

The Leadline

The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding



www.natrcregion1.org

WINTER 2020

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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.



North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)

2021 VIRTUAL OBSTACLE CHALLENGE
NATRC INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR VIRTUAL OBSTACLE CHALLENGE



DETAILS

Welcome to our NATRC Holiday Hoedown Challenge! This is a virtual challenge that you and your equine partner will do once a month at your own location, record a video and upload to our brand new challenge website. Open to ALL membership levels. Be sure to renew your membership today.

There will be 3 challenges. One video submitted per "month." There will be a different NATRC judge judging each challenge month.

Challenge 1 will be 11/21 - 12/06

Challenge 2 will be 12/19 - 1/03

Challenge 3 will be 1/16 - 2/03

\$45 per entry (includes all three monthly challenges). Awards will be given to top scores in each bracket.

Registration is open now! Join in anytime. However, video submission dates are firm.

Details:

<https://www.natrc.org/obstacle-challenge-2>

NATRC 2021 Webinars

NATRC invites you to join our Webinar Series
(Membership Required)
<https://natrc.org/virtual-challenges-1>



PREVIOUS WEBINARS Available to watch:

Using GPS	Conditioning the Equine Athlete
Let's Talk Horsemanship	Basics of Balanced Riding
NATRC Sound Competition	Using NATRC Maps
Stabling at the Trailer	
Obstacles: Setting You & Your Horse up for Success	

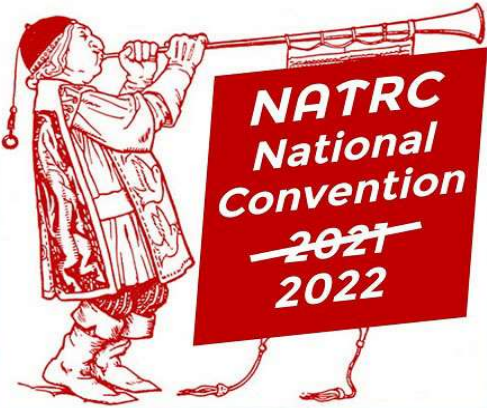
Chair's Column. . .

Message from the Chair

Introduction - The COVID Scavenger Hunt (Page 4):

To start with, I hope all of you are staying healthy and not going stir-crazy! I've been lucky enough to have some opportunities to socialize and stay involved with the horse community. The first activity was a mounted scavenger hunt put on by the Santa Cruz County Horseman's Association. We had to form teams of two or three horse/rider teams, decode a list of clues, then get photos of our clue-interpretations. The clues led us to outdoor areas to get photos of things like a water crossing and each photo had to include at least one horse. It was really fun, and I wrote a longer description of the scavenger hunt, which I think will be in the edition of Leadline. Then, I've been lucky enough to participate in what we're calling a NATRC Reunion Ride: three of us found a centrally located riding location and two fellow R1 members and I rode together. We, of course, had masks and kept social distancing - with two red mares, social distancing adds another dimension of safety besides Covid-19 avoidance! Anyhow, I'm hoping you're all staying engaged and keeping your horses fit: we have a tentative ride schedule for 2021 and we're figuring out how we're going to put them on safely. Stay well.

Donna Stidolph
R1 BOD Chair until January 1



Convention News

With COVID-19 concerns causing so many uncertainties surrounding planning, the 2021 National Convention, originally scheduled in Omaha, NE, will be postponed until 2022.

Awards News

With so few rides this season, requirements for many national year-end awards cannot be met, or will be available to only a few. In order to not diminish the integrity of our prestigious awards, the national board approved the recommendations of an ad hoc committee to not award the: President's Cup, Jim Menefee Combined Horse and Horsemanship, high average awards (Bev Tibbitts, Polly Bridges, Junior and CP Grand Champions, Junior and CP high averages), High Point Horse and High Point Horsemanship (Open and CP) for the 2020 ride year.

Mileage, National Championships, and regional Team awards will be offered. Regional awards can be awarded and presented at regional mini-conventions.

Region 1 Board of Directors

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You Want ME to do WHAT?



Two 3-year terms and one 1-year on the Region 1 Board of Directors will be open in 2021. You've read requests in the past for members to consider running, but this year I would like to send you a personal request and explore the reasons behind it.

For many years a dedicated core group of people have been the primary volunteers to put on rides, serve on the Region 1 Board of Directors and put on Region 1 Conventions. No organization can survive, let alone thrive without new people and ideas joining the volunteer and management core. Most of you have participated in rides or attended a convention and

enjoyed yourselves. I receive notes from riders stating that they can't wait for the next years' rides. BUT... without people LIKE YOU donating some time and energy to help out, this organization will not thrive.

Everyone currently volunteering, in whatever capacity, was once "a first timer ride manager, a first time Region 1 BOD member, a first time ride timer or P&R volunteer". We all learned from and helped each other to promote our love of horses and competitive trail. Organizations NEED an influx of new ideas, new people to keep the sport fresh and moving forward. We need some people to put their minds to working on the administrative side (BOD) as well as others to take on the responsibility of putting on a ride. New rides don't just happen. A rider explores a park/ranch and investigates the possibility of holding a ride there. Yes, it can seem overwhelming, but you will have resources and the Region 1 Board of Directors and members to help. Everyone is apprehensive the first time- it's an unknown for you. But you won't be alone and the satisfaction of seeing riders enjoying YOUR ride is amazing. There are financial grants to help out with setting up rides and there are people who've done it before and can help you figure out the best way to go about it.

COVID really presented a setback for the competitive trail ride season last year and we need to face 2021 with resolution to get it back on track. I think many of you want this too. So take a deep breath and jump on in in whatever capacity you can help out.

You don't need to be a competitor to volunteer! You do need to be a member to serve on the Region 1 Board of Directors, but not to manage a ride or volunteer for other positions.

If you enjoy participating in NATRC Competitive Trail Riding, then give back some time and energy to the sport.

Thanks for reading,

Linda Thomason,
Region 1 Board of Directors
Publicity and Outreach

National NATRC Board of Directors Report Held via Zoom

From the National Board

Due to COVID concerns, the regular July and November national board meetings were conducted using Zoom's webinar videoconferencing format. This saved all of us a lot of time and money. We've continued to have monthly Zoom meetings with a short agenda.

Region 4 had a full ride schedule in 2020. Following social distancing (no group meals; no group ride briefings) and using other precautions, things overall went well. Region 5 had three standard rides in the spring and will have regional awards. Region 1 had no rides; R2 had one standard ride in the spring and one Leisure Division (LeD) ride in the fall; R3 had one LeD ride; and R6 had two LeD rides.

The virtual challenges (mileage and obstacle) were a huge success and helped the bottom line financially. We could hopefully break even for 2020.

Virtual challenges and educational webinars will continue in 2021. NATRC purchased the license for a new platform, submit.com, that should make it much easier to submit, review, and report the obstacle videos.

Sanction applications for 2021 are coming in, although more slowly than usual as people wait to see how the COVID situation shapes up.

Looking forward, the board has agreed that continuing to offer the print version of *Hoof Print* is not a viable option. It has only been offered in print by paid subscription for several years, but the income falls significantly short of covering the costs. The full color version will continue to be posted on the web site on a regular schedule.

Proposed rule changes for 2022 are summarized separately in this issue.

Elections for officers were held, and Angie Meroshnekoff was re-elected as president.

Region 1 elected Donna Stidolph as the alternate national board representative.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Dieterich and Angie Meroshnekoff.

GROOMING TIP

Priscilla Lindsey, Horsemanship Judge Region 6

Getting a horse clean is more difficult in cold weather when the horse's coat is longer. Vacuums and blowers can do a half-way decent job, but you really can't beat curry-curry-curry and brush-brush-brush!!! Rubber curry combs, esp. the ones with the long "fingers" really do a good job of loosening the dirt, and then good, clean brushes remove it-- ending up with a soft brush.

An old-timer once told me that the best thing to do for muddy legs in cold weather was to let it dry and then curry and brush it off, rather than using water to get it off. He was right-- it is much easier and less mess!

I have also found that as a final finishing touch, a mist bottle with much-diluted Show Sheen or Cowboy Magic Detangler and Shine, and wiping down with a damp cloth gets the last of the dust.

Tack Tip

If you loosen the cinch at a P&R stop, it's best to adjust it so it either keeps the saddle on in position or lets the saddle fall free and clear if the horse should spook.

Region 1 NATRC Board of Directors Minutes
Held via Zoom
14 March 2020

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:59 pm by Chair, Donna Stidolph.

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

Absent: Lee Cannon (excused).

Guest: Kris Skoog (nominee for Region 1 Board of Directors)

Election Results:

Ballot count has been postponed to 20 March 2020 due to COVID-19 shutdown to allow for the return of mail-in/electronic ballots, which would normally have been completed at the 2020 mini-Convention.

Note: 23 March 2020. Steve Meroshnekoff reelected; Kris Skoog elected by electronic or mail in ballot.

Election of Officers:

Some officers were nominated at this meeting, but the election of officers at this time is not valid as the election of a new board member has not been completed. Election of officers to be completed at the next board meeting.

The nominated officers are: Treasurer – Linda Thomason, Secretary – Stephanie Swain, President – Donna Stidolph.

Secretary's Report:

Donna moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 12 January 2020. Linda seconded. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balance: \$22,263.67 (as of 21 January 2020).

Still working on checks affected by account issues in January. Approximately \$2200.00 in expenses for February/March. No income due to cancellation of mini-convention and raffle/silent auction. 2019 expenses were roughly twice 2019 income. Will work on possible refunds of mini-convention expenses.

Committee Reports:

Physical Resource Coordinator: Linda Thomason – resource list provided via email.

Historian: Donna Stidolph – No update.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff - two award hats need to be delivered to recipients.

Points/Membership: Donna Stidolph – getting regular updates.

Publicity/Outreach Coordinator: Linda Thomason – No advertising yet. Still need to recruit more help. Donna and Kris Skoog will help, work from publication list supplied by Linda.

The Leadline: Sheila Christiansen – need material for this issue due to loss of mini-convention input. Will at least publish year end award winners. Jamie suggested using pictures from the PowerPoint presentation prepared for mini-convention.

National BOD:

Jamie Dieterich – summarized proposed rule changes to be voted on in July.

Angie Meroshnekoff – there is still work to be done on the new website. There is a new ride scheduler who will work to update ride information to reflect accurate dates, information.

Region 1 Website: Donna Stidolph – A message has been posted regarding the cancellation of the 2020 Mini-convention due to COVID-19. Three more ride maps have been added.

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Dieterich – the 2020 ride schedule has been finalized and will be posted shortly. Region 1 Benefit Ride – BLM has imposed a special stipulation that all markings must be removed within 7-14 days of completion of ride – this is due to late removal of ribbons in 2019 Linda working on volunteers to pull ribbons. The registration form is up online, RMS is ready, insurance, CA drug and BLM fees all paid. Per Angie – Jessica

Region 1 NATRC Board of Directors Minutes
14 March 2020
Continued

might be available as LeD secretary/driver. Catering arranged. Steve or Angie will make contact with CAL Fire.

Trails Advocacy Coordinator – Trisha Taniguchi – trails reports will be posted to the Region 1 website as they become available.

Judging Issues – Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich – need more judges. Need more education and support for LeD judges in the form of mentorship or an apprentice program.

OLD BUSINESS:

Year End Awards – Sheila will mail awards to recipients.

Horse Expo 2020 – this will be the weekend before the Cowboy Camp ride. Debbie Murphy will be doing a trail demo and would like to hang the NATRC banner up and hand out cards with R1 info/website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Breed awards – need to define criteria for R1 LeD breed awards, establish separate regional breed awards for LeD as points are calculated for team, not horse as in other divisions; suggest three ride eligibility. Needs further discussion.

Bylaws – for consistency, need to update to reflect national change in membership renewal dates from calendar year to anniversary date

100% Club for LeD – Maria moved to establish a separate LeD 100% Club. Horse/Rider team must attend all LeD rides in R1 (Mt Diablo excluded for 2020); continuation of this motion will be voted on at the beginning of each calendar year. Donna seconded; all agreed.

Retirement/Replacement of Duport award silver tray – the silver tray has no more space for engraving, and engraving has become unaffordable. Consider retiring the silver tray and replacing it with a statue/keeper plaque as has been done with some other perpetual awards. There is also a need for protective cases for perpetual award statues. Maria will research this subject; further discussion online.

NEXT MEETING:

Time: 6:00 pm

Date: 11 May 2020

Location: Zoom meeting (online)

CLOSE OF MEETING:

Stephanie Swain moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm, seconded by Linda Thomason. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Swain

Get NATRC e-News

NATRC E-News is the official electronic communication channel of our organization. E-News is a subscriber-based electronic marketing software from Constant Contact.

With E-News, you can receive electronic announcements on upcoming NATRC rides and clinics, new sponsors and special offers, NATRC promotions and contests, and general NATRC information including details on rules changes and proposals as well as regional and national Board minutes in a timely manner by subscribing now.

To begin receiving NATRC E-News, simply go to the NATRC website (<http://www.natrc.org>), click on “RESOURCES” along the top, then, under Resources, select “Free eNews” After you are directed to the E-News sign-up page, you can choose to receive a variety of different types of announcements.

If you would like to send NATRC information to all subscribers or just specific regions, contact Kimberly Murphy, kimberlyjean72@gmail.com or the National office (natrc@natrc.org) for help to put your announcement on the official NATRC electronic communication channel.

Region 1 NATRC Board of Directors Minutes
Held via Zoom
16 November 2020

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chair, Donna Stidolph.

Present: Jamie Dieterich, Sheila Christiansen, Maria Pilgrim, Angie Meroshnekoff, Steve Meroshnekoff, Donna Stidolph, Stephanie Swain, Kris Skoog, and Linda Thomason.

Election Results - Confirmed:

Steve Meroshnekoff re-elected to a 3-year term; Kris Skoog elected to a 3-year term.

Election of Officers - Confirmed:

Chair – Donna Stidolph

Secretary – Stephanie Swain

Treasurer – Linda Thomason

Note: Donna appointed Maria Pilgrim to fill her position as chair when Donna assumes the NBOD alternate role on January 1.

Secretary's Report:

Due to the disruptions of everyday life caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, a meeting has not been held since 14 March 2020. All rides in Region 1 were cancelled, and any R1 business was conducted online, primarily via email discussions. We hope that going forward, we will be able to resume some semblance of normal functioning in the 2021 ride season.

Angie moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 14 March 2020. Donna seconded. All agreed.

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balance: \$20,146.64

Very little activity in the past 6 months

Committee Reports:

Physical Resource Coordinator: Linda Thomason – resource list provided via email.

Historian: Donna Stidolph – No update.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff - Steve to mail two awards hats to recipients.

Points/Membership: Donna Stidolph – making regular updates as information becomes available.

Publicity/Outreach Coordinator: Linda Thomason – need tentative ride dates for 2021 to submit ads in January.

The Leadline: Sheila Christiansen – last issue went out late as it was difficult to acquire materials for editing/publishing. Need to receive content for the next issue by 12/15/20 for publishing date of approximately 1/1/21.

National BOD: See summary of proposed rule changes for 2022 in this issue.

Wording of these proposals will be finalized at the February NBOD meeting; final voting July.

Angie Meroshnekoff was re-elected President of NATRC.

Region 1 Website: Donna Stidolph – no update

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Dieterich – Kick-start clinic to be held April 17-18 at Loomis Basin Riders arena with option to camp/trail ride nearby. Rain date May 1-2.

Debbie Murphy has tentative date for Cool ride, waiting for parks to begin processing applications.

May at Mt. Diablo is unlikely to happen due to management changes at CMDTRA; possibly a fall ride put on by Region 1 – need ride manager.

Cowboy Camp – see Region 1 Benefit ride.

Round Valley – Gene checking condition of the park following fires; Donna volunteered to help find volunteers, etc.

Possible new ride at Skyline Park, Napa.

Jamie to provide tentative 2021 ride schedule.

Region 1 NATRC Board of Directors Minutes
16 November 2020
Continued

Region 1 Benefit Ride – Maria volunteered for ride secretary; need ride manager. Board will help find volunteers.

Trails Advocacy Coordinator – Trisha Taniguchi – no update.

Judging Issues – Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich - no update.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lynge Groverman (Simoni) offer of \$500 “grant” for putting on a new ride in northern California. Need more info.

LeD Breed Awards – the board has decided not to pursue this issue at this time.

Retirement/Replacement of Duport award silver tray/ protective cases for perpetual award – no work has been done to replace the Duport award at this time. Maria investigated protective cases for the traveling awards – available starting in low \$100s to \$1000s, but cannot move forward until a budget has been established. Decided to table this issue until a later date as there will be no convention held/perpetual trophies awarded until 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Need nominees for 3 upcoming board positions – two 3-year term seats, one 1-year term (remainder of Donna's term).

Fundraising – Angie has the last quilt (southwest design) to be made by Catherine de la Cruz (Angie and Maria's mom). It will be raffled as a Region 1 fundraiser.

Board support of rides - Due to the difficulty of finding ride managers, the region is in jeopardy of losing more rides. The board has agreed to assist with recruiting judges and volunteers for rides to ease the burden on ride managers.

NEXT MEETING:

Time: 6:00pm

Date: 07 May 2021

Location: Zoom videoconference

CLOSE OF MEETING:

Stephanie Swain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm, seconded by Donna Stidolph. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Swain



The COVID Scavenger Hunt

By Donna Stildolph

We're probably all in the same boat - going crazy trying to stay safe and keep everyone around us safe. And then making sure we're keeping our horses fit. Or spoiled. Or both, if we work at it. I've been telling my husband that I need to keep Sunny exercised since she's getting older and it's harder to regain fitness, and we ARE going to have a ride season this year . . . but really, riding is my main form of meditation these days, it seems like one of the very few things I can maintain concentration about. That said, I really miss our NATRC rides. I'm not very competitive, but I love having snapshots of our status, riding with my tribe, hearing the stories - you know, because you probably feel the same. Anyhow, it turns out that we are not alone - other horse people are feeling it and they are coming up with good distractions, if not perfect solutions. I just got done participating in one such effort and really enjoyed having a focus again. A fellow from the Santa Cruz County Horseman's Association (SCCHA), invented what he called a mounted scavenger hunt. Here's how it worked. The game was played by teams of two or three horse/rider pairs. He gave a list of 20 clues, divided into five categories:

- Covid-19
- This Land is Your Land
- CZU (one of the huge fires in our area this year)
- Popular songs
- Horse on the screen



First, you had to figure out what the clues were asking for, then you had to go somewhere and take a picture of your team accomplishing that . . . task. If your team had two participants, the picture had to have (a) a picture of one of the team members doing whatever it was, and (b) the photo had to show some part of the horse of the team member taking the photo, so you'll see horse ears in a couple of these photos. If all three of you were present, it could just be a picture of two of the team members. Then we had to submit our answers and the photos for judging. That's it.

So, for example, one of the Covid clues was Clayton Moore and Johnny Depp rode wearing one. You can too. We guessed that the answer was that they both wore masks for the entire Lone Ranger movie - so we wore masks for our entire scavenger hunt. Then, you had to take a picture demonstrating your answer to the clue. So we went to Wilder Ranch State Park for our hunt, where we managed to get 18 of the 20 clues answered. Or, at least, we think we did. Here are some of the highlights:

One of the CZU clues was The CZU was a ____; show us a picture of a horse that has one. And we came up with Blaze as the answer, which I think is why Sunny and I got picked for our high-powered team! In the popular songs category, one clue was

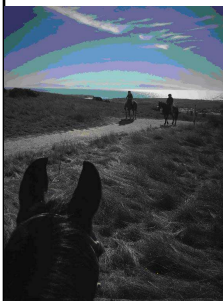


Blood, Sweat and Tears sang about one. We want to see you interact on the trail with someone sitting on a frame with two. The Blood, Sweat and Tears song was "Spinning Wheel," so, of course, we needed to find someone with a bicycle. That is



NOT hard to do in the Wilder Ranch parking lot; we had our choice of about 20 and selected a couple of guys with Utah plates, who were actually pretty charmed by the horses. I don't know if you can tell, but Sunny was trying to mug them for treats. When we meet mountain bikers, I usually tell them that Sunny is a baby and would they mind giving her a treat so she'll like bikers, my theory being that they'll develop some empathy for the horses if they interact with them. In any case, Sunny now has expectations!

In the Horse on the Screen category, one of the clues was Kirk ____ rode a horse in many many movies. Show us a photo of your team riding by a tree with his last name with his last name. . We *think* it's Kirk Douglas and we *think* that's a Douglas fir my teammates are hiding in! I took us about three hours to get through all the clues and we



had a great time and a beautiful ride. In other years, it wouldn't have been a compelling activity, but in this year, it was perfect: the emphasis was on seeing what was around you and enjoying other horse people's company in a safe fashion, rather than speed or equitation or horse behavior. As I said, I love the competitions, but this was really zen - a state I'm finding to be increasingly rare. To close, another of the popular song clues was Otis Redding sat by the dock of one. We want to see a photo of your team riding past a landmark one, or a live one. The answer is, of course, a bay horse and Monterey Bay. We got both. And I included this photo to show the view from one of the Wilder Ranch trails - this is NOT necessarily the best view. Eat your heart out



R1 Tentative 2021

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

April 24-25	Spring Kick-Off and Clinic See What's New and Tried & True Linda Thomason	Loomis Basin Horseman's Association Arena Auburn, CA (510) 708-1439	linda.thomason0610@gmail.com
May 15-16	Cowboy Camp TBD Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Williams, CA (707) 217-3582	"A" O/CP/N; "B" O/N/CP/L wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
June 12-13	Eel River Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Potter Valley, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 217-3582	"A" O/N/CP; "B" O/CP/N/L iambrewing@aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
July 24-25	Lazy Mountain Trail Adventure Cindy Bonine Sec: Claudia Sihler	Palmer, AK (541) 517-2878 (907) 355-2521	"A" O/CP; "B" N/L Bonine99@aol.com bettercompanion@gmail.com
August 21-22	Jackson Forest Summer Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Ft. Bragg, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 217-3582	"A" O/CP/N; "B" O/CP/N/L iambrewing@aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
TBD	Cool Canyon Leisure Division Debbie Murphy	Cool, CA (916) 719-6265	"B" L LIMIT 40 equuspassage@aol.com
Oct. 2-3	Round Valley Regional Park Gene Boicelli Sec: Linda Thomason	Brentwood, CA (925) 672-6491 (510) 708-1439	"A" O/CP; "B" N LIMIT 45 geneboicelli@gmail.com linda.thomason0610@gmail.com

Proposed Rule Changes for 2022 – In Summary

See the full text in *Hoof Print*. Final wording will be approved at the February 2021 NBOD meeting. Voting to include them as rule changes for 2022 will be at the July 2021 NBOD meeting.

For a Junior Competing membership, the rider must be under the age of 18 at the beginning of the ride year. In a Family Competing membership, the Junior must be under the age of 18 as of January 1. **The proposed change would make both dates (to be under the age of 18 as of) the same - the beginning of the ride year.**

The proposed change would allow membership in multiple regions. There are snowbirds who live in one region in the summer, another in the winter. Some riders are close to two regions and compete in both. **The proposed change would let riders be eligible for regional awards in more than one region if they paid the required dues** – which are still being deliberated.

The proposed change would correct region definitions. The map of the regions in the United States continues north into Canada, and the Canadian territories have changed since the definitions were incorporated into the Rule Book. This would make the definition of region boundaries more consistent with the map.

This proposal would **clarify that having won national awards in Open or CP would make a rider ineligible to compete for national year-end awards in the Novice Division.** But we would not want to exclude Novice national year-end award winners from competing in the Novice Division.

We have received repeated requests to consider lowering the age for junior riders. **The proposal would lower the age from 10 to 8.** Juniors under 10 would have to be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance and would have to ride with a sponsor.

Hoof boots and pads were not allowed for many years. "Temporary hoof protection" referred to boots such as Easy Boots which could be used until a shoe was replaced. We now allow hoof boots, so the term "temporary hoof protection" is no longer appropriate. **This proposal would delete the reference to temporary types of hoof and leg protection from DO and LeD.**

Standing wraps and compression socks would be allowed during stabling.

Ice boots are allowed now, but the proposal would move the statement from the Drug Rule Appendices to the Rule Book.

My Foray into Virtual Obstacle Competition

The biggest challenges were not with the horse.
By Sheila Christiansen

This has been a competition season unlike any other! With Covid-19 concerns hanging over everything, NATRC had to reach into their collective bag of ingenuity to come up with a way for competition fun to continue, despite all the shut downs and health advisories that were keeping us from doing our usual thing!

Wah-la! Enter virtual competitions! That sounded like something that almost everyone would be able to do, right? Simply videotape yourself and your horse completing the assigned obstacles and send it off for judging, and there you have it!

Well,...let's take a moment for reflection. I,-- and a large percentage of people I ride with,-- did NOT grow up with computers. To put it quite bluntly, computers had not yet been invented when we were in school. Let that sink in. So today's 'smartphone' is often 'smarter' than the typical rider in my age group. Having a smartphone feels a lot like being over-horsed. (You want it-- but can you handle it?)

So there were challenges from the outset. Not only the horse challenges. Technology challenges. Dressage sister joined NATRC this year in order to 'ride with me' this season (as long as I promised it would be only virtual), so the two of us talked on the phone daily, scratching our heads over HOW to do the most simple things. Like, videotaping ourselves. First I tried propping the phone up against a can-- it slid down,... I tried a post--it fell off,... once I tied it to the fence with baling twine, but couldn't get the angle right. Finally, we both bit the bullet and ordered tripods off Amazon, and found it came with a remote control device! Cool! That will make it easy! Right?

As I referenced my 'maturity' in the previous paragraph, let me say this: Being able to see that little red dot at the bottom of my phone, --from a distance, -- and tell if it is round or square (off, or on?)-- is impossible. And, then, what do you do with this little remote doohickey once you press the button, when you are wearing breeches and a shirt without pockets?? Bra, of course. But I gotta say,... with the whole ride action (you know what I'm talking about), that little tiny thing can get quite turned around in there! Lost it for a whole hour once; finally found it trying to escape somewhere around the region of the left armpit..

Anyhoo. I can't tell you the number of times I thought I was getting a great video, only to discover I didn't have it on. Or we were too close. Or too far. Or off-camera altogether. That happened with ALL of our best efforts, of course,-- I swear we did better than the ones I sent off. I swear it.

And, about that 'sending them off' part. Evidently our first seemingly easy-peasy emailing off of videos didn't work out as expected, as the judges let us know. There was trouble at the receiving end. Sooo,... then we were instructed to upload our videos to YouTube. (Or was it download? Upload, download-- whatever..)

Do what now?? By this time I was thinking this competition might be way over my head. And the horses were the least of it! With much muddling and repeated tries I eventually got one video clip onto YouTube. Woohoo! I called my sister. She wanted to know how I did it. I couldn't tell her because I had no idea. It just magically worked that time.

In the course of all this recording business, sometimes the video was way too long, like when I was trying to line Bravo up just perfectly at the mounting block and I had to have a couple do-overs. What does one do about this? EDIT IT, of course. And then, when it's looking pretty good, or at least as good as it's ever going to get, I needed to send the LINK to Sarah in an email. And not just one link, but ALL the links for that month, in the same email. This was really a stretch.

I will say there were some parts with the horses that were entertaining. Cooper, my old guy, decided stepping over cavaletti was more effort than it was worth, so he just plowed through it, time and again. On the video you could hear me saying, "Oh Cooper. You're not even trying." Needless to say, we had to find a solid log to step over and sidepass, one too big for him to knock over. I never realized how much I talk to my horses until now!

And the challenges that asked for HILLS. Oh my gosh. I live in Pancake Land, the Central Valley, there isn't a noticeable rise within miles of my place, so I was always in search of the elusive hill. I would drive by cow pastures and think, "I wonder if that guy would let me take my horses in there and use that manure pile...". I would usually haul to one of the trails and enlist a ride partner to video me. What a challenge it all was!

So, it kept my sister and me busy for months, primarily trying to figure out technology. I'm wondering,... was this some sneaky plan to drag all of us ladies of the good ol' days into the 21st century?



The lighter side of fire evacuation. Or..... I thought I would be hauling horses!

By Angie Meroshnekoff

When did I first get involved in this? Probably during the big fires of 2017. A good friend needed emergency evacuation with her two horses, 20+ goats, and the rest of her household. I hitched up the big trailer, assuming I would get the horses and maybe a few goats. Turns out she'd already moved the horses, so I ended up hauling her valuable dairy goats and one Great Pyrenees dog.

I continued hauling where needed during the next few fire seasons, and with my sister Maria helping we moved several horses out of harm's way. But I still wanted to do more, so I signed up with a recognized livestock evacuation organization, and here is where some of the funny stuff started.

Haulers and "spotters" are required to undergo several stages of training with this group so there I was at the first one. We all introduced ourselves and gave our background with livestock and hauling. Then the first few hours were spent discussing what equipment each hauler should have, safety checking your truck and trailer and, finally, proving you can actually drive one -- backwards. If you know me, you will probably laugh at that. Yes, I had to demonstrate backing a trailer straight and parking it in an alley configuration with the assistance of a "spotter", all using a strange truck and trailer. And then acting as spotter for the next driver (they didn't ask me to parallel park it, for some reason). The next section of training was policies and procedures of the organization, along with legal stuff about hauling during emergencies. I did take a lot of notes here. The final section was animal behavior and handling and here the "A" team drivers told some of their personal experiences and it got hilarious at times. I found out this group has hauled everything from geckos and koi fish, (would you know how to evacuate koi?) to uncooperative pigs, and pens full of fighting roosters. Each hauler seemed to have some specialty -- goats -- pigs -- large fowl (emu) -- donkeys and, finally, horses, sigh. My packing list right there went from horse halters and ropes, to portable fence panels, pig boards, ramps, large buckets, and dog crates. Late in the afternoon I was excused from the live handling practice, they acknowledged that I had plenty of experience already. I passed the class and was signed up as a hauler.

My first haul? There was a fire wrapping up in the next county south and since I was headed that way with the horse trailer attached, planning to haul back empty, I let dispatch know. I got an excited response: could I meet with another hauler and transfer some critters that happened to be needing transport to my hometown? Of course, I'm a hauler! What did I get to transport? Peacocks! Yup, a pair of fancy birds had been evacuated and were going to be fostered near my house. Not what I was expecting,-- but OK!

My next haul was to a big fire about three hours away. I was dispatched in the early morning and with Maria otherwise committed I was to meet my "spotter" there. I packed spare halters and leads, lots of rope, lariats, gloves 5-gallon water carriers, water buckets, chainsaw and lots of hand tools. For myself I had trail bars, water, Gatorade, a change of clothes, charger for my phone and spare battery for my tablet. While enroute, dispatch advised me that they couldn't find me a spotter so I would not be going behind the fire lines, I was to meet haulers at the roadblocks and transfer the animals -- OK by me. I parked in a very narrow strip of dirt alongside the road and we did the transfers right there. My first load was three horses and four goats. Where to put the goats? We dragged out all of my tack and carefully packed gear boxes out of the trailer tack room and stuffed it into the truck. Now for the rodeo. The horses loaded quietly enough, but the goats had to be shifted one at a time, stuffing each one in the tack room while keeping the others from jumping out. Three of us working together managed it in a short time (I have lots of goat handling experience) and off to the evacuation shelter I went. There were plenty of people at the shelter with horse experience, but it turned out that no one knew anything about goats. So I scrounged up a helper and we stuffed those guys safely into a stall. Back I went to my assignment. (Note to self, next time pack goat halters and dog collars to handle goats). My next load was....you guessed it, four horses and three goats! All loaded with the expert help of our trained crew and off to the shelter. This went on most of the night, I don't think I hauled horses only in any load during that fire. I never did get dinner, but things finally wound down around 3:00 am, and since I had failed to pack a sleeping bag I told dispatch I'd head home for the remainder of the night.

My next question is this-- why do fires mostly start at night?? Just a few short nights later I was dispatched to a big fire just two counties over, a much shorter drive. I packed all my stuff, including the new sheep and goat gear, foldable dog crates and a portable panel. And this time I was able to grab Maria to co-pilot. It's next to impossible to read your dispatches and plot your navigation while driving! I think our dispatched destination was changed three times before we finally arrived at one: a large horse ranch, needing to evacuate 50+ horses. Oh boy, we get to use our horse skills! Uh, wait... .. there was a huge line of rigs loaded out and the only animals not yet loaded? You guessed it again -- the goats. These ladies, however, were well halter trained and so easy to manage. We went ahead and loaded them in the tack room, expecting to be directed to our next evacuation before heading to the evac shelter. Instead we were directed to respond directly to the shelter (fairgrounds). The fire was moving fast and was heading to ward the shelter and now it was in need of evacuation. We picked up a load of horses and hauled them twenty miles south,-- unload, re-load and repeat. We still had the poor goats in the front and finally around 6:00 am we were able to deliver them to their new

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The lighter side of fire evacuation. Or..... I thought I would be hauling horses!

By Angie Meroshnekoff

Continued

temporary home. Calls had slowed at that point and we were released.

Then came the side of fire evacuation that I had never thought of – the support part. The next afternoon the call went out asking for volunteers to feed and water animals still in the “black zone” (the area after the fire has gone through). The truck and trailer were still hitched and packed, but to that we added a bale of hay, some dog food, cat food, small water buckets and dishes. Dropping the trailer in a large parking lot, Maria and I headed into our assigned area. I won’t go into the destruction or tragedies we saw, this is, after all, about the “lighter side”. Our plan, we thought, was to look for stray pets and livestock. Instead, we found ourselves watering and feeding deer and raccoons! Once we drove up a half-mile-long driveway and had to back all the way out due to trees down (the chainsaw was still in the trailer – dumb me). It was a very, very long night driving around in total darkness, putting food and water out where we could. As Maria said at one point, “Our adventures were having adventures!”. We talked to firefighters and law enforcement officers in the area looking for any critters we missed. Again, we found ourselves “out of work” around 4:00 am, so we hitched up the trailer and headed home.

Two afternoons later Maria and I happened to be back in that same neighborhood because our mom had been one of the evacuees (another long story) and we were bringing her and all of her stuff home. I got a text from dispatch asking if we could head up to the fire zone and look for a loose emu. And along the way, could we check and refill the water and feed we left out 2 days ago? Uh... no? I was driving my small pickup, had NO equipment, and it was already mid-day. Maria headed to a grocery store for people supplies and I hit a local feed store and several hardware stores. We got feed and dishes/buckets for water but could not find any 3 to 5-gallon water carriers. Finally we found a hardware store that gave us a discount on 5-gallon paint buckets with lids, and even let us fill them in the back. OK, we were supplied and headed out. We refilled and refed until we reached the general area of the loose emu. I have to say, the local law enforcement was great, they waved us through roadblocks when we identified ourselves and even gave us advice on the best roads to use and what livestock they had seen. Now, picture this. I’m in jeans and boots, because that’s all I ever wear, but Maria was planning a day of unpacking mom’s house in hot weather, so she is in shorts and sandals! We arrived in “the black”, a burned area that still had fires burning, there is a fire rig parked near where the wandering emu was last seen. We got out and started walking the burn to find this critter. The looks we got from the firefighters was enough to start us giggling. Two crazy ladies wandering through burning and not burning brush, one not really dressed for it - trying to find a large bird that, as it turns out, didn’t even like people. Help arrived in the form of two of our teammates, so we trekked around the area for a few hours, but never located it. It was turning dark again, so time to head home.

The next part of the evacuation and support circle is “go-backs”, the time when the fire is completely under control and it’s safe to return the animals. Once again, I pictured we would be hauling horses, like the beautiful Friesians we moved from the shelter that had to evacuate. I told dispatch that I was planning to be in the area that day with the trailer and would be happy to help where needed. I got assigned.....twenty-one goats and three pigs! This time the pigs were in the tack room and the goats in the trailer, and I found one more thing needing to be added to the packing list: a ramp to load and unload pigs. It was another crazy escapade, getting the goats and pigs to their destination, but as Maria had said – our adventure was having an adventure. And finally – finally,-- I got to use my equine experience, taking two wonderful donkeys back to their home after being evacuated for several weeks. Our organization’s motto is “big and small, we haul them all”. Got that right!!

Oh yeah, I have chainsaw certification training next week so I won’t forget to bring it again!

Happy Holidays



2020 Mileage and Obstacle Challenges Results

NATRC Mileage Challenge Cumulative Statistics as of 10/31/20		
Region	Cumulative Miles	
Region 1	969	
Region 2	823	
Region 3	2,166	
Region 4	2,908	
Region 5	3,022	
Region 6	4,319	
Region 1A	557	
	14,764	
Rider Name	Region	Cum Total by Person
Muench, Gayle	4	1018
Smith, Helen	6	852
Broughton, Regina	5	824
Clark, Hannah	3	755
Johansen, Kristen	6	717
Price, Alanna	4	619
Kane, Mindy	2	526
Zimmerman, Janet	6	524
Muench, Fran	4	463
Morgan, Dayna	3	445
Rider Name/Horse Name	Region	Cum Total by Horse
Johansen, Kristen / PVA Light 'N the Storm	6	717
Clark, Hannah / Rushcreek Darline	3	568
Kane, Mindy / Watch Me Forever	2	526
Zimmerman, Janet / Grullopine	6	524
Broughton, Regina / Lucky Sunday	5	489
Smith, Helen / Focus Jessie	6	477
Muench, Gayle / Blue Hearrt	4	449
Morgan, Dayna / Copper Touch	3	445
Dunn, Jan / Casino Royale	1	413
Price, Alanna / Moon Shadow's Black Gold (Shade)	4	400

NATRC Obstacle Challenge FINAL					
Bracket	Rank	Rider Name	Equine Name	Score	Region
A	1	Muench, Fran	Giacomo	127	4
A	2	Petelle, Patricia	Kings Lasting Legacy	126	5
A	3	Chapman, Carolyn	Mandella Bey	124	5
A	4	Parys, Shari	Rushcreek Concho	120	6
A	5	Smith, Helen	Focus Jessie	117	6
A	6	Smith, Helen	Rushcreek Frontier	115	6
A	7	Wingle, Diane	Eduardo el Negro Knight	113	3
A	8	Riddick, Keri	VA Anistazio	105	5
A	8	Messick, Brenda	Rushcreek Allie	105	6
A	8	Wingle, Bill	Mariah	105	3
A	9	Lucas, Patty	Papa's Alabama Express	104	3
A	10	Wingle, Diane	Missouri Reverend	103	3
A	10	Messick, Brenda	Rushcreek Bonita	103	6
Bracket	Rank	Rider Name	Equine Name	Score	Region
B	1	Cichocki, Claire	Desert Whiskey	126	1
B	2	Clark, Hannah	Rushcreek Darline	124	3
B	3	Hoyt, Julia	Skipahead Festus	122	6
B	4	Hoyt, Julia	Mr. Blackburn Can Zip	120	6
B	5	Fettes, Mary	RW Braveheart	119	6
B	6	Knuutila, Laurie	Indy's Midnight Sun	118	1A
B	7	Dukes, Mary	MHF Merrielle Mist	112	5
B	7	Knuutila, Laurie	Rowdy's Ribbons n Lace	112	1A
B	8	Morgan, Dayna	Copper Touch	110	3
B	9	Collins, Jordan	Breezer Boy	108	5
B	10	Rinne, Carisa	Badger Strikes Back	105	6
B	10	Hanson, Dwight	Silver Valley Tate	105	6
B	10	Fettes, Mary	Jazzy Girl	105	6
Bracket	Rank	Rider Name	Equine Name	Score	Region
C	1	Allan, Missy	Fayleen Shining LaJolla	110	1
C	2	Hudson-Louis, Holly	G.S. Orion	103	1
C	3	McGee, Carol	Scooter	102	5
C	4	Braun, MaryAlice	Chances Buck	99	6
C	5	Nissen, Janece	Mountain Flame	96	3
C	6	Carlson, Rosemary	Ata Al Shamal	88	3
C	7	Dixon, Catherine	Callie TCR	85	2
C	8	Rife, Cheryl	Aletta	83	1
C	9	Bailey, Sharon	Tigerette Twist	82	6
C	10	Rife, Cheryl	Nova	81	1
Bracket	Rank	Rider Name	Equine Name	Score	Region
D	1	Niderost, Natalie	Spantik Maj	128	1
D	2	Edelstein, Kinsley	Sir Percival	83	5
D	3	Woods, Bailey	EW Zarabella	26	4
D	4	Heun, Ayla	Blarney Stone Tank	13	6
D	5	Olsen, Mackenzie	Lady	11	6



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