



Hoofprints of the

Region Five Trail Riders

Association, Inc.

A great year
of CTR's!

(see comments page 3)

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Debbie & Mark Jones
Nimblewill Challenge

Our
2009
Tireless
Ride
Managers



Barbara Cohen
Uwharrie Forest



Keith & Wendy Allen
Spanish Trail



Mary Leslie
Region 5 Benefit



Sara Baldwin
Sweet Home Alabama



Michelle Goza
Faye Whittemore Farms



Vicki & Andrew Murray
Big South Fork



Connie Driskell
Autumn @ Biltmore



Region Five is one of six regions
comprising the *North American
Trail Ride Conference*



Wayne & Ginny Tolbert, Ride The Edge

Woo-
Hoo!



Linda Clayton, Heart of Dixie

President's Letter

from Gary Clayton

Hi, All

Well, another ride season is over, and it's time now to start looking at how we placed for the year. Hopefully some, like myself, are pleasantly surprised at their placements, while



others may be a bit disappointed. Overall it was a great season, capped at Biltmore by a 90-mile, three-day ride for Open riders. Now it's time to be getting tack, body, and mind ready again for the start of a new season. It'll be here before you know it.

The next major event coming up is the Mini Convention on Saturday, February 27. Kim Cowart and Linda Clayton are putting this together for us. Kim has made reservations again at the Phoenix Inn in Greenville, SC. The programs have not yet been finalized, but you will hear from us soon. Put the date on your calendar and make plans to attend.

Also, planning for the National Convention hosted by Region 5 in 2011 is well under way. Marlene Buttrey has secured the Embassy Suites in Nashville, TN, and arranged for catering. Most of our Committee Chairs have been selected. Kim Cowart has again agreed to step up and be the person in charge—thank you, Kim, for taking on this responsibility. All committees will report to him. He's going to need plenty of help to pull this off, so if anyone is interested in serving on a committee, please contact Kim.

We start the new ride year with a new BOD. We want to thank Sara Baldwin and Vickie Murray (who both decided not to run for another term) and Carolyn Chapman (who had to resign for personal reasons) for all their contributions to the Board and RFTRA during their time of service. Cindy Keen and Vince Harris have been elected to fill the two openings, and Tanya Kingsley has been appointed to serve the remaining portion of Carolyn's term. Our outgoing members will be missed, but they have very capable replacements. I'm looking forward to working with all of our new BOD members.

I also hope to see all of you at the Mini Convention in February and "on the trails" this ride season.



Region Five Board Members

<p>PRESIDENT Gary Clayton 12/11 6774 W Old Hayneville Rd Hope Hull, AL 36043 334-281-5509 gclay24251@charter.net</p>	<p>VICE PRESIDENT Wayne Tolbert 12/11 9598 Antioch Church Rd W Lenoir City, TN 37772 865-986-3333 vtolbert@usit.net</p>
<p>SECRETARY Regina Broughton 12/10 201 Sleepy Hollow Road Bristol, TN 37620 423-968-2303 broughton57@hotmail.com</p>	<p>TREASURER Connie Driskell 12/10 524 Mills Gap Rd Arden, NC 28704 828-684-5650 csdintrig@charter.net</p>
<p>Tanya Kingsley 12/10 1991 Greer Road Hillsboro, GA 31038 706-468-0794 twkings@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mary Leslie 12/10 4661 Sandy Creek Rd Madison, GA 30650-2721 404-434-1851 maryleslieart@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Vince Harris 12/11 P O Box 3183 Daphne, AL 36526 nvharris@hotmail.com</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP Sallie Kudra 12/12 220 Byrlie Way Seneca, SC 29678-5005 864-972-9125 kudra@clemson.edu</p>
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<p>REGIONAL ALTERNATE Tanya Kingsley 12/11 1991 Greer Road Hillsboro, GA 31038 706-468-0794 twkings@peoplepc.com</p>	<p>NATIONAL DIRECTOR Gary Clayton 12/11 6774 W Old Hayneville Rd Hope Hull, AL 36043 334-281-5509 gclay24251@charter.net</p>
<p>REGIONAL ALTERNATE Joyce Lewis 12/10 8075 Mauney Rd Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124 704-836-6201 safehorsetraining@yahoo.com</p>	<p>NATIONAL ALTERNATE Sallie Kudra 12/12 220 Byrlie Way Seneca, SC 29678-5005 864-972-9125 kudra@clemson.edu</p>

**Next RFTRA Board Meeting: Feb. 27, 2010
 7:30 AM - 12 Noon at the mini-convention**

Editor's Letter

from Kathy Nicholl

Even though this is the first newsletter of the ride season, all it contains are stories about the 2009 ride season. Of course, that's because nothing has happened in 2010 yet—hard to write about an event that is in the future! But, possibly, looking back at 2009 will get everyone excited about 2010.



O.C. and Me

This newsletter's cover seeks to honor and thank the 2009 Ride Managers. They are some of our region's most hard-working and dedicated members, and they are usually not thanked enough for all that they do. If you've competed at their ride, then you know firsthand how great they are, and I hope you'll take a moment at the start of 2010 to let them know how much you appreciate what they've done.

The other thing I hope you'll do, right now, is to renew your NATRC membership. You can mail in your dues or renew online, but you need to do it now, or this may be the last newsletter you receive! Wouldn't you just hate *that*? Well, I would, anyway! So, please, **DUES IT NOW!**

Renewals are good because they keep our membership information data current, but please see the message from Sallie Kudra about address changes during the year. Sallie hates to get newsletters or emails returned because of members who change addresses, but haven't given her their newest contact information. And Region Five hates to be out of touch with its members at all, so please inform Sallie promptly any time your address changes.

Finally, O.C. and me. I still believe he is a fine horse, even though he isn't suited to me; but I am having trouble selling him (see the Classified ad on the back page), and that affects my ability to purchase a satisfactory replacement. I miss riding and hope to be back on the trails having a blast with all of you soon. If you can help me with either buying or selling, I sure would appreciate hearing from you.

A Message from Our National Office

Led by NOHVCC (National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council), a group of national and state trail advocacy organizations representing equestrian, OHV, and bicycle interests recently completed a collaborative effort to develop a Guide,

SHARING OUR TRAILS—A GUIDE TO TRAIL SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT,

to improve safety and improve trail satisfaction for all trail enthusiasts on multiple-use trails. The Guide can be seen at www.natrc.org on the Bulletin Board.



Yes, I want to **S.**(upport) **O.**(ur) **S.**(port) and
DUES IT NOW!

I'm enclosing my membership dues for (check one):

- SINGLE ADULT (\$50) JUNIOR (\$35)
- FAMILY (\$60) ASSOCIATE (\$50)

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Birthdates of Junior(s): _____

Total \$ enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to NATRC (U.S. funds only) and **mail to: NATRC, P.O. Box 224, Sedalia, CO 80135**

NOTE: Use this short form to quickly pay your membership dues for the year (January 1—December 31) and you will save NATRC some renewal notice monies. If you want **Platinum** coverage or other items, use the regular application form on page 15 of this newsletter, OR go online to www.natrc.org



Region Five Trail Riders Association, Inc. Newsletter — Published Quarterly	
Publication Deadline	For Issue
Dec 15	Jan/Feb/Mar (Winter)
Mar 15	Apr/May/June (Spring)
June 15	July/Aug/Sept (Summer)
Sept 15	Oct/Nov/Dec (Fall)

Please send pictures and stories to:
Kathy Nicholl, Newsletter Editor
 3454 Cullowhee Mtn Rd
 Cullowhee, NC 28723
 (828) 293-5835
r5newseditor@verizon.net

Summary of RFTRA BOD Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Regina Broughton, Secretary

The RFTRA BOD meeting for November 21, 2009, was held in the Industrial Business & Development Center at the Tri-county Technical College in Pendleton, SC. Attending were: Gary Clayton (President), Mary Leslie (Vice President), Regina Broughton (Secretary), Connie Driskell (Treasurer), Tammy Lineback (Fundraising Committee Chair), Sallie Kudra (National Board Member and R5 Membership Chair), Tanya Kingsley (Points and Awards), Wayne Tolbert (Equipment Committee Chair), Ted Curtis (Trail Development Committee Chair), and Cindy Keen (non-voting, newly elected member). Absent were: Joyce Lewis (alternate), Sara Baldwin (Absent due to illness), and Vince Harris (newly elected member). President Gary Clayton called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

1. Connie Driskell reported that Jennifer Robinson, injured at the Biltmore 2009 ride by a wild turkey spooking her horse, sent a thank you and a bottle of Wild Turkey to Connie Driskell to thank her for her assistance during Jennifer's accident. She is healing well and will be fine. Ted Curtis said Karen Curtis also received a thank-you and some Wild Turkey from Jennifer Robinson.

2. The Financial Report submitted by Connie Driskell was read and approved. The total Net Income reflected a loss - (\$1,379.63). But the Region has paid a deposit to the Embassy Suites Hotel in Nashville for the 2011 National Convention, and if we take this deposit out of the totals, we are at a break-even point financially. Region Five's biggest moneymakers were the Benefit Ride fundraisers and the Region 5 store. Mary Leslie submitted a report detailing the income and expenses from the 2009 Region Five Benefit Ride. The Benefit Ride netted a profit of \$2,899.57 for the Region this year. Tammy Lineback reported that a \$1,300 profit was made from Region 5 Store sales.

3. The Board decided that for 2010, we should print 250 total copies of the Newsletter. This would provide a copy to each member and then approximately 50 extra copies would be available for distribution to first-time riders and to new or potential members.

4. Members who change their addresses online should also e-mail Sallie Kudra so that their address changes will be made in the Region's database and newsletters will be mailed to the proper address.

5. Sallie Kudra agreed to serve as the Newsletter Committee member responsible for rounding up ride stories from Region Five rides for publication in the newsletter.

6. The Points and Awards report was submitted by Tanya Kingsley. 2009 Awards will be presented at Region Five's



Mini-Convention at the Phoenix Inn in Greenville, SC, on February 27, 2010. Details about the Mini-Convention will be published in the Newsletter.

7. The 2010 Ride Schedule was discussed. The Nimblewill ride and the Sweet Home Alabama rides will not be held in 2010, but we expect that they will be back in 2011. There will be both a Spring and a Fall ride at the Biltmore Estate in 2010. Possible Clinics will be held at Faye Whittemore Farm in Alabama, managed by Michelle Goza, at Cindy Keen's farm in Georgia, managed by Cindy Keen, and at East Fork in Allardt, Tennessee, managed by Wayne Tolbert.

8. A Ride Manager is needed for the Big South Fork ride in 2010.

9. Cindy Keen will be Ride Manager for the 2010 Region Five Benefit Ride.

10. The Board discussed and approved Guidelines for the Ride Management Support Fund. These Guidelines are to be published in the Newsletter.

11. The 2010 National Convention will be hosted by Region Five on Feb. 10-13, 2011. The Region asked for theme suggestions in the last Newsletter: Gary Clayton suggested that we incorporate the National Board's 2010 Theme--Proud of Our Past: Focused on Our Future--into our convention theme. The Region Five Board members suggested a gold record logo for the Nashville tie-in, incorporating: "50 years with NATRC, etc." and also, "Going Country with NATRC." The Board assigned Mary Leslie to design a logo with this theme.

12. Committee Chairpersons Needed for 2011 National Convention in Nashville:

- Gary Clayton has asked Kim Cowart to be the Steering Committee Chair. Kim has agreed to serve as Chair.
- Tanya Kingsley and Sallie Kudra volunteered to be the Hospitality Committee Chairpersons.
- Banquet decoration will be done by Tammy Lineback, who will also be responsible for the welcome packets.
- Gary Clayton will contact Terry Silver to ask if she will chair the Vendors and Sponsors Committee. Terry has agreed to serve in this capacity.
- Gary Clayton will ask National about contacting sponsors to ask about participating in the Convention. Terry Silver will Chair this committee, also.
- Debbie Jones was nominated to Chair the Publicity Committee. Mary Leslie has volunteered to do any artwork and printing. Regina Broughton will also help with this.
- Program and Speakers—Wayne Tolbert will

ask Marty Findley to do this. Marty has tentatively agreed to Chair this committee.

- Gary Clayton will contact Debra Porter to Chair the Raffle and Fundraising Committee. Debra has not yet responded.
- Facilities and meals arrangements have virtually already been completed by Marlene Buttrey.
- Financial/Budget—A Committee Chairman is needed for this Committee.
- Gary will ask Phillip Buttrey about chairing the Entertainment Committee.

13. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 and reconvened with the newly elected Board Members: Wayne Tolbert, Tammy Lineback, Cindy Keen, and Vince Harris, seated. The election of new Officers and Committee Chairpersons was called for and took place as follows:
Secretary: Regina Broughton was nominated and elected.
Treasurer: Connie Driskell was nominated and elected.
President: Gary Clayton was nominated and elected.
Vice President: Wayne Tolbert was nominated and elected.

Committees:

- Fundraising—Tammy Lineback and Cindy Keen
- Ride Management Support—Linda Clayton
- Points and Awards—Tanya Kingsley
- Equipment—Wayne Tolbert
- Trail Development—Ted Curtis
- Ride Scheduling—Kim Cowart
- Computer Equipment Management—Vince Harris
- Newsletter—Kathy Nicholl
- Membership Chair and Newsletter Committees—Sallie Kudra

Current Board Members: Regina Broughton, Gary Clayton, Ted Curtis, Connie Driskell, Vince Harris, Cindy Keen, Tanya Kingsley, Mary Leslie, Tammy Lineback, and Wayne Tolbert.

Alternates: Joyce Lewis and one other alternate to be appointed by Gary Clayton

14. 2010 Region Five-Board Meeting Schedule:
- February 27, 2010, at the Mini-Convention in Greenville, SC
 - August 7, 2010, at Gary Lineback's office in Marietta, GA
 - November 20, 2010, at Tri-County Tech. near Clemson, SC

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

To obtain a copy of the complete minutes of this Board meeting, please contact Regina Broughton at broughton57@hotmail.com.

Membership Note from Sallie Kudra

ATTENTION REGION 5 MEMBERS

Electronic Communication is Wonderful

I know that many members are utilizing the RMS system to sign up for rides and to maintain their addresses and phone numbers. Technology is a wonderful thing, and I make my living with computers,

BUT.....

when you change your address, phone number or e-mail address online in the RMS, that information is not passed down to me, the Membership Chair. This in turn, can result in your newsletters and other important information not getting to you in a timely fashion.

SO PLEASE

If you change any of your address information and/or phone numbers, please let me know either by e-mail, snail-mail or by phoning. Contact information follows:

E-mail: kudra@clemsun.edu
 Snail-mail: Sallie Kudra
 220 Byrlie Way
 Seneca, SC 29678-5005
 Phone: 864-972-9125

THANKS!

MORE NEWS,
in fact, all the news that's fit to print
from Region Five's
Board of Directors
continued

on
the
next
page!



**Join Us For The
Region Five Trailriders Association
Mini-Convention and Awards Dinner
February 27, 2010
at**

**The Phoenix, Greenville's Inn
www.phoenixgreenvillesinn.com
246 North Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
864-233-4651
800-257-3529**

Tentative Schedule of Events:

**7:30 AM to 12:00 Noon BOD Meeting
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Seminars
6:00 PM to 6:30 PM Meet & Greet
6:30 PM to ?? Dinner and Awards**

Mini-Convention Cost: \$35.00/person **all events**

*** Make check payable to RFTRA and mail to
Linda Clayton, 6774 W. Old Hayneville Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043 or register online
at www.natrc5.org**

**Room Cost: \$70/night (1-4 persons)
rate good thru Feb. 19, 2010**

*** Make reservations directly with The Phoenix
(numbers above), ask for RFTRA rate**

**ATTENTION RIDE
MANAGERS**

Ride Management Support Guidelines

Region 5 has a program in place to make available to all Region 5 Ride Managers up to \$500 in upfront seed money to facilitate putting on a ride.

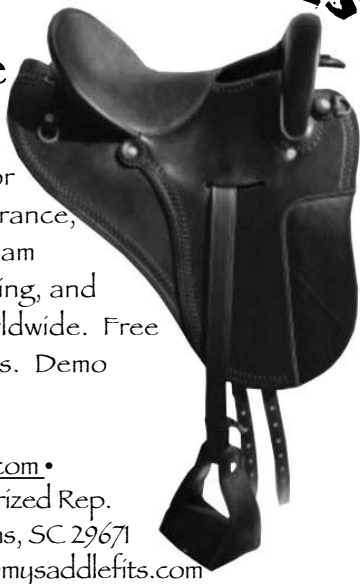
The following are the requirements:

1. Request must be made in writing to the Region 5 Treasurer, accompanied by a copy of the approved ride sanction
2. Reason for loan request, i.e., estimated ride budget, which may include the following:
 - a) Cost for hiring your judges
 - b) Estimated number of riders
 - c) Entry fee
 - d) Facility charges
 - e) Food and beverages for ride personnel
 - f) Printing costs e.g., maps, agendas, rider lists, etc.
3. Money to be re-paid within 30 days of ride conclusion

In addition, Region 5 will reimburse insurance costs for the 1st and 2nd years of new rides or re-established rides which have been inactive for at least 5 years. For additional information, contact Connie Driskell at 828-684-5650 or csdintrig@charter.net

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CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
REGION FIVE WINNERS
AND A
SPECIAL THANKS
TO THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO HELP
MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN!

R5 2009 FINAL POINT STANDINGS

(Contact Tanya Kingsley with any questions)
twkings@gmail.com

OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT CONDITION

1-Windstorm Sienna/ Wayne Tolbert	118
2- CJ Garnet Reflection/ Tommy Mitchell	80
3- Marno's Terra Cotta/ Sallie Kudra	58
4- Red Bird's Ransom/ Gary Clayton	47
5- Jake 4/ Elsa VanEysbergen	23

OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT CONDITION

1- Khapital/ Debbie Jones	86
2- Alens Pretty Boy Floyd/ Lori Lee Williams	76
3- Gypsy Dancer L.R./ Carolyn Chapman	50
4- Tommys Impressev Ace/Regina Broughton	36
5- Fletcher Wildflower/ Martha Findley	33
6- Oak Knoll Holly/ Julie Nathan	24

OPEN JUNIOR CONDITION

1- Charlie's Prince Andrew/ William Goza	16
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NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT CONDITION

1- Heart's Desire/ Sandy West-Pegram	88
2- Royal Sky/ Courtney Keen	44
3- Royal Serendipity/ Terry Silver	34
4- Ledo Angus/ Lucy Barber	26
5- Loco Motion/ Douglass McConnell	16
6- Feather's Jumpin' Jack/ Barbara Robertson	12

NOVICE LIGHTWEIGHT CONDITION

1- Painter's Polka Dots/ Melissa Molaison	82
2- ML Meadowlark Traveller/ Mary Ann Wenck	66
3- Sunny Georgia/ Patty Lucas	42
4- Scatoaks Major Jake/ Julie Hall	41
5- Emily's Lady Margarit/ Victoria Eriksson	40
6- Buffett/ Michelle Daniels	23

NOVICE JUNIOR CONDITION

1- Dakota Firestorm/ Charles Kaarlie	23
2- That's My George/ Emily Rand	19

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE CONDITION

1- Susie's Stardust/ Tammy Lineback	70
2- Pride's Second Girl/ Ted Curtis	62
3- Dakota's Dark Knight/ Kathy Hardin	52
4- Delight's Amber Beauty/ Cindy Keen	46
5- Khiss N Bandyt/ Waltrine Miller	38
6- Jubilee's Shadow/ Karen Curtis	28

OPEN HEAVYWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP

1- Wayne Tolbert	104
2- Gary Clayton	67
3- Sallie Kudra	62
4- Tommy Mitchell	52
5- Lisa Scott	30
6- Elsa VanEysbergen	17

OPEN LIGHTWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP

1- Debbie Jones	81
2- Carolyn Chapman	62
3- Lori Lee Williams	58
4- Martha Findley	39
5- Regina Broughton	38
6- Julie Nathan	18

OPEN JUNIOR HORSEMANSHIP

1- William Goza	15
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NOVICE HEAVYWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP

1- Sandy West-Pegram	70
2- Courtney Keen	44
3- Terry Silver	28
3- Lucy Atkins	28
4- Linda Corwin	25
5- Barbara Robertson	18
6- Douglass McConnell	14

NOVICE LIGHTWEIGHT HORSEMANSHIP

1- Melissa Molaison	90
2- Julie Hall	33
3- Patty Lucas	30
4- Victoria Eriksson	26
5- Susan Roberts	25
6- Michelle Daniels	21

NOVICE JUNIOR HORSEMANSHIP

1- Charles Kaarlie	21
2- Emily Rand	14

COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HORSEMANSHIP

1- Ted Curtis	72
1- Tammy Lineback	72
2- Karen Curtis	56
3- Kathy Hardin	49
4- Cindy Keen	48
5- Waltrine Miller	28
6- Joyce Lewis	34

HOORAY FOR YOU!



We Survived

by Sallie Kudra

Yep, our old bodies (Terra's and mine) survived the Biltmore 90, held October 9-11, 2009, on the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C. Eight of us were there to try the 90 mile ride—Gary Clayton and Blaze, Paula Riley and Coco, Nancy Sluys and Rose, and me and Terra. Since we were the first competitors in camp, we got choice campsites, the closest I've ever been to the management tent!

Our Vet judge was Mike Bridges and Horsemanship judge was Leigh Gowdy-King. While it was great seeing both of them again, I knew we were in for a challenging weekend. Ride Manager Connie Driskell gave us individual ride briefings and fed us all weekend long. (She also gave me additional duties, but that is another story!) Terra checked in as Grade 1 lame on her left front—the foot that sustained a stone bruise at Ride the Edge, but everything else was fine.

Due to tornado warnings Thursday night, I took down the tarp I had over Terra to keep her dry, only to discover that the other tarp I had over the trailer had leaks. I discovered this around midnight when instead of a tornado, it rained, and I felt a spray of water droplets hit my face. Thankfully I had some sheet plastic, which I put up to divert water outside of the trailer. But when I was just about asleep again, I heard a drip ... drip ... drip. Another leak, another sheet of plastic to divert the flow, and finally back to sleep I went.

Friday had us out at about 7:15 AM for a 30+ mile day @ 5.75mph, with no lunch break. Okay, I figured we could handle that, and out we went to do a 17 mile loop on the Red trail. As we came back into camp to pick up our afternoon loop, Nancy Sluys decided to pull Rose since Mike had called her Grade 1 lame on the morning trail. So then we were six.

Who would have thought that the first October weekend in the mountains of NC would ever reach temperatures of nearly 90 degrees? Not me, and both Terra and Gary's horse, Blaze, suffered for it. Paula's Coco never missed a beat due to the heat. Terra apparently forgot how to take a deep breath at a P&R until the final one on Sunday. I still can't believe how many P&R points we lost over the course of three days.



Friday evening we again got one-on-one ride briefings so that we could go to bed. Thank you, Connie.

As I sit here trying to remember all the obstacles and things we did for the entire weekend, my mind is on overload—and I'm sitting here with my cards in hand! We had uphill observations, we had downhill observations. We had a canter up the hill and follow the trail as it made a 90-degree turn to the left. We had a trot over cavalettis with a stop. We had water crossings. We had a diversion through the woods over logs and down the hill. We had a gate obstacle, which Terra did as well as she has ever done a gate obstacle. We had a ribbon tie at the end of the day Friday where I whined because we were behind time, tired, and wilting from the heat. But Terra stood like a rock and we "got 'er done." All in all we had twelve observations/obstacles on FRIDAY! Is it any wonder I'm having problems remembering the rest of the weekend?

Saturday and Sunday were much cooler and mostly overcast—good days to ride. There was enough rain on one of them that I put on my poncho for a short time, but it was too warm to continue to wear. I do recall trotting down River Road on Sunday with my sponge out, hitting every mud puddle I could find to keep Terra as cool as possible, because her P&R's had been awful since Friday afternoon. I wanted to walk into the last P&R, but we had gotten a bit behind and were trying to make up time. I vividly remember getting Terra's saddle off, and she finally took the deep breath I'd been waiting for since Friday, so that her final P&R was more like Terra, and we didn't lose any points.

Terra vetted out with a Grade 1 lame on her right rear, which was probably due to the horrible case of scratches she had brewing, which I discovered after we got home. Over a month later, she still has a dime-sized spot on that foot which is taking forever to heal because it is right on a flex area and because she lives either in a paddock or on pasture.

Connie had wonderful gifts for those of us who rode the 90: helmet bags with an embroidered horse head, NATRC, and 100 Mile Club on them, and some anonymous soul put \$40 in each bag as well. Connie pampered us all weekend and kept us on schedule—love you, Connie!

I've never been so tired after a competition, but survived it and joined that exclusive band of AA riders and horses. Would I do it again? We'll see, ... we'll see.

A Ride Season Like No Other

by Jennifer Robinson

After my mare Zena placed out of Novice in 2008, I pondered going CP or Open. I didn't think the speed or increased mileage would affect her that



much, so decided to try Open and find out what it would be like to have some space on the trail. I also figured that I might as well throw any competitiveness out the window, as I'd be riding with the pros. With ride calendar in hand, I planned for seven rides, but knowing about best laid plans, that seven became four, with one AERC ride thrown in for good measure.

So here's the Cliff's Notes version of my first Open season:

February: Attend mini-convention, get convinced by Carolyn Chapman to bid on a penny. Get #16 for \$25 less than Carolyn gets hers. (I'm just a poor school teacher and all!)

March: Go to Uhwarrie CTR. Perfect Zena weather: overcast, misty, and cool. Ride out with Wayne Tolbert, discover Zena's walk doesn't match well with Sienna's, split up, first flat out refusal ever from Zena at steep bank creek crossing down along river, fifth time we finally make it, lose a shoe, borrow an easy boot from Wayne at P&R, lose Wayne's easy boot in the huge mud churn before camp. Pretty good horse card for Zena, but third of three in both categories. Surprised at how fast we have to go.

April: Big South Fork. Rain. Rain. Rain. Rain. Rain. Misery. Rain. Huge swollen creek crossing that my 14.1 mare had to work hard to get across. Drenched, miserable, volunteer daughter and dog. Rain. Zena stays sound, but has some girth soreness and edema from all the wet. *Finally* the ride ends and it's time to go home, but we're all stuck good. Towed out. Will NEVER forget the sight of fellow Lightweight Open rider just dropping her pants next to her trailer to relieve herself. She claims she had no intention of getting the inside of her trailer muddy and didn't care who saw her—you know who you are!

(I'm still laughing.)

June: Alabama Ride. So hot you could bake bread by breathing. Definitely NOT Zena weather. Nice facility. Zena was sweating just standing there. Had a new bit, rode out on tiny knee-knocker trails, she was upset from the get go. Rode maybe two hours and pulled. She was losing her mind—combination of new gear and heat? We would not have passed the first P&R, she blew for a good hour after returning to camp. Hard to train for extreme heat and humidity in Western NC. So, I stayed and volunteered. Got to be at the P&R with cows—a true eye opening experience for a few of the horses. Interesting lesson in sportsmanship for me. Waiting for awards, went for a nice pleasure ride on Sunday, Z did better.

September: Biltmore 30 mile AERC ride, did to see if we would register Open or CP for NATRC Biltmore. Z did great, a steady 5.5 mph, checked out with mostly A's and a few B's. Decide to ride Open.

October: Biltmore ride. Start the day by taking the kids to school with the intention of filling up and grabbing some groceries. Son puts regular gas in diesel truck—an omen, foreshadowing? Luckily truck has two tanks. Get it sorted out, losing \$50 and an hour and a half. Could be worse ... famous last words. Get to ride with daughter and her friend in tow to do P&R's. Set up camp. Tornado warnings, take down camp, pray. Ends up not being bad at all, wake up to dry horse. Ride out, beautiful morning, lovely loose trot, all is right with the world. Cross the road by the lagoon, say good morning to Bucky Starnes, head up the trail between the woods and the cattle pasture.

Trot, trot, trot, oh no, rustle in the woods, oh no, wild turkey flying off its roost. Zena seems to think a helicopter is going to land on her rear. She boogers to the left, smack dab into an electric fence, at which point I am launched directly into the stone the estate used to fill the rutted trail. As I'm falling I think, "Oh no, this isn't going to be good." Land, assess damages, hear horse run away, someone yelling "Whoa," quickly surrounded by fellow riders (particular thanks to Connie Driskell, Karen Curtis, Jeannine Fenstad, Andrew Murray, and Lauren Irwin) with medical backgrounds. Taken away by ambulance, officially ending my first Open season.

My last ride of the season was certainly the most memorable, as I'm still sporting the bandages at this writing. I hit with my chin and forehead first, so if ever in doubt about wearing a helmet



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just take a look at mine. Injuries boiled down to a Colle's fracture on my left wrist, a bad scrape/cut near my left elbow, a dislocated and broken right pinky, an extremely sprained and bruised left ankle, a busted lip with stitches, chipped teeth, and bruised ribs, but no surgery!. Zena, though shaken, sustained no physical injuries and was caught and taken good care of. My medical bills (even with insurance) are about the equivalent of 3 ½ rides for me and I've used up all my time at work for this year, so that will dictate my 2010 season.



Will I go for Open again? Certainly. With Zena? Maybe, maybe not. 2010 may be the year to slow it back down and allow daughter Emily to do a ride or two on her little mare. I have a coming 4-year-old waiting in the wings who is the Golden Retriever to Zena's Siamese cat. Will I reassess training?—you bet. I plan on starting back with lessons to regain confidence and assess my seat and position. Was this year a good experience? Absolutely. There is nothing like the camaraderie and caring of this group of folks. Not a single NATRC ride this year was what I'd call easy, but the people and how they approach horsemanship is what keeps me coming back in spite of it all. And you know, if you love it, you love it! See you in February 2010!

Editor's Note: At the end of November, Jennifer sent out the following update via email:

Hello NATRC friends and a few others - just wanted to let y'all know that I got my cast off yesterday. Though my hand/wrist looks a bit like a manequin hand and I'm very stiff-jointed and have lost quite a bit of muscle and range of motion - I am pulling through. My goal is to sit on Zena this Sunday with the pretty weather. Don't think an honest to goodness ride would be so smart at this point, but I need to not let the fear build up, so I'm going for a leadline ride.

Last hurdle, besides continued PT on wrist/pinky/ankle is having my teeth bonded on Dec. 8th.

Thanks for all the support and concern. And by the way, I managed to find wonderful homes for both of my rescues about a month into my lay up. Thanks to those who offered help.

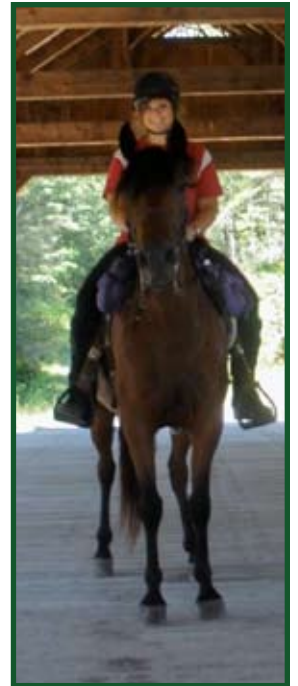
Happy Thanksgiving!!!!



Princess's First Two-Day Ride

by Marcy Lineback

Hello, I am Marcy Lineback, a Junior rider who has been competing for six years. My 2008 Easter present, bought by my mom, was a 3, going on 4-year-old bay Missouri Fox Trotter mare named Jester's Bay Princess. I knew it would take time to train her and get her ready to compete, but I was fine with that. She was very small, causing some worry that she wouldn't be tall enough for me, but finally she sprouted up and got tall.



The two years I've spent working with her have been both rough and fun at the same time. She is an extremely brave young horse, so it wasn't too bad getting her started on the trail. However, I spent a lot of time teaching her how to back, sidepass, and do the many other things needed in trail competition, most of which she had never done before. In 2008 I took her to two rides: Dawson Forest and East Fork. We did well at the Dawson Forest one-day ride. But on the first day of East Fork, neither Princess nor I were doing very well, so we pulled.

I decided to take her home and give her more time to let her body and mind grow. We rode A LOT during 2009. I took her to new places to get her used to traveling. Then in the fall of this year I competed at Dawson Forest again. We rode just one-day, because my friend Cassee Nalazek was doing her first ride there and I wanted to stay with her. Princess did well again.

So I decided to take her to Biltmore. That ride has always been my favorite, and I decided we were ready to try a two-day ride. Princess was nervous and wanted to stay close to my mom's horse, Susie, for comfort. Vet-in went well, but Saturday morning, she was extremely nervous, until we got moving on the trail. Then she calmed down quickly.

There were fun obstacles on both Saturday and Sunday. Princess did not fail at any of them. She tried the hardest she has ever tried at any of her competitions. My favorite obstacle was cantering uphill from a walk until you got

to a ribbon. Princess loves cantering and since we have practiced doing controlled cantering a lot, she did exactly what I asked. Another fun obstacle was trotting over cavaletti. I stood up in my stirrups and asked her to trot instead of foxtrot, and she did an excellent job. We had to trot into every P&R, and I worried that she would get high P&R scores, but she was fine. We had no trouble, except that she acted like a goofball at the P&R's instead of sleeping and relaxing—ha-ha! But she will soon learn what to do at P&R's.



Sunday afternoon I was so excited that we had finally completed a two-day ride! My parents wanted to leave before awards to get me home for bed, but I was so excited that I talked them into staying. I got 1st in Horsemanship, and Princess got a 2nd in Horse. I am so proud of Princess and we are looking forward to going to many of next year's rides. Look for us in 2010!

What's So Funny?

by Susan Roberts

I'm not a girl who takes very much lightly. Rather, everything I tackle comes only after serious thought, deliberate consideration, diligent preparation, and, for better or for worse, is performed with a good dose of competitiveness. So talking with a sense of humor about a horse-related competition is not natural for me.



However, when I think back on my first year as an NATRC competitor, particularly the September 12-13, 2009 "Ride the Edge" CTR near Allardt, TN, a smile quickly crosses my face. I have come to realize what an asset a sense of humor can be for a rider.

Sure, I could begin with my recollection of the day's weather, peppered with flowery adjectives describing the beauty of the trail and soothing chirping of the birds, but I won't do that because we've all heard or read it before. I could recount my intense preparation and lead into my takeoff, pace from trail head to P&R stops, and through to a fabulous finish, but those details are already fading from my memory. I thought that perhaps a jaunt through my trusty notebook could uncover the secrets of that ride for me. Sadly, most of my pre-ride notes include rather embarrassing, kindergarten-like nuggets such as, "Don't lose map!," "Let him drink before sponging," and "Follow the safety ribbons." Not much help there. My scorecard notes are definitely not any better: "Keep toes front, not out to side," and "Hold reins properly," which doesn't sound like the champion horsewoman I thought I was during that ride.

Of course I do remember all of my mistakes, from letting my tie line rope dangle too near the ground, to panicking at a P&R because I thought I should be unsaddling, then doing so, but re-saddling so quickly that I carelessly left part of the sponge and string under my saddle pad (how is that for levity)? So my story about this ride will have to be of my



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lasting impressions, and thinking back has made me realize that what I remember most are the people.

The first thing I recall is the kindness of a few people who pitched right in to help someone who was having trouble parking. I remember a group of compassionate campers who rushed to aid a horse who stepped into its bucket and then got loose from its high tie. Just before the ride was to begin, a seasoned NATRC rider administered a well-needed yet unexpected early morning slap to my leg, which indeed did wonders to remove those pre-ride jitters (and by the way, Gail Milner, that hurt!). Okay, I'm remembering that, in the beginning, some pretty nice people went out of their way to be helpful.

Once the ride began, we immediately came to a pile of logs strewn across muddy terrain. I encouraged and praised my horse as he carefully picked his way around the logs. My riding buddy leaned over and gently told me that passing *through* the logs was, unfortunately, the first obstacle! I was so embarrassed and would have pulled right then had she not gotten me laughing at the situation. I continued to be self-conscious as we moved on, because my buddy's horse knew how to move out down the trail, while mine is more of an ambler. Never had I ridden with someone so patient and kind, who kept turning back with a few smiles, words of encouragement, and tactful riding tips here and there! I really felt a change, though, after a later obstacle. I felt the hot rush of frustration overcome me as I roughly completed the obstacle, but as I watched my buddy rider pilot her horse easily through an even harder obstacle, my frustration turned to elation for her. So, these riders are not only nice but pretty darn talented, as well!

We crossed the finish line and found our way to the wash rack. I stood there wondering how long it would take me to inch my wobbly legs back to camp. Just then a truck stopped and the driver invited me to ride her tailgate back to camp. Either I looked too comical for her to pass by, or she was just really, really nice. Later on I experienced more generosity and a huge smile from another stranger who unquestioningly answered my plea for eggs so that I could beat them up and rub them on my horse's sore back (a tip I learned from the oh, so nice vet).

I'm sure these two ladies had a good chuckle out of me, but the good thing is that now, because of their kindness, I'm able to chuckle at myself, too.

I have never before come upon such



a large group of horse people with such an unbelievable spirit for sharing: information, equipment, passion, encouragement—and quite a few chuckles! Riding well and receiving a ribbon was great, but for me the true reward was the transformation that I underwent by interacting with all of the riders that weekend. My guarded, serious, and competitive nature has been cracked; could it be that I actually *need* humor to become a better horsewoman?

My sincerest thanks to the many NATRC Region Five members who have befriended me, encouraged me, TRAIERED me, fed me, teased me, and taught me the value of levity. Now I truly value being a horsewoman who can have fun, ride cheerfully, and above all, relax (who am I kidding? I know that I can't relax yet!).

How I Met Banjo Paterson: The Man From Snowy River

by Kathy Nicholl

My education about Banjo Paterson all started when I was secretary to Horsemanship Judge Jim Ferris at the June 2006 Biltmore ride. When you are a secretary (or doing any other non-competing job), you just never know where the conversation will turn during a free



moment. Because Jim is a native of Australia and still sounds it, I feel certain that had something to do with the conversation turning to the horse lover's cult movie The Man From Snowy River. Jim immediately said in his clipped Aussie accent, "Ah, yes, Banjo Paterson, Australia's beloved poet."

He explained that the movie was based on a famous poem of the same name by Andrew Barton Paterson (1864-1941). His first poetry was published under the name "The Banjo" (apparently taken from the name of a favorite horse) which "stuck" so that he is now simply called Banjo Paterson. A lawyer, poet, ballad writer, journalist, editor, broadcaster, polo player, soldier, livestock farmer, and horseman, he captured the hearts of a barely 100 year old nation by creating a nostalgic image of the Australian outback while living in a modern urban world. Paterson also wrote "Waltzing Matilda," the unofficial Australian anthem. His image appears on the Australian \$10 note,

along with an illustration inspired by “The Man From Snowy River” plus the poem’s text as part of the copy-protection microprint. The publication in 1890 of “The Man From Snowy River” brought Paterson immediate and widespread fame, and in 1895 he published a collection of poems under that same title; that book remains the best-selling collection of Australian poetry. By the end of his life, Banjo Paterson had published seven volumes of poetry and prose, as well as many journalism pieces.

Banjo Paterson’s first career was as a lawyer, but he was happiest writing poetry and eventually turned to journalism as a more compatible profession. He was a war correspondent, covering the Boer War as well as World War 1. In between, he was a magazine and newspaper editor. He was, in some ways, very similar to the American artist Frederic Remington (1861-1909). Just as Remington’s painting and sculpture captured the spirit and excitement of the American West though he lived there for only short periods in his life, so Banjo Paterson’s words caught the stark beauty, excitement and romanticism of the Australian bush without his actually spending much time there either. Additionally, their artistic careers flourished at about the same time, and both served as war correspondents. An August 2004 National Geographic story of Australian outback life, entitled “Banjo,” includes some wonderful background information on Banjo Paterson with interesting anecdotes of his legal and journalistic life.

(Note: Go to <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0408/feature1/> for more details, including a reading of his poem “The Man From Snowy River.”)

What a wonderful sidetrack Jim Ferris put me on! I still get goosebumps when I watch the climactic gather/roundup scene that concludes [The Man From Snowy River](#), and reading the original poem gives me those same shivers. Disney/Touchstone’s director Bruce Rowland was very true to the poem, but creatively expanded its approximate 2 page size, adding a love story, feuding brothers, etc. Still, the movie’s visual imagery tells the story brilliantly, capturing the excitement that I still find in the poem. Read the following excerpt, and see if you don’t agree.

*... And one was there, a stripling on a small and weedy beast,
He was something like a racehorse undersized,
With a touch of Timor pony – three parts thoroughbred at least –*

*And such as are by mountain horsemen prized.
He was hard and tough and wiry – just the sort that
won’t say die –
There was courage in his quick impatient tread;
And he bore the badge of gameness in his bright
and fiery eye,
And the proud and lofty carriage of his head. ...*

*When they reached the mountain’s summit, even
Clancy took a pull,
It well might make the boldest hold their breath,
The wild hop scrub grew thickly, the hidden ground
was full
Of wombat holes, and any slip was death.
But the man from Snowy River let the pony have his
head,
And he raced him down the mountain like a torrent
down its bed,
While the others stood and watched in very fear.*

*He sent the flint stones flying, but the pony kept his
feet,
He cleared the fallen timber in his stride,
And the man from Snowy River never shifted in his
seat –
It was grand to see that mountain horseman ride.
Through the stringy barks and saplings, on the
rough and broken ground,
Down the hillside at a racing pace he went;
And he never drew the bridle till he landed safe and
sound,
At the bottom of that terrible descent. ...*

Many thanks to Jim Ferris for introducing me to Banjo Paterson, whom I found humorous, witty, exciting to read, and a wonderful portrayal of the beauty of the Australian bush despite its harshness and hardships. I can fully understand why he is still so loved and honored in Australia today. If you would like to meet him yourself, please go to <http://alldownunder.com/oz-v/banjo-paterson/index.html>, as well as to your local library or bookstore.



Region Five 2009 Tentative Ride Schedule

March 13-14	Spanish Trail Wendy Allen, 6236 Billoree Rd., Pace, FL 32571 Email: kwtallen@bellsouth.net	Munson, FL	A-O,N,CP 850-995-8562 850-393-4216
March 27-28	Uwharrie Forest Joyce Lewis, 8075 Mauney Road., Mt. Pleasan, NC 27614 Email: safehorsetraining@yahoo.com	Troy, NC	A-O,N,CP, B-N 704-836-6201 704-836-6201
April 10-11	Springtime @ Biltmore Connie Driskell, 524 Mills Gap Road, Arden, NC 28704 Email: csdintrig@charter.net	Asheville, NC	A-O,N,CP 828-684-5650
June 5-6	Faye Whittemore Farms CTR Michelle Goza, 8046 Bluff Ridge Rd., Bessemer, AL 35023 Email: Michelle.Goza@ggp.com	Jasper, AL	AA, A-O A,B-N,CP 205-229-3202
July 10-11	Virginia Highlands CTR Judith Shrum, 1364 Laurel Creek Rd NE, Pilot, VA 24138 Email: jshrum@vt.edu	Ivanhoe, VA	A-O,N,CP/B-O,N,CP 540-320-0499 540-651-8492
September 4-5	Region Five Benefit Ride Cindy Keen, 1620 Bellevue Rd., Dublin, GA 31021 Email: cindytk@hotmail.com	Dawsonville, GA	A-O,N,CP/B-N 478-290-3868 478-272-5097
September 11-12	Ride The Edge Virginia Tolbert, 9598 Antioch Ch. Rd. W. Lenoir City, TN 37772 Email: vtolbert@usit.net	Allardt, TN	A-O,N,CP/B-N 865-986-3333 865-363-7563
September 25-26	Heart of Dixie Linda Clayton, 6774 W Old Haynesville Rd., Hope Hull, AL 36043 Email: lindaclay@aol.com	Troy, AL	A&B-O,N,CP 334-281-5509 334-567-6766
October 9-10	Autumn @ Biltmore Connie Driskell, 524 Mills Gap Road, Arden, NC 28704 Email: csdintrig@charter.net	Asheville, NC	AA-O,A-O,N,CP B-N 828-684-5650

AA=3 DAY RIDE A=2 DAY RIDE B=1 DAY RIDE O=OPEN CP=COMPETITIVE PLEASURE N=NOVICE

Ride schedule is subject to change, so be sure to contact the Ride Manager for specific ride information.

All rides need volunteers! Register for rides online at www.natrc5.org.

Possible Clinics:

Clinic @ Faye Whittemore Farms Michelle Goza	Jasper, AL
Clinic @ Meadowchase Farms Cindy Keen	Dublin, GA
Clinic @ East Fork Wayne Tolbert	Allardt, TN



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Memberships run from January 1-December 31. NATRC offers ten membership plans: six Regular, two Platinum and two Lifetime Annual Platinum Upgrades. The Platinum plans receive all the benefits of the Regular plans plus personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit.

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REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: All NATRC memberships include: one Rule Book (upon request) or as many rulebooks as desired downloaded from www.natrc.org, newsletter, eligibility to compete for NATRC annual high score awards and championships, rider and horse mileage awards, and reduced ride entry fees.

Memberships include both national and regional dues. When you join NATRC you are automatically a member of your respective region.

- FAMILY \$60.00 per year Household of 1 or 2 adults and children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes)
SINGLE ADULT \$50.00 per year Single adult member (1 vote)
ASSOCIATE \$50.00 per year Equine-related groups or businesses only (no vote)
JUNIOR \$35.00 per year Single Junior member under age 18 (no vote)
SINGLE LIFETIME \$600.00 Any person of any age (1 vote)
FAMILY LIFETIME \$800.00 Husband and/or wife at the time membership is obtained and children under the age of 18 as of Jan.1 (2 votes)

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP: Platinum members receive insurance benefits through Association Resource Group-ARG. Platinum members receive personal excess liability coverage with a \$1,000,000 policy limit. Coverage is for claims brought against members of NATRC (Platinum) arising from the use and/or ownership of a horse and for horse-related accidents involving third party bodily injury or property damage.

- FAMILY \$100.00 per year Household of 1 or 2 adults and children under the age of 18 as of Jan 1 (2 votes)
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If you are a new member, can you share with us how you find out about NATRC?

If you are a new member, is there a current NATRC member that helped in your decision to join NATRC? If so, please list them

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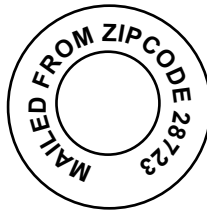


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