

President: Kim Downing
Vice President: Becki Jackson
Sec/Treasure: Ruth Mesimer

MO: Mike Wallis 2 year
Kim Downing 1 year
KS: Barb Taylor 2 year
Becki Jackson 1 year
NE: Chuck Edwards 2 year
Kristi Chapman 1 year
IA: Martha Kunkle 2 year
Roland Newton 1 year
IL: Frank Bowman 2 year
Stacy Bowman 1 year
Nat. Directors: Frank Keeran
Cheri Jeffcoat

Committees:

Worker Awards: Barb Spahn
Regional Awards: Martha Kunkle
Diamond of the Year: Becki Jackson
Special Awards: Becki Jackson
Newsletter: Kim Downing
Ride Book Info: Kim Downing
Ride Book Set-up: Ruth Mesimer
New Members & Publicity: Elizabeth Braznell
Web Site: Mike Wallis
Vest's & Numbers: Kim Downing
Historian: Becki Jackson
Sale Items: Chuck Edwards

making 14. You will find the ride dates listed in the newsletter so you can mark your calendars.

One of the things that I like best about this sport (among others) is the kind of people that become committed to it. The past several years the new people that have come into our sport have gone on to be managers, trail masters, etc. What I am getting at is the type of person that gets hooked on our sport is what keeps this organization strong. This sport is not for everyone and I am glad for the people that do love it are the ones that everyone enjoys.

Hope to see you all at convention!

Kim



Two Clinic Rides at Big Hill

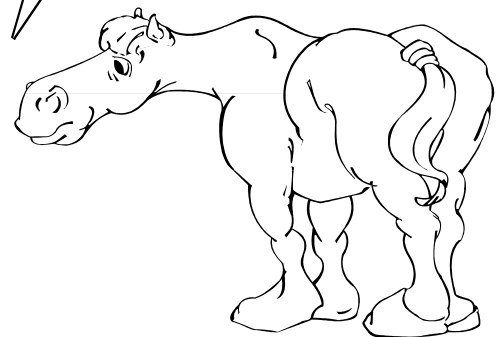
Hosted by Steve & Priscilla Lindsey
(620) 336-3634 and
Charlie and Donna Armour
(913) 849-3635
March 9-10 for new competitors
March 23-24 for new Open riders

Last newsletter until after the convention

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Well, I think we have had a great season, especially the weather. We hardly had any rain and the cold fronts came in just for our weekends.

We have 13 rides scheduled for next year with the Championship Challenge being hosted by region six at Whispering Pines



The Flint Hills Report

By: Lucy Hess

I had a great time at the Flint Hills ride, held on Oct. 6&7 near Manhattan, KS.

The ride was over, around and around the Hills.

These are the neatest trails. This group that puts on the ride, headed by Opie and Duane, have literally hand built all of these trails. This year they even worked on getting large rocks/boulders moved out of the trail.

Saturday was bright and cool, the trees were in bright fall foliage, and it was my first competition since my colon cancer surgery. Sunday was also a beautiful day, but cooler.

It's amazing what a serious illness will do for your appreciation of nature. Spanky hadn't been ridden much, so he was real a mess. I'm surprised I stayed on. In fact there were several people surprised I stayed on!

I rode both days with Dick Webb, (Mr. Kristi Chapman). What a nice guy. Kristi sure has my approval. His horse, Tiger, went well with Spanky. Tiger even consented to Spanky using him as a backstop, when Spanky wanted to go much faster than I wanted him to. (Can we say "Bunching?") Back to the trail, there was much climbing and long switchbacks. On top of the Hills you could see forever. It felt like you were back in the "Old West", little signs of our current civilization. Dick and I watched huge inland flock of pelicans fly south, migrating down the lake. Dick warned me, "Don't look up", but I did and luckily didn't get a face full of pelican doo doo. It was fascinating to watch them fly in formation so close over our heads.

Our Judges were Shannon Leska DVM and Cheri Jeffcoat. Both were enjoyable to ride under. The observations were all straightforward. No "tricks". I couldn't do them well anyways, due to Spanky's frantic behavior. However, Cheri looks at how you handle the situation, and gives you credit for doing the best you can in a bad situation.

The Observations were to go down some "steps", which was actually water bars placed in the trail to control erosion. Up, down and through a real brushy area and also had to push a limb out of the way. A mount where we could use the terrain, and an old barbecue/fireplace made out of rocks. We had to walk over a small log and pick up a canter until we went over a farther log, then down to a walk. Finally, then a downhill for our last observation on Sunday.

Dr. Leska judged metabolics at most of the P&R's, this has my great support. I like to see Judges using metabolics.

I didn't write down the placings, but I did know my new riding buddy Dick placed well in his class, Betsy O'Shea cleaned up in CP. What a nice horse her Ollie is. Trish Cleveland needed an another first or a second to get her National Championship. She got her first, but was so dazed she didn't realize until way after the ride that she had the necessary placing and only needed one point! Congrats Trish and Dolly. She got her point, and more at Indian Cave. Oh, and Elmer Bandit, at his advanced age, did really well, a first or second, I can't remember. He looked great, even when Mary Anna was fretting about his "not feeling like himself" on Saturday. He was just moving out, tail flagged high, those long legs just striding out.

I must finally thank all of the management who put on a great ride, Oh and a wonderful Potluck for Saturday night, fried turkey and BBQ ribs.

The awards for the ride are very unique. Duane makes the Stained Glass awards and this year they were even more glorious than ever!

We appreciate the hard work and all of your energy that goes into making this a fun and wonderful ride.

RIDE RESULTS FOR FLINT HILLS

Novice Heavyweight

1/1 David Spilker

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- 2/5 Ty McCullough
- 3/ Suzanne Avery
- 4/3 Dick Webb
- 5/ Cookie Nonken
- 6/ Cleo Ney
- /2 Vickie White
- /4 Mike Reis
- /6 Marsha Hayes

Novice Lightweight

- 1/1 Debbie McCullough
- 2/4 Christine Motley
- 3/3 Kay Stich
- 4/ Cher Borgman
- 5/2 Connie Jones
- 6/5 Linda Shaw
- /6 Tonya Petit

Novice JR

- 1/3 Kate Smith
- 2/1 Aaron Avery
- 3/5 Ely Avery
- 4/2 Trent Reis
- 5/4 Laurie Roser
- 6/6 Joseph Hubbard

Open Heavyweight

- 1/2 Gerald Ferguson
- 2/1 Ken Wolgram
- 3/4 Bill Hinkebein
- 4/6 James McDonald
- 5/ Bill Scriven
- 6/3 Marianne VanSciver
- /5 Bobbie Bedsworth

Open Lightweight

- 1/4 Trish Cleveland
- 2/3 Klare Chapman
- 3/2 Lucy Hirsch
- 4/6 Kristi Chapman
- 5/ Mary Anna Wood
- 6/ Cara Leibman
- /1 Elizabeth Kendall
- /5 Brenda Ferguson

Open JR

- 1/1 Melinda Sadler
- 2/2 Adam Young

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/1 Betsy O'Shea
- 2/3 Mary Colby
- 3/6 Mike Colby
- 4/5 Maggie Spilker
- 5/4 Cindy Cameron
- 6/ Judy Newton
- /2 Mary Pat Smith

Novice Swpks: David Spilker

Open Swpks: Gerald Ferguson

CP Combo: Betsy O'Shea



WHY DID O.J. SIMPSON WANT TO MOVE
TO ARKANSAS?
EVERYONE HAD THE SAME DNA



INDIAN CAVE By Cheri Jeffcoat

Well, the 28th Anniversary of Indian Cave CTR near Brownville, Nebraska on the Bluffs of the Missouri River was a great success. This State Park has more species of trees than you can imagine. The forest was every fall color.....red, yellow, green and the river looked like a silver ribbon. It was truly spectacular this year. We checked in with Vet Stephanie Ostrowski and Horsemanship Judge Kathy Morris-Budd. Scattered showers kept raincoats handy but no experience with torrential downpours. An informal potluck dinner for workers ended up being a real social occasion for all. As I listened to the intermittent rain on the roof off and on Friday night, I crossed my fingers for a clear day. And, we got it! Saturday dawned and we left camp by 8 am.

The Open were sent out down a pretty steep incline with a narrow rivulet of water.....it was a step over for a big horse but definitely a little leap for a smaller horse. The Novice and CP were routed along the road to the trail to ensure the safety of the newer CTR horses. So off we went, trotting around a field by the river and heading for the long climb up onto the bluff. Once up on top with no sign of the judges we breathed a sigh of relief and enjoyed the view of the delta area and the beautiful colors. As we went up and down and down and up having a great time. As we neared a turn to go out around the primitive and slow loop, there were the judges to watch us on a nice steep down hill. Then back to our first P&R, with the cool weather, few horses lost points. But, then we led in hand to the judges where the instruction were "get on your horse". Wow, a lovely bank for this short person to use, we walked up, my horse stood still and I felt like I just floated down on to the saddle. My best mount this year.....love dumb luck! And Stephanie checked metabolics.

Then back over the same trail to camp and lunch. After lunch, we took a different trail out to the regular horse trails. As we came through a cut-off there was Kathy waiting to observe a good uphill with a curve and a nice step up for the horses. A great place to watch for rider balance and control.

Then, Stephanie had a back up a slight incline from one ribbon to another and touch the last ribbon. Well, guess who accidentally tore the ribbon in half? Oh, yes.....I did it! Off around the new trail which has some open areas for a really good time. As Dave Spilker blew by me at the canter, he just couldn't resist showing that a Missouri Fox Trotter can do a nice canter, too. What fun! Of course then with dignity, I pulled off to the side to allow Deb McCullough to come by with a grin on her face too! We got through the 2nd P& R with no points lost and on toward camp. Of course, there the judges were HIDING on the last downhill into camp. I heard there were a few "down or heavy in the saddle comments".

Saturday check-out went quickly and smoothly and then we just waited for the catered dinner. The dinner was great BBQ ribs, au gratin potatoes, salad, green beans and a carrot cake that was wonderful. A quick trail briefing and the day was done.

Early Sunday morning the sound of rain.....oh no! But, it lasted a few minutes and Sunday dawned clear. A trot in hand with horses saddled and ready to go and we were off again.

The first obstacle was excellent. The novice had a step over a log and go around a tree. The CP had a step over log, side-pass, come off the log and put hand on a tree and around we went.

Sunday, I rode with Maggie Spilker who had experienced some frustration with her horse on Sat. On Sunday, our goal was a nice quiet, serene and no excitement ride and we were accomplishing our goal. Our horses were just lovely, we kept a consistent pace and pausing to let people go by with no horses having a fit or being idiots. We were just cruising. We arrived at the first P&R and there were some people I had talked to on the phone about CTR.....waiting for my arrival!!

So, as I took care of my horse, we were selling the idea of starting CTR next spring! After the P&R, we had a trot from one ribbon to the next.....but the kicker was a little downhill with two very nice logs strategically placed. As I started the trot with full confidence my little guy would just jump right over.....oh no, screeching halt! Drop head! Check it out! And, let's not forget to throw the rider off balance! Oh well.....guess you could say I was "way ahead of the action of my horse".

Back in camp, it was take your saddles off and get up and check-out. Beautiful day. And, 3 more people I had talked to about CTR.....a husband, wife and baby. We had lunch and talked about the fun and adventure of CTR. Was able to introduce them to a few folks and Frank Keeran, just charmed the baby.

Another Indian Cave ride came to an end. I talked with Linell Miller and Gary Inman of Colorado. They had just completed their first region 6 ride. They just kept exclaiming about how beautiful

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Nebraska was and they didn't know we had those kinds of hills!

So.....a success all the way around! Thank you ride management and judges for providing a fun weekend.

I had not been able to compete since mid-August. What a joy to be competing! I am a happy woman.

FROM BECKI JACKSON ON INDIAN CAVE

Must comment on the great judging. I love Steph O, she always finds something kind to say, even if one's horse is being an idiot. This time it was..."he has such dainty feet for such a big horse." Now, there is one I had not heard. Made me laugh.

Dana Esbensen, who rides a horse named Nellie Ruth, had stopped for a comfort break and Nellie decided to take off down the trail. I guess the expression WHOA NELLIE was appropriate. Also heard from her riding buddies that there was a full moon..... Dana took all the ribbing and singing "Blue Moon" in good grace.

It was also a sad time as some of Region 6's favorite people were leaving to move to Colorado. Lin and Jim Ward (as most of you know, they are MY PEOPLE, I got them into this sport) were leaving Monday for their new home in Westcliff, CO. Jim won Horsemanship as his goodbye to Region 6. They will sure be missed as they contribute greatly to our region.

Sportsmanship award

As the ride season comes to an end, many of us have ridden hard and just maybe have begun to lose our sense of humor. The Indian Cave Rider Good Sportsman had an experience that truly tried her patience, her dignity, and definitely her sense of humor. Our winner heard the call of nature out on the trail. As she explained, it was a good thing she wore silky tights and panties. As she answered the call of nature while holding onto the reins of her horse, her noble steed "Nell" felt the urge to go down the trail in search of her equine

friends. As Nell began going down the trail, our winner gamely hung onto the reins despite being bare for the world to see. She did state that thank goodness her garments were silky as she was running, pulling up garments and hanging on for dear life. As a result of this experience, numerous riders serenaded her throughout the day with the song "Blue Moon". So in recognition of holding onto her sense of humor and smiling at the teasing, the Good Sportsmanship Award went to Dana Esbensen.

Ride Results: Indian Cave

Open Heavyweight

- 1/1 Ken Wolgram
- 2/2 Gerald Ferguson
- 3/5 Marianne VanSciver
- 4/3 Bill Hinkebein
- 5/ Bill Wickland
- 6/4 Bobbie Bedsworth
- /6 Todd Powell

Open Lightweight

- 1/4 Lucy Hirsch
- 2/6 Trish Cleveland
- 3/1 Mary Anna Wood
- 4/3 Kristi Chapman
- 5/2 Elizabeth Kendall
- 6/5 Klare Chapman

Open JR

- 1/1 Diana Sadler
- 2/2 Stephanie Peterson

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/3 Ty McCullough
- 2/2 David Spilker
- 3/ Barry Bickford
- 4/ Gerri McIntyre
- 5/1 Jim Ward
- 6/5 Mike Reis
- /4 Richard Webb
- /6 Vickie White

Novice Lightweight

- 1/2 Christine Motley
- 2/1 Shari Dodds
- 3/6 Cathy Schmitt
- 4/3 Debbie McCullough
- 5/5 Dana Esbenson
- 6/4 Linda Shaw

Novice JR

- 1/3 Kate Smith
- 2/1 Julie Mruz
- 3/2 Trent Reis

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/ Christine Wallis
- 2/ Maggie Spilker
- 3/ Linell Miller
- 4/6 Jerry Weil
- 5 4 Norma Newton
- 6/2 Becki Jackson
- /1 Betty Wolgram
- /3 Cindy Cameron
- /5 Cheri Jeffcoat

- Open Swpks:** Ken Wolgram
- NoviceSwpks:** Christine Motley
- CP Combo:** Christine Wallis



WHY DO REDNECK DOGS HAVE FLAT NOSES?
FROM CHASING PARKED CARS.



Experience at Whispering Pines
By Elizabeth Kendall

This my favorite place to ride. I look forward to going there all year. Even the nine hour drive does not deter me. This year, however, I learned a valuable lesson. I pulled my first ride. If you know me, you know it must have been serious, my horse tied up. Lucky for me I caught it right away. Lucy

saved the day by leaving her horse at the P&R, driving back to camp, getting drugs, injecting my horse with them (no small feat with my horse), then getting back on her horse to finish the ride. I was so frightened for my horse, that I stood on the side of the trail with tears rolling down my face. Real cowboy tough! Everyone was so nice and supportive as they rode by. What a family I share!! Lucy showed true sportsmanship. Thank you!

I learned a lesson in sportsmanship myself. It is not the ride, the competition, or the placing. It is the camaraderie and family that make this the sport it is. I spent many a year showing and never found the friendship given so generously from so many. These people are trying to be the best, but I have found it is never at the expense of another competitor. The name of this sport seems to be to help each other whether on the trail or off.

WHISPERING PINES STORY
BY: BECKI JACKSON

What a SUPER ride. Manager Kim Downing and daughter Dawn, once again put together a spectacular ride. The weather was great, a bit cool, but dry. The trails were well marked and the judges concocted obstacles to challenge us.

This was a special ride for many reasons. Several birthdays were observed, Diana Sadler, Dawn Downing, and Elizabeth Braznell (who was the BIG _____!)
Four Novice riders have ridden out of Novice and came to awards in graduation caps and gowns. Maggie and Dave Spilker and Deb and Ty McCullough (the last two are MY PEOPLE!!!!) paraded through camp with a tape of Pomp and Circumstance. It was a hoot!

This was also my horse's first open ride. I have not ridden Open since 1994 and didn't know if I could physically manage it. Thanks to Kristy Chapman riding with me and encouraging me, and providing an Easy Boot when I lost a shoe, I finished, my horse was sound and we placed! I was thrilled.

Whispering Pines
By: Marsha Hayes

Just returned from the Region 6 Whispering Pines NATRC ride. I want to recommend this ride to anyone who enjoys beautiful scenery, clear cold river crossings, towering bluffs and, of course, the whispering pines interspersed with old oak timber growth.

I admit I have only done a few NATRC rides and have been thrilled with all of them, all were well organized, and everyone was friendly, helpful, and generally just good company. Whispering Pines was no exception. My Kansas friends and I entered the group trail costume party as characters from the Wizard of Oz. I was the witch, Kay was Dorothy and Karen was the scarecrow. The scarecrow wasn't as good on the trail because her horse ate most of her straw stuffing while she was trying to mount up that morning. She had trouble getting on with all the layers of clothing and while she struggled, the gray mare reached around and happily munched prairie hay stuffing. Dorothy had Toto in a basket tied to the back of her horse and Toto fell out somewhere around mile 10, but was recovered at the end of the day. My husband fastened my witch hat to the top of my helmet and I had a green witch face and black cape. We tried singing Follow the Yellow Brick Road as we timed out.

We stopped at one gorgeous river crossing to photograph each other, we were having a great time and as we were posing and snapping away two four-wheel jeep runner things entered the edge of the river about 50 feet up from us. They stopped and stared at us and the only comment we could make out was: "What the hell is that in the river?"

It was so cold our horses walked through ice on the road puddles and the steam off the hot horses rose in the cold air and made us look ghostly. I'm sure glad I went and I thank those who worked so hard to put this ride together. It was great.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The Whispering Pines ride produced not just one rider good sportsmanship awards but TWO!. One winner arrived at the first P&R on Saturday morning and observed another rider with a horse in a tying up situation. Our winner found someone to hold her horse, jumped in a truck with Kim Downing, went to her trailer, found necessary medications and went back and treated the horse then continued on her ride. She even made up the time lost even though management assured her that she would receive her time back. So thank you to Lucy Hirsch for showing the true NATRC spirit by helping fellow competitor Elizabeth Kendall in her time of need.

The other winner helped a fellow competitor who had not ridden Open since 1994. Our come-back Open rider lost a shoe and did not have an easy boot. Our good sportsmanship winner stopped, had an easy boot that fit, helped Becki Jackson get the boot on. Our winner, Kristi Chapman stayed with Becki to make sure the boot stayed on and helped her make back to camp. Special accolades to our double winners! Lucy Hirsch and Kristi Chapman

Open Heavyweight:

- 1/1 Gerald Ferguson **SWPK**
- 2/3 Bill Hinkebein
- 3/2 Bobbi Bedsworth
- 4/4 Bill Wickland
- 5/6 Todd Powell
- 6/5 Becki Jackson

Open Lightweight:

- 1/3 Kristi Chapman
- 2/2 Brenda Ferguson
- 3/1 Lucy Hirsch

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4/4 Mary Anna Wood
5/5 Beverly Roberts
6/ Gina Hilligoss
/6 Beth Aswegan

Open JR:

1/2 Melinda Sadler
2/3 Stephanie Peterson
3/1 Tomlyn Speir
4/4 Diana Sadler
5/5 Adam Young
6/ Andrew Maloney
/6 Scott Hinkebein

Novice Heavyweight:

1/1 David Spilker
2/2 Ty McCullough
3/3 Karen Everhart
4/5 Gail Stevens
5/6 Marsha Hayes
6/ Richard Webb
/4 Bobbie McDonald

Novice Lightweight:

1/2 Vera Betzelberger **SWPK**
2/1 Debbie McCullough
3/ Erin Hildebrand
4/5 Christine Motley
5/ Elizabeth Braznell
6/6 Barb Schmidt
/3 Kay Stich
/4 Berry Huson

Novice JR:

1/2 Amy Betzelberger
2/1 Gavin Betzelberger

CP:

1/5 Christine Wallis
2/3 Maggie Spilker
3/2 Mike Colby **CP COMBO**
4/4 Cheri Jeffcoat
5/ Stacy Bowman
6/6 Mary Colby
/1 Jerry Weil

. HORSEPERSON'S GLOSSARY

Auction: A popular social gathering where you can change your horse from a liability to an asset

Colic: Gastrointestinal result of eating at horse show food stands

Colt: What your mare gives you when you want a filly

Endurance ride: End result when your horse spooks and runs away with you

Feed: Expensive substance used to manufacture manure

Fence: Decorative structure built to provide your horse something to chew on

Grooming: Fine art of removing dirt from your horse's body and applying it to your own



THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR A REDNECK SAY:

DUCT TAPE WON'T FIX THAT

YOU CAN'T FEED THAT TO THE DOG

LITTLE DEBBIE SNACK CAKES HAVE TOO MANY GRAMS OF SATURATED FAT

YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE WEARING A BIKINI

NO KIDS IN THE BACK OF THE PICK UP; IT'S NOT SAFE

