

Hoofprints

REGION 5 TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

**Hoofprints of Region 5
SPRING 2019**

WWW.NATRC5.ORG



Take PRIDE in your Ride, COME RIDE WITH US!

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sometimes I think we lose track of how wonderful we have it here in Region 5. While much of NATRC Land has been locked in the grasp of Old Man Winter since October, we've been able to complete our 2018 ride season and get 2019 off to a great start. In December we had Christmas in the Pines with over forty riders start despite the forecast of three inches of rain (and a reality of at least three inches of rain). Riders were competing not for ribbons but for who had the most water in their boots! We followed up with New Year Resolution starting more than fifty riders. Then we had the region's first stand alone Leisure Division ride with over twenty riders. What a great, fun filled start while much of the country is still digging out snow. Yes, I realize most of you had to slog through lots of mud and contend with winter monsoons to find time to condition your horses, but by and large the temperatures were not so severe and spring comes early here.



The Mini-convention was, as always, a wonderful time to revel in each other's successes, to enjoy Victoria's unique President's Cup Speech, and to recognize Dr. Mike Bridges as the recipient of the National Jim Menefee Life Time Achievement Award. The event also provided the first annual membership meeting which, although somewhat thinly attended, sets the precedent for that to be an annual meeting.

On the national level, the National Board has opted to hold off on making immediate, major changes to the competitive divisions, to use calendar 2019 to refine the evaluation of potential changes, and then to present them for membership consideration during 2020 for implementation, if and as approved, in ride year 2021. So keep on keeping up with the proposals as they evolve and are made available for consideration.

You may have noticed some changes in our advertising. Kris Gray (teaming up with Courtney Woodall and Carolyn Chapman) is doing magic with social media advertising combined with new rider follow up. Their work is, we all believe, a significant part of the increased ridership so far this year. Remember though, it is how we treat the new comers (and continue to encourage recently joining and competing folks) that brings riders back and keeps them coming back long enough to become our "old friends". It is the tradition that we have of helping each other that sets the tone for new folks to see and returning folks to cherish.

We've got lots of rides all around the region, so find some and ***Come Ride With Us.***

Bill Moore, President, Region 5

On the Cover

CONGRATULATIONS
Grace and Victoria!

***2018 President's Cup
award winner...***

“By the *Grace* of God”
ridden by
Victoria Whitehead

What's Inside

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

Region 5 Board of Directors:

Bill Moore (2019) President beatarmy70@hotmail.com

Andrea Rogers (2020) Vice President carolinaluck@yahoo.com

Sherry Games (2019) Secretary sherry.games@sbgdigital.com

Gary Clayton (2020) Gclay2425l@charter.net

Kris Gray (2020) krisfgray@gmail.com

Marsha Howard (2020) marsha.r.howard@ge.com

Cindy Keen (2019) cindytk@hotmail.com

Patty Lucas (2019) Patty2014@aol.com

Victoria Whitehead (2019) whiteheadval6@gmail.com

Alternates:

Sandy Pegram (2019) Swpjp@aol.com

Katie Ward (2020) katie2cp@gmail.com

National Board Members:

Esther Diaguila (2020) bomcountry@skippinghorse.com

Bill Moore (2019) beatarmy70@hotmail.com

National Alternate:

Sallie Kudra

STARLIGHT FARMS
-MEDICAL BOARDING-

Victoria Whitehead, PhD

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whiteheadval6@gmail.com

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

WHY I RIDE NATRC?

John Stroh

I was recently talking to a horsey friend of mine and telling her about NATRC and how much I enjoy the rides. She sounded interested and asked me “Why do you ride NATRC and not some other discipline?” That question got me thinking. The simple answer is I enjoy it. In reality there is much more to it.

I’m fairly new to horses and I am convinced it is a journey where the learning never ends. The journey started at a clinic last year for me. I had never even thought about camping with my horse or attempting a long distance ride. The clinic opened my eyes to what my horse and I could accomplish as a team. Our first ride at Broxton Bridge last fall didn’t go as I had hoped. Bebe (my horse at the time) acted quite nervous and I couldn’t get her to calm down. Rather than risking injury to myself, Bebe, or anyone else I pulled out of the ride after a short distance. While that definitely was not the result I had hoped for I found the people at the ride to be extremely supportive, offering advice and suggestions for the next ride.

The next ride for us came at Wind Creek state park in Alabama a couple of months later. We were going to ride the open class in order to help a friend out in the points chase. We obviously were not in any kind of points race and I decided the faster pace might work out well for Bebe. Besides, we had nothing to lose. This adventure to me is completely about having fun. I’m retired military and have done my time competing and dealing with stressful situations. The only goal I have now is being daddy and a good “house husband”.

Saturday morning of the ride at Wind Creek I got up, took care of Bebe and saddled her up and went for a short ride in hopes of calming her down. I think it helped a little bit, but she was still pretty high strung. I was planning on riding with Victoria Whitehead. As with many good plans, that didn’t work out. Bebe was starting to act crazy and wouldn’t wait for Victoria.

Bebe and I took off down the trail not knowing what to expect, but happy to be riding. In no time we came up behind Esther Diaguila and Bill Moore. They graciously allowed us to fall in behind them for the ride. I had never spoken to either of them prior to this. Their kindness and willingness to share experiences reinforced my opinion that the people of Region 5 are what really makes the ride.

We finished Saturday with no problems thanks to Esther and Bill. At the end of the day Bill told the timer that I would be riding with them on Sunday as well. I never asked, he just really took me under his wing. Sunday started much the same, although Bebe was a little calmer. We finished the day and I was super stoked that we had finished our first NATRC ride!

I had high hopes going into the Christmas in the pines ride in Florida. The weather was forecast to be absolutely miserable and for once the weatherman was right. The rain that Saturday was horrendous. I saddled up Bebe and prepared to go out and make the best of it. Unfortunately she wasn’t having it and I didn’t start the ride. I was quite disappointed, but getting hurt just isn’t worth it. On the bright side the weekend was a resounding success. My daughter, Isabella, competed and did absolutely stellar! She had a super mentor in Victoria and some of the “ducklings”.

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The New Years Resolution ride found me without a horse. Bebe and I parted ways as we just couldn't seem to get our act together. Thankfully she went to a good home and has really bonded with her new owner. I hated to see her go, but it was for the best. I had several people offer to loan me a horse to ride while I searched for a new horse. This solidified my opinion that NATRC people are great. I decided not to ride and instead volunteered with the P&R crew. For those that have never done this, it's a great way to see how the ride really works. It was also a big plus to get to see Isabella on the trail! Once again Isabella did great at the ride and her continues to surprise me. He's the laziest animal I've ever seen, but Isabella and him have developed an incredible trust in each other. It's been really fun to watch.

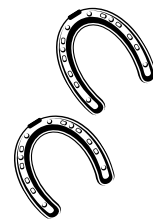
The people of NATRC are the biggest reason that I keep coming to ride. Everyone that I've met has been very helpful to me. Everyone has suggestions on how to improve or do something better. Some of those suggestions work, some don't, but you have to pick and choose what works for you and your horse. The venue's the rides are held at are also quite nice. I love travelling and getting to ride with good friends at different places is fun. I also enjoy walking around the campground and getting ideas for our trailer set up and just seeing how other people go about doing things. I truly believe the sport would sell itself if we could get people out to give it a try. It's more fun than I ever thought it would be.

I'm going to be back in the saddle at the benefit ride in a couple of weeks. I have a different horse and we have been working almost every day to prepare. Time will tell how we do, but right now she is really calm and we are developing a trust in each other that Bebe and I couldn't get worked out. I'll be happy with a safe finish and I'm really looking forward to a great weekend of fun!



2018 Shannon Memorial Award

Miss Olivia Lord



You cannot imagine my surprise, when I was awarded the Shannon Memorial Award at the Region 5 Mini Convention. My horse, Skeeter James, and I had a great 2018 season. I was very proud that he and I both earned second place for our region. I went to the mini-convention excited to get our second place ribbons. I had no idea that Mr. Bill Moore and my friend Janna would be presenting me with the Shannon Memorial Award, but I was thrilled when my name was called.

I am grateful for all of the members who welcomed me when I joined NATRC nearly five years ago. So many riders have taken time out of their busy weekends to guide and encourage us Ducklings. We have learned so much from them and have so much more to learn. I am looking forward to the 2019 ride season and all of the “opportunities” along the trails.

Receiving the Shannon Memorial Award means so much to me and my family. We are thankful for all I have gained through NATRC. ***Skeeter James and I are happy to be part of the NATRC Region 5 family.***



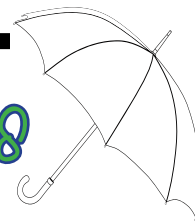
“Riding a horse is not a gentle hobby, to be picked up and laid down like a game of solitaire. It is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole and, once it has done so, he will have to accept that his life will be radically changed”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson





Christmas in the Pines 2018



Jordan Sims

The Rainy One

December, such a festive time of the year. It's a time to decorate for the holidays, grab the winter jackets, and spend time with some of your closest friends and family. And that is exactly what we did the first weekend of December (with a few modifications). Instead of decorating with Christmas lights, we hung our bistro lights all around our wonderful campsite in order not to trip and fall on something at 4:30 in the morning when we went to feed our "Slurpee" (soaked beet pulp and water along with a few other goodies) to the horses. We traded our winter coats for some paddock boots and a rain jacket just in case it was needed. And we spent the weekend with some of our closest region 5 friends and fellow riders.

Friday started out with making it to the wonderful Coldwater Equestrian Campground. We unloaded the pony and all his luggage. After he was settled and comfortable in his roomy stall, we headed over to our campsite to pop up our tent. We managed to make the tent as homey as possible for us and our campsite buddy Ham (our large Bull Mastiff who likes to steal the covers). I set off to vet-in and get a riding bib. Bree (my half arab/half quarter teammate) did wonderfully and was ready for a fun-filled weekend. It was quickly time for ride briefing. We all met in the food hall to go over our maps and discuss the trail. This is always a fun, exciting, and informative time. After ride briefing and having been given a warning of possible rain in the future, we headed back to tuck the ponies in for the night and head to bed.

It was around eleven that night when Ham (the Mastiff) and myself were jolted awake by a loud pop of lightning and a rumble of thunder. We contemplated running to the car to avoid being hit by lightning or washing away down the river, but decided to remain in bed and fall back asleep. Alarms started going off and lights started to appear as all were waking to feed some excited horses. The rain kept coming. Several of us huddled in a camper looking out the window discussing who was going to get on their horse first in the rain. We all laughed and wondered if we would actually ride out that morning. Suddenly, we saw someone up and on their horse. We knew we had to hurry. We mounted on our horses during a time the rain only drizzled. We were all successfully timed out and headed down the trail. It rained on and off during the entire trail and we could not have had more fun. Where else could you ride in the rain in December than the lovely long leaf pine tree lined trails of Florida?

We all made it safely back to camp after having ridden for hours in the rain. Walking around camp, you couldn't find a person, horse, saddle, or pair of boots that weren't soaked. You also couldn't find a person who wasn't smiling or laughing about all that rain. The rain continued until the early hours of Sunday morning. Although we all thoroughly enjoyed the rainy day before, we would have to admit it was nice riding without the rain on Sunday. With dry horses and slightly damp boots that had been dried in the most creative ways, we finished out our ride. Christmas in the Pines 2019 was a rainy ride, but one that none of the riders will ever forget. Great memories were made and even though I didn't find the green candy cane hidden on the trail and win the prize, there is always next year.



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
PO BOX 313

Hope Hull, AL 36043

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

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION 2019...

IN THE BOOKS



This ride had a tremendous turnout. We had twelve Junior riders that had a great time. Two of the junior riders are my grandgirls, Alora and Kinsley and a brand new junior rider, Ellie is my grandniece.



John Stroh's daughter, Isabella rode novice and had a grand time. He had also brought along his son, who now is eager to ride NATRC with dad and sis.

Cindy Keen brought her ducklings, and one of the ducklings is now in the open division. Janna had won numerous awards in Novice and CP in the past, so it was natural that she decided to ride in the open division. From the sounds of it, Janna had grand time of it! I don't think Janna will ever go back to Novice or CP. The ducklings pictured are Olivia, Janna, Olivia and Sierra.



Of course, Logan was there riding his pony, Watermelon. The pair have quickly become well-known in this region and everyone looks for Logan and Watermelon at rides.

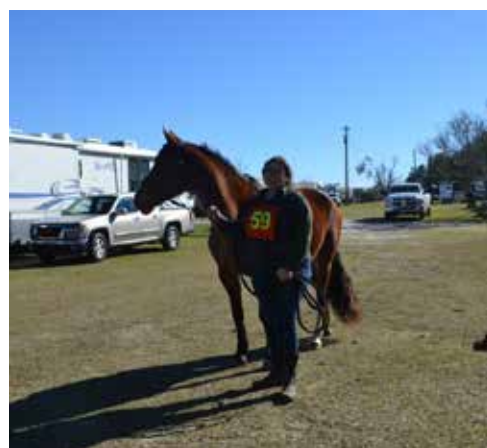
Halia is happy to be here in Florida in the bright sunshine and cool temperatures. The ride started out pretty chilly in the morning, but warmed in the afternoon. The NYR had great riding weather through true southern terrain; flat and sandy.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Kallie and Sadie are familiar sights at NATRC rides and it is always a pleasure to see the two of them. Region 5 loves our junior riders.



We also had long-time competitors Fran and Gayle Muench all the way from Texas competing with us. They drove 900 miles just to ride with the folks in region 5. From all accounts, they had a great time. We hope they will visit again. It's always fun when other regions allow us to play host for them. Thank you, Fran and Gayle, for coming to ride with us.

SPONSORS



We appreciate and applaud our sponsors. Their support helps us succeed. By purchasing products and services from these companies, you are supporting the sport you love!



Spalding Fly Predators





HAPPY Birthday RIDE

Gina Maddox

The Sad Story

Recently widowed I found myself facing my first Valentine's Day, my birthday, and his birthday without the love of my life, all in the span of just one week. I knew it was going to be a brutal week of tears. The grief process is especially heartbreaking on significant holidays and I had three big ones looking me in the face. Birthdays had been a big deal for our 25 years together as our birthdates were back to back. And, to add a little salt on the wound, I was facing one of those milestone "Big Oh!" birthdays. I was facing SIXTY. Yes, sad story. But I knew the secret to dealing with my grief was to stay busy so I decided to get busy and throw myself a birthday party.

The Happy Story

I needed a theme for a birthday party and one of the things that make me happy these days is riding my horse and being with friends. I board my horse at Hayes Ranch in Milton FL where my amazing "HR family" surrounds me. So many friends offered to help me throw a party that I decided a Happy Birthday Ride was exactly what I needed but what I really WANTED was a NATRC Ride at the Coldwater Equestrian Center as I'd missed the ride I'd been waiting for all year, Christmas in the Pines. Sadly, CITP was on the same day as my husband's funeral. There weren't any more NATRC rides scheduled at Coldwater so I knew I was going to have to plan my own NATRC ride. Intrigued with the new NATRC concept of LeD, Limited Distance Rides, designed to introduce our sport to new riders, I decided to combine a small limited entry LeD ride with my birthday party because so many of my friends at the ranch had expressed interest in giving NATRC a try. We limited the number of riders to 25 to keep it simple for my first attempt at ride management and my plan fell together perfectly. The Happy Birthday Ride was born.

With the help of my Hayes Ranch family we put on the first ever LeD ride in Region 5. We also put on the first ever stand-alone LeD ride for all of NATRC. Previous LeD rides had been held in conjunction with A and/or B rides. We pulled off so many firsts. I was a first time ride manager with no experience but lots of support. My Ride secretary, Candice Pickens, and my TrailMaster, Sherry Piezon, were also first timers. They were amazing. Most of the volunteer team were first timers but we also had great support in key roles from some experienced NATRC members like our safety rider, Donna Curry, Rules interpreter, Lori Allen, and P&R Chairs Walter and Medora Mullins. That boost of experience helped everything run smoothly. We had an exceptionally flexible and supportive Judge, Kim Cowart.

On ride day 22 riders headed into the woods with maps and obstacles waiting and 22 riders finished on time. Ten were brand new riders! That's success in my book! Our adults coming in first second and third places were first timer, Robyn Johnson, followed by Melissa Molasion and Jenny Demay. We had four junior riders all from Hayes Ranch. I was very proud of my girls from HR including first time riders, Halle Sterling who took 2nd place, and Autumn Coker, and second time riders, Oakley Waldrop and Jordan Pickens. Jordan and her horse Anna earned the high point award at the Happy Birthday Ride.

How do
you take a
sad story
and make
it happy?
Easy...
just add
horses and
friends.

When asked what she liked about the Happy Birthday Ride, High Point winner, Jordan Pickens said “I enjoyed being able to do another NATRC ride at Coldwater so close to home. The obstacles were fun and I enjoy working with my horse on new skills and being able to show what you can do with your horse.”

We celebrated that evening with a spaghetti dinner and birthday cupcakes sponsored by Jill Hayes, Hayes Ranch – Training, Lessons and Boarding.

I jumped into ride management with no experience but it worked because of wonderful support from NATRC R5 members Andrea Rogers, Lori Allen, Medora and Walter Mullins, Kim Cowart, Sherry Piezon and Donna Curry. I also found working with the leadership at our national level was a delightful experience. I would encourage everyone to get involved in an LeD ride and bring new riders to R5. LeD is a great way to introduce people to our sport and we had 12 experienced NATRC riders who enjoyed the ride, too.

I had an exciting 60th birthday celebration. I’d like to try it again next year after I get settled into my new home in Colorado. Do you think they’ll let me throw a LeD Happy Birthday Ride in Region 3 next year?



PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

ARTICLE V

Membership

Section 1

Any person interested in the purposes and objectives of the North American Trail Ride Conference *or RFTRA* is entitled to membership in RFTRA upon proper application and payment of the required fees. Membership in RFTRA shall be automatic upon payment of the dues to NATRC *or RFTRA and residence within the area described in Article II.*

Section 4

Each member of RFTRA who has been a dues paying member for a least one full year is entitled to vote on any issue presented to the membership for vote. Family membership entitles the “family” to two votes.

EXPENSES INCLUDED IN YOUR RIDE FEE:

| | Member | Non-Member |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| National Fee | \$10 | \$35 |
| Drug Fee | \$5 | \$5 |
| Region Fee | \$3 | \$3 (effective for the 2019 ride year) |
| | \$18 | \$43 |

This is the amount that your ride manager must pay out of your ride fee, before any other costs.

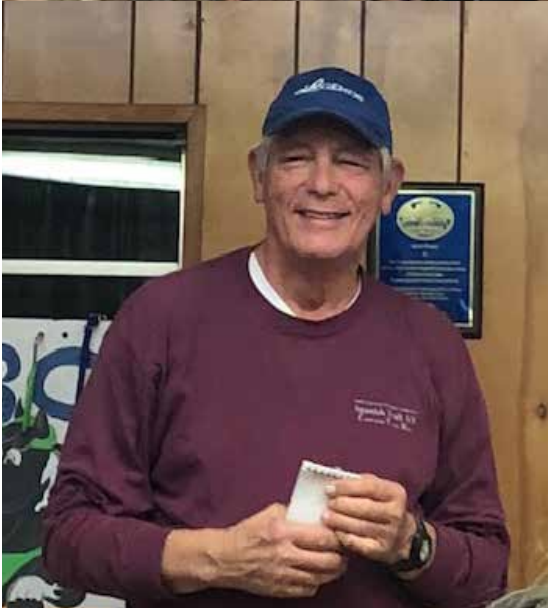
from the editor...

A huge **Thank You** to all of those who sent in photos and write ups for this edition of the Hoofprints of Region Five. For a full listing of 2018 awards and an upcoming schedule of events, visit the Region Five website @ www.natrc5.org.

Photo credits to: Sandy Pegram, Esther Diaguila, John Stroh, Leigh Riley, Gina Maddox, Rebekah Cox, Renee Gosda, Bill Parker and Victoria Whitehead.

Please submit all articles, photos and Diamond Award nominations to Linda Clayton @ lindaclay@aol.com

Enjoy the beautiful spring weather!
Katrina Casey, Editor



**MINUTES FROM November 17, 2018
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGION FIVE TRAILRIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Below you will find highlights from the NATRC Region 5 Board Of Directors meeting held on November 17, 2018 at the Cal-laway Resort & Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia.

The scheduled meeting of the Region Five Trailriders Association, Inc. Board Of Directors was called to order by Bill Moore, President.

The meeting was held on Saturday starting at 9:00 am. There were 9 board members, and 1 alternate present. Regional Treasurer, Linda Clayton, National Alternate, Sallie Kudra. Kris Gray and Marsha Howard new board members for 2019 were present for the board meeting.

Sherry Garnes was recognized for the secretary's report. The minutes of the board meeting held on July 21, 2018, were previously distributed to the members of the board and reviewed. Linda Clayton moved for approval of the minutes and Katie Ward seconded, which motion was on voice vote carried.

Bill announced Mike Bridges would receive the Jim Menefee Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Convention. Cindy Keen made the motion to give Mike and Sarah \$1,000.00 to help with their travel expense to the convention. Esther seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Linda Clayton provided a Treasures Report. There was \$1,064.00 income and \$445.86 expense for the period August to November. A discussion was raised to lower cost for the purchase of rider penny numbers for the year it was decided to leave the cost as is.

Linda noted that Ride Managers need to check cards to ensure the horse name matches RMS exactly. For example Ace 6 in RMS needs to read Ace 6 on the card.

The Fall Newsletter was a huge success with lots of articles and pictures from ride managers and riders. Everyone please send in your pictures and articles to Linda for publication.

Sallie Kudra stated no renewals or new members for October. Region 5 is trending downward on new memberships. Sallie conveyed she needs accurate and updated information from National to report correct data.

Conversation was had on how to bring in more riders; Andrea Rogers is committing to build the north part of Region 5. Marsha Howard suggested going to 4-H and Pony Club meetings. Katie Ward reported that having juniors participate in 4-H gave the juniors excused absences from school to attend NATRC rides. Katie is writing an article describing this process for the newsletter. C Rides now known, as Leisure Rides can be a stand-alone ride or combined with A, B ride. The Ride Manager can decide if they offer the Leisure Ride. Andrea announced there are two open weekends in March and the first weekend in June available for Leisure Ride, Clinic or A,B Ride. There cannot be a ride sanctioned 250 miles of one another. Marsha had a suggestion of having a Leisure Ride on the weekdays. Our Novice division depends on local riders and, participation is down for 2018.

Andrea Rogers presented a proposal for how to allocate use of the Region Ride Fee of \$3.00, for Ride Manager Fund to assist travel expense with out of region judges. There was discussion and Andrea will reformat and present at a later date.

Patty Lucas reported \$2722.25 store sales for 2018. Patty is checking on getting better pricing for the first time riders t-shirts.

Cindy Keen gave the Fund Raising report for 2018.

\$204.00 Raffle at Mini Convention

\$1375.00 First In Line

\$2575.00 Number for the year

\$190.00 Stalls cleaned at Spring In Dixie

\$45.00 Massage at Spring in Dixie

\$3919.00 Benefit Ride

Cindy announced the theme of the Benefit Ride for 2019 will be "Rock Star" the location is Mingo Trails, Toombsboro, Ga. on March 22-24 2019. Vet Judge: Dr. Carrie Porter, Apprentice Vet Judge Dr. Keri Riddick, Horsemanship Judge: Bill Sherfese. Possible microchip fundraiser offered at the ride.

Tonya Kingsley discussed the year end awards. Sandy Pegram volunteered to donate funds for the Shannon Memorial.

Victoria Whitehead presented a P&L spreadsheet for mini convention. If 20 rooms are rented from Region 5 the conference room will be free. Bill will present State Of The Region Summary and Financial Statement to the affiliates at the Members Meeting on February 16, 2019 from 10:30-12:00.

There is a \$10.00 registration fee. Andrea moved increase to \$20.00 after the deadline Cindy 2nd the motion. Victoria is going to announce the date the fee will increase. Mini Convention will be at Calloway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA on February 16, 2019.

Keri Riddick spoke to the board members about the Leisure Ride. The board members expressed their concerns with the ride. Keri noted all the concerns and stated she would discuss them with the committees. Ride Managers will determine if they offer a Leisure Ride along with their A&B ride.







Region Five Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.
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