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Direct Rein

*Angie Meroshnekoff
Region One Chair*

This will be my last Direct Rein column as I've reached my "term limit" as Chairman of Region 1. It's been a wonderful and busy 3 years and I have learned a lot from the people in this sport, both on and off the board. I've been honored to be your chairman and plan to continue working to help NATRC thrive. I'll remain on as a board member and will be taking over as temporary editor of *The Leadline* until a permanent replacement is found. While I'm on this subject, I'd like to remind everyone to take a minute and thank their Board Members next time you see them for all the hard work they've done this past year. It's been a year for big projects and everyone on the board has worked hard to get things accomplished.

I'll add a blurb here asking for donations for our Junior Sponsorship program. As previously stated, the Region is offering a rebate of \$30 a ride to Junior riders who are current members of NATRC Region One, and who have started at least two rides in that season. We are soliciting donations for this fund and there will be separate silent auction at this year's mini-convention to help raise some funds.

I know there is a lot of talk about the condition of the economy and people are tightening their belts in anticipation, but my philosophy is that physical and mental health are as important as other of life's necessities. In that respect, riding my horse with friends and in competitions and learning to better my riding are all a part of that. So as much as possible Steve and I will be going to rides to meet with our friends and enjoy the outdoors.

Many of you may have heard, too, about the projected park closures. We need to write our representatives, local governments, and the governor's office to let them know how we feel and how important it is to keep them open and accessible to the public.

Keep riding! See you out there.

REGION 1 NATRC MINI CONVENTION

Do we have a lineup for you!

This year's mini convention is going to be lots of fun. We have exciting speakers scheduled and several great vendors coming, so come join the party. Our primary speaker is a return engagement by Erin Klentos, a 2 time Haggin Cup winner and dressage rider who will be talking on Nutrition and conditioning for the distance horse. Our 2nd speaker is Dr. Troy Stevens a well-known Equine Chiropractor who will talk about general chiropractic for the Equine athlete. The 3rd speaker is actually a team effort with Debbie Coe and Angie Meroshnekoff taking on the subject of equine leg care, both before and after the ride. Their talk will include a discussion about boots and bandaging.

Once again we are having a terrific raffle and silent auction. Remember, this is our region's fundraiser, so bring along a raffle item and your checkbook. Plan to shop our vendors as well. Supporting them now means they'll come back again.

Candidates' statements for NATRC Region 1 Board of Director

Steve Meroshnekoff (Incumbent)

I joined NATRC in 1988 at which time I started competing in the Novice Division. I rode novice for 4 years and in 1992 my horse and I took first place horse and rider for the year in Region 1. The following year I changed divisions to CP. And after a year I changed to Open Division. I rode open for two rides but due to back and knee injuries I gave up competing.

I enjoy going to the rides, so I started helping out with P&R's. I have P&R'd over 60 rides now including the Championship Challenge 8 years ago in S. California. I have worked as a P&R captain for several years at most of Region 1 rides and several rides in Region 2. I've been in charge of the Wonder Worker program for the past 12 years and helped out with the Buddy Program.

I have held a seat on the Board of Directions for Region 1 for the past 6 years and with your vote I will continue to do so.

Jim Ferris

I started in this sport in 1981 on the old Uvas Dam ride. My competitive nature led me eventually to be a very good competitor. I have ridden 7 different horses in competition during that time and have received a total of 4 National Championships on three different horses. I have been a member of NATRC for over 20 years. I have been a Ride Manager, Open Division rider, Horsemanship Judge and have spent 10 years on the National Board. In the year 2000, the board voted me an honorary lifetime membership for my contribution to our sport. At that time, I decided that I needed a break from the board and time to get everything back in order. Having gotten settled into my new area of region one and even got to complete the Tevis in 2004, I now feel ready to return to the regional board. If elected, I will serve the members of region 1 to the best of my ability. Thank you for your vote.

NATRC Region 1 Convention Registration

March 15th, 2008

Heidrick Ag Center 1962 Hays Lane Woodland, CA 95776

Please Print or Type

Name _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address (optional) _____

Name of additional persons on this registration form:

Are you a current member of NATRC? Yes No

Breakfast & Break treats will be provided (please help out and bring some!).

Coffee, tea & hot chocolate will be available throughout the day.

	Number Attending		Total
Adult:	x \$40.00		\$
Junior:	x \$20.00		\$
Box Lunch for Saturday:	x \$7.50		\$
EARLY REGISTRATION	-\$5.00 each		-\$
DISCOUNT IF POSTMARKED BY			
2/15/2005			
Awards Dinner Buffet:	x \$25.00		\$

Total Due: \$

Catered by Cracchiolo's Market & Catering, Woodland

Entrées to include: Roasted Chicken, Lasagna and a Vegetarian Dish

Choice of 2 salads, including bread and butter Choice of 2 hot side dishes

Desert: Choice of carrot, chocolate cake or layer cake

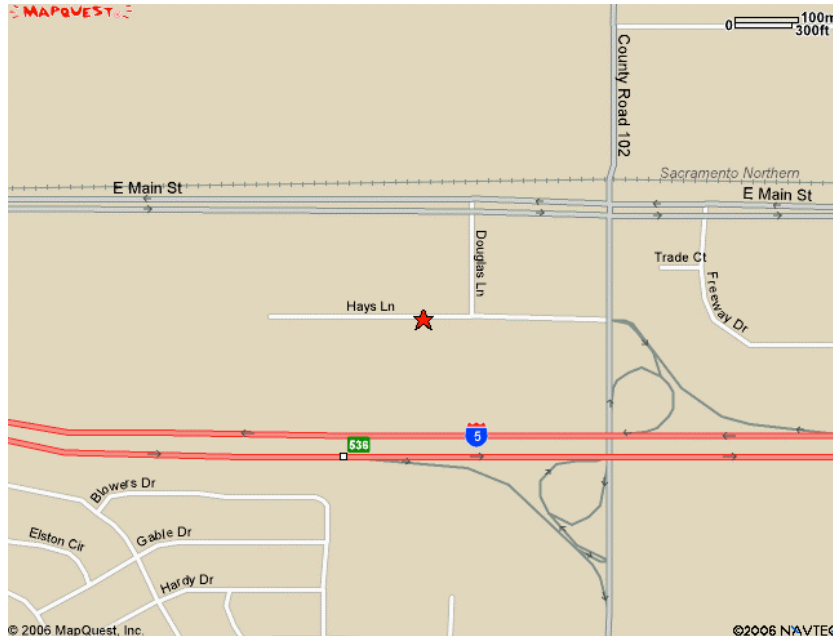
Coffee & Tea

.....
Make checks payable to: NATRC Region 1

Mail To NATRC Convention
c/o Angie Meroshnekoff
9800 Main St
Potter Valley Ca 95469

Convention Location

Heidrick Ag History Center
1962 Hays Lane
Woodland, California 95776
530/666-9700 fax: 530/666-9712



DIRECTIONS:

Approaching Woodland from the South on I-5, exit on County Road 102. At the top of the ramp (signal light) drive straight ahead into Hays Lane. Museum is located at 1962 Hays Lane, on the left approximately two-tenths of a mile.

Approaching Woodland from the North on I-5, exit on County Road 102. Turn left at the top of the ramp, crossing over I-5. Take the first left (Hays Lane) and proceed to the museum.

Bring your camper or motor home and stay with us in the clean, fenced gravel lot next to the Ag Center at no extra charge. We'll have a party!

Local Hotels and Motels Near the Heidrick Ag Center:

Holiday Inn Express

2070 Freeway Drive
Woodland, CA 95776
530/663-7750 or 888/897-0085
Room Rates : \$119 to \$152

Quality Inn

1562 East Main Street
Woodland, CA 95776
530/666-3050 or 800/228-5150
Room Rates: \$85 to \$169

Best Western Shadow Inn

584 North East Street
Woodland, CA 95776
530/666-1251 or 800/669-1253
Room Rates: \$93 to \$106

Valley Oaks Motel

600 North East Street
Woodland, CA 95776
530/666-5511
Room Rates: \$69 to \$89

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Region One Board of Directors

Angie Meroshnekoff, *Chairman*
(707) 743-9973

Robyn Berwick, *Secretary*
(209) 754-3848

Phil Young, *Treasurer* (530) 283-3221

Jamie Dieterich, *National BOD Rep.*
(530) 836-1075

Lynne Hutnick, *National BOD Rep.*
(530) 887-8674

Sue Flagg *National BOD alternate*
(925) 890-2144

Steve Meroshnekoff (707) 743-9973

Kathie Schmidt (408) 358-3557

Bob Goulding (530) 885-0666

Committees

Region One Points & Membership

Jim Ferris (916) 663-9661

Wonder Worker Recruitment

Steve Meroshnekoff (707) 743-9973

The Leadline (Region One Newsletter)

Angie Meroshnekoff (707) 743-9973

Publicity

Kathy Schmidt (408) 358-3557

Ride/Clinic Coordinator

Jamie Dieterich (530) 836-1075

Outreach Coordinators

Katie Schmidt (408) 358-3557

Vet Judge Recruitment

Greg Fellers, DVM (916) 652-7645

Historian

Kathy Nixon (530) 283-9336

Trails Advocacy Representative

Judy Etheridge (925) 862-0232

National NATRC

Executive Administrator

Laurie DiNatale (303) 688-1677

Hoof Print Editor

Cristy Cumberworth (505) 325-8845

cristy@horse-photography.com

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

NATRC Home Page:

www.NATRC.org

NATRC REGION ONE YEAR-END AWARD SPONSORSHIPS SOUGHT

Once again your region is asking for your help. Please consider sponsoring one of the year-end awards being presented at the Region One Convention this March. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the Convention Program if received by 3/01/08

The cost of sponsoring an award is: \$100 for a first-place award, Horse or Horsemanship for each of the 6 classes (a total of 12 awards); \$50 per class for ribbons, Horse or Horsemanship for each of the 6 classes; and \$75 for the special memorial plaques (which includes engraving on the perpetual awards). Classes available for sponsorship are Open HWT, Open LWT, Open Jr, Competitive Pleasure, Novice HWT, Novice LWT, and Novice JR.

Region One-memorial plaques include:

(1) Bob Smith Perpetual Award—presented to the High-Point first year Novice and/or Competitive Pleasure horse.

(2) Open Horse Award (in memory of Fran & Carol Duport)—presented to the High-Point first year Open Division horse.

(3) Pat Ersepke Memorial Award—presented to the High-Point Novice Horse/Rider Combination.

Contact Kathy Nixon at (530) 283-9336 or email at catnixon@juno.com for more information, or to reserve a particular award, set of ribbons, or memorial plaque.

Please specify FIRST and SECOND choice of awards you wish to sponsor. Any other donations in the amount of your choice will be gratefully accepted. Checks for sponsorships and donations should be made payable to NATRC Region One and mailed to Kathy Nixon, 1160 La Porte Road, Quincy, CA, 95971-9345.

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 (made out to NATRC Region One) to **Angie Meroshnekoff, Editor. 9800 Main St, Potter Valley Ca. 95469 Email awhitedog@aol.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.

2006 Deadlines

Spring issue—April 21

Summer issue—July 28

Fall issue—November 3

Advertising rates per issue:

Full page—\$40; half page—\$20;

Quarter page—\$10;

Business card—\$5.

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

R1 2008 RIDE SCHEDULE

May 3	Mt. Diablo Ellen Pofcher Sec: Martha Flannery	Clayton, CA (925) 672-3733 (925) 673-9858	"B" O/N/CP quincy68@aol.com
May 24 -25	Gilroy Hot Springs Jim Jeffers Sec: Judy Etheridge	Gilroy, CA (408) 779-4722 (415) 948-8823	"A" O/CP; "B" N harleyguy@garlic.com misxfire@ewnet.net
June 14	Mt. Quarry Vickie Myers Sec: Marilyn Hunter	Auburn, CA (530) 823-1202 (530) 885-4819	"B" O/N/CP mhunter@onemain.com
June 21	Georgetown NATRC Helen Steenman Sec: Zina Vitcov	Georgetown, CA (530) 333-4364 (530) 888-0768	"B" O/N/CP hsteenman@yahoo.com zvitecov@sbcglobal.net
August 9	NATRC Clinic Kay Lieberknecht	Ukiah, CA (707) 621-3662	Bring Your Horse
Aug 16-17	Bald Mountain Butt Busters Diane Sullivan Sec: Katie Carney	Wasilla, AK (907) 688-2250 (907) 373-7919	"A" O/CP; "B" N stable@mtaonline.net kcarney@mtaonline.net
August 23	Jackson Forest Steve Meroshnekoff Sec: Maria Pilgrim	Ft. Bragg (707) 743-9973 (707) 795-8163	"A" O/CP; "B" N iambrewing@aol.com wolves1961@sbcglobal.net
September 20-21	Bort Meadows R1 Benefit Ride Michelle Pimentel Sec: Sue Flagg	Oakland Hills, CA (209) 537-9355 (925) 890-2144	"A" O/N/CP; "B" N stablemucker@aol.com janesmom@aircloud.net

NATRC Region 1 Board Meeting January 19th, 2008

Board Members Present: Angie Meroshnekoff, Steve Meroshnekoff, Lynne Hutnick, Phil Young, Bob Goulding, Robyn Berwick **Absent (excused):** Jamie Dietrich and Kathie Schmidt **Guests:** Sue Flagg, Jim Ferris, and Rudy Dezzani

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am by Angie, Chairman
Secretary's Report: Minutes of September 16th, 2007 were handed out by Lynne.

Treasurer's Report: Phil Young

Account C1	\$ 6,775.65
Account C2	\$ 1,514.80
Savings Account	\$11,151.12
Total:	\$19,441.57

Phil talked about the Junior Program. Only three Juniors applied. All three received monies. There will be paintings for auction at Convention to help raise money for the program and a write up in the Leadline so more people will get to know more about the program. Also at ride briefings we need to make sure it gets mentioned.
Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Lynne, seconded by Bob. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Physical Resource Coordinator:

Angie Meroshnekoff
Jim Ferris- A member who is making a presentation to a couple of different horse groups had asked for a disk of the NATRC introductory Power Point presentation to show. Debbie Murphy is helping to present to a couple of local horse organizations. Board discussed who might borrow the equipment

(laptop computer and digital projector) and how would we decide who to lend it to. Jim Ferris will come up with a policy on how the equipment might be borrowed with the approval of the Board.

Wonder Workers: Steve Meroshnekoff

Update on the Region 1A proposal. Steve spoke to Laurie Knuutila about the Rider Fee that Region 1A would be asked to pay to Region 1 for award jackets, sweatshirts, etc. Laurie said that she hadn't spoken to the Region 1A Board yet and would let Steve know. Steve will make contact with Laurie before next meeting. Steve found more patches that should last this year, but we might need to find a new supplier to get more.

Points/Membership: Jim Ferris
As of now we have 146 Members but only 51 members have sent in their renewal for 2008. A reminder will be put in the Leadline and there will be copies of the renewal form at convention for people to fill out.

Vet Recruitment: Angie sent letters to 100 vets inviting them to a NATRC ride but only received one response that declined. Angie will get in touch with Kris Skoog about the vet in Cotati and see if that vet is still interested.

Trails/Benefit Ride: Sue Flagg- the Bort Meadows Benefit Ride is coming along. Dates are September 20 and 21. We have 3 of the 4 judges on board. It will be an A ride for all with a B ride option for Novice. People will also be able to stay over Sunday night, thanks to Sue's generosity. The work on the trails and timing has already begun.

The Leadline Angie is willing to temporarily do the editor position until someone else can be found. The recruitment will continue. The pre-convention issue is in progress. Candidates bios, CP trial, Junior sponsorship program and the bylaw changes will be in the issue so the general membership can read about them before March 15th.

National BOD: Jamie Dieterich, Lynne Hutnick- As of Dec. 31st, 2007 Jan Jeffers resigned from both Boards. Lynne, alternate, has stepped in to the position. The alternate position is now open. Sue Flagg has been asked and agreed to be appointed to the position until the end of 2008. Dr. Bob made a motion to approve Sue Flagg as the alternate, seconded by Phil. Motion approved and it will now be taken to National for confirmation.

Ride/Clinic Management: Jamie Dieterich & Lynne Hutnick-Just a small change to schedule Sage Hill (R-2) is Nov 8/9th. As of Jan. 19th, Mt. Quarry doesn't have a fixed date. Marilyn Hunter will let us know as soon as a date is set. Angie talked about other areas that are potential for rides. Boggs Mountain (Lake County) was discussed as a potential ride location. Benefit Ride will be the Bort Meadows ride, Michelle Pimental to be chair.

Outreach Coordinator: Kathie Schmidt, Karen Riddle, Linda T. Discussed how well the "Bring a friend" went in 2007. Kathy wasn't there to tell the Board how successful it was.

By-Laws: Jim Ferris, Jamie Dieterich, Phil Young, Sue Flagg, Nancy Kasovich- Discussed

cover, the need to include the adopted date and amended dates. Also need to have copies available and ready to sign at next (March 16th) meeting. General Membership must vote on the amendments at the next meeting. Jim Ferris will come up with a cover page for the bylaws. Also when new Board members are elected they should receive copies of the R1BOD Handbook, bylaws, year end Treasurers Report, and last year's Region 1 BOD meeting minutes.

Old Business:

2008 Mini Convention: So far 3 committed vendors and 9 more possible. The cost of the facility has gone up a little; the full room is \$995 +\$200 for the kitchen. There will be three speakers, Angie and Debbie Coe on leg care, Dr. Stevens an Equine Chiropractor, and Erin Klentos on nutrition. The cost for the speakers is as follows, Dr. Stevens is asking \$100, Erin is asking for gas money and a meal. We would like to have an open discussion with the general membership on ideas to improve our sport.

Perpetual Awards Boxes:

Nothing has happened on the boxes for the perpetual awards yet. When we get the awards back, Robyn Berwick will take

care of having a box made for the Pat Epspeke award and Phil & Betty will look at a better way to protect the Barthart Award.

2008 CP Trial in Region 1: The San Martin Horsemen club that puts on the Gilroy NATRC ride has declined to participate in the CP trial. The Board has decided to take the CP trial idea to the general membership to see what they think. It will also be put in the *The Leadline* so that members who don't come to the Mini-Convention will have a chance to have input also. Robyn and Lynne volunteered to be the contact people from the Board. Jamie & Lynne will also take our request to defer the 2008 CP trial until 2009 if our membership supports it. There will be a suggestion box at the Convention so the general membership may submit ideas. Motion made by Robyn, seconded by Sue, to defer CP Trial to 2009, with the National BOD approval, pending general membership input. Write-ups will be put in *The Leadline* and there will be a proposal sheet available at the Mini-Convention. Motion passed.

New Business:

Regional Team Awards: Lynne Hutnick- Some of Region 1 members didn't qualify for Team awards as National was using 3 A rides as the qualifier. The rule is kind of muddy, but when it was originally written by Jim Ferris it was intended to mean that a ride is a ride (A or B). The R1BOD would like this ruling to continue to represent that a ride equals a ride whether it is an A ride or a B ride. This will be discussed at the National BOD in Feb.

Backcountry Horsemen

Rendezvous: Sue Flag and Rudy Dezzani- If Backcountry Horsemen will let NATRC have a booth at their Rendezvous, would we like to have one? The Board agreed that we would and will have Sue pursue it. We also decided that if they allow us a booth then we would have a booth for them at our Convention. Dates are March 21st.22nd, 23rd.

Next Meeting on: March 16th, 2008 9am. Location to be determine at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at: 1450 hrs. Motion by Lynne, seconded by Phil, to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Robyn Berwick

Proposed Amendment to the Region 1 Bylaws

ARTICLE X, Section 3. of the Region 1 Bylaws currently reads as follows:

Section 3. Standing Committees. The Chairperson of the Board, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a committee Chairperson for the following standing committees. Job descriptions may be found in the NATRC Region 1 Board of Directors' Handbook.

- (a) Annual Convention/Annual Meeting
- (b) Physical Resource Coordinator
- (c) Historian
- (d) Wonder Workers
- (e) Points/Membership
- (f) Publicity
- (g) Veterinary Judge Recruitment
- (h) Benefit Ride
- (i) Buddy System
- (j) *The Leadline*
- (k) Ride/Clinic Coordinator
- (l) Judging Issues
- (m) Bylaws

Change to read as follows:

Section 3. Standing Committees. The Chairperson of the Board, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a committee Chairperson for each standing committee. A list of those committees and their detailed job descriptions may be found in the NATRC Region 1 Board of Directors' Handbook.

Background:

Over time the need to add or delete committees arises. Sometimes the purpose or focus of a committee changes and it needs to be renamed in order to reflect those changes. With the list of committees specified in the bylaws, a General Membership ballot and a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors (R1 BOD) is required to effect a change.

The R1 BOD currently has a Handbook that lists all of the committees and their job descriptions (and is already mentioned in the Bylaws). The Handbook can be easily modified by majority vote of the Board as circumstances warrant. The R1 BOD would like to modify the Bylaws to make it easier to make committee changes as needs arise.

Per Robert's Rules of Order, committees that have the power to act alone without input from the BOD must be listed in the Bylaws. All of the R1 committees require input from the BOD for their actions and, therefore, do not need to be specifically named in the Bylaws.

The R1 BOD recommends that the General Membership approve the above Bylaws change in order to make modifying committees a normal procedure rather than a bylaws change.

CP Weight Divisions?

Please come to the **General Meeting** to participate in a discussion about splitting CP into weight divisions. After the discussion you will have the opportunity to express your opinion via a ballot.

Some background.

Back in 2002, CP had grown to the extent that some other regions asked to split CP into weight divisions, essentially to allow more folks to get ribbons. That year Region 1 members were presented with that proposal at the General meeting and it was rejected.

In 2007 the R1 BOD received a letter from one of our members noting that ridership in all divisions had declined in the last few years and suggested that one possible reason could be that those riders being forced out of Novice didn't want to compete in CP because it was too tough to get a ribbon, didn't want the Open pace (same reasons as in 2002) and, therefore, chose to join a different horse discipline like Endurance or Trail Trials. After discussion, R1 BOD decided that if this was really causing our sport to lose members, a one-year CP Weight Division Trial might be appropriate for Region 1. Essentially the BOD decided we wouldn't know unless we tried it.

The R1 BOD then got permission from National for R1 to do a CP Weight Division Trial in 2008. The word that we would attempt the trial was published in the Leadline. The BOD also decided that for the trial to be valid, it would have to be done at all 2008 Region 1 rides. After polling the ride managers, we were unable to convince them all to do the trial (and a trial is voluntary) even though the region would be picking up the cost for additional awards.

The BOD decided that if the ride managers didn't want to do it (there is extra work involved, not just award costs), maybe the membership didn't either. Therefore, there will be a discussion of the CP Weight Division Trial at the General Meeting and we hope all attendees will participate.

Region 1 would like your opinion on this issue and, if the vote indicates giving it a try, the Ride Managers will be polled again and there would be no plans to try it before 2009. A vote rejecting the trial would eliminate any further efforts to pursue it.

If you are unable to attend the general meeting on March 15th but would like to share your thoughts, please contact either BOD members, Robyn Berwick boonedoggle@att.net or Lynne Hutnick lloa@infostations.com

The Leadline

Angie Meroshnekoff, Editor
9800 Main St
Potter Valley, Ca 95469

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

