

Hoopprints of
REGION 5



Region 5 Board of Directors 2020

Bill Moore – President

Sherry Garnes – Vice President

Marsha Howard – Secretary

Gary Clayton

Cindy Keen

Patty Lucas

Paula Riley

Victoria Whitehead

Alternates: Sandy Pegram, Andrea Rogers

National Board Members:

Esther Diaguila

Kris Gray

Alternate: Sallie Kudra

Let us hear from you...

Any information, questions, photos you would like to see in the next Hoofprints of Region 5; write us something on what you've been doing to make the most of the pandemic with your horse!

Send correspondence to:
lindaclay@aol.com

Don't forget to check the NATRC Region 5 website and facebook page for updates as we prepare for the next ride season!

A Message from the President

What a year!

Remarkably, for now, NATRC in general and Region 5 in particular seem to have held together well. Despite the difficulties presented for our activities and the horrendous hardship suffered by many of our members, the membership numbers for 2020 held up. The National Board established a Webinar program and the Virtual Challenge program in an effort to continue to provide our members with benefits. Both of those have been well received and indeed have brought in some new members. The Virtual Challenge program will continue and our Esther Diaguila and Kris Gray are the principal folks working on that project going forward.

Paula Riley has worked up the tentative ride schedule for Region 5 for 2021, and, while we still need a couple of new ride managers, we have commitments for most rides to renew operation in 2021. Esther's New Year Resolution will be the start of our re-opening January 30-31, followed shortly by a new Leisure Division Ride ("Spring into NATRC") at StarLight Farms in Tuskegee, Al to tune up for the Benefit Ride, then the "Grand Re_Opening" with the Benefit Ride March 27-28, and followed right after Easter with the relocated Spring in Dixie to be at Shoal Creek. Then we'll be into a good ride rhythm. So, you need to get back on your horse and get yourself in shape (I'm sure your horses are all already ready to romp!). Esther, ably assisted by Kris Gray and Paula, has established a pandemic safety protocol that will be used starting with her ride. Social distancing, mask wearing, and other efforts will be in place to try to keep everyone safe as we renew our rides. The build up of a vaccine is welcome and, we all hope, will ramp up our protection as we carefully renew our activities.

We have three new Leisure Division rides on the books, and they're scheduled in a way, we hope, to get folks interested in the sport and have the opportunity soon after that introduction to attend a traditional NATRC ride. As always, volunteers and mentors are welcome for these rides.

As you know, we had already "sold" Front of the Line passes for the 2020 ride schedule that were, with one exception, not available to be collected. All those lucky purchasers agreed to defer use of their passes and will use them in 2021. The exception is the Benefit Ride and in the near future we'll promulgate a way for all of you to bid on that Front of the Line pass as well as establish a procedure for marketing the passes for the new rides.

NATRC National, as you know, tried to establish a rolling membership renewal system to try to encourage convenient renewal opportunities. The program caused some administrative issues and did not seem to provide the encouragement to renew that was hoped for, so we are returning to a fixed renewal year. Later in this newsletter is a description of how this will work and how the members who have made what may now be deemed "mid year" renewals will get the full benefit of that renewal.

On top of everything, this year has been a lonesome year for our NATRC family. Many of you have dealt with personal, family, and financial difficulties that just a year ago would have seemed unimaginable. We all need to stay safe, but we'll all be so, so glad to get back to seeing each other at rides (our family reunions!). **Keep being safe, get yourself and your horse back in shape, check the tires on your trailer and get signed up for a joyous return!**

- Bill Moore

Congratulations!

Papa's Alabama Express aka Honeybun

2019 Limited Distance

High Mileage Lightweight

and tied for Overall High Mileage for
FOSH gaited distance program .

Check out

The Sound Advocate and article on Honeybun here...

https://issuu.com/fosh_1/docs/issue_4_2020

Patty Lucas and Pa Pa's Alabama Express

The 2019 Limited Distance High Mileage Lightweight and tied for Overall High Mileage was Patty Lucas and her 14-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse Pa Pa's Alabama Express. A now for more than 55 years, Patty lives in Birmingham, Ala. She was not enough to answer a few questions about herself and her mare as we could get to know her a little better.

SA: Of all the equestrian disciplines available to you, what made you choose to participate in distance/endurance riding? Was there something special about it that appealed to you?

PL: I have trail ridden since I was a child. Riding competitive trail seemed natural. It gave me some goals to better my horsemanship skills and increase my horse's skills.



Photos submitted by Patty Lucas

Get to know NATRC - Clinic Recap

Oak Mountain State Park - Pelham, AL

A “Get to Know NATRC” clinic was held on June 13, 2020 at Oak Mtn. State Park in Pelham Alabama.

The purpose of the clinic was to introduce local trail riders to Competitive Trail Leisure division. The boarding stable manager at the park approached me about having a Clinic. Due to the lightened stay at home orders, we scheduled a clinic. There was a good response from riders/participants. We even had a waiting list. Six Region 5 members were mentors for the clinic. Registration was Sat am from 8-9 and included packets about NATRC.

We began with a brief intro and history of NATRC with what to expect at the clinic and on trail. Scorecard information was discussed by Victoria Whitehead. There was a demonstration of the check in process with a judge led by Sara Baldwin explaining the process.

Sadie Smith demonstrated a mount on her lovely mare Echo with explanation of how and why. Maps were covered and given out by our trail master Kris Gray, with timing / pace. Kris had already marked and prepared the trail with 5 obstacles written on pie plates. This was done in an effort to save time. The riders were divided up with 2-3 riders per mentor. We timed out 2 minutes apart to give the riders some space. The practice trail was 3.5 miles at 3.0 miles an hour pace. After returning to camp each rider got to practice taking pulse and respiration on their horse with a mentor.



The riders enjoyed a hot dog lunch with a question and answer session led by Sandy Pegram

We have had a request to hold another clinic and possible leisure ride . It was so much fun!

Patty Lucas - Region 5

HERE AT LAST!

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION 2021

JAN 29-31, TWIN RIVERS STATE FOREST - JASPER, FL

Mark your calendars! The fifth annual New Year Resolution CTR takes place on **January 29-31!!** This year, our judges will be Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski and Kathy Shanor. COVID has played havoc with us this past year, and many are looking forward to the first ride of the season. We are going to take precautions to help keep everyone safe. We will require face masks at vet in and out, at all P&R's and anytime riders need to be up close and personal with ride personnel (including registration). Masks will be provided to all riders and all ride personnel. Unfortunately, the popular evening meals and group get-togethers will be prohibited. We want to make sure our riders, volunteers and ride officials are kept safe, so please do your part in helping us to achieve that goal! Ride briefings, trail maps and the agenda will be in riders' bags. We are working out a way to help those with questions have those questions answered. This is a challenge, but we will persevere!!



This year, we're hoping to ride the entire trail along the Withlachochee River. Kris Gray, our intrepid Trail Master (and also the co-Manager of the NYR) is preparing the trail decorations to make sure no one gets lost. For those that have ridden this ride before, you know how well decorated and colorful the trails are.

Trails here are flat and sandy. Barefoot horses will do just fine. For the first ride of the year, this is an easy ride. You will be riding in hardwood forest, along a beautiful river, and through a few open areas. There is plenty opportunity to move out with a nice canter. And who doesn't enjoy a nice canter? One of the P&R spots is a lovely area on the river called Pot Springs. Normally, this is a beautiful time of the year; it can be cold in the morning, but warming to the 60's by the afternoon.

For a camping spot, contact Carol McCulley at (386) 938-1147. Camping is \$25.00 per night per person and includes your stall. Stalls are 12' x 12' in very nice barns, please note, there are no lights in the barns.

So, have a talk with your equine friend, check the tires on the truck and trailer, pack plenty of gear for you and your horse and get ready for a fun, beautiful ride in the deep south. **We look forward to seeing everyone (at last!!!!).**



Visit www.natrc5.org for more information.

Photos submitted by:
Esther Diaguila

National BOD report By Esther Diaguila

The NBOD met on November 14, 2020 via Zoom meeting. Several new rule changes have been proposed and were carried forward to the February meeting. The rule proposals are:

Allow membership in multiple regions

If the domicile and residence of the horse/rider are in different regions, or if the rider desires to compete in one or more regions other than that of the domicile, the rider must inform the NATRC Executive Director of the region(s) in which s/he is competing at the time of the first ride in said region(s). A horse or rider may compete for regional points in more than one region in any year if rider pays membership dues for the additional region(s).

B. Annual Awards

1. General

- j. In order to qualify for annual national awards, the competing horse or rider must have completed at least three rides of any ride type in their designated region(s). (See Section 10 for Region 1A requirements). In order to qualify for annual regional awards, the competing horse or rider must be a member of that region and have completed at least three rides of any ride type in that region.

Rationale: This allows those who live in two different regions, or close to two different regions, to compete for points in both. This could increase ridership by allowing competitors to compete for more awards. It would also increase membership since the rider is paying for an additional region. Each supplemental membership for an additional region will be offered at partial cost. Free memberships only cover one region.

Lower the age of junior competitors

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

B. Classes

3. Junior

- a. Age 8 through 17. The rider must be 8 years old to enter competition; thereafter the age of a junior shall be determined by whatever their age is as of the beginning of the ride year, and this age shall continue throughout that ride year. Juniors must be able to care for their horse with minimal assistance. Juniors under 10 must ride with an adult sponsor, with a limit of two juniors per sponsor.
- b. Juniors may compete in Open, Competitive Pleasure or Novice Division Heavyweight or Lightweight Classes if weight requirements are met. Juniors may compete in Leisure Division Adult or Experienced Classes.

Rationale: We have received consistent requests to lower our eligible age. NATRC could be the best introduction of junior riders to distance riding. Children of this age are developmentally able to ride and care for horses. Often an adult competitor requires minimal assistance due to limited range of motion or recovery from a recent injury or surgery, so it is similar expectations for young riders.

Allow additional leg gear during stabling

5. Ice boots and other means of applying ice/ice water/cooling packs topically by various attachment methods are allowed. Devices that circulate ice water or cool below 0 degrees Celsius are prohibited.
6. After the day's final check, standing wraps and compression socks are allowed.

Rationale: We already allow ice boots. These additional options also allow for more choices for horse care and relieve the confusion over which devices are permitted.

Bev Roberts, our long-time HoofPrint editor is stepping down. If you are interested, please contact either myself or Kris Gray and we will submit your resume to the NBOD.

Annual Dues Update!

By Kris Gray

A common question we receive is “When are my annual dues due?” Good news! Beginning with January 2021, all membership dues will be due each January and will cover January – December of the year in which they are paid. The reason for this change is to make it easy to remember when dues are due for members and to make things easier on ride management.

Previously, dues paid provided a membership that ran for one year from the date the dues were paid. This meant some people had a membership cover half of one ride season and then the half of the next, which made it more difficult to track who is a current member at ride registration and when calculating year end standings and awards.

To get all memberships back on the January renewal date, we will be contacting those of you who paid after January 2020 and providing you with a one-time pro-rated rate for 2021. For example, if you renewed in March 2020, we would prorate your 2021 dues payment to cover April 2021-December 2021 to get you back on a calendar year renewal. Then you will pay full dues in January 2022.

We appreciate everyone’s feedback on this matter and patience while we implement this change. We hope you continue to enjoy your membership benefits and look forward to a fun and exciting 2021 with all of you.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Rinne at natrc@natrc.org.

continued National BOD report -

The Veterinary Drug Committee has approved the use of buffered electrolytes for horses in competition.

Judges co-committee chair persons, Dr. Pam Hess and Kim Cowart are stepping down. Dr. Kerri Riddick will be replacing Dr. Pam Hess, and Lori Walls will replace Kim Cowart. We would like to thank Dr. Pam Hess and Kim Cowart for your years of devotion. Serving in this capacity is time-consuming and difficult and they have done a great job. Thank you both!

We are looking for feedback from our members regarding the rule changes and anything else you might want to propose / discuss. Please contact Esther Diaguila (borncountry@skippinghorse.com) or Kris Gray (krisfgray@gmail.com) with your comments or suggestions.

Happy Holidays



Endurance and Trail Riding Supplies



Riding in a Virtual World

Kris Gray



Who would have ever thought that we would have to take a year off from NATRC in-person competitions? I know we have all desperately missed our NATRC family and the fun-filled competition weekends. All the laughter, hugs, beautiful scenery, bonding with our equines and learning something new along the way. I do not know about the rest of you, but not only have I missed seeing everyone, I have missed the challenge of the competition, learning, and improving.... and then learning more. I crave NATRC! Luckily, I can get my NATRC fix with the Virtual Challenges that are offered. We have two types of Virtual Challenges that ANY membership level may participate in. One is the Virtual Mileage Challenge; the other is the Virtual Obstacle Challenge Series.

The **Virtual Mileage Challenge** for 2021 runs **December 01, 2020** – **October 31, 2021**. The Mileage

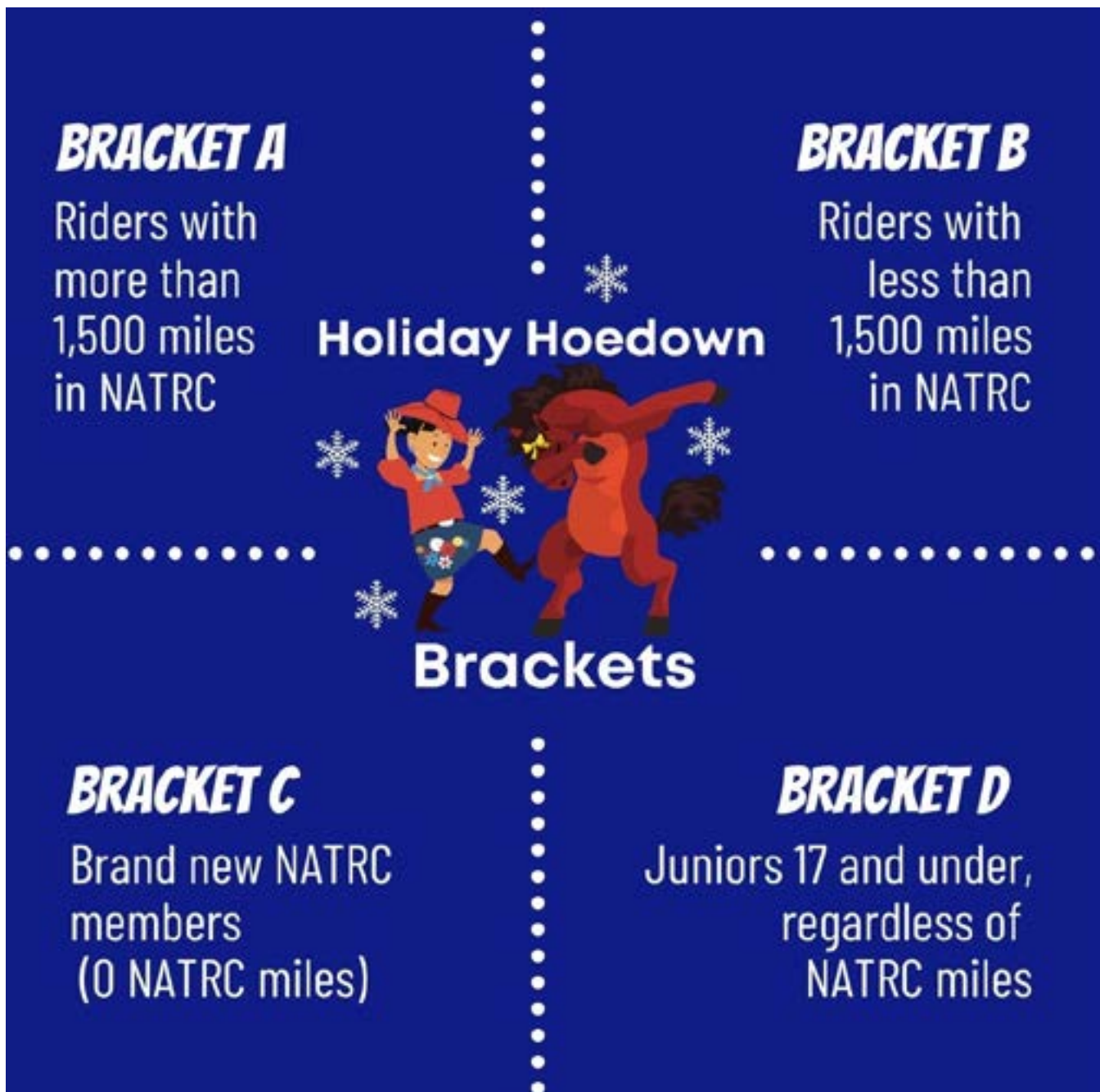
Challenge gives you credit for all non-competition miles. The Virtual Mileage Challenge is where you get credit for all those casual riding miles and conditioning miles. Awards are given to the highest mileage totals at the end of the Challenge. It is easy to register and submit your miles. You simply fill out a Mileage Challenge application at natrc.submit.com and click save (not finish). Multiple equines? Just complete one application per equine and let the fun begin! Then as you ride, you just fill in the date, mileage, etc. on the log on your application and watch your miles add up!

The Virtual Obstacle Challenge Series has been fun and exciting for all those involved! The Obstacle Challenge Series is broken into four divisions, and awards are given for the top six scores in each division. The first Obstacle Challenge that we “rolled” out, ran from May 2020 – September 2020 and included five judged obstacles per month. For the Summer 2020 Challenge Series, participants videoed themselves completing the obstacles provided for each month and then the judges watched, scored, and provided feedback on each obstacle. The great thing about this is that when you receive your feedback you can go back and watch the video and see what the judge was referring to. Talk about a learning experience!!!

The Virtual Obstacle Challenge Series is underway again, with the Holiday Hoedown. The **Holiday Hoedown** runs **November 2020 – January 2021** and offers one obstacle per month. You have three weeks to work on and then submit your video for scoring and feedback. The first challenge of the Holiday Hoedown was the Hokey Pokey. Participants really got into this, dressing up their equines and themselves, singing the song, or playing the song in the background. These challenges have a few more steps, but really help us all work on focusing on Stop, Settle, Slow as we move from one step to the next. Stay tuned for the next two Holiday Hoedown Challenges to be released in December 2020 and January 2021. Awards are given to the top scoring equines in each division. You may join in on the fun anytime by going to natrc.submit.com and completing an application for the current Obstacle Challenge. With this platform, you can submit your video directly from your phone. No special formatting steps required! The program handles all of that for you. Want to enter multiple equines, no problem! Just complete an application for each one and submit the videos on the related application as the Challenge Series goes along.

The Summer 2021 Virtual Obstacle Series is in the works, so be sure to keep an eye out for more information!! Be sure to tell your friends about our Virtual Challenge options, one might be the perfect fit for them. Finally, we have added the "Let's Ride" Seminar Series. This is a monthly, live, interactive webinar, for our members to participate in. Topics we have covered are: Basics of Balanced Riding, Stabling at the Trailer, Using NATRC Maps, Conditioning the Equine Athlete, and more! The "Let's Ride" Seminars are presented by NATRC Veterinary and Horsemanship Judges and Competitors. These will continue throughout 2021! Watch our Websites and Facebook Pages for dates and more information on upcoming topics. Missed a seminar? No worries! They are recorded and available to watch anytime, go to NATRC.org and click "NATRC Webinars."

While we look forward to seeing everyone at competitions, we hope you also continue enjoy these additional offerings from NATRC. Invite your friends to join in on the fun and excitement of NATRC! Thank you all for your support during 2020 and beyond.



The graphic is a blue rectangular poster for a "Holiday Hoedown" event. It features a central illustration of a girl in a red shirt and blue skirt dancing with a brown horse. The text is arranged in four quadrants around the center, separated by dotted lines. The top half is titled "Holiday Hoedown" and the bottom half is titled "Brackets".

BRACKET A	BRACKET B
Riders with more than 1,500 miles in NATRC	Riders with less than 1,500 miles in NATRC
BRACKET C	BRACKET D
Brand new NATRC members (0 NATRC miles)	Juniors 17 and under, regardless of NATRC miles



NEXT 10 MILES