

The Leadline

The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding



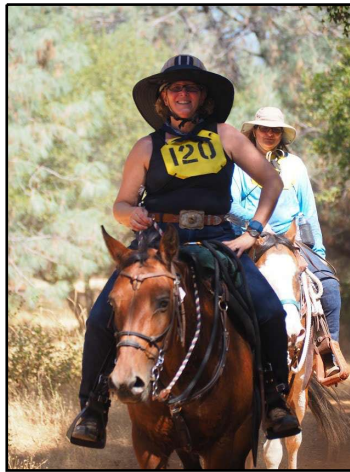
www.natrcregion1.org

Winter 2019

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Cool Canyon Leisure Ride



Photos by
Donna Stidolph



Region 1 Board of Directors Vacancies

Two 3-year terms are up for election. Any member wishing to be nominated to run for one of these seats needs to submit a short résumé to the R1 Recording Secretary, Stephanie Swain, prior to January 1. Stephanie's contact information is in this issue.

The health of our organization requires the regular addition of new faces to the BOD to get new energy and ideas. If you would like to give back to our sport and could consider devoting some time and energy to participating in its management (there are only four regular meetings each year), please consider submitting your résumé for consideration.

Votes will be cast and counted at our annual meeting in the Spring. If you cannot attend, you may request a ballot from Stephanie Swain. She must receive it back before the meeting.

Chair's Column. . .

Early this season, I stood in for a Ride Manager at one of our rides. It was the first time I'd spent a ride day in camp and I learned a lot, but the thing that really sort of shocked me was the effort that goes into putting on an NATRC ride: if it takes a village to raise a kid, it takes a METROPOLIS to put on an NATRC ride! I was astonished by the number of volunteers it took.

Which brings me to the point of this note: if, for some reason, you can't ride in one of our events next year; or if you have a friend who's interested in the sport, but isn't quite ready to sign up and ride but wants to learn more; you should both consider volunteering. It's fun and you learn a lot. Here's a list of some of the positions you could fill and why you might do it:

Pulse and Respiration (P&R) crew: Our "regular" P&R teams are The Best, so if you can get out there with the team, you can learn from people who really understand the job. And it's a useful skill to have – it can come in handy at home or on the trail with a friend. If you already know how to do it, the other role that the P&R teams play is NATRC Ambassadors. When new or inexperienced riders participate, they don't get much of a chance to interact with the judges or riders in a different class – but we all see the P&R crews, and they do a fabulous job of showcasing our culture with their competence and kindness. You could be part of that, too.

Judge's secretary: Both the horsemanship judge and the vet judge need secretaries. If you take this job, you have to be able to remember stuff and write legibly, but these are places where you can really learn a lot. I was a secretary for a horsemanship judge at one ride, and it was an amazing experience. In addition to the obvious – getting a better understanding of how the judges assess things – I also had several "You can do THAT??" moments, when someone approached an obstacle in a totally unexpected way. And seeing 30 different teams do the same things allowed me to see a bunch of different ways of approaching tasks and how their varying skill levels affected their approaches. I hope to do it again, and I wish I'd done it earlier.

Safety rider: This is a job that's usually just a nice, casual amble – but as soon as it isn't, it's a really important job! Either helping riders in trouble on the trail or finding ones who've gone astray is key to enabling people to feel safe on our rides.

Driver: The judges and their secretaries have to be at several different points along the ride route, and they have to be there on a tight schedule. If you are a competent 4WD driver AND you can read a map (I can't), you could be a driver.

And if you're busy the weekend of the ride, how about pulling ribbons in the week after? It turns out that in some BLM areas, if we don't remove the ribbons from our rides within a week of the ride's last day, we can be barred from using the area again - which would be a really stupid way to lose a ride!

These are just a few of the more obvious jobs; the list of volunteer roles goes on and on. And since the Leisure Division rides group frequently take different routes on different schedules than the other divisions, we're going to need separate volunteer crews for them.

So. If for some reason you're available on a ride weekend, but not riding our event – come on down anyway – we'll find you a job!

Donna Stidolph
R1 BOD Chair

Donna Stidolph

Region 1 Board of Directors

Chair:

Donna Stidolph
831.427.3646 donna@stidolph.com

Treasurer:

Linda Thomason
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linda.thomason0610@gmail.com

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Committees

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Webmaster

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831.427.3646 donna@stidolph.com

Trails Advocacy Representative:

Trisha Taniguchi
619.987.7969 trishajeane6@gmail.com



TENTATIVE NATRC R1 2020 RIDE SCHEDULEwww.natrcregion1.org

May 2	Mt. Diablo Ellen Pofcher mtnoaks@earthlink.net Co-chair: Elaine Baker ms_ebaker@yahoo.co	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 698-2466	"B", L
May 16-17	Cowboy Camp Linda Thomason linda.thomason0610@gmail.com Sec: Donna Stidolph donna@stidolph.cpm	Williams, CA (510) 708-1439	"A" O/CP/N "B" N/L
June 13-14	Eel River Steve Meroshnekoff iambrewing@aol.com Sec: Maria Pilgrim wolves1961@sbcglobal.net	Potter Valley, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 217-3582	"A" O/N/CP, "B" CP/N/L
July 24-25	TBD Cindy Bonine Bonine99@aol.com Sec:	Palmer, AK (541-2878)	"A", O/CP, "B" N
August 22-23	Jackson Forest Summer Steve Meroshnekoff iambrewing@aol.com Sec: Maria Pilgrim wolves1961@sbcglobal.net	Ft Bragg, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 217-3582	"A" O/N/CP; "B" CP/N/L
TBD	Cool Canyon Leisure Division Debbie Murphy equuspassage@aol.com	Cool, CA (916) 719-6265	"B" L limit 40
TBD	Round Valley Regional Park Gene Boicelli geneboicelli@gmail.com Sec: Linda Thomason linda.thomason0610@gmail.com	Brentwood, CA (925) 672-6491 (510) 708-1439	"A" O/CP; "B" N-LIMIT 45

Minutes of the NATRC Region 1 Board of Directors Meeting

Held via Zoom videoconference

08 September 2019

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm by Chair, Donna Stidolph.

Present: Stephanie Swain, Linda Thomason, Angie Meroshnekoff, Donna Stidolph, Jamie Dieterich, Sheila Christiansen and Steve Meroshnekoff

Absent: Lee Cannon (excused) and Maria Pilgrim (excused)

Secretary's Report:

Angie moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 05 May 2019. Sheila seconded. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balance: \$22,675.12

Committee Reports:

Physical Resource Coordinator: Linda Thomason – No update.

Historian: Donna Stidolph – No update. Note: most new information is stored electronically with backups. Will look into including electronically saved version of ride maps.**Wonder Workers:** Steve Meroshnekoff - Steve will be checking with Lee, who has documented volunteer participation this year, to see how the collection of volunteer information is working.**Points/Membership:** Donna Stidolph – Incorporated recent membership updates from Jamie.

Minutes of the NATRC Region 1 Board of Directors Meeting Continued

Publicity/Outreach Coordinator: Linda Thomason – only two rides left this season, so not much publicity to set up. Signup at Horse Expo added 85 to the mailing list. Angie has seen increase in rider numbers with Facebook boost. Sheila has asked Facebook discussion group members to share ride information with the other group(s) they belong to; Linda will write brief informational letter to be shared. Linda is overly busy, so will send out e-blast to recruit help with tasks like mailing letters to clubs, organizations with information about NATRC, and with Facebook.

The Leadline: **Sheila Christiansen** – Ironing out wrinkles in transitioning to new Leadline staff. Jamie said the biggest impediment to a smooth transition is learning the formatting software.

National BOD: **Angie** – During this time of organizational transition, face-to-face meetings cannot be eliminated initially, but some of the meetings could possibly be eliminated through targeted monthly electronic meetings, thereby saving transportation and hotel expenses. Jamie – monthly training meetings are being held via Zoom for LeD judges. Proposed bylaws changes will be up for vote by membership soon, probably via Survey Monkey. Need to transition to a new Hoofprint proofreader/compiler as Jamie is retiring from the position.

Region 1 Website: **Donna Stidolph** – No update; looks good. Will request ride maps from ride managers/secretaries to be scanned and uploaded to the website.

Ride/Clinic Management: **Jamie Dieterich** – Debbie Murphy has generated a lot of enthusiasm and is considering offering back to back (Sat/Sun) LeD rides next year. Need experienced competitors to ride LeD occasionally as mentors to mingle and get to know the LeD riders.

Angie suggested the possibility of having a standalone LeD ride as our benefit ride next year, drawing from other division riders for volunteers.

Trails Advocacy Coordinator – Trisha Taniguchi – planning to produce a quarterly report.

Judging Issues – Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich – more veterinarians expressing interest in becoming judges. Jim Ferris approved as LeD judge. Need more oversight of LeD rides.

OLD BUSINESS:

Year-end awards – Sheila will procure the awards. Looking at ways to stretch the budget – awards that recognize achievement, but aren't too costly. Need specific ideas – Anne York pieces suggested. Continue discussion via email. Finalize service awards, submission of names to National.

Lynge Groverman (Simoni) has offered a donation of \$500 toward putting on a new ride in Northern California – need to get this information to potential new ride managers. Linda will clarify any details/restrictions of this offer with Lynge. Sheila will revisit managing the Georgetown ride with Susan Travers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Utilization of historic trophies received from Nora Cook's daughter – some appear appropriate to be used as "keeper" plaques for perpetual awards.

2020 Mini Convention committee – advertise for chair and volunteers, scout locations (Sheila had offered her home) - after further consideration, Sheila has determined that her home will not work. Linda will check into Loomis Basin; Stephanie will check with Sonoma County Driving and Riding.

Discuss recognition of LeD for Region 1 – need to survey LeD participants - do they prefer early separate awards presentation, or to be included with the end of day awards for all divisions? Another option could be to have the separate early awards, then announce the placings at the end of day awards presentation. Due to budget constraints, first time rider T-shirts will be given on a ride-by-ride basis, at the discretion of each ride manager.

4-H Year end award – Angie proposed the region sponsor a Regional 4-H High point or participation award for riders and/or volunteers. Angie moved to approve a Region 1 sponsored year end participation award for 4-H members for 2020 year- end. Stephanie seconded. All agreed. Details to be worked out at a future meeting.

Budget – ideas for fundraising, cutting expenses – tabled until next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Time: Noon

Date: 12 January 2020

Location: electronic meeting via Zoom

CLOSE OF MEETING:

Donna Stidolph moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:21 pm, seconded by Stephanie Swain. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Swain



NATRC: It's more about the ride

By Heather O'Donnell

I started my horse journey as a 50-year-old that last rode a horse as a 22-year-old. I had been laid off from my career, searching for a new one, my kids were growing up, and I needed a new path forward.

I was given an "unrideable and dangerous" Arabian that was arena sour and unsound. I told my husband that if I couldn't rehabilitate the horse, I would sell him in a year. What a crazy idea that was! I embarked on a journey with my horse, First Flyte, a 15-year-old former Scottsdale champion stallion that had been abandoned and discarded by the show people who had created him. His redeeming feature was his sweet face. I couldn't believe this sweet horse was also the same horse that bolted for no apparent reason, that bolted and broke a trainer's leg, that bolted and ended up in the back end of a barn, unwanted and unloved.

I started to have my lunches with him and he loved my peanut butter sandwich. He was barn sour, arena sour and had every stable vice including weaving, cribbing, and stall walking. What was I going to do with this horse that was given to me? I told him, he was going to be a real horse, let's go on a trail. I was naive enough that first season to sign up for the Mt. Diablo NATRC ride as my first ride. I was terrified for most of that ride, but by mile 10 Flyte started to look like a normal horse, head down with ears forward. That year I did a lot of praying and

singing, to comfort both Flyte and myself. He apparently loves Shania Twain as much as I do, as I sang every one of her songs, including our personal favorite, "When." I prayed while riding Flyte, that my husband would survive his devastating cancer, and prayed that we could find a path forward as we tried to figure out what we should do as a family. Should my spouse retire now, keep working, or just hunker down against the odds? What is the best path forward for my husband and family?



I got a 2nd horse, as I didn't want Flyte to hurt on these long rides, as he has so much pain from his former show life. Indy became the sassy younger brother that goes along for the ride as I solicited friends to ride with us as I wasn't sure when Flyte's last ride would be. Still going strong this season, we have gone through 5 saddles trying to fix his back pain, along with numerous chiropractic sessions. Next year we will still be working through issues, but Flyte will always go out on trail with me even if it is only a short 10 miler in the Leisure Division.

NATRC has been a great community of horse people that were willing to share their experiences and advice with me as a novice horse owner that wants only the best for her horse. Thank you!

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 Linda Thomason, 5033 Southside Ranch Rd, Rocklin, CA 95667. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to Karen Smart, 19096 Pine Drive East, Pioneer, CA 95666 or email to gummer8@volcano.net. 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.

Ride Results - Eel River

Date: Jun 29-30, 2019

Chair: Meroshnekoff, Steve
Horsemanship Judge: Walls, Lory

Vet Judge: Burnham, Leroy
Total Riders: 32

Eel River - A

Sweepstakes Open Horse
Sweepstakes Novice Horse
Sweepstakes CP Horse

Spantik Maj
Sugar Roan Warrior
OM El Shakeeb Dream

Niderost, Natalie
Monlux, Anais
Dillard, Joe

Open - Lightweight

P / P

CR Sierra Sunrise

Stidolph, Donna

P / P

High Desert Warrior

Meroshnekoff, Angie

Open - Junior

1 / 2

Spantik Maj

Niderost, Natalie

2 / 1

Desert Whiskey

Cichocki, Claire

Novice - Lightweight

P / P

Beach Please

Murray, Jennifer

Novice - Junior

1 / 1

Sugar Roan Warrior

Monlux, Anais

2 / 2

The Sundance Kid HGR

Petersen, Maren

3 / 3

Rocket

Fansler, Aubrey

Competitive Pleasure - Heavyweight

1 / 1

OM El Shakeeb Dream

Dillard, Joe

2 / 3

Pop Star

Cannon, Linda

3 / 2

Stealth Knight

Boicelli, Gene

4 / 4

Cledith's Driver

Skoog, Kris

P / P

MK Vangouh

York, Ron

Competitive Pleasure - Lightweight

1 / 1

OM El Sharav

Dillard, Ashley

Eel River- B1

Sweepstakes Novice Horse
Sweepstakes CP Horse

First Flyte
Om El Bilbao

Ryerson, Susa
York, Debbie

Novice - Lightweight

1 / 1

First Flyte

Ryerson, Susa

3 / 2

BlackCat

O'Donnell, Heather

2 / DO

TKR Leather N Lace

Swain, Stephanie

Novice - Junior

1 / 1

Valentyne

Doering, Rebekah

Competitive Pleasure - Lightweight

1 / 2

Om El Bilbao

York, Debbie

2 / 1

Hot Midnight

Taniguchi, Trisha

3 / 3

Bodacious Tailfeathers

Lieberknecht, Kay

Leisure - Adult

1

Belesema Magic Moment

Naugle, Kimberly

2

Lola 3

Monlux, Jessica

3

Juno

McClure, Carrie

4

Rusty 12

DeJoseph, Shari

5

Samson's Toby

Mohebbi, Arlene

6

Zeke 3

Harreschou, Daniel

7

Rebels Aliza

Travers, Susan

8

Lolo

Harreschou, Elizabeth

9

Tucker B

Bettenhausen, Jennifer

10

Suade

Firpo, Denise

Eel River - B2

Sweepstakes Novice Horse
Sweepstakes CP Horse

Rebels Aliza
Pipi

Travers, Susan
Pilgrim, Maria

Novice - Lightweight

1 / 1

Rebels Aliza

Travers, Susan

Competitive Pleasure - Heavyweight

1 / 1

Pipi

Pilgrim, Maria

Cool Canyon Leisure Ride Results

Cool Canyon Leisure Ride Date: Sept 14 2019

Chair: Debbie Murphy
Leisure Judge: Angie Meroshnekoff

Leisure Adult

1	JM Hansen	Browne, Tracy
2	Jake 27	Sexton, Roni
3	Sashey LaFey	Baker, Valerie
4	Levi 4	Kramer, Debra
5	Mama	Schatzel, Penny
6	Roulette	Guion, Nathalie
7	Casino 2	Dunn, Jan
8	Suncatcher SMF	Zabriske, Jean
9	Liberty	Edmondson, Sheila
10	Josz Bkr	Woodford, Andrew
	Cabi	Babcock, Heidi
	Misty 10	Bailie, Pam
	Twister 3	Casner, Jaci
	Cassie 5	Killey, Abby
	Case In Point	Kruger, Monte
	Moon 3	Neves, Wendy
	Zip 2	Passantino, Rosemary
	Sarah 3	Reeve, Anne
	Quiz	Reeve, Jim
	Destiny 3	Zahradnik, Natalie
CO	Amirah Hilal	Cova, Jill
P	Jesse 4	Hempstead, Barbara
P	Debbonn Aire	Peterson, Dorothy
	Leisure Junior	
1	MF Amirah Samrah	Moss, Timothy

Hoof Protection and Lost Shoes

By Cheryl Bohling, farrier/competitor Region 6

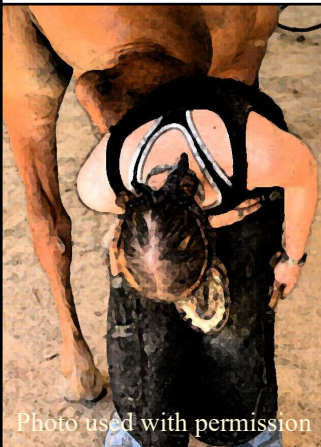


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As we are nearing the end of our riding season, I have a few thoughts on hoof protection that would help at our rides pertaining to lost shoes. My observations as the on-site farrier at many of our Region 6 rides over the last couple years.

Keep your last set of shoes, even if they are wore out. Clean them up, make sure they are flat, mark which foot they go on (the farrier standard is to mark the outside branch heel, either with a punch or a sharpie), tape them all together, and put them in your trailer. It's far easier to nail on a pre-formed shoe for your horse, than to shape one up by a farrier unfamiliar with your horse and without the same brand of shoe. Nail holes are like ear ring holes and the nail will drop right in if the shoe is the same as the one that just came off.

You could also ask your farrier to make up a fresh set, and do the same. Don't forget to offer to pay for them.

Hoof boots are very handy as well. And with all of the Renegade boots we are winning at rides be sure to get them sized for your horse.

I would also suggest having a PAIR in your trailer. Some horses may not mind the difference in height between a shoe and a boot, but others could and may become sore in the back over the course of the ride. If you have two boots, the remaining shoe could be pulled, and then wear the pair of boots to maintain an equal leg length.

I hope this helps prepare you for your next ride and ride season.

Ride Results - Jackson Forest A - B1 - B2

Jackson Forest - A, B1, B2, LEISURE

Date: August 17-18, 2019

Chair: Meroshnekoff, Steve

Horsemanship Judge Becky Rogers

Total Riders A - 11, B1 - 4, B2 - 2, Leisure - 10

Vet Judge: Carol Ormond, DVM

Leisure Division Judge: Angie Meroshnekoff

Sweepstakes Open Horse	Jackson Forest - A	
Sweepstakes Novice Horse	Desert Whiskey	Cichocki, Claire
Sweepstakes CP Horse	Sugar Roan Warrior	Monlux, Anais
	Om El Bilbao	York, Debbie

Open - Lightweight

DQ / DQ	Deste Tocata	Ainsworth, Jeanlaurie
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Open - Junior

1 / 2	Desert Whiskey	Cichocki, Claire
2 / 1	Spantik Maj	Niderost, Natalie

Novice - Junior

1 / 1	Sugar Roan Warrior	Monlux, Anais
2 / 2	Lucky Eddie	Kelly, Chesney
3 / 3	Rocket	Fansler, Aubrey

Novice - Lightweight

1 / 1	Rebels Aliza	Travers, Susan
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Competitive Pleasure - Heavyweight

1 / 3	Pop Star	Cannon, Linda
2 / 2	Cledith's Driver	Skoog, Kris
3 / 1	MK Vangouh	York, Ron
4 / 4	Stealth Knight	Boicelli, Gene
CO / CO	Amiraborr	Boicelli, Victoria

Competitive Pleasure - Lightweight

1 / 1	Om El Bilbao	York, Debbie
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Jackson Forest - B1

Sweepstakes CP Horse	Hot Midnight	Taniguchi, Trisha
Sweepstakes Novice Horse	TKR Leather N Lace	Swain, Stephanie

Competitive Pleasure Lightweight

1 / 1	Hot Midnight	Taniguchi, Trisha
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Novice - Lightweight

1 / DO	TKR Leather N Lace	Swain, Stephanie
2 / 2	BlackCat	O'Donnell, Heather
3 / 1	First Flyte	Zimmermann, Megan

Leisure - Adult

1	Isabel	DeJoseph, Shari
2	Bodacious Tailfeathers	Lieberknecht, Kay
3	Juno	McClure, Carrie
4	Rusty 12	Craig, Phaedra
5	Lola 3	Monlux, Jessica
6	Twin Peaks Duke	Corelis, Dennis
7	Song Singer	Corelis, Rachel

Leisure - Junior

1	Alakzan	Keizer, Elizabeth
2	Valentyne	Doering, Rebekah
3	Song 2	Valente, Catherine

Jackson Forest - B2

Sweepstakes Open Horse	High Desert Warrior	Meroshnekoff, Angie
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Open - Lightweight

1 / 1	High Desert Warrior	Meroshnekoff, Angie
2 / 2	CR Sierra Sunrise	Stidolph, Donna

Ride Results - Round Valley Park A - B1

Round Valley Park - A, B1

Date: October 5-6, 2019

Chair: Gene Boicelli

Horsemanship Judge: Karel Waugh

Total Riders: A - 11, B1 - 4, Leisure - 9

Vet Judge: Carol Ormond, DVM

Leisure Division Judge: Debbie Murphy

Sweepstakes Open Horse
Sweepstakes Novice Horse
Sweepstakes CP Horse

Round Valley Park - A

High Desert Warrior
 Sugar Roan Warrior
 OM El Shakeeb Dream

Meroshnekoff, Angie
 Monlux, Anais
 Dillard, Joe

Open - Lightweight

1 / 1	High Desert Warrior	Meroshnekoff, Angie
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Open - Junior

1 / 1	Spantik Maj	Niderost, Natalie
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Novice - Heavyweight

DQ / DQ	Rebels Aliza	Travers, Susan
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Novice - Junior

1 / 1	Sugar Roan Warrior	Monlux, Anais
2 / 2	Lucky Eddie	Kelly, Chesney

Competitive Pleasure - Heavyweight

1 / 2	Om El Shakeeb Dream	Dillard, Joe
2 / 1	Cledith's Driver	Skoog, Kris
3 / 3	Pipi	Pilgrim, Maria
4 / 4	MK Vangouh	York, Ron
P / P	Amiraborr	Boicelli, Vicki

Competitive Pleasure - Lightweight

1 / 1	OM El Bilbao	York, Debbie
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Round Valley Park - B1

Sweepstakes Novice Junior

The Sundance Kid HGR

Petersen, Maren

Novice - Lightweight

1 / DO	TKR Leather N Lace	Swain, Stephanie
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Leisure - Adult

1	Lola 3	Monlux, Jessica
2	Tallulah	Runyan, Sondra
3	Sarah 3	Reeve, Anne
4	Quiz	Reeve, Jim
DO	Rushcreek Flash	Livermore, Mo
DO	Brave Heart Bey	Livermore, Norman
DO	Kat Man D	Pimentel, Michelle

Leisure - Junior

1	Abishagg	Keizer, Elizabeth
DO	Marilyn the Mule	Pestana, Jordan

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 3 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 3 years but more than 6 months. For more details and an application, please go to: www.natrc.org.



[NATRC Region 1](#)

A Bond Between Us

By Kay Lieberknecht

Both riding and volunteering with NATRC are quite the experiences of learning, bonding with your horse, and then more learning. I've been involved both ways for years now and love the bond between my horse and me. Let me share a bit more about this.

My horse, Feathers, has a reputation for being worse than crabby, requiring an especially large red ribbon in her tail at rides. I've learned to insist that she not get even half a nose ahead of me when being trotted out for the vet, so she won't think she's the leader. And if she bucks when longed at check-in, I'm glad she also bucks at check-out, so the vet won't think she's tired! At rides the only positive thing she's been noticed for is her fast walk.

But I just adore this horse, and over our years in NATRC we have created a strong bond. She will do pretty much anything I ask of her – like follow a llama over crazy terrain,.. pull logs out of the mud of her corral, backing one step at a time when asked, with all that pressure on her crupper,.. stay with me on the ground with a beginner on her back, even when all the other horses are way out ahead.

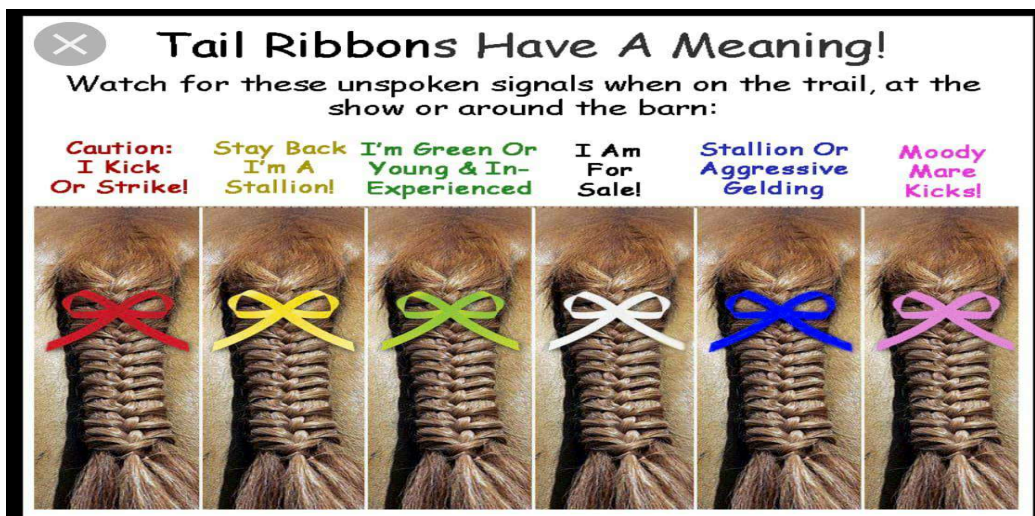
Recently, near my ranch, some kids and I rode past two neighbors' ponies who were free, and they chased us. The three kids with me were unable to keep their horses to a walk, so they got out ahead as I turned Feathers, but with her momentum my saddle turned and I fell off right in front of her! Never shutting my eyes, I was on the ground and she had completely and suddenly stopped on three legs, with her front foot in the air searching for where it could come down without stepping on me. She stood like that while I dragged myself up, totally unhurt, and then she put her foot down. I am eternally grateful for her athleticism, calm, wisdom and caring!

I'd like to invite others to share in Leadline how they have learned with and from their horses through NATRC. That makes the very best reading these cold mornings!

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. Deadline to apply is December 1.

Please contact Linda Thomason, R1 Treasurer, for more details



Region 1 Mini-Convention and Awards Luncheon

Save the Date: March 14, 2020

The Region 1 Mini-Convention and awards luncheon will be held Saturday March 14th, 2020 at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Community Hall. The venue is located at 6365 Douglas Blvd, Granite Bay, CA 95747 (between the towns of Roseville and Rocklin, CA). Great venue with everything we need for a fun event. Easy access from Hwy 80 (take Douglas Avenue off Hwy 80, head towards Folsom Lake and the church will be on your left). Lots of parking and room for trucks and RV's. A list of local hotels will be mailed out with the registration information in January. I'm also researching some full hook up camp sites at Folsom Lake for those of you who might wish to bring your campers/RV's.

Our program speakers are Diana Stolba, DVM, from Loomis Basin Equine in Loomis, CA and a local representative from Best Friends Animal Rescue in Moab, UT, as well as a short talk on ride management from Angie Meroshnekoff, our NATRC National President. In the morning we'll enjoy the speakers, then break for lunch. After lunch there will be a short member meeting, then the 2019 awards presentation.

Located near Kanab, UT, Angel Canyon is home to the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary and nearly 1600 homeless animals. The Sanctuary is home to dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, horses, pigs, goats, mules, sheep, burros and wildlife. They come from far and wide. This organization and sanctuary are unique, and I hope you will sign into their website at <https://bestfriends.org/sanctuary> to learn more about their work.

Dr. Diana Stolba is a Sacramento native who completed veterinary school at UC Davis. Her equine practice interests are emergency medicine, anesthesia, dentistry, equine behavior and client education. She's been riding horses since she was 6 years old and competed in gymkhana, barrel racing and team penning. Currently she enjoys trail riding her horses as often as she can. Outside of her horse life, she can be found at the gym, hiking, kayaking, stand up paddle boarding or traveling. Her topic has not yet been decided.

Registration forms will be available in early January. They will be posted on the Region 1 website and sent out to all parties listed on our mailing list. A raffle and silent auction will be held as a fund raiser for Region 1. If you have items to donate, please contact Linda Thomason or notify her that you will be bringing them to the convention.

In need of volunteers to help organize and set up, help with the silent auction/raffle and with distributing lunch. If you can help out, **please** contact Linda Thomason. If you are new to the organization, don't be shy about volunteering. It's a lot of work to put these events on, and all help is very appreciated.

Look forward to seeing you all in Granite Bay on March 14th, 2020!

Linda Thomason
2020 Convention Chair
linda.thomason0610@gmail.com
510-708-1439

NEW MEMBERS ARE FREE FOR A YEAR!

Join NATRC as a new member today, and you'll experience your first year of membership for free! Enjoy many great member benefits and we're convinced that once you've tried CTR, you'll see a difference in your riding and your relationship with your horse.

Although it's a competitive sport, it's not only about keeping yourself challenged or achieving awards, it's about comradery and building friendships with fellow riders who enjoy riding as much as you do.

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The Leadline

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