

The Leadline

The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding

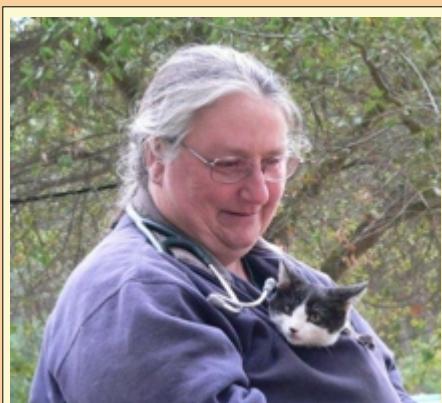


www.natrcregion1.org

Spring 2011

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Region 1 Veterinary Judge
Dr. Carol Ormond, D.V.M.,
recipient of Region 1 Appreciation at the National Level

The Road to Round Valley

By Victoria Boicelli

It all started on a ride my husband and I took in the early fall of 2008. It was like a cartoon image, you know the one, a light bulb suddenly appears above the character's head and an idea is formed. My husband said, "Wouldn't it be great if I could put on a ride in our Mt. Diablo foothills here." I suddenly fell silent, fortunately I did not gasp. You see many, many, years ago I had chaired the Mt. Diablo ride when Gene was not involved with N.A.T.R.C. I was volunteering at the time in some facet, being Secretary, P&R person, etc. for the rides on the mountain. At that time we were busy working and raising our children, so my volunteering was considered a fun time for me and he did not remember me pulling my hair out after biting off the chairmanship. At that time there were usually 60 or more riders on these rides, so even though it was a well established ride it was an awesome task. Now Gene was in an excited frame of mind considering which trails we could use and where we could stage. He exclaimed, "I could be the trail master." Thus the organism was spawned. My horse and I took some deep breaths as we rode along and I acknowledged Gene's enthusiasm with some "uhuhs." I fully realized all the work that would be involved even as trail master.

The organism was gaining strength as the days progressed. It was fueled by ideas at this point in time.

"Round Valley would be a great staging area, don't you think?" There was that light bulb again. "We should get a hold of Sue Flagg. She rides that area all the time." "We can connect it to the trails on our side of the canyon." I pondered, when did "I" turn into "we?" Sue was interested in the idea so we rode out together to investigate the feasibility of the trails. The organism gained more ground. Sue suddenly stated, "If you chair I'll be your Secretary." Gene kind of hesitated for a moment and said, "Wait a moment, I was going to be trail master." Sue chimed in, "Well, you can do both." I did not say a word but somehow I knew right then I would be along for another kind of ride. At least I thought there are plenty of good volunteers that could lend Gene a hand and Sue had lots of experience as to what needed to be done. Thank god for that.

Over the weeks and months of planning, the organism stretched itself and began a feeding frenzy on paper of all kinds. Permits and copies of each. Post-It notes of numerous colors, envelopes, many maps and, of course, copies of such strewn in every conceivable place. Refuge was to be found only in the bathroom. Dessert to this rather hungry demon became bags full of bright colored ribbons with clothespins attached. I wondered, would my little house ever be the same? I envied any home neat and organized and avoided them.

Sue, Gene and I would have lunch meetings together. Sue, like me, had a thing for Mexican food. Which was a good thing. We would discuss the organism behind its back and work on taming it. I know Gene and Sue got tired of me asking, "Have we done this and have we done that?" but I had a need to know that this thing we had created was staying on track. Fortunately what one person didn't think of the other one did.

Riding the ride three times and timing it was good for both riders and horses, a time free from work until we returned to write it all down. We tried to ride as if we had never seen the trails before and would ribbon accordingly. When it came to ribboning, we had terrific help. Our neighbor up the road, Chris Heath, ribboned on our canyon side. Sue ribboned on her side of Round Valley. It was about this time that

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Chairman's Corner

I'd like to take a few lines to introduce myself as the 2011 Region One Chairperson. I wish to thank my fellow Board of Directors members for electing me to this position and welcome the opportunity to work for the benefit of NATRC. I've been an active member of NATRC for over 20 years both as a competitor and "in the background." I've worked as ride secretary, rules interpreter, P&R volunteer, outreach chairperson, publicity chairperson and on multiple conventions, including the 2011 Livermore convention, which I hope you all enjoyed. I have a broad background in NATRC and believe in the organization's goals of promoting horsemanship and good trail horses. I hope the coming year provides me the opportunity to meet new members and reunite with past members.

The coming year presents some major challenges. Due to the escalating gas costs, competitors will face major financial challenges just driving to rides. I encourage all riders to "truck" pool. Get together with other riders in your area (check the member roster) and plan ahead to pool your resources. Don't give up on rides simply because of the driving distance. Be innovative and think of ways riders can save money and pool resources. Then, share these ideas with your fellow riders by submitting a Leadline article. For instance: plan a vacation camping trip and incorporate a ride at the end or beginning of your week. Bring friends from your area to a ride and share the expenses. The Leadline belongs to YOU - become an active participant.

Another challenge is that Bay Area parks are re-assessing what groups they need to provide for and equestrians are not high on the list. Attend park district meetings and support local trail groups that are fighting in Sacramento and Washington to ensure that all sports enthusiasts are included in the guidelines for trail use. Sitting on the sidelines simply means that some day you'll have no where left to ride! I encourage everyone to become active – go out there and volunteer for trail repair days- and **wear your NATRC t-shirts** so that other workers are made aware of our organization and our support for multi-use trails. If interested, you can contact California Recreational Trails Committee and get on their mailing list at: CESSEX@parks.ca.gov

Spring is in the air, the ride season is around the corner and I sincerely hope that all of you will be out there enjoying the trails. Happy Trails and Keep On Riding

Linda Thomason
Region One Chair

THE LEADLINE is the official publication of Region One of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). The Leadline is published three times per year and mailed or emailed 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 (made out to NATRC Region One) to Phil Young, 674 La Porte Rd, Quincy, CA 95971. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to Laurie Knuutila, 455 Ream Lane, Fairbanks, AK or email to wildroseph@yahoo.com. NATRC Region One 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.

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Summer issue -
Submission: August 15; Publication: Sept. 1
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Quarter page—\$10
Business card—\$5

Classified ads are free to Region One 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 the Editor and make checks payable to NATRC Region One.

Continued from page 1

I realized things were really coming together. Boxes now entered the picture but these were the treasures I had picked for prizes so even though there were many I tolerated them well. Volunteers were lined up and knew their positions like troops in the organism's Army. What would we do without that good Army?

Before long it was October. It was warm but not too warm and there was water to be found, a big plus. People started to arrive at the staging area and parked nicely in the space provided. The sounds of horses and their people sang an oh so familiar song and check in, always fun to watch, went smoothly. The potluck on Friday night, as usual had plenty of palate appeal. People were chatting excitedly, anticipating the next day's competition. Briefing went well and Gene came away relieved and as if he had had a triple shot Starbucks Latte.

All was becoming calm in camp, horses were standing quietly, munching on hay, their people turning in for the night. The sound of "Taps" resonated from a CD we had and seemed to address the feel of camp at this time. I was more then ready for sleep but it was just not to be. I can sleep anywhere and if I know there is a job or competition the next day, I sleep and stockpile my adrenalin for the task at hand in the morning. It is not so for my husband and daughter. My daughter was riding her dad's horse for him the next day. She proceeded to have the light on and read until about 2 a.m. Gene tossed and turned all night until I felt like I was playing a game of tennis. Between the two of them in that small trailer there was very little sleep to be found before the resounding tones of reveille were played. I had only at the most, 3 hours sleep to fall back on.

NATRC Student Loan Program

Student loans are available up to \$5,000 per person /year, at the discretion of the NATRC National Board of Directors, after proper application has been submitted. Preference will be given to a full-time student who has been a member of NATRC or whose family has been an active member for at least three years. Consideration will also be given to a student or a student's family who has been an active member of NATRC for less than three years but more than six months.

A loan will be made based upon financial need, scholastic achievement, and character of the applicant as determined by the Student Loan/Scholarship Committee.

A loan is to be repaid in monthly installments, with an annual interest rate of 3% charged on that loan, beginning not later than six months following graduation or when the recipient ceases to be a full-time student.

For an application, contact the NATRC Executive Administrator at natrc@natrc.org Please complete the form in Word and submit via email to the NATRC Executive Administrator at natrc@natrc.org

My horse was strangely sedate as I saddled him, gazing off in the distance and standing like chiseled granite. Hum, I thought, this might be a good thing, since usually he is doing something that closely resembles the Jitterbug. I mounted him, still a rock statue. As soon as I settled into the saddle, I felt the muscles tense up under me and fully expected to hear "Gentlemen, start your engines" except for the fact that I believe his was already started. I knew there would be a horsemanship judge at the dry creek on the way out, it was a perfect place for one. I also knew that to try to hold back on my horse by much would be foolhardy. He was eager and animated. It wasn't pretty, but I maintained some semblance of control and we were off and trotting. It was still half dark but I saw a helpful rider up ahead of me holding open the gate to Hardy Trail, and this is something I enjoy about N.A.T.R.C., riders helping out other riders when they see the need. It was time to test the organism. Had it been fed properly? The paper, maps, ribbons, were they all working within its frame with energy and purpose? The morning was cool against my cheeks as that warming orb's light tiptoed up the dead grass hills turning them to California gold. The Oaks stood as sentries overseeing our pathway as we went. My little horse gathered himself beneath me with arched neck ready to go in any direction at the touch of my heel from 0 to 40 in a flash. He, as always, looks twice his size in this mode and was ready to conquer cities or at least slay a few dragons. As for me, I was enjoying every moment of it. Forget the lack of sleep, the adrenalin was on overdrive. Likewise the people we trotted with or passed were also enjoying themselves. At P&R stops and lunch, riders were smiling, laughing and having a good time. I began to see

that maybe the organism wasn't such a bad sort after all.

The ride was somewhat like a wedding, much planning and preparation and then over before you know it. I got to hand out awards and give everyone a hug. The adrenalin was still going and tiredness was held at bay. Oh, and I forgot to mention, the dinner was Mexican food. Could I ask for more? Gene's jaw had relaxed and he looked content with how everything had gone. All horses and riders had made it back to camp without problems. As always, riders had paid their utmost attention to the needs of their horses. For as Jamie Dieterich, horsemanship judge, said, "It is, after all, all about the horse." This is, of course, what brings us all together, a love and respect for our four hooved companions whose cadence carries us and causes our hearts to soar.

The organism was packed up neatly in a large brown box and slept quietly throughout the winter. In early spring the box began to tremble and once again it was emerging. I must admit I greeted it with a better attitude this time. I would be more familiar with its needs. Gene was grinning with more ideas and even more enthusiasm to feed it. Ya just gotta love it!

Our second year ride was a bit more challenging because of the Indian Summer heat. So we will this year, 2011, be having a two day ride June 18 and 19. See you there!

"Do Come ride with us." You are sure to enjoy the Round Valley Ride and who knows - the organism might persuade you to start a ride of your own. Jump right in, the waters are filled with good people who will run with your ideas. We do need a few more rides.

Attention Junior Riders!

The Region 1 Board of Directors voted to continue the Junior Rider Payback program at their October 2010 meeting. Junior riders can receive a payback of 30.00 per ride on a minimum of two rides and a maximum of three rides entered during the 2011 ride season. Contact Phil Young for more information.

Raffle tickets for the Tevis Cup 100-mile ride entry are available. Must be qualified to enter. Drawing May 21, 2011. Contact Jamie Dieterich.

Convention 2011

by Linda Thomason,
Convention Chair

I wish to thank all of you who "Returned to the Livermore Wine Country" for the 2011 Region One Convention. This was a fun event and I thank all the "helpers" who contributed to its success. The Bothwell Art Center once again left up their Mardi Gras decorations to lend "décor" and the bright colors, mardi gras masks and paper mache characters that lined the auditorium lent a festive atmosphere. We had a great assortment of vendors with the flagship being Healthy as a Horse Network. I must compliment Susan Favro (the owner of Healthy as a Horse) for contributing to our Region Silent Auction with her purchase of a beautiful saddle rack made by our very own craftsman Lee Cannon. Thank you, Lee, for your generous donation of time and work to produce the saddle rack and bridle racks! The vendors had a wonderful variety of items. I hope you all enjoyed the shopping as much as I did!

I was unable to listen to most of the speakers but the feedback from attendees was very positive. I recall walking through the speaker room in the morning and seeing the entire group practicing emergency wound wrapping. Kudos to Bruce and the paramedic group for providing all the gauze and "extras" for attendees to take back for their medical kits.

Many members informed me how impressed they were with Dr. McKean's presentation. Their first thought was "Oh, another chiropractic lecture". However, as a rider who has overcome physical handicaps, his approach was quite different and provided much useful information. A big Thank You to Debbie Murphy for arranging for Dr. McKean to speak!

Becky Hart's presentation focused on what the U.S. Endurance Team has learned in the past 4 years in order to be competitive with many of the international groups that have overtaken the U.S. in endurance competition. The talk and pictures were

quite interesting and entertaining. Becky also talked about the speeds being attained in these races: less than 8 hour 100's are needed just to compete internationally and less than 7 hour 100's are required to win.

Dr. Sharon Spier provided useful tips and insights into pigeon fever in California. While this could be a dry topic, Dr. Spier is a delightful, entertaining speaker and provided information in a way that kept our interest piqued.

I would like to thank those that attended but basically "gave up" much of their day to help out and make the convention a success. First and foremost I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to Betty Young for her hard work as the convention secretary. Unless you've done this job, you just don't realize how much work it is to keep the financials straight, make up the registration packets and answer everyone's questions. Kudos to Betty for doing such a great job! Region One also owes a big thank you to Kathy Nixon. She dug her way through the snow in Quincy to her storage shed to find tablecloths and containers for convention. She worked the breakfast and lunch table all day and then went on in the evening with Jamie Dietrich to host the award ceremony. Kathy is the person who orders all the year end awards – so if you enjoyed those ribbons- thank her when you see her. Jamie and Kathy did another great job with the awards ceremony. During the year, we see Jamie at the rides snapping pictures of everyone. Well she does like photography but there's an ulterior motive to her shutterbug mania. At the year end awards, she has a picture of every rider to flash on the screen as they come up to accept their awards. Region One really owes a special thanks to Jamie Dieterich!

When you see her at rides this summer-SMILE-this may be a Kodak moment for you!

We had a huge raffle table with over 100 raffle items. The booming voice at the raffle table belonged to Gene Boicelli who did a great job selling tickets and keeping the raffle board up to date. Thank You Region One members who supported the raf-

fle both by bringing items and purchasing tickets! The silent auction also had many great items. I must tell you that Marilyn Hunter's "hooch cake" was again the most bid on item! Marilyn also brought a chocolate chip cheese cake which ended up being "sold" to the highest bidder at the awards dinner.

Thank you to Donna Stidolph for helping to man the lunch bench and keeping it organized and stocked with Kathy Nixon's help; to Bob and Karel Waugh who continue to come early to help set up on Friday and stay late on Saturday to clean up. There were others who helped straighten up Saturday night- thanks so much

I know I've forgotten to thank someone, so please know that I really appreciate all of you who help out with these events. For those of you who are new to NATRC, convention is a fun time to meet up with friends after the long winter and get revved up for the coming ride season. It's a lot of fun- so if you haven't gone in the past- give it a try next time.

In 2012, the Region One convention will join with Region Two and AERC in Reno. Information will be available later in the year as the plans are finalized. We are seeking volunteers for the 2013 convention- so if you have ideas- step up and jump in. I especially encourage new members/riders to participate and help the organization. We need fresh ideas and enthusiasm to keep the spirit alive and kicking!

I've rambled on too long AGAIN! Convention was a success, the awards dinner was a gourmet event, the wine was plentiful- and now we're ready to move on and prepare for a great ride season.



REGION 1 2010 AWARDS PRESENTATION

Welcome by Jamie Dieterich

Remembering: Chi

Chi was an Appaloosa-Mustang Pony. She was a terrific little horse who did her job on the trail well. Chi made many happy memories.

Thanking: Ride Managers

Managing a ride could be the hardest job in the whole organization, and you couldn't pay me enough to do it. Without our ride managers, we wouldn't be here. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to them all.

Credits:

Convention Chair: Linda Thomason

Convention Secretary: Betty Young

Meeting MC: Maria Pilgrim

Registration Table: Betty Young, Phil Young

Membership/Voting: Phil Young, Jim Ferris, Sherry Lindley-Ferris

Raffle: Gene Boicelli

Silent Auction: Linda Thomason, Betty Young

Meal Arrangements: Linda Thomason

Breakfast Table: Kathy Nixon

Lunch Table: Linda Thomason, Donna Stidolph

Caterer: Black Tie Affair

Table Decorations: Linda Thomason

Awards: Kathy Nixon

Program: Jamie Dieterich

Photos: Jamie Dieterich, Bob Dorsey, Donna Stidolph

Region One also sends special thanks and appreciation to Jim and Jan Jeffers. Jim and Jan have been huge contributors to our awards, especially the first place awards. They did the personalized embroidery, and they always give us a great price break. Our awards wouldn't be the same without their support and generosity.

Award Sponsors:

Sue Flagg and Jim Ferris – National Team Awards

Nancy Kasovich and Karina Hoog – Bob Smith Award

Lynda Burch – Duport Award

Kathy Nixon – Max Barmettler Award

Kathy Nixon – Breed Awards

Phil and Betty Young – Open Division Horse Ribbons

Josette Brault – CP Division Horse Ribbons

Bev Barmettler Mierkey – CP Div. Horsemanship Ribbons

Linda Thomason - First Place Awards

2010 National Sponsors:

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- Long Riders Gear
- Renegade Hoof Boots
- Slypner Gear
- Specialized Saddles
- Tilt Tie, LLC
- Trail Corral
- Trailer Eyes
- Trailwise Tack

Thank You To . . .

2010 Region 1 Board of Directors

Phil Young

Jim Ferris

Angie Meroshnekoff

Steve Meroshnekoff

Linda Thomason

Gene Boicelli

Stephanie Swain

Sue Flagg

Jamie Dieterich

Outgoing Board Member: Sue Flagg (National BOD)

Incoming Board Members: Steve Meroshnekoff (re-elected), and Laura Harvey (newly elected). Jim Ferris,

new National Board Representative, and Phil Young, new Alternate National Board representative.

Mentors: Angie Meroshnekoff

Leadline Editor: Laurie Knuutila

Ride Chairmen:

Ellen Pofcher –

Mt. Diablo

Robyn Berwick –

Arnold Rim

Diane Sullivan –

Bald Mountain Butt Busters

Steve Meroshnekoff –

Jackson Forest

Chere Bargar –

Harvey Bear Ranch

Michelle Pimentel and Sue Flagg –

Oakland Hills/R1 Benefit Ride

Gene Boicelli –

Round Valley

Regional Appreciation at the National Level

Carol Ormond, DVM
(Text Published in Hoof Print)

Region 1 Remembrance
Jim Steere, DVM
(Text Published in Hoof Print)

Region 1 Appreciation Certificates

Gene and Vicki Boicelli by Jamie Dieterich

Gene and Vicki were members of the CMDTRA for many years, dating back to the 1970's, volunteering to help with the NATRC rides whenever they could. Vicki managed one of the rides. Then, like for

many of us, life took a different turn for a while. For some reason a few years ago, they decided it would be a good idea to get involved again. Gene started competing while Vicki was ...continued on next page

Region One Awards Presentation, continued . . .

Region One Special AwardsBob Smith Award

**High Point 1st Year
Novice or CP horse**

Virga BL ridden by Ashley Dillard (CP)

Pat Ersepke Award

**High Point Novice
Horse/Rider Combo**

Tango Sierra ridden by Laura Harvey

Fran & Carol Duport Award

High Point 1st Year Open Horse
Lady Tigers Hysyn ridden by
Haley Schlerf

Max Barmettler Award**Honorary Region 1 Lifetime Membership****Chere Bargar**

by Betty Young

One of Region 1's most special annual awards is the Max Barmettler Honorary Regional Lifetime Award. Given in memory of our late, much loved Max, it primarily honors those who have worked "in the trenches" at our Region 1 rides for many years.

I am so pleased and honored to be able to present this award tonight to my good friend, Chere Bargar.

Perhaps many of you don't know Chere all that well, but she has been involved with Region 1 and National NATRC for years....practically forever, in fact....but she manages to somehow stay in the background. She was the National Secretary from 1979 to 1984.and she has

been a very proactive volunteer for many trail issues and organizations, including the Henry Coe State Park mounted patrol.

Tonight, however, we're mainly saluting the many efforts she has made to directly help with our rides. No one worked harder than Chere on the Gilroy Ride for all those countless years. She spent weeks scouting out those trails we all loved---she pruned them, marked them, timed them, rode point, rode safety and sometimes did both. How's that for being a jack-of-all-trades?

She was also invaluable for so many years helping with the trails on the Almaden Valley Ride, performing the same myriad of duties she did for Gilroy.

When the Gilroy Ride sadly ceased to exist a few years ago, Chere must have decided she was bored (in spite of all her other volunteerism) and so she put on her own ride, the Harvey Bear Ranch Ride, in 2009 and 2010 to benefit one of her favorite local charities.

Truth be told, Chere is one of the hardest working people I've ever known and also one of the most self-effacing. She never seeks any credit for all the back-breaking hours she spends---on a horse, in a truck and even on a bicycle---making our rides possible. Tonight we not only applaud Chere for over 30 years of dedication to our sport, we also give her our sincerest THANKS!!

End of Year Placings**Novice Division****Novice Heavyweight Horsemanship**

1st Laura Harvey
2nd Gary Fitts
3rd Tammy Brown
3rd Daniel Kirchgassler
5th Kyle Jones
6th Mia Holz

Novice Lightweight Horsemanship

1st Donna Stidolph
2nd Cliveden Chew Haas
3rd Michelle Pimentel
4th Tanya Ballard

Novice Junior Horsemanship

1st Karlie Johnson
2nd Kaysha Isgrigg

Novice Heavyweight Horse

1st Tango Sierra / M-Fx / Laura Harvey
2nd Fames Baydal BL / Arab / Gary Fitts
3rd Garnet / Must / Daniel Kirchgassler
4th Laarkin / Arab / Tammy Brown
5th Valentyne / Grad / Kyle Jones
6th Cabo / Arab / Mia Holz

Novice Lightweight Horse

1st Sierra Sunshine / Arab / Donna Stidolph
2nd Fadjrz / Arab / Michelle Pimentel
2nd Renno / Appy / Tanya Ballard
4th Helvitias Prince / Othr / Cliveden Chew Haas
5th TA Mira-Image / Arab / Stephanie Swain

Novice Junior Horse

1st My Gal Sal / Grad / Karlie Johnson
2nd Chi / Must / Kaysha Isgrigg

Open Division**Open Heavyweight Horsemanship**

1st Gene Boicelli
2nd Vicki Boicelli

Open Lightweight Horsemanship

1st Angie Meroshnekoff
2nd Michelle Pimentel

Open Junior Horsemanship

1st Haley Schlerf
2nd Ariel Thurman

Open Heavyweight Horse

1st Stealth Knight / H-Ar / Vicki Boicelli
2nd Pchelkas Star / Arab / Gene Boicelli

Open Lightweight Horse

1st Desert Reinbeau / Must /
Angie Meroshnekoff
2nd Royal Prancer / Pfin / Joe Pimentel

Open Junior Horse

1st Kamiko / Grad / Ariel Thurman
2nd Lady Tigers Hysyn / Grad /
Haley Schlerf

Competitive Pleasure Division

Competitive Pleasure Horsemanship
1st Joe Dillard
2nd Deborah Coe
3rd Ashley Dillard
4th Kris Skoog
5th Jim Ferris
5th Joe Pimentel

Competitive Pleasure Horse

1st OM El Shakeeb Dream / Arab
Joe Dillard
2nd Virga BL / Arab / Ashley Dillard
3rd Bellinzona Gold / Othr / Deborah Coe
3rd Rafelmo Bey / Arab / Kris Skoog
5th Tilly / Grad / Josette Brault
6th Royal Prancer / Pfin / Joe Pimentel

National Board of Directors Meeting Report

The meeting was held in Nashville, TN, February 10, 2011.

First, I'd like to thank everyone for supporting me in another term to serve you on the National Board. It is very rewarding and fulfilling to work with such a great team of people in this terrific sport that means so much to me.

Alternate NBOD: Phil Young was approved for appointment to be Region 1's Alternate National Board representative to fill the remainder of Jim Ferris' term.

Business of NATRC: NATRC ended 2010 with a shortfall of \$15,000. This was largely driven by a drop in revenue due to a decrease in membership, rides and riders. Although we are still financially stable, deficit spending is not a good way to go. An increase in dues was approved at the November, 2010 meeting. Due to the huge success of the Specialized Saddle raffle, a decision will be made at next July's meeting for a new national fund-raising raffle. Region 1's goals to help increase revenues for 2011 include increasing our number of rides (6 in 2010) by 10% (we have 6 scheduled for 2011 plus the AK ride) and increasing the average number of riders per ride (24 in 2010). To help cut expenses, the Hoof Print layout and design was put out for bid. The contract was awarded to Kelly Carper Communications, Missoula, Montana. A final budget for 2011 was approved.

Marketing and Publicity: Articles appeared in several other publications, including one in Trail Blazer magazine (see www.natrc.org). E-News, a subscriber based email application administered by Bev Roberts, R4, is delivering information very efficiently. NATRC has a page on FaceBook, administered by Chuck Smith of R3. Jonni Jewell was interviewed for an hour on Rick Lamb's radio show in January.

Sponsors: Please remember to buy from and say thanks to our wonderful national sponsors. See the Region 1 or national web sites for more information.

Drug Testing and Rules: More rides outside of CA will be tested. A comprehensive drug rule was passed at last November's meeting, but the penalty phase was put under further review. A special committee came back with proposals offering specific and strict penalties. After much discussion, it was felt a

penalty statement allowing for more discretion would be more appropriate. See separate report on new rule proposals and an article in the Spring Hoof Print.

Trails: A grant was awarded to repair a foot bridge on a segment of trail used by the Colorado Trail Competitive Trail Ride.

Scholarships: A small scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Maddox, R4.

Judges Committee: New judges are in the apprentice process. Concerns the committee is hearing have shifted from contrived obstacles to riders wanting judges to be more informative. What does "OK" mean? The committee reaffirmed the importance of all judges providing a qualified evaluation of all horses and riders.

Membership: Personal contact with prospective new members is very important.

Proposed rule changes: See separate report in Hoof Print.

Proposed bylaws changes: The ballot for proposed bylaws changes was included in the Winter Hoof Print, but unfortunately it seemed to fall out of many. Ballots will be distributed by each NBOD representative to their respective regions, a PDF will be posted on the national web site, and an announcement will be sent out in E-News. Members are urged to vote – it does matter. Because this was originally a 2010 ballot, 2010 members are eligible to vote.

Rules Interpreters: A training presentation has been prepared for people interested in being a rules interpreter, and I will be happy to answer questions.

Electronic Meetings: In an effort to improve efficiency and perhaps eventually to save costs, the National BOD will be conducting electronic meetings during the year. This service, GoToWebinar/ GoTo Meeting is also available to all the regions.

Region 5 did an absolutely awesome job of hosting the **50th Anniversary celebration at the 2011 National Convention**. See up Spring Hoof Print for more reports!

2012 National Convention will be hosted by Region 2 in conjunction with the AERC Convention in Reno, NV March 9-10.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Dieterich

Use of a Whip at Check-In

Many of you have probably heard that if you want to use a whip at the final vet check-out, you had to have used it at the first vet check-in. The rationale for that was consistency in presentation.

This guideline was in a document called the *BOD Guidelines*. These guidelines were a compilation of things that didn't have a good "home." Many people, including judges, didn't know this document existed. All of the contents in this document have been moved to manuals (Judges, Management) where they belong, incorporated into rule changes, put into a new document called *Policies and Procedures*, or deleted.

Thus the use of a whip at check-in was never a rule and was always difficult to enforce fairly. The important thing is whether or not the handler uses a whip appropriately. A whip should really be just an extension of the arm. The veterinary judge needs to see the horse move freely to evaluate way of going, MAW (movement, attitude and willingness) and soundness. The handler needs to present the horse to meet those goals and to maintain control. For many horses, just seeing the whip in the handler's hand encourages them to behave better or move along better.

The horsemanship judge should evaluate if the handler is using the whip appropriately. The veterinary judge will evaluate the horse's movement, and he/she will not be fooled into thinking a truly tired horse is lively and animated.



Good Search - Pennys for NATRC

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!

Just go to GoodSearch.com and be sure to enter NATRC as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

Also, GoodSearch has a toolbar which you may download and install on your browser. It is a clean, useful toolbar which makes it easy to use GoodSearch and with NATRC as your charity selection for Internet searches.



New Hoof Boot Rule

The new hoof boot rule is in effect for the 2011 ride year. The new rule reads as follows (**changes in bold**):

Section 5.E. Hoof Protection

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

Section 5.F.4.

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

Section 6.B.2.

Soundness 45%: The evaluation of soundness shall include, but not be limited to, the following: lameness (as per the American Association of Equine Practitioners', AAEP, guidelines), heat, filling & pain, tender withers, back or loin, cinch sores, rubs, (**including areas covered by any attached strap, keeper, or gaiter**), curbs, splints, ringbone, spavin, sidebone, etc. Way of going will be evaluated as a part of soundness. The evaluation of way of going shall include, but not

be limited to, the following: forging, interfering, scalping, over-reaching, continuous stumbling, etc. AAEP guidelines: Grade 1: Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstance (e.g., under saddle, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.). Grade 2: Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when trotting in a straight line, but consistently apparent under certain circumstance (e.g., weight carrying, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.). Grade 3: Lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances. Grade 4: Lameness is obvious at a walk. Grade 5: Lameness produces minimal weight bearing in motion and/or rest or a complete inability to move.

Section 6.C.1.c.

c. Tack and Equipment: The evaluation of tack and equipment shall include, but not be limited to, the following: cleanliness, proper fit, adjustment, repair; **adjustment, proper fit of any attached strap, keeper, or gaiter**; trail gear placement and security.

Some points to remember:

Leg protection, such as bell boots or wraps, is still not permitted. A "sock" or wrap under a gaiter would be considered leg protection. Such protection should not be necessary if the gaiter or attachment fits properly.

Horses should be examined at a trot-out exam as they do the ride. If a horse is ridden shod, he is trotted out in shoes; if he is ridden with pads, he is

trotted out in pads; if ridden in boots, he should be trotted out in boots; if he competes truly barefoot (without sole protection), he should be trotted out barefoot. If a horse does part of the ride without sole protection and part of the ride with boots, the method used for the trot out would be a judgment call.

Judges may, and are encouraged to, check for fit and adjustment as well as rubs or chafes under any boot or its attachment. We can anticipate that waiting for a rider to remove the boots may be time-consuming. Unless the rider can quickly remove the boots, the rider should step aside and allow for the next horse to start its exam. At some point during or after the second horse's exam the first, now unbooted, horse can be checked. The vet judge will have to determine what works best for him or her.

There should be no scoring advantage for horses that compete barefoot, nor should there be point deductions for the use of any type of boot or shoe. In essence, the use of sole protection throughout the ride is at the rider's discretion. This last point is important. For instance, if a rider chooses to check in or check out without boots and the horse trots out lame in front of the vet judge, that rider may not return with their horse, this time with boots, and ask for a "second chance" soundness exam. This is not within the spirit of the rule.

Scoring is dependent upon the rider making the proper choice for his or her horse.

New Drug Rule

With the help and approval of AERC, NATRC has adopted a new drug rule. Following a vote of the Board of Directors in November, 2010, the NATRC Rule Book will now have a section (Section 7) devoted entirely to explaining the rules regarding prohibited substances and treatments. The purpose of these rules "in equines during NATRC rides is both to protect the equines from harm and to ensure fair competition. Equines should compete under their natural abilities without the influence of any drug, medication or veterinary treatment."

In addition, a set of detailed Appendices will be maintained on the NATRC web site and updated yearly. Appendix A lists prohibited substances, Appendix B lists categories of prohibited substances, Appendix C gives categories of allowed substances, Appendix D – published threshold levels, Appendix E

– known detection times, Appendix F – prohibited treatments, and Appendix G – allowed treatments.

Note: The Appendices are very similar, but not identical to AERC's. For example, the use of ice in wraps or boots, Regumate to control estrus in mares, antacids, alcohol applied for cooling, and liniments without prohibited substances are allowed in AERC rides but not in NATRC rides. The detail in these Appendices should greatly help veterinarians, veterinary judges and riders know what is acceptable and what is not.

At the November National Board meeting, some directors were concerned that the proposed new penalty wording was too general. A special committee came back to the February meeting with proposals offering specific and strict penalties. After much discussion, the Board felt a penalty statement allowing for more discretion would be more appropriate. It is recognized that not all offenses are the same; some might be accidental expo-

sure, while some might be deliberate therapeutic administration. The penalty needs to fit the crime.

The proposed wording would be:
1. Any rider/owner violating these rules at an NATRC ride shall forfeit any completion or placing for the ride. NATRC may impose additional penalties for violation of these rules on any person responsible for the violation. Normally, the rider and owner shall be considered the persons responsible for the custody and care at a ride. Accordingly, the rider and owner shall avoid liability for additional penalties for violation of this rule only by showing by clear and convincing evidence that:

**(a) some other person outside of the rider or owner's control was responsible for the violation and
(b) the rider or owner bore no fault for the violation.**

We are very grateful to AERC for all their help and cooperation.

2011 Ride Schedule

May 7	Mt. Diablo Ellen Pofcher Sec: Laurie Page	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 672-3978	“B” O/N/CP mtnoaks@earthlink.net mtnoaks@earthlink.net
May 21	Cowboy Camp Jean Armer Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Williams, CA (530) 755-8301 (707) 795-8163	“B” O/N/CP armer@citlink.net wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
June 4	Arnold Rim Robyn Berwick Sec: Chris Markus	Avery, CA (209) 534-0451 (209) 728-3148	“B” O/CP/N boonedoggle@att.net markuschris@hotmail.com
June 18-19	Round Valley Reg. Park Gene Boicelli Sec: Linda Thomason	Brentwood, CA (925) 672-6491 (510) 651-9470	“A” O/CP; “B” N LIMIT: 45 geneboicelli@aircloud.net linda.thomason@comcast.net
June 18	Challenge of the North Clinic Laurie Knuutila Sec: Lezlie Wilfer	Fairbanks, AK (907) 378-9190 (907) 474-4631	wildroseph@ yahoo.com wilfer@acsalaska.net
July 16-17	Challenge of the North Laurie Knuutila Sec: Lezlie Wilfer	Fairbanks, AK (907) 378-9190 (907) 474-4631	“A” O/CP; “B” N LIMIT: 45 wildroseph@ yahoo.com wilfer@acsalaska.net
August 6	Georgetown Helen Steenman Sec: Lucinda Elliott	Georgetown, CA (530) 333-4364 (530) 887-9785	“B” O/N/CP hsteenman@ yahoo.com siselliot@att.net
Aug 20-21	Jackson Forest Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Ft. Bragg, CA (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	“A” O/CP; “B” N iambrewing@ aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 10-11	WA State Horse "Park & Ride" Kathryn Lewandowsky Sec: TBD	CleElum, WA (360) 403-8471 (425) 737-4594	“A” O/CP/N; “B” O/CP/N KKMoonshadowranch@msn.com

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To begin receiving NATRC E-News, simply go to the newly designed NATRC website (www.natrc.org) and click on Members, and then on “Join NATRC E-News” on the left side of your screen. Or click on the “Subscribe to E-News” on the home page of the R1 website. 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 Bev Roberts (matefey@gmail.com) or the National office (natrc@natrc.org) for help to put your announcement on the official NATRC electronic communication channel.

Minutes of the NATRC Region 1 BOD Meeting submitted by Stephanie Swain

The meeting was held at Livermore, CA, on March 13, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Phil Young, Chairman at 8:03 a.m. Present: Phil Young, Jamie Dieterich, Jim Ferris, Linda Thomason, Angie Meroshnekoff, Steve Meroshnekoff, Stephanie Swain, Laura Harvey. Absent: None. Guests: Sherry Lindley-Ferris, Kathy Nixon, Wayne Harvey, Betty Young, Drina LaRose.

Election of Officers: Linda Thomason was nominated for the office of Chairman by Phil Young, seconded by Jamie Dieterich. Stephanie Swain volunteered for the office of Secretary; nominated by Phil Young; seconded by Linda Thomason. Phil Young was nominated for the office of Treasurer by Jamie Dieterich, seconded by Linda Thomason. All officers elected unanimously.

Secretary's Report: Steve Meroshnekoff moved to approve the Secretary's Report, including approval of the Minutes of the meetings held 21 February 2010, 27 June 2010, 03 October 2010, and 23 January 2011. Seconded by Phil Young. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The savings CD has been closed. Outstanding checks have been written off. These included 2 checks to Juniors and a lost \$44.00 check to Phil Young. See written report. The Benefit Ride profited only because of the Raffle money and the Judges donated their fees back. NBOD travel is R1's biggest expense. Hopefully this will eventually be mitigated by use of Go-To-Meeting for some of the meetings, saving NBOD representatives both time and travel expenses. Printing of the Lead Line is the second biggest expense for R1. There are 2 fundraisers per year – Convention and the Benefit Ride. 2010 Benefit ride made under \$600, Convention made \$3191.00. 2012 Convention will not make money for R1 if R2 hosts the national convention with AERC. 2011 Proposed budget to be submitted via email by Phil Young.

Primary Checking: \$23,809.38

Savings (CD): Closed in February
Laura Harvey moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Phil Young seconded. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Physical Resource Coordinator: Linda Thomason – continuation of bib discussion. Angie brought a sample of a new bib – maximum cost \$6.50 per bib. Phil Young moved to approve purchase, Angie Meroshnekoff seconded. Unanimous agreement. Linda also raised again the idea of charging a refundable deposit to ride managers for using the bibs, to be refunded when the bibs are returned, with a fee for missing or damaged bibs. We now have a stand for the projector screen made by Rudy Dezzani.

Historian: Kathy Nixon – NATRC pictures were donated at Convention to be put into albums.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff – waiting for bids on new chevrons. Will check price of 100 vs. 500. Blue Moon one of possible vendors. Regarding Volunteer Coordination – many volunteers are not signing releases at rides. Ride managers need to be reminded to turn these in. Sherry Lindley-Ferris said that volunteers are being given rider releases at some rides, so they may not be getting filed correctly.

Points/Membership: Jim Ferris – currently 47 members have joined/renewed for 2011 with some renewals coming in at R1 Convention. This is about the same number as this time last year.

Publicity: Linda Thomason – Ride Magazine to print pre- and post Convention articles. Clarification between E-blast and E-News: E-Blast is when Jim Ferris sends an email to R1 members; E-News is subscriber based National emailing. Jim Ferris to send E-blast regarding subscribing to E-News

Benefit Ride: Jean Armer has agreed to have Cowboy Camp at Cache Creek be the R1 2011 Benefit Ride. Discussed awarding ribbons vs. brushes, etc. Consensus to award ribbons, with brushes/etc. to 1st place finishers. Linda Thomason to place ads in Davis area. Angie working on trails, Jean Armer to send check to National, get insurance certificate to BLM.

The Leadline: Phil Young – upcoming issue will be the Convention issue. Deadline for submissions is 01 April 2011.

National BOD: Jamie Dieterich – review of rule changes effective 2011: hoof boots allowed, drug rule, rule book to be revised accordingly. Appendices with drug info. available online. Penalty phase of drug rule in process. Should be voted in for 2012. Old drug penalty rule will apply in the interim.

2012 proposed rule changes:

1) Tack – add – rider must use a saddle and headgear with attached reins. R1BOD agrees that this is unnecessary.

2) Membership – 2010 voted to refine membership categories and increase dues; as of March 2011 lifetime membership is no longer offered. Need to update rulebook to agree with vote.

3) Time penalty points – Current rule reads: Time penalty points will be assessed for time violations (See Section 5.J.7). Change to Read: Time penalty points will only be assessed for time violations (See Section 5.J.7) - R1BOD agrees – too much minutia.

Region 1 Website: Angie Meroshnekoff and Jamie Dieterich – Angie received email bill from Debi Carpadus, Region 1 web host for \$119.

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Dieterich – discussion of ride difficulty. 2010 Novice rides were too difficult; need to be easier

than CP, not the same. Angie proposed holding a clinic in March/April of 2012 (when R1 Convention would otherwise happen); invite speakers relevant to CTR. Angie to explore possible locations.

Outreach Coordinator: Linda Thomason – Linda will only be at about 3 rides this year due to her work schedule. She needs someone to act as New Rider Outreach at rides, giving out new rider bags, which would include copies of the new boot rule and information on the drug rule.

Trails Advocacy Coordinator: Judy Etheridge – no report.

Bylaws: Jim Ferris, Jamie Dieterich, Phil Young, Nancy Kasovich – only proposed changes would be that which is necessary to do the proposed new incorporation and disposition of property owned by R1.

Judging Issues: Jamie Dieterich, Betty Young – Jamie stated that riders are asking for more informative comments from the judges.

Old Business:

T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Sales: Angie Meroshnekoff – Betty sold 8 T-shirts at Convention. Linda will keep the rest and get them to rides to be offered for sale.

NATRC Computers: Jim Ferris – work in progress.

Ride Calendar: Jamie Dieterich – Hoof Trek Monterey and Harvey Bear Ranch rides have been cancelled. Georgetown ride is a go.

Change of location for R1 BOD meetings: Angie unable to find a suitable location in Williams or Colusa. Will check the Woodland area.

R1 Corporate and Non-profit status: Phil Young and Jamie Dieterich are working together on the 37 page application form. Jim Ferris got a book on the subject. Work in progress.

2011 R1 Mini Convention: Linda Thomason – report at next meeting.

New Business:

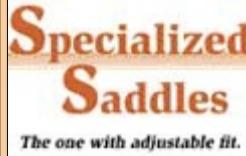
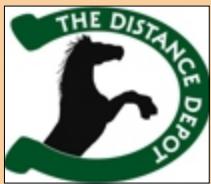
Merge R1 Awards convention with the 2012 National Convention? R1BOD approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: Date: 22 May 2011. Time: 8:00 a.m. Location: Cowboy Camp ride, Cache Creek Wilderness. Tentative meeting dates/locations: 25 September 2011 @ 9:30 a.m., location TBD (Woodland or Jim Ferris' home). ??January 2012 via Go-To-Meeting

Close of Meeting:

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie; seconded by Phil; all agreed. Meeting adjourned by Linda, Chairman at 10:47 a.m.

For a copy of the minutes from previous meetings, contact Stephanie Swain.



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