

**Rusty Stirrups Riding Club
January 8th, 2008 Board Meeting**

Called to order at 7:36 by Patty Michalak

Attending: Patty Michalak, Geri Hollander, Samantha Silver, Jen Sarosi, Allyn Linas, Sue Carrieri, Bettsie Gibbs

The board voted to accept the December minutes.

Topic: Yearly Theme

Result: Patty suggested focusing on education this year, as well as continuing Pay it Forward.

Topic: Jim's Resignation

Result: Advise membership at meeting, perhaps read Jim's letter of resignation.

Nominating committee has been notified and advised that Bettsie Gibbs volunteered to step up to VP, and that a new finance person would need to be found. All felt this may be easier to get a nomination for, as some members might be intimidated by the position of VP. We will wait for nominations from the committee of Donna Jeffress and Debbie Anderson.

Membership reported by Allyn Linas, total of 148 people as of 1/8/08, some of those having been renewed already.

Topic: Club Growth

Result: Plan to form a Business Plan Committee to help make decisions such as possible bylaw changes and where we see RSRC in five years.

Topic: Membership meeting location

Result: We are looking into alternative locations for our meetings and Geri volunteered to see if one of the meeting rooms at Markel might be available. Centrally located in Innsbrook. It would accommodate everyone in our club. The current venue, Rockville Library is limited to 75 people, and with our growth, we could be in jeopardy, and at times the library is not available. Geri to advise availability ASAP.

Topic: Dues

Result: Due to the growth of the club, the board recommends that the dues remain the same- \$35 per person. Dues will also be on an

individual basis only, to simplify record keeping, and clearly define terms of membership. Costs have gone up substantially as a whole on everything. As is, we may not be able to make the Rally and/or Christmas party free due to the size of the membership. If renewing members pay by March 1st, the dues would remain at \$35, after a \$5 late fee would be assessed. This will encourage prompt payment and allow ample planning for events for the coming year. New members will remain at \$35 regardless of when they sign up.

Topic: Budget

Result: Plan to build budget off membership and events, present at March membership meeting. The finance committee will analyze and make recommendations.

Topic: Committees

Result: Plan to form committees for Rally, Christmas Party, Spookathon, Business Plan, and Fundraising.

Current Committee chairs are as follows:

- Trail: Colleen Leahy
- Hospitality: Beverly Carroll and Gail Talley
- Web Ring: Cindy Willoughby, Patty Michalak, Judi Minnerly, Samantha Silver (we will seek another member, and Patty will be back up only.)
- Parliamentarian: Rick Linas
- Membership Liaison: Geri Hollander

Topic: Fundraisers

Result: Plan to send email out to membership asking for feedback on previous fundraisers and what membership would like to see, i.e. fun show/trail ride/ judged trail ride/ CT. Also plan on forming a committee to arrange fundraisers.

Topic: Website Membership List

Result: Plan to put members phone and email address on a password protected page of the website. If a member would like to not have their information online, they are asked to contact Patty Michalak and it will be removed. Solicitation is not permitted and this will be stressed again.

Topic: Historian

Result: Plan to find a club historian to keep previous years information. Also, plan on discussing how long to keep data, and what data is essential, in the future.

Topic: Trail Rides

Result: Plan to encourage more member feedback. Also, plan to have more distinct groups and leaders, i.e. walk/trot/canter group, walk/trot group, and walk only group. Again, with our growth, we want to avoid any mishaps on the trail. We used to know the small group and their abilities, now we may not be able to accurately assess, so we should always have a slow group leader available. Plan to discuss with our trail committee chair.

Topic: Monthly Clinics/Events

Result: Plan to try to hold monthly or bi monthly lectures, discipline specific, other than at general membership meetings. Possibly form a committee to manage these. Ask for feedback from membership and post on website.

Topic: Policy and Procedures

Result: Plan to discuss and finalize in February.

Topic: Treasurer's Report

Result: Jen Sarosi submitted to the board. The club currently has \$3,640.90.

Meeting Adjourned by Patty Michalak. 9:57 pm