



# the Stirrup

Region III Newsletter  
November/December, 2004

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Ridin' High  
Region III  
NATRC!



## ***President's Prescription***

Here we are at the end of another wonderful year of Competitive Trail Riding. I hope you all agree that it was a great year riding with your NATRC friends. We started the year with a nice warm ride in NM - Chokecherry CTR. I tried doing a trace body clip on my horse for the first time with the kids helping me...and I think we did a good job. Friday afternoon, we noticed several other competitors giving body clipping a try.

Luckily this year we had a "B" ride which is a great way to get new competitors introduced to our sport. We had excellent CTR clinics which got a lot of new riders excited about trying CTR. Our Colorado weather did not cooperate for the Chatfield B Ride and with the heavy, wet snow, several could not escape their driveways! Those who did make that early ride were rewarded with a good time and sunshine on Saturday. They all said they'd love to have more B rides in our region.

Next we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Navajo Lake CTR! It is one of the longest continuously run CTRs in the entire USA. Weather was great and everyone who entered had fun.

Unfortunately Cavalier CTR was not a "go" this year but we hope it will return for 2005. Willow Springs CTR was definitely my best ride for the year. A snotty little Sassy turned herself around and showed she could excel at this sport.

Strawberry CTR was beautiful as always and with a new ride manager who did a great job. A rider came off her horse and was saved due to wearing her helmet!

El Jinete CTR always has ups and downs...which I mean in a literal sense...lots of up hills and down hills which mean when you finish this ride you know you've accomplished something!

Colorado Trail CTR is just a little piece of heaven in our backyards. It always is well-managed and went off without a hitch until our beloved Milne gave us all a scare at check out. Luckily, he's recovered and back on Zeus in competition.

Island in the Sky CTR continues to be my very, most favorite ride. This ride was memorable with JJ (my son) and I practising our EMT skills on an unconscious rider who was saved from a worse fate by wearing a helmet!

Red Feather CTR gave me an opportunity to share my love of NATRC with two friends who were 1st time competitors. They were real troopers riding in rain on Saturday and sleet/snow on Sunday and finished ready to try another ride next year. At this ride, too, we had a rider come off her horse abruptly who was saved by wearing her helmet...which adds up to 3 people this season.

Rocky Mountain Dream CTR was in full fall colors. Riding up thru the aspen groves was truly heaven. We're looking forward to riding in the park in 2006.

Spruce Mill CTR was a new ride for our region and Mama Nature did not cooperate so some competitors could not traverse the passes to attend. The ride was gorgeous with tall aspens in full autumn dress. A great opportunity to ride a new area of our region. Management did a great job.

Finishing up our season was Rabbit Valley CTR which was "new" in being staged in October instead of April. Weather and scenery was beautiful but the ride needed more riders supporting it!

We are blessed in Region 3 to have so many and such diverse rides. Thanks to all the dedicated ride managers, secretaries and their helpers who go the extra mile to put on our rides. I hope to see you all at the Region 3 Seminar in Golden, January 21-23, 2005. It should be a good time to visit with your summer riding buddies and to celebrate the accomplishments of 2004!

Happy Holidays!

Dr Kay Gunkel



## Prize-Winning Chili Recipe from Rocky Mtn Dream!

**Christina Mott's White Chili** won raves and repeat customers at the Rocky Mountain Dream CTR in Granby in September. She has graciously offered to share her recipe. As the days get cooler and crisper around the edges, Chili is often a hit with everyone. Try this different style!

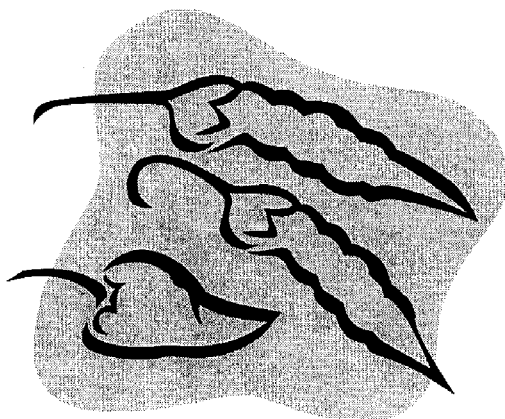
### White Chili

1 Tbsp of Olive Oil  
1 1/2 lb of boneless, skinless chicken breast cut in small cubes  
1/4 cup chopped onion  
1 cup chicken broth  
1 can (4 oz) of chopped green chilies  
1 can (19 oz) white kidney beans (cannelloni), undrained  
2 green onions sliced

Spice Blend: 1 tsp garlic powder  
1 tsp ground cumin  
1/2 tsp ground coriander  
1/2 tsp oregano leaves  
1/2 tsp cilantro leaves  
1/8 tsp ground red pepper

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add chicken and onions, cook 4-5 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through. Stir in broth, green chilies and spice blend, simmer for 15 minutes. Stir in beans, Simmer for 5 minutes, top with green onions, garnish with monterey Jack cheese and serve.

Serves 4 cups.



# Rabbit Valley CTR

10/16-17/04 Region 3/ CO

A-O/N/CP Total Riders 36

Chair: Dianna Thearin

Judges: Ron Stuber DVM, Doreen Portner

Open Sweepstakes: Brown-R Dawud/Mason, Judy -100

Novice Sweepstakes: Chico of Naszrence/Roberts, Gary - 100

## Open Heavyweight

1/1	Phantom's Masquerade/Baker, Matt
2/3	Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary
3/5	Brazos Blaze/Brown, Jeff
4	Charm's Royal Touch/Overholt, Dee
5/2	Sir Bask/Wolgram, Ken
CO	Buck/Glynn, David

## Open Lightweight

1/2	Brown-R Dawud/Mason, Judy
2/3	Summer/Wolgram, Betty
3/1	GF Jokers Are Wild/Scarlett, Tracie

## Novice Heavy Weight

1/4	Chico of Naszrence/Roberts, Gary
2/1	Raven's Shadoo/Spanhoff, Olga
3/2	R Little Miss Mack/Lingle, Leslie
4/3	Rock'N EZ Riley/Sims Jerry
5/6	Tess/Hanel, Andrea
6/	Proud Shadow Dancer/Wynne, Teresa
/5	What's the Buzz/Sinnett, James
	Tamigo-Khanibb/Arnett, Leona
P	Mouse/Cook, Lisa

## Novice Lightweight

1/1	HBR Hi Boys Echo/Heniser, Vicki
2/2	Shadows Friday/Meyer, Cindy
3/4	Finnian/Coe, Diana
4/3	Drifter/Otte, Gail
5/6	Mary Mels Cat's Melody/Schultz, C.
6/5	Ceriva Gypsea/Molitor, Loretta

## Novice Junior

1/1	EA Peakaboo Moon, Roberts, Christine
P	Catscall/Hamrick, Mayona

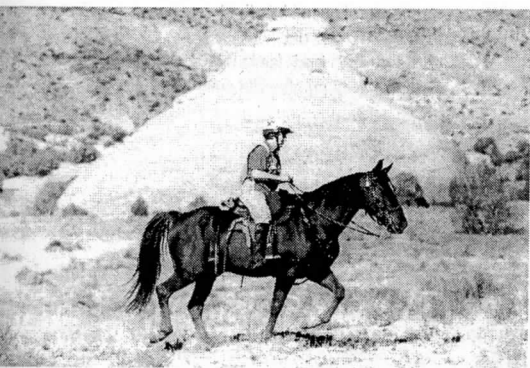
## Competitive Pleasure

1/1	Kokopelli Moon/Peters, Susan
2/5	RMR Nahr Amir/Andersen, Carolyn
3/4	All the Rage/Brown, Kathy
4/2	Gunslinger T/Jubb, Mike
5/6	CR Blaze of Glory/Frank, Nancy
6/	WA Cimatation/Schumack, Laura
/3	Mountain Man's Dream Maker/McKelvy, S.
	Kenlyn Desiree/Fisher, Linda
	Kenlyn Kalidescope/McCulloch, Cheryl
	Kenlyn Irish Rose; Zettlemoyer, Diana

# Pix of Ponies, People and Places of CTR!



Saturday's Lunch break at the Fire tower at Spruce Mill  
(Mancos) CTR photo by Dee Overholt,



Sue McKelvy and "Baron" (Mtn Mans Dream Mkr) ride past the  
"Dolly" formation at Rabbit Valley CTR.  
Photo by Cristy Cumberworth



Sherri Halligan and her mount parade  
with the Colorado State Flag at the  
Biltmore CTR in North Carolina in October.

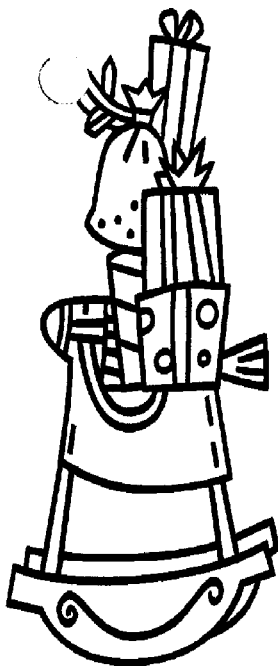
Editor's Plea - Many riders do carry small cameras on the trail...please consider sharing pix of your vision of a CTR you have ridden with all of Region III! Send me photos and even stories of your experience for publication. We all enjoy reading about an adventure! Pictures are often a great substitute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

# Message Board

Susan McKelvy, Editor

Well, another CTR ride season ends with the completion of Rabbit Valley CTR. What a wonderful year! Matt Baker commented that he had to wait until the final ride of the year before he could take off his coat and ride in shirtsleeves...several of our rides this year were chilly and wet, but wonderful!

With help and guidance from Kathy Shanor I'm cobbling up the Ride Book for 2005. If you have plans for a ride or need to change the write-up on a current CTR, please contact Kathy. We need ads to help defray the expenses so send us one to include. We hope to have it published and ready for distribution at our Seminar in January. Tracie Scarlett is chair of the Seminar which is scheduled for January 21-23, 2005 in Golden, CO. Please send in your reservation asap upon receipt of the sign-up form. Use the inside back cover for registration. Tracie always does a great job of any task she tackles. Thanks to both Kathy and Tracie for stepping up to help Region 3!



Volunteers for our organization are necessary and I urge you to accept a task that needs to be done. All rides need workers from P&R teams to judge's secretaries. Next year, climb out of your saddles and into the traces of a worker's collar at least once and you'll be glad you did. Besides a special insight gained, you'll have that undeniable "feel good" feeling that can't be bought. I've been encouraged this year to see a number of competitors doing just that! Thanks to all of you who became ground-bound as workers for a ride.

I don't mean to leave out those who offer their services as safety or pre-riders. As a competitor, I love that sense of security knowing that should an accident happen, I'm not alone in handling the consequences. Note Christina Mott's thought-provoking article on Safety Riders. Kudos to them too!

In the recent elections I ran across a nominee for county commissioner whose platform specifically mentioned advocacy for horse and hiking trails. You can bet she received my vote! NATRC Secretary, Laurie DiNatie has been a representative to several Trails Conferences recently and we look forward to learning her insights and reports of those meetings. I think NATRC needs to take a more pro-active stance with the BLM and USFS, as well as local state and county parks and not only insist upon retention of horse trails but set up work groups to maintain them and construct new trails. The trails advocacy chair, Doreen Portner, has funds earned via the T-shirt sales available. Let her know if a trail system in your area can use the help! Money always talks...LOUDLY! Plan to attend the seminars at Rocky Mtn Horse Expo in Denver in March, 05. Trails will be the emphasis!

I took a family vacation to Hawaii the first 2 weeks of November and was delighted to read an article in the local paper WEST HAWAII TODAY on Competitive Trail Riding entitled "Where Horse and Rider are One...looking for that "zen" ride" by Tara Godvin. Quoted in the article, which was the result of the writer's visit to Indian Caves CTR in NE, was our own Linell Miller. It was Lucy Hirsch who stated "Lazy people and people who cheat don't tend to stay in this sport...its all about knowledge, friendship and bragging rights" I'd second that!

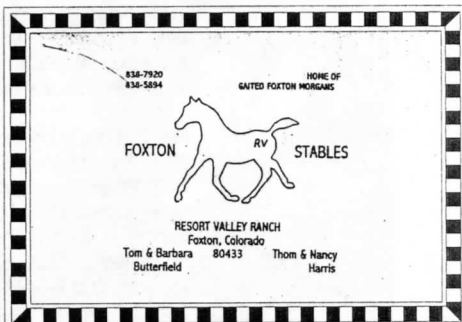
And finally, to all Stirrup readers I extend a special wish for a holiday season of peace, hay in the barn, good health for you and your horses and a new year of great riding, good trails, and new friendships made during CTRs in 2005.

# Barn Sales and News bits

For Sale: Featherlight all Steel '95 stock trailer, 16 feet, good condition \$3500

Sharon Saare endurance saddles for sale: 16's, style F and DD at \$900 each.

Call Gary Inman or Linell Miller 303-200-0279 for additional info, pix, or to purchase!



2000 Sooner 3-Horse slant with living quarters for sale. All aluminum, electric jack, propane generator, sofa, A/C, full bath, stove, microwave. Horse quarters fully insulated with a personal fan behind each stall. \$30,000.

Call Dianne Williams at 303-431-7191



## For Sale or Lease:

Arab/Trakehner cross mare, 9, 15.2 hands, solid bay, good basic training, backs, sidepasses, camps well. Powerful gaits and a "lets go!" attitude, controllable. Needs a good rider as she's a great ride. Lots of trail experience, ready for CTR, Endurance, dressage or jumping. \$5000 firm

Arab mare, 7, 15 hands, beaut. chestnut with socks and blaze, basic training but needs finishing. Experienced on trails, exceptionally smooth-gaited, versatile for CTR, dressage or show with a willing, sweet disposition. \$3000 (negotiable)

Two young, untrained prospects, purebred Arab gelding and mare, reasonable

Contact Priscilla Lindsey 970-354-7422 or [linx@plainstel.com](mailto:linx@plainstel.com)

Debbie Murphy Reg. 1 Ride Mgr. urges NATRC to ban rope halters in competition. She cites several instances of out-of-control horses especially when the horse and rider are new to the sport and unprepared for competitive conditions. At the very least she urges the ban for novice and any first time riders in CTR. What's your take on this issue? Let your Nat. BOD representatives know.

Doreen Portner reports that the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo is coming March 11-13, 2005...seminars on trails by Colorado State parks, Trail Rider Magazine and National Park Service...confirmed speakers: Julie Goodnight and Curt Pate...mark your calendars for this event!

# Saddle Fitting

by Ron Stuber, DVM, Montana

Saddle fitting is a very interesting and broad topic. So broad that certain issues cannot be discussed here due to their lengthiness or because they may require live demonstrations to illustrate.

Let's begin with your horse's back and your saddle. Signs of an ill-fitting saddle are:

1. white hairs at the withers or side of rib cage.
2. Sores, tender or painful areas anywhere on the back, which may be raised, hot, swollen or just sensitive.
3. Swellings, plaque or edema after riding.
4. Dry patches in an area under the saddle which otherwise should be sweaty.
5. Having to frequently readjust and/or tighten the girth to keep the saddle in place.
6. The horse may travel crooked or resist training.
7. The horse may stumble or drag his toes.
8. The horse may exhibit an obscure hind leg lameness.
9. The horse may exhibit high levels of tension and uneasiness when saddled or ridden.
10. Atrophy of muscles on both or one side of horse's withers.
11. The horse may exhibit behavioral or manner changes by backing, being reluctant to go down hills, objecting to being saddled, swishing his tail, pinning his ears, or is hypersensitive to grooming, won't stand still to be mounted, lags or bolts, or wears out his shoes differently.

Other problems that may lead to sore backs may be due to improper riding or riding out of balance. Problems can also be created by uneven weight distribution in saddle bags or a rifle scabbard on one side. Sores can develop from dirty saddle pads and girths or a wrinkle in the pad or by debris like pine needles, sage brush or twigs that brush off as you ride through shrubs on the front of your pad that work under it. Fleece lining under the saddle may be worn off and expose screws, brads and even a joint of leather. Pads are a very lengthy subject as there are many variations and high tech pads available today. This subject is so extensive it will not be covered in this article. The only exception is that often poor or tight saddle fit motivates riders to add pads in an effort to correct the problems. This can be likened to having a shoe too small for your foot and adding socks for additional cushioning and making it all the more tight!

Let's first consider the shape of horses' backs and rib cages. There are roughly three shapes of backs and the angle that the ribs come off the spinal column in horses:

1. ribs that come off the spine flat and then bow out quite a bit creating a "table top" back which are often found in Warm bloods, Morgans and some Arabian horses.
2. A slight angle to the ribs which spring out slightly but not as much as the first example such as Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds.
3. Ribs that come off the spine at a steep angle and do not bow out much at all such as Tennessee Walkers, Paso Finos and mules.



## Saddle Fitting, continued...by Ron Stuber, DVM

The horse has no collar bone, and his front legs need to be free to move or float over the rib cage. Therefore, make certain your saddle does not confine or impinge on the shoulder blades. The saddle should fit behind the shoulder blades. The musculature around the rib cage is comparable to the rib cage fitting down in a sling.

The top line is composed of two large, long muscles on either side of the spine causing the back to rise and fall and twist and turn. Therefore, causing these muscles to fire and become sore under ill-fitting saddles hampers the horse's performance. That is why the saddle tree must fit properly on these muscles and not on the spine.

The bottom or underline muscles are located below the rib cage and behind it. The two front legs are attached to the body by muscles and tendons which at the top forms the withers and which then flows downward and backward toward the ribs and that provides the front legs with the ability for motion.

This is a very crude picture of a horse's back and how it moves. Now we need to examine how a saddle needs to adapt or fit a particular horse's conformation. While the following discourse on saddle construction is directed at western or endurance saddles, much of what is said is applicable to english saddles as well.

The saddle has three basic systems:

1. The rigging which holds the saddle on the horse's back.
2. The seating which provides a level platform for the rider's pelvis and proper positioning for his legs.
3. The skirting which protects the horse from the motion or swinging of the stirrups and leathers.

Underneath these three systems is the tree. The tree of a western saddle consists of two bars and two arches (one of which is the cantle and the other is the swell). The horn completes the saddle's components. The top portion of the tree creates the seating system. The bottom part of the tree is the rigging system and holds the saddle to the horse's back. The bottom of the tree must accommodate and rest on the muscles on either side of the spine and permit the spine to rise, fall, twist and turn. This makes the tree the most important element of the saddle. Three elements form the tree's bars:

1. **Twist** - the center of the bar that fits the back snugly which begins at the transition of the withers down the back and has to conform to the rib cage.
2. **Flare** - the profile of the wither's changes as the horse moves which needs at least 1" of space to allow for movement of the withers and allow for a proper saddle fit. The flare dictates the width of the gullet or spread of the bars.
3. **Rock** - this is the top line or the front to back curvature portion of the saddle tree that allows the up/down motion that stays to fit the rib cage.

All 3 elements need to fit properly to permit motion natural to the horse. Improper contact at any point of the horse's shoulders, back or loins causes pressure sores. The best way to see how your saddle fits your horse is to place it without blankets on his back and put the flat of your hand behind the withers and run it down along the withers. It should move freely. Next, use your hand to check the back along the spine to the loins making certain the saddle does not jab into the loins. Then, throw the stirrups over the seat of the saddle and run your hand along the bottom of the tree which should lie flat conforming to the horse's back and rib cage with no spaces between the bars and your horse's back. Thus the middle 2/3rd of the saddle should have maximum contact and the ends should taper off at the front and rear of the bars minimal contact points on the horse's back.

"Bridging" of a saddle happens when the opposite occurs...the saddle fits tightly front and back and not along the spine and ribs in the middle. This affects lateral movement of the horse causing pressure points, tense muscles and limits the lumbar/sacral junction. Horses affected by bridging often display high head and neck carriage and try to drop or hollow their backs to relieve pain in the lower back.

A quick word on "treeless" saddles: Although they eliminate pressure sores at some places and I feel they are fine for very short training sessions or competitions like barrel racing, long distance riding or all day pleasure rides places the rider's weight directly on the horse's spine rather than on the long muscles alongside the spine where the weight should be placed. Try putting hand pressure on a friend's spine and rub downward versus using both hands to rub down with the same pressure on the muscles on the side of his spine and get his report of which one feels better!

To check saddle fit: Place the saddle in the correct location on your horse's back without a pad. Then make sure:

1. The saddle sits back behind the shoulder blade, allowing freedom of shoulder movement.
2. Step back and look at the saddle. The deepest part of the seat should be parallel to the level ground. The cantle should be slightly higher than the pommel with the difference dictated by the type of saddle it is. The cantle of a deep-seated dressage saddle will be higher than the cantle on a shallow close-contact saddle. With either type, your hand should be able to slide under the rear of the saddle as it sits on your horse.
3. The underside of the tree or the bars should like snug on the back with even contact.
4. the rigging should preferably be 3/4 positioned.
5. Seating should be level to the ground's surface.

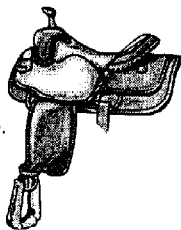
Your horse's conformation changes over his lifetime. The young, growing or developing horse is more narrow with a straight top line as exhibited by a 2-6 year old. The horse between 7 and 15 years will develop more fully and is wider and more muscled and his back begins to change. The older horse, 15+ years, now begins to get slightly more swaybacked and begins to get muscle atrophy around the withers and hip bones. Therefore, the saddle that fit the horse perfectly as a 4 year old, may not fit him perfectly as a 9 year old and even less so when he's 20 years old. His changing age, conformation and saddle fit all need to be considered so as to keep him comfortable throughout his riding lifetime and able to do the job you're asking him to do in a sound and happy fashion.

The rigging system of the saddle keeps the pressure in the center of the saddle and does it in 4 ways:

1. Hunt seat saddles - pressure is in the center of the middle of the seat.
2. Inverted triangular rigging uses the front and back part of the saddle to put pressure on the center of the saddle.
3. double rigging or full double rigging which is most common on western saddles, creates equal pressure in the front and back of the saddle.
4. Western saddles (some endurance saddles too) permits several types of rigging.
  - a. Full position has a line down the center of the horn and swell to the rigging.
  - b. 7/8 position is one inch back of the horn or the full position.
  - c. 3/4 position is two inches behind the horn or full position.
  - d. 5/8 position is 3 inches behind the horn or full position.
  - e. Center-fire is rigged stright down from the center of the seat.

Three quarter position is a good one for most saddles rigging. Front and rear cinch should be equally tight. If the front cinch is too tight, pressure increases on the withers producing white hairs and pressure sores.

Seating system: The rider needs to be in a balanced position on the top of the bars, along with the two arches forming the seating system. The low point of the seat of the saddle should fall in the same vertical line as the rider's shoulder, hip and heel which is the correct balanced position for riding.



Three Quarter position is a good one for most saddle rigging. Front and rear cinch should be equally tight. If the front cinch is too tight, pressure increases on the withers producing pressure sores and eventually, white hairs.

Skirting System of the saddle provides protection for the horse from motion of the stirrups and fenders. The base underneath should have sheepskin padding to avoid chafing. The skirts should be flexible and should not host a contact point for in-skirt rigging as it pulls the skirt leather into the horse's shoulder.

A saddle should fit the shape of the rib cage. It must be open in the front with room at the shoulders so that the flat of the hand can be placed under the front of the bars and actually move up and down.

It must be open in the back of the saddle with a slight rise off the back of the horse and also permit the hand to slide under the rear of the saddle. The underside of the tree or bars should lie snugly on the back with even contact. The rigging should be in 3/4 position. The seating should be parallel or level to the ground surface.

In summary, all saddles should adhere to three basic principles for a good fit: Pressure should be applied in the middle. It should be open in the front and back and pressure should be applied on the rib cage.

Riders looking at the purchase of a custom, showroom or catalog saddle should look for measurements to help determine the best fit. Various tools can be used to measure a horse's back for this purpose.

1. A 24" flexible curve drafting tool or a flexible wire can be used to conform to the horse's withers and back and then removed and traced on a piece of paper. The initial measurement, and the most important, is taken just behind the last hairs of the horse's mane.

2. The Saddle tech gauge is a saddle pressure measuring device.

3. The Equi Measure kit is a flat piece of molding material that is heated, laid on the horse's back and smoothed to his contours. The material cools in 5-10 minutes and produces an exact mold of his back.

4. A computerized pad can be placed under a saddle on the horse which gives a multiple-colored scan showing where the pressure areas are located.

Perhaps the easiest method of all is to check the sweat patterns produced under your saddle after a long, hard ride on the horse. Sweat patterns should be evenly distributed on both sides of his back under the saddle and any unusual dry patches will indicate where pressure was too great to permit his sweat glands to work. Always check these patches for plaque, swelling, tenderness and pain.

A pain-free horse under saddle is a joy to ride, is more responsive and collected, and will cover miles of trails safely with his rider.

## A Judge's expectations at Check-in and Check-out

by Susie Witter, *NATRC Horsemanship Judge*

Since every horsemanship judge looks for slightly different things and since I have some definite ideas on what I look for from the rider/handler, I thought you might want to know these aspects of my judging **BEFORE** Check-in.

In my mind, there is **no reason** for the rider to **lose points** on either of these diagnostic occasions. All it takes is some practice, consistent communications with your horse, focus, skills on basic "in-hand", ground training and patience.

This can be used for pre-purchase exams, CTRs and for your veterinarian and farrier when they request that your horse move for them to observe. Your goal should be to show your horse at his best. You want the focus to be on your horse, not you.

**Grooming:** Bathing him is nice but not necessary. Pay attention to **details** such as cleaning his nostrils, eliminating "crusties", sweat marks, and obviously dirty areas on his coat and feet. A bit of dust is usually okay. Check-in is your first impression so make it a good one. Shoeing is noted but not usually scored. The grooming expected for Sunday Check-out is usually announced at Saturday's briefing. It is not usually as stringent as at check-in.

When standing with your horse for presentation, always stand beside his head and not in front of him. Stay focused on your horse and his proximity to other people, horses, and objects nearby. Watch his body language and be ready to control him for safety's sake. Keep two hands on the lead rope/longe line. Place your hand closest to the horse's head about 1 foot from the buckle's junction with the halter. If your horse is standing quietly, don't put pressure or hang on the lead! Keep the extra length of the line in figure 8 loops in your hand. Stay on the same side as the veterinarian. Work with him to permit the vet or anyone to check his mouth, legs and feet without head-tossing, kicking or other unsafe behavior.

Running with your horse in a straight line to/from the vet judge requires that you stay beside your horse's head or neck. Don't run in front of him or try to "drag" him into the trot.

Teach him to respond to a signal to trot in hand. Signal him to go and do it...not the other way around. This might require more practice with some horses than others.

**Circles:** Note where you start your circle and end it where you started. Follow directions--if the judge says one circle in each direction, do one each way unless requested to do more by the judge...don't do two.

**Longeing:** Use a 15-16 foot longe line so that your circles are large enough to show the gaits of your horse. The larger the circle, the freer the horse will move. Adjust the circle to the terrain and control needed on your horse. Follow your horse as you longe him with your eyes and body, staying a close to the center of the circle as possible. Stop cueing the horse once he is doing what you requested...trot...only signal if he slows down, stop when he responds.

**Running with your horse in circles:** teach your horse to work in-hand on both sides (left and right) in straight lines and circling. Lead him with you on the inside of the circle as you'll have better and easier control on him.

While these suggestions are my preferences, there may be other methods to accomplish the goal of a professional, smooth presentation of your horse. Anything is okay as long as it is safe to the horse, people and his handler.

Checked in? Okay, now enjoy your ride, meet and deal with challenges and smile when you're in the saddle.





**NATRC National Convention hosted by Region Five!**  
**Tentative schedule includes: National Board of Directors meeting, Night Skiing/Snowboarding at Cataloochee Ski Area on Friday Night, Informative speakers, Hospitality Suite for Socializing, Shopping with Vendors, Touring the Biltmore Estate on Saturday, National Awards Banquet, Honoring the Legends of NATRC, Mountain Square Dance**  
**Ya'll come and join us for some real southern hospitality!!!**

**February 3 - 6, 2005**  
**Renaissance Asheville Hotel, Asheville, North Carolina**  
**Please make reservations directly with the hotel. 1-800-458-3571**

**Deadline for discount rate is January 3, 2005.**  
**Be sure to tell them you are from NATRC for the convention rate.**

**For more information contact Convention Chairman**

**Bucky Starnes**  
**PO Box 5071**  
**Asheville, NC 28813**  
**828-230-9502**  
**email- Bstar242@aol.com**



# NATRC MEMBERSHIP - 2004



NATRC offers six membership plans (check plan desired):

- ☐ FAMILY membership.....\$60.00 per year Household of 1 or 2 adults and children under the age of 18 as defined (two votes)
- ☐ ADULT membership.....\$50.00 per year Single adult member (one vote)
- ☐ JUNIOR membership.....\$35.00 per year Single Junior member under age 18 (no vote)
- ☐ ASSOCIATE membership.....\$50.00 per year Equine-related groups or businesses only (no vote)
- ☐ SINGLE LIFETIME membership.....\$600.00 Any person of any age (one vote)
- ☐ FAMILY LIFETIME membership.....\$800.00 Husband and/or wife at the time membership is obtained and children under the age of 18 as of Jan. 1 (two votes)

All NATRC memberships include: Rule Book (upon request), newsletter, eligibility to compete for NATRC annual high score awards and championships, rider and horse mileage awards, and reduced ride entry fees. New members also get a club patch.

**NOTE: All membership fees include both national and regional dues - when you join NATRC you are automatically a member of your respective region. Memberships run from January 1, 2004-December 31, 2004.**

PLEASE LIST ALL FAMILY MEMBERS:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdates of Junior(s) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## NATRC Specialties\*

- ☐ Patch (inc. w/ membership).....\$1.75
- ☐ 10" Decal.....\$2.00
- ☐ 4" Decal.....\$1.00

\*All prices subject to change without notice  
Manuals available to members and non-members

## NATRC Manuals\*

- ☐ Rule Book (inc. w/ membership).....\$2.00
- ☐ Judges' Manual.....\$5.00
- ☐ Guide to CTR.....\$4.00
- ☐ Management Manual.....\$4.00  
(plus P&H \$1 per manual)
- ☐ NATRC Video.....\$8.95

Contributions to NATRC are tax deductible. If you wish to show your added support by contributing to the NATRC Foundation, Awards, Student Loan, or General Funds, please increase the amount of your payment and direct how you wish it to be used

How did you learn about NATRC?  
☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

☐ NEW NATRC RIDER'S MANUAL \$18 Inc. p&h  
NATRC:303/688-1677 Phone 303/688-3022 Fax  
natrc@natrc.org

Make checks payable to NATRC (U.S. funds only) and mail to:  
NATRC, P.O. Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135

Former membership information \_\_\_\_\_

## Brown-R-Dawud (aka "Woody") nominated for NATRC Hall of Fame by Judy Wise Mason

Mike and Judy Mason have tallied the awards over the past 12 years of their arab gelding, Brown-R-Dawud, and believe him eligible for the NATRC Hall of Fame. Woody's accomplishments read like a dream come true for a competitive trail rider's horse. He's never lost a single point for lameness or P&R's! He's been awarded Grand Championship once, National Championships 11 times, won the Championship Challenge once and Reserve Champion twice. Regionally, he's been high point horse in Open lightweight division 5 times, won open sweepstakes at rides 32 times and has placed in 94 rides.

In accomplishing that impressive record, he's covered 5710 competitive miles which doesn't take into consideration the mileage compiled in conditioning! He completed the Tevis in fine shape and continues as a marvelous, sound and strong horse. Truly he's the ideal mount in how he responds to sometimes off beat obstacles, versatile in how he's reacted to parades, to pack trips ponying a loaded, lazy pack horse behind him, to gymkahanas, and with moving cattle. He's been trailered over 100,000 miles and is a careful, obedient, quiet and calm horse that carefully negotiates rough sections of trail while being considerate of his rider.

Judy writes that he's been unbelievably fine and while he's really Mike's horse, she's been blessed to ride him. Wow! We're all pulling for the ultimate reward for Brown-R-Dawud and the reflected glory it will shed on Region 3. Its a wonderful success story of a good marriage of a spectacular horse and rider which is the foundation of NATRC.



## by Christina Mottt

Ride managers could solicit from a pool of trained safety rider volunteers to fill the necessary positions behind competitors (usually 6 safety riders are adequate to pair up to follow each class of O/N/CP). NATRC should award worker points and mileage to horses and safety riders who participate based on mileage awarded to the class of riders they follow for a CTR...i.e. open or novice/cp.

The advantages are many. Riders participating would have themselves and their horses in competitive shape, ride management would not be concerned about having to potentially rescue the safety riders which is always a problem when random volunteers come out who are not familiar with competitive trail nor ready for its rigors. Those riders in the program would still be able to compete the rides for which they did not operate as safety riders, but they would be expected to work a certain number of the CTRs. Competitive riders would be assured that the safety riders following them would be well-trained to deal with injuries and accidents. We preach safety as a foundation for our sport...let's practice it!

Please contact Linell Miller 303-423-8842 or [linell1945@yahoo.com](mailto:linell1945@yahoo.com) with your thoughts and ideas on safety riders and let's get this put together for the 2005 ride season!

Bill and Nancy Sluys (Region 5 Newsletter Editor) of Westfield, NC, send a special invitation to all Region 3 riders to come to the **SOIREE IN THE SMOKIES** which is set for **Feb 3-6, 2005** in Asheville, NC. They say a "soiree", per the dictionary, is a gathering of people for pleasure often in the evening. If the conversation is about horses and trail riding so much the better! Plan to attend if you can.



Holly LeBeau DVM, Reg 3 member, is looking for a kid-gentle riding horse for her two children, 4 and 7 years old, who are taking English riding. She'd like a 10 year old gelding, sound, good health and trained but most importantly gentle! Contact her at 307-638-6343 or [hollylebeau@direcway.com](mailto:hollylebeau@direcway.com) if you have or know of such a horse which might work for her and her kids.



## Rocky Mountain CTR Ride Report

by Sherri Halligan

This ride has to be my highlight ride of the season! For those who have not ridden it, you're missing out. The trails on Snow Mountain Ranch, YMCA resort, are used year-round for skiing, hiking and biking and were well-marked and not terribly difficult to negotiate. Scenery was breath-taking as the aspens were at golden peak for our weekend. Weather also cooperated with rain waiting until all riders had returned to camp on Sunday. We had the right to brag about Colorado's climate...snow came in the next night!

Campsite included the luxury of having a heated pool and hot showers. Sat. evening a group of us had a nice swim and shower which was perfect to end our day in the saddle. The lodge was heated and weather-protected for briefings and meals...we have been spoiled!

Kathy Shanor was horsemanship judge and she teamed with Bob Bessert, DVM, to offer riders some interesting obstacles. Nothing too difficult but that "L" backing right out of camp Sunday morning got them a lot of minus points! My horse forgot all we had been practicing and locked her legs...so we still have work to do together over the winter.

Once again Diana Marquardt and all her helpers did a great job with the ride management with well-marked trails. Thank you to them to all that work before, during and after the CTR! We'll miss this ride in 2005 but will look forward to it in 2006!



Sherri Halligan and Emagine If enjoy the sunshine and high peaks of Rocky Mountain CTR trails

Photo-Cristy Cumberworth

## Rabbit Valley Fall CTR

by Sue McKelvy

Thwarted from being able to go to the previous CTR, I was ready and willing to compete at Rabbit Valley. This ride site and trails have always been one of my favorites and this year it was being offered in October instead of April! I joined forces with Dee Overholt which made the fuel costs affordable...Lordy, can it go any higher! And we had a fast trip over the passes on dry road to Grand Junction and on west to Exit 2, Rabbit Valley. Check-in was easily accomplished and we settled down to cold chicken for supper, an earlier purchase from the "Kentucky Col." in Rifle.

Ride Managers, Terry Yates and Dianna Thearin, are to be congratulated for handling adversity with aplomb. First, their horsemanship judge, Susie Witter, suffered a horse accident which landed her in the hospital and then Dianna's horse which was pressed into duty as a safety mount colicked and despite surgery, died. Everyone felt sad and tried to console Dianna! Doreen Portner offered to step into Susie's shoes as horsemanship judge and Sue Benjamin became Rules Interpreter in Doreen's stead. Region 3 Rocks!

Despite those bummer events, the ride was great. A bit hot on Saturday with lots of sun and heat starting off the red rocks in the afternoon which sent some horses in winter-ready fur coats, including mine, into the "pants" which blew their P&R's. Scenery was wonderful with chunks of red and buff rocks balancing on the edge of the trails and huge rounded formations that were reminiscent of certain body parts! Trails were well marked despite some re-tracking and double use of the same trails, riders just needed to remember which color ribbon to follow. Sunday was cooler with sunshine and shadow and riders enjoyed vistas from the hills north of I-70. Riders crossed the I-70 on a bridge. It was scary but my horse kept one ear cocked for on-coming 18 wheelers and noted their "retreat" under the bridge with his other ear! Riders were urged to look for "bunnies" out on Saturday's trail and those who found them were rewarded in a drawing for special buckets full of prizes. Fun!

Our judges seemed to get plenty of observations and points off on both riders and horses by watching us as we negotiated ravines, plunged down the rocks in the canyons, and clamored on board our saddles after the P&R's. Vet Judge Ron Stuber gave us an interesting talk about fitting saddles and advised us that as our horses age and/or change condition, our current saddle may not fit like it once did. Having fought the problems of saddle fit this year (I think I've finally licked it!) this was interesting, especially when he demonstrated on several horses who were at the ride. Those tell-tale white hairs that sprout on our horses backs mean something! We need to pay attention and resolve the problem. Read Ron's article in this newsletter!

Ride Management offered breakfast and Saturday night's dinner and those of us who took advantage of that offer were not sorry! Great breakfast burritos and pork tenderloin with all the fixings...um,um, good!

We all appreciated the upgraded camp site lot which NATRC trail funds helped to gravel when Sunday afternoon's micro burst of weather and dust-laden wind came blowing through! It was quickly over and after awards, the riders left for home, sad to know that there would be no more CTR's until next spring.

Thanks to Terry and Dianna and all their helpers! We had a wonderful time!



Bill Cumberworth assists Vet Judge Joe Quintana in setting up one his infamous log obstacles - photo by Judi Tobias

# Spruce Mill - Mancos CTR Incredible!!!

by Susan Peters

I had really not planned on riding the Mancos ride. It was late in the year, it was a long drive for me, weather could be iffy, Wolf Creek Pass construction delays were common, gas was expensive, it was a first time ride and you know how chaotic those can be, so I certainly had plenty of good reasons NOT to go. What convinced me to go after all was looking at the pictures of the area dated Oct. '02, on the web site for the ride ([www.sjvtr.org](http://www.sjvtr.org)) under photos. I kept thinking about those beautiful pix and how much I love fall colors and with the weather forecast positive for good roads, I decided to go...best decision of the year!

Most of my fear were unfounded. The trip over Wolf Creek Pass (both ways) was absent of any delays. The most any one was held up was 15 minutes. It was snowing lightly Thursday on the pass but the road was dry. Fall colors were incredible on the way to the ride with every turn of the highway offering a view more stunning than the one I'd just seen. It was a delightful trip. We stayed at the fairgrounds in Pagosa Springs which is close to Hwy 160, across the street from a really good tack shop and with sturdy pens and a \$5 donation, cheap!

Friday dawned clear and sunny and Mancos was only 1/2 hour's drive from Durango and the trip from Hwy 160 to ride site was on 10 miles of good dirt road. The Campsite was stunning with a huge open meadow and trees around the edges. The mountain were covered with aspen and the colors were unbelievable. Snow (the night before of 4 inches) quickly melted and with only 31 riders, check-in was quick and easy.

Michelle and Jeff Fink alleviated my fears of 1st time ride chaos as things ran like clockwork. The trail was a huge circle, no confusing intersections or doubling back, and it permitted riders to fully enjoy the spectacular scenery along meandering creeks, up wide ATV trails, past ponds rimmed with snow and decorated with golden aspen leaves. This ride is totally different from any other ride in our region. There were few rocks, dozens of water crossings, and the trail wound through one huge aspen grove. Most of the trails I've ridden are in coniferous forests with only a few aspen groves. As we rode, golden aspen leaves gently fell, decorating our horses' manes and tails. At places along the trail, we were treated to snow-capped mountain vistas of ragged rock peaks with names like "Sharks Tooth". Most of our CTR mountain trails have a lot of climbing up and down, and you know you are doing it...this ride's trails moved from 8500 feet to 11000 feet so gradually that horses and riders were barely aware of it. Wide, groomed trails permitted cantering, easy trotting and gaiting.

Food was wonderful with the lunch, served by Terri and Lonnie Smith and their crew, of chili dogs, cookies, candy, chips and hot chocolate--what a treat! Our weather was perfect, mild for the riders but cool for our horse's comfort. Saturday night we had a huge bonfire (no fire bans here!) and a beautiful full moon. Everything was perfect and so lovely that everyone from workers to riders had a sense of joy and awe.

My only complaint was that it was way too easy for the judges to get around and it seemed like they met us at every corner of the trail including right out of camp with obstacles. It's one way to guarantee less-than-perfect scores. Vet Judge Joe Quintana had his beloved log obstacles, with so many aspen logs to work with, he was in his element...we stepped over them, sidepassed them, and wove in and out of them... four times! Horsemanship Judge Judi Tobias fulfilled her reputation for novel and challenging obstacles too.

Sunday we had lunch in camp (management's treat), a quick check-out and awards over by 3:30 PM! Riders begged the Finks to do the ride again next year, to no avail, but they did promise to stage it again Spring, 2006 and they say the ride is every bit as spectacular then as in the autumn with scads of wildflowers in bloom! NOTHING will keep me away then and I'll be there to ride those trails again...Thanks Jeff and Michelle!

## Spruce Mill CTR

10/2-3/04 Region 3-CO

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 33

Chairman: Michelle Fink

Judges: Joe Quintana DVM, Judi Tobias

Open Sweepstakes: Brown R Dawud/Judy Mason - 95

Novice Sweepstakes: Rock'N EZ Riley/Jerry Sims-93

### Open Heavyweight

- 1/4 Brazos Blaze/Jeff Brown
- 2/3 Charms Royal Touch/Dee Overholt
- 3/1 Phantoms Masquerade/Matt Baker
- 4/2 SR Sir Bask/Ken Wolgram
- 5/5 Imp/ Boyd Emond

### Novice Lightweight

- 1/6 Trixie Lena/Ann Figueredo
- 2/2 Bonanza's Rebel G/Beth Sims
- 3/4 Rosabella De Carmin/Mary Pulte
- 4/5 Shorty/Kris Councilman
- 5/1 Travelin' Lad/Kelly Carmody
- 6/3 Snip Black Ice/Isabel Fucigna
- P Blaer fra Keldulandi/Lisa Oberteuffer

### Open Lightweight

- 1/2 Brown R Dawud/Judy Mason
- 2/3 Summer/Bety Wolgram
- 3/4 Zeus Suján/Milne Parish
- 4/1 Cloudsrest Zephyr/Tracey Korthius

### Novice Junior

- 1/2 Pinon/Isabel Figueredo
- 2/1 Tango/Casey Bia

### Novice Heavyweight

- 1/1 Rock'N EZ Riley/Jerry Sims
- 2/3 Quierro/Karen Belchef
- 3/2 Bad News Chance/Roger Beumer
- P Blaze/Joyce Arviso

### Competitive Pleasure

- 1/1 WSA Desert Wind/Audrey Taylor
- 2/5 Touch of Yeller Gold/Gary Inman
- 3/ RMR nahr Amir/Carolynn Anderson
- 4/3 Kokopelli Moon/Susan Peters
- 5/2 All the Rage//Kathy Brown
- 6/ Lazy Pine Sundowner/Carol Beumer
- /4 Gunslinger T/Jubb Mike
- /6 WA Cimatation/Laura Schumack
- Baby Doll Spotted Man/Linell Miller
- CR Blaze of Glory/Nancy Frank
- Major Mack's Princess/A. Hazelwood



A competitive rider trails through long shadows cast by the aspens at Spruce Mill CTR photo by Dee Overholt

# Red Feather CTR Ride Results

## 9/4-5/04 Region Three-CO

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 52

Chair: Matt Baker and Roxann Lane

Judges: Donna Johnson, DVM, Janine Ancell

Open Sweepstakes: Summer/ Wolgram, Betty 100

NovSweepstakes: Eladins Promise/Rowe, Cindi 98

### Open Heavyweight

- 1/3 Big Mac's My My/Gordon, Steve
- 2/2 Sky, Dye, Darrell
- 3/1 Rocky Top II/Ward, Jim
- 4/6 Brazos Blaze/Brown, Jeff
- 5/4 Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary
- 6/ Charms Royal Touch/Overholt, D
- /5 Royal Sunset/McCoulough, Ty
- Johnny Danger/Miller, Linell
- P RV Dutch Chocolate/Hoth, Lois

### Open Lightweight

- 1/4 Summer/Wolgram, Betty
- 2/1 MKS Shaamal Nejma/Shanor, Kathy
- 3/2 Panama Jack,Smith/Terri
- 4/ Huck's Last Love/Ward, Lin
- 5/3 Cloudsrest Zephyr/Korthuis, Tracey
- 6/6 Sea Hello Dolly/West, Heather
- /5 Cheyenne/McCullough, Debbie
- GF Jokers Are Wild/Scarlett, Tracie
- Autumns Abbey/Moore, Cathy
- EZ Rider/Melnyk, Andrea
- Fantasy of Fyre/Thielen, Lee
- P Traveler/Haynes, Theresa

### Open Junior

- 1/1 Fortunataa/Shanor, Kymberlie

### Novice Heavyweight

- 1/ Eladins Promise/Rowe, Cindi
- 2/3 Codi/Cook, Bill
- 3/ Bad News Chance/Beumer, Roger
- 4/5 Scooter/Haeberle, Yvette
- 5/2 Emajen If/Halligan, Sherri
- 6/6 Montana/Womack, Lisa
- /1 Buzz/Sinnett, Jim
- /4 Love's Suicide/Richter, Denise

### Novice Lightweight

- 1/5 Summerwood Silverhawk/Greear, K
- 2/1 BHR Hi Boys Echo/Heniser, Vicki
- 3/ Charro/Cook, Mary
- 4/2 RHA Khnight Rebel/Adam, Jan
- 5/4 Ezri/Savage, Carol
- 6/6 Lynx's June Delight/Rogushka, M
- /3 Fugitive's Blazing Tornado/Vasquez L
- P Eladins Spirit/Krull, Amanda
- P French Saber/Massa, Barbara

### Novice Junior:

- 1/1 Pralines & Cream/Richter, Raelynn
- P PS Ganarmus/Pariset, Meggan

### Competitive Pleasure

- 1/1 Becky C/Hollis, Sandra
- 2/2 Kokopelli Moon/Peters, Susan
- 3/5 Post Rock Starry Night/Fredal,C
- 4/ SR Bask/Wogram, Ken
- 5/4 Dichoso/Harder, Cindy
- 6/ Gunslinger T/Jubb, Mike
- /3 Esport/Gunckel, Kay
- /6 All the Rage/Brown, Kathy
- PS Twilight Mist/Lindsey, Priscilla
- LazyPine Sundowner Misty/Beumer,C
- P Resort Valley Sparkler/Marquardt, D



**NATRC Region III Convention**  
**Holiday Inn Denver West Village**  
**Golden, Colorado**  
**January 21-23 2005**

Directions from I-70. Exit at West Colfax (#262). Turn left (east) onto W. Colfax. Turn left at the stoplight, (Indiana St.). Hotel is on the corner of Colfax and Indiana. Please call 303-279-7611 and refer to "2-TRC" for the special 69.00 rate. Up to 4 per room.

The "Hospitality Room" will be open for refreshments starting at 6:00 Friday night. Bring your swimsuit for the pool/hot tub. There will be door prizes, famous speakers, good food and lots of fun!



- ☒ Check-in will begin at 8:00 am Saturday morning.
- ☒ Door prizes needed.
- ☒ BOD Meeting open to all members. We will be voting on new officers. Please come.

Registration Form: Please mail to Tracie Scarlett, 16465 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. Golden, CO 80403

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar and Saturday lunch Adult ( ) X 35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Junior ( ) X 20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Awards banquet dinner Adult ( ) X 26.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non refundable deposit ( ) X 35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please RSVP by December 22