

Big Sky Fox Trotter Association

Minutes for the September 26, 2009 meeting--draft version
Jerry and Gen Christison's home, Helena, MT

Call to Order: President Randy Olson called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Officers and board members attending the meeting were President Randy Olson, Vice-President Bobbi Dyrud, Western Director Kristina Tracer, Central Director Jerry Christison, Eastern Director Gail Hansen, and Director-at-Large Bob Womack. Absent were Secretary Annette Padgett, Treasurer Donna Goss and Director-at Large Pete Peterson. Others attending the meeting were Mary Auger, Doris Guse, Lelia Hansen, Gale Mowry, Cathy Olson, and Karen Philips. Guests attending were Claude Aaberge, Joshua Brassard, Wilma Brassard, and Jordan Glosser (daughter of charter member and former webmaster John Glosser).

Introduction: President Randy thanked Jerry and Gen for hosting the meeting at their beautiful home, and he thanked the members who came and showed their support for the meeting and organization. He said we have had problems getting participation and he plans to do some things to improve that. He will send a letter to all members asking them to step up and asking for their input regarding what they want from the club. We need to get more people and younger people involved. Some older members have been doing a lot for the club for many years and want to continue to be involved but not to the same degree as they have been. His goal is to encourage involvement from more BSFTA members. The youth program is non-existent and needs to be organized. Bob Womack will contact members Chad, Becky and Peyton Miller regarding this program. Randy wants to see events organized for youth and adult members in their regions, something that could be handled by regional directors. Randy sent an email to members about this meeting and got lots of feedback. One suggestion was from our webmaster Lauren Johansson about using software (like Skype) and web cams, which would allow members to participate in meetings from a distance.

Correspondence: Karen Philips, acting secretary for Annette, read a note from Bryce Jepperson who thanked BSFTA for sponsoring the Ranch Horse Cutting class he won at the Big Horn Basin Fox Trotter show. She read a note from Susan Gardner who renewed her 2009 membership and who asked if she could add BSFTA to the Mission Ranger Saddle Club's mailing list so they can send information to us about the annual Bison Ride they host near Moiese, MT. Members agreed. Randy mentioned an email he received from Terrie Griffith (our national regional representative) regarding the affiliate program's benefits, which include paying for part of the cost of booths at horse expos like the one Annette and other members are hosting this weekend in Hamilton, MT. Cathy Olson circulated a packet she requested from Val Strong (Utah Fox Trotter Association secretary) on youth program ideas.

Minutes: Kristina Tracer moved that we accept the June 27, 2009 minutes as sent to members via email and published on the club's website (bigskyfta.org). Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bobbi Dyrud read the report prepared by treasurer Donna Goss. Our current balance is \$6,532.63. Donna also prepared a report on the 2009 show at Sapphire Event Center. Income was \$3,858 from class registration fees, \$3,700 from sponsorships, and \$2,500 from UNIVAR for a total of \$10,058. Expenses so far are \$9,100.79 but more bills from members need to be turned in. The temporary show balance is \$957.21. Randy said the Intermountain Versatility

Circuit competitors brought in an additional \$1,000. Jerry Christison moved that we approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Committee Chairmanships: Randy will be reassigning committee chairs and will contact current committee chairs regarding these changes.

Trail Rides: Gail Hansen and Jerry Christison are interested in working on the 2010 National Trail Ride. Gail and Jerry, along with Mark Goss, will investigate the Sundance Lodge, located near Wise River in the Big Hole and on the back side of the Pintler Mountains, for a possible site.

2010 Nominations: Current officers and directors have been and will be contacted to see if they want to run again for 2010 positions. Members at the meeting also volunteered to run for office. The goal is to have a ballot of nominees and proposed bylaws changes sent to members by the end of October. Any member who wants to run for office should contact president Randy Olson (208-745-7631 or colson10@msn.com) or secretary Annette Padgett (406-777-0577 or padgettboys4@msn.com). Bob Womack mentioned how important it is to have someone who may want to be a future show chair or show secretary shadow someone who is doing that job.

2009 National Trail Ride in Wyoming: Mary Auger reported that the ride was held in a beautiful area of the Big Horn National Forest, although the road grade to get there and back was steep. There were over 40 riders, a variety of ride lengths and, although stormy at night, good weather during the day. The Forest Service there is very service-oriented and user friendly. Many thanks to Gary and Tanya Becker for organizing another very popular trail ride.

Old Business:

Bylaws: After a brief discussion, Jerry Christison moved to schedule a meeting of officers and directors on October 10 (Missoula, Jokers Wild if available, 11:30 a.m.) to review and finalize proposed changes to the bylaws so they can be submitted to the membership for a vote (as is required by current bylaws). The meeting is open to all members but voting will be by officers and directors. Motion passed. Current bylaws are available to view or print on the website at bigskyfta.org.

Corporate Sponsorships/Partnerships: Randy is still working with Mark Goss on the concept of official sponsors for the club. They will research typical costs and benefits to companies. When that is done, Karen Philips will approach our current sponsors to see if any of them are interested. Bobbi Dyrud reported that grants are available from the Dennis Washington Foundation for activities that support groups like Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding. She and Bob volunteered to write a grant application for Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding group's participation at next year's show, if it is held at Sapphire Event Center. UNIVAR now limits their donation funding to higher education programs. Jack and Bob Womack will contact UNIVAR regarding how we can support this new direction.

New Business:

2010 Banquet/Awards Night and Annual Meeting: Missoula Country Club is available in January for the annual banquet and awards night. Annette volunteered to meet with the management there to select a date, finalize complete meal prices, and determine if space is available two hours before the banquet for the annual meeting. Discussion followed on whether to schedule the annual meeting before the banquet or the following day. Jerry Christison moved that we have the meeting on Saturday, two hours before the social hour and dinner. Motion passed. Bob Womack agreed to work on the awards and will check with Mark Goss to see if he will help too.

2010 Annual Show: Different sites for the show were discussed. Gail Hansen checked the Dillon area and facilities there won't work for our needs. Mark Goss investigated Missoula Fairgrounds and Annette checked Ravalli County Fairgrounds. Last year Bob Womack checked four or five places in the Missoula area and had no luck. Jerry will check on Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds and Rae's Arena (both have indoor and outdoor arenas) for available facilities and costs.

Members and competitors like Sapphire Event Center for a show site, but the two biggest complaints there were the cost of stalls and the charges added on after the contract was signed. To keep stall costs down, Mary Auger suggested that we offer to run cables through stall latches to keep horses out of stalls not rented, and we could have a barn steward. Bob will ask Jack to contact Sapphire regarding contract details for a possible show there next year, making sure that all costs are included.

Randy agreed to serve as 2010 show chair and Cathy Olson volunteered to be show secretary again. She will use the same software that Utah's club uses and that Val Strong provided for our show last year. Cathy said it works very well and makes the show secretary's job much easier.

Bob Womack has the club banner, ribbons and supplies left over from the 2009 show, and Mark Goss has the cow numbers. Gail will take care of ordering buckles again.

Mary Auger purchased a ranch horse competition DVD that shows how to organize ranch horse class scoring in a way that determines winners in all three divisions (youth, amateur and open) when riders compete together in the classes. She has developed a chart showing how this is done.

Members discussed the importance of getting a strong performance judge and preferably not someone from our region of the country, to avoid conflicts of interest. Jack Womack agreed to find a judge for next year's show as soon as possible.

Intermountain Versatility Circuit: Members agreed to continue participation in the circuit if it is organized again next year. Mary Auger recommended and Jerry Christison moved that circuit contestants pay an additional two dollars per circuit versatility class to help cover the additional cost for circuit awards. Motion passed. Circuit winners for 2009 were Kamille Strong-Roseman (open division), Randy Olson (amateur), and Bria Felt (youth). Ranch Horse champion was Kamille Strong-Roseman.

MFTHBA Rule Book: The new rulebooks are available, and Cathy Olson ordered 15 of them for club members. They will not be mailed out to MFTHBA members unless

requested, so members can get one from Cathy at the next meeting or they can contact MFTHBA to get one (no charge for mailing).

BSFTA newsletter: Kristi Thompson, a BSFTA member from Rigby, Idaho, has agreed to serve as the newsletter editor. She is currently the Eastern Idaho Gaited Horse Association editor for their monthly newsletter. BSFTA's Publisher software program CD and data will need to be transferred to her. Mary Auger moved that we purchase an external hard drive to back up all club software programs (Publisher, Filemaker, Quicken) and data. Using memory sticks, data files can be sent to the appropriate people. Motion passed.

Member News: Karen Philips reported that member Gary Hanson has Mantle Cell Lymphoma, a cancer in the lymph glands. It is a rare cancer that has occurred in the last 30 years and many experts believe Agent Orange, which was used in the Vietnam War, causes it. Gary can be reached by mail at 922 Willow Creek Rd., Corvallis, MT 59828. Our prayers are with him and Catherine.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 and members ate a delicious lunch prepared by Gen Christison. Following lunch, members who brought horses went on a trail ride lead by Jerry.

Next Meeting: Special board meeting to discuss and finalize proposed bylaws changes to submit to members for a vote, October 10, Joker's Wild Restaurant (tentative location), Missoula, MT at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Karen Philips for secretary Annette Padgett