



TheVoice of NATRC Region One Competitive Trail Riding

The Leadline

Direct Rein

A method of using the rein in which the rider communicates directly to the horse via his mouth

*Angie Meroshnekoff
Region One Chair*

Is it Spring yet??? I'm so confused, but can you imagine what our horses must be thinking? Long dry winter so they think they don't really need that wooly winter coat, and then it snows!

To everyone who made it through that snow to the National Convention, it was great to see you and I wish we'd had even more time to visit. For those of you who couldn't make the trip, I am sorry because you missed a very nice weekend with good speakers and a chance to catch up with friends. Oh, and the shopping was outstanding. Region Two really did an outstanding job with their turn at putting on a National; we sure had fun.

I want to take this time to really thank outgoing board member Debbie Murphy for all her hard work and dedication to the board and to our sport. I know she's still there to help out, but we'll miss her on the board. And welcome to our newest board member Robyn Berwick. It's great to have a new voice on the board, and I'm looking forward to another year of working with our terrific Board of Directors. I

will once again be Chairman, Phil Young will stay on as Treasurer, and Robyn Berwick is going to jump right in as board Secretary. National board members are Jamie Dieterich and Jan Jeffers, with Bob Goulding as alternate. The remaining board members are Steve Meroshnekoff, Kathie Schmidt, and Lynne Hutnick. There is lots of information in this issue of the *Leadline*, so read it carefully. Kathie Schmidt has proposed a theme for this year—"Bring A Friend"—and I think it really suits the philosophy of our sport. (For details, see page 12.)

You may have noticed that the Hoof Trek ride has been cancelled for this year. Karel and Bob Waugh have put in a lot of work up to this point, but changes at Fort Ord prevent us having a ride there at this time. With any luck, a new camping grounds can be found so we can use the park again for rides. There are two new rides, the Georgetown ride in June and our own Mendocino ride in August, so we should have a nice season.

Gotta go dust off my saddle and get the fat off my horse. See you on the trail!

—Angie

Winter/Spring 2007

In this issue:

Convention Report

Year-End Awards

*Revised 2007 Ride
Calendar*

Region One
North American Trail Ride
Conference
www.natrc.org

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**2006 REGION ONE
AWARDS PRESENTION
February 25, 2007**

Welcome by Jamie Dieterich

***Dedication to
Dan Barnes and George Cardinet***

Meeting MC: Jamie Dieterich
Membership/Voting: Phil Young,
Jim Ferris
Meal Arrangements: Sue Flagg
Caterer: John Ascuaga's Nugget,
Sparks, Nevada
Photographer: Debra Foote
Awards: Kathy Nixon
Program: Sue Flagg and Jamie
Dieterich
Pictures: Jamie Dieterich, Matt
Simas

Region One also sends special
thanks and appreciation to Jim and
Jan Jeffers for all their work on
the first place awards. Jim did the
beautiful embroidery work on the
blankets and vests. This year the
Jefferses also donated the vests
and embroidery for the first place
awards.

Outgoing Board Members: Sue
Flagg and Debbie Murphy
Incoming Board Members: Jan
Jeffers, Phil Young
(re-elected), and Robyn
Berwick

Membership Renewal

Does your mailing label show
that your membership expired in
2006? If so, this is your last is-
sue of *Leadline* and it's time to
renew! Renewal forms can be
found in *Hoof Print* magazine.

REGION ONE APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES

Karen Riddle

A Toast by Linda Thomason

Several years ago, I pulled into the Mt. Diablo ride and squished my way to the back of the sand arena to park. Later that day I found myself dragging the muck bucket to the front of the arena—when a smiling lady popped up at my side to assist. She made the brilliant suggestion that we should share one muck bucket so we could help each other empty it. The laughing eyes, the warm smile, the glass of wine! Karen Riddle and her smile ease the pain of anyone who appears confused, lost, or just plain tired out.

During the past couple of years, with horses that were unable to compete, we teamed up to work on Outreach. Karen is a born natural for this job! She greets perfect strangers with the same warm welcome as the rest of her NATRC family. Out on the trail, Karen is one of those riders who always stops to help others. She has worked on P&R teams. She has made table decorations for conventions.

A tireless worker, she believes in the NATRC philosophies and does her best to promote our sport. She can always be relied upon to follow through with her promises and help where needed.

So the next time you're in camp and a charming lady walks by with a wine glass in her hand, you'll know who it is! Please join me in toasting Karen Riddle—NATRC rider, wonder worker, and just darn nice person.

Mark and Sandy Reese

by Karel Waugh

In 1997, Jim Ferris and I put on an NATRC clinic for an equestrian club that was interested in putting on a ride. Although no one in the club had ever even been to a ride, with the help of this couple and Summit Riders, we put on a successful ride.

Since that time, the Hoof Trek ride has been sponsored by the Marina Horsemen's Association, Summit Riders, and NATRC Region One. Although many individuals varied, one couple remained responsible for laying out the trails, marking them, coming up with judging sites, and coordinating with BLM and the Army.

I can honestly say I have never worked with such organized and hard working people as Sandy and Mark Reese. Neither had ever ridden a ride but had worked on other sporting events. They marked the trails from horseback, from bicycle, and even when jogging on their lunch hour. Because of vandalism of trail markings on ride day, Mark re-marks the trails all day during ride day. Sandy has been responsible for doing the maps and timing the ride—doing an excellent job at both.

Thank-you, Sandy and Mark, for all your hard work through the years. We could not have done it without you. You always went above and beyond the call of duty and for that we thank you so much.

Continued on Page 3

Kay Lieberknecht

by Debbie Murphy

The recipient of this award in 2006 is and has been responsible for most of the competing Juniors in NATRC Region One. Kay tirelessly brings horses for the Juniors to ride, mentoring and coaching them the entire weekend. Whether in camp or on the trail, Kay devotes herself to “her kids.” The rewards are many, as the Juniors are the future of our sport.

Few adults are willing to sacrifice their riding for kids unrelated to them. Kay is one person who always puts others before herself. Her stewardship of the Juniors is uncompromised. She encourages good citizenship, demands good horsemanship, and provides the environment for them to learn.

When we see that red stock-trailer coming, we know that “Kay’s kids” have arrived! Thank you, Kay, for being there for our youth. You are a blessing to them and it is a privilege for Region One to honor you.

REGIONAL APPRECIATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Neil & Kitty Weber
Jack & Mary Chandler
(Text Published in Hoof Print)

Awards Presentation
continued on page 4

Award Sponsorships

Barthart Award—Phil and Betty Young
Bob Smith Perpetual Award—Tom & Nancy Kasovich
Pat Ersepke Memorial Award—Bob & Jamie Dieterich
Fran & Carol Duport Award—Lynne Hutnick & Lynda Burch
Max Barmettler Award—Kathy Nixon in memory of Bill Nixon
Junior Team Awards—Sue Flagg
First Place Horsemanship Awards (including embroidery)—
Jim & Jan Jeffers
Dr. Bob & Charlotte Goulding
Robyn Berwick
Debbie Murphy, in memory of That Beau Thriller
Debra Foote, in memory of Kathy Williams
Bev Barmettler
Nancy Bacon
Bob & Marlene Takle
Joe & Ashley Dillard
Josette Brault

Region One Board of Directors

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Lynne Hutnick (530) 887-8674
Kathie Schmidt (408) 358-3557

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Wonder Worker Recruitment
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Hoof Print Editor
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cristy@horse-photography.com

See *Hoof Print* for National Board, Committees, and Secretaries

NATRC Home Page:
www.NATRC.org

NATRC/CTR Listserve info:

REGION ONE AWARDS

NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT—HORSEMANSHIP

- 6th Barbara Berlitz
- 5th Linda Cannon
- 4th Deanna Darling
- 3rd Robyn Berwick
- 2nd Gene Boicelli
- 1st Danine Simas

NOVICE LIGHTWEIGHT—HORSEMANSHIP

- 6th Michelle Pimentel
- 5th Janet Berkey
- 4th Mary Jones
- 3rd Kay Lieberknecht
- 2nd Stacy James-Ryan
- 1st Susan Stillman

NOVICE JUNIOR—HORSEMANSHIP

- 4th Marissa McBride
- 3rd Katya D'Andrea
- 2nd Savannah Malatesta (tie)
Josie Hunter (tie)
- 1st Olivia Armstrong

NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT—HORSE

- 6th Bailey/Grade/Joe Pimentel
- 5th Brix-Count Rimal/Arab/
Deanna Darling
- 4th Tura Lura (tie)/Oth/Linda
Cannon
DM's Mingo (tie)/M-Fx/
Robyn Berwick
- 3rd Tuscany/H-Arab/Barbara
Berlitz
- 2nd Autumnstar/Arab/Danine
Simas
- 1st Phantom Dusk/Arab/Gene
Boicelli

NOVICE LIGHTWEIGHT—HORSE

- 6th Deux Chausette/Arab/Mary
Jones
- 5th Cocoa/Walk/Ursula Worthen
- 4th Royal Prancer/Pfin/Michelle
Pimentel
- 3rd Morgaine De Faye/Arab/
Stacy James-Ryan
- 2nd BMM Nike Heir/Morg/Janet
Berkey
- 1st Cassanova/Grade/Susan
Stillman

NOVICE JUNIOR—HORSE

- 5th Missy Tee Smooth/Grade/
Olivia Armstrong
- 4th Valentyne/Grade/Josie
Hunter
- 3rd Tosca BL/Arab/Katya
D'Andrea
- 2nd Cayenne/Must/Olivia
Armstrong
- 1st Chi/Must/Savanah
Malatesta

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE—HORSEMANSHIP

- 6th Patricia Lee Anderson
- 5th Art Johnson
- 4th Carolyn Johnson
- 3rd Debra Foote
- 2nd Debbie Murphy
- 1st Denise Tortorelli

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE—HORSE

- 6th IBN Ecclipse/Arab/Patricia
Lee Anderson
- 5th Steelie Dan/Arab/Art
Johnson
- 4th El Nabiyah/Arab/Debra
Foote
- 3rd Sneakers/Grade/Carolyn
Johnson
- 2nd Lisette/Arab/Debbie Murphy
- 1st Zues/Grade/Denise
Tortorelli

OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT—HORSEMANSHIP

- 6th Kathryn Kennard
- 5th Jennifer Rader
- 4th Andrea Hurn
- 3rd Jean Armer
- 2nd Susan Dockter
- 1st Joe Dillard

OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT—HORSEMANSHIP

- 4th Alicia Dayton
- 3rd Laura Berkley
- 2nd Ashley Dillard
- 1st Angie Meroshnekoff (tie)
Lynne Hutnick (tie)

OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT—HORSE

- 6th Bobbisoxx Too Go/Arab/Bob
Takle

- 5th Abdul Latif BL/Arab/
Jennifer Rader
- 4th Shadow (tie)/Grade/
Andrea Hurn
Ibn Nickajoy Nijinsky (tie)/
H-Arab/Kathryn Kennard
- 3rd Cimarron AL/Arab/Jean
Armer
- 2nd Avalonn/H-Arab/Susan
Dockter
- 1st WK Spring Sonnet/Arab/
Joe Dillard

OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT—HORSE

- 4th Desert Reinbeau/Must/
Angie Meroshnekoff
- 3rd El Morafics Shalom/Arab/
Lynne Hutnick
- 2nd WW Steeleaseyn/Arab/
Ashley Dillard
- 1st Ibn El Barak/Arab/Laura
Berkley

OPEN JUNIOR—HORSE

- 1st Majik/Grade/Ben Grasso-
Underwood

REGION ONE HIGH-POINT BREED AWARDS:

- Missouri Foxtrotter—DM's Mingo/
Robyn Berwick
- Morgan—BMM Nike Heir/Janet
Berkey
- Mustang—Desert Reinbeau/Angie
Meroshnekoff (tie)
Chi/Savanah Malatesta &
Olivia Armstrong (tie)
- Paso Fino—Royal Prancer/Michelle
Pimentel
- Tennessee Walker—Cocoa/Ursula
Worthen
- Connemara Cross—Tura Lura/Linda
Cannon
- Rocky Mountain—Buddy/Bret
Buckler
- Warmblood—Alderon/Susan Coale
Grade—Cassanova/Susan Stillman
H/Arab—Avalonn/Susan Dockter
Arab—Ibn Al Barak/Laura Berkley
& Alicia Dayton

Continued on Page 5

REGION ONE AWARDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

TEAM AWARDS

These Regional Championships were announced at the National Convention Awards Banquet in Sparks, Nevada. They are awarded for combined horse and horsemanship. All points for rides in which the same horse and rider combination competed are added together. At least three rides must be completed to qualify for annual awards.

NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT

- 6th Brix-Count Rimal/Arab/
Deanna Darling
- 5th Tura Lura/Othr/Linda
Cannon
- 4th Tuscany/H-Arab/Barbara
Berlitz
- 3rd DM's Mingo/M-Fx/Robyn
Berwick
- 2nd Autumnstar/Arab/Danine
Simas
- 1st Phantom Dusk/Arab/Gene
Boicelli

NOVICE LIGHTWEIGHT

- 6th Cocoa/Walk/Ursula
Worthen
- 5th Royal Prancer/Pfin/
Michelle Pimentel
- 4th Deux Chausette/Arab/Mary
Jones
- 3rd Morgaine De Faye/Arab/
Stacy James-Ryan
- 2nd BMM Nike Heir/Morg/
Janet Berkey
- 1st Cassanova/Grade/Susan
Stillman

NOVICE JUNIOR

Sponsor: Sue Flagg

- 3rd Valentyne/Grade/Josie
Hunter (tie)
Chi/Must/Olivia Armstrong
(tie)
- 2nd Tosca BL/Arab/Katya
D'Andrea
- 1st Chi/Must/Savanah
Malatesta

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE

- 6th Ibn Ecclipse/Arab/Patricia
Lee Anderson
- 5th Steelie Dan/Arab/Art
Johnson
- 4th El Nabiyah/Arab/Debra
Foote
- 3rd Sneakers/Grade/Carolyn
Johnson
- 2nd Lisette/Arab/ Debbie
Murphy
- 1st Zues/Grade/Denise
Tortorelli

OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT

- 2nd Avalonn/H-Arab/Susan
Dockter
- 1st WK Spring Sonnet/Arab/
Joe Dillard

OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT

- 4th Ibn El Barak/Arab/
Laura Berkley
- 3rd Desert Reinbeau/Must/
Angie Meroshnekoff
- 2nd El Morafics Shalom/Arab/
Lynne Hutnick
- 1st WW Steeleaseyn/Arab/
Ashley Dillard

OPEN JUNIOR

Sponsor: Sue Flagg

- 1st Majik/Grade/Ben Grasso-
Underwood

REGION ONE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

- Desert Reinbeau/Must/Angie
Meroshnekoff
- WK Spring Sonnet/Arab/Joe Dillard
- WW Steeleaseyn +// /Arab/Ashley Dil-
lard

NATIONAL AWARDS

OVERALL OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP

- 4th Angie Meroshnekoff—103
points

OVERALL OPEN JUNIOR HORSE

- 3rd Majik/Ben Grasso—18
points

OVERALL OPEN JUNIOR HORSEMANSHIP

- 2nd Ben Grasso—20 points

OVERALL COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSE

- 4th Zues/Denise Tortorelli—
98.22%
- 5th Lisette/Debbie Murphy—
97.90%

OVERALL COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSEMANSHIP

- 3rd Denise Tortorelli—99.35%

MILEAGE AWARDS

1000 MILE HORSE

- Stormin Sonny/Jennifer Raxter

3000 MILE HORSE

- Desert Reinbeau/Angie
Meroshnekoff

HIGH-MILEAGE HORSE MEDALLION AWARD BRONZE MEDALLION

- 4460—WW Steeleaseyn+// /Ashley
Dillard

HIGH-MILEAGE RIDER MEDALLION AWARD BRONZE MEDALLION

- 4480—Ashley Dillard

NATIONAL APPRECIATION AWARD

- Bob Goulding, D.V.M.
(Text published in Hoof Print)

NATRC WORKERS HALL OF FAME 2006

- Steve Meroshnekoff
(Text published in Hoof Print)

Awards Presentation
continued on Page 6

REGION ONE WONDER WORKERS

Jackets awarded to Jim Ferris and Jim Shura for working 30+ rides

REGION ONE SPECIAL AWARDS

BOB SMITH AWARD

High-Point First-Year Novice or CP horse

Sponsors: Tom & Nancy Kasovich

*Phantom Dusk ridden by Gene Boicelli
(Novice HWT)*

PAT ERSEPKE AWARD

*High-Point Novice horse/rider combo
(minimum of 4 rides completed)*

Sponsors: Bob & Jamie Dieterich

Cassanova ridden by Susan Stillman

FRAN & CAROL DUPORE AWARD

High-Point First-Year Open horse

Sponsors: Lynne Hutnick & Lynda Burch

*Ibn El Barak ridden by Laura Berkley
and Alicia Dayton*

GILROY HOT SPRINGS

NATRC RIDE

May 26-27, 2007

A Open/CP, B Novice

This year's ride is in the spring with beautiful wildflowers, views of the coast and fabulous wildlife, great awards and raffle. Introduce someone new to NATRC! For more information, contact: Ride Chairman, Jim Jeffers—408/998-7699; Ride Secretary, Mary Atwood—408/779-9594; email: smha@garlic.com

2006 MAX BARMETTLER AWARD

Outstanding Service to Region One

Sponsored by Kathy Nixon in memory of Bill Nixon

Awarded to JIM FERRIS

by Phil Young

As most of you already know, this award is named in fond remembrance of our dear, and deeply missed, friend, Max Barmettler, a man who exemplified the kind of person we simply can't do without—the one who will do any job asked. The award is an Honorary Lifetime Region One membership, and was established by his wife, Beverly, to thank those who have contributed generously in support of Region One over a long period of time. While it is considered to be primarily a workers' award with first thought given to those who work at the rides themselves, occasionally it is given to someone who contributes in other capacities as well.

Tonight's recipient is one such person.

Always there to greet you with a smile and some pleasantries with his charming accent, Jim Ferris came from Australia in 1969 and acquired his first horse in 1978 in Colorado. After moving to California, he happened to attend a NATRC clinic put on by Joan Throgmorton in 1980. His first competition was on his horse Taj in 1981 at the Old Uvas Dam ride. Joan had hooked him just as she had many others. He has competed regularly since then, sometimes in Regions Two and Three as well, accumulating over 4,700 miles, many Region One placings, and several National Championships.

In 1989 Jim obtained his Horsemanship Judge's card. He usually judges several times a year and has done so in all six regions. You can always bet he will have some sort of challenging obstacle out there for you on the trail and that he will have his results figured out before anyone else.

In addition to working P&Rs many times when not riding, he was Chairman of our Benefit ride once and has been Trailmaster many times. His chores included bringing, setting up, and filling water troughs for the horses. He also served as "parking valet" at the Gilroy Ride for many years.

Always interested in NATRC affairs, Jim began his administrative services in 1989 when he was appointed to the Region One BOD to fill a vacancy. He served on both the Region One and National BODs from 1991 through 2001, a total of 12 years on the Region One BOD. He has served multiple terms as our Chairman, Points Chairman, and Membership Chairman.

Which brings me to one of Jim's other valuable contributions: the elegant computer program he developed in 1990 to handle our Points and Membership record keeping needs. (I guess it helps to be a top notch computer programmer!) Originally someone else's idea, he spent countless hours turning it into the professional program we still use today. He has continued as our Points/Membership Chair since his retirement from the BOD after 2001.

Jim certainly meets the criteria for this coveted award. As his friend, and having known and worked with him for many years, I feel extra pleasure in presenting this well earned honor to him today, the 2006 Max Barmettler Award.

BARTHART AWARD

High Average Open Horse

(minimum average 97%, minimum 6 rides started)

Sponsored by Phil & Betty Young, presented by Phil Young

Awarded to IBN EL BARAK, owned by Laura Berkley, ridden by Laura Berkley and Alicia Dayton

Continued on Page 7

I'm very pleased to be presenting this Award again this morning, for the tenth year. The Barthart Award is given each year to the qualifying Region One Open horse with the highest average score for the ride season, rather than the highest number of points. A consistent level of excellence over the entire ride season is the key ingredient for winning.

Bart is one of NATRC's National Hall of Fame horses, elected in 1991. He completed over 7,100 miles of Open division competition during his eleven-year NATRC career, ridden by both Betty and our son, David.

Bart's defining attribute was his exceptional consistency, and this perpetual Region One award was established in his name to encourage, recognize, and reward consistently superior performance by horses in the Open division.

As most experienced riders know, one bad ride can ruin your average for the year. Qualifying for this award is difficult. The average number of horses to do so over the last ten years is less than three per season, and in 2006 we had only one horse that qualified.

Betty couldn't be here today, but, since she knows the horses better than I do, she wrote the following: "The first time I ever saw our winner was at the Hoof Trek ride last April. Since I was the Vet Judge Secretary, I had the opportunity to observe him many times during the weekend. All I could think was how absolutely charming and adorable this little guy was. He was only five years old at the time and this was his very first Open ride. He was the quintessential wide-eyed innocent. Although he seemed to be in awe of it all, his behavior was impeccable! I was so impressed with him that weekend, but had no idea what a wonderful competitive trail horse he would turn out to be."

As is tradition, I would like to ask Angie Meroshnekoff, whose horse, Desert Reinbeau, won the Bart Award for the past two years, if she would please join me in presenting the trophy to the winner for 2006.

Our winner has already been presented with other major awards this morning: High Point first year Open Horse and High Point Open Lightweight Horse. He has made it a clean sweep by winning the Barthart High Average Award for 2006. What a debut year!! I'm sure this horse has a long and successful future in front of him. I'm delighted to present the trophy to IBN EL BARAK, a now six-year-old Arabian gelding, owned and ridden by Laura Berkley. He was also ridden on the first two rides last year by Alicia Dayton.

Congratulations to the entire team!

NOVICE JUNIOR YEAR-END PLACINGS, REVISED

Novice Junior—Horse

Pl	Horse	Breed	Rider	Pts	Miles	1
1	Chi	Must	Malatesta, Savannah	39	140	
2	Cayenne	Must	Armstrong, Olivia	21	100	
3	Tosca BL	Arab	D'Andrea, Katya	20	60	
4	Valentyne	Grad	Hunter, Josie	15	60	
5	Missy Tee Smooth	Grad	Armstrong, Olivia	7	40	*

Novice Junior—Rider

Pl	Rider	Pts	Miles
1	Armstrong, Olivia	39	140
2	Hunter, Josie	25	80
2	Malatesta, Savannah	25	100
3	D'Andrea, Katya	20	60
4	McBride, Marissa	14	60

Novice Junior—Combined

Pl	Horse	Breed	Rider	Pts
1	Chi	Must	Malatesta, Savannah	46
2	Tosca BL	Arab	D'Andrea, Katya	40
3	Chi	Must	Armstrong, Olivia	33
3	Valentyne	Grad	Hunter, Josie	33

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THE LEADLINE is the official publication of Region One of the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC). **The Leadline** is published quarterly and mailed 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 to **Jill Owens, Editor, 21999 Del Puerto Canyon Road, Livermore, CA 94550. Email: jillowens@gmail.com**

Contributions are welcome. 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 in spelling of horses' or riders' names.

2007 Deadlines

Spring—May 15; Summer—August 15; Fall—Nov. 15

Advertising rates per issue: Full page—\$40; half-page—\$20; quarter page—\$10; business card—\$5.

Classified ads free to R1 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 **Editor** and make checks payable to **NATRC Region One**.

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REGION ONE RIDE SCHEDULE 2007

*May 5	Mt. Diablo Ellen Pofcher Martha Flannery (Sec'y)	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 673-9858	"B" O/N/CP quincy68@aol.com
*May 19	Mt. Quarry Marilyn Hunter	Auburn, CA (530) 885-4819	"B" O/N/CP mhunter@onemain.com
*May 26-27	Gilroy Hot Springs Jim Jeffers	Gilroy, CA (408) 779-4722	"A" O/CP; "B" N sleeeker@garlic.com
*June 23	Georgetown NATRC Helen Steenman	Georgetown, CA (530) 333-4364	"B" O/N/CP hlInbak@foothill.net
*July 14-15	Swanton Emma McCrary	Davenport, CA (831) 423-4365	"A" O/CP; "B" N iemma@pacbell.net
**July 21-22	Bald Mountain Butt Buster To be announced	Wasilla, AK	"A" O/CP/N
*July 28-29	Challenge of the North Lezlie Wilfer Laurie Knuutila	Fairbanks, AK (907) 474-4631 (907) 378-9190	"A" O/CP; "B" N wilfer@acsalaska.net wildroseph@yahoo.com
**Aug. 11-12	Hat Creek Mary Chandler	Hat Creek, CA (530) 547-4675 (530) 335-7183	"A" O/CP/ N before April 1 after April 1 jcnmary2@c-zone.net
*August 25	Mendocino County Steve Meroshnekoff	To be announced (707) 743-9973	"B" O/N/CP iambrewing@aol.com
*Sept. 8-9	Mt. Diablo To be announced	Clayton, CA	"A" O/CP; "B" N
*September 29	Almaden Valley Judy Etheridge	San Jose, CA (925) 862-0232	"B" O/N/CP misxfire@ewnet.net

* Confirmed

** Tentative – based on 2006 information

Mustang Dressage

This trail rider found dressage training a welcomed necessity.

By Jill Owens

Recently I heard myself tell someone, “I’m a dressage rider.” Yikes! When did that happen? I think it began when I decided to own a horse once again after 30 years out of the saddle, and my intention was to mosey around our California ranch. When the moseying was disrupted by steering problems, I sought help from dressage trainer Martha Gregory. I was not a dressage rider then. I was a trail rider

using dressage to enhance my trail work.

We quickly got the steering problems worked out and I decided to try competitive distance riding. I joined NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) and competed in the Novice Division in 2004. At the season’s end, my horse was the regional high-point horse in our division, and we won a high-point team award as well. I kept taking dressage lessons and they kept improving our trail work, but I began to realize that something else was also happening—the trail work was helping with our dressage.

When I first got my horse Gypsy, a BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Mustang, she was lazy and slow—the perfect speed for

during a dressage test. Riding around a court doesn’t faze her after the hundreds of trail miles we’ve traveled together through parks and wilderness areas.

One winter we had record rains, and my little backyard arena was under water all season. I was forced to use the ranch roads and trails to practice my dressage work, and I made the happy discovery that new things often came more easily to us out on the trail. My first success with walk-to-canter transitions was on the road going toward home. Gypsy offered her most enthusiastic lengthenings out on the open trail. I use the hills to build the hindquarters while practicing leg-yield, shoulder-in and haunches-in. The curves in the path are perfect for schooling counter-canter and simple changes. (Someday I’ll use those same curves to school flying changes.) Gentle uphill grades engage the hindquarters and give me a chance to refine my sitting trot, and I know my half-halts are working if I can sit the downhill trots. Collection is easier to achieve uphill, when the weight is already on the haunches.

Lately, I’ve been using our trail rides to school square halts. I have found I can do virtually any kind of work involving gaits, transitions and lateral movements out on the trail. The only work I cannot do is riding figures, and I get plenty of practice with that during lessons.

Gradually, without my realizing it, I had made the shift from a trail rider cross-training in dressage to a dressage rider cross-training on the trails. In the 2005 season, my horse won the USDF Mustang All-Breeds Award for Training Level, and we’re now working diligently on our First and Second Level skills. I will never give up trail riding, but there’s no denying the fact that I have made the transition to dressage!

Reprinted from the “Transitions” column of *Dressage Today*, January 2007

Barbara Boehme



Jill Owens and Gypsy, her BLM Mustang

a mid-50s person coming back to riding. Then two things happened: She became fit and conditioned for distance riding, and she caught the competitive bug. With that, she became more forward out on the trail, she stopped jigging, and her strides lengthened. I was pleased to find out that this forward impulsion transferred to the dressage arena. Earlier dressage score sheets had read “lazy” and “needs to be more forward.” Now I actually had a forward horse! The competitive riding helped us evolve as a team. There’s nothing like going twenty-five miles in a day to develop mutual understanding and collaboration, and it happens easily in the context of an activity that feels more like play than work.

Back in the dressage arena, the harmony continued. All those hours in the saddle have improved my riding, too. Anytime there’s some new position or feel I’m trying to develop, I have all the time in the world to experiment with it while going down the trail.

Our trail adventures have improved Gypsy’s mind. Mustangs are, by nature, very vigilant, and Gypsy had led a sheltered life before I got her, so spookiness was a big issue. The more places I’ve taken her, the more blasé she’s become about new experiences, including dressage shows. She has never once spooked

MTN MIST MIRAGE+/ 1991-2006

My Arab/Appaloosa gelding, Mtn Mist Mirage+/, is now gone to greener pastures after suffering a brain aneurysm on September 7, 2006 at the age of fifteen.

I purchased him as a green four-year-old from Cynthia Lusk of Mtn Mist Farm in Oregon, who purposely bred him to be a distance horse. After I became his owner, trainer, and rider, he truly lived up to his breeding.

During his illustrious eight-year career in distance riding, he achieved many national, state, and local awards. Among them are: six bronze medallions and two Registers of Merit in both Competitive Trail and Endurance; the 1,000-mile distance award plus numerous first Appaloosa ride awards from the ApHA; Champion and Reserve Champion half-Arabian Competitive Trail and Endurance horse in Regions II, III, and VII; the Legion of Supreme Honor and the 2,000-mile distance plaque from IAHA; the Annual High Score Award Novice Horse, High Point Appaloosa, the Pat Ersepke Award, the Fran & Carol Duport Award, the 1,000-mile award in Competitive Trail from NATRC; named six-time Champion Distance horse, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame from Cal-Western Appaloosa Horse Assn.

Mirage also won first place Halter Horse—regional show; Champion Competitive Trail and Endurance horse six times; Hall of Fame winner from Golden State Appaloosa Horse Assn.; Champion half-Arabian West Region, first Appaloosa award, 1,000-mile from AERC; Champion half-Arabian Distance Horse and inducted into the Hall of Fame from New Horizon Arabian Horse Assn.; and received a National Championship and an amulet in the field of distance riding from AARBI.



In addition to his achievements on the trail, Mirage was also featured on the cover of ApHC's Distance and Trail brochure, the entry form for the National Championship Arabian Competitive Trail Ride, and the IAHA promotional brochure for their distance award program. Also, there were articles written about him in both the Appaloosa and Arabian national magazines, the NATRC national and regional newsletters, the Cal-Western Appaloosa magazine, and he was featured in the local newspaper, The Morgan Hill Times.

After his retirement from competition in 2003, Mirage was used in the Santa Clara Mounted Trail Watch Program as a companion horse to teach younger horses about trail riding, and as a pleasure trail horse. He is now running across the trails up in the sky with his commanding presence and ground-covering trot. His hoofprints will always remain on my heart, and in my many fond memories of our time on the trail together.

Good-bye Buddy,
Marilyn Orlando

Breeding: by DL Cheval AHRA #0420674; out of Patchy Star ApHC #126003
AHA #1A 326878; Breeders Sweepstakes
AAFBI A+387 ap+

BOD MINUTES

*Highlights from the Region One
Board of Directors meeting
February 25th, 2007*

Robyn Berwick

Elections: Robyn Berwick was elected to the Board and Phil Young was re-elected.

Election of Officers: Angie Meroshnekoff—President; Robyn Berwick—Secretary; Phil Young—Treasurer.

Region One will be looking into locations for the 2008 mini-convention that will be held two weeks after the National convention.

Laurie Knuutila from Alaska asked for help in recognizing volunteers up in Alaska. Steve Meroshnekoff will coordinate with Laurie.
Passed

Jim Ferris is the coordinator for R1 for a Ride Management system for NATRC that was developed in Region 5.

Kathie Schmidt proposed yearly themes—this year's theme to be "Bring a Friend."
Passed

Angie Meroshnekoff brought up how to get more people into our sport. Asked that we all talk to other horse people we meet at shows, trail trials, etc., to try and get more interest.

The Hoof Trek ride unfortunately was cancelled as we have lost our staging area. The Almaden ride, September 29th, will be the R1 Benefit Ride.

Angie & Steve Meroshnekoff will be putting on a new ride in August. It will be in Mendocino County. Please check out the R1 web site at www.natrcregion1.org.

Attention Junior Riders!

The Region One Board of Directors has decided to resurrect a program designed to encourage our Junior riders. The fund, partially endowed by donations, will reimburse Junior riders \$20 per ride completed, up to three rides in a season.

Juniors need to have completed two rides before they can apply for a \$20 refund for each ride, \$40 total. Application is made by sending a letter to Kathy Nixon, 1160 La Porte Road, Quincy, CA 95971-9345, requesting the funds and including a copy of the Junior rider's horse-manship card. They may apply for a refund of another \$20 after completing a third ride.

We encourage everyone to help support this fund by donating whatever you can to help these kids attend rides. If you plan to enter a ride and find you can't for whatever reason, consider donating the cost of your ride entry to the fund. Donations can be mailed to Phil Young; make sure they are marked for the Junior Fund.

NATRC Ride Management System

Jim Ferris

Starting in Ride Year 2007, the Ride Management System (RMS) developed by Region Five is available for all rides, riders, and volunteers to use. I am the Region One coordinator for this system and am willing to answer any and all questions about it from ride managers, individual riders, and workers. The way this system works is that any individual signs up for an account on the system, and, if the individual is a ride manager, they contact me to have their ride manager flag set. Once the ride manager is designated, the ride can be entered. Once a ride is entered, now any person, who has signed up for an account, can enter the ride or volunteer as a worker at the ride.

The beauty of this system for ride management—before, during, and at the end of the ride—is that the system will fill in all of the forms needed for National, provide rider lists, and otherwise keep track of all of the entrants. The ride secretary can manually enter anyone who sends in a paper entry so they then become a part of the system.

For further information on this system, there is a tutorial available. It can be found on the Region Five web site, www.region5.org, and is listed as "Tutorials (RMS)."

For any questions or further information contact:

Jim Ferris
jcferris@sbcglobal.net
(916) 663-9661

Trail's End

Jill Owens, Editor

What a thrill it was for me to have my article about trail riding accepted for publication in the readers' column of *Dressage Today!* (See Page 9.) While the advantages of dressage training are widely understood by trail riders, dressage riders seem to rarely get their horses out of the arena and generally have little clue how trail work might benefit their training regimen. Also exciting for me was the fact that the *Dressage Today* editor chose the headline "Mustang Dressage," because I don't believe I remember ever seeing a mustang featured in this magazine. That the same horse can be successful both in trail and dressage competition is a testament to the breed's versatility and constitutes some much needed "good press."

I wrote a while back that I was torn between getting a horse that could take me up the levels in dressage and sticking with Gypsy and doing what she could do. My soul-searching has led me to realize that Gypsy is the horse of a lifetime, and I'm a one-horse girl. As long as we can do interesting things together, I'm content. Gypsy is becoming a good liberty horse, and she's getting a fine start on her career as a driving horse.

Thinking about my transition away from trail competitions has led me to consider passing *Leadline* along to someone more active in the sport. I've enjoyed doing the job, but it might make better sense for me to direct my volunteer efforts where I'm more involved. If anyone has an interest in taking over the job, please contact the Board of Directors. I will do everything I can to make the transition a smooth one.

Happy trails!

The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County is sponsoring a TRAIL RIDE and CATTLE ROUNDUP Saturday, April 14 to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For more information, email DougHutten@aol.com or call 650/851-8300.

TRAIL HORSE FOR SALE



Beautiful black Foxtrotter mare, 15h, born 6/03, very smart, friendly and people-oriented, with a wonderful smooth foxtrot (she's been trained professionally) which covers the ground and saves your back! She's good on the trails, not spooky and has lots of energy. Very suitable for NATRC and endurance. \$4800 OBO. Check her out at

www.pineacres.net

Sigrid Scharmann—541/545-1604

BRING A FRIEND!

Do you love NATRC and want to share it with others? During the 2007 ride season, each rider has the opportunity to WIN a CASH prize along with a weekend filled with fun and friendship. Here is how it works...

WHAT RIDES QUALIFY?

1. GILROY HOT SPRINGS—May 26-27
Coe Park, Gilroy
2. ALMADEN VALLEY REGION ONE "BENEFIT RIDE"—Sept. 29th, San Jose

HOW TO QUALIFY

- Bring along a "1st time" REGISTERED RIDER PARTICIPANT
- All Divisions qualify including DO
- Place your name along with your friend's name on one ticket & drop into the GOLD BOX at registration
- Wait for the drawing at the Awards Banquet that night

IT'S THAT EASY!!!

Come ride with us, have fun, enjoy your horse and

BRING A FRIEND!

For questions on the "Bring A Friend" campaign, contact Kathie Schmidt, Region One Director at kschmidt@cbnorcal.com.

The Leadline

Jill Owens, Editor
Red Mountain Ranch
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Livermore, CA 94550

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

