



Kel-Mac Saddle Club
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KEL-MAC SADDLE CLUB NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

President's Report, by Valerie Puryear

We have kicked off 2023, and it promises to be a great year for Kel-Mac. Kat Howkins of Sweet Olive Farm was our January speaker. She shared pictures of some of their rescues as well as the challenges of running a rescue day to day. It was informative and entertaining. Thank you, Kat.

We have planned our first Meet and Greet of the year. This event will be a little different. We have new trails to ride, and it is a fundraiser. We will ride at Redux Rescue in Colbert, Ga on April 1. Redux is a private 5013c Rescue that is owned and run by Paulette Brown (with support from husband Chip). They have 15 miles of beautiful, wooded trails. After the ride, we will have a barbecue lunch: pork butt cooked by Chip Brown. We are asking for a \$20 donation per rider for ride and lunch, \$10 for lunch or ride only. All proceeds will go to Redux Rescue.

If you rarely or never trail ride, this is the ride for you! Experienced trail riders will lead small groups of riders on the trails. More experienced? You are welcome to ride at the pace you prefer with riders who also enjoy a more active ride. More details to come. Invite your friends to join us!

Our February Meeting is scheduled at the Oconee County Library at 7pm on Tuesday, Feb 21. We have a speaker lined up to talk about getting your pastures and paddocks ready for spring and summer grazing. Come join us!

The Barbara Reilly Cumming Memorial Scholarship

Kel-Mac Saddle Club has offered educational scholarships for many years. In 2022 we lost a vital member of Kel-Mac. Barbara Reilly Cumming was a long-time member, a wonderful friend and horsewoman, and truly the heart and soul of the Club. To honor her memory, the Barbara Reilly Cumming Memorial Scholarship was established.

The Scholarship awards \$1000 annually. The successful applicant must be a current member of Kel-Mac who has been actively involved in Club activities for at least two years. Applicants must be enrolled as a senior in a traditional high school or home school program, or as a student at a university or college. The application is a simple three-page form, which requires a short essay.

If you meet the qualifications, please apply! Scholarship forms will be available on the Kel-Mac website: www.KelMac.com, beginning in March 2023. Deadline for submission is April 15, 2023.

The successful applicant will be awarded the Scholarship at the May 13, 2023, Kel-Mac Horse Show.

Kel-Mac Saddle Club Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Kel-Mac President, Valerie Puryear, at 6:57 PM at the Watkinsville Public Library.

Approval of minutes

There were no minutes from December 2022.

January Program

Kat Howkins, owner and founder of Sweet Olive Farm Animal Rescue, gave us an entertaining history of how the Rescue started in 2010. The Farm in Winterville, Georgia was initially purchased as a sanctuary for her and Susan's rapidly growing population of rescued dogs. It quickly expanded with the addition of pot-bellied (and other types of) pigs, roosters, peacocks, turkeys, sheep, goats, alpacas, llamas, cattle, and yes, horses, miniature horses, ponies, and mules! Kat said her phone number somehow ended up on "speed dial" for most of the animal control officers in surrounding counties, so there's hardly ever a dull moment on the Farm. In 2015, Sweet Olive Rescue was granted 501C3 status, which allowed them to receive tax-deductible donations and expand their mission. In addition to managing many animals, a volunteer workforce, the arrival of truckloads full of expired bagels, fruits, and other foodstuffs, as well as frequent trips to Tractor Supply, Kat and Susan also host a summer camp for children, and a slew of daily visitors at Sweet Olive Farm Animal Rescue. Kat welcomes visitors, and encouraged members to visit their website sweetolivefarm.org and Facebook page for updates and events.

Vice President Report

Arlene Williams announced that our February speaker will talk to us about pasture and paddock readiness, with an emphasis on identifying and eliminating toxic plants. The Meeting will be at the Watkinsville Public Library on February 21.

Trail Report

Kay Stringfellow told us that Sharon Wood is finalizing the 2023 Day Ride and Camping Trip Schedule. This year, the system for determining trail miles will be upgraded.

Show Committee Report

The judges for this year's Kel-Mac shows have been hired. Susie Cottongim reminded us that it is very important to work to sell sponsorships to help support the Club's missions.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$18,055.25 (both accounts)
Deposits	\$ 827.00
Withdrawals	\$ 8,091.36
Ending balance	\$10,790.88

(\$4,905.88 for Kel-Mac and \$6,385.00 for scholarship)

New Business

A Spring Meet and Greet at ReDux Rescue in Oglethorpe County was discussed. Sharon Wood and a few officers will meet with Paulette Brown to further plan the event.

The Barbara Reilly Cumming Memorial Scholarship was discussed. Applications will soon be available online for this year's award. It will be awarded at the May Show.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Meeting was Adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Williamson, Kel-Mac Secretary

Show Chair Report, by Susie Cottongim

February Blues

If it weren't for Valentine's Day and it being a short month, February would really be a downer, but with enough candy and spring on the horizon, we can deal with it. What can you do in February besides brush dirty horses and look for jonquils? The answer is easy. We need sponsorships. "Give one, get one" is our motto. Forms are available online but let us know if you need some already printed paper copies. Sponsorships pay for ribbons and trophies and are a cushion if one of the shows is a dud due to bad weather or bad luck.

What do you get when you sponsor? Your name is on the flyer, and your ad is announced at each show for the class you sponsor. Sponsors are listed in each newsletter along with a description of their business. Some like me do it as a friend of Kel-Mac. We have a big poster made with all the sponsors that is displayed at the shows and banquet. We encourage all to support our sponsors. Finally, you don't get as dirty getting sponsors as you do brushing horses and you still get exercise.

Hang in there. Spring is coming!



A Message from Sharon Wood, Trail Boss

Trail Riding with Kel-Mac

Kel-Mac has been a Saddle club for over 40 years. There are two sides to this club. There is the Show Side and the Trail Riding Side. Some members only show and some members only trail ride. Some members do both. The trail riders that do not show will help with the shows.

The trail riding aspect of the club is the focus of this article. We have a yearly schedule of the day rides and the camping trips for the year. These days, dates and camping trips are decided by the Trail Riders the first Sunday in January each year. See this year's schedule below. The schedule can also be found in our website.

The day rides are at places that are local to the Athens area and easy to get to. We usually bring a lunch to eat out on the trail or when we come back in from the ride. We sometimes ride out as a group or break up into smaller groups, depending on how many riders show up and how they like to ride. Some riders like to ride at a slow pace, and some like to move out. We want you to ride the way that suites you best.

Our camping trips are super fun. Some riders will go up a day early and some riders have been known to stay a day longer. We make up a meal plan prior to each camping trip. You can help with one of the meals. We do Friday night supper, Saturday breakfast, Saturday night supper and Sunday breakfast. Lunches are on your own. Each group of riders decide what they are going to prepare for their meal. This way, all riders only have to plan for one meal and what they are going to eat for lunches. Everyone brings their own drinks. You can also opt out of the meal plan and plan your own meals. We want you to enjoy the trip. We also break up into riding groups like our day rides, depending on the number of campers we have and how they like to ride.

We always gather around a campfire each night and get to know each other. We also help each other in order to make the experience fun for all. So come ride with us on our day rides and plan to camp with us also. All you have to do is contact the Trail Boss, Sharon Wood, and let her know what you want to do. Her cell number is 706-614-0351 and her email address is bullet2525@aol.com.

Hope to see you on the Trails!

Kel-Mac 2023 Trail Rider's Day Rides and Camping Trips

January

14th Day Ride @ Sandy Creek Ride out 11:00 AM

28th Day Ride @ Heritage Ride out 11:00 AM

February

18th Day Ride @ Watson Mills Ride out 11:00 AM

25th Day Ride @ Hard Labor Creek Ride out 11:00 AM

March

4th Day Ride @ Harbins Ride out 11:00 AM

17th-19th Camping @ AH Stephens Coordinator: Renay Strickland

April

1st Spring Meet and Greet Day Ride @ Redux Rescue Ride out 10:00 AM

21st-23rd Camping @ Watson Mills Coordinator: Debbie McDonald

May

6th Day Ride @ AH Stephens Ride out 10:00 AM

26th-28th Camping @ Willis Knob Coordinator: Sharon Wood

June

3rd Day Ride @ Sandy Creek Ride out 10:00 AM

16th-18th Camping @ Croft State Park Coordinator: Renay Strickland

July

8th Day Ride @ Bussey Point Ride out 10:00 AM

22nd Day Ride @ Heritage Ride out 9:00 AM

August: 2 Day Rides Dates and Places TBA

September

1st-3rd Camping @ Watson Mills Coordinator: Sharon Wood

23rd Day Ride @ Hard Labor Creek Ride out 10:00 AM

October

13th-15th Camping @ Croft State Park Coordinator: Kay Stringfellow

28th Fall Meet and Greet Day Ride @ Heritage Ride out 10:00 AM

November

10th-12th Camping @ AH Stephens Coordinator: Trish Adams

18th Day Ride @ Sandy Creek Ride out 11:00 AM

December: 2 Day Rides Dates and Places TBA

Upcoming Meet and Greet: Request for Trail Leaders

Hi Trail Riders,

Our Spring Meet and Greet will be on April 1, 2023. We are going to support ReDux Equine Rescue. Paulette and Chip Brown are the owners of this 600-acre facility that has over 15 miles of wooded trails on it. They will be helping us host this event. Chip will be grilling BBQ, and we will provide side dishes. We plan to lead small groups of riders out on the trails.

I need your help guiding riders at the Spring Meet and Greet. Please let me know if you will be a guide. Put February 4th on your calendar as the day that we Kel-Mac trail ride leaders will meet to check out the trails on horseback prior to our Spring Meet and Greet. Paulette will guide us on the trails and show us how they are marked. So, let me know if you are going to help lead groups of potential Kel-Mac members on the trails, and if you will be able to attend the ride on February 4 to learn where to park, and how the trails are marked. My email address is bullet2525@aol.com.

Sharon Wood



Lisa Davol took this image of the Heritage Park Autumn Olive Removal Squad on January 16, 2023. Lori and Lisa enjoyed a trail ride on the horses after the weed cutting work was finished.

Heritage Park Eleagnus Removal

On Tuesday January 3 we had 6 hard workers, Dayle Faulkner, Cindy Pritchard, Jim, a retired forester, Lisa Davol (Park Director) and me. Although we were few in number, we destroyed a fair number of plants.

On Monday, January 16, we had 10 hard workers, Dayle and Wendell Faulkner, Jim the forester, Cindy Pritchard and Lisa Davol, Lisa Williamson, and Lori Williams (with their horses, Bonnie and Alibi), a father/son duo doing a day of service for MLK day, and me.

Workdays in February are **Tuesday February 7, and Monday Feb 20** (school holiday). These dates will probably be the last workdays for this season, as the plant becomes difficult to kill once the weather becomes warmer. Although we have made good progress with removal of this terrible invasive, there is still lots to kill. Killing the plant involves cutting it close to the ground and spraying it within 15 seconds. It does not need to be dug up which makes the work easier.

Hard Labor Creek State Park

We have begun to put up the signs that the Kel-Mac donation purchased. We are marking the re-routes on the blue trail. **Thank you** to everyone for the hard work at the shows which make these donations possible.

The mid-January storm, which was severe in Morgan County, caused many trees to fall on the trails. On Friday, January 27, Wendell, Dayle, and I (see images below) removed 21 trees from the blue/yellow and blue/orange loops. I am especially grateful to Wendell who spent all day working very hard even though he does not even ride a horse any more.

The back loop of the green trail has a badly washed out culvert with a chasm that's at least 4 feet wide and 6 feet deep. **Crossing the creek down from the culvert is quite difficult, so I suggest avoiding this loop, at least while the weather is wet and the creeks are deep and muddy.** You can still ride the green/grey loop. There are trees down but they are small and not difficult to get around. We will probably not clear the trees until the culvert is repaired. The Park has been notified of the problem. We still need to examine the back loop of the blue trail for down trees.

Equestrian State Park work day is Saturday, March 11. All the state parks with horse trails will probably have volunteer work this day. At HLC, the work will be combined with the dedication of the new memorial bench for Richard Brazel, park ranger, who established the horse trails. There will be lunch served with this event. Please put March 11 on your calendar. The flyer is attached at the end of this newsletter.



GA STATE PARKS EQUESTRIAN WORKDAY

at HLC



Saturday, March 11th, 2023

9 am - 12 pm

We hope you can join us at Hard Labor Creek State Park on the workday. We will have jobs for different skill levels. The friends of HLC will be providing a cookout lunch this year. Afterwards, we will have a dedication ceremony for the new bench in memory of DNR Ranger Richard Brazel, who built the original horse trail. To help us plan the day we do need you to let us know if you can volunteer. The Friends of HLC receives compensation for every volunteer hour donated. These funds go back to the maintenance of the stable area and trails. Hope to see you at HLC. To reserve your spot, or for questions, please contact one of the following.

Dayle Faulkner- dfaulkner4120@yahoo.com 706-340-7176

Jeanne Barsanti- Barsanti@bellsouth.net 706-621-1257

HLC State Park- david.guzman@dnr.ga.gov 706-557-3001