

# The Leadline

The Voice of NATRC Region 1 Competitive Trail Riding



[www.natrcregion1.org](http://www.natrcregion1.org)

Fall / Winter 2011

## *In This Issue....*

From Your Editor.....	2
Reg. 1 BOD Vacancies.....	3
To All Swanton Riders .....	3
Tentative Ride Schedule.....	3
NBOD Meeting Report.....	4
NATRC Nat'l Convention.....	5
Award Sponsors Needed.....	5
The WHY of In-Hand Presentations.....	6
2011 Region 1 Point Standings.....	7
Awards Breakfast Registration.....	8
Ride Results.....	9
Saddle Pads.....	10
How Many Horses.....	13
2012 Raffle Information.....	14
NATRC Membership Form ..	15

## Message From the Region 1 Board of Directors

The Region One Board of Directors welcomes you all into a new year, a new ride season. We're starting off with an exciting national / regional convention. Region 2 is hosting NATRC's National Convention in conjunction with the AERC convention in Reno March 8-12. The NATRC National Board of Directors meeting will be on Thursday, March 8. Guests are welcome to attend. AERC has lined up an excellent slate of speakers on Friday and Saturday. NATRC is hosting the music and dancing Friday evening. NATRC's national awards banquet will be Saturday evening, and our Region 1 awards breakfast will be Sunday morning. The huge and wonderful vendor trade show on Friday and Saturday is always a highlight at AERC's convention. Watch for National Convention information in Hoof Print and on [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org). A registration form for our awards breakfast is included in this issue and will be posted on our own website, [www.natrcregion1.org](http://www.natrcregion1.org).

We're excited that two of our favorite rides are returning this year, Ft. Ord in Monterey and Georgetown. If you aren't planning to compete, both of these rides as well as any of our other rides will have plenty of volunteer opportunities for you. This is a great way for you to be involved and give something back to the sport that has given so much to you. Our great rides don't "just happen." They are a real labor of love and take a true team effort. These teams have positions open for ride secretaries, pre-ride timers and trail markers, qualified safety riders, point riders, riders to take down post-ride ribbons, P&R teams, ride timers, raffle organizers, meal chairmen, cooks, awards chairmen, judges' secretaries, point checkers after the ride, camp set-up and clean-up. Figure out which of these jobs has your name on it, contact any of the R1 BOD or the individual ride manager, and come join us for a wonderful weekend of productive camping.

Be sure to renew your membership, pick up your reins (literally or figuratively), and Come Ride With Us.

Your R1 BOD,

*Linda Thomason, Phil Young, Jim Ferris, Angie Meroshnekoff,*

*Steve Meroshnekoff, Stephanie Swain,*

*Gene Buicelli, Laura Harvey, and Jamie Dieterich*

### ELECTION RESULTS

Phil Young was elected as your  
Alternate National Board  
representative.  
Thanks for voting!



**Region One Board of Directors****Chairman:**

Linda Thomason  
(510) 651-9470 linda.thomason@comcast.net

**Board Treasurer & Alt. Nat'l BOD:**

Phil Young  
(530) 283-3221 pbyoung@sunset.net

**Recording Secretary:**

Stephanie Swain  
(707) 528-2775 stephswain@earthlink.net

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Linda Thomason  
(510) 651-9470 linda.thomason@comcast.net

**National BOD Rep.:**

Jamie Dieterich  
(530) 836-1075 jamiek@gotsky.com

**National BOD Rep.:**

Jim Ferris  
(530) 432-6513 jcferris@yahoo.com

**Regional Board Member:**

Laura Harvey  
(916) 689-1631 hereticsunite@hotmail.com

**Regional Board Member:**

Gene Boicelli  
(925) 672-649 geneboicelli@aircloud.net

**Regional Board Member:**

Steve Meroshnekoff  
(707) 743-9973 iambrewing@aol.com

**Regional Board Member:**

Angie Meroshnekoff  
(707) 743-9973 awhitedog@aol.com

**Committees****Region One Points & Membership**

Jim Ferris  
(530) 432-6513 jcferris@yahoo.com

**Wonder Worker Recruitment**

Steve Meroshnekoff  
(707) 743-9973 iambrewing@aol.com

**The Leadline Editor**

Laurie Knuutila  
(907) 378-9190 wildroseph@yahoo.com

**Publicity / Outreach**

Linda Thomason  
(510) 651-9470 linda.thomason@comcast.net

**Ride/Clinic Coordinator**

Jamie Dieterich  
(530) 836-1075 jamiek@gotsky.com

**Historian**

Kathy Nixon  
(530) 283-9336

**Trails Advocacy Rep.**

Judy Etheridge  
(925) 862-0232 misxfire@yahoo.com

**National NATRC Exec. Administrator**

Laurie DiNatale  
(303) 688-1677 natrc@natrc.org

**Hoof Print Editor**

Kelly Carper Polden  
kellycarpercommunications@yahoo.com

**NATRC Home Page:** www.NATRC.org  
**CTR Listserve info:** jcferris@yahoo.com

**See [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) for National Board, Committees, and Secretaries**

*From Your Editor . . .*

Because of space constraints in the print edition of the Leadline, I have had to suspend putting in my two cents worth for the last few issues. But with the launch of the expanded on-line version, I can once again send you my greetings and fill you in on a few things going on in my world.

My goal with this expanded issue is to be able to provide you with more information and articles that I hope will prove helpful in your endeavours to compete in NATRC rides. There is so much information out there to sort through, so I'm working on doing a little of that for you. I hope you like my choices. Your input is always welcome.

With this expanded issue, there is also more room for ride stories and photos. This is where you come in. I can't write stories about rides I haven't attended, so I'm relying on you for that. You were there, you had an experience, and you can write it down. Don't worry about your sentence structure, grammar, or any of that. Between myself and the team who helps me put this newsletter together, we can make you sound like an English language major! So

send me your stories about all the great rides you've attended, or interesting experiences you've had on the trail. Did you read Angie Meroshnekoff's article on the Region 1 website about finding a lake in the desert? A simple story about a simple thing, but I loved it, and I'm sure others will love your stories too!

Winter has arrived here in the Far North, but I'm continuing to ride my furry critters. Just the other day I had a great ride through the snowy woods on my five year old mare. The breeze kicked up and the snow was falling from the trees in great white cascades. My ever-curious mare was fascinated by it all and when we emerged from the woods, we looked like an abominable snow person/horse! That's her on a slightly warmer day in the photo below.

That's it for now, but please remember that this is YOUR newsletter, not mine, and I'm relying on you for input. Don't let me down!

I'm planning on seeing everyone in Reno in March. Until then...

*Laurie Knuutila  
Fairbanks, Alaska*



Photo by Tony Knuutila

Laurie Knuutila and Rowdy's Ribbons N Lace,  
a registered Half Arabian mare. Photo taken October 2011

## Region 1 Board of Directors Vacancies

Tis the season to be a jolly good Board Member!!

Actually, Christmas is over. However, our upcoming Region 1 meeting/awards breakfast in Reno is where current Region 1 members get to vote to fill the two Region 1 Board seats that will be available. Ordinarily, anyone wishing to be nominated to run for one of those 3-year seats needs to submit a short résumé to the R1 Recording Secretary (Stephanie Swain) prior to January 1. However, because it makes more sense to distribute this issue in January in order to include all the latest information, the deadline for submitting résumés has been extended until

January 31<sup>st</sup>. Stephanie's contact information is in the Roster and in this issue.

The health of our organization requires the regular addition of new faces to the BOD to get new energy and ideas. If you would like to give back to our sport and could consider devoting some time and energy to participating in its management (there are only 4 regular meetings each year), please consider submitting your résumé for consideration. Santa will put you on his good list for next year!!

*Phil Young*



### TO ALL THOSE WHO EVER RODE SWANTON!!

My request in the last issue of Leadline for stories and memories of Emma McCrary and the Swanton Ride apparently fell on mostly deaf ears. I have only received write-ups from eight people!! I know how much Emma and her wonderful ride meant to 35 years of riders, so why aren't more of you sharing those memories? Write-ups can be short or long, funny or touching, from many years ago or of more recent vintage. But without enough content, there can't be a booklet.

PLEASE sit down and put your thoughts on paper and send them to me. I realize everyone is in the midst of holiday preparations so I have extended the deadline to Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. Please email them to [pbyoung@sunset.net](mailto:pbyoung@sunset.net) or snail mail to Betty Young, 674 La Porte Road, Quincy CA, 95971.

Having a booklet of memories would be one small way to acknowledge Emma's contributions over all those years.

## Region 1 2012 Tentative Ride Schedule

<b>May 5</b>	<b>Mt. Diablo</b> Ellen Pofcher Sec: Mary Christopherson	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 252-0269	"B" O/N/CP <a href="mailto:mtnoaks@earthlink.net">mtnoaks@earthlink.net</a> <a href="mailto:mtnoaks@earthlink.net">mtnoaks@earthlink.net</a>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Hoof Trek</b> Donna Stidolph Sec: Betty Young	Ft. Ord, CA (831) 427-3646 (530) 283-3221	"B" O/N/CP <a href="mailto:donna@stidolph.com">donna@stidolph.com</a> <a href="mailto:pbyoung@sunset.net">pbyoung@sunset.net</a>
<b>June 2</b>	<b>Cowboy Camp</b> Jean Armer Sec: Sherry Lindley	Williams, CA (530) 755-8301 (530) 432-6513	"B" O/N/CP <a href="mailto:armer@citlink.net">armer@citlink.net</a> <a href="mailto:shadylin@aol.com">shadylin@aol.com</a>
<b>June 16-17</b>	<b>Round Valley Regional Park</b> Gene Boicelli Sec: TBA	Brentwood, CA (925) 672-6491	"A" O/CP; "B" N LIMIT 45 <a href="mailto:geneboicelli@aircloud.net">geneboicelli@aircloud.net</a>
<b>July 21-22</b>	<b>Bald Mountain Butt Busters</b> Stefanie Bergman Sec: Jenny Daniels	Wasilla, AK (907) 350-4046 (907) 315-3307	"A" O/CP; "B" N <a href="mailto:cyranch@live.com">cyranch@live.com</a> <a href="mailto:jamcgrath@yahoo.com">jamcgrath@yahoo.com</a>
<b>July 21</b>	<b>Georgetown NATRC</b> Laura Harvey Sec: TBA	Georgetown, CA (916) 689-1631	"B" O/N/CP <a href="mailto:hereticsunite@hotmail.com">hereticsunite@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Aug 18-19</b>	<b>Jackson Forest</b> Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Ft. Bragg (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	"A" O/CP; "B" N <a href="mailto:iambrewing@aol.com">iambrewing@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:wolves1961@sbcglobal.net">wolves1961@sbcglobal.net</a>



## Highlights From the National Board of Directors Meeting November 2011

The National BOD Meeting was held in Denver, CO November 12, 2011. Jamie Dieterich and Jim Ferris attended to represent Region 1. Phil Young is the newly elected Alternate.

**Business of NATRC:** In the words of Elaine Swiss, R4, NATRC Treasurer, we continue to face significant financial challenges. Those challenges affect nearly every aspect of our organization. Our shortfall as of the end of September was \$12,000.

Key factors:

- Although our membership numbers have remained about the same, income from memberships is up slightly from last year due to the increase in dues.
  - Ride revenues (rider fees) are down because ride attendance in every region, except Region 5, was down. Ride attendance is more important to our overall financial health than is membership. We know at a regional level that ride attendance is critical to ride managers.
  - Every year each Region defines their own revenue goals for the new year based on number of rides, number of competitors, and numbers of members. Region 1's goal for a 1% growth was to have 7 rides in 2011, 31 competitors per ride, and 155 members. We exceeded our membership goal but fell short on the others.
  - Elaine single-handedly has contracted \$9500 from 17 vendors this year. This figure could be even more if she had just one more person helping her.
  - The Machu Picchu Raffle income is over \$3000 and showing a profit.
  - Donations are down.
- What can you do to help?
- Renew your membership; get a friend to join
  - Compete in a ride; get a friend to ride with you

- Help secure national sponsors; there are many just waiting to be asked
- Buy raffle tickets (contact your NBOD representatives or go to [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org))
- Make an unrestricted donation to NATRC
- Tell your family that when you die, you would like donations to go to NATRC
- Think about a donation to NATRC in your estate plan

Partnering (mutual promotion) with other organizations is a way to potentially increase rider numbers. There are co-marketing possibilities with AERC, Ride and Tie, non-profit Trail Trial/Challenge organizations (ETI (R2), CSHA (R1) and TTC (R4) to name just a few), 4-H, FFA, Pony Clubs and all breed associations.

Laurie DiNatale, our Executive Administrator, offered to decrease her hours and salary. The BOD agreed that a national organization needs a national office, and that this was not a good place to make cuts.

**Hoof Print/ Media Advisory:** Hoof Print is our second largest expense. We have solicited bids for design and printing for 2012. We are making a transition to use our electronic media more efficiently. More content will be on the website and distributed through E-News. For 2012, the print version **will still be available on request. In 2013, the print version will be available by paid subscription.**

**Sanction Report:** Patsy Conner: 49 rides in 2011, + 4 canceled (50 in 2010)

**Marketing/ Publicity:** Bev Roberts: Free publicity in 18 publications, websites and radio shows from articles members have submitted and from our own press releases. There are 527 subscribers on E-News. All regions have a Facebook page.

**Drug Testing:** Jerry Weil, DVM: No positive drug tests in 2011.

**Trail Advocacy:** Erin Glassman represented NATRC at the Southeastern Equestrian Trail Conference and has made several contacts on our behalf.

**Judges Committee:** Boyd Emond, DVM, R3 was approved as a judge. Horsemanship Co-Chair, Patsy Conner, has added a mentoring process to the horsemanship judge apprenticeship. R3 will be testing the use of an electronic scorecard.

**Rule Changes Passed:** (1) Riders must use a saddle and headgear with attached reins. (2) The final wording for the penalty phase for the new drug rule was passed.

**Safety Committee:** Larry Gould: Several education programs are launching in 2012 under Larry's leadership, including Safety Chair letters that Patti Hicks (R4) is distributing for each ride, plus a 20-minute Power Point Safety seminar on safety riders that is available for all regional conventions. Please contact Jamie Dieterich for details.

**2011 National Convention** will be held in Reno, NV March 8-11, 2012 in conjunction with AERC. See details in Hoof Print and at [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org). The theme is "It Takes Two."

**Old Business:** GoTo Webinar: Jim will distribute materials to all NBOD members that will help educate users to best use this media.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jamie Dieterich*

**R1 Ride Coordinator, National BOD,  
Information and Education Committee  
Judges Committee, Media Advisory  
Board, and Policies and Procedures**

THE LEADLINE is the official publication of Region One of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). The Leadline is published three times per year and mailed or emailed to all NATRC Region One members. It is available by subscription to non-Region One members at \$8 per year. Issues contain updated information from Region One committees, ride results, point standings, minutes of board meetings, and the current Region One ride schedule. Send subscription requests and payments (made out to NATRC Region One) to Phil Young, 674 La Porte Rd, Quincy, CA 95971. Contributions are welcome and may be sent to Laurie Knuutila, 455 Ream Lane, Fairbanks, AK or email to [wildroseph@yahoo.com](mailto:wildroseph@yahoo.com). NATRC Region One and The Leadline do not necessarily endorse or support the opinions expressed in printed articles or advertisements. The Editor reserves the right to edit material as necessary. No letters to the Editor will be printed if not signed. NATRC and the staff of The Leadline are not responsible for errors

**Deadlines:**

Spring issue -Submission: April 15; Publication: May 1  
Summer issue -Submission: August 1; Publication: Aug. 15  
Fall/Winter issue -Submission: Dec 15; Publication: Jan. 1

**Advertising rates per issue:**

Full page—\$40  
Half page—\$20  
Quarter page—\$10

Classified ads are free to Region One members in good standing, one per issue, up to 30 words. Ads may be emailed, or hard copies mailed to the Editor can be scanned as submitted. Send ads to the Editor and make checks payable to NATRC Region One.

## 2012 NATRC National Convention

In conjunction with the  
**AERC National Convention**  
**March 8-11, 2012**  
**Grand Sierra Resort and Casino**  
**Reno, Nevada**

### "It Takes Two"



Thursday, March 8

NATRC National Board of Directors Meeting. Guests welcome.

Fri., Sat, March 9, 10

Huge, wonderful trade show. Free admission. Educational speakers. Requires advance registration.

Sat., March 10 – eve.

NATRC National Awards Banquet

Sun., March 11 – morn.

Region 1 Awards Breakfast

## 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.

For more details and an application, please go to [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org).



## Condolences

Tom Kasovich, a longtime member of Region 1 and helper at so many rides, passed away on November 19. Tom loved playing golf, gardening, cooking, reading--most of all--spending time with his family, his dogs, and although he didn't ride, he enjoyed caring for the horses, especially feeding them apples and carrots. Tom made it possible for his wife Nancy to pursue her life with horses, whether judging or competing, supporting her in every way.

Linda Thomason's mother, Faye Trejo, lost her battle with pancreatic cancer in December. Linda cared for her right up to the end.

Our hearts go out to both Nancy and Linda.

## Award Sponsors Needed

Year-End awards are just around the corner with the 2012 Region 1 Awards Breakfast in Reno coming up. Please consider supporting your region by sponsoring an Award. Your donations help R1 to continue giving high quality Year-End awards.

The cost of sponsoring an award is:

- \$100 for a First place Horse or Horsemanship for each of the 7 classes (a total of 14 awards). These awards typically consist of a high quality blanket for the horse and a jacket for the rider, or something equivalent.
- \$50 per class for ribbons, Horse or Horsemanship. A total of 14 ribbon sets.
- Classes available for sponsorship are: Open HWT, Open LWT, Open JR, Novice HWT, Novice LWT, Novice JR & Competitive Pleasure.
- \$65 for a Special Memorial award. These include: Bob Smith perpetual award (High Point First Year Novice/CP horse); Fran & Carol Dupont Memorial award (High Point First Year Open horse); Pat Ersepke Memorial Award (High Point Novice Horse/Rider Combination); and the Max Barmettler Region 1 Lifetime

award (Outstanding service to Region 1).

Any other donations in the amount of your choice will, of course, be gratefully accepted. You might even consider getting together with someone to sponsor a class or memorial award together. Contact Betty Young at 530-283-3221 for more information or to reserve a particular award. Mail your donations, specifying your first and second choice of awards that you wish to sponsor to: Phil Young, 674 La Porte Road, Quincy, CA 95971.

Thank you in advance for your support of Region 1.

## The WHY Of In-Hand Presentations

By Laurie Knuutila

**W**hen participating in a competitive trail ride, competitors may lose points on their horsemanship cards because of the way they present their horses in-hand to the veterinary judge. So I thought that a discussion of the WHY's of the in-hand presentation might be in order to help riders understand more clearly why they lose those points.

There may be a notion among some riders that they cannot do well at the in-hand presentation because they are not "showmen" and are not interested in "showing off" their horse. But the in-hand presentation is less about "showing" and more about safety and presenting your horse to his best advantage. During the in-hand presentation, the horsemanship judge is observing how safely and effectively the horse is presented to the vet. An effective presentation is one in which the handler presents the horse in such a way as to make it easy for the vet judge to determine the horse's condition and soundness. The "showman" part is determined by how much the handler cares about the impression the horse makes on the judge. So let's get into the WHY's.

**Why not stand directly in front of your horse during the vet exam?** Safety. If the horse should bolt forward, you would be stepped on, possibly knocked down.

**Why keep your lead line figure eight fashion in your hand?** Safety. If your horse pulls away from you, your hand will not be trapped in loops of line and possibly crushed.

**Why stay on the same side of the horse as the vet judge?** Safety. You

are better able to prevent the horse from stepping on the vet judge if you stay on the same side. This same principle also applies to your farrier and vet when you are at home.

**Why turn your horse away from you when preparing to trot out for the vet?** Safety. You are less likely to get stepped on when you are pushing the horse away from you, rather than pulling him toward you.

**Why keep two hands on your lead line at all times?** Safety. If the horse jerks away from you and you only have one hand on the line, there is now a loose horse running rampant through camp.

**Why trot away from the vet judge in a straight line?** Effective presentation. It's much easier for the vet judge to observe your horse's movement when he's being trotted straight away and not weaving left and right or moving at an angle to the judge.

**When trotting out, why keep some slack in your lead line?** Effective presentation. If you keep tension on your horse's head while attempting to trot him in-hand, you can actually make him appear lame.

**Why not look back at your horse while trying to get him to trot?** Safety and effective presentation. You really need to be looking where you are going to avoid tripping. Looking back at the horse will cause him to hesitate and possibly not trot at all. If you look where you are going and expect him to follow you, more often than not, he will. A smartly trotting horse is what the judge needs to see to determine soundness.

**Why keep the horse's head next to your shoulder while trotting out?** Safety and effective presentation. Keeping him up beside you will prevent you from being stepped on. And keeping him beside you will allow the vet judge to observe how the horse moves and not how you move. If he's directly behind you, all the vet will see is you and not him.

**Why stop your horse before beginning your circles?** Safety. A momen-

tary halt will allow you to prepare both yourself and your horse to start the circles.

**Why make big circles instead of small ones?** Effective presentation. Small circles can make even a sound horse look lame. Large circles will allow the horse to move out better and give the judge a better look.

**Why stop your horse (even if only momentarily) when changing direction?** Safety and effective presentation. Allowing the horse to suddenly spin around at the end of a lunge line and go the opposite direction is hard on the horse's legs. Stopping him before allowing him to go the opposite direction protects those valuable legs and keeps you in control of your horse's actions.

**Why stop several feet away from the vet judge when trotting back to him/her?** Safety. The vet judge really frowns upon being run over or even thinking that he/she is about to be run over.

There is much more to the in-hand presentation than simply "showing" your horse. Presenting him safely and effectively begins with training and practice at home. You can't expect him to know what it is you want him to do at the ride if you haven't schooled him on it at home. It is absolutely necessary to school and practice these "boring" skills at home. Safe horse handling should, in reality, be practiced every time you handle your horse. Presenting your horse safely and effectively to the vet judge is the first (and arguably the most important) phase of doing a ride. Without a vet check, a horse cannot start the ride, and an effective presentation makes it easier for the vet judge to determine that your horse is well-behaved, sound and fit to do the distance.



## 2011 Region 1 Year End Point Standings

The results listed below are preliminary. If you have any questions or note any errors, please contact Jim Ferris at 530-432-6513 or jcferris@yahoo.com.

### Competitive Pleasure - Horse

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.	Mls	1st Yr
1	OM El Shakeeb Dream / Arab	Dillard, Joe	46	120	
2	La Paloma Dream / Arab	Dillard, Ashley	34	120	*
3	Lady Tigers Hysyn / Grad	Schlerf, Haley	17	60	
4	MJ Abiad Amir / Arab	Ferris, Jim	16	60	
5	Lakota / Grad	Lieberknecht, Kay	14	80	*
6	Huck Finn / Grad	Frey, Ute S.	4	40	*

### Novice Heavyweight - Horse

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.	Mls	1st Yr
1	Blue Camel / Grade	Brown, Doug	18	60	*
2	Tango Sierra / M-FX	Harvey, Laura	15	80	
3	Laarkin / Arab	Brown, Tammy	12	40	
3	Tuscany / H-Ar	Berlitz, Barbara	12	40	*
5	Kodi / Grade	Pimentel, Joe	10	40	*

### Novice Lightweight - Horse

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.	Mls	1st Yr
1	Sierra Sunshine / Arab	Stidolph, Donna	27	100	
2	SC Tecka / Arab	York, Debbie	9	40	*

### Novice Junior - Horse

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.	Mls	1st Yr
1	Kaylee / H-Ar	Johnson, Carlie	15	80	

### Open Heavyweight - Horse

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.	Mls	1st Yr
1	Take-A-Walkaloosa / Appy	Hess, Lucie	22	180	*
2	Stealth Knight / H-Ar	Boicelli, Vicki	19	120	
3	Tura Lura / Othr	Cannon, Linda	12	120	

### Open Lightweight - Horse

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.	Mls	1st Yr
1	Desert Reinbeau / Must	Meroshnekoff, Angela	26	150	

### Competitive Pleasure - Rider

Pl.	Rider	Pts	Mls
1	Dillard, Ashley	46	120
2	Dillard, Joe	34	120
3	Schlerf, Haley	20	60
4	Lieberknecht, Kay	19	80
5	Ferris, Jim	16	60
6	Frey, Ute S.	9	40

### Novice Heavyweight - Rider

Pl.	Rider	Pts	Mls
1	Harvey, Laura	17	80
2	Pimentel, Joe	9	40
3	Berlitz, Barbara	8	40
3	Brown, Tammy	8	40

### Novice Lightweight - Rider

Pl.	Rider	Pts	Mls
1	Stidolph, Donna	20	100
2	York, Debbie	9	40

### Novice Junior - Rider

Pl.	Rider	Pts	Mls
1	Johnson, Carlie	20	80
2	Barash, Ace	6	40

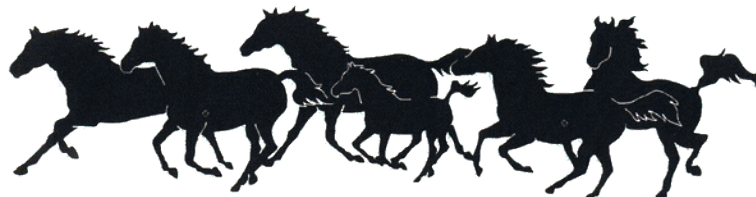
### Open Heavyweight - Rider

Pl.	Rider	Pts	Mls
1	Hess, Lucie	23	180
2	Boicelli, Vicki	15	120
3	Cannon, Linda	14	120

### Open Lightweight - Rider

Pl.	Rider	Pts	Mls
1	Meroshnekoff, Angela	17	150
2	Pimentel, Michelle	8	60

continued on next page . . .



## 2011 Region 1 Year End Point Standings - Con't

### Competitive Pleasure - Combined

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.
1	La Paloma Dream / Arab	Dillard, Ashley	80
1	OM El Shakeeb Dream / Arab	Dillard, Joe	80
3	Lakota / Grad	Lieberknecht, Kay	33

### Novice Heavyweight - Combined

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.
1	Tango Sierra / M-FX	Harvey, Laura	32

### Novice Lightweight - Combined

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.
1	Sierra Sunshine / Arab	Stidolph, Donna	47

### Novice Junior - Combined

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.
1	Kaylee / H-Ar	Johnson, Carlie	35

### Open Heavyweight - Combined

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.
1	Take-A-Walkloosa / Appy	Hess, Lucie	45
2	Stealth Knight / H-Ar	Boicelli, Vicki	34

### Open Lightweight - Combined

Pl.	Horse / Breed	Rider	Pts.
1	Desert Reinbeau / Must	Meroshnekoff, Angela	43

### Get NATRC E-News

NATRC E-News is the official electronic communication channel of our organization. E-News is a subscriber-based electronic marketing software from Constant Contact.

With E-News, you can receive electronic announcements on upcoming NATRC rides and clinics, new sponsors and special offers, NATRC promotions and contests, and general NATRC information including details on rules changes and proposals as well as regional and national Board minutes in a timely manner by subscribing now.

To begin receiving NATRC E-News, simply go to the NATRC website (<http://www.natrc.org>), click on "Join/Renew" along the top, then select "Join NATRC E-News." After you are directed to the E-News sign-up page, you can choose to receive a variety of different types of announcements.

If you would like to send NATRC information to all subscribers or just specific regions, contact Bev Roberts ([matefey@gmail.com](mailto:matefey@gmail.com)) or the National office ([natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org)) for help to put your announcement on the official NATRC electronic communication channel.

## Region 1 Awards Breakfast Registration Form

8:30 A.M. Sunday, March 11, 2012

Grand Sierra Resort and Casino, Reno, Nevada

Breakfast includes: Scrambled eggs, served with ham, breakfast potatoes, assorted pastries, orange juice, coffee, decaf and tea.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$17/each \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your R1 Breakfast Awards Registration to Phil Young, 674 La Porte Rd., Quincy, CA 95971.

**Must be received by March 1, 2012**

Full convention registration will be in the Winter Hoof Print. Watch [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) for updated information.



## Ride Results

Results not official until posted at [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org)

### Jackson Forest A

8/20-21/2011 Region 1-CA  
A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 14  
Chair: Steve Merosnekoff  
Judges: Carol Meschter, DVM, Jamie Dieterich  
Novice Sweepstakes: Sierra Sunshine/Stidolph, Donna-97  
Open Sweepstakes: Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie-98

### Open Heavyweight

1/1 Take-A-Walkaloosa/Hess, Lucie  
2/2 Tura Lura/Cannon, Linda

### Open Lightweight

1/1 Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie

### Novice Heavyweight

1/1 Tango Sierra/Harvey, Laura

### Novice Lightweight

1/1 Sierra Sunshine/Stidolph, Donna  
2/2 Garnet/Powers, Alexis

### Novice Junior

1/2 Sugs Hot Links/Nelson, Jodie  
2/1 Kaylee/Johnson, Karlie

### Competitive Pleasure

1/4 OM El Shakeeb Dream/Dillard, Joe  
2/2 MJ Abiad Amir/Ferris, Jim  
3/1 La Paloma Dream/Dillard, Ashley  
4/3 Kamiko/Thurman, Ariel  
5/5 Sarafina/Nelson, Caitlin  
6/6 Gentleman Jac/Armer, Jean

### Jackson Forest B

8/20/2011 Region 1-CA  
B-N Total Riders: 3  
Chair: Steve Merosnekoff  
Judges: Carol Meschter, DVM, Jamie Dieterich  
Novice Sweepstakes: Blue Camel/Brown, Doug -97

### Novice Heavyweight

1/DO Rider Blue Camel/Brown, Doug  
2/1 Laarkin/Brown, Tammy  
3/DO Rider Thee Vandal/Ostrowski, Stephanie

### WA State Horse Park & Ride A

9/10-11/11 Region 1-WA  
A-O/N/CP Total Riders: 4  
Chair: Kathryn Lewandowsky  
Judges: Ron Stuber, DVM, Lory Walls  
Novice Sweepstakes: Cirocco/Clark, Denise-90  
Open Sweepstakes: SA Seraphim/Podeszwik, Barbara-99

### Open Heavyweight

1/1 Take-A-Walkaloosa/Hess, Lucie

### Open Lightweight

1/1 SA Seraphim/Podeszwik, Barbara

### Open Junior

1/1 Wajiih El Nefous/Lehnert, Stella

### Novice Lightweight

1/1 Cirocco/Clark, Denise

### WA State Horse Park & Ride B

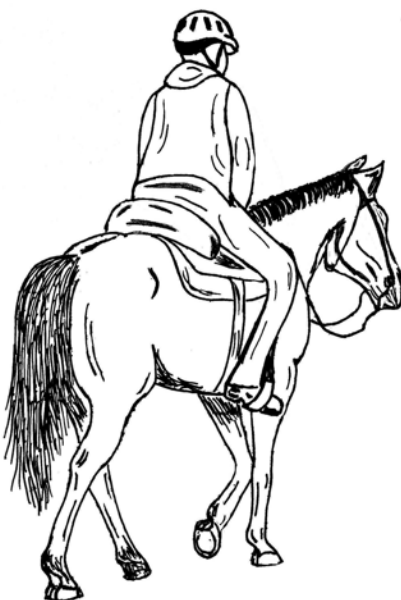
9/10/11 Region 1-WA  
B-O/N/CP Total Riders: 4  
Chair: Kathryn Lewandowsky  
Judges: Ron Stuber, DVM, Lory Walls  
No Novice Sweepstakes

### Novice Lightweight

DQ Ultimate Kingston/Hopp, Janell

### Competitive Pleasure

1/1 Psyniprty/Talbot, Barb  
2/2 SA Fair Dinkum/Mahoney, Lynn



### Cowboy Camp

9/24/2011 Region One-CA  
B-O/N/CP Total Riders: 26  
Chair: Jean Armer  
Judges: Leroy Burnham DVM, Karel Waugh  
Novice Sweepstakes: Sierra Sunshine/Stidolph, Donna-100  
Open Sweepstakes: Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie-100

### Open Heavyweight

1/2 Stealth Knight/Boicelli, Victoria  
2/1 Take-A-Walkaloosa/Hess, Lucie  
3/3 Amiaborr/Boicelli, Gene

### Open Lightweight

1/1 Desert Reinbeau/Meroshnekoff, Angie  
2/2 Marilyn/Pimentel, Michelle  
3/3 Kamiko/Thurman, Ariel

### Novice Heavyweight

1/DO Blue Camel/Brown, Doug  
2/1 Kodi/Pimentel, Joe  
3/2 Tango Sierra/Harvey, Laura  
4/3 Diamond H Shalako/Vovchuk, Virginia  
P Laarkin/Brown, Tammy

### Novice Lightweight

1/1 Sierra Sunshine/Stidolph, Donna  
2/2 SC Tecka/York, Debbie

### Novice Junior

1/2 Garnet/Diaz, Sonya  
2/5 Royal Prancer/Barash, Emma  
3/3 Rosemarie's Dream/Szupello, Sierra  
4/1 Kaylee/Johnson, Carlie  
5/4 Sugs Hot Lynx/Nelson, Jodie

### Competitive Pleasure

1/4 SQR Pearl Moon/Whittall, Zoe  
2/2 OM El Shakeeb Dream/Dillard, Joe  
3/3 La Paloma Dream/Dillard, Ashley  
4/1 Lady Tigers Hysyn/Schlerf, Haley  
5/ Lakota 5/Lieberknecht, Kay  
6/6 Thee Vandal/Ostrowski, Stephanie  
/5 Huck Finn/Frey, Ute  
MJ Abiad Amir/Ferris, Jim

# Saddle Pads and What Manufacturers Don't Tell You!

By Mike G. Easton

Content Review: Dr. Joyce Harman, D.V.M., Equine Research Specialist

Marketing of saddle pads has become big business. All one has to do is make a web search and you will find over 15 pages of manufacturers. Each pad company puts various marketing emphasis on their products. Emphasis ranges from comfort, fit, durability, ease of cleaning, cooling, compression protection, performance, close contact, blood flow to animal's back and the list goes on. Pad manufacturers "bias" their marketing labels to sell pads—bottom line! For instance, one manufacturer uses the term "wool like" on their label; another very expensive blanket/pad combination has the symbol used by the American Wool Council on the wear leather and yet close examination of the item shows it has a synthetic backed fleece, open cell foamed backed inner core and wool blend weave on top; another uses technical flattery - ...two layers of air cells and ultra shock foam core producing lock down effect that eliminates slippage... Therapeutic is another big leader such as open cell medical memory foam, medical felt and ... increase oxygen, energy, and muscle recovery. And all of the claims of being 100% wool only cloud the marketing hype.

Another glaring example of manufacturers of foam pads contradicting themselves is when they were interviewed for an article for *Equestrian Rider*, July 2004, Vol. 7, No. 2. They give their bias on the benefits of neoprene products and then later state, "Manufacturers advise riders and trainers not to leave neoprene pads on horses for long periods of time because they build heat and moisture." And this makes no difference whether the pad is perforated or waffled. It is impossible to channel air as they like to make one believe.

You can see that with catchy terms a saddle pad purchaser can easily be misled when trying to find the best compression protection, wicking and durability possible for their horse. Hopefully we can help you to understand some of the physical properties of pad materials simply by looking and feeling the pad's surface and knowing where to find correct information.

## Saddle Fit

Before addressing the aspects of saddle pad materials one cannot over emphasize the importance of good saddle fit. If the saddle does not fit correctly, soreing will take place. Additional padding is only a temporary fix and will not solve the problem. In most instances if you are having problems with a pad staying in place you have to take a hard look at how the tree in your saddle fits the conformation of your horse. Because of expense, it is not practical to be changing saddles all the time so it is then necessary to find correct pad material that will stay in place, provide maximized compression protection and cooling.

## Saddle Pad History

Historically, saddle pads ranged from animal hides, to woven animal hair, to crude felts, to exotic linens, to woven blankets and today's modern industrial materials. Old timers remember the hair, felts and blankets. Not much thought was given to saddle fit and if a horse became sore many riders added another layer and cinched a little tighter. It is important to remember that when ranchers used horses on a regular basis the horses were changed often, so soreing was never a major concern.

It appears that the 1960's began the era of synthetics. Dr. Robert Miller, DVM and noted author commented that early in his California practice in the 60's, some of his clients started complaining about white spots and wither soreing which had not occurred previously. Then one day he happened to spot an advertisement in a magazine for foam pads. Further investigation revealed his clients had switched to the new pads. Most of the early foams were closed cell mattress or seating type materials never intended for compression protection with severe impact.

It has not been until the last 20 years and the desire for perfection in saddle fit to enhance performance that much thought was given to saddle pads. But as popularity of recreational riding and showing gained momentum more effort was put into the study of saddle fit and related accessories. Dr. Joyce Harman,

DVM, an equine specialist, has spent the last fifteen years studying saddle fit. Dr. Harman wanted to know how saddle fit affected performance and what constituted good fit. However, as she studied saddle fit she realized the need to also assess what impact pad material had on saddle fit results. Her new book discusses findings with English style saddle fit and what to look for with pad materials. At some future date her findings on Western saddles will be available.

## Materials

The primary materials used in saddle pads today are open and closed cell foams, synthetic felts, needled felts, pressed industrial felts, woven blankets, gel packs, synthetic cloth, and air bladders. What is interesting about all of these materials is NOT ONE of them was ever originally designed to be used as a saddle pad.

Foams are petroleum and rubber based materials designed for sound proofing and impact resistance for the automotive and aerospace industries. Felts were used for bedding, bearing cushions, lubrication wicks, sound proofing and cushioning in the same industries. Gel packs and air-bladder materials were designed for severe impact blows and mild weight distributions for auto racing, mattress industry and football helmets. Within the last 15 years another material, known as Tacky Tack was developed as shelving material for the food industry. Memory foam is another product that has just recently cropped up and is nothing more than a tight-grained open cell foam with low compression rating used in the mattress industry where impact applications are limited.

Now one would think that these would provide exactly what would be needed for saddle pad materials. Maybe and maybe not, but first a more detailed description of each.

Foam pads consist of two types of materials: 1. **Closed cell** – cellular rubber [neoprene] and 2. **Open cell** – polyurethane. There is also a closed cell, cross-linked polyethylene foam, but it is seldom used in pads.

*continued on next page . . .*

Close inspection will reveal that the *closed* cell foam has a very tight fine grain. Whereas, the *open* cell foam has small holes and a grainy look generally. The closed cell foam normally has a more elastic and smoother feel. There are of course exceptions to these descriptions, but we are generally referring to what is used in saddle pad construction. Color is normally black, white or gray.

With either of these foams it really does not matter if you know the difference because the compression ratings are about the same. Neither has wicking ability and both trap heat. If it is open cell foam used as filler just remember that compression protection is extremely poor. Closed cell foams tend to send pressure points through to the horse's back, but can be supportive if under a heavy saddle. Open cell foams will bottom out but do not interfere with saddle fit by being too thick.

Gel Pak Pads are simply heavy mil vinyl/plastic bladders that are filled with a non-hardening gel material. The intent behind development of this product system was to find a material base that would lessen severe impact from a sharp force. In other words it would gradually give with the impact. Evaluation of this material when used in saddle pads works fine when used for only a short time period (30 minutes). But with any movement after that period of time they will bottom out. This leaves no compression protection below any pressure points that might exist in a saddle. This happens because the gel is pushed aside.

The other major down-side to pads with gel paks is the plastic bladder as it traps heat and has zero wicking ability. These Gel Paks are normally bonded between other synthetic products. And even if they were bonded with a better grade of felt no real benefit is gained because compression protection is no better than the felt by itself and it adds unnecessary weight.

Air bladders or air cell pad material simply are different forms of creating an air mattress. They will conform to conformation of animal and saddle bars, but they are harder to keep in place because of constant ripple effect, like in an air mattress or waterbed. They will work with limited riding (30-45 minutes) but for a hard days work they trap heat. Air can have very limited compression

protection because of the bottoming out effect similar to Gel Pak pads. Air also becomes quite hard under the pressure of the saddle, and though it gives an even surface the pressures are higher than most other materials. Most of these types of pads have to be bonded with some other synthetic material and those that are not are very tacky when sweaty. Manufacturers try and convince you that airflow keeps them cool under the saddle. Again this is not possible with a saddle that fits correctly.

In the felting world there are two types of felt: 1. **Needled** felt and 2. **Pressed industrial** felt. Generally most synthetic felts are needled. "**Needled**" simply means it is made with heat, steam and vibrating pressure from needles that lock the fibers over the top of each other. "**Pressed industrial**" felt is made by heat, steam and oscillating pressure that locks the wool fibers together by sticking fibers to each other. In this case fibers are able to lock to each other because of the outer surface structure of each individual fiber. It requires a separate technical article to show why this process works.

**Needled** felts are easy to spot. They have horizontal and vertical holes evenly spaced on both sides of the felt. Because of high concentrations of synthetic material in them they are generally shiny, slippery and not soft feeling. Their color ranges varies from black, to dark grays, to motile grays with lots of color thread showing, to white, such as medical hospital felt. Most neoprene pads with colored felt on them are 100% synthetic or needled felt with high concentrations of synthetic material and a cloth cover. Another clue is that when you see felt pads sewn around the edges or another material sewn on top, you can bet it is a synthetic or needled felt, because they will not hold together with much use without this sewing effort.

Manufacturing costs of these pads are substantially less due to cheaper costs in synthetic materials. But from the retail point of view when you compare the cost of synthetic pads there is not much price difference.

**Pressed industrial** felts (PIF) do not have the holes. They are softer to touch, much more supple and depending on grade have no shiny synthetic material. Color ranges are dark gray to off white in the natural state, but with the better grades of PIF one can find all

other dyed color spectrums. Color normally gives you clues as to the actual virgin wool content and grade of felt. The more virgin wool in the felt, the lighter the color is. The same is true for touch. The more virgin wool content, the softer the feel will be when touching.

There are about 15 grade specification numbers utilized by the felting industry. Most saddle pad makers use an F15 grade. This F15 felt has a dark gray, almost a charcoal look. It contains 55% maximum virgin wool and 45% reworked wool content. This felt is used solely as a pad and/or bonded with one of the foams. (Note: Reworked wool comes from yarn previously processed for some other application, normally in the garment industry, and has been blended with synthetics. Felters use it to control density, consistency in thickness and cost. The synthetics can then end up being as high as 20% in any given pad. So color is the only clue a buyer has to tell whether or not the felt is really 100% wool as labeled.

**(EXCEPTION)** There is a company that uses F11 and F10 grade wool felt. The F11 felt has 92% minimum virgin wool and 8% reworked content. The F11 is very light gray, very soft, smooth finish and very supple. The F10 felt has 98% virgin wool content, and 2% reworked wool. The F10 is a crème white and very soft with a smooth finish. These felts are dyed with a vegetable based dye to come in a variety of colors, red, blue, hunter green, brown, black, etc. The exceptional features of these felts make it very easy to visually tell them apart.

So what difference does it make when someone wants a wool felt pad and why would they look for a F10 or F11 felt as opposed to a F15 felt. International Felting Standards shows that the F11 felt has a compression rating of 6 psi and 200 psi tensile strength as opposed to compression rating of 2 psi and 75 psi tensile strength for the F15. Additionally, based on research from Felt Manufacturers Council of America, the higher the virgin wool content of the felt, the better the wicking ability is. So if you really want a pad with superior rating find the company with the F11 and F10 felt.

### What To Look For In A Pad!

The most important of all the pad attributes to look for is *compression*

*continued on next page . . .*

*protection* and *cooling*. How does the purchaser know whether the manufacturers label and claims are true? Answer: They don't without careful investigation and lots of costly trial and error in purchasing pads.

### Cooling

When we look at all the research done over the years with exercise physiology and anatomy for humans and equines, we know that the mechanisms for cooling during activity are sweating and breathing. To prevent over heating during exertion the body must receive airflow or some means of water internally or externally for cooling to take place. So let us apply this knowledge to saddle fit and cooling.

When a saddle is fitting correctly, the bars of the saddle tree should conform evenly to the natural conformation of the back. And there should be a flair or rocker at the front and back of the bars to allow the shoulders and loins freedom from pressure. The saddle maker then adds leather skirting to the top and a wool sheepskin or synthetic fleece material to the bottom. Very few saddles today have natural sheepskin on the underside unless it is specifically requested. Assuming this material has been fitted and placed correctly the saddle should conform to the horse's back for a nice fit. The logical question to ask then is how can cooling take place under a saddle if it fits closely to the back? Answer: It cannot without the support of material that will wick the sweat, which is the primary heat-carrying agent.

### Common Sense Time

Closed cell foams and synthetic based materials will not wick. Try mopping up five gallons of water with a neoprene or synthetic pad. So a good question to ask oneself is, "If my saddle is fitting correctly and no air flow or water can penetrate between back and saddle, how can I cool the saddle back area with a neoprene or synthetic pad?" Answer: Not Possible! Another good question to ask is "Would I wear plastic or foam underwear or socks?" Answer: Not on your life! The argument that a sweaty back lubricates and is good for the animal is sheer ignorance.

There are quite a number of manufacturers that contend their air-channels and waffle-type foams cool. This is simply not true because the animal hair, skin and fat layers push into holes in the

material. This can easily be seen through close examination of the back after using one of these types of pads. Again, always remember the tight fit saddle concept.

Other points to consider are that when any foam-based pad becomes wet from sweat they also become sticky or slick. When this happens the animal hair and skin is constantly being pulled or stretched creating the frictional heat which can create gall points and sores.

The only true method of cooling is by using a pad material that will wick. In today's equine market the only two materials are wool or cotton. Wool is the winner here. It will absorb up to 3 times its weight in water, cotton will only absorb its initial weight, and wool has compression protection six times that of comparable thickness of cotton.

No official data really exists on the attributes of various materials on its abilities to cool.

Recently we took a trip to the Hell Roaring Wilderness area in Montana. As a part of the trip we wanted to obtain actual data about cooling with various types of pad materials. We purposely used a saddle that was extremely much too narrow in the front, knowing it would pinch and rock on the huge, flat backed draft/Quarter Horse cross horses and mules.

The trip into camp was 21 miles. Once at camp we did numerous day rides that amounted to 3-6 hours at a stretch.

In order to secure a range of data we took rest temperatures of each animal before starting each ride, while riding, cinched at rest (lunch break and fishing – one hour) after exertion and at end of day just before unsaddling.

### Trip Data:

Digital read out temperatures were taken at the tightest point of the shoulder and saddle. At rest the readings consistently ranged from 98.5-99 degrees. During exertion the felt pads stayed consistently at these same temperatures, but the F15 felt generally ran a degree higher than the F11. During exertion the neoprene, neoprene-felt pads, synthetic fleece and Tacky Tac used with a blanket were always 3 degrees hotter, and after one hour during lunch breaks these pads never cooled down. Finally, at the end of a day's ride the temperatures initially established had not changed.

The pads represented materials from some of the major known manufacturers that the outfitter had been experimenting with in an attempt to find pad material that would cool to prevent galling, have superior compression protection and longevity. Some of the pads he had been trying were Cowboy Choice-Closed Cell Foam/Felt, Wrangler 20x- Closed Cell Foam/Synthetic Top, Justin-Closed Cell Foam, Equibrand-Closed Cell Foam/Felt Top, Reinsman- Tacky Tac Bottom, Synthetic Top, Toklok-Needled Felt, Slone-F15, 5 Star- F11, Tacky Tac – Tacky Tac w/ Blanket Cover, and Coolback-Synthetic Fleece. This seems like a lot of brands, but one has to realize that on any given trip as many as 45 head of mules and horses can be saddled or packed. Plus this outfitter had been searching for years to find a pad that would assist in compression protection and cooling.

The findings were exactly as we suspected. Open and closed cell foams, layered felt foams; synthetic felts and fleeces did NOT cool and trapped heat. Temperatures were significantly higher. The felt pads were the only materials that kept consistently lower temperatures. In one case with one of the solid neoprene pads one horse's back was so tender after use that it could not be used for two days.

The data speaks for itself and we only mention the name brands because out of these, Slone and 5 Star were his only wool felts. The rest of the pads were all neoprene or neoprene/felt combination pads (synthetic or F15 felt tops) and synthetic fleece.

### Compression Protection

*Compression protection* with pad materials is easily measurable and is a direct function of tensile strength and rebound resistance in terms of pounds per square inch. The chart below represents data taken directly from the American Materials and Testing Institute, International Felting Standards, Automobile Testing Institute and material manufacturers.

#### Data:

#### Felt /Foam Grades Compression Rating (PSI) Tensile Strength (PSI)

**F10 Felt 8.0 psi 225**

**F11 Felt 6.0 psi 200**

**F15 Felt 2.0 psi 75**

**Open Cell Foam 2.0 psi 75**

**Closed Cell Foam 2.0 psi 40**

*continued on next page . . .*



## Memory Cell Foam 1.5 psi or less 40

## Tacky Tac 1.5 psi or less N/A

## Synthetic Fleece 1.0 psi N/A

(Note: These are the foams and felts typically used for saddle pad materials.) Gel Paks and Air Bladders measurements at "bottom out points" are generally 1.5-2.00 or less and because of the material flexibility it is hard to get accurate ratings. Tensile strength is not an issue because it is normally bonded or sandwiched with some other material(s).

### Conclusion:

Good ol' common sense really needs to prevail with saddle padding. Remember - First if the "shoe don't fit, the shoe still won't fit with lots of socks." If the saddle doesn't fit, no padding in the world will solve the problem. In fact additional padding can, in many cases, shift the problem elsewhere or create additional cinching and soreing. It also must be pointed out that with a good custom saddle, thinner padding can be the answer.

Over the long haul with or without good saddle fit, high quality wool felt

materials are the best bet. If your intent is to only ride for 30-45 minutes and activity will be minimal; likely no harm will be done using foam, tacky or neoprene material, but can be very uncomfortable to the animal.

Bottom line is if you spend \$5000 for a horse, \$3000 for saddle and \$60 for a pad something is not computing. If you wouldn't wear the material on a hot or cold day WHY in the world do you think it would be good for them?

### Points to Ponder:

- If the saddles don't fit they can push pads out the back.
- A saddle tree may be warped if it pushes the pad out the back and to the side.
- If you wouldn't wear that stuff for underpants or socks why put it on the animal!
- Synthetic pads have the highest profit margin for makers.
- Sweat pouring off a back is like you standing on ice with tennis shoes on a hill!
- Do you like having bandages pulled off your hairy arms? So

how do you think tacky material feels to an animal?

- Wool felt pads are easily cleaned!
- Synthetic fleeced saddle skirting is slick and will present problems with most pads.
- Don't be fooled by Patent Pending in advertising.
- Synthetic foams are not UV light resistant and break down.
- Synthetic foams break down from heat and salts of the animal.
- Fire or strong acids are the only thing that will harm wool.
- All pads will contract and spread disease when not cleaned if infection exists.
- Pinch pads with thumb and fingers. If you can feel the other digit it likely has bad compression protection.
- Buy for function first, then looks.
- Don't be fooled by gimmick terms and pictures.
- Ask construction specifications of retailer and manufacturer.

## How Many Horses Does It Take To Change A Light Bulb??

**Thoroughbred:** Who ME?? Do WHAT? I'm scared of light bulbs! I'm outta here!

**Arabian:** I changed it an hour ago. C'mon you guys - catch up!

**Quarter Horse:** Put all the bulbs in a pen and tell me which one you want.

**Standardbred:** Oh for Pete's Sake, give me the darn bulb and let's be done with it.

**Shetland:** Give it to me. I'll kill it and we won't have to worry about it anymore.

**Friesian:** I would, but I can't see where I'm going from behind all this mane.

**Belgian:** Put the Shetland on my back, maybe he can reach it then.

**Warmblood:** Is the 2nd Level Instruction Packet in English? Doesn't anyone realize that I was sold for \$75K as a yearling, but only because my hocks are bad, otherwise I would be worth \$100K? I am NOT changing lightbulbs. Make the TB get back here and do it.

**Morgan:** Me! Me! Me! Pleease let me! I wanna do it! I'm gonna do it! I know

how, really I do! Just watch! I'll re-wire the barn after, too.

**Appaloosa:** Ya'll are a bunch of losers. We don't need to change the lightbulb, I ain't scared of the dark. And someone make that darn Morgan stop jumping up and down before I double barrel him.

**Haflinger:** That thing I ate was a lightbulb?

**Mustang:** Lightbulb? Let's go on a trail ride, instead. And camp. Out in the open like REAL horses.

**Lipizzaner:** Hah, amateurs. I will change the lightbulb. Not only that, but I will do it while standing on my hind legs and balancing it on my nose, after which I will perform seven flying lead changes in a row and a capriole. Can you do that? Huh? Huh? Didn't think so.

**Miniature:** I bet you think I can't do it just cause I'm small. You know what that is? It's sizeism!

**Akhal Teke:** I will only change it if it's my owner's lightbulb and no one else has ever touched it.

**Andalusian:** I will delegate the changing of the lightbulb to my personal groom after he finishes shampooing my mane and cleaning my saddle, but only on the condition that it is changed for a soft blue or green bulb, which reflects better off my coat while I exhibit my astonishing gaits.

**Cleveland Bay:** I'm busy. Make the whipper-in and the hounds do it.

**Saddlebred:** My ears are up already, please, please get the lightbulb away from me! I'm ready to show, really, I promise I'll win!

**Paint:** Put all the lightbulbs in a pen, tell me which one you want, and my owner will bet you twenty bucks I can get it before the quarter horse.

**POA:** I'm not changing it. I'm the one who kicked the old one and broke it in the first place, remember? Now, excuse me, I have a grain room to break into.

**Grade Horse:** Guys? Um, guys? I hope you don't mind, but I went ahead and changed it while you were all arguing.

# NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE

## 2012 Raffle

**Drawing  
Saturday,  
March 10, 2012**

**Need not be  
present to Win**

One ticket for \$10  
3 tickets for \$25  
7 tickets for \$50  
15 tickets for \$100

Purchase with cash,  
check, money order  
or pay online.

To purchase tickets:  
go to [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org),  
email [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org),  
or call 303-688-1677.

For ride information:  
contact Mark & Theresa  
Smith, North American  
MLP Equestrian Repre-  
sentatives, at [equestriantrekking@gmail.com](mailto:equestriantrekking@gmail.com),  
916-769-7701.

**Proceeds benefit  
NATRC educational  
activities.**

Raffle Coordinator:  
Bev Roberts  
[matefey@gmail.com](mailto:matefey@gmail.com)



## **MACHU PICCHU Lodge-to-Lodge 7-day Horseback Ride**

*Adventure at its finest!*

Experience the archeological  
wonders, history and natural  
beauty of Peru on horseback.  
Prize includes a voucher of up  
to \$1,000 to apply to air fare.  
Total value \$4,000.

Select from these  
2012 ride dates:

April..... 3rd, 26th  
May..... 5th, 13th, 27th  
June....10th, 15th, 30th  
July..... 12th, 24th  
August.. 4th, 18th, 31st  
September.... 9th, 20th  
October ..... 11th, 25th  
November..... 6th, 26th



**Mountain Lodges of Peru**  
*adventure at its finest*

We are pleased to  
thank MLP for their  
generous donation.

**NATRC** 

# NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE

PO Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135, 303-688-1677, Fax 303-688-3022  
www.natrc.org, natrc@natrc.org



## MEMBERSHIP FORM - RENEW, JOIN OR PURCHASE ITEMS ONLINE AT WWW.NATRC.ORG

Memberships run from January 1-December 31. We offer eight membership plans: four Regular; two Lifetime and two Platinum. The Platinum plans receive all the benefits of the Regular plans plus personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit.

### CHECK PLAN DESIRED

**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP:** All memberships include: electronic national newsletter-*Hoof Print*, your region's newsletter, E-News subscription, eligibility for annual national and regional high score awards and championships, horse and rider mileage awards, reduced ride entry fees, sponsor discounts, and automatic membership in your region.

- ☐ **FAMILY**..... \$90 /yr Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes)  
☐ **SINGLE** ..... \$60 /yr Single adult member (1 vote)  
☐ **ASSOCIATE**... \$50 /yr Equine-related groups or businesses only (no vote)  
☐ **JUNIOR**..... \$40 /yr Single Junior member under age 18 (no vote)

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP:** One time membership payment.

- ☐ **FAMILY**..... \$10,000 Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes)  
☐ **SINGLE** ..... \$ 5,000 Single adult member (1 vote)

**PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP:** Platinum members receive insurance benefits thorough Association Resource Group-ARG. Platinum members receive personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit. Coverage is for claims brought against members of NATRC (Platinum) arising from the use and /or ownership of a horse and for horse-related accidents involving third party bodily injury or property damage. Coverage will apply when engaged in any horse related activity, and coverage is in excess of any existing valid and collectible insurance. There is no deductible. Professional Liability is not included. Business exposures are excluded.

- ☐ **FAMILY**..... \$130 /yr Household of 1 or 2 adults & children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes)  
☐ **SINGLE** ..... \$ 80 /yr Single adult member (1 vote)

**ANNUAL LIFETIME MEMBER PLATINUM UPGRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Single \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 Family

### NATRC Specialties (Optional)

- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00  
☐ 10" Round NATRC Emblem Sticker.. \$5.00  
☐ 4" Round NATRC Emblem Sticker.. \$3.00

A 2012 Rule Book is free with your membership. The Rule Book can be downloaded now from [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org) or a hard copy requested from the office by email, [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org) in early 2012.

**\$ TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_ (Colorado residents please add 2.9% on Specialty Items)

No access to a computer in order to receive your electronic *Hoof Print*? To receive a print copy, please check here: ☐

**Please list first and last names, especially those with different last names, of all competing family members.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Jr(s) Birthdates \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**(WE REALLY NEED THIS TO UPDATE OUR DATABASE.  
IT WILL NOT GO OUTSIDE OF NATRC. THANKS!)**

New member? Will you share how you found out about NATRC? \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mail completed form and check to : NATRC, PO Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135**

\*\*\*\*\*





## The Leadline

Phil Young  
674 La Porte Rd  
Quincy, CA 95971

