



TheVoice of NATRC Region One Competitive Trail Riding

The Leadline

Direct Rein

A method of using the rein in which the rider communicates directly to the horse via his mouth

*Angie Meroshnekoff
Region One Chair*

Here we are again, the ride season over and winter setting in. And since there haven't been too many rainy days to force us inside to clean and repair tack, hopefully we've all been taking advantage of the nicer weather and riding?

As you can see elsewhere in this issue, the National Board has been hard at work trying to streamline the rule book and make our sport more welcoming. I believe we as members need to go further. Our future is in attracting new members and riders. We love our sport and we need to let everyone know that. I know many riders already do this, taking potential new competitors under their wing for mentoring and offering others rides to the trail heads, etc. We need to keep this up if we are going to grow again.

Our future is also in the Junior riders. I recently ran into a former Junior rider at a small horse function and after excited hugging etc., she turned to the friends she was with and told them that most of the important things she had learned about life, she learned in NATRC! She said she learned to care for another (her horse), to care about others (her fellow competitors), to share and still be

herself, and that she could depend on herself and still accept help from others. And of course she mentioned with a chuckle that she also learned to read a map and do math! I was impressed; I hadn't thought of NATRC as having that much impact on someone's life. With that in mind, tell your friends what a life affirming experience this is.

And speaking of Juniors, I made a mistake in the last issue regarding the Junior Rebate Program. Junior riders who are current members of NATRC Region One, and who have started at least two rides this season, can apply for a rebate of \$30 for each of those rides up to a total of \$90 (three rides). The deadline is January 15, so make your request to Phil Young, R1 Treasurer, 674 LaPorte Rd., Quincy, CA, 95971; 530/283-3221; pbyoung@sunset.net.

We have two Board of Directors seats coming open this year, so if you've ever wanted to give a stab at working from the inside of our organization, now is your chance. Send your resume to Robyn Berwick at boonedoggle@att.net or 10394 Ponderosa Way, Mountain Ranch, CA, 95246.

See you all at the Mini Convention in Woodland March 15th.

—Angie

Autumn 2007

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Region One
North American Trail Ride
Conference
www.natrc.org



REGION ONE RIDE RESULTS

GEORGETOWN

6/23/07; B-O/N/CP Total Riders: 41

Chairman: Helen Steenman

Judges: Greg Fellers DVM, Jim Ferris

Open Sweepstakes: Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie-100

Novice Sweepstakes: Cimmaron AL/Coe, Deborah-100

Open Heavyweight

- 1/2 Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene
- 2/3 Porter BL/Schroeder, Eric
- 3/1 Shine/Wolf, Sage
- DO LB Shahs Premier/Paige, Richard

Open Lightweight

- 1/1 Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie
- 2/2 Iman BL/Jones, Cristine
- 3/3 Cobay/Wolf, Jeanine
- DO Hallany Flame/Pass, Jill

Open Junior

- 1/1 Shayla/Grasso, Ben
- 2/2 Kaylee/Armstrong, Olivia

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/6 DMs Mingo/Beauchemin, Danielle
- 2/ Rowdy/Crowe, Chris
- 3/4 Bailey/Pimentel, Joe
- 4/3 Applejack/Mullens, Damara
- 5/1 Stealth/Boicelli, Victoria
- 6/ Tori/Markus, Chris
- /2 Browni Phoenix/Robledo, Debra
- /5 TuraLura/Cannon, Linda Molly/Fortine, Joseph

Novice Lightweight

- 1/2 Cimmaron AL/Coe, Deborah

- 2/4 Maique/Lee, Janet
- 3/1 Kamiko/Lieberknecht, Kay
- 4/5 Deux Chausettes/Jones, Mary T.
- 5/3 The Terminacre/Tavare, Alice
- 6/ Gus/Markus, Kelsey
- /6 Royal Prancer/Pimentel, Michelle
- BMM Nike Heir/Berkey, Janet
- Johnny Barpasser/Chabot, Kathleen
- DO Jake/Berkley, Laura
- P West Coast Zephyr/Zahner, Shanna

Novice Junior

- 1/3 Digger/Crowe, Kirsten
- 2/2 IBN El Barak/Berkley, Claire
- 3/1 Chi/Malatesta, Savannah
- 4/4 Cayenne/Thurman, Ariel

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/6 Ala Cowboy/Armer, Jean
- 2/1 Symplicity Sue/Bacon, Nancy
- 3/2 Dundee's Playboy Bunny/Berwick, Robyn
- 4/5 Morgaine de Faye/James-Ryan, Stacy
- 5/4 Canadian Diamonte/Davissou, Cassandra
- 6/3 Rafaelmo Bay/Skoog, Kris
- P Marilyn/Flagg, Susan

SWANTON A

7/14-15/07; A-O/CP Total Riders: 34

Chairman: Emma McCrary

Judges: Robert Young DVM, Nancy Kasovich

Open Sweepstakes: WR Mobariks samara/Hutnick, Lynne-97

Open Heavyweight

- 1/2 Abdul Latif BL/Rader, Jennifer
- 2/5 Monarch Pass/Paige, Richard

- 3/1 Carioca MDF/Brezina, Sue
- 4/3 Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene
- 5/4 Pride's Clever Fox/Barnes, Jane
- 6/6 KC Shakti/Courtney, Amber
- DO Red Hot Rosa/Horn, Lauren Lynn
- P Shine/Wolf, Sage
- P Indiana Red River/Zeleny, Joan

Open Lightweight

- 1/1 WR Mobarikssamara/Hutnick, Lynne
- 2/3 Billy the Sid/Arnold, Mary-Ellis Ford
- 3/4 Fiora Elation BL/Frey, Ute
- 4/2 Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie
- 5/5 Porter/Soerensen, Helga
- DO Zeal/Kramlich Bowie, Christina
- DO-1 GT Orion/Etheridge, Judy
- P Sizzling Sage/Staub, Stephen
- P Scarlet Wind Song/Boscoe, Debbie

Open Junior

- 1/1 Shayla/Grasso, Ben
- 2/2 Kaylee/Armstrong, Olivia

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/3 Morgaine de Faye/James-Ryan, Stacy
- 2/ Ibn Eclipse/Anderson, Patricia
- 3/2 WW Steeleaseyn/Dillard, Joe
- 4/1 Symplicity Sue/Bacon, Nancy
- 5/4 Dundee's Playboy Bunny/Berwick, Robyn
- 6/5 Majnu/Dillard, Ashley
- /6 Hershey's Hustler/Rockwell, Shayna
- The Sundance Kid HGR/Hakanson, Lili
- Flame/Mabee, Sylvia
- Rafelmo Bey/Skoog, Kris

DO Kemos Painted Wildfire/
Joyce, Donna
P Ala Cowboy/Armer, Jean
P Dia H Shena/Helberg,
Michelle Lynn
P The Balius Emerald/
Sparks, Christine Ann

SWANTON B

7/14/07; B-N Total Riders: 35

Chairman: Emma McCrary

Judges: Leroy Burnham DVM,
Jim Ferris

Novice Sweepstakes: The Termin-
acre/Tavare, Alice-98

Novice Heavyweight

1/2 Shadow/Brooks, George
2/ Ditto/Fortine, Joseph
3/3 Smoky/Berlitz, Barbara
4/6 Rowdy/Crowe, Chris
5/5 Turalura/Cannon, Linda
6/H Canadian Diamonte/
Davisson, Cassandra Joann
/4 Chief/Brown, Glen
/1 Zain Zarah/Worthen,
Ursula
Bailey/Pimentel, Joe
CO Stealth Knight/Boicelli,
Victoria A
CO Apple Jack/Mullens,
Damara
P Honey Won/Dockter,
Susan Marie
P Merlin 2/Mikesell, Martha
P Prophet's Echo/Simmons,
Barbara

Novice Lightweight

1/1 The Terminacre/Tavare,
Alice
2/6 Gentry/Fritz, Lisa
3/2 Martina BL/Smith, Jenni
4/ Bella Wind Song/Sanders,
Carole
5/ Renno/Ballard, Tanya
6/3 Kassian/Fritz, Denise
/4 Rufus BL/Kirsch,
Madeleine
/5 Buzzard/Samet, Austen

H/H Zoe BL/Hoffman, Rose
Marie
CO Deux Chausette/Jones,
Mary
P Rawhide's Pandar/Van
Steenwyk, Nikkii
P Avalonn/Berkley, Laura
P Kharinaa/Emsley, Laurel
Ann
P Frontier's Royal Queen/
Humphrey, Laney
P Royal Prancer/Pimentel,
Michelle

Novice Junior

1/3 DM's Mingo/Johnson,
Summer Cay
2/4 Chi/Isgrigg, Kaysha
3/2 Kamiko/McBride, Marissa
4/1 Digger/Crowe, Kirsten
P Ditto/Thurman, Ariel
P Ibn El Barak/Berkley, Claire

**CHALLENGE OF
THE NORTH A**

7/28-29/07; A-O/CP Total Riders: 18

Chairman: Lezlie Wilfer/Laurie
Knuutila

Judges: Joe Quintana DVM, Jim
Ferris

Open Sweepstakes: Jasmine's
Magic/ Rosamund Nieman, Colleen

Open Heavyweight

1/1 Jasmine's Magic/Nieman,
Colleen Rosamund
2/2 Wildwood Royal Twist/
Dent, Susan M
3/3 Rams Arctic Poppy/Hogan,
Brenda
P Beaumont Star/Bechtold,
Brittney
P Added Spice/May, Beverly

Open Lightweight

1/1 Indy's Midnight Sun/
Hammond, Darcy H
2/2 Take a Trip (Tahna)/Sears,
Rachel
3/3 ShaMara/Forrester, Donna

P Hillcrest Ashera/Sorensen,
Carrie
P Nova/Hendricks, Jessica

Competitive Pleasure

1/3 Beam's Magic Jagger/
LaValley, Macy
2/1 Isa Perfect Dream/
Hoffman, Angela Joy
3/5 Teabiscuit/Sears, Shelby
4/2 Dry Sark/Allen, Kaitlyn
Elizabeth
5/ Madeline/LaValley,
Whitney
6/4 Wunz In ABlueMoon/
Sears, Hannah
/6 Hoss/Kisken, Anna
Star of Excellence/Halley,
Catherine Mary

**CHALLENGE OF
THE NORTH B**

7/28/07 Region 1A-AK

B-N Total Riders: 16

Chairman: Lezlie Wilfer/Laurie
Knuutila

Judges: Joe Quintana DVM, Jim
Ferris

Novice Sweepstakes: GG Dasani/
Johnson, Kaylene-94

Novice Heavyweight

1/2 GG Dasani/Johnson,
Kaylene
2/1 Mountain Dew/Booyer,
Valorie A
3/ SikSika "Seek"/Mitchell,
Mary
4/3 CR Splash of Magic/
Hamlin, Ginger
5/ Bandit/Walrath, Bobbi
Marie
6/ Dreamin/Stickley, Frances
Marie
/4 Moonglow Rose/Wylde,
Allison
/5 Ricko/Walrath, Jason Lee

Ride Results continued on page 4

- 1/6 "Ginger" October Impulse/ Elsberry, Dorothy Lynn
- DO Elijah Perfect Storm/Miller, Kristina
- 3/3 Dundee's Playboy Bunny/ Berwick, Robyn
- 5/5 Rafaelmo Bey/Skoog, Kris
- 6/6 Tori/Willis, Karen
- P Ala Cowboy/Armer, Jean

Novice Lightweight

- 1/2 Jack Danial/Moore, Debra
- 2/1 Heirloum/Stanley, Barbara Jo
- DO Austy Spumonty (Austin)/ Dowding, Sarah Anne
- P Er Bey Ariel/Dowding, Marilyn Denise

Novice Junior

- 1/1 Zoe/Reisterer, Lena
- 2/2 Catlin/Randolph, Chrystal Aumalou

JACKSON FOREST A

8/25-26/07 Region One-CA
 A-O/CP Total Riders: 13
Chairman: Steve Meroshnekoff
Judges: Carol Meschter DVM, Bev Barmettler
Open Sweepstakes: Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie-87

Open Heavyweight

- 1/1 Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene

Open Lightweight

- 1/1 Desert Reinbeau/ Meroshnekoff, Angie
- 2/2 WR Mobarikssamara/ Hutnick, Lynne
- 3/3 Andarko/Walls, Lory

Open Junior

- 1/1 Shayla/Grasso, Ben
- 2/2 Kaylee/Armstrong, Olivia

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/4 Morgain de Faye/James-Ryan, Stacy
- 2/1 Symplicity Sue/Bacon, Nancy
- 3/2 MJ Abiad Amir/Ferris, James

JACKSON FOREST B

8/25/07 Region One-CA
 B-N Total Riders: 15
Chairman: Steve Meroshnekoff
Judges: Mike Witt DVM, Nancy Kasovich
Novice Sweepstakes: Kamiko/ Leiberknecht, Kay-98

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/4 Rowdy/Crowe, Chris
- 2/3 Stealth Knight/Boicelli, Victoria
- 3/1 Tura Lura/Cannon, Linda
- 4/2 Ditto/Fortine, Joseph

Novice Lightweight

- 1/4 Kamiko/Leiberknecht, Kay
- 2/5 Royal Prancer/Pimentel, Michele
- 3/1 Cimaron AL/Coe, Deborah
- 4/6 The Terminacre/Tavare, Alice
- 5/3 Deux Chausettes/Jones, Mary
- 6/2 T.A. Mira-Image/Swain, Stephanie

Novice Junior

- 1/1 Silver/Hunter, Josie
- 2/3 Chi/Thurman, Ariel
- 3/4 Desert Wind/Larose, Danielle
- 4/2 Molly/LaRose, Drina
- 5/5 Piper/Attaway, Georgia

ALMADEN VALLEY

9/29/07 Region One-CA
 B-O/N/CP Total Riders: 40
Chairman: Judy Etheridge
Judges: Carol Ormond DVM & Jill Pass-O/CP, Carol Meschter DVM & Jim Jeffers-N

Open Sweepstakes: Andarko/Walls, Lory-100

Novice Sweepstakes: Thee Cisco Kid/Robles, Karen-99

Open Heavyweight

- 1/1 Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene
- 2/2 Abdul Latif BL/Rader, Jennifer

Open Lightweight

- 1/3 Andarko/Walls, Lory
- 2/1 Desert Reinbeau/ Meroshnekoff, Angie
- 3/4 Cassanova/Stillman, Susan
- 4/2 WR Mobarikssamara/ Hutnick, Lynne

Open Junior

- 1/1 Kaylee/Armstrong, Olivia
- 2/2 Shayla/Grasso, Ben

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/4 Stealth Knight/Boicelli, Victoria A
- 2/2 Apple Jack/Mullens, Damara
- 3/3 Ditto/Fortine, Joseph
- 4/1 Zain Zarah/Worthen, Ursula

Novice Lightweight

- 1/3 Thee Cisco Kid/Robles, Karen
- 2/4 Deux Chausette/Jones, Mary
- 3/1 Cimarron Al/Coe, Deborah Eileen
- 4/ Renno/Ballard, Tanya
- 5/2 The Terminacre/Tavare, Alice
- 6/ Martina BL/Gillette, Michelle

- /5 TA Mira-Image/Swain,
Stephanie Claire
- /6 Amaras's A'Rone/Tucker,
Carolyn
Silver/Lieberknecht, Kay
Bella Wind Song/
Sanders, Carole
Hooker/Shanley, Calli
Buzzard/Stewart, Jami

Novice Junior

- 1/2 DM's Mingo/Johnson,
Summer Cay
- 2/1 GLF All Keyed Up/
Fisher, Hope
- 3/6 Chi/Isgrigg, Kaysha
- 4/5 Jamal AL/Mullin, Briga
- 5/ Kamiko/Thurman, Ariel
- 6/3 Desert Wind/LaRose,
Danielle
- /4 Molly/LaRose, Drina
Piper/Crowe, Dylan

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/3 Majnu/Dillard, Ashley
- 2/2 WW Steeleaseyn/Dillard,
Joe
- 3/1 Symplicity Sue/Bacon,
Nancy
- 4/4 Dundee's Playboy
Bunny/Berwick, Robyn
- 5 MJ Abiad Amir/Ferris,
Jim
- 6/5 Rafaelmo Bey/Skoog,
Kris
- /6 Morgaine de Faye/James-
Ryan, Stacy
Solid Gold's Strider/
Bollinger, Brynn

August 11, 2007

Dear Leadline,

I was inspired at a recent ride by a woman who'd had hip surgery within several months; she definitely used the terrain (a picnic table) to mount, and her horse was way steady. I've also been inspired by the horsemanship judges who have allowed someone to trot out a competitor's horse when the human had gone lame; the lame rider was judged on their critique of the runner's horsemanship.

It's wonderful that people with some disabling conditions can have a chance at the ribbons in NATRC. I'm hoping that my horse Blue who is totally blind will receive a chance too. I hear that five points will be deducted from his soundness score for each blind eye. I can live with that, as can my friend who will be riding him, but I want to suggest taking points off for function, not simply for the condition.

I mean, no one looked at that woman and took points off because they figured she couldn't ride so well with her hip problem; they waited till perhaps she would occupy an inordinate amount of time building up the terrain so she could mount, or had to have the vet's secretary trot her horse out, or whatever.

So if a blind horse like Blue stumbles a lot, or runs into stuff, or can't do an obstacle, mark those points off. Take points off my friend's horsemanship if she can't keep Blue's nose off my horse's rump.

Three cheers for differently-abled people and animals!

Sincerely,
Kay Lieberknecht, RN

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- Steve Meroshnekoff (707) 743-9973
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See *Hoof Print* for National Board,
Committees, and Secretaries

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www.NATRC.org

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jcferris@sbcglobal.net

July 23, 2007

Dear NATRC Friends,

Although I think my daughter Sage responded well to the near-tragedy created by my horse Cayenne when he was pulled from the Swanton Ride, I want to apologize too, and to share my thoughts about him. I am just appalled that he became aggressive against people, my friends, in his brain-free need to stay with his herd. Thank-you each and thank God that no one was seriously hurt. Thank-you, Ariel, that you chose safety and pulled. Thank-you, Sage, that you pulled from the ride to let Cayenne have a herd member with him at the trailer.

In my daily life I work with severely emotionally disturbed kids, and horses are great healers for them. Amazingly, Cayenne has been wonderful in my program, in spite of my having long ago diagnosed him with reactive attachment disorder and panic attacks. Things always are controlled to go his way when the kids are with him, and either I or my apprentice Jami is always paying close attention.

Cayenne has good reason to be severely emotionally disturbed. He was born in captivity to a Mustang mare who had only been adopted several days earlier and who was only two years old. He got no colostrum and therefore got sick, and was held on his owner's lap for his first three days of life, to keep his intravenous source of life intact. An extreme form of imprinting, this is not a normal start on life. Cayenne became forever convinced that neither he nor humans have any boundaries.

When he was three, a family bought him and I helped them train him. He was so desperate to join his herd who were twenty feet away that he would not respect the whip or stud chain. So I bit him on the front of his neck. He reared up, breaking my five-tooth upper bridge out. I got \$18 for the training session, spent \$2000 for the bridge. But since then he respected

Kay, the Boss Hoss.

To keep his respect, I would lead him through log- and boulder-strewn creek beds and on steep hills before mounting him. He loved it. He convinced me early on that he wanted to do the most unusual and athletic things that other horses feared to do. And boy, if his rider doesn't ask him for his athleticism, he gives it against their will!

He has not been safe in the five other homes I've found for him. I have given him away three times, and twice the people who got him at age three sold him to me. With his problems, he's the kind of horse who's likely to get beaten and neglected. I made a promise to him four years ago when I last took him back. I told him, and I know he understood and remembers, that he could stay with me unless he behaved dangerously.

Well, he did, at Swanton. That's it. Lucky for me and him, Jami (my apprentice) absolutely adores him, has his love and respect, and will be taking him elsewhere from now on. I hope she can find a place where there are no other horses for a mile. He has bonded with her, but he needs to know she's his safety, his best friend.

I love Cayenne. Jami was riding him at an endurance ride, and in trying to mount Kami I almost went head first over the off side. Cayenne gently placed his head under mine, supporting me till I got my old leg over. Once I got my balance, I asked, "Was that Cayenne who held my head?" He nodded his head! He does answer complex questions with nodding or wagging his head, totally accurately. He comes into my house, eating all the apricots and plums left on the table by a friend, spitting the seeds in one neat pile.

I have lots of other stories, evidence of Cayenne's adorableness, of his attempts to be good, of my faith in him, of Jami's acceptance and love for him. I wish I'd been able to be at Swanton. I believe he would have behaved well had I been there, because I set things

up to go his way. But it was good I stayed with my sick friend. It was good that Sage came through, that Cayenne's rider Ariel showed good judgment and wasn't hurt. I'm so proud and grateful to them and to all of you who handled the situation. Thank-you, and see you on the trail!

Kay Lieberknecht
P. O. Box 914
Ukiah, CA 95482
(707) 621-3662

"Just a Horse"

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a horse." Or, "that's a lot of money for just a horse." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a horse." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a horse." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a horse," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a horse," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a horse" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day. If you, too, think it's "just a horse," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a horse" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a horse" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a horse" I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a horse" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a horse" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a horse" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman" or "just a man." So the next time you hear the phrase "just a horse," just smile, because they "just" don't understand. — *Author unknown*



CP and Open TRIALS for 2008

In response to a request from the R1 Board of Directors, the National Board of Directors gave approval for Region 1 to do a trial using weight classes for regional awards for CP for 2008. This would mean if you ride CP, you would weigh in as a heavyweight (rider and tack 190 pounds or more) or lightweight (100-189 pounds) or junior (age 10-17) as defined in the 2008 Rule Book for Open and Novice Divisions. Region 1 Ride awards and Region 1's own Year-End awards will be based on these new CP classes. **Ride results reported to National will be as they currently are (no weight classes).** Those placings will be used for all National CP awards, including their Region 1 Team awards.

Likewise, in response to a request from the R2 Board of Directors, the National Board of Directors gave approval for Region 2 to do a trial eliminating weight classes in the Open Division. If you ride in Region 2 as an Open rider in 2008 and there are fewer than six Open adult riders, you will be in a Senior class instead of weight classes FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE RIDE PLACINGS AND R2 AWARDS. The placings will be reported to National as heavyweight, lightweight, and junior for the purposes of National awards.

Any input would be greatly appreciated. Please send to Lory Walls and/or Jamie Dieterich. It will be exciting to see how these trials work out!

WANTED:

Kind, safe, "bombproof" older gelding. Quiet and easy to ride, experienced on trail—goes through water, good in mountains, including experience over granite. Ties, clips, trailers, some arena work training, prefer working in snaffle bit, caretaker for inexperienced rider, under supervision of longtime horse person. Good feet and back. OK in stall/paddock situation, with turnout. Prefer Quarter type, or Arab or Morgan cross. 15-16 HH tall, 12-18 years. Will be in excellent "forever" home!

Murphys, CA (209) 728-9492, eskoji@goldrush.com

Proposed Amendment to the Region One Bylaws

ARTICLE X, Section 3. of the Region 1 Bylaws currently reads as follows:

Section 3. Standing Committees. The Chairperson of the Board, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a committee Chairperson for the following standing committees. Job descriptions may be found in the NATRC Region 1 Board of Directors' Handbook.

- (a) Annual Convention/Annual Meeting
- (b) Physical Resource Coordinator
- (c) Historian
- (d) Wonder Workers
- (e) Points/Membership
- (f) Publicity
- (g) Veterinary Judge Recruitment
- (h) Benefit Ride
- (i) Buddy System
- (j) The Leadline
- (k) Ride/Clinic Coordinator
- (l) Judging Issues
- (m) Bylaws

Change to read as follows:

Section 3. Standing Committees. The Chairperson of the Board, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a committee Chairperson for each standing committee. A list of those committees and their detailed job descriptions may be found in the NATRC Region 1 Board of Directors' Handbook.

Background:

Over time the need to add or delete committees arises. Sometimes the purpose or focus of a committee changes and it needs to be renamed in order to reflect those changes. With the list of committees specified in the bylaws, a General Membership ballot and a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors (R1 BOD) is required to effect a change.

The R1 BOD currently has a Handbook that lists all of the committees and their job descriptions (and is already mentioned in the Bylaws). The Handbook can be easily modified by majority vote of the Board as circumstances warrant. The R1 BOD would like to modify the Bylaws to make it easier to make committee changes as needs arise.

Per Robert's Rules of Order, committees that have the power to act alone

without input from the BOD must be listed in the Bylaws. All of the R1 committees require input from the BOD for their actions and, therefore, do not need to be specifically named in the Bylaws. The R1 BOD recommends that the General Membership approve the above Bylaws change in order to make modifying committees a normal procedure rather than a bylaws change.

The ballot for the change will be included as part of the R1 Board of Directors election ballot at the 2008 Region 1 Mini-Convention in Woodland. Anyone who will not be at the Mini-Convention can get an absentee ballot from the Region 1 Secretary. If anyone has questions about this change, please contact one of the Region 1 BOD members for information.

THE LEADLINE is the official publication of Region One of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). **The Leadline** is published quarterly and mailed to all NATRC Region One members. It is available by subscription to non-Region One members at \$8 per year. Issues contain updated information from Region One committees, ride results, point standings, minutes of board meetings, and the current Region One ride schedule. Send subscription requests and payments to **Jill Owens, Editor, 21999 Del Puerto Canyon Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Email: jillowens@gmail.com**

Contributions are welcome. NATRC Region One and **The Leadline** do not necessarily endorse or support the opinions expressed in printed articles or advertisements. The editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary. No letters to the editor will be printed if not signed. NATRC and the staff of **The Leadline** are not responsible for errors in spelling of horses' or riders' names.

Advertising rates per issue: Full page—\$40; half-page—\$20; quarter page—\$10; business card—\$5.

Classified ads free to R1 members in good standing, one per issue, up to 30 words. Ads may be emailed, or hard copies mailed to the editor can be scanned as submitted. Send ads to **Editor** and make checks payable to **NATRC Region One**.

Region One Year-End Point Standings, Preliminary

Competitive Pleasure—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Symplicity Sue | Arab | Bacon, Nancy | 68 | 200 | |
| 2 | Morgaine De Faye | Arab | James-Ryan, Stacy | 57 | 200 | |
| 3 | Dundeas Playboy Bunny | M-FX | Berwick, Robyn | 43 | 200 | |
| 4 | WW Steeleaseyn | ARAB | Dillard, Joe | 32 | 100 | |
| 5 | Majnu | Arab | Dillard, Ashley | 26 | 140 | * |
| 6 | Rafelmo Bey | Arab | Skoog, Kris | 20 | 140 | * |
| 7 | Ala Cowboy | Arab | Armer, Jean | 19 | 100 | * |
| 8 | IBN Eclipse | Arab | Anderson, Patricia Lee | 18 | 80 | |
| 8 | MJ Abiad Amir | ARAB | Ferris, Jim | 18 | 80 | |
| 9 | Cassanova | Grad | Stillman, Susan | 16 | 60 | |
| 10 | Autumnstar | Arab | Simas, Danine | 5 | 40 | |
| 11 | Lisette | Arab | Murphy, Debbie | 4 | 40 | |

Competitive Pleasure—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|------------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Bacon, Nancy | 74 | 200 |
| 2 | Berwick, Robyn | 56 | 200 |
| 3 | James-Ryan, Stacy | 46 | 200 |
| 4 | Dillard, Joe | 38 | 140 |
| 5 | Dillard, Ashley | 24 | 140 |
| 5 | Skoog, Kris | 24 | 140 |
| 6 | Ferris, Jim | 22 | 80 |
| 7 | Dockter, Susan | 16 | 40 |
| 8 | Stillman, Susan | 14 | 60 |
| 9 | Anderson, Patricia Lee | 12 | 80 |
| 10 | Armer, Jean | 10 | 100 |
| 11 | Murphy, Debbie | 5 | 40 |

Novice Heavyweight—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Stealth Knight | H-AR | Boicelli, Vicki | 29 | 140 | * |
| 2 | Tura Lura | Othr | Cannon, Linda | 27 | 120 | |
| 3 | Bailey | Quar | Pimentel, Joe | 19 | 100 | |
| 4 | Rowdy | Morg | Crowe, Chris | 18 | 60 | * |
| 5 | DM's Mingo | M-FX | Beauchemin, Danielle | 16 | 40 | |
| 6 | GLFall Keyed Up | H-AR | Upton, Robert | 8 | 40 | |
| 7 | Brownie Phoenix | Grad | Robledo, Debra | 6 | 40 | * |
| 8 | Zain Zarah | Arab | Worthen, Ursula | 5 | 40 | * |

Novice Heavyweight—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|----------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Boicelli, Vicki | 30 | 140 |
| 1 | Cannon, Linda | 30 | 120 |
| 2 | Pimentel, Joe | 22 | 100 |
| 3 | Upton, Robert | 14 | 40 |
| 3 | Worthen, Ursula | 14 | 40 |
| 4 | Robledo, Debra | 11 | 40 |
| 5 | Beauchemin, Danielle | 8 | 40 |
| 5 | Crowe, Chris | 8 | 60 |

Novice Junior—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|--------------|-------|------------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Chi | Must | Isgrigg, Kaysha | 27 | 100 | |
| 1 | DM's Mingo | M-FX | Johnson, Summer | 27 | 80 | |
| 2 | Ibn El Barak | Arab | Berkley, Claire | 14 | 40 | |
| 3 | Cayenne | Must | Thurman, Ariel | 11 | 60 | |
| 3 | Digger | Othr | Crowe, Kirsten | 11 | 40 | * |
| 3 | Piper | Must | Crowe, Dylan | 11 | 40 | |
| 4 | Kami Ko | Grad | McBride, Marissa | 10 | 40 | |

Novice Junior—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Johnson, Summer | 24 | 80 |
| 2 | Isgrigg, Kaysha | 15 | 80 |
| 2 | Thurman, Ariel | 15 | 80 |
| 3 | Hunter, Josie | 14 | 40 |
| 4 | Crowe, Kirsten | 12 | 40 |
| 5 | McBride, Marissa | 11 | 40 |
| 6 | Berkley, Claire | 8 | 40 |

Novice Lightweight—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|----------------|-------|--------------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | The Terminacre | Quar | Tavare, Alice | 36 | 120 | * |
| 2 | Deux Chausette | Arab | Jones, Mary | 31 | 140 | |
| 3 | Kami Ko | Grad | Lieberknecht, Kay | 26 | 80 | |
| 4 | Cimarron AL | Arab | Coe, Deborah | 24 | 80 | |
| 5 | Royal Prancer | Pfin | Pimentel, Michelle | 18 | 100 | |
| 6 | Maique | Arab | Lee, Janet | 11 | 60 | |
| 7 | BMM Nike Heir | Morg | Berkey, Janet | 8 | 60 | |
| 7 | Cobay | Arab | Wolf, Jeanine | 8 | 40 | * |
| 8 | Martina BL | Arab | Gillette, Michele | 7 | 40 | * |
| 9 | TA Mira-Image | Arab | Swain, Stephanie | 5 | 40 | |
| 10 | Charlie | M-FX | Abelson, Donna | 4 | 40 | * |

Novice Lightweight—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|--------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Jones, Mary | 31 | 120 |
| 2 | Coe, Deborah | 30 | 80 |
| 2 | Tavare, Alice | 30 | 120 |
| 3 | Lieberknecht, Kay | 27 | 100 |
| 4 | Pimentel, Michelle | 24 | 100 |
| 5 | Swain, Stephanie | 11 | 40 |
| 6 | Lee, Janet | 9 | 60 |
| 7 | Jones, Christine | 8 | 40 |
| 8 | Abelson, Donna | 5 | 40 |
| 9 | Berkey, Janet | 4 | 40 |
| 9 | Wolf, Jeanine | 4 | 40 |

Open Heavyweight—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|----------------|-------|-----------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Phantom Dusk | Othr | Boicelli, Gene | 39 | 270 | * |
| 2 | Abdul Latif BL | Arab | Rader, Jennifer | 19 | 90 | |
| 3 | Porter BL | Arab | Schroeder, Eric | 7 | 60 | * |

Open Heavyweight—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Boicelli, Gene | 40 | 270 |
| 2 | Rader, Jennifer | 17 | 90 |
| 3 | Schroeder, Eric | 7 | 60 |

Open Junior—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|--------|-------|-----------------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Shayla | H-AR | Grasso-Underwood, Ben | 38 | 300 | * |
| 2 | Kaylee | H-AR | Armstrong, Olivia | 34 | 300 | * |

Open Junior—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Grasso-Underwood, Ben | 39 | 300 |
| 2 | Armstrong, Olivia | 31 | 300 |

Open Lightweight—Horse

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts | Miles | 1 |
|----|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-----|-------|---|
| 1 | Desert Reinbeau | Must | Meroshnekoff, Angela | 56 | 300 | |
| 2 | WR Mobarikssamara | Arab | Hutnick, Lynne | 29 | 150 | * |

Open Lightweight—Rider

| Pl | Rider | Pts | Miles |
|----|----------------------|-----|-------|
| 1 | Meroshnekoff, Angela | 53 | 300 |
| 2 | Hutnick, Lynne | 29 | 150 |

Competitive Pleasure—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|----------------------|-------|-------------------|-----|
| 1 | Symplicity Sue | Arab | Bacon, Nancy | 142 |
| 2 | Morgaine De Faye | Arab | James-Ryan, Stacy | 103 |
| 3 | Dundees Playboy Buny | Grad | Berwick, Robyn | 99 |
| 4 | Rafelmo Bey | Arab | Skoog, Kris | 44 |
| 5 | Majnu | Arab | Dillard, Ashley | 42 |
| 6 | MJ Abiad Amir | ARAB | Ferris, Jim | 40 |
| 7 | Ala Cowboy | Arab | Armer, Jean | 29 |

Novice Heavyweight—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|----------------|-------|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | Stealth Knight | H-AR | Boicelli, Vicki | 59 |
| 2 | Tura Lura | Othr | Cannon, Linda | 57 |
| 3 | Bailey | Quar | Pimentel, Joe | 41 |
| 4 | Rowdy | Morg | Crowe, Chris | 26 |

Novice Junior—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|------------|-------|-----------------|-----|
| 1 | DM's Mingo | M-FX | Johnson, Summer | 51 |
| 2 | Chi | Must | Isgrigg, Kaysha | 29 |

Novice Lightweight—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|----------------|-------|--------------------|-----|
| 1 | The Terminacre | Quar | Tavare, Alice | 66 |
| 2 | Deux Chausette | Arab | Jones, Mary | 62 |
| 3 | Cimarron AL | Arab | Coe, Deborah | 54 |
| 4 | Kami Ko | Grad | Lieberknecht, Kay | 51 |
| 5 | Royal Prancer | Pfin | Pimentel, Michelle | 42 |
| 6 | Maique | Arab | Lee, Janet | 20 |

Open Heavyweight—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|--------------|-------|----------------|-----|
| 1 | Phantom Dusk | Othr | Boicelli, Gene | 79 |

Open Junior—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|--------|-------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Shayla | H-AR | Grasso-Underwood, Ben | 77 |
| 2 | Kaylee | H-AR | Armstrong, Olivia | 65 |

Open Lightweight—Combined

| Pl | Horse | Breed | Rider | Pts |
|----|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Desert Reinbeau | Must | Meroshnekoff, Angela | 109 |

Please report errors or discrepancies to Jim Ferris at jcferris@sbcglobal.net or (916) 663-9661.

RIDE PHOTOS BY SILENT EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos from the June 23 Georgetown CTR have been posted to the Silent Eye Photography web site at: www.printroom.com/pro/silenteye-photo

If you have any questions about the photos, please contact Silent Eye Photography at silenteye@hughes.net.

JUNIOR REBATE PROGRAM

ATTENTION JUNIOR RIDERS: If you started at least two rides in 2007 and are a member of NATRC, Region One will give you a rebate of \$30 on each ride entry for up to three rides.

To apply, contact Phil Young, R1 Treasurer, 674 LaPorte Rd., Quincy, CA, 95971; 530/283-3221; pbyoung@sunset.net. Deadline is January 15, 2008.

THE RIDE

Lisa Waugh Oliver

Awakened at five,
 Expected to look alive...
 Heading out on the trail,
 Hoping your horse won't spook at quail
 (Because you're just too old to bail),
 Or hoping someone won't get too close to his tail.

You're thirsty and hot,
 Your stomach's in a knot,
 And now you're asked to trot.
 "Did I tighten the cinch?"
 Now that's a thought.

You pick up the gallop,
 Cause your partner to make a timing foul-up.
 Your P&R's are higher than your mare's
 And your water bottle is full of horsey hairs.

You're climbing the last hill,
 Trying to remember if you finished your will,
 Wondering if your lunch was what made you ill,
 When someone yells, "Bees!"
 Before you know it you're dumped on your knees,
 And your horse is headed into the trees.
 All you can think of is "There goes my truck keys."

You finally spot the finish line.
 Thinking of your bottle of wine,
 You round the last bend,
 And remember you have one last check-in.

So, you soak and scrub with your sponge,
 And wait for your turn to longe.

When all is said and done,
 Waiting to see if you have won,
 You tell your friends about all the day's fun,
 And you all agree to ride together at the next one.

NATRC REGION ONE BOD MINUTES

September 16th, 2007

The R1 BOD meeting was called to order on Sunday 9/16/07 at 09:25.

Board members present were Angie & Steve Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Lynne Hutnick, Kathie Schmidt and Phil Young

Guests were Kathy Nixon and Chris Carerra.

Absent: Bob Goulding, Robyn Berwick, and Jan Jeffers.

Secretary's Report:

Lynne made a motion, seconded by Jamie, to accept the minutes from Feb. 25th, 2007 as written.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Young

The three accounts have as follows:

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| C1 | \$5,716.26 |
| C2 | \$1,518.80 |
| C3 | \$11,022.67 |
| Total | \$19,079.25 |

Physical Resource Coordinator:

Angie Meroshnekoff

There is a PowerPoint presentation available through National to be used to introduce NATRC to local clubs. Angie will have the digital projector/computer if it is needed by someone.

Historian: Kathy Nixon

Nothing to report.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff

He will be ordering new patches for 2008.

Points and Membership: Jim Ferris

Nothing to report.

Publicity: Kathy Schmidt

Angie suggested putting paid advertisements in the following magazines: Trail Rider, Gaited Horse, and America's Horse. There was an article about NATRC in the Aug./Sept. issue of America's Horse. Many people emailed Angie inquiring to learn more about NATRC.

Vet Recruitment: Greg Fellers

There is a new vet at Cotati Large Animal Hospital who was invited to come to the Almaden Ride to learn more about NATRC.

Benefit Ride: September 29th, Almaden

Leadline: Jill Owens

Jill would like to hand over her job as editor of the *Leadline*; Angie will work on this.

National Directors: Jamie Dieterich

Jamie has submitted her nomination pledge for Dual Directorship (National BOD director). Region 1 BOD approved her nomination. The remainder of National issues

are under new business.

Region 1 Website: Angie Meroshnekoff
Riders seem to like the ride entries being on-line. RMS had some slight problems that are being worked out.

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Dieterich

Jamie is continuing to work with Ride Managers on entry forms. There maybe a couple new rides next year.

Outreach Program:

Kathy is still working on Bring-a-Friend to the Almaden Ride.

Trails Advocacy: Judy Etheridge

No report.

By Laws: Jim Ferris, Jamie Dieterich, Phil Young, Sue Flagg, Nancy Kasovich
Look under new business.

Judging Issues: Jamie Dieterich

No Judging issues in Region 1.

Old Business:

Region 1A Wonder Worker Program: Jamie made a motion, seconded by Lynne, that we will provide one jacket every three years and 3 hats once a year to Region 1A to award how they see fit. As of 2008 ride season Region 1A will pay the \$3.00 rider fee to cover costs. Motion passed. Steve will make contact with Laurie Knuutila to discuss this proposal.

New Business:

Appreciation Awards write ups will be taken care of and presented at Convention.

Proposed Rule Changes by National BOD-Jamie Dieterich:

Rule Changes came out in the Hoof Print and Region 1 BOD voted this way

1 Page V-1, Section V C3-YES

2 Page V-2, Section V F2- YES if the word "all" is deleted

3 Page VI-1, Section VI A4 -YES

4 Page IV-1, Section IV A2c (2)- NO

5 Page IV-1 Section IV A2b(1)(a) and IV A3b(1)(a)- NO

6 Page IV-1, Sections IV A1b and IV A2c(1)-YES

7 Page V-2, Section V F1-NO

8 Page VI-1, Section VI A2a- YES

9 Page VIII-1, Section VIII- YES

10 Delete Section VII- YES

11 Page V-1, Section V B 1- YES

12 Page IV-4, Section IV C. Change HDC to DO through out-YES

13 Page IX-2,3, Section IX B2c and B2a- YES

14 Page III-2, C. Trail Supervision- YES

15 Page VI-1, B.1.f-YES

16 Page V-4, J.8.b.-YES

17 Page VI-4, F.3.- YES if sentence begins with "In the absence of the veterinary judge"

18 Page VI-1, A2a and Page IV-2, A3a- NO

19 Obstacles B, C, D, and E were all NO

By-Law changes will go to the general membership giving the judges committee disciplinary authority.

Possible By-law Changes

Region 1 BOD would like to delete the committees from the By-laws as they are defined in the BOD Handbook. This proposal will go out to the general membership for their approval.

Region 1 Board vacancies

There will be two Region 1 BOD positions vacant for 2008. All candidates must have bios in to the *Leadline* before the Mini Convention in March.

2008 Mini-Convention—Angie and Jean

2008 Mini Convention will be held on March 15th, 2008 at the Heidrick Ag. Center. There will be speakers and vendors so mark your calendars.

Letter from Nancy Kasovich

Given the changes in our sport, Nancy Kasovich wrote a letter regarding some changes to the CP and Open divisions. CP to be divided into Heavyweight, Lightweight, and Junior; Open to be senior and junior. Phil made a motion, seconded by Lynne, that for the 2008 ride season, on a trial basis, Region 1 will divide CP into heavyweight, lightweight, and junior classes. This will be presented by Jamie and Jan at the National BOD in November. Region 1 BOD will vote by email.

Junior Sponsorship Program

Phil made a motion, seconded by Lynne, to require the Junior Sponsorship recipients to be NATRC members. The Junior Sponsorship Program will be written up in the 2008 roster.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robyn Berwick

NBOD Meeting 11-10-07 Denver, CO

HIGHLIGHTS: (Complete Minutes will be published in an upcoming Hoof Print)

Jamie Dieterich and Jan Jeffers, National Board Representatives

Appeal to a Protest: The NBOD ruled on an Appeal that had been filed on a ride in Region 6. The Appeal was denied. A separate article with more details will be published in Hoof Print.

Clinics: Several clinics were sanctioned across the country, and the Board feels this is a very important way to get new members.

Elections to the National Board:

- R1—Jamie Dieterich
- R2—Lory Walls
- R3—Kathy Shanor—Alternate
- R4—Paula Riley—Alternate
- R5—Connie Driskell
- R6—Gary Clayton

President: Ray Brezina
Vice President: Lory Walls
Treasurer: Connie Driskell

Financial Report: Revenues are down several thousand dollars this year, largely due to the loss of sponsors who have not renewed. Also, last year life-time members made generous donations, and they were not solicited this year.

Judges Committee: two new veterinary judges in Region 4 were approved as judges.

Membership: Many riders in each region are not members. There are many benefits to being a member (newsletter, reduced ride entry fees, eligibility for year-end awards...). We all need to encourage and help non-members to join!

Publicity: There is a new committee made up of several people from most of the Regions working with Kathy Brown, Publicity Chair, to come up with new, active marketing approaches. Let us know if you are interested in working on this exciting project!

Rule Changes: See separate article.

RULE CHANGES FOR 2008—WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Jamie Dieterich and Jan Jeffers, National Board Representatives

Several rule changes for ride year 2008 were passed at the NBOD meeting on November 10 in Denver, CO. They will be printed in the Minutes in HP. Some were simple clarifications, but others had more implications. We'll try to summarize and explain some of them here.

1. "Feed may be provided by management to all horses at lunch on other locations on the trail. The availability will be indicated on ride information."
This allows ride managers—AT THEIR DISCRETION—to take hay for all horses to lunch stops or other points on the trail. This has been done at rides especially in R1 and R2 that did not have grazing available for the horses at lunch, but it was technically against the rule that stated riders had to carry feed desired on the trail. This clarifies that IT IS BETTER FOR THE HORSE to have something to eat at lunch.

2. Morning examination of all horses.
The rule indicated that all horses had to be examined by at least one of the judges each morning before the start of a ride. It was felt this was really not necessary to examine the horses Saturday morning as the judges had just seen the horses Friday afternoon. BUT—according to the new rule—all horses must be examined by the veterinary judge before the start of the second or third days of a ride.

3. Letters of Concern. If you don't want to submit a formal Complaint of Protest, there is a procedure whereby you can submit a Letter of Concern.

4. After 2 years as trials, Distance Only (DO) will replace HDC. The rules will remain exactly as they were for HDC—only the name will be different. A horse may compete and the rider be DO, or both horse and rider may participate DO. If the horse is DO, the rider must also be DO. The only addition is that the DO team may elect to do one day of a two-day ride.

Trail's End

Well, this is my farewell issue. What began as a one-year commitment has stretched into nearly three, though I must say I have enjoyed the assignment and have no regrets.

Every time I receive ride results for *Leadline* I see unfamiliar names, so perhaps there is someone new to the sport who would like to get more involved. Take over *Leadline* and be the first to get the news, ride results, etc.! I invite anyone who is interested in the job to contact me or a member of the Board. I will help in any way I can to facilitate the transition, as Helen Steenman did for me.

Readers of this column have followed my adventures with Gypsy as I worked to balance my emphasis between trail and dressage (finding myself moving ineluctably toward the latter); struggled with her stifle injury and the precarious soundness that has followed; and embarked upon the path of taking my horses barefoot and the resulting decision to discontinue trail competition rather than settle for shoeing.

This year, we managed to get through another season of dressage competition, and Gypsy and I won another national championship: the USDF All-Breeds award for mustangs at First Level. Keeping her sound was dicey the whole time, and Second Level work is even harder for her. So I went in search of another career for her and found one: carriage driving. She seems pain-free, is good at it, and she likes it. Ironically, with driving as cross-training, Second Level work is coming more easily to her now!

NATRC has been a very important influence throughout the journey. I have learned that trail work is not only indispensable for our sanity during dressage training, but also can be a very handy context within which to train. Now, instead of practicing the lateral work and lead changes on the ranch roads, we're apt to be out working on the finer points of driving.

Meanwhile, I've been searching for a dressage horse. Just recently, with much support from my good friend and foundation trainer Susan Dockter, I brought home my future partner: a 2-1/2-year-old Trakehner-cross colt—with the conformation, movement, and temperament to succeed in the sport. He's barefoot, with great feet, and not a bit spooky. I can think of no better beginnings for him than a season of NATRC competition, so in a couple of years, look for Pokani and me out on the NATRC trail!

Happy trails to you...
until we meet again—
Jill

Cassandra “Casey” Davisson

August 1, 1985 to November 16, 2007

Cassandra Joann Davisson, 22, died in an accident at her home in Knightsen, California.

Casey started riding before she was born when her mother, Sue Flagg, didn't stop riding just because she was pregnant. She rode safety with Sue on Sue's 16-hand Arab/Appy on the morning segment of the last Oakland Hills ride before the fire in the early 1990's. Casey started competing when she was 8 years old on IAHA and limited distance AERC rides. At age 10, she started riding NATRC rides, accumulating 1630 miles, and many top Open Junior awards including a National Championship with Lil Black Samba+/- in 2002. When she wasn't riding, she was volunteering. She worked on P&R teams, drove P&R crews, helped tally points, and helped Sue time rides.

Casey had a huge love for animals, and most of us probably have a mental picture of her walking through ride camp trying to place rescued barn kittens in our homes.

Casey was a 2003 graduate of Liberty High School in Brentwood, attended Los Medanos College in the pre-nursing program, and had just completed the requirements to become a licensed phlebotomist. She will be remembered for her caring and compassionate attitude, lovely smile, beautiful blue eyes, and quick wit. We're all going to miss her.

Donations can be made to the North American Trail Ride Conference Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 224, Sedalia, Colorado 80135.



Silent Eye Photography — Celenia Penix and Wendy Wilkinson

The Leadline

Jill Owens, Editor
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED