

## **the Stirrup**

**Newsletter of NATRC Region 3**

**Kerry Bingham - Editor**

**630 CR 3000**

**Aztec, NM 87410**

# the Stirrup

Region III Newsletter July-August 2009



The Region III Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication in January, March, May, July, September, and November. It is available by subscription to non-Region III members for \$10 per year.

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## A Message from the President....

I can't believe that the Region 3 ride season is already half over, but sadly it's true. Pinon Mesa, Navajo Lake, Region 3 Benefit Ride at AFA, and Colorado Trail are behind us, and Purgatory, Bear Basin, Caja del Rio, and Chokecherry remain. I hope we can pick up at least two more rides for our schedule next year, but we have to have folks willing to jump in and undertake the task of offering these rides which brings me to the main subject of my president's message.

Depending on how budget conscious ride management is, it usually takes about 40 riders for a ride to barely break even. More than that number usually means that the ride can make a little money which can be set aside for startup expenses for the next year's ride. Fewer than 40 means that the ride usually loses money, and management cannot be expected to continue to sponsor rides that lose money unless the club or ride manager is independently wealthy (a very unlikely scenario). The "catch-22" arises when riders cannot or will not sign up ahead of time and at least pay a deposit. It is extremely difficult for ride managers to stare at a rider list just two or three weeks before a ride and see only 20 riders signed up. I don't blame ride managers who might panic and cancel the ride in order to avoid the possibility of losing their shirt if only 25 or 30 riders show up. On the other hand, riders are often afraid to sign up ahead of time and risk losing their deposits if their horses become sick or injured or if a family situation should arise which would make it impossible for them to attend the ride. I can't blame riders either who choose to wait until the ride date is closer to sign up when they feel more confident that they can actually attend.

I would venture to guess that competitors who have managed a ride and been responsible for assuming all the costs are more aware of a ride manager's plight when entries are slow to come in. These folks, I believe for the most part, try to get their entries and deposits in one or more months ahead of time and some are even willing, regardless of the "refund policy" of the ride, to donate their deposits if they are unable to attend at the last minute. A ride can lose quite a bit of much-needed money even if there are just a few last-minute cancellations or no-shows. I believe also that many of our ride managers, regardless of the ride's "refund policy" are willing to refund most or all of a rider's deposit if their ride fills and they are able to replace non-attending competitors with those on a waiting list. Hopefully, however, riders can also respect and honor a ride's refund policy for entries and/or deposits if they have to cancel for whatever reason.

One thing I noticed in looking at our ride book is that there are almost as many requirements for refunds and deposits as there are rides. Of course, ride managers are free to determine their own entry amounts, deposit amounts, and refund policies, etc. and it is and should be a competitor's responsibility to read these policies, but sometimes the policies are not described in clear detail if a rider is using the RMS system to enter rather than carefully reading the ride book information. Also, new members or late renewing members or even out-of-region members may not have received a ride book.

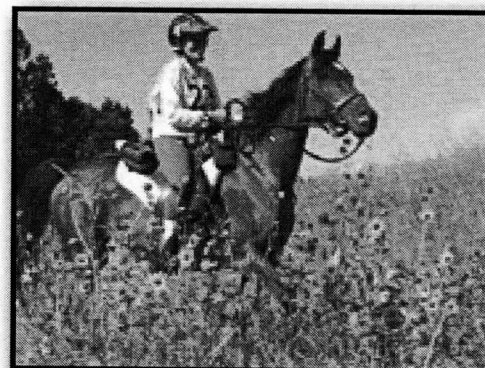
So, what to do? Below my president's message, I have created a chart describing entry, deposit, and refund information from all eight of our 2009 rides. As you can see, there is a lot of difference among the rides. Maybe if ride managers could come together for the 2010 season and decide on a single deposit and refund policy for all the rides, it would help the situation, maybe not. Two of our rides also offered an early discount, and I'm sure that is appreciated by some riders, and one of the rides is charging a late fee for entries within a couple of weeks of the ride. This, too, has its advantages (it makes sense to me that riders who enter late should pay more); however, it doesn't solve the overall issue of refunds in general. Some rides give refunds "at discretion of management" which, to me, isn't at all clear. Others described very clearly the refund policy.

In an effort to foster more involvement and communication (which is one of my goals as president this year), I would like to ask that both members and ride managers (both present and prospective ride managers) please contact me by e-mail or telephone and share their feelings and ideas about these issues with me. All replies will be kept confidential but I would like to share them with you in the next *Stirrup* and maybe we can arrive at a consensus which will help both competitors and ride managers alike. Please take the time to do this. Also, if you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to share those with me to be used as future topics in the *Stirrup*. I hope you enjoy the rest of the ride season. Please support the rides.

Happy Trails,

Betty Wolgram, President Region 3

E-mail: [bkwranch@hughes.net](mailto:bkwranch@hughes.net) Telephone: 970-824-8359



Ride Name	Ride book Deposit/Refund Information
Pinon Mesa April 4-5	No deposit listed (assume full payment required with entry) Refunds at discretion of management.
Navajo Lake May 9-10	No deposit listed (assume full payment required with entry) No statement regarding refunds.
Region 3 Benefit Ride at AFA May 23-24	\$10 discount for early registration until April 1. \$50 deposit. No statement regarding refunds.
Colorado Trail June 6-7	\$10 discount for early registration until May 1. \$35 deposit. Refunds until May 15, less \$15 administration fee. No show-No refund.
Purgatory July 11-12	\$50 deposit. Before June 10, all except \$15 refunded. After June 10, no refunds.
Bear Basin August 1-2	\$40 deposit. All but \$20 refunded if cancel by July 10.
Caja del Rio Sept. 5-6	\$50 deposit. Late fee of \$15 for entries after August 19. Cancellations prior to Sept. 1, all but \$15 refunded. Other refunds at discretion of secretary.
Chokecherry Sept. 26-27	No deposit listed (assume full payment required with entry) Refunds at discretion of management.

### *Letter from the Editor...*

Hello everyone! Hope you enjoy this issue, it is packed with ride results and great articles. If you have an email address that you check frequently and have not been getting region news, please email me so that I can include you on the list. Also, remember that our region has a yahoo chat group whose purpose is to share information about rides, clinics, trails, volunteer work. Just go to the region's website ([www.natrc3.org](http://www.natrc3.org)) and click on the YahooGroup link. Hope everyone has been lucky enough to get out on the trail and enjoy some time with your horse. I have been helping with trail marking at Purgatory....its going to be a great ride!

Take care, Kerry Bingham [kbingham630@msn.com](mailto:kbingham630@msn.com)

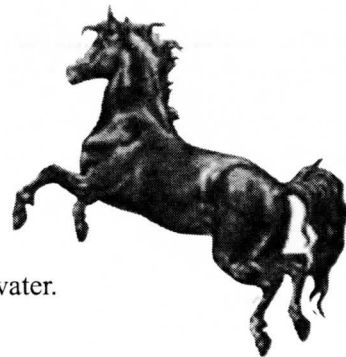


### **National Board Member Needed!**

Region III will be having an election for our National Board Member for Region III this fall. Nominations for this 3 year term must be submitted before September 1st and sent to Carla Richardson at [richardson.carla@gmail.com](mailto:richardson.carla@gmail.com) or Lynne Hutnick at [llhoa@sonic.net](mailto:llhoa@sonic.net). If anyone needs additional information they can call Carla at 970 986-2677. NBOD meets 3 times a year, at the national convention (Feb or March), and two times in Denver (July and November), so anyone who wants to be on the national board needs to be able to attend those meetings. Most expenses are reimbursed, so it is not a financial hardship. Anyone who wants to be a national board member must have been a NATRC member for 2 years and have been a "voting member" in other words have participated/voted in NATRC elections.

### **THE 12 "MOST IMPORTANT" THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU OWN A HORSE..**

- To induce labor in a mare? Take a nap.
- To cure equine constipation? Load them in a clean trailer.
- To cure equine insomnia? Take them in a halter class.
- To get a horse to stay very calm and laid back? Enter them in a liberty class.
- To get a horse to wash their own feet? Clean the water trough and fill it with fresh water.
- To get a mare to come in heat? Take her to a show.
- To get a mare in foal the first cover? Let the wrong stallion get out of his stall.
- To make sure that a mare has that beautiful, perfectly marked foal you always wanted? Sell her before she foals.
- To get a show horse to set up perfect and really stretch? Get him out late at night or anytime no one is around to see him.
- To induce a cold snap in the weather? Clip a horse.
- To make it rain? Mow a field of hay.
- To make a small fortune in the horse business? Start with a large one.





# Caja Del Rio Clinic

10 AM June 13th on the Caja Del Rio Land 12 clinic attendees & 4 clinicians met to learn about NATRC. This clinic was hosted by Shelley Green, Ride Manager for the Caja Del Rio ride that will be held Labor Day weekend.

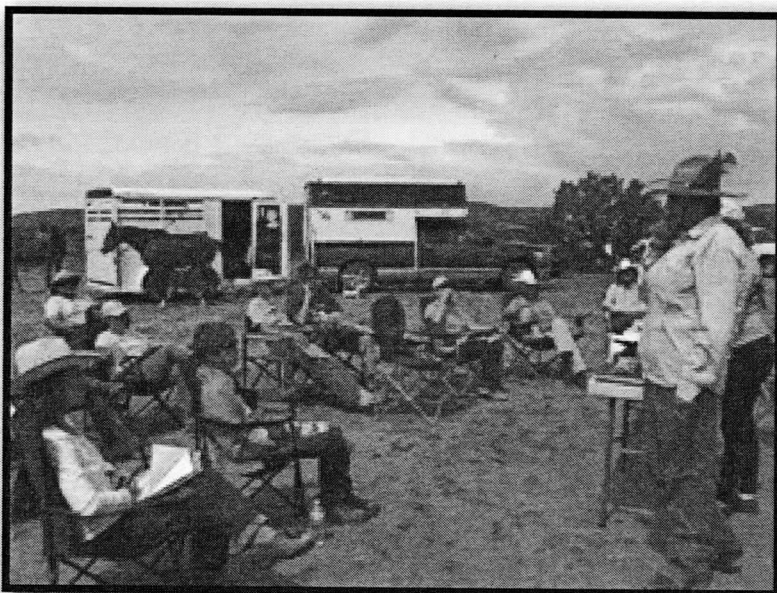
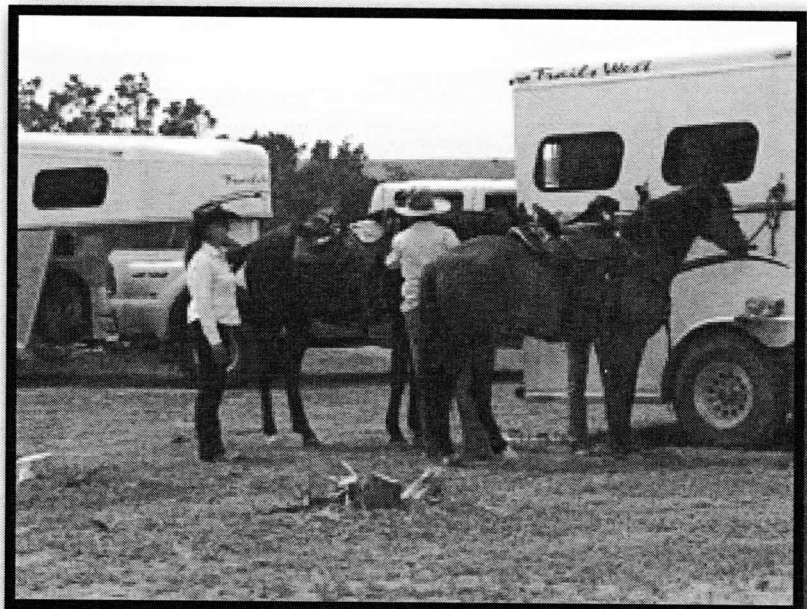
Clinicians were Ed & Cheri Westmorland, Deidre Monroe & Shelley Green. We started the day with dounuts & juice & a welcome to the Caja. Then divided into 3 groups. Each clinician had topics to cover. These included; nutrition, conditioning, what to bring on the trail, tack, map reading, timing your pace, obstacles & observations, P & R, trail ettiquite, how

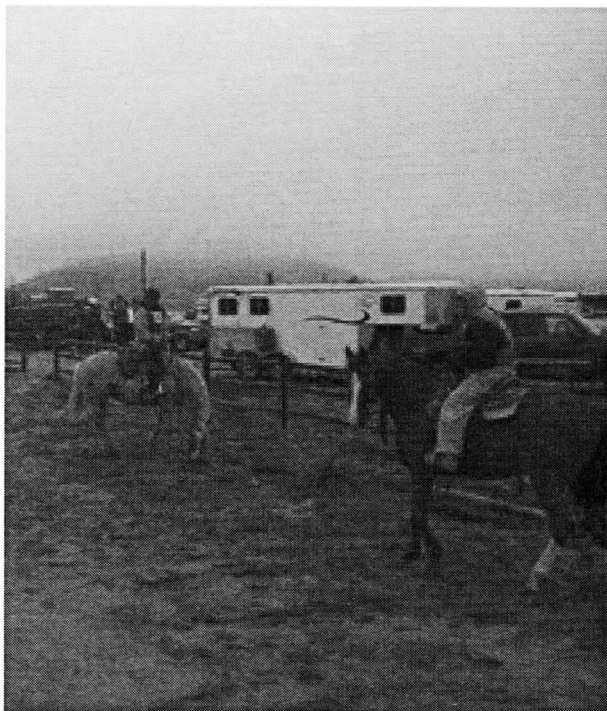
to check in, what to wear, & much much more!!!! There were many questions & clarifications. Everyone learned lots, including the clinicians. After lunch all attendees tacked up their horses tried a couple different obstacles then went out for a 4 mile ride with marked trail & all. When they returned we had a "real" P&R so they could get used to what that felt like.

Attendees included endurance people & a wonderful group from Taos & local Santa Feans. I look forward to the excitement that NATRC is bringing to the Santa Fe area.

I personally invite EVERYONE to come ride the Caja Labor Day weekend.

Shelley Green

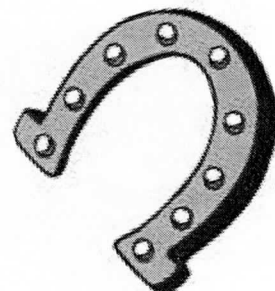
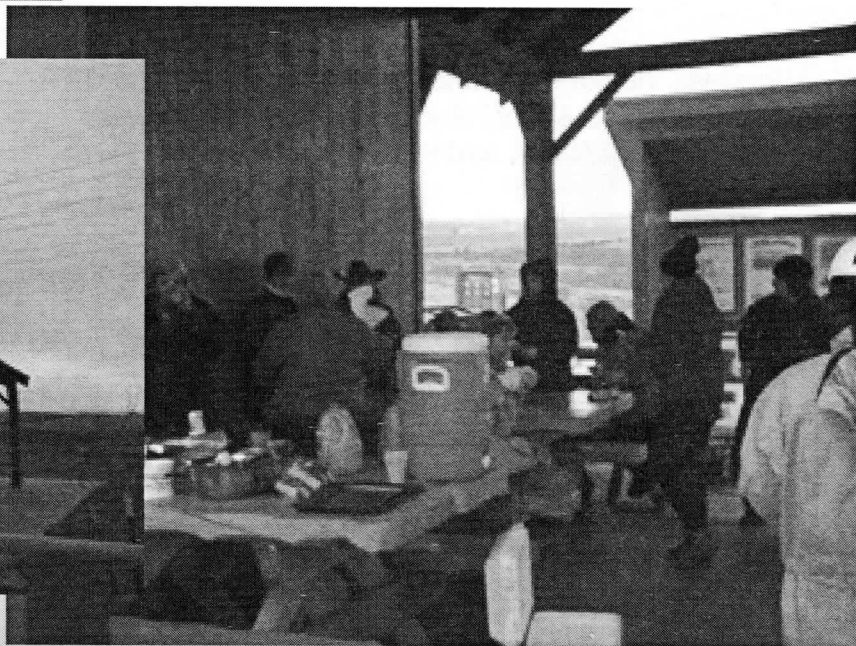
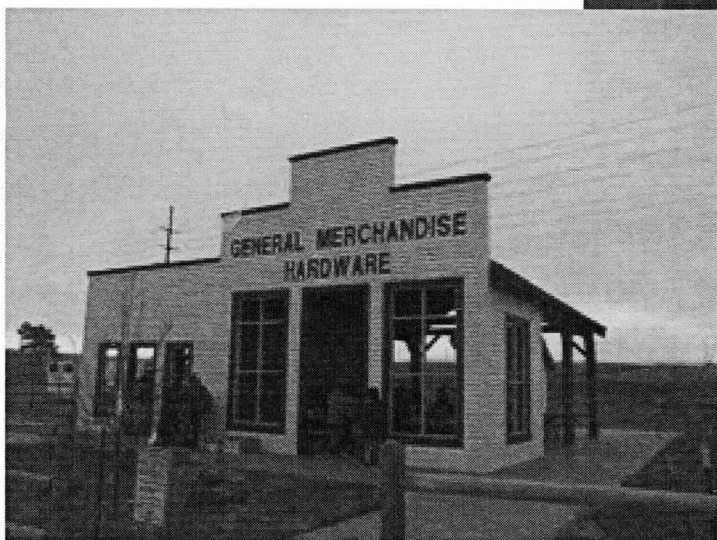




## AFA Clinic Update

The clinic at the AFA ride boasted 12 riders and 5 auditors and 15 volunteers - a tough group - it was 40 degrees and foggy with some wind - brrrr. Riders/volunteers came from as far away as Fort Collins, Granby, Buena Vista, and Westcliffe. Carol Fredal made her signature chili and brownies - delicious. The riders did 8.2 miles of trails, an obstacle, a tack check, and a P&R. A number of riders signed up to compete in subsequent rides - to come to the clinic in such challenging weather is a good sign that these riders are tough!! Susie Witter did her usual great job of educating in a fun way.

~Susan Peters



## Region Three Benefit at the Air Force Academy

5/23-24/09 Region Three-CO

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 54

Chairman: Kristen Squazzo

Judges: Greg Fellers DVM, Susie Witter

Novice Sweepstakes: Moose 4/Dunkelberger,  
Donna-98.5

Open Sweepstakes: Marquisesmischief/Jewell, Jonni-  
100

### Open Heavyweight

- 1/4 Marquisesmischief/Jewell, Jonni
- 2/ Rock'n E.Z. Rey/Sims, Jerry
- 3/3 Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary
- 4/2 Cedar Mesa Rushon/Budd, Kathy
- 5/1 Gizmo 2/Talbot, Jill
- 6/ Hungarian Caliber/Budd, Don
- /5 Peanut 2/Baker, Matt
- /6 Talk Til Midnight/Gunckel, Kay  
Midnight Cinder/Adkison, Marie

### Open Lightweight

- 1/3 Phantom's Masquerad/ Lane, Roxann
- 2/2 Brown R Dawud/Mason, Judy Wise
- 3/1 Fraidy Cat/Smith, Terri
- 4/5 Hasty's Blossom/Peters, Susan
- 5/6 Jake 19/Combs, Janna
- 6/4 Fawn Creek Thor/Ferganchick, Brandy

### Open Junior

- 1/1 Dillon 2/Gunckel, JJ

### Open DO

Jordan 2/Adkison, Bobby

### Novice Heavyweight

- 1/2 Sparky 2/Horton, Drew
- 2/1 Mariah 3/Wingle, Bill
- 3/4 Perka/DeMeo, Christopher
- 4/3 JK White Gold/Schick, Marcia

### Novice Lightweight

- 1/ Moose 4/Dunkelberger, Donna
- 2/3 Charlies Angel/LaRue, Susan
- 3/2 Nell 3/Horton, Mary
- 4/4 Sixes Peppy Lady/Feazell, Juleen
- 5/ Aidan 2/Lane, Lorrie
- 6/ Marley 2/Attick, Barbara
- /1 Leaf/Fleischer, Donna
- /5 Glenormiston Inisheer/Wich, Alyce
- /6 Jewelianna/Lagasse, Candice  
Dakota 10/Newman, Jane  
BB Keynote/Vanpoolen, Kirt
- P Foxy Red Lace/Herbrandson, Carmen
- P Mel 2/York, Cynthia
- P Jessie 2/Diesel, Deborah

### Novice Junior

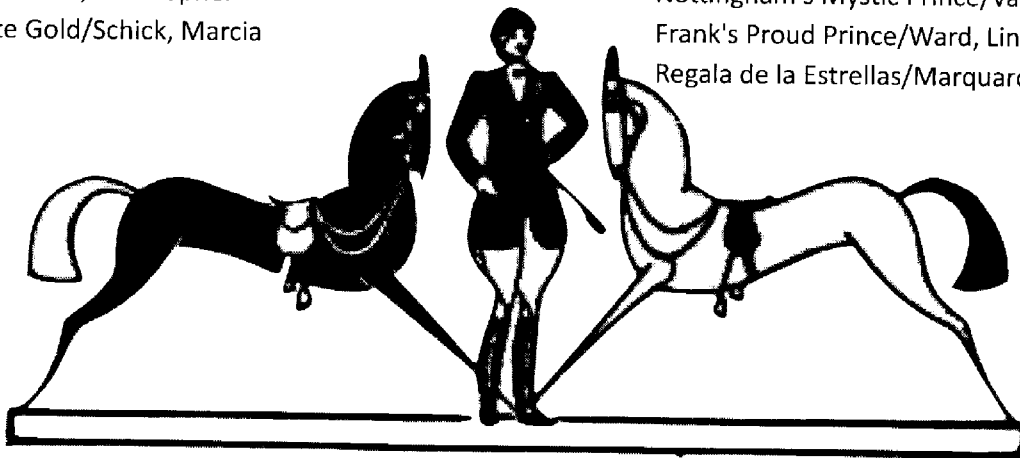
- 1/1 Evynstarr Metro/Laden, Sarah
- 2/2 Layla/Auer, Emily
- P Thunder 6/Martin, Dillon

### Novice DO

Kentucky Moonshine/Kanemasu, Susan

### Competitive Pleasure

- 1/4 Summer/Wolgram, Betty
- 2/5 Eduardo el Nigrito Knight/Wingle, Diane
- 3/ Ace of Hearts WDG/Miller-Inman, Linell
- 4/ Rocky Top II/Ward, Jim
- 5/3 Cappuccino's Minnie Pearl/Rubenstein, Angie
- 6/1 Magical Serenade/Halligan, Sherri
- /2 Prides Lawyer/Sinnett, James
- /6 Pearl/Brooks, Wendy
- BHR Hosan China Moon/Heniser, Vicki
- Gunslinger T/Jubb, Mike
- Glenormiston Rossleague/Laden, Karen
- Slicks Bar-B-Doll/Overholt, Dee
- Nottingham's Mystic Prince/Vasquez, Louise
- Frank's Proud Prince/Ward, Lin
- Regala de la Estrellas/Marquardt, Diana





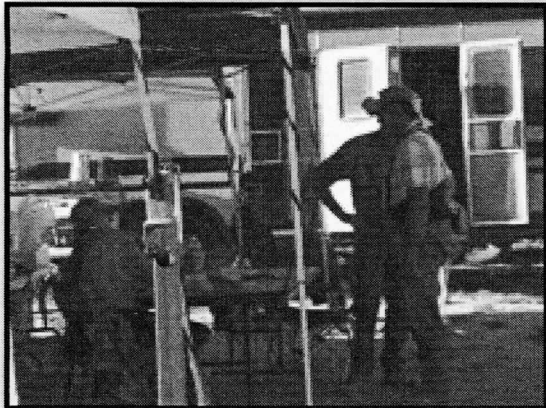
## Bill Smith Memorial CTR

### "35th Anniversary"

Whew. What a weekend. It's Monday night and I somehow dragged myself to work today after completing the Navajo Lake Bill Smith Memorial 35th Anniversary Trail Ride. I am so thankful for finishing....a lot of people didn't. (almost one third I am told!) It was hot, dusty and rugged! Which, as most of us know, is just how Navajo Lake is. Saturday started off with a bee line for the goat trail....a series of steep downhill trails that wind through boulders of all sizes. Then a steep and long climb to the first and second p&r's. That second climb was a doozy...practically straight up.

This was my first ride to try and ride with Easyboots on all fours. Normally, I would have done two, but she had sore sore feet from a trim a few weeks back. I learned right off the bat that I didn't have them on tight enough. Funny how they stay on when you do little rides around the house but when you get to a competition.....need I say more?! Made the mistake of hearing that my (first) lost boot was back at the obstacle a few hundred yards back....so I went back for it and put it back on my horse. Duh. If it falls off and you put it back on the same way, chances are excellent it will come off again. To make a long story short, I ended the day with NO Easyboots on my horse's feet...although thankfully, other riders picked them up and I didn't lose any of those \$50 gems.....and then picking up the pace to make up for lost time for messing with the stupid boots. ok. The boots aren't stupid. But I was stupid for not getting them on correctly!

Here I go again...more stories of my misfortunes. Was winding through a pinon grove above the goat trail and all of a sudden WHAM....got cold-cocked in the forehead by a very large, very stiff and very hidden branch. My neck and shoulders shuddered and I am convinced that if I had not had my helmet on it would have knocked me out. I was by myself as well, having been delayed in the Easyboot search. Made it down the goat trail without incident. Then we had to cross a road onto a very loose dirt hill and my horse fell and I went down with her, into the hill. I prayed as I saw my left foot stuck in the stirrup as she started to move away. Thankfully, my foot came loose and then my horse stopped like a good girl. Then we hit that second climb to the p&r. At one point my horse just stopped and it almost felt as if she were going to keel over on me. I dismounted and we rested quite a while for her to get her breath back. The big obstacle of the day was to dismount off side onto a large rock, remount and back up hill and around the rock. Of course, (and haven't you heard this before) we do it at home all of the time and do just fine....and of course the horse wouldn't stand still for me to be even close to dismounting! I'll tell you, having just switched to CP from Novice I have found the obstacles to be a lot more challenging.



The judges trying to keep cool!

Saturday was very challenging for horses and riders. Lots of high p&r's and sore backs. My husband had a VERY scary thing happen. When we got back to camp we fed and watered the horses and were sitting on the other side of the trailer when someone told us that my husband's horse was down.

We went over there and she was cast....laying on her side, back legs slightly under the trailer....her eyes rolling into the back of her head with no response. Cristy Cumber-

worth and Dr. Donna Johnson got our soft cotton leadrope and managed to roll her over so that she was out from under the trailer and then about five of us started hollering and slapping her to get her up. She finally got up....I turned around in a panic, "Where is a vet?" only to have Dr. Quintana, Dr. Emond and Dr. Donna Johnson all standing there. They gave her an injection of pain killer, muscle relaxers and tubed some liquid with electrolytes into her. The prognosis was that she tied up, which happens when the muscles get too much lactic acid from dehydration and strenuous work. I have since then found out that it is more common in quarter and draft horses who are more heavily muscled. hmmm.....no wonder there aren't more quarter horses doing NATRC. The mare is doing fine now thank goodness but I don't think she'll be doing anymore competitive trail rides.

Sunday's ride was quite nice....a mere 18 miles, part of which went through a large canyon with lots of newly greened trees and some water. The end of the trail was fun with the "Mother's Day Gifts" hanging in the trees and a thank you note when we timed in. By the time we got back to camp the wind had picked up and dust was a 'blowin'. We were a hot and tired crew, that's for sure! Thanks to Russ and Linda Jones and everyone who worked their rear ends off on this ride. It is appreciated!

~Kerry Bingham



Thank goodness for the volunteer fire department for providing water!

## Navajo Lake

5/9-10/09 Region Three-NM

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 54

Chairman: Russ Jones

Judges: Joe Quintana DVM, Terry Yates

Novice Sweepstakes: Sixes Peppy Lady/Feazell, Juleen-92

Open Sweepstakes: Brown R Dawud/Mason, Judy Wise-97

### Open Heavyweight

- 1/2 Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary
- 2/3 Rock'n E.Z. Rey/Sims, Jerry
- 3/4 Phantoms Masquerade/Baker, Matt
- 4/1 Rock'n E.Z. Ruby/Smith, Jenny
- 5/5 Dee Bar/Westmoreland, Cheri
- P Hungarian Caliber/Budd, Don
- P Cedar Mesa Rushon/Budd, Kathy

### Open Lightweight

- 1/3 Brown R Dawud/Mason, Judy Wise
- 2/1 Fraidy Cat/Smith, Terri
- 3/2 MKS Shamal Nejma/Shanor, Kathy
- 4/4 Fawn Creek Thor/Ferganchick, Brandy

### Novice Heavyweight

- 1/1 JOR Picasso/O'Brien, Wava
- 2/ Fergie/Kelly, Robin
- 3/4 Sparky 2/Horton, Drew
- 4/6 Winters End/Fiala, Bob
- 5/5 Pepper 7/Maracle, Shawnee
- 6/2 Mariah 3/Wingle, Bill
- /3 ESA Pro Temp/Chamberlain, Alden
- P Animo de Vega/Gagas, Trudy
- P Emily Te/Kasper, Pete
- P Junes Lucky Mac/Zahrt-Brewer, Anne
- P Rusty 10/Notz, Linda
- P Chama/Bingham, Kenny

### Novice Lightweight

- 1/1 Sixes Peppy Lady/Feazell, Juleen
- 2/5 Nell 3/Horton, Mary
- 3/2 Ringo Star/Casara, Kimberly

- 4/ Kemal Aronstar/Jarrett, Cheryl
- 5/ Arthena/Newkirk, Dana
- 6/ Charlies Angel/LaRue, Susan
- /3 Sherman 2/Lewis, Natalie
- /4 BB Keynote/Vanpoolen, Kirt

- /6 Scout 9/Carman, Jody
- Glenormiston Rossleague/Wich, Alyce
- P Erica Jo/Robinson, Terri
- P Bugs Is Azure Thing/Brown, Gwen
- P Nash/Diesel, Deborah

### Novice Junior

- 1/1 Ranger 7/Fusco, Alyssa
- 2/2 Camberhazi III/Parris, Mickenzie

### Novice DO

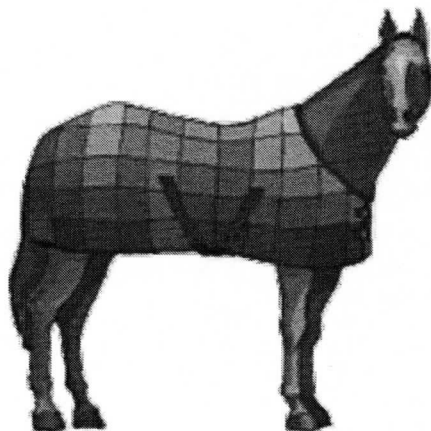
- DO-1 Dusty 5/Lawrence, Jacky

### Competitive Pleasure

- 1/1 RMR Nahr Amir/Andersen, Carolyn
- 2/2 Angelita Carinosa/Garrett, Betty
- 3/5 Summer/Wolgram, Betty
- 4/3 LOMA Gladiator/Johnson, Donna
- 5/6 Blue Spruce Shanta/Howell, Perran
- 6/4 Eduardo el Nigrito Knight/Wingle, Diane
- Ace of Hearts, WDG/Miller-Inman, Linell
- Frank's Proud Prince/Ward, Lin
- Akhilles/Saunders, Lynn
- Golden Ambition/Bingham, Kerry
- Chances Misty Leo/Burkdoll, Mitchel
- Rocky Top II/Ward, Jim
- P Huck's Last Love/Trude, Jane
- P Slicks Bar-B-Doll/Overholt, Dee

### Competitive Pleasure DO

- DO-1 Brazos Blaze/Brown, Jeff



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## Ride Worker Points Matter!

At its recent Board meeting, your regional board voted to raise worker points in a number of categories. The Board wants all of our volunteers to know that you are important, not only to individual rides, but to the region as a whole. Region 3 gives year-end awards to its volunteers based on accumulated lifetime worker points. I know that I value the worker recognition awards that I have received just as much as the horse and rider awards that I have received.

Below are listed ride worker jobs and the points assigned. We ask that our ride managers please submit their worker points as soon as possible after the ride to Beth Sims, our worker awards chair. We would also ask that workers check with management to be sure their points were turned in. Workers are also welcome to notify Beth individually about the various ride assignments they have held this year as it is ultimately your responsibility to see that you are given the points to which you are entitled. Workers do not have to be Region 3 members to receive worker recognition.

Ride Worker Points adopted May 22, 2009 (workers receive the points for each job they fulfill for a ride)

Ride Manager	250	Safety Rider/per day	50 (plus Region 3 mileage for the division ridden)
Ride Secretary	250	Pre-Rider/per day	50 (plus Region 3 mileage for the division ridden)
Ride Trail Master	250	Rules Interpreter	75 per day
P & R Chair	150	Weigh Master	25
Ride Awards Chair	100	Water Haulers & Assistants	75 per day
P & R Workers	50 per day	Mentor (ride along)	50 per day
Ride Judge (if fee Donated)	150 per day	Cook for Volunteers Only	200
Judge's Secretary	150	Cook's Helper for Volunteers Only	50 per day
Worker Driver	50 per day	Cook for All Camp (not a paid caterer)	250
Ride Timer/per day	100	Cook's Helper for All Camp	50 per day
Trail marking/per day	50		
Trail timing/per day	50		



If you have any questions about any of these jobs or your points, please feel free to contact me or Beth Sims. Thank you so much for making it possible for Region 3 to have its ride season every year. ~Betty Wolgram

## Trot Safely Into Those P&R's

Submitted by Betty Wolgram

I recently had a novice rider express a concern about trotting into p&r's. It seems that as she was trotting her horse, a couple of riders overtook her and without any warning passed her at a very fast trot which really startled her and her horse. Thankfully, her horse was quickly brought under control and continued to trot rather than bolting after the other horses, but the rider was left with a very negative feeling about the incident.

Region 3 riders are normally asked to maintain some kind of forward motion into a p&r check. This is done in an attempt to stress the horses equally for a certain speed and/or distance. Sometimes riders are asked to climb a hill without stopping; sometimes riders are asked to trot into the p&r, and sometimes riders are just asked to maintain forward motion (i.e. a walk at the least).

Most competitors demonstrate a great deal of consideration for their fellow riders during a ride, for example, waiting at a water stop until all the horses there have had an opportunity to drink, waiting at a p&r stop for the horse behind to be checked, waiting at a judged obstacle for the horse behind so it doesn't get upset at being left, and there are many other examples of such courtesies that we all try to extend during the ride to our fellow competitors.

Out on the trail the rules allow riders to ride at their own pace except under certain circumstances as within the two mile marker where forward motion must be maintained. We are also aware that on the trail it is considered good manners to give notice when we wish to pass another rider. That rider then has the opportunity to move off the trail and stop their horse or continue to maintain their pace and allow the other rider to pass. It is the obligation of the rider who wishes to pass to do so safely.

On a required trot to p&r, a rider is not given the opportunity of stopping to move off the trail if he or she feels that it will upset their horse to continue moving while being passed. Their horse may be young or green or new to the company of other horses and might get very upset at being passed while in motion. The terrain also may not allow safe passing. So what can we do?

The rules allow us to stop before beginning a trot into a p&r and while this affords us the chance to allow our horses to graze for a little bit before proceeding, it can also serve another useful purpose. If we know that we are pretty much alone out there, it makes no difference if we stop or go, but if we are aware (and we should be) that there is a rider (or riders) in front of us who have begun their trot, I would like to suggest that we allow a minute or two in order to avoid overtaking them before the p&r. For experienced horses and competitors, this may seem a trivial suggestion, but for a novice rider being overtaken by a horse doing an extended trot even on a two-track trail can be a traumatic experience.



## 9 Lives, for a Horse?

By Lynn Saunders

It was a spring month in 1986 when Big Bold Fury, aka Harold was born in a New Mexico race barn with owners having great expectations of him. He was two when he ran his first and only stakes race at NM Futurity, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> and fracturing his knee, the owners were ready to end his life there at the track. However, a friend, standing close to the owners as they were making the decision to euthanize Harold stepped forward and asked to take the horse. They agreed, and for the next 18 years he was turned out to pasture in Los Lunas, NM.

A couple of years after he arrived in Los Lunas, the land surrounding Harold's pasture was in the beginning stages of development. Water-pipe trenches had just been dug when a major thunderstorm rolled through frightening Harold. He managed to escape the pasture and ended up in a mud-filled trench where he remained all night until his owner found him the next morning. His owner had to use a front loader to pull exhausted Harold out.

Many more years would pass and Harold would see his owner and savior get married, have 3 kids, and then die just shy of 50. His owner's youngest child, a girl, had taken an interest in Harold and began caring for and riding him, but she, too, died suddenly at the sweet age of 16.

During the mother's time of mourning, some ropers asked if they could try out Harold, and not knowing how to care for the horse, she agreed. Six months after she loaned the ropers the horse, he was returned with both stifles severely damaged. She was unaware of it at the time.

The feuding began not long after Harold's return and he was caught in the crossfire. The wife, who owned the pasture that Harold had spent the majority of his life on, was feuding with her in-laws. The in-laws, owning the land around her home and pasture, decided to cut off the water source that irrigated the pasture that fed Harold. Eventually, after about a year or two, the lovely, green pasture turned to weeds. Harold, now in his early 20s began to slowly starve.

It was a little over a year ago, when I and my niece, Mickenzie Clements, began to observe the lonely horse on the dead pasture and how he was losing weight. When he had reached a point where I was certain he wouldn't survive another year in these conditions, something happened.

I was taking my niece to school one day and I observed Harold standing by his water trough like he had been the night before. Later that evening, on my way back home with Mickenzie, we saw him still standing over his trough. I stopped my car and pulled into a gate that led to a deserted house. I asked Mickenzie to check his water. She returned stating it was bone dry. We found the hose among some weeds and filled his water to the top. He drank and stood for a long while thanking us with his nickering and cuddling Mickenzie with his head.

The next morning I drove a tractor with a bail of hay and dropped it over the fence. Over the next few days, he ate all of it. I finally saw a car in front of the home and Mickenzie went up to inquire about the horse. The owner was happy to let us have him and shared his life story with us.

When we brought him home, he was in bad shape. He was severely under weight and his teeth had never been floated, making them razor sharp. His hooves were so short that I was surprised our horse shoer had room for nails to put on the shoes. It was during this time that we found out about his stifle problems and was told by a vet that when he was in better health and weight that working him on trail and flat ground would help with his stifle problems. Only a few days had passed since we took ownership of Harold, and several hours after his teeth were floated, our stallion got out and attacked poor Harold tearing each side of his flanks wide open.

It took about six months for Harold to put on some healthy weight and for his wounds to heal before my mother started working with him in the arena. He was a bit head strong, but manageable and he had a great personality. He was a gentle giant.

This year, Region 3 was having another ride. It was the AFA ride in Colorado Springs and everyone that knew me and Mickenzie, wanted to make there first-time ride at this ride. We had 8 riders and 6 were first timers. We decided to use Harold for one of the lightweight adults. We had a caravan of 3 trailers headed north to Colorado and right outside Trinidad is where our troubles began. My friend's tire blew on her old trailer and when we pulled over in Walsenburg, Colorado, to fix it, another car pulled up behind us and said that another trailer of ours (brand new trailer, by the way) had lost its wheel completely and almost struck their car before whizzing by them and crossing into I-25 traffic heading south. Thank goodness, I had done an inspection of my friend's old trailer and insisted that he get a spare tire before leaving Albuquerque. However, in my own preparation for this trip, I was not so fortunate. I had my new trailer serviced where they checked the tires and took off each of the wheels, and lubed the bearings before replacing the tires. Unfortunately, they forgot to put one pin back in, thus the bearing exploded and I lost my wheel causing damage to the trailer that the town of Walsenburg could not simply fix.

After spending the night in Walsenburg, I was making arrangements to have the trailer towed to Trinidad when a man, who was at the Walsenburg's tire shop offered me his **OLD**, stock trailer to tow a horse 70 more miles to our destination in Colorado Springs. I could return it on my way back. I had other friends arriving later at the AFA ride that had an extra stall to carry a horse back if my trailer wasn't completed by the end of the ride. So, my dilemma was either to have one adult stay behind with one horse and wait 4 to 9 hours at a Kodak place in Walsenburg for me to haul the rest of the horses up to the AFA ride, get them situated, and then drive back to Walsenburg in the big trailer to pick them up, **or** have our friends pick them up on the way to the ride, **or** borrow the man's trailer and return it on Sunday after the ride. I chose the latter.

It seemed simple enough, but when I saw the stock trailer, my heart sunk just a little. It was not made of steel, but of side panels of rotting wood held together by pencil-framed steel. The base boards were the only thing that looked decent. The stock trailer looked more like something made for hauling goats, pigs, or ponies, not horses. I looked apprehensively at the owner and asked if it was sturdy enough. He insisted it was and that he regularly used it to haul his girl's 4-H horses all around and it would be fine for a 70 mile drive. He also added that he had been intending to replace some of the old paneling that seemed unstable when he shook it. Later, that would be the paneling that would give way causing the accident.

My mistake, I didn't listen to my first gut reaction when I saw the trailer, that it was unstable and not safe. I let an older, tenure horseman tell me it was "okay". I never shook the sides of the trailer to see how sturdy it **wasn't**! Had I, I would have seen that it swayed from side to side, offering no support if a horse was to lean on it.

It was Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, shortly past 11:00 am when we left Walsenburg for Colorado Springs. Forty miles into the drive, in the heart of downtown Pueblo, Colorado, I looked in my rear view mirror and didn't see my sister driving the borrowed stock trailer with Harold on it, or my friend's trailer. I received numerous calls in a matter of minutes from my sister and junior riders telling me hysterically that there had been



an accident about a mile back and to get back there fast! I turned my big rig around and saw the bloody sight immediately. There had been an immediate response from Pueblo's citizens. Horse owners on their way to work had stopped and were in the process of trying to free poor Harold. He had slipped and his rear right leg had broken through the rotting panel and gone in between the wheel wells. The tires forced his leg down and under the rear tire impaling the inside cannon bone from the hock to the fetlock onto the head of a small, steel post that was exposed between the inside of the stock trailer and wheel wells. This steel post and the force of tires took all the flesh and tissue instantly away, exposing his entire cannon bone from hock to fetlock. Furthermore, the bigger concern was the flexor joint, right below the hock. Again, the back tire had burned right through to the flexor joint and had damaged it, but at the moment, we were not certain of the severity of damage.

Within minutes the fire department, sheriff's patrol, local police, animal control, and animal rescue were there quickly breaking wood, taking off tires, and calling equine vets to the scene. While they worked to free Harold, I went to my big trailer to look for wraps, bandages, and antibiotics, but then I realized they were in the other trailer that had been hauled down to Trinidad for repair! I was very upset and grabbed my polo wraps, but just as I was about to attempt to use them the vets showed up. They sedated him, quickly assessed the damage in the trailer, packed it with FurZol, wrapped his leg in a thick padded cast, and backed him right into another trailer because he couldn't step down and bear weight.

While I hopelessly watched all this my thoughts went back two weeks prior to the Navajo Ride. The horsemanship judge had asked me a "situational" question before making me maneuver an obstacle. The question was *"Your horse's leg is trapped in between some large rocks. He cuts his leg while trying to free himself and is bleeding profusely, with the things you have with you, what can you do to stop the bleeding?"* Sadly, I didn't take the question as seriously as I should have. I was so intent on completing the obstacle, even when she emphasized that something similar had happened already and it's something every rider should be prepared to handle. I simply gave a creative answer and moved on to the obstacle. Now two weeks later, I am in that situation!!! Furthermore, I couldn't even think and have no emergency wraps or anything that I felt was sterile enough to wrap Harold's leg.

Harold was a trooper, he flailed until he was freed, but was calm in the midst of a horrible accident while the vets did their job at the scene. I-25N was shut down for 2 ½ hours while they worked to free Harold and get him loaded on the rescue trailer. I rode with the vets back to Mesa Animal Clinic and answered all the questions asked of me about Harold's history and how he came to be in the accident.

Their concern was that if the cannon bone had been broken or fractured, or if the flexor tendon had been burned beyond repair, then the decision would be to have Harold humanely put down. I was very upset and couldn't believe all this had happened during a simple trip to a NATRC ride!

Dr Matt and Dr Barker both agreed that if Harold didn't have a broken cannon or the flexor tendon was not completely damaged and he survived any possible infections that his recovery would take anywhere between 9 months to over a year to completely heal. They stitched some dead, flapping skin over the exposed cannon in hopes of giving the bone some protection but were not optimistic about the stitches holding more than a day or two and that the skin would die in a short amount of time. It didn't. Today, June 15<sup>th</sup>, my local vet took out Dr Matt's stitches and the skin has reattached itself to the growing skin granulation. Harold's recovery is just short of a miracle!

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day of the accident, everyone in my group headed back to New Mexico while I stayed in Pueblo for a week waiting for my trailer to be fixed and for Harold to be okay to travel. I took advantage of Dr Matt's time in daily dressings and management of Harold during my stay. More importantly, reviewing the whole trip that led to the accident and being better prepared if something like this should ever happen to me again or to someone else. One thing that is key, is that every horse owner should have a sufficient amount of wound care supplies for at least one major, bleeding cut and that band aide-size gauze, a couple of small telfa pads, or a lot of anti-infective won't stop a major bleed or support the damage that Harold sustained to his leg.

Now, both my trailers have a big drawer dedicated for first aide; this includes sterile cotton-roll wraps, neutral and white gauze, **LARGE**-area sterile Telfa pads, vet raps, multiple cans of saline wash, a jar of FurZol or anti-infective, and surgical scissors are all needed to secure a large cut or bleed until proper medical attention is available.

The key is not only having the tools to mobilize a wound, but to have knowledge on how to use everything. Ask a vet or learn from a friend on how to wrap and use the bandaging properly. It may seem like a lot of stuff, but if you have the right and proper amount of first aid and knowledge on how to use it all, it will only take up a drawer or small box in space; and an effective "wrap job" to an injury takes less than 10 minutes to do, if you know how to do it. Also, if you know how to inject, having a sedative available would be extra helpful.

Remember, just when one thinks it will never happen to them, it does. Always be prepared for the worst and know what steps you would take to handle the situation, like mentally practicing a fire drill. If the accident had happened further out in the middle of nowhere, things would have been a lot worse than what they were.

Update, Harold is on his road to recovery and safe at home in his paddock, surrounded by his harem of mares.

I want to thank the citizens of Pueblo, Colorado, the amazing vets at Mesa Veterinary Clinic, and the horsemanship judge that worked the Navajo ride. Had I been more serious in a response to that question, I would have been better prepared and stocked for such an event. **PAY ATTENTION** to the details that every horsemanship or vet judge gives you; it could make a difference in saving your or a horse's life!

Happy Trails!



## Caja del Rio: An Up-and-coming Recreational Jewel: A Win-win Situation for Everyone

By: Deirdre Monroe

*(Excerpt from an article first published in The Horsemen's Voice, New Mexico's all-breed horse magazine in August, 2008, with additions)*

The Caja del Rio plateau, a 67,000-acre portion of the Santa Fe National Forest, is one of Santa Fe's best local areas for trail riding. With miles of trails and ranch roads, the Caja is one of the last local riding areas that is neither entirely off-limits (as in tribal lands) nor shrinking as more fences and locked gates are added to private properties. Easily accessed from NM 599 and the Caja del Rio Road, the Caja is located just north of the Santa Fe airport, southeast of White Rock, and west of Las Campanas. There is also horse access from the northern end of the Caja to the Rio Grande along Soda Springs Trail, an old pack trail. When cattle are actively grazing, four stock tanks provide water for horses.

*Caja views that will be seen in September.*

Terrain in the Caja varies from open, grassy meadows dotted with piñons to challenging climbs up volcanic mesas. Wild horses run in remote areas, and Sandhill cranes can be seen flying south to the *bosque* on migration routes. The Caja is especially lovely in fall, winter, and spring. Caja trailhead progress

In 2007, a grant totaling \$100,000 was awarded for the Caja by the New Mexico State Parks through the 2007 Recreational Trails Program (RTP). This grant will fund a genuine trailhead for the Caja with a real up-to-snuff restroom, shade ramada, gravel parking, map kiosk, and metal gates. The gates will have wheelchair and bike/horse access. And just as important, the grant has created an important working relationship between recreational users, traditional cattle grazing, and the Forest Service.

The American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC), which provided \$5,000 towards the grant, has worked with the Grazing Association on everything from the trailhead concept to specifics like the gate location. It's a true win-win situation.

Equestrians benefit from stock water that is available to cows, which makes long, 10-20 mile loops possible. The traditional users benefit because recreational users will begin to replace those who have used the area for less than desirable activities like illegal dumping and illegal target practice. And, when recreational users actively work with and honor traditional cattle grazing in the National Forest, everyone gets a safe, friendly place to enjoy the Santa Fe back country.

*Caja views that will be seen in September.*





## BOD Meeting May 22, 2009

### Air Force Academy Benefit Ride

#### Members Present:

Betty Wolgram (Dist.1-President)	Jill Talbot (Dist. 1)
Sherri Halligan (Dist.1-alternate)	Linell Miller (Dist.2-Vice President)
Jim Sinnett (Dist. 2)	Chuck Smith (Dist. 3-Treasurer)
Ginger Snip (Dist. 3)	Beth Sims (At-Large)
Jerry Sims(Past President)	Doreen Portner (National Board Rep.)

Members Absent: Cheri Westmoreland (excused)  
Olga Spanhoff (excused)  
Carla Richardson (excused)

Guests: Kathy Brown  
Laurie DiNatalie

The meeting was called to order by president Betty Wolgram at 12:40 p.m. The minutes from the last meeting in Grand Junction at the convention on March 6 were approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Chuck Smith)**

The report is attached to these minutes. Chuck stated that there are two checks not listed for deposit which include membership fees bringing the balance to about \$15,000. He researched different types of accounts for our banking and recommends a money market account for our Region III funds. It was approved that he would move our funds to such an account and would roll over existing CD's into it when they come up for renewal. Sherri made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Doreen seconded and all voted in favor.

**The following committee reports were submitted by e-mail prior to the meeting (copies attached to these minutes) and read and discussed by the Board:**

#### **Membership and Stirrup Report (submitted by Kerry Bingham)**

Kerry Bingham and Betty have been working together to get fewer newsletters printed in hard copy. Most members are receiving the Stirrup by email which is in color, easy to read and able to be saved to a computer folder. Doreen stated that most organizations are moving to online newsletters to save paper and to save money. The goal is to print 50 or less. Betty said that many of the hard copies are going to older lifetime members who've "paid their dues and deserve it".

#### **Ride Book Report (submitted by Carla Richardson)**

Betty raised the question again about printing a hard copy of the ride book. Jill stated that it is imperative. All agreed. The member directory, however, is a good document to produce and email to as many members as possible. Linell offered to help Betty produce it and email it out by the end of July, 2009.

#### **Ride Coordinator Report (submitted by Carla Richardson)**

The ride managers are still being encouraged to get their reports in on time and to use the Ride Management System (RMS) as much as possible. There was discussion on how user friendly the system is.

#### **Historian Report (submitted by Janine Ancell)**

Janine reported that the yearbook has few entries for the records because she receives so few pictures. "No pictures, no documentation". It was suggested that she also use pictures from the *Stirrup* to include in her documentation.

#### **Advertising (submitted by Cheri Westmoreland)**

Cheri Westmoreland has been working diligently to submit articles and calendars to publications. Betty suggested that this should not be just Cheri's job, but that all members should be encouraged to promote local publicity with their towns and horse communities. Jill Talbot said she may have a list of publications with free posts and calendar items. She also said she has found that the public prefers printed brochures and materials promoting horse events rather than just online information.

#### **Supply (submitted by Judy Mason)**

Ride Managers need to know that Judy Wise Mason has all the supplies. Request that Judy e-mail ride managers in advance to see if they need anything.

#### **Safety (submitted by Ole Morgan)**

San Juan Trail Riders have their own safety supplies. Ole Morgan is in charge of the rest of the Region. If ride managers need anything they should let safety know. Linell suggested that it has been 5-6 years since the safety packs were revised and renewed. Kip can be contacted to help with that, and Jill said she has a list of necessary first aid supplies.

#### **Worker Points (submitted by Beth Sims)**

Attached to this report is the list of changes to the worker points list suggested by Beth. She stated that there were sometimes challenges to getting points reported. The ride managers are responsible for this, but workers can email Beth with their own point reports. Betty offered to put an article in the *Stirrup* about earning and reporting worker points.

**Nominating Committee (submitted by Linell Miller Vice President)**

Jim Sinnett and Ginger Snip agreed to run again for the BOD. Jerry Sims agreed to serve on the nominating committee with Linell Miller and Betty Wolgram. Jill Talbot made a motion that ballots will be emailed to as many members as possible to save time, paper, and postage. Separate ballots for each district. Jerry seconded, and the motion passed AIF.

**By-laws (update recommendations submitted by Betty Wolgram President)**

The suggested updates to the by-laws are attached to this report. Jill made a motion to approve the updates, Linell seconded and all voted in favor.

**Standing Rules (update recommendations submitted by Betty Wolgram President)**

Rider fees: There was discussion and agreement that member vs. non-member rider fees should differ. It was decided that members should have a fee of \$6, and non-members will pay \$7.

Term limits: It was agreed that term limits promote new ideas and energy to the board and encourage broader involvement from our members. It was decided to keep term limits.

Worker points: Jill made a motion that Convention Manager position worker points be increased to 500 points. The motion was seconded and passed with a 7-2 vote.

Horse and rider awards: The discussion centered around the issue that CP competitors have to attend 50% of the rides to be eligible for awards, whereas Open riders are required to attend 75% of the rides. There was discussion on both sides, and the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

All other changes/updates to the Standing Rules were approved, including additions/increases to regional and ride worker points.

**National Board Issues**

Betty asked us to consider several issues to consider and report back to the National Board.

1. Sliding Tethers for horses at rides. Region III votes to disallow. Also, proposed stabling rules are too wordy.
2. Clinic reimbursement. Region III votes that National should continue to reimburse.
3. National Team Awards for Regions. Region III votes to continue these awards because it is important recognition for Novice competitors.
4. Change the 16 Ride Maximum for High Point Awards. Region III votes to keep the 16 ride limit.

**New Business**

Betty had asked us to review the two letters to the editor in the recent Hoofprint concerning horsemanship and conditioning. (Articles attached.) There was much discussion about members' involvement and attracting new members and the role that judging plays in this. Betty maintains that "we're not losing members because of complaints and protests in the judging, but some rules are too subjective, too open to interpretation. Rule book is disorganized and confusing." Jill Talbot suggested that a good way to get more people involved in NATRC is to personally get them out there with invitations to ride with us in our home areas.

Kathy Brown and Laurie DiNatalie asked to speak to the Board on behalf of the National Judges Committee. They are requesting input from the Board and from individual competitors on judging criteria. Their committee addresses concerns of riders and makes recommendations to the National Board on their behalf. There is much discussion concerning the importance of conditioning in the horse judging and whether "manners and trail ability" should account for more than 15% of the score. Kathy offered to write an article for Hoofprint encouraging riders to communicate with the Judges Committee. Kathy will also talk to the riders at the briefing tonight and take a straw vote on Saturday night regarding issues of hoof boots and leg protection.

Next BOD Meeting will be held at the Chokecherry Ride on September 26 from noon to approximately 2 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 2:15 p.m., seconded, and all voted in favor.

Submitted by:

Ginger Snip, Region 3 Secretary

