

Region 6 Rally

Newsletter of Region 6 North American Trail Ride Conference

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Should NATRC Allow Boots?

It's long been debated within NATRC - to change our rules to allow boots above the coronet band, or to keep the boot rule as it is (no protection above the coronet band). The National Board of Directors will take up the issue at its November meeting 13-14.

Proponents of a change state that more and more horse owners are choosing to keep their horses barefoot. They want the option to boot their horses for rocky rides, using boots that cover the coronet band and/or have gaiters. Citing the cost of keeping their horses shod during the competition season, they also feel membership and ride participation would increase if the rule were changed.

Proponents of keeping the existing rule say allowing boots is against NATRC's policy of supporting the breeding of horses that possess hardiness, exhibit soundness, are sufficiently conditioned and are cared for by riders who exhibit good horsemanship. Care and training of trail horses have always been priorities for NATRC and to date, boots of any kind have been viewed as artificial methods of hoof protection. If a horse loses a shoe on the trail, the rider can put on a boot in order to get back into camp. However, a horse cannot compete in any type of boot that covers the coronet band.

Currently, riders who use boots or gaiters above the coronet band must ride Distance Only.

What do you think? Should NATRC stick with its original philosophy, or is it time for a change? Contact Region 6 National Board of Directors members Ty McCullough (tdmccull@kansas.net) and Christine Abbott (cabbott2@kc.rr.com). They need to hear from us to express the views of Region 6 to the National board.



Easyboot Glove, currently not allowed in NATRC, provides protection above the coronet band.



Thank you from Brenda Messick

To everyone who was at the Indian Caves CTR, I can't express in words how much you helped me on Saturday. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your assistance, thoughts, and prayers for Finny and me that day. I was having a good ride on Finny. He came into camp, ears perked. Not until the very second that I stepped off of him, did I realize that something was wrong. Within a half hour, I knew he was in a bad stage of colic. I will always remember how much everyone stepped forward, stopping whatever you were doing, to assist me. Thank you for the many cards, emails, phone calls and prayers. I needed those to get me through losing him. I will always have a great memory of my last ride on Finny.

Submissions

Send your articles and photos (.jpg only) to the editors. Articles may be edited for grammar, length, and content

Because of space limitations, we cannot use all submissions.

This and That

Welcome new Region 6 member **Saskia VonSivers** from Leavenworth, KS! Saskia rode the Dave Smith Fall Fiesta at Stephens Forest.

Did you know that Christine Abbott, one of our Region 6 members of the National Board of Directors, is taking bagpipe lessons?

Please note the following corrected email addresses:

Priscilla Lindsey (Membership, Ridebook): lindx_pris@yahoo.com

Liz Kendall (Diamond of the Year Award Nominations): lizctr25@yahoo.com

Sarah Smith (R6 Board Member): saddle1up@live.com

Region 6 Convention 2010

Convention Chair Priscilla Lindsey announces that the 2010 Region 6 Convention will be January 29, 30 and 31 at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas.

The hotel is convenient to I-435 at 112th and Metcalf Avenues. JR Kendall has negotiated a room rate of \$69 per night single/double occupancy, with an additional \$10/person for 3 or 4. He says rooms are spacious! Reservations must be made by January 14, 2010. Reservations after this date will be at the hotel's standard rate.

Watch your mail for details on the convention, Saturday banquet, auction, and other activities. Speaking of the auction, start gathering your spare tack (it brings more money if it's clean!), horse-related items, and gifts/household items for the auction.

The Convention is always fun and a great prelude to the 2010 ride season. See you there!

Spring Vaccinations

*AAEP's core
vaccines for horses:*

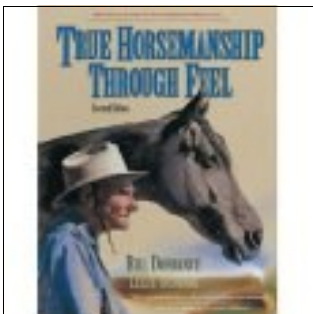
- *Tetanus*
- *EEE/WEE*
- *West Nile*
- *Rabies*

It's still winter, but the ride season beckons! Along with checking out your trailer, going over your tack, and servicing your tow vehicle, it's time to plan your horse's spring vaccinations.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) has come out with an equine vaccination protocol. Check it out at www.aaep.org/vaccination_guidelines.htm. Talk to your veterinarian about your horse's travel schedule, competition schedule, its exposure to other equines and to other species, and other risk factors.

The AAEP recommends that rabies be a core vaccination. While the risk of contracting rabies is relatively low in horses, the disease is fatal. The vaccination is relatively inexpensive and is widely regarded as safe. As long-distance riders, we may be exposing our horses to more risk than if they were just standing around in their pastures. Most bites from rabid animals occur on the muzzle and lower extremities. By the time rabies is diagnosed, many more horses and people may be exposed. Vaccination is cheap insurance! Potomac horse fever vaccination is also often recommended for horses that travel.

True Horsemanship through Feel by Bill Dorrance



This is a big book—physically and in what it covers. It's not easy to read. We're so used to an "if your horse does this, you do that" instructional book, and this is not written that way. Bill's plea is to slow down, take your time, think it through, and set things up so that the horse can make the right decision. Bill was 90 years old when he started the book, and it was published around the time he died in 1999. It's conversational, rambling style takes some getting used to, but there is much wisdom in it.

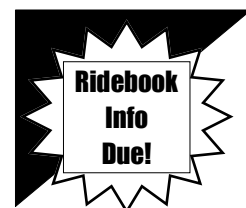
Bill gives some step-by-step instructions on basic things, like teaching the horse to lead with slack in the lead rope and how to step the hindquarters over, but much of the book is more esoteric. Bill talks about the importance of "feel" to a horse and to the rider. There are loads of photos to study, captioned with Bill's observations.

The book is available in the second edition (2007) in paperback for \$21.75 from Amazon.com.

Ride Managers! Call for Ridebook Info!

Priscilla Lindsey is getting ready to put the 2010 Ride book together. This is a huge project that takes a lot of time, so Priscilla asks that ride managers get their ride descriptions to her by December 1. (Deadline has been extended to December 31.)

Get your judges under contract and your ride book descriptions in order! Send descriptions to Priscilla at lindx_pris@yahoo.com.



Diary of a Mad Novice

On October 11, I completed 1,000 competitive miles in NATRC. 880 of those miles have been in Novice. My only two Open rides were in 2001, and I quickly figured out that neither my horse nor I was ready for Open!

Cut to 2009. Different horse, more experienced rider. I've ridden 22 Novice rides. That has to be some kind of record!

But looking to 2010, I figure it's time to take the plunge and go Open. For one thing, I'm so darn old that if I'm going to ever get to ride Open, I better start!

So, how does one prepare to make the change? Besides the longer distance and the faster pace, there's also the more advanced obstacles. Sam's conditioning and metabolics have been excellent, but we have to lighten our cues, increase our responsiveness, perfect our communication. As Cheri Jeffocat puts it, we have to get our heads in the game.

But the first thing is to find a saddle. Back pain has been an issue for Sam, who resembles a propane tank on legs, so I took him to Summer Koelting, a saddle fitter in St. Louis. She explained why my beloved Marciante saddle doesn't fit Sam and never would. So I sold it. She also explained why my Brenda Imus saddle was even worse, so I sold it, too. She gave me a demo Tucker to take to Stephens Forest, but it sore Sam's loins on Saturday. I borrowed a Pigeon Mountain saddle from Bill Hinkebein for Sunday. Sam's loins were better, but his back was sore at check-out on Sunday.

Summer loaned me a Circle Y demo saddle for Indian Cave, but it was a disaster on a Friday morning ride. Priscilla Lindsey offered to check out Sam's back, and vet judge Kay Gunckel followed along, as she thought Sam's conformation would make an entertaining saddle-fitting session! Priscilla loaned me a Specialized Saddle, and I rode it Saturday and Sunday with superb results. Lucy Hirsch had brought several saddles for me to try, and one is a Specialized that she said I could use all winter. Lucy pointed out that you cannot tell if a saddle will truly work by using it for a short period of time. You have to ride it long and hard, over and over, to determine whether it will work for your horse.

But I have hope that this may be the solution! More later....

Beth Braznell (#83)

Pink Flannel Shirt Lost at Whispering Pines

I forgot to claim a pink plaid flannel shirt at Whispering Pines that some kind person accepted from me at a P&R. I will send a prepaid mailer to whoever has it, to get it back. Thank you, Debbie Trimble, 636-279-5973, labratdeb@yahoo.com

Pacing Your Ride—Who's in Control?

Many of us have ridden a horse that "has" to be in front, that pulls or fights the bit, or that is chargey for the first five or so miles. In CTR, we tell everyone to "ride your own ride." But if your horse frets, charges, pulls, and otherwise dictates where in the pack you ride, you aren't riding *your* ride. If you're in front and being pushed by the pack, or in the middle and have to go at another rider's pace, you aren't in control of your ride.

The cure for this is old-fashioned wet saddle blankets. Build your horse's self confidence and his trust in you by riding, riding, riding. Push him (and yourself) slightly beyond his comfort zone by exposing him to new situations. Play leapfrog with your friends (tell them in advance that you're going on a training ride so they don't expect a calm, smooth trail ride).

Some people feel that the cure for a forward Novice horse is to move to Open and let him go faster, but that's not the cure. He's still not listening to you—just going faster!

Beth Braznell



Winterizing Your Trailer Water System

Submitted by J.R. Kendall

Remember the “good ole days” when we stayed in tents at rides? And a slide in camper was considered a real step up?

With the advent of so many of us upgrading to trailers with living quarters, now comes the task of assuring it is properly winterized - at least here in the Midwest.

Several years ago while working in the RV business, one of the most frequent problems we saw in our service department in the Spring was from water line leakage resulting from improper winterizing. Water was either not blown out of the entire system or insufficient antifreeze added to the lines.

All of the RV manufactures include a chapter in their owner’s manual on the proper and effective way to winterize your vehicle. These practices can now also be found online, but the one specific thing they stress is that ALL the water be purged from the system.

There are basically 2 methods to rid your system of water. First is to inflate the system with pressurized air that will push all the water through the lines and out a faucet or drain valve much like you see with underground yard sprinkler systems. This method requires attaching an air hose to the water inlet on your tank. The second, and probably the most practiced, is to pump RV antifreeze through the entire water system. Doing so requires some detail, but when you see the “pink” antifreeze coming from your faucet you know that line is safe.

If your system is equipped with a water heater, there are probably bypass valves which must be set to do just that, bypass the water heater. Since you will drain it, there is no need to fill it with antifreeze.

Here is the recommended procedure:

1. Drain the hot water tank externally.
2. Set the bypass valves so no more water goes into the hot water tank.
3. Drain the fresh water tank either with a drain line or by pumping it through the faucets.
4. Pour 2-3 gallons of RV antifreeze into your fresh water tank.
5. Close all faucets and turn on the pump.
6. Open each faucet one at a time, and allow it to run until you see the pink antifreeze. Close that valve and repeat this process at each faucet. A typical fully equipped system will have a kitchen sink, lavatory and shower each with a hot and cold line. The toilet will have cold only, so there are at least 7 water valves
7. Don’t forget the drains. It is best to pour 1 to 2 cups of antifreeze into each drain (sink, lavatory and shower) to make sure the traps are also protected. Add some antifreeze to the toilet bowl.
8. Turn off pump.

RV antifreeze is non toxic and will not harm the water system. To reverse this process in the Spring, it is recommended to fill the water tank with fresh water and pump it through each faucet thus flushing the antifreeze. This might take two fills.

Change the water heater bypass valves back and your system should be ready to attend ALL the Region 6 rides.

NATRC Student Loan Program

Student loans are available up to \$5,000 per person /year, at the discretion of the NATRC National Board of Directors, after proper application has been submitted.

Preference will be given to a full-time student who has been a member of NATRC or whose family has been an active member for at least three years. Consideration will also be given to a student or a student’s family who has been an active member of NATRC for less than three years but more than six months.

A loan will be made based upon financial need, scholastic achievement, and character of the applicant as determined by the Student Loan/Scholarship Committee.

A loan is to be repaid in monthly installments, with an annual interest rate of 3% charged on that loan, beginning not later than six months following graduation or when the recipient ceases to be a full-time student.

For an *application*, contact the NATRC Executive Administrator at natrc@natrc.org Please complete the form in Word and submit via email to the NATRC Executive Administrator at natrc@natrc.org

Message from the President

President Chris Wallis has her hands full currently and asked if I would step in for the president's message.

As we approach the end of the 2009 Region 6 ride season I can personally say it has been somewhat of a disappointment. But, it is important to put that statement into perspective. The disappointment centers around a year that has seen the fewest number of rides in the region in many years, as well as the number of riders attending the 8 rides so far, plus our inability to hold a Benefit Ride.

Region 6 is steep in history of seasons of 12 -15 rides, many of which filled early creating waiting lists. And some of our Benefit rides were large enough to warrant 2 sets of judges. The Benefit Ride was established to help offset the expenses of sending our NBOD members to the 3 meetings annually. And, when it was established we had 3 NBOD members instead of 2.

Reasons for our downturn are known only to individuals, but we know the state of our economy has been a major factor. Even though gasoline prices are about half of what they were this time last year, they are still higher than we would like and especially with our stock holdings taking a beating and our respective 401K's in toilet, we are all feeling the pinch. So much for the negative side of 2009. What do we do to fix it?

I issue a challenge to you, the membership of Region 6 to **DO YOUR PART**.

There are indications that 2010 will see some old rides return such as Rendezvous, if repairs can be made to the trails. There is interest in a new ride location near Leavenworth, KS. Hopefully we will see the resurrection of Kanopolis as well as someone to step up and assure a ride continues at Big Hill. And we have one ride celebrating its' 30th anniversary. One of the greatest things that can happen to your region in 2010 is to see at least 12 rides on our schedule with one of them serving as our Benefit. We need you to **DO YOUR PART** by offering your services to a ride or rides of your choice. Offer to help fix and/or mark trails. Offer to serve as secretary or P&R chair, or trail master. There is no shortage of ride management mentors in this region and these positions are begging for "new blood". How about **DOING YOUR PART?** A ride is nothing short of a joint effort between ride management and the riders themselves. Even if you choose to ride, there would hopefully be a weekend you could help with the trail. Remember, this is a voluntary organization. So volunteer and **DO YOUR PART!** Another place you can help would be at the EquiFest booth.

Our 2010 convention date and location is set and that information can be found elsewhere in this issue. Here is another place you can "do your part". Call Priscilla Lindsey to offer your help thus **DOING YOUR PART**.

J.R. Kendall, Region 6 Vice President.

21st annual Missouri Equine Celebration, January 22 and 23, 2010 Columbia, MO – Boone County Fairgrounds

- Kerry Kuhn – Practical Horsemanship "Setting You Up for Success"
- Tim Brock, Brushy Creek Resort, Horsemanship for the Trail Rider
- Sharon Clark, Barrel Racing Basics
- Ultimate Equestrian Challenge, Horse Seminars and Demonstrations, Cowboy Mounted Shooting, And other activities

For more information: on line at www.mo-equine.org or phone 1-800-313-3327

NATRC Student Scholarship Program

Student scholarships are available for individuals planning a career in equine related fields. Up to \$5,000 will be available annually with distribution at the discretion of the NATRC National Board of Directors.

Applicants need to complete the ***Bev Tibbitts Memorial Scholarship*** form as well as submit three (3) letters of support for your scholarship candidacy. Letters may be written by a teacher, NATRC judge, ride chairperson, regional or national board member, veterinarian, or any other person involved in the horse industry.

For an *application*, contact the NATRC Executive Administrator at natrc@natrc.org Please use Word 2003 if sending via email.

Deadline for the application is January 15th for the following Fall semester.

Region 6 Rally

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Change Notice Requested

Region 6 Rally is produced by Region 6, North American Trail Ride Conference, for the benefit of its members. While information is assumed to be correct, it is not guaranteed. For membership, contact Priscilla Lindsey at lindx_pris@yahoo.com.

Editors:

Rhonda Levinson
and
Beth Braznell



We're on the Web!

www.natrcregion6.org

Region 6 Convention - Friday evening January 29 through Sunday morning January 31, 2010
Hyatt Place Hotel, 6801 W. 112th St., Overland Park, Kansas