

HOOFPRIENTS OF

REGION 5

NORTH AMERICAN
TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE



SPRING 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Region Five!

Did you know that some of the greatest contributions to our region don't necessarily involve riding a horse? A number of regional awards recognize members' contributions, especially those who make it possible for others to ride.

- **The Jack and Mary Britt Outstanding Service Award** goes to a person that serves the sport and its participants above and beyond assigned duties. This award usually recognizes work behind the scenes, such as managing our Facebook profile, judge secretaries, trail-masters, and P&R coordinators.
- **The Mary Britt Mentor Award** honors the spirit of one of the most influential Region 5 members of all time. Mary served as a ride manager, horsemanship judge, and National Board member. She rode 15,050 competitive miles—the fifth highest in NATRC history. Along the way, she shared her experience generously and inspired countless riders. Today, this award goes to teachers and trainers who watch their students shine.
- **The Shannon Memorial Junior Rider Trophy** goes to a junior rider who demonstrates sportsmanship and integrity, setting an example for how all members should behave, regardless of age or gender. Another junior award, sponsored by an anonymous donor, reimburses a portion of their ride fees.
- **The 100 percent club** focuses on participation and is given to those who attend all rides or events as a rider or as a volunteer. Winners receive a jacket or vest to advertise their success.
- Each year, **Regional Appreciation awards** recognize special contributions. Some years these awards go to two or three people who have made noticeable, positive impacts on the rides. In addition, Region 5 can also recognize contributions at the National level—people who rise above the ranks and get things done.

Each award has criteria and deadlines, and the Region 5 Board of Directors discusses these awards at its summer meeting, which is July 26th at 2 pm CST (via Zoom). If someone you know deserves recognition, contact a Board member. We love to listen.

Sara Baldwin
Region 5 BOD President

Hidden Heros

There are hidden heroes all around, impacting the lives of so many. Studies have shown the many positive effects of horses in youth development both physically and mentally. Riding and care of a horse has been highlighted to increase confidence, self control, reduce stress levels and cognitive development. Beginning in 2007, Region Five's Junior Rider Program kicked off through the generosity of our own hidden hero by reimbursing ride fees for qualifying riders. Be on the lookout for stories from past Juniors on what this program has meant to them!

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REGION FIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HEATHER ALONZO (27)
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SUZANNE MURPHREE (27)
VICTORIA WHITEHEAD (26)

NATIONAL ALTERNATE:

PATTY LUCAS (27)

Photo Credits: Patty Lucas, Suzi Geiger,
Courtney Woodall, Nancy Fuller, Lael Feist

Mini Convention

SPRING INTO NATRC LED

Camp McClellan
Anniston, Alabama

MARCH 6-7

“

Had a terrific time at the Mini-Convention/LeD! Thank you Esther, Sallie, Sara, Cindy, Suzi and all other volunteers. Thanks to Back Country Horseman of America - McClellan Chapter and NEAMS group. What a wonderful group of horse people and their families!

It was "Junebug's" first competition. I was so pleased with her performance! We cantered for the first time, NO bucks!

”



Patty Lucas and Junebug



Suzi, Cindy and Marsha

“

Great memories made! Thank you to each and every one who had a part in this event! Esther, Sallie, Sara, Marty, Cindy...all of your hard work does not go unnoticed!

”

2026 Region Five Mini Convention brought a new look to the annual gathering. Members came together in Anniston, Alabama, home to the McClellan Horse Camp to enjoy Spring into NATRC LeD followed by dinner and awards to celebrate the 2025 ride season.



- HORSES
- GEAR
- FRIENDS
- FAMILY
- FELLOWSHIP



Respect for Space

by Tim Anderson

When I talk about respect for space, I'm not trying to win an argument about dominance or prove I'm the "boss." I'm talking about something far more practical: a horse cannot be the one making the decisions. Not because the horse is "bad," and not because the horse is plotting against you—but because a thousand-pound animal making independent decisions in a human world is how people get hurt.

I've spent my life around horses, and I'll tell you the truth as plainly as I can: a horse making the decisions is dangerous for the rider. It's dangerous in the obvious ways—spooking, bolting, running over you—but it's also dangerous in the subtle ways people excuse for years until something finally happens. The little decisions become bigger decisions. The small boundary becomes no boundary. Then one day the horse makes a decision at the wrong time, and it turns into a wreck. When I ask for a horse to respect my space, what I'm really doing is asking for one essential thing: let me be the leader. **Not the bully. Not the dictator. The leader.** Leadership is how the relationship works. Leadership is what makes the partnership safe. And safety is what allows both the rider and the horse to get what they want out of the relationship.

The Horse Doesn't Get to Decide Where My Body Goes Here's the simplest way I can put it: if a horse can move my feet, that horse is already in charge. A lot of people don't realize that's what's happening. They call it "he's just being friendly" or "she's just a little pushy." But in the horse's world, movement equals control. If the horse crowds you and you step away, the horse just learned something.

If the horse drags you to the gate and you go with him, he learned something. If the horse leans into you at the mounting block and you adjust to make it work, he learned something. None of this is evil. It's just horses being horses.

If the horse is allowed to make those decisions on the ground, it becomes very likely that the horse will try to make decisions under saddle too—especially when the horse gets worried, excited, tired, frustrated, or distracted. That's when it gets dangerous. So I don't treat "respect for space" as a manners issue. I treat it as a leadership issue.



**MOVEMENT
EQUALS
CONTROL**

**“LEADERSHIP
ISN'T ABOUT
BEING MEAN, IT'S
ABOUT TAKING
RESPONSIBILITY”**

Leadership Isn't About Being Mean, It's About Taking Responsibility

- This is where people get confused, because they hear “leader” and they picture somebody roughing a horse up to prove a point. That's not leadership. That's insecurity.

Leadership is simple: I take responsibility for the decisions so the horse doesn't have to.

A horse is always looking for someone to answer a question: “Where should I be? What should I do? Is this safe? Are we okay?” If I don't answer those questions, the horse will. Not because the horse is disrespectful, but because the horse is wired to survive, the horse's survival decisions don't always match what keeps the rider safe.

A horse's decision might be:

“I'm leaving.”

“I'm running through this pressure.”

“I'm going back to the barn.”

“I'm crowding into you because I feel better close.”

All of those decisions make sense to a horse. None of them are what I want happening with my feet on the ground or my seat in the saddle. So, my job isn't to punish the horse for being a horse. My job is to show the horse a better system: You don't have to make the decisions. I will, and if you follow my leadership, you'll end up safer and more comfortable than you would on your own.

That's what a partnership actually is.

Partnership Means Both Sides Get What They Want

- A lot of people say they want a partnership, but what they really mean is they want the horse to cooperate while the horse is still in charge. That's not partnership. That's negotiation. Real partnership looks like this: The rider gets safety, control, and reliability. The horse gets clarity, fairness, and relief from having to guess. That's the deal. When I'm consistent about space, what I'm really building is a horse that trusts leadership. Because a horse that trusts leadership will stop feeling like it has to manage everything, that changes everything under saddle.

Most folks think a horse “making decisions” is a big dramatic thing like bolting or bucking. The truth is, it starts long before that.

- STEPPING INTO YOU WHEN YOU STOP
- PUSHING THE SHOULDER INTO YOU WHEN YOU LEAD
- SWINGING THE HIP INTO YOU WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO MOVE AROUND THEM
- WALKING PAST YOU INSTEAD OF WITH YOU
- DRIFTING INTO YOUR BUBBLE WHILE YOU SADDLE
- CROWDING YOU AT THE MOUNTING BLOCK
- TURNING THEIR HEAD AND LEAVING YOU MENTALLY, EVEN IF THEIR FEET ARE STILL STANDING THERE

Those are all decisions. They're small, but they're real. And here's why they matter: a horse that believes it can decide where to put its body will eventually decide where to put its body when it counts. That might be into you, over you, away from you, or through you. I'm not willing to gamble on that.

A horse that is allowed to manage you on the ground often becomes a horse that tries to manage the ride: it chooses the speed, the direction, the distance from the gate, the amount of effort, the level of focus. It decides how much it wants to give. It decides when it wants to quit. It decides when it wants to argue. That's not a partnership. That's a horse running the relationship. A horse can't run the relationship safely. The horse doesn't have the same goals as you do. The horse doesn't have the same understanding of risk. The horse doesn't think like a human. And the horse should not have to.

"Respect for Space" Is Just the First Leadership

Test - I like to keep it simple. Respect for space is the first place I check whether the horse accepts leadership. If the horse won't respect space, it's usually not a training problem yet. It's a leadership problem. Because space is the easiest thing in the world to understand: "Don't walk into me. Don't push through me. Yield when I ask." If a horse can't do that calmly and consistently, then I already know what I'm going to get later when the questions get harder. And I'm not saying that to be dramatic. I'm saying it because I've watched the pattern a thousand times. The horse that crowds on the ground becomes the horse that leans on the bridle. The horse that drags you to the gate becomes the horse that sucks back to the barn. The horse that won't yield the shoulder becomes the horse that falls in on circles and ignores leg. The horse that walks through you becomes the horse that walks through pressure. It's the same mindset—just different settings.

The Big Takeaway...

If your horse is crowding you, pushing into you, leaning on you, or moving your feet around, I don't want you to label your horse as "disrespectful" and get angry. I want you to label it accurately: Your horse is making decisions that you should be making. And any time the horse is making those decisions, your risk goes up—on the ground and in the saddle. So, the goal isn't dominance. The goal is leadership. Leadership gives the rider what they want: safety, control, and progress. Leadership gives the horse what it wants: clarity, fairness, and the comfort of not having to guess. That's how you build a partnership that works for both sides—because the rider leads, and the horse follows with confidence.

What It Looks Like When the Rider Is the Leader -

When the rider is truly the leader, you can see it without anybody having to announce it. It looks like:

- The horse stays out of your space unless invited closer.
- The horse matches your pace when you lead.
- The horse yields the shoulder and hip when asked.
- The horse stops when you stop and doesn't step into you.
- The horse waits at the mounting block instead of crawling into your lap.
- The horse stays mentally with you, not scanning for its own plan.

The horse doesn't do those things because it's afraid, it does them because it understands the system. The horse understands: "If I follow this person, my life makes sense." That's what leadership creates—a world that makes sense.

The Rider Being the Leader Doesn't Mean the Horse Has No Opinion

This matters, because someone always hears "leader" and thinks it means the horse gets treated like a robot. No. A horse can have feelings. A horse can be unsure. A horse can be fresh. A horse can be opinionated. But the horse doesn't get to turn those feelings into decisions that put the rider at risk. That's the line. I want the horse to be able to express itself within the relationship—without taking control of the relationship.

That's why I correct space issues. Not because I hate the horse being close. But because I refuse to let closeness become control.

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-Amy Taylor

Why I chose NATRC



Why NATRC?

I have been riding and owning horses for 40+ years, including trail riding, hunters, gaited horses, and some dabble in dressage. I taught English riding lessons for 7 years. I only occasionally showed at the lower levels. But when I heard about the North American Trail Ride Conference, I was intrigued.

I started with an intro to NATRC at our barn, and then went on to participate in several LED's. I have found it to be supportive and fun. I enjoy getting the opportunity to explore new trails, and to meet new people who share my love of horses.

I train some of my own horses, and I have found NATRC to be a wonderful opportunity to test my horses and myself, to find areas of improvement. The skills tested are those I consider foundational to all around good riding.

The feedback I receive from the judges motivates me to work harder to improve both myself and my horses. Even though I have been riding and studying riding and training methods for so many years, I find it helpful to get educated eyes on me from the ground.

Another thing I enjoy about NATRC is that I don't have to go out and buy special tack, boots or clothing. I have seen people ride English and Western, on all different breeds of horses. I rode one time in my jumping saddle.

Finally, the support and camaraderie of NATRC is hard to beat. Although it is a competitive sport I feel it is a competition more with yourself, and your horse, than a competition against others.

Everyone is short on time these days, and I am no exception. So how I spend my time with my horses is important to me. I feel that NATRC is affordable enough in the way that it adds value to the time I spend with my horses. It helps give purpose and structure to my interactions with my horses.

If I win a ribbon or a prize in competition, sure, that feels nice. But even when I came in next to last place in a group of 7 when I was riding a very green horse with separation anxiety, I learned so much more about the mare I was riding. Time like this with my horse is invaluable.

If you haven't tried NATRC yet, what are you waiting for? You are missing a wonderful opportunity to make great friends who love horses as much as you do, and who want to help you excel. You won't regret it!

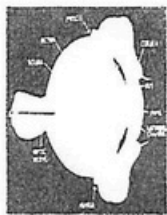


REGION FIVE BENEFIT



MARCH 28-29





PROTECT THOSE BEAUTIFUL HORSE EYES:



Horses have 340-350 vision: Blind spots directly in front and directly behind.

Night vision: The large physical size of the horse's eye and a light intensifying structure in your horse's eye, the Tapetum, allows excellent night vision.

Understanding the Horse eye and protecting the sensitive eyeball!

What are signs of eye/eyeball issue/ trauma or damage:

1. Squinting
2. Discharge: excess drainage or mucopurulent discharge
3. Change in color of cornea, usually turning white or yellow.
4. Swelling of eyelids

What are the three structures designed to protect the eyeball?

1. Eye Lids: Upper and Lower: Trauma and lacerations
2. Nictans: Third eyelid: Lacerations and tumors
3. Retractor Bulbi muscles: Pulls eye into socket to protect eyeball.

Which are the most commonly damaged parts of the eye?

1. Cornea: Clear part in front: Most commonly damaged
2. Eye lids

Causes of eye issues:

1. Trauma: Scratch to Cornea: Corneal ulcer: Damage to cornea:
2. Foreign body in eye: Often a grass seed, bug, or just debris
3. Inflammation in the inside of the eye: Uveitis/Moon Blindness
4. Tumor on Eyelids or Sclera (White part of globe)
5. Stromal abscess: Yellow spot in cornea of eye. Very painful

EYE ISSUES ARE EMERGENCIES Call YOUR veterinarian!!!

Treatment: Immediate and aggressive treatment usually results in quick healing.
Delayed treatment or intermittent treatment often results in a one-eyed horse.

Save the Date

May 2-3, 2026 Confirmed	Big South Fork Adventure , True West Campground (near Big South Fork), Jamestown, TN Lin Ward, 719 371-6008, linward50@gmail.com	A & Sat B; O N, CP LeD Sat & Sun
May 10, 2026	Mother's Day	
May 15-16 2026	Open Weekend	
May 30-31, 2026 Confirmed	Mule Lady's Mountain Meander , Iron Mountain Horse Camp, Ivanhoe, VA Co-Managers: Rebecca Wall 704 860-0456 Rebecca.neunzig@gmail.com Mikayla Nunn 336 343-0886 KJStables4173@gmail.com	A&B : O,N,CP Led : Sat and Sun
June 21, 2026	Father's Day	
Sept 12-13, 2026 Confirmed	Ride the Edge , Jamestown, TN Ty & Debbie McCullough Ty (785 313-3144) & Debbie (785 313-1143) tdmccull@gmail.com ,	A & Sat B; O N, CP LeD Sat & Sun
Sept 26-27, 2026 Confirmed	Smile and Ride , Rustling Pines Campground, London, Ky Marsha Howard 615 513-9371, mrhmail00@gmail.com	A & Sat B; O N, CP LeD Sat & Sun
Oct 9-10, 2026 Confirmed	Southern Trails , Alexander City, AL Nancy Fuller, 334/614-4357, nancythefarrier@gmail.com	A & Sat B; O, N, CP LeD Sat and Sun
Oct 25-26, 2026 Tentative	Potential Ride, Location TBD Connie Fike Cathrine Barkley	A & Sat B; O N, CP LeD Sat & Sun
Nov 7-8, 2026 Confirmed	Welcome to the NATRC Family , Hatchet Valley Farms, Rockford, AL Sara Baldwin 205 217-3221. forestowners60@gmail.com	Clinic plus LeD: Sat & Sun

2027 Rides

Nov 21-22, 2026 Confirmed	Georgia Git A Long , AH Stephens State Park, Crawfordville, Ga Marsha Howard 615 513-9371, mrhmail00@gmail.com	A & Sat B; O N, CP LeD Sat & Sun
Dec 5-6, 2026 Tentative	Christmas in the Pines , Munson, FL Sara Baldwin 256 377-2656. forestowners60@gmail.com	A & Sat B; O, N, CP LeD Sat and Sun
Jan 30-31, 2027 Tentative	New Year Resolution , Jasper, FL Esther Diagulia, 850 509-4971, brncntry@yahoo.com More to come later	A-O, A&B-N/CP LeD: Sat & Sun

For questions and/or updates to the R5 Ride Schedule, please contact Paula Riley (903) 926-3950 parrides@aol.com



REGION FIVE BUSINESS

Previous meeting minutes not provided, please contact Connie Fike for information.

AGENDA

Region Five Trail Ride Association Board of Directors Meeting

March 6 2026 3:30 pm CST, Camp McClellan

Call to Order – Sara Baldwin

Roll Call (actual kick off at 4pm CST) - Sandy and Lael (online), Connie, Sara, Ty, Patty, Lin, Suzanne, Linda, Suzi, Heather, Sallie, Victoria

Reading of Previous Meeting Minutes - Connie Fike - Sara makes a motion to approve, Ty seconds, all approved

- Discussion:
 - Legacy Award – Jennifer spearheading award for Stephanie, it was approved by executive committee
 - Ride gear – trailer that Victoria owns, if additional trailer is needed, can work with her to use
 - Vest Numbers – Vest numbers go with the pinnies
 - Ride Manager Zoom
- Financial Report – Linda Clayton
Ty moves to put \$15K into a CD to be the most beneficial at the time ; Lin seconds; all approved
- Newsletter Report – Linda Clayton
Request for articles for the newsletter due Mar 30th
Recommend Anna Beth/Suzi to write a junior letter based on program for free items for juniors
Discussion around paper copies and if they should continue to be sent out. Sallie sends them out.
- Membership-Sallie Kudra - updated file not received from Jan/Feb from National
- Fundraising –
 - 2026 Benefit Ride – Mar 21-22?
Confirmed that it's Mar 28th and 29th, not the prior date
Sometime down the road we need to consider a new location due to issues with Mingo Trails site losing trail mileage
 - Needs for store?
electrolytes, map holders, RV/electric adapters
consider if fundraising committee should work to get the donations for the store
- National Board Report & Current Financials – Kris Gray/Patty Lucas
 - Total income of 74K
 - National convention: good turn out from membership, dressage demo, good lecture topics
 - Stephanie was able to make it to the convention and participate.
- Appreciation awards Oct 2026
 - Someone needs to take over the awards write up.
 - Consider reaching out to membership for volunteers
- New National Website – password natrc_member_25
 - 18K of 65K received for technology project
 - Motion to take this to the membership to submit 5K to RMS program challenging all regions to match; Sara amend to take to membership for a vote Ty moves, Sandy seconds – all approved
 - Sara will manage the vote with Sallie's help to manage the member vote (simple majority rules), response by May 1.
 - Rule change proposals: vote occurs in July. Input needs to be provided to Kris, Patty, and Sherry
- Sara moves that R5BoD requests job descriptions for Executive Director and Secretary to review at next R5 BoD meeting, Ty Seconds, all approved
- Ride Schedule – Sara Baldwin for Paula Riley
 - Suzi has been taking riders list and has been texting people to invite them to the next rides
 - Big South Fork Adventure - New Ride for 2026
All set
 - Southern Trails impacted –
Victoria confirms not impacted and at same location
Early LeD in Mar will not be able to go on due to land/venue changes
 - VA Highlands needs? new RM needs support
Rebecca is facing blow back from prior year ride, otherwise she is doing well
 - Add potential Talladega ride? – Connie to manage
Will not occur due to permitting issues experienced with endurance rides
 - Marsha's ride – London, KY – new location
 - Manager and Date Spirit of Suwannee Music Park

Lake City – facility under new ownership – if a ride manager would be interested, we would need scouts for the location

*Future state of Ride the Edge – Ty and Debbie to manage for another two years before it will need a new manager, younger, newer manager to take over along with gear and funds – Heather to shadow 2026 ride

- R5 Marketing Committee Report – Sandy Pegram
Suggestions:
 - Board meeting – notes out sooner and go to members
 - Membership from prior year of advertising to renew membership
 - Someone in charge of reminders for notes, plans, reports, etc.
 - Ride info sheets should be printable formats
 - Volunteer support – have the executive board make requests for certain people
 - Members benefit flyer needed
 - Things that can be done in house, should be
 - There needs to be more focus on new riders
- R5 Website – Lael Feist
No update – Lael still to get with Kris to do training, End of May is target date
- Mini-Convention planning passes to Suzi Geiger, volunteers to help?
- High Point Horse Calendar Award Change? Level of competition considered
Historically speaking, this has always been the “R5 President’s Cup”.
Sallie proposes compromise – if there is no open horse reaching a certain amount of mileage and X number of rides, then we look at the high mileage for CP
Sandy proposes the calendar depicts all 3 high point divisions (Open, CP, Novice)
create a new calendar format based on Sandy’s recommendation; Ty seconds; all approved 2025
- Year End Awards to be discussed in July meeting, need volunteer to coordinate write-ups
 - Need to do write ups about each of the awards to send to the membership to make them aware for nomination purposes, place in newsletter
- Rider Numbers – Group discussion
Critical LOW – Esther only had 9 riders start the A/B ride in Jasper
- Mini Convention 2026
 - LED signups – 20-ish riders
 - Dinner signups - 30ish for dinner
- Schedule July BOD meeting via Zoom; when is the National BOD meeting?
- National BoD Meeting – they’re doing them monthly now rather than quarterly
R5 BoD – Sunday Jul 26th, @3pm EST, 2pm CST
- New Business - None

Adjourn Meeting - Ty Moves, and Sara Seconds conclude at 6:20pm EST



*Come Ride
with us!*

NATRC

Membership Update

March 2026



- 1. National Convention 2026** – Heritage, Harmony, and Hill Country did not disappoint! Kudos to Region 4 and convention co-chairs Linda Reilly and Fran Muench for putting together a fantastic national convention. Outstanding speakers, a wonderful silent auction, an inspirational awards banquet, and a whole lot of Texas hospitality. If you have never attended a NATRC national convention, you need to. You will come away inspired and motivated.
- 2. National Convention 2027** – Planning is already underway for the 2027 national convention. Region 6 will be our convention host, with Catherine Gast and Jeff Zeller as our convention chairs. The convention location will be in the Kansas City area, and we are looking at the same corresponding weekend of February 19-21, 2027. Hotel negotiations are underway and once that process is completed, we will make an announcement. Meanwhile, pencil in that weekend on your calendar.
- 3. New Website Launched** – Our updated website went live February 28th. Huge thanks to Alex Braun for all his time and effort in making this possible. This was a large undertaking. There are still a few items that need to be updated and that is being worked on. We know that the ride schedule is not what we ultimately want to have, but it is what we have for now until we get the new RMS system in place (Phase 2).

To report any technical problems, content updates, or if you have a feature request, click on “contact” from the upper right-hand corner of the website then scroll down and complete the technical assistance form.

- 4. Technology Phase 2 Is Underway** – We have been meeting with the development team that is building a brand-new Ride Management System (RMS) that will make it easier than ever to sign up for rides, manage entries, and view results, all in one seamless platform. Our goal is to have this completed for the 2027 ride season.
- 5. Technology Fund Donations** - As we build the future of NATRC, we invite you to join us on this journey through your donations which can be made on our website at natrc.org/donate. Under the label online donations, click on Technology Fund. Your donations are tax deductible.

If you have not already, be sure to view our [NATRC Technology Update Webinar](#) that can be found on our NATRC YouTube channel. This webinar goes through our technology initiatives for our new website, RMS, and digital scorecard!

Together, we are paving the way for the future – modern, connected, and ready for what is next. Thank you for your support and partnership in making it happen!

- 6. Membership Renewal Incentive Winners** – Congratulations to our three membership renewal drawings winners.
 - January 15th drawing – Cathy Cumberworth from Region 3 won a \$100 ride voucher.
 - February 1st drawing – Joan Belvin from Region 4 won a \$100 gas voucher.

- c. February 19th drawing – Maria Glinski from Region 5 won a 2027 competing membership.

If you still need to renew your NATRC membership for the 2026 ride season, [Click here](#)

7. **2025 NATRC Raffle Winners** – Congratulations to the following individuals whose names were drawn at our national convention during the awards banquet.
 - a. Winner of the Tennessee Saddlery saddle was Amy Mason from Region 3.
 - b. Winner of a US Rider membership was Elaine Swiss from Region 4
 - c. Winners of a \$100 fuel car were:
 - i. Region 1 Angie Meroshnekoff
 - ii. Region 2 Part French
 - iii. Region 3 Linda Johnson-Conne
 - iv. Region 4 Laurie Dunlap
 - v. Region 5 Patty Lucas
 - vi. Region 6 Ruth Schnidler

8. **Sign up for the 2026 Virtual Mileage Challenge** – Join us for the 2026 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge. Sign up is underway now at [Top Trail Horse](#). First, join Top Trail at the Top Trail Regular Membership level (\$35/year). Then, join the NATRC group membership separately for \$25/year.

All GPS recorded ride tracks, ridden and posted to your Top Trail account through December 31 will be included on the challenge leaderboards. Rides must be posted to Top Trail within 10 days of the ride's conclusion.

The top ten riders nationally along with the top three riders from each NATRC region will be recognized at the 2027 national convention.

Join the fun, log those miles, and get your horse ready for the 2026 NATRC ride season!

9. **Retired Trophy Auction** – Congratulations to Betty Wolgram, the winning bidder for the Polly Bridges Memorial trophy. Auction proceeds will be applied to our NATRC national awards program.
10. **2027 Proposed Rule Changes** – The national board of directors met during national convention and finalized the wording for the 2027 proposed rule change proposals. The proposed rule change subjects are:

- #1a: Add national Leisure division awards for:
 - Grand Champion High Average Leisure Experienced Team
 - Grand Champion High Average Leisure Adult Team
 - Grand Champion High Average Leisure Junior Team
- #1b: Add national Leisure division awards for:
 - High Point Leisure Division Rider
 - High Point Leisure Division Horse
- #1c: Add Leisure Division National Championship

The proposed 2027 rule book clarification subjects are as follows:

- #1: Defines adult class the same for all divisions for simplification and consistency.
- #2: Clarifies current practice for regional awards

The complete wording of these proposals can be found on our NATRC webpage under Members and then Rule Changes/Proposals. Please be sure to visit with the national board members from your region between now and the first of July regarding these proposals so that they know how they should vote to represent your region. The NATRC board will vote

on these proposals during their July meeting.

11. **Follow NATRC on the Web:** Be sure to make our NATRC webpage natrc.org the startup page for your internet browser. When you do, each time you open your browser, your opening tab will be our NATRC webpage. It is an effortless way to stay current with NATRC!
12. **Stay Current:** Keep up to date with NATRC by following us on social media.
 - a. Follow us on Instagram @natrc_ctr. **There are now 472 NATRC pictures on here!**
 - b. Follow us on Facebook with our North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) page.
13. **Subscribe today to our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) [YouTube channel](#).** Be sure to check this resource out. We currently have thirty videos posted here that are specific to our sport. It is a wealth of extremely helpful information. All previous Let's Ride webinars are here as well.

Follow me on Apple Music @j_zeliff
Follow me on Instagram @johnzeliff
And then be sure to follow me to that next NATRC ride!

John Zeliff, President

#chasindreams
#NATRCpride
#NATRC

#NATRCfamily
#NATRCfun
#ComeRideWithUs

