

# *Belmead on The James*

*A Private Membership Riding Club*

## **Newsletter**

## **Late Summer 2011**

Hope you all have been having a safe and relaxing summer. The heat has arrived in full force, but we're happy there's been enough rain to keep the grass growing in the pastures. (Of course, it's a mixed blessing - means all the more mowing along the roadsides and trails!) As you'll see when you come in the main drive, the corn was well beyond "knee high on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July" this year. There's usually a nice breeze down by the river, and the trails through the hardwoods offer shade for many miles. (Fly spray and ear bonnets recommended.) So come on out and enjoy the lazy days of summer at Belmead... and [if you snap a nice photo or two, email them on over and we'll include them in the next newsletter.](#) ☺



## Welcome New Members!

We're delighted to have these fine folks as our newest members:

Gail Black  
Janice Davis  
Sarah Greenway  
George Gregory  
Susan Holt

John Kirkland  
Sandra Kirkland  
Karen Lindley  
Robert Norris  
Pamela Stinson

Debbie Stoddard  
LuAnn Tarren  
Robyn Waters  
Stewart Wickham

## Don't Forget Your Dash Sign

By now all members should have received a laminated dash sign. (If not, contact Marilyn.) Please always display your sign whenever you're at Belmead. We certainly don't want to be "big-brother-ish," but we do want to make certain we know who is on the property, and that any non-members have been properly registered as guests. (There are blank dash sheets for guests in the Rider Registration Shed.) Thanks for your cooperation!



## Help Us Spread the Word...

Do you have friends who ride? Do you belong to another horse club? By increasing our membership, we'll have additional resources to make more improvements to the trails – including bridges, drainage, picnic tables and hitching posts, all new trails, etc. You can invite your friends to ride as a guest, and if they decide to join Belmead on The James, then their guest fee can be applied to their membership.



## Lonesome Dove Benefit Ride

Thanks again to the 52 riders who came out to Belmead on June 18<sup>th</sup> to support the Lonesome Dove Equestrian Center. A great time was had by all, and we helped a very worthy cause. For those who might not be familiar, Lonesome Dove is a non-profit organization that helps wounded veterans through a therapeutic riding program.

**For more info, go to**

**[www.ldequestriancenter.com](http://www.ldequestriancenter.com)**

# Mark Your Calendars...

## July 23 Saturday -

Morgan Horse Club Association Ride sponsored by Mary Ann Massie.

## August 13 Saturday – Member Social Ride & Pot Luck Lunch

You asked, we listened! This will be our first Member Social, and if there's continued interest, we'll do one each quarter. Come get to know some other members, enjoy a potluck lunch, and maybe find a riding buddy for the future. Meet up between 8:00 – 9:00 in the morning to ride out, then sit down together at 11:30 for lunch. Soft-drinks, ice, watermelon and paper/plastic products compliments of Belmead. RSVP to Marilyn ([marilyn\\_catlett@mindspring.com](mailto:marilyn_catlett@mindspring.com)) so she can keep track of who's bringing what and have a head count for the drinks. Include your name, your horse's name, and your preferred style of riding (ie, Western, Eventing, Hunter/Jumper, Gaited, etc.) Hope to see everyone there! ☺  
*(If you've got a non-member friend who's considering joining, you can invite them along...and if they decide to join, their \$20 guest fee will apply to their membership.)*

## August 20 Saturday -

Powhatan Riding Association (along with "Poor Peoples' Riding Club"), sponsored by Roberta Young.

## August 27 Saturday – Volunteer Trail Work Morning

Since we expect it to be quite warm, we won't be doing anything too strenuous – mostly putting up additional trail signs, and clipping away any branches that are blocking existing ones. We'll have the 4WD utility vehicle to drive us around... or if your horse is handy on the trails, you can ride out with a pair of loppers. We'd like to try to get most the signage in place before the big Labor Day weekend ride when we hope to have a lot of guest riders. Start time TBD, most likely between 8:00 – 9:00 AM. If you're willing to help out, please RSVP to Sharon Madere: [smadere@premier.com](mailto:smadere@premier.com)

## September 2, 3 & 4, Fri/Sat/Sun –

### Labor Day Weekend Poker Ride, Cook Out & Camping.

Open to the public. Proceeds go towards the "Gulch Bridge Building Fund." See accompanying flyer.

***Please forward or print this flyer and pass along to others!!!!***

Also, **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**, so if you can help a bit on Saturday, contact Marilyn ASAP.

## September 3 Saturday – Tack Swap

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM. Open to all. Clean out your barns and closets, and come buy/sell/swap your tack, equipment, etc. All fees go to the Gulch Bridge Fund. If you're participating in the Poker Run, it's a flat \$10 fee to sell/swap all you want (you keep all the sales money). If you're not playing poker that day, then the fee is \$20. No fees if you're just purchasing. Bring table or tarp to display your stuff.

## October 29 Saturday – Halloween Ride & Cook Out

Dress up or paint yer pony and come join us for a howling good time! More details to come...

## November 12 Saturday – Member Social Ride & Pot Luck

(Additional tentative 2012 dates: March 10, May 12)

## Trail & Property Update:

- Rubber mats have been installed on the two bridges on Big Bear Loop to improve traction. One bridge was a bit muddy on the approaches, so we've put down some stone to solve that problem.



- Additional improvements are planned for the bridge on Swamp Trail. We originally intended to install a French drain and re-grade to deal with the mud on the eastern side, but because there is a natural spring in the hill above the bridge, we've decided the surest solution will be to extend the bridge another 6 – 8 feet. We'll also be installing rubber mats for traction.
- New picnic tables have been placed at Heron Point (the intersection of East River Trail and Deep Creek Trail), the old Ferry Landing, and the West River Trail. Hitching posts are planned for these locations, as well as at Pavilion Park.
- More stuff is on the “to-do” list, including the drainage on Swamp Trail, clean up of Loblolly, additional signage on all trails, etc.



### Name That Bridge?

Someone has suggested a unique approach for helping raise funds to build new bridges, as well as name the two we've got. (Bridges are still needed in at least two places on Big Bear Loop, plus the Gulch at Deep Creek (*left*), and also in areas where we'd like to put in new trails.) The idea is to give members the opportunity to name a bridge in honor of their favorite horse, complete with a nice little plaque...for under-writing the cost of materials for that bridge. (Materials run \$600 - \$1,200 per bridge, *not* including labor.) But we'd like to hear what members think before we make a decision on that one, so let us know your thoughts.



*Members beat the heat on a July Sunday morning...*



*Wendy Schmidt and Venus ready to head out.*



*Blackberries ripening on Big Spur Road... yum!*



*A turkey feather keepsake found on Long Log Rd.*

## Classifieds...

### Raffle Tickets – Win A Candle Light Dinner for Six People at the Belmead Mansion!

Proceeds to benefit the Belmead Mansion Restoration Fund and the Belmead Riding Club. \$10 per ticket, or 3 for \$25. Drawing July 31. Contact Marilyn: [marilyn\\_catlett@mindspring.com](mailto:marilyn_catlett@mindspring.com)

### Saddle for Sale –

Circle Y Alabama Trail Gaiter western saddle, **black**, wide tree, 16-inch seat.

Very comfortable, light weight (about 24lbs). Excellent condition. \$900 cash only please.

Trish Taylor [trisht7@verizon.net](mailto:trisht7@verizon.net)

### Horse for Sale –

Scooby Doo – Quarter Horse, 14.3 hands, 4 years old

Perfect Trail horse by himself or in a Group - Scooby started competing this spring and he was second in his first combined test, won his first intro horse trial competition at Deep Run and won his recent dressage training level test with his rider riding in a cast. What a sport. Scooby fox-hunted first and second flight the end of this past season also. Scooby is a 4 year old Quarter Horse 14.3 hands \$2,900. Great things come in small packages!!!! Terry Adcock 375-3007 or email [Dadcock186@Aol.com](mailto:Dadcock186@Aol.com)

### Horse for Sale –

Kemper - Irish Sport Horse mare, 15.3 hands, 6 years old

Fantastic Irish mare with wonderful gaits, brains and looks. Ready to event or fox hunt. Kemper can do it all and is amateur safe. Kemper is schooling X-country, riding on trails alone and with large groups and water, ditches, banks and creeks are no problem. Kemper is a 6 year old 15.3 hand Irish Sport Horse mare. \$7,900 Terry Adcock 375-3007 or email [Dadcock186@Aol.com](mailto:Dadcock186@Aol.com)

### Saddle for Sale –

Gently used 2005 Circle Y Park & Trail Flex Tree saddle, 17" seat, medium/semi bars, 6 3/4" gullet, Serial # 155117001205. Comes with breastplate and never used headstall. Package deal. \$900 firm. 804-439-0880



### Gaited Trail Horse(s) for Half-Lease at Belmead Stables

I confess, I'm "one of those"... a slightly crazy lady with too many horses! I'd love to find the right someone (or two) interested in a half-lease. Several horses available, from novice-safe to moderately challenging. \$200/month (includes board, vet & farrier.) Want to be clear that I'm a bit picky about who rides my horses - I want someone with soft hands, and do not want them learning bad habits. If interested, email Sharon Madere ([smadere@premier.com](mailto:smadere@premier.com)) and let's talk further.

Hoof Boots for Sale – BOA, size 2, excellent condition, \$100, Sandra Kirkland, 804-338-2978

Dr. Cook Bitless Bridle for Sale – Black nylon, horse size, excellent condition, \$50 804-338-2978

### Roommate Wanted, Powhatan:

Nice room in my home with private bath, \$500 a month (includes all utilities). Male or female, must be responsible, have steady job (or lots of money!), good references, and love animals. Contact me at [marilyn\\_catlett@mindspring.com](mailto:marilyn_catlett@mindspring.com).

### Horse for Sale –

Jack is looking for a good home. 4 yr sorrel gelding. Unknown breeding but looks like he has some TN Walker. He's around 14.3h, maybe a little more. Jack is not broke to ride but has come a long way since I bought him 2 yrs ago when you couldn't get a halter on him. A good home is more important than a price. Vet references please. Betsy 804-658-7008 or [graysonspal@yahoo.com](mailto:graysonspal@yahoo.com)

### Various Tack for Sale -

**Circle Y Shell Tooled Breast Collar Brand New – Pecan - \$50 FIRM;**

**Sip Ear Headstall – excellent condition - \$30**

**Tom Thumb Western Snaffle Bit 5 Inch with curb chain strap - \$20**

**Shipping Head Bumper – never used - \$15**

**Circuit Chestnut 5/8” Rubber Reins - \$15**

Kym Osterbind [kmostrbnd@comcast.net](mailto:kmostrbnd@comcast.net) for additional information/pictures.

## Did You Know?

*On June 15, 2011, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Belmead to its 2011 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.*

*An excerpt from their press release:*

*“Belmead-on-the-James, Powhatan County, Va. - A little-known landmark of African American heritage, the 2,000-acre site along Virginia's James River was transformed by Saint Katherine Drexel from a slave-holding plantation into a pair of innovative schools for African American and Native American students. Closed in the 1970s, the historic buildings set in rolling hills and wooded glades of the riverfront campus, including a striking Gothic Revival manor house designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, are deteriorating and need emergency repairs.”*



## Facebook Anyone?

A Facebook page for Belmead would be a definite plus! It's on our "to-do" list, but there are only so many hours in the day. If you are highly proficient with Facebook and would like to volunteer to get this project jump-started, contact Sharon Madere [smadere@premier.com](mailto:smadere@premier.com). Thanks!



*See you on the trails soon...*

*Belmead on The James*

*A Private Membership Riding Club*

5001 Cartersville Rd., Powhatan, VA 23139

804-909-4981 [marilyn\\_catlett@mindspring.com](mailto:marilyn_catlett@mindspring.com)