

Hoofprints

REGION 5 TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION

Hoofprints of Region 5
FALL /WINTER 2018



Take PRIDE in your Ride, COME RIDE WITH US!

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bill Moore, President, Region 5

We in Region 5 continue to be fortunate to have ride managers committed to putting on rides. Most of them lose money in making the events available to all of us, they do it because of their commitment to the Region and to you the members who attend. We had our share of floods and hurricanes to try to stop the rides. We had some unfortunately long delays/holds sprinkled in. And we even had some trail marking issues to add to the challenge of meeting the time limits. But through it all you folks continued to grin and bear it, to just be thankful to be together, competing with one another, helping one another. As always, we had riders focus their ride on getting others through despite competing hard themselves. From what we know about finishes and points we believe that we even produced another President's Cup horse: Congratulations Victoria and your beautiful "Amazing Grace."



Next up are Christmas in the Pines, New Year Resolution, and the mini-convention. This year the mini-convention will not only feature the year end awards that recognize all of your hard work in 2018, but there will be two important "other" meetings. On Saturday morning we'll start with a Ride Management Symposium. That meeting will be for ride managers, trail masters, secretaries and all who want to learn more about ride management and even see if they want to help in that critical activity. After that meeting we will hold an Annual Meeting of our Region. Your Board will report on the finances of the company and the activities of the organization from a business side of life. I know, that sounds so tantalizing that many of you have watering mouths in anticipation! Despite how boring you might think that meeting will be, I promise you that it will not. Indeed, I believe that it may be the most important NATRC event that you can attend during 2019.

You've heard me talk about the state of NATRC and note that the National Board is considering changes, recommendations to address the downward business cycle that has plagued NATRC for the last several years. By the time of the mini-convention my expectation is that we will be able to roll out the proposals from National. The direction of the sport will be affected by those proposals and the member's meeting at the mini-convention is your opportunity to learn about them in detail and to express your hopes and fears that are generated by the proposals. The Regional Board and your National Board Members need for you to be there, to hear the proposals, and to help us discuss and debate them in order to confirm a consensus opinion on them. I expect that discussion to be lively!

Finally (I always seem to have "finally" don't I) I welcome on board the newly elected members of the Region 5 Board and extend the Regions's sincere thanks for our directors who have rotated off. The business of the Region could not be conducted without the Board and once again the membership has elected a diverse, talented, and dedicated group. Thank you to the members who voted, thank you to all who allowed their names to be placed on the ballot, and welcome aboard for the new members.

MEET THE 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***

To submit articles and photos to the
Hoofprints of Region 5, please email
your information to lindaclay@aol.com
or natrc5news@gmail.com

Please contact me with any questions or
suggestions. We appreciate your help!

Katrina Casey, editor
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WHAT IS NATRC?

a newbie's perspective and experience

Don Tucker

My wife Wanda and I are trail riders and campers. Some call us "glampers", but we do love the outdoors. We just do it in a little more comfortable fashion than we did in our younger years. One week in Nov 2017, we were riding and camping at Heart of Dixie Trail Rides, Troy, Alabama. There was this group of riders there that were preparing for a competition of some kind. I told Wanda "I wonder what that is all about." As the first day went by I watched and noticed they were very particular about the things they were doing. Their dress, their horses and their tack had to be just right. These folks were serious.

Who are they? I asked around and someone said NATRC. What does that stand for I asked? North American Trail Ride Conference I was told. **What do y'all do?** We ride a designated trail in an appointed amount of time while crossing obstacles and performing some horsemanship tasks before a judge. The next day as we rode we watched some of the activities at a distance. It was interesting. I thought to myself "I wonder how I would do?" My curiosity was getting to me. I started researching NATRC. Even though I had received answers to my questions I still had a preconceived notion that I may not fit in with this group. You know how we get it in our heads about how some people may react to someone new. Especially since my family refers to me as a high tech redneck. Boy, was I wrong!

My first experience seriously talking with members was about 6 months later when I met Victoria Whitehead, Patty Lucas and some Junior riders at Wind Creek State Park. Super nice and friendly ladies! We had a very nice visit. Of course, it did help when a glass of wine was offered up! I can't remember now who accepted but it was an ice breaker. I had been informed by Lisa Culligan, the camp host, that Victoria and Patti were at Wind Creek riding the trails trying to see how they could layout a NATRC ride. I told Lisa I might be able to help. I am a map freak. I love maps. I use my gps everywhere I ride and take the info home and make my own maps. So, during this first meeting, I offered to help with the maps. They gladly accepted.

Over the next few months, I worked with Victoria and Sara Baldwin through emails and phone conversations to layout the trails and prepare the map. It was a very enjoyable experience for me.

About two weeks before the ride, I went to Wind Creek again and met Sara for the first time. Another super nice lady. I was there to trail ride but had also volunteered to do any last minute items to prepare the maps and trails for the ride. By this time I had it in my head that I was going to try a CTR and see firsthand what it was about. I am glad I did!

As soon as I announced on the NATRC Facebook page I was going to ride, the help started coming in. It was very informative. My preconceived notions were proven wrong. Everyone I spoke to had recommendations about what I should do to prepare. This group really likes to help out the new riders to get them started. I never was given a specific mentor, but that wasn't really necessary. **I had a camp full of mentors.** Just stop someone and ask. Also, help was freely offered without asking. I was told what the judges would look for at my camp for the horse's safety. I was given a check list of what I needed to get started. I was given my check in packet and did the items needed to identify my horse and camp.

I sat and watched the vet in and waited my turn toward the end. I was somewhat at ease after watching other riders do their vet in. There was a little excitement during the vet in even from the seasoned riders. I learned during my time that I need to practice lunging with my horse. It was not pretty. That's okay, I was there to learn as well as ride. I was given tips about what I needed to do.

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THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

Competing isn't all about the ribbons. It's about the other things you take back home with you. Ribbons are nice and pretty, but the knowledge you gain is WAY more important. Starting this sport at 10 years old, I thought what color ribbon you took home was all that mattered. Over the years, I have learned so much about myself and the horses that I have worked with and competed on.

Competing in NATRC always gives you something you can take home to teach or work on. Focusing on your horse during a competition is the most important thing to do. If you mess up, you have to think about your horse. You have to learn to not get worked up. Think about all of the things you can work on when you get home...when you get home. The experience of riding with a very knowledgeable horse person is one of the best things that could happen at a competition. These have all been personal lessons for myself. It takes a lot to take in all in stride and just work harder when you get back home.

The Bond with your horse is very important. You and your horse need to build a bond so strong that nothing bad can flood your mind. Your horse needs to trust you. NATRC has helped me build a trust with my horses maneuvering different terrain, learning my horses' limits, caring for them, and leaving with new things to teach and work on. And at the end of the ride, realize that your horse deserves a little extra love and appreciation for getting you through all the miles and over the finish line.

I love blue ribbons. Who doesn't? But does the color really matter? No. Blue, Red, Yellow, White, Pink, Green. Those are just colors. Ribbons don't mean much. I think that ribbons are just a symbol of how hard you and your horse worked during the weekend. Some weekends are good and sometimes, you just have an off weekend. The only thing that matters, is that you take what the judges or fellow competitors suggest and try to figure out what works for you and your horse. And that you have had loads of fun along the way, of course. I look around my room and see lots of different colors on my walls. But now when I look at them, I don't remember that I may have come in last at a particular ride. I think back about all the experiences I have had, the memories and friends I have made and that I have become a better horse person for all of that.



What is NATRC?
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That evening I was told who I would ride with and was introduced to Kallie Smith, a seasoned junior rider, and Christine Stevenson, another first time competitor. I prepared my pommel and cante bags with the items that were recommended for the ride. That was pretty easy since I usually have the same items during my normal trail rides. I set my alarm for 5:00 the next morning. That should give me plenty of time to prepare myself and my horse for the day.

I drink a lot of coffee. But, I only drank two cups that morning. Maybe I will not have to take a bunch of rest breaks. But, that morning it was still too much. Three rest breaks were still required! It's tough getting old! Kallie and Christine were very understanding though. Without going into a lot of detail about the ride, I would like to thank Kallie for keeping me inline and her tips at the P&R stops. Without Kallie I would have probably rode ahead of the pace set for the ride. This goes to show that you can learn from Juniors as well as Open riders. Do not assume that because they are under 18 that they can't help you.

The ride itself was uneventful. It went very smoothly. I learned what to do with my horse at the P&R's and that I need to work on side passing. We came in on time and I had a great time! Overall it was a great experience! I was asked by Victoria what my thoughts were about the weekend and here is what I told her. I met a lot of very nice and helpful people. And I think I have a new group of friends now. It was a rewarding weekend. I far exceeded my expectations overall and learned things I could improve on. I also told her if I was not competing for year end points it was an expensive trail ride. I do not mean that in a negative sense though. And, I have rethought that comment since then. The group that was there were like a family of friends. That says a lot. The experience was worth the entry fee. And it would be worth my time and money to do it again. How many times will depend upon whether I decide to compete for year end points. And, if not competing for points I will even consider volunteering to help with other rides.

Y'all have a great group and I will recommend NATRC to other riders that want to add something more to their trail rides.

SOUTHERN TRAILS CTR 2018

Ride like the Wind... The Southern Trails CTR Ride for R5 was held November 2-4, 2018 at Wind Creek State Park in east Alabama. The Park is located just outside Alexander City on beautiful Lake Martin, one of the state's largest and most scenic man made lakes. Adding to the scenery was the fall foliage enjoyed in perfect fall weather with daytime temperatures in the 60's and nights in the 40's. The course consisted of quite technically challenging trails, but not so difficult as to prevent anyone from enjoying the ride. Our judges were Bill Sherfese from Georgia and Dr. Natalie Goldberger, a Texas veterinarian. They were a great team and came up with fun and challenging obstacles on the trails! We were excited to have this ride at Wind Creek, as well as to have five new first time competitors.

Lake Martin Magazine even came out and did an article on the event. The magazine's owner and photographer, Kenneth Boone, took photos to accompany the article. Hundreds of additional images of the riders were captured by a fabulous local photographer Jenipher McDonald, who graciously volunteered her time to do so. The other twenty plus volunteers were also incredible and greatly appreciated. A NATRC ride cannot be successful without the contributions of such volunteers. Special thanks are due to the Wind Creek State Park's staff members and volunteers for going the extra mile to make the event a success.

Patty Lucas ride manager



Hurricane Helpers

Cindy Keen

I got a call last night of a stranded mom and daughter with 2 bumper pull trailers. They were evacuees from Savannah. They are also a small operation petting zoo and rescue with a big heart. They lost part of their trailer roof on I -16 going toward Atlanta. They found me on GoHorse.com and called. I was only 30 minutes away. They told me that me answering the phone and them pulling in at my farm was the only positive thing that had happened to them all. They arrived safe and we started unloading animals . Many smalls in crates.. 2 horses, 3 minis, 2 goats, 3 chickens, 4 dogs, 3 cats, 2 tortoise, 1 bearded dragon, 2 hedgehogs, 1 big fancy rat, numerous guinea pigs and rabbits of all kinds. All animals looked good but fatigued from a harrowing day of travel. I praise the lord for them finding me on this new site that puts animal travelers in touch with each other. Way to go Jenny Fudge of Marietta GA for developing this site. I offered them the guest house, paddock for horses and stalls for the smalls. Sometimes it's not about the money...

Region 5's Diamond -Paula Riley-

I would like to nominate Paula Riley for the Fall 2018 Diamond Award. Paula has a can-do attitude for whatever needs to be done and is first in line to help new ride managers, making a difficult task manageable. She shares her incredible wealth of knowledge unselfishly and eagerly. Paula is always ready to pack up and help with mapping out new trails, teaching as she goes in a way that makes it understandable. Ever patient, ride managers and trail masters rely on her expertise time and time again. Thank you, Paula, for making our ride managers and trail masters life easier, knowing you have our backs.

Fall 2018

French Broad Classic 2018

After the spring Biltmore ride was cancelled due to flooding, ride management was fortuitously able to snag a weekend in October to reschedule the event. We looked forward to the cooler temperatures and blazing colors of autumn. With 43 riders registered the day before the ride, it also looked like an action packed weekend. A level 2/3 Parelli clinic shared the camping area and equestrian center for the weekend.

Friday we celebrated Halloween with candy and a mounted costume parade and contest, including the Lone Ranger on a 17 hand Cremello Tennessee Walker, Honey Bun as UPS delivery pony unfazed by her bubble wrap, Cynthia Rogers and Heather Alonzo from "Frozen", Lena Knecht and Rose was a race horse and jockey complete with rose garland, Saturday's ride was misty and rainy for part of the morning, as riders crossed the "Million Dollar Bridge" onto the Biltmore Estate's pastoral West Range. Riders had the opportunity to have a photograph taken by volunteer ride photographer Stephen Moore, with the Biltmore House in the background. The rain cleared late morning and the afternoon ride, a second loop on the West Range, was sunny and lovely. A baby shower for Heather Alonso followed the Saturday ride, complete with an appropriately decorated cake.

Saturday night's barbecue dinner featured guest speaker Robbie Potter from Robbie Potter Natural Horsemanship. The Pirelli Clinic participants joined us for dinner. As Robbie's presentation progressed, the temperature dropped and the wind gusts. The wind howled overnight.

At 00: dark hundred the next morning, Barry Garnes and the BEEC barn manager cleared downed trees from the trail, fifteen trees down since the trail had been inspected earlier in the week. Our somewhat condensed but intrepid competitor group set out in bitter temperatures on Red South.

Throughout the weekend, we had Mary and Jack Britt in our hearts. Mary described falls from one's equine as "unscheduled departures", and as the last rider returned to camp, I could hear her gravelly voice in my head, "No unscheduled departures, no injuries, no one got lost, what more could you ask?"

We are so appreciative of the many volunteers who made this ride possible, our fantastic volunteer photographer Stephen Moore, our P and R crew and timer, safety riders, catering crew, secretaries, rules interpreter, timer, drivers, and our judges Wayne Tolbert and Mike Bridges. It takes a village of volunteers to have a successful ride. Cheers to you all, and hope to see you next October.

Team Waynesville; Sherry Garnes, Barry Garnes, Charmaine DeRosa, Ditte Phillips, TJ Anthony



-HELPING HANDS-

TROUBLE ON THE ROAD

Thanks to all for a very successful Virginia Highland CTR. Although hot, humid, and challenging, I had a wonderful time. However, not so wonderful time trying to get home (haven't made it yet). Heading south on I81 towards Knoxville Sunday afternoon, I was making good time until I stopped to fill up my truck with diesel. After about 60 miles, it started 'cutting out'. I stopped at a truck stop and got some diesel fuel additive thinking I got some bad diesel. Well, a few minutes later, I was on the phone with Cindy Keen (who called to congratulate me on winning Sweepstakes) when the truck quit for good -- and I was dead on the road. I asked Cindy to notify those in my NATRC family who were on I81 behind me while I contacted US Rider for a tow. After some communication with Ginny Tolbert, we had a wrecking service (paid for by US Rider) and a mechanic to handle repairs. Soon thereafter, the Tolberts, Spelkers, and Gary Clayton pulled in behind me. Having all the arrangements for the rig in hand, we loaded Rusty in with Gary's horse and headed to the Tolberts for the night. On Monday morning the Spelkers and Gary left for their respective homes, and the mechanic began troubleshooting problems with my truck. When he pulled the fuel filter, he found it full of water. He replaced the fuel pump and flushed the fuel system. The barrel and bucket that he drained the diesel into both had water in the bottom. However, the new fuel pump has no power to it. The mechanic spent all day today troubleshooting the wiring harness (which doesn't match Dodge's schematics) but hasn't been able to solve the power problem. Hopefully by tomorrow Rusty and I will be back on the road to Georgia. Thanks to all my NATRC friends and family for all you do! You are the BEST!

Paula Ann Riley

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c/o Linda Clayton
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Hope Hull, AL 36043

- Please note: Subscription will not begin until payment is received.

Thank you...

Cindy Keen, Patty Lucas,
Katie Ward, Sandy Pegram,
Jenipher Helton, Lena Knecht
and Steven Moore for the
photos submitted for this
edition of the
Region 5 newsletter.

PLEASE FORWARD ALL CHANGES OF

- ADDRESS

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"Bedazzled" BIRTHDAY Fun @ Virginia Highlands

As fate would have it, Pic Petelle, long-suffering spouse of an NATRC rider, found himself celebrating yet another birthday at a ride. But this was a very special birthday, not only because it was taking place at the drop-dead gorgeous Garrie Bates Memorial Virginia Highlands ride, but also because it was Pic's 65th. Now one would think that a person would want some extraordinary gift for such a milestone birthday, but when asked, the ONLY thing that the man could come up with that he wanted or needed was....wait for it....underwear! This was a sad commentary on Pic's mental status, not to mention pretty darn hard to make into something exciting. But our NATRC family rose to the occasion. Throughout the big day, a dozen conspirators approached Pic at various times and places, each presenting him with a pair of tighty whities discretely wrapped in a brown paper bag. Many of the bags were decorated with bad poetry about old age and underwear, and some contained extra little surprises (Who knew that Cindy Keen always carries a Bedazzler in her trailer?) It was just another shining example of Region Five going above and beyond to make everyone feel welcomed. Way to go, gang!!

Patricia

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Spalding Fly Predators



He's "JUST" a Trail Horse**

I can't count the number of times that I have heard the words "Oh you just trail ride" or "It's just a trail horse", especially from other riders who focus on only one discipline. And each time I have to smirk a little. To be JUST a Trail Rider you need a very special talented kind of steed for which many folks don't realize the expertise required:

- He needs to be as maneuverable as a Dressage Horse...to be able to place each foot exactly where and when you need because there is a steep cliff drop-off on one side and a wall of solid mountainside on the other. A sure-footed horse is a must to be a good Trail horse.

- He needs to be as bold as a Foxhunter...to go willingly where he is pointed, whether that is over a log, up a steep hill, down a gully, through rushing water, boot-sucking mud or bushwhacking through thick scrub.

- He needs to be as agile as a Show Jumper...able to easily twist and turn around trees and bushes, boulders and hop over fallen logs.

- He needs to have the stamina of an Endurance Horse.... because a 7 mile ride can easily turn into a 20 mile ride if his "on-board GPS" (aka rider) takes a wrong turn.

- He needs to have the calm mind of a Rodeo Pick-Up Horse....because many horses can not hold it together under stress. But a good Trail Horse must be able to cope with the high emotional energy often coming from other horses in front, behind and either side of her. He needs to always be level-headed and sensible.

- He needs to manage being squashed against others like a Polo Pony....because on some trails his nose might be pushed against a tail in front, or flanks pressed side-by-side with rider's knees banging against other rider's knees, or another horse breathing down his back. He needs to have patience and get along well with others.

- He needs to cope with bursts of speed like a Racehorse.... because if that "on-board GPS" (aka rider), stated above, turns the short ride into 20 miles you won't get home till dark if walking that whole distance.

- He needs to be a clever problem-solver with his mind and feet like a Cutting horse....sometimes his rider is gonna get him stuck in places that seem impossible to get out of!

- He needs to be brave like a Cow Horse because not only will he have to deal with protective mama cows and bulls out on the trails, but he'll also be faced with mountain bikes, ATVs, motorcycles, strollers, tractors, logging equipment, chainsaws, horse-drawn carts, bullet-riddled appliances, floating plastic bags and balloons, booming thunder and pouring rain with flapping slickers, loose wild horses and burros, and all forms of wildlife.

- And he needs to be cuddly and sweet like a Child's Pony.... because he will spend countless hours exploring trails with his rider.

But hey.... He's "JUST" a Trail Horse!~*~

****Author unknown ****

got gloves?

Kris Folmar Gray

Another shout out to the Region 5 NATRC family. I was traveling from Birmingham to NC (alone) today with two horses. I had two blow outs (one on each side of ATL, I expect a call from NASCAR any time now for a pit crew role) the second one caused some trailer damage. It's 102 degrees on the road and the second one was on a dangerous/narrow shoulder part of I-85. I called Cindy Keen and said "HELP!" I've got to get my horses unloaded and cooled while I figure out how to get the trailer fixed. I told her where I was stranded and she said Lori Allen was close to me and she'd get me in touch. I get my second tire changed, and headed to Lori's place. Lori helped me get my horses settled, then off we went to try to get my trailer fixed. Got a new spare, and scheduled to have the axle looked at first thing in the morning. I'm safe, my horses are safe, and I have the best support group in the world. ***NATRC is the best group of people!!!*** So thankful for all of you and especially for Lori taking me in for a few nights. [SEP]Side note...things to keep in your truck for a flat tire....rechargeable impact gun, (love mine!), orange safety vest, trailer aide jack, and good, thick GLOVES!!!! Don't forget the gloves!



An Unexpected Open Rider

-MY NATRC ADVENTURE

by John Stroh

The adventure that we call NATRC began in earnest for me at the Fall at Broxton Bridge ride. I went into the ride not really knowing what to expect. I had been to a clinic and volunteered at Kings Mountain where I had gotten a ton of information, but the actual ride was going to be a totally new experience. I had hopes of doing well as BeBe (my horse) is a former show horse and seemed pretty well trained.

We arrived in South Carolina and got our camp set up with no problems. Our site was centrally located close to the vet in area. I noticed BeBe getting a little bit nervous, but didn't really think anything of it. After getting BeBe cleaned up, we went to vet in. That's when the drama began. BeBe was not having it when the vet checked her out. She acted spooky and didn't want anyone touching her. Thankfully the vet was super understanding and dealt with my "fractious" horse.

The morning of the ride dawned and we got up and got BeBe all cleaned up and tacked up for the ride. BeBe was a nervous wreck. She would not stand still for me to mount. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity I was able to get mounted. It was then that she started really acting out. She started bucking and rearing and generally acting crazy. I tried walking circles, letting her graze and anything else I could think of. Nothing I could do would calm her down. The ride started and we made it the first few hundred yards and I decided to pull out. I just didn't feel safe having her around anyone. I couldn't help but wonder, where is my horse? This is not my horse.

I was very disappointed. We went back to the campsite and I untacked her and put her in her pen. I then sat back and contemplated what to do. I decided that even if we weren't going to compete, I was going to make a successful trip for us. I got the lunge rope out and proceeded to take her out and lunge her for 30 minutes or so. I then put her tack back on her and we rode the portion of the course that we had ridden earlier. It took us awhile, but eventually she completed several laps where I felt she was back to being my horse again. I decided that made a successful weekend.

Once we returned home, I set about applying the knowledge I had gained from all of the advice given to me at Broxton. We worked every day. We rode, we practiced mounting, basically we did anything I could think of to build up our confidence and trust in each other. We weren't able to ride the Biltmore ride due to previous commitments. We set our sights on riding the ride in Alexander City, Alabama.

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A THANKFUL WEEKEND IN CRIPPLE CREEK

Often we find ourselves in bad situations that we have put ourselves in. It may be through taking on too much and our attentions being divided, negligence or things that happen through no fault of our own. Many of us have had this happen at or on the way to a ride. Blown tires. Pulled shoe. Forgotten boots. Run out of water. Run out of hay. Things flying out of the back/top of the truck/trailer. The list goes on. I however, can claim to have had many of these happen on the same ride weekend. If not through the selfless acts of our NATRC family, I would have had the worst weekend ever!

This short article is to Thank my NATRC family for taking care of each other. For the good sportsmanship and comaraderie. But more specifically, I would like to thank those that helped me at the Garrie Bates Memorial Ride 2018 or otherwise known as the Virginia Highlands ride in Cripple Creek Virginia. First I want to thank Sara Baldwin for being the best 1 armed co-pilot and cheerleader I have the privilege to know. Also a huge thank you to Randy and Jennifer Wertz for going out of their way to help me replace 3 tires on my truck and trailer. Yes, that is right...3 tires! Next in line to thank is Patty Bass for overcoming her hesitation about shoeing a fellow competitor's horse the night before the ride. I could not have ridden Grace on that non barefoot friendly trail without them. I also want to thank Angie Lindberg for not only having a brand new extra set of boots that happened fit my large hoofed QH but being willing to sell them to me to put on the unshod hind feet. Again, I couldn't have completed the ride without them. Thanks to the Nunn family (yes ALL of them helped me out in one way or another) for the extra hay for the 2 additional horses I ended up taking home with me, connecting me with the Wertz family for the tires, the nice warm shower on Sunday, cooking my pork ribs, going the extra mile to take care of me and everyone else, the smiles and general support. Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to Nancy Sluys for not canceling the ride after she broke her arm, continuing this ride without the needed numbers and keeping a smile (though sometimes it was a painful grimace) throughout the whole weekend. You are an inspiration!

There were many additional gestures all weekend that I don't have room to write about. If you were one of those, please take this blanket of warm wishes and wrap yourself in it. I am grateful to be in this wonderful equine family. I'm not sure how I got along without all of you before. I am not only thankful for you on what could have been a catastrophic weekend but am thankful for each of you...everyday. Thank you for being part of my family!

Victoria Whitehead

MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2018
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGION FIVE TRAIL RIDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Below you will find highlights from the NATRC Region 5 Board Of Directors meeting held on July 21, 2018 at the Hampton Inn, Norcross, Georgia.

The scheduled meeting of the Region Five Trail Riders 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 8 board members present, Regional Treasurer, Linda Clayton, National Alternate, Sallie Kudra. Patty Lucas was absent due to a mission trip. Sandy Pegram sat in for Patty Lucas. Rita Lowery was unable to attend.

Bill Moore stated Rita Lowery was resigning from the BOD. The executive board agreed to move Board Alternate Andrew Murray into Rita's position to finish out 2018.

Sherry Garnes was recognized for the secretary's report. The minutes of the board meeting held on February 23, 2018, were previously distributed to the members of the board and reviewed. Cindy Keen had a correction to the minutes concerning the meal pricing for the Benefit Ride. The addition to the minutes should read; \$10.00 per plate for anyone under the age of 10. Bill Moore moved for approval of the minutes as corrected and Katie Ward seconded, which motion was on voice vote carried.

Cindy Keen announced #80 penny and the scales were found.

Sherry Garnes read a thank you note from Dave and Maggie Spilker. The note was thanking everyone for the vests they received.

Linda Clayton provided a Treasurers report. There was a sponsor who gave \$75.00 for a novice award as well as \$100.00 for the Shannon Memorial Award, and a non-directed donation of \$500.00. The cost of the quarterly newsletter was \$500.00 with an additional \$185.60 for printing and postage. The budget for awards for mini-convention was \$1,700.00 the total spent, which includes items beyond purchased awards was \$2,440.89. The National Director's expenses through February is \$2,083.02. We have spent \$816.00 on reimbursement for fuel and hotel for Region 5 board meetings. At the Mini Convention there was \$492.47 for rooms.

Andrea Rogers stated she is working on a secretary's checklist sheet that would ensure all documents get to Linda Clayton with more accuracy.

Bill Moore proposed that for continuity for the Region 5 100% club we continue use of the jackets and vests used throughout NATRC. Once an individual has received a jacket, there after they would be given a chevron with the year embroidered on it. Bill suggested a Clinic Manager having the ability to count one clinic toward the 100% club. It would go in effect 2019. The proposal was approved without opposition.

Andrea Rogers reported on the first Region 5 Trail Master Clinic that was held on May 19-20, 2018 at Circle E Guest Ranch in Belvidere, TN that was a success. There were 7 attendees. The participants were provided a manual, conducted a practice trail ride to establish GPS marking and compared different softwares available for trail mapping.

Linda Clayton reported on the Newsletter and reminded everyone that we need lots of hi-resolution pictures for the Newsletter. Most of the cell phones do not transmit hi-resolution images; therefore they cannot be used in the newsletter. Deadline for the upcoming Hoofprints is Oct. 15, 2018.

Linda is sending out a notice that we need to collect traveling trophies. Victoria & Gary will be picking them up from the individuals at the rides. Cindy & Gary are having them engraved.

Membership Report was presented by Sallie Kudra. There are 226 voting members, 51 of those were from the Free Membership program offered for 2018, Sallie reported from the free membership there is a 14.25% renewal rate. The National Board continued the free membership through 2019. NATRC National is on a downward trend with members. Sallie reported Region 5 had 6 new members for the month of June. Membership packets will not go out in the mail any longer they will be e-mailed to member. Pam Kuder passed away in July, she served as treasure, rider, lifetime member and volunteer for the region. Sallie suggested sending a donation to the Audubon Society in Pam's memory, which was approved.

Cindy Keen gave a financial report from the Benefit Ride. There were 56 riders that attended the Benefit Ride, with a profit of \$3919.00. The Benefit Ride is scheduled for March 22-24, 2109. Microchips are still being considered for 2019 ride and the theme is rock star. Cindy presented laminated yellow arrows for Ride Managers and Trail Masters to use for trail markers. Cindy stated the lamentation paper needs to be 5ml.

Renegade boots is sending out boots to all Ride Managers to be used for a silent auction at their ride. It will be left up to the individual Ride Manager to give a donation to the region from the silent auction.

Courtney Woodall needs all Ride Managers to send her the location and date for your ride in 2019. Broxton Bridge is open for April 13, 20 & 27 for a clinic or ride. Sherry Ganes moved FBC @ Biltmore to the October 18-20, 2019. Victoria Whitehead had discussion on moving Southern Trails for 2019. For the 2018 Southern Trails ride, the riders will camp in the over flow camping area due to there being no place for vet in and vet out in section E. Kings Mountain will have water and power for the 2019 ride.

Bill reported that there is money available through NATRC National trail improvements and, Mary Hansen is the point of contact. Sandy Pegram noted Tractor Supply would also give grants.

Sandy Pegram presented two fundraiser concepts. (1) Credit card holder for the back of your cell phone with NATRC logo and (2) Vinyl NATRC magnet signs for your truck or horse trailer. Cindy Keen is researching the products.

Victoria Whitehead reported on the Mini Convention 2019 planning and solicited suggestions and guidance. The convention will be held at Callaway Resort & Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Feb. 15-16, 2019. There are lots of activities for everyone to participate in while attending the convention. The BOD meeting will be held on February 15, 2019 4:00-9:00. There will be a Ride Management Forum for Ride Managers, Trail Masters, potential Ride Secretaries and anyone interested in becoming more involved with ride management on February 16, 2019 from 9:00-10:30 am. The Ride Managers Forum will be followed with a Region 5 membership meeting at the convention on Saturday from 10:45- 12:00, our president would give a report to the members on their organization, and other Board members will provide information about areas of interest. There will be a potential social hour from 4:00-6:00, dinner at 6:00, awards at 7:00. The meal for the convention will be a buffet style. Beer and wine is available for purchase. If region 5 attendees purchase 20 sleeping rooms at Callaway Gardens the \$250.00 cost for the meeting room will be waived. Bill proposed a registration fee \$10.00 for adults, no charge for 18 or under, which was approved.

Bill Moore's report from the National Board meeting;

The Judges Committee announced Keri Riddick is interested in becoming a Vet Judge, Lori Allen is applying to be Horsemanship Judge. Both individuals are from Region 5.

No Bi-Law changes are proposed for the current year.

With regard to the proposed rule change the C ride did not make it to be voted on, as there were too many details to work out. Rule changes were discussed and will be brought to a vote in November.

National Convention is in Reno, NV March 8-9, 2019, this will be combined with the AERC convention.

National is showing a decline of memberships and riders.

Region 1 & 2 are struggling financially and with membership.

Region 5 BOD elections are coming up. Bios need to be into Linda by first week in August.

End of the year volunteer awards were decided nominees and various traveling trophy recipients were decided.

New Business

Bill Moore recommended that starting in 2019 the previously authorized Region 5 \$3.00 per rider fee be enforced with the proceeds to go to Ride Manager Fund to assist Ride Manager's with travel expense with out of region judges. Andrea Rogers suggested we get data from the November BOD meeting and re-visit with several proposals and we finalize the program with some details.

Esther Diaguila is preparing a document describing the fixed costs for a ride, this will go into the newsletter and be used by Ride Managers to educate members on where their entry money is going, and to confirm how much of that charge is not available for the Ride Manager to put on the ride.

Equisure is requiring management to name the volunteers that are over the age of 75 in order for their acts to be covered by insurance. Bill is reviewing the Equisure policy.

Bill discussed a review, at the NATRC National level, why riders are riding with NATRC and what changes create impediments to rider participation. The review lead to recognition that the core concept of the competitors is the partnership of the horse and rider and that fostering and enhancing an environment of inclusion is needed for the health of NATRC. National has put a committee in place to work on development of this message in an effort to reverse the recent downward trend in NATRC membership and ride participation.

BOD next meeting will be held in La Grange, Ga. on Nov. 17, 2018 @ 9:00 am. Victoria will let us know the place.

K - A - P

KNOWLEDGE

ACHIEVEMENT

PRIDE

by Lena Knecht



I just wanted to say "Thank you" to Region 5. When I say I compete with my horse, many people have questions. One of the first, "Do you win money?", the answer... "No". "Then why do you go?", I win something more valuable than money! What I win cannot be spent. I win: knowledge, achievement and pride all of which last a lifetime. I get a few ribbons here and there but, along the way I have learned to be a better rider in place of a passenger and to listen to my horse. Rose speaks loudly at times and softly at others, she always has something to say if I will listen.

NATRC has given me the knowledge to better understand what she is saying by interpreting her actions. I have been taught how to achieve my horse goals whether it is to walk quietly down a trail alone or gait among 30 or more horse

and achieve it all safely. Now that I have learned, I am confident to ride with pride in knowing I have a safe partner with me.

NATRC is fun and very addictive, and a great, safe environment to learn, travel and be with your horse/partner. There are so many helpful people in your "arena", vets, mentors, judges, volunteers, ride managers, etc. Ask questions, learn, watch, help and you will take away more than money or ribbons. You will take away knowledge, achievement and pride.

Team Rose has come along way! I know we have a great distance and wealth of information to learn. I look forward to every ride as if it is my first. Yes, I am still full of questions, there is always something new to learn!



NATRC Region Five 2019 Schedule

December 1-2, 2018 (For 2019)	Christmas in the Pines Vickie Moore, 251-604-5087, moore-v@hotmail.com	Munson, FL	A&B-O,N,CP
January 26-27, 2019	New Year Resolution Ride Esther Diaguila, 850-509-4971, borncountry@skippinghorse.com	Jasper, FL	A-O; A&B-N,CP
February 23	Giddy Up & Shape Up for Distance Clinic Sara Baldwin, 256-377-2656, forestowners@wildblue.net	Rockford, AL	
February 16-17	Region 5 Mini-Convention	TBD	
March 2	NATRC Clinic Cassidy Moore, 770-401-0511, cassidyamandamoore@gmail.com	Dawsonville, GA	
March 8-9	NATRC National Convention	Reno, NV	
March 23-24	Region Five Benefit Ride Cindy Keen, 478-290-3868, cindytk@hotmail.com	Toomsboro, GA	A&B-O,N,CP
April 12-14	Faye Whittemore Farms CTR Patty Lucas, 205-999-7580, patty2014@aol.com	Jasper, AL	A-O; A&B-N,CP
April 27-28	Carolina Derby Andrea Rogers, 803-992-3178, 803-658-6017, carolinaluck@yahoo.com	Whitmire, SC	A&B-O,N,CP
May 18-19	Lee's Retreat CTR Chris Cooper, 434-414-6355, cthemeadow@gmail.com	Appomattox, VA	A&B-O,N,CP
June 22-23	Garrie Bates Memorial at Virginia Highlands Nancy Sluys, 336-351-4753, minglewood@surry.net	Cripple Creek, VA	A&B- O,N,CP
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.

We continued to work on building our confidence in each other and working on improvement. Sometime during this process Victoria Whitehead posted on the region 5 Facebook page asking folks to step up to the open class to assist her in filling the open class to give her horse the best opportunity to win the President's cup. I decided that since I didn't have anything to lose I'd give it a shot. This decision was met with a very mixed reaction. Some thought that if I couldn't even finish a novice ride, how was I magically going to be able to complete an open ride? Others were concerned for my safety, which was very understandable having seen us at Broxton Bridge. Still others were cautiously optimistic that the open class might be a good fit for us. I took all these comments and concerns, thought it about it and decided to try open anyway. If I felt uncomfortable, I would pull just like I did at Broxton Bridge.

The weekend of Alexander City arrived and we headed down and got all set up. BeBe seemed calmer and much more content this go around. We went to vet in and she acted nervous but not as bad as Broxton. Once again the vet and horsemanship judges were fantastic and offered excellent advice. We made it through vet in and went back to our campsite to settle in. Fortunately, this time we were a bit farther away from the vet in commotion so BeBe could relax and do what she does best, eat hay!

Saturday morning dawned cool and early. I went out and fed BeBe and while she was eating just loved on her and talked to her. I was nervous and didn't really know what to expect, but I knew that we had put in many miles and hours of preparation. Besides, I'm really stubborn and just wanted to prove to everyone who said we couldn't do an open ride that we could. I tacked BeBe up and we went for a ride before the start. She did great when it was just us and I let her get into her gait to hopefully burn off some anxiety.

We returned to the campsite and had planned on riding out with Victoria, however when our number was called BeBe wanted to go and I felt that holding her back would be unsafe. We took off into the woods with BeBe bent on catching up to somebody. I guess she felt nervous being the only horse around. I caught up in a short time to Bill Moore and Esther Diaguila. They were gracious enough to allow us to continue the ride with them. I will be forever grateful for their kindness and advice they gave me. To say I learned a ton would be an understatement.

As the day went on BeBe settled down and seemed to be enjoying herself. I wasn't concerned with points or time, my main goal for the weekend was finishing the ride. We came to the obstacles and P&R checks with BeBe and I improving a little bit each time. The miles and hours just kept going by and before I knew it we had completed the day of 30 miles! The pride I felt in BeBe and myself really can't be put into words. We then went to vet out where BeBe did great and then I took her back for a well-deserved rest.

Day two of the ride was set to be around 20 miles, giving us a total of 50 for the weekend. BeBe just kind of looked at me when I got her and tacked her up again. She became what everyone calls a "Sunday horse". Once again we went to a ride prior to the start to burn off a little anxiety. This time we were going to ride out with Bill and Esther from the start and BeBe did great. Sunday was pretty uneventful. We did get held at a P&R check but after one hold we were ready to go. Bill and Esther couldn't wait on us because they would have lost too many points for timing. However, they made sure Victoria was there for me to ride with before they left. We finished out the ride with Victoria and had an absolute blast.

We had a wonderful weekend and learned so much it's hard to remember everything. Our only casualty of the weekend is a sore on BeBe where the girth rubbed her. She will get to enjoy a nice bath and some ointment on her sore. Most importantly to her is a few days off grazing in the pasture. Completing 50 miles in 2 days is almost unbelievable. To complete it with no real issues is something I am extremely proud of. Sure, we have many things to work on and countless ways to improve, but we finished an open ride!

The most important thing I have learned from this is to listen to BeBe. She is a TWH and likes to move out. Riding open after never finishing a novice ride or competing in a CP ride can't be considered normal. I guess we aren't normal then because we are going to continue to ride open and enjoy every minute of it! We will learn as we go and not worry about points, we do it just for the fun and camaraderie of the weekend!



Region Five Trail Riders Assoc., Inc.
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