

Hoofprints

REGION 5 TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Hoofprints of Region 5

WWW.NATRC5.ORG

A photograph of a rider on a dark brown horse, likely a trail horse, in a forest setting. The rider is wearing an orange shirt, purple pants, a white helmet, and a backpack. The horse is equipped with a saddle, stirrups, and a blue halter. The rider is looking forward, and the horse is in motion, possibly trotting or cantering. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and tree trunks.

AND THE WINNER IS...
TERRADOCS OCONEE BELLE "OCO"
(RIDDEN BY SALLIE KUDRA)
2017 REGION 5 HIGH POINT HORSE

Take PRIDE in your Ride, COME RIDE WITH US!

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you read this, ride year 2017 is all over except for the shouting, so please join us for the Mini-Convention in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the shouting (that is, the awards presentations). In addition to reliving the glories of 2017 with the presentation of awards, we will have a ride managers' forum that all are invited to attend to learn more about the mechanics and the challenges of managing a successful ride. If you've been following Esther and Victoria's convention updates you know that there will be time on the program to attend some of the Southern Equine Expo. where some of our members are expected to compete in the obstacle challenge.

We have a remarkable group of ride managers in Region 5 who put on more rides than any other region in NATRC. By the end of January, we'll already have two 2018 rides in the books! A great start when one considers that some regions struggle to get even three rides for the year. Our ride managers make the whole process seem easy and effortless, so I encourage you to read Esther's article elsewhere in this bulletin to get a glimpse of the magnitude of the undertaking.

It is no secret that nationally, membership in NATRC has dwindled in recent years. There are lots of factors influencing that, and there is a lot of hand wringing about how to stop the trend. Most seem to see the solution as bringing in more new people, I suggest to you that simply getting in new riders for one ride is not the answer. I believe that we need to focus on getting those new riders to come back for a second and a third ride. If we can get them for three rides we've got a real shot at getting them enough involved to become regulars. You, the folks of Region 5, are well known for making first timers feel welcome, for offering wise advice about the competition, about the proclivities of the particular judges. With very few exceptions those first-time riders are there because of a personal connection that encouraged them to attend, because someone "got them there". I encourage all of you who got a new person to try the sport to continue that encouragement, to stay in contact after that first ride, and to offer logistical support to get those folks to their next ride. It is wonderful to get new folks, but if we're going to survive we've got to work to get those new folks moved into the column of regular participants. Please share your ideas on how to make this effort work.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Region 5 Board of Directors for their service. While we don't talk about it much, the reality is that Region 5 is a business, and without the unselfish work of the members of the Board of Directors we would not have an organization that provides the competitive trail rides we all enjoy.

Bill Moore, President, Region 5



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***Welcome to Region 5
New and Rejoining Members!
For a complete listing please visit
www.natrc5.org***

**INTRODUCING YOUR
2018-2019
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Bill Moore – Region 5 President, National
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Alternates:

Andrew Murray

Sandy Pegram

A FANTASTIC YEAR for Oco

Sallie Kudra

At the beginning of this ride season, my goal was to have 100% attendance in Region 5 and have Oco earn her 2nd Open National Championship. To earn an Open National Championship, the horse must earn 75 points and have either two 1st place finishes in different states or different regions or one 1st place finish and two 2nd place finishes again in different states or regions.

Never in my wildest imaginings did I see her becoming a contender for the President's Cup, the high point Open Lightweight horse in the nation or being the high point horse in Region 5 and yet that is just what happened. This from a home-bred mare who had check ligament desmotomy done on her right fore at 7 months – I was told she'd never have a competitive career! – and had a tree fall on her corral while at the trainers resulting in a punctured sinus cavity, broken occipital bones and fractured nose that took approximately 9 months from which to recover.

We started the year in competition at the New Year Resolution ride in Florida in January. She took a 4th out of 6 which is a respectable placing. She still has her issues with vet-ins and this one was no exception, but she continued to improve out on trail. She had some metabolic issues with gut sounds, but remained solidly sound with great P&Rs. National points: 10 down 65 to go.

Ride 2 was Oakmulgee where she again took a 4th out of 5. PMS – Persnickety Mare Syndrome – hit again. It's amazing that this horse, who will free lunge at home continues to show her hiney at competitions. And if a bad behavior doesn't happen at home, you can't discipline for it. Final vet-outs tend to be totally uneventful. Go figure. Her metabolics were good with most of the points she lost being under manners again. National points: 8; 18 down, 57 to go.

Ride 3 the Region 5 Benefit. PMS again, but otherwise she did very well. She took a 2nd out of 6. Didn't complete one obstacle – a back up an incline where she stepped on her tail and then refused to back anymore. At final check-out she had a drop in Attitude from an A to a B. She remained sound with good P&Rs all weekend. National points: 14; 32 down 43 to go and she had a 2nd place finish. Placings: 1 down, at least 2 to go.

Ride 4 Spring in Dixie. Vet in improved, but far from perfect. She was very good for her obstacles. She took a 1st out of 6 and she took Open sweepstakes, her first sweepstakes as an Open horse. National points: 18; 50 down 25 to go. Placings: 2 down (GA & NC), 1 to go.

Ride 5 Carolina Derby. She actually had a totally uneventful vet-in – no PMS yay. She did have some metabolic and tack issues, but P&Rs good and sound throughout the weekend. She took a 3rd out of 6. National points: 12; 62 down 13 to go.

Ride 6 Faye Whittemore. She got a good for her check in which just goes to show, she is capable of behaving herself. The weather was hot and humid and she had P&R issues, being held at the 2nd P&R on Saturday. She did well for the most part on obstacles. She took a 3rd out of 4. National points: 8; 70 down 5 to go.

BOARD CONTACTS.....	3
A FANTASTIC YEAR FOR OCO.....	4 - 6
THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.....	7
DON'T CRY, JUST RIDE.....	8, 9
A WILLING SOUL.....	10, 11
INFO FOR RIDE MANAGERS.....	12, 13

On the cover:
Sallie Kudra and Oco
Photo by Becky Pearman

Ride 7 the French Broad Classic in Asheville. No PMS, whew. Some metabolic issues but P&Rs good and she remained sound as a dollar. She took a 1st out of 4 and again got sweepstakes, whoo hoo! National points: 14 putting her at 84 points AND she had her placings. One of our goals has been accomplished: Oco had achieved what she needed for her 2nd National Championship.

Ride 8 Garrie Bates Memorial @ Triple C. Now we had to work on the 100% participation. Vet in was not perfect, but overall it was ok. Metabolics were good right up to final check out. P&Rs were good and again she remained sound. She took a 2nd out of 4. At this point, I wasn't worried about points or placings, but she earned 10 giving her a total of 94.

Imagine my total and complete surprise when the mid-year standings came out in July and Oco was in 2nd place in the nation behind Regina Broughton's Lucky Sunday. I was totally gobsmacked. Never in a million years had I anticipated that occurrence. Unfortunately for Regina, Sunday injured a tendon and was sidelined for the remainder of the season. We now had to wait for the second half of the ride season which commenced in September with Ride the Edge. Unfortunately with Oco, check-in practice beforehand with no problems does not mean that will be the case in front of the judges. Sigh.

Ride 9 Ride the Edge began with the return of the Check-In Witch; however, no metabolic or conditioning issues. I was encouraged by fellow competitors to go for the Presidents Cup. I said at the time, if it was meant to be it would happen. This was a distinct possibility with a 2nd place finish as we had a lead on the nearest team – Jonni Jewell and Tezuby aka Ted. Oco now had 102 points.

Ride 10 Kings Mountain. Another 2nd place out of 5 and 12 points for a total of 114 and 3 rides to go. I knew that Jonni was planning on 14 rides and we would only have 13, but with the lead, all we needed to do was continue to complete and place well.

Ride 11 Broxton Bridge. An October ride, a horse with a heavy hair coat and temperatures in the 80s were quite a challenge. On top of that, Oco had been trimmed the Thursday before the ride. As this was in the low country of South Carolina with sand and very few rocks, I made an unfortunate decision – I left her Gloves at home. As a result of all the hurricane activity many black walnut and hickory nuts were on the trails. I think that she may have bruised her left front on Saturday, but the effects didn't show up until Sunday morning. She didn't feel right to me at the morning figure 8 trot out, but I wasn't sure that it wasn't the headlights on the cars lighting the trot by area causing her to be high headed and stiff. Less than ¼ mile out on Sunday and I knew something was most definitely amiss. I was posting at the trot. Except that I don't post, I trot in a 2 point position. I got off to lunge her and she was definitely off on her left fore. Knowing that the decision could be devastating to our new goal of the Presidents Cup, I did what was best for Oco and pulled. Within a week, she was once again completely sound.

Ride 12 Shoal Creek. Heat was again an issue and she lost P&R points as well as some points for fill, but was sound all weekend. Still all in all she did well taking a 2nd out of 4. Points now at 124. One ride to go.

In correspondence with Jonni, I learned that Ted was ahead by 4 points. This meant that we needed a full Open Lightweight class for

Ride 13 Heart of Dixie. My dear Region 5 family came through for us with Jameson Moulis, Lisa Nauditt – her very first Open ride, Lori Rand, Esther Diagula and Patty Lucas stepping up to make a full class. And there were Carolyn Mills, McKinsey Ware and Sherry Garnes all willing to change to Open if the need had arisen. I knew that Jonni's last ride had her in a full class as well.

We would need the ride of our lives. Well, Oco didn't get the memo and was in full-on Witch mode at check-in. Saturday wasn't much better with an uncharacteristic step on a judged mount and a total refusal to sidepass into a water obstacle. Sunday I finally got the Sunday horse I needed on Friday and Saturday. Case of too little, too late. Took a 5th out of 6 with only 8 points for a season total of 132. Jonni and I had agreed to let the other know how we did for the weekend. I got a chance to text her while waiting at a stop light on my way home having received the results from Esther. Even if we had had a perfect weekend, we still would have come up short – Ted had taken a 1st place and had Sweepstaked.

We may not have achieved our final goal of winning the Presidents Cup, but we did finish as the overall high point Open Lightweight horse and rider. I am so proud of Oco who has overcome so many obstacles on her way to NATRC stardom. Think I'll keep her.

2018 REGION 5 MINI-CONVENTION

The Annual Mini Convention for Region 5 will be held at the
Southern Equine Expo on
February 24, 2018.

We are having several of Region 5 members who will be
competing in different events at the Expo.
There will be Clinics, shopping, and competition.
Please check it out at www.southernequineexpo.com

This year our mini convention is a little different. Rather than having a formal meal during the awards everyone is on their own for dinner. We will send out a list of several eating places in the area at a later date. The awards ceremony will be at 7:00 pm at the Tennessee Miller Coliseum, Miller Room, 304 W Thompson Ln, Murfreesboro, TN 37129. I will have 20 discounted tickets for the expo available on a 1st come basis. Please contact Linda Clayton, lindaclay@aol.com or 334 313-2999 to purchase. Regular price is \$15, discounted price is \$10.

These tickets will go in a hurry, so let me hear from you soon.

I must have your money for tickets by 2/10/18

If you will need to stay overnight arrangements have been made at the County
Inn & Suites for a block of rooms.

Call for Reservations: 1-615-890-5951 (under NATRC).

Please go on line and register on the RMS so we will a number count of all who
will be attending.

The Fountain of Youth



My horse Doll used to be quite a handful. I got my horse as a early Christmas present about 2 years ago. Before I got her, she was mostly a pasture ornament. I went to look at a different horse but I found her instead. When we brought her home, she gave us a hard time about the trailer. After that, I knew I had work to do. The first time I worked with her was to see what she knew. She knew nothing, absolutely nothing. She used to run at me in the round pen. Amy Long taught me how to use a “magic” carrot stick to teach her not to do that anymore. It took several weeks of just circles and changing directions on the ground. I rode her for the first time and she was the fastest moving horse I had ever ridden. We all thought she was crazy. My mom and I had a conversation about her and what I wanted to do, I thought about it and decided I made a commitment to this horse. Cindy Keen worked with us on the trail and Amy helped us with obstacle training and teaching me how to ride her. We continued to make her rideable, and work on obstacle training. We worked on backing, and she picked that up quickly. Next on my list, sidepassing. That wasn’t as easy as I thought it would be. But it was a goal I wanted to work towards. I worked with my horse for about 6 months just to get her to take one step. She would get light on the front end and would rear if I would try to make her take one step! I used NATRC as a training opportunity. I only had her for a month when I decided to just take a leap of faith and ride her in a NATRC ride. It wasn’t easy. We didn’t do well at some things in the ride, but she was physically fit and was sound at the rides. I learned that it was great to have a horse that could go the miles and have great metabolics and P&R’s. We used that year as a training year. She learned a lot and I learned even more. I learned patience, to keep trying, to have a good attitude even if we did bad. I had to learn not to get disappointed and look for the small victories.

Well, I learned all of that with Cindy and Amy’s help. Even though she had learned so many things and could do some of the obstacles well, I still wanted a side pass obstacle to go well. It didn’t have to be a “Lovely” or even an “Excellent”, I just wanted a few good, controlled steps. At one of the rides, it happened. We came to a side pass obstacle. I was a little nervous but I just knew we could do it. I took a deep breath, set her up and settled her. I gave the cue, and she did it! It was perfect, but it was the best gift she could have given me! I was so happy with her. When the obstacle was over, I rode down the trail and called my mom to tell her what we did! She was so proud! When I first got her, I doubted her ability to learn to do these things, but with the help of my riding instructors and mentors we taught her how. I am glad I gave her a chance. I was nervous about her when I brought her home, now she’s my best friend. I am so glad I joined this sport! All of my NATRC friends have encouraged me, given me pointers, dried my tears and given me high fives! It means a lot to be a part of that!

The Fountain of Youth written by Janna Stanley will be a recurring column in the Hoofprints of Region 5. Janna is a Region 5 Junior rider whose love and dedication to the sport sets a wonderful example for members both old and new. Thank you Janna!

Don't Cry, JUST RIDE

BY GINGER HAMNER

I had the pleasure of attending my second NATRC Region 5 CTR in Troy, Alabama (Heart of Dixie) on November 4, 2017. This was only my second competitive ride, so many emotions were running through me: anxiety, apprehension, unsureness, but also excitement, and joy to be with fun people who love horses the way I do. CTR (competitive trail riding) is a world of its own, so for those that have never done it, they won't understand this story and all that it stands for, but for those that have competed, this will touch you to your core....

I ride a horse (named Shadow) that has only been under saddle for six months, so the more I can show her in advance, the more settled she becomes. I am a fierce competitor, so I would like for her to perform as well as she can, she may never win, but I would like for her to behave and ride as well as she can. I also like to ask about the trails, their conditions, and primarily if there are WATER CROSSINGS. My horse has a real fear of water. In fact, this fear of water is what caused her to be put out to pasture by her previous owner and never ridden again when she was just two years old. On her second ride (at two years old) she shied away from a puddle causing her rider to come off, and she was not ridden again until I bought her (she is now seven). I have seen her try every maneuver possible to try to keep from crossing water, and her trembling and snorting tells me she is truly scared, so I tread carefully when trying to get her to cross a puddle. I hired a trainer that has helped Shadow through some tough days but conquering her fear of water has been something we have worked on progressively. I THOUGHT we were making good strides UNTIL I arrived at Heart of Dixie.....

I arrived in Troy (HOD) early in hopes of getting in a ride prior to the competition. I met with a fellow rider, Paula Riley, and asked her if she knew if and where the water crossings might be. She is a seasoned NATRC rider and has been on the HOD ride many times, so she knew where the water crossing was and agreed to take us out and try to help us get across in preparation for the CTR. Paula and I took our horses to a minor water crossing and worked on that for a while. Once we got Shadow "somewhat" comfortable with that one, we moved to another area where the water was deeper and moving. Paula managed to get Shadow across this by attaching a lead line and putting enough pressure that eventually she walked through. This took us several hours, but we felt confident Shadow would repeat the water crossing in the AM, so we retreated home feeling inspired!!

The next morning, we were to be in saddle and riding out at 7AM. It was a cool, beautiful morning. I had such high hopes for this ride!! We were only 15 minutes into the ride and we ran to our first water crossing. It was 10 feet wide and about 7 inches deep. Shadow saw a river the size of the Missouri and she wasn't going!! Paula tried to help, but I felt Shadow start to panic. We looked for ways around the crossing, but we just didn't see any. After a good 10 minutes, I told Paula and the other rider to go ahead, I would return to camp and pull from the competition. I was so sad in that moment I could have cried. Because our efforts to get Shadow across the water had taken so long, riders had begun to back up on the trail, so I pulled Shadow to the side and waited for all the riders to move ahead. Little did I know that my guardian angel was waiting in that pack of riders....

As the riders progressed across, Sandy Pegram, another seasoned NATRC rider approached me and asked me what was going on. I explained to her that Shadow wouldn't cross the water, so I was returning to camp, my ride was over. "Oh NO! We can't let that happen. I will take her by the halter and see if I can lead her across, if I can't, we'll find a way around this, even if we have to ride an additional five miles, you must always finish the ride!!" Sandy said. Sandy took Shadow by the halter and tried to lead her across, but Shadow just would even get close to the water, so Sandy turned her horse and started through the woods. She explained as long as it was for safety we could go off trail, so we headed out to find a way around this tributary. I worried that Sandy would not make her time window even if we finished, and therefore be disqualified. When I mentioned this to her, without a moment's hesitation, she looked at me and said, "this isn't about winning ribbons, it's about finishing the ride, I don't give a darn about winning, I want to see you get through this...". It was in that moment I realized this sweet lady was willing to give up her ride for me, just to make sure I got through it. I was so touched, I smiled and said to her, "You're going to make me cry"! Sandy turned forward in her saddle and shouted, "DON'T CRY, JUST RIDE!!!" I giggled, and off we rode.

When we came to the next water crossing, it was very small, and I knew Shadow could jump it if necessary, (not my favorite thing, but hey, we were still on the trail, right?) but somehow Sandy managed to talk Shadow into tiptoeing through it (tiptoeing in the horse world is where they kind of walk and jump, we've all been there) which in my mind was progress. After about four crossing like this, we thought we were out of trouble, as a matter of fact we commented on how well Shadow was doing with the water when we came to a crossing that was downhill in the mud, cross water and then uphill in the mud. Shadow stopped. She wasn't going. There was no way around this crossing, Shadow HAD to cross, or we were going to have to turn around. The mud bog and the water had Shadow trembling again, so Sandy decided to dismount and try to see if there was a way around the muddy area. There wasn't. After trying for about 10 minutes to get her across, with no success, Sandy decided to call the safety riders to see if they could help.

Our safety riders, Dave and Maggie Spilker, seasoned riders, whom have ridden safety at many NATRC rides. Upon their arrival, Dave assessed the situation and realized how muddy the area was, so the longer the horses stood in one place they began to sink in the mud, which for a scared horse, this creates a little more tension. He fed Shadow a few treats in hopes of calming her down a bit. Then he and Maggie decide the best approach would be to "sandwich" Shadow between their two horses and move her across. The feel of the horses actually touching her, might do the trick. They had shadow rest her head on the butt of Maggie's horse and Dave put the chest of his horse on Shadows butt and they moved her down the muddy embankment across the water and up the other side. It was incredible. I was so emotional, I just couldn't believe all these wonderful people coming together just to help my horse and me finish this competition. These same people could have just as easily taken me back to camp and told me to find a different sport, but they didn't! It really seemed to matter to these folks that they help us make it through! I was just blown away by the care and concern AND the comradery!!! Again, I just about cried! Sandy's words rang loud in my head..."DON'T CRY, JUST RIDE!", so I did.

Throughout the rest of the trail, Sandy taught me how to make up time and maneuver through the trails. She coached me in good riding technique and proper riding approach to CTR. The Spilkers would strategically place themselves at the water crossings and fall in beside us so Shadow could feel her "herd". By the end of the trail, Shadow was walking through the water crossings with minimal resistance, and I was feeling like we were walking on air!! Shadow had faced her fears because of the kindred love, friendship, devotion, and horsemanship of some very fine people. We went from having to "PULL" from the competition in the wee hours of the morning to finishing our second Competitive Trail Ride. (And because we were able to make up time on the dry parts of the trail, we finished in our timeframe.) WOW!! What a feeling of accomplishment...what a feeling of friendship.... what a feeling of family!! I will never doubt what NATRC is all about, I lived it on this ride! (AND I'll always remember..."Don't cry, just ride!!")

FALL 2017

DIAMOND AWARD

I would like to nominate Sandy Pegram for a Diamond Award. She is the epitome of what NATRC wishes its members to portray to new and potential new members, and she exceeds the standards NATRC wants their members to rise to when they are at the competitions.

Sandy Pegram was the first person I met when I volunteered at a ride a year ago. I was walking around the camp, looking at the horses and the rigs (in awe) and this kind lady asked me to "have a seat" and tell her "what questions she could answer". Sandy had no idea who I was, but she wanted to make me comfortable being there with her group, and from that moment on, the warmth of the Region members was just incredible!

After my second ride at Heart of Dixie I was even more convinced of Sandy's example of the heart of this organization. Bottom line: Sandy was willing to give up her ride, to make sure I got through mine. It was more important to her, to help a new rider, than "win". In a world that seems to be spinning out of control right now, this lady showed me what true sportsmanship, horsemanship and comradery really means... SHE LIVES IT!! She told me over and over that this is what NATRC is all about, this is what NATRC encourages people to do, ENJOY the sport and share that enjoyment!

Is there someone you know that exemplifies what NATRC stands for?

Nominate them for Region 5's Diamond Award. This title will be awarded in each edition of the Hoofprints of Region 5. Deadline for nominations for Spring 2018 is March 15. Please send in a brief recap of your nominee's Diamond character to katcasey4@icloud.com or lindaclay@aol.com.

A Willing Soul

Volunteering in Region 5

Jennifer Mulligan

I tacked up Santana Friday morning at the beginning of the South Mountain NATRC ride and circled her, checking to make sure her tack was secure. But WOW! To my horror and surprise she was dead lame. This began a long series of diagnostics, prognostics, etc. It also began a short series with me as a semi-professional volunteer.

I decided I would volunteer all weekend and I could “give back” to all the ride managers, secretaries, judges and volunteers who make our rides possible. I had no idea I would learn as much as I did. Just the beginning of some great experiences! .



At South Mountain I worked P & R. Not that exciting, but absolutely essential. I watched some people not know their target numbers, and others who knew their horses so well they could predict exactly. I took away the idea that I would start practicing P & Rs. I am going to stop periodically on my trail rides, dismount, and teach me and my horse how to pulse down, relax, and thus be better prepared the next time I am being judged.

With a still lame horse, I went to Broxton Bridge and got to be “Terry”. For those of you who might be out of Region 5 you may have never met our dedicated logging in volunteer who handles all the P & R arrivals. Since she was away at a football game, I filled in. And darned if I didn’t screw up a few times—it was harder than I thought. But it certainly gave me a better appreciation for the work and responsibility every volunteer takes on.

Shoal Creek gave me the opportunity to be a secretary for the Horsemanship Judge. You cannot pay for this type of education. I learned so much, I don’t know where to begin. Probably the most valuable lesson was to see firsthand how the Judge took in every movement, every nuance, of the rider and their interaction with the horse. It was not just did she or did she not complete the obstacle. Rather, she assessed what was the rider’s position throughout, what cues did she use, did the horse hear her, did she have a beginning, middle and end to her performance, was there evidence of smart thinking which showed good horsemanship...all of these factors were taken into account. I also learned a lot just about the administrative end-filling out cards, assessing and evaluating points and comments, and all the other administrative stuff which is extensive, time-consuming, and so very educational.

I had granted Santana two months off so I was still riderless at the Fall in Dixie ride. This time my role was as food coordinator. I did not enjoy it. I don’t like to cook. But I had tremendous help in that area, so I really just coordinated. It reminded me that these thankless jobs are all a part of the bigger picture. At each ride not only do the contestants and their families have to be organized, and in some instances, fed. But there is a whole other group of people who both require and deserve a weekend worth of meals. The judges and volunteers receive meals Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and there is a real effort to make them varied, tasty, and available at all sorts of random hours. All in all I was happy I could help, again just recognizing that when I ride, somebody else is doing all this heavy lifting for me.



I learned so much—not just about the judged activities of the riders, but also about all of the activities that go on around us. The ride managers begin months, even a year, in advance. The secretaries and judges are lined up equally far in advance. As riders, all we ever see is what happens over the weekend. and sometimes I forgot all that went into it. We are so lucky to have a very active region. During the season, we have rides every month, sometimes twice a month. I would never wish a lame horse on anyone, and am pleased that Santana, and the new one (“Squirrel”) will be around to take me through the upcoming season. But I will always keep in mind my stint as a volunteer. Not only did I help on these few rides, but I learned, and have become quite an advocate of, encouraging others to volunteer when possible. At a minimum, I try to thank every volunteer personally, especially those we encounter on the trails. And I’m always looking for an opportunity to help, even if for an hour on Friday, or helping set up dinner on Saturday. It takes a village, or, in this case, a hundred willing souls. It is my pleasure to be one of them!



IMPORTANT NOTE

PLEASE FORWARD ALL CHANGES OF
- ADDRESS
- EMAIL
- TELEPHONE
TO REGION 5 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
SALLIE KUDRA
864/972-9125 kudra@clemson.edu
220 Byrlie Way
Seneca, SC 29678-5005

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c/o Linda Clayton
PO BOX 313
Hope Hull, AL 36043

What does my **RIDE ENTRY FEE** *pay for?*

ESTHER DIAGUILA

This is a question that is asked at almost every ride. Managing a ride can be fun, fulfilling and exciting. It can also be expensive. Even a bare-bones ride incurs some pretty hefty fees. I like to start about a year early, securing my judges. My first year was a real eye-opener. I had NO IDEA that I was about to embark on a pretty costly endeavor. I did submit the paperwork for the grant, so I had that to start with. This year, even before the ride begins, I've already invested \$1,336.00.

The first expense is the sanctioning fee of \$75.00. This goes to National just to allow you to ride under their conference. Before the ride, the trails need to be mapped and marked. Some of the supplies needed for this are flagging tape, clothes pins, paper plates, markers, staples and a stapler and miscellaneous items. There are also camping fees both for you and whoever is helping you. Once the maps are finalized, you have office supplies, paper for maps, agendas, etc., and ink. There are always office supply items you forget. Supplies for the judge's backpacks are another consideration. Hmm...and this comes to? My total for these supplies for the 2018 ride is \$375.00. This does not include the supplies for judge's backpack. Adding the sanction fee and the office supplies together is \$450.00. This does not include the 5 days of camping for two rigs to map and flag the trails.

I like to award something other than just certificates, so I purchase heavy-duty map bags for each horsemanship award. How many awards are we looking at? Well, if you are looking at an A and B ride, I break it down to how many placings I anticipate for the A ride (almost always 1-6 in all divisions / classes) so for an A ride, that would be 48 map bags (3 divisions; 2 classes in CP and 3 classes in Open and Novice) and I guesstimate 15 for B rides. I always purchase extras, just in case!! This year, I spent \$55.00 on map bags. Subtract Novice A riders, both adult and Juniors and that brings the number of map bags I need to 30. The Juniors always get ribbons, and this year, the Novice A riders will receive ribbons as well. For ribbons, I spend \$127.00. Note, these are just for horsemanship placing. If I have ribbons left from the previous year, I will just replace those that have been used. Hint, if you purchase ribbons for a ride, never put the year on them. Adding everything so far, we are at \$632.00.

This year, for conditioning placings, I chose to go with pocket sweat scrapers. They are small and can easily be hung from the saddle so riders can soak their horses, then scrape. For the A and B ride, I spent \$97.00 for the sweat scrapers. We are now at \$729.00. And we haven't yet looked at awards, food, judges and incidentals. We had a sanctioning fee, but the ride also has to be insured. About two months before the ride, a check is sent off to Equisure for \$288.00. At this point, the ride total is \$1,017.

Awards can go several ways. Everyone likes awards. I chose the map bag / sweat scraper for everyone, then first and second place gets something extra. We are very fortunate to have Riding Warehouse as a sponsor. They very generously donate to each ride that requests donations. If you would like something a bit extra, you only have to ask. I use their donations for the B riders and purchase awards for the A riders. This year for awards, I shopped Riding Warehouse when they had their 25% discount going on. I spend \$184.00 for awards. The ride total is now \$1,201.

I like to thank my ride officials and volunteers with a small gift. I do not take this out of the ride budget as I feel this is something from me to them. So I will not include it here.

Food is a fairly large budget item as well as camping fees for the judges and other ride officials. Last year, I wrote out a check for \$900.00 for my officials' camping fees and for their catered dinners. McCulley Farms are very reasonable with their camping fees and do not charge to use their kitchen/meeting room. Many places do charge. I anticipate these fees to be higher this year since the McCulley's have had to go up on their fees.

If I charge \$90.00 per entry, thirty adult entries would be \$2,700.00. Subtract the total so far (\$1,201 + the anticipated \$900.00 to McCulley's) and I'm still in the black \$599.00. National requires a rider fee of \$10.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members per person plus a \$3.00 per horse drug fee. That is \$13.00 per horse (we'll go with just the fees charged for members for simplicity). That comes to \$390.00.

We are still in the black \$209.00.

Now we get to the judge's fees. It is normal for a vet judge to charge between \$10.00 and \$15.00 per horse. We'll split the difference and use \$12.50 per horse for 30 horses. That would be \$375.00. It is also protocol to pay for judges' traveling expenses. If you are looking at gas alone, the minimum for the vet judge would be \$50.00. At a minimum, anticipate \$425.00 for the vet judge.

The horsemanship judge can charge anywhere between \$3.00 and \$10.00 per horse. Anticipate \$5.00 per horse for 30 horses, and the total comes to \$150.00. Plus travel expenses. If we're using the same amount as the vet judge, that would be \$50.00 for a total of \$200.00 for the horsemanship judge.

In case there is any chance your ride is running in the black at this point, food for the volunteers (breakfast and lunch) can easily eat that (yup, pun intended!), but so often, I've found that my food coordinators generously donate a large portion of this. If you provide snacks and water at the P&R's, it can become quite pricey as well. At the very least, water should be provided at the P&R's, not only for the riders, but for the workers.

Using these figures, and NOT including food, the total for the judges' is \$625.00. Subtract this from the \$209.00 and the ride is now in the red for \$416.00.

Yes, some dollars can be shaved from this if you are bare-bones on your awards, or if you are fortunate to have a judge that charges less. It is also very helpful if a rider steps up to sponsor a ride official's camping or catered dinner fee. I have had sponsors for sweepstakes prizes and volunteers who insisted on paying their own camping / catered dinner fees. Every little thing helps. Of course, when more riders register for a ride, it makes a ride manager's heart glow! This is all based on a ride with 30 riders. If you have less than 30, managers are hesitant to repeat a ride the following year. Lose money two years in a row, and that ride is probably gone.

We are fortunate in Region 5 to have a healthy ride schedule. Ride managers would like to keep it that way. How can you help? ***COME RIDE WITH US!!***

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Photos courtesy of Reva Nail

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MINUTES
OF
November 18, 2017
OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
REGION FIVE TRAILRIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The scheduled meeting of the Region Five Trailriders Association, Inc. (“Region”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Lori Allen, President, on November 18, 2017, at the Hampton Inn, in Norcross, Georgia with a quorum present.

All directors and national alternate Sallie Kudra were present. Linda Clayton and newly elected member Sherry Garnes were also present.

The minutes of the Board meeting held on July 29, 2017, having been previously distributed to the members of the Board, were reviewed and, on motion of Esther Diaguila seconded by Gary Clayton, were unanimously approved as submitted.

Bill Moore was recognized for a Secretary’s report and reported that the proposed amendments to the Region 5 By Laws had been circulated and advertised as required by the By-Laws. Whereupon Victoria Light moved that the proposed By-Laws Amendments be approved. The motion was seconded by Esther and on voice vote without opposition the amendments were approved.

Andrea Rogers was recognized and reported that the combination of work and NATRC National duties she was fulfilling made it impossible for her to finalize the Region 5 Mini-Convention. Esther Diaguila volunteered to pick up the project and Victoria Light and Katie Ward agreed to help. It was agreed to hold the date of February 24/25 and the location of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Lori Allen provided a President’s report which noted the significant number of rides completed by Region 5 and the progress that had been made in addressing time delays at rides while acknowledging that the work was not complete on that point. Lori also reported on having dismissed the outside vendor originally agreed to be hired for creation of a new Region 5 web page and the fact that she took over that project and believed it to now be complete.

Gary Clayton was recognized and followed up on Lori’s report by noting that at the last two rides of the year significant delays were encountered. Those delays seemed to be largely affected by having obstacles at vet out or end of day vet checks. Lori noted that NATRC national is “highly encouraging” ride managers to not to have obstacles at those times as the Vet is slowed down by having to interrupt evaluation of the horse in order to observe the obstacles. Gary further noted that when Saturday afternoon Vet check gets delayed it cuts down on the recovery time for riders. Gary noted with appreciation that some Vet judges schedule their Saturday afternoon checks to be conducted at the stalls/trailers rather than having all horses be “presented” at a central location.

There followed a general discussion of issues facing NATRC including the disproportionate nature of voting power at the national level from regions that do not have high rider count and thus do not proportionately share the cost of the national organization, the need to get new participants to return to enough rides to become regulars, a review of ride participation across the entire NATRC organization, and the need to have judges help in simplifying events to help encourage riders to return for another event.

Linda Clayton was recognized and provided a Treasurer’s report including an income statement with year to year comparisons between the current year and last year and a general ledger recapping 2017 activity. She further reported on

Spring 2018

Upcoming Events

January 27-28 New Year Resolution Ride Jasper, FL A-O; A&B-N,CP
Esther Diaguila, 850-509-4971, borncountry@skippinghorse.com

February 17, 2018 Giddy Up & Shape Up for Distance Clinic Rockford, AL
Sara Baldwin, 256-377-2656, forestowners@wildblue.net

NATRC National Convention Albuquerque, NM
Region 5 Mini-Convention ?
February 9-11
February 24-25

March 10-11 Spring at Broxton Bridge Ehrhardt, SC A&B-O, N, CP
Paula Riley, 903-926-3950, parrides@aol.com

March 24-25 Region Five Benefit Ride Toombsboro, GA A&B-O,N,CP
Cindy Keen, 478-290-3868, cindytk@hotmail.com

April 7-8 Spring in Dixie Troy, AL A-O; A&B-N,CP
Patty Lucas, 205-999-7580, patty2014@aol.com

April 21-22 Carolina Derby Whitmire, SC A&B-O,N,CP
Andrea Rogers, 803-992-3178, 803-658-6017, carolinaluck@yahoo.com

A=2 DAY RIDE B=1 DAY RIDE O=OPEN N=NOVICE CP=COMPETITIVE PLEASURE
C

the cost of annual awards for Region 5. Linda reported that 600 ride calendars have been ordered to distribute to the membership and for use in marketing. She also noted that the Region received in excess of \$2,000 in non-directed contributions. On motion by Bill Moore, seconded by Lori Allen, Linda's Treasurer's report was accepted.

Linda Clayton read a letter she received from Ginger Hamner regarding the help that Sandy Pegram had provided to Ginger at the Heard of Dixie ride when Ginger encountered difficulties with her horse. Essentially, Sandy abandoned her ride to help and Ginger encouraged the Board to recognize Sandy for her extraordinary level of assistance.

Linda Clayton provided a newsletter report. Katrina has had some logistical issues recently; however, she seems to be back on track in putting out the newsletter.

Linda again reminded the Board of the 501(c)(3) status of Region 5 and asked that if members want to make donations or if they have potential outside contributors that if the names of those prospects are provided to Linda she can follow up with information about the organization and the tax deductibility of contributions.

Andrea Rogers, who has accepted the responsibility of, essentially, auditing ride results for NATRC National to assure accuracy of year end results, described the NATRC national procedures for collecting and checking that data.

The Board then reviewed and discussed the inventory choices for the Region 5 Store and how to perhaps streamline that activity to keep its benefit but reduce the bulk of material involved.

The Board was reminded of the importance of the Riders Warehouse sponsorship and the need to display the banner at each ride.

In association with the 2018 Mini Convention, Gary Clayton moved, and Patty Lucas seconded, that the Region have a booth at the Southern Equine Expo which will be going in in Murfreesboro at the same time as Region 5 event. The motion was approved by voice vote without opposition.

Tanya Kingsley provided a preliminary, written report of final standings for Region 5 riders and horses. Linda Clayton and Cindy Keen agreed to attend to getting the traveling trophies to the Mini-Convention, and Lori Allen was again engaged to provide the keepsake trophies to accompany the traveling trophies that have to be returned. Rita Lowery agree to take on the ordering of vests and patches for the appreciation awards.

The Board then considered and approved recipients for the Shannon Memorial trophy, the Jack and Mary Britt Service Award, and the Mary Britt Mentor Award. [Identity of those recipients is withheld pending the Mini-Convention in order to not spoil the surprise!]

The most recent iteration of the proposed 2018 ride schedule was reviewed. There was a discussion regarding NATRC National's interest in Ride Managers hosting "C" rides as a way of introducing people to NATRC. Management of clinics: planning, sanctioning, advertising, and conduct was discussed. It was reported that Theresa Wolf has resigned as the Clinic Mentor for Region 5 and the Board decided to not fill that position at this time.

Lori Allen provided a report on the recent NATRC board meeting at which the proposed rule and by laws changes had been approved. In addition to other NBOD matters already raised, the Board again discussed marketing and appropriate identification of the organization's target market. The reconstruction of RMS and fixing of start up problems was reviewed. It was emphasized that Ride Managers are in charge of their rides, not the judges, so Ride Managers should make the final decisions about conduct of the ride. It was noted that the NATRC insurance does not protect against liability

related to dogs that are not on leashes and it is NATRC policy that all dogs at a ride be on leashes to avoid recent problems with loose dogs.

On Motion of Cindy Keen seconded by Victoria Whitehead, without opposition it was decided to contribute \$50 to Alabama Equine Rescue in memory of Michelle Goza's mother.

The next meeting agenda item was election of new officers and in that regard, Gary Clayton moved that the order of election should be: President, Vice-President, then Secretary. Victoria seconded the motion which was approved without opposition. There followed a discussion regarding the proper sequencing of voting for officers following which, on motion made and passed without opposition the meeting was adjourned.

Immediately thereafter, a meeting for the express purpose of electing officers was called to order by Andrea Rogers, Vice-President.

Andrea opened the floor for nominations for the office of President, and Esther Diaguila nominated Bill Moore. There being no other nominations, Bill was elected and Andrea passed the gavel to Bill.

Bill opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice-President, and Gary Clayton nominated Victoria Whitehead. There being no other nominations, Victoria was elected.

Bill then opened the floor for nominations for the office of Secretary. Sherry Garnes and Patty Lucas were nominated, and on secret ballot, Sherry Garnes was elected to serve as Secretary.

Bill acknowledged the new Board and officers and thanked Lori Allen for her service as President.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was, on motion and without opposition, adjourned.

Friends and Family

Edna B. Cook
(September 5, 1940 - November 13, 2017)

Edna B. Cook, 77, of Bessemer, AL passed away November 13, 2017. She was a lifetime member of Arnold's Chapel United Methodist Church. Edna served in the Eastern Star including worthy matron, and was a member of the Rainy Day Patriots, a member of the North American Trail Ride Conference and rode in the 1976 Bicentennial Wagon Train from Florala, AL to Valley Forge, PA.

Edna is survived by her husband, George T. Cook; her daughter, Michelle (Joe) Goza; her grandchildren, Tony (Laura) Goza, William Lee Goza and Michael Clint Goza; her great grandsons, Lane and Gauge Goza and her sisters, Mildred (Paul) Hutchinson and Peggy Saunders.

Funeral service will be Friday, November 17, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at Arnold's Chapel United Methodist Church with burial following at adjoining cemetery. In state Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the church. Bro. George B. King, Pastor Marion New and Rev. Audie Hodges will be officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Bessemer Brown Service Funeral Home.

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Region Five Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.

Sallie Kudra

220 Byrlie Way

Seneca, SC 29678-5005