



the Stirrup

Region III Newsletter

July and August, 2004

Meeting Notes for Region III Board

Members present: Kay Gunckel, Tracie Scarlett, Kathy Brown, Olga Spanoff, Laurie DiNatale, Steve Gordon, Sandy Hollis, Mike Jubb, Doreen Portner, Susie Witter, Jane Young, Susan Peters, Susan McKelvy.

The Board met in Denver on July 9 and considered and discussed the following business:

1. Treasurer's Report: Priscilla Lindsey has approximately \$11,000 in reserves and \$7,000 in members funds (used for current expenses).
2. Kay Gunckel's mother is keeping our rider vests in good repair and has all sets updated to current number splits between Open, CP, and Novice. Our heartfelt thanks to her!
3. Kathy Brown, New Membership Chair, has been hard at work contacting first time riders both before and after the rides. She has copies of Region 6's rider packets available to distribute to new riders. She is going to contact various horse 4-H groups to let them consider NATRC as an alternative to ring work and horse shows. Ride Mangers need to contact Kathy for the packets.
4. Swiss Horse Boots are currently considered illegal to be used during competition. A woman has written asking for reconsideration/reversal of the rule basing her request on the Hoofcare Foundation guidelines. BOD did not offer recommendation to the National BOD on this issue.
5. Region III's logo is "Ridin' High" and BOD requested Sue McKelvy to create a design to match it. Region III ride managers have asked for letterhead too as some companies donating awards to rides have requested confirmation of the donation on Region III letterhead. (Tracie Scarlett has offered to do a letterhead for Region III and will provide the design to all Ride Managers.)
6. Discussion on special recognition for Region III Ride Managers will be continued by a committee who will report at the next BOD meeting.
7. Colorado riders who enjoy the backcountry are recommended to purchase a hunting, fishing or hiking license issued by the State of Colorado and available at most sporting goods stores. The advantage is no charge for rescue costs as a portion of each license is assigned to Search and Rescue groups. Doreen was to research Utah to see if a similar program exists there and Kathy Brown will check on New Mexico. Kathy Brown reported via e-mail that N.M. has no such program!

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Lin & Jim Ward - National Publicity

Janine Ancell - Historian

The Message Board

Susan McKelvy, Editor

I find myself wondering about trends in judging of riders and horses in NATRC. When I first began competing back in the mid-80's, windpuffs on horse's legs were considered an unsoundness. Needless to say, my Arab, Brown-R Foxy, had them and we lost a lot of points over his years of competition until the mid-90's when that issue was re-evaluated and downplayed over actual lamenesses which were displayed by unsound horses (Foxy was never judged lame!)

I endorse the tenets of NATRC in rewarding horses who compete, finish and often win our competitions without benefit of braces, protective leg wraps, boots (except for E-Z boots), and medications. It awakens riders to consider confirmation, manners and way of going when choosing a mount and to work for top conditioning on them after they buy them and before entering a CTR.

Recently I'm seeing problems with saddle-fit being scored by vet judges as an unsoundness in the horse. I'm struggling with that problem now, as my horse's saddle that fit well 3 years ago, now does not due to his aging and conditioning processes. I've lost some points, enough to negate the horse's otherwise commendable performance on the trail and lose placings in ribbons!

This is frustrating and I'm working on retrofitting foam pads to fill the bridging and stop the rubs and swellings that result from the poor fit. However, I'm not certain this is an actual unsoundness in the horse! Like windpuffs, it has not made him lame, but it has made him sore...and I really believe, the problem is caused by me and that points should be docked from my horsemanship score instead.

This experience of identifying the problem and my struggle to find a solution would not have happened if the various NATRC judges not pointed it out and subtracted from our score for it! I'm actually thankful to them for doing that and consider my fees paid to rides as purchasing important information on problems. Like most NATRC riders I know, none of us wants to harm our treasured equine partners on the trails, indeed, we strive to make their travels (and ours) easier!

Doreen Portner reports a new printing of T-shirts in blue for Trails Advocacy. She'll have them for sale at the Colorado Trail, Island in the Sky and Rocky Mountain Dream CTRs.

American Trails biannual Symposium to be held in Austin, TX, Oct. 21-24. NATRC will have 2 representatives there. For info, go to www.americantrails.org page 6

Strawberry CTR Ride Results

6/26-27/04 Region 3/ UT

A-O/N/CP Total Riders 47


Chair: Stephanie Miller

Judges: Bob Bessert DVM, Janine Ancell

Open Sweepstakes: Panama Jack/Smith, Terri -98

Novice Sweepstakes: Dennis the Menace/Wilson, Pat - 96

Open Heavyweight

- 1/1 Phantom's Maskerade/Baker, Matt
- 2/2 Rockin EZ Ruby/Smith, Bill
- 3/ BHR Hosan's Polly Anna/Budd, Don
- 4/5  Rock N EZ Rainy Knight/Smith, Jenny
- 5/4 Rocky Topp II/Ward, Jim
- 6/ Kenlyn Steele/Fisher, Linda
- /3 Brazos Blaze/Brown, Jeff
- /6 RV Dutch Chocolate/Hoth, Lois
- Raven's Shadon/Spanhoff, Olga
- Royal sensation/Tanner, Jon
- P Johnny Danger/Miller, Linell

Open Lightweight

- 1/1 Panama Jack/Smith, Terri
- 2/2 MKS Shamal Nejma/Shanor, Kathy
- 3/ GF Jokers Are Wild/Scarlett, Tracie
- 4/6 Cloudsrest Zephyr/Korthuis, Tracey
- 5/5 Brown-R Dawud/Mason, Judy
- 6/ Zeus Sujar/Parish, Milne
- /3 Remington Steele/Lane, Roxann
- /4 Huck's Last Love/Ward, Lin
- MK Excalibur/Zettlemoyer, Diana

Open Junior

- 1/1 Fortunataa/Shanor, Kymberlie
- 2/2 Sierra Blue/Lewis, Mackenzie
- 3/3 Porter/Tanner, Jasmine

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/5 Dennis the Menace/Wilson, Pat
- 2/ Sheba/St. Louis, Terry
- 3/1 Thunder/Libsack, Jonah
- 4/6 Summer N Dixie/Benny, Gilbert
- 5/2 Outlaw's Top Gun/Marsalis, Forrest
- 6/4 Lazy Pine Sundowner/Misty/Beumer, R
- /3 TF Shateza/Kovall, Sue
- Tasha/Benny, Sherry
- P Magic's Matt Dillon/Alpers, Dave
- P Latigo's Oquirrh Chief/Lingle, Leslie
- P Tmago-Khanib/Arnett, Leona
- P HF Moonshine/McGarr, Darlene

Novice Lightweight

- 1/1 Perfection's Dusk Til Dawn/Morgan, Ole
- 2/3 Rosabella de Carmin/Pulte, Mary
- 3/4 Major Mack's Princess/Hazelwood, Abbie
- 4/2 Fizz Tezz/Bartos, Carol

Novice Junior

- 1/1 Tom's Complicated Lady, Miller, Savana
- 2/2 Shadow's Bold Princess/Snyder, Jasmine

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/4 RMR Nahr Amir/Andersen, Carolyn
- 2/2 Mountain Main's Dreammaker/McKelvy, Sue
- 3/3 Misty, Sunrise/Beumer, carol
- 4/1 Patricia Shamrock/Garrett, Betty
- 5/5 Miss Shamrock Missouri Mack K/Jones,
- Linda
- P Bar D's Sonofagun/Jones, Russ



Willow Springs CTR Ride Results

6/12-13/04 Region Three-CO

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 59

Chair: Donna Johnson DVM, Kathy Shanor

Judges: Bethany Grohs DVM, Cheri Jeffcoat

Open Sweepstakes: Summer/Wolgram, Ken 96.5

Novice Sweepstakes: Misty/Snyder, Terri-94

Open Heavyweight

- 1/2 Summer/Wolgram, Ken
- 2/ BHR Hosans Polly Anna/Budd, Don
- 3/ Charms Royal Touch/Overholt, Dee
- 4/4 Rocky Top II/Ward, jim
- 5/3 Big Mac's My My/Gordon, Steve
- 6/ Excepcional/Richards, David
- /1 June's Lucky Mac/Smith, Bill
- /5 Brazos Blaze/Brown, Jeff
- /6 Sky/Dye, Darrell
- Cedar/Hallford, Sandra
- Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary
- Johnny Danger/Miller, Linell
- Rockin EZ Rainy/Smith, Jenny

Open Lightweight

- 1/1 Panama Jack/Smith Terri
- 2/3 Brown-Ro Dawud/Mason, Judy
- 3/4 Huck's Last Love/Ward, Lin
- 4/5 Quickly/Wolgram, Betty
- 5/2 GF Jokers Are Wild/Scarlett, Tracie
- 6/6 Diamond/Moore, Kathy

Open Junior

- 1/1 Fortunataa/Shanor, Kymberlie
- 2/2 Sierra Blue/Lewis, Mackenzie

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/1 Mac/Halligan, Sherri
- 2/3 RR Skye Robyn/Chaffee, Diane
- 3/2 Ebony Spirit Walker/Jacques, Pat
- P Zoe/Herman, Karen
- P Montana/Womack, Lisa
- P Jake/Riebschlager, Linnea
- P Banner/Hill, Lee

Novice Lightweight

- 1/5 Misty/Snyder, Terri
- 2/3 KH Night Rebel/Adam, Jan
- 3/1 Ty/Perkins, Brandy
- 4/ Ezri/Savage, Carol
- 5/6 Aladdin Zolsvar/Beardsley, Cat
- 6/2 BHR Hi Boy's Echo/Heniser, Vicki
- /4 Bryanna/Andrews, Jill
- Lakota/bendelow, Mary
- Pearl/Brooks, Wendy
- Babe/Province, Jessee
- P Jimminy/Nickel, Wendy
- P Amanda/Goscha, Cathy
- P Akshyona/Barrett, Susan
- P Chandler/Love, Cheryl

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/2 Pralines & Cream/Gunckel, Kay
- 2/ RMR Nahr Amir/Anderson, Carolyn
- 3/ Baladdin/Harper, Rick
- 4/6 Becky C/Hollis, Sandy
- 5/ Post Rock Starry Night/Fredal, C
- 6/4 SV Love Sensation/Budd, Kathy
- /1 Dichoso/Harder, Cindy
- /3 Warrior's Confederate Prince/Colby, LA
- /5 Kokopelli Moon/Peters, Sue
- Jazzi/Harper, Debbie
- Mtn Man's Dream aker/Rubenstein, A
- Kenlyn Stealth/Zettlemoyer, Diana
- Phantom's Wind/Baker, Matt
- GF Majestic Force/Lane, Roxann
- P Cliffwood's Hakime/Jubb, Mike
- P Regala De la Estrellas/Marquardt, D
- P Resort Valley Sparkler/Pratt, Lisa

Pix of Ponies, People and Places of CTR!



Saturday's Lunch break at Willow Springs CTR
photo by Dee Overholt, competitor



Horsemanship Judge Cheri Jeffcoat marks
a stellar performance of mounting by Terri
Roberts at Willow Springs CTR photo by
Dee Overholt



Willow Springs CTR Novice Riders coming
on! Photo by Cristy Cumberworth



A relaxing portion of Willow Springs CTR trail with riders
enjoying scenery and each other! photo by Dee Overholt

Editor's Plea - Many riders do carry small cameras on the trail...please consider sharing pix of your vision of a trail you have ridden with all of Region III! Send me photos and even stories of your experience for publication. We all enjoy reading about an adventure! Pictures are often a great substitute for 1000's of words!

Stace Moss on Bonnie, BLM Mustang mare at an endurance ride in Santa Fe.



A Surprise CTR Horse!

2001, Marlene and Stace Moss adopted a BLM Mustang mare, Bonnie. She was 5 years old and just halter trained! She was sweet but nervous about being touched, however, despite Moss's preoccupation with their other horses, they soon learned that whatever they taught Bonnie was stored in a powerful memory bank and not forgotten the next time they had opportunity to work with her.

They had planned to use her as a brood mare, but soon found themselves doing groundwork, saddling and then riding her! The first ride was uneventful as once on board, Bonnie just stood and did not move. They bred Bonnie and she delivered a big colt. She taught her foal independence and stamped him with the same sweet attitudes she had. After weaning, Bonnie's training as a saddle horse continued but it was tough work to get her to move out...swinging coats over her head, leg aides, shifting weight, nothing worked! She stood still in the round pen and moved only when led.

Finally, one sunny, winter day, Marlene got up on Bonnie and asked Stace to lead her outside the pen into a snowy field. It was all that was needed, Bonnie simply wanted a direction to go and go she did, dragging Stace through a foot of snow! Bonnie is brave, and able to be in the lead and they found out on subsequent trail rides that her canter was rounded, solid and comfortable. She attended a clinic for endurance riding and was pressed into service as a "helper horse" for others whose horses were unsure on the trails!

Then Stace's horse was injured before a 25-mile endurance ride in Santa Fe so he turned to Bonnie. She completed the ride in 10th place, recovered well, averaged 7 mph and behaved like a seasoned trooper! Bonnie is next to do a 3-day endurance ride of 30 miles/day in Wyoming and she's entered in the Colorado Trail CTR!

Marlene reports that working with Bonnie was a great experience, and that she taught them as much as they taught her. Mosses have started a Mustang Performance Horse Registry (www.mphr.org) to increase awareness of mustangs competing with domestic horses as well to support an award program. It is not a breed registry, but they hope to provide year-end awards to NATRC and other horse sports groups and they urge other owners of feral horses to join them.

Bonnie is the first horse to be registered following her successful completion of the endurance ride in Santa Fe!

The Value of P & R's

by Tracey Korthuis



Zephyr and Tracey Korthuis
at Chatfield CTR, first P&R.

At a recent NATRC ride, I learned the value of taking P&R's. The ride was Chatfield CTR, a one day event near Denver. The weather and drive leading up to the ride site was horrendous. My horse, Zephyr, and I had left our mountain location two days early to miss the predicted heavy snow. The snow did not fall at home but struck with gusto southwest of Denver at the ride site!

Friday arrived and we checked in, I blanketed and fed Zephyr, and settled in for the night after briefing. Next morning, the sun was shining, snow melting rapidly and temperatures warmed drying the trails. Despite improved weather, I pared down my riding equipment, discarding my extra water bottle and the heartrate monitor. It was an easy ride, flat, short in distance (20 miles) and paced slow due to the wet, sloppy conditions. The ride was barely a warm-up for my conditioned horse who had already had two completed CTRs under her cinch this season. Wow! Was I wrong!

We ambled along happily for 10 miles, there were plenty of watering opportunities, we rode at a walk with a few spurts of trotting and she ate lots of "snack" grass bites along the way. We came to a "Trot to P&R" sign and did that for about 3/4 mile. At the P&R stop, I loosened her cinch, sponged her and relaxed, anticipating a check-out P&R reading of her usual 8 pulse and 4 respiration. Imagine my surprise when the volunteer who took her initial pulse for check-out reported it at 18 beats. I patiently explained to her, (she seemed like a first-time volunteer at the task) that the heart beat consisted of a thump-THUMP which was counted as one beat. She obligingly retook the pulse and again said "Eighteen!" Sue McKelvy, P&R Chair, came over and also took it and reported the same count. She suggested that I check it myself and handed over the stethoscope. I did, and her heartbeat was high, rapid and erratic.

After a 15 minute holding period, her heartrate had dropped to 16 and I pulled from the ride and walked her slowly back 2 miles to camp. Despite having drunk water several times earlier in the day, the mare was very thirsty and ravenously hungry. As I led her, I pondered the day's events leaving up to the P&R, trying to discover a reason for her abnormal reading. I'd fed her the regular feed rations and had administered electrolytes, despite the cooler temperatures. Nothing made sense!

We arrived at camp and for the next 4 hours, Zephyr's pulse fluctuated between 18 and 20! All other vital signs were normal and she appeared completely unconcerned by the events. Unless you listened to the heartbeats, you'd have not idea she was stressed. Dr Kay Gunckel and Dr Donna Johnson drew blood and a rudimentary test showed her iron level slightly depressed. Low Potassium was suspected but a more accurate diagnosis would have to wait until a lab-test on Monday. We fed her alfalfa and administered an iron supplement as well as banamine. Perhaps, it was coincidence, but the latter drug seemed to stabilize her. Her pulse returned to normal.

Hopefully this was an isolated incident. From now on, I'm going to definitely be cautious in monitoring her pulse at future rides.

The moral of the story is that our horses are often so stoic that we don't know what is going on internally. The value of taking their vital signs is immeasurable. And, please, always thank your P&R volunteers!

Kay Gunckel on Star at
Chokecherry CTR, 2004



President's Prescription by Kay Gunckel , DVM

We had another very successful BOD meeting. Thanks to all the board members and committee chairs for attending and giving their input. Please read through the minutes of the meeting so you can be informed on all the items that were discussed. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact one of your board members. We need everyone's opinions to make the best decisions for the region.

Sure hope everyone is having a wonderful ride season. We are only about halfway through the season. It is really exciting to have rides this year going into the fall. The number of new rides being initiated is great. Make sure to thank all our ride managements for putting the extra time and effort to stage a ride. They are not doing it for the money! Our thanks and appreciation is their reward for all the hard work. May I say, we do appreciate everything you do to make it possible for us to ride in areas we wouldn't get to see otherwise. Thanks!!!

Mike Mason has been put in charge of researching a microphone/PA system for the region. I think this will make it easier for riders to hear at ride briefings as well as management to contact riders when in camp. Jeff Brown has volunteered (or was volunteered) to design a website for Region 3. Keep your eyes out for our new website.

We have three of our Region 3 riders that are heading off to do the Tevis Cup, Ken and Betty Wolgram and Matt Baker. Let's all give them some positive energy to keep them going down the difficult trail on Saturday, July 31st. They have conditioned, practiced and paid their dues. With luck, hopefully, they will be in the 50% that start and finish the 100 miles of the trail in 24 hours!

Happy Trails!