

# HOOFPRI<sup>NTS</sup> OF REGION 5



## WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, WHERE DID YOU GO? SUMMER IN REGION 5...

A group of Region 5 took on the road this summer to compete in Kansas and Colorado. Beautiful scenery, learning opportunities and memories made with NATRC family, both old and new. Check out photos from their rides inside.

## PLEASE VOTE! MEMBER VOTES FOR REGION 5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE DUE OCTOBER 15.

Director terms expiring December 2023:

Sara Baldwin (alternate), Esther Diaguila (National),  
Barry Garnes, Sherry Garnes, Cindy Keen, Patty Lucas

Candidates for 2024 Region 5 Board of Directors and National representative:

### Region 5

Esther Diaguila  
Lael Feist  
Barry Garnes  
Cindy Keen  
Ty McCullough

### National

Sherry Garnes



Visit [www.natrc5.org](http://www.natrc5.org) for ride details and registration info

# FRENCH BROAD CLASSIC

*Biltmore  
Estates*

**OCTOBER 6-8, 2023**

*Come and enjoy the Biltmore Estate on Horseback in  
October with the crisp cool days and vibrant Fall colors.*

- RIDE MANAGER: Barry Barnes, 828-476-0030, [bnbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:bnbarnes@gmail.com)
- RIDE A&B SECRETARY: Connie Fike, 717-781-3236, [clifike26@gmail.com](mailto:clifike26@gmail.com)
- RIDE LEISURE SECRETARY: Linda Clayton, 334-313-2999, [lindyclay@aol.com](mailto:lindyclay@aol.com)

• RIDE DIVISIONS: A (2-day) Novice, CP, Open; B (1-day) Novice, CP, Open; Leisure (2-day) Saturday & Sunday

SANCTIONED BY NATRC (NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE)  
<https://natrc5.org>

DISTANCE: LEISURE APPROX. 8-11 MILES EACH DAY,  
NOVICE & CP APPROX. 16-18 MILES EACH DAY,  
OPEN APPROX. 25-28 MILES EACH DAY

## Competitive Trail Riding Clinic and Competition

Sponsored by the North American Trail Ride Conference

### The WHYs and HOWs of NATRC - FULL CLINIC and LEISURE RIDE November 18 and 19, 2023

Camp McClellan Horse Trails & Campground  
150 Mud Hole Road, Anniston, AL 36205

SATURDAY, Nov 18 ALL DAY CLINIC focusing on developing your skills & understanding of NATRC. These are the same skills needed not only for NATRC but are also for all levels of riding AND safety! Horses can't learn what we don't know!

SUNDAY Nov 19 Official-on trail LeD Ride. Last chance of the year for 2023 points. 8-10 miles & prep for upcoming year! Put what you learn Saturday into action!

CAMP INFO Campsites \$20 (51 sites, all with electricity). At this point, group water in campground/at some sites or at barn, so fill your tanks before coming or at barn. Bathroom and showers at pavilion.

RESERVATIONS: for campsites and stalls. [www.campmcclellanhorsecampground.com](http://www.campmcclellanhorsecampground.com) "stay with us"

**Negative Coggins Required.**  
**Trails are rocky and shoes strongly suggested.**

RIDE MANAGER: Sandy Pegram SECRETARY: Patty Lucas

## FROM RIDE THE EDGE

### Matthew McInterie

Ride the edge was my one year anniversary ride with NATRC. It's one of my favorite rides, because it has beautiful scenery and amazing views. The campground offers so much, such as a huge arena and lots of obstacles for you and your horse to play on. Nice stalls and clean bathroom facilities.

**Ty and Debbie McCullough do an amazing job putting on this ride.** The trails were marked perfectly and everything was organized so well!

**NATRC is like a big family**, I felt very comfortable from day one and people have always went out of their way to help me when I had questions or need some advice.

### Donna Cuyrry

I did not get a chance to consume, but I absolutely loved the thought of having a food truck out there!!! The trails were marked beautifully!! Everyone was so very helpful. The camp host was very helpful. I cannot be any more pleased. I don't have any recommendations and as usual... when I needed the Safety Riders.. they were right there! **So Much FUN!!!**



Welcome to Region 5! First time riders @ Ride the Edge.

Photos continued...  
Photo credit: Donya McCullom



# My 2023 NATRC Experience

Logan Samuels

**For me**, this year was different than any other. It really started last ride-season in September at an LeD competition. My first ever time on a new horse, Butter.

It wasn't great. The ride itself was good, and I enjoyed the calm challenges Leisure Division rides have to offer, but Butter and I weren't exactly on the same page. The obstacles were truly opportunities for learning, and they were opportunities to learn how to handle an uneasy, anxious horse.

Butter didn't want to be pressured, cramped, or left behind. He wouldn't stand still for obstacles, misbehaved at P&Rs, was claustrophobic, and expected to be tensed up on any time he did something wrong. And even though I wasn't exactly sure what to do either, everyone said my personality and riding demeanor would be great for him. I always do my best to stay calm in the saddle, and with the help and guidance of my aunt, Alaina, and other NATRC mentors, I was able to safely redirect him. But even after that first ride, I still wasn't so sure.

I made a decision, anyway. I had enjoyed the competition, gaining much more from the experience than the actual placings. Both Butter and I would be a work in progress, but I wanted to try working with him. I didn't have a NATRC horse at the time, having outgrown my pony, Watermelon, over COVID, so we would borrow him from our friend, Victoria, for the ride season.

The next time I was on his back, I came off. But I liked Butter even more. After a short crow-hop then a dusting-off, I got back on and we kept going. Outside of the competitive air, we had the time and space to work through things slowly. We seemed to be getting along better.

Our first A ride was in October of last year. Scores were pretty low there, too. But it didn't matter—we finished, and we worked as a team to do it. I'd officially decided that I'd start the new ride season on Butter.

In the meantime, we were working to better ourselves at home too. I've been taking weekly riding lessons on Butter since before the start of the year, with an amazing trainer who's taught me so much. Not only that, but I've had the chance to work with Lauren Henny and some of the other horses she has, with varying energy levels and amounts of experience. Most of them are very different from my own lazy horse, but continually help me grow to be a better horseman.



The two of us worked on fixing various things: first, Butter's crow-hopping objection to my saddle. We refined buttons for competitive trail rides and worked on keeping him calm around other horses doing other things while also focusing on what I was asking him. Our trail rides at home and with Victoria helped with patience, manners, and refining our teamwork.

Finally came our first competition this ride-season at the wonderful facility in Jasper, Florida. By sheer confusion about whether or not I could compete another year as Novice, due to my previous points and Butter's own, we registered for Competitive Pleasure. The ride was aptly themed around goals for the coming year, as my aunt and I joked about getting enough points for National Championships since we were now in a division that qualified.

This ride was the best Butter and I had done since, drastically so, thanks to our work at home. I enjoyed learning so much from the wisdom of our horsemanship judge and loved both the obstacles

and challenges he gave us—some of which we still couldn't complete. We had tried our best at every one of them and ended up with a special "best teamwork" award from our vet judge to show it.

More so than the award itself, it assured me that our hard work was paying off. No matter our scores, it meant Butter and I had a true partnership, learning and improving together. It was only up from there.

Our next ride was at Mingo Trails, one that, like so many this year, we'd never been to. The trails and campsites were some of our favorites.

*continued...*



Despite the stormy weather and some adjustments, the ride went smoothly, and mine and Butter's obstacle skills were better than ever. Then, at awards, something happened that I'd never expected.

It was the first time that I'd ever won sweepstakes, and I couldn't believe that Butter had done so well. But more so, I couldn't believe how many points came from such a feat. It kind of clicked at the end of that ride. Maybe a National Championship could be more than just a far-fetched idea.

We kind of made a new goal then. We would do as many rides as we could make it to, riding our rides, not stressing about points and placings, and if we got a National Championship in the process, so be it.

After the next ride at Fort McClellan, my scores and Butter's still rising, he had more than half the points he needed. It was then we were given a most exciting offer—the chance to go on the trip of a lifetime. Two different regions and two different rides, in two different states that I'd never been even remotely close to. We knew we really wanted to go with the wonderful group who'd invited us out West, but we weren't sure how I would get to go.

But our NATRC family was there to support us. Ms. Lauren, who deserves a lot of the credit for helping with our recent improvement and successes, once more stepped up to help me raise money to make it to Colorado and Kansas. Not only did we receive donations from my friends there, but a wide variety of NATRC competitors, judges and amazing people who truly cared about mine and Butter's growth and progress. I still remember

and appreciate everyone who helped out, no matter what way, because Butter and I wouldn't have made it without their kindness.

Riding with Victoria for the long haul, we first stopped at the ride in Kanopolis Canyon. The scenery was beautiful, and the trails were hilly and wide open for miles. It was nothing like we had back home in Alabama, and the weather was nothing like we'd experienced before either. We were no strangers to hot summers and humidity, but the wind was something else. A storm could blow up in minutes and a few did, even while out on the trails. Butter even got to go swimming through a deep water crossing, and we also found out he likes to roll in the sand. We enjoyed learning from both of the judges there, Butter receiving the highest score he ever had.

Our next stop was Colorado Springs, at a ride within the Air Force Academy. The trails there were more beautiful than anything we'd ever ridden. They were marked really well, and we were even given GPS tracks that followed where we went, so there was never any confusion as to whether or not we were on trail. There were also a few hail storms while we were there, all the Colorado natives watching us run under an awning with our horses while it pounded down around us. The weather was cool and nice, and the mountainous paths we took provided some of the best views we'd ever experienced. We especially enjoyed riding with a new NATRC competitor and friend, Mrs. Becky, and hope she competes with us again soon!

The horsemanship judge was one we absolutely loved and are excited to see at our next ride at Biltmore, and she even took the time to help explain in detail some of the things on our scorecards. They'd taken lots of pictures throughout the ride and specifically had some of us riding up or down slopes to help show us what we'd done right or wrong. That was my first time not receiving points off for being heavy in the saddle, and I was so proud. The ride manager also had lots of fun activities, and she gave us some special gifts for traveling all the way from Region 5.

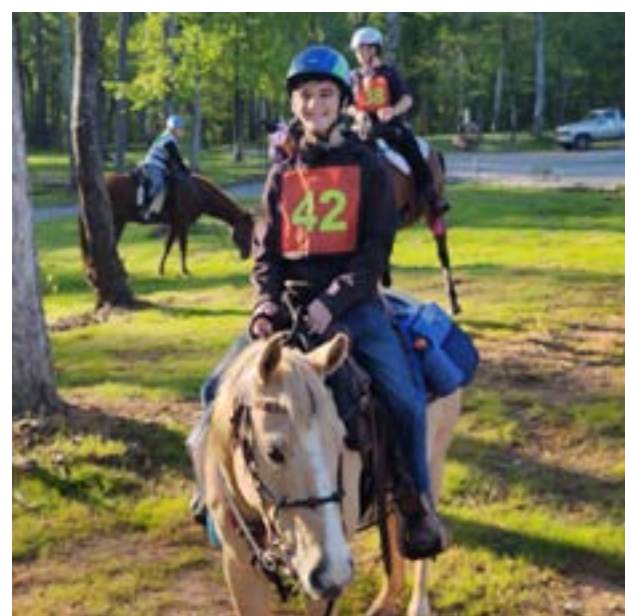
We loved nearly everything about our trip out West—growing our bonds and making new friends with some fellow NATRC competitors and the wonderful volunteers, enjoying the beauty of nature like we never had before, and gaining even more points towards our National Championship. Butter and I brought home some of our highest scores ever, learned valuable lessons, and gained memories that will last a lifetime.

After we returned home, we took a small break during one part of the hot and miserable summer. I soon started back up with my weekly lessons and Butter and I continued to refine our skills. Finally, we returned to our hectic NATRC schedule with the first ride of the fall in Jamestown, Tennessee.

Ride The Edge was a great ride as well. The weather was nicer and cooler than back in Alabama, and the rain even held off while we were out riding. The trails truly did follow the scenic "edge" and allowed for some wonderful mountain-top scenery. Our obstacles were challenging and fun, and Butter did great. Then came the awards ceremony, and a moment I'd been hoping for since March.

Having completed and placed in the competition, Butter received the final few points he needed to qualify for a National Championship. I was ecstatic to have achieved such a big goal, truly a collective effort on so many parts. Butter and I never would've done it without my aunt, Alaina, who's helped guide me more than anyone throughout the year and the entire time I've been riding. We couldn't have done it without our NATRC friends and family who have all had a share in making this ride season possible, for encouraging me with every ride and pushing us to do our best no matter what.

I'm so glad we decided to give it our all this year. I've learned more about riding within the last 9 months than I have since I started riding at the age of 7. We've made new friends, ridden with some wonderful and wise people, discovered new places, challenged ourselves more than ever, and reached the biggest goal we ever set out to achieve. Most of all, I formed a new partner in a horse named Butter.



## WEEKEND RECAP:

### WELCOME TO THE NATRC FAMILY LED

#### Welcome Juniors!

The Welcome to the NATRC Family LED started seven juniors on Saturday, a majority of the ride. The seventh-place junior was given a special gift because we no longer have seventh place ribbons. Several juniors said they enjoyed trotting and centering on what turned out to be a fast-paced trail. After the P&R check, all riders were given extra time due to the heat and humidity.

Judge Esther Diaguila was assigned a junior's mom, Frost Rollins, to be her secretary. This was Frost's first NATRC experience and she did a great job. She really learned a lot about our sport and left eager to come again, either as a rider or volunteer.

Sunday's LED had a smaller crowd, with only four juniors and five adults. However, the juniors unfortunately let their adult mentors wander off trail, so everyone got to ride extra miles.

The weekend opened with a clinic designed for newcomers. It focused this year on WHY. Why do we do NATRC was a discussion hosted by Esther Diaguila and Patty Lucas. Why do we judge equitation featured a demonstration by Kathryn Stucky, including good and bad mounts and dismounts, uphill and downhill, and, showing what we mean by "Heavy in the Saddle." Why do we do groundwork was a hands-on session where everyone practiced being the leader and moving their horses' feet.

A special thanks goes to ride manager and host, Doug McConnell for providing great food and desserts.



# 2023 NATRC Mid-Year Standings

- The point standings below are subject to change with the year-end audit.
- Memberships for the year must be paid before November 1, or points will be forfeited.
- All rides completed through July 1, 2023 are included.
- "B" rides count as ½ (.5) of a ride.
- Please email any questions to natrc@natrc.org and include "Points" as your subject.
- To qualify for final year-end awards horse and rider MUST complete a minimum of three rides.
- **# Rides equals sum of rides completed; i.e. 1 A and 2 Bs = 1 + 0.5 + 0.5 = 2**

## OPEN DIVISION

HORSE			HORSEMANSHIP		
Name	# Rides	Points	Name	# Rides	Points
1. Beau 11	8	102	1. Sherry Garnes	8	110
2. Jiminy Cricket	8	88	2. Cynthia Mettes	9	82
3. Nchantedprincevaliant	8	78	2. Patti Hicks	8	82
4. RPH Ebony Diamond	6	66	3. Fran Muench	5	72
5. Windstorm Clay	5	60	4. Jennifer Mulligan	6.5	53
6. Giacomo	5	58	5. Victoria Whitehead	6.5	52
			5. Gayle Muench	7	52
			6. Deanne Prusak	4	44

## COMPETITIVE PLEASURE DIVISION

HORSE			HORSEMANSHIP		
Name	# Rides	Points	Name	# Rides	Points
1. TA Kaiser +/-	4	52	1.Deanne Prusak	4	62
2. Okies Roanwood 10	3	48	2. David Spell	5	56
3. Mick Jagger	4	46	3. Alaina Samuels	4.5	52
4. Jada Angel	3	40	4. Cara Liebman	5	46
4. Charlie Daniels SMA	5	40	5. Teresa Galliher	5	40
5. Sidney El Rey	5	39	6. Sierra Patisaul	4	38
6. Sweets	5	38	6. Katie Breland	3	38

### JUNIOR

1. Dec Docs Curious Pep	6	54	1. Logan Samuels	6	42
2. Timber Jac Joe	4	44	2. Anna Beth Lawrence	4	34

## NOVICE DIVISION

HORSE			HORSEMANSHIP		
Name	# Rides	Points	Name	# Rides	Points
1. StarLight’s Macksimum Flex	4	48	1. Nancy Fuller	4	50
1. Hueco Count Victor	5	48	2. Kimberlee Flint	5	42
2. SA Jabari	3	36	3. Jessica Poust	3	40
3. Iron Will	3	25	4. Therese Surdel	2.5	28

# MEET THE CANDIDATES – BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

### REGION 5:

#### ESTHER DIAGUILA

For the past six years, I have had the privilege to represent region 5 at the national level. I am asking you to allow me to continue to serve at the regional level. I have been involved with NATRC since 2003. During that time, I have ridden novice, competitive pleasure and open, worked as secretary for judges and rides, served as a horsemanship judge, managed my own ride, have been the trail master for my ride and have won numerous regional and national awards, including the President's Cup. I have also had the privilege of mentoring and apprenticing most of the Region 5 LeD judges. I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election for the Region 5 Board.

#### LAEL FEIST

I am a late bloomer, that is late to the horse scene. I started riding at age 40 and joined NATRC just a few years ago as a chance to learn and grow with my horses. What I did not expect was to find a new family – a herd! The major draw for me is the consideration and help we lend each other in reaching our goals. Many times I have seen one of us lift each other up. This is what the sport is all about. I would like to serve on the board of directors to help voice our members concerns, help other attain greatness, and promote our sport. Thank you for your vote.

#### BARRY GARNES

I have been a member of NATRC for 9 years. I started out riding in the open division, I attend multiple rides a year volunteering in all positions. I am currently serving R5 as a board member and would like to continue my position. My past business experience is owning a DTV installation company which grew to one of the largest in the nation and I am currently involved in a real estate investment company. I would enjoy having the opportunity to implement some of my past business experiences into NATRC. Thank you for your consideration.

#### CINDY KEEN

I have been a NATRC member since 1990. I live in Dublin, Georgia. I am running for my 5th term for the NATRC Region 5 Board of Directors. I am the Fund Raising Chairman, ride manager for the Region 5 Benefit Ride and Benefit Dinner since 2010. I love mentoring Junior Riders and introducing them to the positive aspects and wonderful Horsemanship of NATRC. I would appreciate your vote for Region 5 Board of Directors, thank you.

#### TY MCCULLOUGH

Married to Debbie McCullough.  
Owned and managed a business for 45 years before retiring in 2020. Joined NATRC in 1997, competed for 15 years until business got in the way. I started in Novice with my 1/2 arabian, 1/2 mustang Bonfire. We graduated to open, but Bonfire developed lameness and I retired her. I then purchased a Missouri Foxtrotter by the name of Royal Sunset (Diamond) and competed in open weight class. Also during this time I was trailmaster for 5 rides along with helping on several other rides. I served on the Region 6 board for several years in numerous capacities. I then served for 6 years on the National Board of Directors. I am a lifetime member of NATRC. As with alot of people, life outside of NATRC took over, and after a hiatus of several years we came back to enjoy a sport we both loved. We started helping in Region 6 riding safety, rules, p&r's, and judge sec. Then we sold everything and moved to Tennessee. And here we are doing whatever a ride needs us to do. This year I am ride manager at Ride the Edge CTR in Jamestown. I would be honored to serve the people of Region 5 to help keep our region strong and profitable.  
Lael Feist

### NATIONAL:

#### SHERRY GARNES

My name is Sherry Garnes. I have been a member of NATRC for 10 years. I am presently the R5 President and have managed French Broad Classic @ Biltmore for the last 8 years. I currently compete with my Spotted Saddle, Beau in the open division. My leadership skills are engaging myself in all aspects of the sport to get a clear understating of what is working well and what needs some attention. I thrive on a strong team around me to achieve growth that will result in becoming a stronger organization for the future.

## VOTING DEADLINE – OCTOBER 15

## Region 5 Ballot 2023

Ballot for Board of Directors Region 5 – 2 year term  
Ballot for National Director – 3 year term

Single membership votes for 4 members to fill 4 slots.  
Family membership, please vote twice on one ballot or send in two (2) ballots.  
Each Member can vote for 4 members on each Region 5 Ballot

Directors whose terms expire December 2023:  
Sherry Garnes, Patty Lucas, Cindy Keen, Barry Garnes, Sara Baldwin (alternate)  
National Board: Esther Diaguila

### VOTE FOR 4 SLOTS:

Cindy Keen \_\_\_\_\_ Barry Garnes \_\_\_\_\_

Esther Diaguila \_\_\_\_\_ Ty McCullough \_\_\_\_\_

Lael Feist \_\_\_\_\_

Others (write in) \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in name)

National Board: Single membership 1 vote Family membership 2 votes

Sherry Garnes \_\_\_\_\_  
Write in \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in name)

Please print your name(s) below and your membership type:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership type \_\_\_\_\_

Second Name if Family Ballot \_\_\_\_\_

Ballots may be emailed to Linda Clayton, lindaclay@aol.com or Mailed to:  
Linda Clayton, PO Box 313, Hope Hull, AL 36043

DEADLINE FOR VOTING - OCTOBER 15, 2023

[TO VOTE AND SUBMIT ONLINE FORM - CLICK HERE](#)

## SUMMER ON THE ROAD – REGION 5 GOES WEST





#### R 5 BOD Minutes

R5 BOD minutes

7/22/2023

Zoom meeting 9:10 am CST

The scheduled meeting of the R5 BOD was called to order by President Sherry Games.

Attendees: Sherry Games, Patty Lucas, Kris Gray, Sara Baldwin (alternate for Marsha Howard ), Esther Diagula, Sandy Pagram, Patricia Petelle, Cindy Keen, Linda Clayton, Victoria Whitehead (alternate), Paula Riley and Barry Games. Absent: Sallie Kudra and Marsha Howard .

Secretary report: Patty Lucas's minutes were distributed previously via email for review. Motion to approve minutes by Esther, seconded by Barry. Minutes approved without changes by voice count.

Financial and budget — Linda Clayton :

Pinnie sales totaled \$1675.00 (\$100 more than previous year)

First-in-line was \$1058.00 less than last year.

Benefit Ride in 2022 made \$3000. Cindy will have figures for this year in her report.

100% club jackets purchased through National cost us \$203.75. Cindy Keen looking into R5 purchasing jackets directly for simpler process.

Awards for benefit ride cost \$1790.09. Traveling trophies \$64.80. Tanya did great job staying under budget for awards.

Mini-convention last year had minimal loss of \$409.00. Marsha did a great job with this.

Discussion of front of line pass. Preferential rider pass used in other regions with pass holder getting extras such as parking pass. Used as moneymaker for the region. Board consensus is to keep doing front of line which made over \$1000 for the region last year.

Suggestion by Sandy to work on front of line pass options as well as explanation to members of front of line pass. Patty and Sandy to work on suggestions for more options in addition to front of line and preferential passes, with report to Board by August 25.

\$654 collected YTD for ride management support fund. Current fund balance is \$2473.00. We paid \$1000 in 2022 to two different ride managers.

Newsletter is posted from the Spring. Linda will resend to members in case anyone missed it.

The information for the Fall newsletter is due by September 1.

Membership: Sallie's report included 221 total members this year, with a breakdown of the different types of memberships. She did a follow up with members who did not rejoin. For details, see Sallie's email report. General membership can email Sallie for this information.

Fundraising : Cindy Keen

Total benefit ride collections were \$12,206. This included silent auction, catered dinner, fees, corrals and micro-chipping. Cleared \$5694 after all expenses, which was \$2000 more than last year. We were not able to have a dinner last year due to the bridge being out .

There were some challenges with logging and weather this year.

Patricia Petelle still has some microchips left and will offer at future rides.

Store : Patty Lucas will continue do and bring store to rides as she is able. Patty to make a list with prices of items in store and put in rider packets. Continue to give out new rider T-shirts . Cindy got good price on shirts.

National Report: Esther Diagula

Problems with electronic scorecards. National still working out issues.

Free first time memberships will be continued in 2024.

Discussion about fan memberships. Would Reg. 5 want to provide any fan memberships to volunteers? Other regions

are considering this.

Differences in fan membership and regular membership discussed. Fan memberships typically cost about \$35. This would encourage volunteers. To be discussed further in November meeting. All board members make a list of who they would like to receive the complementary memberships. Have your list in by November 1st and be ready to discuss.

Esther and Paula to come up with parameters and get back to board.

National appreciation awards due to Ruth M by November 19, 2023.

Two rules proposals did not pass (injury care and ulcer care). Will be addressed again in the fall with National. Any rules proposals should be given to our nat'l reps, Esther and Kris.

Patricia has resigned from National Veterinarian Drug Committee. Current committee members are Jamie Dietrich (ex officio), Kerri Riddick and Tamera Gull.

Ulcer medication proposal did not pass because it was thought to not be consistent with the philosophy of NATRC. There are studies showing rebound effect. The proposal relating to wound care was turned down due to ambiguous language. Both of these will be addressed in the future after more research done.

National Treasurer report: Kris Gray

Jan-Jun profit \$36,700. Behind last year which was \$53,000 mid-year (but included a \$10K donation). For the first time in a long time, we did not have sponsors for National awards. Talk to the membership about developing sponsors for year-end National awards.

Drug fee total was \$1000 this year.

Hoofprints has gone to annual publication in order to cut cost with a volunteer team working on the newsletter.

Merchant processing fees up a bit this year due to more online activity.

Expenses so far this year \$37,300 with a \$600 loss for this year.

Working on sponsors for annual raffle. Still identifying these which include Riding Warehouse, Tractor Supply and others.

National is working on committee for 2025 to help with National Convention. R5 has the convention in 2025. We will still be able to pick the city.

Mini Convention 2024 : Sara Baldwin proposed alternate venue to Cedars of Lebanon

Suggested DeSoto Springs State Park in Alabama — 10 minutes from Fort Payne, convenient for Marsha and central to a large portion of the membership.

Sara to put together afternoon program and secure speakers for Saturday. She will look into meals available at DeSoto. We would have the meal at the awards program. Victoria will do Power Point.

March 1-2, 2024 dates decided on for Mini Convention.

The National Convention will be in conjunction with AERC in 2024 in Reno February 24-25 2024.

Ride Schedule : Paula Riley

2024 has 12 A/B rides and 7 LeD. Two of the LeD rides are stand-alone. National will pay \$100 to region towards insurance for two clinics a year.

Virginia Highlands needs a ride manager. Two AERC riders may step up to help. Possibly move this ride to June. Nancy Sluys may step in to help these riders. As long as she can be the trail master she could allow us to use her place for camping.

H Cooper Black ride is confirmed with Angie Lindberg

Marketing : Sandy Pegram

Met with Ty McCullough and Mary Dukes to discuss marketing strategies. Barry Garnes to be added to marketing team. Provide lists of riders by states, possibly 3 per state so an individual could call and possibly meet to ride and talk about NATRC.

More Clinics needed. Encourage people to ride safely to get new people involved.

Follow up with sponsors to let them know who won. Seeing end results encourages them to continue to give.

Research done on non-renewal members and different reasons why folks are not renewing. Encouraging for people to know we want them back.

Sherry is going to work on a general NATRC press release for ride managers to give to local newspapers and media. Please let Sandy know if you or anyone has any new marketing ideas.

Board members terms ending in 2023 — Patty Lucas, Cindy Keen, Sara Baldwin, Sherry Garnes and Barry Garnes. Also Esther Diagula — National.

Ty McCullough and Laiel Fiest are interested in being on the board. Sherry to run for National Board and Esther to run for R5 Board. All interested in running for the Board please send your bios to Linda Clayton by August 15, 2023.

We need to publicize the elections at rides and in newsletter.

Newsletter articles should be sent to Linda by September 15. Newsletter goes out Oct. 15.

Next meeting of R5 BOD is December 2, 2023 at: