



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*

Well, if you are like most horse owners I know, you probably haven't gotten much riding in so far this year and are most likely hip deep in mud. Mother Nature has been up to her usual tricks here in California. Dry November and early December, then WHAM—heavy rains, winds, and floods. While we muck out and work hard to keep our horses safe and dry, it's probably a good thing we don't have a lot of time to ride as yet. I know most parks in our area are closed due to the storm damage, and I'm betting so are many others in the rest of the state. All that damage, of course, will mean many trails will be unsafe to use, and will require lots of time and effort to repair.

So, along with planning our weekends to start conditioning our horses, we should also be planning to offer our help in repairing the trails we ride. I'm sure the repair lists will be long and the parks way under-funded and under-

staffed. Set aside one weekend to offer your physical help, get a group of friends together, and have a trail repair party!

Okay, while we dry out and dream of sunny days we can at least look forward to another terrific Region One Mini-Convention. Elsewhere in this issue you'll find the registration forms; you'll also find them online at www.natrcregion1.org. Jean Armer and her committee have planned a fun line-up of speakers this year. The theme is "NATRC: A Recipe for Fun!" The committee picked that because this year's speakers are presenting a basic recipe for getting and keeping your horse ready for competitive trail riding. So mark the day on your calendar. And don't forget all the shopping that you can do at Convention. Keep in mind that the Mini-Convention is one of Region One's big fundraisers. So please come and support the region and the sport, and, best of all, catch up on all the doings of our NATRC family.

Until then, stay dry.

—Angie

Winter 2006

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