

## National Board of Directors Meeting Summary, Denver, CO July 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER by Kim Cowart, 8 a.m., July 13, 2013.

ROLL CALL. Dieterich, Meroshnekoff, Walls, DeMattei, Sims, Peters, Swiss, Cowart, Clayton, Lindsey and Rinne present. Laurie DiNatale, Executive Administrator. Patsy Conner as Region 4 Alternate Director. Swiss stated that Region 4 will elect a new Director and Alternate in fall election.

MINUTES. February 21, 2013. Call for corrections. **Walls moved to accept minutes, Swiss seconded. Motion approved.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Cowart stated that we are in good financial position. Friday night informal discussion generated good ideas that will be discussed today. Cowart thanked Rinne for her work on social media and encouraged the BOD to post on Facebook to reach out to our members.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT. DiNatale sent report with membership numbers. Reported that great progress has been made in integrating RMS data into final NATRC Ride Report processing. Meroshnekoff felt that training on RMS at the National Convention would be helpful.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. Swiss reviewed her report. News is very good year financially. Tough decisions by the BOD have had positive effects financially. Now BOD needs to think about investing in projects that will drive membership and rider numbers. Region 3 generated a large convention profit. Hoof Print expense is down significantly. Foundation account has grown with better investments. The Ride Management Support Fund is at \$47,000. That account is restricted to supporting ride managers. The National Forest Foundation has made a donation of \$12,000 towards the Moccasin Gap Campground project in AR. Projects will need to be defined for funds available.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Lory Walls (Wayne Hyatt). See Rules Report on Website and in Hoof Print.

Dieterich stated that three veterinarians on the drug committee feel that ice boots are beneficial to the horse. The Drug and Judges Committees will discuss and perhaps make recommendations to the BOD.

Walls-Friday night informal discussion generated the idea of Horse Only (HO). Consensus that BOD would like to see proposed wording for Horse Only after lunch.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. Dieterich.

### New:

#### 1. Awards and Certificates.

From Ruth Mesimer, email to the NBOD 6-17-13, regarding criteria for appreciation awards, P5:

- *Are there any changes the NBOD would like to make to these? Changes to the word limit? Please discuss at the July 13 meeting.*
- Word limit. Ruth asked if the 400-word limit was appropriate for the Jim Menefee and Workers Hall of Fame nominations. Ruth, Jamie and Susan agree the "meat of the matter" can be conveyed in 400 words.

No changes requested by the BOD.

#### 2. Denying entry.

Can a ride chair deny entry to someone for "cause?"

The current P&P, under Ride Sanction, reads:

(4) A CTR event that is selective in providing entries or selective in entries accepted may have the sanction revoked and/or be denied sanctioning for future events. 6/87 11/06

Consensus by the BOD was that disruptive people can be disqualified if they exhibit abusive or bad sportsmanlike behavior.

PROTEST. Clayton. No current Protests.

PLANNED GIVING. Cowart and Swiss. Swiss stated that the latest article in Hoof Print outlined ways that people can give to NATRC through various methods. Next article will focus on donations made in another person's memory. Swiss is creating a brochure on charitable giving. She reminded BOD that they need to decide where the donation will go. Suggestions of possible areas to use donated funds were Trail Development, Education, and Management.

RIDE SANCTION. Patsy Conner distributed and reviewed report. Flying R Ride did not originally have a B ride sanctioned. Within a week of the ride, Ride Manager decided to offer a B ride because of predicted inclement weather. Conner did not feel comfortable giving approval because it was not within sanctioning parameters. **Motion by Conner, seconded by Lindsey, to approve the B Ride as a sanctioned ride at Flying R 2013. Motion approved.**

CLINIC SANCTION. Linda Clayton. Report filed.

MANAGEMENT. Jean Green. Report filed. Dieterich asked BOD to remind all managers to make sure they get the most current forms from the website. And that if a person rides one day and works the next, they need to sign both a rider and worker waiver.

RULES INTERPRETER. Peters. All but two reports received. Some accident reports have been received. Peters is revising the letter that goes out to the RI's before the ride. Dieterich brought up the issue of riders changing ride types. That must be done before the rider times out and officially started the ride.

INSURANCE. DiNatale. No changes to report.

RAFFLE. Jim Ward gave presentation on 2013 raffle. Around 100 tickets have been sold. RMS will allow managers to put raffle tickets on as extra fees. Ward suggested poker runs at the rides with raffle tickets as the prizes. The odds of winning are very good.

SAFETY. Swiss for Gould. Several accidents reports Gould wants all accidents reported. Reminded BOD that if you have a fall, you need to replace your helmet. Troxel will give credit towards a new one after a fall.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY. Bev Roberts. Report sent. Report included many recently published articles on NATRC. Cris Ballard is helping Roberts with Enews. Roberts asked that Regions and individual rides promote their rides locally. Swiss pointed out that data shows that editorial content is more effective than advertising. At least \$100,000.00 would be necessary to do an effective advertising campaign. Regional and national publicity is the most effective. Lindsey informed the BOD that she has done three columns recently on distance riding for Horse Illustrated.

Dieterich stated that Roberts had recently submitted revised branding specs for approval. Consensus that Regions want to keep their own logos. **Motion by Dieterich, seconded by Swiss, to approve the most recent branding specifications submitted by Bev Roberts. Motion approved.**

WEBSITE. Roberts continues to update and maintain the website.

NATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATION. Region 4 will handle awards presentation at next convention.

SOCIAL MEDIA. Rinne. Started NATRC Facebook Group page. It now has 1500 members. Rinne encouraged BOD to post to the page and always mention NATRC.

BUSINESS MODELS AND MEASUREMENTS. Swiss. We have had a decrease in members. Retention of members is a problem. We have no problem with the number of competitions. But we do have a problem with number of competitors. Discussion on how to speed up check out and awards, and how to minimize waits at obstacles. One suggestion was to have all trail ability, judged by Vet Judges, done on Saturday, with concentration on soundness and Condition on Sunday. Many would like to see briefings shortened. Agreement by all that we need to make a concerted effort to be open and friendly to all competitors. The Horse Only option was noted. Idea of creating a Rulebook that only includes rules that apply to the ride. All administrative rules could go into another booklet.

Dieterich reported that Mike Peralez has suggested that metabolic checks are appropriate starting early in the day, and be continued to late in the ride, and that final check-out should include a check of the back and legs, along with a circle in both directions.

SPONSORSHIPS. Swiss remains the driving force behind sponsorships.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich Chair. Laurie Knuutila is doing a great job on *Hoof Print*.

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Meroshnekoff - no report. Meroshnekoff takes many juniors to the rides.

FOUNDATION. Swiss - Annuity interest stayed in the Foundation account.

DRUG TESTING. Jerry Weil, DVM. The BOD feels that we need to keep testing at present level and makes that recommendation. That will require further testing this year.

Christy Landwehr of the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) spoke to the BOD. CHA has been certifying facilities and instructors for over 50 years. CHA will share information on NATRC with their members. They will target various sections of their membership through Eblasts. Horsemanship representatives from the Judges Committee felt that a relationship with CHA will be beneficial and will contribute to the professionalism of our Horsemanship Judges.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Lory Walls submitted wording for proposal regarding Horse Only.

## 7. Page 4-3 Section 4C Reads

### C. Distance Only (DO): outside of the competition

1. Horses and/or riders participating DO for any reason will be judged in all ride activities as are other competitors but will be eligible for mileage only.
2. Horses and/or riders participating DO must obey all NATRC rules (except those exemptions specified in paragraphs 3-9 below) and any ride rules. The DO horse/rider team must ride in an acceptable manner and not disrupt the ride for other competitors.
3. Horses may participate with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.
4. A rider may ride DO in any class or division in horsemanship.
5. A horse may participate DO in any class or division only if the rider also enters DO in horsemanship.
6. One day option: only available if both horse and rider are riding DO.
  - a. The DO team has the option of riding one or two days of an 'A' CTR. When choosing to ride one day only, the team must ride the first day. A DO rider must notify ride management of their intent not to ride a second day after post ride examination, but before 8:00p.m.
  - b. The DO team will receive the standard mileage allotments for each day

ridden. If the rider chooses to ride the second day, but does not complete that day, then no mileage will be awarded for either day.

7. DO horses/riders will not count as a competitor in the Class.
8. Any person or horse excluded from competing in Section 4 D1b of the rules (family members or horses owned by family of judges or Rules Interpreters) may enter the ride DO.
9. Any rider or horse-and-rider combination excluded from competing in the Novice Division in Section 4 A2f of the rules (having five firsts, placing 3rd or higher, judges) may enter the ride DO in the Novice Division.
10. Any horse ineligible to compete for awards may enter DO if said ineligibility in the opinion of the veterinary judge does not constitute a physical abuse of the horse.
11. DO must be declared prior to the official start of the ride.

Change to read

C. Distance Only (DO): outside of the competition

1. **Both horse and rider must ride DO.**
2. Horses and/or riders teams participating DO for any reason will be judged in all ride activities as are other competitors but will be eligible for mileage only.
3. Horses and/or riders teams participating DO must obey all NATRC rules (except those exemptions specified in paragraphs 3-9 below) and any ride rules. The DO horse/rider team must ride in an acceptable manner and not disrupt the ride for other competitors.
4. Horses may participate with or without boots (e.g. splint boots, bell boots) and/or the use of any temporary types of hoof protection.
5. A rider may ride DO in any class or division ~~in horsemanship.~~
5. ~~A horse may participate DO in any class or division only if the rider also enters DO in horsemanship.~~
6. One day option: only available if both horse and rider are riding DO.
  - a. The DO team has the option of riding one or two days of an 'A' CTR. When choosing to ride one day only, the team must ride the first day. A DO rider must notify ride management of their intent not to ride a second day after post ride examination, but before 8:00p.m.
  - b. The DO team will receive the standard mileage allotments for each day ridden. If the rider chooses to ride the second day, but does not complete that day, then no mileage will be awarded for either day.
7. DO horses/riders will not count as a competitor in the Class.
8. Any person or horse excluded from competing in Section 4 D1b of the rules (family members or horses owned by family of judges or Rules Interpreters) may enter the ride DO.
9. Any rider or horse-and-rider combination excluded from competing in the Novice Division in Section 4 A2f of the rules (having five firsts, placing 3rd or higher, judges) may enter the ride DO in the Novice Division.
10. Any horse ineligible to compete for awards may enter DO if said ineligibility in the opinion of the veterinary judge does not constitute a physical abuse of the horse.
11. DO must be declared prior to the official start of the ride.

D. Horse Only

1. Horses ~~participating competing~~ "Horse Only" will be judged in all ride activities. The horse and rider must obey all NATRC and ride rules.
2. A horse competing in "Horse Only" will count as a competitor (horse) in the Class.
3. Riders participating "Horse Only" will not be judged or placed, but will receive mileage.

**Motion by Walls, seconded by Conner, to take back to the membership. Motion approved.**

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Michael Peralez, DVM. No report.

TRAIL ADVOCACY & GRANTS. Erin Glassman. Emailed report. Glassman attended the American Trails Symposium and the NETC this year. Expenses estimated at \$800-\$850. **Motion by Swiss, seconded by Clayton, to reimburse Glassman for her expenses to attend the NETC. Motion approved.**

DiNatale described the Moccasin Gap Project in AR. NATRC is facilitating the donation from the National Forest Foundation which will enable this project to be completed.

EDUCATION. Dieterich would like to see more educational information on the website and our Facebook page. CHA has many educational videos on their website that we can link to.

MEMBERSHIP. Jerry Sims. Report submitted. Good success with the poster. Clinics are helping to recruit members. We've had 138 new members this year. We need to listen to our members. We have had 190 non-members riding in the rides. We need to recruit those people. The President of Region 3 will contact all non-members at Region 3 rides to try to recruit. Cowart questioned if we need to split this committee into recruitment and retention. Sims stated that Region 3 may try a Senior CP trial.

JUDGES. M. Peralez/P. Conner.

Conner reviewed Apprentice and Provisional Vet Judges. Carrie Porter, DVM has completed her apprenticeship. Judges Committee recommends her approval. **Motion by Conner, seconded by Lindsey, to approve Carrie Porter, DVM as a**

## **NATRC Vet Judge. Motion approved.**

Becky Rogers is now Provisional. Sarah Rinne is in Apprentice status. Patti Hicks will be starting her apprenticeship. Wayne Tolbert has just finished his test. Conner, Dieterich, and Meroshnekoff may be interested in becoming CHA certified. Christy Landwehr of CHA may be able to come to our next national Convention. CHA would pay her expense, but we would need to comp her registration and a vendor booth.

Dieterich stated that she and Walls have been looking at scorecards to see if there is a correlation between horse and horsemanship comments. Another aspect of the study is whether the horsemanship comments give riders information on how to correct problems the horse may be having. Preliminary results indicate the biggest predictor of placing for the horse is Trail Ability category. Both Dieterich and Walls saw a definite lack of comments in Soundness and Conditioning categories. Walls saw a lack of Equitation comments on horsemanship cards. Dieterich felt that there is a disconnect between horsemanship comments relating to helping the horse over the distance.

Judges Committee recommends that Joe Quintana DVM be reinstated as a NATRC Vet Judge. Discussion on Quintana's reinstatement. **Motion by Conner, seconded by Lindsey, to reinstate Joe Quintana DVM as a NATRC Vet Judge. Motion approved. Walls and Clayton abstained.**

HALL OF FAME. Jackie Coleman. No report.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. DeMattei stated that there are no applications, but plenty of funds available.

## **BREED & ORGANIZATION LIAISONS.**

A.H.A. Bob Insko. No report.

BREED LIAISON. Lindsey stated that reciprocal ad information was sent to the Paso Fino Association.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Ruth Mesimer. Sent report.

ANNUAL POINTS/NATRC DATA/ NATIONAL RECOGNITION. Gloria Becker/Cheri Jeffcoat/Laurie DiNatale. No report.

WEBINAR. No report. Cowart reported that Sallie Kudra has agreed to chair committee. Conference calls are very cost effective.

CONVENTION 2013. Region 3. Peters recapped 2013 information. \$3,724.51 in profit to National. Over 100 attended.

CONVENTION 2014. Region 4. Swiss reported that location will be Oklahoma City, OK. The Renaissance hotel.

Committees are in place. February 20-23.

## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

- R1. Dieterich. March 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Convention. Attendance is down.
- R2. Walls. Regional awards were held at a Ride Clinic. Share the Trails Ride manager paid land fees which made NATRC ride possible.
- R3. Peters. Rocky Mountain Horse Expo booth after the convention. Expo included a NATRC Hospitality stall with an entire row of stalled NATRC horses. Horse Expo in Grand Junction also. Clinic at Greenland Open Space with experienced NATRC riders mentoring clinic participants. Sims did a clinic in Albuquerque.
- R4. Swiss. Regional Convention was held February 9, 2013. Convention included a Junior's Clinic. Demographic shift to OK. Positive reports on 100% Club.
- R5. Clayton. The 100% Club is very effective. Attendance at the rides has been good. Mini Convention was held at Auburn University. Speakers included a tour of Equine Center and talk by Centered Riding Instructor. Region has good follow up after the rides to new riders.
- R6. Lindsey. Two clinics this summer. Clinics are focused on how to move into Open Division. Rider numbers are climbing. This will be the 40<sup>th</sup> year for Indian Cave. Region 6 will host the national Convention in 2015. There will be an AA ride in Kansas in 2014.

Shared BOD amount \$346.49.

## **Old Business:**

1. RMS Status. Covered previously.
2. Flexible thinking. Covered previously.
3. Electronic Scorecards. Walls emailed Cowart a template that DeMattei has been working on.
4. President's Cup award package. Cowart will be working on a package. Easycare has said that they have heard from recipients of the award that Easycare has sponsored, which is appreciated.

## **New Business:**

1. Cowart asked BOD to think about officer nominations. Cowart will run for President. Walls will be going off the BOD. Rules Committee and Vice President position will be open.
2. Peters asked BOD to poll their members on new stabling rules. Are they working?

**Motion by Clayton, seconded by DeMattei, to adjourn. Motion approved.** Adjourned 5:03 p.m.

Full Minutes on file at National Office.