

**EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

By Rhonda K. Levinson

I hope each and every one of you had a great ride season, and hope that some of you will be willing to write about your season, or some aspect of it, for future newsletters. And let's all make every effort to get the National Convention being hosted by Region 6 in Kansas City! It'll be great fun to get together socially, as well as educational with the terrific speakers scheduled. Great preparation for next year, as well as a great opportunity to get together to rehash this year's season.

From my perspective, what an odd, odd season it's been! Cancelled rides, rescheduled rides, a brand spanking new ride. I did my first Open ride, but then returned to CP when I didn't have time to condition Maxi properly. Although I felt her conditioning base was probably good enough to get us through the Open rides without too many points off, I didn't feel it was fair to her to ask her to go out and go an Open pace and distance when I was falling down on my end of the bargain by not keeping us both in shape.

It is just really important to me that Maxi have fun out there with me and not end the ride miserable. At the Flint Hills Ride, I had occasion to test my resolve on that point. After the first day's ride, I noticed a little swelling and soreness on Maxi's side in the girth area. I spent the afternoon and evening holding ice on the spot and hand grazing Maxi. I was trying to balance my desire for Maxi to have a good time against the fact that I really hate quitting. I hate, hate, hate quitting, and I was trying to get the swelling down and get rid of the pain so we could continue the next day.

That evening, I was sitting in my chair watching Maxi graze on a long lead when she looked at me, walked over and pressed up against me. She had her front legs slightly to the side of me and hooked her head and neck over my shoulder and gently pulled me forward and held me against her. I put my arms around her neck and just scratched and rubbed her for quite awhile. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw the horsemanship judge over at the trailers checking out campsites and wondered briefly how many points I could lose for this unsafe position, but there was no way I was moving or pushing Maxi away at that point.

In the morning, there was still swelling and sensitivity on Maxi's side. I switched girths and arranged the saddle so nothing touched the swelling. As I just barely tightened the girth, Maxi turned her head and touched my arm. I looked at her and she just looked at me and touched my arm with her nose again. She didn't pin her ears or make an ugly face, but there were stress lines around her nose and eyes. I asked her to move around a little and she seemed a little uncomfortable at the trot, so I unsaddled her and went up to let ride management know we were pulling. She wasn't totally miserable, but I sure wasn't going to keep going to the point where she was.

Despite how I feel about quitting, I had no qualms about pulling us that day. I inflicted pain on Maxi on that first day and her response was to come to me and hold me. What a magnificent, kind, forgiving partner she is! I was and am so touched by the generosity of spirit of these great creatures who share our lives and hope that I never become so engrossed in my own agenda that I take unfair advantage of any horse's good nature. So, that's the lesson I am taking away from this season. I look forward to hearing from each of you about the lessons this season has brought you.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE****"My appreciation for the Region 6 Family"**

Sarah J. Smith

I'm sitting here looking out my window at the light dusting of snow and trying to figure out where 2008 has gone...it has been one heck of a year. One more ride season is complete and we are all anxiously awaiting convention time to catch up with our NATRC family and play our favorite game "what number are you and what horse do you ride?" because we don't recognize one another looking glamorous! (I think we are all excited to see a certain someone modeling the lovely pink fairy dress...with panty hose and stilettos of course). This year has been one of many changes for me in about every way imaginable. This was my first Open season with Phoenix which was awesome even though it had to end a little early - I truly have the "Open Fever" and so does he. I experienced major changes in my family status which most all of you know and I am one year closer to completing my Masters

degree...no more typing papers at rides! In all of this, the one thing that has always been consistent for me this year was my NATRC family. Is your life a little hectic? Go to a CTR! Feeling down? Call your riding partners (thanks Liz and Tina)!

Looking back, my main support system aside from my biological family has been the friends I have made through NATRC. Like any family, word travels fast when something in someone's life has gone awry within our region family. I have appreciated everyone's support, hugs, phone calls, emails and occasional (maybe frequent) griping sessions at rides. CTR and the friends that come with it are a true healing experience! Forget spending money on an expensive therapist (I can say that since I am very close to being one), spend your money on a ride entry and the gas to get there because you'll get the therapy you need from the back of your horse and the company of good people. CTR is not only the melting pot for horses; it is the melting pot for people. We have members from all walks of life, lots of life experience and people willing to share it if it helps another and for that I am grateful to be a member of this family. I'm sure many of you would agree and know exactly what I'm talking about – maybe you've been there too.

With that being said, I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to our family reunion in Kansas City. Please support the convention and our members who have put a great deal of effort into making it a success – see you in February!

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### Proposed By Laws Change

Your Region 6 Board is proposing the below listed changes to the by laws regarding the position of secretary-treasurer. The board is proposing that the secretary-treasurer position be split into 2 distinct positions: a secretary and a treasurer and the duties of these positions are spelled out below.

1) Change Article IX – Officers, Section A. Officers

*From:* The officers of the corporation shall be President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer, each of whom shall be a qualified voting member of the corporation and be 21 years of age. The BOD may appoint such assistants to the officers as may be desirable or convenient.

*To:* The officers of the corporation shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer, each of whom shall be a qualified voting member of the corporation and be 21 years of age. The BOD may appoint such assistants to the officers as may be desirable or convenient.

2) Change Article IX – Officers, Section B. Election and Term of Office

*From:* . . . The Secretary-Treasurer may be elected from the BOD or the membership at large. No officer may serve more than two (2) successive terms in the same office with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer which office shall have no limit of terms.

*To:* . . . The Secretary and Treasurer may be elected from the BOD or the membership at large. No officer may serve more than two (2) successive terms in the same office with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer

3) Change Article IX – Officers, Section G. Secretary-Treasurer

*From:* The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

1. Keep the minutes of the members' meetings and of the Board of Directors meetings.
2. Be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents of which the execution on behalf of the corporation, under its seal, is duly authorized.
3. In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or BOD.
4. Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation.
5. Receive and give receipts for money due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the corporation in such bank as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of these bylaws.
6. In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of the Treasurer and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or the BOD.
7. Request annual audit of Treasurer by the BOD in January prior to the annual meeting.

Nothing herein contained, however, shall be construed so as to limit the powers of the BOD to act in accordance with Article VI hereof, or to limit their power of supervision over the Secretary-Treasurer and said BOD may from time to time authorize or direct persons other than the Secretary-Treasurer to perform some or all of the duties prescribed herein.

**To: Section G. Secretary**

The Secretary shall:

1. Keep the minutes of the members' meetings and of the Board of Directors meetings.
2. Be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents of which the execution on behalf of the corporation, under its seal, is duly authorized.
3. In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or BOD.

Nothing herein contained, however, shall be construed so as to limit the powers of the BOD to act in accordance with Article VI hereof, or to limit their power of supervision over the Secretary and said BOD may from time to time authorize or direct persons other than the Secretary to perform some or all of the duties prescribed herein.

And the addition of the following section

**Section H. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

1. Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation.
2. Receive and give receipts for money due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the corporation in such bank as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of these bylaws.
3. In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of the Treasurer and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President or the BOD.
4. Request annual audit of Treasurer by the BOD in January prior to the annual meeting.

Nothing herein contained, however, shall be construed so as to limit the powers of the BOD to act in accordance with Article VI hereof, or to limit their power of supervision over the Treasurer and said BOD may from time to time authorize or direct persons other than the Treasurer to perform some or all of the duties prescribed herein.

These changes will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Kansas City MO 64153. If you have questions about this proposed by law change, contact a board member (see list on page 14).

**Nebraska National Forest, NE - 8/30-31/08 - A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 40**

Chairman: Cheri Jeffcoat

Judges: Jerry Weil DVM, Priscilla Lindsey

Novice Sweepstakes: Jeremiah Johnston/Haynes, Theresa-99.5

Open Sweepstakes: Gus/Kendall, Elizabeth-97.5

Results not official until published in Hoof Print

**Open Heavyweight**

1/2 Royal Sunset/McCullough, Ty  
 2/1 Frontgate Phoenix/Garcia, Sarah  
 3/3 Touch's Yeller Gold/Inman, Gary  
 4/4 The Tanks a Blazin'/Clapper, Tina  
 5/5 Ace of Hearts WDG/Miller-Inman, Linell

2/5 Cito Mocha Raton/Cleveland, Trish  
 3/2 Winchester Charm/Hirsch, Lucy  
 4/1 Elmer Bandit/Wood, Mary Anna  
 5/3 King's Mountain Hale Boy/Dollarhide, Patti  
 6/6 Rick to the Rescue/Childs, Maggie  
 -/4 Cheyenne 1/McCullough, Debbie

**Open Lightweight**

1/- Gus/Kendall, Kendall

**Open Junior**

1/1 Scooter/Haeberle, Joe

Novice Heavyweight

1/2 Ruby 4/Knoll, Silja  
 2/1 Sir Timothy Gold/Andre, Tamara  
 3/3 Toni/Johnson, Shirley  
 4/5 LL Remington/Marston, Marilyn  
 5/4 Tigger 3/Vogel, Mary  
 P Mystical Lights/Christensen, Sharon  
 P IMA Skip Ditto Moon/Newton, Betty  
 P Rocky 5/Vogel, Steve

Novice Lightweight

1/2 Jeremiah Johnston/Haynes, Theresa  
 2/3 DJ Maverick/Lysinger, Patricia  
 3/1 Prime Sensation WH/Stucky, Marla  
 4/6 Skips Ratchet/Fugate, Dee  
 5/- Omar/Carlsborg, Alycia  
 6/5 Gator/Nitsch, Kay  
 -/4 Sabrina/Pugh, Christine

Novice DO

P Ms Busnel Shevitz/Fales, Mary  
 P Sar Cara/Salaberrios, Melvin

Competitive Pleasure

1/1 Bar Diamond Jessie/Payne, Debbie  
 2/6 Rock Strollin Jim/Maiwald, Susan  
 3/- Skyline Red Bambi/Aswegan, Beth  
 4/2 Ni Raffon/Kunkle, Martha  
 5/ BHR Hosan China Moon/Heniser, Vicki  
 6/5 Coyote's Koscot-N-Gold/Chapman, Kristi  
 -/3 Prairie Country Traveler/Webb, Richard  
 -/4 Eye of the Tiger/Mesimer, Ruth  
 -/- Take-A-Walkaloosa/Hess, Lucie  
 -/- Rushcreek Melady/McCoy, Mary

**CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE REPORT**

By Cheri Jeffcoat

First, how was the competition? We had: 2 Hall of Fame horses, President Cup Winners - 3 horses of which 2 of them had won Presidents Cup twice, Championship Challenge - 3 prior winners, National Champions - 2/3 of horses have won NC's and most with multiple NC's and many national and regional winners. So, yes there was definitely some competition going on! Good quality competition!! In fact, on Sunday night I was chatting with some volunteers who have worked many CTR's and they all commented on how competitive the atmosphere was; very different from a regular CTR. But that the riders were gracious and good sports despite the highly competitive situation.

If you have not been to the Land Between the Lakes...wow! The campground is a Ritz-Carlton for horses and riders. The trails are fantastic. The trails are everything from pretty darned rocky to some places to "Whoop and Ride"! Trail Master Phillip Buttrey (and helpers Marlene Buttrey, the Chapman's and Elise and Vince) all did a stellar job of marking and map making. They had excellent point riders who had to battle local Yahoo's that were moving ribbons and trying to send riders down the wrong trails. Even with that, the park signs and maps were excellent in addition to the trail ribbons. There was very little water on trail due to the drought conditions, however Vince and Elsie hauled water out for us for horse drinking and sponging. Without that, we would have been in trouble. Thank you!!!

Rider check-in was wonderful. Everything was so efficient! Plus, our rider bag was a personalized bag with our horse's name embroidered on it! Wow it was beautiful! Tammy Lineback had garnered all kinds of donations for our bag and it was packed full of goodies!

Horse check-in went smoothly. Probably the most important aspect was that right from the start Judging Team 1: Vet Jerry Weil, Hsp Gretchen Patterson and Team 2: Vet Donna Johnson and Hsp Kathy Shanor made every effort to lighten the mood and make it fun for the competitors. We had to be very sharp not to fall for some of the practical jokes. But as Jerry said, if we ain't having fun then this is just too much work!

Saturday and Sunday dawned cool with heat/humidity on the way. We went out of camp early trying to beat some of the heat, but of course were not able to completely avoid it. The vets seemed to take metabolics every place we stopped in addition to frequent lameness checks. Since I was way back in the pack (it is pretty quiet and peaceful way back there) I did hear the vets comment on how well conditioned the horses were! That is a testament to how hard so many folks had worked to get their horses ready for the competition and their in-camp care programs.

We were judged immediately out of camp and then it seemed like every junction/road...there were the judges again! I am not sure how many times we saw them but somewhere between 10 and 15 times. No one can say they were not judged. We had every kind of obstacles imaginable. Everything from just being watched going by to highly technical ones that if you were in trouble on a trail you would need those skills to maneuver you and your horse out of trouble! If you were not working as a team and did not have complete control of your horse...it showed up pretty quickly.

I had what I call an "uneven" ride. Please note that whenever we compete our own perceptions are different from the judges...I guess as a sometime "perfectionist" what I call so-so can actually be pretty good! We had a great Saturday am (about 22 miles) and a so-so Sat afternoon (about 18 miles). We arrived back in camp and the vets did a thorough check of the horses, everything from legs, withers, back, loins, trot out etc. A number of lameness were spotted and horses pulled. Some lameness due to the rocks, others included foot sore and one horse (Trish Cleveland's Mocha) had a slip/fall that caused the lameness....and Trish had been having an awesome ride so it was sad to see her horse injured.

On Sunday, I had another uneven ride, the am was okay but the afternoon was fantastic!! I was sort of beating myself up because we (the riders) are the ones responsible for our rides!!!! However, as I rode the last few miles, I reminded myself that: 1) It ain't over till the math is done! 2) It was only the 7th ride Prime and I had done together! So what did that all mean? It means I learned some things about Prime and I that I will be working extra hard on and that the things we do well....are just great! I had a little time coming from a couple of minor hold-ups so I was just sort of chug-a-chugging down the trail the last few miles and several riders who had been behind me went on by but I told Prime we were just going to enjoy that last few miles and use up some of our time. As we were nearing the finish, there everybody was to cheer the competitors and horses for finishing!

Yes, to finish a Championship Challenge makes each finisher a winner! I cannot say what makes riding a CC so different. Maybe it is knowing that it is the highest level of competition, maybe it is knowing that your horse must be in condition to even start, maybe it is knowing that you will be faced with a challenge to your technical skills, maybe it is that you better be working as a partner with your horse, maybe it is knowing that all the things you practice at home will be used and you finally get to use everything you practiced. As I frequently tell folks, to just participate in The CC is special even if you don't finish....it is always a great experience!

Congratulations to Diamond's Sassy Stocking, ridden by James Keene as the winner of the Championship Challenge. Congratulations to Wayne Tolbert for the overall Horsemanship Winner! Congratulations to Copperhill's Delight, ridden by Marlene Buttrey who took first in Open Light. Congratulations to Liz Kendall, who took first in Horsemanship/Open Light.

I want to say a couple of personal thank you's.

1. To Yvette Haeberle for chewing me out a couple of years ago to take better care of myself. Without you, I would have never been able to do this ride, let alone finish it.
2. To Jeannie and Bill Hinkebein. Thank you for making it possible for me to own and ride Prime. Without his wonderful smooth gait, great attitude and taking care of me...well, I wouldn't have had such a wonderful ride.
3. To Prime Sensation for just being the horse you are.
4. To Stacy Bowman, Phillip and Marlene Buttrey, Ruth Mesimer, Tammy Lineback and all the volunteers from Region 5 and Region 6...without you this wonderful ride would not have happened.
5. To all the members of Region 5 and Region 6. Thank you for all the donations, the joint task forces that made this possible. Even though each region has a slightly different culture, you worked together and showed what determined and committed NATRC'ers can do!!!
6. Thanks to my fellow competitors for continuing to raise the bar on what we can do with our horses and showing that excellence can be aspired to. Thank you for your good sportsmanship and camaraderie.

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### **Championship Challenge**

By Maggie Childs

Wow! I had no idea what I was getting into, but it was fantastic. Everyone said it'd be great, but I just wanted to ride someplace new and Kentucky sounds special when it comes to horses. I didn't know we'd be riding 80

miles, or that there would be double the judging, until I was already on my way there. At that point what could I do but carry on, give it my best shot, and hope to make it through? Perhaps that attitude of resignation was what helped my horse, Rick to the Rescue (a 26 year-old Appaloosa gelding, the first and only horse I've ever owned), to have a break-through ride. I usually look for a hole between other riders in hopes of keeping him calm, but that weekend he finally accepted following at a respectful distance when I needed him to. He did occasionally get upset about being passed and left behind, but it only took a brief time-out to get him to calm down. I also managed myself better. Thanks to enough prophylactic painkiller and my first (borrowed!) pair of padded underwear, I was comfortable for the whole ride, all 80 miles of it. It certainly helped that we did it in very manageable 20-mile chunks, with a whole hour for lunch both days.

I'm sure I was the only one to qualify by quantity (1000 miles) rather than quality (at least a regional placing) and one person was bold enough to tell me he was surprised to see me there. Whatever he meant, I decided to take it as a compliment. I won't say much about the obstacles, except that several were a lot harder than usual. My favorite was what could have been a simple mount. I decided to be a smart aleck and ask the judge if I could use her chair for a mounting block. (She wasn't sitting in it.) It would have been a good idea if it hadn't been so flimsy that I put my foot right through it. At least Ricky didn't flinch as I went down instead of up. I was sorry to have destroyed the judge's chair, but it seemed pretty funny until I saw on my card that I lost points for making an unsafe choice of mounting aid!

Obstacle foul-ups aside, everything about the ride was terrific. The mood all weekend was celebratory. Every single person--judges, workers, and riders--was upbeat, friendly and helpful. The trails were rocky in a few places, and sometimes dusty, but mostly smooth dirt and two-track wide. The map was easy to read, the trail simple to follow, and we made huge circles instead of wiggling every which way to squeeze enough miles out of a small area. At trail's end on Sunday, a small crowd met us at the finish line to cheer each horse and rider as they completed the ride.

All in all, it was by far the most fun I have had in five years of Competitive Trail Riding.

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## FLINT HILLS RIDE REPORT

By Cheri Jeffcoat

Boy, did we have a "weekend!" For those of you who know me, when I say this is an "extremely" rocky ride...well ya' know it truly is! The word "flint" pretty well describes the rocky up and down terrain. Where there is soil, it is very, very thin....so with these statements, I will go on with the story.

It was glorious fall weather with the trees beginning to turn color. We lucked out with temps from the 50's to high 70's. And, of course, Debbie and Ty McCullough and their intrepid ride secretary Nancy were there to welcome us. As a competitor it is great to feel appreciated for showing up!

Horse check-in was fun. Our Vet, Rhonda Gregory and HSP Frank Keeran were set up to really start judging us from the get-go. I love judges who start judging the minute you show up. By really working at judging us, it does mean that they have more on our card to judge us by. And, the more on the card, the more fairly we are judged.

Our first observation was an in-hand sidepass. We had to sidepass on to a "long" timber and sidepass all the way off. I love judges that are really into judging us as many times as possible. Then Rhonda did a full exam and Frank checked grooming and our presentation. The only thing I was unhappy about is that I checked in with a 4 MAW and had been shooting for a 3...oh, well at least we were "energetic!"

Saturday AM dawned clear and cool. Shortly out of camp, there is a steep downhill, with a couple of transitions in it, we had to ride part of it, then stop our horses at the bottom of one transition and count to 5. I "heard" a few horses weren't too happy about stopping so early. The trails are tough...no other description. We really had to push-push all day. There were other obstacles and observations including backs, side-passes, ups and downs...and Sunday a lovely gate!

There was a little bit of water on trail but not much and water was hauled in for the P&R's for which we and particularly our horses were grateful for. Boy, I was sweating at the last P&R because we had to really push to get in and I had stopped to help Prime but still I thought he was a little high when we got to the P&R. However, I poured on the water, gave him his special gourmet carrot treats that had been a gift to him from Marla Stucky (she rode him Novice at Halsey so they were a thank you gift to Prime). I kept taking his pulse and counting his respiration ... thank goodness he came down to 10/5 and we got out of there with no points lost. A couple of horses were held and a number lost points as this was late in the ride and it had been a challenging two days.

Overall, it was a great weekend but was kind of weary. After we left the last P&R, crossed the road to that beautiful 2 mile maker sign and I knew that the last 2 miles were some of the easier trail.....life was good.

I need to thank my "young" friends who knew I was really tired and beat up and helped "herd" me into camp. My blood sugar was low and I was feeling dehydrated but they were exceedingly kind and caring and got the "old gal" into camp!!!

Check-out went smoothly, no lameness, no sore back, no metabolic lost ... limped back to my camper and plunked my rear down and celebrated with a Pepsi!

Thanks to all the volunteers, Deb & Ty, all the safety riders....what would we do without you? Oh....Prime sweepstaked...despite his rider!!!

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### Gracie Royle's Flint Hills story

Brad (where I keep my horses) loves doing ground work and has been working with Clancey on the ground fairly consistently. Brad was planning on riding Clancey but at the last minute was unable to go.

So, I worked with Clancey on the ground for only two days before the ride. Clancey has become very difficult to load since his last trip to the vet. We have been trying to correct that. However, when I needed to leave he refused to get into the trailer. Barb and I finally got him in, being his usual sweaty and dancing self. Once in, he called and pawed and raised hell. I looked at Barb and said, "I don't think I can deal with this all weekend," and considered unloading him and my stuff and not going. But instead, Clancey and I went on down the road. Him calling all the way down Greenwich Rd...me, sure that I would be pulled over for animal abuse.

We arrived at camp about 3 and 1/2 hours later, after I had been white knuckling the steering wheel for awhile. We were happily greeted by Ty and Debbie, Ride Managers, and other competitors. I found a place a bit away from the main activity but close enough to be a part of the happenings. Immediately there were people who were offering help and advice to which I thanked them with heartfelt gratitude but declined the assistance as I wanted to try and work with Clancey my own stubborn self.

Clancey had loaded in his usual fit of chaotic nervousness and I was prepared for the screaming maniac that would come off the trailer. Instead I a calm, quiet, respectful horse stepped off the trailer. I looked and looked around and in the trailer for the horse I loaded but I could not find him anywhere. I will not at this point question the Gods or angels and I whispered a quiet "thank you" to whoever had my crazy horse.

Okay...camp is set up, Clancey is watered and fed and it is time to check in. I had already confused the ride secretary and made her life more difficult by bringing a different horse so now it was time to go make the judge's life a bit more interesting with my "fired up" crazy Saddlebred.

As we walked through camp, Clancey walked beside me, calm and respectful. He stood for the judges nicely and the vet judge Rhonda, was in disbelief that this was the same horse. I fully expected to be asked for a drug test for my horse. Then the horsemanship judge asked for a side pass over a log. Oh Lord, I thought...we are really pushing it here. Calmly and nicely (with a hint of sarcasm) I said to Clancey, "side...side..." and side pass over the log he did. Then he had the nerve to look at me with an expression that said, "now what?" I just looked back at him and let him know that he couldn't fool me. I knew he had been possessed.

He trotted out behind me and did his circles without running over me, quietly and smoothly, and trotted back with me, stopping when I stopped. (Here is where the old theme song from Twilight Zone begins to echo inside my

head). We walked back to camp, amazed that this thing called consistent training might actually work after all. I had asked Priscilla to be around that weekend for encouragement and advice and she was grinning and chuckling at this discovery of mine.

Briefing occurred on time and was wonderfully done: the maps, times and instructions so clear and concise so all I had to do was attach my map to my saddle, check my tack, make sure I had everything set for the next day and sleep. It is always amazing to me how full the sky is with stars when I get out of the lighted cities. Even the little sliver of the moon was bright. There were others out and about walking their horses, quietly chatting. I could hear the clip clop of hooves and the snorts, nickers and whineys of the horses near us. Just beautiful. I hunkered down in the Suburban and sleep found me until my alarm woke me at 5AM.

Stumbling out of the sleeping bag and Suburban I was greeted by a quiet nicker and snort from Clancey. We walked, grazed and worked a bit. I fed him, listening to the steady munching and watched the sky lighten over the beautiful hills to the east. We had camped where we had a view that was spectacular.

I tacked up Clancey, and he stood quietly while I did so. I was quiet and calm and noticed that there was no knot in my stomach. GOOD. I hope that tummy knot doesn't wake up!!!! I led Clancey to the dreaded mounting block. He looked at me and said, "no" ....I rolled my eyes ( he had been standing quietly at the block, stumps, blocks of wood and rises at home) and back... back... back... we went....we side passed...we turned on the hind and fore.....and went back to the block where he stood quietly. I mounted up and he stepped off ....and found himself having to back... back... back... again....and there he stood until I told him it was okay to walk off, which he did nicely. Off we went to see what the day would bring.

As we moved toward the group waiting to time out, Clancey was not exactly quiet, but he was not all hyped up. Just as Priscilla came walking up, Clancey decided to dance a bit and Priscilla reminded me to sing. The only song that came to me that moment was, "let it snow let it snow let it snow." All I could think of were Christmas Carols. She and I laughed. I backed Clancey up, told him to settle down and he did. Just then, another rider (I have no idea who it was) rode by and said good morning. Clancey stood quietly as I said good morning. The rider doing a double take said, "I think that is the first time I have ever seen Clancey with all four feet on the ground at the same time." That made me laugh but I leaned down and stroked Clancey's neck, whispering "good boy."

I hooked up by accident with three novice riders from Iowa who had great senses of humor and were about having fun. They were cracking me up. Now came the horror of timing out. This is where Clancey dances, we do circles, I get all frustrated, worried and annoyed as the other riders take off. Today though, he STOOD for 30 seconds while the other horses went down the trail. His ears up. I could feel the energy under the saddle but NO DANCING, PAWING or PULLING. I began to wonder if he had some drug connection I didn't know about. Then I heard, "Number 67 you are out," and Clancey WALKED forward...GOOD GRIEF!!! "Ummmmm Clancey," I told him, "we can trot now." Which he did nicely. OKAY DAMMIT...WHERE IS MY HORSE!!!!!!???

We trotted off and found our Iowa friends who were letting their horses move out quickly and Clancey fell in nicely behind. We had a couple of downhills if I remember correctly and transition up...then WHOA.. Almost immediately there was an obstacle and a LINE so we had to wait. Clancey was not happy about THIS. I felt myself tense up and immediately felt Clancey start to dance. I relaxed and Clancey began to graze. OKAY NOW, what the heck? He really does feel every little change in me. He really is in touch with me. I KNOW I KNOW...EVERYONE can say "I told you so" but until it clicked, until I actually felt it, it didn't click. You can tell someone something forever, but until it reaches their core and is embedded in them you are wasting your breath.

We were asked to ride down the hill. STOP, count to FIVE...good lord...and then we could go. BIG DAMNED BREATH. So down the hill nicely Clancey and I went. put my knees on him, sat down and imagine THIS...HE STOPPED! (Laughing) And he waited until I counted to five. He just STOOD THERE. So, while I counted I looked straight at the judge and SLOWLY counted (I had planned on counting quickly) and said thank you to the judges and told Clancey, "Okay we can go now." Thank you to the Iowa riders who were at the top of the hill waiting for me. I didn't remember to wait for the person behind me. I had a very selfish ride. I do apologize to whoever was behind me.

Up we went, my butt off the saddle, Clancey powering up the hills, and that is how it went the entire day. The trails are rocky in some places, very soft sand in others, and some of the trails seem only to go up and up and never down. In fact, one of the riders I was with finally said “Golly gee whiz, do these dog gone hills only go UP????? Is there never a down?????”

Where we could, we had to make up time and we let our horses go. There came a point when one of the women I was with began cantering, catching up and riding along side Clancey. Whatever gait Clancey began doing to keep along side that other horse was smooth and we were flying. His ears were up and his nose down a bit. The rider next to me said, “OMG, if only you could see what I see. Clancey is in his ZONE. I think he is smiling. He is having a blast!!!!” Well, so was I. It was controlled and a slice of heaven. He loved it and I still get tears in my eyes thinking of those several seconds of heaven and love.

At one point we were on a roller coaster of hills and flying. Yahoooooo and Yippee! We would soon find places that were not so much fun. There were quick turns and switch backs one after another. So there we are, in our glory, Clancey behaving, me having fun with him and the group I was with, when we are stopped because there is an obstacle up ahead. There was a 30 minute wait. “Oh great” I think, “Clancey is sweated up.” He is great at drinking on the trail but the watering place was a self filling tank that hissed and sputtered when it was being filled. While Clancey didn’t go nuts he wasn’t about to hang around while that hissing and sputtering thing ate him. I got off and loosened his girth and let him cool down.

Now some of you can relate to this. I hate getting off my horse and you know why! Getting back on can be...a challenge. My mounting skills still leave a lot to be desired, especially on a 16 hand horse. So one of my new Iowa friends offered a leg up when it was time to mount up again. However, she promptly dropped me right under the hind end of Dancey Clancey, who thankfully just stood as if he was very aware that I was there. There I am, scratched up, under the hind feet of what is known as a “hyper crazy horse,” my new found friend and me laughing. Clancey just stood there. He did turn to look at me and I think he was wondering, “WHAT the heck are those stupid humans doing NOW????” Finally up in the saddle only to find I have to dismount again as the obstacle is in hand. That Figures!! I am to lead the horse in hand down a steep incline then mount from the offside and ride up the hill. “Yeah Right!!!!” So, there we go...Clancey calm and staying to my right shoulder...stopping when I stopped and stopped when I started to slide. I felt him “startle” when he saw the judges all hunkered in their lawn chairs hidden in the trees, but we moved forward when the thinking side of his brain kicked in. (A few weeks ago he would have mowed me down and taken out those hidden judges and secretaries for good measure.) Then I had to mount from the off-side. “OH PULEAZZE.” I was tired by then and didn’t have the strength to get Clancey to stand and pull myself up. So I asked for a leg up and again it wasn’t a pretty mount. I looked at the Horsemanship judge and said, “Now you have seen pretty.” He gave me a little grin but frankly at this point I didn’t much care what he thought because I was so happy with Clancey's and my day.

Later in the day as we came to our umpteenth hill, Clancey just stopped. I mean he STOPPED DEAD in his tracks. He looked up the hill, then of all things he looked back at me. I started to laugh as he began to turn around to walk away from the daunting task in front of him. I KNEW he was saying, “you HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.” I said, “Clancey, lets give it a try.” He actually gave a huge sigh...and up he went. UP UP UP UP .... it never ended!!!!!!...and lo and behold what do we find as our prize at the top???? Well of course, there is the horsemanship judge hidden, watching how we went up. Clancey could have cared less if a tiger was sitting in that chair. He was sucking wind and so was I. I smiled at the judge and said, “Another pretty moment. But at least I am off his back.” The judge grinned...although I am not sure his idea of humor and mine are similar.

We made it to the second P and R. All the horses timed in with high respirations and heart rates. Clancey's came down well and we were off to the races to make up time. After the two mile marker we were going to have clear sailing, so we picked our way through some very tight corners, narrow trails, rocks and hit that marker. Sure enough, we had some ground we could really ride. We all let loose. The horses knew they were close to home and were happy to book it. The only problem was, part of the last of the trail went all around and thru camp where the horses thought they could stop. My leg and butt muscles actually cramped and I felt as if my abs and mid area were on fire. I was using every bit of my core to try and stay off him, stay centered and stay outta his mouth. I kept telling Clancey, “We’re almost there,” and I know Clancey was thinking, “You fool....Camp is right THERE...don’t

you see it?" "No, NO, don't have me go that way; that is away from camp!" But he went without a fight and we FINALLY timed in with five minutes to spare. In five miles we had made up a heck of a lot of time. We were flying. It was so much fun.

I immediately and painfully slid off of Clancey and loosened his tack. I took the bit out of his mouth and walked him to our camp site. He sucked down half a bucket of water. I let him rest then filled up the bucket, and while I un-tacked him, he proceeded to suck down another half bucket of water then he went for the salt lick. I let him graze and then showered him. He loved a fine spray in his face, took another drink from the hose then back to the trailer we went where I brushed him down, quiet, happy, cooled off and hydrated. Then the brush and my hand hit a place on his back and he flinched. Oh damn! I put cool water and ice on the sore spot, massaged the area and let him rest.

At the check out for the evening, Clancey was determined by Rhonda to be quite sore on his back. Probably I did not do such a great job of riding that hard trot of his. Through out the evening he demonstrated he was very sore on the left lower part of his back and Rhonda suggested that I be prepared not to ride the second day.

You know...it was okay.....Really it was. I had tasted a piece of heaven ...I had actually touched the sky for a few moments in my life. There had been that sense of partnership that I had only read about or heard about and I had actually experienced it. Clancey and I had a time in the sun together. He loved this job....He trusted me...He respected me...and I him.

Maybe we would have another ride together someday...maybe not...but this day had been ... well there are no more words to describe it ...and I will always remember what I felt, always remember that feeling of soaring freedom...the fun...the bond that was sealed that day with that crazy, hyper, attention deficit, beautiful horse.

**Flint Hills, KS - 10/4-5/08 - A-O/N/CP Total Riders:37**

Chairman: Debbie McCullough

Judges: Rhonda Gregory DVM, Frank Keeran

Novice Sweepstakes: Sun Rock Glory Blaze/Bouska, Alan-98.5

Open Sweepstakes: Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri-98

Open Heavyweight

1/1 Royal Sunset/Clapper, Tina  
2/4 My Knightmare/White, Vickie  
3/3 Frontgate Phoenix/Garcia, Sarah  
4/2 Country's DA Hoss WH/Hinkebein, William  
CO R Secret Grai April Fool/Rumpsa, Kim

Open Lightweight

1/2 Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri  
2/4 Lucky 5/Elder, Janis  
3/3 Cheyenne 1/Kendall, Elizabeth  
4/5 Rick to the Rescue/Childs, Maggie  
5/6 Skya/Abbott, Christine  
6/- Lucky's Black Gold/Hiskett, Matthew  
-/1 SS Hopalong Kary/O'Shea, Betsy  
CO Frosty's Gold Nugget/Weil, Kim  
CO Elmer Bandit/Wood, Mary Anna

Open Junior

CO R Dun By Secretary/Rumpsa, Erin

Novice Heavyweight

1/6 Sun Rock Glory Blaze/Bouska, Alan  
2/3 LL Remington/Marston, Marilyn  
3/2 Sir Timothy Gold/Andre, Tamara

4/4 DM's Eye of the Tiger/Altwegg, Noreen  
5/1 Crystal Roan Allen/Klamm, Liz  
6/5 Big-N-Bad Bullwinkle/Pillard, Kimberly  
-/- Kansas Enduring Freedom/Avery, Suzanne  
P Little Richard CR/Braznell, Elizabeth  
P Clancey O'Tucker/Royle, Gracie Royle

Novice Lightweight

1/1 Silver 2/Glock, Karen  
2/3 Golden Mr Jet Charge/Stucky, Marla  
3/5 DJ Maverick/Lysinger, Patricia  
4/2 Rebel 3/Havercamp, Molly  
5/4 KS Bluestem Willie/Buel, Katherine

Competitive Pleasure

1/1 Country Kiss WH/Payne, Debbie  
2/4 Prairie Country Traveler/Webb, Richard  
3/2 Coyote's Koscot-N-Gold/Chapman, Kristi  
4/5 Cisco Bey/Jacob, Erin  
5/3 Skyline Red Bambi/Aswegan, Beth  
6/- The Socceress, Marqueasa/Snow, Marilyn  
-/6 Mateo/Weber, Jerry  
P JGC Maximum Overdrive/Levinson, Rhonda

**INDIAN CAVE REPORT**

Cheri Jeffcoat

What a glorious weekend. First, it was the 35th Anniversary of Indian Cave and the ride has been in the same location and same trails for all those years! What an accomplishment. For the first time in a couple of years, we had NO rain. The fall foliage was beautiful, and the trails were in excellent shape and well marked. Dick Webb and Kristi Chapman became the managers just 2 weeks before the ride when Chuck Edwards became incapacitated due to his knees. Dick and the whole crew of volunteers did a stupendous job!

Check-in with Vet Pat Rieger and HSP Judge Norma Newton was fun and thorough. Norma can find a "grooming error" like no one else. It is always fun to see if one can manage to come out "clean" with her!!!

We saw the judges first thing on Sat morning. After timing out, we have to cross a small and noisy bridge, then add to that the judges placed a jumble of logs etc right after. If one had a frisky horse they knew those logs were not supposed to be there!!! Then we had about a mile of wide-open meadow before the ascent up the bluffs. The bluffs afford a magnificent view of the Missouri River and a scene that goes out into Iowa. It is a favorite viewing place for riders.

Once on the bluffs, the ride is pretty much through forest and the judges have limited access to trail, but these judges did a bit of hiking! The next time we saw them, we had a nice little log to side-pass on a slight downhill. I heard that the novice had a scenario of a re-routed trail and were to follow the ribbons but somehow a bunch of them went on down the trail. MMM, it is really important to "listen" to what the judges say and if you do not understand ... ask questions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

As we rode back through camp to get on another trail, the judges were there for the infamous mount! We then had a trot to the P&R with both judges hiding out somewhere in there. As I made a turn, my horse startled when he spied Norma ... however, the rider stayed balanced and controlled!!! Norma was within the 2 mile marker at a very good downhill. I didn't see her but a few folks did.

Horse check on Sat was the same as check-in on Friday....we got through unscathed. Sunday was a cross your fingers day. Rain was supposed to hold out until night ... and it did, but the sky was cloudy. It was cooler, but much more humid. My shirt was damp before I left camp. With both days being pretty humid, it is a challenge managing your horse as between the humidity and all the climbs the horses will pant and somehow you need to manage so their core temps does not get too high and be in good enough condition that you can work with your horse at P&R's to assist them.

Of course, we had a trot-out on Sunday am before departing camp. Then, we had a canter/stop out on trail. I had cued for a specific lead and he switched on me just before I reached the judges ... oh, well, it is only a game.

Later, Open had a 180 degree turn on the forehand and a back up a slight slope. Novice had just 3 back steps. I don't know what CP did. Then, the judges hid again on a big hill out prior to the Nov/CP 2nd P&R. Open was waved through to be taken further down the trail. It was interesting in that Open thought they would have their P&R there, so of course, the Open P&R dance began...slowing down, grabbing mouthfuls of grass ... using time, and then to be waved through!!!

The next opportunity for a P&R...well they were not there either. A few Open used up even more time slowing only to discover that this wasn't the place either. On they went, thinking OK, they might be at the other big meadow ... oh, no ... no P&R there either!!! Only one more place with access to the trail before the 2 mile marker. By then, most of the Open had used up the "slow down before the P&R time" and the ride was closely timed so no minutes to spare. However, overall the Open got thru the P&R with only a few points lost. One very long time competitor has marked down the mph as her maximum time and as a result came in late! Oops.

By the time Open returned to camp, the check-out was really moving along for Nov/CP and we were able to "knock the big chunks off" and then go up to be checked-out. As usual, crossing fingers for good metabolic, no lameness and a good MAW!!!! Again, unscathed by a points deduction! Life was good.

The judges did a great and efficient job of processing everybody and we had awards about 3 o'clock. This was great for folks who had a long drive home. Since this is the only ride we do close to my house, only a little better than an hour ... I was quite relaxed!!!

Again, thank you to ride management and the judges for a fun, challenging, efficient and on-time ride!

**Indian Cave, NE - 10/12-13/08 - A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 31**

Chairman: Kristi Chapman

Judges: Patrick Regier DVM, Norma Newton

Novice Sweepstakes: Country Kiss WH/Nore, Robin-97

Open Sweepstakes: Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri-99

Results not official until published in Hoof Print

Open Heavyweight

- 1/6 Country's DA Hoss WH/Hinkebein, William
- 2/1 Frontgate Phoenix/Garcia, Sarah
- 3/4 Czar 2/Haeberle, Yvette
- 4/5 The Tanks a Blazin'/Clapper, Tina
- 5/2 My Nightmare/White, Vickie
- 6/3 Royal Sunset/McCullough, Ty
- P Ibn Dun/Ryan, Sean

Open Lightweight

- 1/2 Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri
- 2/4 Gus/Kendall, Elizabeth
- 3/1 Cheyenne 1/McCullough, Debbie
- 4/- Winchester Charm/Hirsch, Lucy
- 5/3 Jac Natalie/Hathhorn, Jackie
- 6/5 Frosty's Gold Nugget/Weil, Kim
- /6 Elmer Bandit/Wood, Mary Anna
- P Skya/Abbott, Christine
- P Chief 10/Ryan, Leila

Open Junior

- 1/1 Scooter/Haeberle, Joe

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/1 Fantasy Moon Dancer/Prey, Virginia
- 2/3 LL Remington/Marston, Marilyn
- 3/4 Major 2/Nore, David
- 4/2 Fiddler 2/Gautier, Vickie

Novice Lightweight

- 1/2 Country Kiss WH/Nore, Robin
- 2/5 Tidys Sonofa Boot/Collier, Sarah
- 3/1 Donna's Mini Star/Mlocek, Jennifer
- 4/4 Blues Grand Finale/Messick, Brenda
- 5/3 Golden Mr Jet Charge/Stucky, Marla

Novice Junior

- 1/2 Mika/Barnes, Taylor
- 2/1 Steppin'Out Annie D/Kimmen, Katlyn

Competitive Pleasure

- 1/1 MPS Peppodoconita/Parys, Shari
- 2/2 Rock Strollin Jim/Maiwald, Susan
- 3/3 Take-A-Walkaloosa/Hess, Lucie

**EKAHA Hill & Dale, KS - 11/8-9/08 - A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 36**

Chairman: JR Kendall

Judges: Donna Johnson DVM, Kathy Shanor

Novice Sweepstakes: Sir Timothy Gold/Andre, Tamara -99

Open Sweepstakes: Cheyenne 1/McCullough, Debbie-100

Results not official until published in Hoof Print

Open Heavyweight

- 1/2 Country's DA Hoss WH/Hinkebein, William
- 2/3 My Nightmare/White, Vickie
- 3/1 The Tanks a Blazin'/Clapper, Tina

Open Lightweight

- 1/1 Cheyenne 1/McCullough, Debbie
- 2/2 Brandy Sioux Addis/Hathhorn, Jackie
- 3/3 Winchester Charm/Wood, Mary Anna
- P Rick to the Rescue/Childs, Maggie
- P Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri
- P Gus/Kendall, Elizabeth

Novice Heavyweight

- 1/3 Sir Timothy Gold/Andre, Tamara
- 2/1 Angel's Ricochet Shot/Klamm, Liz
- 3/4 DM'S Eye of The Tiger/Altwegg, Noreen
- 4/2 Fantasy Moon Dancer/Prey, Virginia
- 5/5 Sun Rock Glory Blaze/Bouska, Alan
- 6/6 Major 2/Nore, David
- /- Another Champagne Lady/Stichnote, Kim
- P Pat's Country Kiss/Hamble, Beth
- P LL Remington/Marston, Marilyn

<u>Novice Lightweight</u>		1/6	Cisco Bey/Jacob, Erin
1/2	Golden Mr Jet Charge/Stucky, Marla	2/3	Coyote's Koscot-N-Gold/Chapman, Kristi
2/4	Tidys Sonofa Boot/Coller, Sarah	3/1	PS Trakara Bask/Lindsey, Priscilla
3/1	Blues Grand Finale/Messick, Brenda	4/5	Prairie Country Traveler/Webb, Richard
4/3	Shalimar Windrift/Nore, Robin	5/4	Smoke-N-Jaz's Big Man/Stich, Kay
5/5	Fancy Performance/Price, Kit	6/2	MPS Peppodoconita/Parys, Shari
P	Sheba 5/Humphries, Elizabeth	-/-	Country Star Jet WH/Keller, Donna
<u>Novice Junior</u>		-/-	The Socceress, Marqueasa/Snow, Marilyn
1/1	Mika/Barnes, Taylor	DO	Bra Dafina Aliwav/Anton, Chris
2/2	Jack 4/Stichnote, Alexandra	DO	Wineglass Rouge/Nelson, Eric
<u>Competitive Pleasure</u>			
1/1	Bar Diamond Jessie/Payne, Debbie		

### Wanted:

Everyone to play a small part in raising funds for our convention. There is a contact person from each state to acquire 10 or more business card size ads, only \$20, for our program and 10 or more new auction items. You will be contacted by them to commit to one or more items. If everyone can do their small part on this we will have a financially sound convention. Contact persons are as follows:

Nebraska - Tina Clapper [(402) 239-5772; nailsbytina@inebraska.com];

Iowa - Beth Aswegan [(515) 367-2331; mbea@juno.com] and Auction chairperson;

Missouri - Dana Esbenson [(636) 528-8028];

Kansas - Kay Stich [(620) 212-3030; horseshoe1960@yahoo.com];

Illinois - Denise Maxwell [(618) 656-1129; dmaxwell@ezi.com].

Please feel free to help out your state person by contacting them and letting them know what you can do. And of course we also accept monetary donations as well.

If anyone knows of any potential vendors, contact Christine Abbott [(913) 980-6975; cabbott2@kc.rr.com].

### LIFE OUTSIDE THE "HORSEY" BOX

By J.R. Kendall

I recently had the unique opportunity of spending a week in Greensburg, KS helping in a small way to rebuild after the devastating tornado in May of 2007. While sharing my stories of the week it was suggested that I write something for my respective newsletters even though it has nothing to do with horses.

I assisted in the wiring of 2 newly constructed replacement homes that were not much more than framed when I got there, and in looking at some of my pictures when we left, the roof and siding were on and sheetrock up. As all aspects of the construction progressed, I frequently took a few minutes to step back and watch my fellow workers install roofing; insulation board and siding while others worked on plumbing and heating/AC. This group included volunteers from Pueblo, CO, Duncan, OK, Dallas, TX, Topeka, and a contractor and his wife from Pennsylvania, and we found that those who have some experience and expertise in certain fields were sharing that knowledge with the roofers, the HVAC contractors etc. It was truly a group effort.

While the visible devastation is all but gone, there is not a block of this town that was not totally destroyed or at best severely impacted by this category 5, (highest rating), storm. The tornado was 1¼ mile wide and I probably question that the town is that wide. It went through once and as one article stated it turned and went back at a right angle to the first pass.

The few houses and commercial buildings that are still standing are damaged to non inhabitable status and are marked as such. The school system is meeting in makeshift trailers as are all the churches. Greensburg is home to "The Big Well" which is billed as the largest hand dug well in the world and while it was not damaged the gift shop was lifted from its foundation and carried several miles. The lady who runs it lost not only the shop, but her

home and possessions. A grocery store lost 2 sides of the building as well as most of the contents and within a few hours became a triage center.

There are far too many human interest stories to list here but of note, one unsung hero is the town's lone gas man. When the potential severity of this storm was realized, he went to the East end of town and turned off the supply line that feeds the city probably saving many lives from fire.

Another report I read indicated they dug huge landfills and hauled an estimated 35,000 truck loads of debris from the town. They put all concrete scrap in another location and set up a rock crusher that produced a pile of gravel so large it was identified from one of the space shuttles.

If I were asked what has kept me involved in NATRC, EKAHA and my church activities, the unequivocal answer would simply be the people. We frequently refer to our "extended family" within these organizations and we are just that. I have been on the receiving end of help over the years and for the most part they have all been from friends or at least acquaintances. But, being offered the opportunity to help my fellow man—and total strangers at that, is nothing short of a rewarding experience, and I couldn't verbalize a description of the experience any better than to quote a close friend of mine who had the once in a lifetime opportunity to serve meals for 2 days at Ground Zero after 9-11. His summation of the experience was simply: "...the most humbling experience I have or will likely ever have." I feel honored to have been asked to assist in this project and only wish I could afford to go back and do more. An experience of this nature makes one grateful to have an extended family and suggests that we all count our own blessings—daily.

### Two experienced trail horses For Sale

Contact Frank Keeran for additional information:

(515) 833-2267

18 year old Gelding, 16 hh, grade (half Arabian)

8 year old mare, 14.2 hh (dam to mare is half sister to Country Gold)

### MISSING

Missing: Vest # 11 is somewhere all by its lonesome out there wanting to return to the rest of the group. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact Kim Weil, 816-781-2218. Also missing is the bag of extenders.

### Current Address, Email address Or Phone Number?

Please contact Ruth Mesimer, Region 6 Secretary/Treasurer to insure your information is listed correctly.  
Contact Ruth at 6818 N Elm Street, Liberty, MO 64068 OR 816-781-9496 OR r\_mesim@att.net.

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Kansas City, Missouri  
February 20-21, 2009**

On Friday and Saturday, we will have outstanding speakers discussing many aspects of long distance riding, including:

Dr. James Lillich: Lameness in the trail horse

Dr. Elizabeth Davis: Horse behavior, gastric ulcers, forage and pasture management for insulin-resistant horses, and dietary management

Judges' Table

Others to be announced

(Region 6 meeting and awards on Sunday)

Join us for entertainment on Friday night with the band "Streetside", followed by the Auction.

Hotel: Embassy Suites Hotel 816-891-7788  
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Special NATRC Room Rate \$114 up to 4 people) until January 28,  
(If reserve online, be sure to list NATRC)

Hotel provides complimentary full breakfast and complimentary open bar 2 hours each evening

For additional information regarding the convention,  
please contact Kim and Jerry Weil at 816-781-2218 or [jkweil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkweil@sbcglobal.net)

**BACK TO THE HEARTLAND  
NATRC National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri  
February 20-21, 2009  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print clearly, make check payable to "NATRC" and mail to:  
NATRC c/o Susan Manley, 5003 Brownridge, Shawnee KS 66218  
(913-961-0322, [s\\_a\\_manley@yahoo.com](mailto:s_a_manley@yahoo.com))

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Registration for Meetings:

\$50 Single  \$70 Family (under one roof)

After February 6<sup>th</sup>  \$60 Single  \$80 Family (under one roof)

\$11 Friday Night Taco Bar  \$34 Saturday Night National Awards Banquet BBQ Buffet

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_