

# The Leadline

The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding



[www.natrcregion1.org](http://www.natrcregion1.org)

Summer 2016

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## The Mount Diablo Ride

By Donna Stidolph

The Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Riders Association (CMDTRA) Spring Ride was held on Mt Diablo on Saturday, May 7. I drove up from Santa Cruz on Friday morning. It rained for the last hour of the drive up and stopped just as I started up the hill to the clubhouse.

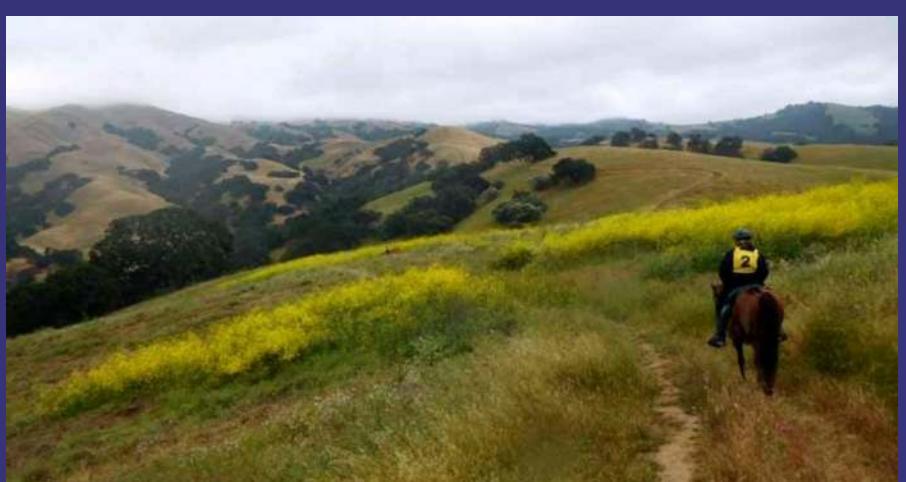
Registration opened at 1 PM, so I was shooting for arriving about 1 and getting a good parking slot in the lower arena where the "little rigs" are usually parked. When I got there, I had my choice - I was the \*only\* rig in the arena. Sunny (my mare) and I parked, set up camp, and took off for our usual aprés trailering walking tour, which took about an hour and gave us a good preview of things to come. The rain had stopped, sort of, but there was a pretty constant mist, and the ground was really wet. The soil on the mountain is pretty much adobe mud, so when it gets wet, it gets really slick. So, even just hand walking Sunny, there was a lot of slippin' and slidin' goin' on. That said, the low clouds on the hills and the delta made stunning views.

I picked up my registration packet and got in the vet check line. Sunny passed the standing inspection no problem, but the vet, Carol, noticed that she was short-striding on her right front. I saw it when Carol pointed it out - dang it! It was pretty subtle for my eye and I guess it had sort of crept up on me. It wasn't awful, but we had to come back in the morning so Carol could verify that it hadn't gotten worse before we were okayed to start.

The ride meeting was short and pretty much to the point. Chris, the trail manager, talked us through the map, describing areas with downed trees, etc. When the meeting finished, we walked back up to our rigs in more rain. The only thing I could think of to do was to blanket Sunny and go to bed. Dang.

Ride management sent around a honking car at 5 AM to get us up for our 7 AM start. We met Carol, the vet, about 6:30 and trotted out again. There was no

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*Riding through yellow wildflowers on the Mt. Diablo Ride*

*Photo by Donna Stidolph*

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change, so Carol let us start. There were five Open riders. Angie (on Beau) and I started at the back; the vet was concerned about Sunny's soundness, and Angie was concerned about Beau's attitude - he wasn't his usual motivated self. So off we went.

The first obstacle was about 200 yards from the out timer while the horses were still pretty amped. We had to go up a steep 15-foot slope, muddy and covered with wet, slippery grass. Sunny and I had done it while we were walking the previous day, so she sort of had it covered, but it was tough for me to stay in position on that angle.

We hit the single track about 50 yards after the obstacle, and it was instantly obvious that the trail was really slick and our timing goals were going to be tough to meet, so as soon as we could, we started on Angie's patented method of meeting time: trot EVERYTHING you can, even if it's 25 yards.

Our first watering stop was about 6 miles into the ride, at the entrance to a park. Not only is there water there, but also a parking lot, a ranger station, and several trailheads - so lots of people on a Saturday morning. Oh yeah, it's also a traditional observation point for the horsemanship judge to watch our position on the steep descent into the area. As expected, Karel, the Horsemanship Judge, was watching. We threaded our way through the cars and people to the stock tank water trough. Beau wasn't thirsty, but Sunny marched up to the water with intent. I positioned her in the (safe) middle of the tank, but just as her nose hit water, she did an NBA-worthy fake and ducked left so she could scratch the outside of her nose on the edge of the trough. She didn't make it to the edge, though, because she hooked the float valve for the tank, with the hose attached, to her headstall. Being Sunny, she jerked her head up, pulling the valve and the hose off the tank. The float valve was released because it wasn't floating, and the hose started spouting water at full pressure. Sunny bounced and bobbed until she finally knocked the whole mess off her bridle, I got off and replaced the float valve, and we continued our adventure. Oh yeah. She didn't want to drink any more.

After the tank, we had to ride through several groups of birders - maybe 50 or 60 total. They were carrying lots of binoculars, telescopes, and tri-

pods and wearing exotic hats. The horses were interested in them, and they were interested in what we were up to, too, so it was an even deal. After the birders, we just went up and up for a long, long time. And there was enough goo on the trail so that both Beau and Sunny were sliding all over. There are frequently cattle on this part of the ride, and I was grateful that they didn't show up; I'm not sure we could have survived if Sunny had to pay attention to her feet AND the cows. And of course there was a P&R at the top of the hill. Sunny was channeling her Inner Arab and couldn't stand still, much less put her head down. And if I pulled it down, she started eating - I guess it was pretty lush on the trail edges, and there was even grass growing on the trail itself. In any case, we got out of the P&R without losing any points and on we went.

Just as we came into the lunch stop P&R, it started to rain. We got through the P&R and into lunch where we grabbed our coolers and a flake of the hay that ride management had trucked in, and hid under a tree that protected us from most of the rain. Sunny ate like a champion and drank (out of a stock tank) quite a lot (26 swallows, to be exact), so lunch was a success. When we got ready to leave Karel, the horsemanship judge, had us doing an off-side mount down in this little ravine. Just after that, it quit raining.

We missed the first turn out of lunch which is worthy of comment only because the trail was so well marked everywhere else. This was the scariest part of the trail for me. It was \*so\* slippery, I honestly thought that we were going to go down several times. We were following Beau, who is one of the most sure-footed horses I've ever ridden with, and he was slipping.

We were substantially over time coming into the last P&R but decided to see how much of it we could make up although the surface was just too sketchy to take any chances. But at the next time point, we'd made up almost 15 minutes, I think. This was really weird because we'd calculated that we'd need a 4.8 mph average on that stretch to meet minimum time, and

Angie and I agreed that we didn't come close to making that rate - but at the next point, we had pulled in all that time and, according to the GPS, we'd done all the distance. Hum the Twilight Zone music now.

Then we had just about 3 miles to camp, mostly flat. There was one more obstacle - we had to cross the mercury pond. At this point, that was pretty anti-climactic - we'd crossed about 25 creeks during the ride, so I'm not sure either Beau or Sunny even noticed that we were doing water.

Sunny met all Carol's criteria, and her short-stridenedness hadn't gotten any worse, so I was happy. After being the floor show at lunch, I knew that we weren't going to place well, but getting through the first ride of the season with good metabolics was a real relief, so I felt like it was totally appropriate to give Sunny her junk food and to have a beer myself. Life is good.

At about 7, I toddled down to the clubhouse and enjoyed the beautiful view along with dinner. After dinner, there was a raffle in which there were no prizes that I didn't want - it was pretty amazing. After the raffle, we had the awards and went happily to bed after a long, long day.

*\*Read "The Rest of the Story" about the Mt. Diablo Ride on the R1 website, [natrcregion1.org](http://natrcregion1.org), to learn about Gary the EMT's ride, Lea's accident, Davern and Tux, details of the off-side mount, and Eddie.*



*View along the trail at the Mt. Diablo ride*

Photo by Donna Stidolph

# Chairman's Message. . .

## Enjoy the Trails . . .

With about half of the rides behind us, the weather has turned around.

As we all know we started out with a lot of wet trails and rain like we haven't seen in quite a while, then to make it a little worse we were hit with a little abnormal heat wave.

We had a good break between rides, and it was good to be able to condition the horses and enjoy the summer weather.

Don't forget to keep reminding friends and neighbor's about the free membership opportunity that we have going on with NATRC for this year. It is a good time for them to "Come Ride With Us".

It is a sad time right now; if you haven't already heard, Stephanie Swain lost her horse to a totally unexpected accident out on the trail this summer. Walking out to an empty stall is a nightmare that no one wants. Sorry for your loss, Stephanie. Remember to hug your horse today.

On a high note take a look at the new photo gallery that Donna Stidolph has put together on the Region 1 web site for us all to enjoy. It is very impressive to say the least.

Sometimes it not a bad thing to "ride them like you just stole them."

Region 1 Chair,

*Steve Meroshnekoff*

## From the Editor...

I hope this issue of the newsletter finds everyone doing well and enjoying the trails. I've been able to get lots of miles in, despite a somewhat rainy summer here in Alaska. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to compete at the recent Knik (pronounced "Ka-nick) River Ramble ride, near Palmer (350 miles from Fairbanks), our one and only Alaskan NATRC CTR. The trails were awesome, the views were spectacular and the ride management team did a great job putting on the ride. They were all new at managing a ride, but they did just fine!

I was a little concerned about my horse's fitness going into the ride, since I'd had some interruptions to my conditioning plan due to weather and other things. But I needn't have worried. The boy was, shall we say, "very forward!" He powered through the whole two day 50+ mile ride and never acted like he was the least bit tired. His normally snail-paced 2.5 mph walk was amped up to about 5 mph, and his gait of choice was an extended trot! In the end, he and I both placed well in a very competitive Open heavyweight class, together we were named the High Point Open Team (horse and rider scores combined), and my horse was also named the High Point Half Arabian. Needless to say, I was pleased with our placings!



*Some of my fellow competitors playing in the massive Knik River near the end of the Knik River Ramble CTR.*

As the ride season nears its end, be sure to take lots of photos and please share your ride stories with me, so I can share them with the rest of Region 1. And if you haven't yet, be sure to take a look at the photo galleries on the Region 1 website.

Take care, stay cool and see you on the trails!

*Laurie Knuutila*

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See [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) for National Board, Committees, and Secretaries

# What's Behind the Entry Fee?

By Linda Thomason

As most of you are aware, the June Georgetown ride was cancelled due to the low number of riders who signed up. While this news is disheartening, it's a reminder that we must all get out there and encourage fellow riders to give the sport a try. Without riders we simply can't put on rides. I realize that the entry costs are high, but perhaps if I break down ride expenses you'll have a better understanding of why they are what they are. As with everything these days, the costs of putting on a ride have skyrocketed. Most rides require approximately 22-24 riders just to break even.

So what's involved in putting on a ride? Get comfortable and let me explain the challenges, headaches and enjoyment (yes there is that too!) of putting on a ride.

1. Ride sanction application and fee	\$75
<i>Must be submitted to NATRC several months in advance of the ride</i>	
2. Campsite fee	\$200-\$500
<i>Almost all locations charge for the privilege. The East Bay Regional Parks District charged the Round Valley Ride.</i>	
3. Vehicle fees to access the trail during the ride	\$200
<i>We paid for two vehicles at Round Valley; many sites don't charge.</i>	
4. Vet judge	\$300-500 (+airfare if needed)
<i>The pool of vet judges is shrinking, and often Region 1 must fly in a vet judge from another area.</i>	
5. Horsemanship judge	\$200 (+airfare if needed)
<i>Also a shrinking pool and sometimes requires flying in the horsemanship judge)</i>	
6. Cost of awards and ribbons	\$150-300

7. Food expense	\$500
<i>Meals are provided for judges and volunteers, (judges' secretaries, P&amp;R team lunches out on the trail, the riders who ribboned the trail, safety riders, timers, horse ambulance drivers, etc.) Volunteers drive to rides at their own expense, and this is the least we can do. They are wonderful, much appreciated and without them we wouldn't put on a ride!!</i>	
8. Insurance	\$300
9. Port-a-potties if nothing is available at the ride site	\$150/each
10. Maps, flagging, etc.	\$100
11. Rider's fee to National	\$10/member \$20/non-member
12. Region 1 rider's fee	\$3/rider
13. CA drug testing fee	\$5/horse

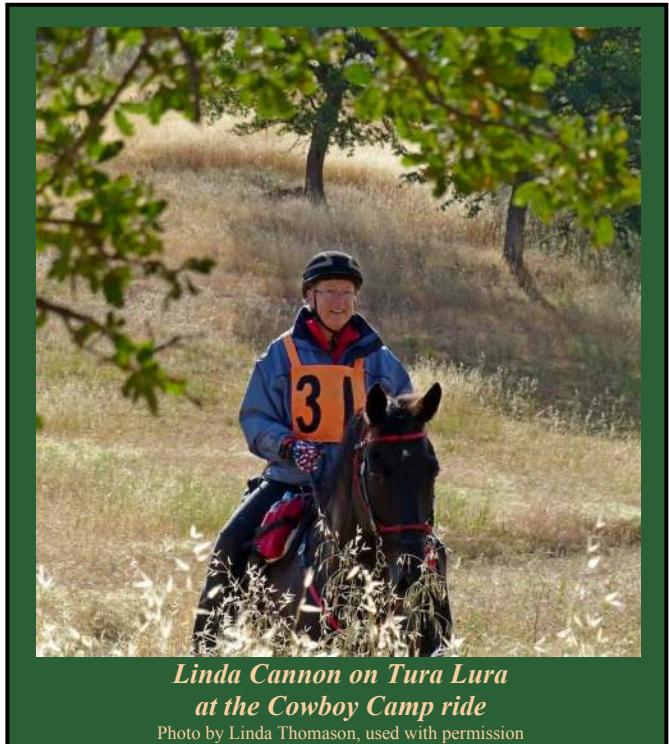
So, generally speaking, it averages around \$2500 to put on a ride unless you need to fly in judges from out of region which adds more. There are also miscellaneous expenses for every ride, from secretarial needs (tags, forms, reports, binders, etc.) to waste dump fees. So you can see why we need twenty-some riders to make it work. If a ride manager miraculously comes out ahead a hundred or two hundred dollars, this usually goes into a fund for the next year to get things started. You owe your ride managers a big thank you as many of them have covered additional costs out of their own pockets so that you all can enjoy the rides.

After writing about all these gloomy ride figures, I want to take a moment to talk about the great support most of the ride managers have seen from you, the riders! I am always amazed and somewhat choked up by the generosity of our riders. At Round Valley, Gene Boicelli knew he wouldn't have sufficient riders to cover his costs, so he raffled off 1 week at his time

share in Kauai. So many of you purchased tickets to support Gene and the Round Valley Ride, it was amazing. Thank you all from the bottom of Gene's, Vicki's and my hearts! You are all an amazing, wonderful group of people, and I would hate to not see you all at the rides each year.

So help us to help all of our riders. I am asking each of you to get motivated to seek out a few more competitors for each ride. I will be sending out notices about the upcoming two Jackson rides and the new Mariposa ride. If all of you will help by posting these notices at your local feed stores, riding arenas, clubs, training facilities and talk to people about competitive trail riding and what you can learn via NATRC, it will help us to obtain sufficient ridership to continue putting on rides. All the notices will have my contact information, and you can refer anyone with questions about NATRC or competitive trail riding to me or any of the Region 1 Board of Directors. If you know of any riding clubs or organizations that might be open to a talk about NATRC and competitive trail riding, please contact me, and we can set up some volunteers to give a power point presentation to the group.

So PLEASE, go out and promote your sport. It's a wonderful sport, and a wonderful group of people. Let's all help others learn about us!



## Region 1 Board of Directors Vacancies

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

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

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



## National Board Meeting Report, July 2016

By Jamie Dieterich and Angie Meroshnekoff

A significant topic at the recent NBOD meeting in Denver, July 15-16, was the retirement notice of Laurie DiNatale, our Executive Administrator for the past 20+ years. Many inquired about the position, and in the end, applications were received from two excellent candidates – Chuck Smith, R3, and Sarah Rinne, R6. The selection committee recommended Sarah, and the NBOD confirmed her appointment. There is a transition period now for Laurie to train Sarah. Further discussion recognized that the responsibilities of the position are more descriptive of an executive director (works more independently) than an executive administrator (does tasks as assigned). A change in the bylaws will be needed to accomplish this.

Sarah has been on the NBOD representing R6 and also has been the vice president. The Alternate for R6, Erin Glassman, recently resigned, and Marla Stucky was appointed to fill the remainder of Sarah's term. Angie was elected as Vice President. Congratulations, Angie!

Waiting in lines at rides has been a concern for a long time; it's not good for riders, horses or morale. Our method in R1 of handing out sequential numbers as riders cross the finish line helps alleviate some of that for the final vet exam. Trail masters and ride chairs have a lot to do with planning the judging sites on the trail, but the choice of obstacles is largely driven by the judges. Ride chairs are in charge of the ride, and can also manage the judges to not choose to do obstacles that unduly hold up the riders. Competitors riding in a pack often cause holdups by waiting for each other, so they have some responsibility, too, to cut down on holdups.

Confusion at the beginning of the first day of a ride can happen for a variety of reasons. Sometimes a ride starts earlier than planned due to weather changes. Clear expectations need to be conveyed to the riders from the judges and ride management as to just what the morning procedures will be. Riders have a responsibility to be there on time or risk deductions for "missing the obstacle."

The BOD approved the recommendation of Bev Roberts, Marketing Chair, to run a classified display ad in 8 issues of Trail Rider magazine at a cost of about \$1500. With a readership of 37,000, this is THE magazine for trail riding since Trail Blazer shut down

Drug testing continues on at least 1 ride per region, including a ride in CA. Questions on what is legal to use or not can be sent to Kim Cowart who will send them on to Mike Peralez, DVM, Chair of the Vet Drug Committee. An article on essential oils (not essential and not allowed) was in the recent Hoof Print.

Local involvement is key in trail advocacy issues.

A plan to have a reduced membership for a 3-year renewal was approved. Regular adult membership will remain at \$60; 3 years will be \$165. Family memberships, regularly \$90/year, will be \$255 for 3 years.

The Jim Menefee perpetual trophy for combined horse and horsemanship high scores needs repaired. Kim Cowart and Lori Rand will also look into something small that the winners can keep.

RMS has been migrated to a new hosting arrangement; the data has not all be transferred yet. A committee was appointed to recommend improvements.

## Region 1 2016 Ride Schedule

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

Sept. 17-18	<b>Jackson Forest Fall</b> Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim
Oct. 15-16	<b>Circle 9 Ranch</b> Mike "Sue Flagg" Sue Flagg <i>Cancelled by landowner</i>

<b>Ft. Bragg, CA</b> (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163
<b>Mariposa, CA</b> (209) 537-9355 (925) 890-2144

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## RESUMÉ

### FOR NOMINATION to NATRC NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS Three-Year Term – Region 1

In order to select a slate of nominees for this year's ballot, we need a resumé of your qualifications. Please answer the following, sign the pledge and return this form to the Nominating Committee Chair by **October 1, 2016**.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ REGION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been a NATRC member? \_\_\_\_\_

Interest in NATRC (rider, manager, judge) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make a statement regarding your interest, qualifications, related interests and what you would like to do for NATRC. Be brief and please limit it to 200 words or less. The information will be used on our ballots to acquaint the voters with you. Use the back of this page for your statement or attach an additional page and return to the Nomination Committee Chair.

Results of the election will be presented at the fall meeting of the National Board of Directors. The 3-year term begins January 1.

As a member of the NATRC Board of Directors, you will be expected to attend the National Board meetings held three times a year. As a dual director serving also on the Region 1 Board of Directors, you will be expected to attend four meetings a year. Expenses related to the National Board meetings are largely borne by the Region, but you will have out-of-pocket expenses.

Thank you for your interest in serving on the board of NATRC.

### PLEDGE:

If I am elected to the North American Trail Ride Conference Board of Directors, I agree to be present at all board meetings, if possible, and to accept the equitable financial responsibility as voted by the board on which I serve.

***Signature of Candidate*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return no later than October 1, 2016, to:***

Donna Stidolph  
420 Isbel Dr  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
831/427-3646  
[donna@stidolph.com](mailto:donna@stidolph.com)

## Just for Juniors

### 4-H Junior Rider Year End High Point Award

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

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

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

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

Questions?

Contact Angie Meroshnekoff, [awhitedog@aol.com](mailto:awhitedog@aol.com).

Chair, Riders and Juniors Committee

## More Than A Competitor..... Thank You, Angie

By Kay Lieberknecht

This woman is more than a champion NATRC rider. I'm only going to tell my experience of her, and I hope others will add theirs . . .

It started about 20 years ago, when Angie Meroshnekoff had Thunder, her wild-born Mustang stallion. With great difficulty we got our Mustang mare into the trailer and took her for pasture breeding. When we went to pick Breadgh up, she loaded easily. While our mare was there, Angie had used a long cotton rope up through the front-most side "window" of the trailer so she could lead Breadgh forward while standing on her other side with the rope also wrapped around her rump just above the hocks. From then on we just had to show our mare the rope, still wrapped up in a nice shipping knot, and she'd sigh and hop in the trailer! Thank you, Angie! I don't know if we paid you for that!

At a ride in 2014 as Angie waited near me for the afternoon's vet-in, I told her about how one of my mares was shivering during P&R stops, cold or not, but would be OK going down the trail. Angie said one of her horses had done the same thing, and that it was caused by ulcers. She described the ways her horse had been treated and then prevented from getting ulcers again. Her sharing of hard-won knowledge gave us a huge boost in getting our mare back to comfort!

I just love our common investment in junior riders. Having experience with many kids, Angie figures out how to approach each individual to meet their unique challenges and ways of learning. She knows what compassionate, safe, and effective horsemanship is, and she communicates her vision and expectations clearly. The best evidence of Angie's skill is the confidence, generosity, enjoyment and excellence of her junior riders and their horses.

I treasure Angie's extensive experience and the thought she has given to remembering, evaluating and applying all of it. I so appreciate her generosity in sharing what has been sometimes hard learning. May more and more people enjoy riding trails with Angie and her students!



*Angie and Beau at the Cowboy Camp ride.*

Photo by Linda Thomason, used with permission

## Ride Management Support Fund

Thanks to a very generous donation, NATRC is offering an opportunity for new ride managers or managers of rides in new locations to apply for a grant of up to \$1000

to help defray the up-front costs of your NATRC-sanctioned Competitive Trail Ride.

For an application, please contact our [National Office](#). Managers

must be NATRC members, and the one-page grant application, with supporting documents, must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the event.

# Lessons Learned From the September 2015 Butte Fire

By Robyn Berwick

Many (most?) of us in Region 1 live with the risk of wildfire. So, I was asked to relate my story during the Butte Fire in Calaveras County that started September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Amador County.

Luckily I was home at the time, and in hindsight I should have been much more proactive in evacuating my animals, but we'll get to that.

In the afternoon of Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, I could smell smoke and could see a smoke plume to the north of my place in Mountain Ranch. When I went outside, ash was falling all around. I checked the news, both TV and internet, to find out where the fire was. Everything was saying that it was just outside of the town of Jackson in Amador County.

Since I had been through the Old Gulch Fire in 1992 when I lived in Murphys and the Lenard Fire in Mountain Ranch in 2002, I started getting things together, but slowly. In both those fires I was just fine, and the fires stayed 6 miles and 3 miles away from my homes. This time I was complacent, I was not pro-active, and that was my mistake.

The fire jumped the Mokulumne River canyon into Calaveras County around 6 pm Wednesday night, so I called a sheriff deputy I know and asked what was really going on. He said the fire had jumped Hwy 26 heading south, towards my neighborhood. We decided that if the fire jumped Jesus Maria Rd, he would get me a message. Jesus Maria Rd is 3 miles from my home as the crow flies. The fire at this time was moving very fast, running downhill as fast as it was running uphill; fire behavior was not normal.

Again I was complacent, again a mistake. I corralled all the animals in the house and the small horse pen so I would be ready if I had to leave. I started cleaning off the deck, the gutters, pulling all the furniture away from the windows, taking down all the window coverings, turning off the propane, loading the truck and camper with dog and cat stuff and the horse trailer with the horses' stuff. I was sure I would be coming back home, so I took nothing for myself except the lock box with all my important papers. Looking back I should have done a lot more, at least taken some clothes for myself.

At 2:50 pm on Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup>, I got a phone call from my friend's wife to tell me that the fire had jumped Je-



**The Butte Fire**

Photo by Shannon Prieto

sus Maria Rd and was heading my way. I called my friends in the neighborhood to tell them to get out, to pack up and leave as soon as they could. I still wasn't thinking I couldn't come back in after getting the animals to safety. I went down to the neighbors' who have horses but no trailer, and we loaded up their horses with mine, and I headed out at about 5:30pm. I also had the girl whose horses I was taking with me, and we headed to the evacuation center at the Calaveras County Fair Grounds. I thought her grandparents were going to be right behind us, they weren't; they were still packing up. I ended up staying with the girl and her horses until about 8pm when I had to go to get my horses to where they were going. I don't think I would have taken the girl if I had known I would have to stay with her for so long. Though we should always help people if we can, we also must take care of our own animals too.

Here is where I made another mistake, my three cats are very good travelers and ride in the car without cages. It was almost dark once I got to my friend's place in Murphys where we were going to stay. We took care of the horses, put them in a pen with water and food. As I was moving the cats into my friend's car, my 5-year-old old cat freaked out, and after clawing and biting my hands, got away and hasn't been found since. If they had been in a crate, I wouldn't have lost him; don't leave home without crates for everyone!!!

After spending Thursday night with my friends, we headed back to Mountain Ranch by the back roads as the fire had spread further south towards Angels

Camp and east towards Sheep Ranch, Murphys and Arnold. Murphys was under an advisory evacuation order. We made it to Sheep Ranch where my friends went to pick up a donkey for an older couple who couldn't move him by themselves, and I continued towards my home. The fire had crossed the main road, so it was closed, but I took a back way to my road and was stopped by fire on both sides. So I turned around and again evacuated my horses, this time far out of the fire zone to Modesto where they would be safe for as long as I needed them to stay. They ended up being away from home for 2 months.

The next 11 days were frustrating, sad and stressful. Many of my friends lost everything including their animals; many people couldn't get their animals out before their homes were engulfed in flames. Whole ranches were lost because the fire moved so fast.

Things I take away from this:

- 1) Don't be complacent, evacuate your animals early!!
- 2) Make sure you have places to take them where they can stay for long periods of time.
- 3) If you're taking them to a shelter, make sure they have identification; painting your number on them works great.
- 4) Have crates for your cats and other small animals.
- 5) Don't wait for someone to tell you to leave; be pro-active; no one may show up!!
- 6) Take the time to pack; you might not have anything to go home to.
- 7) Take pictures of everything, rooms in your home, barn, tack, vehicles you have to leave behind, your property, your home, etc. This will help you remember what you had for the insurance claim.
- 8) Check how much insurance you have, read your policy, and know what it covers. Many people were underinsured.
- 9) Take care of yourself and help your neighbors if you can. Something the news didn't tell anyone was that we had a number of suicides after the fire.
- 10) DON'T BE COMPLACENT; BE AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON!!

And I guess the last thing is that after the fire is out it's not over, be prepared to deal with the aftermath for many, many months.

Thanks for reading my story. If it helps one person be more prepared I'll be happy.

## Minutes of the NATRC Region 1 BOD Meeting - June 3, 2016

The meeting was held at Brentwood, California.

### Call to Order:

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

Present: Stephanie Swain, Linda Thomason, Angie Meroshnekoff, Steve Meroshnekoff, Gene Boicelli, Jamie Dieterich (via phone call), Davern Kroncke, and Donna Stidolph. Absent: Phil Young (excused)

### Secretary's Report:

Submitted Minutes of 21 February 2016 meeting for approval. Angie moved to accept the Secretary's Report, Linda seconded. All agreed. Stephanie appointed Davern to the position of Corresponding Secretary. All agreed.

### Treasurer's Report:

Submitted electronically via email. Checking balance: \$23,501.39 Linda moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Stephanie seconded. All agreed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Physical Resource Coordinator:** Linda Thomason – By report. Linda proposed to donate TV/VCR and Karaoke machine to a worthy cause. Steve moved to accept, Donna seconded. All agreed.

**Historian:** Donna will pick up three more boxes of historical materials from Laura Harvey soon, and transfer them to Davern after scanning the photos. Davern is in possession of one box. Steve moved to appoint Davern to the position of Historian, Linda seconded. All agreed.

**Wonder Workers:** Steve Meroshnekoff - Steve proposed applying for free membership for Joe Villerot so he can receive points toward Wonder Workers.

**Points/Membership:** open position – discussed need to have at least two people who know and understand the keeping of points and membership data, never a single person responsible. Donna suggested appointing Maria Pilgrim for Points/Membership with Donna to help and Stephanie as backup. Further discussion to be had once Donna and Angie determine/propose a committee structure.

**Publicity:** Linda Thomason – Three pages to be published on BAEN with banner regarding 2016 Free Membership information.

**The Leadline:** Laurie Knuutila has requested more ride stories/human interest. Submit to Jamie Dieterich.

**National BOD:** Angie Meroshnekoff – **Proposed Rules:**

1. Non-Rider membership. R1 opposed. All agreed
2. Boots/socks/wraps. Linda moved to accept wording as is, Stephanie seconded. All agreed.
3. Change age limit of rider from 10 years to 8 years. Angie to work on wording to include words to the effect that 8-12 year olds must be accompanied by an adult, and 12-16 year olds must be accompanied by an adult until they have completed 10 rides/(TBD) miles.

**Rule Clarifications:** Agreement to approve all three.

There was discussion of the fact that when rule changes/clarifications are

made, the new rule/wording needs to be more widely disseminated to the membership when it takes effect. It was suggested that these changes might be included in ride information (up to individual Ride Managers) and reiterated during ride briefings.

**Region 1 Website:** Angie Meroshnekoff and Jamie Dieterich – No update.

**Ride/Clinic Management:** Jamie Dieterich – Angie proposed offering both A and B CP rides at Jackson Forest so those riders starting new/young horses who don't qualify to ride Novice can still do a 1- day ride.

**Outreach Coordinator:** Linda Thomason – this section will henceforth be combined with Publicity (see above).

**Trails Advocacy Coordinator:** Trisha Taniguchi – Trisha is aiming to produce a quarterly newsletter. Please submit any stories you may have.

**Bylaws:** Jamie Dieterich, Phil Young – no update.

**Judging Issues:** Nancy Kasovich, Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich – continuing data gathering and discussion of standardization of CRI.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**501c(3) Incorporation:** Steve will give books on 501c(3) to Linda. Linda will be taking a class on the subject.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Communications during rides:** individual Ride Management encouraged to contact local ham radio clubs to volunteer to provide communications during rides.

### NEXT MEETING:

Time: TBD  
Date: 18 or 19 August 2016 - TBD  
Location: Jackson Forest, Fort Bragg, CA

### CLOSE OF MEETING:

Steve Meroshnekoff moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm; seconded by Linda Thomason. All agreed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Swain



Gene Boicelli and Amiraborr  
at the Mt. Diablo ride

Photo by Lisa Keenan, used with permission

# A Year-End Award Sponsorship Apology

I owe a sincere apology to Ashley & Joe Dillard. Somehow I overlooked their award sponsorship when it was received and did not credit them for their very generous donation. They have been award sponsors for several years and I feel badly about omitting them. Not sure how it happened, but it did, and it won't happen again.

Joe and Ashley were Gold Sponsors (\$100-\$199), and their donation to the region is so much appreciated.

Many thanks,  
*Betty Young*  
 Awards Chair

## NATRC Student Loan Program

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

For more details and an application, please go to: [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org).

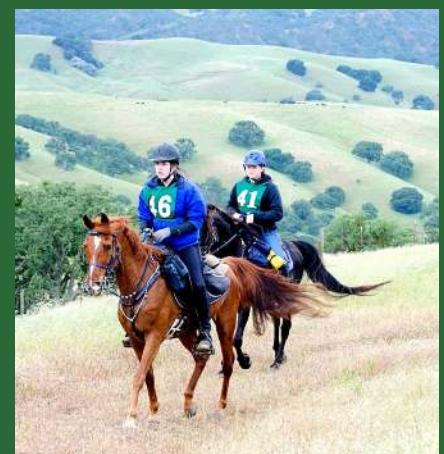
### Reminder from the Points and Data Committee

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



*Vicki Boicelli on Stealth Knight (#24) followed by Trinette Gilbert on Arizing Moon and  
 Trisha Taniguchi on Hot Midnight at the Mt. Diablo ride*

Photo by Lisa Keenan, used with permission



*Kirsten Johnson on Serafina (#46) and  
 Claire Cickocki on Lucky Eddie  
 at the Mt. Diablo ride*

Photo by Lisa Keenan, used with permission

### Junior Rider Rebate

Junior riders who are NATRC members by the second Sunday in November of a ride year and complete 3 or more rides in that same ride year are eligible to receive a rebate of \$30 per completed ride for up to 3 rides. Please contact [Phil Young](mailto:Phil.Young@R1Treasurer.com), R1 Treasurer, for more details.

THE LEADLINE is the official publication of Region 1 of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). The Leadline is published three times per year and mailed or emailed to all NATRC Region 1 members. It is available by subscription to non-Region 1 members at \$8 per year. Issues contain updated information from Region 1 committees, ride results, point standings, minutes of board meetings, and the current Region 1 ride schedule. Send subscription requests and payments (made out to NATRC Region 1) to Phil Young, 2384 Templeton Dr, Redding, CA 96002. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to Laurie Knuutila, 455 Ream Lane, Fairbanks, AK 99712 or email to [wildroseph@yahoo.com](mailto:wildroseph@yahoo.com). NATRC Region 1 and The Leadline do not necessarily endorse or support the opinions expressed in printed articles or advertisements. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary. No letters to the Editor will be printed if not signed. NATRC and the staff of The Leadline are not responsible for errors in spelling of horses' or riders' names.

#### Deadlines:

Spring issue - Submission: April 15; Publication: May 1  
 Summer issue - Submission: August 1; Publication: Aug. 15  
 Fall/Winter issue - Submission: Dec 15; Publication: Jan. 1

#### Advertising rates per issue:

Full page—\$40  
 Half page—\$20  
 Quarter page—\$10  
 Business card—\$5

Classified ads are free to Region 1 members in good standing, one per issue, up to 30 words. Submit ads to the Editor via email or as hard copies via regular mail; hard copies will be scanned as submitted. Make checks payable to NATRC Region 1.

# NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



## MEMBERSHIP FORM – Renew, Join or Buy Items online at [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) or use this form.

Memberships run from January 1 - December 31. We offer six membership plans: four Regular; two Lifetime. We also offer a Platinum Upgrade to our family and single plans which adds personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit.

### **FOR 2016 - FIRST YEAR FREE FOR BRAND NEW MEMBERS!**

Just check plan desired, fill in your name(s), etc. below, and mail. Platinum Upgrade not included.

#### **CHECK PLAN DESIRED**

All memberships include: electronic national newsletter-*Hoof Print*, your region's newsletter, E-News subscription, eligibility for annual national and regional high score awards and championships, horse and rider mileage awards, reduced ride entry fees, sponsor discounts, enhanced member services, and automatic membership in your region.

#### **REGULAR**

— <b>FAMILY</b> .....	\$90 /yr	Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes)
— <b>SINGLE</b> .....	\$60 /yr	Single adult member (1 vote)
— <b>ASSOCIATE</b> ...	\$50 /yr	Equine groups or businesses only (no vote)
— <b>JUNIOR</b> .....	\$40 /yr	Single Junior under age 18 (no vote)

#### **LIFETIME (One-time payment)**

— <b>FAMILY</b> ...	\$10,000	Same
— <b>SINGLE</b> ...	\$ 5,000	Same

**Platinum Upgrade:** (Optional) Platinum members receive insurance benefits thorough Association Resource Group-ARG. Platinum members receive personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit. Coverage is for claims brought against members of NATRC™ (Platinum) arising from the use and/or ownership of a horse and for horse-related accidents involving third party bodily injury or property damage. Coverage will apply when engaged in any horse related activity, and coverage is in excess of any existing valid and collectible insurance. There is no deductible. Professional Liability is not included. Business exposures are excluded.

— **FAMILY**..... \$40 /yr      — **SINGLE**..... \$20 /yr      — **NO UPGRADE**..... \$ 0 /yr

#### **NATRC Specialties (Optional)**

— Patch .....	\$5.00
— 10" Round NATRC Emblem Sticker .....	\$5.00
— 4" Round NATRC Emblem Sticker.....	\$3.00 (free with new membership)

A Rule Book is free with your membership. To save NATRC \$\$\$\$, the Rule Book can be downloaded from [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) or a hard copy can be requested by checking here

**PRINTED HOOF PRINT** (Optional) *Hoof Print* will be delivered electronically. For a print copy, add \$15 & check box:

**\$ TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_ (Colorado residents please add 2.9% on Specialty Items)

Please list first and last names, especially those with different last names, of all competing family members.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Jr(s) Birthdates \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (We need your email for delivery of *HOOF PRINT*. Address stays within NATRC. Thanks! )

New member? Will you share how you found out about NATRC? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* Mail completed form and check to : NATRC, PO Box 969, Beatrice, NE 68310 \*\*\*\*\*

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

*Join Us on Facebook!*

7/23/2016      NATRC™ and the left facing, hill climbing horse and rider are trademarks of the North American Trail Ride Conference, Inc.

Region 1 has a  
Facebook  
Page!

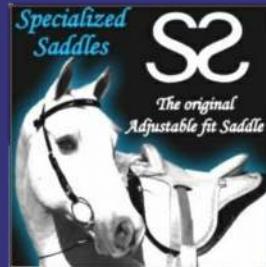


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