

Happprints

SUMMER 2019



Take PRIDE in your Ride, COME RIDE WITH US!

Come Socialize with Us!

NATRC isn't just about riding your horse through the woods, it's about becoming better horsemen and horsewomen, constant learning, helping others and making long lasting friendships.

We do this mostly from a “between the ears view,” of course, but there's more! Stay connected with your NATRC family through social media. NATRC and Region 5 both have Facebook Pages and Groups. Be sure you are following the pages and have joined the groups. There is A LOT going on! On the NATRC Page, we are sharing training tips and suggestions, reviewing proper riding position, etc. We also have a weekly “Try This” Challenge.

The Region 5 Page is the place to go to learn about upcoming events, such as rides or clinics, and stay in touch with your Region 5 family.

The NATRC and Region 5 Discussion Groups are both great places to get advice, look for tack, a horse, a ride to an event and share pictures.

There is ton of great discussion on all of our Facebook pages and groups and helpful information provided by our NATRC family from all over the nation.

BE sure to share your love for NATRC with others by sharing the posts and events, inviting them to “like” the pages, inviting them to the events, etc. Help us spread the word about our fantastic sport!!

To follow the pages or join the groups, search for the following:

- **North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)**
Facebook Page (NATRC logo for profile)
- **Region 5 NATRC**
Facebook Page (Region 5 logo for profile picture)



REGION 5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Please submit all information
on upcoming rides, updates
and anything additional you
would like to have featured
in the quarterly newsletter to
lindaclay@aol.com or
katcasey4@icloud.com by
October 15, 2019.

Board Contacts.....3
Spring in Dixie.....4
Adventures in Dixie.....5
Garrie Bates Memorial.....6/7
Go Big or Go Home.....8/9
Riding the Rangelands.....10
Spring in Dixie -211
Photos.....12
LeD Information.....13
Business.....14/15
Photos.....16/17/18/19

STARLIGHT FARMS
-MEDICAL BOARDING-

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

Spring in Dixie 2019

A good Start

for a NATRC first timer

This year's NATRC Spring in Dixie ride was my very first experience with not only with NATRC but competitive trail riding as a whole.

My horse is a rescue and had not been off my property since just after her rescue, she has also had very limited contact with other horses. Everyone at the ride seemed like they were just a big family, and as soon as we drove up, my horse and I were welcomed with open arms. The whole atmosphere was so friendly and kind. They all helped me safely get my horse used to the horses she would be coming into contact with the most.

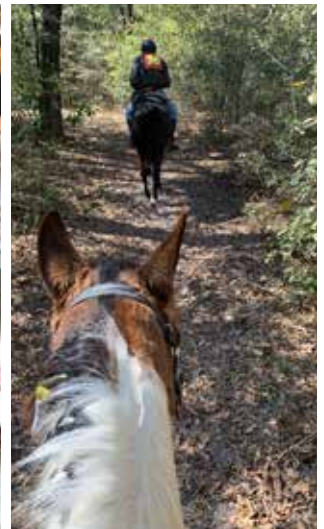
The trails were fun and challenging and we both enjoyed them. The judges seemed very knowledgeable in what they were looking for and gave great input. While on the trail, my horse and I fell which resulted in pulling from the competition. Everyone around was so helpful. The safety riders made sure I got back to camp unscathed. Both of the vet judges offered to check my horse out and helped me to treat her sore leg. Everyone at the ride took very good care of us.

We both had such a good time regardless of having to pull and we look forward to the next ride. Hopefully to finish!

Allyn Garrett

Spring in Dixie 2019 was held April 12-14 @ Faye Whittemore Farm in Jasper, Alabama and managed by Patty Lucas.

2019 Benefit Ride



“ADVENTURES” IN DIXIE

Marsha Howard

So what the heck just happened you ask?

So many of you may know I had a little adventure at Spring in Dixie resulting in exposing your horses during vet check to helicopters and sirens. ***What happened?*** I was returning from vet check to my trailer. I asked Pepper to curbside to a step to mount bareback. Something we do routinely and without thought. This mount the step was a little low, requiring me to lay across his back prior to swinging my leg over- you know they type that leaves you wiggling a bit and hoping nobody is behind you with the camera. This particular mount, Pepper decided to take a few steps while I started that wiggle. I remember pulling the rope to ask him to stand and then...

I do not remember anything that involves gravity leading me to lying on the ground with IV's being placed, paramedics and broken legs. I have no memory of slipping, hitting the ground or anything that got me in that scary and awkward position. These are the memories I do have... People holding my hand and head giving me the strength to be brave and allow the things that needed to happen to happen. Strong and knowledgeable people getting me stable in the field. NATRC family calling my daughter to let her know of my predicament. NATRC family members driving to the hospital and sitting long uncomfortable hours in the miserable waiting room chairs until they knew I was safe, had a plan and was settled. I know getting up at 5AM had to be more than the usual struggle the next morning for them. They also brought me food just in time to eat prior to being cutoff for impending surgery! The safety and comfort that my horses were being fed, cared for, poop scooped, moved out of flood zones by my NATRC family during a stormy threatening wet weekend. Not one horse but two! The knowledge that Jezebel was not only cared for but allowed to stay at doggie camp with three of her closest companions. Not sure how much sleep happened in a trailer with 4 dogs. How easily my horse family established long term plans to return my boys home. Offers for them to stay in Dublin in a known and safe routine and then ultimately that somehow my dog, horses, truck and trailer returned to my home and all my four-legged family settled in before I was even discharged. I have memories of texts, kitty cards, phone calls, hospital visits, meal deliveries, housecleaning, stall cleaning, offers to use Birmingham apartments, transportation offers, dog bathing, trash pickup, pasture mowing and hugs. You have no idea how comforting and important those touches are to a healing soul.

***“There are
friends, there
is family and
then there
are friends
that become
family.”***

Support didn't stop even weeks into recovery. I got more cards, dinners delivered, gift packages. I received a VERY generous donation from a NATRC raffle. Friendly faces came and put fly spray on horses and cleaned stalls, emptied my trash and delivered my mail. I have plants on the bank of my pond placed in the hot sun that will bring me smiles and memories for years. NATRC- always educational...learned about insurance and safety bracelets and hopefully we are all a bit stronger for the experience.

Horse people have always been supportive by nature. I would challenge you to find a sport in which the people at camp and at large pull together as quickly and efficiently and have such a bond. I know that when I think NATRC and come to rides I am coming to see family and riding the horse is a perk. I don't know how to package that feeling in an advertisement to post on Facebook.

My foot is now pointing back in the correct direction. It has a few months to heal but then Pepper and I will continue to practice standing at the mount. Yes- I will frown at the judge that asks for an offsite mount for a while. I would say I look forward to being with my NATRC family soon, but they are all around me now. I just can't wait to see them all in person on the trail, in camp and from the top of the horse.

-Garrie Bates Memorial-

Virginia Highlands: Thoughts from the Ride Secretary and Timer

by Ginny Tolbert

What a great weekend! It only rained lots at 3:30 both Saturday and Sunday mornings so life was very good. No wet saddles or riders, no injuries, and no one got more than just slightly lost. I spend my time in camp from time-out in the morning until time-in in the afternoon (~4.75 – 5.25 hours for Novice and CP, and ~7.25-7.75 hours for Open with their 45 min lunch in the middle of their day) helping prepare lunches and goffering while totally soaking in the quiet and beauty of the mountains. It all looks like the Scottish Highlands to me and is totally breathtaking. Just the location alone fills me with awe and peace. The fellowship, good food (thank you Jennifer Wertz for the perfect smoked chicken Saturday night), the bonfires and bluegrass after dinner and ride briefings all make this a special ride. Nancy and Bill provide a great camping location and covered pavilion that is great for just hanging out, visiting, resting, and dinner.



We all owe Nancy a great thank you for continuing Virginia Highlands to honor Garrie Bates (The Mule Lady) for all her years putting on this ride, her contributions to other rides, trail planning and construction at a number of locations, and mentoring a number of us. Garrie was a no nonsense lady with a heart of gold who helped many of us overcome our fears, insecurities, and lack of trust of our relationship with our trusty steeds. She would say “just shut up and ride”. She loved to ride and our sport. Garrie and Marshall were honored at the National level several years ago for their life-long commitment and contributions to our sport. Garrie left a large heart and a big saddle to fill for all of us. It is so fitting to honor her with the continuation of this ride; please put June 20-21, 2020, for next year. You won’t be sorry. It is a challenging ride, but is very doable. There were 5 first-time competitors this year, which is awesome! There were lots of smiles coming back into camp at the end of the ride.



Nancy did an awesome job of trail marking both before and during the ride. So many riders commented about how well the trails were marked. She went out Saturday evening to check and update markings for the Sunday ride. I’d better pause here to say that not only did Nancy provide A (2-day) and B (1-day) rides for all classes but she also ran a “Ride and Tie” competition simultaneously. These riders/runners went out 30 minutes prior to the CTR departures and were back to camp prior to CTR competitors returning both days. I don’t think either group saw the other either day. Great planning and management; thank you Nancy. The timing was perfect; there were no complaints about the speed and all riders came back into camp within their time window.

On time and smiling faces makes all the work to put on a ride well worth all the time and effort. Having no accidents or injuries is a tribute to ride management preparation and timing and to each of you for working carefully with your horses/mules for a safe and great ride. Thank you!

I'd been asked to make a comment in this article about being thoughtful and leaving your campsite and horse site the best possible. Think that would go without saying, but seeing posts on the Facebook page about a few "oops" at VA Highlands, consider this a reminder. It is up to each of us to set the best example possible for other riders who will come behind us about how to take good care of the land – good stewardship and being courteous. We are lucky at many rides to have horses in stalls and even have cleanup services. If not, it's our job to remember that we are responsible for cleaning up our own messes and to try to leave things better than we found them. Enough said. Thank you for remembering.

Our best wishes for happy and safe trails to each of you through the hot summer. As Ride Secretary for Ride the Edge also, I'll put in a plug for you all to join us in September. Wayne and I hope to see all of you at "Ride the Edge" at East Fork Stables, September 7-8. It too is a beautiful ride as are the rest of the fall rides. Check the ride schedule for upcoming rides. If you need help accessing ride information give me a call or text (865) 216-7563, email vtolbert@usit.net, although I don't necessarily check my emails daily! I'm also willing to help you find a stopover place to overnight, and we are always glad to offer a place at our house as are many other of your NATRC family.

-Garrie was a no nonsense lady with a heart of gold who helped many of us overcome our fears, insecurities, and lack of trust of our relationship with our trusty steeds. She would say "just shut up and ride".



Go BIG OR GO



Danielle Hunter



In April of last year, I met a 13-year-old bay mare named Jewel who was available for adoption from Solitude Morgan Rescue near Charlottesville, VA. From the start I hoped Jewel would be a horse that I could condition for distance riding. In high school and college I had the good fortune of catch riding and conditioning several horses for endurance, and my heart lies in logging miles on trails and admiring the scenery. Ironical for someone who was terrified of riding on trails and open fields prior to getting introduced to distance riding (go big or go home?).

Over the past year Jewel and I have covered many miles as we prepared for my first foray into distance riding on *my own horse* and my first distance ride in close to 15 years. I had always been interested in NATRC, so when I heard there was a new ride, Lee's Retreat, practically in my "back yard" (40 minutes away in Appomattox, VA) I made it our goal. Last fall I attended a NATRC clinic organized by Chris Cooper and Andrea Rogers and left equipped with a better understanding of how NATRC works and rides are run.

In May, the entire family – my husband, HB, and our two children, Olivia and Joseph – piled into the truck with Jewel in the trailer behind us and made our way to Lee's Retreat. Originally planning to ride in the novice division, my friends that I condition with regularly (and who were riding safety)

helped convince me that Jewel was ready and able to complete the open division. I was sure she was ready but starting out with a 2-day 50-mile ride is a little daunting. But I also knew the novice, or even competitive pleasure would not be a challenge for us – especially on our home trails. And no matter which division we were in, we would likely run into the same challenges (since we do most of conditioning solo). I took a deep breath and at the last minute, stepped up to the challenge and changed to the open division. This isn't something I would necessarily recommend to new riders, but I knew Jewel was ready, it was just a mental game for me. Lee's Retreat went wonderfully! We met so many wonderful people and had so much fun. Jewel made me so proud, she handled every situation beautifully.

The problems I expected to arise made their appearance – she bonds to her horse friends quickly and gets anxious at the obstacles waiting for her turn – but, with time and patience we can address those issues. It was a hot ride, and Jewel isn't a petite horse – she's big boned and sturdy, some sort of cross (we think Morgan and Standardbred) but all things considered, P&R stops went very well. My husband, HB, was "volun-told" to help with P&R, and of course the kids had to travel with them to the stops. It was such a treat to get to see my kids at the P&R stops, and to hear their words of encouragement when I would head back out on the trail. I hope other riders received the same benefit. The most enjoyable part of the ride was getting to ride with Lisa Nauditt and Patty Lucas – what a pleasure to meet these ladies and spend a large portion of two days riding and learning from them.

Encouraged by our successful completion at Lee's Retreat, I was thrilled when I was able to re-arrange my work schedule so that we could attend the Garrie Bates Memorial Virginia Highlands ride. I've heard about the trails in this section of Virginia since moving here 12 years ago and was so excited to finally get a chance to ride them. Not to mention, since lurking on the NATRC Facebook pages for a few years, I've heard a lot of stories about the hospitality at this ride. Let me just say: the trails and hospitality did not disappoint! Once again, I decided to try the Open "A" ride; deciding that if she seemed really tired at the end of Saturday's ride I could pull and call it a successful 30 mile conditioning ride.

Going into the ride Jewel was still learning how to handle downhills (I was having to help re-balance her), but she quickly figured it out and was soon doing down the hills beautifully balanced without any guidance from me. Once again, Jewel was wonderful and made me so proud. The weather being a little cooler, her P&R recoveries were better. Jewel showed improvement on areas where we struggled at Lee's Retreat, with areas still obvious for improvement, but nonetheless, there was improvement. She tackled the trails like a professional and enabled me to enjoy the majestic scenery. Sunday's ride was especially enchanting – heavy fog and mist on single track trail climbing up and down mountains, with greenery all around you. I had the good fortune to ride with Lisa Nauditt again, as well as Mikayla Nunn. It was such a joy to spend two days with these ladies and their horses.

This time, HB volunteered to help with P&R, and he enjoys getting to meet all the horses and riders and other volunteers. I joke and tell him he now knows more people at these rides than I do! If that's not a case for volunteering, I don't know what is – what a great way to meet the people involved in the sport.

The kids were thrilled to find a friend in Marilyn Hartness's granddaughter, Charlotte, and are anxiously looking forward to the King's Mountain ride to see her again. Olivia, who is 8, has started asking a lot of questions about NATRC and seems very interested in riding once she's old enough.

I thoroughly appreciate NATRC welcoming our family into the sport and providing such a wonderful and supportive environment. And for tolerating the squabbles of our children – it happens. I appreciate everyone's focus on the health of the horse, and the comradery among volunteers. Jewel and I look forward to future rides. -



Photo submitted by Carolyn Chapman
2019 Benefit Ride

PLEASE FORWARD ALL CHANGES OF
- ADDRESS
- EMAIL
- TELEPHONE
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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
PO BOX 313

Hope Hull, AL 36043

Riding the Rangelands

Garrie Bates Memorial @ Triple C 2019
Sallie Kudra



I've never been drawn to ride a one day ride as an Open rider, but considering that the winter and spring were so wet and muddy in SC, I chose to do the one day at the Garrie Bates Memorial at Triple C to baby my old bones and Oco's legs since we had only 5 conditioning rides under our belts. Sure glad that we had those last 3 in very hot conditions at the Chattooga River in the mountains of NE Georgia and NW SC. I think it stood us in good stead to handle the similar terrain of the Virginia highlands where we were blessed with cooler temps than originally forecast.

I got to ride with 2 of my favorite teams – Esther Diaguila on Dana and Andrea Rogers on Boo which made for a very enjoyable day. These 3 mares are closely matched in pace and they like each other. In fact, Boo is Oco's #1 hero. The day started cool and overcast after a torrential downpour which started at 3AM Saturday morning. We rode a bit differently this year than in previous years as Nancy made sure that *all* the competitors would get the pleasure of riding the Rangelands. The ride was a bit different also in that a Ride and Tie event was held on the same trails, with those folks going out a half hour in front of our group. Saw only one team out on trail and that was shortly before we came into camp for lunch. Learned a bit from the competitor who was walking/jogging in front of us. We passed her then she passed us as we stopped at one of the huge tractor tire watering stations in the Rangeland. I asked her (I swear she couldn't have been more than 13yo!) if she would walk in the rest of the way. She said she didn't know but that each team had to make 6 switches. I said I guess if we see a pony tied in the woods we'll know. We got through a gate and headed up a small hill to see a pony tied in the trees next to the trail. Question answered. A person was with the pony and I said her teammate was just behind us. I asked her if they normally wait for the new rider to show up and she no, but that the pony had been acting a fool most of the day so she was waiting to be sure the transition took place without a hitch. Heartening to know that another sport is a caring about each other as NATRC is.

Nancy also said that instead of going up the Arrowhead trail as we usually do, Garrie had "spoken" to her to ride the CC Camp road instead. So after lunch, we headed out the CC Camp Rd to the Virginia Highlands trail again and then coming back out on CC Camp Rd. We headed up the 2.2 mile climb to our 3rd P&R. As we were climbing, a yellow tiger swallowtail butterfly flew directly in front of each of us, one at a time, then flew ahead of us down the road for about 50 yards before going into the woods. I got the distinct feeling that butterfly was Garrie who was leading the way on the path which she had told Nancy to take. I know Mema Garrie was with us then and smiling that huge smile she had.

We all made it in fine fettle and just over mid-time. Took just enough time to get the dried on mud curried out and the dog walked before doing our vet out. What a strange feeling to hand my pinny in on a Saturday afternoon. Even though I think Oco could have done the 2nd day without a problem – she vetted out 4 and sound which is how she vetted in – I don't know that *my* body could have stood it.

Andrea/Boo and I/Oco were the LWT teams and Andrew Murray/Chief were the Hwt team. I took a 2nd to Andrea in Horsemanship and Oco took the 1st in Horse. Oco also took the 1 day Open Sweepstakes. Received an absolutely gorgeous wall hanging of a sunrise through the gate of Triple C as the Sweepstakes award.

Many thanks to Nancy for such a beautiful venue, such extraordinarily well marked trails (I never expected anything less), a spectacular set of volunteers and management that is unsurpassed. Thanks to Wayne and Natalie for thoughtful observations and judging. ***I had an absolute blast!***

So, you say April is a great month to ride; and yet I've also heard the phrase, "April showers bring forth May flowers". Well let me tell you, those blooming flowers were at full capacity during the Spring in Dixie Ride this year at the Faye Whittemore Farm ride. Contrary to some weather forecasters, flooding was perhaps a better term to use than "some rain".



What always amazes me about our NATRC family is how, no matter what seems to happen, they are prepared to take care of horse and rider. Although I have ridden in an all-weekend wet ride before (you remember Patricia?), this ride is possibly at the top of memory makers.

Sadie Smith had requested I ride with a young first-time competitor friend of hers. Allyn Garrett was riding a gaited horse "Lady" while Sadie was on a walk-trot horse. Allyn's horse was a nice horse but perhaps a little untrusting of the whole event. Lady had been rescued by Allyn and only willing to trust Allyn. Skyy tried his best to win Ms. Lady over, but it was indeed a challenge.

Luckily (perhaps), all our p/r's were back in camp. It was VERY tempting with wet saddles, pants, jackets, etc., to stop. However, Allyn was ready to go at each stop, so off we went back out after each p/r. The River Walk is a unique and yes, challenging, venue; but most especially during high water rising. About quarter way into the river, Allyn's horse slipped and down they both went. My feeling is that the good Lord was watching over them as they found, I believe, the ONLY out spot on the river.

There was no way I could go back and get to them, BUT Kris Gray and her Safety Riders were there to help get her to safety. Allyn and Lady returned back to camp, drenched, but ok. Lady's injury was minor and Allyn finished on a positive note and said she will be back.

You can never plan for so many of the things that can and do happen during a ride. But, it IS the way NATRC organizes us to be. Patty Lucas and all her volunteers went over and above to keep all safe. Despite heavy rains Saturday night and threatening weather, the Ride Management crew discussed, evaluated, considered and re-discussed, re-evaluated and re-considered the options to keep all safe. And they did.

Me? I was a wimp - made my one day ride and came home to a dry bed. But had I stayed, I KNEW the safety of myself and my horse was ultimate to this NATRC group. That's why I love and trust my NATRC family.

Sandy Pegram and Skyy

"He knows when you're happy.
He knows when you're comfortable.
He knows when you're confident.
And he always knows when you have carrots."
— Unknown Author



Lee's Retreat 2019 photos courtesy of Jan Barabas





*NATRC offers Something
for EVERYONE*

-The Leisure Division-

Introduced in 2018 as a “C” ride; and becoming an official division with the 2019 ride year, the Leisure Division’s primary purpose is to introduce the people to NATRC and increase participation in our sport. While some were skeptical at first, we can see that others have accepted the idea wholeheartedly.

I had the pleasure of working with Kim Cowart on the LeD ride held in conjunction with the Lee’s Retreat ride in May. It was a wonderful experience. Sitting with the participants after the ride and awards, it was so satisfying to see their enthusiasm and know that we had been a part of introducing a group of new folks to our sport. I would not hesitate to do it again!



Kim Cowart
judging the Leisure
division at the
Lee’s Retreat ride
in May

Benefits for Ride Managers

- There is no additional sanction fee to include an LeD ride in your traditional ride, and the Sanction fee for a stand-alone LeD ride is lower than that for the traditional ride.
- LeD rides can be held at venues without camping and with fewer miles of trail.

The Leisure Division (LeD) has been responsible for approximately 25% of entries so far in the 2019 season. The reasons are as varied as the participants.

- The shorter distance (8-12 miles) appeals to folks who don’t have time to condition for longer distances and to older riders / those with older horses, who may not be up to longer distances.
- The “all in one day” format meets the needs of riders who cannot be away from home or work for 2 or 3 days as required for the traditional ride format. Participants can arrive in the morning, attend a briefing, ride, get their results and awards, meet with the judge and other volunteers for a review of the day and still be home the same day.
- Camping is not required, and there are a great number of people who do not have the equipment, are hesitant to tie their horses overnight or just don’t want to camp.
- Ride fees are lower, which is appreciated by those wanting to “try out” NATRC.
- Riders are not required to weigh in, LeD has Adult and Junior classes only.
- Riders (that are members) who participate in 3 or more rides are eligible for Regional year end awards
- Riders (that are members) will receive mileage credit for any rides completed

There are a couple of differences from the traditional rides when it comes to judging, scores and placement.

- There is only one score card for LeD rides – it includes Rider, Horse, Check-in/Check-out, P&R and Safety sections.
- Participants are scored on a positive basis, earning points for their efforts instead of losing points for “errors”.
- Competitors are judged as a rider/horse team, and placed on the combined score of the team
- Teams are placed 1st through 10th and there is a corresponding point schedule.

Minutes Of February 15, 2019
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
REGION FIVE TRAILRIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Below you will find highlights from the NATRC Region 5 Board of Directors First Meeting of 2019, took place February 15, 2019 in Pine Mountain, GA.

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 Friday afternoon at Callaway Resort & Gardens in conjunction with Region 5 Mini Convention. There were 10 board members, Regional Treasurer, Linda Clayton, National Alternate, Sallie Kudra and Tanya Kingsley in attendance.

Sherry Garnes was recognized for a Secretary's report. The minutes of the Board meeting held on November 17, 2018, were previously distributed to the members of the board, were reviewed and on a motion from Bill Moore seconded by Cindy Keen were unanimously approved as submitted.

Mike Bridges sent a thank you note for the gift of \$1,000.00 toward his and Sarah's airfare to Reno, NV to attend the NATRC National Convention to receive the Jim Menefee Memorial Award.

Andrea Rogers announced we have new Ride Managers submitted for the 2019 ride year.

There were concerns noted about the LeD penny's. Lori Allen made penny's with standard numbers. The apprehension was if the LeD ride were held with an A&B ride there would be duplicate numbers and could cause confusion for the judges and management. There were discussions about adding a 1 in front of the LeD penny that Lori had used. Andrea will ask Lori if she can add the 1 to the penny. The LeD penny will be light blue. National will send our LeD scorecards to the ride secretary before the ride. Andrea donated a P&R box for the LeD rides. Bill suggested a crate designated for the LeD to keep all supplies in.

Sherry Garnes suggested forming a committee to aid in the issues and create structure with the developing a description of the meaning of different judge's score card comments for LeD in Region 5. Victoria and Esther volunteered to head up the committee and invite Marty Finley to join them. It will be called LeD Skelton Rubric.

The BOD decided it would not provide first time rider t-shirts for the LeD ride. Patty suggested a NATRC fan, and a hand written note for each rider. Victoria moved and Marsha seconded and the motion was approved without opposition.

Marsha Howard expressed concern with the LeD having consistency in judging, and not burning out volunteers with adding more rides to the calendar year.

Esther asks if the LeD would be eligible for the new ride grant. Linda stated it would not be. Clinics are not eligible for grant money either. The LeD ride will pay the standard \$3.00 per rider to the region. This money goes to the Ride Management Fund.

The Board voted on a new T-shirt for the 1st time riders. Cindy Keen spoke with Lori Allen and JT Hanna about bidding on the shirts. Lori declined to bid and JT Hanna gave her a price of \$8.00 per shirt. The new shirts will be available for 1st time riders at the Benefit Ride.

Linda Clayton provided a Treasures Report. The balance sheet ending February 28, 2019 was handed out to all members

Victoria presented the schedule for the Mini-Convention to the board. Region 5 will hold the first State Of The Region Annual Report for all members on Saturday February 16, 2019. With 20 rooms rented at Calloway Lodge & Spa from Region 5, there was no cost for the conference room.

Tanya Kinsley reported she spent \$1543.12 on the year-ends awards. This was below budget. Some year-end awards were donated by Sandy Pegram, Victoria Whitehead, Zeb Whitehead, and Cindy Keen.

If you have the front of the line pass and you have someone in your trailer or riding with you, that person can also go to the front of the line for an additional \$50.00. The \$50.00 collected at the ride will go to Patty. Patty will add it to the store money.

Marsha proposed having a suggestion box at each ride. Sallie mentioned putting an information sheet in the rider bag making riders aware of the suggestion box or e-mailing suggestions to her.

Sallie Kudra presented the membership report with 1 new supporting member, 39% of 2018 have not renewed. Most riders will renew at their first ride.

Bill Moore announced the Free Membership is continued through 2019.

Linda needs pictures and articles for the newsletter from Christmas In The Pines & New Years Resolution.

Cindy Keen and Patty Lucas provided the Fund Raising report. Store sales for Christmas in the Pines; \$131.00, New Years Resolution \$558.00. There were \$637.63 in expenses for the store so far in 2019. Cindy requested items for a silent auction that will be held at the Benefit Ride.

Kris Gray presented the BOD with a report on Marketing/Outreach. The data from Facebook supports the increase in rider count for 2019. Christmas In The Pines had 35 riders in 2018, 42 riders in 2019. New Years Resolution had 32 riders 2018, 53 riders 2019. Kris Gray, Courtney Woodall & Carolyn Chapman are reaching out to all new riders with e-mails, phone calls and a warm welcoming at the rides this will continue through the newbie's first year, not just their first ride. Bill suggested Ride Managers put ribbons on the penny's for the first year participant. Gary wants rider names on the penny's.

Bill presented a proposed by-laws change:

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.

After correcting Section 4 to identify the specific classes of voting membership, Kris gave the motion to move forward with the by-laws correction. Esther 2nd the motion. All was in favor.

The summer board meeting is set for July 20, 2019 at the Hampton Inn, Norcross, GA. at 9:00 am.

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



Lee's Retreat 2019 photos courtesy of Jan Barabas

Bottom Rt: Benefit Ride 2019 photo courtesy of Carolyn Chapman





Lee's Retreat 2019 photos courtesy of Jan Barabas and Chris Cooper Top Rt: Carolina Derby 2019 Photo courtesy of Chris Cooper



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Benefit Ride 2019 photo courtesy of Courtney Keen





Benefit Ride 2019 photos courtesy of Courtney Keen, Carolyn Chapman and Kris Gray



Mark your calendars!

September 7-8	Ride The Edge Wayne Tolbert, 865-216-7563, 865-363-7563, vtolbert@usit.net	Jamestown, TN	A-O; A&B-N,CP
September 21-22	Kings Mountain Carol Ault, 803-415-0315, carolault.crabtree@gmail.com	Blacksburg, SC	A-O; A&B-N,CP
October 5-6	Fall at Broxton Bridge TBD	Ehrhardt, SC	A&B-O,N,CP
October 19-20	French Broad Classic Sherry Garnes, 828-400-7402, sherry.garnes@sbgdigital.com	Asheville, NC	A-O; A&B-N,CP
November 2-3	Southern Trails CTR Victoria Whitehead, 706-975-8414, whiteheadva16@gmail.com	Alex City, AL	A&B-O,N,CP
Nov. 30-Dec. 1 (For 2020)	Christmas in the Pines Vickie Moore, 251-604-5087, moore-v@hotmail.com	Munson, FL	A&B-O,N,CP
January 25-26, 2020 (For 2020)	New Year Resolution Ride Esther Diaguila, 850-509-4971, borncountry@skippinghorse.com	Jasper, FL	A&B-O, N,CP

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

Check for updates and REGISTER for each CTR (Competitive Trail Ride) at www.natrc5.org.

Also, join our "NATRC Region 5" Facebook group for more details.

Region Five Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.
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