

# Happy silver anniversary, CCEC

Good Heavenly days, how time flies when you are having a life! The Carroll County Equestrian Council is 25 years old this year. I had no idea that this good organization had been around for that long. Sure, I realized that I was looking a bit older but the folks who run this group all still look like a bunch of kids so it just didn't sink in. It must be all of that good outdoor air.

I will let them tell it in their own words.

"The mission of the Carroll County Equestrian Council is to promote equine recreational and educational opportunities using parks, facilities, volunteers and local organizations. The council is also active in the promotion and development of multiuse trails. The Council was founded in 1984 and operates in cooperation with the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks. The Council regularly interacts with the Bureau of Facilities."

Among other things that this group of folks has done in the lifetime of its organization is to promulgate the existence of a Carroll County Equestrian master plan and developed the plans for the Equestrian Center.

They opened first equestrian trails at Union Mills Watershed area and developed equestrian trails in Gillis Falls Watershed area.

They also developed comprehensive maps of the Piney Run, Gillis Falls, Union Mills, and Morgan



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**Horsin' Around**

Run N.E.A. trail system. They also perform regular trail maintenance on all of these areas. By the way, no one is stopping you from coming out to work on those areas as well as the Web site for the group lists trail work days and suggests that you bring your own tools. Think of it as a nice way to thank these folks for doing all this for your riding pleasure!

In addition, the CCEC has completed self-help projects for various projects and locations, sponsored educational seminars that relate to equine recreation and multiuse trails, sponsored guided trail rides and sponsored events at Equestrian Center. That's a lot of sponsoring!

Membership is open to any person or organization with a desire to further and promote equine recreation and education in Carroll County.

The annual membership fee is \$15. This includes monthly mailings of Council meeting minutes and program information. The Carroll

County Equestrian Council is strictly a volunteer organization that works in cooperation with the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks.

This means that you are very important to them, not only as a possible recipient of their good works but also as a possible working member of their group.

Right about now most of us are looking around for inexpensive things to do in whatever free time we have. If you are reading this column, it means that you are probably an outdoor sort of person who likes to have a bit of fun with others who have horses and like the outdoors, too.

What better way to get to network than to go to the meetings of a group of folks who have proven that they are willing to work for the good of others in your own backyards, so to speak.

The Council meets each month on the first Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Office Building, Room 003-004, at 225 North Center St. in Westminster.

All regular Council meetings are open to the public and are publicized through the local media. Phone numbers for reaching the CCEC are 410-386-2103 and 410-876-2085 or you can e-mail them at [cccofmd@yahoo.com](mailto:cccofmd@yahoo.com). If you wish to find out all about them you can go to the web site at [www.carroll-countyequestriancouncil.org](http://www.carroll-countyequestriancouncil.org) which is exactly what I did.

One of the many benefits of

membership is the fact that a number of local merchants offer discounts to members of the CCEC. In fact, Southern States has just signed on as a platinum sponsor to CCEC. One assumes that is far better than a gold sponsor and far, far better than a mere silver sponsor. I am impressed!

One of the central members of CCEC has suggested that the 25th Anniversary be celebrated with a public event at the Equestrian Center where demonstrations, exhibitions and pony rides can be held; to make more people aware of the importance of the Equestrian Council.

Since June has National Trails Day and July is National Recreation and Parks Month, the Council is tentatively considering one of those months. That is a party that I would like to be around for as it would bring out Carroll County equine folks at their happy and hospitable best.

In fact, if they can find a really big, really fat pony, I might even consider going for a pony ride. They could sell tickets to see me trying to get on that oversized pony and use that event for a fund raiser in itself.

Now why do I feel that those words are going to come back to haunt me?

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