

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By Rhonda K. Levinson

I seem to keep starting these with apologies. I am sorry for the delay between newsletters. My new co-editor has been having health issues and wasn't able to follow through with her plan to put the newsletter into a new, exciting format in Publisher. So, you're stuck with me and this format for another issue.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Wallis

Hello again to everyone. I'm excited to be President of Region 6 Again. I hope to have more in-person meetings this year both board and membership. I'm still working two jobs, which doesn't leave much time for riding. However I do have a new Missouri Foxtrotter mare that I will be riding in CP. Mike is doing OK and will be at some of the rides with me. We are putting on the Cedar Creek CTR in July. I hope everyone will come!!!!

This is going to be a challenging year, I think! Fuel prices, cost of living going up, so many foreclosures (two on my road), and this wild weather Missouri has been having. But as we all know things are always changing. Just hang in there, the good stuff is coming!

As always, Ride to finish, Finish sound, don't lose any P & R points and everything else is gravy!!! If you mess up, go home and PRACTICE!!

## Welcome to the Following New Region 6 Members!

John Alexander and family, Liberty, MO	Noreen Altwegg, Junction City, KS	
Sarah Coller, Columbia, MO	Glenda McCoy, Kaiser, MO	Lisa Petty, Columbia, MO
Denise Schieffer, Columbus Jct, IA	Debra Smith, Oak Brook, IL	Beth Hurst, Goddard, KS
Bill Tabor and family, Peculair, MO	Lauren Updike, Kirksville, MO	Kira-Everhart Valentin, Scott City, KS
Lillian Davis, Lee's Summit, MO	Kaiya German, Alton, MO	Brett Jeschke, Chillicothe, MO
Kris Kippenberger, Smithville, MO	John Hess, Marseilles, IL	Stacie Louthan, Smithville, MO
Ellen Hiskett, Gallatin, MO	Lisa Tokach and family, Abilene, KS	Jerame Glazier, Kearney, NE

## THE VIKEN REPORT ON NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Virginia Prey

Well this report might be worthy of taking to the "library," as I have a lot to say.

First of all..... what an experience! This was my first National Convention and I have a lot of people to thank for making it possible for me to be there. To my long suffering husband (Ken), thank you for all your support and encouragement and stopping me from ripping off Dani's leg and beating her with it. To my son Garrett, who never holds it against me when I call him by a horse's name or tell him to "Whoa." To all of the judge's and their comments, for giving me specific goals to work on. To all my friends, who endure my incessant talking about HORSES.

The convention was held at the Embassy Suites in Kansas City. The price was a little steep but their continental breakfast defied logic: made to order omelet's, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs with cheese, French toast, bacon, sausage, plus your standard cereal and bagels. Then in the evening, the hotel offered an open bar which included mixed beverages along with your barley drink and your aged crushed grapes.

Friday - I roused everyone (my friend Brenda Messick and my junior riding companion Katlyn Kimmen) out at 6 am so we could make the three hour drive down to Kansas City in order to be there for the first speaker. I almost got side tracked by the vendor room when we got there, but I stayed strong and went in to listen to Elizabeth Davis, DVM discuss horse behavior. Her focus was on eliminating a medical condition as the source of the behavior first. For example: horse shaking its head. Reasons for this behavior could be: inner ear infection, TMJ issues, or light sensitivity. I actually had this issue with my horse and it turned out that she was allergic to fly bites and had been

bitten where the headstall rubbed, so every time I rode her she shook her head. Luckily it was a simple medical issue that was resolved. She also discussed pawing, stall walking and stall weaving. When she was done, we broke for lunch and I made a beeline for the vendors. I **love** to shop for horse related items. I was really impressed with the vendors and their products. After lunch Elizabeth Davis, DVM discussed ulcers in horses. Unfortunately, just about anything can cause an ulcer in a horse. Stress, gel electrolytes, and medications such as banamine and bute. Restriction in food can also cause an ulcer because the horse's stomach needs to have food moving through all the time (ie, grazing). An indicator of a more serious ulcer in a horse would be a severe reaction to the tightening of the cinch. A preventive measure is to keep hay available at all times. The second speaker was Patricia Payne, DVM and the topic was Parasitology but it should have been called "Tick Talk". Now, I actually learned a few interesting things from Dr. Payne. Did you know that there are 867 different species of ticks? Sixteen of those are dangerous to horses. But here is what you need to know: 1. Ticks R Bad! 2. White tail deer are tick carrying hosts that should be eradicated. (Bye bye Bambi!!) 3. Ticks R Bad! 4. You cannot drown a tick. Their trachea closes and they just wait to find a dry place to land. 5. Tick R Bad! 6. Turkeys and Possums are just two and four legged Limousines for ticks. Shoot them, shoot them all! 7. Ticks R Bad! 8. **DO NOT EVER EVER** smash a tick. That fat, blood sucking, bacteria spreading, bad girl is pregnant with thousands of babies. Smashing her or torching her with a match will not kill the babies. You have just set them free! 9. Ticks R Bad! 10. The best and most effective way to deal with a tick is to remove them with tweezers if available and drop the them into a container of alcohol. Unfortunately the products designed for horses in the prevention and killing of ticks are very limited. Do not use DEET on your horse! Do not use products intended for cattle on your horse! The best thing is a .5-2% Permethrin spray or dip.

Friday Evening - Acck, is prohibition back? The Hospitality room was "dry"! After I recovered from the shock, I was told the hotel wanted to charge for a liquor license. Well, at least the hotel offered their own open bar so you could get a drink there and then socialize in the Hospitality room. Dinner was the "Taco Bar." Entertainment was provided by "Streetside". You **have** to check them out at [www.streetsideguys.com](http://www.streetsideguys.com). The crowd really got into the spirit of things with numerous conga lines. I'm sorry, but the convention was not far enough away from home for me to participate in these festivities. Mostly because I didn't want to have to live down the embarrassment of someone calling 911 for me only to find out I was just dancing and not having a medical emergency! The Auction contained many wonderful and interesting items. I was able to obtain a wonderful handmade quilt made by Ellen Hiskitt. I really wanted some of the beautiful art work made from farm discs, but didn't come flush enough in the wallet and was too slow of a bidder. I think some bidders may have left with whiplash as the auctioneer wasted no time in keeping things moving.

Saturday - Who set an 8:30 start time? No chores to do and no riding incentive; so this start time just seemed mean. But I convinced my body to get up anyway. The first topic was "Management of Carbohydrate Intolerant Horse and Pasture Management". This was done via the internet. The second topic was "Nutrition" by Katie Young. She stressed that obesity is the enemy of the horse and that horse owners should not gaze into their horse's big brown eyes and be fooled into feeding more than is necessary. Determining the proper amount of hay and grain to feed your horse is not easy. First, you need to determine what your horse's optimal weight is and then determine if your horse is overweight or underweight. Then, plot a course to get your horse to their optimal weight, remembering to make gradual changes. Some important things to think about is that horses need a minimum of 1 % of their body weight in hay each day. See, here is where the work comes in; you have to know your horse's body weight and then you have to weigh your hay. Arrgggh! Horses also require amino acids for muscles and may need a copper and zinc supplement if you only feed hay.

The next topic was "Lameness issues of the Sport Horse" by James Lillich, DVM. He went through the lameness exam process and he is not kidding when he stated that it a time intensive process. Common sources of lameness stem from the hoof, soft tissue (ligament, tendon or muscle), joint (osteoarthritis), lumbar or pelvic.

The last session was "Judges Table for Competitors Questions". I was hoping to find a cure for my judge and obstacle induced stupidity. The judges pointed out that, when you are traveling up hill, you don't have to be 9 miles out of the saddle. You just need to be off the cantle and balanced and when you lean forward this needs to be done at the hips not the waist. Some tips in maintaining your balance included having a saddle in which the stirrups hang from the center of the saddle, avoid looking down and staying square. While listening to this and other

comments, Rhonda Levinson piped up about one of the most common comments found on a rider's Horsemanship card. "back on the cante". Rhonda shared her long battle with trying to figure out what the judge's meant by this and how to fix it. Rhonda said that Horsemanship Judge Bill Hinkebein made it clear for her by saying "suck and tuck". Suck in your tummy and tuck in your butt. She said it was like a light bulb for her. I thought I would store this away and try it when I got home. Well, I didn't have to wait that long. As I was getting ready for the Banquet I realized that my winter workout program had not progressed as I had hoped and I had to do a lot of sucking and tucking to get into my outfit.

Saturday Evening - The banquet was really nice. The master of ceremonies was Yvette Haeberle, who did an outstanding job. I especially related to her confession about how long it had been since her last ride and thanking us for being part of her support group. It was truly amazing for me to be there and witness some of the outstanding achievements of fellow horse addicts.

Sunday Morning - Region 6 Meeting and Awards. I didn't cry about the 8:15 start time because I was ready to head home and start putting some of the knowledge I had gathered to use. After a short meeting, Ty McCullough got us into the spirit of the awards with his pom pom girls. I'm truly thankful for the support of my riding cohorts: Ken (long suffering husband), Shari Parys, Brenda Messick, and Katlyn Kimmen and campfire companions Sherry Reeble, Robin and David Nore. You guys/gals rock!

Well, I'm back home. I got to ride Sunday and the rest of week up til Thursday is looking good. Only 61 days til my first ride of the season. I need to condition the horse, clean the trailer, clean the tack, pack the trailer. Shoot, 60 days to go.

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## WHY AND HOW TO GO OPEN

By Cheri Jeffcoat

First: as you think so shall you be; meaning if you decide/choose/think that you and your horse are an Open Team, then you are and will be. Open requires that you make a decision. Yes, it may turn out that your horse may not be quite the right one. It takes a least 6 competitions to accurately be able to analyze your team.

Why Open? The easiest answer is that it is way too much fun. The overall challenge is very interesting but different than CP/Novice. The game is different! There is lot's to learn. Open means learning a new strategy for you and your horse. Open means adjusting to new speeds, distance and interestingly, the opportunity to find a "hole" in open where you and your horse will work best together. One of the best pieces of advice I ever received and I share with others, "Ride Your Own Ride." Yes, maybe you have ridden with others, maybe adjusting your pace/style or they adjust to yours, but always Ride your own Ride!! You probably won't believe this, but you will be less tired! I think it is because you change pace more frequently, walk, trot, canter etc. you use different muscles, not just the walking ones.

Why Open? A new challenge. If you enjoy facing new challenges, aspiring to achieve a higher level with your horse, this is the place to go. Every ride I learn something new about myself, my horse, managing terrain.....you name it. Just keep learning.

What is different? Conditioning. Yes, there is more needed but the requirements generally mean that you pick up your pace then increase distance. You speed up a bit at a time. Initially, you pick a distance, then work on that by upping the speed from 4 mph to 4 ½ mph to 5 mph and up. Once you are doing that comfortably, then begin upping the distance. Work back and forth – up distance, then up speed etc. Once your horse is in condition, they generally stay there with minimum maintenance. Nancy Loving's book Go the Distance, addresses this much better than I can. Go slow and easy with an emphasis on soundness. Do your homework by working on building bone density, muscles etc. Have a good shoeing/foot program. Ride light and balanced (yes, equitation matters). Do these things and you will have done what you can to endeavor to keep your horse sound. Remember, don't beat yourself up; deep mud, bog, slippery rock, etc, can all cause a lameness and fall under the category of "manure happens."

Practice your P&R rituals and routines. It will be important to help your horse relax! Be quiet, don't flutter around, don't think you have to do 50 things. Help your horse relax. I actually know someone that as soon as the P&R person begins to take pulse, the rider starts talking to the horse. You can hear the pulse go up!

Obstacles? You should not concern yourself with this issue. There are more important aspects, i.e. conditioning and soundness. Over time you will learn those things which make the difference between a really terrific, usable and competitive horse and one that just goes down the trail. As much as I love obstacles, as much as I have never seen an obstacle I don't like/love/enjoy, it only comprises 15% of the horse card. You can be perfect on obstacles but if you lose points on conditioning/soundness . . . well looking good isn't going to help!

To me, being good at obstacles is fun, but more importantly it is part of developing a calm and steady horse that doesn't get too excited about much . . . meaning that calmness will help with all your metabolics and P&R's by the horse not being stressed by anxiety etc. I know many folks don't quite "get" how important it is that the horse does obstacles well and how that translates to the overall performance of the horse. It is overall performance that is your goal: a well-rounded, athletic, working distance horse.

Take responsibility for your team. If I have something not going well, the first thing I do is look to what I am doing and what I am thinking. Does the horse have a sore back? Well, the first thing I would do is ask myself: How am I riding? Am I contributing? For example, for years an Open rider (in an unnamed region) had sore back problems. Always blaming the saddle, the horse, the trail etc. . . . but had you watched the rider, you would have known that the rear of the human banging the saddle for miles will cause a problem. I rarely have a sore back but at a ride in CO, I did have a slightly sore loin. Why? After I analyzed it, I believed it was that 5 mile climb up the mountain (and we had done nothing similar all year). What to do? On Saturday evening and Sunday am, I spent time massaging and stretching my horse; the soreness was gone. But had I not thought it through, I could have blamed the saddle, blamed my lousy riding etc., but not solved the problem.

There is an old saying: As you think, so shall you be. (Yup, said it again.) To me, that means that if I think negatively, think I can't do something, then I sure won't be able to. When I was new at the sport if I lost a P&R point, screwed up an obstacle, started running late, got irritated because someone kept leap-frogging (trotting 100 yards and then slowing to a 2 mph walk), well I would have thought my ride was ruined, that my life for that weekend was over. But all these things are usually blips on the overall screen. I have learned that the ride ain't over 'til the math is done. Rides I thought were perfection; didn't place. Rides that I thought were so-so were much better than I had perceived.

What do I think about? I think "calm." I think, it's just you and me, Prime! We just go down the trail as best we can, endeavoring to raise our skill level, endeavoring to stay conditioned and sound. This makes for some wonderful and joyous rides. If you think you and your horse are an Open Team . . . then by golly you will be!

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## JUDGING VETERINARY PARAMETERS

By Dr. Lucy Hirsch, DVM

There was a discussion recently on the CTR Chat list in which a person was upset about losing capillary refill points. She stated that she would prevent her horse from drinking after the trailer ride to the competition and prior to presenting to the vet, in order to create a poorer base score and prevent losing points later. In response, Dr. Lucy Hirsch wrote the following:

I am a Vet Judge. If you want points so much that you will do ANYTHING that would compromise your horse to get a better score and placing, then shame on you. I remember one old timer who always gave their horse no water until after check in, in order to check in dehydrated on purpose hoping to get an advantage in this way. Well, as a judge, IF forced by such stupid practices, I can play that game too. If I get any metabolic parameters at check-in that I consider outside of normal (anything other than a 0 or a 1) I will recheck that horse in the morning before allowing them out of camp. It is a pain in the butt for me and my secretaries and the competitor, but it prevents that dangerous behavior.

Metabolics readings are very important. However they are worthless, unless done in a series throughout the day, and scored looking for overall trends for each day. Now riders, to look for this, we have to stop your horse and put

our hands on them; some of you will have hold time if you are riding in a bunch (or if your horse won't stand still for the exam, a great source of manners points).

I work very hard at judging metabolics, gathering data at every opportunity. I only make a minus sign every time any one value worsens. If I get a grouping of minuses, showing a worsening trend, I take a point. If I get one reading that is significant alone, say a 3 or absent gut sounds, then it will get a point on its own. I do not ever take a point every time a value changes a point. I once lost 7 metabolic points on a ride for something like hydration going 01011010101. As far as I am concerned that is not valid or useful in determining a horse's condition. I am not even sure I can tell the difference consistently between a 0 and a 1 on any given test under the varying conditions we see (light, wind, heat, movement, which side of the horse you are on, wet or dry skin, the position they are standing in . . .) On most horses 0 and 1 are both within normal. BUT if I see a change from a 0 to a 1 in three or four tests at the same time THAT is significant. We are supposed to be judging trends, and using our medical training and experience, not just recording numbers and putting scores on them. I have seen horses (especially older ones) that never had 0 for a hydration skin pinch. One old Arab had a 3 as his baseline, no matter how or when I looked, that is why we take baselines: for horses who have non-elastic skin, or yellowish pigment all the time.

Every judge is different. We are not SCORERS, we are JUDGES: let us use judgment. Learn what you can from each one. Quit basing your enjoyment of the ride on perfection! Try for improvement instead. It is a much more satisfying goal. Most of the things that are annoying about this sport are because of competitors trying to fool the judges rather than improve their horsemanship or horse. The sport itself is not broken, it is competitiveness and winning being the goal rather than having a great time and partnership with a great horse (or the best horse you can find in your horse that weekend) as the goal. To me the goal in competition has been to learn something new from the judges, fellow competitors or my horse that weekend.

What can you do to improve your condition score? Is your horse overweight? Make sure they are getting a good 1 lb of nutrient supplement ( vitamins , minerals, amino acids) enough roughage and more exercise. Then limit the calories. Is your horse underweight? That is a problem too; increase the carbohydrates with a safe low glycemic index carb, check in detail for parasites, teeth, etc. See your vet. Is your horse young? Well what do you expect? Get with a long, slow distance program with a two year time frame. Does your horse not drink? When you are training, does he get all his water at home in the tank or at the trailer? Training rides are the time to limit water at the familiar places so he will learn to drink from streams and lakes and mud puddles. If your horse will only drink water hauled from home in a red bucket, then who has trained whom? Do the sensible things, salt, clean water (at a ride in a red bucket and from home if you haven't got him trained yet!) and electrolytes. Keep your horse wet all day; as you pass a puddle get that sponge in it! Every drop you put on your horse is one less he has to sweat and drink to replace. Ride an even pace, not fast, rest, fast, rest. If the ride does not have a lunch stop, plan one in for a complete cool down and a bite to eat with electrolytes if it is a sweaty ride. If your stop can be at water where the horse has time to really settle down and remember to drink, even better. Ride in balance, get your center of gravity placed over the horse's center on those up and downs. Keeping your horse on a pasture, where they can move around, especially with a hill in it and other horses helps a lot too. Riding a couple of times a week, some speed work (doesn't take much distance at speed, a couple of minutes) will do a lot too. Helping the horse's condition scores is a very detailed project that is the sum of many very small parts. If you manage to do these things, it will help your horse's condition, soundness, attitude, partnership, and horsemanship scores too.

So, you won't be able to change the judges by complaining to anyone other than the judges committee (and they can only do so much, we are rather individualistic folks). But, you can build up your horse to his best possible physique. Will you ever be able to predict how your horse will do on condition scores? Probably not. It is best not to sweat it too much.

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## REPORT ON GAIL STEVENS MEMORIAL RUSTLER & RENEGADES

By: Virginia Prey

I had been counting down the days for our first ride of the season and anxiously watching the weather. Ten days prior, things were looking good with only a chance of thunderstorms on Sunday. Two days prior, storms were

being forecasted for both Saturday and Sunday. Aargh!

We made it to Big Hill and Florence (is more identification really necessary?) helped us get parked much to the amusement of on-lookers. It was a little like that scene in MASH where the camp is getting a group picture taken. A little to the left, now more to the right, back just a hair, now just a little . . .

The horses unloaded fine and acted like it was just an ordinary day trip and checked in well. Although in my anxiousness to get started I forgot to get the numbers on the horses. After making the final adjustments to setting up camp we hung out and relaxed until the ride briefing. At the briefing Mary Hanson of Ithaca, Nebraska spoke about horse trails. Mary is an Outdoor Recreation Planner with the National Park Service's Midwest Regional Office. She encouraged riders to speak up and be heard regarding our use of the trails. After the briefing and getting our maps (which had everything calculated for us) we turned in for the night. I didn't sleep too well because SOMEONE was snoring.

Saturday up and ready to get on the trail. Now the horses were not so calm, pawing, chomping the bit, ears up and very ALERT. We started off with a judged mount in camp. Thank goodness a step stool was provided. I'm using my dressage saddle and no matter what I do, if I have to mount from the ground I pull the saddle over. Timing out went really well and Ken led the way on his horse Annie, while I worked on keeping my horse Dani from running them over with Brenda followed on Finney. The trail was well marked with some slippery ups and downs and a few boggy spots. After an hour on the trail, we let the horses get their feet wet in the lake. Dani was the brave one and let the others know that there were not any sea monsters lurking underneath the surface. Then we set off again. In the distance we heard someone shooting. Later we learned that at the first P & R a landowner was shooting snakes and then decided to be very helpful and bring a picnic table over for the P & R workers to sit on. He accomplished this with a tractor. Some of the horses did not respond to well to having the tractor roar up behind them carrying a bouncing picnic table. Thankfully no one was hurt that I was aware of, and we had already checked out. The breeze off of the lake helped keep the horses cool and frisky and we made it back to camp in just over minimum time. Whew! We covered 16 miles and without a lunch break we were done early for the day. This was a nice change and gave the horses lots of time eat and drink before the vet check. Unfortunately, Ken's horse got pulled. Somewhere on the trail she hit her right hind leg causing heat and swelling to her extensor tendon. What a bummer: they had worked so well together.

I had forgotten that one of the main reasons why I had avoided this ride in the past was the TICKS! Ticks Are Bad! I had found a few on my horse and then found a few on myself when I went up to the shower house. Yuck! There were also some nasty flies around that sent the horses into orbit when they flew up between their legs and my fly spray didn't seem to deter them much or the ticks either. Dani kept trying to flick the ticks off with her nose as they crawled up her leg.

Saturday evening awards were handed out for the B ride competitors followed by an awesome potluck. At the ride briefing we learned that Sunday would be a repeat of Saturday and we were advised that the conditions were favorable for a tornado. The horse judge recommended that should we be advised of a tornado sighting to turn the mares and geldings loose and head for the shelters. This did not apply to the stallions. Hmmm! Someone mentioned that the shelters were built by contract, awarded to the lowest bidder about the time when the can opener was invented. I was worried that my mare would rape one or more of the stallions. She is such a hussy! It would be like tying up a goat for a lion. Fortunately, all it did was rain, rain, rain. So a stressful night and no sleep again!

Sunday morning dawned with a light rain which stopped about 6am. We had a trot by at 7am and timed out at 7:30. There was an obstacle right out of camp. Ride down a hill, cross a log, count to five, cross another log and ride up a hill. The trails were a little more slippery than Saturday and a little more boggy but not as bad as I thought they would be. Without Ken's horse Annie to slow Dani down, we went at a pretty good clip and again returned right at minimum time. Check out went smooth and we took off for home and missed awards.

Nineteen days until our next CTR and it's now been two days since I've ridden. I need to call my sponsor!

A big thank you to Marsha Hayes, Kay Stich and their Posse for a great ride!

## REPORT ON GAIL STEVENS MEMORIAL RUSTLER & RENEGADES

By Priscilla Lindsay

A really great judging obstacle at this ride was supplied by nature! At one place in the trail we ride down to a lovely little beach area along the lake and it is a great place to water. HOWEVER, this weekend the wind was horrendous so our lovely little beach was inundated with waves (comparable to the Atlantic Ocean at high tide)! All the judges did was watch us ride by and attempt to get our horses into the lake for a drink or sponging! Of course, most of our experienced NATRC horses DID go into the waves, with a LOT of encouragement, but they were reluctant to try to drink and they sure didn't want to linger long!

I also want to share a couple of humorous events that happened to me, riding our very experienced campaigner, Tray. On Friday, I was asked to ride out and place the 2-mile marker. No problem, since I knew right where to put it. Also, I knew a shortcut that would save about a half-mile, and then I would just ride the trail back and time it for myself. Only thing was, I did not know that on my shortcut, (riding the park boundary fence) there was now a little, wooly, black donkey in a pasture right next to the park fence. The donkey saw us coming and proceeded to come galloping right toward us to check us out. I thought, "Oh, how cute!", until Tray saw him! She must have thought he was a bear! I have never seen her afraid of anything! But, my-oh-my, she started spinning around and snorting, she didn't know which way to run, but she sure acted like she wanted to! I finally managed to steer her out into the woods and get some trees to block the view of the donkey, but she kept snorting, very loudly and forcefully, for several minutes! The next two days of riding the trail, whenever we were in that area, Tray got very nervous and kept looking off in the direction of that pasture, even with lots of trees between us and that other trail, she knew right where that donkey was likely to be!

The other event happened as we were trotting along a nice wide, wooded trail, all by ourselves, when the trail curved around a big cedar tree. Just past the tree was a black circle where someone had had a small campfire. Tray must have thought it was a hole in the ground, because she jumped sideways about five feet, and kept on trotting faster! I managed to stay on thanks to Centered Riding training!!! But, I had to laugh, and wondered to myself, 'was that a "natural" obstacle or "man-made?"

The ride was wonderful; and, the icing on the cake, Tray and I both received a first-place in CP! Great way to start the ride season (probably never be able to do it again!).

### Gail Stevens Memorial Rustler & Renegades III, A & B rides

4/25/09 Region Six-KS

Chairman: Marsha Hayes

Judges: Darlene Wehr DVM, Jackie Coleman

Results not official until published in Hoof Print

B-N/CP Total Riders: 13

Novice Sweepstakes: Poco Quixote/Alexander, Ellie-99.5

#### Novice Heavyweight

1/2 Poco Quixote/Alexander, Ellie  
2/1 Dark Victory/Tabor, Bill  
CO Tailwinds King Pride/Gregory, Stan

#### Novice Lightweight

1/2 Tasheem/Adams, Sally  
2/3 Tenshkka/Alexander, John  
3/1 T-Towne BeauJolais/Tabor, Koni  
P Positively Clusified/Sheridan, Michelle

#### Novice Junior

1/1 TTA Pamenjovee/Tabor, Kami  
2/2 Princess Kumar/German, Kaiya

#### Competitive Pleasure

1/4 Ribbon Ridge Moon Shadow/Helms, Teresa  
2/2 Fox's Kings River Ransom/McDaniel, Helen  
3/3 RRF Ransom's Madd Maxx/Monroe, Deirdre  
4/1 Lee's Royal Chance/Jackson, Becki

A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 26

Novice Sweepstakes: Shalimar Windrift/Nore, Robin-98.5

Open Sweepstakes: King's Mountain Hale Bop/Dollarhide, Patti-99.5

Open Heavyweight

1/4 Max 3/Nelson, Eric  
 2/1 Diamond's Sassy Stockings/Keene, James  
 3/2 Countrys Touch WH/Hinkebein, William  
 4/3 Country's DA Hoss WH/Powell, Todd  
 P Rambo 2/Grabill, Alvin

Open Lightweight

1/6 King's Mountain Hale Bop/Dollarhide, Patti  
 2/3 Prime Sensation WH/Jeffcoat, Cheri  
 3/1 Winchester Charm/Hirsch, Lucy  
 4/4 Strike The Gold/Jeschke, Brett  
 5/5 Cito Mocha Raton/Cleveland, Trish  
 6/2 Habiba El Phoenix/Molloy, Ann  
 Tidys Sonofa Boot/Coller, Sarah  
 Lucky's Black Gold/Hiskett, Matthew  
 P Brandy Sioux Addis/Hathhorn, Jackie

Novice Heavyweight

1/1 Major 2/Nore, David  
 2/2 Sir Timothy Gold/Andre, Tamara  
 P Steppin'Out Annie D/Prey, Ken

Novice Lightweight

1/4 Shalimar Windrift/Nore, Robin  
 2/1 Fantasy Moon Dancer/Prey, Virginia  
 3/2 Blues Grand Finale/Messick, Brenda  
 4/3 Good Faith/Davis, Lillian  
 P Ms Busnel Shevitz/Fales, Mary

Competitive Pleasure

1/1 PS Trakara Bask/Lindsey, Priscilla  
 2/4 Rick to the Rescue/Childs, Maggie  
 3/3 Trumans Tru-Blue/Wallis, Christine  
 4/2 Prairie Country Traveler/Webb, Richard  
 P Coyote's Koscot-N-Gold/Chapman, Kristi

**REPORT ON JAMES GANG RIDEOUT, SMITHVILLE LAKE**

By Elizabeth Braznell

First off, I got lost getting to this ride just north of Kansas City at Smithville Lake. When I wrote out the directions in big letters so that I could read them while driving, I left off a critical turn. And then, there were severe storms--the kind where the lightning flashes are so close you feel them in the floorboards of the truck before the thunder hits. And the flash floods at the bottom of every hill. All that was before I even got there!

Check-in was abbreviated. Because of the rain, Vet Judge Donna Johnson had us just do a straight trot-out and back, avoiding circles on the slick wet grass. At briefing, we were told that because of the flooding, trail briefing would be Saturday morning after trail master Kim Weil had a chance to check the trails to see if we could cross the streams. About 8:30 or so, we were able to start with no changes to the trail for Novice/CP. Weather was perfect--sunny and cool.

But the sucky, gloppy, horse-eating mud! It was awful! Knee-deep, shoe-grabbing, slinging up everywhere! I rode with Kristi and Dick Webb, who were wonderful when Sam stepped into a quicksand-like mud pit and went in to his flanks. Kristi kept yelling at me to keep him moving, so I focused on her voice and tried to keep myself balanced in the saddle. While it seemed like it took four or five minutes for Sam to regain his balance, it was probably no more than 20 seconds. But it was scary! At P&Rs, I didn't loosen the mud-encrusted girth because I was worried that when I tightened it, dried mud would get under it and gall Sam's belly.

Judges Donna Johnson, DVM, and Kathy Shanor had limited access to us, which gave us ample time to enjoy the beautiful, lush woods and the birds. Black locust trees were blooming, and their heady perfume filled the air. The ride was well timed--no dawdling, but time to catch a quick graze on the plentiful grass. I really enjoyed the scenery. If it weren't so muddy, Smithville Lake would be a great place to camp and ride!

Back in camp, everyone spent time scraping mud off horses, tack, boots, and clothing. I had to knock mud off the snaps on my tack to remove the breast collar! Sam had lost a shoe (Donna Johnson told me she saw more horses that lost at least one shoe than came back with all four!). He slept through the farrier's work!

After a bodacious pot-luck dinner, we had a quick briefing. Then we walked our horses, blanketed them, and hit the sack.

Overnight, the trails dried up quite a bit. It was still gloppy and sucky, but much better than Saturday. Sunday morning was brisk, and Sam decided there was no point waiting for the timer to time us out. I had my hands full until I heard, "Number 83, you're out!" and was able to let Sam head down the trail. He took off at an energetic foxtrot. It was easier (and probably safer) to let him go, rather than fight him. He boogied down the trail, muscling through the mud, passing the Open safety riders (we're Novice). He kept it up for about two hours, when he finally took a break to pee. Then another rider caught up to us, and we got our horses to graze for about fifteen minutes. Kristi and Dick caught up to us, and Sam settled into a reasonable gait. I really thought that after that start, he'd cave after half the ride, but his P&Rs were good, he was the first horse over the finish line, and checked out with excellent metabolics.

Back at camp, I found I had a flat tire. Florence Blanks pulled his pick-up with an air compressor up to pump up the tire. He was concerned that Sam would be scared of the noise, but Sam seemed at first curious, then rather annoyed that Florence was using an impact wrench to change my tire, thereby keeping Sam from napping!?! Many thanks to Florence and to Matt Hiskett, who helped!

Ride Manager Jerry Weil and Trail Master Kim Weil did an excellent job, especially considering the adverse weather. It was a good ride. I loved the scenery and would love to ride the trails when they are dry!

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### DIAMOND OF THE YEAR

The Diamond of the Year award was started about 1992 by Frank and Nancy Diamond in order to honor the wonderful heart found in so many of our region VI competitive trail riders. Amazingly, the event that triggered it was a judged obstacle. Imagine yourself late in the ride day; hot, tired, sore, and GRUMPY. The thoughtless, evil judge has set up a holdup dismount obstacle. You are waiting in line; did I mention you are GRUMPY? That is where Nancy and a group of her experienced and successful open rider friends were when they witnessed the following scene. La Cygne Lake, at the little gravel quarry, point B the judge wants the riders to dismount, lead their horse up the steep, rocky, slippery, slope (remember we are hot and sore and GRUMPY) go along the ledge at the top and back down the steep slippery crumbly slope. It was doable (if we weren't so GRUMPY) but quite challenging. Complain, whine . . . The next rider is a novice, John Register. John has to struggle to walk. John has to struggle to read. I don't know if it was polio or Cerebral Palsy or something else, but this challenge for us GRUMPY riders was a VERY BIG challenge for John. The judge told him that he did not have to try, but John, with a big smile said he WANTED to. He got down on all fours and crawled up the bank and his good horse came along carefully. When he finally got to the top he stood up and BEAMED. He had to sit on his rear and slide down like a little kid to get down again. When he was done his smile lit the whole area and there was not a dry eye there. Nancy and the group that witnessed it never were able to do another judged obstacle without the example of John Register and his simple, willing, brave and beautiful heart leading the way.

This is what the Diamond of the Year is all about. Heart. Leadership by example. Kindness, whether deliberate or incidental. Character. Service. This award is not something you can pursue, but comes, unbidden to those who have blessed someone else. The Diamond of the Year for 2008 was Shari Parys. Shari was nominated by several people for her role in attracting and assisting new riders to the sport, whether she was responsible for bringing them to the ride or not!

#### BRENDA MESSICK'S Letter of Nomination

I highly recommend Shari Parys for this award. I am new to the sport of Competitive Trail Riding. CTR gave me a chance to get out of the arena, and trail ride, yet with a competitive edge. Through another friend, I knew what to expect. But I had a lot to learn about how to correctly ride for CTR. I had the opportunity to ride 1-on-1 with Shari at a CTR this past fall. I have been a part of other competitions where people and riders only look out for themselves. Shari is truly the opposite. She put me and my horse's needs above her own. She was instrumental in teaching me how to perform obstacles slowly and smoothly. Riding with her and her horse taught my horse to be calmer throughout the ride. Shari rode so comfortably that both our horses responded in positive ways throughout the ride, performing obstacles better than they have ever done.

Shari leads and rides by example. By just watching Shari ride and perform obstacles, I felt that I understood what to do and how to perform the CTR obstacles to the best of my horse's ability. She explained what I needed to do to improve my own riding skills. Shari has been nothing but kind and helpful, never tiring from answering even the simplest of questions. She is always willing to share ideas, and equipment! We all should try to be like Shari, as she is what makes CTR is all about and what make CTR a great sport!

#### VIRGINIA PREY'S Letter of Nomination

Shari definitely has a big heart and is an excellent example of what this sport is all about. I have known Shari since 2003 and continue to seek her advice on a variety of issues. This last season has been the best especially the get togethers after the ride and reviewing the day's events. Shari is definitely a DIAMOND!!

#### DAVID & ROBIN NORE, AND SHERRY REEBLE'S Letter of Nomination

We would like to nominate a most deserving individual; Shari Parys for the Diamond-of-the-Year award because of her outstanding and tireless contributions to the sport of Competitive Trail Riding.

Shari is a true mentor for new CTR riders and always promotes participation in the sport to riders that want to know additional information. Since we are relatively "newbies" (new to the sport), Shari has always been very patient in answering countless questions that any of us have had regarding any aspect of the sport. She has never made us feel that any question is too trivial.

We have learned so much from Shari not only about the sport of CTR but about trail safety for horse AND rider as well as, but most importantly, care for our horses. Furthermore, she has mentored and encouraged numerous riders to try the sport and on several occasions she has taken a new competitor "under her wing" while she herself is also competing.

This past spring, Shari was a key organizer and spent countless hours marking trails, printing a map and demonstrating obstacles to a group of 10 riders who were interested in learning more about the sport of CTR. In other words, she "walks-the-walk" when it comes to promoting this sport.

Therefore, we can't think of anyone more deserving of this award than Shari. She not only promotes and teaches the sport, but more importantly she is an outstanding asset to this organization!

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### FOR SALE

For Sale: 11 year old Arabian Gelding, 15 H, Sorrel, very personable, gentle (actually mellow for an Arab!) Well trained, responsive. Does not get the attention or riding he wants or needs-he is too good to be a pasture ornament! Call for more information, photos, or video. Priced at \$2500.00, but negotiable to the right home.  
Norma Newton, Central Iowa, email: [newtonrn@huxcomm.net](mailto:newtonrn@huxcomm.net) ; cell: 515-681-1725

Three horses for sale, all good distance prospects:

- 1) Spring Glory, Arab mare, 13, chestnut with a narrow blaze and three stockings, 14.3 hands, very pretty head and lovely conformation and movement -- an extremely smooth and ground covering trot! Some trail and camping experience; has had one foal.
- 2) Xoala ("Zoe"), Arab mare, 7, bay with two socks and narrow stripe, 14.1 hands. Smooth gaits, business-like attitude -- likes to just trot down the trail. Has trail and camping experience.
- 3) Miss American Pie, Arab/Paint cross mare, 4, chestnut with blaze, four stockings and some sabino markings, 14.3 and still growing! Training well started; going nice and relaxed under saddle in a snaffle bit. A slender, leggy mare that can really cover the ground. (The Paint stallion was mostly Thoroughbred.)

Prices negotiable to the right home.

Priscilla Lindsey, 785-259-1687, [lindx\\_pris@yahoo.com](mailto:lindx_pris@yahoo.com)

For Sale: 6 year old gray Arabian gelding. Purebred Polish, but no papers. 14.2 hh. Excellent conformation, very sweet, but somewhat green. Priced at \$2000.

Please contact Debbie Payne, [dpayne@ucom.net](mailto:dpayne@ucom.net); cell: 620-640-2750.

### 2009 Region 6 Ride Schedule

**June 20-21 EKAHA Hill & Dale**, Hillsdale Lake, Kansas

Chair: J.R. Kendall, 11111 W. 175<sup>th</sup>, Olathe, Kansas 66062, (913) 681-2318, [jrken@att.net](mailto:jrken@att.net)

Secretary: Susan Manley, 5003 Brownridge Drive, Shawnee, KS 66218 (913) 961-0322, [s\\_a\\_manley@yahoo.com](mailto:s_a_manley@yahoo.com)

**July 18-19 Cedar Creek**, New Bloomfield, Missouri

Chair: Chris Wallis, 402 County Road 299, Centralia, MO 65240, (573) 387-4859, [cwallis@ktis.net](mailto:cwallis@ktis.net)

Secretary: Mary Pat Smith, 708 Limit St. Leavenworth, KS 66048, (913) 682-3757, [msmith12187@kc.rr.com](mailto:msmith12187@kc.rr.com)

**September 19-20 Dave Smith Fall Fiesta**, Stephen's Forest, Lucas, Iowa

Chair: Jerry Weber, 5100 SE 124<sup>th</sup> Street, Runnells, IA 50237, (515) 556-6805, [jjw4826@earthlink.net](mailto:jjw4826@earthlink.net)

Secretary: Cheryl Weber, (515) 966-2893 or (515) 556-6804

**October 10-11 Indian Cave**, Indian Cave State Park, Shubert, Nebraska

Chair: Chuck Edwards, 3600 South 56, Lincoln, NE 68506, (402) 489-1502 or 440-5569, [candmelstars@juno.com](mailto:candmelstars@juno.com)

Secretary: TBA

**October 24-25 Whispering Pines**, Salem, Missouri

Chair: Kim Weil, 6710 Raines RD, Liberty, Missouri 64068, (816) 781-2218, [jkweil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkweil@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary: Jackie Hathhorn, 1404 NW Fox Ridge Drive, Blue Springs, Missouri 64015, [jackiehat@gmail.com](mailto:jackiehat@gmail.com)

### CORRECTION TO THE RIDE BOOK --Cedar Creek Ride

Two corrections to the information in the Ride Book regarding the Cedar Creek Ride:

- 1) check-in begins on Friday, July 17
- 2) fees – No Shows and cancellations after July 3rd will be refunded all but \$30.00.

#### Region Board Members

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Norma Newton 07-09, Alternate 515-769-2223 [newtonrn@huxcomm.net](mailto:newtonrn@huxcomm.net)

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