

REGION 3 NEWSLETTER

DESPITE THE FIRES...

I'm sure that, as we look back over the 2002 ride season, it will be remembered first for the wildfires that caused the cancellation of both El Jinete and the new Rampart Range ride. Despite the fires, however, Region 3 enjoyed a wonderful ride season. Most of the rides were full or close to full even with a rise in fuel prices and a rise in hay prices due to the continuing drought.

Life is good in Region 3. We are lucky to have people who continue to put on rides each year for the members to enjoy. This year, our special "waterboys" Billy Smith and Paul Cortez took on the management of their first ride, appropriately named, what else but Waterboy, and they did a spectacular job of making everyone who attended the ride feel very special. In fact, their abilities are so awesome that, at the Chokecherry Benefit Ride, I pleaded with them to come to Craig next year and be our waterboys for Sagebrush & Cedar, and they agreed! Yippee! Now if I could just "steal" Chokecherry's cook crew, I'd have it made!

The Louie Pavetti ride management Deb Crooks and Sue Benjamin hosted the IAHA Region 8 Championship ride in addition to the NATRC ride. A memorable highlight of the ride was the establishing of a high point junior horse and rider combo award by Neal McKinstry in memory of Marj, and it was won by Rebecca Runyan this year.

At Navajo Lake, Russ Jones, who is always willing to help out with any number of jobs that need doing, filled the position of Ride Manager this year with new ride secretary Julie Middlebrooks. As always, the wonderful Mother's Day Trail added fun and laughs to one of the longest running rides in our region.

Navajo Lake was followed by Cavalier whose fate was in doubt for several months due to the tight security at the Air Force Academy which followed the September 11 attacks. We have to be very grateful for the relationship which the Cavalier Club has with the Academy that allowed the ride to go on as usual. Erv and Kay Perelstein are great managers and we appreciate their club's dedication to putting on this ride which has become a real Region 3 tradition.

One of our oldest ride managers (NOT in age but in years of management experience, please), Sue McKelvy, was once more at the helm for the Willow Springs ride, which alternates years with Sagebrush & Cedar, assisted by new ride secretary Lou Ann Colby and one of our region's most experienced trail masters Dee Overholt. One of Region 3's new judges, Bob Bessert, did a great job of judging the ride (he is really a FUN

judge and very nice to the riders). He also was one of the judges at Louie Pavetti and the Region really appreciates his willingness to participate in our rides.

Jon and Peggy Tanner, ride managers extraordinaire for Strawberry, supplied their always wonderful goodies in the rider bags, fed us a wonderful dinner Saturday night, and the trails, as usual, were spectacular. A special thanks also goes to Terri Yates for volunteering as trail master! Hopefully, Jon has signed her up again for next year.

Michelle Fink and her husband Jeff Rowe were ready to manage their first ride at El Jinete and we were all sad when it had to be cancelled due to the fires near Durango, but we are already looking forward to it for the 2003 ride season.

Judy Mason and her saddle club volunteers along with the trail expertise of Carolyn Anderson treated the region to the third Island in the Sky ride. THANK YOU for all the beautiful handmade awards; they are truly special mementos.

The Colorado Trail Ride narrowly escaped being cancelled due to the fire danger, and Tracie Scarlett deserves boundless accolades for getting the ride put together so fast after finally receiving approval from the USFS. Dee Overholt also served as the trail master for this ride. Thank you for taking on that job as well as all the other positions you filled for the Region's rides this year!

Rampart Range was another new ride that was burned out but we certainly appreciate the efforts of Christina Fritson and Heather Frandsen who gave it their best shot.

Another new ride with brand new management was the Rocky Mountain Dream Ride held at the YMCA of the Rockies near Granby. Diana Marquardt, Linell Miller, and Cindy Harder proved that by recruiting experienced help and by being organized and working well together, no one has to be afraid to put on a ride. The mid-September weather was even cooperative for that high elevation and the trails were gorgeous with the changing colors.

Our final ride of the season, the Chokecherry Benefit Ride, drew a small attendance, but with its Mardi Gras Theme and all the other activities, if you missed this ride, you really missed something. (See photos and article inside.)

It's time to start thinking about and planning for next year. We need new ride management, new rides, and new riders. Call me soon and let me know your plans.

Betty Wolgram, Editor

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Send all letters, articles, photos, etc., to Betty Wolgram, Editor, P.O. Box 340, Craig, CO 81626, (970) 824-8359, or e-mail to bkwranch@quik.com.

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President's Message:

The ride season is over. In looking back over the number of rides (originally twelve but two were canceled due to the fires), I noticed that eight of the ten rides held this year were run by established or experienced management and two were run by new management.

Over the years Region 3 has had rides that were pretty much run by the same management every year, and we have had rides that were run by multiple managers. We also have rides that have been put on for a number of years that can no longer find management.

I was very encouraged this year when the ride book came out. We had two rides in the region in place of rides that we had lost, and we had several new ride managers. This speaks well of Region 3, and I am proud of the hard work and dedication that all the ride management puts forth in order to provide us with the rides we have.

Throughout this season and in seasons past, I have heard comments both from those who have put on rides and from riders. A common theme of these comments is how can we get our members to put on more rides. One of the biggest complaints I have heard from some management every year is that they get tired of putting on the ride and would like a break. A lot of them would also like to ride the rides that they put on.

Many ideas have been suggested about how to encourage members to take on the responsibility of putting on a ride or volunteering in general. Most of the ideas seem to fall into one of two categories.

The first category is a points reward system. Those who volunteer to put on or work at rides would earn points (essentially what we have now with our worker award program). It has been suggested that, instead of just earning points, the points could be redeemable in the region maybe as deductions or credits toward a region ride. Or that there be more end-of-year recognition for volunteers.

The second category would amount to a type of requirements system. It could be something like "those who want to compete for national championships or other national/regional

year-end placings would be strongly encouraged to work at least one ride during the year."

To me, both systems have merit, but I have always thought that legislating requirements detracts from the objective. But that is just my personal opinion.

I would like to hear more comments and suggestions, so please send them to me. While you are thinking, please keep in mind that the goals are to increase the number of rides and volunteers that we have in the region and to avoid burning out the fine volunteers that we have.

Marc Shanor, President

P.S. If anyone has other questions or concerns that they would like brought up, please feel free to call me or e-mail me at mshanor@worldnet.att.net.

RIDE RESULTS . . . RIDE RESULTS . . . RIDE RESULTS . . . RIDE RESULTS . . .

(Strawberry Results - Continued)

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/- Becky C/S.Hollis
- 2/1 Cougar/T.Scarlett
- 3/- Cat's Fury/L.Heckelman
- 4/6 Touch of Yeller Gold/G.Inman
- 5/3 Big Mac's My My/S.Gordon
- 6/2 Bazimm/P.Kuder
- /4 Saucedas Numero Uno/K.Cummings
- /5 Mountain Man's Dreammaker/S.McKelvy
- Misty Sunrise/C.Beumer
- CT Morenci/G.Levesque
- Bad News Chance/R.Beumer

Island in the Sky "A" Ride

August 3-4, 2002

Judges: Linda McKinnon, DVM (Open/CP)

Lucy Hirsch, DVM, Provisional (Novice)

Pat Montgomery, Horsemanship (Open/CP)

Pat Jubb, Horsemanship (Novice)

Open Sweepstakes: Remington Steele/R.Lane

Novice Sweepstakes: Blue Spruce

Lacey/C.Whitehead

C/P Hi Combined: Kokopelli Moon/S.Peters

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/1 Summer/K.Wolgram
- 2/2 CT Morenci/G.Levesque
- 3/3 Mocha Phantom's Masquerade/M.Baker
- 4/4 Sky/D.Dye
- 5/6 Dennis the Menace/P.Wilson
- 6/5 Brazos Blaze/J.Brown

Open Lightweight:

- 1/1 Remington Steele/R.Lane
- 2/2 Elmer Bandit/Mary Anna Wood
- 3/3 Foxton Bandido/S.Eckel
- 4/5 Baladdin/R.Harper
- 5/4 Anna Versary/L.Schumack
- 6/6 Mahra Kahn/M.Parish
- Amber Skip/K.Brown

Open Junior:

- 1/1 Foxton Bon Bon Belle/J.Vose
- 2/3 Rita/M.Sadler
- 3/2 Riccercari/C.Thompson
- 4/4 How Bout Irish/D.Sadler

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/2 Blue Spruce Lacey/C.Whitehead
- 2/3 Boogys Fancy Lad/K.Van Skiver
- 3/4 Bar Hoppen Bailey/T.Whitehead
- 4/6 Ravens Shadoo/O.Spanoff
- 5/- Tamago Khanibb/L.Arnett
- 6/5 Trademark's HORNT/D.McKown
- /1 Royal Sensation/J.Tanner

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/2 Cloudsrest Zephyr/T.Korthuis
- 2/3 Knight Rebel/J.Adam
- 3/5 Pearl/W.Brooks
- 4/- Resort Valley Sparkler/D.Marquardt
- 5/- Ezri/C.Savage
- 6/1 Wy Sundust/L.Vasquez
- /4 Nathan/K.Magruder
- /6 Beau/T.Kangas
- WW Atlantys/S.McFadden
- Tim's Black Cloud/D.Jones
- Mr. Jack Tardy/D.Volstedt
- Rebekkah/C.Bersel
- Lucky Blue Spruce/C.McKown
- J Kay Flashdance/N.Roberts
- Jazzi/K.Richardson
- Mavrick/S.Immoos

(Island in the Sky Results - Continued)

Novice Junior:

- 1/3 Porter/J.Tanner
- 2/2 Ginger/R.Runyan
- 3/4 Rusty/T.Thompson
- 4/1 Santa Fe Sunshine/D.Vasquez

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/- Big Mac's My My/S.Gordon
- 2/2 Kokopelli Moon/S.Peters
- 3/4 Say Hello Dolly/H.West
- 4/6 Dutch/L.Miller
- 5/1 Cougar/T.Scarlett
- 6/- Dichoso/C.Harder
- /3 Quickly/B.Wolgram
- /5 Jeb Stewart/P.Kuder
- D's Mighty Bright/L.Glaser
- CR Blaze of Glory/N.Frank
- Touch of Yeller Gold/G.Inman
- Becky C/S.Hollis
- Misty Sunrise/C.Beumer
- Khemis Pride/D.Harper
- Bad News Chance/R.Beumer

Colorado Trail "A" Ride

August 17-18, 2002

Judges: Mike Reigger, DVM, Frank Keeran,

Horsemanship

Open Sweepstakes: Quickly/B.Wolgram

Novice Sweepstakes: Chauncey Lad/C.Fritson

C/P Hi Combined: Becky C/S.Hollis

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/3 Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith
- 2/2 June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith
- 3/1 Sky/D.Dye
- 4/4 Phantom's Masquerade/M.Baker
- 5/5 Brazos Blaze/J.Brown

Open Lightweight:

- 1/1 Quickly/B.Wolgram
- 2/5 Brown R Dawud/J.Mason
- 3/4 Panama Jack/T.Smith
- 4/6 Sierra Blue/D.Johnson
- 5/- M Mara/B.Tupa
- 6/2 Country Star Jet/C.Jeffcoat
- /3 NASDAQ/K.Chapman
- Remington Steele/R.Lane
- Foxton Bandido/S.Eckel
- Anna Versary/L.Schumack
- E Z Ryder/A.Melnik
- Amber Skip/K.Brown
- Fantasy of Fyre/L.Thielen

Open Junior:

- 1/2 Foxton Bon Bon Belle/J.Vose
- 2/1 Riccercari/C.Thompson

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/2 Shadow in the Wind/H.Overcash
- 2/6 Raven's Shadoo/O.Spanoff
- 3/3 Rocky Top II/J.Ward
- 4/- Black and White/A.Amack
- 5/5 Honey/L.Hoth
- 6/1 Sea Star Lady/K.Gunckel
- /4 Mac/S.Halligan

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/1 Chauncey Lad/C.Fritson
- 2/- Mecca/J.Bernard
- 3/2 WY Sundust/L.Vasquez
- 4/- Stoney Sunday Morn/M.Bendelow
- 5/- K C/L.Boardman
- 6/4 Kentucky Moonshine/S.Beck

(Colorado Trail Results - Continued)

Novice Lightweight

- /3 Hucks Last Love/L.Ward
- /5 Diamond Lil/V.Franc
- /6 Millenium/K.Tusler
- Beau/T.Kangas
- Mr. Jack Tardy/D.Volstedt
- Moonsadow/P.Overcash
- Resort Valley Sparkler/D.Marquardt
- R R Defiance/K.Crawford

Novice Junior:

- 1/5 Karizma/K.Bendelow
- 2/- Santa Fe Sunshine/D.Vasquez
- 3/1 Sonny/S.Krahl
- 4/6 Ali Jasmine/E.Hamilton
- 5/4 BVA Amir Wazir/J. J. Gunckel
- 6/2 Rusty/T.Thompson
- /3 Shadows Bold Princess/J.Snyder

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/4 Becky C/S.Hollis
- 2/- Jeremiah Johnston/T.Haynes
- 3/1 Kokopelli Moon/S.Peters
- 4/6 Big Mac's My My/S.Gordon
- 5/5 Foxton Nina/T.Harris
- 6/- Touch of Yeller Gold/G.Inman
- /2 Dancer Shancarrig/J.Young
- /3 Dutch/L.Miller
- Fantasy/D.Harper

Rocky Mountain Dream CTR "A" Ride

September 14-15, 2002

Judges: Lucy Hirsch, DVM, Priscilla Lindsey,

Horsemanship

Open Sweepstakes: Brown R Dawud/J.Mason

Novice Sweepstakes: Kentucky Moonshine/ S. Beck

C/P Hi Combined: Kokopeli Moon/S.Peters

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/1 Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith
- 2/3 Sky/D.Dye
- 3/4 June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith
- 4/2 Phantom's Masquerade/M.Baker
- 5/5 Brazos Blaze/J.Brown

Open Lightweight:

- 1/2 Brown R Dawud/J.Mason
- 2/4 Sierra Blue/K.Shanor
- 3/1 Mastergate/M.Berry
- 4/6 Foxton Bandido/S.Eckel
- 5/3 Country Star Jet/C.Jeffcoat
- 6/- Quickly/B.Wolgram
- /5 Remington Steele/R. Lane
- Amber Skip/K.Brown
- Shihaaba/S.Obermeyer

Open Junior:

- 1/1 Foxton Bon Bon Belle/J.Vose

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/4 Snickers/Yvon Boss
- 2/1 Rocky Top II/J.Ward
- 3/3 Raven's Shadow/O.Spanhoff
- 4/2 Mac/Sherri Halligan
- 5/5 Honey/L.Hoth

RIDE RESULTS . . . RIDE RESULTS . . . RIDE RESULTS . . . RIDE RESULTS . . .

Rocky Mountain Dream CTR (continued)

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/- Kentucky Moonshine/S.Beck
- 2/- Forbes/C.Scrima
- 3/2 Chapman Hick/E.Chavanon
- 4/3 Cloudsrest Zephyr/T.Kourthis
- 5/5 Knight Rebel/J.Adams
- 6/- Angelo/F.Stonedale
- /1 Hucks Last Love/L.Ward
- /4 KC/L.Boardman
- /6 Chauncey Lad/C.Fritson
- Pearl/W.Brooks
- Phantom/M.Butler
- Samson's Diamond Lil/V.Franc
- Hoss/B.Houck

Novice Junior:

- 1/1 Cookies & Cream/S.Chavanon

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/5 CR Blaze of Glory/N.Frank
- 2/6 Gunslinger Pete/M.Jubb
- 3/2 Kokopeli Moon/S.Peters
- 4/3 Big Mac's My My/S.Gordon
- 5/4 Cougar/T.Scarlett
- 6/- Touch of Yeller Gold/G.Inman
- /1 Warriors Confederate Prince/L.Colby
- Misty Sunrise/C.Beumer
- Bad News Chance/R.Beumer
- Becky C/S.Hollis

Chokecherry CTR "A" Ride

September 28-29, 2002

Judges: Jerry Weil,DVM, Terri Yates, Horsemanship

Open Sweepstakes: June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith

Novice Sweepstakes: Rocky Top II/J.Ward

CP Hi Combined: Becky C/S.Hollis

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/4 June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith
- 2/1 Summer/K.Wolgram
- 3/3 Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith
- 4/5 Brazos Blaze/J.Brown
- 5/2 Phantom's Masquerade/M.Baker

Open Lightweight:

- 1/3 Quickly/B.Wolgram
- 2/2 Panama Jack/T.Smith
- 3/- Mahra Khan/M.Parish
- 4/5 Brown R Dawud/J.Mason
- 5/1 Remington Steele/R.Lane
- 6/4 MKS Fancy Folly/D.Johnson
- /6 Amber Skip/K.Brown
- Imp/B.Emond

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/1 Rocky Top II/J.Ward
- 2/2 Ravens Shadoe/O.Spanhoff
- 3/3 Moeft/R.Santistevan
- 4/4 Cinco De Karome/D.Bulcock
- 5/5 Dollar/G.Levesque
- 6/- Blacks Little Jetstar/R.Fleming
- /6 Zane's Belle Ringer/J.Sims

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/1 Hucks Last Love/L.Ward
- 2/5 Shadow Fax/M.Campagna
- 3/3 Major Mack's Princess
- 4/2 Cloudsrest Zephyr/T.Kourthis
- 5/4 Lady Anne's Wind Dancer/B.Sims

Chokecherry CTR (continued)

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/2 Becky C/S.Hollis
- 2/3 Independence Daie/S.Fitzpatrick
- 3/5 CR Blaze of Glory/N.Frank
- 4/6 Touch of Yeller Gold/G.Inman
- 5/4 Big Mac's My My/G.Gordon
- 6/1 Dutch/L.Miller

ATTENTION RIDE MANAGERS AND/OR WANNA BE RIDE MANAGERS!

Friday, December 20, is the deadline for ride managers to get updated information to Betty Wolgram for the 2003 Region 3 Ride Book. Please use the description in this year's ride book and just send me any changes.

No Exceptions!!!

Betty cannot delay the deadline for managers who are slow to get the information back to her.

No information - no ride page in the ride book.

From the information that I have been given to date, it appears likely that the Louie Pavetti Memorial Ride, Island in the Sky, and Rampart Range will not be held in 2003.

Rides that I assume are a go for 2003 (meaning I have not been notified otherwise) are Waterboy, Navajo Lake, Cavalier, Sagebrush & Cedar (alternates years with Willow Springs), Strawberry, El Jinete, Colorado Trail, Rocky Mountain Dream CTR, and Chokecherry.

Rides hold their priority dates for one year, but if anyone is interested in putting on a ride to fill some big holes in our calendar for 2003, you may request that date for next year.

It would be nice if some of you would step forward this year to put on a ride; otherwise, the season for Region 3 could be the smallest in years.

If you wish to discuss putting on a ride for 2003, please give me a call at (970) 824-8359.

Betty Wolgram, Ride Book Editor

PLEASE SUPPORT THE 2003 REGION 3 RIDE BOOK

Take this opportunity to promote your business, your horses, or yourself. Or if you know anyone you could encourage to purchase a very reasonable advertisement that will be seen over and over again by all our Region 3 members and other regions' members as well as the general public...

The page size for the Ride Book will be 7 inches by 8-1/4 inches. Payment should be made at the time of purchase of the ad. Deadline for submitting ads is December 20, 2002.

Please submit the ad (camera ready) and payment to Betty Wolgram, Ride Book Editor, P.O. Box 340, Craig, CO 81626. Call (970) 824-8359 or e-mail (bkw ranch@quik.com) if you have any questions.

Ad Sizes and Rates:

Full page -	
Inside Front or Back Cover	\$125.00
Full Page Inside Book	100.00
Half Page	50.00
Quarter Page	25.00

Thank you for your support!

Judi Tobias is the new NATRC Clinic Sanction Chairman. If you wish to put on an NATRC clinic (with or without horses), Expo, or booth for 2003, you will need to contact Judi at 3020 Shriver Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80920-3555, telephone (719) 593-7130.

RIDER ARTICLES...

We arrived at the Strawberry NATRC ride site on July 4, 2002. My husband brought his horse and we also brought my gelding so my mom and niece who joined us for the weekend could ride. We spent Thursday evening and Friday morning previewing the trails and getting used to the terrain and talking about how nice this ride was going to be.

My hat is off to Jon Tanner and his wife Peggy for a great ride. I also congratulate and appreciate the trail master, Terri Yates, excellent trail, very well marked. It was clear from the ride briefings that Terri really knew the trail and was able to give us an accurate account of what we'd find and what to watch out for, well done, I didn't get lost!

There was one steep downhill that Terri warned us about at the ride briefing Saturday night, and, being afraid of heights, I almost dropped out at that point. But after having ridden the trail on Saturday, I realized that Terri really did know the terrain and she said it was a safe downhill climb even it would seem like we'd fall off a cliff, so I decided I would stay in the ride.

The vet judge was doing a judged mount just before the downhill, and I think it helped space us all out so that there was no crowding going down this "cliff", another really good idea. I took a deep breath at the top and down I went (horsemanship judge watching). I don't know how I did as I was trying hard not to hyperventilate (I really don't like heights), but my mare placed her feet well and went slowly. I had to stop at the bottom and collect myself, but we made it!

Jon described the P&R on Sunday as being on top of the world – he wasn't kidding. What a spectacular view!

This was my third NATRC ride and it was my best ride so far. We had three judged mounts. Egads! The vet judge was very efficient and kept the group moving by giving us ten seconds to mount safely. Twice we did this for him and once for the horsemanship judge. My mare has worked hard to earn to stand for a mount and she nailed all three! She got extra treats at the trailer for that.

The horsemanship judge was Doreen Portner from Moab. Excellent judge. She hid for some of her judging so I had to pay attention to my riding for the entire ride – really a good thing for me. I also appreciated her going over my card when she came around on Saturday for the trailer check. It was nice of her to spend some time answering my questions.

The barbecue Saturday evening was a treat, as was the presentation by the Nutrena representative.

I can't say enough about the scenery. The wildflowers were in bloom, the meadows beautiful. I have a background in horticulture and enjoyed brushing up on my plant ID skills. My horse also loved the grass.

My mare did well. She still cannot back for a judge, perhaps my fault for getting nervous, but she can stand still for mounting and she trotted at the vet checks.

The ride was well organized; the weather was excellent, great trail, efficient judges who were clear in their expectations – what more could a competitor want? Thanks, Jon, Peggy, and crew for an excellent NATRC experience.

With appreciation,
Rene Fleming
Novice

Boy, was Chokecherry a great ride! The drive down from Westcliffe with the fall foliage was INCREDIBLE. We got in on Friday to occasional light showers (what a break from the dust and drought conditions). Check-in went smoothly with Vet Judge Jerry Weil and Horsemanship Judge Terri Yates.

We timed out on Saturday at 7:30 to a cool and clear day. The judges met us about a mile out of camp with a little, but steep in and out, always fun first thing on a cool morning. They did get to warn us about the bees up ahead. Yikes, buck, shake, buck, shake. Management routed us around them on Sunday. Thanks!

The Waterboys as usual had water and apples, snacks and beverages at several spots on the trail. They sure take good care of all of us!

The judges watched us trot into a P&R. We also had to walk down a steep little hill, stop and back up three steps. Jerry had us side pass with our horses' front feet on a pile of dirt beside the road and their rear feet in the road. By the end of the line, the pushed up dirt was all over the place. We also had a back up down a crooked little ditch and a first thing Sunday morning mount. My legs always hate that! Sunday we had a REALLY steep hill with smooth rocks at the top to climb. Scary hill, but we did OK.

Did I mention the food? They fed us all our meals, starting Friday night with roast beef, both days' breakfast, lunch on the trail Saturday, a great chicken dinner Saturday evening, and chili dogs on Sunday. I usually count on losing a pound or two at rides. Not this one, the food was wonderful.

The Mardi Gras theme with costumes was a hoot! Matt Baker as Wendy and Jeff Brown as Tinker Bell were worth the whole weekend!

Jerry did metabolic checks on the trail and check out was really fast. It started to rain, so Jerry ran down the line checking backs before they got wet so it was fair for all. Awards started at 2:00 PM, NO, that is NOT a misprint. We pulled out of camp for the drive home at 3:15. Now that is COOL!

Awards are very nice at this ride; each is unique.

We are both sad that our season is over, but we are looking forward to some projects at home and to pleasure riding while the colors are still beautiful. Can't wait for next year and the challenges it will bring.

Lin and Jim Ward, Rocky and Ellie



Rene Fleming, and Black's Little Jet Star, descend a wildflower-covered hillside at the Strawberry ride.

INTERVIEW WITH A HORSEMANSHIP JUDGE

By: Susan Peters

Doreen Portner has been judging rides for many years, and one of her assignments this season was the Cavalier ride at the Air Force Academy over Memorial Day Weekend. After the ride, I asked Doreen to reflect on her philosophy for judging NATRC horsemanship.

Doreen is firmly in the camp of judges who believe that judging competitive trail should consist of "trail observations" versus "obstacles." The difference between the two is subtle yet important. An obstacle tends to be more contrived, something that a rider may or may not encounter on a trail. Doreen prefers to position herself along the trail at places where the horse and rider would naturally encounter challenging terrain; therefore, the kinds of observation points that Doreen looks for are downhill, uphill, creek crossings, log crossings, etc. In keeping with this philosophy, Doreen prefers to use the word "maneuver" in place of "obstacle."

Doreen also feels that whenever possible the observations should not disrupt the "flow of the ride." She works very hard to minimize the potential hold up time at any observation point. The obvious reason to avoid holding up the ride is that ride times get disrupted. A less obvious reason, according to Doreen, is that when riders and horses are held up, they often become more nervous about doing the maneuver and may not do as well as they could. Doreen also likes to keep instructions to a minimum (preferably none), as giving instructions takes time and causes hold ups in the ride.

If you have ever ridden under Doreen, you know that she LOVES to hide. She has several motivations for doing this. Some riders, when they know they won't see her, try to ride the entire ride as if they are being judged instead of just focusing on their riding at observation points. But Doreen also feels that an even more important reason for hiding is that lots of riders (particularly the newer competitors) can become anxious when they see her and know they are being judged. By staying out of sight, she gets to see the riders not only at their most natural but also maybe at their best.

At many rides the vet judge and the horsemanship judge are at the same observation points, but if it is logistically possible, Doreen likes to judge separately from the vet judge. By judging separately, Doreen gives riders a chance to be seen and to try maneuvers up to ten times during a ride weekend instead of the typical five or six times.

A review of some observations that Doreen chose at the Cavalier Ride demonstrates her philosophy in action. Doreen talked about her reasons for selecting each observation, the judging points, common pitfalls, and some ways to do the observation well.

Common Strategies for any Maneuver

There are two parts to doing a maneuver well: mental preparation and execution. Many people fail to take a moment to mentally prepare (don't take so long that you hold up the ride, but at least take a moment) or to develop a

plan for the maneuver. Scope out the maneuver. What are you supposed to do? Ask for clarification if you feel you need it, but understand that the judges may not always give you a lot as sometimes an important part of the maneuver is to see if you can figure out the best thing to do. Go over in your mind the important steps you need to do to execute the maneuver well. Psyche yourself up - you and your horse ARE going to do your very best! Then go do it.

An interesting comment that Doreen had was that physical conditioning of the RIDER was a key factor in how well the rider did in horsemanship. Riders often think that conditioning means conditioning the horse (ride those miles), but conditioning is also very important to the rider. The foundation of a good rider is strong legs, from the ankles, to the calves, to the thighs. Second in important is a strong back (which also means strong abdominal muscles). Third is good upper body strength. The result of neglecting any of these areas is lost points in things like swaying going downhill, out of position, poor mounts, etc.

Saturday AM - CP/Novice Steep/Rocky Downhill

This maneuver was approximately fifteen minutes out of camp. The trail came down a very steep and rocky hill. Doreen chose to sit twenty feet or so to the left and up the hill from the trail next to some trees. As the riders came adjacent to Doreen, the trail had a large step down. Common pitfalls here were riders looking down instead of keeping their eyes forward. Looking down causes your body to lean too far forward and then you are off balance. When the horse has to step down, the rider is automatically thrown more off balance. Points off. Other common mistakes are holding the reins too tightly or too loosely and swaying as the horse continues down the hill. Advice Doreen has for doing this maneuver right is to keep your eyes focused ahead and be a little up out of the saddle so you can counteract the motion of the horse and avoid swaying.

Saturday AM Uphill

Again, the most important thing you can do is to keep your eyes looking up and forward. On an uphill, if you look down, your body leans forward, your legs are then pushed back so you are now hitting the horse in the flanks with your feet. Points off for flanking, looking down, leaning too far forward, hands too high.

Saturday PM Open Mount at the P & R

A mount at the end of the day highlights the importance of the physical conditioning of the rider. It was the end of a very long day and some riders had just gotten tired and could not execute the crisp, clean mount that they probably could have done in the morning.

Creek Crossing Within the 2-Mile Point and Within Sight of Camp

This is an example of a maneuver where there are special considerations due to its location on the trail. Normally at a judged creek crossing, you might want to offer your horse water and certainly let him drink if he wants

INTERVIEW WITH A HORSEMANSHIP JUDGE **(CONTINUED)**

water. Even within the two-mile point it is permissible as well as good horsemanship to let your horse drink if he wants water (Just a note, you cannot "fake" your horse wanting water within the two-mile point to use up time if you are coming in early). But... at the briefing the evening before, riders were specifically told to ride through the creek or, at the most, to allow their horses to take only a couple of sips as it was important not to hold up subsequent riders who might be coming in late on their time. So, in addition to the usual judging aspects of staying light in the saddle, looking straight ahead, etc., some riders got points off that were a result of either not attending the briefing, not listening at the briefing, or forgetting the directions. A common mistake at creek crossings is for the following rider to get too close to the rider crossing the creek.

Sunday - Gully with Logs at the Bottom

Of over forty riders, only four executed this maneuver with no points off, so this tells you how very challenging this maneuver is to do right. The four riders who successfully did this maneuver followed the same steps:

Mental Preparation: They stopped their horses at the top and surveyed the maneuver. The horses had a good chance to see what was expected and the riders took a moment to formulate their plan.

Execution: They picked a spot directly across the gully at current eye level to focus on, maybe a branch, a ribbon, a bush, etc. They focused on that object as they asked their horse to move forward. They did not look down as they were descending; they did not look down at the log. Their horses knew where the log was and would take care of crossing it. Their horses did not need their "help" to step over the log. They stayed light in the saddle going down, light in the saddle crossing the log, and transitioned smoothly up the other side of the gully.

The whole key here is not looking down, which is incredibly hard to keep yourself from doing. That is the reason behind picking an object to focus on. If you look down as you are going down into the gully, your upper body leans forward (points off), your legs may go back (flanking, points off). If you look down at the log, again you force your body out of the proper upright position, and then you have no chance of being upright when the horse powers up the gully. You are thrown back. Common points off, down in the saddle on the way down the gully, no transition, behind the horse, or thrown back going up the gully.

Sunday - Crossing a Log Followed by an Immediate Sharp Left Turn

A couple of hundred yards after the last p&r Doreen was waiting for riders just slightly off the trail. She had ribboned a rather long (can't get around), large (in circumference) log. There was a set of ribbons off to the left

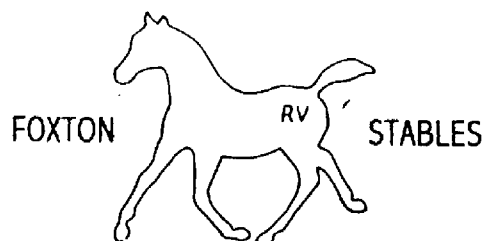
that marked a very lightly traveled trail that barely skirted the log and got you back onto the trail.

Mental Preparation: Stop and survey the maneuver. What on earth did they want here? If you asked Doreen if there were any instructions, she would say, "Follow the ribbons and cross the log." That meant that it was up to the rider to figure out what the options were, choose the best, and then do it. The two choices are step over this large log, or jump it. Either was an acceptable option, but it is very difficult to maintain good rider position on a jump (especially from a walk or a stand still). Some riders opted to jump, but most lost points for being ahead of or behind the action of the horse. Walking over the log again requires focusing straight ahead between the horse's ears and not looking down at the log (do you see a common theme here) and getting slightly up out of the saddle so the horse doesn't have to lift a lot of dead weight over the log. Some riders missed the fact that they needed to keep "following the ribbons" and lost points for not making a sharp left turn.

****Editor's Note:** Thank you, Doreen, for sharing your philosophy and knowledge, and thank you, Susan, for submitting this very educational interview.

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Cavalier "A" Ride

May 25-26, 2002

Judges: Shannon Leska, DVM, Doreen Portner, Horsemanship

Open Sweepstakes: Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith

Novice Sweepstakes: Chauncey Lad/C. Friston

C/P Hi Combined: Cougar/T.Scarlett

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/1 Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith
- 2/3 Summer/K.Wolgram
- 3/5 Guld Rush/J.Hicks
- 4/- Sky/K.Budd
- 5/2 June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith
- 6/- MLA Raj Bahabas/J.Adams
- /4 Phantom's Masquerade/M.Baker
- /6 Brazos Blaze/J.Brown
- BHR Hosans Pollyanna/D.Budd
- Cougar/S.Hallford

Open Lightweight:

- 1/1 Sierra Blue/D.Johnson
- 2/5 Brown R Dawud/J.Mason
- 3/2 Remington Steele/R.Lane
- 4/4 Mahra Khan/M.Parish
- 5/3 Flicka's True Image/P.Montgomery
- 6/- Amber Skip/K.Brown
- /6 Quickly/B.Wolgram

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/- Flaxy's Fair Share/K.Greear
- 2/1 Sea Star Lady/K.Gunckel
- 3/2 Hahn's Diamond Rose/C.Carson
- 4/5 Heza Moonstar/C.Mergen
- 5/- Jayla/F.Bickford
- 6/- Honey/L.Hoth
- /3 Shilo/C.Schumaker
- /4 Foxton Casco/C.Mott
- /6 Cody/S.Moss
- Moondust/H.Overcash
- Tauche Doll/P.Bolesta
- Sunny/I.Jacobsohn

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/- Chauncey Lad/C.Friston
- 2/5 Cloudsrest Zephyr/T.Korthuis
- 3/3 Princess Diamond Perfection/D.Marquardt
- 4/- Wy Sundust/L.Vasquez
- 5/- Jeremiah Johnston/T.Haynes
- 6/- Say Hello Dolly/H.West
- /1 Rebel/J.Adam
- /2 Vanesza/M.Moss
- /4 Jet Fyre "Storm"/E.Brouillette
- /6 Missy Scarlett/L.Ward
- Shadow in the Wind/P.Overcash
- Buck/M.Humphrey
- Adrienne/L.Douglass
- Ezri/C.Savage

Novice Junior:

- 1/1 Duke/G.Bol

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/- Becky C/S.Hollis
- 2/1 Cougar/T.Scarlett
- 3/6 Gabilan Rockwell Lovette/L.Keckler
- 4/- Touch's Yeller Gold/B.Inman
- 5/3 Fox's Charming Prince/M.Keckler
- 6/5 Dutch/L.Miller
- /2 Tim's Black Cloud/S.Peters
- /4 Big Mac's My My/S.Gordon

Willow Springs "A" Ride

June 8-9, 2002

Judges: Bob Bessert, DVM, Norma Newton, Horsemanship

Open Sweepstakes: Sky/D.Dye

Novice Sweepstakes: Sea Star Lady/K.Gunckel

C/P Hi Combined: Cougar/T.Scarlett

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/4 Sky/D.Dye
- 2/3 BHR Hosan's Pollyanna/D.Budd
- 3/1 Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith
- 4/2 June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith
- 5/6 Guld Rush/J.Hicks
- 6/5 Sir Love/M.Baker
- Cody/S.Moss

Open Lightweight:

- 1/4 Remington Steele/R.Lane
- 2/3 Panama Jack/T.Smith
- 3/- Balladin/R.Harper
- 4/5 Quickly/B.Wolgram
- 5/- Anna-Versary/L.Schumack
- 6/- Mahra Kahn/M.Parish
- /1 Foxton Bandito/S.Eckel
- /2 Sierra Blue/D.Johnson
- /6 Venesza/M.Moss
- Jeremiah Johnston/T.Haynes

Open Junior:

- 1/2 Crimson/C.Thompson
- 2/1 Foxton Bon Bon Belle/J.Vose

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/1 Sea Star Lady/K.Gunckel
- 2/3 Angelo/T.Scrima
- 3/2 Rocky Top II/J.Ward
- 4/- Honey/L.Hoth
- 5/6 Heza Moonstar/C.Mergen
- 6/- Moon Dust/H.Overcash
- /4 Foxton Casco/C.Mott
- /5 Sonny/T.Guriel
- Capt.Morg.Spiced Rum/A.Denigris
- Smitty/R.Thompson
- Tauche Doll/P.Bolesta

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/- Kentucky Moonshine/S.Beck
- 2/1 Forbes/C.Scrima
- 3/2 Missy Scarlett/L.Ward
- 4/5 Cloudsrest Zephyr/T.Korthuis
- 5/4 Passione/S.Carper
- 6/- Mecca/J.Bernard
- /3 Chauncey Lad/C.Friston
- /6 Princess Diamond Perfection/D.Marquardt
- Samson's Diamond Lil/V.Frane
- Shadow in the Wind/P.Overcash
- J-Kay Flashdance/N.Roberts
- Knight Rebel/J.Adam
- Lakota/M.Bendelow
- Jet Fyre Storm/E.Brouillette
- Jazimin HP/K.Richardson

Novice Junior:

- 1/2 Rusty/T.Thompson
- 2/3 Ginger/R.Runyan
- 3/1 Shadow's Bold Princess/J.Snyder
- 4/4 Ali Jasmine/E.Hamilton
- Grand Son Flush/K.Bendelow

Competitive Pleasure:

- 1/1 Cougar/T.Scarlett
- 2/2 Saucedo's Numero Uno/K.Cummings
- 3/- Pensi's Fire/S.Hollis

(Willow Springs - Continued)

Competitive Pleasure

- 5/- Dichoso/C.Harder
- 6/- Big Mac's My My/S.Gordon
- /3 Say Hello Dolly/H.West
- /4 Dutch/L.Miller
- /5 Tim's Black Cloud/S.Peters
- /6 Jeb Stuart/P.Kuder
- Dancer Shancarrig/J.Young
- Touch's Yeller Gold/G.Inman
- Foxton Nina/T.Harris
- Misty Sunrise/C.Beumer
- Bad News Chance/R.Beumer

Strawberry "A" Ride

July 6-7, 2002

Judges: Leroy Benham, DVM, Doreen Portner, Horsemanship

Open Sweepstakes: Brown R Dawud/J.Mason

Novice Sweepstakes: Tamago Khanibb/L.Arnett

C/P Hi Combined: Cougar/T.Scarlett

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/4 Summer/K.Wolgram
- 2/5 Dancer/C.Murray
- 3/1 Rock'n EZ Ruby/J.Smith
- 4/3 June's Lucky Mac/B.Smith
- 5/- Dennis the Menace/P.Wilson
- 6/6 Brazos Blaze/J.Brown
- /2 Mocha Phantom's Mawque/M.Baker
- Do So/H.Kent

Open Lightweight:

- 1/2 Brown R. Dawud/J.Mason
- 2/6 Sierra Blue/K.Shanor
- 3/4 Mahra Khan/M.Parish
- 4/5 Anna Versary/L.Schumack
- 5/1 Remington Steele/R.Lane
- 6/3 Quickly/B.Wolgram
- Amber Skip/K.Brown
- Monsoon/L.Mahoney

Open Junior:

- 1/1 Crimson/C.Thompson

Novice Heavyweight:

- 1/- Tamago-Khanibb/L.Arnett
- 2/- H.F.Moonshine/D.McGarr
- 3/1 Sea Star Lady/K.Gunckel
- 4/6 Ara Bay Sherazadi/V.Hasier
- 5/5 Tee Night Flight/C.Lien
- 6/3 Dollar/D.Johnson
- /2 Sages Daisy Mac/L.Lingle
- /4 Top Gun/F.Marsalis
- Honey/L.Hoth
- Black's Little Jet Star/R.Fleming
- Mac/S.Halligan
- Tom's Complicated Lady/S.Miller
- Shateza, S.Kovall

Novice Lightweight:

- 1/- Cloudsrest Zephyr/T.Korthuis
- 2/1 Ramblin Roan Lady A/T.Arnold
- 3/4 K C/L.Boardman
- 4/5 J Kay Flashdance/N.Roberts
- 5/6 Pearl/W.Brooks
- 6/2 Diamond Lil/V.Frane
- /3 Lib/C.Bartos
- Hoss/B.Houck
- Chase/M.Anderson
- Royal Embezzler/T.St.Louis

Novice Junior:

- 1/1 Porter/J.Tanner



Terri Yates and Jerry Weil, Judges, display their classy style at Mardi Gras at Chokecherry.



Bill Cumberworth, Trailmaster, plays his role as Viking perfectly as he tells riders how to navigate the trails.



Everyone got into the act for the costume party at Chokecherry. (left to right: Kathy Brown, Jeff Brown, Roxann Lane, Terri Smith, Betty Wolgram, Matt Baker, Ken Wolgram, Donna Johnson, Kimberlie Shanor, Bill Cumberworth.



Kathy Shanor (apprentice horsemanship judge) and Terri Yates party hardy when they are not judging.



Ken and Betty Wolgram (Court Jesters) enjoy handing out hundreds of beads and doubloons at the party.

***THANK YOU, CHRISTY CUMBERWORTH,
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