

Chime Bell Chase

Winter 2007

It is hard to believe that we are about two years old in Chime Bell Chase already. What an amazing few years it has been. Half of the lots were sold during the winter season of 2006 and there are three homes with barns already built and one more just going into the ground. Additional fencing along the sides of the entrance and more of the signature stonework makes us stand out in town. The grass along the sides of the road and throughout all of the easements finally matured last summer and should look terrific starting this spring. The cross-country course has gotten a lot of work as have both of the arenas. Several of the leading eventing trainers in town regularly bring their students for training. I was there just a few days ago speaking to Nina Fout, who is an Olympic level 3-day rider, as she was tuning up her horse in preparation for one of the local shows.

All of the unsold lots remaining from last year have been artistically opened and cleared and will be sprigged in another month or two. Even with the lots beginning to open up, the property retains and will always retain its very private and country feeling and does not look like any of the "developments" in town.

Chime Bell chase has hosted several meets for the local fox hunt. The next planned event is on March 3 when we will be hosting a charity Hunter pace for the benefit of the local emergency medical services unit. The course is approximately 8 miles with about 45 marked jumps, including the water complex, all with go rounds. It rides beautifully and as of this writing, there was an excellent early turnout. A few weeks later, the Whiskey Road Foxhounds have asked us to host their closing meet for the year. This is always a special event. Two years ago we hosted the opening meet. During hunt week this year chime Bell chase hosted a square dance for about 150 with a fabulous local caller and it was as much fun as it sounds like. We put up a big tent and had the heat is available but were blessed with a delightfully warm evening and they weren't really needed. The winter itself has been extremely mild and temperate with only a few nights going now to freezing however most days have been in the middle 60s by the afternoon which is excellent riding and golf weather.

There has been a significant amount of development in Aiken in the last two years. Chime Bell Chase would now considered a medium size community. Many of them will have hundreds of home sites in a very different feel. We will always retain our small community feeling and many of the homeowners know each other already. There are several new testimonials on the website that are worth reading from our homeowners.

We now have a true concierge service. Our caretaker and his wife live right next to the property and were able to care for my horses in an excellent fashion for two weeks until our groom arrived. Alan has also been contracted to provide many

private services for homeowners in terms of property maintenance and house watching etc.

For this "selling season" we have chosen not to be listed on the MLS with an exclusive broker. Word of mouth seems to be doing a better job and perspective buyers can work with us directly thereby giving us more flexibility.

Woody Baxt

Chime Bell Chase