REGION 6 RALLY



A Message from the President

This year's winter seemed as though it never wanted to end and now spring has started out with a record setting blizzard and extreme flooding for a large area of our region. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been affected by these natural disasters.

The 2019 ride season has finally arrived and we are all hustling to get those conditioning rides in as we have our sights set on those partnership goals with our horse that we have identified for this year. Our preparations also include cleaning and oiling up our saddle and tack as well as preparing our trailers to be road ready.

We have another great lineup of rides scheduled for Region 6 this year. I am anticipating a couple Leisure Division (LeD) rides being added to our schedule as well so check our schedule regularly for any



updates. A few of us will be scouting out a couple new locations this spring and summer for new rides in 2020. Please share our ride schedule and events on your social

tion of the LeD rides we now offer something for everyone! Our rides would not be possible without the willingness of our members to step up and serve as a ride manager. I highly encourage all of our members to consider serving as a ride manager. It would be wonderful to have even more rides! You don't have to

take this role on by yourself either, team up with someone and manage a ride together!

Our ride managers and volunteers are the life blood of our organization.

media platforms. Encourage your friends who ride to come try us out. With the addi-

Consider supporting all of our Region 6 rides. If you are unable to participate in or volunteer for one of our rides, consider sending in a small donation to help with the ride expenses. Last year we were forced to cancel our Region 6 Benefit Ride due to flooding. The response by our members to this was overwhelming! The vast majority, if not all, of our in-region members donated their ride deposits and/or their entire ride entry fees! This speaks volumes to our membership and is just another example of the quality of our members! We are FAMILY and it shows! #Region6NATRC

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NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



A Message from the Editor

By Tammy Vasa

Our state, Nebraska, and others have been battling the floods since mid-March. Unusually warm weather started thawing the rivers and ice began to break away. Near the end of that week, the Bomb Cyclone hit (who makes these names up?) bringing blizzards to the western part of our state and heavy rains to the east. Rivers already full with ice jams began leaving the banks. Levees breached and it became Nebraska's worst flooding experience in fifty years. Fields have turned into sandbars, ranchers not only lost livestock but thousands of miles of fencing. Everyone knows someone who was critically affect-

ed. Recovery will take some folks years; others lives will be changed forever. Three popular horse trail parks remain closed. Life interrupted.

As I write this, I am sitting in the living quarters of my trailer with

the furnace running, not sure I want to take my Ugg boots off yet. I didn't start out with my Uggs on. When I loaded up the horses this morning, I was in a tee shirt and tennis shoes. But after a couple hours, all that changed. I actually unhooked the truck from the trailer and drove 25 miles home to get my Uggs and a heavy coat. And a new canister of propane. And the mares' winter blankets. It's not that I wasn't prepared for horse camping. I just wasn't prepared for the cold. It was the first time

many of us hooked up our trailers this year and I was so happy to be out riding and camping but not so thrilled about the weather change. This is a CTR, *not endurance*!

I volunteered at the Branching Out CTR Clinic north of Lincoln, Nebraska. We had 18 participants on what started out as a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning. Ride manager, Helen Smith, had a full day planned, beginning with stations in round robin fashion to learn about stabling at the trailer, trail tack, P & Rs, mapping and other interesting items about our sport. As I was sta-

bling my horses, I felt the wind pick up and saw informational pamphlets scatter from the picnic table and blow across the parking lot like an upset trash can. With it came a dense cloud cover. I could feel the temperatures plummet.

By the time the last bunch of clinic participants ap-

proached me for information on tying to the trailer, I did a quick demonstration and invited them inside my trailer to warm up. No one hesitated to take me up on the offer. The propane lasted just long enough to warm the trailer. Ultimately, the afternoon's activities were postponed until the next morning and the Leisure Division ride pushed back a few hours. Flexibility is key when dealing with weather in the Midwest. Ride management appreciated the cooperation of those in the clinic and the com-



peting riders. I will be happy to let the day warm up a bit before hitting the trails.

Hosted by Nebraska Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding Association, I am excited to try this abbreviated ride as it's a good opportunity to try my new mare, Darby, in competition. John will be riding my bay mare, Windy. She is *still the one* to me and I hope she reaches her 1,000 competition miles this year (or next with the likes of this weather!) It is fun to have two horses to choose from for a ride. I hope to see you on the trail this season and hope I won't be riding in my Uggs!





From the National Board of Directors By Shari Parys

Stay Informed!

National Board of Directors Report

What an exciting time for NATRC! The fresh ideas, increased advertising, the addition of the Leisure Division, and a surge in new members has had a positive impact on our sport. Previous members are returning, and first-time competitors are already asking when the next event is. Thank you for your enthusiasm and for sharing the love of NATRC.

Our marketing committee has been very busy creating excellent Facebook ads. Please like and share these posts. In just a few weeks, we had 1,078 new likes/ followers, so the ads are working! The next step is to convert these interested people to members and active participants. You may be asked to mentor someone in your area, and it's rewarding to watch them learn and succeed with your help. As we see other new faces appear at our events, make an extra effort to introduce yourself and welcome them to NATRC.

Another committee is working on Ride Structure, which includes the flow of the ride and tips on how to make it more efficient. This is especially important in the Leisure Division since we have a lot of the same parts of the ride packed into a



Shari Parys, NATRC Vice President

shorter time frame. As you ride or volunteer at these events, please share ideas on what worked well or thoughts on how to do it better the next time. If you are a ride chair, please join our Facebook group "NATRC Ride Managers" for good discussions and tips.

Our National Board of Directors is now meeting monthly via Zoom video conferencing to keep better up to date across the nation. Communication is key during this time of development. We appreciate you being a part of this sport and are proud to represent Region 6, so please reach out to Marla Stucky or me with your thoughts.

Region 6 Visible at EquiFest & the Horse Trail Riding Expo



Region 6 made its presence count at the 22nd Annual Kansas EquiFest held in Topeka, KS the weekend of February 22-24 and at the 5th Annual Horse Trail Riding Expo in Omaha on March 9-10.

At Equifest, we were one of over 100 vendors in attendance. Our booth was located in a high traffic area and we were able to generate much attention. On display at our booth was information about our organization, membership forms, the 2019 ride schedule, examples of completed judging cards, and a monitor displaying pictures from our 2018 ride season running continuously.

Over 1,000 guests and riders were at the Expo in Omaha. Our booth was located just inside the doors of the vendor area. Since NATRC's national convention was on the same weekend this year, we did not have our usual backdrop but the booth was as popular as ever.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped work the booths in both locations! We had an excellent response. Many of our members who had planned to help with our booth were unable to at-

tend due to a winter storm during EquiFest and the aforementioned convention during Expo, so other members in attendance those weekends stepped up without hesitation to provide coverage at those venues. What a wonderful testament to our membership!

Contacts that were made will be followed up with by our membership committee. We anticipate seeing several new riders this year at our rides as a direct result of our participation in these events.



Workers Hall of Fame



Chuck Edwards has been a dedicated NATRC volunteer for over four and a half decades; his love for our organization is palpable. He brought NATRC to the Midwest by not only traveling to Colorado with a small group of friends to find out what this interesting sport entailed, but then returning to Nebraska to put on what is now our oldest active NATRC ride in Region 6, Indian Cave.

As a testament to his dedication and passion for that ride, he built the park's trails to hold the event. Under Chuck's direction, Indian Cave has run continuously over those same trails for 45 years. Chuck takes his trail master duties very seriously and does all he can to keep riders safe and on track. He also managed the ride for many years - doing it all! To this day, he still maintains those trails and can be found out there clearing, marking and wheeling any changes in mileage. While Chuck is a vital part of Region 6, it is interesting to hear his stories of our days as a part of Region 4, before Region 6 was created.

As one of the founding members of the Nebraska Endurance and Competitive Trail Ride Association (NECTRA) in 1974, he built a great support for NATRC rides and a means to work together to put on events, educational activities, and give new and existing members a place to belong. Chuck rarely misses a meeting, giving valuable input and providing an important link to our long history. This club's strong foun-

dation has enabled it to sponsor many different rides, clinics and expobooths, helping to keep our sport alive and introducing many new people to NATRC each year.

With over 24,000 worker points, Chuck has generously given of his time in many ways. You will hear him calling attention to our Region 6 sales items at rides and conventions, serving as rules interpreter or P&R chair at other rides, and always quietly working to make our sport a great success. After retiring in 2015, he devoted even more time to volunteer on the P&R crews or as rules interpreter at rides across the Midwest. In 2018, Chuck earned his 100% Club jacket.

Chuck's incredible passion for our sport makes an impact on new people joining us. He has more than earned his place in our Workers Hall of Fame, and we appreciate all that he has given to NATRC for most of its existence.

Chuck was accompanied to Reno by his wife, Mary, to accept this national award and celebrated at convention with many of his Region 6 friends. Congratulations, Chuck.

In future editions of the Region 6 Rally, we will follow Chuck's CTR journey leading up to the 50th Anniversary of Indian Cave CTR which will be held in 2024.



Reno, Nevada 2019



















Region 6 Convention Held in Friendly Beatrice

By John Zeliff

The 2019 Region 6 Convention and Awards Banquet was held the weekend of March 22nd to 24th in Beatrice, Nebraska. Hosted by Nebraska Endurance and Competitive Trail Ride Assoc., Helen Smith served as the convention chair. Cheryl Bohling and Sarah Rinne assisted her, working hard to make sure we were housed and fed. They also provided very informative programs along with a wonderful awards banquet.

Several members arrived Friday evening and enjoyed the hospitality suite in the Holiday Inn Express hosted by our Nebraska members. They sure know how to put together a fantastic hospitality suite! A great evening was enjoyed by all those attending!

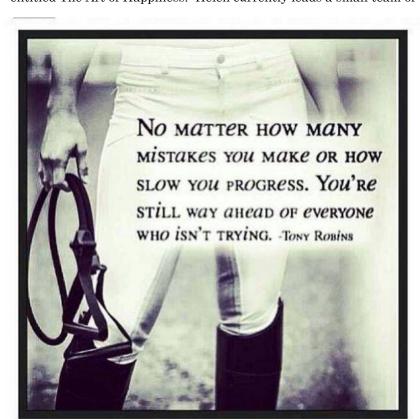
Registration for the convention began first thing Saturday morning at the Tall Tree Tastings, Wine & Tap located in downtown Beatrice. This wonderful business provided our meeting and banquet space for the weekend.

Our own Region 6 member Brenda Messick presented our first program on the Masterson Method. Brenda is a Masterson Certified Practitioner and is also certified in Equine Massage through Equissage. Following Brenda's presentation, the Region 6 Silent Auction opened.



Up next was former Region 6 competitor Dale Jackson, DVM. Dale graduated from the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine. In 1982, his first year of Open competition, his horse finished first at the end of the year in the Region 6 heavyweight division. This was also the first year that Region 6 existed. That year his Morgan horse earned a national championship and ended up third in the nation. Dale's topic was Stories from the NATRC Trail. Many informative and humorous stories were enjoyed by all.

Our morning concluded on a very positive note! Another one of our Region 6 members, Helen Smith, shared a program entitled The Art of Happiness. Helen currently leads a small team of 7, as Head of Regulatory Affairs for Livestock &



Equine Biologicals at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health. Helen's upbeat presentation was the perfect conclusion to our morning line-up of great speakers!

Attendees were on their own for lunch with many options in downtown Beatrice. Following lunch, a Region 6 General Membership Meeting was held. After our meeting everyone drove over to the Homestead National Monument for a special tour of this landmark.

Saturday evening, we all gathered together with our fellow competitors, friends, and family to recognize the accomplishments of our members from another successful ride year at our annual Region 6 Awards Banquet. Following our banquet and the wrap up of our silent auction, the evening concluded back at our hospitality suite.

The 2019 Region 6 Convention came to an end on Sunday morning following a meeting of our Region 6 Board of Directors. A big thank you goes out to our Nebraska faithful for hosting this very informative and successful Region 6 Convention and Banquet!



1,000 & 2,000 Mile Horse Recognition

The following horses received medallions for this milestone achievement and were recognized at the National Convention in Reno.

2000 Miles

2,230	EZ Rocket WH / mft	ridden by Marla Stucky
2,130	Silver Valley Tate / morg	ridden by Sarah Rinne

1000 Miles

1,090	Roho Honoy Mocha	WH / mftridde	en by John Zeliff
1,040	Rushcreek Allie / ar	ridden by	v Brenda Messick



1000-Mile Rider Recognition

Patches are awarded in increments of 250 miles until 4,000 miles are reached, then patches are awarded every 1,000 miles. Medallions are awarded at mileage levels of 4,000 (Bronze), 7,000 (Silver), 10,000 (Gold), 15,000 (Diamond), and 20,000 (Double Diamond) and are presented at the National Convention. The following riders were honored for this achievement.

250 (300 actual)	Cheryl Frederick
750 (760 actual)	Sharron Ankersen
750 (830 actual)	Dwight Hanson
1000 3511	
1000 Miles	
1,000 (1,060 actual)	Mary Hanson
1,000 & 1,250 (1,300 actual)	Helen Smith
2,250 & 2,500 (2,670 actual)	Margaret Reynolds
2,750 (2,820 actual)	Shari Parys
3,250 (3,270 actual)	Maggie Childs
3,750 (3,960 actual)	Marla Stucky
5000 Miles	

Diamond of the Year

Margaret Reynolds is the consummate professional. As a member of Region 6, Margaret willingly stepped up and volunteered countless hours this past year as she provided leadership to our organization. As NATRC embarked on a critical visionary process, Margaret utilized her professional skill set as she facilitated this comprehensive strategic planning process. Her experience and love for our sport made her the ideal facilitator. She worked extremely hard on behalf of Region 6, as well as all the other regions, to make our sport even stronger and viable for years to come.

As a member of Operation NATRC, I witnessed her diligence and the pride she has for our organization. She urged and educated us. She made us feel uncomfortable. She provided the leadership we needed to think "outside the box" as we engaged in an extremely detailed and comprehensive strategic planning process. I have been a part of many future planning processes as a public school district administrator, and Margaret's skills with this endeavor are first class. We have been extremely fortunate and have greatly benefited thanks to Margaret. Through her guidance, the future of our organization is extremely bright.

Margaret is an active NATRC competitor who participates in many rides each year. You will see her supporting all our Region 6 rides as well as traveling great distances to support our different regions. As our 2015 National Convention silent auction chair, Margaret garnered amazing items and raised significant funds for our sport. Our Region 6 Convention in 2017 was one of our best with Margaret at the helm and hosting it at her local equine facility. She set a high bar with the speakers and activities there.



Our Region 6 Diamond of the Year plaque reads "Our region is a better place because of this unique individual who has unselfishly given the greatest commodity in life, "one's self", thereby making each ride more enjoyable for others". In 2018, this quote clearly represents Margaret Reynolds.



100%

First Year Jacket

Chuck Edwards

Bev Roberts, (Reg. 4)

2nd Year Patch

Helen Smith Marilyn Marston

John Zeliff

3rd Year Patch

Sarah Rinne

4th Year Patch

Marla Stucky

Regional Appreciation Awards



Kathy Jackson is an inspiration to us all in Region 6 as she volunteers at numerous rides despite physical limitations and even broken bones. Just since 2010, Kathy has been a judge's secretary twenty five times! As she sometimes volunteers in this ca-

pacity at up to five rides in a season, she is quite the professional with great experience and attention to detail.

As familiar as Kathy is with NATRC, riding and volunteering since the 1980's, she is also a valuable rules interpreter at different events. When unable to do the larger roles, Kathy still supports Region 6 in whatever way she can. In 2018, Kathy was ready to expand her volunteer

base by chairing our Region 6 Benefit Ride at Kanopolis Canyons. She did much of the work before breaking her ankle just weeks before the ride.

For competitors and other volunteers, Kathy's warm greetings and words of encouragement are always appreciated. We thank her for her many years of service and look forward to her perfect writing on more of our ride cards!

David Nore has been instrumental in bringing back our Region 6 ride at Smithville Lake. For the past two years, he has comanaged the Jesse James Rideout, and his positive attitude and attention to detail have ensured its success. He is always thinking ahead and puts the riders first as he anticipates their

needs. David takes time following each ride to reflect and identify ways in which the ride experience can be improved. During this year's ride, he also served as trail master.

David doesn't hesitate to step up in other areas of Region 6 as well. He has capably handled the positions of rules interpreter, P&R Chair,

judge's driver, and other support roles. He served as a Region 6 board member and our recording secretary, as well as past-president of NECTRA (Nebraska Endurance & Competitive Trail Ride Association). He chaired our Region 6 Convention in 2011 and did a stellar job.

David has helped for many years to cover shifts at horse expo booths to visit with people about our sport. He is an accomplished photographer and has captured and shared many of our competitive trail riding moments. We appreciate his continued involvement in NATRC and support of our region!



Worker Awards

Name	2018	Prior	Total	Earned Bar
Fred Altwegg	140	2290	2430	
Tamara Andre	275	575	850	4 th Gold Bar
Cheryl Bohling	625	1715	2340	$1^{ m st}$ Red Bar
Chuck Edwards	670	23695	24365	19 th Blue Bar
Kathy Jackson	550	4005	4555	6 th Red Bar
Andy Klamm	120	340	460	3 rd Gold Bar
Liz Klamm	700	2020	2720	Cap & 2 nd Red Bar
Ryan Klamm	130	270	400	2 nd Gold Bar
Mary Licata	90	250	340	1^{st} & 2^{nd} Gold Bars
Ruth Mesimer	1020	8365	9385	4 th Blue Bar
Brenda Messick	375	980	1355	$5^{ m th}$ & $6^{ m th}$ Gold Bars
David Nore	875	1315	2190	$7^{ m th}$ Gold & $1^{ m st}$ Red Bars
Robin Nore	820	1675	2495	$1^{ m st}$ Red Bar
Shari Parys	395	3155	3550	4 th Red Bar
Sarah Rinne	495	3110	3605	
Kristen Schmalzried	25	0	25	
Helen Smith	270	380	650	$1^{\rm st}~2^{\rm nd}~\&~3^{\rm rd}~Gold~Bars$
Sharon West	70	0	70	
Hope White	280	2595	2875	
John Zeliff	200	225	425	$2^{ m nd}$ Gold Bar

Kanopolis Ride Report by Ruth Mesimer

The second ride of Region 6's 2019 ride year was held at Kanopolis Canyons State Park, Marquette, KS the weekend of April 13-

14, 2019. Gusty westerly winds and a blizzard made for interesting travel to Rockin K campground. Posted on Facebook "The Clark-Schoenecker team from Colorado is on the road to Kanopolis! No blizzard is going to keep us home....see you all tomorrow!" Twenty-four competitors from Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas attended. We had four first-time competitors 'the Morgan bunch' from the Topeka, KS area. Thank you, Barbara Rush, for encouraging your friends to join us (Donna Droge, Kelli Dillinger, Missy and Robyn Lutzkanin, and Stacey Schatz). We hope you all come to more NATRC rides!

Rider check-in, potluck dinner, new member/first-rider meeting and ride briefing were held at the pavilion. Thank goodness the park has tarps that they can hang to help block the wind. Thank you Wendy and crew!



Horsemanship judge Kathy Shanor from Texas and Horse judge Dr. Kay Gunckel from Colorado welcomed the riders and briefed them on what they look for on the trail. Judge secretaries, Christina Lyons, Kathy Jackson and Robin Nore took notes from the judges at observations and transcribed to the riders' scorecards. Priscilla Lindsey, trail master, provided riders and workers with



excellent maps and instructions. Chuck Edwards headed up the P&R crew. Ty McCullough was safety chair and safety rider along with Deb McCullough, Pat Lysinger, Brett Harrold, Denise Brown and Sharon West.

Riders were timed out by Mike Wallis Saturday morning at 8:30. It was brisk, to say the least. Horses were pretty frisky Saturday with the cool, cloudy day. Sunday morning riders were timed out at 7:30; a more enjoyable day for riders and workers as the sun was shining and the wind was calm.

Great grub for workers was provided by Marilyn Marston. Hot, homemade chicken noodle soup sure did hit the spot for Saturday lunch!

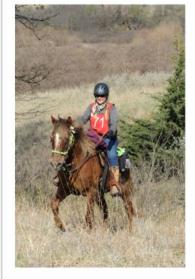
P&R crews find interesting ways to keep themselves amused while waiting for riders to come into the P&R stop. Several members of the P&R crew drove out to the trail to retrieve a lost cell phone . . . and the rest is history,

or . . . documented according to the hundreds of "new" photos now in that cell phone. John Zeliff, you are a good sport! John posted on Facebook "A special thank you to our P&R crew for finding my lost cell phone. I am very appreciative for you guys finding it. Thank you, thank you, thank you! That was a huge relief! I had a blast looking at all my new pictures too. You guys had too much fun. It did take me a long time to go through all the pics. In fact, there were so many pics and it was taking so long to look through them, I even opened up my Pandora app and started playing some Creedence Clearwater Revival tunes like "Bad Moon Rising" just to make the time go faster. I will share just a few of them here. You will have to hit me up at our next ride to see the rest, just be sure to allow a LOT of time. Thanks again for a great ride weekend! NATRC is an awesome family!"

Rules Interpreter David Nore was kept busy out on the trails taking pictures. David completed several accident reports; thankfully no one had a serious accident and riders were able to keep on competing. Cheryl Bohling, on-call farrier, got to do a bit of farrier work, was in charge of the hoof boot drawing, and was a member of the P&R crew. Marilyn Marston was also in charge of awards AND there were some special awards.



Robin Nore came up with the idea to create embroidered patches as either a fundraiser for Region 6 and/or ride expenses. Patches will cost \$5 with \$4 going to the ride expenses. Here is a picture of the Kanopolis patch. Thank you Robin for coming up with this idea and creating the patch. The income from this idea is very much appreciated by this Ride Manager.



And thus a wonderful ride weekend at Kanopolis came to a close. It was great to see all of you on the trails competing again after such a long winter. Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers from Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas that made this ride a huge success. Much appreciated!

Branching Out Clinic: View from the Ride Manager / Trail Master by Helen Smith

My daughter, Sam, and I started figuring out the trail for the Branching Out Leisure Division Ride on a beautiful sunny day in January. The sun was shining, the ground covered in snow and no wind in the trees. It was very much like being back in Southern Ontario. Winter then hit with a vengeance and we didn't get back to the trails until the week prior to the clinic. I had a pretty good idea where I wanted the ride to go, but the trails on my map didn't seem like the trails we were riding. I found out later that the printer had chopped off the west end of the trail! But, Pokémon to the rescue! Sam had found that the mobile game Pokémon Go is alive and well in Branched Oak State Rec Area, and the trails were all



shown on the phone and showed where we were in addition to the trails. So, that last part of the trail was mapped based on Pokémon Go!

The Friday before Branching Out found Sam and I back out on the trail
(and yes, Jessie was out there every time, whether it was
Sam riding him or me), with ribbons in hand, cantle pack,
backpack and water bottle holders. And we still ran out

of blue and yellow, with no room for the magic 2-mile marker.

In the week prior to the clinic, I had additions and changes to attendees nearly every day. I was looking forward to finally figuring how many were coming- it was going to be a surprise! We had 18. Just a fabulous turnout. Saturday April 27 dawned, a little warmer and stiller than expected. Little did we know what mother nature had in store for us. Sam headed back out onto the trails with more blue and yellow ribbons to finish the trail. At just after 10am the wind picked up. The temperature



plunged. We moved cars to provide wind-blocks. We arranged the stations in the lee of trailers. The weather turned bitterly cold. Everyone was wearing all that they had brought with them, or what spares others had brought with them. The participants and volunteers were really hardy and worked through every morning session planned. But one after another, our hardy participants came up to me and said, "I can't ride this afternoon, it's just too cold, I am totally frozen", or variations on the same theme! We really needed hot soup for lunch and not sandwiches. The schedule was quickly changed and the NECTRA meeting moved up (and into Tammy's heated palace), and the obstacle portion of the clinic was moved to Sunday morning. Everyone picked up lunch and disappeared to somewhere warmer!

Sunday morning was a little colder, but mercifully still! After gathering the troops and getting the clinic participants tacking up horses for learning obstacles we finally got going on Sunday morning. It was chilly for those of us teaching, but the riders were warmer than they had been the previous day, and had fun. By 11am they were done learning and all a little more prepared to take on their first Leisure Division Ride!



Photo Credit to Doug Carroll Photography

Judging an LeD Ride

By Brenda Messick

Judging my 1st LeD ride was quite an experience! What made this ride at Branched Oak interesting was that we had 18 riders! And many of those were new to NATRC! And I would be judging, scoring and commenting on both the horse and rider, not just the rider.

Nebraska had a clinic at Branched Oak the day before the ride. With a very cold and windy morning, we only had our learning stations on Saturday, where the clinic participants broke into small groups of 2-3 people. At my sta-

tion, I discussed what I would be looking for on the trail. I talked about staying light, balanced and centered on the horse. I gave examples of how the horse and rider would be scored, depending on how they did the obstacle/observation.

For example, the rider may be balanced and staying light, and earning the top score of 5, but the horse may be anxious or rushing and have a score of 2, for needs improvement. The horse may have done well and got a 4 or 5, but if the rider sat heavy, braced with legs, etc., the rider would have a score of 2, for needs improvement. If both the horse and rider did an adequate job, both would receive a 3, satisfactory or 4 for good.

The top score of 5 for each horse and rider could be scored with a smooth, precise presentation at the observation.

With the extremely cold morning, we decided to do our Saturday afternoon session, of practicing some obstacles, on Sunday morning. Sunday morning was only slightly warmer. With hindsight, this worked out wonderfully for both the horses and riders. Horses were able to get the morning freshness out of them. The riders got to practice some obstacles and received valuable tips immediately before the ride. Riders were instructed to practice slowly, 1 step at a time, to have a word/s to cue the horse to stand, etc.

Obstacle practice went well. I was in charge of a practice Check In with horses. The riders practiced having their horses stand while I inspected them for cleanliness and then had them trot out to a cone, reverse and trot back. I discussed some safety issues with some of them. They were to stay on the same side as the judge. (I explained the difference between an LeD ride with 1 judge and other

divisions where there are 2 judges. With 2 judges, always stay on the same side as the vet judge.) We practiced turning the horse away from the handler to reverse (the handler walks around the horse) and to trot beside the horse with the horse respecting the handler's space.

After the clinic part was done, the riders checked in with the ride secretary and once they had their vest number on, they came to check in with me as the ride judge. Robin Nore was the judge's secretary and did an amazing job with this 1st time

LeD judge, the new format of the cards, and my comments! All the horses stood well and trotted out and back well. The horses were very clean despite the cold weather, and only a few riders needed a reminder to check and groom better between the horse's front legs and under the belly area. Many of the riders remembered to stay on the same side as I was on.

Check In is not scored, but there is an area on the score card to comment on "Surface and Soundness". I checked for tack rubs at the mouth and back/girth areas. Legs were checked for any recent marks of interference or swelling. Soundness is checked on the trot out and back for any obvious lameness. This is a teaching moment, so that anything that the handler could do different with presentation or for safety reasons was discussed.



Judge Brenda Messick checking in a participant for the LeD ride.

Once check in was complete, lunch was ready. We had the pre-ride briefing and I reminded the riders that I was looking for a light, balanced rider by positioning yourself over your center. I also reminded them to ask any questions if they didn't understand what to do, go slow and steady, and if for any reason they didn't want to do the observation/obstacle, to pass. Remember to be safe and have fun!

The 1st observation was a walk by. The riders were to maneuver through brush and turned off the main trail, around a downed log, to continue to follow the trail on to a smaller trail. The riders came all at once! Some in groups of 2 or 3 or some in groups as large as 7! I instantly gave a horse score, a reason if the horse was a 2, then immediately a horsemanship score and reason. Scoring was extremely fast and I'm very glad that I had been working on my list of comments for the Horsemanship Judge's criteria for the A rides. Most of my comments were 1 or 2 words. After the observation was done, Robin put all the scores on the cards under the Horse and

Horsemanship area while I worked on a longer comment that would be written on the cards. There isn't as much space on these cards, so my comments had to be slightly minimized. By the end of the ride, that got a lot easier!

Most horses had no problem walking quietly through the brush. There were a few anxious horses when they couldn't see the horse in front of them but all of the riders remained quiet.

Rider comments included: need more leg contact to prevent legs from bracing, have light contact with legs... for a steadier leg or to prevent legs from coming forward, light contact with hands to prevent horse rushing, need more weight in feet to lighten seat, allow hips to follow the motion of the horse to prevent upper body sway, light and balanced seat, nice quiet job with anxious horse.

The 2nd observation was an uphill. I was watching for the riders to become lighter in the seat as they rode up the slight incline. Many riders were bracing their legs

and sitting in the saddle. I commented on many cards to have light contact with legs and weight in feet to prevent legs bracing or needs more weight in feet to lighten seat. Other comments included: for safety, keep 2-3 horse lengths between horses. A few riders had an excellent, light and balanced.

The 3rd observation was a trot to judge and halt. I was watching for riders to once again be light and balanced as they trotted and to halt with light hands. Many comments were about legs bracing (above), have light contact with legs and feet to avoid bounce in saddle, have light and lower contact with hands to prevent high and heavy hands, and to have light contact with legs for a steadier leg or with lower leg to prevent leg moving. A few riders had excellent for being balanced with a light halt.

The 4th observation was a judged mount after P&R. Some of the comments included: teach horse to stand while mounting, too long to position horse to mount, ease self into saddle to prevent landing heavy, avoid dragging leg over, and check that reins are even. Many riders had the comment: for safety, don't allow reins to drop during mount. A few riders had excellent with light and balanced mount.

Many riders were riding ahead of time, but there were a few riding maximum time by the time they got to the 3rd observation. This caused some riders to wait over 10 minutes for the 4th observation, (but they would have been waiting at the 2-mile marker regardless). This was a good reminder about riding within the block of time so as not to be too early in time or to possibly miss an observation. But timing worked out well as the last 2 riders were ready to mount just as the remainder of the riders completed mounting.

Back in camp, Check Out was the same as Check In. Only 1 rider had an obvious lame horse and had to be scored as Completion Only.

Once Check Out was complete, Robin and I got caught up with putting comments onto the cards. I did not have to comment under each box, but I felt that many riders were new riders to NATRC, and came to the clinic and ride to learn. Time allowed us to add a comment in each block for every rider. With 18 riders, we could have used another secretary putting comments onto the cards as I was scoring the next observation.

P&R scores were put onto the cards. We added up and scored all the cards. Once again, with so many riders, we should have used another person to check scoring after we totaled horse and rider observation points, P&R points, any P&R Hold Points, Trail Safety Points, and any Penalty Points. We did have 1 extra person helping

with placing the cards in order. We actually only had a few ties. Ties were broken by the number of Partnership +'s, by the number of Excellents, and by the number of positive comments.

At awards, I thanked everyone, management, riders and most importantly, my judge's secretary, Robin, who was wonderful and kept us as caught up as we could be with 18 riders and 4 observations within 3 hours! I must have done okay as she said she would secretary for me again!

What a wonderful experience of judging a Leisure Division class!





Riding the Leisure Division by Tammy Vasa

The new Leisure Division (LeD) is taking the country by storm! I'm not surprised. Besides tying to the trailer, folks I talked to about CTR were nervous about the miles and speed. Then there was the entry fee; combined with Coggins and health papers and camping – could amount to a very expensive weekend. Of course, those of us who have been competing know the true value of the ride, but this was a hard sell to a newbie. The Leisure Division takes away a lot of those worries. Affordability, fewer miles and slower pace, no camping or tying to the trailer. Even leg protection is allowed.

I've had the opportunity to ride all the classes previously offered: Novice, Competitive Pleasure and Open. I really planned to land and stay in open. I'd say I didn't because of "health reasons", but let's be honest here. The health problem was weight gain and my little mare didn't need to carry me longer and faster! Weight gain also affects our riding ability which I can attest to since I am currently nursing three broken ribs. But that's another story for another day.

Prior to those pesky broken ribs, I signed up for the Branching Out Leisure Division Ride. While my goal is to get 1,000 competition miles on the aforementioned mare, I also wanted to introduce my new mare (bigger horse for this bigger girl) to the sport. With my husband competing, I was able to get competition miles on both horses.

I helped with the CTR Clinic on the day before the ride. As I was settling the mares in the corrals, I remembered our stabling would not be judged in this new division. While it was nice not to worry about catching poop as it dropped to the ground, it really didn't change my horsekeeping. Water buckets were secured and hay bags hung high enough so the horses couldn't tangle in them.

My young mare tends to overreach so I keep bell boots on her to keep her from catching her front shoes. I did not have to take these off for checkin. While I practiced lunging her to ready her for the judge, we only need to do trot outs at check in, so again, an abbreviated version of regular competition. We had ride briefing following check-in.

We would be riding at 3.5 mph; ½ to 1 mph less than what we usually did in Novice or CP. This was probably the most challenging for me. As a veteran rider, I enjoyed the pace and had a usual strategic way of going when I competed. Checking timing a few miles into the ride, I was ahead of schedule. The worry is I would pass a judging opportunity before the judge arrived. So even though the ride was slower, it was still necessary to keep a close eye on the timing.

The ride was mapped at just under 9 miles. Due to my "health reasons", this was just about perfect. We encountered the judge at a "ride by" early in the ride. Being at the front, there were no hold-ups. There were two more judging opportunities before we rode in for our first P & R. There was no shortened version of this task and the expectations were the same as in a regular ride. There were 18 riders entered and while we were some of the first to arrive at the P & R, most all had arrived by the time we were riding out.

Check out was simple. We untacked, brushed down our horses, washed their legs and presented them to the judge. And we were done. My ride time was 2 ¾ hours plus check-in and check-out. My GPS showed my average moving speed to be at 3.7 mph. We clocked in prior to mid-time. I was thrilled when my new mare – first time competing – earned us the $2^{\rm nd}$ place ribbon.

While not all the rides are having LeDs, I would be very interested in



competing in an LeD on BOTH days of an A Ride weekend – in other words, paying entry to an LeD ride on both Saturday and Sunday. I believe that would be a favorable option to others, as well. There would be no camping restrictions, no long miles but the competitor could get two days of riding. It might also line up well with a LeD ride on one day and a Novice/CP or Open B ride on another.

To meet the needs of a changing demographic and address low ride numbers, our Board of Directors made what some consider a bold move by introducing this division to NATRC. I see it as a smart move. I think we will see riders who could no longer do the distance, return to our sport. As evidenced at this ride, we will introduce new riders to competitive trail riding. Perhaps these new riders will move up to the faster, longer classes. It's a win/win.

Try our sport or return to our sport – it's a great ride!



Snapshots from the Branching Out Clinic & LeD
Photos by Doug Carroll

Distance Riding on Quarter Horses

By Tammy Vasa

When promoting our sport, one of the messages we deliver is any healthy horse can compete. I have seen everything on the trail from ponies to draft horses; stock horses to Arabians. Even a beautiful Friesian competed at last weekend's Leisure Ride. While some horse breeds are predisposed to do well with this type of riding, it certainly doesn't eliminate other breeds or types.

At Expo and the recent clinic, I have had the opportunity to visit with riders about our sport and more pointedly, the interest in the Leisure Division (LeD). Surprisingly, many have mentioned it appeals to them because "I just ride a quarter horse."

"Just ride a quarter horse?" I ask, as they seem to be apologizing for that fact. And for what? Riding one of the most versatile and hearty horses ever bred?

Quarter horse Windy V, owned by Tammy Vasa, has over 800 competition miles.

Okay, I am a little prejudiced because I ride *just* a quarter horse.

While some might put an Arabian in a stock horse category, most often stock bred horses are recognized as heavier bred horses such as quarter horses, paints, pintos and appaloosas. Known for their versatility, they are quick in the quarter mile, well suited for livestock, catty, hard working and have a heavy, but marvelous, rear end. They are committed to the job at hand. While not all horses have the athleticism or drive to be an athlete, stock horses should not be discounted in their ability to do competitive trail riding. They will make a great partner for you in our sport.

My mare, Windy, has every bit the stamina for distance riding. It is not unusual for her to have a perfect score on P & R and soundness. She has competed in novice, competitive pleasure and open rides and is closing in on her 1,000 competition miles.

Conformation plays an important part of the overall sustainability of a distance horse. Like their human counterparts, conditioning and being fit is also an important key to be competitive in this sport.

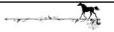
We encourage new riders to not go out and buy new tack or riding clothes to try our sport. Start with what you have. If the horse you are riding was your child's 4-H horse and the horse is sound and healthy, consider entering one of our rides.

You will not be the only one on a stocktype horse. In the Midwest, you will probably see more of these type of horses than any other, followed by gaited breeds.

A good horse is *a great horse* for competitive trail riding.



Gina Kollars on her Quarter Horse, Jack, won first place at the recent Branching Out LeD





CLASSIFIEDS

KS Bluestem Soldierette "Bree" a 9 year old 15-2 black Morgan mare is for sale. Last year's NATRC Region 6 CP champion. Would also make a good obstacle horse. Rides and drives. Also wears a costume! Call or text if you are interested in seeing more pictures. Dwight Hanson 402.885.0613

2019 Region 6 Ride Calendar

LeD: Leisure

Date	Ride Type/Divis	sion Location
April 13/14	A—O/N/CP	Kanopolis Canyons, Kanopolis Lake, Marquette, KS
April 27	Clinic	Branching Out Clinic, Branched Oak Lake, Raymond, NE
April 28	B—LeD	Branching Out CTR, Branched Oak Lake, Raymond, NE
June 1/2	A—O/N/CP	Jesse James Rideout, Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO
June 2	B—O/N/CP	Jesse James Rideout, Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO
June 2	B—LeD	Jesse James Rideout, Smithville Lake, Smithville, MO
July 13/14	A—O/N/CP	PonyXpress at Rock Creek Station, Fairbury, NE
July 13	B—LeD	PonyXpress at Rock Creek Station, Fairbury, NE
July 14	B—O/N/CP	PonyXpress at Rock Creek Station, Fairbury, NE
Sept. 14/15	A—O/N/CP	Brushy Creek Returns, Brushy Creek Lake, Lehigh, IA
Sept. 15	B—O/N/CP	Brushy Creek Returns, Brushy Creek Lake, Lehigh, IA
Sept. 28/29	A—O/N/CP	Indian Cave, Indian Cave State Park, Shubert, NE
Sept. 28	B—LeD	Indian Cave, Indian Cave State Park, Shubert, NE
Sept. 29	B—O/N/CP	Indian Cave, Indian Cave State Park, Shubert, NE
Oct. 26/27	A—O/N/CP	Region 6 Benefit, Cedar Creek, New Bloomfield, MO
Ride Type	A: Two day rid	e
	B: One day rid	e
Division	O: Open	
	N: Novice	
	CP: Competitiv	ve Pleasure

Enter online at www.natrcregion6.org

Click on 'Register for Ride', then click on RMS button in middle of page

Managers count on prompt payment of ride entry deposit and meal fees. Keep our managers happy!

Please enter rides at least one month ahead of ride date—support ride management and NATRC CTR!

Who's Who of Region 6

2019 Region 6 Board Members and Committee Chairs (Updated 5/12/19)

President	John Zeliff	660-562-8878	john@springvalleycarriages.com
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Secretary/Treasurer	Ruth Mesimer	816-863-3221	<u>r mesi@att.net</u>
Recording Secretary	Shari Parys	402-830-5769	Katbalu96@aol.com

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		Dom	ian 6 National I	Nima at ama

Region 6 National Directors

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Shari Parys	Board Member	18-20	402-830-5769	Katbalu96@aol.com
Margaret Reynolds	Alternate	19-21	816-820-1181	mmr636@comcast.net

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Web Site/Google Groups	Shari Parys	402-830-5769	<u>Katbalu96@aol.com</u>
Worker Awards	Trish Cleveland	785-456-1935	trishcleveland166@gmail.com

FAC Team - Shari Parys, Tamara Andre, Ruth Mesimer, John Zeliff

Welcome Region 6 Members

New or Rejoining

Kathryn Gaherty, Lee's Summit, MO Derek McClure, Bethany, MO Gina Townley, Kansas City, MO Nathaniel Udovich, Trenton, MO Randy & Sarah Tolliver, Ellington, MO Shannon Chastain, Rock Port, MO Noel and Natalie Bryant, Paola, KS Kellie Dillinger, Wamego, KS Monicka Remboldt, Perry, KS Stacey (Schatz) Stanton, Topeka, KS Sharon Bailey, Cameron, MO Mary Alice Braun, Lincoln, NE Alanta Free, Columbia, MO Randy & Vonda Scheets, Cabool, MO Penny Sculmeister, Overbrook, KS Pattie Stalder, Westmoreland, KS Douglas & Sheila Carroll, Lincoln, NE Sharon Crawford, West Branch, IA Laurie Hartman, Fairfax, MO Lisa Hicks family, Ava, MO Deb Johnson, Westmoreland, KS Debra & James Kelley, Wentzville, MO Robyn Lutzkanin, Overland Park, KS Randi Paradiso, Trimble, MO Debra Smart, Abilene, KS Michele Lutzkanin, Lawrence, KS Mary McDonald, Solomon, KS Selinda and Sean Rezentes, Wildwood, MO Shannon Walden, Silver Lake, KS Vicki Andrews, Omaha, NE Anne Marquardt, Louisville, NE Amy Morrison, Britton, SD

Returning

Tamara Gull, Columbia, MO

Brenda Messick, Ceresco, NE Sharon West, Douglass, KS Trish Cleveland, Wamego, KS Mary Fettes, Sibley, IA Laura Hardesty, Raymond, NE Lucie Hess, Columbia, MO Bill Hinkebein, Chillicothe, MO Kathy Jackson, Wichita, KS Liz Klamm and family, Hutchinson, KS Debbie Payne, Ingalls, KS John Zeliff, Skidmore, MO Noreen & Fred Altwegg, Junction City, KS Alan Bouska, Junction City, KS Verona Chaffin, Kansas City, KS Karri Koelling, West Plains, MO Patricia Lysinger, Oakley, KS Marilyn Marston, Abilene, KS Patrice Thomsen, Topeka, KS Tammy and John Vasa, Weston, NE Kristen Johansen, Boone, IA Maggie Childs, Lawrence, KS Cheryl Bohling, Cook, NE Patti Dollarhide, Marysville, KS Dana Esbensen, Troy, MO Denise Farris, Stillwell, KS Cheryl Frederick, Springfield, NE Dwight and Mary Hanson, Ithaca, NE Christina Lyons, Beatrice, NE Lori McCutchen, Overland Park, KS Margaret Reynolds, Blue Springs, MO Kristen Schmalzried, Raymore, MO Kris Wech, Independence, KS Maggie Childs, Lawrence, KS Erin Glassman, Hutchinson, KS Gina Kollars, Arlington, NE Sandra McNiff, Lincoln, NE David & Robin Nore, Hickman, NE Joyce Shively, Burlington, KS

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Since 1961, we've helped riders of all ages learn the sport of competitive trail riding. Alongside other equine enthusiasts, you can deepen the relationship with your horse while learning new skills and setting you own competitive goals. There is no place better to do this than on the open trail.

You are invited to ride with us today!

Official Placing from Rustlers & Renegades

Rustlers and Renegades, Big Hill Lake, KS

11/17-18/18

Chair: Marsha Hayes and Violet Stich

Judges: Tamara Gull, DVM and Becky Rogers

A - O/N/CP Total Riders: 15

CP Sweepstakes: Kings Mountain Hale Bop / Patti

Dollarhide - 94

Novice Sweepstakes: CGR Ladygodiva / Kristen

Schmalzried - 90

Open Sweepstakes: Tezuby / Jonni Jewell – 96

Horse/Horsemanship

Novice Lightweight - 1

1/1 CGR Ladygodiva / Kristen Schmalzried

Novice Heavyweight - 3

1/1 Pistol Annie / Kent Wassenbery, ftc CO/CO King's Charley R.E. / Kris Wech

P/P DR AD Hailys Return / Shannon Chastain –

 stc

Competitive Pleasure Lightweight - 3

1/2 Kings Mountain Hale Bop / Patti Dollarhide

2/1 Princess Dina / Debbie Payne

3/3 Goodness Gracious / Maggie Childs

Open Lightweight - 5

1/1 Halcon / Kelly Queen

2/2 Focus Jessie / Helen Smith

3/3 Wish Upon a Star / Kris Hapgood4/4 Rushcreek Allie / Brenda Messick

CO/CO Giacomo / Fran Muench

Open Heavyweight - 3

1/1 Tezuby / Jonni Jewell2/2 Regal ET / Gayle Muench

DQ/DQ Juan Bad Rockstar / Robert Ambrose

Rustlers and Renegades, Big Hill Lake, KS

11/17/18

B1 - O/N/CP Total Riders: 6

Open Heavyweight -3

CO/CO Ibn Al Riyah Razee / Monicka Remboldt, ftc

CO/CO Gambler's Pistol Pete / Janet Hatch, ftc

CO/CO Pharaoh / Kathryn Gaherty

Open Lightweight - 3

CO/CO Allumination MCS / Lori McCutchen

CO/CO King / Gina Townley

CO/CO Stardust Serenade TM / Wendy Minnick, ftc

Rustlers and Renegades, Big Hill Lake, KS

11/18/18

B2 - O/N/CP Total Riders: 1

Novice Heavyweight - 1

1/1 Teddy 5 / Monicka Remboldt, ftc

Rustlers and Renegades, Big Hill Lake, KS

11/17/18

Judge: Priscilla Lindsey

B1 - Leisure Division Total Riders: 4

Leisure Adult - 2

1 Handcockskingeclaire / Carol Retzer

2 Queens Jae Bar Jet / Sherry Jerome, ftc

Leisure Junior – 2

1 Shot of Frosty / Annie Dekat

2 Handcockhamiltonthief / Katherine Dekat, ftc

CO: Completion Only

DQ: Disqualified

P: Pulled (Rider Option)

ftc: First Time Competitor

stc: Second Time Competitor

Unofficial Placing from Kanopolis Canyons

***** Unofficial Results ***** Kanopolis Canyons, KS

4/12-13/2019

Judges: Kay Gunckel, DVM and Kathy Shanor

A - O/N/CP Total Riders: 24

C/P Sweepstakes: Cito Mocha Raton / Trish Cleveland, 98 Novice Sweepstakes: Allumination MCS / Lori McCutchen, 97+ Open Sweepstakes: Focus Jessie / Helen Smith, 99

Horse/Horsemanship

Novice Heavyweight - 3

1/1King's Charley R.E. / Kris Wech 2/2Knight of Thunder / Donna Droge, ftc Р Pistol Annie / Kent Wassenberg, stc DO-1 Moonshine Blues / Kevin Schoenecker

Novice Lightweight - 6

Allumination MCS / Lori McCutchen 1/1 2/4 PVA Light Nthe Storm / Kristen Johansen Lhd Stuart's Legacy / Kelli Dillinger, ftc 3/5 4/3 Starbuck KVA / Robyn Luzkanin, ftc

5/6 Peeps / Stacey Schatz, ftc

6/2CGR Ladygodiva / Kristen Schmalzried

C/P Heavyweight - 2

Katniss / Barbara Rush 1/1

2/2KS Franks Banjet / Verona Chaffin

C/P Lightweight - 4

Cito Mocha Raton / Trish Cleveland 1/1 2/2Goodness Gracious / Maggie Childs

3/3 Nakita Rose / Joyce Shively

Р Kings Mountain Hale Bop / Patti Dollarhide

Open Heavyweight - 2

PS Trakara River / Erin Glassman Roho Honoy Mocha WH / John Zeliff 2/1

Open Lightweight - 6

1/6 Focus Jessie / Helen Smith 2/5Rushcreek Darline / Hannah Clark 3/2 EZ Rocket WH / Marla Stucky VA Caradelle / Margaret Reynolds 4/1 Rushcreek Allie / Brenda Messick 5/3 SC Akil Gassur / Travis Brinck 6/4

Unofficial Placing from Branching Out

*** Unofficial Results ***

Branching Out, Raymond, NE

4/28/19

Chair: Helen Smith Judge: Brenda Messick

B1 – Leisure Division Total Riders: 18

Leisure Adult - 17

Invest Ina Three Bar / Gina Kollars

2 Decks Tru Grit / Tammy Vasa

3 CC's Rex's Golden Rawhide / Cheryl Frederick

4 Josey / Martha Elmore, ftc

5 Justin's Bey Trey / Laura Hardesty, ftc RC JAC Dun It Again / Rhonda Lewis, ftc 6

7 Fiddler 2 / Vickie Gautier

8 Ransom / Kathy Frederick, ftc

9 Carmel Spin Kid / Brenda Sheets, ftc

10 Lucille / Trudie Teijink Gypsy 12 / Sheila Carroll, ftc

Derby / Moni Norton, stc

Cowboy 6 / Debra Smart, ftc

Stymie / Sarah Tolliver, ftc

Windy V / John Vasa

Bella 12 / Paige Barnes, ftc

CORio Bravo / Louise, McCall

Leisure Junior - 1

Jewel 2 / Sarah Steinmetz, ftc

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