



# The



# Stirrup

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## Sept-Oct Events

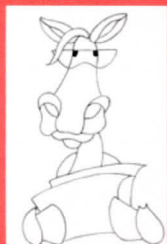
### Chile Line

September 11-12, 2010  
Ta-os, NM  
Ride Chairs: Jeff & Kathy Brown  
575-758-4264 (w)  
575-741-1121 (c)

### Region 3 Benefit

-Shoot out at the  
Cumberworth Corral  
September 24-26, 2010  
Ride Chairs: 'Jack Knife' Jeff &  
'Kansas City' Kathy Brown  
575-758-4264 (w)  
575-741-1121 (c)

<http://www.natrc3.org/>



There is  
**LOTS** in this  
issue so  
make sure  
you read it  
cover to  
cover

## President's Message

There is an old proverb, usually attributed to African tribes, "**It takes a whole village to raise a child.**" The proverb is meant to foster a collective social responsibility for parenting in that all communities who believe its importance also believe that the successful upbringing of children needs to involve more than just the individual parent.

This proverb came to me as I was working on my president's message for this issue. I have reworded it a bit, but I think you'll easily see the similarity: "**It takes the whole NATRC family to put on a ride.**"

An incredible number of people wholeheartedly gave of themselves and their time to help a new and very inexperienced ride manager at the Quartz Creek ride near Gunnison, Colorado. Our members, many of whom were also riding the ride, pitched in to help make the ride weekend a lot less stressful for Kathy Morgan and her husband Dave. At briefing and awards Kathy let everyone know how truly grateful she was. Sorry I can't list everybody, there were so many, but you know who you are, thank you, thank you!!

And speaking of needing the "whole village," there are only two more rides left this season; that's right, just **two!!** The first is Chile Line near Taos, New Mexico, September 11 & 12, which Jeff and Kathy Brown generously offered to put on when Purgatory had to be cancelled. Come ride where the Chile Line railroad came up out of the Rio Grande Gorge into scenic Taos before heading north to Colorado. Much of the trail is on the old railroad bed and the footing is perfect. Sunday's trail goes off the rail line and has some rocky spots so we do recommend hoof protection. We will be celebrating with a Chili Cookoff Friday night and Chili dogs and Frito pies on Sunday. Our camp is super easy to access and is fenced on all sides for safety. This area is hardly used by the public and feels just like the Old West before it got crowded.

**THEME: "Cheers for Chile!!"** Friday night is the chili cookoff so bring your best concoction to share with others and maybe win a prize - 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> will be awarded. **Special treat Saturday after the ride- we will have a camp horse sitter for those who want to take a quick drive down the road and soak at the Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs.** Our Vet judge is coming from Texas and is lots of fun - plus she 'doesn't do obstacles!' Horsemanship judge is our own Pat Montgomery. This is an easygoing, fun, take-a-break ride.

The last ride will be another real highlight of our season, also managed by Jeff and Kathy Brown, the Region 3 Benefit Ride, "**Chokecherry aka Shootout at the Cumberworth Corral,**" in Farmington, New Mexico, September 25 & 26. If you miss this ride, it will be a **LONG TIME** until you get to see all your NATRC rider friends again. ALL meals will be provided to the riders.

**Costume Contest** at Saturday dinner - Best Wyatt Earp, Best Doc Holliday, Best Group Effort, Most Creative, and Funniest. Prizes will be given! Bring your best poker face for a game or two in the local saloon! **PLEASE help recruit riders by talking up the ride** - it is the last of the season and a lot of fun is planned: Shooting gallery, movie night, poker and saloon, costume contest, to name a few, and you might even see a "bandit or two" on the trail.

Please sign up for both these rides on the RMS system; it really helps ride management out a lot! If you have any questions at all about registering or any questions about either ride, please either e-mail or call me at [bkwranch@hughes.net](mailto:bkwranch@hughes.net) and/or 970-824-8359.

See you on the trails!, Betty Wolgram, President, Region 3



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**From the Editor...**

This summer my mom's horses have had a rash of ulcers, so I have been reading up on them and wanted to share a bit. Unbeknownst to me or her, ulcers are a common medical condition in horses. Estimates are that almost 50% of foals and 33% of adult horses confined in stalls may have mild ulcers and upwards of 60% of show horses and 90% of racehorses may develop moderate to severe ulcers. I've had ulcers but they were stress induced and I couldn't figure out what stress horses had so I was curious. Horses evolved to graze, eating many small meals frequently. This way, the stomach is rarely empty and the stomach acid has less of a damaging effect. If horses and foals do not eat frequently, the acid builds up and ulcers are more likely to develop. The type and amount of roughage play a role in ulcer development. Roughage, because it requires more chewing, stimulates the production of more saliva. The swallowed saliva helps to neutralize stomach acid. There is an increase in acid production when concentrates are fed. The type of roughage is also important. Alfalfa is higher in calcium, and it is thought that this may help decrease the risk of ulcers. As the amount of exercise increases, there is often a change in feeding (e.g., more times of fasting, less roughage), which increases the risk of ulcer development. In addition, exercise may increase the time it takes for the stomach to empty, so large amounts of acid can remain in an empty stomach for a prolonged period of time. Stress itself may decrease the amount of blood flow to the stomach, which makes the lining of the stomach more vulnerable to injury from stomach acid. So the bottom line is WE tend to be their stress. Because of our schedules we feed morning and evening, depending on where we live the types of roughage may be different, etc.. Symptoms associated with gastric ulceration in adult horses may include recurrent or acute colic, decreased appetite, decreased manure production, poor body condition, poor haircoat, poor performance, and a crabby attitude (of course some horses always have a crabby attitude so that will be a crabbier than usual attitude). Please note this is written from a lay person's perspective and is not medical advice as I am not a DVM and if you believe your horse may have an ulcer please talk to your family veterinarian.

**GONE!!!!, by Shelly Green**

Imagine coming home for your lunch break at 2:30 in the afternoon to find your horse trailer GONE from its parking place in your driveway. Terrible dream right?? This became my reality Friday August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. My first thought was maybe my trailer had been loaned to someone. The cruel reality was someone had backed up to my horse trailer, hooked on & just left with it in the middle of the afternoon while people were home. I can't describe the cavalcade of feelings I went through in the following week, everything from rage to depression. I am writing to help all horse owners prevent this from happening to them & to give you a list of things I did to try to recover my trailer.

**PREVENTION**

The best way to never have to deal with this scenario is to prevent it.

- DO - Lock your trailer. There are many different locks available. Hitch locks are OK but can be cut off. Wheel locks are more expensive to purchase but more difficult to disarm. If you feel a lock is too expensive add up the contents or even replacement cost of your trailer.
- DO - Park your trailer out of sight from the road, out of sight out of mind.
- DO - Make your trailer easy to identify. Paint it a different color or put your name or ranch name on it. Painting is better than vinyl letters as painting is permanent. Vinyl letters can easily be removed. Make it stand out. There are thousands of white trailers out there!!!!
- DO - Chain your trailer to a tree or fence post.
- DO - Remove 2 trailer tires & lug nuts. Remove 2 tires because thieves may carry extra tires with them or they may use your spare to steal your trailer.
- DO - Park your trailer behind a locked fence
- DON'T - Park your trailer with the hitch facing the road.
- DO - Carry insurance even if the trailer is paid for. Find out if your auto policy will cover only the trailer or trailer and contents. I have learned there is not a really big difference in policy cost to cover contents as well. If your auto policy will not cover contents many homeowner policies will. Ask specific questions about what is or is not covered when you purchase the policy, not after something has been stolen.
- DO - Make a photo log of your trailer & contents. Take photos of distinguishing features, damages and added on items. Take photos of the contents as well. I would recommend photos of your trailer as it looks loaded & then take photos of each item individually. Digital photos will have a date of when the photo was taken giving proof of ownership at that date. Put these photos on a disk & save them somewhere in addition to your computer hard drive. I recommend a safe or safe deposit box. This may become VERY important information in the event your trailer is stolen. Update these photos at least annually.
- DO - Keep a written list of what tack is in the trailer, purchase date & purchase cost. Keep receipts if possible. This will aid in insurance claims.
- DO - Keep a copy of your license & registration where it is easy to locate

**STOLEN!!**

What to do if your trailer is stolen.

**First call the local authorities & report the stolen vehicle.** They will come to the site where the trailer was stolen ask more questions than you REALLY want to answer at the time & get the report filed. Have your trailer license plate & VIN# ready for them. Try to focus. I realize this is so much easier said than done. My life revolves around my horses. I had just lost everything I needed to be able to enjoy my passion. The more accurate information you give initially the more likely the trailer will be recovered. Authorities will issue a BOLO (that is a Be On the LookOut). This alerts other agencies to watch for your trailer. The report has to be filed before this can be issued. Time is of the essence here. I live a 5 hour drive away from Mexico. After my officer had enough information he went & filed the report, then he returned to interview neighbors & take photos.

**Call your insurance company.** This will start the claims process. On my vehicle policy I had to wait 14 days for the trailer to "officially" be considered stolen. After that time had passed the insurance company can then get a "market value" of your trailer. This will be a combination of what you paid for the trailer, age of the trailer & what similar trailers are selling for in your area.

**Check with neighbors.** See if anyone "borrowed" your trailer. See if your neighbors saw anything unusual. If they can identify a suspicious vehicle or suspicious people the authorities will want to visit with them as well.

**Make a flyer.** Use the photos that you have stored on a disk to make flyers. Be sure to include your contact information as well as the Police contact information. Pawn shops require a case# also before they will consider items stolen.

**Contact the universe.** Internet is huge in this avenue. A great website is [www.netposse.com](http://www.netposse.com). They charge a small fee to list stolen trailers, tack or horses. They send out regional alerts weekly about what has been stolen in subscriber's area. They will also create a PDF flyer with photos & information you have provided. The flyer is in color, easy to download & print. I have the link to my page as a signature line in any e-mail I send out. This way anyone who views your announcement can download the flyer. Another good site is [www.horsetrailerworld.com](http://www.horsetrailerworld.com), They allow stolen trailers to be listed for free. Post on Craig's List & any trailer site you can. I contacted trailer shops in my immediate area & they helped me to spread the word to other trailer shops nationwide. Talk to the UPS/FedEx drivers, they go everywhere. If you can get them to even put one of your flyers in their office a driver may spot your trailer. I contacted State Livestock Board, auction barns, tack stores & stables. Anywhere I thought MIGHT see any of my tack or trailer. Contact Local newspapers & television stations, see if they will run a story with photos or video.

**Send e-mail** to everyone in your address book even if they are NOT horse people. Include photos of what was stolen & a link to where they can see more photos. Remember not everyone who this information reaches is a horse person so give as much



information unabbreviated as you can. Include the Police contact information & case number as well as your own contact information. Ask friends to forward this e-mail to everyone in their address book. You will be amazed how many people can learn about your loss in less than 3 hours. Enlist friends to help take flyers to area feed stores, pawn shops, trailer stores, flea markets & anywhere there are horse related events or large numbers of people. Hang flyers anywhere & everywhere. I have found personally delivering flyers guarantees they will be hung up versus e-mailing to business. Don't assume business will take time to print & hang a flyer take it to them personally.

**Contact the Manufacturer** of your trailer. Give them your VIN information & let them know this is a stolen trailer. Then if someone contacts the manufacturer of the trailer to try obtain a title the manufacturer will know the trailer is stolen & alert authorities.

**Don't give up.** Check the internet daily. Monitor web sites like Craig's list, Trailer sale sites, e-Bay and horse related sites. There have been recoveries YEARS after a trailer has been stolen.



The trailer I had stolen is a 2008 Trails West Royale SXST. It has 2 Spring Ties, one on each side. It has extra D-rings mounted over the wheel wells on each side & over the rear doors. This trailer is set up for Competitive Trail riding. In the dressing/tack room there is well over \$7000 worth of tack & camping equipment. Dominant color is LIME green or Turquoise

There is a *Specialized Saddles* International model saddle. It has dark green seat & a serial number on it. There is a fairly complete listing of contents of the trailer on this site

<http://www.netposse.com/stolenmissing/stolentrailer/TrailerTackNMstolenAug2010.html>

I hope this article will help prevent one person from going through what I am going through. If you do have a trailer or tack stolen I hope it will give you help in recovering your stolen property.

Photos Courtesy of Evalyn Bemis  
Shelley Green  
e-Mail [showdoggal@msn.com](mailto:showdoggal@msn.com)  
Ph 505.793.5417



The Chili Line is not your typical Region three ride. If you are longing for wide open views and FLAT sandy (I mean better than some arenas!) footing this is the ride for you. We will be celebrating the zesty Chili with a Chili Cookoff Friday night and Chili dogs and frito pies on Sunday. The Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs are a quick jaunt down the road for a soothing soak after a day's ride. Our camp is super easy to access and is fenced on all sides for safety. This area is hardly used by the public and feels like the old west before it got crowded.

Our Vet judge is coming from Texas and is lots of fun – plus she 'doesn't do obstacles!' Horsemanship is Pat Montgomery. This is an easy going fun, take a break ride.

We still need: riders, a judge's secretary, P&R workers and safety riders.

We have some nice 1<sup>st</sup> place prizes donated by Valley Vet, platinum Performance, Evertek, Long Riders Gear and Polartek heart rate monitors.

Weed free hay is required but that is the only thing 'hard' about coming to this ride!!! Don't miss it, you will be sorry....

Kathy & Jeff Brown, email: [equine@etaos.com](mailto:equine@etaos.com)

**Region 3 Benefit Ride: Shoot Out at the Cumberworth Corral**  
Sept 24-26, 2010

Another fun filled theme ride by the San Juan Valley Trail Riders! It's fall 1881 and you are about to ride into the town of Tombstone. Is that Doc Holliday getting off the stage? Don't forget to check your gun with Sheriff Wyatt Earp....after overnighing in town, you will ride out early to search for the Clanton's and McLaury's, traversing a varied terrain of mesas, arroyos and pinons, winding through the strange and beautiful badlands of northwestern NM looking for outlaws.

**Directions:** From the north, turn off US Hwy 160 in Hesperus, CO to State Route 140 which changes to Route 170 after you cross the state line into New Mexico. Between the 3 mile and 2 mile markers, start slowing down and look for Coyote Drive, to the east. Turn onto Coyote Drive and go east approximately one block to the Cumberworths' Stable, which will be on your right. Look for trailers. You have gone too far if you come to a lot of cottonwood trees and bridge. Danger! You cannot get a big rig across this bridge.

If you are coming from the east or west of Farmington, you will be on Hwy 64, then take State Hwy 170 north, just west of Farmington. Turn right (east) onto Coyote Drive between mile markers 2 and 3, and follow same directions as above.

**Camp Facilities:** City water is available in camp for people and horses. Nights are cool so bring blankets for your horse. Absolutely no loose dogs or motorcycles allowed in camp. Dogs must be tied to your trailer or on a leash. No dogs permitted at briefings or meals. All horse manure will be raked up by competitor and moved to a place set by management. Emergency phone: San Juan County Sheriff's Dept: 505-334-6107.

**Rules:** This ride will be conducted under NATRC Rules. We will be offering the Distance Only (DO) class for those of you who wish to complete the ride for mileage only. New Mexico state law requires that out of state horses have current health papers and Coggins. Please bring horses' papers with you at check in. Rule breakers are subject to arrest and incarceration in the local jail!

**Awards:** Awards will be given in all divisions. Open and Novice Sweepstakes and High Point Combined horse and rider Competitive Pleasure. Send copies of horse registrations papers in with entry for breed awards. Ties will be settled in the corral at 2 p.m. sharp!

**Schedule:** Check-in starts at 2 PM on Friday, September 24. Please make arrangements for late check-in if necessary. A special First Time Competitor meeting will be held at 5:00 pm Friday night. Ride briefings for all riders will be given each evening.

**Costume Contest!** Costume contest at Saturday dinner – Best Wyatt Earp, Best Doc Holliday, Best Group Effort, Most Creative, and Funniest. Prizes will be given! Bring your best poker face for a game in the local saloon!

**Meals:** Friday night Potluck Social (bring your favorite dish). Saturday lunch on the trail, Saturday Dinner Old West Bar-B-Q – brisket/chicken bar-b-q with all the fixin's lovingly prepared by Kenny and Sally Irvin, Bar-B-Q masters extraordinaire! All this for only \$5 per person (please include number of dinners with ride entry). Sunday Lunch in camp.

**Entry and Fees:** Total NATRC member entry fee is \$100. This includes all fees. Non-NATRC member entry, \$120, this includes all fees. First time Competitor will receive \$20 discount. \$35.00 deposit. Refunds are at the discretion of management. Make check out to Chokecherry CTR.

**Judges:** Vet: 'Cotton-eyed Joe' Quintana, Horsemanship: 'Wild Horse Kathy' Budd

**Ride Management: Ride Co-Chairs:** 'Jack Knife Jeff & 'Kansas City Kathy' Brown equine@etaos.com 575-741-1121 **Secretary:** 'Chucklin' Chuck' Smith :chucksmith2020@earthlink.net PO Box 687, Flora Vista, NM 87415 505-334-3373 or cell 505-215-2625



### Ride Results

#### Willow Springs, 6/19-20/10 Region Three-CO

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 40

Chairman: Dee Overholt

Judges: Donna Johnson DVM, Kathy Shanor

Novice Sweepstakes: Esport/Gunckel, Ashley-98.5

Open Sweepstakes: Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri-100

#### Open Heavyweight

- 1/3 Awesomes Fire N Ice/Wolgram, Ken
- 2/1 Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary
- 3/2 Talk Til Midnight/Gunckel, Kay
- 4/4 Rock'n E.Z. Rey/Sims, Jerry
- 5/5 IM Sombrero/Haeberle, Yvette
- 6/6 Mariah 3/Wingle, Bill

#### Open Lightweight

- 1/2 Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri
- 2/4 Cedar Mesa Rushai/Mason, Judy Wise
- 3/1 Phantom's Masquerade/Lane, Roxann
- 4/3 Fawn Creek Thor/Ferganchick, Brandy
- 5/6 GE Spartan/Jarrett, Cheryl
- 6/5 SA Jhake/Combs, Janna

#### Open Junior

- 1/2 Red 9/Combs, Alexis
- 2/1 Dillon 2/Gunckel, JJ

#### Open DO

Pay Special Attention/McNally, Maggie

#### Novice Heavyweight

- 1/1 ESA Pro Temp/Chamberlain, Alden
- 2/3 Lite Foot Slow Poke/Arnett, Leona
- 3/2 Nautilus/Rowe, Giselle
- 4/6 Centara/Grosvenor, Diana
- 5/5 Lefty/Guthrie, Jan
- 6/4 Heaven's Apostrophe/Schultz, Carol

#### Novice Lightweight

- 1/5 Brass Dancer/Sanford, Julie
- 2/4 Jasper 3/Egolf, Tracey
- 3/1 SAS's Aussie/Walls, Sharyl
- 4/3 Tika/Milewski, Teresa
- 5/6 Jackie/Hansford, Bobbi
- 6/2 Sixes Peppy Lady/Feazell, Juleen

#### Novice Junior

- 1/1 Esport/Gunckel, Ashley
- 2/2 Hank 6/Winter, Morgan

#### Novice DO

Mr San Puppy/Ehrich, Louise

#### Competitive Pleasure

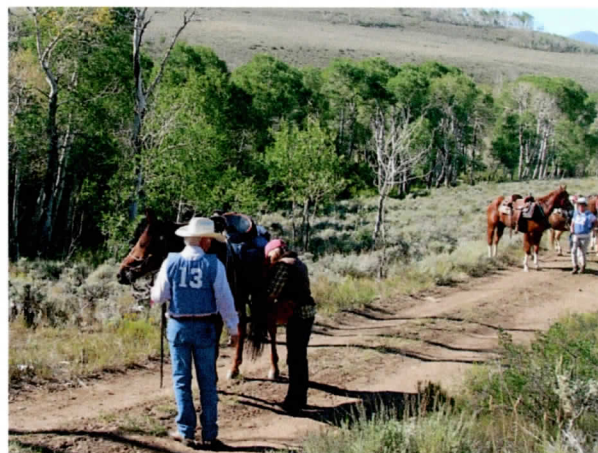
- 1/6 Summer/Wolgram, Betty
- 2/2 Guld Rush/Talbot, Jill
- 3/ Mikkor/Holder, Sharon
- 4/4 Baby Doll's Spotted Man/Miller-Inman, Linell
- 5/5 Pearl/Brooks, Wendy
- 6/3 Nathan Arizona/Sims, Beth
- /1 Cappuccino's Minnie Pearl/Rubenstein, Angie

Moose 4/Dunkelberger, Donna

Pink Cadillac/Fleischer, Donna

#### Competitive Pleasure

CR Blaze of Glory/Frank, Nancy



Vet judge Linda Mackinnon does metabolics on Jerry Sims' horse at the 1st P&R at Quartz Creek Saturday.  
by Judi Tobias



Sharon Holder (no. 102) rides into the 2nd P&R Sat at Quartz Creek. by Judi Tobias



## Ride Information

Tevis 2010, by Susan Peters

Boy, where to start – what an experience!!!

My crew and I got to Robie Park and set up camp the Wednesday before the ride. Robie Park is an equestrian facility in the National Forest outside of Truckee, CA that was funded and developed by the Western States Trail Foundation (Tevis). It is a large and beautiful equestrian camping area – designed to accommodate over 200 trailers. This weekend there were probably over 125 trailers, 182 riders (that is how many started), 400 crew members, and 600 volunteers – so lots of people to coordinate. This campground and the large trail system around it are open to the public (this would be a great place to go if anyone wants to go ride in California).

<http://www.robiefoundation.org/>

I met lots of endurance people – some of them are the biggest names in endurance riding. I found all of these people to be really friendly and helpful. The first question they would ask is how many endurance rides had I done – and how many had my horse done. I got the feeling that when I told them that this was both my borrowed horse's first ride and my first endurance ride – there was a bit of surprise and I suspect they didn't think we had much of a chance of finishing. Most riders will have done a number of 50 mile rides before they try the Tevis. But one of the top riders, Crockett Dumas, told me to just ride this ride like a NATRC ride (the competitive trail rides that I have done for 12 years), and I would be fine. And he was right.

Friday was spent checking in the horse with the vet (they do a baseline check to make sure the horse is ok to ride – i.e. not lame, etc. – just by coincidence the head of the NATRC judging committee, Dr. Mike Peralez, was the vet who did the check in on Jhake.), buying more fun horse tack from the vendors that were there, and going to numerous pre-ride briefings (first time, crew, and general). We also spent a lot of time organizing everything we would need at the (2) one hour mandatory stops and going over the logistics of the crew getting to the two locations.

Saturday morning we arose in the dark at 3 AM. I tacked up Jhake while my crew, Shelly and Pam, broke camp to be ready to drive to Forest Hill/Robinson Flats. Hopefully, I would meet them at Robinson Flats 7 hours into the ride. Horses/riders went into one of two large temporary corrals ("pens") where we could mill around (in the dark! Dust everywhere!) until they led us a half mile down a dirt road to the official start. This process helps get the 180+ horses out in a quiet way – and it did work. There were a few horses that were a little antsy but most of the horses walked very calmly down the road. At 5:15 AM we were free to go at whatever pace we wanted. The trail was mostly two track with some single track for 10 miles to the base of Squaw Valley – and by the time we got up there the sun was up and the views were beautiful. We rode under the Squaw Valley ski lifts to the top of Squaw Valley where water tanks provided the first water for horses in 13 miles. I trotted 10 miles of this trail at 7 MPH and walked the steep road up to the summit getting there 5 minutes after my target time. At this ride the #1 opponent is time – there are cutoff times at many of the vet checks – and if you arrive after that time, you don't get to go on. So there is constant pressure to keep up the pace. At the same time you need to give your horse enough time to drink water, eat and recover or your horse may start showing signs of over-exertion and get pulled by a vet. So the entire 24 hours is spent doing a very stressful balancing act. Each segment of the trail needs its own winning strategy.

Just past the summit, we entered the Chief Granite Wilderness area which is very rocky and very beautiful. It reminds me of the Grand Mesa in Colorado – lots of marshy areas with beautiful flowers. The trail here is the rockiest of the entire 100 miles and is where horses risk losing their horse shoes (which sets them up to be lame and be pulled from the ride). There are also some "bogs" – this year there has been so much snow/water up there – that the bogs weren't as "boggy" as usual. Some of the mud was washed away and left was a lot of water running over a lot of rocks. I couldn't believe that any of the horses would stay sound after going over all those rocks at a trot. The pace of this ride is so fast that you have to trot the majority of the time – uphill, downhill, over rocks, through water, etc. – but a danger of trotting over rough terrain – the horse tripping – happened to a rider in front of me and she and her horse did a somersault. Fortunately, neither was hurt, and they got up and went on.

Coming up were two very challenging parts of the trail – Cougar Rock and Elephant Trunk. I was mentally prepared for Cougar Rock – I thought. I didn't think it would be too scary. It is a rock face that is probably 20-30 feet that you zig zag up and over. When I got there – there were 2 riders in front of me, an HRTV crew filming for a documentary at the top left of the rock, and a photographer on the top right of the rock. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a figure in red stumble backwards and fall head over heels two stories down on the trail below. As the figure was tumbling, I screamed, Jhake wheeled around, and I asked the rider behind me – Was that a person or a rider and horse that just fell? He told me it was the photographer. The poor guy was lying on a boulder on the trail; he was conscious and able to talk (I heard him call out that he had a large gash). Other people/volunteers were scrambling down from Cougar Rock to help him. We now had to go up Cougar Rock as the alternative trail around was obviously blocked. When it was my turn – Jhake got almost to the top and then veered toward the right where the photographer had been – so I quickly leaped off and grabbed the reins and pulled him back to the trail and up over the rock. There is a level place where you can get back on – but my knees were shaking so badly that I had a hard time getting in the saddle. A short distance farther and you come to Elephant Trunk – a trail that is only wide enough for the horse's four feet – and a vertical drop off of 100s of feet – it is not a very long section – but it sure is scary. It gets its name because it winds around the cliff in the form of an elephant's trunk. I held my breath and made sure not to look to my left or down.

At 15.5 miles past the Squaw Valley Summit (28.5 miles into the ride), I came to the first Gate & Go (a vet checks the horse's pulse and if it is below a target number, you get to get back on the trail) – it was bedlam there – lots of horses and riders; not enough volunteers. With all the congestion, I was amazed no rider or horse got kicked. It was my first Gate & Go ever and I wasn't really sure what to do. This was also the only place I ran into rude behavior – I got into a fight as another rider made an attempt to



grab the water bucket I had waited patiently for. As I stood in line for the vet, Jhake decided he would like to coat his wet (from water) body in dirt, and he laid down (with the saddle on). A volunteer wanted to pull me out of line and put me in the shade thinking that Jhake might be colicking – but I said absolutely not – he was just trying to get some dust back on him. No way did I want to be pulled out of that long line and have to get back in it. Luckily a vet became available and I scooted up to the vet. I was there 24 minutes – longer than I had targeted – so I was getting more and more behind my target time. The weather forecast for the day is a high of 98 degrees with higher than normal humidity – it was pretty darn warm.

The next 7.5 mile section of trail was a logging road – not horribly rocky and some ups and downs but all of it was trot table. I made time here averaging 8 mph but hitting 10-15 mph in places. I was finally able to get away from riding in a group and was not eating quite as much dust. Both Jhake and I were starting to tire as it had been 36 miles and 7 hours with little food for either of us. We were finally coming into Robinson Flat for our one hour hold, lunch, and to see our crew. Boy was I glad to see them. Jhake had twisted a hind shoe in the rocks in the Wilderness and it was spread and sticking past the hoof on the right side. My crew found the farrier and we got it reshaped and reset. I ate, drink, changed clothes, washed my very dirty face, and saddled back up to leave.

In the afternoon, I rode by myself. The stop after Robinson Flats, Dusty Corners (appropriately named I might add), was just a water stop. Jhake drinks quickly, efficiently and lots – so I scooted past a whole bunch of people and made great time to the Gate & Go at Last Chance. I get through there pretty quickly and onto the drop into the canyon to the swinging bridge. I got off Jhake and ran down the canyon. At the bottom we stopped for water at a really pretty spot looking at the Swinging Bridge. I turned to walk Jhake back up the trail and Jhake lost his footing on a rock and fell to his knees (I learned that shoes with pads are more slippery), scrambled back up and fell again. He finally got his footing and got around the rock. His legs were missing hair – but no blood and I just prayed he wasn't lame. We walked across Swinging Bridge by ourselves without incident (if you get more than one horse on this bridge it starts bouncing and swinging). Then we started the long climb out of the canyon – many switchbacks. At one point I saw a rider to my left heading down a deep ravine, and as I looked further down saw that his horse (that had been around a corner just ahead of me) had fallen off the trail and down the ravine about 100 feet and was cast upside down. I realized then that this was the place where a year ago another horse had fallen backwards, hit its head, and died instantly. All I could do was lean forward and focus on getting Jhake up the steep section ahead of me. The rider asked me to send help back – but it took me a long time to get to the top where they had an aid station. The horse was eventually rescued and was all right – but again my legs were shaking in my stirrups. I don't mind a hard trail – but this trail was now feeling pretty dangerous.

I arrived at the Gate & Go at Deadwood. I was still ahead of the crowd – but the cut off times are getting closer so the pressure is rising. And there are bees all over the place – making it hard to get the horses' pulses down (what next?!?!?). I finally get out of there and head to the little town of Michigan Bluff (about a dozen houses lining a block long street). They usually line the streets but it is getting late and the crowd is not so large. As I come into the Gate & Go at Chicken Hawk, I seem to catch up with a lot of riders – it is very congested and again it takes extra time to get through. Once again I am on to a much needed one hour hold and the promise of my wonderful crew to help me at Forest Hill. When I get off Jhake at Forest Hill, Jhake and I are so tired that I collapse out of the saddle and Jhake takes a couple of steps that make me think he might fall over, too.

But water, food, and a shower help immensely and an hour later we are perky and ready to go – yes – we have gone 64 miles and have been riding for 16 hours – and we are about to ride 7 MORE HOURS and do 32 MORE MILES mostly downhill on diffs that fall 1000 feet down to the river IN THE DARK. We realize that at this time of night, the frontrunners are getting into Auburn and they are done – and we still have 7 hours (how depressing). People in Forest Hill are still cheering us on from the lawn chairs – but it is so dark we couldn't see them – we could only hear them. Actually the first two hours of riding in the dark was fun – the moon was coming up; we followed green glow sticks that hung from trees – it was magical. I glommed onto two ladies who had finished the Tevis before – and followed the red glows of their headlamps down the trail. Thank you, Steph and Nance, from the Northwest!!! By the time we did the 17 miles down, down, down to the river – we had about 10 people in the group. That was fun – but it was horribly dusty. Sometimes I could not see the rider in front of me through the dust. We trotted as much as we could – and one time Jhake tripped and skidded several feet on his front legs, nose and cheek – luckily he was able to pull himself up and pick back up the trot. I managed to stay in the saddle as my thighs were locked in a death grip on the saddle and I had my right hand gripping his mane at all times. In the dark there is no point in turning the horse – the rider can't see the trail really so you just have to trust your horse and let him make all the decisions about where to turn. Riding in the dark was fun, but very hard on the body. The one positive thing is you can't see how terrifying the trail is.

At the bottom is another Gate & Go marked by huge spotlights lighting up the whole area – tons of volunteers (it is now past midnight – where do they find these volunteers?) offering to hold the horse, sponge down the horse, get the rider a sandwich, and get the horse hay or mash. Jhake was ravenous – but eating hay would make his pulse go up. So I had to keep him away from the hay until we got through the vet. By this time he had about had it with doing the Tevis and he was definitely feeling pretty cranky. We got out of there and 3 miles down the river, we came to the river crossing (the American River). It is marked with green glow sticks floating in the water to show you where to cross. This is the place where they have to work with four different organizations to hold the water back for the day so the horses can safely cross (the rafters hate it). Even so – the water comes up to just below my knees on Jhake who is pretty tall. Luckily, the water is not freezing like in the Rockies and except for the squishiness in my riding boots – it feels pretty good.

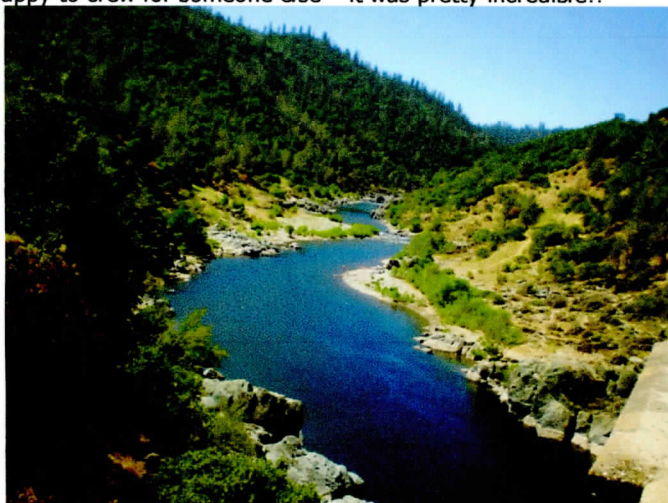
We are on level terrain now and Jhake has somehow figured out we are heading for Auburn – his home for the previous week so he has stepped up the pace. I am just doing my best to stay balanced in the saddle. When he catches sight of another big set of spotlights in the distance – he knows there must be hay there and as ravenous as he is – he really picks up the pace. One more Gate & Go at Lower Quarry (after 2 AM!!) and we will be home free. We get through there in quick time and are easily ahead of the cut off time – and now we are on the trail we have done in the daylight the previous week (8 times!!). My strategy of staying at the Auburn Fairgrounds pays off as Jhake willingly moved out. Strange that they chose to quit marking the trail with as many glow



sticks as well – but since we have done it so many times, we didn't hesitate to make the right turns. We walked across No Hands Bridge, past the waterfall, and up through a series of spooky Black Holes to finally pop out at the Finish Line in the bright spotlights where my wonderful crew again meets me and takes over control of Jhake. By luck, the vet who does my final check is Dr. Mike Perez – the same vet who did the check in. I got a big hug and proceeded onto the stadium for the victory lap (only my crew were in the stands by this time). Time in 4:58 AM – 17 minutes ahead of cutoff. Not many minutes to spare. Jhake is not at all happy about a rider getting back on him – but once in the arena – his show training takes over – and he does the loveliest little western pleasure collected show trot.

Every muscle in my body was screaming in agony – I couldn't walk or get into/out of the pickup truck without wincing for 3 days. My crew has not slept in 30 hours either – so we went back to the hotel and slept for 2 ½ hours; got up for awards; went back to bed for 1 ½ hours; went out to dinner; and back to bed for 8 blissful hours.

People ask me if I will do it again – some riders do the Tevis every year (how do they do it?). It was an amazing adventure – but I think riding 24 hours at a trot over torturous terrain and eating dust the entire way – - - is a one time thing for me. But I would be happy to crew for someone else – it was pretty incredible!!





## Ride Information (con't)

## FORCED TO "DO" NATRC

By Nancy B. Frank

As we NATRC members all know, any hoof boot above the coronet band is not allowed in competition. It is considered a protection for a horse's leg. The idea is the players be judged equally.

Regardless, I chose to go the barefoot route. Last October, I pulled my horse's shoes for the last time. It wasn't for lack of a farrier. I had hired 6 in the past 2 years. Over time, and for reasons that make the hoof "look pretty", my horse was on such high heels that after a shoeing he would be parked out lame for 7-10 days. Although I never got an x-ray to prove my theory, I am certain that my horse was standing on the tiptoe of his coffin bone. He was traveling poorly; not using his shoulder and picking his way across the terrain, often stumbling. He wasn't fun to ride. I doubt it was much fun for him, either. Imagine trying to run a marathon in high heels.

I felt I had no choice but to go barefoot and use the increasingly popular hoof boot for protection on the trail. I watched the Pete Ramey video and tried to find people who could give my horse a balanced trim. Unfortunately, this transition does not happen overnight, neither finding a good trimmer nor re-balancing a hoof. With time and gradual trims, my horse's feet began to come back to a better balance.

Once you begin to research going barefoot it becomes a fascination. How did metal shoes come about? It was the Arabians who put metal shoes on their horse's feet. Why would they need shoes in the sand? I discovered it was not for protection, but for dominance. It was a punishment. When a horse wears metal shoes, the sole and frog do not hit the ground, which prevents stimulation for blood circulation. The sole builds up false dead material, like plastic. The hoof is not allowed to expand but is constricted. It made sense when the work horse had to trot across cobblestone. Right? Shoes became the accepted normal procedure when caring for a horse. Little did we realize that out in the wild, a horse will form his own "shoe" with a build up around the calloused ridge with an otherwise concave foot and a natural break over.

I learned this was what barefoot trimmers were attempting with excellent results. An article in the August TRAILBLAZER magazine, on page 55, explains what a natural trim is versus a farrier's trim: "The natural or barefoot trim: The sole and frog are usually left to exfoliate on their own since the dead material will help protect the sensitive tissues inside the foot. The Hoof wall will not be trimmed flat to the sole, but will have about 1/16<sup>th</sup> to 1/8<sup>th</sup> of an inch that is then beveled or angled ("mustang roll") to prevent chipping and flaring. A good natural trim will mimic the wear patterns that a horse would have if our domestic horses were able to move enough over rough ground to self trim. Compare this to the farrier trim; The heels are left long; encourages contraction, toe-first landing and "Navicular" pain. The toe callus is trimmed away; a thin sole doesn't protect the coffin bone. The bottom of the wall is left flat, as if preparing for a shoe. This encourages flaring in the barefoot hoof. Flares are painful, like pulling hard on our fingernail. Farriers often ignore the forward-flared toe, leaving a stretched white line and poor coffin bone suspension, thus the horse is "sore on gravel" and on rocky trails."

Although my horse's foot is still not perfect after 10 months without shoes, he is acting like a 12 year old at 19. He is moving well at the shoulder, and in general seems to have gained years of enthusiasm. He is a happy horse. Further, he has shown no signs of his history with a hock/hip lameness.

When Laurie DiNatale and Kathy Brown proposed the idea of "Distance Only" in NATRC, they were thinking of ways to promote the sport. If a spouse wanted to come along, or if a young horse needed some good training and distance miles, "DO" invited more people to participate. It was a great idea.

I never thought that idea would promote a whole new class of riders; those who decided they would commit to going barefoot. They would need to wear hoof boots for trail protection, and thus, not compete, while competing.

What? At first I hated this. I paid my entry fee and I participated. I did as well as I could, reprimanding myself at every obstacle and timing myself through the course. I was able to receive the information on my vet and horsemanship cards, but I didn't "count". I could make a speedy departure however, hitting the highway immediately after a ride, while knowing in my heart that perhaps I would have received a ribbon. Who cared if I didn't get acknowledgment? My horse was a gem.

After doing a few "DO"s, I actually began to enjoy "DO". When I first began doing NATRC, I would approach an obstacle with my shoulders next to my ears, I could hear my heart beating and I performed in double time. No wonder my horse resisted. By taking the pressure off, I was "on".

Then something annoying happened. While checking in at a ride, I was told by the horsemanship judge that although my horse must do "DO", I as a rider could compete. I wasn't wearing hoof boots.

What? I had begun to enjoy being a non-competitor competitor. Then I heard my "inner warrior" calling. Why not? Now that I'm actually having fun doing this, maybe I could compete again but retain my newly discovered easy attitude.

I have progressed to the purchase of glue-on hoof boots, although I have not tried them. This is a hoof boot that is below the coronet band. The jury is still out as to which product works or doesn't. One friend has not been able to keep the glue ons on, while another experimenter has not been able to get the glue-ons off.

After our reprieve, my horse and I will compete together again. My horse's feet have made the transition and this rider has learned to have a little more fun and be a little less serious about "the game".

Yes, barefoot and hoofboots are the wave of the future. If the hoof boot rule is not changed, perhaps you too will be FORCED TO "DO" NATRC.



**Barn Sales & News Bits**

**DON'T MISS IT!!!!!!**

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We will have a Special Recognition Ceremony for Our Honored Guests.  
Invitations are going out to the Champions of NATRC History  
Asking for their attendance at this National Convention.

We would like to collect any available pictures of past winners of the following awards: President's Cup, Jim Menefee Memorial, Bev Tibbitts Grand Champion Horse, Polly Bridges Memorial, Junior Grand Champion Horse, Junior High Average Horsemanship, and Horse Hall of Fame.

Please send to Debbie Jones at 1038 Gaddis Rd., Canton, GA 30115 or email: [jonescant@aol.com](mailto:jonescant@aol.com)



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KIM COWART  
[KCNeverRestRanch@gmail.com](mailto:KCNeverRestRanch@gmail.com)  
678-773-6038

**Sell Your Product**

**Become A Vendor At The 2011 50th Anniversary NATRC National Convention.**

Region 5 invites you to be a trade show vendor at the National Convention.

Do you sell/market a product of interest to the horse community?

Booth space and sponsorship packages are available.

**Please contact**

Terry Silver at 901-2168-1127 [turquoisehorses@aol.com](mailto:turquoisehorses@aol.com)

**Region III Worker Point Reminder**

Many of you have helped put on rides this season, so check with your Ride Manager to make sure your name and job(s) were submitted . If you have any questions regarding your points for this year, please email or call me. You can always email me the list of rides that you worked and jobs that you performed – I can match it up to what has been turned in.

Our volunteers are so very important! We appreciate all you do!

Beth Sims, Worker Points Chair [beth\\_sims@q.com](mailto:beth_sims@q.com) (505) 320-6868

**Barn Sales & News Bits (Con't)****Nature of Our Sport and NATRC Mission Statements**

The National Board of Directors, at its July meeting, approved the use and promotion of a "Nature of Our Sport" Statement as follows:

***The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) provides long distance competitive trail rides for riders of all breeds and from all disciplines. We promote safety, sportsmanship, education, and trail horse advocacy through qualified evaluation of horse and rider by veterinary and horsemanship judges in a fun, responsible environment for the whole family.***

Such a statement is similar to the "Nature of Our Business" statements used by many companies to tell **who they are, what they do, and how they do it**. Such statements provide key words that are easy to remember by employees (and in our case, our members) to tell others about our unique sport and to invite others to join us. Try using as many of them as you can as often as you can.

Who We Are: North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)

An organization that welcomes all breeds and disciplines

What We Do: We promote: Safety, sportsmanship, education, trail horse advocacy

How We Do It: We provide: Qualified evaluation of horse and rider Veterinary and horsemanship judging A fun, responsible environment for the whole family

The National Board also voted to take a proposed new Mission Statement to the regional membership for feedback and a possible final approval in November by the Board. A mission statement broadly and briefly describes an organization's purpose both for ourselves and the public. It should stress our present capabilities, focus, activities, etc. It answers the question **"Why do we exist?"**

**OLD MISSION STATEMENT:**

NATRC promotes natural horse care and good horsemanship as it applies to distance riding and, through the challenges of competitive trail rides, offers a variety of educational experiences for both horse and rider.

**PROPOSED NEW MISSION STATEMENT:**

The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) promotes horsemanship and horse care as they apply to long distance riding. NATRC competitive trail rides offer a variety of challenging and educational experiences designed to strengthen horse and rider partnerships.

Please let me know which of these mission statements you prefer (or any revision you would like to see) so that I may represent your voice at the November meeting.

Submitted by:

Betty Wolgram, National Director, President, Region 3

**NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR – REGION**

Carla Richardson has submitted her resignation, for personal reasons, to the National Board of Directors. Our Region 3 Alternate Chuck Smith will fulfill the remainder of her term until January 1, 2011. Susan Peters has submitted her resume to be elected as our new Alternate Director. Even though Susan is unopposed on the ballot which will appear in the Fall issue of the HoofPrint, she would appreciate all the members voting for her when they submit their votes regarding the proposed NATRC By-Laws changes approved by the National Board of Directors. Please note the return date for the ballot and see that it is received by NATRC before the deadline.

Both personally and on behalf of the region, I would like to thank Carla for her service on the National Board of Directors.

Sincerely, Betty Wolgram, National Director, President, Region 3

Betty Wolgram, President, Region 3

**In Memory of Milne Parish and All Those Who Have Gone Before**

I think of you  
Free of pain  
Free of that poor, tired body  
That has betrayed you so.

I think of you  
Astride a wondrous horse  
That carries you endlessly through flowered fields  
Beneath a sky forever blue.

I think of you  
Of your great, brave soul set free  
For I know you are  
In paradise.

*Written By Judi Tobias for Sue Bretag when she died but for all of us who love our horses and riding.*

**REASONS TO BE PROUD!!!**

Meeting two out of the three goals so far that were set by National for all regions in 2010:

1. 10% increase in number of rides – MET!!
2. 5% increase in regional membership – MET!!
3. 10% increase in number of total competitors at rides for the year – Still working on it...let's get those numbers up for Chile Line and Chokecherry!
4. Sacrifices that our region 3 members have made in this recessive economy to maintain their dues and generously donated funds when called upon to support the region
5. Recruiting new members
6. Managing new rides
7. Attending as many rides as they possibly can
8. Volunteering at rides
9. Serving behind the scenes on regional board, committees, and other very important jobs

Thank you to all the Region 3 Family!



Laughs and Letters to Editor



In New York City, it is illegal to open or close an umbrella in the presence of a horse.

It is illegal to fish from horseback in Washington D.C., Colorado, and Utah.

A British law states that an Englishman must not sell a horse to a Scotsman.

Horses are required to wear hats in hot weather in Rasario, Argentina.

In Guernsey, Illinois, it is illegal for women weighing more than 200 pounds to ride horses in shorts.

In Kentucky, it is illegal for a woman to appear in a bathing suit on a highway unless she is: escorted by at least two police officers; armed with a dub; or lighter than 90 pounds or heavier than 200 pounds. The ordinance also specifically exempts female horses from such restrictions.

In London, England, law required taxi drivers to carry a bale of hay on top of their caps to feed their horses. The law was in force until 1976.

In Raton, New Mexico, it is illegal for a woman to ride horseback down a public street with a kimono on.

In South Carolina, no horses are allowed into Fountain Inn unless they are wearing pants.

In Omega, New Mexico, every woman must "be found to be wearing a corset" when riding a horse in public! A doctor is required to inspect each woman to make sure that she is complying with the law.

In Hartsville, Illinois, you can be arrested for riding an ugly horse.

In the state of Queensland, Australia, it is still constitutional law that all pubs (hotel/bar) must have a railing outside for patrons to tie up their horse.

Marshalltown, Iowa, it is against the law for a horse to eat a fire hydrant.

**NATRC launches NATRC E-News**

NATRC is pleased to announce a new tool that will improve communications with our membership and allow the timely distribution of news such as rides, national sponsors, rule changes, and regional and national organizational information - **NATRC E-News**

We will be using an E-mail mass marketing tool by Constant Contact to create and send NATRC E-News. This is a template driven tool that allows professional looking E-News articles and messages to be produced and provides a uniform NATRC look.

Constant Contact is a subscriber-based system; in other words it is not spam, and it is not a chat list. It is a one-way communication tool that enables timely communications to the NATRC membership.

You may choose to subscribe, update your preferences, or unsubscribe at any time.

E-News is not intended to replace NATRC's web sites, or printed documents, rather to distribute information as necessary to provide near real time communications to our membership while keeping expenses at a minimum. In summary it is your choice. You control your involvement.

NATRC will not sell or give your e-mail address to anyone. Constant Contact has a similar policy.

**To Subscribe:**

Go to your [NATRC web site](#), or region web site, look for the "Subscribe NATRC E-News" button and follow the instructions that you will receive in a follow up e-mail to complete the subscribe process.

**To Publish:**

Contact your regional board and follow the process that they establish.

The **distribution of information** can be broken down by region or by full membership. In addition while going through the brief subscribe process you can choose to be included in special lists such as a national board member or ride management. You should only select these lists if you are a current active member of that group.

**Action Request:**

Please go to the [NATRC web site](#), look for the "Subscribe NATRC E-News" button and join to be part of the timely distribution of pertinent NATRC related communications. Please forward this message to all your friends, chat lists, blogs, facebook, and contacts. The more subscribers E-News has, the more effective the communications will be for NATRC and you!

*We will be adding an "Archive" button to the web site as soon as possible. By using this button you will be able to access and refer to selected archived E-News that are not time sensitive.*

*The NATRC board of directors hopes you will find this additional communication tool a critical benefit of your membership.*

Roger Garlitz  
Technology & Communications  
National Board of Directors, from Region 4

**Your Horse's Amazing Eyes By John Herning, DVM (Practical Horseman and Internet article)**

Some features of your horse's eyes are unique in the animal kingdom. Knowing more about them helps you understand his reactions to seemingly ordinary sights.

Wondering exactly what (and how) your horse sees with those big, expressive eyes? Very differently from the way you do--and the way he sees often affects the way he acts.

He can see almost 360 degrees around himself because his eyes are on the sides of his head. That's why he notices objects or movements behind him that you (with eyes on the front of your head) can't even see without turning around. But his "rear view" vision is less distinct than his vision from about his shoulder forward--so he naturally wants to skitter away from unfamiliar things behind him or turn to see them better.

He sees most things with one eye--monocular vision--instead of with both eyes simultaneously (binocular vision--the way you see the world--which he uses for just a small area in front of his head). That's why he may spook at something that he's already walked past and reacted to once: He's seeing it for the first time--with his other eye. (How to know whether he's looking with one eye or two? As he tries to focus with both eyes on something, he pricks both ears straight ahead.)

He has two ways to bring objects into focus--by using tiny muscles to change the shape of his eye's lens (which is the only way you can focus)--or by changing his head position to direct the image to a different part of his eye. He raises his head to focus on far-away objects (and may turn it slightly at the same time to bring one eye to bear) and lowers it to see closer objects.

That's why you see his head going up and down as he tries to figure out some new object he's spotted. It's also why he raises his head on the approach to a fence, then lowers it as he gets closer and gathers himself to spring. If you restrict these natural head movements, he may shake his head, shy because he can't see the object clearly, or even stop because he can't see well enough to jump.

His extravagantly big eyeball (largest of any land mammal's) magnifies everything fifty percent larger than we perceive it. That enables him to see distant objects in clearer detail than we can (an advantage for a prey animal needing to spot predators far away).

He has a completely different method of depth perception. Because he can't always use two eyes (binocular vision is what enables you to perceive depth), he first gauges the relative distance of objects by comparing how big they appear with how big he knows they are. He knows humans are a certain approximate size, for instance, so a human who looks small to his monocular vision is a greater distance away. (That's why, if he sees something with one eye that doesn't fit his idea of what's normal, he turns his head for a more accurate binocular fix.)

He sees much better at night than you--even better than your cat! In the dusk, though, you see better than he does, because he sees some colors (yellow, green, blue; red is iffy)--but this color vision diminishes with decreasing light. That's why he may tend to bump into you, the gate, or his pasture mates if you're bringing in your horses around twilight: His color perception has dimmed, but his night vision hasn't quite kicked in yet.

Having eyes on the sides of his head gives him a small "blind spot" directly in front of his muzzle--just where you'd expect things to be most clearly in plain sight. So he's more comfortable if you approach him from a slight angle (near his shoulder) that keeps you in view. He may even back away from a head-on approach--or at least turn his head away to keep from getting you into his blind spot.

He has a second blind spot, too: about 6 feet directly behind his tail. Hearing something coming from that vulnerable angle, he may swing his body to one side so he can see what's approaching--or just kick in self-defense. For that reason, if his quarters are toward you as you approach his stall, keep the door closed and quietly but firmly push them over so he can see you before you go in.

That's how your horse sees normally. Here are signs he's not seeing well:

- more frequent or more exaggerated spooking
- side-to-side head movements (to try to view an object with one eye, then the other)
- delayed reaction--he starts to go past or over something, then seems to see it (and maybe spooks)
- "jigging" on uneven ground (a compensation for inability to see the footing well).

Sensory hairs around your horse's eyes trigger the "blink reflex" if he gets too close to underbrush or other possibly eye-damaging surfaces while grazing or drinking. So when you're grooming, even for shows, avoid trimming these hairs shorter than an inch.

Nigra (pronounced NYE-grah) bodies--those round shapes in each pupil--seem to serve as a built-in visor, shielding interior eye structures from excess glare.

The third eyelid is a lightning-fast flap that zips across from the inner corner to seal the eye shut against threat even before the lids can close. It's also the source of lubricating tears.

**Jhake, by Susan Peters**

People say that finishing Tevis is 1/3 horse; 1/3 rider; and 1/3 luck – well I would have to give Jhake a whole lot more credit than that in our case. I am very sure that I finished Tevis because I had the pleasure and luck of riding an exceptional horse. (Thanks, Janna!!!!) Here's some history.

Jhake belongs to Lexi (10 years old) Combs. He was the result of careful decades of breeding by Lexi's grandfather, Harold Weimer. Lexi's mom, Janna Combs, trained Jhake.

Janna brought Jhake to a NATRC clinic last year (competitive trail – a distance sport like endurance riding but more like a road rally on horseback with horsemanship judging). We told her to put him in the division that rides the fastest and the farthest because he was clearly a big, strong horse who could go the distance.

When my horse that I had been conditioning for a couple of years had a lameness issue, Janna said come get Jhake – I have other horses to ride and you can give him some mountain experience and if you need a backup in the event Blossom doesn't get over the lameness – you can ride him. I tried to decline but Janna is very persuasive so finally about 3 weeks before Tevis, I picked him up – never dreaming I would really take him to the Tevis –

1. he had just turned 6 – that is really young to be ready to do a 100 mile ride – especially the Tevis.
2. he lived in Fort Morgan – out on the plains of Colorado so he had very little altitude training and very little conditioning over rocky terrain (both essential to doing the Tevis).
3. he had done one competitive trail ride last year and two this year – but no endurance rides of any kind. And I had done no endurance rides.
4. he was totally new to me – to ride the difficult trails (and in the dark) at the Tevis, you really should have a horse where you have developed a trusting relationship and partnership with each other
5. in Fort Morgan, they don't have a lot of big rocks or trees – so when I took him out on the trail around me, he shied at trees that had fallen over and large rocks. There's lots of those on the Tevis trail.
6. In the competitive trail rides, he had lost points for having too high a pulse (which is typical of a young horse and horse new to competitive trail)
7. 3 weeks is not a very long time to resolve #1-6.

But every time I rode him, I became more and more convinced that he could actually do the Tevis.

1. He is the most level headed, calm six year old horse I have ever ridden
2. During the 3 weeks, I took him every day to the mountains to get experience climbing – and he has really powerful hindquarters for climbing hills. I could put pads on his front feet to take care of the tender footedness issue.
3. Janna rode him 15 miles a day at 18 MPH around her ranch – so at least he had some distance training.
4. I rode him every day – and every day I was more and more amazed at how nothing (outside of logs and rocks) fazed him (in our daily jaunts we walked over fire hoses, encountered bears, walked over scary bridges, etc.). He doesn't care if he is first, last, or all by himself. He has no problem leaving a group of horses.
5. rocks and trees don't bother him if he is in a group – and at the Tevis, I figured I would be in a group a lot of the time
6. by putting a heart monitor on him, I found that his pulse problem in competitive trail is that he doesn't come down to 48 beats per minute and stay there – he gets there and then he gets interested in what is going on around him and his pulse get up to 52 or 56 and he loses points. In endurance – the criteria is different – you just need to get down to 60 beats per minute – and he can do that.

He also had some advantages –

1. He is very manageable and ratable – meaning you can ask him to walk or trot at any speed and he does it.
2. Being from Fort Morgan he is used to riding in a lot of heat.
3. He is a voracious eater and drinker.
4. His trot is really efficient. He can trot at 14-15 MPH.
5. My farrier said he had awesome feet and that Janna's farrier did a really nice job of shoeing.
6. Terri Smith tried to buy Jhake last year from Janna (Jhake is not for sale) – and Terri really knows her horses – so that was a big endorsement for me.

So I decided to go for it. There were many things I didn't know – and only through riding the Tevis would I find out:

1. Would his shoes stay on? They did.
2. Would his back feet be tough enough (no pads on them) to handle the rocks. They were.
3. Would he be able to recover (at the one hour holds a horse needs to be able to "get a second wind"). He did.
4. Would he be able to handle riding in the dark? He was great.

And on top of all these great athletic traits, this horse absolutely loves people. When we were checking out the trails in Auburn the week before the ride, Jhake made many friends by letting everyone pet him.

So ----- if any of you are looking for a good horse, Janna has his mother and siblings (she swears to me that Jhake is not for sale). She buys and sells horses and has a great eye for a horse – she was certain all along that Jhake could do the Tevis. And if you need training for your horse, she is obviously one heck of a trainer.

**National Board Information, Betty Wolgram, National Director Region 3****Proposed Changes to NATRC (National) By-Laws**

The following proposed changes to the NATRC By-Laws were approved by the National Board of Directors in July to be submitted for an up or down vote by the membership (a majority approval by the membership is necessary to change the National By-Laws). You may vote Yes on all three, No on all three, or a combination of yes/no votes. The ballot will be printed in the Fall Edition of the Hoofprint. As your president, I am recommending a Yes vote on all three, but, of course, that is only a recommendation. **PLEASE VOTE AND MAIL IN YOUR BALLOT BEFORE THE DEADLINE!!!** Please don't let what could be a very enthusiastic minority determine the future of YOUR organization.

In addition, Susan Peters is running for the Region 3 Alternate Director position. I know she is running unopposed, but please cast your vote for her anyway so she will feel your confidence and approval at her willingness to take on this very important job.

**Article IV. Board of Directors. Section 1.** The Board of Directors will consist of two members from each of the six regions, a total of 12. The term of each member shall be for a period of three years. After serving a limit of two consecutive 3-year terms, a director is prohibited from serving for a period of three years prior to running for re-election to the National Board of Directors. The term of office for Directors shall begin on January 1 following their election. The terms shall be staggered so that four regions elect one member in years when a term expires at the Fall meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Article IIIX. Nominating Committee. Section 4.** Each region shall appoint a Nominating Chairman and a Nominating Committee. This committee shall nominate annually, sufficient members to fill the positions of the National Board Members/Alternates whose terms expire at the end of the year. Nominees must be and have been voting members for at least two full fiscal years previous to the year of nomination. Nominees must be active as a competitor, or as a judge or in Ride Management or NATRC Management. The committee shall give due consideration to geographical areas and states and to different categories of occupation, so that the Board of Directors is widely representative of NATRC and is a true composite of the leadership thereof. At least thirty (30) days before the Fall meeting of the National Board of Directors, the regions shall submit to the voting members of their region a slate of nominees for the vacancies to occur on the National Board of Directors. Such ballots shall also provide space for nominees to be written in by the members. The tabulation from each region shall be presented at the Fall meeting of the National Board of Directors.

**Section 5. Ballot Committee:** Each region's Nominating Committee shall report the results to the President, who shall cause an announcement of the election to be made thereafter.

**3. Section 5. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled in the following manner:**

- a) Director: The Alternate Director will fill the remainder of the term that was vacated.
- b) Alternate Director. The president shall nominate a member to serve the remainder of the term and shall present such nomination to the National Board of Directors at any duly constituted meeting. A majority vote of the Board members at such meeting, a quorum being present, shall be required for the appointment of such nominee.

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**SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS FROM NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JULY 10, 2010, DENVER, COLORADO**

A more complete summary of the meeting will be published in the Fall edition of the Hoofprint, but here are most of the important discussions/decisions, etc.

1. The proposed rules and by-laws changes were reviewed once more. By-Laws changes must be voted on by the membership and they will be printed on a ballot that will be included in the Fall Hoofprint in September. Rules changes (hoof boot rule, minimum mileage, clarification of Awards Section, and deletion of Championship Challenge) will be voted on by the Board at its meeting in November.
2. New logos, etc. are available and regions should update their newsletters and other printed materials. Hoofprint will publish a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition in December, deadline for business and personal ads is November 1. New Mission Statement for NATRC was accepted for review by the regions. Specialized Saddle raffle is going well. NATRC is still in need of a Publicity Chair. The NATRC E-News on the national website is doing well with over fifty people requesting new member information.
3. Hill & Dale in Region 6 was recognized for holding its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary ride this year. The Board is also starting a recognition program for other longstanding rides.
4. Revenues are up slightly although through June 30 membership is down a small number. NATRC is as of June 30 operating slightly under budget and it is hoped that 2010 will at least be a breakeven year. Each issue of Hoofprint will contain a financial statement.
5. Region 5 is working very hard to put on a fabulous National Convention in Nashville with many great speakers and activities being planned, including a trip to the Grand Ole Opry. More details to follow.



NORTH AMERICAN  
TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE  
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**The Stirrup**

Newsletter of NATRC Region 3

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