



REGION 6 Rally

A Message from the President

Welcome New Members

Melinda Bentz, Ajo, NE
 Traci Coover, Galesburg, KS
 Bethany Haershman, Independence, MO
 Kayarra Henderson, Kansas City, MO
 Sherry Jerome, McPherson, KS
 Kris Kippenberger, Independence, MO
 GraceAnn Manor, Milford, KS
 Toni Meins, Ava, MO
 Carisa Rinne, Steinauer, NE
 Nancy + Stuart Schultze, Fair Play, MO
 Leeza Struwe, Adams, NE
 Zee Womack, Kansas City, MO

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Inside this Issue

Meet our President	2
Who's Who	3
Choosing the Right Horse	4
Diamond of the Year	6
Hinkebein Hall of Fame	8
Other News	9
Ride Calendar	10
Spring Conditioning	12
Smith Honored	13
Rule Change Proposals	13
Spring in Dixie	14
Lessons Learned from CTR	16
Region 6 Awards	17
National Awards	20

Congratulations to the 2017 Region 6 award winners! It was another successful ride year for our region, complete with challenges as well as many fond memories of trail riding fellowship. A ride at Smithville Lake was brought back in 2017 with the Jesse James Rideout. A couple of our scheduled rides ended up having to be cancelled and we lost a long time established ride in Iowa. We held our ride briefing during a storm at Kanopolis Canyons in the women's restroom with only the light of our cell phones. As always, we enjoyed many miles under saddle together riding many of the best trails in our region!



This year's Region 6 Convention was held in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas the weekend of February 23-25 in Topeka, KS. This allowed our attendees to take advantage of the programming offered at EquiFest along with the shopping opportunities associated with the many vendors in attendance. We had two of our members sharing their expertise during this three-day expo. Liz Klamm rode her horse as she assisted one of the keynote clinicians in the main arena. Erin Glassman was one of the presenters as she shared her experience at The Western States Trail Ride, popularly called The Tevis Cup as she completed this 100 mile endurance ride. Region 6 also had a booth in the vendor area displaying information about our sport. Several of our members took turns running the booth and visiting with individuals interested in learning more about what we do. Our regional mentors are currently following up with everyone who expressed interest at our booth. Saturday evening was our Region 6 Banquet. A silent auction was held, followed by a general membership meeting and the recognition of the 2017 award winners. Many thanks to everyone responsible for putting our regional convention together.

Spring is here, our clocks have been moved up an hour, and now it is finally time to dewinterize our trailers! The start of the 2018 ride year is fast approaching and we are all busy getting those conditioning rides in. I encourage all of our members to support our rides. This can be done by being a rider, volunteering to help work a ride, or by inviting new riders to our sport and assisting them by serving as a mentor. We are all in this together! If we will combine all of our passion and the energy we share for this sport we can accomplish much. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the trail! ~John Zeliff

Recent Elections

Elections were held in February at Region 6's annual meeting. John Zeliff was elected President and Cheryl Bohling was elected as Vice President. Ruth Mesimer will continue as the region's Secretary/Treasurer.

We would like to thank incumbent officers Tamara Andre and Vickie White for their service to our organization and appreciate them continuing to represent Region 6 in their new capacity as board members.

Officers, board members and committee chairmen are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please thank them for their dedication to the sport and for supporting our region in various capacities.

Meet our President

Meet Region 6's new president, Dr. John Zeliff. Learn what makes him tick and why NATRC is important to him.

R6R: John, tell us about yourself.

John: My hometown is Mound City, Missouri and I live on my grandparents' farm. After 31 years in education, I am now a retired ag teacher and school administrator. I am now a "daylight" farmer. My wife, Nancy, teaches at NWMSU and we have two grown daughters. If I am not riding, you will probably find me working somewhere on our farm. During football and basketball seasons, you will find our family at the home games for the Missouri Tigers and Kansas City Chiefs.

R6R: Tell us about your CTR career?

John: My first ride was the Mule Skinner in the summer of '79 right before my senior year in college. With my career and family, I wasn't able to compete again until the summer of 2015. That first ride was such a positive experience that I maintained my NATRC membership all those years even though I was not able to complete. It was my way of keeping informed about our sport as well as a way to show support.

R6R: Any surprises when you started completing?

John: It wasn't really a surprise to me, but what comes to mind is how helpful and friendly everyone is at our rides. Even though we are competing, everyone is willing to help each other out, especially new riders. Our organization is so very welcoming to new riders!

R6R: What is your horse of choice?

John: Quarter horses are my go-to breed as they are what I grew up with. I have also owned a couple teams of draft horses and did many weddings, parades, and other special events in our area.

R6R: There are lots of changes to our sport recently. Where do you stand on the changes? Where do you see our sport in the next 10 years?

John: As with any organization, it is important for our sport to always be looking at ways in which we can become even better. It is too easy for an organization to simply rest on their laurels and become non-responsive. I believe successful organizations prosper as they respond appropriately to the needs of their members. This is accomplished through leadership that provides a vision for future viability. I applaud our national board for the vision they demonstrated by not limiting the number of proposals this year. I encourage all of our members to review these proposals and to be sure and share your feedback with your national board members. As we look ahead to the next 10 years we must not be afraid to adapt and make necessary changes to our sport. As I think back to that first ride in 1979 and compare to my second ride in 2015 it was very obvious to me that there had been rule changes made for the betterment of our organization. I don't anticipate that to be any different as we look ahead to the future.

R6R: As Region 6 President, what goals do you have for our organization?

John: Obviously, we are all focused on maintaining and increasing our ride opportunities as well as riders and I believe that is a very important goal. I would like to see the return of our Region 6 Benefit ride in 2018. Clinics play an important role in the sharing of knowledge of our sport. At this time we have two clinics scheduled for this year. Let's double the number of clinics this year to four, with a goal of having a clinic in every Region 6 state in three years. We can always improve in the area of marketing. We have a wonderful story to share about our sport. Volunteer to present a program on NATRC in your community. Reach out on social media and let others now about us. Perhaps we should consider emphasizing various marketing efforts on a regional basis. I would even like to see a Region 6 online store where we can purchase items with our logo. This would eliminate the hassle of maintaining an inventory of items and having to physically take the products to our events.

R6R: If you could pick a new place for a Region 6 ride, where would it be and why?

John: Let's go to the Black Hills in South Dakota! I can see it now...waiting at the two mile marker and enjoying the view of Mount Rushmore in the distance. ~R6R



Meet our Riders

When I first started competing, it took me a long time to remember names and faces. There are too many folks riding the same colored horse to say, "You know, the person on the gray Arabian" as an identifier. In my quest to fulfill President John's desire to have quarterly

newsletters, your roving reporter (yours truly) may be calling on you for an interview. We'll just talk horse for the most part: your favorite, lessons learned. And maybe venture into what you do in your off-time. It will be fun to learn more about the mixed bag of nuts who

come together each season to chase the miles. Be the first and ask for an interview. Email me at jtvasa@gmail.com. Fair warning to my riding friends: If I don't get any volunteers, you might be next!

~Tammy Vasa

Who's Who of Region 6

Region 6 Board Members and Chairs as of 2/24/18

President – John Zeliff john@springvalleycarriages.com Vice-President – Cheryl Bohling ccherylhop@hotmail.com

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 Shari Parys 18-20 402-830-5769 Katbalu96@aol.com
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 Secretary/Treasurer: Ruth Mesimer 816-863-3221 r_mesi@att.net
 Recording Secretary: Shari Parys 402-830-5769 Katbalu96@aol.com

FAC Team – Shari Parys, Tamara Andre, Ruth Mesimer, John Zeliff (emails shown above)



Cheryl Bohling



Trish Cleveland



Ruth Mesimer

New Rider Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is Competitive Trail Riding an endurance race?

A: No. Competitive Trail Riding (CTR) and Endurance are both considered “distance riding” sports but are not the same event. CTR is *not* a race. Our sport is a timed-event and competitors may not come in over or under a specific time. Horses are evaluated by a licensed veterinarian on condition, soundness and “trailability” while a horsemanship judge evaluates riders’ behaviors including grooming, equitation, safety and trail care.

Choosing the Right Horse

My mare, Windy, is now sixteen years old. Seems like yesterday I first saw the wobbly bay foal trying to stand in the Nebraska winds. I had no idea at the time that distance riding was in my future and I have been blessed to have a horse who adapted well to competition. While she is not anywhere close to being turned out to pasture, as we get closer to our second decade together, I have started to casually put together a list of what I want for my next horse—especially when I have time on my side.

While I have been tempted to breed my good mare to the most handsome stallion I could find (*in hopes of producing a bay filly with 4 black hooves who will grow to 15.2hh with the mind and butt of a quarter horse and a tad bit of Arabian blood running through her veins, horn on the forehead optional*), I must recognize it's a crapshoot. The young palomino gelding on our farm today was supposed to be anything but yellow and male. Luckily through CTR and pleasure riding, I have plenty of consultants who reel me in from the make-a-wish school of thinking. At the recent Horse Trail Riding Expo in Nebraska, Shari Parys and I spoke about finding the right horse. Using some of those tips and thoughts from the school of hard knocks, you might find this useful when making your next horse purchase.



Start your checklist. Know your wishes, needs and abilities. What is special about your current horse? What do you want in a new horse? What breed, how tall, what color? Do you want a registered horse? What do you plan to do with this horse in the next 5 years and the next decade and beyond? Decide on a realistic budget and stick with it.

Conformation. Don't put a square peg in a round hole. A halter-bred quarter horse most likely won't make a good distance horse. While there are always exceptions, small feet and exaggerated muscling is not conducive to our sport. For distance riding, you will want a well-balanced horse for handling uneven footing. Good feet and legs to carry you over the miles. Your new horse should have a strong back and comfortable and efficient movement for long hours in the saddle. Check the withers and consider saddle fit, too.



Compatibility. While I love a tall, dark and pretty horse, in our sport, solid, steady, sound, sane and well-balanced are a better combination. Put those objectives first and then look at the whole package. When meeting the horse, how does he react to you? Is he in your pocket or aloof? Is the horse's personality a match with yours? I had a colt who did not love me. I don't think he even liked me. He couldn't care less about me and as a result, I didn't like him either. Is that the kind of partnership you want in competition? While you don't have to smother the horse with kisses and treats, our sport does warrant mutual trust and respect.

What's Your Type? Mare or gelding, short or tall, color or breed? If you are watching "Say Yes to the Dress", besides price range, the brides are asked about their tastes and shown dresses in that style. While gender can sometimes be optional, stay away from something that you just aren't comfortable riding, for example, a horse that is too tall or too short. If you are barely 5 feet tall and rode a POA and like that size, don't be tempted by the 16hh giant who you will have to mount for the next 20 years. If you have never ridden a gaited horse, are you ready to no longer post a trot? Those type of characteristics won't change. Don't talk yourself into something that in the end may be unsatisfactory and cannot be fixed.



Scale of Temperament & Level of Risk. The ideal horse for any rider is one who will absorb or tolerate the mistakes of the rider and have enough get-up-and-go to get the job done without blowing up. On a scale of 1 to 10, you might find this horse in the 1 to 6 range, the higher number, the riskier. A horse in the 7 to 10 range might be high energy, reactive and spooky. Quick, but hot. Watch other competitors' horses on the trail and grade them accordingly. It will help you better identify a personality when you are looking at available horses. Look for the horse to

Choosing the Right Horse—Cont'd

match your level of risk today. Did you ever buy a pair of snug fitting jeans hoping you will lose enough weight to be comfortable? Rarely happens, does it?

Training. You could almost use the same scale of 1 to 10 for training with 1 representing no training at all. Don't fall for the "diamond in the rough" of an unhandled horse if you do not have the skills, time and budget to have it trained. Look at it through a CTR judge's eyes. Is it well mannered? Does it give to pressure? Does it stand while mounting and dismounting? Can it back straight in hand or from saddle. A more advanced horse might pivot, know its leads and sidepass. Its price should reflect its training. It might be bred to the nines, but you have to be able to catch the thing, load it and bring it home!



Don't Buy a Problem. While no horse is perfect, education today will save you some grief. In the quarter horse world, there are genetic defects in certain pedigrees. Know what they are and how they affect the horse. Don't let a trader tell you what you want to hear. If you know you are going to use this horse for distance riding, look for any soundness issues. If the horse requires shoes today, it is for a reason. Stay away from a horse that heaves. It needs to be able to breathe to cover the miles. Bring a friend along to help you with a trot-out, so you can observe. Take pictures and a video so you can review later or share with your farrier.

Leave Your Trailer at Home. Most often there is no cool-off period when buying a horse. Once you sign a bill of sale and load it in your trailer, it is your horse! If you leave your trailer at home, it gives you time to think about the purchase, discuss it with family and friends, do additional research, look at your videos and most of all, decide without pressure.



Phone a Friend. The best thing and worst thing about horse shopping are the "experts". Pick a few who you trust and have been successful with their horses and in the sport. Or your trainer who knows your abilities. Have them keep an eye out for a good horse for the sport. While you might have to pay a small consulting fee, having that second set of eyes could help you in finding your match or rejecting one. Listen to their opinion with an open mind.

Pre-Purchase Exam. If the horse you have chosen is all that and more, spend the extra few bucks and have a pre-purchase exam by the vet of your choosing. You do not want to buy a distance horse only to find out it can't "run the race." Ask for x-rays. I got bit by a horse having thin soles – something I could not have seen without films. If there are any defects which could affect soundness or condition, it probably won't be a good competition horse for our sport.



Many of us have made mistakes when purchasing horses and it is tough to follow all these rules. Giving thought to these suggestions before and during your search could steer you in the right direction. ~Tammy Vasa



Crest Ridge saddle for sale. Part leather, part Cordura for light weight. Pretty wide tree, very comfortable and secure seat. Contact me for measurements. \$650.

Ph. 785-259-1687 Email : pris.lindsey@gmail.com.



Ruth Mesimer—Diamond of the Year

The Diamond of the Year Award was started by Nancy and Frank Diamond in 1990 as a way to recognize and honor the “wonderful heart” found in many of our Region 6 members. Inspired by novice rider, John Register, who did not let his disability hinder his willing, brave and happy attitude. This award is about Heart. It’s about Leadership. It’s about Kindness. It shows in the person’s Character and their Service to our sport. This year’s Diamond of the Year is Ruth Mesimer *submitted by Liz Klamm*

“This award is not something you can pursue, but comes unbidden to those who have blessed someone else.”

Ruth’s heart is truly in the NATRC sport. Even though she has been unable to ride for several years, she rarely misses attending a ride. She is a true leader helping newbies and ride managers navigate the RMS system; mentoring new ride managers; making suggestions if she sees another way to accomplish a task.

Her character prevails in her honesty and loyalty. You can always count on her to make sure things are done correctly. There is not a health paper that goes unchecked or a liability waiver that goes unsigned. Most of all, there is not a weight card that goes unverified. If by chance you lose your weight card, you get to weigh again!

Her service hours to NATRC are uncountable. You will be hard pressed to find another person who would be willing to give the number of hours of service to an organization that she does. She prefers to work behind the scenes to assist at rides; ride secretary, weigh master, rules interpreter and P&R helper. She proof-reads documents for the rides and for Hoof Print, she sends out email reminders and follows up on important issues. She is often referred to as ‘Eagle Eyes’. She does all this without receiving any pay or boasting about it. Ruth Mesimer is truly a Region 6 Diamond.



“A well run organization needs some solid bedrock to keep it stable. Ruth is our bedrock. She is so efficient the majority of the time we barely recognize all the work that she is handling. For those of you who have never managed to ride, you have no idea how much behind the scenes paperwork occurs before you even start the ride. Add to that canceled and late registrations, last minute authorization issues, health certificates and meal tickets, The overwhelming paperwork. And did I mention clean competitor vests organized and ready for each ride? I personally am so grateful that we have someone as wonderful as Ruth who is able to keep the volunteers, ride managers, and competitors straight, handling everything with that calm steady energy so unique to her. She’s truly one in a million and irreplaceable.” *~ Denise Farris*

“Ruth Mesimer is my go to person if I have a question about our region. As a first year ride manager last year I appreciated her input. She keeps all of us in Region 6 organized for sure.”

~ John Zebiff



“Ruth has been a force behind Region 6 for many years; she was a guide for me as former president of the region and ride secretary extraordinaire for the majority of the rides I managed. Without her my experience would not have been as great as it was, she is a true Diamond.” *~ Erin Glassman*

“Congratulations Ruthie on your well deserved honor as our Diamond of the Year. You are the glue that holds our region together. The work you do behind the scene, to manage our management through areas we know little about, is invaluable to our region’s success. It has been a joy getting to know you the last few years!! See you on the trail!” *~ Cheryl Bobbing*

Other DOTY Nominations

My Diamond is a Dream Maker!

LISA JOHNSON

It was about 1988 when I first looked into Nebraska Endurance and Competitive Trail Ride Association (NECTRA). I showed up at an Indian Cave NATRC ride and was put to work doing P&Rs after brief instructions. I shipped out of country in 1990 not to return until 2012. In 2015 I contacted Shari Parys who was listed on the NECTRA web site. There was a meeting at Rock Creek and Shari suggested I call Lisa Johnson and ride with her to the meeting.

Meeting Lisa provided the catalyst for making my dreams come true. After that initial Rock Creek meeting, Lisa continued to call me to ride with her and she shared her experiences as a CTR competitor. She volunteers at NECTRA riding competitions, volunteers to clear trails, helps with the spring clinic, offers help to “newbies” including riding with them during competitions and during training rides. Lisa has helped numerous new riders. At the Rock Creek ride, Lisa

rode back to camp with a new rider that became scared and unable to continue competing. Lisa rode with this person all the way back to camp at the cost of her own ride. Amazingly, she and her horse caught up and finished the ride with a first place! She leads by example with her exemplary care of her horse and the unselfish knowledge she shares with anyone who asks for help. My very first ride was also my very first time to trailer over an hour. I was a nervous wreck and scared to tie my horse to a trailer all night. Lisa saved me a spot next to her trailer and literally took me by the hand and helped me through the experience. Lisa has invited me along to rides that are too far for my old truck to travel; Corona and I get to go down the highway in style! It sure beats my tent! She has opened her heart and her home on wheels and shares it unselfishly!

Lisa has shown her true heart and character by giving advice when my crazy horse acted outrageously and

showing kindness no matter how tired and grumpy I've become. She repeated directions until I grasped them from how to tie a horse to a trailer, how to track my time and distance during a ride, and how to be calm and get the job done at judged obstacles. She has waited with her horse for me at vet checks so my horse will stand still and be more successful!

During the last ride of this past season, my dream maker asked me, “Did you ever dream you would be in a rig traveling to competitive trail competitions?” “No!” I said, “It has taken me over 29 years to get the nerve to ride a horse almost 30 miles on challenging trails in two days while completing obstacles within a time limit!” Thank You for the leadership, heart, character, and your service to the sport! I would never have competed without Lisa’s guidance and support!

Lisa Johnson is my Diamond of the year!
~Cheryl Frederick

JOHN ZELIFF

A ready helping hand, a bright smile with twinkling blue eyes, frequent high fives of encouragement or congratulations are just a few attributes that describe John Zeliff. I doubt there are many folks in Region 6 who can't lay claim to John's supportive words and contagious smile. John always seeks the best in everyone he encounters and most often helps others to do the same. He loves riding his horse and enjoying the trails no matter the weather, various complications or the placings at the end of day. He is often seen mentoring new competitors or riding with folks who need that comforting confidence boost with a green or challenging horse.

John has a heart and soul that is matched by few; one of those rare individuals who radiates care and

compassion for others. Even when the chips are down, John is positive and light hearted and always helps everyone view the world a bit differently than they had before.

While there are many deserving folks in Region 6, and John will likely blush and not desire the attention of this recognition, he is hands down my nomination for Diamond of the Year.
~Sarah Rinne

JR KENDALL

There is an unheralded volunteer who has spent untold hours working for NATRC for about forty years. An individual who has donated countless dollars of his own money to promote and manage events for Region 6 and Nationally. He has affected nearly every rider who has ever ridden in Region 6 and to my knowledge is seldom recognized for

this devoted service.

He has, over the years, grown a little thin over the forehead and a little expansion in the belt line, but his heart is just as warm and large as ever. He is one of the old school and therefore is now mostly in the background of NATRC events. But, when service is required, a member is in need, or someone needs a position filled for a ride, he is ALWAYS there.

I first met this individual at the Hillsdale ride in 1981. He was the manager; hands on and on the trail. Like a lot of “old timers” he has grown tired and has been somewhat pushed aside. Because of his practicality, his ideas are many times rejected because he has seen the “new ideas” before and watched them fail. But, he stays with the organization.



(Continued on next page.)

Hinkebein Inducted into Hall of Fame

With twenty-one National Championships and 14,000 competition miles, Region 6's this past fall, Bill Hinkebein was inducted into the Missouri Fox Trotter Hall of Fame.

Bill has been competing on Foxtrotters in NATRC since 1987. His stallion, Hickory's Country Gold was received his National Championship 9 times who went on to win the Championship Challenge competing against other NC winners. Later, Bill won the Championship Challenge on Prime Sensation, a horse who later won President's Cup with Cheri Jeffcoat.



Hickory's Country Gold was pivotal to Bill and Jeanne Hinkebein's breeding program at Indian Creek Equine of Chillicothe, Missouri. More National Champions followed on Hickory Magic Traveler, Country's Shades of Gold WH, Country's Prime Time WH, Prime Sensation WH, Country's Da Hoss WH, Country's Touch WH, Shady Sunset WH, Nikita's Chilli Sensation, WH, and Roho Honoy Mocha WH. Bill's granddaughters, Josie and Jessica Reeter has followed in Grandpa's footsteps and in 2016, obtained their National Championships.

Missouri State Representative, Rusty Black, recently visited the Hinkebeins and presented Bill with a "Resolution" which called out Bills's contribution to the breed and competitive trail riding (and a shout out to Jeanne for her support. "*Whereas, Bill Hinkebein can take pride in knowing he has consistently given more than one hundred percent to all activities in which he has so generously and enthusiastically participated.*")

Look for the "WH" on the Missouri Foxtrotter registration papers for horses proudly bred at the Hinkebein farm.

Other DOTY Nominations—Cont'd



He has trained most of the NATRC members who are currently managing rides in Region 6 and has either managed or assisted with the Hillsdale ride for several decades.

Yes, the person is our own JR Kendall. I suggest JR because of his years of service and because of his contribution to the sport. He HAS done everything in NATRC and has positively affected each individual NATRC member who has ever ridden in Region 6.

~Steve Lindsey

MARY ANNA WOOD

As you know, Mary Anna Wood has more miles than any other NATRC rider [23,970]. She is a fountain of information and one of our most accomplished members. She has nothing to prove and everything to gain by concentrating on her own performance and point standings. Yet, when I was breaking in a young, inexperienced, and high energy Arab this year, she became my riding partner, willingly riding with a horse that could make her ride more difficult. On top of that we rode in CP, a very competitive

class where fractions of points make a difference on placings but she chose to ride with us anyway!

But she didn't just ride with us. She helped make my horse better in two important ways. First, she always had suggestions for how to correct undesirable behavior; and not just one idea. If something didn't work, she always had more options to try. Second, she let me manage our ride depending on what my horse needed—what pace to go, when to eat, who led when, whether to go first or second at an obstacle and on and on. No one is more easy going or flexible than Mary Anna.

At our last trail ride of the year, I overheard Mary Anna telling someone she was riding with me because "we were training my horse". I was so delighted to hear that she felt a part of the team because I certainly considered her to be integral to our success. Caradelle won a national championship in his first season which would have been much more of a challenge if I didn't have her excellent coaching and Snickers calming influence. On that same ride in

Oklahoma, she gave Caradelle the ultimate compliment. She said he reminded her of Elmer in his early years of competition—full of expression, eager to go, and very smart. I couldn't be more pleased that Mary Anna saw so much potential that she would compare my horse to her legendary rock star. If Caradelle even achieves a small part of what Elmer did, I would be thrilled.

Regardless of what the future brings for Caradelle, I will treasure the encouragement, the "teammanship", and the wisdom that Mary Anna shared with me in helping bring a new trail horse successfully into NATRC. She is an equal part in our accomplishment this year and I can't thank her enough. Not only for what she did for me but for how she represents the ideals of our sport. What a great role model for us all.

~Margaret Reynolds



Region 6 at the Horse Trail Riding Expo

Region 6 was well represented at Nebraska's 4th Annual Horse Trail Riding Expo held this past March. The booth was set up in its usual place at the entrance of the vendor hall and there were lots of visitors all weekend. There was much interest in a CTR clinic which will be hosted later this season near Omaha.

NATRC members and alumni were featured at several presentations. Shari Parys and Sarah Rinne provided a well attended demonstration on *Conditioning Your Trail Horse* which is of much interest to both competitors and pleasure riders. Beth Braznell spoke about preparing and traveling long distances with your horse. Attorneys Rhonda Levinson and Denise Farris of Perry & Trent law offices discussed equine law and liability concerns associated with horses and Sue Maiwald did a demonstration on proper saddle fit. NATRC has provided many educational lessons to riders over the years and has made experts in a lot of different fields relating to trail riding.



Event chairman, Tammy Vasa, was pleased to have so many of the Nebraska NATRC riders as volunteers at this Expo. Event sponsor, The Nebraska Horse Trails Committee, share many common interests and appreciates the partnership and support from NATRC and Region 6.



Introducing “C” Rides

Our Board of Directors are trying innovative new ways to introduce riders to competitive trail riding which includes tackling some of the top issues which are believed to keep riders from trying our sport. Perceived long distances, overnight camping, leg protection rules and tying the horse to the trailer are just some of those concerns. Introductory Rides or Clinics are being offered by Ride Managers this year in preparation of having sanctioned “C” rides, pending passage of a rule change at the end of the ride season.

This event would be held on one day in conjunction with an A or B ride. It would consist of adult and junior classes. The cost would be about half of a ride entry with the same criteria as Novice riders (horses age, pace, etc.) These riders would cover about 8 to 12 miles on the trail and would include one or two judged obstacles and one P & R stop. Riders will not be scored but will receive a card with feedback and observations noted and a completion award. It would give them an opportunity to get a taste of CTR, our riders and the ride atmosphere.

It is believed this new class would not only be appealing to new riders but perhaps veteran riders who no longer compete and would find this abbreviated class a new opportunity to get back in the game.

Ride managers are encouraged to offer this new format at their ride in 2018. Network through social media and your horse riding community to spread the word. We are sure once a rider tries competitive trail riding—this shorter version or the traditional ride—they will want to come back for more.

Wanted: Ride Managers

My husband says “*Now why would you want to do that?*” when I volunteer to take on another project. Currently, I manage the PonyXpress for NATRC and Nebraska's Horse Trail Riding Expo and later our fall trail challenge. I wouldn't do it if I didn't enjoy it. But I am also ready to pass the baton. My co-manager, Mary Hanson, and I believe the PonyXpress is now a Nebraska staple and are ready to hand it off to another manager. Why? Because we think there is an opportunity to introduce more CTRs to Nebraska. If we can hand over PonyXpress, we can use that time to start preparing another ride—maybe as early as 2019. If you are interested in grabbing the reins of our PonyXpress, consider shadowing us in 2018 to learn the ropes. Contact Mary hrrsdrv@yahoo.com or myself jtvasa@gmail.com for more information. ~Tammy Vasa



Ride Calendar

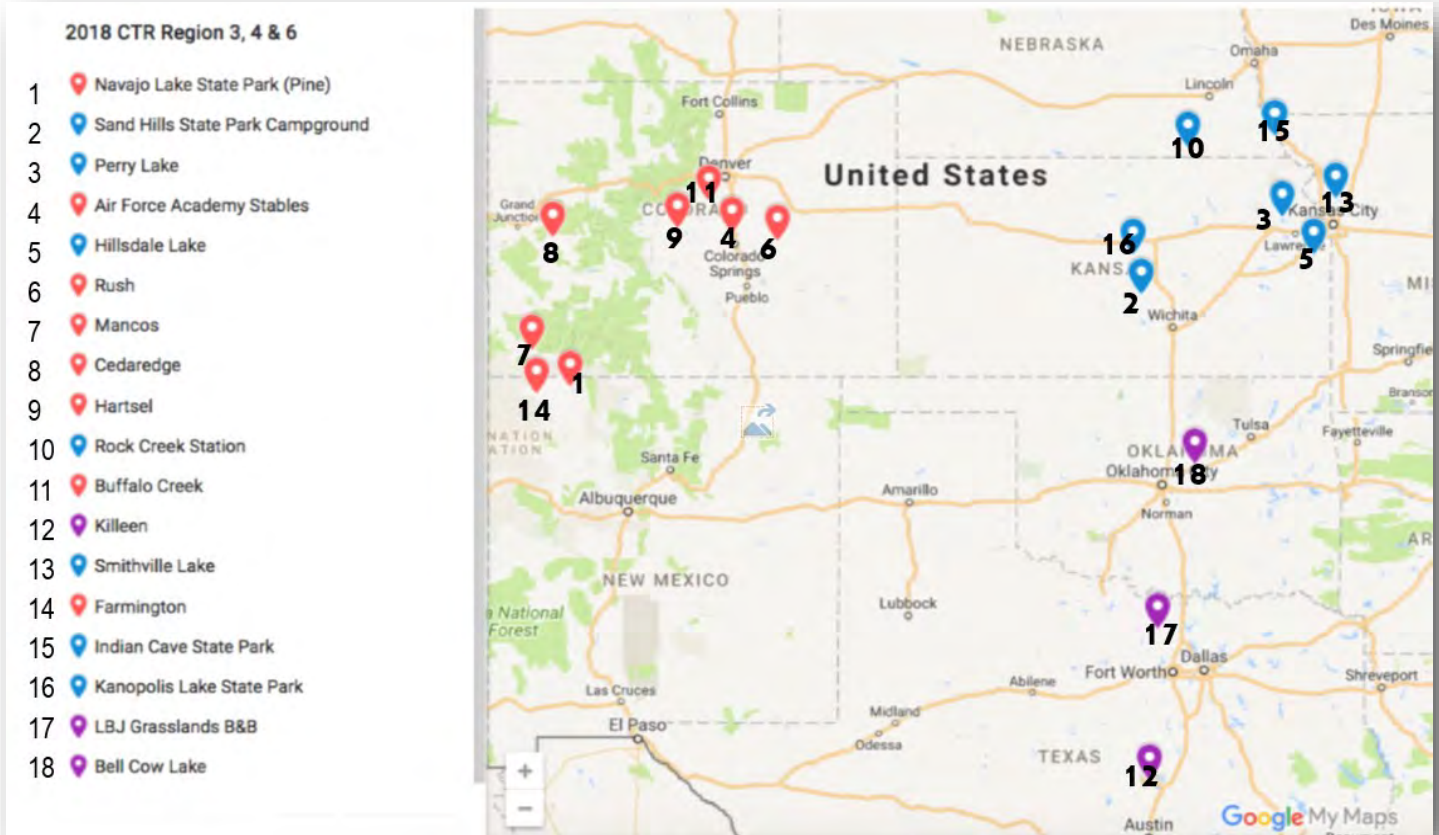
In an effort to support our sport, we are posting both Region 6 rides and those nearby in other regions. See next page for map overview.

Date	Ride	Ride Manager(s)	Region
April 21-22	Exploring Sand Hills Sand Hills State Park, Hutchinson, KS	Liz Klamm 620.694.9335 lizandyk@att.net	Region 6
May 12-13	Navajo Lake Navajo Lake State Park, Aztec, NM	Kenny Bingham 505.427.0982 kbingham630@msn.com	Region 3
May 26-27	General Albert P Clark Mem'l Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO	Dayna Morgan 719.481.9409 Dayna.morgan139@gmail.com	Region 3
June 2-3	EKAHA Hill & Dale Hillsdale Lake, Hillsdale, KS	JR Kendall 913.710.2318 jrken@att.com	Region 6
June 23	Rush to the Brett Gray Ranch Rush, CO	Steve Bishop 303.378.2614 stephenbishop@comcast.net	Region 3
July 21-22	Chicken Creek CTR Mancos, CO	Chuck Smith 505.215.2625 Chuck-smith@earthlink.net	Region 3
Aug. 4-5	Island in the Sky Grand Mesa Nat'l Forest, Cedaredge, CO	Juleen Feazell & Betty Garrett 970.985.1182 bgarrett50@icloud.com	Region 3
Aug. 18-19	Hartsel Springs Ranch CTR Hartsel, CO	Bill Wingle 303.279.1290 wingles@uncert.com	Region 3
Aug. 25-26	PonyXpress at Rock Creek Station Rock Creek Station, Fairbury, NE	Mary Hanson & Tammy Vasa 402.623.4247 tvasa@me.com	Region 6
Sept. 8-9	Colorado Trail Buffalo Creek	Dee Overholt & Deborah Oakes 303.838.7507 homes@deborahoakes.com	Region 3
Sept. 15-16	Wimberly Wayfarer Parrie Haynes Ranch, Killeen, TX	Elaine Swiss 830.825.3032 swissranch@earthlink.net	Region 4
Sept. 15-16	Jesse James Rideout Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO	John Zeliff 660.562.8878 john@springvalleycarriages.com	Region 6
Sept. 22-23	Chokecherry Canyon Farmington, NM	Lonnie Smith 505.330.2232 tsmith@sirmc.net	Region 3
Sept. 29-30	Indian Cave State Park Shubert, NE	Cheryl Bohling 402.269.5625 ccherylhop@hotmail.com	Region 6
Oct. 13-14	Kanopolis Canyon Kanopolis Lake, Marquette, KS	Kathy Jackson 316.684.7891 kathryn9949@att.net	Region 6
Oct. 20-21	Grassland Gamble LBJ Grasslands, Decatur, TX	Cheryl Edmondson 940.453.0910 prairierider@rafterE3.com	Region 4
Oct. 27-28	No, Kansas Isn't Flat Perry Lake, Topeka, KS	Rhonda Levinson & Vickie White 913.909.2025 rhndlev@msn.com	Region 6
Nov. 3-4	Bell Cow Rendezvous Chandler, OK	Phil Brodersen 918.671.9161 pfbrodersen@earthlink.net	Region 4

Rides may be subject to change. Visit NATRC.org for the most current list of rides and contact information. For more information about a ride, visit our regional specific and national Facebook page.

Ride Map

In an effort to support our sport, we are posting both Region 6 rides and those nearby in other regions. See previous page for list of rides.



Reserve Your Rider Number

Region 6 rider numbers are available for purchase for \$15 for the ride year. The numbers by division are as follows:

- Novice (red): 65 through 104
- CP (dark green): 40 through 64
- Open (dark blue): 0 through 39 .

Choose your desired number and then contact Trish Cleveland at trishcleveland166@gmail.com to confirm availability. Make your \$15 check payable to Region 6 NATRC, Inc. and mail

to Ruth Mesimer, Treasurer, 6818 N Elm Street, Liberty, MO 64068

You may affix numbers to your own clothing as long as the color matches as close as possible to our region vests. Numbers must be on front and back of clothing, solid white and at least 6" in height and highly visible from a distance. Please make sure they are securely attached and not hidden by a hood, jacket or long hair.



Spring Conditioning

I had my horses' shoes pulled and put my boots away in November of last year and just hacked around home or on local trails when we got a bit of reprieve from Nebraska winter - which didn't happen very often. While the horse I compete on is in much better condition than her rider is, I still like to have some miles on her before I embark on a competition. I had high hopes of starting my Competitive Trail Riding season at an early April ride in Texas. But the weather didn't cooperate. Aside from lack of conditioning, she has not shed her winter coat and by the looks of things, she might be smart to keep it on a little longer. You know what they say about best made plans.

The term "spring horse" is not a good one. It represents a horse which has been hanging out in the paddock all winter with little regard to its real duties - being your trail partner. A spring horse might be mistaken as a green horse or an untrained horse. Or maybe even a stallion with a bad attitude. Our responsibility to our horse and to other riders is to be ready for our first ride. That means the horse in condition with good feet and a willing mind and heart.

I remember when I was first interested in CTR and learned about Long Slow Distance (LSD) which most consider critical to the training of a distance horse. Riders might consider using LSD to bring a horse back after a winter break. For my horses that ended the past season in good condition, I will look at getting some miles on them and also starting some cardio by integrating trotting into the ride being mindful of their breathing and sweating. Because I work full-time, weekends are about my only opportunity to train early in the season until the time change. And even then, we are at the mercy of Mother Nature.

With perfect weather and time on our hands, using the principles of LSD is the best way to bring a horse back after a winter hiatus. Without an indoor arena and with poor weather, you will find most riders just looking to spend some

quality time with the horse, not only for conditioning but get the horse's brain around working again.

Farrier. Give your farrier a call. Get a good trim or the horse's shoes on so he is ready to work. You don't want the horse to start out with long feet that could chip, crack, trip him or cause him pain. You want him sure-footed and sound.

Lunge Lining. Lunging is an important part of showing your horse favorably to the judge. Starting on the lunge line as part of her conditioning not only helps get her in

shape but is providing a much-needed lesson for our sport. Don't just chase her in a circle; make the session meaningful. After evaluating for soundness at a walk or a trot, whoa her. Change directions. Stop. Ask for a back or direct her between obstacles. Practice trot-outs, disengaging hindquarters and making sure she stands still for simulated vet checks. These workouts provide both training and conditioning.

The Gravel Roads. Once our weather is good enough to go outside and start working our horses, the gravel roads around our farm provide the best footing. Just a few miles out and back is a good start to getting the horses back in shape. Do you have more than one horse needing miles? Ride one and pony the other.

Hill Work. Ride up or down hills at a walk. Get the horse used to using his hindquarters to build up those muscles. Steep, short hills are good for muscle development and can be found along the side of those gravel roads. Long hills will play into his cardio conditioning.

Trotting or Loping Circles. If you can't hit the trails or the roads, consider finding an area large enough and with good enough footing for making circles at a trot or lope. Don't overdo this exercise; keep track of your time giving him adequate breaks. Work



both directions and perhaps add figure eights in the process to break it up a bit.

Obstacles. Create a makeshift obstacle course where you ride. Use logs or posts to step over, using all different heights. Set up buckets to practice backing though or around. Set up cones to create a daisy chain to increase your horse's agility.

Ride with Friends. You aren't the only one looking to get your horse in tip-top shape. Call on friends to share some early rides at your farm, on those gravel roads, a stable or on a local trail. Be mindful of trail conditions.

Proper Cool Downs. When finished with the workout, give her time to cool down. Perhaps hook a lead on her and walk her for another 5 minutes until her breathing and respirations are back to normal. If sweating, towel dry her to aid in sweat evaporation.

Starting six or eight weeks out from your first scheduled ride will better prepare both you and your horse for a great start to the competition year.

~Tammy Vasa



Helen Smith & Focus Jessie Honored

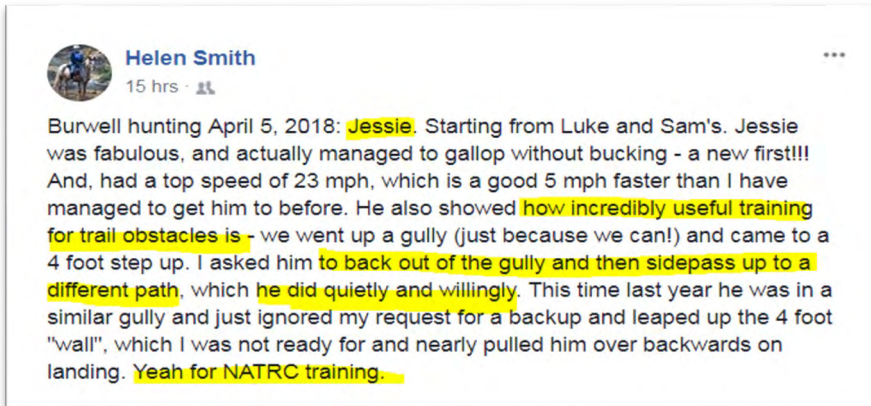
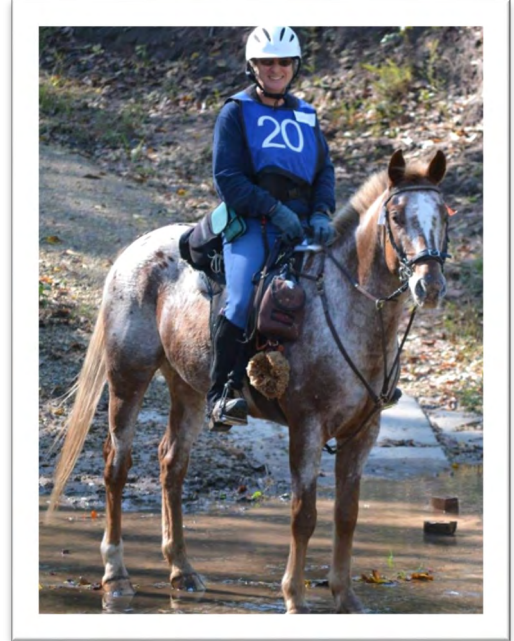
Helen Smith and her appaloosa gelding, Focus Jessie, (pictured) were awarded multiple Appaloosa Horse Club top awards for 2017.

At the recent annual convention Albuquerque, Smith was presented with the Appaloosa Horse Club's High Point Appaloosa competing in NATRC Competitive Trail Riding. Focus Jessie was also awarded the High Mileage Appaloosa of all competitive trail riding organizations in the country.

A Bronze Medallion was awarded to Focus Jessie for completing 350 miles in one ride season. According to the Appaloosa Horse Club Handbook, "The medallion system is a

means of recognizing Appaloosa horses, properly registered within the rules of the ApHC, which have proven their superiority in the field of performance, halter, distance riding and racing." There are four levels of Medallions: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Diamond studded. Jessie was the only Appaloosa competing nationally in competitive trail riding to have won a Bronze Medallion this year.

Jessie also received a Register of Merit (ROM) from the Appaloosa Horse Club. A horse must complete 250 CTR competition miles in a lifetime to receive a ROM. Congratulations to Helen and Jessie for a spectacular year! ~Lucie Hess



An excerpt from Helen's Facebook page with a lot of credit to NATRC during her recent fox hunting outing.

Fun Fact
 Helen acquired "Jessie" by trading a used car for the horse. What kind of car, you ask?
A Ford Focus.
 It was only fitting it be included in his registered name.



Rule Change Proposals

Our national board of directors are working hard to align our rules with what is relevant in this millennium without compromising the spirit of our sport which was established in 1961. There are thirteen rule changes being proposed this year and your thoughts are very important.

Please follow the link and review these rules very carefully. Express your comments, *for or against*, to our

Region 6 representatives, Mary Hanson and Shari Parys.

In summary, these changes have to do with adding a supporting membership, combining unfilled weight classes, any day DO, stabling, time penalties, sweepstakes awards, weight classes in CP, junior and CP national championship requirements, when CP is offered, and adding a Type C entry level introductory ride category.

The board will determine which rules will move forward at their upcoming meeting in July and those will be voted on in November.

http://www.natrc.org/pdf/2018_Rule_Proposals.pdf



Spring in Dixie

While everyone else in Region 6 was suffering through the never-ending winter, Dwight and I had a wonderful time at Troy AL competing at Spring in Dixie CTR. The weather was perfect each day with temps in the 40s to high 60s. There was heavy rain overnight Friday to Saturday, which turned to drizzle by the time we rode out.

The best part was seeing old and new friends in Region 5. Patty Lucas greeted us as we arrived. We got settled and met everyone in our camping area. There were even friendly dogs for Cora to play with.

We did a couple of casual rides Thursday and Friday. Heart of Dixie trails were wide open with slight hills. I felt like we were home. No palmettos or alligators.

Dwight had signed up for CP, but everyone talked him into Open. He was riding my Morgan mare, Bree, who was in shape. Dwight less so as he had not competed for 1 1/2 years.

Dwight rode with Victoria Whitehead, Jennifer Mulligan, and Tommy Mitchell. Jennifer completed her first Open ride after previous attempts.

Dwight said it was two long days riding a trotting horse, but they did well. Except for a side-pass obstacle, it went very well with a couple of Excellent and Good notations.

I rode in CP on our gaited Morgan mare, Kenna. Though not as conditioned as Bree, she is usually very quiet and easy going. This weekend she was in season and was going to take someone out. Wayne Tolbert's sweet horse stalled next to her had to put up with her crabby attitude.

She drove me crazy at the vet checks. Friday, she *cantered* both

circles; points off on MAW. Saturday evening, she kicked out at me when I sent her out to circle! No big surprise more MAW points. The Vet Judge, Natalie Morris, did compliment me on how quickly I trashed Kenna for her attitude.

Saturday, I rode with Patricia Petelle. Her horse was slightly green like mine. The horses got along, which was good for Kenna. We completed in the middle of our time window with great pulse and respirations.

Esther Diaguila was the Horsemanship Judge. She came up with interesting and challenging obstacles. The first was to walk over three logs through a ravine in a quarry. That wasn't that hard, but then you had to get out of the ravine. It made you look around and pick your course.

Another obstacle was going downhill over trail moguls (three big humps), but you had to stop half way down one and back up. Kenna and I did okay, but Dwight and Bree nailed it! Backing up slopes had been a 'no-go' last year with her.

Except for the bucking at vet check I felt like we had a good day. Dwight did too, but he was tired. After a catered BBQ supper, B-ride awards, and briefing we went to bed before 9 pm.

Sunday started well. Both mares trotted out sound. I ended up further back in the pack and started riding with Cindy Keen. Our horses got along well gaiting together. As much as I like

riding with my friends with trotting horses, riding with similar moving horses always seems to go smoother.

The first challenge of the day was guiding our horses through a 'W' shape of logs. When riding up to it, the spacing looked tight, but once



Natalie Morris, DVM, checking out Victoria Whitehouse's horse

into it was not bad. The real challenge was at one turn your horse's head was right in front of a leafy shrub. Of course, Kenna wanted a snack.

The second part of this stop was to walk up to the Vet Judge, halt and say, 'Whoopi Cushion'. Natalie then petted your horse's neck. She later explained horses always find vets always picking and prodding them. This gave the horse a positive experience. Having to say something while the rider halts distracted us from being nervous in front of a judge. Sneaky move, Natalie.

My good news/bad news was Kenna had excellent P&Rs again on Sun-



(Continued on next page.)

Spring in Dixie Cont'd

day, but as we rested I noticed her holding her left hind funny. When we went to mount Kenna was totally lame. Cindy and our safety riders, Maggie and Dave Spilker, called for the horse trailer. Patty Lucas came right out and collected us.

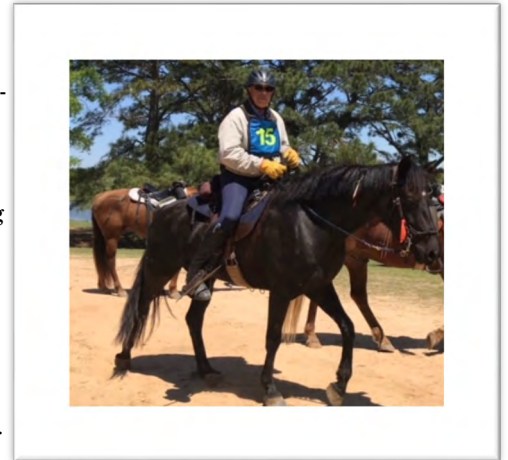
I'm still not sure what is wrong yet, but it appears Kenna pulled a muscle. She had been very smooth and even just before the P&R, but something got her. Maybe when she did her big kick out.

There was a sad accident on the trail. A section of trail went along three sides of a pasture containing a mix of horses, mules and one tiny miniature pony. Turns out it was a stallion and he had a lot of attitude. He kept running up to the fence when riders went by. He looked very cute, but he was putting off some threatening vibes. Most horses spooked or at least tried to move

away from him. One rider was tossed off when her horse spooked. An ambulance took her to the hospital. Fortunately, nothing was broken, but there were bruises.

After settling Kenna in and packing up the trailer, I watched the riders finish.. It was a pleasant, well-marked trail, but not easy. Dwight was not the only tired competitor.

We stayed for awards and got to spend a little more time for visiting. There never is enough time for stories. Unofficially, Dwight and Bree finished a respectable 4th place. Region 5 will announce the final placing. ~ *Mary Hanson*



Dwight Hanson finishing the ride on Sunday.



Did you enjoy this story? Region 6 Rally would love to have more just like it for each issue. Send yours to our Editor for publishing!

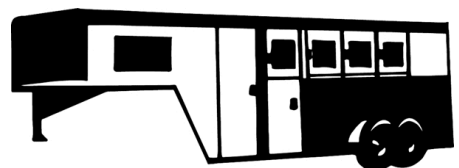
Congress Delays ELD Enforcement for Livestock

According to the American Horse Council, after issuing a 90-day exception from Electronic Logging Device (ELD) enforcement for livestock, in an Omnibus Bill Congress has included a provision which would postpone enforcement until at least Sept. 30. This delay will allow regulators with the Dept. of Transportation and industry stakeholders more time to educate haulers. The Horse Council went on to say that as mentioned, on March 13, it was announced that agricultural commodity haulers are exempted from the electronic logging device (ELD) mandate for the next 90 days (from March 18, 2018 through June 18, 2018). These haul-

ers must keep a copy of the waiver document in their truck to take advantage of the new 90 day delay. Many drivers already have a copy of the "old" delay waiver, which ran from December 18, 2017 to March 18, 2018, but should replace it with this new document, which can be found here: <http://www.horsecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/90-day-Ag-extension.pdf>.

It must be noted that most of these regulations are put in place for commercial haulers and not for the occasional or avid trail rider. Many living quarter trailers are

licensed appropriately as recreational vehicles. While this new mandate is causing some concern and discussion on social media, the Horse Council recommends you contact our own state's Dept. of Transportation to answer questions specific to your situation.



Lessons Learned from CTR

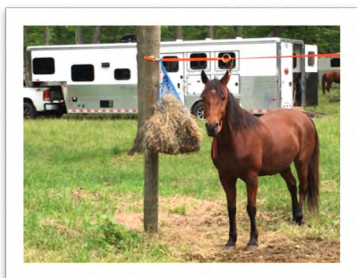
Last year, I had the incredible good fortune to ride the Michigan Shore to Shore ride, a 236-mile trek across the state from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron. It was 11 days of riding and four layover days. The Michigan Trail Riders Association (mtra.org) maintains the trail and organizes the rides.

My Missouri Foxtrotter, Sam, and I took two days to make the journey from St. Louis, MO, to the first camp near Empire, MI. Before I finished setting up camp, I had offers for drinks, dinner, and riding companions. It reminded me a lot of the friendliness at NATRC rides.

I started riding competitive trail with NATRC in 1999, after meeting Stacy Bowman at the Illinois Horse Fair. For the last several years, I haven't competed much, as I've discovered the joys of traveling with my horse. Last year, Sam and I rode the Missouri Ozarks, the Boston Mountains of Arkansas, Hocking Hills in Ohio, the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming, Fort Robinson in Nebraska, and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

This year, I'm planning an 11-week trip to Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Alberta (Canada), and the Black Hills. Next year: riding with the wagon train to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, then to the southeast to ride Civil War battlefields, followed by a trip to Utah's redrock canyons and the Black Hills (I spend a month there every year).

What makes all this possible, what gave me the confidence to travel by myself and have these wonderful experiences, was the training I received from riding competitive trail with NATRC.



That training was particularly invaluable on the Michigan Shore to Shore (MS2S) ride.

On that ride, camping was primitive and horses were high-lined overnight. In the wee hours of the morning, we'd feed and water our horses and leave our tack in a pile, drive our rigs to the next camp, catch the MTRA bus back to our horses, tack up, put our high-lines on the bus, and ride to our rigs.

The shortest ride was 9 miles (the first day), longest was just over 27. We rode mostly single track, but there was road riding through towns, we had to cross busy highways, cross railroad tracks, contend with mailboxes and trash cans, ride over wooden bridges over bogs, ride past large machinery, cross rivers, and, at one camp, climb up steps out of a river.

It was a glorious ride, a great time, a huge accomplishment for Sam's and my partnership. We made it across the state with no trouble, and then went to Ohio and spent a week riding the very rough terrain of Hocking Hills.

NATRC set us up for success. Because of NATRC, Sam was conditioned appropriately. Wonderful people in Region 6 had taught me about saddle fit, rigging, biting, and arranging saddle bags and other equipment such that my horse was able to perform at his



Beth & Sam

best. I had learned to safely camp with my horse, how to care for him under strenuous conditions, and how to feed him for optimum performance.

Organization was key to finishing the MS2S ride. Because we moved camp every day (or every other day when we had a layover), caring for Sam and myself and the truck and trailer was critical. Checklists I developed when riding competitive trail helped ensure I forgot nothing when getting into camp after a day's ride. The map pocket I made for CTR stood up well to the rainy weather and kept my maps almost dry. Each night, I'd go over my map and notes from the nightly riders' meeting, just like at a CTR. And riding CTRs had taught me how to get a good night's sleep even while anticipation wanted to keep me awake!

I learned about the value of electrolytes, about checking my horse for pain or injury, about carrying appropriate gear on the trail, how to use a map and compass. NATRC gave me the confidence in myself and my horse to undertake challenges, to edge out of my comfort zone. It has set me free in so many ways.

This year, on my way back home to St. Louis from my big trip, I'm planning to stop at Smithville Lake and compete in the Jesse James Rideout. It will be good to camp with friends old and new, to put on a vest and present to the judges, and to test Sam's and my partnership yet again. To all of you—judges, workers, ride managers, riders—I say thank you for all you've done to help me on my horsey journey. You have tested and inspired me. *You have taught me well.* ~Beth Braznell

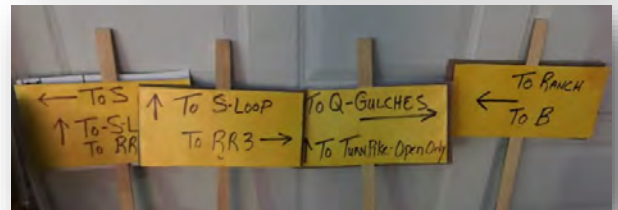
"What gave me the confidence to travel by myself and have these wonderful experiences, was the training I received from riding competitive trail with NATRC."



Region 6 Worker Awards

Volunteers who turned in ride positions worked during the 2017 ride season and milestones reached.

	2017	Prior	Total	Earned bar
Fred Altwegg	110	2,180	2,290	
Noreen Altwegg	20	0	20	
Tamara Andre	350	225	575	2nd & 3rd Gold bars
Cheryl Bohling	645	1,070	1,715	1st thru 7th Gold bars
Alan Bouska	40	0	40	
Chuck Edwards	530	23,165	23,695	
Mary Ginn	200	0	200	1st Gold bar
Kathy Jackson	1,000	3,005	4,005	4th & 5th Red bars
Andy Klamm	140	200	340	2nd Gold bar
Jason Klamm	50	365	415	
Liz Klamm	510	1,510	2,020	1st Red bar
Ryan Klamm	150	120	270	1st Gold bar
Gary McCoy	745	150	895	
Mary McCoy	1,185	180	1,365	6th Gold bar
Debbie McCullough	150	0	150	1st Gold bar
Ty McCullough	200	0	200	1st Gold Bar
Ruth Mesimer	885	7,480	8,365	3rd Blue bar
Brenda Messick	340	640	980	4th Gold bar
David Nore	255	1,060	1,315	6th Gold bar
Robin Nore	170	1,505	1,675	
Shari Parys	600	2,555	3,155	3rd Red bar
Sarah Rinne	170	2,940	3,110	3rd Red bar
Chris Wallis	350	3,985	4,335	4th & 5th Red bars
Michael Wallis	350	4,325	4,675	6th Red bar
Mary Anna Wood	95	165	260	
John Zeliff	225	0	225	



2017 Region 6 Ride Secretaries

- Renegade Roundup – Ruth Mesimer
- Exploring Sand Hills – Ruth Mesimer
- EKAHA Hill & Dale – Ruth Mesimer
- Jesse James Roundup – Ruth Mesimer
- PonyXpress – Robin Nore
- Indian Cave – Shari Parys
- Kanopolis Canyons – Ruth Mesimer



2017 100% Club

Jacket

Kathy Jackson
Brenda Messick

Helen Smith
Chris Wallis

John Zeliff

Second Year Patch

Tamara Andre

Third Year Patch

Marla Stucky

Sixth Year Patch

Trish Cleveland



2017 Regional Awards

The Region 6 NATRC Convention was held February 23-25 in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas in Topeka. This three-day event is hosted by the Kansas Horse Council. Region 6 conventioners took advantage of the programs at this venue as well as hosted a booth in the vendor area and visited with many EquiFest guests about competitive trail riding. The awards banquet was held on Saturday evening at the Ramada Topeka Downtown. Congratulations to all the Region 6 award winners in recognition of the teamwork they demonstrated with their equine partner.

Novice Junior Horsemanship

- Participation: Violet Stich (KS)
- Participation: Jessica Vassar (KS)
- Participation: Annie Dekat (KS)

Novice Lightweight Horsemanship

None

Novice Heavyweight Horsemanship

1. Lisa M. Johnson (NE)36
2. Cheryl Frederick (NE)18

Competitive Pleasure Horsemanship

1. Margaret Reynolds (MO)54
2. Trish Cleveland (KS).....52
3. Kay Stich (KS).....44
4. Mary Anna Wood (MO).....40
5. Alan Bouska (KS).....36

Open Junior Horsemanship

1. Ryan Klamm (KS)22
2. Autumn Jakopak (SD)18

Open Lightweight Horsemanship

1. Marla Stucky (KS)70
2. Helen Smith (NE)54
3. Denise Farris (KS)34
3. Brenda Messick (NE).....34

Open Heavyweight Horsemanship

1. Liz Klamm (KS)52
2. Sarah Rinne (NE).....40
3. Marilyn Marston (KS).....30



Brenda Messick visits with a guest at the NATRC booth

2017 Region 6 Horse Awards

Novice Heavyweight Horse

1. Miss Rebels Cut N Oak / PaintLisa M. Johnson (NE) 40
2. CC's Rex's Golden Rawide / MO Fox Trotter .Cheryl Frederick (NE) 24

Competitive Pleasure Horse

1. Risky Snickers / PaintMary Anna Wood (MO) 54
2. VA Caradelle / ArabianMargaret Reynolds (MO) 51
3. Fives Bert Harlan / Quarter HorseAlan Bouska (KS) 36
3. RW Braveheart / ArabianMary Ginn (IA) 36
3. Smoke-N-Jaz's Big Man / MO Fox TrotterKay Stich (KS) 36
4. Cito Mocha Raton / Horse of the AmericasTrish Cleveland (KS) 34
5. DM's Eye of the Tiger / MO Fox Trotter.....Noreen Altwegg (KS) 26
5. Johnnie Whoa Jo / Quarter HorseJohn Zelif (MO) 26
6. KS Franks Banjet / Paint.....Verona Chaffin (KS) 8

Open Junior Horse

1. Angel's Ricochet Shot / TN Walking HorseRyan Klamm (KS) 22
2. Delcies Acasia / Arabian.....Autumn Jakopak (SD) 18

Open Lightweight Horse

1. EZ Rocket WH / MO Fox TrotterMarla Stucky (KS) 90
2. Focus Jessie / Arabian.....Helen Smith (NE) 50
3. Tornado Watch / Arabian.....Denise Farris (KS) 48
4. Rushcreek Allie / ArabianBrenda Messick (NE) 22

Open Heavyweight Horse

1. Little Ann / KT Mountain HorseLiz Klamm (KS) 52
2. L.L. Remington / Half-Arabian.....Marilyn Marston (KS) 46



Liz Klamm participates in an EquiFest demonstration.

2017 Regional Awards Cont'd

2017 Region 6 Traveling Trophies

Nebraska – points from all NATRC rides included
Open High Point Team—Silver Valley Tate / Sarah Rinne / 176
Novice High Point Team—Miss Rebels Cut N Oak / Lisa Johnson / 76
CP High Point Team—KS Bluestem Soldierette / Mary Hanson / 80

Missouri Novice High Point Horse and Rider Combo
None qualified

Kansas Novice High Point Horse and Rider Combo
None qualified

2017 Region 6 Appreciation Awards

Cheryl Bohling, Debbie Payne, John Zeliff

2017 Linda Tellington-Jones Award

Marla Stucky (KS) 98.08%
Runner Up: Helen Smith (NE) 95.58%

Thank You

I would like to thank Region 6 for being selected to receive one of the 2017 Appreciation Awards for National Recognition. I have a lot of pride for Region 6 and it was truly an honor to be recognized. I truly enjoy being a part of such a wonderful organization.

~John Zeliff

Gracias

Vielen Dank

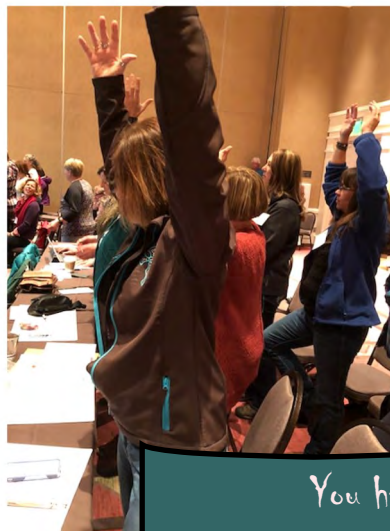
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To my Region 6 friends,

What a nice surprise to get Ruthie's email about the appreciation award for 2017. I wasn't able to attend the convention, so didn't know about the presentation. This award is thrilling, but very humbling, too, because there are so many who give time and resources to make sure we have trails and rides. And boy, did I learn a bunch as Trail Master! Everyone should do that at least once—preferably without a tornado! Thank you all so much. Let's have the best, safest, most fun ride year ever in 2018!

~Debbie Payne

Thank you to the members for selecting me as one of the recipients of the Region Appreciation Awards and to Shari Parys for the nomination. It was an eventful year for me as a worker. I enjoyed the new roles I took on. I'm proud to now be serving on the Region 6 Board of Directors and as your Vice President. My fingers are crossed that I'll be back in the saddle this year but I'll be at most rides either way. *~Cheryl Bohling*



You had to be there....

2017 National Awards

The 2018 NATRC National Convention was held in Albuquerque on February 9th to 11th. The theme for this year's convention was "Be Enchanted By Our Equines In The Land Of Enchantment". Region 6 was very well represented with several members in attendance. Our region donated a basket for the silent auction that included many items unique to our region. The convention workshops were very informative. A panel of judges responded to previously submitted questions. We learned about new GPS apps that can assist riders and ride management with ride maps. A northern New Mexico cowgirl shared how riding should be fun. The Albuquerque Mounted Police shared a very interesting program and then took the audience outside to see first hand their horses and officers. There was a walking tour of Old Town Albuquerque complete with a visit to The Candy Lady whose candy became famous in the show Breaking Bad. We took a driving tour of the Abo Pueblo and Mission Ruins, part of the Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument. We were entertained during our banquet on Saturday night by Flamenco Dancers. Region 3 served as our convention hosts and they definitely served up the enchantment for a very informative and enjoyable weekend. ~John Zeliff



National Awards

2017 Region 6 Team Awards

Novice Heavyweight

1. Lisa M. Johnson (NE).....Miss Rebels Cut N Oak / paint... 76
2. Cheryl Frederick (NE).....CCs Rex's Golden Rawhide / mft.. 42

Competitive Pleasure

1. Margaret Reynolds (MO).....VA Caradelle / ar..... 105
2. Mary Anna Wood (MO).....Risky Snickers / paint..... 94
3. Trish Cleveland (KS).....Cito Mocha Raton / hoa86
4. Kay Stich (MO).....Smoke-N-Jaz's Big Man / mft... 80
5. Alan Bouska (KS).....Fives Bert Harlan / qtr..... 72
6. Mary Ginn (IA)RW Braveheart / ar.....68

Open Junior

1. Ryan Klamm (KS).....Angel's Ricochet Shot / tw..... 44
2. Autumn Jakopak (SD).....Delcies Acasia / ar 36

Open Lightweight

1. Marla Stucky (KS).....EZ Rocket WH / mft 160
2. Helen Smith (NE)Focus Jessie / ap104
3. Denise Farris (KS)Tornado Watch / ar 82
4. Brenda Messick (NE)Rushcreek Allie / ar..... 56

Open Heavyweight:

1. Liz Klamm (KS).....Little Ann / kym..... 104
2. Marilyn Marston (KS)L.L. Remington / har..... 76
2. Sarah Rinne (NE).....Silver Valley Tate / morg..... 76

All ribbons sponsored by Region 6

2017 Polly Bridges Memorial Overall Open High Average Horsemanship

Sarah Rinne (NE) 99.34%
Liz Klamm (KS) 99.31% - Runner-up
*Buckle and ribbon sponsored
by Angie Meroshnekoff*



High Mileage Awards

High Mileage Award—Horse

- 1,000 Miles—Fives Bert Harlan / qtr—Alan Bouska (KS)
- 1,000 Miles—RW Braveheart / ar—Mary Ginn (IA)
- 1,000 Miles—Risky Snickers / paint—Mary Anna Wood (MO)
- 2,000 Miles—Smoke-N-Jaz's Big Man / mft—Kay Stich (KS)

High Mileage Rider Chevron & Medallion Award

- 4,000 Miles—Bronze Medallion—Marilyn Marston (KS)

2017 National Awards Cont'd

2017 Open National Champions

Little Ann—Kentucky Mtn Horse.....Liz Klamm (KS)
Buckle sponsored by Helen Smith

EZ Rocket WH—Missouri Fox Trotter.....Marla Stucky (KS)
Jacket sponsored by Butch Stucky
Buckle sponsored by Sarah Rinne and Dwight & Mary Hanson

Silver Valley Tate—Morgan.....Sarah Rinne (NE)
Buckle sponsored by Perry & Trent Law Firm, LLC

2017 Competitive Pleasure National Champion

VA Caradelle—Arabian.....Margaret Reynolds
Ribbon sponsored by Bill and Nancy Sluys
Blanket and buckle sponsored by Perry & Trent Law Firm, LLC,
Travis Brinck, Sarah Rinne, Cindy Frewen-Wuellner,
Teresa Lippert, Paula Wolfe & Kathleen Kelly

2017 Horsemanship Awards

Open Heavyweight

- 2. Sarah Rinne (NE).....102
- 3. Liz Klamm (KS)92

Ribbons sponsored by Dolly Miller

Open Junior

- 3. Ryan Klamm (KS).....30
- 4. Autumn Jakopak (SD).....18

Ribbons sponsored by Prairie Sylvania Arabians

Competitive Pleasure

- 5. Margaret Reynolds (MO).....86
- 6. Kay Stich (KS).....84

Ribbons sponsored by John Zeliff



Congratulations!

2017 Horse Awards

Open Heavyweight:

- 4. Little Ann / KY Mountain Horse—Liz Klamm (KS)90
- 5. Silver Valley Tate / Morgan—Sarah Rinne (NE)86

Ribbons sponsored by Kim Cowart

Open Lightweight

- 6. EZ Rocket WH / mft..... Marla Stucky (KS)100

Ribbon sponsored by Dwight & Mary Hanson

Open Junior:

- 3. Angel's Ricochet Shot / tw Ryan Klamm (KS).....28
- 4. Delcies Acasia / ar..... Autumn Jakopak (SD)... 18

Ribbons sponsored by Prairie Sylvania Arabians

Thank You

SPONSORS

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John Zeliff

Region Six NATRC, Inc.

Butch Stucky

Kathleen Kelly

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Cindy Frewen-Wuellner

Kim Cowart

Teresa Lippert

Dolly Miller

Paula Wolfe

Travis Brinck

Dwight & Mary Hanson

Perry & Trent Law Firm

High Point Breed Awards

American Donkey & Mule Soc.
 Pistol Annie / Patti Dollarhide

Appaloosa Horse Club
 Focus Jessie / Helen Smith

KY Mountain Saddle Horse Assoc.
 Little Ann / Liz Klamm

MO Fox Trotting Horse Breed Assoc.
 EZ Rocket WH / Marla Stucky

Region 6 MO Fox Trotter
 EZ Rocket WH / Marla Stucky

Reserve High Point Paint Horse
 Risky Snickers / Mary Anna Wood

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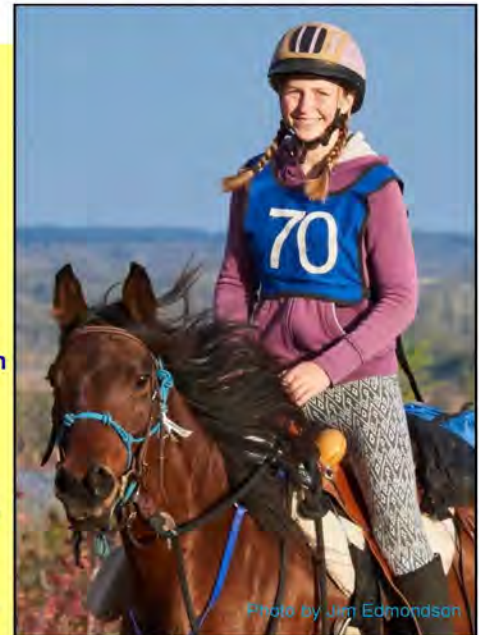
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