# The Leadline



The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding

www.natrcregion1.org

Spring 2014

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# Region 1 2014 Davis Event

By Linda Thomason, Davis Event Coordinator

March 15 was a beautiful day for R1's day at Davis. Ride ribbons led us from the parking lot to the meeting room in the state-of-the art Center for Equine Health (CEH) building. Dr. Claudia Sonder, Director, welcomed us and told us CEH has been around for over 40 years with a mission to advance the health, welfare, performance and veterinary care of horses through research, education and public outreach. Many recent innovations in horse care originated at CEH/UC Davis.

Attendees were divided into three groups for the walking tour. Being a medical technologist, I was fascinated by the state-of-the-art facility. The lecture hall featured narrow tables with lots of plug-ins; students no longer take notes – everyone has a tablet that they just plug in. The lectures are all recorded, and the students then download them, which enables them to concentrate better on the lecture topic. The laboratories contained multiple animal "dummies" so that vet students could learn to start IV's (think of little furry legs of multiple sizes), learn to intubate a variety of animals (soft, pliable pink tongues on the dog and cat dummies so the students could get the right "feel") and practice tables for suturing up wounds of all sizes. Multi-headed microscopes enable several students at one time to view an image. Findings are projected from the microscope slides onto a large viewing screen at the front of the room and even into a second lab room so that all students could share interesting findings.

Following the tour, Dr. Sonder spoke to us on "Optimizing the Care and Management of Your Equine Athlete," which was also the main focus of the spring 2014 CEH Horse Report. Topics included the California Equine Medication Law and its impact on sports; tailoring your horse's care to maximize its health; conditioning and fitness; and inflammation, shoeing and footing.

- CA Equine Medication Law and its impact on sports: California's equine industry has had legislation in place since 1971 to prevent misuse of drugs and medications in equines. However competitors must comply with not only the CA. laws, but the medication rules of the sponsoring organization (NATRC, USDF, USEF etc). At U.C. Davis, the Kenneth L. Maddy Analytical Chemistry Laboratory uses state-of-the-art technology and methodologies to study medications within a horse's system and investigates new classes of drugs with the potential for abuse.
- Maximizing Health for the Horse: Owners/riders should be aware of what's normal for their horses and check for signs of problems daily and each time they ride. Palpate limbs, check for heat etc. Nutrition: our domestic horses' lives are different than their wild counterparts; however their digestive tract still functions 24 hours a day based on a historic regime of continuous grazing. Performance horses may need more calories, but good forage should be the basis of the feeding program. Select a type of hay that is right for the individual horse and free of weeds, mold, and dust. Davis provides a service to test hay for nutritional components. and equine nutrition consultations are available. (Continued on page 3)

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#### Adventures in NATRC

Some regional chairs are elected; others are ambushed. The motion to elect a new chair can be proposed, seconded, and voted on before said newly-elected-chair can say more than "Uh, what?"

"You're not going to refuse, are you?" a fellow board member asked innocently. Even so, my brain interpreted: You're not going to refuse to take your turn sharing the work, are you?

"Er, no," I muttered.

All eyes remained on me.

Oh. Right. I'm supposed to do something. My mind blanked. Gah! What does the chairperson say? No one gave me a manual. Does NATRC even have a chairperson's manual? Could I call a time-out and search the website?

I glanced at the meeting outline in front of me. We needed to move on to the next subject. What was fancy-parliamentary-sounding-chairperson-talk for "anyone wanna say something about the next thing?"

"Good. Great." I cleared my throat. "Is there a report from our secretary?"

There was. Whew.

I stumbled through the rest, all the while thinking, this is a terrible idea. Me -chairperson. I don't know anything. I just pretend, while secretly googling everything from equine nutrition to most highly rated hoof boots. Wouldn't someone more experienced be a better choice?

And then, as I looked around the table, I realized that everyone "experienced" already had a job. Angie Meroshnekoff was one of our regional representatives to the national board. Stephanie Swain served as our secretary. Phil Young served as our treasurer. Linda Thomason, our out-going chair, had not only termed out, but was also our corresponding secretary and handled the outreach for new riders. Steve Merosknekoff handled the Wonder Workers program. I hadn't been elected because folks think I'm a cool cat, but because they know I'm willing to do the work.

And wasn't that why I ran for the board in the first place? And why I decided to manage a ride? I love NATRC. I love the people. This is a sport that doesn't just happen—it takes work behind the scenes. If I want to continue to enjoy NATRC, I need to help. And here's the thing: anyone can help. *Anyone*. It's not magic. No one sprinkles magic pony dust over your head and decrees: You May Now Be A Board Member. You May Now Manage A Ride. It only takes a willing heart.

Very well, then. I'm willing. (I'm also duly elected, so my personal worries are probably moot, anyway.) Like my fellow board members, I'll be asking you—members of this awesome sport—for ideas, comments, and feedback. We want to know your thoughts and opinions. The rest of the regional board, the national board, ride managers, secretaries, and volunteers across the country, are in it for you. This Chair's for you, everyone.

Laura Harvey, Chair

(Continued from <u>page 1</u>)

- Many riders supplement more than necessary. Concentrated feeds and supplements should be given to provide what is missing in the forage portion of the ration and be limited to what is really needed for your horse/discipline. The key is to find the correct balance. Dr. Sonder touched on the importance of fats, omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids and the important roles they play in the horse's metabolism.
- Conditioning and Fitness: Fitness not only depends on the horse's ability to deliver oxygen to working tissue under exercise but is also the adaptation of bones and soft tissue to the loads they carry during competition or conditioning. Pushing the

horse gradually to the level of condition required for competition is the safest route and once in condition, most fit horses require less work to maintain their condition than you might think.

Inflammation, shoeing and footing were also discussed.

Please see the Spring 2014 CEH Horse Report for more information. You can sign up to receive their quarterly newsletter, "CEH Horse Report" at <a href="http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/current.cfm">http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ceh/current.cfm</a>. If you can find it in your heart to support their work with a donation, please do so.

I thank everyone for taking the time to drive to CEH at U.C. Davis and hope you had an interesting and informative day.

I wish to express thanks to the following folks who provided invaluable

assistance for the Davis Event and the 2013 awards presentation:

Event Registration: Vicki Boicelli

Membership/Voting:

Phil Young **2013 Awards:** 

Betty Young, Laura Harvey, Kathy Nixon

Program:

Jamie Dieterich, Sue Flagg

Master of Ceremony:

Maria Pilgrim

Audio –Visual:

Donna Stidolph
Photos:

Jamie Dieterich, Kimberly Naugle, Bob Dorsey/Catch Light Studio

A big THANK YOU to Dr. Claudia Sonder and the Center for Equine Health at Davis for hosting this event.

# Region 1 2014 Ride Schedule

May 3	Mt. Diablo Ellen Pofcher Jessie Simons	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 672-4348	"B" O/N/CP mtnoaks@earthlink.net mtnoaks@earthlink.net
May 17-18	Cowboy Camp Jean Armer Sec: Sherry Lindley	<b>Williams, CA</b> (530) 755-8301 (541) 205-5269	"A" O/CP; "B" N armer@citlink.net shadylin@aol.com
May 17	Cowboy Camp Clinic Angie Meroshnekoff Sec: Darlene Schlerf	<b>Williams, CA</b> (707) 743-9973 (707) 462-4514	awhitedog@aol.com deschlerf@hotmail.com
June 14-15	Round Valley Regional Park Gene Boicelli Sec: Linda Thomason	Brentwood, CA (925) 672-6491 (510) 651-9470	"A" O/CP; "B" N LIMIT 45 geneboicelli@aircloud.net linda.thomason@comcast.net
July 19-20	Bald Mountain Butt Busters Katie Carney Sec: Jenny Daniels	<b>Wasilla, AK</b> (907) 376-2191 (907) 315-3307	"A" O/CP; "B" N <a href="mailto:katie@carneyllc.com">katie@carneyllc.com</a> <a href="mailto:jamcgrath@yahoo.com">jamcgrath@yahoo.com</a>
August 16-17	Jackson Forest Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	<b>Ft. Bragg</b> (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	"A" O/CP; "B" N iambrewing@aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 6-7	Georgetown NATRC Laura Harvey Sec: Wayne Read	<b>Georgetown, CA</b> (916) 689-1631 (916) 689-1631	"A" O/CP; "B" N hereticsunite@hotmail.com wrdsmth@frontiernet.net
October 4	<b>Lake Mendocino</b> Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	<b>Ukiah, CA</b> (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	"B" O/N/CP <u>iambrewing@aol.com</u> <u>wolves1961@sbcglobal.net</u>
Back in 2015	Pilchuck Tree Farm Kathryn Lewandowsky	<b>Arlington, WA</b> (360) 403-8471 (H) (425) 737-4594 (C)	skyranch12805@yahoo.com

#### From The Editor...

Here in the Far North, our winter is over, and we are deep into the heart of a northern season known as "break-up." It's squeezed in between Winter and Spring. It's when everything "breaks up" after being locked in the depths of winter for so long. It is usually accompanied by anoth-



er season known as "mosquito season." The little buggers are out in full force!

My horses all came through winter in fine shape, and I've been out and about checking trail conditions. Since "break-up" isn't quite over, the trails are still too soft for riding. So I'm making use of my arena for ground work and obstacle training.

I had a great time attending the National Convention in Oklahoma City in February! I enjoyed getting to see many of the people who have become my friends through NATRC, and adding a few new ones. The convention itself was great, with wonderful accommodations, a beautiful venue and friendly people. The speakers presented some great information and as always, I learned some new things. And of course, I couldn't come away from a convention without having a duffle bag full of purchases from the vendors and the silent auction!

This issue of the newsletter contains the Year-End Awards listings, and a couple articles I hope you find useful.

I hope that winter has treated all of you well, and that you are getting all the saddle time you want! I wish all of you a successful ride season. I'll be watching the ride results to see how everyone is doing. Please send me photos that you take along the way, so they can be shared with the rest of Region 1.

Happy Trails!

#### Laurie Knuutila

#### Attention All 4-H Horse Members!

To encourage participation by 4-H members, NATRC offers a 4-H Junior Rider Year End High Point Award.

- The award goes to the high point rider and high point horse regardless of the rider's division.
- The award is a self-nominating award. The nomination must occur before the end of the ride year, which is the second Sunday in November. This year, it will be November 9, 2014. The rider must (1) be a member of NATRC (2) send Laurie DiNatale an email (natrc@natrc.org) stating that they are a 4-H member and (3) have their 4-H leader verify that they are a member with an email to Laurie DiNatale (natrc@natrc.org). 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. Questions? Contact Angie Meroshnekoff, awhitedog@aol.com, Chair, Riders and Juniors Committee.

#### GoodSearch & GoodShop

NATRC can receive one penny for each internet search using Good-Search as the search engine. You wouldn't think that could add up to much, but it does. And you can shop using GoodShop, which includes all the big retailers, with up to 30% going to NATRC. Turn your search and shopping into dollars. If you haven't already, please consider going to www.GoodSearch.com

and setting North American Trail Ride Conference-NATRC (Sedalia, CO) as your preferred charity.

THE LEADLINE is the official publication of Region 1 of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). The Leadline is published three times per year and mailed or emailed to all NATRC Region 1 members. It is available by subscription to non-Region 1 members at \$8 per year. Issues contain updated information from Region 1 committees, ride results, point standings, minutes of board meetings, and the current Region 1 ride schedule. Send subscription requests and payments (made out to NATRC Region 1) to Phil Young, 674 La Porte Rd., Quincy, CA 95971. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to Laurie Knuutila, 455 Ream Lane, Fairbanks, AK 99712 or email to wildrosepht@yahoo.com. NATRC Region 1 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.

#### Deadlines:

Spring issue - Submission: April 15; Publication: May 1 Summer issue - Submission: August 1; Publication: Aug. 15 Fall/Winter issue - Submission: Dec 15; Publication: Jan. 1 Advertising rates per issue: Full page—\$40 Half page—\$20 Quarter page—\$10 Business card—\$5

Classified ads are free to Region 1 members in good standing, one per issue, up to 30 words. Submit ads to the Editor via email or as hard copies via regular mail; hard copies will be scanned as submitted. Make checks payable to NATRC Region 1.

# In Memoriam: Robert (Bob) Donald Takle

Born October 29, 1942 in St Paul, MN. Died August 9, 2013 in Park Rapids MN.

Bob spent much of his early years at his grandparent's cabin on Hinds Lake, Minnesota. He developed a love of water early on. At the age of 8 he became accomplished at piloting a small fishing boat equipped with an outboard motor. By the time he was 14 he had learned to drive his grandmother's car on the icy frozen lake. spinning donuts with no bounda-

ries, nothing to crash into. His wife, Marlene, believes that was the beginning of many adventures concerning cars and speed. During the summers he learned to swim. water ski, and become a good fisherman. His grandmother taught him how to safely handle a gun and to shoot and hunt. All of these experiences and the skills he learned at the lake were to shape the adventurous life he later led.

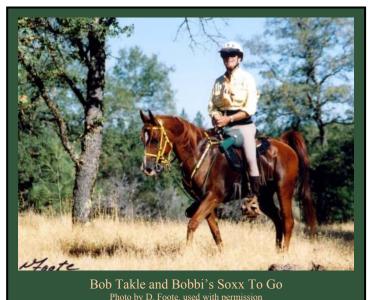
Bob attended St Paul High School and then the

University of MN. He was a Boy Scout until he was 18, and then became an Explorer Scout. For the next 2 summers he guided younger scouts on week- long canoe trips into the boundary waters bordering Minnesota and Canada. While attending college he met and married his first wife, and three wonderful children were born. Different jobs in the electronics industry eventually led the family to the bay area. The marriage ended in divorce shortly thereafter in 1970.

In 1972 Bob remarried, and with a partner, started a printed circuit board manufacturing business which grew into the top 15 in the country. His employees all adored him and remained stead-

fast friends long after his retirement in 1995.

Bob and his wife, Marlene, moved from Sunnyvale to the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1976. They built a home and proceeded to throw themselves at mountain living joining 4-H and raising the children from both marriages along with chickens, rabbits, pigs as well as leasing a horse, of course!



They took up horseback riding and became active in the Summit Riders Horseman's Association. During the years that ensued they held leadership roles and enjoyed associating with likeminded horse folk. They went on to compete in NATRC. He and Marlene entered rides not only in California, but in Washington and Idaho too! Marlene was a willing participant on these escapades, and whether skiing or riding, could never keep up with him. A spirited horse and the places they could explore together was a real joy for Bob. He was always behind a camera, would pick trails that led to distant views, and took many a picture with his beloved Soxx's ears framing the shots.

In 2007 another big adventure called, so they loaded up the horses and moved to Montana in order to experience real ranching in cowboy country. While still loving and enjoying his horses, he added jet boating to his adventures, exploring and fishing the many lakes in the area. Bob loved the outdoors golfing, fishing, speed boating, rafting on fast water, horseback

riding hiking and skiing. He lived life on the edge and was always looking for the next adventure. Bob was a tremendous story teller, captivating many with tales of his experiences and escapades during his 70 years. Many remember his intensity of opinion he often shared regarding his values and patriotic views. There was never a sense of trying to figure out where he stood on an issue. He was the foundation for his family. Bob lived to experience all that God created and con-

tinually shared that with all those he loved. His generosity was inspiring as he gave from the heart and he loved sharing his zest for life with his grandchildren.

Last summer, Bob was enjoying a family reunion at the family lake cabin in Minnesota, cutting down trees, canoeing, fishing, and delighting his grandchildren with stories of his many adventures, when a massive heart attack ended his wonderful life. Bob is survived by his wife, Marlene, of 41 years, six adult children, 13 grandchildren a sister and 2 brothers. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Ira and Joyce and by beloved grandson Jeremy.

# Region 1 2013 Awards Presentation

**Credits:** 

**UC Davis Event:** Linda Thomason Registration: Vicki Boicelli

Membership/Voting: Phil Young

Awards:

Betty Young, Kathy Nixon, Laura Harvey Program:

Jamie Dieterich, Sue Flagg

MC:

Maria Pilorim Photos:

Jamie Dieterich, Kimberly Naugle, Bob Dorsey (Catch Light Studios)

> Audio-Visual: Donna Stidolph

**National Sponsors:** 

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Reta Cole, in memory of Rod Cole; Tanya Ballard; Joe and Ashley Dillard: Phil & Betty Young

Silver (\$50-\$99):

Nancy Kasovich; Linda Thomason

2013 R1 BOD with Thanks and Appreciation

Gene Boicelli, Jamie Dieterich (National BOD), Laura Harvey, Angie Meroshnekoff (National BOD), Steve Meroshnekoff, Joe Pimentel, Stephanie Swain, Linda Thomason, and Phil Young (National BOD Alternate)

> Incoming R1 BOD: **Outgoing NBOD:** Davern Kroncke Jamie Dieterich

> > **NBOD for 2013:**

Jamie Dieterich, Angie Meroshnekoff; Phil Young (Alternate)

LL Editor: Laurie Knuutila

Webmaster: Donna Stidolph

2013 Ride Chairs, with gratitude and appreciation

Ellen Pofcher:

Mt. Diablo

Jean Armer: Cowboy Camp / R1 Benefit

> Gene Boicelli: Round Valley

Laurie Knuutila: Challenge of the North

> Laura Harvey: Georgetown

Steve Meroshnekoff: Jackson Forest

Kathryn Lewandowsky: Pilchuk



### Remembering ...

#### Doug Brown

Tammy always owned a horse and rode often. But it wasn't until they had been married awhile that Doug decided that he needed to buy a horse and learn to ride with her. Doug purchased Shah, an Arabian horse. Doug sometimes rode Shah on Mount Diablo without Tammy, and sometimes would get lost. Doug would let Shah decide which way to go when they came to a fork in the road, and Shah would always bring Doug back home in time for dinner.

Over the years, Doug and Tammy's love of horses never disappeared. Through their twenties, they rode horses in competitive trail riding events with the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). Doug rode Shah, an Arabian gelding for 25 years, doing a bit of endurance in 80's, and pleasure riding with Tammy. In 2009, he won top honors in NATRC Region 1 Novice Heavyweight riding Jazz, a half Arabian-half Saddlebred gelding. In 2011 he rode a borrowed horse, Blue Camel, aka Chunkey Monkey, a Foxtrotter gelding. In 2012, he rode his new horse, National Treasure, an Arabian gelding, in the Competitive Pleasure Division, Doug and National Treasure competed very successfully in the Open Division of Arizona's Triple Crown series of three rides in early 2013.

#### Bob Takle

Bob & Marlene Takle moved to the Santa Cruz mountains in the early 1970's. At that time they had no horses but soon joined the Summit Riders, purchased horses and started trail riding. It wasn't long before they both began competing in NATRC. Because both Bob and his horse liked to "go fast and be in front", they would sometimes pass other riders 2 or 3 times during the day. It seems that going that fast would often result in missing a turn and, thus, here they would come again.

Generous to a fault, Bob would routinely buy \$100 worth of raffle tickets at rides, giving most of his prizes away. Bob & Marlene were strong supporters of Region 1, eagerly sharing their time, their home and their dedication. Bob's smile and "unbridled" enthusiasm were definitely his trademarks.

#### Rod Cole

On May 2-2013, Region 1 lost one of its most iconic and loved members, Rod Cole, who passed away at the age of 85.

Rod's involvement with NATRC began in the mid-70's when he and his wife, Reta, both competed. After he "retired" from competition with his beloved big Appy, Apollo, he joined the management ranks. Rod served as just about everything in NATRC during the 1980's and 1990's. He was a Ride Manager himself and the right-hand-man to many other Ride Managers. He served on the Region 1 Board, and on the National Board, both as Vice President (1987 and 1988) and then as President (1989 and 1990). While

he was Vice President he was instrumental in the creation of the Competitive Pleasure division. He was probably proudest of the implementation of the NATRC Scholarship Fund, which occurred during his Presidency. He was always a huge supporter of Junior riders and many of them, over the years, considered Rod to be a special mentor.

Being the generous man that he was and a very outgoing person, Rod made it his goal when he was the National President to travel with Reta to every region in the country to volunteer at a ride and meet the competitors. This was done with great enthusiasm and entirely at his own expense.

#### Dr. Bob Goulding

Dr. Bob Goulding started with NATRC at its inception at the Concord Mt. Diablo clubhouse in 1961. Dr. Bob served as a representative for R1 on the National Board, several terms as co-chair of the Judges Committee, as well as several terms on the R1 BOD. He judged rides all over the country for over 50 years and never wavered in his willingness to serve. He and his wife, Charlotte, were generous supporters and opened their home to host R1 BOD meetings.

A horseman himself, Dr. Bob rode horses for work and pleasure and believed in sharing the benefits of his experience with NATRC. He judged endurance rides, served as head veterinarian of the Tevis Ride, and was a rancher and State Veterinarian.

Being right on with his judging calls, Bob was known as one of the fairest of judges. One of his greatest attributes was his patience and understanding with the Novice riders. The Jim Menefee Honorary Lifetime Membership Award was granted to Dr. Bob in 2001 in appreciation for his dedication and service.

In the words of Mike Peralez, DVM, Dr. Bob was a terrific judge, veterinarian and man. NATRC would not be the organization it is today without the long, hard work of him and a handful of his Northern California friends.

Dr. Bob Goulding passed away peacefully Monday, January 13, 2014. He was 91 years old. He will be ever so greatly missed by all of us who knew and loved him!

#### Marilyn Nancy McElroy Hunter

Marilyn was active on the Arabian horse scene for over 40 years. She was a big promoter of Arabian Youth Nationals, was on the Arabian Distance National Committee, and received the 2011 AHA Region 3 Volunteer Service Award (national level). Marilyn was a long-time member of the Placer County Search and Rescue Mounted Unit; a past board member of the Western States Trail Foundation, the manager and steward for local and national endurance rides and held various offices in the Mother Lode Arabian Horse Association. She had over 7,000 miles in endurance riding, and finished the Tevis in 1976.

Most of us knew Marilyn best because of her involvement with NATRC and her horse. Rebel's Raider +/. Marilyn

bought his dam, Rebel Heart (an Appaloosa foaled on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation), and bred her to Ralph and Betty Dever's stallion, Raskala. Marilyn started Raider in NATRC competitive trail rides because she didn't think he had enough drive to do endurance. Raider went on to win 9 NATRC National Championships, numerous other awards, and was inducted into NATRC's Horse Hall of Fame in 1993. Marilyn accumulated over 8,000 miles, and Raider had over 6,000 miles in NATRC competitions. In his later years, Raider delighted many nursing home patients with his visits. Marilyn was an NATRC horsemanship judge and managed the Mt. Quarry ride for several vears.

### Region 1 Appreciation

#### Neil and Kitty Weber By Linda Thomason

Kitty Weber had been on the R1 BOD serving as Treasurer and was a competitor for several years when she had a fall with her horse at a competition in April of 1997 and broke her back. That winter, wanting some motivation for recovery, she volunteered to chair the 1998 National Convention in Santa Rosa. She then chaired the R1 mini-convention in the same place in 1999.

Continuing with a long, slow recovery, and ever since, Kitty has

cheerfully served as Rules Interpreter and Timer for "too numerous to count" R1 rides. Her husband, Neil, has accompanied and helped her, served on P&R crews, and has also handled raffles at many R1 rides and events.

Kitty and Neil Weber have made a serious life-commitment to contribute to NATRC. They serve wherever needed – even supplying coffee and hot cocoa if ride management forgets. We truly appreciate their dedication.

# Regional Appreciation at the National Level

White Dog Ranch (Text Published in Hoof Print)

Linda Thomason (Text Published in Hoof Print)

#### Dee Dee and Chris Heath By Gene Boicelli and Betty Young

Without the help of the Heaths, the Round Valley Ride could not be done. Prior to the ride, Chris checks all the maps and makes time schedules for the judges. He drives his own truck to assist in marking the trails; he supplies the water tubs at camp and the fire hoses to fill them. He is the one who fills up the ground squirrel holes before the ride. He leads the P&R teams to all stops. It's his trailer that we fill with manure.

As for Dee Dee, Chauffeur Extraordinaire, she is the best. Navigating the winding, hilly roads in her great big truck without blinking an eye, she treats her passengers to so many stories of interest and history. It makes for a special ride!

Let's not forget "Amy," their daughter, who was at the "Morris" gate last year and was the only one who received the phone call of our young rider down in the valley. She rode the quad all through the hills to get to her, and gave assistance.

Chris and Dee Dee give Gene so much support and help that "thanks" is not enough. They give up their time for the whole weekend to make the ride a success.

Everyone always looks forward to seeing both Dee Dee and Chris at Round Valley. They never cease to have smiles on their faces and to welcome all with open arms. People like the Heaths are what make NATRC a very special family.

# Region 1 has a Facebook Page!



Find us at NATRC Region 1

#### Junior Rider Rebate

Junior riders who are NATRC members by the second Sunday in November of a ride year and complete 2 or more rides in that same ride year are eligible to receive a rebate of \$30 per completed ride for up to 3 rides. Please contact Phil Young, R1 Treasurer for more details.

#### NATRC Student Loan Program

Student loans are available up to \$5,000 per person /year, at the discretion of the NATRC National Board of Directors, after proper application has been submitted. 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 three vears. Consideration will also be given to a student or a student's family who has been an active member of NATRC for less than three years but more than six months. For more details and an application, please go to: www.natrc.org.

#### Ride Management Support Fund

Thanks to a very generous donation, NATRC is offering an opportunity for new ride managers or managers of rides in new locations to apply for a grant of up to \$1000 to help defray the costs of your NATRC-sanctioned Competitive Trail Ride.

For an application, please contact our National Office. Managers must be NATRC members and the one-page grant application, with supporting documents, must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the event.

### Region 1 Year-End Awards

#### **Novice Division**

#### **Novice Heavyweight Horsemanship**

- 1st Davern Kroncke
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron York

#### **Novice Lightweight Horsemanship**

- 1st Michelle Pimentel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Fuller
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kaysha Egerer
- 4th Grace Anne Manor
- 5th Tanya Ballard

#### **Novice Junior Horsemanship**

Ribbons sponsored by

#### Brian & Darlene Schlerf, B.A.S. Roofing

- 1st Maleah Ikerd
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kirsten Johnson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Megan Smith

#### **Novice Heavyweight Horse**

- 1st YS Tyrone / Paint Davern Kroncke
- 2<sup>nd</sup> MK Van Gough / Arab Ron York

#### Novice Lightweight Horse

- 1st Place sponsored by Tanya Ballard
  - 1st Palistar / Arab
  - Stephanie Swain 2<sup>nd</sup> Kat Man D / Arab
  - Michelle Pimentel
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Star / M-FX
  - 4th Bodacious Tailfeathers / Grade Kaysha Egerer
  - 5<sup>th</sup> RA Calla Lily / Grade Grace Anne Manor
  - 6<sup>th</sup> CC Honey Dew / Kym Tanya Ballard

#### **Novice Junior Horse**

Ribbons sponsored by

#### Brian & Darlene Schlerf, B.A.S. Roofing

- 1st Shayla / H-AR Maleah Ikerd
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lola / Grade Kirsten Johnson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pipi / Must Megan Smith

#### **Competitive Pleasure Division**

#### **Competitive Pleasure Horsemanship**

1st place sponsored by Joe & Ashley Dillard Ribbons sponsored by

#### Brian & Darlene Schlerf, B.A.S. Roofing

- 1st Joe Pimentel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Dillard
- 3rd Haley Schlerf
- 4th Joe Dillard
- 5<sup>th</sup> Debbie York
- 6th Mary Jones

#### **Competitive Pleasure Horse**

Ribbons sponsored by Brian & Darlene Schlerf, B.A.S. Roofing

- 1st Hickorys Starlet / H-AR Ashley Dillard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> HM Raina Bo Surely / H-AR Haley Schlerf
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marilyn the Mule / Mule Joe Pimentel
- 4<sup>th</sup> OM El Bilbao / Arab Debbie York
- 5<sup>th</sup> OM El Shakeeb Dream / Arab Joe Dillard
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ed Zackery / H-AR Mary Jones

#### **Open Division**

#### **Open Heavyweight Horsemanship**

- 1st Gene Boicelli
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Harvey
- 3rd Jean Armer
- 4th Vicki Boicelli

#### Open Lightweight Horsemanship

1st Angie Meroshnekoff

#### **Open Junior Horsemanship**

Ribbon sponsored by Reta Cole in memory of Rod Cole

1st Karlie Johnson

#### **Open Heavyweight Horse**

1st place sponsored by Phil & Betty Young Ribbons sponsored by Linda Thomason

- 1st Amiraborr / Arab Gene Boicelli
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tango Sierra / M-FX Laura Harvey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stealth Knight / H-AR Vicki Boicelli
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pistol Pete DF / Arab Jean Armer

#### **Open Lightweight Horse**

#### Ribbon sponsored by Linda Thomason

1st Desert Reinbeau / Must Angie Meroshnekoff

#### **Open Junior Horse**

Ribbon sponsored by Reta Cole in memory of Rod Cole

1st Kaylee / Grade Karlie Johnson

#### Region 1 High-Point Breed Awards:

Arabian	Amiraborr / Gene Boicelli
Half-Arabian	Hickorys Starlet / Ashley Dillard
Grade	Kaylee / Karlie Johnson
Kentucky Mountain	CC Honey Dew / Tanya Ballard
Missouri Foxtrotter	Tango Sierra / Laura Harvey
**Mule	Marilyn the Mule / Joe Pimentel **
Mustang	Desert Reinbeau / Angela Meroshnekoff
Paint	YS Tyrone / Davern Kroncke

<sup>\*\*</sup> National High Point Mule; presented at the National Convention.

American Donkey & Mule Association



### Region 1 Awards at the National Level

These awards were presented February 22, 2014, at the National Awards Banquet, Oklahoma City, OK.

#### **Overall Open Junior Horse**

Sponsored by Region 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Kaylee / Grade / Karlie Johnson

#### **Overall Open Junior Horsemanship**

Sponsored by Region 1 3rd Karlie Johnson

#### **Team Awards**

Team awards recognize combined horse and horsemanship. All points for rides in which the same horse and rider combination competed are added together. At least three rides must be completed to qualify for annual awards.

**Competitive Pleasure Team** 

#### **Novice Heavyweight Team** Sponsored by Region 1 1st YS Tyrone / Paint Davern Kroncke **Novice Lightweight Team** Sponsored by Region 1 1st Kat Man D / Arab Michelle Pimentel 7th Heaven Star / M-FX Lisa Fuller 35 3rd Bodacious Tailfeathers / Grade Kaysha Egerer **Novice Junior Team** Sponsored by Region 1 1st Shayla / H-AR Maleah Ikerd 58

	Sponsored by Lucie Hess	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Hickorys Starlet / Arab	
	Ashley Dillard	93
$2^{\text{nd}}$	Marilyn the Mule / Mule	
	Joe Pimentel	80
$3^{\text{rd}}$	HM Raina Bo Surely / H-AR	
	Halev Schlerf	78

_	manny man and man and an and a	
	Joe Pimentel	80
$3^{rd}$	HM Raina Bo Surely / H-AR	
	Haley Schlerf	78
4 <sup>th</sup>	OM El Shakeeb Dream / Arab	
	Joe Dillard	66
5 <sup>th</sup>	OM El Bilbao / Arab	
	Debbie York	56

#### **Open Heavyweight Team**

	Sponsored by Lucie Hess	
st	Amiraborr / Arab	
	Gene Boicelli	72
<b>2</b> nd	Tango Sierra / M-FX	
	Laura Harvey	56

#### **Open Lightweight Team** Sponsored by Lucie Hess

1st Desert Reinbeau / Must Angie Meroshnekoff 91

#### **Open Junior Team** Sponsored by Lucie Hess

1st Kaylee / Grade Karlie Johnson 73

## Region 1 Special Awards

#### **Bob Smith Award**

High Point 1st year Novice or CP horse Sponsored by: Nancy Kasovich

HM Raina Bo Surely / Haley Schlerf 39 points

#### Pat Ersepke Award

**High Point Novice** Horse/Rider Combo Sponsored by: Reta Cole in memory of Rod Cole

> Shayla / Maleah Ikerd

#### Fran & Carol Duport Award

High Point 1st year Open horse Sponsored by: Brian & Darlene Schlerf, B.A.S. Roofing

> Tango Sierra / Laura Harvey 29 points

#### **Wonder Workers**

Jacket for volunteering at 30 rides: Kris Skoog

100% Club all R1 2013 rides and mini-convention:

**Angie Meroshnekoff** Joe Pimentel



#### Get NATRC E-News

NATRC E-News is the official electronic communication channel of our organization. E-News is a subscriber-based electronic marketing software from Constant Contact. With E-News, you can receive electronic announcements on upcoming NATRC rides and clinics, new sponsors and special offers, NATRC promotions and contests, and general NATRC information including details on rules changes and proposals as well as regional and national Board minutes in a timely manner by subscribing now.

To begin receiving NATRC E-News, simply go to the NATRC website (http://www.natrc.org), click on "Join/Renew" along the top, then select "Join NATRC E-News." After you are directed to the E-News sign-up page, you can choose to receive a variety of different types of announcements.

If you would like to send NATRC information to all subscribers or just specific regions, contact Jean Green (igreen@martineer.net) or the National office (natrc@natrc.org) for help to put your announcement on the official NATRC electronic communication channel.

# Feed to Succeed: Supplements to Help the Endurance Horse

BY KATHLEEN CRANDELL, Ph.D. Reprinted from Kentucky Equine Research newsletter, Equinews. For more info go to ker.com

The endurance horse is unique among all other equine athletes. Because of the prolonged demands placed upon the endurance horse with protracted moderate intensity exertion, its performance may be influenced quickly by the quality of its diet. A simple diet of hay and oats may lack essential nutrients that allow the horse to perform as expected. Understanding how competition affects the nutrient needs of the horse will help the owner select the appropriate supplementation program for the individual endurance horse.

#### Improving the diet

Approximately 80 to 90% of the feed eaten by horses is used to satisfy their energy requirements. Horses, like people, utilize energy to run most of the chemical reactions within the body, particularly to fuel muscle contractions vital to the work effort. As such, any horse diet should focus on providing adequate energy (calories). The major source of that energy is dietary carbohydrates (grass, hay, grain, molasses, etc.) Because the amount of energy available from forage alone can be a limiting factor for performance, grain is often added to increase the energy density of a diet.

Dietary fat is another source of energy readily employed by the horse for calories. Fat contains roughly 2.25 as much energy as an equal weight of carbohydrate, so less is needed to fuel body processes. Dietary fat has been scientifically proven to be advantageous to the performance of horses undergoing prolonged bouts of exercise. During long duration, moderate intensity exercise, the body depends on fat stores to supply energy for work. The addition of fat to the diet has been found to increase the ability of the horse to mobilize fat stores for energy, sparing the muscle glycogen (sugar) stores for more intense bouts of exercise. In a study done at Kentucky Equine Research comparing differences in fat utilization between breeds, it

was found that Arabians (the most common breed used for endurance) are much more efficient at mobilizing and burning fat as an energy source than are Thoroughbreds.

There are different dietary fat sources available to the horse, and the most common are vegetable oils. Vegetable oils can be fed safely up to 15% of the total diet. Another source of fat is rice bran, the heat-stabilized outer layer of the rice kernel which contains 20% fat. Compared to oats, rice bran can contain 120% of the digestible energy on a pound for pound basis. Therefore, this source of fat is beneficial in adding calories to the diet without increasing the amount of grain being fed.

The remaining 10 to 20% of the diet is used to satisfy the nutrient requirements that drive the cellular processes inside the body. Protein is the major nutrient the body needs to support normal body functions. Vitamins

and minerals play a vital role in metabolism but are needed in relatively small amounts. A simple diet of hay and oats may lack some of these key nutrients. Grain concentrates are designed to complement the nutrient profile of forages but must be fed at the recommended level in order to obtain balanced nutrition. For many endurance horses of Arabian descent, the recommended feeding rate of commercial grain mixes provides too many calories, resulting in excess weight gain. A horse that eats less than the recommended amount may be short on the supplemental protein, vitamins, and minerals that are added to complement the deficiencies in forages. A specialized grain mixture designed for endurance horses is preferable. Failing that, a specially designed concentrate containing essential proteins, vitamins, and minerals can be used to top off a feed that is provided at a lower rate than recommended. (Continued on page 12)



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If protein is sufficient in forage and grain, then adding a well-balanced vitamin and mineral supplement will be sufficient to fill in the shortcomings of the diet.

#### **Supplements**

Hooves: Horses often have unique requirements for certain nutrients to help improve performance. This is especially true of endurance horses. For instance, not every horse is blessed with hard, resilient hoof walls. The hooves of endurance horses often take a beating from the long hours on the trail. Research has shown that some horses with weak hooves benefit from supplementation of certain nutrients. Specific additives like biotin, methionine, iodine, and zinc, or a combination of them, can be added to the horse's diet to improve hoof quality.

*Muscles:* Endurance competitions can also be

hard on the horse's muscles, which are in constant use during the hours of training necessary to compete successfully. During muscular exertion, free radicals (waste products of oxygen metabolism that can damage cell components) are produced and can cause muscular damage if not eliminated. Certain nutrients, specifically vitamins C and E and selenium, are key antioxidants responsible for quenching free radicals found to build up in muscle tissue. These nutrients work in concert to reduce muscular soreness and stiffness associated with exercise. Magnesium is necessary for proper nerve and muscle function and may be insufficient in the diet of some hard-working horses.

#### Immune function

Antioxidants are also important for support of the immune system. Human endurance athletes may have reduced immune function for about 70 hours following a bout of prolonged and intensive exercise. During this period the body may be particularly susceptible to infection, allowing viruses and bacteria



to gain a foothold. Lack of sleep, severe mental stress, malnutrition, weight loss, or other stressors commonly associated with shipping and competing can also exacerbate depression of immune function. Although the research has been done in humans, it may very likely be similar for the equine endurance athlete. Whether human or equine, body cells need specific nutrients to be able to properly divide and produce necessary antibodies. Many enzymes in immune cells require the presence of micronutrients, and critical roles have been defined for zinc, iron, copper, selenium, and vitamins A, B6, C, and E.

#### **Electrolyte losses**

Electrolytes are ions (charged particles) found inside and outside of cells in the body. Electrolytes play an important role in maintaining osmotic pressure, fluid balance, and nerve and muscle activity. A horse sweats in order to get rid of excessive heat that has built up in the muscles. Horse sweat consists of water and a high concentration of electrolytes. Any level of work

produces body heat and subsequent sweating. When an endurance horse sweats. it loses essential electrolytes (particularly sodium, chloride, and potassium) that are necessary for top performance. Other factors may cause a horse to sweat. such as the time the horse spends in or tied to a trailer during the heat of the day or the stress of an unfamiliar environment. Excessive sweating with subsequent loss of electrolytes can cause fatigue and muscular weakness. Usually, a horse can replenish lost electrolytes from its normal diet. However, under extended work or stressful circumstances, the electrolytes that are lost in sweat cannot be replaced from the daily ration of grain and forage. The amount of sweat produced by an endurance horse during a competition far exceeds that of any other sport horse. It may be difficult to realize the volume of fluid lost as the sweat may evap-

orate before it is even seen. Because electrolyte balance is critical for maximal performance, replacement of lost electrolytes is imperative. During long rides, calcium and magnesium may be also be lost in sweat in amounts high enough to cause metabolic disorders. Specific electrolyte supplementation can be provided to the horse during the competition phase, but it may also be necessary to provide a daily dose for horses that are in training for endurance events. Free choice water should always be available to the horse when electrolytes are used.

#### Stomach problems

The rigors and routines of training often interrupt the natural grazing behavior of performance horses, and consequently their stomach acid buffering mechanism. Indigestion often results. If a horse has any of the following signs it may be suffering from heartburn: drop in performance, sour attitude, poor hair coat, grinding teeth, inappetance, and weight loss. Many endurance horses enjoy the luxury of

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

having 24-hour turnout on pasture, which is ideal for the prevention of ulcers or heartburn. However, when this lifestyle is interrupted and the horse is loaded on a trailer, put in a stressful situation, fed differently than normal, and then asked to compete for hours with limited meals, he may end up with a sour stomach that will affect performance or attitude. Medications designed to alleviate these discomforts or those specifically designed to be stomach buffers can help horses with these problems.

#### **Chromium supplementation**

Strenuous exercise and high-grain diets increase the excretion of chromium in the urine of equine athletes, thereby depleting the natural reserve of

this mineral in the body. Chromium is an integral component of glucose tolerance factor, which is thought to potentiate the action of insulin in chromiumdeficient tissue. In a Kentucky Equine Research trial, chromium-supplemented horses showed lower insulin levels in response to a meal, and maintained lower insulin levels throughout a standardized exercise test. This means that with chromium supplementation less insulin is required to assimilate and utilize the same amount of glucose from a meal. Another significant result was that peak levels of lactic acid were lower when the horses received supplemental chromium. Since lactic acid accumulation contributes to fatigue during exercise, this can be interpreted as being beneficial for the performance horse. For the endurance horse that

has a low tolerance to additional grain in the diet, a chromium supplement may be advantageous. Chromium supplementation may also help reduce the incidence of tying-up in certain horses. One of the possible causes of tying-up is related to carbohydrate metabolism, and therefore chromium's action on glucose and insulin may be beneficial in this situation.

Keeping an endurance horse fit and healthy involves more than just putting in a large number of miles on trails. The work required of these horses is quite different than that of any other equine athlete. The challenge is to provide the correct combination of nutrients that will support the special needs of these athletes during both training and competition.



# Mounting Advantage – Better For The Horse

By Jamie Dieterich, Ph.D.

The first thing you need to do to go on a ride is to get on the horse. There are many factors involved in accomplishing a nice, smooth, quiet, athletic mount. One of these factors is whether to mount from the ground or to use a mounting block.

EQUUS Magazine published an article titled "Easing Mounting Pressure" by Karen Smith in the August 1995 issue (pp. 48-55). The article started out reminding us of Newton's basic laws of motion and acceleration. "When a rider mounts a horse from the ground, he's accelerating upwards against gravity, and the entire body weight has to be lifted by energy. The heavier the person is or the greater the distance he is below the horse's back, the more energy is required to lift him and the more effort the horse must invest to withstand it." The article then cited Jeff Thomason, Ph.D., Ontario Veterinary College, who estimated "that a person mounting a horse from the ground could actually exert up to double his own weight on the stirrup. The resulting force pushes down on the stirrup, pulling the saddle both down and toward the rider." This leads to torque, or twisting the horse's body rather than

just pulling on it. As the saddle torques toward the rider, it presses against the spine, especially the withers, on the off side and digs into the muscles on the near side. Thomason further explained that a horse is fairly stable front to back, but not side to side; thus mounting from the side inevitably throws the horse off balance to some degree. This often makes the horse step one way or the other to compensate.

This EQUUS article reported that Joyce Harman, DVM, who practices equine acupuncture and chiropractic in addition to conventional veterinary medicine, did some studies using a "high-tech sensor pad connected to a computer." She found that mounting from the ground put the most pressure on the back. The use of a mounting block reduced the pressure somewhat. The least pressure on the back was seen with the leg-up method, that being where an assistant gives the rider a leg-up boost like jockeys use. Using a leg-up allows a rider to rise above the saddle and come straight down.

Interestingly, in the EQ Consultants column in the September 2006 issue of EQUUS magazine, p. 83, Tracy Turner, DVM, responded to a question about the use of mounting blocks by saying, "Unless you can step into the stirrup an pop into the saddle without putting stress on the stirrup – a feat equivalent to vaulting onto a bareback horse from a standstill – the process of mounting places torque on the withers and twists the spine, which is unpleasant at the time and can cause serious, permanent injury over the long run."

I'm a scientist, so I like documentation. If someone makes a statement, I like to hear something that backs it up. These references cite scientific data that make it clear to me that it's better for the horse if we use whatever advantage that we can to mount - a mounting block at home, a log, a rock, even a depression in the ground. The higher we can get before putting our foot into the stirrup, the less torque we'll put on the horse's back, and the better it will be for the horse. I also agree with the words of Dr. Turner, "As a rider myself, I can identify with the pride you take in mounting from the ground...but this is one tradition that the horses would be better off without."

In the 1995 article, Karen Smith said, "The way you get yourself from ground to saddle at the start of a ride has important implications for your horse's body and mind". That's an important thought.

To read the initial article, go to <a href="https://www.equisearch.com">www.equisearch.com</a> and search for "mounting."

# NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



PO Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135, 303-688-1677, Fax 303-688-3022 www.natrc.org, natrc@natrc.org

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Memberships run from January 1-December 31. We offer eight membership plans: four Regular; two Lifetime and two Platinum. The Platinum plans receive all the benefits of the Regular plans plus personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit.

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SINGLE \$60 /yı  ASSOCIATE \$50 /yı	Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes) Single adult member (1 vote) Equine-related groups or businesses only (no vote) Single Junior member under age 18 (no vote)
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: One to	me membership payment.
	Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes) Single adult member (1 vote)
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FAMILY \$130 /yı SINGLE \$ 80 /yı	Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes) Single adult member (1 vote)
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# The Leadline

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