to help our horses stay right. I really liked the "horse sit-ups" that helped them to raise their topline. Beth had each horse walk and we watched them for lameness or other

issues. My horse had an odd twist to a back leg when he sat it down. After some manipulations, it was better! We enjoyed Beth.

Then Katy Hagerman gave us a very nice lesson on mounted archery. Several people tried their hands at the bow. We enjoyed watching Katy's talent in this event, but my favorite event of the weekend was Flat-Ball Cowboy Polo. The silly ball would not roll even when given a good solid whack, and no one had a needle to blow the ball up. So Katy and her mom (me) ganged up against John Hagerman and John Heldt. It was a great example of all the skills we worked on in the clinic, and I drove (or rather, pushed) the final goal between John Heldt's horse's legs!

We always enjoy getting together with other foxtrotter folks and visiting and riding together. The time always goes too quickly. I am ready to do it again

*Pictures and a video are posted in the Facebook Group.*

## **Mini Bios**

### Rita Shrader

During my years as a child, I always asked for a pony, and later a horse, for Christmas. At one point, I suggested a willingness to settle for riding lessons, and my Mom promptly enrolled me in ballet. It seems we had a communication breakdown. However, I can say that the years in ballet were good for core and balance development.

My Mom was the first person to put me on a horse along with her and my two brothers. The horse was a big, old farm horse named Mutt. Later, my cousins would invite us to their place to ride mock pony express races. My youngest brother recalls that I was bucked off while galloping bareback during one of those races although I don't recall it.

At the age of 48, during a management leadership retreat at a ranch in Arizona, there was an afternoon of horseback riding, and that re-ignited my interest. Upon returning home, I started taking horseback riding lessons and shortly thereafter bought my first Quarter Horse gelding named Dudley. I promptly renamed him Dandy because who wants a Dud? He was just 7, and I rode him in a bitless bridle out by myself on the 60 acres owned by the boarding facility. Ignorance is bliss.

Three years later, I became interested in gaited horses and began researching breeds. In my search, I rode several horses of different breeds and recall feeling as if I was floating up a hill on a Missouri Fox Trotter. I then purchased two half-brother Fox Trotters out of Arkansas from a woman who was originally from Indiana.

So, I'll wrap up with a fun story that took place as another IFTA member and I rode two Fox Trotters on trail 17 (our favorite) in Brown County State Park. As we were coming down the very steep rock that we all know if we've ridden that trail, I heard my fellow rider telling her horse to "whoa". I stopped my horse to see horse and rider continue on past me with the "whoa" being ignored. She was sliding down over the front of the saddle. When the horse came to a stop, she was actually on the mare's neck and looked like a misplaced jockey! She began to push up and back to get herself in the saddle. At that time, I became concerned about a possible injury and called out "be careful of your (censored) as you go over the horn". Well, that made her laugh so hard, she promptly slid off the horse's neck and landed near a log. Fortunately, no person or horse was injured; however, I have been reminded many times that the fall was my fault.

Ride safe, have fun! Happy Trails!

*Please submit your mini-bio to me at [s.serguta@mymetronet.net](mailto:s.serguta@mymetronet.net)*

# Indiana Fox Trotter Association

## Minutes

February 20, 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom conference call and with the following members in attendance: Cheryl Gramling, Ginger Diedorf, Kathy Shafer, John Heldt, Carol Heingartner, Brenda Horvath, Terri Tucker, Cheryl Crowdson, and Sandy Fox.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order shortly after 11:00 a.m. by President Cheryl Gramling who requested any corrections to the January 23, 2021 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

### Treasurer Report with Membership Updates

The January month-end balance was \$3,980.89 with one check disbursed to GoDaddy (website expense). It was noted that the Affiliate Report is due March 1, 2021. IFTA needs 20 members who are also MFTHBA members in order for IFTA to be designated as an affiliate.

The IFTA enrollment/renewal form was updated by Rita Shrader and Carol Heingartner and now includes the liability waiver as page 2 of the enrollment/renewal form.

Eventually, we would like all members to complete the updated form.

A motion was made to recognize any new memberships during the 4th quarter of a year to include the following year. The motion was seconded and passed.

Currently, eight (8) memberships are due for 2021 with renewal notices going out as soon as possible. These will be sent out electronically to email addresses on record. It was noted that the MFTHBA requires membership in order to transfer registration papers.

### Donations

While the Board previously directed the funds sent to the ITRA to be used for Salamonie expenses, it was agreed that the donation is to be directed to the efforts at Brown County State Park. Carol will follow up with the ITRA to request this change.

### 2021 Clinic

Details and plans for the April 10-11, 2021 Clinic have continued to progress. Mike Meizler will arrive around 5 p.m. with a meet and greet around 7 to 8 p.m. Friday evening (April 9). The clinic will begin

Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Donuts will be brought in Saturday morning with a Pizza pitch-in Saturday evening. On Day 2, Beth Draper, Equine Massage and Chiropractor will be on site with individual therapy available. At this time, a farrier has not been located. Mike is interested in understanding what obstacles participants would like to work on during the clinic. Crown Haven reduced the camping cost to \$25 for the weekend rather than \$25 per night. Cheryl Gramling, Carol Heingartner

and John Heldt plan to arrive Friday evening. The required cost sharing forms have been submitted to the MFTHBA. The MFTHBA will cover the clinician cost if the IFTA has a minimum of 20 members who are also MFTHBA members. Cheryl Gramling will request assistance with flyer development from Sharon Serguta. It was noted that this is an all breed clinic. To ensure all participants have space during the clinic, there will be a maximum of 12 to 14 horses and a minimum of 10.

## **Newsletter**

We need others to submit bios for newspaper publication. Also, the newsletter would be a great place for members to include "For Sale" items related to equine activity. It was suggested that we place this message on Facebook.

## **Trail Rides 2021**

A question was asked regarding the need for more rides in the North part of the State. Cheryl noted those in the north will let members know via Facebook and email as camping and day riding is planned (possibly on the fly).

John completed development of the Deam Lake flyer for the National Trail Ride. Board member(s) will actively be placing this flyer on other Facebook pages. The flyer will also be posted on the IFTA Facebook page and sent via email to members. Saturday evening will be a fireplace gathering. Kathy Shafer will develop an itinerary for the weekend. Kathy may need some assistance during the weekend (signups, etc.). John volunteered to be a trail guide as did Carol and Cheryl. Typically there is a shorter ride and a longer ride with one at a faster pace than the other. Carol suggested a drawing for various items including, mugs, tiles, and T shirts with categories established. John will work on a meal for Saturday night that may be catered.

For the Auction ride on June 4-6, 2021 at Hoosier Horse Camp, the Saturday evening meal will be at the restaurant with the Auction following at 7:00 p.m. A large number of donated items in good or new condition need to be donated to have a successful fundraiser. John is working on a flyer that will then be distributed via email and on the IFTA Facebook page.

For the Michigan ride July 9-11, participants should call Farmlane for reservations. There are some corrals at this location.

## **Hoosier Equine Council Event**

Cheryl has a form to complete to reserve a booth for IFTA at \$200 for the entire weekend. Camping is \$40 per night including electric. Cheryl is checking into whether or not there will be a breed demo. MFTHBA will pay one half of the booth expense.

## **Website Update**

Opportunities were identified as utilizing the website for electronic membership enrollment including collection of dues and utilizing PayPal to sell IFTA merchandise. Rita will follow up with Sharon for this discussion as there was not a highly technical person in attendance. In addition, we will explore the ability to establish an email account directed to the IFTA.

## **Facebook Discussion**

There was a discussion regarding management of the Facebook account for the IFTA. Currently, there are three administrators including Sharon Serguta, Kathy Shafer, and Karen Isom Case. There is not a list of current parameters for allowing people into the group. Questions are asked and answers are evaluated prior to approving a request.

## **Bylaws Review by Board Members**

Discussion tabled to the March meeting. Board members are requested to review the Bylaws that were sent to them via email and come to the meeting prepared to discuss any suggested changes or corrections.

## **Open Discussion/Unfinished Business**

Kathy suggested a white board be available for the upcoming clinic and could possibly be used at the trail rides as well.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2021 and will be held at the Crown Haven Center (location of upcoming clinic) assuming the location is available that date.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 EST.

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