

# *The* Western Saddle Club News



March 2008

Rickey Jones, President; Charles Duvall, Vice-President; Jody Jones, Treasurer; Ellen Kilgo, Secretary  
Board of Directors: Dee Allen, Gary Cox, Tim Conway, Shorty Gray, Ken Jones, Greg Smith

## Happy Trails to 70 of You

Yep partner, that's how many of you have not renewed your 2008 WSC membership since last year. But, it's not too late. To enjoy all of the facilities and amenities at the WSC as well as receiving this swell newsletter in the mail, you need to renew your membership pronto. So send in that membership form that was in your January newsletter. What, you lost it! Ok, you're in luck, you can print it from the WSC web site: [www.westernsaddleclub.org](http://www.westernsaddleclub.org) or talk to one of the officers first thing at the next WSC event.

## Meeting Highlights

The next meeting of the WSC will be held on Monday April 7th, at 7:30 PM, at the club house.

The March meeting was opened by President Rickey Jones. The Officers' reports were read and accepted by the membership.

### The old business addressed at the meeting:

- The work that was planned for the announcer's booth has been tabled for 2008 since we do not plan to have any shows this year.
- Planning is continuing on fixing the entrance driveway to better accommodate the larger horse trailers.
- Time to submit bids for the monthly lawn service is about up. If someone you know or you would like to have the job, get your bid in now.

### The new business addressed at the meeting:

- The new gate combination is now in effect. You may obtain the combination only by calling

Jody Jones at 706-252-4169. Members: do not share the combination with anyone.

- The rest of the new business this month deals with Berry College this month. Please read the article that follows.

### Board of Directors

- It has been brought to the board's attention that some of the riders and other persons are using the WSC properties who are not members. This situation may become worse as the new rules for Berry College are put in place. Because we need to have only club members using the facilities for safety and a number of other reasons, your membership will be checked periodically this year. Every member is on a master roster for the year; however, it is updated only about once a month. If you have recently joined be sure to carry your membership card with you to prove you are a member.

## Berry College 2008 Regulations

The officers and board recently met with Berry College's President and Land Management staff to learn about the new trail policies.

The map of the new horse trails with the policies printed on the back is enclosed in this newsletter. You should plan to keep it as a handy reference. Soon these will be the only trails available to horses.

For now, we still have access to the other trails we have been riding. The school will notify the WSC of the exact date that the new trail systems will go into effect. At that time Berry will also post a map showing horse, hiking, and biking maps on a new page on their website: [www.berry.edu/recreation](http://www.berry.edu/recreation)

Horse trails will now be off of the service roads. The land management staff has cut 15 miles of new trails which consist of parts of existing trails, old roadbeds, and firebreaks. You will no longer encounter hikers or bikers on the trails once all of the policies are enforced.

The main change is that access to the trails will only be through the new trailheads. The school is currently constructing two trailheads which include parking for trailers and kiosks for maps and notices. The new trailheads are located at Berry Hill Road and off of Sand Springs Road.

We will **no longer** be able to enter the trail system from the WSC property. We will be required to ride from the WSC to the Berry Hill trailhead. The route through the clay mine has been sub-leased to a new company and access is restricted. However, you can still go through the clay mines until we are advised of the effective date.

This restriction is coming from the DNR policies that apply to all WMA properties. Access to WMA's are not permitted through private land, only through designated trailheads.

These changes may seem big, but we still have access to some wonderful trails which allow for a full day's ride. We must comply with Berry's new policies or lose our privileges to ride on the college's property.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** the school has experienced some problems with some of the new trail signs being torn down. They are not accusing WSC members, but it has occurred. Do not damage any new signage. These signs are needed for all riders not to violate the new policies and possibly lose all privileges to use the Berry property.

Last, you now see why it is important to be sure that people using the WSC are actually members. As the new trailhead system comes on-line, parking and using the WSC facilities will be very inviting to some riders. Again, for the safety and protection of our members and club grounds, we must all be sure only members are using the club's property.

## 2008 Planned Club Activities

<b>Mar 22:</b>	Monthly trail ride	10 AM
<b>April 26:</b>	Poker and monthly trail ride	10 AM
<b>April 27:</b>	Second ride for the weekend	10 AM
<b>May 24:</b>	Scavenger Hunt and monthly ride	10 AM
<b>June 7:</b>	Trail ride competition.	TBA
<b>June 14:</b>	AQHA Ride	TBA
<b>June 28:</b>	Monthly trail ride	10 AM
<b>July:</b>	No activities, summer break	
<b>August:</b>	No activities, summer break	
<b>Sept. 13:</b>	Pink Ride for the Cancer	TBA
<b>Sept. 27:</b>	Poker and monthly trail ride	10 AM
<b>Sept. 28:</b>	Second ride for the weekend	10 AM
<b>Oct. 25:</b>	Monthly trail ride	10 AM
<b>Nov. 28, 29, and 30</b>	Thanksgiving weekend ride	TBA
<b>Dec. 6:</b>	Christmas Party	6:30 PM

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### Officers and Board Contacts:

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Bob & Cherie Finger, Newsletter	706-232-8200

### Show Committee Contacts:

Mary Cox	706-232-1563
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The Western Saddle Club Newsletter is a publication of the Western Saddle Club of Rome Georgia. Any comments about the club or newsletter are mailed to: P.O.Box 2471, Rome, Ga. 30164  
See warning: Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, regarding equine activities and events.

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