



## Region 6 Rally

### A Message from the President

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Please submit any ride reports, photos, articles, suggestions or classifieds by May 25, 2021 for a June Newsletter.

[clyons@bpsnebr.org](mailto:clyons@bpsnebr.org)

Disclaimer: This is my first Region 6 Rally and I don't have all of the photos credited. I will do better next time!

A year ago, as I wrote my message for the Region 6 Rally newsletter, I was looking forward to the upcoming ride season with much anticipation. The previous ride season saw many of our rides having to deal with excess rain issues. Historic flooding forced cancellations, re-scheduling, and even relocation of our rides. Riders even dealt with downpours of rain while out on the trail competing at a couple rides.

This time last year, I was busy planning out my calendar with all the upcoming ride dates. In just a few more weeks we would be conducting our Region 6 Convention in Kansas City where we would gather for some outstanding hands-on workshops, excellent presentations, and a wonderful banquet that would celebrate the success of our members. If that was not enough motivation, EquiFest 2020 was the next weekend and featured some of the nations' best clinicians, presentations, and amazing horse related shopping. I was more than ready for the ride season!

And then, all plans came to a screeching halt in response to the COVID situation. The ride schedule that I was looking forward to, was no more. A summer full of NATRC rides became a summer full of projects around the farm for me. Projects that I had put off doing many more months than I want to admit.

Now I am once again looking forward to the upcoming ride season. This time with even more excitement and appreciation. Excitement for the opportunity to once again, share the trails and campfires with our NATRC family. An appreciation to all our ride managers and volunteers who make our rides possible. Our 2021 ride schedule looks to be one of the best we have had in recent years. It is my hope that you will support our ride managers either as a rider, a volunteer, or simply by making a donation to one or more of our rides.

So now is the time to get moving. It is a new ride season and time to sharpen your goals and plan your ride schedule. Identify attainable goals as well as goals that will challenge you. Prepare a roadmap that clearly states what you need to do in order to achieve your goals along with a timeline that specifies deadlines for each goal. Write those ride dates down on your calendar or in your planner. Develop a conditioning plan for your horse to get ready for the upcoming season. Post this plan out in the barn so you see it each day when you chore and/or go ride. Sign up for the NATRC Mileage Challenge and use that as a means of motivation as you are getting those conditioning miles in. Push yourself to do that one extra mile each time you ride.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Christina Lyons for stepping up and taking over as our new editor of the Region 6 Rally beginning with this issue. The plan is to publish a newsletter early in the spring as the ride season is getting underway, again around halfway through the ride season, and then at the end of the ride season. Christina will be looking to all of us from time to time for news and various other items.

It is time to work your goals! I am looking forward to a better than ever upcoming ride season and the fellowship of our Region 6 family sitting around the campfire! Six feet apart of course! #getmoving #stayhungry #staydiligent #staysafe



# A Message from the Editor

By Christina Lyons

In the spring of 2002, my (then) sister-in-law, Elizabeth Kendall, convinced me that I should try a CTR.

“Well, okay,” I think I said. I hadn’t ridden a horse since I was in college and that had been about eight years prior. But she had a horse that needed a job and I thought it sounded fun!

The horse that she had turned out to be the most uncomfortable horse to ride that I have ever been on, but it was still “horse time.”

By the end of Saturday at my first NATRC ride, *Rendevous*, I couldn’t walk.

Seriously! It was all I could do to get off the horse when I was finally safe in camp. (Late, but back at the trailer.)

“Uncomfortable” would have been the word that I used for the entire weekend, but yet I loved it!

I was not too disappointed, however, when management called the ride on Sunday morning due to torrential rainfall the night before.

I earned “High-Point First Time Rider” and was determined to work hard and come back for future rides. (As soon as I could walk again.)

First, I had to find another horse. “Pogo stick” and I were not destined to be a pair.

Blaze (now belongs to Tina Clapper) and I completed the remainder of the season together. However, his big Appaloosa butt was not very comfortable for me either.

Enter Bandit into my life. I purchased him from a owner in Ohio who had him advertised as an experience trail horse.

When my little Paso Fino got off the transport trailer, I thought I had bought a pony for my daughter.

He was short in stature, but had a big heart!

I remember one of our first training rides. We were riding by a herd of buffalo when a bull came near the fence that separated us and started showing his dominance. Bandit immediately became concerned and tried to turn back towards home.

I thought I would get off before while I had a choice. He bolted and crossed a busy black-top in his attempt to get away. But then turned and looked at me as if to say “What are you doing over there?! You’re in danger. I’ll come back and get you, but only if I have to!”

We reunited and shared many training rides past the buffalo later with no incident.

We shared a lot of miles at NATRC rides over the years too. He was always ready to go the distance with a little Paso Fino wobble or a comfortable trot.

We made lifetime friends in people and horses. I have laughed at his antics many times and cried more often than I’d like to admit.

He was a lot cheaper than a therapist and since I was working in criminal justice and attending classes for my master’s degree, I needed counseling a lot!

He was always anxious, however, and after he tried to back down a steep hill at Indian Cave in his angst, I began to understand that he was no longer having fun.

Bandit was always a challenge, but he continues to live with me. He’s twenty-six now and I will remain committed to his care the rest of his life.

Phoenix, a beautiful and well-tempered Morgan, was a part of my story for just a year before I gifted him to Sarah Rinne. He was incredible, but shortly after the sea-

son ended, I learned that I was pregnant with my son.

I have not ridden competitively since 2006, but I missed my friends and being involved in the sport.

It was a few years before I found that I really enjoy being a judges secretary and can continue to be involved in NATRC.

I loved the travel, camping, the camaraderie, the horses! What other sport is like this?!

I am so thankful that NATRC has been a part of my story for so many years. It has made me a better person in more ways than I could possibly describe in this limited space.

The friendships—especially during the major losses in my life—has been a blessing and gift.

It is so exciting to me to be the new editor of the newsletter. While I have a busy life and crazy schedule working in criminal justice and farming, I am so excited to share my enthusiasm for the sport, the horses and the people in NATRC.

I am committed to publishing at least one newsletter a quarter. Of course we will have all the usual pieces, but if you have an idea for an article, a suggestion, or an item for sale, please let me know! I look forward to hearing from you!



Christina Lyons, under an umbrella—Horsemanship Secretary for Sarah Rinne on one of our many “adventures.”

# From the National Board of Directors

By Marla Stucky



Thank you for your support and encouragement allowing me to represent you on the NATRC National board. Our board meetings on Zoom have been lively and we are getting better at using technology.

The NATRC National Board of Directors met via Zoom on February 13<sup>th</sup>. due to COVID-19 we are having the meetings via Zoom which saves the region money. This is helpful in lowering expenses since there aren't any rides to bring in revenue. At this time new rules have been proposed and discussed, and will now be presented to the members to look over and discuss. The rule changes will be voted on at the July board meeting, which will also be a Zoom meeting. The exact wording of the rule change proposals will be in the next Hoof Prints. Here is a short version of the biggest changes:

**Memberships in multiple regions** – Members wishing to compete and earn awards in multiple Regions can pay an extra membership fee and declare which Regions they will compete for awards in. There will not be voting rights in the added Region.

**Lowering the age to 8** – This will allow younger riders, riders 12 and under will be required to ride with an adult, with a limit of two young riders per adult. Riders must be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance.

**Allowing standing wraps and compressions socks during stabling** - Rationale: We already allow ice boots. These additional options also allow for more choices for horse care and relieve the confusion over which devices are permitted.

There are other changes, most are just to “clean-up” existing rule for easier understanding.

There is a new riders manual on the NATRC website, you can download on to your computer, tablet or phone for easy access, the manual is full of advice and how to do things, as well as history and nice photos, some are of members from Region Six. Check it out!

Paula Riley from Region Five will be doing a ride manager meeting for new and experienced managers, more information to come, watch Facebook for updates.

Good news on insurance used for rides – there will no longer be an age limit for volunteers! The age limits were people under 10 and over 75, ride management will determine if they want to set limits.

There will be a general membership meeting Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 central time. Members will receive an email with information on how to sign up for the meeting.

A suggestion for a fun idea for the Region Facebook page, add photos of what you are doing with your horses while waiting for the ride season. For example, during the winter months it is dark when I get home from work, leaving no daylight to ride, so I take Rocky with me while doing cow chores. Rocky and I open and close the gates for the tractor to bring in bales for the cows and then we are the ones to cut the string, well I cut the strings and Rocky “taste tests” the hay for the cows, a very important job! We practice side passing, backing, lowering head and when the bale is alfalfa, we practice “wait” meaning Rocky stands away from the bale while I cut strings. When we are waiting on the tractor to come, we practice “check ins” trotting out and doing circles. I don't have photos since we are doing all of these things in the dark! What are you doing for your horse time?

Respectfully submitted by

Marla Stucky

(Photo of Marla in November, 2020 taking some instruction with Rocky.  
Photo from Facebook post.)





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## A Special J2 Barrel Clinic Thursday, March 4, 2021!

- 2nd Annual LEGENDARY KANSAS HORSEMENS Q&A Panel
- COWBOY POETRY & MUSIC
- BEST of AMERICA by HORSEBACK - TOM & PAT SEAY
- BETTER HORSES NETWORK
- SPECIAL DEMOS & WORKSHOPS
- WALL to WALL SHOPPING
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demo  
CLINICIANS

**CHRIS COX - Horsemanship**  
**JACKIE JATZLAU - Barrels**  
**ROBIN GROVES - Driving**

- Liberty Inc TravAlum RANCH RODEO Friday/Saturday
- DRAFT HORSE COMPETITION - Friday/Saturday
- LIGHT HORSE & PONY DRIVING DERBY - Saturday
- BARREL RACING - Sunday
- GRAND FINALE of MUSIC & HORSES - Sunday

Visit [SalinaKS.org](http://SalinaKS.org)   
**Tony's Pizza Events Center**  
& Saline County Expo Center



Salina, KS  
**March 5, 6, & 7, 2021**

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## One More Volunteer Needed

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to work our booth at this year's EquiFest!

**We could use one more volunteer.** If you are planning on attending please contact me through PM or text me at 660-562-8878 or email me at [john@springvalleycarriages.com](mailto:john@springvalleycarriages.com) and let me know when you can help out. This year's EquiFest has an outstanding lineup of clinicians and presenters and of course there will be plenty of horse related shopping!

EquiFest of Kansas 2021 will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday March 5,6,& 7 at Tony's Pizza Events Center & Saline County Expo Center in Salina, KS.

The following is the booth work schedule for each day. Booth volunteers receive one free entry pass into EquiFest for the day they are scheduled to work. We have three passes for Friday, four passes for Saturday, and three passes for Sunday. The NATRC booth will be located in Heritage Hall and the booth number is H94.

Friday March 5	
9:00 to 12:30	Melvin Houghton
12:30 to 4:00	Patti Dollarhide
4:00 to 7:30	Joni Alberts-Plumer
Saturday March 6	
9:00 to 11:30	Marilyn Marston
11:30 to 2:00	Cheryl Bohling
2:00 to 4:30	Joni Alberts-Plumer
4:30 to 7:30	_____
Sunday March 7	
9:00 to 11:30	Tammy Andre
11:30 to 2:00	Trish Cleveland
2:00 to 4:00	Gina Kollars

## WHY NATRC?

The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) sanctions long distance competitive trail rides and clinics for riders of all equine breeds and disciplines in six regions throughout North America. We promote safety, sportsmanship, education and trail horse care through qualified evaluation of horse and rider by veterinary and horsemanship judges, in a fun, family-friendly environment. We also offer educational events to provide continuing education year-round.

- ◆ Build horse and rider partnerships
- ◆ Educate riders about horse care
- ◆ Offer personal and competitive challenges
- ◆ Provide camaraderie with other horse enthusiasts
- ◆ Deliver fun and extraordinary opportunities for family engagement



## **Welcome New and Returning NATRC Members!** **August 2020 to January 2021**

### New

Margaret Hucksoll, McPherson, KS  
Victoria Mexcur, Grand Island, NE  
Elaine Visser, Omaha, NE  
Kristine Gervasi, Berrien Springs, MI  
Brenda Hamre, Kennard, NE  
Trudi Henke, Plattsmouth, NE  
Cindy Marolf, Holland, NE  
Rebekah Rehm, Ashland, NE  
Ruth Schindler, Plattsmouth, NE  
Pat Vauck, Sutton, NE  
Carrie Cross, Lincoln, NE  
Sara Seeman, Lincoln, NE  
Kris Hoegsted, Madison, WI  
Cheryl Nyreen, Fremont, NE

### Returning

Pam Gebauer, Joplin, MO  
Sarah Rinne, Filley, NE  
Melvin Houghton, Trimble, MO  
Julie Landuyt, Trimble, MO  
Mary & Dwight Hanson, Ithaca, NE  
Janet & Lynn Zimmerman, Anselmo, NE  
Tamara Andre, Hays, KS  
Vickie Gautier, Yutan, NE  
William Hinkebein, Chillicothe, MO  
John Zeliff, Skidmore, MO  
Fred & Noreen Altwegg, Junction City, KS  
Sharon Bailey, Cameron, MO  
Cheryl Bohling, Cook, NE  
Alan Bouska, Junction City, KS  
Alex & Mary Alice Braun, Lincoln, NE  
Sheila Carroll, Lincoln, NE  
Patti Dollarhide, Marysville, KS  
Kira Everhart-Valentin, Manhattan, KS  
Mary Fettes, Sibley, IA  
Tamara Gull, Columbia, MO  
Laura Hardesty, Raymond, NE  
Laurie Hartman, Fairfax, MO  
Lucie Hess, Columbia, MO  
Kathryn Jackson, Wichita, KS  
Kristen Johansen, Boone, IA

Rhonda Levinson, Tonganoxie, KS  
Mary Licata, Olathe, KS  
Christina Lyons, Beatrice, NE  
Patricia Lysinger, Oakley, KS  
Marilyn Marston, Abilene, KS  
Brenda Messick, Ceresco, NE  
Moni Norton, Valley, NE  
Todd Powell, Cabool, MO  
Margaret Reynolds, Blue Springs, MO  
Kristen Schmalzried, Raymore, MO  
Joyce Shively, Burlington, KS  
Debra Smart, Abilene, KS  
Helen Smith, Ashland, NE  
Leeza Struwe, Adams, NE  
Kent Wassenberg, Marysville, KS



Your NATRC family is thinking of you during this difficult time. If we omitted anyone, it was because we didn't know. Please accept our sincere sympathy.

Carol Retzer, on the passing of your husband, Rick Antidel, November 16, 2020.

Shari Parys, on the passing of your sister, Joni Hoke, January 27, 2021.

# Come Ride With Us!

## Tentative Region 6 2021 Schedule

All dates and details are subject to change. Visit [natrc.org](http://natrc.org) for up-to-date information.

April 10-11	Tally Ho	Kansas	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
April 23-25	Big Hill	Kansas	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP	
May 8-9	Branching Out Clinic	Nebraska	Sat –Clinic	Sun—L	
May 22-23	Monzingo Clinic	Missouri	Sat -B1, L	Sun—B2, L	
June 5-6	Kanopolis	Kansas	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
June 19-20	PonyXpress	Nebraska	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
Aug. 28-29	Jesse James	Missouri	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
Sept. 25-26	Indian Cave	Nebraska	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
Oct. 2-3	Sand Hills	Kansas	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
Oct. 16-17	Panther Creek	Missouri	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP—Saturday	
Oct. 30-21	Hillsdale	Kansas (Region 6 Benefit)	A, O/N/CP	B1, N/L	B2, L
<b>2022 Ride Year</b>	November 20-21	Big Hill	Kansas	A, O/N/CP	

### Ride type:

A = 2 day ride (Saturday and Sunday)

B = 1 day ride

### Divisions:

O = Open (● horses 5 years of age and older ● mileage – 25-30 miles/day ● pace – 4-6 mph)

N = Novice (● horses 4 years of age and older ● mileage – 15-20 miles/day ● pace – 3.5-5 mph)

CP = Competitive Pleasure (● horses 4 years of age and older ● mileage – 15-20 miles/day ● pace – 3.5-5 mph)

L = Leisure (● horses 4 years of age and older ● mileage – 8-12 miles/day ● pace – 3-4.5 mph)

## 2021 Competing Memberships

### FREE for 1st-time Members

- Tell your friends
- Tell your clubs
- Tape up some flyers  
(download from website)
- Even tell strangers

Help spread the word!

**Take Pride  
In Your Ride  
Come Ride  
With Us!**

NORTH AMERICAN  
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[www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) | [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org)





## 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's 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 both horses in competition.

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 horse couldn't tangle in it.

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 check-in. 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 to 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<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Riding the Leisure Division (cont'd)

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 class 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!



## My First NATRC Ride (Just a couple summers ago!) by John Zeliff

It was the summer of 1978 and I was home from college at Mizzou. Most of my days I would spend on my grandparent's farm. Each day I would work around the farm until early evening then I would saddle up my horse Rifle and take off riding until dark. I had a radio shack transistor radio that I would tie onto my saddle so I could listen to Fred and Denny announcing the Kansas City Royals baseball game. Still to this day I refer to this routine as my ideal summer day.

Now, my grandparent's farm was basically out in the middle of a very rural area. The closest neighbors were a mile away no matter which direction you faced. The nearest horses that I was aware of belonged to an elderly farmer who lived 3 miles south. I had never seen him ride any of his horses so as far as I knew, the chance that there would be someone to go riding with was slim and none.

One June afternoon I heard a commotion coming from the north side of the house. I walked around the house to see what the dogs were barking at. I was surprised to find someone riding a horse! I hollered so they would stop and went over to visit. As it turned out, this young rider's name was Melody and she lived 4 miles north of our place. We talked about how we both like riding horses and how it would be nice to have someone to ride with every now and then. The plan we came up with was for her to ride two miles south and I would ride two miles north. We would meet in the middle and ride together for a few miles and then each head back home.

We started riding together about once a week. It sure was nice to have someone to ride with. During one of our rides Melody started talking about her friend Eveta who did competitive trail riding with NATRC. I had never heard of either. She described what was involved in a ride and how everything worked. She explained how there were two judges, one for the horse and one for the rider, and that it was not a race but instead riders were given a distance to ride and a window of time in which to complete the ride. Eveta always talked about how much fun it was.

One evening when Melody and I were riding she

told me that she had just found out that there was going to be a NATRC ride in a few weeks less than twenty miles away. The ride was called the Mule-skinner and it was located across the river from Indian Cave in the bluffs next to I29 near the Corning, MO exit. After hearing all those stories about how fun the rides are, we decided why not give it a try.

The main concern then was to hurry up and get our horses in better shape. Actually, that was a big concern. We each started keeping track of how many miles we rode and then when we would ride together, we would compare notes and see who was getting the most miles in. We practiced proper riding positions going uphill and downhill. We made sure we rode with our heels lower than our toes. Eveta told us that we needed to carry a whistle with us at all times in addition to a pocketknife. She also said to tie a hoof pic on our saddle and hang a sponge on our saddle that was tied to a piece of rope.

Melody's uncle happened to be the local vet so a few weeks before the ride he came out and took a coggins test on both horses. He suggested we might want to use some electrolytes with our horses as it could be a warm day when we have our ride. This was all new information to me. He gave us some electrolytes to mix into our horse's water. That made me nervous not knowing if my horse would drink it or not, but I gladly accepted. After all, he was a vet.

Our next dilemma was to figure out how to get our horses to the ride. The only other times I had taken a horse anywhere was when I bought Rifle and the previous summer when I took her to Indian Cave. Both times I just hauled her in the back of my pickup with my wooden stock rack. The plan was to make two trips over to the ride to get our horses there until Melody's uncle offered us a two-horse trailer. He had an old Stidham two horse side by side straight load bumper pull trailer that was just sitting around his dad's farm. He did not know when the last time it had been used but said we were welcome to it.

We decided to give it a try since we did not have very far to haul, and it should be a safe trip. A few days later the vet brought the trailer over for us. It was obvious that this was an older trailer and that it had not been used for a real long time. There was lots and lots of rust and what paint had not peeled off was

very faded. However, the floor seemed solid enough and the tires might just get us there and back. Trailer loading was our next challenge, so we started practicing right away.

The weekend of the ride finally arrived. That Friday morning, I put the camper shell on the back of my pickup for a place to sleep and hooked up the horse trailer. I went out to the pasture and brought Rifle up to the yard where I had a bucket of soapy water and a garden hose all hooked up. This was a new experience for my horse, and she handled it fairly well for the most part. After loading the trailer with feed and tack it was time to load the horses and head west.

After arriving at the ride, we found a nice shady area to park and unloaded the horses. We took our Coggins papers, entry forms, and checks over to the ride secretary and registered for the ride. We were then told we had to go back and bring our saddle and tack over and get weighed. I thought that was a hassle as it seemed obvious that I would be in the heavyweight division.

Next came time to check in our horses with the judges. Rifle looked really good after getting her first ever bath. The compliments ended there as she was reluctant to trot out in hand for the judges. We really had practiced that at home ahead of time.

Rifle had never been tied to a trailer for any length of time before, so this was going to be another new experience. I was not very worried though as she had a great disposition, and I did not expect any issues. I was more worried about making sure that I tied my lead rope the proper length from the ground. My biggest concern was not being able to tend to my horse after 10 pm. I did not understand why there was such a rule. So, after the ride briefing, I made sure to top off her hay net and water bucket and just hoped for the best.

At the ride briefing we got our maps and found out how far we had to go and how much time we had to do it in. I spent the rest of the evening studying that map. The next morning, I woke up early and was very pleased to find my horse was still there. I fed her and then saddled up for the day.

That first day all the riders had a judged mount as we timed out. I do not remember any mounting blocks around. Everyone was just mounting their horse from the ground. We had to wait for some riders to go ahead of us and then it was our turn. Oh boy.....here we go. We are actually doing our first ride! Rifle stood

very still for me, but I probably plopped down a little too hard. Luckily, she was not worried about being left behind and just stood there as I set the hands of my wristwatch to noon. After that, I gave her a little nudge and away we went.

We rode the short distance down the driveway to the campground entrance off the blacktop. From there we made a sharp right hand turn that took us to a very steep climb. We had to climb this very steep bluff to get up to the marked trail on top of the ridge. We found out later that a horse who had timed out just after we did had fallen trying to go up that steep climb. The rider was not injured but the horse had to be put down. The next day ride management had us take a detour. I appreciated not knowing that this had happened until the ride was completely over.

The ride was so much fun. Lots of great new experiences. The first P&R was at the top of a hill. We were given instructions at the base of the hill to not stop until we got there. The trails were well marked with lots of ribbons. I learned that when there were three ribbons hanging together it meant you were at an intersection. I was never worried about getting lost the entire weekend. All the trails were on private property. There was a short stretch where we had to ride on a gravel road. In fact, that gravel road went right by where my Aunt and Uncle used to live when I was growing up.

It was hot outside that weekend, but I never thought anything about it. We were riding mostly in the bluffs through wooded areas which provided an abundance of shade. We had lunch out on the trail. Before we timed out each morning, we had to give someone our lunch and something to drink so they could bring it to us out on the trail where we were to stop for lunch.

The entire experience was just so much fun. I never had any idea how fast I was going or even how to pace my ride. It was like I was just always trying to hurry and make sure to trot at every level stretch. I just knew what time we had to finish, and I just kept looking for that 2-mile marker. (Continued on Page 12)



# My First NATRC Ride (Continued)

## By John Zeliff

It was very rewarding at the end of the first day to know that I made time. That Saturday evening Melody's uncle came over to see how we got along. We could not stop talking about how much fun it was.

The only person I remember from that weekend was a very kind gentleman from Nebraska that I rode with part of the time. His name was Harold Nickerson, and he was so nice and helpful to me both out on the trail and at the campground. I appreciated his advice and the knowledge he shared. I was also very envious of his new camper and trailer.

Day two was more of the same. Rifle was getting really tired towards the end though and I had to keep encouraging her. To my surprise we actually had to wait at the 2-mile marker that day.

I never really worried about how I would place. My goal was simply to finish and have fun and I did both! I am pretty sure I smiled not-stop that entire weekend. My first NATRC ride was a very positive experience. Everyone was so nice and friendly and helpful. It left such a positive impression with me that I became a NATRC member just so I could get the newsletter and know when and where the rides were so I could do another ride. Even though I was unable to ride again until 2015 I still paid my dues each year and would read every Region 6 Rally and Hoof Print from cover to cover!

A few days ago, Bev Roberts found the ride results from that 1978 Muleskinner ride and shared them with me. Rifle came in 5<sup>th</sup> that weekend and I managed to place 3<sup>rd</sup> in a full field of Novice Heavy-weights. So many great memories were made that weekend. I am pretty sure that was the last time that 2 horse trailer was ever pulled. Rifle has long since been gone, however I still have a granddaughter of hers here on the farm that serves as a constant reminder of all those wonderful memories from that first ride. Thank you Bev for finding the ride results and thank you NATRC for such an amazing experience.

August 12-13. (A) Corning, MO.

Chairman: Glen Adams & Wick Wicklund

Judges: James Wright, DVM, Rosalind Taylor

Sweepstakes: Shindraff - Arab - Rhoda Scroggin

### OPEN HWT HORSE/HORSEMANSHIP

- 1/1. Fadsrj-Jerry Smith
- 2/4. Chicaro's Mocha-Violet Peek
- 3/ Patchy's Fancy-Kathy Miller
- 4/3. Freckles-James Peek
- 5/2. Hay Day Cloud-Tom Brown
- 6/6. Mar El Kamar-Gerald Arthurs
- /5. Sue Paulus

### NOVICE HWT HORSE/HORSEMANSHIP

- 1/1. Bella Bouffon-Roy Scroggin
- 2/4. Cobquistador-Lauren Johnson
- 3/6. Hi Mariah Azotic-T. Cinquina
- 4/2. Stinger's A-Ko-H. Nickeson
- 5/3. Rifle-John Zeliff
- 6/5. Jack-James Wolf

### OPEN LMT HORSE/HORSEMANSHIP

- 1/2. Shindraff-Rhoda Scroggin
- 2/3. Show Me Famus-JoAnn Christensen
- 3/4. Raffzonna-Shirley Koch
- 4/ Red Rock Miss-Bibi Ann Snyder
- 5/6. BA Johnny Rebel-Meredith Reichel
- 6/1. Roany-Celia Bean
- /5. Karen Ronne

### NOVICE LMT HORSE/HORSEMANSHIP

- 1/6. Royal Arrow-Austin Roper
- 2/1. Rejuvenc-Pam Johnston
- 3/4. Harms Capallano-Goldie Case
- 4/3. Mr. Muscle-Andrea Moeller
- 5/5. Babby-Kitty Hammond
- 6/2. Miss Waskada-Karen Hartman

### OPEN JUNIOR HORSE/HORSEMANSHIP

- 1/1. Bo Mar Raja-Ellyn Snyder
- 2/2. Prince Consort-John Randall

### NOVICE JUNIOR HORSE/HORSEMANSHIP

- 1/1. Surprise-Melody Sinkhorn

### MULESKINNER

The weatherman came thru as expected for MULESKINNER. HOT and HUMID. But Vet Judge Jim Wright just loved the weather. It seems some of the young female riders were beating the heat by just wearing their number vests in place of shirts and vests. Judge Ros Taylor had to remind Jim and She was judging the riders and that he was judging the horses on several occasions. Jim also caught Trail-master Eveta Adams-Brunk whizzing out of the shower with just a towel to conceal her many charms. And now you riders know the real reasons Jim grinned the whole week-end. We are awarding 2 'attagirl's' to Pam Johnston. Pam's horse spooked out from under her, she then spent a good half hour taking the scenic tour of Missouri on foot, finally caught Junior and came in on time. It was Pam's first ride but in spite of the problems she said she's going to ride again.

## Border War! By Priscilla Lindsey

Hey NATRC members! It's time to start getting ready to ride and compete! We are in the planning stages of a ride at Big Hill Lake, Kansas, April 23-25th. That will be here before you know it!

This ride will be a benefit for trail maintenance at Big Hill Lake, through the Back Country Horsemen of Kansas.

There is a special added feature: We'll have special awards for a "Border War" between Region 6 and Region 4! Here is how it will work: the scores of the top three Open riders from each region will be added to their horse scores. The winning team members will each receive a prize!

### *Sounds like Fun?!?! You Bet!!*

Riders from other Regions are welcome to join the challenge also! Just need to have three Open riders entered to participate. ***Come Ride with Us!***

---

The water challenge at the Big Hill Lake ride. Yes, there are a few big hills but they aren't too bad. The rock steps have been bulldozed out and is now a gentle slope!



# The Desert Explosion

By D.E. Jackson DVM

(Editor's Note: Dale submitted this article in June 2020 in anticipation of a third Special Bulletin of the Region 6 Rally. Since there was not a third Special Bulletin, we have included his story in this newsletter.)

Here it is in June and we haven't had our first ride yet. If we're not careful we will be getting fat and our horses will be doing the same. But this too shall pass and we will ride again.

The country is starting to open up. People are shopping, dining out and we are driving more. I know because gas prices have shot up. If your like me, you're probably getting tired of hearing about this damn virus. So on to another subject.

Some years back I was fortunate enough to be asked to judge a ride in Desert Hot Springs, California. The name of the ride was and I think still is "The Hot Springs Hustle."

What a fantastic place to have a ride. Rough, but beautiful terrain and for the desert, a very mild climate. The ride management team was the most congenial group of people you could have managing a ride. They really made it a pleasure for a judge to work. And due to a temporary shutdown of the filming for the TV show, MASH, they had temporary use of the famous ambulance from that show.

One of the most unique rides I have ever judged. The ride started out relatively uneventful with a normal check-in and the first day's ride went well and we all spent a very nice Saturday evening of conversation. The second day's ride began as the first everything went well and then it happened.

One of the unique things about this ride is an area which is part of the trail where you can actually see the San Andreas Fault. In fact, the trail master was nice enough to take me out to the area to show me this unusual site. Being a Missouri hillbilly, I'd never seen a fault line.

Oh, we've heard stories about our famous Southeast Missouri fault (New Madrid Fault that made the Mississippi run backwards) but you can't see it like the one in California. I digress.

This fault line runs through kind of a valley between two ridges. On the west ridge there are several abandoned silver mines which the University proceeded to fill with liquid explosives and then they set up seismographic equipment on the east ridge. The object was to see what would happen along the fault when they set off the explosion.

About midday on Sunday, the trail master came to me and he was obviously concerned to the point of near nervous breakdown. It seems that the University's experiments could have a catastrophic effect on his trail. The trail runs along the top of the west ridge and then comes down into the valley and continues along the fault line and south out of the valley.

After some calming discussion, we came to the conclusion that whoever was in charge would be able to see those horses and riders on top of the ridge and surely wouldn't blow them up on purpose!

We decided to go find whoever was in charge and found he was a really nice fella who was being paid by the University a five-figure hourly wage to oversee the explosion. Not only was he nice, but he was reasonable. He suggest we take all the time we needed. He was not in a hurry and if necessary, would be willing to wait all day.

(Continued from page 14) move on out.

We decided to move those horse and riders through the area as fast as possible. So we ask each rider to move at a road trot until they cleared the area. All was going well until one of the riders objected. He informed me in no uncertain terms that he could go at his own pace and that it was not fair me to tell him to move his horse faster than he wanted to. He was obviously right, but when I pointed out to him that the ridge he was standing on probably wouldn't be there very much longer, he decided to

When everyone got out safely and the much-relieved trail master was ready to move me to the next observation point and asked me where I wanted to go. I figured if they were going to blow up that ridge, I sure-the-heck wanted to see it. So we waited for a few minutes while they blew the whistle and warned everybody with the famous warning "fire in the hole" and a small puff of dust rose on the ride and it was all over. Very anticlimactic! But it did make for a very memorable ride for me.



Well, hopefully this will make the end of our waiting for a real ride. Hopefully there will be an announcement soon that the country will be opened up and we can have sports again. When that happens, I'm informed that we won't have any more of these newsletters until maybe next winter. I have enjoyed writing these messages about what happened back-in-the-old days and I hope you've enjoyed reading them. I would appreciate any feedback you would like to express. I can be reached by email at [dcjacksondvm@embarqmail.com](mailto:dcjacksondvm@embarqmail.com). I thank you for the time you spent reading these articles.

MASH 4077 Ambulance - Google Image

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