

**President:** Cheri Jeffcoat  
**Vice President:** Mike Wallis  
**Secy/Treas:** Ruth Mesimer

### Region Board Members

**IA:** Martha Kunkle 2005-07  
Beth Aswegam 2006-08  
**IL:** Howard Hartsock 2005-07  
Stacy Bowman 2006-08  
**KS:** Becki Jackson 2005-07  
J.R. Kendall 2006-08  
**MO:** Mike Wallis 2005-07  
Chris Wallis 2006-08  
**NE:** Maggie Spilker 2005-07  
Cheri Jeffcoat 2006-08  
**National Directors:**  
Ty McCullough 2005-08  
Ruth Mesimer 2006-09

### Committees

**Worker Awards:** Trish Cleveland  
**Region Awards:**  
**Diamond of the Year:** Elizabeth Kendall  
**Special Awards:** Becki Jackson  
**Newsletter:** Marsha Hayes  
**Region Ride Coordinator:** Mike Wallis  
**Ride Book Set-up:** Mike Wallis  
**New Member & Publicity:** Chris Wallis  
**Web Site:** Mike Wallis/Charlie Armour  
**Vest's and Numbers:** Kim Weil  
**Historian:**  
**Sale Items:** Chuck Edwards  
**Radios:** Jackie Hatthorn  
**PA System:** Ty McCullough/Roland Newton

## ***President's Message For the New Year***

Wow! What a great Region 6 convention. Thank you, Ty and Debbie McCullough for organizing, managing, providing a stimulating meeting and keeping everything running on time. Boy, that Debbie can swing the whip to keep to the schedule!!

I must admit, when I saw the first presentation as Truck and Trailer Maintenance, I went Ho-Hum. However, as Dr. Dave and Dr. Ty approached the podium and the used tire became visible, I had a hunch we were in for a

treat. When everybody at my table began taking notes and asking for handouts I knew we had a winner. Thanks guys for making a deadly boring subject informative and fun!

The trip to the Vet School at K State was invaluable. I walked away with new information and the experience of seeing an endoscope exam. The seminar on ulcers was very valuable.

Our first event is Kanopolis Canyons in April. Be sure and get your entry in. This is a great ride. And, Kim Weil is bringing back Whispering Pines in south central Missouri in October. I'm excited.

Rendezvous is back! YEAH! Our Region 6 Benefit Ride is the last weekend in April and is run by a very experienced crew of Becki Jackson, Gail Stevens, Marsha Hayes and Ruth Mesimer. Come on out and support the rides.

Of note is a new ride just over the Oklahoma border south of Wichita. It is at Lake Carl Blackwell. I have ridden the trails over the past couple of years as Don Rubley and the University have made an all-out effort to establish the trails and put in an equestrian campground. The trails are easy and are NOT rocky as is the norm for OK rides. The terrain would be ideal for the first ride of the year!

Unfortunately, I will miss both Carl Blackwell and Kanopolis Canyons but will be there in spirit. I am off on my dream trip to China, Tibet, Thailand and Cambodia. I have drafted my 15 year old border to condition Saku while I am gone so I can make the rest of the rides. Now, the challenge will be getting my old body in shape for Open. Yes, I'm going to go Open this year! Take care, see you on the trails!

Cheri Jeffcoat

## ***The Convention***

To jump to the punch line would be to start out by saying Ty and Debbie McCullough put on a wonderful convention. Wonderful things (and not necessarily in order of importance) were there starting with this Margarita Slush machine in the hospitality room. It produced drinks better than traditional frozen margaritas because they had a soft, icy, flavor that packed a punch. I admit I am pretty rural and easily charmed by the civilized world, but anyone

taking the time to lug this machine to the hospitality room rates extremely high with me. There was also great food and people visited and ate and drank as the party spilled out into the open pool area with everyone just relaxing and enjoying the McCullough's work.

The speakers were all interesting, but charming the crowd was the last minute addition of Dr. Ty and Dr. Dave and their medical like discussion of trailers and trucks and safety for our horses. The feedback from the audience was outstanding. Check out their follow up article in this newsletter. The trip to the Kansas State Vet School was well received.

The banquet had good food and the program moved smoothly through many awards. For our winners, see articles in this newsletter. A last minute emergency forced scheduled emcee Florence Blanks to turn THAT job over to Mr. McCullough, too. Requesting assistance from David Hayes, the show went on with Daric McCoy and Kay Stich organizing and handing out the awards.

Even the general membership meeting was brief, to the point, and interesting. New directors were elected. J R Kendall discussed the financial crisis at the national level and challenged each region to contribute \$2,000 to offset the deficit. Region 6 members voted to authorize the contribution of up to \$2,000 of the evening's auction proceeds to this cause.

The auction was a great success. There were pictures, puzzles, clothes, rugs, metal art, ride entries, tack, and other treasures. Steve Lindsay was the auctioneer and at the end, with cash donations added, Region 6 raised slightly over \$3,000.

The convention reinforced the fact that Region 6 is a strong, vibrant group prone to having a good time, always learning more about the world, and generous in supporting their chosen passion. Thanks to all that put it together, donated, attended, participated, and lugged that margarita machine. Marsha Hayes

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Equifest of Kansas will be held February 24, 25, 26, 2006, Coliseum, Wichita, Kansas

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### **Equus Magazines For Sale**

Carol Roberts has Equus magazines from the first issue to 2005 for sale. She will get them to a ride for anyone interested. Make an offer by contacting Carol at [k7roberts@yahoo.com](mailto:k7roberts@yahoo.com) or 816-415-8034.

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### **Workers Honored At Manhattan Convention**

Before the anticipated presentation of rider and horse awards at our Regional Convention, Region Six honored its workers. The placement on the program was not accidental, but rather symbolic of the importance volunteers play in our sport. Before a ride is sanctioned, volunteers are spending their time planning that ride. Before ride day, trails are marked, entries are processed, judge cards are prepared and dozens of personnel assembled to make that ride a smooth experience. Without our Region Six workers, there would be no rides, no points, and no champions to celebrate.

More and more state parks are looking to document volunteer time spent on equestrian trails as a barometer of public commitment to the sport and equestrian land usage. Big Hill Lake has asked the management of the R6 Benefit Ride to be held there April 29<sup>th</sup> to document all volunteer time spent on the trails.

One thing that made this year's worker awards significant were the number of volunteers receiving their first and second gold bars. See the following chart for the criteria for each bar. Workers receiving these yearly awards are the future of our sport. Every rider should encourage and thank all volunteers, not only the thousand point workers, but these new to our ranks and help them make that decision to come back.

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*Answer to Points Calculation Quiz – Rider receives 4 points; horse receives 12 points.*

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The following achieved NATRC milestone awards in 2005 and are listed alphabetically.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Prior Points</u>	<u>2005 Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Award</u>
Jerry Anderson	100	50	150	1st Gold Bar
Jay Beggs	150	150	300	1st & 2nd Gold Bar
Florence Blanks	3,450	660	4,110	Jacket + 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Red Bars
Jess Crass	100	50	150	1st Gold Bar
Ellen Cross	150	150	300	1st, 2nd Gold Bar
Karen Everhart	-	200	200	1st Gold Bar
J. J. Geenkel	-	150	150	1st Gold Bar
John Haynes	375	225	600	1st, 2nd, 3rd Gold Bar
Teresa Haynes	400	200	600	1st, 2nd, 3rd Gold Bar
Bill Huntington	100	50	150	1st Gold Bar
Becki Jackson	740	90	830	4th Gold Bar
Kathy Jackson	1,050	755	1,805	7 Gold Bars & Cap
Jackie Keith	200	200	400	1st, 2nd Gold Bar
Tim Keith	100	100	200	1st Gold Bar
J. R. Kendall	20,000	860	20,860	Hi Pt 2005 Worker
Annette Pulliam	150	300	450	2nd Gold Bar
Clayton Reisen	100	50	150	1st Gold Bar
Carol Roberts	7,900	100	8,000	3rd Blue Bar
Judy Schultz	150	75	225	1st Gold Bar
Barbara Spahn	5,170	100	5,270	Special Award
Janie Wells	1,940	200	2,140	1st Red Bar
Mike Wells	625	165	790	4th Gold Bar
Luc Valentin	135	150	285	1st Gold Bar
Mary Vogel	200	100	300	1st & 2nd Gold Bar
Steve Vogel	300	150	450	1st & 2nd Gold Bar
Chris Wallis	1,165	-	1,165	5th Gold Bar

After recognizing the milestone awards, the top six workers of 2005 were announced. They were: Kathy Jackson with 755 points, Florence Blanks with 660, Beth Braznell with 300, Annette Pulliam with 300 and John Haynes with 225. J. R. Kendall was the winner with 860 points and received a glass award sponsored by Becki Jackson. Each of the top six were asked to sum up WHY they volunteered so many hours. Answers ranged from the humorous and truthful: "Because my wife made me," wrote John Haynes, to the poignant and truthful from Annette Pulliam. Annette wrote, in part: "I volunteer to return something to the sport that has given me endless hours of enjoyment and excellent camaraderie. Rides would be few and far between were it not for the volunteers." Well said, Annette and very true.

The next newsletter is scheduled to go to press around the first of June.  
PLEASE call or e-mail Marsha Hayes at 620-331-3541 or [mhkansas@kancom.net](mailto:mhkansas@kancom.net)  
with more ideas, comments, ads, stories or suggestions.

**Region 6 Worker Awards Point List**

Points	Award	Patch	Points	Award	Patch
150		1st gold worker bar	6,000		1st blue worker bar
300		2nd gold worker bar	7,000		2nd blue worker bar
500		3rd gold worker bar	8,000		3rd blue worker bar
750		4th gold worker bar	9,000		4th blue worker bar
1,000		5th gold worker bar	10,000	Lifetime NATRC Membership	5th blue worker bar
1,250		6th gold worker bar	11,000		6th blue worker bar
1,500	Region 6 Cap	7th gold worker bar	12,000		7th blue worker bar
2,000		1st red worker bar	13,000		8th blue worker bar
2,500	Region 6 Jacket	2nd red worker bar	14,000		9th blue worker bar
3,000		3rd red worker bar	15,000	Director Chair	10th blue worker bar
3,500		4th red worker bar	16,000		11th blue worker bar
4,000		5th red worker bar	17,000		12th blue worker bar
4,500		6th red worker bar	18,000		13th blue worker bar
5,000	Special Award	7th red worker bar	19,000		14th blue worker bar
6,000		1st blue worker bar	20,000	Special Award	15th blue worker bar

**THE WINNERS**

Here are our Region 6 year-end winners. This list is slightly different from the one published in the previous newsletter as adjustments were made based on number of rides completed and a through re-checking of the point figuring. I am sorry for the changes resulting after publication. It is true, the formula for generating points is static, but there are many variables in the rules and our system that make it complex to place horses and riders.

Region Six members should know that Cheri Jeffcoat and Ruth Mesimer spent hours of their time checking, totaling, and maintaining data that comes from our national office. This donation of time never shows up on worker point tracking, but is an important part of our sport, too.

In this newsletter you will find a point tracking form and the rules to track your own points. Knowledge is empowering and everyone interested in the sport should be offered the information as to how these points are figured. Get involved and understand our sport. Ask questions. Be an informed competitor.

My plan for the year end points for the 2006 ride year is to publish a list of TENTATIVE placings and give riders a chance to question and clarify the results before the convention. Start now and copy the point tracking form for all your mounts. Keep it with your coggins papers that travel with you. If you don't understand how to fill it out, ask someone at the ride and learn more about our sport.

And now, after studying the point tracking form (last page) comes the first practice question: You are a novice heavyweight rider competing at Big Hill. There are 12 entries in your class. Two pull, one is evicted for biting a judge, and nine complete. Your horse places third. He would have been first, but he hyperventilated at the sight of a beautiful Arab mare during the last P & R. You, however, fell off in front of the judge in an attempt to catch a candy bar that fell out of the saddlebags. You did not place in horsemanship. How many points did your horse get? How many points did you get? The answer is somewhere in the newsletter.

## Region 6 Horsemanship and Horse Awards – 2005

### Novice Junior Horsemanship

	Points/Rides
1 Jason Ries	40/5
2 Katie Elder	32/4
3 Morgan Russell	22/2
3 Katelin Colby	22/2
4 Taylor Barnes	20/2
5 Whitney Amelong	10/1
6 Trent Ries	8/1

### Novice Junior Horse

	Points/Rides
1 Hillbilly Hootish/Jason Ries	38/5
2 Truly A Gift/Katie Elder	30/3
3 So Im Dun/Taylor Barnes	18/2
4 Red Misty Fire/Morgan Russell	12/2
5 Magic 2/Whitney Amelong	18/1
6 Elky/Trent Ries	16/1

### Novice Lightweight Horsemanship

	Points/Rides
1 Christina Lyons	56/7
2 Julie Mruz	46/3
3 Shari Parys	42/3
4 Janis Elder	36/4
5 Carol Kutz	34/4
6 Sandy Ries	26/3

### Novice Lightweight Horse

	Points/Rides
1 SS Hopalong Kary/Betsy O'Shea	68/5
2 Bandidato/Christina Lyons	54/7
3 Skipahead Festus/Julie Mruz	50/3
4 Arnold Edward/Carol Kutz	34/4
5 Lucky/Janis Elder	30/3
5 Papas Whiskey/Sandy Ries	30/3
6 MPS Peppodoconita/Shari Parys	28/3

### Novice Heavyweight Horsemanship

	Points/Rides
1 Hope White	98/8
2 Tina Clapper	58/7
3 Angela Wagner	54/5
4 John Siebert	44/3
5 Denise Maxwell	42/3
6 Victoria Piel	22/3

### Novice Heavyweight Horse

	Points/Rides
1 MAF Dark Shado/Hope White	88/7
2 Blaze 5/Tina Clapper	72/7
3 Khemo Talkakahlil "Lily"/Angela Wagner	54/5
4 Dream Catcher/Denise Maxwell	30/4
5 Charmin/Victoria Piel	26/3
6 X-D Mutasim/John Siebert	36/2

### Competitive Pleasure Horsemanship

	Points/Rides
1 Cheri Jeffcoat	66/6
2 Jackie Hathhorn	64/7
3 Christine Abbott	60/8
4 Marianne Siebert	52/4
5 Trish Cleveland	50/5
6 Erin Partlow	46/4

### Competitive Pleasure Horse

	Points/Rides
1 Jac Natalie/Jackie Hathhorn	68/7
2 Saku/Cheri Jeffcoat	66/6
3 Skya/Christine Abbott	46/8
4 Spanish Rose/Dana Esbensen	44/4
5 Deacons Dolly/Trish Cleveland	42/4
6 Star Santana/Mary Sapp	30/3

### Open Lightweight Horsemanship

	Points/Rides
1 Elizabeth Kendall	122/9
2 Mary Anna Wood	94/9
3 Lucy Hirsch	68/5
4 Debbie McCullough	60/7
5 Maggie Spilker	56/5
6 Trish Cleveland	38/3

### Open Lightweight Horse

	Points/Rides
1 Treble's Tempt Me/Elizabeth Kendall	120/9
2 Elmer Bandit/Mary Anna Wood	94/9
3 Cheyenne1/Debbie McCullough	64/7
4 Winchester Charm/Lucy Hirsch	62/5
5 Baskolisa/Maggie Spilker	56/5
6 Deacons Dolly/Trish Cleveland	34/3

## Open Heavyweight Horsemanship

	Points/Rides
1 William Hinkebein	94/8
1 Ty McCullough	94/8
2 David Spilker	76/7
3 Vicki White	54/6
4 Karen Everhart	48/5
5 Norma Newton	44/4
6 Todd Powell	42/6

## Open Heavyweight Horse

	Points/Rides
1 Country Lee Summit Express/Todd Powell	96/9
2 Gus/David Spilker	90/7
3 Royal Sunset/Ty McCullough	74/6
3 Prime Sensation/William Hinkebein	74/8
4 PS Silver Gem/Karen Everhart	56/5
5 Shadow's Lady Dancer/Norma Newton	40/4
6 Cervantes/Vicki White	34/6

## National Awards Given at Region Convention

### NOVICE JUNIOR - REGION TEAM AWARD

1. HILLBILLY HOOTISH/qtr-phba	Jason Ries	78
2. TRUELY A GIFT/gr	Katie Elder	50

### NOVICE LIGHTWEIGHT - REGION TEAM AWARD

1. BANDIDATO/pf	Christina Lyons	110
2. SKIPAHEAD FESTUS/qtr	Julia Mruz	96
3. MPS PEPPICONITA/paint	Shari Parys	70
4. ARNOLD EDWARD/ar	Carol Kutz	68
5. LUCKY/gr	Janis Elder	60
6. PAPAS WHISKEY/har	Sandy Ries	56

### NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT - REGION TEAM AWARD

1. MAF DARK SHADO/ar	Hope White	174
2. BLAZE 5/gr	Tina Clapper	130
3. KHEMO TALKAKAHLIL "Lily"/ar	Angela Wagner	108
4. DREAM CATCHER/gr	Denise Maxwell	72
5. CHARMIN/mule	Victoria Piel	48

### COMPETITIVE PLEASURE - REGION TEAM AWARD

1. JAC NATALIE/har	Jackie Hathhorn	132
1. SAKU/mft	Cheri Jeffcoat	132
2. SKYA "Sheibaa"/ar	Christine Abbott	106
3. DEACONS DOLLY/qtr	Trish Cleveland	92
4. SPANISH ROSE/gr	Dana Esbensen	70
5. STAR SANTINA/ar	Mary Sapp	60
6. ROCK'S STROLLING JIM/pinto-tw	Susan Maiwald	56

### OPEN JUNIOR - REGION TEAM AWARD

NO JUNIOR QUALIFIED

### OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT - REGION TEAM AWARD

1. TREBLE'S TEMPT ME/morg	Elizabeth Kendall	242
2. ELMER BANDIT/har	Mary Anna Wood	188
3. WINCHESTER CHARM/har	Lucy Hirsch	130
4. CHEYENNE 1/gr	Debbie McCullough	124
5. BASKOLISA/ar	Maggie Spilker	112
6. DEACONS DOLLY/qtr	Trish Cleveland	72

**OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT - REGION TEAM AWARD**

1. ROYAL SUNSET/mft.....	Ty McCullough .....	168
2. GUS (NC Elbey Elegance)/ar .....	David Spilker .....	166
3. PRIME SENSATION WH/mft.....	Bill Hinkebein .....	126
4. PS SILVER GEM/har .....	Karen Everhart.....	104
5. COUNTRY LEE SUMMIT EXPRESS/mft .....	Todd Powell.....	102
6. CERVANTES/gr .....	Vickie White.....	88

**National Awards Given at National Convention**

**OVERALL OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT HORSE**

5. COUNTRY LEE SUMMIT EXPRESS/mft .....	Todd Powell (MO-6) .....	118
6. GUS/ar .....	David Spilker (NE-5).....	116

**OVERALL OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT HORSE**

3. TREBLE'S TEMPT ME/morg .....	Elizabeth Kendall (NE-6) .....	140
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**OVERALL OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP**

3. TY McCULLOUGH (KS-6).....	134
6. BILL HINKEBEIN (MO-6) .....	108

**OVERALL OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP**

2. ELIZABETH KENDALL (NE-6) .....	146
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**OVERALL COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSE**

3. JAC NATALIE/har.....	Hathhorn, Jackie (MO-6) .....	96.38%
6. SKYA "Sheibaa"/ar .....	Abbott, Christine (KS-6) .....	92.04%

**OVERALL COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSEMANSHIP**

5. JACKIE HATHHORN (MO-6).....	96.44%
6. CHRISTINE ABBOTT (KS-6) .....	94.73%

***Diamonds Shine At Region Convention***

Four Region Six members were nominated for the 2005 Diamond of the Year Award with Cheri Jeffcoat being selected as the winner. Other nominees were: Trish Cleveland, Bill Hinkebein, and Daric McCoy.

Elizabeth Kendall presented the entries by reading each submission as one of the highlights of the awards ceremony following the banquet. Cheri, nominated by Donna Keller and Kay Stich, was honored for her life changing decision to share her National Champion horse, Country Star Jet with Donna Keller, allowing Donna to return to riding after decades of missing the equine companionship and competition.

Read these winning submissions below and watch following newsletters as all submissions will be printed over the year. Congratulations to Cheri and all the nominees.

**Nomination by Donna Keller**

After the loss of my husband of 53 years in January of 2004, Cheri Jeffcoat gave me the opportunity to have a dream come true of riding horses again. Not only am I getting to ride, but also to compete in NATRC starting at the age of 74 because of such a safe and trustworthy mount.

Cheri loaned me her horse for the 2004 ride season. Of course, I fell in love with him like anybody would and at the last ride at Kanopolis Lake, Cheri agreed to allow me to purchase him. What a wonderful gift for me at this time in my life although I believe it was a sacrifice for her

to let the horse go. I believe she made this sacrifice for the good of our sport and the people, like me, who enjoy it. Red has taken such good care of me and has given me a new, exciting outlook on life. Without Red my dreams could not have come true, and Cheri brought Red to me. Cheri is a wonderful person and friend. Thank you. (Edited by Marsha Hayes)

### **Nomination by Kay Stich**

The person I would like to see get this award for the 2005 season is a very active, long-standing NATRC member. Words to describe her are: hard working, aggressive, outspoken, spunky, well-known, upbeat, timely, opinionated, fair, positive, sexy, helpful, versatile, smart, conservative, loud, jolly, not-whiny and life of the party. These and many other words certainly do describe this young (well maybe middle aged lady).

Cheri is always "Johnny, (or in this case, Janie) on the spot" when someone is needed to step up to the plate. She is very prompt and timely and fills vacancies as needed thru out our organization. As National President she spent countless hours working on NATRC issues, needs and records, and is really known as the "life of the party" no matter where she is.

Because he took her presidency so seriously, she embarked on a goal to judge or ride in every region and when she set this goal, she realized she would not have enough time to spend with and condition her beloved Country Star Jet (Red). Therefore, Cheri decided to loan our Red to the "little old lady from the nursing home in Southeast Kansas." This became the joke anyway. Red's job was to train this new NATRC member on how to compete and he has done his job well.

Now, this is where I come in because the "little old lady from the nursing home" is NOT old and does NOT live in a nursing home; she is my mother Donna Keller. From my perspective I can see that because of Cheri's sacrificial love for horses, people, and NATRC, my mother's life recently turned from the saddest year of her life to one of the happiest ever.

My mother and I have had so many laughs and fun from winning drawings and taking trips to vaulting off picnic tables and groaning a lot.

We have had a terrific year together and all because of Cheri. If laughter truly is the best medicine, then Mom and I should live forever.

God willing, Mom and Red will ride again this year and have even a better year. By the way, Mom sent in her membership early last year for 2006. Red will continue to reside at my house, and is now owned by Donna but will always welcome visits from Cheri. Thank you God, Thank you Cheri, and Thank you NATRC for making this a wonderful time in a little lady's life. (Edited by Marsha Hayes)

### **Jeffcoat Elected Region Six President at February Board Meeting**

Cheri Jeffcoat was elected President of Region Six at the board meeting held Sunday January 22, 2006 at the Region Six Convention. Mike Wallis was elected as Vice-President and Ruth Mesimer will remain secretary-treasurer. Cheri Jeffcoat and Ty McCullough gave a report from the national level. Marsha Hayes will remain the editor of the newsletter for 2006.

Other committee reports were as follows:  
**Membership/Publicity:** Elizabeth Braznell, not present. Chris Wallis will head this committee for 2006.

**Worker Awards:** Marsha Hayes reported an excellent response this year as workers turned in points from 2005 and previous years. The board voted to approve the purchase of 300 more yellow worker bars. As soon as the new supplies are in place, Trish Cleveland will be taking over the compilation of worker points and awards for 2006.

**PA System and Radios:** A discussion was held on the state of repair of region six equipment. Roland Newton and Ty McCullough will head the PA System committee for 2006.

**Awards:** Marsha Hayes asked for a clarification of the criteria for receiving year-end awards with reference to the requirement for members to complete three region six rides. This will be addressed and reported on after review and board discussion. Anyone interested in heading the year end award committee should contact a board member as Marsha will be editing the newsletter this year and would like to devote more time to that task.

**Sale Items:** Chuck Edwards reported that sale item proceeds were down this year, with sales



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running about \$445.00 for 2006 compared to \$700.00 last year.

**Vest Numbers:** Kim Weil reported selling competition numbers had raised \$410.

J. R. Kendall reported, with donations added, the convention auction garnered \$3,000 this year.

The 2007 Region Six convention will be held in Nebraska, probably in Lincoln or Omaha. Tentative plans are to hold it in January again, before the National Convention.

Congratulations to our new officers and thanks to all who spend their time and effort to keep Region Six a vibrant organization.

### **NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL**

In an attempt to enter the real world, I am going to attempt to offer this Region 6 Newsletter via e-mail. To start my list, please submit your request and address to: [mhkansas@kancom.net](mailto:mhkansas@kancom.net). Don't worry, it if doesn't work, you can go back to a hard copy, but if you can enjoy this format it will save money and trees. I wish I had more of both.

### **Kanopolis Ride Update**

Kanopolis, scheduled April 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>, is the first ride of Region Six. Ride manager Kim Downing invites everyone to start the ride season with this beautiful rides and offers some inside information: timing will take into consideration this is the first ride of the season. She also has been communing with the beavers and their refusal to move peacefully has resulted in a re-route of the trail that means: no swimming this year unless park management and the beavers declare war and the beavers lose.

Campsite reservation must be made through the park. If you plan on camping primitive, no reservations are required. This will be the last year Kim puts on this ride and unless someone takes over, it might be the last time for a while to compete this scenic ride.

Kim can be contacted at 620-793-6834. See the ride book for more details.

### **Rustlers & Renegades, The Sequel**

#### **A Red Rider Production**

Rustlers and Renegades at Big Hill Lake will be the Region 6 benefit ride. Last year Kate Bender was the featured historical figure and 2006 will move up the history chain to meet the Daltons, famous outlaws killed in Coffeyville, Kansas. AFTER trail briefing (allowing the seriously bored to leave) a brief Dalton history lesson will be given, followed by a take home test with the A students being entered in a drawing for a fabulous prize.

Management is trying something new this year by providing most meals and importing a Chef, the legendary Steve Lindsay. His requirement list included items like: many pounds of sausage, thousands of biscuits, pasta, and cheese. I don't think the Benders or the Daltons ate like this. Ride fee includes ALL camping fees and this fine cuisine. This ride is a BARGAIN. This ride is a BENEFIT. BE THERE. For more encouragement or secret ride tips, contact Becki Jackson as noted in the ride book.

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Karen Everhart, Region 6, has recently opened Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc.; a not-for-profit equine rescue and retirement facility in Sedan, Kansas. If you would like to support her efforts with a tax-deductible donation to help care for rejected, abused, neglected or abandoned horses, contact her at [President@rainbowmeadowsranch.com](mailto:President@rainbowmeadowsranch.com).

Karen also has 2 wonderful horses available for adoption. Adoption fees (market prices) go directly to Rainbow Meadows Equine Rescue and Retirement, Inc. For photos and descriptions, please call 620-725-3402 or email. To see the horses currently in residence and read their stories, visit [www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com](http://www.rainbowmeadowsranch.com).

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Karen Everhart (Region 6) of Rainbow Meadows Ranch in Sedan Kansas is now accepting a limited number of reservations for the conditioning and training of distance horses. If you want to start off the 2006 ride season with a horse that is ready to go and your schedule prohibits you from getting the miles in, contact Karen at [Horsecalls@rainbowmeadowsranch.com](mailto:Horsecalls@rainbowmeadowsranch.com)

**Right to Ride Legislation is Stalled**

"Right-To-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005" has stalled in the Senate because of low support from the horse world. The American Horse Council, led by the American Quarter Horse Association, have launched a campaign to GET ANYONE WHO RIDES, especially if they already ride in national parks or wilderness areas-or think they might someday-to get on the bandwagon to send off an already prepared letter of support. Some details . . .

Last March, Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA) introduced the "Right-To-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005" into the US House of Representatives, and a month later Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced an identical bill into the US Senate. But nothing has happened since March, when the bill was referred to half a dozen committees. This is due partly because congressmen and their staffs are disappointed by the low level of support their efforts have received from the horse world.

The easiest way to contact your senator or representative is to go to <http://capwiz.com/aqha/issues/alert/?alertid=7749306&type=CO> which takes you to an AQHA Action Alert. Once there, you enter your zip code, fill in your name and address for verification as a constituent, and a prepared letter of support goes to the congressional representatives you designate. Of course, if you'd prefer to write your own letter, this site also provides the bill's complete text.

The bill says in part "The Secretary of the Interior shall provide for the management of National Park System lands to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on such lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, where there is a historical tradition of such use. As a general rule, all trails, routes and areas used by pack and saddle stock shall remain open and accessible for such use."

Write a letter to your congressman today! Let your voice be heard so we and future generations can continue to ride on National Park System land tomorrow and in the years to come!

Notify Ruth Mesimer, Region 6 Secretary,  
at [rmesi@msn.com](mailto:rmesi@msn.com) or 816-781-9496 of changes or corrections to  
your name, address, telephone number and/or email address. Thank you.

**Maintenance List for Towing Vehicle and Trailer by Drs. Dave and Ty**

**Nine Health Tips for the Tires on both Trailer and Towing Vehicle**

1. Check all tires including spares for weather cracks (small cracks in rubber), in tread and sidewalls. Cracks found indicate tire is terminal. Replace tire.
2. We recommend you rotate tires every 3000 to 5000 miles.
3. Check lug nuts for tightness.
4. Check wheels for any sign of damage, if unsure take to an expert tire dealer you can trust.
5. Balance tires and wheels if you have done a lot of rough road driving.
6. If at all possible, have Nitrogen installed in tires instead of air. The tires will run cooler and have less chance of a heat buildup problem.
7. Maintain proper air pressure in tires.
8. Check to make sure you have the properly rated tires for your tow vehicle and trailer, check owners manual or with a tire specialist.
9. Have a vehicle jack and a trailer ramp to be able to change your tires. We strongly recommend you carry a four-way wrench to break lug nuts loose.

**Five Health Tips for Wheel Bearings and Brakes**

1. At least once a year have trailer wheel bearings inspected and packed.
2. At the same time have all brake pads or shoes inspected for heat damage or wear.
3. Have trailer brakes adjusted after inspection or replacement.
4. Check operation of trailer brake controller in tow vehicle upon hookup to trailer, for trailer brake operation.
5. Check emergency trailer brake; test to see if still operable. (Have done by expert.)

**Make Sure You Have Lights and Brakes**

1. Check tow vehicle lamps before hooking to trailer, headlamps, turn signals, safety, clearance, and backup lamps.
2. Hook up tow vehicle and trailer and check trailer lamps, turn signal, safety, and clearance lights.
3. Check tow vehicle trailer connector for corrosion or damage.
4. Check trailer hookup plug and wire for corrosion or damage.

**Hitch Up Components, Lubrication, Fatigue, & Cracks, Oh My**

1. Gooseneck style hitch, check for fatigue, cracks, cleanliness, and loose bolts. Lubricate necessary areas. Use WD40 on movable parts.
2. Bumper pull or Receiver type hitch, check for fatigue, cracks, cleanliness, and loose bolts. Also check to see if hitch is heavy enough for load you are pulling. This is called a class rating. If the hitch is too light you could lose your trailer and not to the repo man. A 4 rating or higher is recommended.
3. Check trailer safety chains for damage.
4. Trailer jacks, lubricate as necessary, and make sure operation is smooth and steady. No jumps or noise, if there is any, this indicates the hitch either needs lubrication or is damaged. Use wheel-bearing grease for the ball and shaft area. Light coating.

## Towing Vehicle: Steering and Engine Maintenance

1. Inspect all belts and hoses for cracks or damaged areas.
2. Inspect front of radiator, air condenser, power steering cooler, transmission cooler and intercooler for any obstructions; i.e. bugs, weeds, birds, deer parts, or bent fins. Remove as needed. Surgery often required. Call us.
3. Check antifreeze/coolant for level and quality, add if necessary. Check to see manufacture's recommendation for changing.
4. Check windshield washer solution level.
5. Change or clean air filter as necessary.
6. Change fuel filter as necessary.
7. Change transmission filter and fluid at least once a year.
8. Check transfer case level (if 4 wheel drive) at least once a year.
9. Check axle oil levels at least once a year.
10. Check front suspension alignment at least once a year, more if you do a lot of rough road driving.
11. Lubricate suspension components at least once a year.
12. Lubricate drive components at least once a year.
13. Check battery levels, if low add distilled water.
14. Inspect battery cables for damage and corrosion, clean or replace as necessary.

## Trailer Inspection Points: Includes Living Quarters and Motor Homes

1. Inspect batteries for water level and add distilled water if low.
2. Inspect battery cables for damage and corrosion, clean or replace as necessary.
3. Inspect propane gas lines at bottles and connectors.
4. Inspect outside appliance components; i.e. refrigerator, hot water heater, furnace for any varmints nest or damage.
5. Check operation of **Carbon monoxide** and **Smoke detector** if equipped.
6. If equipped with a generator check exhaust for any cracks or damage.
7. Replace fuel filter and change oil in generator at least once a year.
8. Have fire extinguisher checked by professional if refillable, or replace if a throw away.
9. **Horse Area**
  - a. Pull mats and inspect floor for any damage or corrosion
  - b. Inspect edges of walls for cracks, or breaks, or corrosion that could inflict damage to a horse.
  - c. Look for any loose bolts or rivets, secure before using.
  - d. Check underside of floor for any damage or corrosion to frame or floor.
  - e. Check for any loose or hanging wires on underside of trailer. Secure as necessary.

Those who said getting there is half the fun did not experience truck or trailer trouble on an interstate with horses in tow. Just like any good doctors, we welcome your late night phone calls, especially with a frantic tone of voice. Make sure you have your trailer insurance health card number handy. It could be an expensive call. BE SAFE and SEE YOU AT THE RIDES. (Dr. Dave and Dr. Ty will be glad to answer more questions at rides. Watch for their column in future newsletters.)