



The Voice of NATRC Region One Competitive Trail Riding

The Leadline

Direct Rein

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

*Angie Meroshnekoff
Region One Chair*

Whew! What a busy summer. I can't believe we are on the downhill towards Fall already; it seems to me that Spring was only a few weeks ago. One of the highlights of the summer for me was Mary and Jack Chandler's new ride in Hat Creek. It was fun and really, really beautiful, with incredible views of Mount Lassen. They put a lot of work into planning that ride and finding trails, and it showed. It's well worth the drive for next year.

horse to a new rider recently to try a novice ride and she is way excited now to try it on her own next spring.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, the National Board is looking at some proposed rules changes. This is your chance to make yourself heard. If you have a comment, suggestion, or concern about any of the proposed changes—or even want to propose a change yourself—contact National Board members Jamie Dietrich or Sue Flagg. Or contact any one of the Regional board members.

Speaking of making yourself heard... I know there must be many people out there with ride stories to tell, or even conditioning and training stories. Write them up—even a few paragraphs—and send them along to your newsletter editor Jill Owens. We would love to hear what everyone else is doing.

Well, I'm off to the barn again to clean up after my horse. See you at a ride.

—Angie

Autumn 2006

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

FAREWELL TO ROR DELIGHT

It is with great sadness I report that Emma McCrary's wonderful horse, ROR Delight, was laid to rest on July 24th. An injury suffered several months prior just refused to heal, and the tough decision was made to end her suffering. Emma and Delight had traveled the trails for many years together. Those of us who "tried" to ride with Emma had a hard time keeping up with that huge walk of Delight's. I know Emma will miss her dearly and we will miss seeing such a wonderful team together. In her own words, "there there will never be another horse like Delight." Our hearts go out to Emma.

Hug your horse...

Respectfully submitted
by Debbie Murphy

FOR SALE

Two chestnut geldings, 4 years, sweepstakes nominated; chestnut mare, 12 years; grey mare, 9 years. Honey Bee Arabians, Ralph and Betty Dever, 8956 Hunt Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624; 916/685-1092.

Editor's Note: I apologize for my error in failing to credit Jim Ferris with all the convention photos in the last issue of *The Leadline*. Thank-you, Jim, for sharing your wonderful pictures!

Summary of National Board of Directors Meeting

JULY 8, 2006—Denver, Colorado

Greetings, Region One riders. From the ride stories, it sounds like you're all having a great time this season! At the recent National Board meeting, a number of rule changes were discussed. There are too many to include in *Leadline*, so please review them carefully in the upcoming *Hoof Print* and let Jamie and me know how you feel about them so we can vote accordingly. Also read the full minutes and let Jamie or me know if you have any questions. The financial picture for NATRC is looking better. A number of lifetime members made donations, so we are now back in the black.

Region One has one seat up for re-election on the National Board this fall. If you are interested in running for that position, please contact a Region One board member to discuss. We also need nominations for up to three R1 members for Appreciation Awards at the National level. These need to be submitted by September. Please let your Region One directors know if you feel someone is deserving of one of these awards.

The NATRC Horse Hall of Fame criteria have been increased. If you have a horse you feel is deserving, please contact Laurie DiNatale at the National office for the new criteria. The reasons for raising the standard had to do with recent rule changes regarding corrective shoeing, respiration criteria change, boots allowed on trail, electrolytes via syringe allowed on trail and in camp, and allowing hi-ties and sliding tethers. These have all changed the sport somewhat and the Hall of Fame committee felt that criteria should be more stringent to keep the significance of the award high.

NATRC is looking for an ad coordinator for *Hoof Print*. This position does pay commissions, so if you have any interest, please contact the National Office.

Larry Goss, D.V.M. has been approved as a veterinary judge.

The 2007 National Convention will again be held with the AERC Convention. The dates are February 22-25. Theme is still "Hell Bent For Leather." Hotel reserved: John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, NV. Room rates start at \$72. The \$100 registration fee will include everything—speakers, Friday night program, Saturday night dinner.

The Distance Only division was discussed. There are some rule changes proposed for it. Be sure to review them in *Hoof Print*.

Happy Trails, Sue Flagg

HELP NEEDED FOR JUNIORS!

I'd like to ask people in NATRC to help out with some of the juniors getting to rides. For single moms, it's pretty hard to keep coming up with the money. This sport is such a life-saver—life-maker really—for kids (and me). If you have any contribution to make (even \$5 will get you a thank-you note), please send it to Kay Lieberknecht (P.O. Box 914, Ukiah, CA 95482) or Angie Meroshnekoff (9800 Main Street, Potter Valley, CA 95469). If you can deduct it on your income tax by donating it through NATRC Region One, do that, marking it "Junior Scholarship." Thank-you so much for all the neat stuff so many of you have passed on to me for the kids' use, and for your inspiring words of encouragement.

—Kay Lieberknecht

Goodbye to Last Chance

During the 90's, a familiar sight at most of the Region One NATRC rides, the Belgian Draft looking Mustang called Last Chance, died Sunday, August 6. He was 21 years old. His death was a result of complications to a reaction to his annual vaccinations.

He made many friends along the trails, babysat many new competitors with unruly horses, and provided joy with many of his antics on the trail and in camp. He was a once-in-a-lifetime horse.

Anyone who may have stories or experiences about Chance, I would appreciate hearing about them so I may add them to his picture story book.

Jerry Hlavac
indyman1@yahoo.com



Jerry and Chance

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See *Hoof Print* for National Board,
Committees, and Secretaries

NATRC Home Page:
www.NATRC.org

NATRC/CTR Listserve info:
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REGION ONE RIDE RESULTS

Hoof Trek Monterey Bay

4/22/06; B-O/N/CP, Total Riders: 64

Chairman: Karel Waugh

Judges: Bob Goulding DVM, Nancy Kasovich—Open/CP; Carol Ormond DVM, Bev Barmettler—Novice

Open Sweepstakes: IBM El Barak/Dayton, Alicia-100

Novice Sweepstakes: Phantom Dusk Boicelli, Gene-100

Open Heavyweight

1/1 Avalon/Dockter, Susan
2/4 WK Spring Sonnet/Dillard, Joe
3/3 Shadow/Hurn, Andrea
4/2 GV Bey Amigo/Knuutila, Laurie
5/5 Abdul Latif BL/Rader, Jennifer
6/ Bobbies Sox Too Go/Takle, Robert
/6 The Sundance Kid HGR/Hakanson, Lili
IBN Nickajoy Nijinsky/Kennard, Kathryn
Stormin Sonny/Patterson, George

Open Lightweight

1/2 IBM El Barak/Dayton, Alicia
2/5 W.W. Steeleasen/Dillard, Ashley
3/4 JD Kasashadow/Takle, Marlene
4/ Nadya BL/Jones, Christine
5/ Ffarza/Brock, Carey
6/3 El Morafics Shalom/Hutnick, Lynne
/1 Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie
/6 DS Mi Mistik/Jeffers, Jan
Flora Elation/Martin, Jane
M.C./Raxter, Jennifer

Open Junior

1/2 Majik/Grasso, Ben
2/1 Abbishagg/Nelson, Caitlin

Novice Heavyweight

1/ Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene
2/1 Autumnstar/Simas, Danine
3/2 DM's Mingo/Berwick, Robyn
4/ Tosca BC/Upton, Robert
5/ Mojave/Willis, Jim
6/6 Prophet's Echo/Simmons, Barbara
/3 Doc's Dancer/Bredehoft, James
/4 Paradigm BL/Sweeny, Cindy
/5 Jed/Behr, Linda
Baydal/Fitts, Gary
Bailey/Pimentel, Joe
Porter BL/Schroeder, Eric
First Class Cowboy/Gadd, Anne

Novice Lightweight

1/5 BMM Nike Heir/Berkey, Janet
2/1 Casanova/Stillman, Susan
3/ Doc's Misty/Price, Jo
4/ Arrow Dynamic/Humphrey, Laney
5/ Alderon/Coale, Susan
6/ Mystik/Bonsper, Pam
/2 Manoray/Mattoon, Judith
/3 Shine/Lieberknecht, Kay
/4 Jamal BL/Upton, Linda
/6 West Coast Zephyr/Zahner, Shanna
Cueros Tequilasun/Stewart, Kimberly
Paris/Morgan, Caitlin
Royal Prancer/Pimentel, Michelle
Gracie/Sheridan, Lisa
Jacob/Kilduff, Barbara

Novice Junior

1/1 Valentyne/Hunter, Josie
2/3 Bey Ashif BL/Mullin, Briga
3/2 Chi/Malatesta, Savannah
4/4 Cayenne/Armstrong, Olivia
P Chispa/McBride, Marissa
P One Hot Ticket/Gadd, Joey

Competitive Pleasure

1/5 Lisette/Murphy, Debbie
2/3 Steelie Dan/Johnson, Art
3/1 Zues/Tortorelli, Denise
4/2 IBN Eclipse/Anderson, Patricia
5/ Banner/Doub, Kathleen
6/4 Sneakers/Johnson, Carolyn
/6 Tango Sierra/Willis, Karen
DO Tura Lura/Cannon, Linda
DO HR Select/Dieterich, Jamie
DO GT Orion/Etheridge, Judy

Mt. Diablo

5/6/06; B-O/N/CP, Total Riders: 43

Chairman: Patsy Schlicher

Judges: Carol Ormond DVM, Sue Flagg—Open/CP; Robert Young DVM, Nancy Kasovich—Novice

Open Sweepstakes: IBM El Barak/Dayton, Alicia-100

Novice Sweepstakes: Autumnstar/Simas, Danine-99

Open Heavyweight

1/3 Avalon/Dockter, Susan
2/5 Bey Shadow BL/Miyamoto, Shimpei
3/1 WK Spring Sonnet/Dillard, Joe
4/6 Iman BL/Whittall, David
5/2 Abdul Latif BL/Rader, Jennifer
6/ Bobbies Sox Too Go/Takle, Robert

4 The Sundance Kid HGR/Hakanson, Lili
Barbarys Nadya BL/Chuma, Shohei
GT Orion/Paige, Richard
Fames Baydal BL/Tanaka, Masafumi

Open Lightweight

1/2 IBM El Barak/Dayton, Alicia
2/3 W.W. Steeleasen/Dillard, Ashley
3/5 Rufus BL/Martin, Alison
4/4 Bey Ashif BL/Upton, Linda
5/1 Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie

Open Junior

1/1 Desert Image/Grasso, Ben

Novice Heavyweight

1/1 Autumnstar/Simas, Danine
2/6 Bailey/Pimentel, Joe
3/ Tuscany/Berlitz, Barbara
4/4 Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene
5/5 Porter BL/Schroeder, Eric
6/2 Let's Jazz Dance/Stoehn, Bonnie
/3 Tura Lura/Cannon, Linda
P Merlin/Martha Mikesell

Novice Lightweight

1/1 BMM Nike Heir/Berkey, Janet
2/4 Casanova/Stillman, Susan
3/3 Shine/Lieberknecht, Kay
4/5 Alderon/Coale, Susan
5/2 Diamonds Forever/Doub, Kathleen
6/6 Prancer/Pimentel, Michelle
Coppi BL/Smith, Jenni

Novice Junior

1/4 Cayenne 3/Armstrong, Olivia
2/1 Tosca BL/D'Andrea, Katya
3/3 Chi/Malatesta, Savannah
4/2 Valentyne/Hunter, Josie
P Spirit4/McBride, Marissa

Competitive Pleasure

1/3 Lisette/Murphy, Debbie
2/1 Zues/Tortorelli, Denise
3/4 El Nabiyyah/Foote, Deborah
4/6 Steelie Dan/Johnson, Art
5/2 Sneakers/Johnson, Carolyn
6/5 The Balias Emerald/Sparks, Christine
P River/Davis, Corrine

Mt. Quarry

5/13/06; B-O/N/CP, Total Riders: 22

Chairman: Vickie Myers

Judges: Larry Goss DVM, Dale Lake

Open Sweepstakes: Avalon/Dockter, Susan-99.5

Novice Sweepstakes: Shania/Warren, Sherry-98

3/3 El Morafic's Shalom/
Hutnick, Lynne

P Tura Lura/Cannon, Linda
DO/P Dakota/Dake, Julia

Open Heavyweight

1/1 Avalonn/Dockter, Susan
2/3 WK Spring Sonnet/Dillard, Joe
3/2 Wahli/Klentos, Erin
4/4 Chevy/Klentos, Paul

4/2 WW Steeleasen/Dillard, Ashley

Novice Lightweight

1/ BMM Nike Heir/Berkey, Janet

Open Lightweight

1/2 Ibn El Barak/Berkley, Laura
2/1 WW Steelaseyn/Dillard, Ashley
DO Lady Khiller/O'Brien, Julia

5/4 Derset Reinbeau/
Meroshnekoff, Angie

2/2 Cassanova/Stillman, Susan

Novice Heavyweight

1/2 Brix/Darling, Deanna
2/1 DM's Mingo/Berwick, Robyn
3/3 Jed/Behr, Linda
P Tuscany/Berlitz, Barbara

6/6 Promtime Memories/Royce, Rachel

3/4 Cocoa/Worthen, Ursula

Novice Lightweight

1/1 Shania/Warren, Sherry
2/3 Rudy/Dean, Kim
3/2 Travis/Godfrey, Linda
DO Shine/Liberknecht, Kay

DO Perry/Schuler, Cassandra

4/3 Deux Chausette/Jones, Mary

Novice Junior

1/1 Chi/Armstrong, Olivia
2/3 Cayenne/Malatesta, Savannah
3/2 Valentyne/Hunter, Josie

DO CR Nite Line/Bowie, Christina

5/5 Halstead's Matchless/
McCredie, Gail

Competitive Pleasure

1/3 El Nabiyah/Foote, Debra
2/2 Zues/Tortorelli, Denise
3/1 Lisette/Murphy, Debbie
DO HR Select/Dieterich, Jamie

DO Valkhyrie/Serradell, Sheilah

6/ Tango/Nelson, Marcia

Swanton A

7/15-16/06; A-O/CP, Total Riders: 31

Chairman: Emma McCrary

Judges: Greg Fellers DVM, Nancy Kasovich

Open Sweepstakes: Andarko/Walls, Lory-100

Open Junior

1/1 Majik/Grasso, Ben

1/1 Crow/Wayne, Julie

Open Heavyweight

1/1 WK Spring Sonnet/Dillard, Joe
2/2 Avalonn/Dockter, Susan
3/4 Cimarron AL/Armer, Jean
4/5 Pride's Clerv Fox/Barnes, Jane
5/3 Carioca MDF/Brezina, Sue
6/6 Indiana Red River/Zeleny, Joan
P Tahoma's Karmel Koko/Reiff, Ted

Competitive Pleasure

1/4 Zues 2/Torterelli, Denise

2/5 Lisette/Murphy, Debbie

3/ El Nabiyah/Foote, Debra

4/3 Sneakers/Johnson, Carolyn

5/ Ibn Eclipse/Anderson, Patricia

6/ Stetson V/Green, Kathleen

2/2 Levi's Miss Blue Jeans/
WarnerKros, Linda

6/ Alley Opps/Miller, Pam

1/6 Steelie Dan/Johnson, Art

3/2 Stormin' Sonny/Patterson, George

4/ M.C./Raxter, Jennifer

5/ Gentry/Clark, Angelique

6/ Kit Kat/Carr, Fred

7/ Aurora/Erismann, Eva

Swanton B

7/15/06; B-N, Total Riders: 43

Chairman: Emma McCrary

Judges: Leroy Burnham DVM, Jill Pass

Novice Sweepstakes: BMM Nike Heir/Berkey, Janet-100

Novice Junior

1/4 Bambi/Rantanen, Becca

2/5 WCC One/Burken, Kayla

3/6 Chi/Malatesta, Savannah

4/1 Diamond Dollar/Oilers/DeFeyter, Anne

5/ Valentyne/Isgigg, Kaysha

6/3 Missy/Armstrong, Olivia

7/2 Oreo/Hunter, Josie

8/ Cayenne 3/McBride, Marissa

9/ Goldust/Holgerson, Justin

P Gus/Markus, Kelsey

P Oliver/Altman, Sarah

Challenge of the North A

7/15-16/06—Region 1A-AK

A-O/CP, Total Riders: 16

Chairman: Lezlie Wilfer

Judges: Shannon Leska DVM, Terry Yates

Open Sweepstakes: Princess Braby/Long, Francine-89

Open Lightweight

1/1 Andarko/Walls, Lory

2/5 Ibn El Barak/Berkley, Laura

Novice Heavyweight

Open Heavyweight

1/2 Princess Braby/Long, Francine

2/1 Tahna/Sears, Rachel

DO Poppy/Hogan, Brenda

DO Sha Mara/Forrester, Donna

3/2

4/1

5/2

6/1

7/1

8/2

9/3

10/4

11/5

12/6

13/7

14/8

15/9

16/10

17/11

18/12

19/13

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97/91

98/92

99/93

100/94

101/95

102/96

103/97

104/98

105/99

106/100

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4/1	Ima Smokn Irish Lady/ Carney, Katie
5/	Sheba/Hannaman, Judy
6/4	Dusty/Allen, Kaitlyn
/2	Al Kohl/Hammond, Darcy
/5	Hoss/Kisken, Anna
	Duster/Gelinas, Katrina
ley,	Beams "Magic" Jagger/LaValley, Macy
P	Tea Biscuit/Sears, Shelby
	Chino Chant/Bray, Sara

Challenge of the North B

7/15/06—Region 1A-AK

B-N Total Riders: 15

Chairman: Lezlie Wilfer

Judges: Shannon Leska DVM, Terry Yates

Novice Sweepstakes: Wunz In ABlueMoon/
Sears, Hannah-96

Novice Senior

1/1	Cappuccino/Tormey, Brittany
2/3	Fresca/Howard, Karen
3/DO	Wildwood Royal Twist/Dent, Susan
4/2	Trigger/Foxley, Kathleen
P	Cochise/Gelinas, Tyra L.
DO	Chica/Beagle, Peggy
DO	Dakota/LaValley, Cari
DO	Tobey/LaValley, Danny

Novice Junior

1/2	Wunz In ABlueMoon/Sears, Hannah
2/1	Madeline/LaValley, Whitney
3/4	"Sweety" Dulzura del Norte/ Hinzman, Heather
4/3	Snickers/Howard, Rebekah
5/5	Sabre/Hinzman, Austin
	Ginger/Amos, B. Suzannah
DO	Leo/Muniz, Megan

Bald Mountain Butt Buster A

7/22-23/06—Region 1A-AK

A-O/CP, Total Riders: 21

Chairman: Nancy Williams

Judges: Shannon Leska DVM, Terry Yates

Open Sweepstakes: Princess Braby/Long,
Francine-88

Open Heavyweight

1/2	CR's One and Only/Knuutila, Laurie
2/1	Jake/Sullivan, Bill
3/3	Jasmine's Magic/Fisk, Colleen
4/4	Abu Absorke Rafle/Douthit, Marilou

Open Lightweight

1/3	Princess Braby/Long, Francine
2/1	Tahna/Sears, Rachel

3/4	Riko/Moore, Deb
4/2	My Gloriam/Grogan, Brenda
5/6	Sha Mara/Forrester, Donna
6/5	She's A Dandy/Bentz, Autumn
P	Sheba/Hannaman, Judy

Open Junior

1/1	Tea Biscuit/Sears, Shelby
P	Luchia/Hampton, Denise

Competitive Pleasure

1/1	Wildwood Royal Twist/Dent, Susan
2/2	Trigger/Foxley, Kathleen
3/3	Chargin Hancock/Wagner, Paige
4/4	Mandy/Myrvold, Shelby
5/6	Mai Triple Sec Tazlina/ Wright, April
6/5	Lady/Haney, Hershey
P	Star of Excellency/Halley, Catherine
P	Al Kohl/Hammond, Darcy

Bald Mountain Butt Buster B

7/22/06—Region 1A-AK

B-N, Total Riders: 21

Chairman: Nancy Williams

Judges: Shannon Leska DVM, Terry Yates

Novice Sweepstakes: Destinys Mighty Man/
Nash, Dianne-93

Novice Heavyweight

1/3	Destinys Mighty Man/Nash, Dianne
2/1	Maxed Out/Namtvedt, Teri
3/5	Alabama's C Penny/ Preboski, Ranee
4/4	Iron Mike/Hess, Tamara
5/2	Syline Choctaw/Bridges, Josh
CO	Sequoia/Larson, Jane
CO	Major/Larson, Joel
CO	October Impulse/Elsberry, Dorothy

Novice Lightweight

1/1	Quaffiur/Cotterall, Christine
2/2	Amblin Acres Indigo/Allen, Theresa

Novice Junior

1/1	Old Blue Eyes/Warren, Katie
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Hat Creek

8/12-13/06; A-O/N/CP, Total Riders: 40

Chairman: Mary Chandler

Judges: Jack Chandler DVM, Bev Barmettler

Open Sweepstakes: Avalonn/Dockter, Susan-

100

Novice Sweepstakes: Tura Lura/Cannon,
Linda-98

Open Heavyweight

1/1	Avalonn/Dockter, Susan
2/3	Cimarron Al/Armer, Jean
3/4	Ibn Nickajoy Nijinsky/Kennard, Kathy
4/2	WK Spring Sonnet/Dillard, Joe
5/5	Shadow/Hurn, Andrea

Open Lightweight

1/1	Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie
2/4	WW Steeleasen+1/Dillard, Ash- ley
3/2	ElMorafics Shalom/Hutnick, Lynne
4/6	Ibn El Barak/Berkley, Laura
5/3	Summer/Wolgram, Betty
6/5	Our Fancy/Baldwin, Dana
P	Shane/Lieberknecht, Kay
DO-P	R H KAZAN/Saggio, Ann

Open Junior

1/1	Majik/Grosso, Ben
P	Chi/Malatesta, Savanah

Novice Heavyweight

1/4	Tura Lura/Cannon, Linda
2/3	Tuscany 2/Berlitz, Barbara
3/1	DM's Mingo/Berwick, Robyn
4/5	Fuurday Dancer/Roth, Connie
5/2	Phantom Dusk/Boicelli, Gene
P	Jed/Behr Linda
P	Bailey/Pimentel, Joe

Novice Lightweight

1/1	Casanova/ Stillman, Susan
2/5	Quellow/Dross, Tricia
3/4	Royal Prancer/Pimentel, Michelle
4/3	Deux Chausette/Jones, Mary
5/2	Morgaine De Faye/Ryan, Stacy
DO-P	Whiskey Rose/Arnold, Natalie
P	Sorin/Dunn, Alison

Competitive Pleasure

1/1	Zues (2)/Tortorelli, Denise
2/4	Sneakers/Johnson, Carolyn
3/3	Symplicity Sue/Bacon, Nancy
4/6	Steelie Dan/Johnson, Art
5/	G7 Orion/Etheridge, Judy
6/5	Lisette/Murphy, Debbie
/2	El Nabiyah/Foote, Debra
DO-P	Codi /Vanderyde, Leslie
DO-P	Rascal/Brault ,Josette
P	HR Select/Dieterich, Jamie

How Old Is Your Horse?

1st horse year = 12 human years

2nd horse year = 7 human years

Next 3 horse years = 4 years each

Subsequent horse years = 2 1/2 years

each

From *Equus* magazine

BODY SWAY

Kay Lieberknecht

Ever get “upper body sway” on your scorecard when the horsemanship judge watched you ride downhill? I did, every ride, for years...still do, when I’m tired.

At home I spent months bugging my fellow riders to look for me swaying or not as I tried different ways of riding downhill. Finally I figured out how not to sway, and as soon as I did, my horse’s downhill walk doubled in speed! So that’s why not to sway!?! I’d been interfering with my horse’s gait!

In my experimenting I started trying to feel my horse’s back and sides move under me, through the saddle. Getting off my rump a teeny bit, I took a little more weight on my feet and on my thighs; I could get a little light off his back even without stirrups, by friction and muscles. (Try posting bareback!) This position made me aware of how one side of the horse would drop under my thigh as he stretched his foot forward, then the other side would drop. Depending not on my rump but my legs to maintain contact, it was natural to let my knees open and shut a little, stretching my legs down one at a time with him. Basically, my legs were walking actively in synch with my horse.

How sweet it was to look down at my belly: it was dancing as one thigh shifted down, then the other, and my “headlights” kept on going straight and level (well, as straight and level as my particular ones get). All sway transferred to my belly!

Lots of people are told to lean back when going downhill. Think of what leaning back does—presses your weight through your seatbones right into your horse’s back. If you were a horse, would you maybe throw up your head, dip your back, and either rush or stop? Getting in good leg contact, light in the saddle, and moving your legs with the horse will put you exactly in the forward-backward balance that will free your horse to easily move on down the trail!

Western States Horse Expo

June 10-12, 2006

Region One NATRC again had a booth and did daily demonstrations representing NATRC. Jan Jeffers headed up the demonstrations, assisted by Debbie Murphy, Kathie Schmidt, and Debi Tevis. The demonstrations were well received with many questions and audience interaction. Many from the audience came by the booth to continue their education on NATRC.

Linda Thomason and Karen Riddle hosted the booth, assisted by several other NATRC volunteers on all three days. This is a huge undertaking and we appreciate everyone who took time to volunteer. I think all would agree that it is really fun to talk to others about a sport we are so passionate about. Some of the other volunteers who gave up their time were: Jamie Dieterich, Judy Etheridge, Dana and Ian Baldwin, Debbie Murphy, and Dale and Deanna Lake. I apologize if I have left your name out, however, please know that you were much appreciated.

Five of the people who saw the demonstration at Horse Expo and talked with our volunteers came and rode the Swanton NATRC ride and had a great time. I am sure they will be back. Several have already joined NATRC. Mentor a rider—it’s very rewarding!

Jan Jeffers and SQR Mondragon were the representatives for NATRC in the Arabian Breed Demonstration at Horse Expo. This is a great way to showcase our sport. Let’s think about doing this for next year with other breeds of horses. There were 30-some disciplines represented.

Submitted by Debbie Murphy and Jan Jeffers



*Left to right: Jan Jeffers on SQR Mondragon, Debbie Murphy, and Debi Tevis with Jan's horse Ladybug
Photo by Kathie Schmidt*

Outreach

Summer 2006

Linda Thomason

Karen Riddle and I took on the challenge (or were we volunteered by friends?) of assisting with the Outreach Program this year. NATRC's Outreach folks try to bring an understanding of NATRC philosophies and programs to the general public. We encourage riders from all disciplines to try Competitive Trail Riding. We talk with riders to help them understand what they can learn from Competitive Trail and NATRC.

The year started with Hoof Trek, a favorite first ride of the season. I attended this ride (Karen and I agreed to split up most of the ride season so we could make it to more rides) and enjoyed meeting the first time competitors (FTCs) as well as some of the returning newcomers and of course visiting with many old friends. Hoof Trek feels like old home week as most of the seasoned NATRC riders crawl out from the doldrums of winter. They make a vigorous assault on the dirty tack/ muddy horses and somehow manage to make it to the ride looking good and smiling. It's always great fun to see everyone again. As part of the Outreach Program, we visit most of the trailers at the rides, talk to riders, offer assistance, answer questions, and during this process we manage to make many new friends. One of the difficulties of working as an Outreach person is that as you visit each campsite you are bombarded with offers of drink and food so that by the end of the ride you are smiling and feeling quite happy yourself! Of course we only partake because it's "part of the job" and we certainly wouldn't want to be thought of as ungrateful. Hoof Trek went smoothly (thanks to the great group of folks who work hard on this each year!) and everyone enjoyed themselves. Even a few raindrops couldn't dampen the enthusiasm at check-in.

Working into the ride season, Mt. Daiblo & Mt. Quarry rides were next on the schedule for May. Karen

attended as the Outreach Representative at Mt. Diablo. It is one of the "seasoned" rides. The riders get to enjoy the luxury of flush toilets, showers, a swimming pool, amazing views, and a great dinner! Matt Simas set up a TV with pictures from the Hoof Trek Ride. Mt. Quarry is a great ride along the American River Canyon with great views, too. It took me a few minutes to realize that the moving specks down at the bottom of the canyon were actually rafters! Karen was the Outreach Representative at both of these rides and worked with the FTCs.

June 9, 10, and 11, Karen and I worked the NATRC booth at Horse Expo. What a great opportunity to meet hundreds of riders. I can't tell you how many times we heard riders say that they just didn't know that there was an alternative to Endurance. Some folks simply don't want to go the distance/speed of Endurance rides and NATRC offers them an alternative sport. It's disappointing to realize how many people have never heard of Competitive Trail or NATRC. We all need to do a better job of promoting our sport. There are many riders out there who just need a bit of encouragement to come out and participate. By the end of the weekend Karen and I were both hoarse from talking about NATRC and experiences on the trails. It was exhausting—but great fun. Many thanks to NATRC members who stopped by to say "hi" or volunteered to help man the booth. MANY, MANY THANKS to our wonderful volunteers!!!! (I can't tell you how grateful one is to have someone relieve them for an hour or two and be able to get out and "SHOP"!) A special word of thanks goes to Debbie Murphy who has truly invested a lot of time and effort to set up/take down the NATRC booth, store supplies, and set up demos in the outdoor arena. She's a tireless worker and we should all be grateful for the effort she has put forth to further the cause of NATRC. Thanks also to Jan Jeffers who was in charge of organizing the NATRC booth this year and was also involved in the demos.

I'd also like to thank Matt Si-

mas for his great CD from the Hoof Trek Ride. He divided the program into segments—on the trail, in camp, trailers, dogs, and of course the horses. The music was lively and suited the pictures wonderfully. This CD drew many folks to the NATRC booth and was a very effective way to share our sport. Matt has been at many of the rides taking pictures and has CDs for several other rides.

July brought us back to the lovely Swanton ride. Emma always puts her heart and soul into these rides and this was one of the best! We had eleven FTCs on this ride, which kept Karen and me busy. Saturday evening as the sun set and the coastal fog rolled in, one of the FTCs mentioned that she hadn't realized she'd need a blanket. Well, I just happened to have four blankets in my truck (doesn't everyone travel with horse paraphernalia?) and we managed to find one that fit her horse. Another FTC hadn't realized she could longe her horse to present to the judges and so back into the truck to retrieve a fifteen-foot longe line.

Working Outreach at rides is sort of like a pared down version of the "Wedding Planner" movie—you reach into the bag and come up with whatever is needed. We've learned to travel with just about an extra "everything"—from saddle pads to duct tape! I have heard comments from the FTCs—mostly positive—saying that they were amazed that a competition of any sort would go out of their way to help the newcomers. I thank ALL the riders who have taken newcomers under their wings and offered help. We need to make riders feel "comfortable" and "welcome" when they come to a ride for the first time. There is always an element of apprehension, and we can help folks through that. When riders have a positive experience, not only will they probably return but they just might bring their friends with them.

August took us up North to Hat Creek. Karen had a surprise inspection at work so the "gruesome twosome" was pared down to just me. It was a long drive, however well worth it. The campground had a lovely trout stream

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running through it (and trout was caught by most fishermen/fisherwomen who gave it a try). There were great views of Mt. Lassen if you walked down to the bridge. Kudos to the thirty-eight riders who drove the distance to enjoy this delightful ride put on by Mary and Jack Chandler and to the numerous volunteers who drove up there to support the ride! We even had one FTC and she totally enjoyed herself. The volcanic rock made the trails a bit dusty. On the second day, the riders looked like a gang of outlaws coming down the trail with kerchiefs and other devices to keep the dust out. The dust was a real incentive to stay in front or away from other riders. I worked the P&R crew on this ride and the views were fantastic. If this ride is put on next year, I strongly encourage you to take a few vacation days and enjoy this rugged, beautiful area. Since you drive to the 5000-foot elevation, the trails are mostly flat! The trails are scenic and fairly easy, so do keep this in mind if the opportunity arises again. Thanks again to Mary and Jack! P. S.—a personal “thank-you” to Ashley and Joe Dillard for sharing their wonderful little puppy with me at Hat Creek!

Well, we're preparing for Gilroy, Almaden, and the second Mt. Diablo ride. It's hard to believe that the ride season is nearing the end. It's been a fun, educational year for both Karen and me. We were unfortunate in that neither of our horses could compete this year, however we both enjoyed working Outreach and felt we contributed to NATRC even though we weren't out on the trails. I encourage all members to try to participate in some aspect of the organization. It takes a lot of volunteers to put on rides, to support the rides, and to work auxiliary programs such as Outreach, *Leadline*, Convention, etc. Consider participating in these opportunities—especially if you have a horse that needs some time off, or you can't compete in more than a few rides. This is a great way to meet your fellow riders, have fun, and give back to NATRC!

See you on the trail—
Linda Thomason and Karen Riddle

Plea from a Ride Secretary!

Debbie Murphy

Riders, did you know that it takes about twenty to thirty minutes to process each ride entry? Now imagine that you are the ride secretary (whether actually on paper or helping out) and you have ten days left before the ride date and twenty entries received. Then, here comes the mail person with a wheelbarrow full of entries and you have just a few days to process them. Oh yes, you have a regular day (read: paying!) job, you want to condition and ride your horse, maybe have family demands—and twenty-five envelopes with entries to process in just a few days!

After pulling out your hair and flinging a few unprintable words, you dive into the pile of envelopes. Well, those twenty-five envelopes soared to thirty entries because some had more than one entry in the envelope. After you've inserted the IV with a caffeine drip, you sit down at the desk and computer, and start in. The first entry doesn't have the liability waivers signed; the next entry has the wrong fees enclosed; the next entry, well, they forgot to send the entry—just the liability forms and you can't read the name! You get the idea...it never goes easy.

Some progress is made when you actually have a pile of entries you can process. The rest are the “trouble pile” that you deal with later. Three-hole punch the entry for the binder; enter the rider information into the computer; enter the rider on the correct section of the rider list; get the right pinney (bib) number; make the halter, bridle and trailer tags; stuff the packet with “goodies;” attach appropriate meal tickets to packet; and put in a box! Whew—those are the easy ones! Now, those pesky ones that need attention. You do all the above, but you also need to attach copies of whatever is missing to the packet and make sure information is logged on the rider summary sheet so you actually collect the missing documents, money, or whatever.

Folks, this is a time consuming, thankless job. Ride secretaries try to keep a smile on their faces but I personally admit to being a little “snippy.” I apologize for that in advance.

I know riders wait till the previous ride to enter the next ride. You want to make sure your horse is “okay” before you enter the next ride. Most rides do not cash your check

until after the ride. If that is a concern, I bet if you put a note on your check (staple, please) not to cash till after the ride, the ride secretary would accommodate you (check with the ride secretary).

Do ride secretaries a favor and send your entries in when you think you will ride the ride. As a ride secretary, I can make you disappear with one key-stroke—the delete button! But the time it takes to process even one entry is lengthy when everyone waits till the last minute to enter. I'd rather process your entry and hit the delete button if you have to cancel!

Okay, put the darts back in the box, I took the target off my back!

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

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2006 Deadlines

Fall deadline—November 3

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

Classified ads free to R1 members in good standing, one per issue, up to 30 words.

Ads may be emailed, or hard copies mailed to the editor can be scanned as submitted. Send ads to **Editor** and make checks payable to **NATRC Region One**.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

DEBBIE MURPHY

As a member of NATRC, I have immersed myself in this sport. I have been a competitor, Ride Manager, Ride Secretary, NATRC clinic organizer, NATRC presenter at Western States Horse Expo, and member of the Board of Directors for Region One. My focus has been to promote this sport through education and support for new competitors through our Region One Outreach Program.

An avid horseperson most of my life, with years of show-ring riding, the trail was where I experienced the most pleasure as a youth and now as an adult. I was a member of Folsom Lake Trail Patrol for six years and am active in Folsom Lake State Park equestrian trail issues. I volunteer for Tevis, serving as veterinary secretary for the past two years. My other affiliations include AERC, Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association, and Mother Lode Arabians.

My interests include the nutrition, conditioning, and training of the distance horse. NATRC has offered that to me. Promoting the education received while riding NATRC is high on my agenda. The survival of our sport depends on each of us doing our part. I would like to continue to do my part representing Region One on the National Board.



Photo by Julie Willitts

JAN JEFFERS

I am submitting my nomination for the 2007 NATRC National Board of Director position from Region One.

I have been involved with NATRC since 1972, a horsemanship judge in 1974, served on the National NATRC Board for eight years and Region One Board for several terms. I have competed, judged, and managed NATRC rides for the past thirty-three years.

I have served as a West Region Board of Director and secretary for the AERC and currently serve on the Board of Governors of the Western States Trail Foundation (Tevis).

My involvement with horses has been since the age of two, having competed successfully in NATRC, horse shows, three-day eventing, and endurance riding, training many of my own horses.

NATRC has made me a better horseman, and I have shared my experiences with many others over the years. I will be an active NATRC National Board member and utilize my years of experience to promote NATRC nationwide.

Feel free to contact me regarding the issues that are facing NATRC at this time. I would like to see others in NATRC come forward and help make this organization what it can be. I can be reached at 408/779-4722 or at sleeker@garlic.com.



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JIM FERRIS

I started in this sport in 1981 on the old Uvas Dam ride. My competitive nature led me eventually to be a very good competitor. I have ridden seven different horses in competition during that time and have received a total of four National Championships on three different horses. I have been a member of NATRC for over twenty years. I have been a Ride Manager, Open Division rider, Horsemanship Judge, and have spent ten years on the National Board. In the year 2000, the Board voted me an honorary lifetime membership for my contribution to our sport. At that time, I decided that I needed a break from the Board and time to get everything back in order. Having gotten settled into my new area of Region One, and even gotten to complete the Tevis in 2004, I now feel ready to return to the Board. If elected, I will serve the members of Region One to the best of my ability. Thank you for your vote.



JUST “DO” IT!!

NATRC’S new Distance Only Class (DO), for riders who want mileage credit only, seems to be gaining momentum in Region One. It’s a great opportunity for newcomers to try distance riding, or seasoned competitors to get a break from competition. All mileage earned at NATRC rides is transferable to breed organization mileage programs.

The DO option is being used on a trial basis this year. The rules are the same as HDC (Hors de concours) that has been in existence for years. Horses and riders must follow all the usual rules with the exception that leg protection can be used (since they are not in competition, there is no competitive advantage of using leg protection). Riders and horses are judged, comments are placed on the scorecards, but points are not assessed. It is intended that the riders will benefit from the instructive comments but not be intimidated by losing points. This would make it easier to “pass” on an obstacle, for example. Riders always have that choice, but most hate to lose points by doing so.

We anticipate the DO option will be used again next year. Let us know your thoughts, or give it a try yourself!!

Jamie Dieterich, NBOD
530/836-1075; dieteric@psln.com

**NBOD election ballots
will come to you in the
mail next month. Be sure
to exercise your vote!**

Trail’s End

Jill Owens, Editor

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. Do not seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

Ranier Maria Rilke
Letters to a Young Poet

I have been living a lot of questions lately.

Gypsy injured her stifle around the new year and is coming back slowly—and not without certain difficulties—after months of rest. While my veterinarian and my dressage trainer are hopeful and encouraging, the vastly experienced and world-class German dressage master with whom I clinic thinks that Gypsy is breaking down. He says if I want to pursue dressage, I will need to get another horse. Is this overly pessimistic, or the voice of reason and reality born of many years’ experience?

If Gypsy truly isn’t up to the athletic demands of dressage, perhaps she won’t be able to do competitive trail either, and in any case, she’s barefoot now and ridden on trail in Boa Boots which are prohibited in competition.

So I am faced with a dilemma: should I go as far as I can with *this horse*, altering my goals to fit what she and I can both do, or pursue *my goals*, and search for the horse that can carry me there?

Gypsy is my soul-mate. Could I ever really hope to find such a strong connection with another equine? Do I even want to try?

Do I really need to compete to feel fulfilled? Could I be content to enjoy riding my “best girl” around the ranch and on regular adventures away from home? Is there another path—one I’ve never even thought of—that will present itself for our discovery?

These are some of the questions I’m living these days. Perhaps I can learn to love them, and in time, the answers may come.

NATRC CLINIC

Sponsored by: San Martin
Horsemen's Association
June 25, 2006

The clinic was held at the Harvey Bear Ranch in San Martin, a fairly new county park. We had a great turnout: people from as far away as the Central Valley, as well as many locals, participated.

Mary Atwood made all the riders/auditors feel right at home, with packets just like they were checking into an actual NATRC ride. In the morning, Jan and Jim Jeffers, assisted by Kathie Schmidt, gave how-to demonstrations that included check-in, check-out, mounting/dismounting, and trailer safety when camping with your horse.

Jan and Kathie took the riders on a mini trail ride and demonstrated several ways to open/close gates, and some of the other trail riding experiences one might encounter on the trail. Jim, assisted by Nikkii Van Steenwyk, answered questions from the auditors and gave trail riding tips until the riders returned from their ride.

A great lunch was provided by San Martin Horsemen's Association, with Greg Linden and his crew manning the barbecue.

A raffle at the end of the clinic with many nice raffle prizes was a nice

touch to end a great day. There were many attendees who were willing to work on the Gilroy Hot Springs Ride and participate in future NATRC rides.

—Jan Jeffers



Jan and Jim Jeffers—photo by Phil Atwood

The Leadline

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

