

The Leadline

The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding



www.natrcregion1.org

Spring 2016

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“Through the Eyes of the Horse”

**2016 NATRC National Convention,
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno Nevada**

By Linda Thomason, Convention Chair

As your convention chairman, I can honestly say I'm returning to “normal”- sort of. While it was a lot of work, it was also great fun to see everyone having a good time. The multiple speakers, the large selection of vendors, the entertainment Friday night and the social gatherings in the hospitality suite were most enjoyable and a great way to start off 2016.

I cannot fully express my gratitude to AERC for the cooperation and assistance they provided. The interclub cooperation was great, and it proved that when we work together, we can make an event pretty special. Troy Smith, Kathleen Henkel and Kyra DeMartini from AERC were the nicest folks to work with. I sincerely hope the AERC attendees enjoyed the event as much as NATRC members did.

On Thursday afternoon, the early birds were greeted by our convention mascot who led the way into the hospitality suite. Vicki and Gene Boicelli hosted the hospitality suite and provided a constant supply of snacks and drinks for guests. A big thank you to Vicki and Gene for all their work setting this up, procuring the goods in Reno and keeping the bathtub stocked with ice! The hospitality suite was continuously full, and it was fun to meet folks from other regions as well as catch up with Region 1 members. It worked well to have early registration in the adjacent room (my bedroom - kind of noisy for me but what the heck, you don't go to convention to sleep!). Another hearty thank you to Betty Young who managed the early registration as well as helped out with the on-site registration.

Most of the folks who attended Friday's lectures took a short break before heading on to the evening entertainment. Richard Elloyan and Steve Wade were a great duo. I could see by the number of people standing in line to purchase CD's after the concert that their music was thoroughly enjoyed. I hope to attend the Genoa, Nevada Cowboy Music Festival to listen to more of their music. NATRC wishes to thank Equisure for sponsoring the Friday night concert. Thank you also to Lea Landry for helping me with ticket sales on Friday evening.

Saturday was filled with another round of lectures followed by the NATRC National Awards banquet. Jamie Dieterich did an amazing job of

Continued on [page 2](#)...



*Steve Wade, Diane Leshner, and
Richard Elloyan*

...continued from [page 1](#)

putting together the programs and photographs for both the National Awards Saturday and the Region 1 Awards on Sunday. Our very own Region 1 members, Maria Pilgrim, Haley Schlerf, Karlie and Kirsten Johnson, and Claire and Sophia Cichocki assisted by Laurie DiNatale and Jamie Dieterich set out the awards Saturday afternoon. Jamie and I were the Co-MC's for Saturday night, and the young ladies, dressed in their evening best, helped hand out the awards! Jamie is a pro at the MC business, but this was my first time. It was great fun but of course I screwed up a few times. At one point I introduced the breed award for Rocky Mountain "slotted" horse! Oh well, next time I need less wine BEFORE the presentations.



Eileen and Jeff Cichocki

Lee Cannon was in charge of the NATRC booth in the vendor hall and was assisted by volunteers from the National Board of Directors. Thank you all for promoting NATRC and answering the many questions over the 2 days.

The silent auction items were displayed and open for bids during the Saturday dinner. We had some amazing items and an enthusiastic crowd with competitive bidding on most items. Many thanks to Sheila Christiansen (and her husband, Mark, who was a great assistant!) for heading the silent auction and doing a great job of dis-



NATRC booth in the vendor hall

playing the items. Also we are particularly grateful to Darlene Scherf, Debbie Murphy and Angie Meroshnekoff for their assistance in procuring items. Haley, Karlie, Kirsten, Sophia and Claire helped schlep all those things from the Hospitality Suite to the banquet room. The silent auction is one of our major fund raisers for the year. Both Sheila and I would like to thank all of you who

donated items and those of you who purchased items. It wouldn't have been as successful without all your support!! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

There are too many of you to name names, but know that we are very grateful to each and every one of you.

At the Region 1 Awards Breakfast Sunday morning, awards recipients were treated to a unique set of awards thanks to Davern Kroncke and Betty Young. I hope you all

enjoyed the awards and give a special thanks to the folks who worked hard to set this up. Jim Ferris and Phil Young tabulated our votes for Region 1 Board of Director Positions. Welcome to new board member, Donna Stidolph, and welcome back to Gene Boicelli and Stephanie Swain.

Anyone who has put on events like this can appreciate how great it is to have some dedicated "go-fers," those dependable folks who will help with virtually anything needed. I must commend Davern Kroncke and Stephanie Swain for being there for me. No job too small or large for these guys! Steve Meroshnekoff was another one who was "Johnny on the spot."

Lastly a recognition list for all of you who contributed to make this a success. If I missed anyone, it wasn't intentional, just too challenging to keep track of everyone.

Convention Logo:

Angie Meroshnekoff (the picture used was the head shot of Jean Armer's retired NATRC horse!)

Hospitality Suite:

Vicki and Gene Boicelli

Silent Auction Chair:

Sheila Christiansen



NATRC mascot outside the hospitality suite

Awards MC's:

Jamie Dieterich, Linda Thomason, and Maria Pilgrim (Sunday R1 Awards Breakfast)

Photographer:

Donna Stidolph

Projectionist:

Jim Ferris

Region 1 Awards:

Betty Young and Davern Kroncke

Welcome Baskets for NBOD:

Created by Trisha Taniguchi

Liason with AERC and without whose support I never could have chaired this event!!!

Jame Dieterich - Jamie is our very own Region 1 energizer bunny and she works harder than anyone twice her size!

My sincere thanks to all of you who drove to Reno, who helped out and who contributed to making this a successful and fun event for everyone!



Betty Young manning the NATRC registration booth outside the vendor hall

Region 1 Board of Directors

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See www.natrc.org for National Board, Committees, and Secretaries

Chairman's Message. . .

Time to Saddle Up!

Well it's that time to saddle up and get out there to enjoy the spring weather and start getting the horse back in shape for the upcoming season.

Also don't forget to kick the tires on the truck and trailer as mentioned last year.

Looks like we will be having a very good ride season this year with a two more rides added to the list. The Georgetown Ride is back, and the Circle Nine Ranch is a new one which should be a very good ride with new trails and great scenery to enjoy.

The convention at Reno was a great success. It was good to visit with everyone who attended. Being able to just relax and socialize is always fun. On the Region 1 BOD, Donna Stidolph was newly elected, Stephanie Swain was re-elected, and Gene Boicelli came back to fill a vacant spot. It will be a good board again and, as always, feel free to contact us at any time; we are here to help.

Keep the sunny side up and straight down the trail.

Region 1 Chair,

Steve Meroshnekoff

From the Editor...

Spring has definitely sprung here in the far north, a bit earlier than usual, I might add. But that's okay, I'll take it! The snow is gone, the migratory birds have already returned, along with the mosquitoes, and my horses are almost all shed out already! I've been getting lots of saddle time enjoying the wonderful weather that has been gracing my corner of the globe!

I enjoyed attending the National Convention in Reno in February and getting to visit with all my "Lower 48" Region 1 friends, as well as those from the other regions. The seminars presented were very interesting and educational, and the Friday night entertainment was most enjoyable! The conventions are always a great way to reconnect with those who share a love of distance riding.

This issue of the newsletter is a recap of the annual awards and recognitions presented in Reno. Congratulations to all those who earned awards this year! I know you've all worked very hard to achieve what you have.

As the summer riding season progresses, be sure to send me your ride stores and photos to share with the rest of Region 1 through the pages of this newsletter.

May your riding season be all you hope it will be!

See you on the trails!

Laurie Knuutila

Region 1 2015 Year End Awards Presentation

Credits:

- National Convention: Linda Thomason
- Awards: Betty Young and Davern Kroncke
- Photos: Pete Harris, Serena Dudas, Linda Thomason, Darlene Schlerf, Julie Willett
- Membership/Voting: Phil Young and Jim Ferris
- MC: Maria Pilgrim
- Projectionist: Jim Ferris
- Program: Jamie Dieterich

National Sponsors:

Be sure to thank and support our national sponsors

Advantage Saddles
Carri-Lite Corrals
Chiggerville Farms
The Distance Depot
Easy Care, Inc.
Messick Performance & Endurance Horses

Prairie Sylvania Arabians
Riding Warehouse
Spalding Labs
Specialized Saddles
Trailwise Saddles
Valley Vet

Many Thanks to Our Generous Members

From Betty Young

We want to extend out sincerest thanks to all of you who donated so very generously for the Region 1 year-end awards for the 2015 ride season. It was absolutely the most amazing response I've ever seen in all my years associated with the awards. For the very first time, we had sponsors for every first place award, every single ribbon and all of the Special Awards.

The following is the list of award sponsors:

Platinum Sponsors (\$300 or more):

Darlene & Brian Schlerf
 Susan Flagg -- In memory of Casey Davisson

Gold Sponsors (\$100-\$199):

Lea Landry
 Vicki & Gene Boicelli
 Betty & Phil Young
 Kathryn Lewandowsky
 Margie & Robert Insko
 Eric Schroeder
 Sheila Christiansen
 Donna Stidolph
 Carolyn & Art Johnson -- In honor of Heather (Parson) Harper

Silver Sponsors (\$50-\$99):

Haley Schlerf
 Linda Thomason
 Cichoki Family
 Swain Family Farm
 Nancy Kasovich
 Beverly Barmettler-Mierkey

I cannot thank you enough for your incredible generosity and support. You are all the best!!

2015 R1 BOD

with Thanks and Appreciation

Gene Boicelli
 Jamie Dieterich (NBOD)
 Laura Harvey
 Davern Kroncke
 Angie Meroshnekoff (NBOD)
 Steve Meroshnekoff
 Stephanie Swain
 Linda Thomason (Alt. NBOD)
 Phil Young

Incoming R1 BOD

Stephanie Swain (re-elected)
 Donna Stidolph (newly elected)

2015 Ride Chairs

with Gratitude and Appreciation

Mt. Diablo:

Ellen Pofcher

Cowboy Camp:

Jean Armer

Round Valley:

Gene Boicelli

Challenge of the North:

Leslie Kitchin

Jackson Forest x 2:

Steve Meroshnekoff

Leadline Editor:

Laurie Knuutila

Webmaster:

Donna Stidolph



More Thanks Due

I would like to express my personal thanks to Davern Kroncke who stepped up without hesitation to volunteer when I requested some help selecting and procuring the year-end awards for 2015. Having done them for the past several years, I felt pretty burned out and devoid of ideas. I think Davern found some fabulous and unusual items, mostly on her trip up to Bend, Oregon. I think everyone who received the awards was very pleased with them. She did a super job and is eager to help again with the 2016 awards---she must be a glutton for punishment.

Thank you so much, Davern, for all your help!! It was very much appreciated. I'm eager to shop with you again.

Betty Young

Region 1 Appreciation

Tammy Brown

By Donna Stidolph

I met Tammy the first year I did NATRC. She and her husband, Doug, were high on my list of reasons for believing I'd found my tribe in NATRC: competent horse people, generous spirited, with goofy senses of humor. How could I go wrong? And nothing changed over time; Tammy stayed the same funny, kind person.

Then, in 2015, I was Ride Secretary for an endurance ride in Santa Cruz, and a couple of our safety riders bailed out on us. So, I called Tammy.

Come and ride 25 miles on trails she's never been on before? Drive 4 hours and camp in someone's back yard in order to do it? On 3 days' notice? No problem!

Sitting around the campfire at the next NATRC ride, I was telling the story of how NATRC, in the person of Tammy, had saved the ride. When I finished, the person next to me started in, and as we went around the circle; "everyone" had a story of how Tammy had made something possible, whether

sponsoring Juniors or helping someone.

The amazing thing about this is not that Tammy is generous and supportive - we all knew that - but that no one seemed to know everything that she was doing. She asked for no credit and expected no thanks; her reward was in knowing that she'd helped someone move forward on something they cared about. If I ever grow up, I want to be like Tammy.

Trisha Taniguchi

By Donna Stidolph

I think Trisha's first NATRC ride was Round Valley. When people have Round Valley as their introduction to NATRC and come back to try again, you know they're serious trail riders. And does Trisha ever qualify - notwithstanding the pink glitter she puts on Jake's hooves. (Surprisingly, Jake manages to carry it off with an air of savoir faire and elegance.)

As a full-time student at UC Davis, Trisha works part time and still finds

the time to condition Jake for both NATRC and AERC success. In addition, last year she established the Equine Endurance Club at Davis where she advocates for NATRC as well as AERC rides.

Most impressively, I think, she took on the role of being Region 1's Trail Advocate. We've had trail advocates in the past, but Trisha has taken it to new level by publishing a monthly Trail Report, giving news of trail open-

ings and closings, opportunities to do some trail work, and upcoming activities for interested horse people.

I've ridden with Trisha and Jake, and they were a pleasure to be with - entertaining and considerate. When I put that together with Trisha's energy and all-around competence, I feel better about NATRC's future.

Special Recognition – Kitty and Neil Weber

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.

The Weber's are moving from R1 to R6. We wish them well, but we are REALLY going to miss them, not only because they're great workers, but because they're wonderful people.

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 Lightweight Horsemanship

*1st place sponsored by Sheila Christensen
Ribbons sponsored by Betty & Phil Young*

1st Aleatha Landry

Novice Junior Horsemanship

*1st place sponsored by Lea Landry
Ribbons sponsored by Haley Schlerf*

1st Kirsten Johnson
2nd Claire Cichocki
3rd Karlie Johnson
4th Savannah Gipson
5th Lilyanna Redin
6th Ilsa Madison

Novice Heavyweight Horse

*1st place sponsored by Eric Schroeder
Ribbons sponsored by Linda Thomason*

1st Pop Star / MFT
Linda Cannon

Novice Lightweight Horse

*1st place sponsored by Margie & Bob Insko
Ribbons sponsored by Donna Stidolph*

1st Murmullito FOA / Arab
Aleatha W. Landry

Novice Junior Horse

*1st place sponsored by Carolyn & Art Johnson
in honor of Heather (Parson) Harper
Ribbons sponsored by Darlene & Brian Schlerf*

1st Lucky Eddie / Grade
Kirsten Johnson
2nd Lola / Grade
Claire Cichocki
3rd Nausicca Maj / Arab
Karlie Johnson
4th Beauhemian / Grade
Emma Flammang
5th Mistress Jezabel / Grade
Lilyanna Redin
6th Valentyne / Grade
Savannah Gipson

Competitive Pleasure Division

Competitive Pleasure Horsemanship

*1st Place sponsored by Susan Flagg,
in memory of Casey Davisson
Ribbons sponsored by Susan Flagg,
in memory of Casey Davisson*

1st Haley Schlerf
2nd Joe Dillard
3rd Ashley Dillard
4th Michelle Pimentel
5th Kay Lieberknecht
6th Joe Pimentel
6th Debbie York

Competitive Pleasure Horse

*1st Place sponsored by Susan Flagg,
in memory of Casey Davisson
Ribbons sponsored by Susan Flagg,
in memory of Casey Davisson*

1st OM El Shakeeb
Dream / Arab
Joe Dillard
2nd OM El Nairobi / Arab
Ashley Dillard
3rd Kat Man D / Arab
Michelle Pimentel
4th HM Raina Bo Surely / H-Ar
Haley Schlerf
5th OM El Bilbao / Arab
Debbie York
6th Sun-Rays Mamma
Jamma / MFT
Tammy Brown

Open Division

Open Heavyweight Horsemanship

*1st Place sponsored by Kathryn Lewandowsky
Ribbons sponsored by Donna Stidolph*

1st Jean Armer
2nd Davern Kroncke

Open Lightweight Horsemanship

*1st Place sponsored by Darlene & Brian Schlerf
Ribbons sponsored by Margie & Robert Insko
and Linda Thomason*

1st Angie Meroshnekoff
2nd Donna Stidolph
3rd Stephanie Swain

Open Heavyweight Horse

*1st Place sponsored by Vicki & Gene Boicelli
Ribbons sponsored by Swain Family Farm*

1st Pistol Pete DF / Arab
Jean Armer
2nd YS Tyrone / Paint
Davern Kroncke

Open Lightweight Horse

*1st place sponsored by Darlene & Brian Schlerf
Ribbons sponsored by Cichoki Family*

1st Desert Reinbeau / Must
Angie Meroshnekoff
2nd Sierra Sunshine / Grade
Donna Stidolph
3rd Palistar / Arab
Stephanie Swain

Region 1 High-Point Breed Awards

Awards created by Angie Meroshnekoff

Arabian: OM El Shakeeb Dream / Joe Dillard

Half-Arabian: HM Raina Bo Surely / Haley Schlerf

Half-Connemara: Tura Lura / Linda Cannon

****Missouri Fox Trotter:** Sun-Rays Mamma Jamma / Tammy Brown

Mule: Marilyn / Joe Pimentel

Mustang: Desert Reinbeau / Angela Meroshnekoff

Paint: YS Tyrone / Davern Kroncke

Grade-Tie: Lucky Eddie / Kirsten Johnson

Grade-Tie: Lola / Claire Cichocki

** National High Point MFT Region 1; presented at the National Convention.

Region 1 Special Awards

Bob Smith Award

High Point 1st year
Novice or CP horse

Sponsored by:
Nancy Kasovich

Nausicca Maj / Karlie Johnson

Pat Ersepke Award

High Point Novice
Horse/Rider combo

Sponsored by:
Darlene & Brian Schlerf

Lucky Eddie / Kirsten Johnson

Fran & Carol Duport Award

High Point 1st year
Open horse

No horse qualified

Wonder Workers

Hats awarded to:

Phil Young

Betty Young

Angie Meroshnekoff

Steve Meroshnekoff

Maria Pilgrim

for working at many more
than 15 rides

100% Club

For attending all R1 2015 rides as
rider or volunteer and the day at
UC Davis

Angie Meroshnekoff

Steve Meroshnekoff

Donna Stidolph

Repeats; declined jacket

Blue jackets were presented to:

Jean Armer

Kirsten Johnson

Kay Lieberknecht

Brian Schlerf

Haley Schlerf

Stephanie Swain

Phil Young

Max Barmettler Award

Outstanding service to Region 1

Doubly Sponsored by Bev Barmettler-Mierkey and Betty & Phil Young

Lee Cannon

By Steve Meroshnekoff

Only those of us who knew Max Barmettler can truly appreciate what an honor it is to receive this award. Max was Special - always there for anyone who needed help before, during and after an NATRC ride. While his wife Bev competed, staged rides, worked rides, judged rides, Max was the behind-the-scenes, go-to-person who made sure things ran smoothly, and if they didn't, he made sure they did. No job too large or small, always with a smile.

Lee Cannon is the kind of guy who would tell a friend who needs a place to stay out there in nowhere-land, "Here's the directions to our property, the gate's unlocked, make yourselves at home." For the past 10 years or so, Lee has been coming to the Region 1 rides as a volunteer. With a big smile on his face, he always asks "What can I do to help you?"

He shows up with his wife, her horse and trailer in tow, parks the trailer, unhitches the truck, and goes to work. He has been a judge's driver, a P&R person, and lately has been running the P&R crews as the Captain at many of the rides. At the last few rides that I have put on, Lee has assisted by showing up a day early to help with setting up the camp, running with me to set up water out on the trail, driving the P&R teams around, pulling ribbons off the trails, and helping break up camp at the end of the ride.

Lee is one of those people I count on dearly to help out to make the ride go smoothly. If you need someone to do anything, Lee is always ready to help. He's that kind of guy.

Thank you so much for being there helping with our rides.

Dear Members,

The convention is 'in the books', as the old saying goes, and we are all left with the glow of well-deserved awards and recognition, satisfaction for a job well-done, and memories of fun time spent with like-minded friends.

As representative for the silent auction held in conjunction with the NATRC national convention I would like to extend a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all of you who made this a huge success! We had a stunning array of excellent donations, too many to name, and I was blown away by the generosity of yourselves and the businesses and acquaintances from whom you acquired items. Wow.

In addition, so many of you helped personally to gather, transport, set up, mark, count, count again, and make sure that all was handled respectfully and accurately. Bless you. I won't name names, for fear of leaving someone out, but you know who you are. And so do I!

At the end, when all was sold, the check-out process went smoothly and quickly, with no leftovers over which to puzzle. Thank you. You are the best!

Sincerely,
Sheila Christiansen

Region 1 Awards at the National Level

Presented February 20, 2016, at the National Awards Banquet, Reno, NV.

Regional Appreciation at the National Level

Text in Hoof Print

Brian and Darlene Schlerf

Worker Hall of Fame

Text in Hoof Print

Jamie Dieterich

Team Awards – Sponsored by Region 1

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 team awards.

Novice Division

Novice Heavyweight Team

No R1 Novice Heavyweight Qualified

Novice Lightweight Team

No R1 Novice Lightweight Qualified

Novice Junior Team

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| 1. Lucky Eddie / gr | |
| Kirsten Johnson | 84 pts |
| 2. Lola / gr | |
| Claire Cichocki | 70 pts |
| 3. Naussica Maj / ar | |
| Karlle Johnson | 65 pts |
| 4. Valentyne / gr | |
| Savanah Gipson | 49 pts |
| 5. Mistress Jezabel / gr | |
| Lilyanna Redin | 46 pts |
| 6. Denebaborr / ar | |
| Ilsa Madison | 35 pts |

Competitive Pleasure Division

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. OM El Shakeeb Dream / ar | |
| Joe Dillard | 94 pts |
| 2. OM El Nairobi / ar | |
| Ashley Dillard | 90 pts |
| 3. HM Raina Bo Surely / har | |
| Haley Schlerf | 80 pts |
| 4. Kat Man D / ar | |
| Michelle Pimentel | 50 pts |
| 5. OM El Bilbao / ar | |
| Debbie York | 36 pts |
| 6. Bodacious Tailfeathers / gr | |
| Kay Lieberknecht | 33 pts |

Open Division

Open Heavyweight Team

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Pistol Pete DF / ar | |
| Jean Armer | 48 pts |
| 2. YS Tyrone / Paint | |
| Davern Kroncke | 36 pts |

Open Lightweight Team

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1. Desert Reinbeau / must | |
| Angie Meroshnekoff | 97 pts |
| 2. Sierra Sunshine / gr | |
| Donna Stidolph | 66 pts |
| 3. Palistar / ar | |
| Stephanie Swain | 46 pts |

Open Junior Team

No R1 Open Junior Team Qualified

2015 High-Mileage Rider Chevron & Medallion Awards

10,000 Miles – Gold Medallion

Sponsored by Debbie & Ron York

Angie Meroshnekoff / R1

2015 Horse High Mileage Awards

1000-Mile Horse Award

Sponsored by Region 1

Sierra Sunshine / grade / Donna Stidolph / R1

Seeking Committee Help - Points and Membership

By Jim Ferris

I have chaired this committee for the past 24 years. I need to relinquish this position but in order to do this I am seeking a volunteer whom I can train to take over this committee starting this year. I have updated the software that I use for this job and will make it available to NATRC Region 1 together with a laptop on which it is installed for a nominal charge to the Region. As long as I am able, I will support this software so that it can be kept up to date as rule changes are introduced or until such time as my replacement becomes well versed in the software.

Here is a summary of the responsibilities of this committee.

1. Keep the membership list up to date. National sends this list once a month.
2. Enter and verify all of the ride results. You may need to remind the National office to send them. If you find discrepancies in the reports, you will have to bring them to the attention of the National Office.
3. Make up and send the roster every year in the April/May time frame. I will provide a framework for this task probably using Microsoft Word.
4. Print mailing labels for Ride Managers, Roster mailing and other Board needs as requested. I will provide instructions on how to do this using Microsoft Word.
5. Provide email lists to Ride Managers as requested in plain text files.
6. Compute the year end results and pass them for verification to the Board in plain text files.
7. Send year end results to the Leadline editor for publishing in plain text files.
8. Send out E-Blasts as requested by the Board or committee chairs.
9. Retain all past years results by year for future reference (this requires frequent usage). My software provides an easy way to do this.
10. Backup the database files frequently so data cannot be lost. This can be done onto a thumb drive. Note that the laptop also has a DVD writer in it so it could be done to a DVD or CD. I can develop a backup script to assist in this function.

Note that all of the software is freely available and will run on Macs as well as Windows PC's. I may have to help setup the Mac if that is what the user has but remember that a Windows 10 laptop with all of the data will be available.

If no one volunteers to take over this position then Region 1 will no longer have its own Points & Membership chair and will have to rely entirely on National. Ride Managers will have to obtain their own membership lists in order to mail out ride entries and will have to create their own labels. E-blasts and emailed ride entries will disappear. This is an important position and needs a dedicated person to take it over.

If you have any questions or need further clarification of anything, please contact me by email (jim.c.ferris@gmail.com) or call me by phone (541-205-5269).

Region 1 2016 Ride Schedule

<http://www.natrcregion1.org/>

May 7	Mt. Diablo Ellen Pofcher Sec: Jessie Simons	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 672-4348	"B" O/N/CP mtnoaks@earthlink.net mtnoaks@earthlink.net
May 21-22	Cowboy Camp Jean Armer Sec: Jean Armer	Williams, CA (530) 755-8301 (530) 755-8301	"A" O/CP; "B" N armer@citilink.net armer@citilink.net
June 4-5	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@gmail.com linda.thomason0610@gmail.com
June 18-19	Georgetown NATRC Michelle Pimentel Sec: Helen Steenman	Georgetown, CA (209)537-9355 (530) 333-4364	"A" O/CP; "B" N stablemucker2003@aol.com hsteenman@yahoo.com
July 30-31	Knik River Ramble Pete Praetorius Sec: Rae Arno	Palmer, AK (907) 745-4747 (907) 354-7390	"A" O/CP; "B" N pwpraetorius@matsu.alaska.edu raemarie@mtaonline.net
August 20-21	Jackson Forest Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Ft. Bragg, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	"A" O/N/CP; "B" N iambrewing@aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 17-18	Jackson Forest Fall Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Ft. Bragg, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	"A" O/N/CP; "B" N iambrewing@aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
Oct. 15-16	Circle 9 Ranch Michelle Pimentel Sec: Sue Flagg	Mariposa, CA (209) 537-9355 (925) 890-2144	"A" O/CP/N stablemucker2003@aol.com iluvmulestoo@yahoo.com

Region 1 Year End Awards Change

By Phil Young

Throughout my entire involvement with NATRC (since 1984), Region 1 (R1) has required the completion of two R1 rides to be eligible for year-end horse or horsemanship awards. The R1 Board of Directors (BOD) at their 2016 Convention meeting decided that, beginning this year, the criteria would be changed to completion of three R1 rides to qualify.

Before the regions became joined at the hip with National through the annual dues payment (2001), one could join their Region or National or both by paying the appropriate dues to the appropriate organizations. Each had their own criteria and set of year-end awards. National has always required completion of three rides to qualify, and R1 has required two. When we say "ride" in this context, we mean physical events, not that a 1-day ride counts as 1/2 ride and a 2-day ride counts as 1 ride, etc. Originally, National year-end awards were basically just for Open Divi-

sion (except for horse and rider mileage types of things), while R1 handed out awards for all divisions, and out-of-region rides did not count for R1 awards.

It has caused some complications for National in calculating R1 team award winners since our ride criteria were different from theirs. Thus the R1 BOD thought it would be appropriate to make our criteria the same as National's (as well as all the other regions') and avoid this confusion.

Another reason considered for the change was how few R1 rides we currently have. Back in the day, R1 had as many as 10 or 12 rides in a season. They also were heavily attended, sometimes with over a hundred riders, with all divisions having overfull classes (except for Open Junior). In those days no one ever got a year-end award with just two or three rides under their belt. Requiring three rides reflects more of a commitment to earn a year-end award.

Good-bye, Ralph Dever

By Jamie Dieterich

Ralph and Betty Dever were a familiar site at R1 rides for many years – Ralph riding his young Arabs with his quiet way, Betty timing riders out and in. I remember judging a ride at Folsom Lake; it was HOT, there were other trail users, and a lot of our ribbons were taken down at critical intersections. Many riders hustled to make time, but Ralph came in about 2 minutes over max time; he said it just wasn't the best thing for his young horse to push too much. That was Ralph.

The Devers owned Honey Bee Arabians in Elk Grove. Ralph's stallion, Raskela, won the Haggin Cup at the Tevis in 1968.

Born on January 13, 1925, Ralph passed away on March 6, 2016, about 3 years after Betty. They still warm our hearts.

Just for Juniors

4-H Junior Rider Year End High Point Award

Are you a 4-H member? Know someone who is? Encourage your friends to do competitive trail rides. They and you can compete against each other to win NATRC's 4-H Junior Rider Year-End High Point Award.

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

- The award goes to the high point horse and high point rider **regardless** of the rider's division.
- Your self-nomination must occur before the end of the ride year, which is the second Sunday in November. (For 2016, that will be November 13th.)
- You must (1) be an NATRC member, (2) send an email to Laurie DiNatale (natrc@natrc.org) stating that you are a 4-H member, and (3) have your 4-H leader also send Laurie an email verifying that you are a 4-H member.

Additionally, in a number of states (Colorado is one example), 4-H now recognizes competitive trail as an activity that qualifies as a 4-H member's project. How cool is that?!

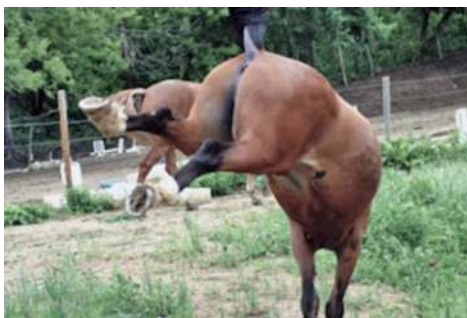
Questions?

Contact Angie Meroshneoff, awhitedog@aol.com.
Chair, Riders and Juniors Committee

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 years. 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.



Getting Hurt by Gentle Horses

By Tim Hayes

Reprinted with permission

If you're alive, at some time in your life you will most likely get hurt. If you interact with horses consistently you are not only likely to get hurt, you are choosing to participate in an activity that can be life threatening. This is also true with skiing and many other fun activities. However with every activity other than horses, you will never be injured because your "equipment" spooked. If we eliminate playing Frisbee with our dog, horses are the only animals we partner with in an athletic event. The unfortunate reality is that most humans are accidentally injured interacting with gentle horses they love. The most common cause of horse related injuries is a combination of three things—lack of knowledge, lack of communication skills, and treating a horse like a big pet.

Lack of Knowledge

In the early years of my journey with horses I was extremely lucky to survive serious injury in spite of my beginners lack of knowledge. Not knowing how or where to stand around horses caused me, on more than one occasion, to have my foot stepped on. A more serious example occurred with me showing off to a friend what I thought was the correct way to stand at an open stall door and get a horse to turn and face me. Not knowing the size of a horse's natural physical comfort zone, as I demonstrated my "skill", the horse kicked out with his two hind feet...both with shoes. One caught me on my left elbow the other in the most humiliating location a man can be kicked. I was lifted into the air and thrown five feet

out into the aisle. Thankfully, I completely healed and recovered. In retrospect, I had a dangerous lack of knowledge. I should have asked more questions, been more careful, and never made assumptions.

Lack of Communication

My early lack of knowing how to naturally communicate with horses also resulted in my share of dangerous misunderstandings. When I was young and first starting out, much of my equine knowledge had come from watching television. During one trail ride I decided to ask my horse to canter. I took my long western reins, and just like in the movies, I spanked his butt. Not like in the movies, he bucked me off (communicating his desire for me to leave) and in turn, the hard dirt trail spanked my butt.

Treating a Horse like a Big Pet

When I first fell in love with horses, like most people, it was almost impossible for me to be close and not touch them. I wanted to rub, hug, and pet them like big teddy bears. I didn't know that horses naturally bite each other as a means of communicating their dominance. Since they're all similar in weight (approximately 1,000 lbs) and strength, their bites and kicks usually don't cause serious injury to each other. With humans however it can be dangerous. For a while I would let them rub their heads on me, lick me, or nibble my shirt just like a big puppy. That was up until one bit down on my thumb and bit my arm so hard he drew blood. As with lack of knowledge and communication, touching and or treating a horse like a big pet is a common set-up for injuries, sometimes very serious ones.

Natural Horsemanship teaches us what is natural for the horse—how the horse experiences the world and responds to it. If I can communicate to him in his language, if I can understand how he sees, thinks and feels, then as the late Tom Dorrance use to say, I can "offer him the best deal possible". I can help him if he gets frightened, frustrated or willful. I can reassure and allow him to keep his dignity, earning his trust and his respect. I can become his leader because he wants me to be his leader.

This is why groundwork is so important. It replicates how horses communicate naturally with each other. It's how they establish who will be the leader.

Natural Horsemanship is about creating a relationship based on communicating with my horse not just physically but mentally and emotionally as well. If I expect my horse to let me ride him I must be in control in order for both of us to stay safe. Then if he's happy and goes too fast, I can speak to him physically to help him slow down. If he's afraid I can communicate with him emotionally to help him relax. If he's disrespectful I can communicate with him mentally to help him have a better attitude.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BIT

A Bit Of Knowledge

When my horse gets afraid and spooks I get anxious.

When I get anxious, I make my horse anxious.

When my spooky horse gets anxious everything becomes more dangerous.

Horses are only afraid of one thing—being eaten by predator animals.

There is nothing that can eat my horse where he lives or where we ride.

With this knowledge I never have to be afraid when my horse spooks.

With this knowledge I can stay relaxed and always reassure him.

He will relax; reaffirm his trust in me as his brave leader.

I have helped both of us from getting hurt.

A Bit Of Communication

When my horse is overcome with fear he will run.

To survive he will use the instinctual/"right side" of his brain which releases adrenaline.

While in this state, he cannot think nor can I communicate with him.

Physically pulling harder on the bit will cause him pain.

The pain will only confirm to him that he's still not safe. He'll run faster.

To communicate I need to do something that will cause him to use the thinking/"left side" of his brain in order to respond to me.

Continued on [page 12](#)

...continued from page 11

For a horse to cross over one hind leg in front of the other hind leg he needs to use the thinking/left side of his brain. This is called "disengagement of his hindquarters".

Getting him to disengage his hindquarters will cause his brain to switch from his fear driven/out of control right side to his thinking/ responsive left side.

The release of survival adrenaline from his right side will subside as will his fear. He will begin to calm down. His focus and attention will shift back to me. I'll pet and reassure him. We are both safe.

A Bit Of Boundaries

All good relationships have good boundaries.

Humans and horses both have physical boundaries called comfort zones.

Entering one's comfort zone and being accepted with total safety requires love, trust and respect.

If I allow my horse close to me and treat him like a big pet, he'll treat me like a friendly horse.

Horses always play dominance games with each other to establish a pecking order (who's the leader).

Most horses are about 7ft. long, 5ft. high and weigh 1000 pounds or more.

They bite, bump, kick, swing their heads, and push each other around.

The horse that moves the other horse away first is the winner and becomes the leader.

Being of equal size allows them to physically interact this way and not get seriously hurt.

Being a human of unequal size and interacting with my horse like a pet, I can get seriously hurt.

Before I allow my horse into my personal space, appropriate physical intimacy rules must be established.

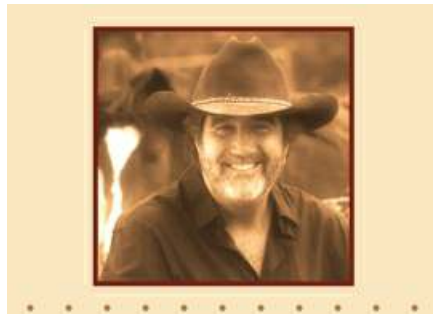
I must teach him and he must learn that he can only enter my space when invited. He must physically respect me and never treat me like another horse.

These are only 3 of many Natural Horsemanship Bits. But these 3 Bits will help create gentle horses that are truly safe and gentle for people.

Read more:
<http://www.equinejournal.com/community/blogs/hayes-is-for-horses>

About the Author

Tim Hayes is the author RIDING HOME: The Power of Horses to Heal. It is this amazing power of horses to heal and teach us about ourselves that is accessible to everyone and found in the pages this book. Every book ordered will benefit veterans with PTSD, children with autism, and children of families in need. Learn more at ridinghome.com. For Tim's clinics, private sessions, books, DVD's and more articles go to Hayesisforhorses.com.



Reminder from the Points and Data Committee

Cheri Jeffcoat

1. To be eligible for year-end awards, membership dues must be paid by the second Sunday in November, the end of the Ride Year.
2. It is the responsibility of the owner of the horse to accurately report/verify the horse's breed to NATRC.
3. Year-end breed awards. Many breed organizations sponsor year-end high point breed awards. Memberships in NATRC and the breed association are required.
4. Questions about the horse and/or rider records should be directed to NATRC, natrc@natrc.org.



Junior Rider Rebate

Junior riders who are NATRC members by the second Sunday in November of a ride year and complete 3 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.

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, 2384 Templeton Dr, Redding, CA 96002. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to Laurie Knuutila, 455 Ream Lane, Fairbanks, AK 99712 or email to wildroseph1@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.

National Board Meeting Report, Feb. 2016

By Angie Meroshnekoff, NBOD

As everyone knows, membership is down in our organization across the nation. The board felt that offering a free membership to first time members might encourage people to join and try a ride or two. So the word needs to go out to as many people and as many places as we can think of – and that starts with our current members. Tell people you work or ride with, hang flyers or membership applications in tack and feed stores. Have talks at horse clubs, get the word out.

And to retain those new members we need to make them feel welcome in our sport and valuable as individuals. Our National president Kim Cowart suggested each region establish a Mentor/Outreach committee to put on clinics, one-on-ones and talks to groups. We're doing some of that here in our region but we need to do more. He also discussed the need for professionalism and respect toward all participants- new and not so new.

The National organization now has full ownership of the RMS (Ride Management System) and is looking into making changes to upgrade it along with making the whole process easier to use. You may already have seen a few changes but if you have thoughts or concerns on the system, we need to hear from you.

NATRC now has a YouTube channel, so look for videos on "how to" coming soon.

Finally new rule change proposals: (Changes are underlined) Section 1a 1(5) Supporting Membership – Any person 18 years of age or over. Not eligible for individual ride awards unless

the non-member rider fees are paid at the ride. Not eligible for year end and mileage awards unless Adult membership fee is paid before the end of the ride year.

Rationale: Older riders who quit competing can easily be lost to NATRC membership. Other members who have joined, even for a year or two, and are not competing may not renew for other reasons, economic, family changes, horse issues, etc. A less expensive membership could encourage them to remain. Suggest \$40.00 for supporting membership. Note: No monies should be returned to the regions for the supporting memberships. No loss would be incurred by NATRC.

#3 Hoof / Leg protection

SECTION 5 – E. Hoof Protection/ Leg Protection

1. There are no shoeing restrictions.
2. All types of hoof boots that provide sole protection are allowed. However, any attached strap, keeper, gaiter or accessory must not extend above the pastern. Socks and wraps under hoof boots or any of their parts are allowed if they do not extend above the pastern. The judges may request to observe the area covered by the attached strap, keeper, gaiter, or accessory.

3. (Move from 5 F 3) Protective devices, such as bell boots or wraps, are not permissible on the legs of horses except for hoof sole protections as allowed under Section 5.E.2. The leg is defined as all structures above and including the coronet.

Protective devices, such as bell boots, splint boot or leg wraps are not permissible on the legs of horses except as part of hoof sole protection as allowed in 5 E 2. . The leg is defined as all structures above and including the coronet.

Rationale: (1) Socks and wraps under hoof boots or their acces-

sories have been considered leg protection. Is it more appropriate to consider these as hoof boot protection? (2) Moving #3 from the current section (5 F) on tack to the rules on shoeing and hoof protection makes more sense.

#3 Junior Competitors

3. Junior

- a. Age 8 through 17. The rider must be 8 years old to enter competition; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year and this age shall continue throughout that ride year. Juniors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or over) on the trail unless the junior rider has at least 300 competition miles or has completed a minimum of 10 rides of any ride type.
- b. ~~Juniors may not compete in Novice Heavyweight, Novice Lightweight, or Senior classes. Juniors may compete in Open Heavyweight or Open Lightweight classes if weight requirements are met.~~
- e. b. Juniors (See Section 4 B3a) may not ride stallions.
- d. c. No weight requirements apply if competing in Junior Class.

Rationale: Multiple families have indicated this has been a large factor in them either not joining NATRC, or stepping away from NATRC and going to other distance riding organizations so that their children could compete with them. This proposal would reduce those losses in the future.

Trail News

Presented by Trisha Taniguchi, Region 1 Trail Advocate



Here is a recent photo taken by Angie Meroshnekoff of Cache Creek, where the Cowboy Camp ride and clinic will be held in May. Signs of recovery are promising after the Rocky fire passed through late last year.

Upcoming Events:

- April 22-24
NATRC R2 Spring Fling
Temecula, CA
- April 23
Horsemanship on the Trail
Dunnigan, CA
- April 30
CSHA Trail Trials Clinic
Napa, CA
- May 7
NATRC R1 Mt. Diablo
Clayton, CA
- May 21
NATRC R1 Ride Clinic
Williams, CA
- May 21-22
NATRC R1 Cowboy Camp
Williams, CA
- May 22
LBEMC Equine Health Fair
Penryn, CA

The Mathematics of Equestrian Trails

Additions: 4 miles of new trails have been added to the Cache Creek area thanks to a partnership between our sister organization, AERC, and the BLM. Furthermore, plans to build a bridge from Auburn, CA to Cool, CA with additional trails, parking, and camping for equestrians have been proposed!

Subtractions: Some equestrian staging areas like the Skillman Horse Camp in the Tahoe National Forest, and Turkey Hill in Wallace, CA are in danger of

closing their gates to equestrians. Many agencies are now turning to a "use it or lose it" policy to as they need the financial support from recreationists to fund their operational costs.

Balancing the Equation: There are many actions we can take to make sure our voices are heard. We can sign a petition to support the China Bar Bridge. We can also make reservations at the horse camps that are in jeopardy to enjoy a weekend of riding with friends while supporting a cause!

Additional 2016 Rides!

Get ready to ride! As we prepare to start the 2016 season, it is exciting to see that we have many more events in our region this year! Our beloved Georgetown ride will be back this June! And, making its debut, the Circle 9 Ranch ride will be held mid-October in Mariposa, CA. A huge thanks to all of our wonderful ride chairs and secretaries who make these events possible! We would love for you to "come ride with us" and support these new and returning rides in this wonderful region "where it all began".

Park Watch Report

As avid trail users, we share a responsibility with all others on foot, hoof, and tire to keep our trails safe and enjoyable for all. One simple way we can contribute is by notifying local agencies and land owners of maintenance issues and incidents we come across on our rides. With just a few simple steps, Park Watch Report makes reporting even easier and can be accessed through your phone and online. Next time you are out on the trails, give it a try! Even GPS coordinates and pictures can be uploaded for detailed reports!



Jean Armer was all smiles as she and Pistol Pete DF took on the Georgetown ride in 2014.

Minutes of the NATRC Region 1 BOD Meeting - Jan. 9, 2016

The meeting was held at Rocklin, California.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by Chair, Steve Mero-shnekoff.

Present: Stephanie Swain, Phil Young, Linda Thomason, Angie Meroshnekoff, Steve Meroshnekoff, Gene Boicelli, Dav-ern Kroncke, and Jamie Dieterich (via tel-ephone)

Absent: Laura Harvey (excused)

Guests: Vicki Boicelli, Betty Young

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the meeting held 09 Sep-tember 2015 were submitted for review. Phil moved to approve the minutes with one correction (under year-end awards, write-up for Tammy Brown by Donna, NOT Angie), Linda seconded; all agreed. Resumes for upcoming election of two (2) board members have been received; they include Stephanie Swain and Donna Sti-dolph. Ballots will be prepared for the election to be held at the 2016 National Convention.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance: \$20,365.82 (as of 01/08/16)

Category Detail Report 2015 and Trans-acton Detail Report 2016 to be submitted via email. CDR 2015 to be updated in-cluding Angie's NBOD expenses, Phil's Leadline expenses, Jr. Rebates (none submitted to date), seven (7) 100% Club Jackets, Region 1A dues.

All agreed to continue to pay membership for vet judges who judged the previous year. Mike Witt and Leroy Burnham judged in Region 1 in 2015, so Phil paid their membership fees for 2016.

Angie mailed rider fees from Jackson For-est – should be received soon.

Angie moved to set a December 1st dead-line for submission of Junior Rebate appli-cations, Phil seconded; all agreed. Steve moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Stephanie seconded; all agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Physical Resource Coordinator: Linda Thomason – All materials have been moved to Linda's new address. Angie has the bibs and will bring them to Cowboy Camp. Linda has old bibs to be used for clinics.

Historian: No report. Angie will contact Laura regarding her continued participa-tion.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff - showed proofs of new screen printed hat

design. Cost is ~\$18 each for min 25 hats. Stephanie to investigate setup price/price per hat for embroidered hats from University Fashions – 6 rib non structured. Phil will check into Aramark.

Points/Membership: Jim Ferris – No re-port. Per Jamie Dieterich - promo for 2016: No fee for brand new members. Must be submitted via U.S. Mail. Jamie will ask Bev Roberts to design "official" poster to advertise at Convention.

Publicity: Linda Thomason – 2016 Con-vention will be advertised in a BAEN ban-ner in approximately 1 week. Bev Roberts obtained advertising for Convention on 107 venues nationally. Davern will look into future NATRC group participation in Rose Parade.

The Leadline: Phil will prepare the Lead-line issue for Convention, print next week. Need to determine number of copies re-quired.

National BOD: Angie Meroshnekoff – No report - see summary in Leadline. NBOD agreed to limit 2016 issues to three pro-posed rule changes and two clarifications to be carried forward from the February meeting.

Region 1 Website: Angie Meroshnekoff and Jamie Dieterich - Time to renew web hosting. Angie moved to have Donna pay \$119 fee for the year, to be reimbursed by R1, seconded by Stephanie; all agreed.

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Diet-erich – Angie will contact Jean Armer re-garding needs for Cowboy Camp. The camp looks like it will be ok post fire. AERC will do trail repairs prior to their ride which will be shortly before CC and leave their ribbons up.

Darlene Schlerf has agreed to be ride secretary for the clinic, and Haley Schlerf will be a clinic mentor rider.

Helen Steenman is working on a Ride Manager for Georgetown;

Outreach Coordinator: Linda Thomason – Linda has moved and has joined the Loomis Basin riding group.

Trails Advocacy Coordinator: Trisha Taniguchi – No report. Linda will let Tri-sha know to report to the board.

Bylaws: Jamie Dieterich, Phil Young, Steve Meroshnekoff – No report.

Judging Issues: Nancy Kasovich, Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich – The CRI will be discussed further at the National level and standards are being developed. Until the process is standardized, the CRI may still be done at some rides for the purpose of data collection, but will not be included in the score.

OLD BUSINESS:

National Convention 2016: Linda Tho-mason submitted report via email. Dis-cussed details of convention organization and management. Still awaiting list of speakers and schedule from AERC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Region 1 procedure change regarding qualification for year-end awards (current-ly completion of two (2) rides during a ride year). In recent years there has been a large percentage of two- time riders re-ceiving year-end awards. While we want to reward riders, it was felt that a year-end award is something that should be earned. It was agreed that R1 should fol-low the same requirements as for national awards (completion of three (3) rides dur-ing the ride year). Stephanie Swain moved to change the Region 1 qualifica-tion for a year-end award from completion of two (2) rides in a ride year to comple-tion of three (3) rides in a ride year; Linda Thomason seconded. All agreed. Note: the Region 1 Roster needs to be updated to reflect this rule change, and it should be announced at all ride briefings this year.

Additionally, Phil Young suggested that for the sake of consistency, Juniors should be required to complete three rides to be eligible for ride fee reimburse-ment. Gene Boicelli moved to change the requirement for Junior rider reimburse-ment from completion of two (2) rides to completion of three (3) rides; Jamie Diet-erich seconded. All agreed.

Jamie Dieterich proposed that Region 1 donate \$200 toward 2015 National Awards at 2016 Convention. All agreed.

NEXT MEETING:

Time: Immediately following General Member meeting

Date: 21 February 2016

Location: Reno, NV

CLOSE OF MEETING: Steve Meroshne-koff moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 pm. Seconded by Stephanie Swain; all agreed.

NOTE: Immediately following the close of the meeting, an email was received by Angie announcing Laura Harvey's resig-nation from the board. An election will be held to fill the vacancy for the remaining year of Laura's term.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Swain

Minutes of the NATRC Region 1 BOD Meeting - Feb. 21, 2016

The meeting was held at Reno, Nevada.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:25 am by Chair Steve Meroshnekoff.

Present: Stephanie Swain, Phil Young, Linda Thomason, Angie Meroshnekoff, Steve Meroshnekoff, Gene Boicelli, Jamie Dieterich, Davern Kroncke, and Donna Stidolph

Guests: Jean Armer, Betty Young, Vicki Boicelli, Kathryn Lewandowski, Kitty Weber, and Laurie Knuutila

Board of Directors Election Results

Gene Boicelli (1 year)

Donna Stidolph (3 years)

Stephanie Swain (3 years)

Election of Officers:

Secretary: Phil Young nominated Stephanie Swain to the office of Secretary; Davern Kroncke seconded. All agreed.

Treasurer: Steve Meroshnekoff nominated Phil Young to the office of Treasurer; Donna Stidolph seconded. All agreed.

Chairman: Angie Meroshnekoff nominated Steve Meroshnekoff to the office of Chairman; Donna Stidolph seconded. All agreed.

Secretary's Report:

Correction was made to 25 September minutes (as noted in 09 January 2016 minutes). Submitted minutes of 09 January 2016 meeting for approval. Linda Thomason moved to accept both the correction and the January minutes. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

Submitted electronically via email

Checking balance: \$20,365.82

2016 Budget TBD following completion of Convention Report

Steve Meroshnekoff moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Linda seconded. All agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Physical Resource Coordinator: Linda Thomason – No update. Linda will store convention signs with other resources.

Historian: Position open? Need to get materials back from Laura. Donna will contact Laura to see what Laura's plans are going forward.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff - received new hats from Stephanie.

Five awarded at Convention: Angie Meroshnekoff, Maria Pilgrim, Steve Meroshnekoff (88 rides), Phil Young (92 rides), and Betty Young.

Points/Membership: Jim Ferris has stated that he wants to step down from this position. He will offer his laptop and software to R1 at a reasonable price and would be willing to train a new Points/Membership person over the next year. Donna says there are pitfalls in using software that only one person knows how to use. Linda suggested publishing a request in Leadline for a person to take over the Points/Membership position and be trained by Jim. Phil will ask Jim to write this.

Angie and Jamie will compile membership list from updates sent from National Office.

Publicity: Linda Thomason - Linda will create ride synopsis with free new membership information to be posted and sent to horse clubs. Requests ride managers send ride information for publicity.

Benefit Ride: Sanction in progress and application is in to BLM. Judges: vet - Leroy Burnham: horsemanship – Jan Jeffers (tentative). Most ride management positions have been filled: Lee Cannon - P&R Chair, Kris Skoog - vet judge secretary, Linda – rules interpreter, Steve – water, Brian Schlerf – cook; still need Ride Secretary and Timer.

The Leadline: Laurie Knuutila has requested more materials for inclusion in the Leadline (articles, stories, pictures), and would like to encourage members to subscribe to the e-version, which has more content than the printed version.

National BOD: Angie Meroshnekoff – Angie to send detailed email report regarding three rule changes under discussion during 2016, including decreasing the Junior rider age limit. There has been much negativity toward the CRI from some riders and ride managers – RMs must present a positive attitude to riders regardless of their feelings.

Kim Cowart suggested Regions establish a Mentor/Outreach committee to put on clinics, one-on-ones and talks to groups. Angie is willing to be the coordinator. Kim also discussed the need

for professionalism and respect toward ALL participants as there is the perception of elitism at some rides. Kim brought up the "elephant in the room" issue with some thinking NATRC is a trail ride rather than a competitive distance ride.

Region 1 Website: Angie Meroshnekoff and Jamie Dieterich – Donna will post new Region 1 Year End Awards qualification changes.

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Dieterich - There will be a ride clinic conducted in conjunction with the Cowboy Camp ride. Angie stated that there will be a 'Triple Crown' award which will include points from the Jackson Forest ride, Jackson Forest Fall ride, and the Chamberlain Creek Endurance ride. Jamie and Angie will discuss administration of the CRI at the Mount Diablo ride with vet judge, Carol Ormond.

Outreach Coordinator: Linda Thomason – will try to schedule talks for Reno area and to Loomis Basin riders.

Trails Advocacy Coordinator: Trisha Taniguchi – Trisha will be staying on in Region 1 as she has gotten a full time position in Auburn.

Bylaws: Jamie Dieterich, Phil Young – no update.

Judging Issues: Nancy Kasovich, Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich – continuing to work on standardization of CRI.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Lee Cannon has suggested organizing a horse microchipping clinic along with a trailer safety inspection. Lee will look into this and present information to the board at a later date.

NEXT MEETING:

Time: 11:00 am

Date: 03 June 2016

Location: Round Valley, Brentwood CA

CLOSE OF MEETING:

Steve Meroshnekoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:46 pm; seconded by Linda Thomason. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Swain

NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



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A friendly reminder that you must be a current member to receive member rider fee discounts. To be eligible for year-end awards, you must be a member before the ride year ends. The Ride Year ends after the second Sunday in November. See you on the trail!

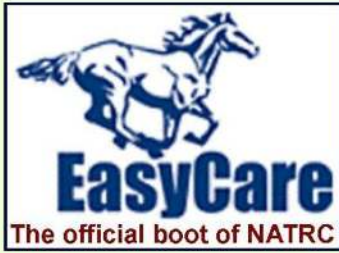
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