

Hoofprints

REGION 5 TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Hoofprints of Region 5
SUMMER 2018

WWW.NATRC5.ORG

FINISH 2018 STRONG WITH REGION 5
MARK YOUR CALENDARS, BRING A FRIEND,
LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST FALL YET!

Sept. 8-9

Ride the Edge - Jamestown TN
Wayne Tolbert 865-216-7563 / 865-363-7563
vtolbert@usit.net

Sept. 22-23

Kings Mountain - Blacksburg, SC
Carol Ault 803-415-0315
carolault.crabtree@gmail.com

Oct. 6-7

Fall at Broxton Bridge - Ehrhardt, SC
Cindy Keen 478-290-3868

Oct. 21-21

NATRC French Broad Classic at Biltmore - Asheville, NC
Sherry Garnes 828-400-7402
sherry.garnes@sbfdigital.com

Nov. 3-4

Southern Trails CTR - Wind Creek State Park - Alexander City, AL
Victoria Whitehead 706-975-8414
whiteheadva16@gmail.com



Take PRIDE in your Ride, COME RIDE WITH US!

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're about to the end of the “spring term” of 2018 Region 5 rides and it has been an eventful start to the ride year. Once again, it seems that the troubles we've encountered go, as much as anything, to show the resilience of ride managers and competitors alike. The scripting of this message is a couple of hours after “Team Waynesville” has had to cancel the French Broad Classic (for now) because the camp ground is under water. Despite all their work and preparation, a day before riders begin to arrive they have to cancel. The cancellation notice arrived in a notice that they are busy re-grouping and trying to coordinate re-scheduling for the fall. Resilience! Classic NATRC.

The first Region 5 Trailmaster Seminar is now in the books. Andrea Rogers and Paula Riley put together a predictably information packed, hands on, intense two day training course on how to evaluate a site for NATRC competition suitability, how to ride the facility trails, map those trail, figure out useable routes, and how/where to move the judges for observations.

They took the class out to practice marking, and then cleaning up the markings when an event is concluded. If we can follow this one up with future, similar classes then Region 5 will again show the way for NATRC to improve its product of conducting quality, educational competitive trail rides by expanding our volunteer base of available trailmasters; and we'll have made progress in helping ride managers in the conduct of events. Thank you Andrea and Paula, it was a wonderful job.

Typically the summer brings a lull in NATRC activity. While that may hold true for the conduct of rides this year, it will likely not be the environment for NATRC management. At the national level we are anticipating a report from the select committee that was assembled earlier in the year to generate ideas about how to protect the existence of our organization and how to, we hope, reverse the recent trend of shrinking membership and activity. By the time of the next newsletter we should be able to provide some concrete suggestions for your consideration. This is an important, perhaps critical, undertaking for the survival of our sport. My expectation is that some suggestions will be warmly welcomed and others may be “a bit radical” and thus need some vigorous debate. We'll know more soon and as your Board learns of the suggestions we'll figure out a way to get them out to you for consideration.

It will soon be sweltering hot—so just take your horse out to graze and enjoy her/his company!



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***

-from the editor

Greetings! Summer in Alabama is in full swing! Before we know it we will be preparing for the 2019 ride season. I need help from all of you,,our newsletter needs articles and photos! Please submit any photos (need full size rendering-no iphone photos please) to katcasey4@icloud.com. If you have interest in contributing by writing an article or funny ride story, please contact me. Thanks for all of your help!

Until next time,
Katrina Casey

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STARLIGHT FARMS
-MEDICAL BOARDING-

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Corner of Hwy 29 and Hwy 80 - Little Texas, AL

PREPARE FOR THE UNTHINKABLE

Work with your horse on the ground to handle a situation no one wants to think about.

Donna Johnson, DVM
Vet Judge - Region 3

A couple of months ago I came across a very difficult situation. I was called out on emergency to a horse rescue attempt. Numerous times during the night I thanked NATRC for the wonderful things I had been taught in the past and wished, as judges, we were still able to ask for some of the tricks I once was asked for at rides. I feel our sport has become too soft in what the judges are now permitted to ask of the riders and horses.

There was an incident on the trail which caused the rider to fall and the horse to end up on its back in a hole created by boulders. By the time I arrived the horse was standing. She was shaky and had numerous lacerations. Assessing the situation with the rescue personnel the best option was going to be to back the horse to a point she could get turned around. I advised them the problem with this was we HAD to turn her towards the cliff which dropped 30 feet down to the creek. (With a lot of boulders to hit on the way down.)

We spent the next 45 minutes filling in holes between the boulders and making the route out as flat as possible. When it came time to ask the horse to back the owner could not get her to back. I asked if I could try and he let me. I took as far forward as possible and asked for a back. She did not know what to do. I flexed her head and got her to take a step. I stopped, praised her then asked again. She did it again. The next step she would have to lift her back feet up about 4" onto a flat rock. When she felt the rock she panicked and went down. I had to jump out of the hole because she was kicking. She was badly trapped, we had to straighten her legs out. The next thing was to use ropes and pulleys to drag her out of the hole.

We got her to a flat point, this took over an hour. She had been down on her right side the entire time. We had to flip her to see if she would get up. Unfortu-

nately, by flipping her we put her towards the cliff. I advised the rescue team one of three things were going to happen. She would, **1- not get up, 2- she would get up and stand there or 3- she would get up, panic and run to the cliff.** I told them my gut says she is going to panic so everyone was ready. And that is what she did.

She stumbled and got wedged into a space between two boulders. I had to wear a hard hat, use ropes and get help from two rescue personnel to get close enough to put her down. I had to lay prone on a rock being held by one of the rescue team members. After I was done I made the mistake of looking to the side of the rock I was laying on, it was a 20' drop to the creek with lots of boulders to break my fall.

I am not saying if this had happened to one of my horses the outcome would have been any different. But what I am saying is that years ago in NATRC we were once able to ask riders to back up onto or over something. All my horses can back up over or onto something. That was the only way to safely get the horse out of her dire situation. The moral is... please work with your horse on the ground to handle a situation you may not want to think about could happen. I usually mention at briefing, the reason we ask for these "tricks" is to give you the tools to help you get out of a bad situation.

I wish NATRC would allow us to ask for more difficult obstacles again. As the attitude of the country has gone so has NATRC. Don't ask for tougher things because the rider may be offended they will lose points or worse they may not be able to get it done. This poor mare did not get her participation ribbon, she lost the trail ride.

The Fountain of Youth



When I first got my horse, Skeeter James, he didn't know how to do any of the things he does now. Even steering him was like driving a tractor. When we first went to look at him, we found out that he had spent the last seven months just hanging out in the pasture. However, he had the sweetest disposition and I knew that, with a lot of hard work and time, we would be a great team. I also knew I wanted to compete in NATRC on Skeeter. After we bought him, I set some goals to accomplish this. My ultimate goal was to do two day competitions on Skeeter.

My first goal was to complete a one-day ride at Mingo. I had three months to get Skeeter ready. I was out at the barn almost every day. Even though Skeeter and I spent countless hours together, I believe we had a connection early on. We spent a lot of time in the round pen, simply trying to get him to walk and trot past the gate. He was so gate sour, that he would even try to turn into the gate early. Once we had a strong bond, I knew I would have to work with Skeeter on the many technical things he needed to learn. Backing, trot and stops, and standing for mounts and dismounts became part of our daily routine. After mastering the basics, we began the real of challenge, side passing. Skeeter had a really hard time side passing, Cindy Keen helped me to break it down for him and we were thrilled when he took two steps to one side. Finally, we were ready and the day of the competition was here. I rode with my cousin, who competed on Mrs. Cindy's horse, Bonnie. Even though we didn't come in on time and we got completion only, I was very proud that Skeeter and I finished together.

After Mingo, we continued to prepare for our main goal, which was to do a two-day ride. I decided that the New Year Resolution ride, one year after we got Skeeter James, would be our first two day. We stepped up our conditioning with uninterrupted two mile trots and even a couple of four mile trots. We worked on backing around trees, side passing, turning on the haunches, and turning on the forehand. We also worked on him putting his front feet up on the pedestal.

When it was time to load the horses for New Years Resolution, I was so excited. It was a great weekend. The trails were beautiful and Skeeter did great. I couldn't believe it when there was an actual pedestal obstacle. The judges asked us to back up and then have the horse put his feet on a huge rock. It took us three tries, but I was very proud when he got up there. Mrs. Cindy and Spirt rode with us and we were able to stay on time.

We put in a lot of effort and it paid off. Skeeter James is a perfect match for me. He was just what I needed and I'm so glad we were able to see his potential. I'm also glad that he trusted me enough to teach him what he needed to know. We are both looking forward to many more rides together.

The Fountain of Youth this quarter was written by Region 5's, Olivia Lord.

Trail Master Workshop

CIRCLE E GUEST RANCH – BELVIDERE, TN

May 19-20, 2018

Have you ever wondered how the maps for our rides are created? How a Trail Master gets the judges and P&R crews to the right spots at the right time?

The Trail Master Workshop gave the 7 attendees some in depth insight into just those issues. The workshop was led by Paula Riley and Andrea Rogers. Participants were provided a manual and additional handouts covering the use of Garmin Express and Garmin Connect to extract data from their GPS's.

Though we were scheduled to start on Saturday morning a couple of folks got together Friday evening, and got their laptops set up with the appropriate software and accounts to access information from their GPS's.

Saturday morning we got the rest of the folks set up, and then started into the nuts and bolts of a Trail Master's job.

After an overview of the process we took a look at the map provided by Circle E of their trail system. From that map we selected likely loops based on the mileages provided on the maps. Our goal was to select a route that would yield sufficient mileage for a Novice / CP ride. I had pre-ridden one of the loops on Friday, and made an interesting discovery - - instead of the 6.5 miles advertised, the loop was closer to 9 miles. Usually mileages are over estimated. We identified 2 additional loops from the maps, mounted up and headed out to GPS those trails. We split up into 2 groups, each riding one of the selected trails.

Upon returning from the trails we downloaded the information collected by our GPS's and then exported .GPX files to mapping software for further analysis and discussion. Some of the proposed trail was determined to be un-suitable due to terrain or other factors so we spent some time discussing how to combine the acceptable segments of all of the trail that had been measured and recorded. This proved challenging, but we came up with a plan. We also discussed how to secure the additional mileage needed for the Open division. The plan included selecting placements for our point markers (A, B..) our P&R's and our 2 mile marker. The participants took a lunch break while Paula and Andrea worked to prepare preliminary maps to agree with the plan.

After lunch we discussed how the pace is set for a ride by having seasoned riders ride the proposed trail as if it were an actual ride, and having their actual time determine the ride pace. Since we were limited on time, we made our best guess of a reasonable pace and used that for the rest of the steps in the process. One of the key tasks in this phase is the creation of the Time Charts to accompany the maps, showing point to point mileages and times.

Once we had the pace for the ride, we could determine timing between ride points, P&R's etc. and add judging points to the mix. We also considered the amount of time that judges would have at these sites so that the Trail Master could recommend the type of observation at each location. Some sites only have a short window of time between rider divisions, so a ride-by observation would fit best. Other locations along the trail would have more time between the divisions so a multi-part or more complex obstacle could be planned. At this point Paula gave a sample ride briefing of the ride.

After completing our plan we adjourned for the day. Sunday morning we addressed trail markings and had a short exercise around camp marking a short trail. To wrap up the workshop we talked about the duties of a Trail Master during the ride, and had a question and answer session.

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DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS? WE HAVE AD SPACES AVAILABLE FROM 1/8 PAGE TO FULL PAGE. PRICES START AT \$37.50/ QTR.

SUMMER 2018 Diamond Award

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 Fall 2018 is October 15. Please send in a brief recap of your nominee's Diamond character to katcasey4@icloud.com or lindaclay@aol.com.

COVER PHOTO CONTEST

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE CHANCE TO HAVE IT ON THE NEXT
COVER OF THE HOOFPRIENTS OF REGION 5.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS:

COLOR PHOTO WITH NO EDITS

FULL SIZE RENDERING

NO IPHONE PHOTOS PLEASE

submit all photos to katcasey4@icloud.com

RIDE YOUR OWN RIDE

MUSINGS ABOUT TRAIL MARKINGS - GETTING OFF TRAIL AND STUFF THAT HAPPENS

One of the first things I remember hearing at a NATRC ride was the saying “Ride your own Ride”. To me that means you are responsible for the success (or failure) of your ride, not anyone else. As I spent more time competing and eventually stepped up to being the Ride Manager / Trail Master of a ride, I saw where that philosophy is stated in different ways in the rule book and other NATRC documents.

At my ride this year, there was an unfortunate occurrence, where a good number of riders - - but not all - - got off trail due to a miss-directed arrow at one intersection. My initial reaction was “I screwed up”. However as I discussed the situation with my “staff” (judges/rules interpreter/safety riders), it became clear to me that what had happened was not entirely my fault.

Our rule book states (5-H-1):

H. Meetings

1. A riders' meeting must be held each evening or prior to the start of the day's ride to brief the riders on the course, trail markings, trail safety, available water, judging, etc. All riders will be responsible for information given.

That last sentence is key: All riders will be responsible for information given.....Have you ever gotten lost following the instructions on your GPS? Do you consult multiple sources for directions when going somewhere new? My point is: riders are given 3 sources of information about the trail they are to follow: 1) the map; 2) the ride briefing and 3) trail markings; all 3 should be consulted and no one considered the ultimate authority by its' self. You should also trust your own judgement, and not just follow blindly those in front of you. “Ride your own ride”.

The rule book (5-J-4b) also provides for time being added to a ride under “catastrophic circumstances” or “uncontrollable acts of God”. I did not feel that either of these conditions applied. As riders asked if they would be getting time back I answered “Do what is right for your horse” “Consider the fact that there are many other riders in the same situation” – meaning that they are still on a level playing field.

I think there is a lot to be learned from this incident, for riders and for management. I have already made some decisions about changes for next year’s markings, and I hope riders have thought about what they might do should they face something similar in the future.

Andrea Rogers

REGION 5 REPRESENTED @

"Best of America by Horseback"

During the last Board meeting, it was suggested that NATRC set up an information booth at the "Best of America by Horseback" event in Jasper, Alabama the last weekend in April. The event was scheduled to bring in trail riders from the Southeast and parts beyond (and will be televised on RFD-TV and Cowboy Channel sometime in July or August 2018).

The event was a huge SUCCESS and so was the NATRC Information Table. There were over 220 horses at the event and that meant MORE than 220 riders. As part of the Alabama Horse Council who cosponsored the event and as a devoted rider with NATRC, I want to thank Carolyn Mills for bringing the table, the literature, etc., AND talking with so many folks. We were lucky to also have quite a few NATRC riders there (including Nancy and Bootsie Crutchfield) who definitely added to Carolyn's presentation. All this "NATRC chit-chat" throughout the weekend made some very positive impressions. I personally know of TWO folks who are coming to the Biltmore for their first ride because of this event.

NATRC has some very impressive pamphlets, information on web and facebook pages, etc.; but nothing is as effective as directly talking with folks about NATRC. Every time you stop and talk to someone new, you create that interest which hopefully develops into them wanting to come and explore what NATRC is.

We always need more members; and thanks to the folks who donate their time, their travel expenses, etc. in so many ways, we will get there! I took this one event to highlight what these endeavors can do; but I know this is not the only time or way we encourage folks. I just wanted, this one time, to say thank you, not only to Carolyn, but to everyone that invests their energies into growing our sport.

Sandy Pegram and, of course, Skyy

PLEASE FORWARD ALL CHANGES OF

- ADDRESS

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IMPORTANT NOTE

If you wish to receive a print publication of the Region 5 Newsletter, please mail your check (\$15.00) payable to REGION 5

c/o Linda Clayton

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Smiles and Laughter in the Carolina woods

by Jacquie Cobb

What a weekend! I had the time of my life as a first time NATRC rider at the Carolina Derby. As a lifelong “for fun” rider, but never a competitive one, I was interested to see what this would be like... and boy, was I pleasantly surprised! I had ridden my pony, Rhea, twice before the competition – the third time, I was bucked off. That morning, another horse spooked her and she bucked and flipped out on her high line... but I got on. Mentored by two incredible riders during the ride and another (who rode Open) before and after, I had the absolute best experience. While a competitive sport, the other riders encourage each other, help each other, and genuinely enjoy each other’s company. The sportsmanship and teamwork that I witnessed was unparalleled, and the sense of community was simply incredible. Even after getting lost on a trail (along with just about every other rider), the goal remained the same – to have fun! The atmosphere at NATRC was different – friendly, welcoming, encouraging, and wanting the best for both rider and horse. Smiles were seen and laughter was heard all throughout the Carolina woods that weekend – and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

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PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY
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