**Colquitt County Saddle Club**

**News Letter**

**March 1, 2015**

We as directors of the Colquitt County Saddle Club are aware of the recent discord and conflict among a few members. We regret that these issues have tarnished the reputation and integrity of the CCSC. Therefore, it is critical for the club officials to be transparent and informative in an effort to provide members with clarity, facts, and rationalization behind specific procedures, policies, and decisions.

**In an attempt to diffuse the current dissension and rectify previous issues, we as a club have chosen the following:**

1. **The Banquet**

After careful consideration, we as directors, moved the venue to the Funston Community Center to accommodate club members.

* 1. Rationalization based on the following:
* Club money should be reinvested in our community as much as possible and or connections to our sponsors’ county.
* The Barn is not as accessible for all families due to distance
* The financial cost of The Barn was excessive in comparison
* Most children are content to have the banquet locally so that grandparents and other family members can share in their celebration
* The banquet is a commemoration of accomplishments and strides of all children and adults. Therefore, should accommodate the interest of the majority.
* The bottom line is that better judgment prevailed

1. Date of the Banquet: - **March 13, 2015** (7:00 PM)

**CCSC 2015Year – Revised Policies**

1. **18 to Vote**
   1. Over the past year the CCSC has grown in membership as well as financial stability. Our club will continue to strive to protect and meet the needs of all adults, as well as children. However, we believe that minors are not mature enough to make sound decisions that have a financial impact.
2. **Leadership**
   1. We will continue to seek input and advice from all members as well as our younger riders. However, we will reduce the open/voting procedures to prevent conflicts and establish a more business like leadership.
   2. We encourage all members to communicate issues and concerns directly to the board members so that their voices will be heard.
   3. It is our hope that social media will continue to serve as a source of information, positive commentary, and a **beacon for potential members**
3. **No Cash Prizes**
   1. The directors voted not to allow cash to be awarded as an end of the year prize. We feel as though awards are tokens of accomplishment and the use of cash diminishes the sportsmanship character of our club.
4. **Saddles To Specific Age Groups**
   1. We want to encourage an increase in adult participation and membership. Thus, the directors voted that all age group winners (with exception of lead line and beginner) will be awarded a saddle.
5. **The Sunbelt Expo Arena**
   1. In an effort to protect the long term interest of the club and after evaluation and assessment of Triple H Arena, the directors decided that the liability risks were not feasible
   2. Scheduled shows for the 2015 year will be held at the Sunbelt Expo Arena

* In hindsight we should have gathered more information regarding the development and the needs of Triple H Arena before we moved our club events. We regret any inconvenience this has caused and are hopeful that members will understand our rationale
* We are mindful of the minimal cost and expense of renting this arena and greatly appreciate the opportunity to return.
* The benefits of restroom facilities, tractor use, lights, bleachers, announcer’s booth, and other conveniences are evident
* Sunbelt Arena is a neutral location for all members to compete and practice

1. **The Schedule**
   1. The 2015 show schedule has been modified to better meet the needs of all club members and to coincide with the Sunbelt Expo Arena
   2. We hope that the “new” schedule does not cause additional problems for members
   3. Please visit the website link to access the revised schedule
2. **Website**
   1. <http://www.colquittcountysaddleclub.org/>
   2. In an effort to establish a better means of conveying points, information, and communication, we created a new website to serve our members.
   3. The website will be a functional part of the club’s structure.
   4. It will serve as a vital connection between members, directors, and the community
   5. The website will be properly updated and will highlight news, information, accomplishments, and photos.
3. **Club Activities**
   1. Our overall financial endeavors and activities will continue to be **conservative** as to refrain from depleting our accounts.
   2. Financial endeavors/activities and will focus on local opportunities as much as possible.
4. **Fundraising Activities**
   1. We hope to be able to coordinate a spring and a fall fundraiser to continue to generate funding for the arena expense, ribbons for monthly shows, and end of the year awards
   2. The club is hopeful that members will participate in these opportunities to continue to establish sound finical standing
   3. If you have an idea for a specific fundraiser please contact a director

**CCSC** is a family based organization that strives to meet and support all the needs of our members. Our goal is to continue to grow and promote positive sportsmanship events for children and adults as well. We deeply regret that miscommunication has led to confusion. We assure you that improving our leadership is a priority for the board of directors. This is truly a growing pain that we as members can learn from and move forward.

If you have additional questions or need further explanation regarding these issues, please contact a director to express your concerns.

Sincerely,

**Directors**  
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