Congratulations to Diane Stevens and Tennessee Lane on their top 10 Western States 100 Tevis Cup finish

Tennessee Lane and TM Burning Bridges
7th Place Tevis Cup

Diane Stevens and Bandera L9
6th Place Tevis Cup

Congratulations to the 2017 Presidents Cup Winner Jonni Jewell and Tezuby

Jonni rides and competes in the Specialized Saddles International model. It is an English hybrid saddle that offers secure knee rolls and a seat with unsurpassed comfort. It features the patented fitting system that allows the saddle to be adjusted to all 3 dimensions of a horse.

SpecializedSaddles.com 915-345-4130

Photo by Jim Edmondson
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Display Ads

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Classified Ads

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</table>

Email color 300dpi JPEG ad to matefey@gmail.com. Specify Hoof Print and topic in the subject line. Contact NATRC for discounts on consecutive issue ads, sponsorships, or ad specifications.

Submission Deadlines

Spring (Mar/Apr/May) Feb. 15
Fall (Sep/Oct/Nov) Aug. 15
Winter (Dec/Jan/Feb) Nov. 15

Please make your check payable to NATRC, mail ad information with payment to:
Hoof Print, NATRC PO Box 969, Beatrice, NE 68310 402-806-8708

Volunteer Needed

To compile and coordinate Hoof Print content and contributions quarterly.

Helpful skills:
- Involvement with the sport
- Ability to stick to a time table
- Proficiency with MS Word
- Proficiency with proof reading
- Ability to work well with others
- Ability to communicate via email

Your chance to give back to NATRC! Contact: Jamie Dieterich, jamiek@gotsky.com, for details.
President’s Message

Fun, how things work out. I’m writing this for the spring issue of Hoof Print, but most of the country is locked in the coldest winter anyone remembers. Jonni down in Texas said the ice is over a foot thick on her water troughs. By publication time, everyone should be thawed out and back to riding.

Membership. Does yours count?

I hear the question often enough from people, “Why should I join an organization if I can get what I need for free?” Or, “Why should I pay for a membership when I can still compete without it?” Good questions for sure. What exactly does your membership pay for and who does it benefit?

Let’s start with NATRC itself. At the national level, your membership fee joins with others to help pay the costs of running the office and paying part-time staff. Office costs include basic office supplies, computers, Internet, phone service and mailbox rental to name just a few. We pay our executive director a part-time wage (but she tends to work way more hours) for answering the phone, replying to emails and mailed correspondence; for organizing insurance, ride information, memberships, national meetings, webinars, and virtual challenges; paying the bills, making contacts with vendors, and much, much more. Everything she actually does would cover a whole article itself.

So what else does NATRC have to pay for? There is the cost of printing scorecards, rule books and manuals. We pay the editor of the Hoof Print. There are insurance costs, software rental or purchase, website maintenance, awards not covered by donations, drug testing fees, rental of a meeting place for national meetings, and other numerous smaller costs. Our financials are available to anyone who asks. About 25 percent of the membership fee is sent on to the regions where the funds are used to help put on more rides, organize clinics, pay for year-end awards, and send board members to the national meetings.

But what does that have to do with you? Yes, we can raise some or all of that income in other ways, but should we? The balance of the income for NATRC comes from rider fees – fees paid by the riders for each ride. We try to keep them low enough to not be a financial burden on riders or ride managers. Also lower ride entry fees allow new people to give the sport a try.

So that’s about the money part. But your membership counts in many more ways. Larger membership numbers attract sponsors who help pay the costs of national awards and other things. A large membership base assures the potential sponsor that there will be an audience for the advertising traded. Further, the larger our membership base is, the more other organizations see us as something to respect, trade information and cooperate with (like co-building new trails). Local, regional, and federal government agencies – those that manage many of our trails – are more likely to listen positively to an organization with a large membership.

But your membership counts in many more ways. Larger membership numbers attract sponsors who help pay the costs of national awards and other things. A large membership base assures the potential sponsor that there will be an audience for the advertising traded. Further, the larger our membership base is, the more other organizations see us as something to respect, trade information and cooperate with (like co-building new trails). Local, regional, and federal government agencies – those that manage many of our trails – are more likely to listen positively to an organization with a large membership.

Again, they can respect that we know what we’re saying.

Next, and maybe closer to your heart is that larger membership numbers help us at the ride level. Higher membership numbers give ride managers and potential ride managers confidence that there will be riders around to attend those events they are working so hard to arrange. It’s scary to be spending time and money putting the ride together and not knowing if there will be enough riders to cover expenses. We all would love to see more rides, and to do this we need to get more riders aware of the sport.

The larger our membership is, the greater the likelihood that new people will hear of us. We would come to the attention of various media and bring more attention to our organization and our sport.

How does your membership personally work FOR you? First off, if you are a competing or supporting member, you get a vote. That vote ensures that your voice will be heard when it comes to regional and national issues. You get to help decide who represents you on the different boards of directors. You get to participate in rides for a lower entry fee than non-members and in our obstacle and mileage virtual challenges, which are open to members only. You have access to the digital Rider’s Manual. And, maybe best of all, we have partner vendors who offer nice discounts to current members.

So go ahead, renew that membership. Join those of us in the fight to keep our sport healthy.

See you on the trail!

Angie Meroshnekoff
President
North American Trail Ride Conference

Earn money for NATRC by doing nothing other than what you normally do! AND, it’s free to sign up.

Amazon donates up to 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items purchased at smile.amazon.com. That’s smile.amazon.com, not amazon.com. To select NATRC you must type in “North American Trail Ride Conference”. It will come up on a list for you to select. Be sure to select the one at Beatrice, NE. For more information on the program, click here.

If you already have an amazon.com account, all your account information automatically appears in smile. How easy is that?!

If you already have a charity set up on Amazon Smile, you can change it. Sign in on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select “Change your Charity” in “Your Account.”
NATRC National
Board Members (2021)

Region 1
Angie Meroshnekkoff (2019-21)
awhitedog@aol.com
Jamie Dieterich (2020-22)
jamiek@gotsky.com
Donna Stidolph, Alt (2021-23)
donna@stidolph.com

Region 2
Bob Insko (2019-21)
rminsko@gmail.com
Lory Walls (2020-22)
lorywalls6@gmail.com
Beni DeMattei, Alt (2021-23)
beni2406@hotmail.com

Region 3
Bill Wingle (2021-23)
wwingle@uncert.com
Laurie DiNatale (2019-21)
laurie.windhorseranch@gmail.com
Kay Gunckel, DVM, Alt (2020-22)
drkaydvm@outlook.com

Region 4
Elaine Swiss (2019-21)
swissranch@earthlink.net
Kimberly Murphy (2021-23)
kimberlyjean72@gmail.com
Cara Liebman, Alt (2020-22)
office@rainbowgreateraustin.com

Region 5
Esther Diaguila (2021-23)
borncountry@skippinghorse.com
Kris Gray (2020-22)
krisgray@gmail.com
Sallie Kudra, Alt (2019-21)
kudra@clemson.edu

Region 6
Marla Stucky (2020-22)
m.j.stucky79@gmail.com
John Zeliff (2021-23)
john@springvalleycarriages.com
Margaret Reynolds, Alt. 2019-21
mmr636@comcast.net

National
Board Officers

President:
Angie Meroshnekkoff
awhitedog@aol.com
Vice President:
Bill Wingle
wwingle@uncert.com
Treasurer:
Kris Gray
krisgray@gmail.com
Executive Director:
Sarah Rinne
natrc@natrc.org

North American Trail Ride Conference Mission Statement
The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) promotes horsemanship and horse care as they apply to the sport of distance riding by offering a variety of challenging and educational experiences designed to strengthen horse and rider partnerships.

Code of Ethics
We, the NATRC National Board of Directors, Executive Director, judges, committee members, and employees are ambassadors of our sport whether at an organized event or informal gathering. There is an implied code of ethics to adhere to. This code of ethics dictates that we behave professionally, courteously and responsibly. This includes:

- Representing the sport in a professional manner
- Being respectful when giving an opinion
- Substantiating information before giving an opinion
- Being kind and courteous to others

Meet Our New Apprentice and Provisional Judges

Members: The Judges Committee welcomes your comments on the following apprentice and provisional judges.

Veterinary Judges

Apprentice
Vivian Gay McWilliams Quam, DVM (R5)

Provisional
Verona Chaffin, DVM (R6)

Horsemanship Judges

Apprentice
Angie Meroshnekkoff (R1)
Brenda Messick (R6)

Provisional
Jan Jeffers (R1)

Veterinary and Horsemanship Judges:
- Has your address or phone number changed? Please notify the NATRC office of any changes. Indicate home, cell and office numbers.
- Apprenticing must be done with an approved judge who has agreed to judge and supervise you.

Ride Chairs:
- Secure your judges early. Remember, you must contact and secure your judges well in advance of your ride date!
- For a current Judges List, please visit the website.
- If you have difficulty securing an NATRC judge, please contact the appropriate Judges Committee Co-Chair:

Veterinary
Keri Riddick, DVM
205/401-6446
kriddick@coverlandfarms.com

Horsemanship
Lory Walls
619/895-0491
lorywalls6@gmail.com

“Safe, Fun, Challenging - Come Ride With Us!”

Hoof Print / Spring 2021 3
2020 NÄTRC YEAR END POINTS, AWARDS and RECOGNITION

2020 was the year of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the spring most ride venues for the remainder of the year were closed; rides canceled. Because of the lack of rides, early in 2020, the NBOD suspended almost ALL national awards. Only a few regional team awards and national championships could potentially be earned. Only Regions 4 and 5 had qualifying teams. They are listed here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Rider</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Muench, Fran</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPEN REGIONAL TEAM AWARDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HEAVYWEIGHT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Muench, Gayle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bass, Carla Jo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jewell, Jonni</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIGHTWEIGHT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prusak, Deanne</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Miller, Dolly</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Muench, Fran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Queen, Kelly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Region 5

HEAVYWEIGHT - No Teams Qualified

LIGHTWEIGHT

1 | Lucas, Patty | Papa’s Alabama Express | 70 |
### Region 4

**HEAVYWEIGHT**
1. Spell, David & KMA Ali Gator 60

**LIGHTWEIGHT**
1. Galliher, Teresa & Vaquero 108
2. Price, Alanna & Moon Shadow's Black Gold 106
3. Liebman, Cara & Flash Black 64
4. Swiss, Elaine & RR Majik Knight 42

### Region 5

**HEAVYWEIGHT**
1. Tolbert, Wayne & Stanley's Waylon 80
2. Chapman, Carolyn & Mandella Bey 78
3. Fields, Bobby & Okies Roanwood 10 48

**LIGHTWEIGHT**
1. Collins, Jordan & Bree 76
2. Findley, Martha & Traveler's Gray King 52

### JUNIOR
1. Edelstein, Kinsley & Sir Percival 40
NOVICE REGIONAL TEAM AWARDS

Region 4

HEAVYWEIGHT - No Teams Qualified

LIGHTWEIGHT
1. Leatherwood, Cynthia - Big Cat 156
2. Steele, Hannah - Sum Tigger 94
3. Steele, Brandy - Molly 9 68
4. Flint, Kimberlee - CA Hennessy 38
5. Kelly, Mollie - Mageed Ibn Kamal Ma 36

Region 5

HEAVYWEIGHT - No Teams Qualified

LIGHTWEIGHT
1. Wiggins, Kathi - Yolo 68

LEISURE DIVISION REGIONAL TEAM RECOGNITION

Region 4

ADULT
1. Orr, Shirley - Jasper 6 42
2. Grotheer, Wendy - Diamond 19
3. Dodson, Robin - Top Gun McCurdy 17.5
4. Orr, Joe - Sundown 15
5. Perez, Jacqueline - Ibn Sashali 11
6. Dardenne, Marilyn - Ranger 11 10
7. Shoehair, Leon - Sparks on Blacktop 8

JUNIOR - No Teams Qualified

Region 5

ADULT - No Teams Qualified

JUNIOR
1. Lehr, Halia - Poor Daddy's Wallet 4

Moved? Changed Name? Sold a Horse? Bought One? Added a Junior? Different Phone?

Please report any changes in your membership information to the national office. Such changes might include your name, a move to a different address or region, the sale of a horse, or the addition of juniors to a family membership - particularly if a junior has a different last name.

Basic changes like address, phone number and email address can be made on the website under "My Account" at the top right hand side of the screen. Please keep your information up to date.

Sarah Rinne 402-806-8708 natrc@natrc.org

ATTENTION JUDGES!

Annual requirements.

- The NBOD has extended the period from 12 to 24 months for veterinary judges to fulfill their annual requirements. The period for horsemanship and Leisure Division (LeD) judges (12 months) remains the same.
- Recognizing the impacts of COVID-19, the board waived all requirements for all judges in 2020 including those for annual renewal and for apprentice/provisional progress. However, with expectations to have rides in 2021, we will expect to resume annual requirements.
- In order to be eligible to judge, you must be a current member. Please note ALL levels of membership satisfy this requirement (Family, Single, Supporting and Fan).
- Some judges did meet the requirements, and in order to keep our records complete, we’d like all judges to please return the annual renewal form.

Safety and identification items for trail, camp and barn!

Identification Bands & Collars

First Aid Kits
In case an emergency happens!

Reflective Vehicle Decals

Plus a Free PDF guide on what to do in case of a fire, flood or hurricane with newsletter sign-up.

EquestriSafe.com 877-600-1375

EquestriSafe Before Emergencies Happen
### Past National Winners

**OLD PRESIDENT'S CUP**  
(National High Point Horse, Unlimited Number of Rides)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAME OF HORSE</th>
<th>BREED</th>
<th>RIDER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Bezarue</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Eoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Flashy Tomboy</td>
<td>Thoroughbred</td>
<td>Georgia Boulton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Antelope New Moon</td>
<td>Appaloosa</td>
<td>Beverly Tibbitts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Posse</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Leah Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Rafftez</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Sandy Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Dandy Bar IV</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>Dave Nicholson</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Shafarr</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Mel Eriksen</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Lippits Dusty Thursday</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Linda Throgmorton</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Casey</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Beverly Tippitbits</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Dagget</td>
<td>3/4 Arabian</td>
<td>Linda Peters</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Kandar</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Ruth Walterspiel</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Double</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Lynn Anne Kohmeier</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Jayess Rykstan</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Ken Burkdoll</td>
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<td>El Gaynir</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Linda Walterspiel</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Chicaro's Mocha</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>Violet Peak</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Antelope New Moon</td>
<td>Appaloosa</td>
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<td>Sailor</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Capi Comet</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Ginger Johnson</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Mighty Aleo Gal</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Mahra Khan</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Milne Parish</td>
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<td>Capi Comet</td>
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<td>Ginger Johnson</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Spring Fever</td>
<td>Mule</td>
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**NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION**  
(National High Point Horse, Number of Rides Limited to 16 Starts)

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<th>RIDER</th>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Wing Tempo</td>
<td>American Saddlebred</td>
<td>Shirley Solbol</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Hickory's Country Gold</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>Bill Hinklebein</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Wing Tempo</td>
<td>American Saddlebred</td>
<td>Shirley Solbol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Wing Tempo</td>
<td>American Saddlebred</td>
<td>Shirley Solbol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Wing Tempo</td>
<td>American Saddlebred</td>
<td>Shirley Solbol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Chargers Rampage</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>Lisa Brooks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEW PRESIDENT'S CUP**  
(National High Point Horse, Old Name Returned, Ride Limit Remains at 16 Starts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAME OF HORSE</th>
<th>BREED</th>
<th>RIDER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Chargers Rampage</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>Lisa Brooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Chargers Rampage</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>Lisa Brooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Warning's Star</td>
<td>Tennessee Walker</td>
<td>Gerald Ferguson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Ken Wolgram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Windstorm Sienna</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Wayne Tolbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Windstorm Sienna</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Wayne Tolbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Windstorm Sienna</td>
<td>Morgan</td>
<td>Wayne Tolbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Diamond's Sassy Stockings</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>James Keene</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Diamond's Sassy Stockings</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>James Keene</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Generator's Magic Pride</td>
<td>Tennessee Walker</td>
<td>Gary Clayton</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Marqueseismchief</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Joni Jewell</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Prime Sensation</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>Cheri Jeffcoat</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Awesomes Fire N Ice</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Ken Wolram</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Sue's Stardust</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>Tammy Lineback</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Capi Comet</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Ginger Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Mighty Aleo Gal</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>John Webb</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Barhart</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>David Young</td>
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<td>Arab Incognito</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Linda Tate</td>
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<td>San Barra</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Kathy Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>San Barra</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
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<td>Chargers Rampage</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Symplicity Sue</td>
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<td>Nancy Bacon</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Desert Reinbeau</td>
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<td>Angie Mereshenko</td>
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<td>Fraidy Cat</td>
<td>Tennessee Walking Horse</td>
<td>Terri Smith</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Diamond's Sassy Stockings</td>
<td>Missouri Fox Trotter</td>
<td>James Keene</td>
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**BEV TIBBITTS GRAND CHAMPION**  
(High Average Horse)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAME OF HORSE</th>
<th>BREED</th>
<th>RIDER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Sheiks Scimitar</td>
<td>3/4 Arabian</td>
<td>Barbara Jagoda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Jayess Rykstan</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Ken Burkdoll</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Gari's Borkhan</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Julie Munger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Velvel</td>
<td>3/4 Arabian</td>
<td>Gloria Becker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Antelope New Moon</td>
<td>Appaloosa</td>
<td>Beverly Tippitbits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Elmer Bandit</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Mary Anna Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Talib Amil</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian/Morab</td>
<td>Joan Throgmorton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Touches Velvette</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Elisabeth Grogan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Capi Comet</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Ginger Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Mighty Aleo Gal</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>John Webb</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Barhart</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>David Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Arab Incognito</td>
<td>1/2 Arabian</td>
<td>Linda Tate</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>San Barra</td>
<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Kathy Morris</td>
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<td>1988</td>
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<td>Hickory's Country Gold</td>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>Arabian</td>
<td>Lucy Hirsch</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Wing Tempo</td>
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<td>Symplicity Sue</td>
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<td>Nancy Bacon</td>
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<td>Panama Jack</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Desert Reinbeau</td>
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(Continued on page 8)
2009 Andarko (Alex) Arabian Terri Smith
2010 Fawn Creek Norwegian Fjord Brandy Ferganchick
2011 Awesome Fire N Ice 1/2 Arabian Ken Wolgram
2012 Hot Saki 1/2 Arabian Terri Smith
2013 Prime Sensation WH Missouri Fox Trotter Martha Findley
2014 Awesome Fire N Ice 1/2 Arabian Ken Wolgram
2015 Awesome Fire N Ice 1/2 Arabian Ken Wolgram
2016 Awesome Fire N Ice 1/2 Arabian Ken Wolgram
2017 Hot Saki 1/2 Arabian Terri Smith
2018 Desert Reinbeau Mustang Angie Meroshnekoff
2019 Lonesome Lady Bug 1/2 Arabian Terri Smith

POLLY BRIDGES MEMORIAL
(High Average Horsemanship)

YEAR  RIDER  YEAR  RIDER  YEAR  RIDER  YEAR  RIDER
2015  Ken Wolgram  2016  Ken Wolgram  2017  Sarah Rinne  2018  Sarah Rinne

JUNIOR GRAND CHAMPION
(High Average Horse)

YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER  YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER  YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER
Arabian  1/2 Arabian  1/2 Arabian  1/2 Arabian  1/2 Arabian
Andrew Murray  1999  Heartlight Della  2000  MKS Fancy's Folly  2001  2002
1/2 Arabian  Arabian  Appaloosa  Arabian  Arabian  Arabian
Jeannie Kelly  1999  Heartlight Della  2000  MKS Fancy's Folly  2001  2002
3) You must: (a) be an NATRC competing member, (b) contact Sarah Rinne at natrc@natrc.org to nominate yourself, and (c) have your 4-H leader contact Sarah to verify that you are a 4-H member.

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE GRAND CHAMPION
(High Average Horse)

YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER  YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER  YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER
1/2 Arabian  Grade  Arabian  1/2 Arab/Appy  1996  Hickory's Country Gold  1999  MA Hansen
Mary Anna Wood  1989  Beverly Tibbits  1991  Betty Young  1993  Marilyn Hunter
1/2 Arab  1999  MA Hansen  1999  MA Hansen  1999  MA Hansen
Beverly Tibbits  1991  Betty Young  1993  Marilyn Hunter  1999  MA Hansen

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HIGH AVERAGE HORSEMANSHP
YEAR  RIDER  YEAR  RIDER  YEAR  RIDER
2015  Leigh Riley  2016  Lory Walls  2017  Diane Wingle
2018  Beverly Roberts  2019  Deanne Prusak

HORSE HALL OF FAME

YEAR  NAME OF HORSE  BREED  RIDER
1986  Elmer Bandit  1/2 Arabian  Mary Anna Wood
1989  Casey  Grade  Beverly Tibbits
1991  Bathart  Arabian  Betty Young
1993  Rebel's Raider  1/2 Arab/Appy  Marilyn Hunter
1996  Hickory's Country Gold  Missouri Fox Trotter  Bill Hinkebein
2000  MA Hansen  1/2 Arab  Milne Parish
2002  Winchester Charm  1/2 Arab  Lucy Hirsch
2004  Brown R Dawab  Arabian  Judy Wise Mason
2010  Chargers Rampage  Missouri Fox Trotter  Lisa Brooks
2014  Swiss Mocha  Grade  Paula Riley
2015  Windstorm Sienna  Morgan  Wayne Tolbert

BEV ROBERTS NATIONAL HORSEMANSHIP CHAMPION
(Five National Championships on Five Different Horses)

RIDER  YR QUALIFIED  RIDER  YR QUALIFIED

4-H Junior Rider Year End High Point Award

Put your valuable 4-H skills to use outside of the arena and compete for this special award. Trail riding is a great way to cross train your horse for shows, safely practice your equitation and communication in a more scenic setting, and even put those showmanship skills to use during the in-hand vet checks! Encourage your fellow 4-H friends to join you in competitive trail rides and compete for NATRC’s 4-H Year-End High Point Team Award. Contact us if you would like a presentation to your club to introduce the sport and answer questions.

To be eligible is simple. Just compete in any division, nominate yourself, and prove that you are a 4-H member! Here are the specifics:

1) The award goes to the high point horse and rider team regardless of the division.
2) Your self-nomination must occur before the end of the ride year which is the second Sunday in November. (For 2021, that will be November 14th).
3) You must: (a) be an NATRC competing member, (b) contact Sarah Rinne at natrc@natrc.org to nominate yourself, and (c) have your 4-H leader contact Sarah to verify that you are a 4-H member.

Additionally, in a number of states (Colorado is one example), 4-H now recognizes competitive trail as an activity that qualifies as a 4-H member’s project. How cool is that? A form to use for documentation at the ride is available here or contact Sarah Rinne, natrc@natrc.org.

Questions? Contact: Shari Parys, katbalu96@aol.com

goodshop

Coupons for you - donations for us! Get the best coupon codes and deals at thousands of stores large and small, from goods to travel, all while a small percentage of what you spend goes to NATRC. You save money and help us. Don’t forget to check the promo codes at www.goodshop.com the next time you are shopping online.
Regional Appreciation Recognition at the National Level

Region 4

Gayle Muench

When it was time to nominate for Region 4 Appreciation Awards, I was happy to see that someone nominated Gayle as I didn’t feel that, as his spouse, I should nominate him but I’m certainly comfortable “stumping” for him.

Gayle’s been a NATRC member for about 7 years and jumped right into volunteering by helping to park rigs, mentor new riders (when he was relatively new himself), marking and measuring trails, and being a judge’s secretary. Many times, he was seen going to various campsites welcoming and assisting other competitors setting up and answering questions. He’s also managed rides 4 out of the 7 years he’s been a member: 7IL Scamper for 3 years, a Six O ride, and most recently he blazed new trails for Fall Frolic at the Lazy F and mentored me as first time ride manager. He has also served as R4 NBOD representative, serving as NBOD treasurer for 4 years. He’s put in many hours for NATRC and just recently stepped down from the NBOD.

We’re happy to have Gayle join us on the trail and appreciate everything he does for this sport that he has come to love and enjoy.

Mike & Sherry Murphy

Mike and Sherry Murphy have been involved with NATRC Region 4 since the 1980’s. They competed all over the region and out of region, bringing their young son, Shane, along to volunteer until he was old enough to compete with them as a junior in the Open Division. Over the years they have volunteered in every capacity, from P&R crew to ride managers, and even host of the regional convention in Little Rock. As members of the Arkansas Trail Riders Association, they spent many hours working with the Forest Service to build and maintain trail systems in the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests. Some of those trails systems became fantastic NATRC ride locations.

They have not competed in recent years but have continued to support our region by travelling to rides and filling just about any role a ride manager could need: timers, judge’s secretary, P&R chairs, safety riders, professional trailer parking crew. They are a true asset to our region, and we are thankful to have them as part of our wonderful NATRC family.

Elaine Swiss

A new NATRC competitor got up in the night to give her horse some hay, stepped into the horse compartment of her trailer and promptly, accidently, locked herself in. Elaine Swiss curled up in the hay and went to sleep, envisioning her future with her new Region 4 family and dreaming of all the ways she could volunteer and help in her new sport of NATRC.

Elaine has volunteered as ride manager, as well as every management position available, while establishing new ride locations, assisting new managers and scheduling ride dates for the region. She has also established the widely popular 100% attendance jacket, which is now nationwide, and the Storm Ranch Versatility award, integrating AERC, NATRC and TTCC venues together.

At the NATRC4 conventions, her skill and wit as an emcee is unsurpassed, as she keeps the program entertaining, and on track. The 2013 regional convention and 4H Trail Challenge that Elaine managed is one to be remembered. Elaine leads church services in Region 4, carrying on the tradition of Shirley Parker, rejoicing with love in the accomplishments and triumphs of her friends. Genuine and sincere, Elaine is the epitome of the heart of NATRC!

With thanks and appreciation to our out-going Board Members

R1 – Linda Thomason, Alt.  R3 – Sharon Roper, Alt.  R4 – Alice Perryman
R2 – Audrey Pavia, Alt.  R4 – Gayle Muench  R6 – Shari Parys

(Continued on page 10)
Region 5

Alan Yauck

Alan Yauck, affectionately known as “Coach,” has been involved with NATRC for 6 years. His granddaughter, Sierra Patisaul, caught the horse bug and now has progressed to riding Open Junior.

Alan has volunteered at countless rides as P&R worker or chair. At the P&R stops, he tends to the riders and their horses promoting a calm and enjoyable experience. He helps at all the R5 rides with the setup of tents, tables, and chairs as well as clearing and flagging trail. You'll also find him cleaning paddocks, pavilions, and bathrooms. He is especially helpful with the R5 Benefit Ride at Mingo Trails where he gives countless hours before and after the ride. If there is a job that no one wants, Alan will do it and with a smile.

We are excited that his grandson will be riding in the junior class in 2021 which means, fingers crossed, Alan will be supporting us for many years to come.

Region 6

Shari Parys

Shari Parys is a shining star! Region 6 benefits tremendously because of her unselfish efforts upon our behalf. Many times this takes place behind the scenes, with no expectations of acknowledgement. If something needs to be done, and done right, you can count on Shari.

Shari served as an at-large representative on the Region 6 Board of Directors from 2011 - 2014, Region 6 representative on the NATRC Board of Directors from 2015 - 2020, and NATRC Vice President, a leadership position, from 2017 - 2020. Our Region 6 member communications have been enhanced because of Shari. She has maintained our Google Groups distribution list since 2012. Also that year she became our Region 6 webmaster and recently enhanced our webpage by transitioning it to a new provider. Our members reap the benefits of her efforts by having a go-to place for the most current and up-to-date Region 6 information. Other roles she has unselfishly taken on are: our Region 6 newsletter co-editor, ride book editor, and recording secretary.

Region 6 is extremely fortunate to have Shari as a member, and we are better because of her dedication to NATRC.

Mike and Chris Wallis

Mike and Chris Wallis are welcome sights at our Region 6 rides, right down to the pink flamingos at their trailer! Chris was a dedicated competitor with almost 3000 rider miles and rode Peepers (Frog’s Knight) for many of those. Mike also added to this horse’s 2260 competition miles. This valuable couple has contributed much to the sport since joining in 1995 and are lifetime NATRC members.

As ride volunteers, they have been ride chairs, and often trail masters too, of the beautiful Cedar Creek ride in Missouri. They often make the trek to volunteer at other rides as P&R workers, timers, or helping with awards and food, even if it means bringing some of their beloved pets along to care for their health needs in order to help their region. Chris earned her spot in the 100% Club in 2017.

Both have served on our Region 6 Board of Directors various times between 2001 to 2016. Chris was Region 6 President in 2004, 2005 and 2009, and Mike was Vice President in 2006. Mike also maintained our Region 6 website years ago.

We appreciate all that Mike and Chris have contributed to our region over the past 25 years!

John Zeliff

In this year of unpredictable events and no Type A rides, there are few people who had to fulfill Region 6 leadership roles. John Zeliff, however, worked twice as hard at helping the organization stay connected and keeping morale up.

John conspired with Tammy Vasa to provide entertaining stories in our newsletter, made recommendations to the NBOD on ways to keep members engaged (many of which were adopted) and sent out encouraging messages to us all. His idea to just get together “for the fun of it” this fall at different campgrounds reinforces the intended spirit of NATRC. It is not about awards and championships, but having fun with like-minded people and learning together.

John Zeliff’s positivity is a beacon of light and an example for all of us.
The Leisure Division (LeD) was added in 2019 as an option to reduce real or perceived barriers for riders to try competitive trail riding. Some of those barriers are busy work and/or family schedules, lack of time to ride and condition, aged horses and/or riders, and financial considerations. The reduced commitment of time, expense, travel and fewer trail miles may encourage new riders otherwise intimidated by 2-day rides. It may also encourage past active competitors to stay involved when they may otherwise step away from the sport for a period of time (or permanently), and offers a place for those retired from the longer distances a way to continue (or return to) competition.

Whether part of a standard ride offering all divisions or as a standalone, the LeD is designed to be accomplished in a day, to be “one and done.” At 8-12 miles, 3 – 4.5 mph, LeD gives competitors of all levels an alternative to the traditional longer distances and faster paces of Open, Novice and Competitive Pleasure divisions. Three classes – Experienced, Adult and Junior – help create a level playing field for the competitors. Distance Only (DO) must be offered for all divisions and classes. Participants are required to follow all NATRC and management rules.

Horses and riders are judged on up to five observations. Horses are judged on trail ability and manners; riders are judged on equitation and communication. Points are added, not deducted (except for time penalties). Scores (1 – 5) on horse and rider are added together for one team score (10 total possible) for that observation.

As 1-day competitions, LeD rides do not require overnight stabling. Stabling is not a part of the judged competition as it is in Open, Novice or Competitive Pleasure division rides. If a participant affiliated with the ride is staying overnight before or after the competition, management is required to evaluate stabling for general safety because of our insurance requirements. Any member of the management team may evaluate the stabling for safety.

A typical agenda would be to register with the ride secretary at 8 am, attend a ride briefing at 10 am, check the horse (untacked) in with the judge at 11 am, ride out at noon, arrive back into camp at 3:30 pm, present the untacked horse for re-check to the judge at 4 pm, receive placing awards at 5 pm.

Veterinarians are not required for LeD rides. The check-in/ check-out is not scored; it is simply to see that the horse is sound (trot out and back) and OK to start and hasn’t gotten any tack rubs or injuries during the ride.

One pulse and respiration (P&R) check is conducted on the trail. Scoring guidelines follow the same parameters as for the other divisions; i.e. 12 and 9 (counts/15 seconds) are the baselines for heart rates and respiration. Horses get 5 points if the heart rate is 12 or less and 5 points if the respiration is 9 or less. The score would be 4 if the heart rate were 13; 3 if it were 14, etc. Similarly for respiration. The standard go/hold criteria for the LeD is 16-go/ 17-hold. The horse gets 10 points if there is no hold; 5 points if one hold, 0 points if two holds.

Five points are allowed for safety and courtesy.

Thus there are 75 points possible: 10 pts x 5 observations = 50 points. 5 pts for pulse 12 or less + 5 pts for respiration 9 or less + 10 for no holds = 20 points. Five points for safety and courtesy = 5 points.

Time penalties will be assessed for teams not completing the ride within a 30-minute window of time. Like Open, CP and Novice division rides, there is a forward motion point near the end. Unlike the other divisions, the LeD forward motion point is closer to 1 mile than 2 miles. The actual distance may be from .75 miles to 1.25 miles to the finish line if the location is suitable and the distance is accurately measured, timed and posted at the point and noted on the riders’ maps. Judges may observe between the point and ride camp, but they may not set up obstacles on this section of the trail or interfere with riders.

Placings are recognized/awarded for 1st – 6th in each of the classes: Experienced, Adult and Junior. Year-end awards are given at the regional level.

Applicants to become a LeD judge must have at least 750 miles in competition and have served as a secretary for a horsemanship judge. They must pass a written, open-book test on procedures and judging principles. Then they must work with a mentor judge (a fully approved NATRC judge) for at least one ride and work solo as a provisional judge for at least one ride before being finally approved. There are several LeD judges in each region for better accessibility and reduced cost for ride managers.

The Leisure Division yielded over 400 ride entries in 2019, and over 200 in 2020 despite COVID. Due to the simpler format, there were several LeD-only competitions.

Please see the Rule Book for current rules. Take a look at the scorecard included there.
The newly revised and updated NATRC Rider’s Manual is now available to members only on our website. This 248 page, full color, digital version of the manual is the most comprehensive document available on competitive trail riding in general and on NATRC competition in specific.

While expanding and updating the manual, our research into the past netted a wealth of memories for us and some fun photos, too. Here is a blast from the past – typical of NATRC members having fun with their horses. Looks like everyone went for a swim!

If you are a member and don’t have a website account, now is the time to create one.

If you are new to competitive trail riding and have never been a member before, you will want to study this manual.

Join now and get your first year’s membership for FREE.

From left to right:
Raymond Brooks on Dixie Aztec (High Mileage Horse, 7120 mi),
Ronald Williams on Ramel (High Mileage Horse, 7,220 mi) and
Lisa Brooks on Charger’s Rampage (Horse Hall of Fame Honoree and 3-time President’s Cup winner).
Hidden behind Raymond are
Shirley Sobol and Wing Tempo (High Mileage Horse, 20,710 mi and 7-time President’s cup winner).
Photo used with permission.
It was the summer of 1978, and I was home from college at Mizzou. Most of my days I would spend on my grandparents’ farm. Each day, I would work around the farm until early evening, then I would saddle up my horse, Rifle, and take off riding until dark. I had a Radio Shack transistor radio that I would tie onto my saddle so I could listen to Fred and Denny announcing the Kansas City Royals baseball game. Still do to this day. I refer to this routine as my ideal summer day.

Now, my grandparents’ farm was out in the middle of a very rural area. The closest neighbors were a mile away no matter which direction you faced. The nearest horses, that I was aware of, belonged to an elderly farmer who lived 3 miles south. I had never seen him ride any of his horses, so as far as I knew, the chances that there would ever be someone to go riding with were slim to none.

One June afternoon, I heard a commotion coming from the north side of the house. I walked around the house to see why the dogs were barking. I was surprised to find someone riding a horse! I hollered so they would stop and went over to visit. As it turned out, this young rider’s name was Melody, and she lived four miles north of our place. We talked about how we both liked riding horses and how it would be nice to have someone to ride with every now and then. We came up with a plan for her to ride two miles south and I would ride two miles north. We would meet in the middle and ride together for a few miles and then each head back home.

We started riding together about once a week. It sure was nice to have someone to ride with. During one of our rides, Melody started talking about her friend Eveta who did competitive trail riding with NATRC and always said how much fun it was. She described what was involved in a ride and how everything worked. She explained how there were two judges, one for the horse and one for the rider, and that it was not a race, but instead riders were given a distance to ride and a window of time in which to complete the ride.

One evening when Melody and I were riding, she told me that she had just found out that there was going to be an NATRC ride in a few weeks less than 20 miles away. The ride, Muleskinner, was located across the river from Indian Cave in the bluffs north of our place. We talked about how it would be nice to have some electrolytes to mix into our horse’s water. That made me nervous not knowing if my horse would drink it or not, but I gladly accepted. After all, he was a vet.

Our next dilemma was to figure out how to get our horses to the ride. The only other times I had taken a horse anywhere was when I bought Rifle and the previous summer when I took her to Indian Cave. Both times, I just hauled her over for us. It was this routine that was when I bought Rifle and the trailer that was just sitting at his dad’s farm. He did not find out when it had been used last, but said we were welcome to it.

Melody’s uncle happened to be the local vet, so a few weeks before the ride he came out and pulled blood samples for a Coggins test on both horses. He suggested we might want to use some electrolytes with our horses as it could be a warm day when we have our ride. This was all new information to me. He gave us some electrolytes to mix into our horse’s water. That made me nervous not knowing if my horse would drink it or not, but I gladly accepted. After all, he was a vet.

Our next dilemma was to figure out how to get our horses to the ride. The only other times I had taken a horse anywhere was when I bought Rifle and the previous summer when I took her to Indian Cave. Both times, I just hauled her in the back of my pickup with my wooden stock rack. The plan was to make two trips over to the ride to get our horses there until Melody’s uncle offered us a two-horse trailer. He had an old Stidham side-by-side straight load bumper-pull trailer that was just sitting at his dad’s farm. He did not find out when it had been used last, but said we were welcome to it.

We decided to give it a try since we did not have very far to haul, and it should be a safe trip. A few days later, the vet brought the trailer over for us. It was obvious that this was an older trailer. There were lots and lots of rust spots, and what paint had not peeled off was very faded. However, the floor seemed solid enough, and the tires might just get us there and back. Trailer loading was our next challenge, so we started practicing right away.

The weekend of the ride finally arrived. That Friday morning, I put a camper shell on the back of my pickup for a place to sleep and... (Continued on page 14)
hooked up the horse trailer. I went out to the pasture and brought Rifle up to the yard where I had a bucket of soapy water and a garden hose all hooked up. This was a new experience for my horse, and she handled it fairly well for the most part. After loading the trailer with feed and tack, it was time to load the horses and head west.

After arriving at the ride, we found a nice shady area to park and unload the horses. We took our Coggins papers, entry forms, and checks over to the ride secretary and registered for the ride. We were then told to bring our saddles and tack back over to get weighed. I thought that was a hassle, as it seemed obvious that I would be in the heavyweight class.

Next came time to check in our horses with the judges. Rifle looked really good after getting her first ever bath. The compliments ended there, as she was reluctant to trot out in hand for the judges. We really had practiced that at home ahead of time.

Rifle had never been tied to a trailer for any length of time before, so this was going to be another new experience. I was not very worried though as she had a great disposition, and I did not expect any issues. I was more worried about making sure that I tied my lead rope the proper length from the ground. My biggest concern was not being able to tend to my horse after 10 pm. I did not understand why there was such a rule. So, after the ride briefing, I made sure to top off her hay net and water bucket and just hoped for the best.

At the ride briefing, we got our maps and found out how far we had to go and how much time we had to do it in. I spent the rest of the evening studying that map. The next morning, I woke up early and was very pleased to find my horse was still there. I fed her and then saddled up for the day.

That first day all the riders had a judged mount as we timed out. I do not remember any mounting blocks around. Everyone was just mounting from the ground. We had to wait for some riders to go ahead of us and then it was our turn. Oh boy...here we go. We are actually doing our first ride! Rifle stood very still for me, but I probably plopped down a little too hard. Luckily, she was not worried about being left behind and just stood there as I set the hands of my wristwatch to noon. After that, I gave her a little nudge, and away we went.

The ride was so much fun. Lots of great new experiences! The first P&R was at the top of a hill. We were given instructions at the base of the hill to not stop until we got there. The trails were well marked with lots of ribbons. I learned that three ribbons hanging together meant you were at an intersection. I was never worried about getting lost the entire weekend. All the trails were on private property. There was a short stretch where we had to ride on a gravel road that happened to go right by where my aunt and uncle used to live.

It was hot outside that weekend, but I never thought anything about it. We were riding mostly in the bluffs through wooded areas that provided an abundance of shade. We had lunch out on the trail, so before we timed (Continued from page 13)
out each morning, we gave our lunch and drink to someone so they could bring it to us out at the lunch stop on the trail.

The entire experience was just so much fun. I never had any idea how fast I was going or even how to pace my ride. It was like I was just always trying to hurry and make sure to trot at every level stretch. I just knew what time we had to finish, and I kept looking for that 2-mile marker.

It was very rewarding at the end of the first day to know that I made time.

That Saturday evening, Melody’s uncle came over to see how we got along. We could not stop talking about how much fun it was.

The only person I remember from that weekend was a very kind gentleman from Nebraska whom I rode with part of the time. His name was Harold Nickerson, and he was so nice and helpful to me both out on the trail and at the campground. I appreciated his advice and the knowledge he shared. I was also very envious of his new camper and trailer.

Day two was more of the same. Rifle was getting really tired towards the end, though, and I had to keep encouraging her. To my surprise, we actually had to wait at the 2-mile marker that day.

I never really worried about how I would place. My goal was simply to finish and have fun and I did both! I am pretty sure I smiled non-stop that entire weekend. My first NATRC ride was a very positive experience. Everyone was so nice and friendly and helpful. It left such a positive impression on me that I became an NATRC member just so I could get the newsletter to know when and where the rides were so I could do another ride. Even though I was unable to ride again until 2015, I still paid my dues each year and read every Region 6 Rally and Hoof Print from cover to cover!

This winter, Bev Roberts found the ride results from that 1978 Muleskinner ride and shared them with me. Rifle came in 5th, and I managed to place 3rd in a full field of Novice Heavyweights. So many great memories were made that weekend. I am pretty sure that was the last time that two-horse trailer was ever pulled. Rifle has long since been gone, but I still have a granddaughter of hers here on the farm who serves as a constant reminder of all those wonderful memories from that first ride. Thank you, Bev, for finding the ride results and thank you, NATRC, for such an amazing experience.

A graduate from the University of Missouri after only 3 ½ years, John Zeliff started his 31 year public education career teaching high school Ag. He then went on to become a high school principal, director of a technical school, assistant superintendent, superintendent, and an adjunct professor at Northwest Missouri State University. John and his wife, Nancy, live on his family farm where they raised two daughters. All those years while working, John kept the farm going by doing everything after work, most often at night, and on weekends. They raised row crops, hay, cattle, and hogs. That left very little time for riding horses. Now that John is only farming, He says, “I’m a daylight farmer. The nice part is that I can make time to ride my horses. Finally, once again, at the end of the day, I can stop what I am doing and go saddle up.” It also means that John can again participate in NATRC rides and hopefully soon help his twin grandsons begin their own NATRC journey.
NATRC Student Loan & Scholarship Program

Student loans and scholarships are available according to the budgeted amount, at the discretion of the National Board of Directors. Preference will be given to a full-time student who has been a member of NATRC or whose family has been an active member for at least 3 years. Consideration will also be given to a student or a student’s family who has been an active member for less than 3 years but more than 6 months.

Priority will be given first to a student enrolled in an accredited School of Veterinary Medicine; second in studies leading to a degree in Animal Science, Nutrition, Health and/or other related equine field; third in other related equine studies; fourth to a college student in his/her senior year, then junior year, sophomore year, freshman year. For a student loan, consideration may also be given to a student enrolled in other studies.

Other considerations include financial need, scholastic achievement, and character of the applicant as determined by the Student Loan/Scholarship Committee.

For an application, contact the NATRC Executive Director at natrc@natrc.org, or download the Student Loan Application or the Bev Tibbitts Memorial Scholarship Application.

Please complete the appropriate form in Word or as an interactive PDF and submit via email to the Executive Director at natrc@natrc.org

Congratulations to Hannah Steele, R4
Approved to receive a Bev Tibbitts Memorial Scholarship for academic year 2021-22

Trail Tip - Using a Whip

We used to say that if a handler used a whip at check-out, he must have used it at check-in. That was never in the Rule Book, it was simply a “guideline.” Most agree what we really should be looking at is the appropriate use of the whip. It’s really just an extension of the arm. Just seeing it in the handler’s hand reminds some horses to behave better, and it can be helpful to encourage a tired horse to move along so the veterinary judge can adequately evaluate his movement.

Convention and Awards News

With our country opening up and people being vaccinated, NATRC guardedly hopes for a full ride year. Early plans are underway for the 2022 convention in Omaha, NE.

We have awarded our 2020 Mile-age, National Championships, and Regional Team honors.
The 2019 Limited Distance High Mileage Lightweight and tied for Overall High Mileage was Patty Lucas and her 14 year-old Tennessee Walking Horse, Pa Pa’s Alabama Express. A rider for more than 50 years, Patty lives in Birmingham, AL. She was kind enough to answer a few questions about herself and her mare so we could get to know her a little better.

SA: Of all the equestrian disciplines available to you, what made you choose to participate in distance / endurance riding? Was there something special about it that appealed to you?

PL: I have trail ridden since I was a child. Riding competitive trail seemed natural. It gave me some goals to better my horsemanship skills and increase my horse’s skills.

SA: What is the conditioning routine that you do with your horse and also for yourself in order to compete safely and successfully in distance / endurance riding?

PL: I stay fit with exercise from walking to Yoga, tennis, and of course, riding is key for me.

My horse gets a variety of exercise from long, slow distance at least twice a week on various terrain from hilly to flat to shorter activities such as groundwork and exercising around the barn. We trailer out to our favorite places such as Oak Mountain State Park or Russell Lands in Alexander City, AL.

SA: Of all the places you have traveled with your horse, which one is your favorite and why?

PL: My favorite place is East Fork Stables in Jamestown, TN. The trails are beautiful, but technical. The views are exquisite there!

SA: Are people surprised to discover that you are riding a gaited horse in distance/endurance riding?

PL: I think there are those who still think gaited horses are (Continued on page 18)
just for the show ring or hacking about the trails for pleasure. I have to say, my mare steps right up to the task. Her temperament is steady and calm, and she has no quit in her.

SA: What are misconceptions about gaited horses in distance/endurance riding would you like to dispel?

PL: Your gaited horse can do a lot more than you think!

SA: Many times people say, “Oh, I’m going to try that!” after reading the award releases. What would you tell people they have to be willing to do in order to do this sort of riding? Is there some sort of “discipline” gene that distance/endurance riders have to possess?

PL: I don’t think there is a discipline gene, but just a desire to try new things, a love of riding, a commitment to being a better horsewoman, and a desire to own a steady, fit horse.

SA: Do you have a favorite saddle or other equipment that you prefer? Why?

PL: I use a Trekker treeless saddle which is lightweight for me to handle, cooler, and less weight on the horse.

PL: I have been involved with FOSH for 3 years. NATRC had a national convention in Tennessee. I met a FOSH representative there who spoke to our group. I decided to join that year.

SA: Why did you decide that FOSH was worth joining for you and your interests?
PL: It seems NATRC and FOSH have similar goals. I love to see gaited horses step out of the stereotypical arenas and accomplish new challenges.

SA: If there was one thing that people would be surprised to know about you and/or your horse, what would that be?

PL: We both are quite competitive. We both appear laid back, but are a fierce team. (Grin)

SA: Do you have a favorite trail snack for you and your horse? What is it and why did you chose it?

PL: For competitions, I like to soak a few alfalfa cubes in a quart bag and give as a treat throughout the ride. This allows my horse to keep her gut moving and give her a bit of energy.

My favorite snack is an apple or a granola bar I can share with my horse.

CREATE A LEGACY OF YOUR OWN

Make an Impact on NATRC’s Future Through Planned Giving

Three simple and effective ways to give.
1. Request In Lieu of Flowers contributions by mourners
2. Designate NATRC as an insurance policy beneficiary
3. Give a gift, known as a Charitable Bequest, in your will

By giving to NATRC, an organization that holds a unique place in your heart, you are ensuring that we can continue to promote equine and equestrian safety through trail competitions and education programs, and to develop and maintain trail systems throughout the country.

Contact: natrc@natrc.org

The North American Trail Ride Conference is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. To implement any of the donation suggestions, please be sure to work with your attorney or financial adviser.

Photo by Jim Edmondson

“Our best marketing tool is one on one.”
- Jamie Dieterich
You bet! For six issues now, we have been discussing strategies for competing with the least stress and most enjoyment. We're still out on the trail handling all the things mother nature, ride officials and other competitors present to us. Safety is part of a successful ride strategy.

You are not alone. (Sounds ominous... doesn't it?) You may encounter all sorts of people and other creatures.

Veterinary Judge. Besides the folks at obstacles and pulse and respiration checks, the veterinary judge and the secretary will stop you a couple of times to perform a metabolic check on “Old Dobbin” to assess how your horse is handling the trail work and advise you on what to keep an eye on, if anything.

Most horses welcome the opportunity to stop and relax. For safety’s sake (vets want to live to see another day), for good manners (no trampling allowed) and for accurate readings, savvy riders teach their horses to stand quietly. Your horse has to tolerate an eyelid lifted, lips separated, gums pressed, jugular pushed, skin tented and guts listened to. If your horse will not stand still and you know you can control your horse better from the ground, then ask the judge if you may dismount and hold your horse during the check.

Safety Personnel. Know that safety personnel, either mounted, in trucks, or on 4-wheelers are out there. Those on equines usually follow behind each division’s last rider. If you are that last rider and the safety riders’ horses are bothering your horse (coming up too close behind you, behaving anxiously, and so on), you can ask them to ride further back and just keep you in sight.

Often when there are loops, safety personnel wait at the entrance to and exit from a loop, checking the number entering and exiting. Be aware these folks might be waiting at the exit; speak to them so they will reply so as not to startle your horse if they make a sudden move, especially if they are concealed in a truck or on a 4-wheeler.

Wildlife. We're talking fauna here and other boogers! More than likely, your horse will notice these things before you do, and you will have encountered them while out conditioning, too. Make it a habit to remain relaxed and say something like “That's just a ________ (fill in the blank).” While your horse learns that that phrase means “don't worry,” you may have to let her/him “run away” in a circle or do a one-rein stop.

Hikers, bikers, tenters. When meeting these folks, again, speak to them so your horse knows that “thing” is just another human. Less stress for your horse and you. Most people you encounter will step off, or pull off, to the side of the trail to let you pass. Sometimes motorcycle and 4-wheeler riders approach too fast. Make eye contact, raise your arm with your hand facing down, and slowly swing your arm down indicating for them to slow down. Most motorized vehicle riders will shut off their engines, too. Be sure to thank them for their courtesy.

Occasionally at rides in national forests, you will find people camped just off the trail in tents. As before, speak first. Be aware and know what you will do to control “Old Dobbin” should someone inside a tent come out just as you are riding by.

Pleasure and dude riders. In the forest, if there are just two or three approaching, they usually pull off the trail to let you pass. If there is a whole string of them, it’s best for you to pull off to minimize the chance of your horse being kicked.

Management uses all kinds of vehicles to transport ride officials to spots along the trails and for safety personnel.
scared either. Don’t believe it...? Here’s the reverse. Have you ever been out riding and your nose started running or tickling so you quickly inhaled through your nose and stiffened your body slightly in doing so? What did your horse do? Did s/he jerk her head up and tense in preparation to get out of Dodge, as if to say, “What? Did you see something? Should we run?” Same difference. You happened to alert your herd of two with the familiar “what is it” snort!

Dogs. As with any venue where dogs are present, it is possible that a dog at an NATRC ride could threaten or attack a horse and rider. Ride managers require that dogs be on leashes or be confined in some manner in camp. On the trail, you may encounter barking dogs behind fences or on leashes. Most hikers have control of their dogs. If they don’t, stop moving so the hikers can get their dog’s attention and grab them.

Most loose dogs retreat when you face them and stare them down. You can also speak firmly to them using familiar commands like “Go lie down,” “Stay,” “Sit.” Do not try to outrun them as that excites them into a chase. Given her/his head, your horse may be able to execute a well-placed kick. For other ideas, look on the internet for thorough expert advice on what to do.

Next time, we wrap up with strategies for miscellaneous activities on the trail and for after you come off trail and prepare for the final veterinary exam.

This is the most common huge four-legged creature you will encounter. If your horse has never seen one before, take the time to approach slowly and make the bovine move away from you. Your horse will soon learn these are not a threat. Less stress, more enjoyment.

A national Membership Recruitment and Retention Committee for NATRC was recently identified. This committee consists of a chair, who is a member of the national board of directors, and a minimum of one and a maximum of two membership representatives from each of our six regions.

The purpose of the committee will be to assist the regions in their efforts to recruit new members, retain current members, and provide more and better services to members. Currently, the committee is in the process of identifying goals for the 2021 ride season.

Committee members are as follows:

Chair  John Zeliff
Region 1 Donna Stidolph  Linda Thomason
Region 2 Helen Steenman
Region 3 Amelia Adair
Region 4 Alice Perryman
Region 5 Sallie Kudra
Region 6 Ruth Mesimer

We Just Wanna Have Fun!

Left to right: Becky Rogers, Keri Riddick, Doanna Daniel, Erin Hurley Rosser, and Fran Muench

Photo by Richard Rosinski, used with permission
Trail Tip - Keep Cool

Keep cool when it’s hot. Wear an evaporating necktie cooler or vest, light colored clothing, and light colored helmet with a wide brim.
2022 Rule Change Proposals - February 17, 2021 - Changes in Bold Red

MAKE DATE OF DETERMINATION OF JUNIOR AGE CONSISTENT

SECTION 1 - GENERAL
A. Membership
1. Any person interested in the purposes of this organization may be eligible for membership upon proper application and payment of the required dues.
   a. Yearly Membership
      (1) Adult Competing Membership: Any person 18 years of age or over.
      (2) Junior Competing Membership: Any person under the age of 18 as of the beginning of the ride year.
      (3) Family Competing Membership: A household of one or two adults and children under the age of 18 as of January 4 the beginning of the ride year.

   Rationale: The date to determine the age of a Junior should be the same for a Junior Competing Membership or as part of a Family Competing Membership.

ALLOW MEMBERSHIP IN MULTIPLE REGIONS

SECTION 1 - GENERAL
B. Regions
5. If the domicile and residence of the horse/rider are in different regions, or if the rider desires to compete in a region one or more regions other than that of the domicile, the rider must inform the NATRC Executive Director of in which region(s) the rider is competing at the time of the first ride in said region(s). Neither a horse nor a rider may compete for regional points in more than one region in any year. A horse or rider may compete for regional points in more than one region in any year if rider pays membership dues for the additional region(s).

SECTION 9 - AWARDS
B. Annual Awards
1. General
   j. In order to qualify for annual national awards, the competing horse or rider must have completed at least three rides of any ride type in their designated region(s). (See Section 10 for Region 1A requirements). In order to qualify for annual regional awards, the competing horse or rider must be a member of that region and have completed at least three rides of any ride type in that region.

   Rationale: This allows those who live in two different regions, or close to two different regions, to compete for points in both. This could increase ridership by allowing competitors to compete for more awards. It would also increase membership since the rider is paying for an additional region. Each supplemental membership for an additional region will be offered at partial cost. Free memberships only cover one region.

CORRECT REGION DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1 - GENERAL
B. Regions
1. There are presently six regions. Others will be established as needed.
   f. Region 6: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan (upper peninsula only) Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin; Manitoba and Northwest Nunavut Territories.

   Rationale: Correct and clarify the region definitions. It was probably an oversight that Newfoundland had not been listed in the Rule Book. Nunavut Territory (to the east of the Northwest Territories) was officially separated from the Northwest Territories on April 1, 1999.

CLARIFY LIMITATIONS FOR NOVICE DIVISION

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY
A. Divisions
2. Novice
5. Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in Open or Competitive Pleasure in any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice division except by participating Distance Only.

   Rationale: A competitor should not be excluded from the Novice Division for having done well and placed in the annual awards. This could happen in one year.

LOWER AGE OF JUNIOR COMPETITORS – Option 1: All Divisions

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY
B. Classes
3. Junior
a. Age 10 through 17. The rider must be 10 years old to enter competition; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year, and this age shall continue throughout that ride year. Riders must be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance. Riders 12 and under must ride with an adult sponsor, with a limit of two per sponsor.

(Continued on page 24)
b. Juniors may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division Heavyweight or Lightweight Classes if weight requirements are met. Juniors may compete in Leisure Division Adult or Experienced Classes.

D. Eligibility of Riders
1. All persons of minimum competitive age or older are eligible to compete in NATRC except:

**Rationale:** We have received consistent requests to lower our eligible age. NATRC could be the best introduction of junior riders to distance riding. Children of this age are developmentally able to ride and care for horses. Often an adult competitor requires minimal assistance due to limited range of motion or recovery from a recent injury or surgery, so it is similar expectations for young riders.

**CLARIFY LEG PROTECTION ALLOWED IN DO AND LEISURE**

**SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY**

C. Distance Only (DO) (not in competition)
3. Horses may participate with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.

and

**SECTION 5 – THE RIDE**

E. Hoof Protection/ Leg Protection
4. Horses in the Leisure Division may compete with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.

and

**SECTION 6 – JUDGING**

D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on trail ability and manners. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.
5. Horses in the Leisure Division may compete with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.

**Rationale:** Hoof boots and pads were not allowed for many years. “Temporary hoof protection” referred to boots such as Easy Boots which could be used until a shoe was replaced for the next day’s ride. This concept is not applicable any more since all types of hoof boots that provide sole protection are allowed. Hoof protection and leg protection should read the same for DO and LeD.

**ALLOW ADDITIONAL LEG GEAR DURING STABLING**

**SECTION 5 – THE RIDE**

E. Hoof Protection/ Leg Protection
3. Protective devices, such as bell boots, or splint boots, or wraps are only allowed in Leisure Division or when participating Distance Only. Wraps are not only permissible on the legs of horses except as part of hoof sole protections as allowed under Section 5 E2 or during stabling as allowed under Section 5 E6. The leg is defined as all structures above and including the coronet.
5. Ice boots and other means of applying ice/ice water/cooling packs topically by various attachment methods are allowed. Devices that circulate ice water or cool below 0 degrees Celsius are prohibited.
6. After the day’s final check, standing wraps and compression socks are allowed. No prohibited substances are allowed in conjunction with the application of wraps or socks (See Drug Appendices).

**Rationale:** We already allow ice boots. These additional options also allow for more choices for horse care and relieve the confusion over which devices are permitted.
We have received consistent requests to lower our eligible competitor age. NATRC could be the best introduction of junior riders as young as 8 to distance riding, allowing them an excellent start in horse care, equitation and safe practices. Children of this age are developmentally able to ride and care for horses and can actively participate in other organizations that put a strong emphasis on safety, such as Pony Club.

Like all competitors, juniors would fall under Section 4D1d. "Riders who are unable to properly care for their horses, themselves, or to ride the course without assistance of others" would be ineligible to ride. Management has the right to disallow a youth from entering if they are unable to do the preceding on the same level as we allow for other riders. We normally permit minor assistance, such as lifting a saddle, for our aged riders, those recovering from a surgery or accident, or others who have limited ability or mobility. We allow those hard of hearing, with impaired vision, reduced mental or physical ability, and even those wearing a cast. All of these could lead to safety issues, yet we welcome these riders, provide minimal assistance as needed, and are inclusive. We have included youth under 12 riding with a sponsor in this proposal, which is more than we have required in the past.

Some think that an 8-year-old would have judging leniency compared to say a 14-year-old, but our judges have strict standards to abide by. These riders would have no more advantage in the sport than a 30-year-old competing against a 75-year-old. We assess based on the scorecard, without a cuteness factor or soft spot. If we see the contrary, that is a judging issue and not a competitor age issue. We are a family-oriented sport with high standards of safety and education, so it is to our benefit to include these younger riders when they are capable, ingraining good habits and solid skills when they are most impressionable.

FOR
Lowering the Age of Junior Riders from 10 To 8 Years

Children at 8 years old are at the cusp of a critical developmental phase of their life. At this age, children are given more complex responsibilities. They are capable of saddling and taking care of their horse with minimal help, but the important question is, are they capable of coping with an unexpected and potentially dangerous situation on the trail? Are we putting too much stress on a child who, at this point, is in a critical stage of emotional, physical and mental development?

An excerpt from a paper presented at the 1989 International Winter Meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers pertaining to children age 7-9 on the Developmental Stages of Children and Accident Risk Potential states: "They also are beginning to ask to be included in the work done by adults. However, because they have little knowledge of the requirements of a task or their own physical and mental limitations, the risk of injury is very high. They do not recognize dangerous situations fast enough to avoid them, and once in an emergency situation, they do not have the problem solving abilities to avoid injury. Unfortunately, these limitations in their thinking abilities are often not evident to many parents until their child experiences an accident." Robert A. Aherin, Ph.D, Extension Safety Specialist, University of Illinois and Christine M. Todd, Ph. D, Child Development Specialist, University of Illinois

There is no doubt that under ordinary circumstances, children that have had years of exposure to horses have the ability to take care of their horse. Unfortunately, a ride venue causes stress for participants and horses alike. A well-known phrase in NATRC is the horse you have at home is not the same horse you unload at a ride. We have all experienced this and have to ask if an 8-year-old is mature enough to cope with this, and if we, as an organization that prizes safety, are willing to take that risk.

AGAINST
Lowering the Age of Junior Riders from 10 To 8 Years

FOR Membership in Multiple Regions

It’s a win for national NATRC, regions and riders. By being allowed to join and compete for year-end regional awards in more than one region, the regions will have additional memberships (dues) and additional riders at rides. National will receive additional memberships. It should also increase the number of riders per ride, therefore, increasing the possible number of points available.

AGAINST Membership in Multiple Regions

Regions should have the control over the region’s awards. Regions would have to change their procedures and possibly their bylaws for these additional awards. Is the change worth the trouble?
Several things are involved in the care of the horse's legs before, during, and after a workout. Perhaps the first thing is to know your horse's legs. We hear that, but how many of us do that? If we ride on a certain trail very many times, we come to recognize its features – its plants, its tracks, the turns coming up. Our horses’ legs are like a trail; when we feel them often, we learn what lumps and bumps are normal. (Female readers understand another application).

There’s an old saying, “For every mistake you make about not knowing, you make ten for not looking.” During a workout, or a competition, capillaries expand to bring in blood to support the work. When the work stops, the flow continues for some time. That fluid contains mediators and enzymes of inflammation. This not only provokes an inflammatory process, the pooling fluid stretches tissues. Horses’ legs that accumulate fluid are said to “stock up.”

Cooling down by hand walking is one of the easiest and best ways to help dissipate excess fluid and restore normal circulation. Icing also helps by causing the blood vessels to constrict and reduce the increased flow that occurs during exercise. Wrapping, by providing compression, can also help prevent fluid from pooling in the lower leg. Wrapping must be applied properly so as to not inadvertently injure the tendons. Learning how to apply them is part of learning when to use them.

The Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) has an excellent video in their educational series on how to apply a standing wrap.

This link to an article in Equus magazine is very good about pointing out the various aspects of total leg care before, during, and after workouts. Allowing standing wraps during stabling would give riders another choice in how to best care for their horses.
Once again, I feel compelled to write a letter of concern over the proposed rule change to allow leg wraps. The last letter I wrote about ice boots I feel fell on deaf ears. I will start this letter out slightly differently. Let me remind you all of the philosophies of NATRC because I am under the impression most BODs in the past 12-15 years have forgotten them.

PHILOSOPHIES
1. To stimulate greater interest in breeding and use of good equines possessed of stamina and hardiness and qualified to make good mounts for trail use.
2. To demonstrate the value of type and soundness in the proper selection of equines for competitive trail riding.
3. To learn and demonstrate the proper methods of training and conditioning equines for competitive trail riding.
4. To encourage good horsemanship as related to trail riding.
5. To demonstrate the best methods of caring for equines during and after long rides without the use of artificial methods or stimulants.

Rules have been changed so many times in the past going against these philosophies. Years ago I was against the shoeing rule being changed. But the membership was told we would gain more riders. We did not. I said at the time this was a slippery slope we were headed down but was assured our philosophies would remain intact. Then it went from allowing any type of shoe with or without pads to allowing hoof boots. I expressed severe concern and was told it was to increase membership. Again, it did not.

Move forward some years and the idea of allowing ice boots came up. I wrote a very opinionated letter to the BOD about this idea and the rule still passed. Again, being told ridership would increase and once again, it did not.

Now here we are one more time going strictly against our philosophies. Any type of leg wraps or boots are “artificial methods”. If a horse cannot stay sound without any type of leg wraps, then said horse does not have the “stamina or hardiness to make a good mount for trail use”. Of course, I understand the medical reasons behind the use of leg wraps but they can be used after the competition is over.

NATRC is asking horses to go ONE ride without the use of artificial aids or stimulants. If a mount cannot go ONE day without help, then philosophies #2 and #3 should be stricken from our sport. I am once again vehemently opposed to more rule changes going directly against our philosophies. I urge the BOD to vote against this rule change. We are not gaining riders by changing all these rules. Actually through friends I have met over the years we have lost riders because they, like I, feel we have dumbed down the sport.

So you may look at why the “old timers” do not compete any more vs trying to get endurance riders into our sport.

Please take a long hard look at our sport and philosophies prior to making your final vote. Should you choose to vote in favor of this rule change then you MUST change our philosophies as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Johnson, DVM

**Which division is right for me?**

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+ Eval means Evaluate

**Take Pride in Your Ride - Come Ride With Us!**

NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE
CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 9:06 a.m. February 13, 2021.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Bill Wingle, Laurie DiNatale, Cara Liebman (R4 Alternate), Kim Murphy, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, Marla Stucky, John Zeliff and Sarah Rinne, Executive Director. Also attending: Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, Andrea Rogers, Donna Stidolph, R1 Alternate, and Ruth Mesimer, Honorary and Appreciation Chair.

MINUTES. February 13, 2021. Walls moved to approve the minutes. Diaguila seconded. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT. Meroshnekoff. Shared the state of the sport and rides. She discussed a recent email discussion about leg wraps and the need to review our philosophies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT. Rinne. Shared current renewal numbers as of Feb 5, 2021. Renewals are steady. Resolving website issues resulting from changing to January 1 renewal date. Rinne requested to roll the Insurance Report into the Executive Director’s report since both are covered and managed by Rinne. Board agreed to roll them into one. Provided updated insurance information to both Directors and Officers (D&O) and ride insurance policies. D&O carrier now covered by Traveler’s (previously Philadelphia), is now brokered by Equisure instead of Mountain Plains with no rate change. We are actually getting more policy for the money, including an added theft and vandalism policy.

TREASURER’S REPORT. Would like to present monthly financials so we can stay on top of our cash flow. Memberships - $30,000 income to date. Believes the virtual challenges helped with this. Rider fees/drug fees down due to few rides. $10,460 in revenue for the virtual challenges to date (not including income from memberships related to virtual challenges). Discussed expense from the virtual challenges. Hoof Print expense will change with the elimination of the print copy. Loss of $3,500 for 2020 which isn’t bad considering the disruptions due to COVID. We had budgeted a loss of $24,000, so we came out much better than expected.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Wingle. No bylaws changes.

Rule Proposal – Make date of determination of junior age consistent. More of a clarification on family memberships. No discussion.

Rule Proposal – Allow membership in multiple regions. Question about impact on President’s Cup. Dieterich wonders if we should clarify wording for PC regarding primary region membership and secondary. Diaguila said a possible clarification could be to state you must ride in two or more regions. It would eliminate the implied membership component. Walls stated you could add the word “domicile” in front of region to clarify “home” region. Agreed to table wording changes around regional clarification to 2022 if needed. Under awards section. No changes. Dieterich suggested we take time to review potential clarifications over the next year since we can’t change it now. Meroshnekoff stated it could be a rule clarification for the fall.

Walls moved to accept the amended wording (“inform the NATRC Executive Director of which region(s) s/he is” …), Wingle seconded. Motion carried.

Walls moved to change s/he to rider in Section 1 B 5. Diaguila seconded. Motion carried.

Rule Proposal – Correcting region definitions with the Canadian territories. Clarification, no discussion. No changes.

Rule Proposal – Clarify limitations for Novice Division. No discussion or changes.

Rule Proposal – Two proposal options for lowering the age of Junior competitors. Meroshnekoff discussed ages and the need for adult sponsor. Gray inquired what would be the appropriate age for requiring an adult sponsor? Meroshnekoff stated at this time there is no requirement in our sport that a junior have an adult sponsor. Gray said she thinks it would be good to have an age requirement for being supervised by an adult during the ride. Meroshnekoff personally believes any junior 12 and under must ride with an adult sponsor.

Walls moved to change wording to “must.” (Continued on page 29)
pointed out language should reflect “riders” 12 and under rather than “juniors” or you could have a 10-year-old sign up to ride Novice Lightweight, for example, and ride without a sponsor. Changing language to “rider” would eliminate that loophole. Diaguita moved to amend the wording to reflect riders 12 and under are required to have an adult sponsor on the trail. Wingle seconded. Motion carried.

Rule Proposal – Clarify leg protection allowed in DO and Leisure. No changes.

Rule Proposal – Allowing additional leg gear during stabling. Clarify that protective devices on the trail are only allowed in Distance Only and Leisure Division. Meroshnekkoff inquired if we should add a statement to Section 5. E. 6. to clarify that no prohibited substances are allowed in conjunction with the application of wraps or socks (see Drug Appendices). Gray moved to accept the amended wording (No prohibited substances are allowed in conjunction with the application of wraps or socks. See drug appendices.). Wingle seconded. Motion carried.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. In the Foundation, we proposed to elect directors in February as opposed to November. Bev Roberts has been working to clarify breed partner program. Wingle had a question about 15b. (Foundation) regarding annual Foundation board meetings held at the time of the annual NBOD meeting. Walls stated the annual meeting is already defined legally. Dieterich said the annual meeting is defined as the spring meeting. Walls moved to approve changes. Wingle seconded. Motion carried.

PROTEST. Lori Allen. No protests.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Swiss. No report. No changes to existing status of Planned and Charitable Giving.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. Conner came across the company that offered to scan all of our documents. It was going to cost about $600. Company would pick up the boxes, scan and return the boxes. Conner is requesting permission to go back to this company to follow up on the possibility of pursuing this again.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Conner. Rides have applied for sanction with reservation. Meroshnekkoff asked if managers need to do anything in particular regarding the rollover of sanction fees. Rinne stated most rides rolled over their fees, but managers just need to notify her of fee status. Very few requested reimbursements in 2020. Conner asked about adjustments to P & R protocol in order to accommodate COVID safety precautions; for example, have a P&R in camp to avoid transporting teams. It was agreed that making exceptions for safety is simply a good judgment call given the circumstances. Wingle stated there are 43 rides planned for 2021.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. No report.

MANAGEMENT. Swiss. Report filed, no discussion.

RULES INTERPRETER. Wingle. Report filed. It was suggested to merge the Rules Interpreter and Safety Chair Report into one role and one report. Agreed that it made sense to merge the two but have it listed as Rules Interpreter and Safety so that it is not overlooked.

INSURANCE. Rinne. Covered; merging with Executive Director’s report on future agendas.

SAFETY. Swiss. This will be merged with the Rules Interpreter report and duties.

E-NEWS. Kim Murphy. Report filed. Difficulties with RMS communication regarding rides and clinics still going to Jean Green instead of to Kim. Murphy requested that ride managers have reminders to let Kim know about ride info so an E-News can go out when rides open for registration.

MARKETING/Social Media. Gray/LeeAnn Dreadfulwater/Jonni Jewell. Report filed. Gray indicated that free marketing on Facebook has been a good option. Social media will be a part of marketing since it is virtually one in the same. Discussion about the plan to do a fundraiser with Custom Ink. Gray stated that is still the plan.

BUSINESS MODEL & MEASUREMENTS. Gray. Gray asked if this should be rolled into the Treasurer’s Report. Board agreed this is captured in the Treasurer’s report due to the structure of reporting that Gray has implemented.

SPONSORSHIPS. Shari Parys. No report. No changes.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich. Report filed. Need materials for Hoof Print. Members like to know what’s going on, and it keeps people engaged.

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Perryman. No update.

FOUNDATION. Conner. Foundation meeting will follow this national board meeting. Appears to be no changes to senior board members, but the national board does need to vote to reelect Mary Jo Malone to the Foundation board and also identify and vote to elect each senior member to the board. Walls moved to elect senior directors Angie Meroshnekkoff – R1, Bob Inkso – R2, Bill Wingle – R3, Elaine Swiss – R4, Esther Diaguita – R5, and Marla Stucky – R6 to the Foundation board. Dieterich seconded. Motion carried. Walls moved to reelect Mary Jo Malone as member at large. Dieterich seconded. Motion carried. Foundation board to meet following NBOD meeting.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. Report filed. More rides on the schedule for this year, so she is building the drug testing schedule as well. We will be able to use the new custom drug testing panel this year.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Dr. Tamara Gull. Report filed. Dieterich said there is still discussion in the committee about the use of maintenance dose Omeprazole. The question is if it is detectable between levels. Murphy asked if there is something else we can ask for. The Veterinary Drug Committee would need to determine what level is considered therapeutic versus maintenance level.
TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS.
DiNatale. No trail grant applications. Meroshnekoff has become a certified sawyer with BCHA. Meroshnekoff stated all of their trail work is unfunded.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. Report filed. The Riders Manual is done and online. Questions have come up about printing it. It was decided a long time ago that it would not be printed, however a region inquired about printing it on their own. The RM committee determined with it being a national publication that it shouldn’t be locally printed and charged for. Dieterich said it’s hard to regulate independent printing, Gray believes for printing purposes we need to manage it nationally for consistency in quality and expense. Meroshnekoff is comfortable with the board taking the position that it is national’s responsibility for printing and rights to printing. Gray said we shouldn’t tie up the capital on this right now.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION. Zeliff. We have an official active national membership committee with a representative from each region. Updated the national membership chair description, and now the committee is identifying goals and putting together a list of resources to share amongst regions.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Lory Walls. Report filed. We have a running discussion on the compression socks and leg wraps. Walls said they are working to put together an online training for judges. Walls needs a vote to allow virtual challenge judging to qualify as criteria for horsemanship judges ongoing education. Wingle moved to approve the renewal criteria. Murphy seconded. Motion carried. Walls brought up the need to pay attention to the minimum requirements for LeD judges.

HALL OF FAME. Rinne. No applicants.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS.
Kay Gunckel. Application submitted by Hannah Steele for a scholarship. Dieterich shared the application with the board. Although she’s not going into an animal science field, she’s an excellent candidate. Inkso said $1,000 per year is reasonable for non-animal science fields, $2,000 for animal science fields. Inkso moved to approve $1,000 for Hannah Steele. Wingle seconded. Motion carried.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASONS. Stucky. Report filed. Not much to report since we didn’t have awards for 2020. She will be in touch with our breed organizations about 2021.

AHA. Inkso. No update. Did not attend the virtual convention due to expense.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. Certificates were printed and mailed to recipients.

TECHNOLOGY. Andrea Rogers/Wingle. Report filed. How much do we want accessible about member and past data? How much do we want locked down? Appears to be confusion about what would be shared. Meroshnekoff asked what member info is actually visible that we wouldn’t want shared? Rinne stated what we currently share is similar to AERC and other organizations. No personal data is actually shared. General consensus that what is shared currently is not problematic, but making sure someone has to have a log-in to access certain information is reasonable. In Rogers report, issues with Novice limitations and Novice eligibility reporting has inconsistencies with the wording of the rules.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. 2022 convention is still planned for Omaha, NE February 25-27. Committee will be starting to meet again this month and work on plans.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1 - Meroshnekoff. Nothing set now, but five rides are proposed, with possibly two more. Everything is hinged on COVID restrictions. R2 - Inkso. No rides on schedule yet, but hoping to have at least one to two LeD with maybe one Type A ride. R3 - Wingle. Four rides on the schedule with dates. A few more rides in the works. A couple of LeD in preliminary planning. R4 - Murphy. Rolling ahead with rides and a regional convention. Convention at Marker Cellars. Eleven to 12 rides scheduled with two in Louisiana where we haven’t had rides for years.

R5 - Diaguila. NYR had to be canceled due to COVID and low rider-ship. The schedule is up in the air right now. Some rides could happen if they could find managers. R6 - Stucky. Twelve rides on the schedule. One will be a “border war” to encourage regional teams to compete and get more people involved. Two clinics planned in May and a booth planned for Equifest the first weekend in March. Working on national convention also. Five or six standard rides on the calendar with seven Leisure rides. Still several locations that are possible but need managers.

SHARED BOARD. No shared board.

Meroshnekoff said we need to discuss voting rights for members declaring membership in multiple regions. Inkso believes if a member is paying two full fees that they should get two full votes. Wingle thinks the fee should be reduced, and only one vote as it is now. Cover the cost of the additional regional membership plus a little extra administratively. Gray believes it will be extra work for national and also an extra expense for awards potentially. Meroshnekoff suggested they would still get their domicile region vote, but not a vote in each extra region. The additional regional memberships outside of domicile region could be identified as “competing non-voting memberships”. Wingle moved that for a member to be a member of an additional region, the charge will be 50% of their original competing membership. Walls seconded. Motion carried. Wingle moved that the additional regional competing memberships are non-voting at national and regional levels. Walls seconded. Motion carried.

Board discussed discontinuing in-person July and November meetings, and only meet in person for national convention. Meroshnekoff proposed Zoom meetings going forward.

Next full board meeting will be July 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Stucky moved to adjourn. Gray seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.
**Region 4**

### Jingle Bell Jaunt A

12/5-6/20 Region 4 TX Total Riders: 13  
Chair: Cara Liebman  
Judges: Vet - Carter Hounsel; Hsp - Gayle Muench, Gayle  

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<td>SW</td>
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<td>Jabari</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>DBA</td>
<td>Razmataz</td>
<td>Carla Jo Bass</td>
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### Open Heavyweight

1 / 3 SW / 96 CH GoneWithTheWynd / Jewell, Jonni  
2 / 1 SA Jabari / Muench, Gayle  
3 / 2 DBA Razmataz Bass, Carla Jo  

### Open Lightweight

1 / 3 Z / Mettes, Cynthia  
2 / 1 A Kaiser / Prusak, Deanne  
3 / 2 DBA Razmataz Bass, Carla Jo  

### Competitive Pleasure Lightweight

1 / 1 SW / 97 Halcon / Queen, Kelly  
2 / 2 Vaquero / Galliher, Teresa  
3 / 3 Big Cat / Leatherwood, Cynthia  

### Novice Heavyweight

1 / 1 SW / 94 Fancy I Am / Knight, Chrissy  
2 / 3 Mystical Daisy / Ropp, Manja  
3 / 4 Vandamere III / Brewster, Crystal  
4 / 2 Top Gun McCurdy / Dodson, Robin  

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### Jingle Bell Jaunt B1

12/6/20 Region 4 TX Total Riders: 11  
Chair: Cara Liebman  
Judge: LeD - Alice Perryman  

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<td>5</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Tribute to Liberty</td>
<td>Anita Waldrip</td>
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### Leisure Experienced

1 Shah Riyaa / Black, Tracy  
2 BA Minstrilstango / Whitaker, Cara  
3 Diamond / Grotheer, Wendy  
4 Double Dosa Espresso / Simon, Tammy  
5 Good Boy Scout / Mosley, Deb  

### Leisure Adult

1 Finn / Nelson, Mollie  
2 BA Minstrilstango / Whitaker, Cara  
3 Diamond / Grotheer, Wendy  
4 Double Dosa Espresso / Simon, Tammy  
5 Good Boy Scout / Mosley, Deb  

### Leisure Junior

1 Quartz / Whitaker, Natalie  
P RPR Hawk / Whitaker, Hanna  

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### Jingle Bell Jaunt B2

12/6/20 Region 4 TX Total Riders: 6  
Chair: Cara Liebman  
Judge: LeD - Alice Perryman  

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### Leisure Experienced

1 Shah Riyaa / Black, Tracy  
2 Painted in the Stars / Collins, Mary  

### Leisure Adult

1 Double Dosa Espresso / Simon, Tammy  
2 Diamond / Grotheer, Wendy  
3 Finn / Nelson, Mollie  

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“Riding this way is like playing a finely tuned instrument, at times delicate, at other times powerful... The true artist can play with equal dexterity a soft ballad or a crashing march.”  

—Sally Swift

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**Trail Tip - Ride Pacing**

Whether you do it the old-fashioned way or the 21st century way, you need to know your normal pace and learn what it feels like.
MEMBERSHIP FORM – Renew, Join or Buy Items online at www.natrc.org or use this form.
Memberships run January 1 - December 31. We offer a Platinum Upgrade to our adult and family plans, which adds personal excess liability coverage with a $1,000,000 policy limit.

Continued for 2021 - FIRST YEAR FREE FOR BRAND NEW COMPETING MEMBERS!

PLANS

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<td>Single child 10 through 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voting privileges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced ride entry fees</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer awards eligibility</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime mileage tracking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mileage awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in virtual challenges</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>National year-end awards eligibility</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional year-end awards eligibility</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor discounts</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can purchase excess liability ins.</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Hoof Print and E-News</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region membership and newsletter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decal for new members</td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive access to updated Rider’s Manual</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHECK PLAN DESIRED

- Adult(s) & children under age 18 as of Jan 1
- Eligible for ride awards only if non-member ride fee paid.
- *** May upgrade to competing member for year-end and mileage award eligibility before the end of the ride year.

NATRC Specialties (Optional)

- Patch................................................................. $5 ea
- 10” Round NATRC Emblem Sticker ........................... $5 ea
- 4” Round NATRC Emblem Sticker - free to new members $3 ea
- Electronic Hoof Print and E-News
- Region membership and newsletter
- Decal for new members
- Exclusive access to updated Rider’s Manual

$ TOTAL ENCLOSED __________ (Nebraska residents please add 5.5% on Specialty Items)

Please list first and last names, especially those with different last names, of all competing family members.

Name(s)____________________________________________________________Jr(s) Birthdates_____________________________________________________
Street____________________________________________________________City______________________________________________________________
State, Zip__________________________________________________________Phone (_______)
Email_______________________________________________________________(We need your email for delivery of HOOF PRINT. Address stays within NATRC. Thanks! )

New member? Please share how you found out about NATRC:

****** Mail completed form and check to : NATRC, PO Box 969, Beatrice, NE 68310 ******
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- Competition proven over thousands of long distance and multi-day miles
- Patented, no-rub, pivoting heel captivator design
- Simplified sizing system
- Made in USA

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Lander Industries, Kingman, AZ 888-817-4794

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FREE Return Shipping for a Year.

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We Give 5%
Your Purchases Support NATRC

Members, log in to NATRC.org for current coupon code. A few restrictions apply to these offers. See website for details.

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