



2022
CHEROKEE
COUNTY SADDLE
CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

CCSC was founded in 2014 to serve the needs of “horse people” in Cherokee County and the surrounding area. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past eight years. Since the beginning, we have worked to improve and upgrade the riding arena and associated facilities at the Cherokee County Fairgrounds. Our programs have provided area horse enthusiasts with a local venue for events. We have sponsored trail rides that bring us together to enjoy the scenic outdoors. We have helped our riders improve their skills and knowledge through educational events and publications. We welcome all those who love horses, whether riders or not, to be a part of our likeminded community.



MISSION

To promote equestrian and equine education, recreation and sport in the Western North Carolina area.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking back on 2022, there were significant events for CCSC, both planned and unplanned. 2022 was the year that we expected to offer a full schedule of competitions, coming off two years of cancellations caused by the Covid pandemic. The first unplanned event was the collapse of a drain pipe underneath the Nora Starks Memorial Horse Arena in April. The result was that the arena was unusable for the rest of 2022. As a result, CCSC revised its competition schedule to sponsor some of the larger events at the Union County Saddle Club in Blairsville, GA. We did sponsor an educational clinic using the warm up arena next to the competition arena, and our trail riders explored both local and regional trail complexes. We presented our vision of future development of the facilities that we have been using to the Cherokee County Commissioners. We believe that our proposal to develop a covered arena at the site would benefit both our group and the wider Cherokee County community as well. As we begin 2023, we continue to plan for the future and offer programs that our members want. We invite you, our members, to express your opinions and describe what you would like to see in CCSC's future.



Samantha House, President
Cherokee County Saddle Club, Inc.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

TERM

Samantha House President
Emmy Madrigal, Vice President
Amanda Dockery, Secretary
Ellen Stephens, Treasurer

1/2024
1/2025
1/2025
1/2024

DIRECTORS

Sarah Burrell
Angie Hopkins
Carly Miracle

1/2024
1/2025
1/2024

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

CCSC is a 501(c)(3) corporation with members. The Board of Directors is empowered to make the day-to-day decisions for the organization. Certain powers are reserved for the members, such as election of the board of directors and setting dues.



PARTNERSHIPS

We recognize the benefits our members enjoy because we work with other organizations.

CHEROKEE COUNTY has provided us with the use of their arena property. They have worked with us to further develop the site, providing a better experience for participants and visitors.

THE CHEROKEE COUNTY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY provided a grant to install lighting for the arena, allowing us to hold events during summer evenings.

THE NORTH CAROLINA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE has partnered with us to manage and allocate funds donated for the benefit of CCSC.

THE CHEROKEE RIDERS 4H CLUB has operated the concessions at our competitions.

THE UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB has joined with CCSC to offer the Battle Lines Series barrel races, and we have benefited from their counsel from our early days to the present



SPONSORS

Without our sponsors, the Battle Lines Series barrel races would not have enjoyed the success that they have. The contributions from these individuals and businesses have sustained this program in 2022:

<p>Allen Tanks & Supplies American Cowboy Store Amos Refrigeration Anderson & Son Grading Bill Potts Insurance Blue Horse Productions Cherokee Pools, Spas & Outdoors Claude Hughes Daniel M. Eichenbaum, M.D., P.A. Downtown Pizza Company Elliott Brothers Mechanical Exit Realty Farmers Equipment & Tool Rental Fred Cook's Carpet Gunners Ranch, Joe and Jan Griggs</p>	<p>Interstate Welding J and B Barns Jacky Jones Ford Hayesville Mountain Insurance LLC Murphy Auto Parts Murphy Building Supply Piedmont Equine Associates Remax Rhodes Paint and Body Shop Ritz Refrigeration Wayne's Feed Store Wes Brawley Timber William H. Whaley, M.D., FACP Wilson Building Supply Unlimited Fitness LLC</p>
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THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION

This foundation is managed through the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. CCSC has an account set up in this foundation to receive donations for our benefit. Our local liaison for oversight of this account is Doug Clement, County Extension Director for Cherokee County.

We thank Doug for helping CCSC manage site improvement projects made possible through this fund.



SHOW OFFICE FUNDED THROUGH THE NC AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

CCSC and the Union County Saddle Club jointly sponsored eight Battle Lines Series barrel races. Each club contributed equally to fund year end awards for this series. The four races that CCSC operated were held at the Union County Saddle Club due to the drain pipe collapse at our local arena. These races combined resulted in a total of 407 timed runs. We paid back 75% of entry fees in prize money, and we also added an extra \$750 to the prize money pot for each race. The result was that we gave out a total of \$12,995 in prize money in 2022.

We also revived the Trail Challenge competition that began in 2020. Participants signed up and used an app to track their miles and other data while on the trail.

The 2022 Battle Lines and Trail Challenge winners were recognized at an Awards Banquet, where they received belt buckles, breast collars, and saddles, among other items. We thank all our competitors who came out and supported these programs.



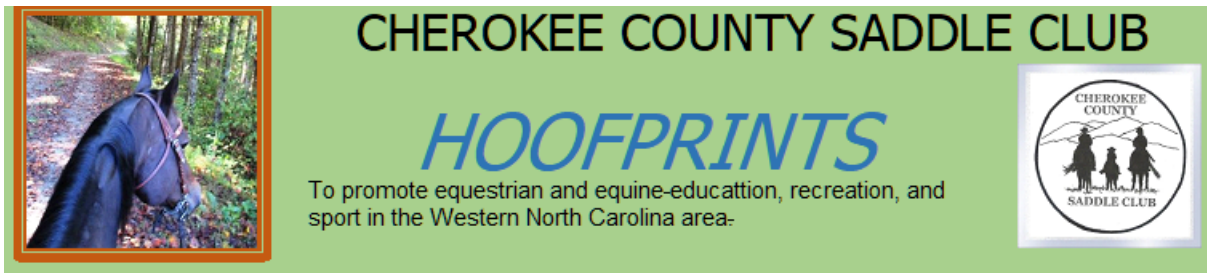
COMMUNICATIONS

CCSC gets the word out by using several different outlets.

Our monthly newsletter, *Hoofprints*, is distributed to our members via email. It covers CCSC sponsored events and other happenings that involve the local horse community. Educational and entertaining articles are also featured.

www.cherokeecountysaddleclub.org is our public website. This site has information on our events, competition results, membership applications, and other forms and documents. In 2022, this website had a total of 5181 visits and 9873 page impressions.



We are also represented on Facebook as CHEROKEE COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, MURPHY, NC. Here, the horse community posts information on activities and also asks others for information that they need. In 2022 this site had over 750 members.







CHEROKEE COUNTY SADDLE CLUB

HOOFPRINTS

To promote equestrian and equine-education, recreation, and sport in the Western North Carolina area.



Welcome to the Cherokee County Saddle Club



CHEROKEE COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA >

Public group · 791 members

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VISION FOR THE FUTURE

In March 2022, CCSC presented a proposal to the Cherokee County commissioners to further develop the Cherokee County Fairgrounds site where we have held events. We advocated for a clear span covered arena and stabling for horses. The economic analysis that we provided described the benefits of this development to Cherokee County businesses and organizations. We concluded that the number of event days per year at the site would increase to 40 to 50, and sales tax collections in the county would increase by \$100,000 per year. The county administration is currently looking at possible funding sources for this development.

Diagram of Proposed Phase I Facilities



FINAL NOTE

CCSC is fortunate to have dedicated and talented volunteers who work together to fulfill our mission. We are all united by the horse and human connection that we cherish. Thank you to all our members for your continued support.