

Chainsaws and Curfews

Editor's Comment by Marsha Hayes

In this issue:

President's Message Page 2	Those who missed the recent Region 6 Convention in Lincoln missed something good. Yes, it was a fairly long drive and the weather was not perfect, but the company was. The defining moment for me came late Friday night in the hospitality room. The moment involved chainsaws and curfews.
Convention Awards Page 3	It was just so nice to finally be out of the truck and in a nice hotel/motel. The hospitality room had good food and the wonderful Margarita Machine and lots of talk and laughter. Although it was getting late and there had been visiting in the rooms and halls, I just couldn't resist one last swing through the old hospitality room.
Diamond of the Year Page 4	Making my way to the corner, I sat down next to ride manager Olivia Huddleston and we were discussing Flint Hills, the ride she has managed for years and somehow the conversation turned to chainsaws. Five or six years ago, I got my own personal chain saw for Christmas. I went to pick it out and tried out several and I must say this, my Echo, has proved one of my best possessions. I love my chainsaw.
Convention Speakers Page 5	Olivia, too, has her own chainsaw. She has a Stihl of which she is equally fond and proud. As we entered into spirited and passionate conversation over the respective merits and strengths of our toys, Lucy Hirsch overheard us, and joined us extolling her chainsaw, a brand I can neither pronounce or spell. It was one of the most exciting and satisfying exchanges I have ever had the privilege to be involved.
How to Figure CP Average Page 7	Let's be honest here. I know I don't get out much, but in the five years of personal chainsaw ownership, I have not met many (try none) other AARP qualified women who not only own their own saws, but use them, treasure them and get excited about bar length and the other nuances of "the saw". Since I'm being honest, let me tell you that often if I start talking about my chainsaw, I get "the look" followed by either silence or a polite comment along the lines of "I have to go clean the garage now." I have been in groups of very educated people who really couldn't give a whit about chainsaws. Imagine that.
Centered Riding Workshop Page 8	I will always be incredibly grateful to NATRC for placing me between two strong women who own chainsaws. That alone, was worth the price of registration and fulfilled some tooltime void that had been missing in my life. But it gets better.
Anonymous Letter Page 9	As our voices rose to the proverbial fever pitches and we were now out of our chairs demonstrating how we started our saws, a grim looking man in a shirt and tie edging in the door caught my eye. I could see his lips moving, but there was too much noise in the room to hear him. Then he cleared his throat and yelled, "People, people, people....." It was the hotel manager. Apparently there had been a complaint about the noise coming from the hospitality room. We all suspected the lady with the walker who had been startled earlier by the noise of a passionate discussion over how to score national CP winners.
Winning Bidders Page 10	Everyone quieted immediately and apologized. Our trail manners returned and I went docilely off to bed, but I smiled all the way down the hall and I smile still when I remember that late night conversation. It makes me feel younger to know I can still generate a noise complaint and better yet because of a passionate group of people who meet once a year to discuss things not often shared with general population. Who cares about chainsaws and how you figure a CP score? Region 6.
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NATRC's Loss

By Cheri Jeffcoat, President Region 6

Region 6 has lost a true friend. Bill Smith of Region 3, past NATRC President, dedicated competitor, and warm-hearted spirit died after a long battle with cancer.

Bill and his wife Jenny donated countless meals to NATRC rides all over the country, including Region 6. Anytime riders heard the Smiths would be cooking, riding entries increased. Riding with them on the trail was a joy. They were smiling and generous competitors and always available to help anyone and to encourage new competitors. They represented the best of NATRC.

One time, they were camping at my house during the week between Flint Hills and Indian Cave. As usual, I was trying ready to go to Indian Cave and the plumbing under my horse trailer decided to come apart at a strategic drain point. Not Good! I went to Lincoln, got the part and crawled under the trailer to try and repair it. The next thing I knew, I was drug out from under the trailer and Bill took over. He quickly fixed the problem, a problem that would have had me struggling for hours.

It was during his tenure as National President that he instituted the "Hug a Judge" Program. His simple request to have riders hug their judges and say "thank you" was a simple thing, but filled my heart with joy whenever I got a hug. It made me feel truly appreciated and Bill was the one that understood how sometimes even judges can use some kindness.

We will miss him. He truly represented what NATRC is about. His focus was always on doing what was right for NATRC and the members. He embodied the spirit of camaraderie. He volunteered with a truly generous heart and never expected repayment or even simple thanks. He loved and cared for horses. He was there when one needed a pat on the shoulder and a word of encouragement. When he noticed something needed to be done, he just did it without being asked. Basically, he was the spirit of NATRC at its best.

Right now, we wait through the days of bitter cold and grey skies. We wait for the snow and ice to melt to ride our beloved horses. We wait to begin conditioning our horses and ourselves. We think about getting the horse trailer and truck ready to go again. We wait anxiously for spring, making lists and dreaming. During this time of reflection and waiting, I hope each of us can look into our hearts and aspire to be the kind of competitor and member that Bill Smith was.

It was an honor to know Bill. It was an honor to call him friend.

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The Convention AWARDS Report

Many areas are served at our Regional Convention. There is education, food, entertainment, awards, elections, plans for future rides, fund raising, and a general bringing together of all people that make the organization run.

Worker Awards

Trish Cleveland did a wonderful job of organizing and presenting the worker awards. First, Region 6 wants to recognize our top eight point earners in 2006. Standing at the top, again, is the dedicated J. R. Kendall with 1,510 worker points. Becki Jackson presented J. R. with a glass memento. What is impressive about J. R.'s point standing is the fact he has been so consistent in his dedication to Region 6. Many workers have a "good year" but J. R. has been steadfast in his work ethic year after year. Here are our top workers for 2006. Remember that managing an entire ride is only 200 points and all of these members broke the 500 point level IN ONE YEAR. When you see them, thank them. They make our rides possible.

1. J. R. Kendall	1,510 Points
2. Kathy Jackson	1,050 Points
3. Florence Blanks	820 Points
4. Chuck Edwards	750 Points
5. Priscilla Lindsey	700 Points
5. Elizabeth Braznell	700 Points
6. Susan Manley	675 Points
7. Yvette Haeberle	555 Points

National Awards Awarded at the Regional Convention

Part of the regional awards ceremony included the presentation of National Awards garnered by Region 6 members. Region Six was very well represented, especially in the Overall Open Lightweight Horsemanship class with three out of the six placings going to Region 6 riders. Number one in the nation was Mary Anna Wood, followed by Elizabeth Kendall in fifth and Debbie McCullough in sixth. The following are National Awards won by Region Six members:

National Championships

Country Quietachick WH ridden by Kristi Chapman
 Elmer Bandit (Age 35) ridden by Mary Anna Wood
 Prime Sensation WH ridden by Bill Hinkebein
 Royal Sunset ridden by Ty McCullough
 Jac Natalie ridden by Jackie Hathhorn

Hannah Winemiller's mount Carrot's placed fourth nationally in Open Junior Horse and Hannah finished third in Open Junior Horsemanship. Ty McCullough's Royal Sunset was fourth nationally in Open Heavyweight Horse with Ty finishing third in Open Heavyweight Horsemanship. David Spilker's Gus was ranked fifth nationally in Open Heavyweight horse with Dave finishing sixth in Open Heavyweight Horsemanship. Elmer Bandit finished second nationally in Open Lightweight Horse.

In the Competitive Trail division Region Six had two nationally ranked. Mary Colby's horse, Razonn Trail Dancer finished sixth and Kay Stich finished the year fifth nationally in Horsemanship. Unlike the open classes, the national rankings in Competitive Pleasure are figured on a "high average". Read about how this figure is calculated in another story in this issue.

Congratulations to our Region Six riders placing nationally!

Rider and Horse Mileage Medallions

Also during the awards ceremony, several rider mileage medallions were awarded. Bill Hinkebein passed the 10,000 mile mark with 10,270 miles and was awarded a gold medallion. Cheri Jeffcoat with 7,140 received a silver

medallion and both Ty McCullough and Melinda Sadler received bronze medallions for surpassing the 4,000 mile mark.

Five horses received 1000 Mile Awards. They were Arnold Edward, Country Lee's Summit Express, Kerry Bleu, Bart's Top Gun, and Rick to the Rescue.

Linda Tellington Jones Excellence in Horsemanship Award

Elizabeth Kendall was named recipient of the Linda Tellington Jones award for the third consecutive year. She was closely followed in high horsemanship average score by Ty McCullough and Mary Anna Wood.

Dick Webb served as Master of Ceremonies, announcing each winner who came forward to receive the appropriate award from awards chairperson Christine Abbott. Christine was in charge of obtaining and presenting and organizing all of the Regional Awards. For 2006, medals with placing coded ribbons were placed around each winner's neck, lending a festive appearance to the ceremony. When Christine is spotted on the trails this year, make sure to thank her for her time, work, and good humor which added so much to the convention.

The Dickster is a Diamond

As well as serving as Master of Ceremonies for the Region 6 convention, Dick Webb was also declared Diamond of the Year during the award ceremony. Nominated by Christine Abbott, the following is her award winning nomination essay.

Diamond of the Year

If you rode Indian Cave this past ride season, you rode in the rain on Sunday. And you know that when it rains at Indian Cave, the rain turns the Nebraska dirt into slippery mud. The uphill and downhill trails become challenging, to say the least. And as Skya and I rode on Sunday, I found myself wishing she had spiked horseshoes or claws that would grip the mud. I really wanted us to remain upright, that Sunday in October at the Indian Cave trail ride.

Sunday morning found me without a riding partner because the lady with whom I rode on Saturday had to pull from the competition. So I ask if I could tag along for the day. I promised to ride way ahead or way behind them as not to disturb their ride. I also told them that in fact, they didn't even have to talk to me if they didn't want to! I have ridden a few times by myself but that day I felt more comfortable asking someone to notice if I disappeared around a corner or fell into a giant mud hole. The generous couple who said, "Sure, no problem," was Kristi Chapman and Dick Webb. So, we timed out, the six of us, and we were off trotting down the trail. As the rain began to come down, Skya and I tucked ourselves behind Kristi and Dick and we were having a great time. After riding for quite a few miles it seemed to work out better when Skya and I led the way. But occasionally Dick and Traveler would take the lead when there was a particularly nasty part of the trail ahead because Dick was very familiar with these trails. Kristi and I let him forge ahead in the mud. Oh, our protector!

It wasn't until the ride was over that I fully realized what I had just experienced. What I had received that afternoon wasn't a material thing such as a tube of electrolytes or a pair of gloves to keep my hands warm. Nor was it a favor such as holding my horse while I went to the bathroom. I had received a gift of genuine kindness. Throughout the afternoon, as it on and off poured rain, a voice would occasionally call out to me saying, "Hey, are you okay up there? Just around the corner there will be a nasty downhill, so be careful. Are you keeping dry up there? Hey, let's sing....100 bottles of beer on the wall, 100 bottles of beer..."

That voice was the voice of Dick Webb, checking up on me and checking in with me. Wow! We Region 6 orphans (you know who you are) are very appreciative of others' kindness. But somehow Dick's words to me were more than kindness or just being polite. I felt he cared about the quality of my ride and not just that Skya and I finished the ride... and there's the difference. Sometimes people are nice because it is the nice thing to do, like a social obligation. Dick was nice because he cared about being nice. It didn't matter if anyone else heard him being nice. It only mattered that he was.

I am nominating Dick Webb for the Diamond of the Year Award not only because of how he rode his ride that one afternoon in October, but because Dick Webb's genuine and light hearted spirit is a wonderful testament to what competitive trail riding should be about.

I've been fortunate to ride with many generous, giving riders in Region 6 throughout the years. But for some reason, I was keenly aware of the kindness coming my way that rainy afternoon in October. Dick didn't have to be nice. He chose to be nice. I continue to ride competitive trail rides for many reasons. One reason I ride is that many Region 6 NATRC riders such as Dick Webb are constant reminders of what life should be about. Honesty, selflessness, and a sense of humor make a big difference in the world today. I feel blessed to be able to ride my horse, on such beautiful trails, with such wonderful individuals. And I never take this for granted.

So as Skya and I sloshed our way to the finish line at Indian Cave, a small voice (sorry, a booming manly voice) could be heard behind us..." Only six tenths of a mile left. After you go over this small hill, you've made it! Good ride, up there!"

Thank you Dick Webb. I hope I didn't embarrass you too badly. Christine Abbott and Skya P.S. Dick was nice to his wife Kristi too.

Convention Speakers Hold Court

Starting off the day with a presentation about saddle fit, Karen Everhart held the group's attention with excellent photographs and examples of the asymmetry problems that confront riders in looking for a perfect saddle fit. Drawing on personal experience and real case studies made for an interesting, quick paced program that pleased attendees.

Daughter Kira Valentin operated the visual display and served as model on the sample saddles. By using actual slides with drawings on them, Everhart made a complex topic clearer than most talks on saddle fit. She also passed around small model wood blocks to illustrate her points. It was a well thought-out and presented talk.

The region was also treated to a talk by master farrier Nate Allen which helped riders with shoeing questions and concerns. One can never know enough or too much about shoeing.

The region's own Yvette Haeberle and Maggie Spilker blended their rider personas with their professional personas to give an excellent talk and presentation on First Aid on the Trail. Not all Region Six members were aware of Haeberle's and Spilker's medical credentials, but it was especially effective to have a RIDER and a DOCTOR and NURSE standing before the group talking about first aid on the trail. The combination gave unmatched credibility to the presentation which was funny, informative and thought provoking.

Dr. Ty and Dr. Dave returned for more information on truck and trailer maintenance and safety issues. As last year, the questions and interest lasted beyond their time allotment on the program. Their expertise furnished the region with safety information to make getting to the rides a better experience. It was somewhat alarming to see their medical garb auctioned off at the benefit auction later that evening. Dr. Dave and Dr. Ty are either retiring or planning a very risqué approach next year. If you see a 2007 seminar entitled "Nude Trailer Repair", be forewarned.

It was truly amazing to hear such excellent seminars from our own members. We are a remarkable group of talented people and the entire program showcased and educated members.

National Sponsors

The following are current national sponsors of N.A.T.R.C. Please consider these sponsors when making purchases.

- Gulf Coast 4 Star Trailer Sales
- Easycare Inc.
- Specialized Saddles
- EZ-UP Leg Saver
- LongRiders Gear
- Smooth Stride
- Don Rubley of Region Four

Grazing at the Convention Banquet

After a hard day visiting, listening, and learning from the speakers, Region Six members poured into the hotel banquet hall in Lincoln, Nebraska, hungry for awards and well, actually hungry.

The wait staff looked slightly alarmed as more than one member started eating the wonderful carrot cake left out on the tables before the salad could be served. Years, if not decades, of ride behavior does not die easily and the cloth tablecloths fooled no Region Six members; this was a ride related event and taking in nourishment waits for no one.

Scurrying to serve the more than 80 members, service workers watched in awe as Region Six members downed chicken, steak, salad, rolls and vegetables with amazing efficiency. At my table, when the next course was slow to appear, members went straight back to the carrot cake which served to clear the palette between courses.

Conversation flowed and past rides were re-lived and new rides strategy was planned. Good food, good awards, good company and good auction. As people went forth to collect their year end awards, it was the equivalent of the Red Carpet. Especially striking were: Tina Clapper in a low-cut evening dress, tanned to perfection and Roland Newton dressed like one of the Blues Brothers with red tie. Several winners sported horse themed dress and jewelry.

Many thanks to all who worked to put this event together.

Cheri Jeffcoat Re- elected President **General Meeting Elects Board Members** **Sunday Board Meeting Elects Officers**

Election results from the general membership meeting at the Lincoln convention resulted in several new board members. They are:

Iowa: Martha Kunkle, nominated and reelected.

Nebraska: Chuck Edwards and Maggie Spilker nominated; Maggie Spilker reelected.

Missouri: Jerry Weil nominated and elected.

Illinois: Denise Maxwell and Howard Hartsock nominated: Howard Hartsock reelected.

Kansas: Kay Stich and Christine Abbott nominated, Kay Stich elected.

At the board meeting Sunday morning, Cheri Jeffcoat was re-elected President of Region Six. Vice-President is Jerry Weil. Secretary/Treasurer is Ruth Mesimer. Historian is Martha Kunkle and Chris Wallis will take over Special Awards.

A main item on the board meeting agenda was the report from board secretary Ruth Mesimer outlining the region's finances. Region Six has lost money the past four years, losing \$1,500 in 2006 alone. The board's concern resulted in a vote to keep more money within Region Six and not be as financially supportive of the national organization. Mesimer advised as one step in improving our financial picture to "look at ride budgets".

It was reported the auction raised \$2,662 for the region. This money will stay within Region Six.

Hope White will become the 2007 membership chair and Martha Kunkle will become the 2007 historian chair. President Jeffcoat thanked Ruth Mesimer for her work in streamlining the region's accounting. Jeffcoat also thanked former board member Becki Jackson for her service to Region Six. Jackson will also be leaving the position of Special Awards Chairperson.

The meeting adjourned with a statement about the possibility of a board meeting at the region's first ride in April, the benefit ride. All region six members are welcome to attend board meetings and learn about the work that goes on behind scenes to keep our rides going and the organization healthy. It is traditional to have a general membership meeting at the benefit ride also.

College Algebra or How to Figure Your CP Average

I didn't do well in high school algebra. My mother had to go to school because I kept writing poetry (bad poetry) during class because I had no idea what was going on and the fact that the teacher and 18 other students did seem to comprehend whatever it was sent me into a spiritual panic. It did not help that the instructor occasionally jumped at my desk and whacked a ruler on my notebook in a futile effort to gain my attention. What did X really equal? I did not care. At the recent regional convention, the answer to an innocent question (how do they figure national CP awards?) sucked me down a time tunnel and there I sat, back in high school algebra class, clueless and listening to a foreign language.

I took algebra in college, too. I was far from home and felt safer and I developed an elaborate fantasy family that I used to translate concepts into numbers. Trust me, no one will ever adopt my system to teach math but I have an A on my college transcript in Algebra. Mentally going back to College Algebra, I think I have deciphered how to figure the numbers used to place CP riders nationally. There are eight easy steps.

1. You must know your score (horse OR rider). For example, say you scored a 97. For national high point awards your placing is not important (YET) so ignore it.
2. Step two requires you to know what the highest scoring horse or person in the CP class received. Naturally, if you are figuring horse, you need to know horse. If you are figuring your horsemanship score, you need to know the first place horsemanship score. This could be tricky to get. I would recommend you non-winning first place riders work together to steal the winners score card or at least distract the winner so someone can look at the score card. You could try yelling, "Look, there goes Elvis" or, "I think I just saw your horse loose near the manure pile" and then offer to hold their score cards. Anyway . . . You get their scores and, for example, say they scored a perfect 100.
3. Divide your score by their score. 97 divided by 100 equals .97. If you were figuring horsemanship numbers (you had 97, winner had 100) then your horsemanship score for that ride was .97. Log it in your records.
4. To be eligible for a national CP average award, the person or horse must start 6 rides. The definition of a ride is an A ride (two days). In Region Six, we have one B ride, Sunflower games. It only counts for half of a ride. The "score" from it must be divided by 2 because it is only half a ride.
5. Figure your "number" for both you and your horse for every ride of the year. They can be in region or out of region, it does not matter.
6. If you ride more than 12 rides, only the first twelve count. You can quit figuring your number on ride 13.
7. Add up ALL your horse numbers and divide by the number of rides you started. Remember a B ride only counts as half a ride and if you happen to wander into a three day ride somewhere, it will count as one and a half of a ride. If you do find that rare three day ride, you have to multiply your "number" by 1.5 . . . but that would be really rare around here.

Note: On the National Level, ties are broken by the number of first place wins then second place wins. Think about it. It is logical. CP is so competitive, at least in Region Six that often both first and second place horses or riders will have identical scores with pluses being the deciding factor, so it is logical to break year end ties this way.

8. The answer you get will be your national CP average. Good Luck . . . and don't give up. Ask questions. You own this sport and an educated rider is a committed rider. Ask for help figuring your initial scores. There is always after school make-up time. Track your scores and set personal goals to improve. IT doesn't have to be a national award. Look at your own progress over the year. We don't call it Competitive Trail for nothing!

Welcome to the Following New and Returning Region 6 Members!

Ashley Cotton, Granite City, IL Patti & Rose Dollarhide, Newton, KS Ann Molloy,
Manhattan, KS Nadine Oakley, Grand Island, NE Janie Marie Steckline, Desoto, KS

Centered Riding® Workshop for Trail Riders

Presented by Priscilla Lindsey and Karen Everhart

A two-day workshop will be offered **March 17 and 18, 2007** at **Rainbow Meadows Ranch**, near Sedan , KS. The instructors: **Priscilla Lindsey and Karen Everhart** are trained Centered Riding® instructors. Priscilla is an approved N.A.T.R.C. horsemanship judge.

Centered Riding® techniques help promote suppleness, stability and clearer aids, making riding more comfortable for both horse and rider. Using bodywork, both riding and ground exercises, this training will help you and your horse become safe and cooperative partners.

The workshop will focus on personal instruction, and are limited to 12 riders. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday when we will focus more on trail riding and how Centered Riding can help your confidence and your comfort. Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast and lunch are available by reservation for an additional \$15.00.

To participate in this workshop your horse should be able to be ridden at walk and trot in an arena and over open, natural terrain. You are required to wear an approved equestrian helmet and have current Coggins papers.

The cost of the workshop is: \$150.00 for both days, \$100.00 for Saturday only, \$40.00 to audit per day. \$15.00 for meals, if desired. **Camping:** Horses may be trailer-tied or safely corralled at your trailer. Water is available. **Please bring your own feed and hay.** You may arrive anytime after 4:00 p.m. on Friday. We will finish by 3:00 p.m. Sunday.

If you prefer to use one of our school horses there is an additional charge of \$20.00 per day. Call us to discuss your needs. Phone Priscilla at 785-259-1687 or Karen at 620-725-3402.

Please return the registration form below with applicable fees. Make checks payable to Priscilla Lindsey. Mail to: **Priscilla Lindsey, 2067 Quail Road, Concordia, KS 66901. No entries accepted after March 9, 2007 without special permission.**

Please indicate the applicable fees:

_____ Rider \$150.00 for both days

_____ Rider \$100.00 for Saturday only

_____ Auditor \$40.00 per day _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ Both days

_____ Saturday lunch Sunday breakfast and lunch \$15.00

_____ Total enclosed (all fees less a \$30.00 administrative fee will be returned if you cancel no later than March 9, 2007)

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please describe your riding experience?

Any special needs we should know about?

How to Clean Pewter and Why You Need to Know This

The best method is to mix 1 teaspoon of salt in 1 cup of white vinegar and add enough flour to make a paste (it took Ruth about 1 cup of flour). Apply the paste to the pewter and let it sit for 15 minutes to one hour before rinsing with clean warm water and polishing dry.

Why? Why? Why as an active, riding, competing Region Six member do you need this information? Because you could soon be the proud owner of a pewter goblet, a goblet once given as first place national awards . . . a goblet within your grasp soon, very soon.

On April 15, 2007, when most good Americans are home, filing their taxes at the last minute, Region Six will be winding down the first ride of our 2007 season. And better yet . . . it is our benefit ride where some anonymous benefactor has donated vintage pewter awards.

If you are too busy to start a personal quest for The Holy Grail, coming to the benefit ride and going for antique pewter could be the next best thing. It should become your next quest on horseback. Dress in 15th century garb and play Monty Python on the trails. Since this is the benefit ride, it is billed as “no frills” but how often are we offered the opportunity to benefit the region and take home the pewter. Come to Smithville and GO FOR THE PEWTER. There is a good chance it will be pre-polished.

Anonymous Letter to Region Six

I recently attended my fourth competitive trail event at the beautiful Indian Cave State Park. I had ridden this ride once before and returned for the new friends I had enjoyed and the spectacular trials laid out for me by such a professional group. However, I have a technical question I would love to have answered and I really don't want anyone to know I am the one who ratted out what really goes on when the judges are not looking.

Question: Should I have been disqualified for getting off the trail? On day two there was a minor cloud burst of fairly vicious rain that turned these lovely soft trails into something resembling a sledding hill I remember from my distant youth. We called it Suicide Hill. With only six miles to go to complete, I kept hearing Kinky Freidman's campaign slogan for Texas governor in my head, “How hard can it be?” Well, like Kinky (who lost) I discovered it was pretty darn hard. I watched the horse in front of me slide down at an alarming rate of speed without moving a single foot. Actually his back feet kind of bent under him like those double jointed creatures in Dr. Seuss books. It looked wrong.

A new slogan took over my brain: Safety First. I had heard some official at the briefing say this several times and it became my new mantra. I decided to lead down the hill. With superior poundage my horse actually led me down the hill until I hit a particularly slick spot and passed the horse for about ten feet until I purposely veered into some leaves to slow my decent. It slowed me too abruptly and I crashed into some trees. Faintly, above the pounding of the rain on my helmet, I heard a rider yell, “Are you alright?” It turned out this was spoken by another rider sliding by with the horse sitting on its haunches looking surprised at this development.

This is the point where I walked through the forest, well off the trail for probably a mile, guided by the squeals, screams, and grunts I heard from other competitors. I saw two different loose horses and helped catch one. I helped a rider back on after her horse fell and she bailed as the horses struggled in the mud. I was chastised by one of the two riders who rode the whole roller coaster of mud like it was nothing who said, “You really should not be off the trail.”

As far as I know, no one was injured, nor were horses hurt. I felt off the trail was the only traction available and the only safe way out. Was I wrong? Should I have turned myself in as a sniveling baby, chicken, wuss? Is this one of those don't ask, don't tell situations?

Persons of knowledge, just put a personal ad in the newsletter, letting me know the proper etiquette for snot slick trails and fear issues in the future. Someday when I run for President, this could come up to haunt me. Did I cheat to get that 6th place ribbon?

Winning Bidders – Ride Entries and Preferred Parking Spots

Attention all ride managers and secretaries: this is your official notification that these entries and privileges are paid in full.

Ride Entry

R6 Benefit – Hope White	Cedar Creek – Hope White	Flint Hills – Hope White
Kanopolis – Marilyn Marston	Brushy Creek – Sue Maiwald	Indian Cave – Hope White
Rendezvous – Angela Gambill	Johnson Creek – Dick Webb	Whispering Pines – Chris Wallis
Big Hill – Jackie Hathhorn	Pine Ridge – Yvette Haeberle	
Hill & Dale – Hope White	Dave Smith – Angela Gambill	

The preferred parking spot entitles the winning bidder to a reserved parking spot to their specifications; however, the bidder is still responsible for any camping fees that they may incur at the ride. Contact ride management and discuss your site needs.

Preferred Parking Spot

Rendezvous – Cheri Jeffcoat	Hill & Dale – Cheri Jeffcoat	Pine Ridge – Yvette Haeberle
Big Hill – Jackie Hathhorn	Cedar Creek – Becki Jackson	Indian Cave – Deb McCullough

Instructions for the NATRC Ride Management System (RMS)

1. Go to www.natrc5.org
2. When that page loads - look on the right hand side of the screen - there is a button (RMS surrounded by a square), click on that button and you are into the RMS system. If you don't see the button on the right hand side, on the left hand side of the page is a list - a horse icon and then words. Go to the one that says "Ride Schedule & Registration" and click it - a page will come up and hopefully you will see the RMS button, just like I did. Click the RMS button and then you should be on the NATRC Ride Management System Logon Screen.
3. Save this site as one of your favorites.
4. Create your user name and password and enter into the system.
5. Once you have created your user name and password, go to "Manage Profiles" and enter the information about yourself and your horses. After you have completed the "Manage Profiles" section on the riders and the horses in your family, you can go to "Register for a Ride" and complete the steps 1 through 3.
6. Are you a volunteer rather than a competitor or are a volunteer as well as a competitor? You too can use this system. Each person involved in NATRC should create a rider profile in the "Manage Profiles" section. Then go to "Register for a Ride" and follow steps 1 through 3 to select your volunteer category for a particular ride.

The following ride secretaries are using the RMS system for their rides:

Ruth Mesimer - for Region 6 Benefit and Rendezvous
Jan Swalley - for Big Hill
Kim Weil - for Cedar Creek
Jackie Hathhorn - for Whispering Pines

The following ride secretaries/managers have expressed an interest in using the RMS system for their rides: Trish Cleveland and Ty McCullough - for Kanopolis and Denise Maxwell - for Johnson Creek

Susan Manley is looked into using this system for Hill & Dale and Sunflower.

As of February 9, the following Region 6 rides have been opened on the RMS system to receive registrations:

Region 6 Benefit, Smithville, MO, April 14 – 15
Rendezvous, LaCygne, KS, May 12 – 13
Big Hill Thrills, Cherryvale, KS, May 19 - 20

Check back later into the RMS system and see what other rides have opened the system to registration.

NATRC MEMBERSHIP FORM
YOU CAN ALSO RENEW, JOIN OR PURCHASE ITEMS ONLINE! www.natrc.org

NATRC offers six membership plans (check plan desired):

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

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

NOTE: All membership fees include both national and regional dues - when you join NATRC you are automatically a member of your respective region.
Memberships run from January 1-December 31. Please list first & last names of all competing family members, we especially need to know if members of the family have different last names:

Name(s) _____ How did you find out about us? _____
Street _____ City, State, Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Email: _____ Birthdates of Junior(s) _____ \$ enclosed _____

NATRC Specialties Colorado residents please add 2.9%

- Patch (inc. w/new membership)\$1.75
10" Decal \$3.00
4" Decal \$2.00

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

NATRC RIDER'S MANUAL \$18 inc. P&H
NATRC: Phone 303/688-1677 Email: natrc@natrc.org
Make checks payable to NATRC (U.S. funds only) and mail to: NATRC, P.O. Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135

NATRC Manuals Colorado residents please add 2.9%

- Rule Book (inc. w/membership if requested) \$2.00
Judges' Manual\$5.00
Management Manual\$4.00
..... (plus S&H \$1 per manual)

NATRC Video Colorado residents please add 2.9%

- NATRC Introduction Video\$8.95

Specify format: VHS DVD

Thank you for your support!

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

- \$10 \$25 \$50 Other _____
Awards

(For which horse and/or rider)

- Trail Fund Publicity



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