

# Hoof Print 2026

Cynthia Mettes & Arabella Z

**President's  
Cup Winner!**

**NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL RIDE CONFERENCE**



*Hoof Print*, the official annual publication of the North American Trail Ride Conference (**NATRC™**), is available electronically from [www.natrc.org](http://www.natrc.org). Each issue celebrates the accomplishments of the previous year and contains updated information from committees and board meetings plus informative articles on trail riding and horse care to educate and inform the competitive trail rider. **NATRC™** and the left facing, hill climbing horse and rider are trademarks of the North American Trail Ride Conference, Inc.

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# Table of Contents



2	<b>President's Message</b>	• 24 National Champions
3	<b>From Your Executive Director</b>	25 <b>National Horsemanship Champ.</b>
4	<b>National Sponsors &amp; Partners</b>	26 <b>2025 Novice National Awards</b>
5	<b>Convention Sponsors / National Awards Committee</b>	• 26 High Point Combination
6	<b>Convention Volunteer Staff</b>	• 27 Overall High Point Awards
7	<b>In Remembrance</b>	30 <b>2025 Leisure National Awards</b>
	Pat Seymour & Lois Arbour	• 30 Experienced
8	<b>2026 Approved Rule Changes</b>	• 31 Adult
9	<b>2027 Proposed Rule Changes</b>	• 32 Junior
11	<b>Newly Approved Judges</b>	33 <b>2025 Regional Team Awards</b>
12	<b>2025 Open National Awards</b>	36 <b>2025 National Honorary Awards</b>
	• 12 President's Cup	39 <b>2025 Regional Appr'n at Nat'l</b>
	• 16 Menefee, Tibbitts, Bridges	42 <b>R5 Special Legacy Award</b>
	• 17 Overall High Point	43 <b>2025 Virtual Mileage Challenge</b>
	• 19 National Champions	44 <b>2025 High Mileage Awards</b>
19	<b>Raffle Results</b>	44 <b>2025 High Point Breed Awards</b>
20	<b>Traveling Trophy Retirement</b>	45 <b>Volunteers Who Work for Us</b>
21	<b>2025 Competitive Pleasure National Awards</b>	46 <b>Committee Corner-Membership, RI, Financial, Education</b>
	• 21 High Point & High Average	49 <b>Past National Award Winners</b>
	• 22 Overall High Point Awards	52 <b>Past Appr'n Award Winners</b>
		56 <b>Reminders</b>

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## Mission Statement

The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) promotes horsemanship and horse care as they apply to the sport of distance riding by offering a variety of challenging and educational experiences designed to strengthen horse and rider partnerships.

## Code of Ethics

We, the NATRC National Board of Directors, Executive Director, judges, committee members, and employees are ambassadors of our sport whether at an organized event or informal gathering. There is an implied code of ethics to adhere to. This code of ethics dictates that we behave professionally, courteously and responsibly. This includes:

- Representing the sport in a professional manner
- Being respectful when giving an opinion
- Substantiating information before giving an opinion
- Being kind and courteous to others

## Meet Our Apprentice and Provisional Judges

Members: We welcome your comments on the following apprentice and provisional judges.

	<i>Apprentice</i>	<i>Region</i>	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>Region</i>
Veterinary	Katya Spitznagel, DVM	3	Veterinary Valerie Jaffe, DVM	4
Leisure	Sandy Pegram	5		
	Helen Smith	6		

### Judges:

- Have your addresses or phone numbers changed? Give the NATRC office your office, home, and cell numbers.
- Apprentice with an approved judge who has agreed to judge and supervise you.

### Ride Chairs:

- Contact and secure your judges well in advance of your ride date!
- The current Judges List is on the website.
- If you have difficulty securing an approved judge, please contact the appropriate Judges Committee Co-Chair:

## On the Cover

2025 President's Cup Winner  
**Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes**  
 Photo by Becky Pearman

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**Horsemanship & Leisure**  
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# President's Message



## Building the Future

Since 1961, NATRC has helped riders across the country learn the sport of competitive trail riding. This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our favorite sport. What makes NATRC so special to me are all our riders, ride managers, and volunteers who make what we love to do possible.

A part of what makes NATRC the premier competitive trail riding organization across North America is our willingness to not rest on our laurels but to continue to look towards the future.

In 2019 we introduced our Leisure Division where riders can arrive, compete, and return home the same day. Today, Leisure Division entries continue to grow and now make up 68 percent of all ride entries. It is time that we recognize these individuals the same way we do our other divisions.

Another example of our organization's future visioning is with our current technology. For many years now our members have asked for upgrades, and we are making it happen. We recently updated our website and are currently 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. No more logging into two different systems. We are building

for the future by paving the way towards a modern and connected infrastructure that will enable us to be ready for what lies ahead.

Our overall NATRC membership remains above our post-Covid total, however this past year we did experience a decrease back to our 2023 membership level. Currently, our new member and renewals are coming in at a higher rate than in recent years.

I am very pleased with the response of our regions to the challenge of conducting two or more clinics each year. They are putting together some highly informative and creative clinics. These clinics are an inspiration in themselves by providing an opportunity for our members, whom I consider among the best trail riders in the nation, to share their knowledge with others. There is a direct correlation between clinic participants and new members and riders to our sport. Clinics provide a fantastic opportunity for any rider to hone their skills. I have also noticed an increase in the number of "advanced" clinics that target our experienced riders.

It is time to start logging those miles! The 2026 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge is underway. Join the fun and sign up now. The top ten riders nationally along with the top three riders from each region will be recognized during our 2027 national convention. Easily track your ride directly through the Top Trail app and enjoy real-time updated leaderboards instantly as soon as you submit your rides. Our

NATRC mileage challenge is a great motivator for you to get out there and get those conditioning rides in. Saddle up, log those miles, and get your horse ready for the 2026 NATRC ride season!

I am looking forward to the upcoming ride season and being out there on the trails with our NATRC family!

Now, get those conditioning miles in, stay focused on your goals for the 2026 ride season, and let's work together as we continue building for the future!

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

#NATRCmemories  
#NATRCfamily  
#NATRC



# From Your Executive Director



## Unpacking the Boxes

Moving...I strongly dislike it, and that is putting it nicely. Ultimately, each move has been worth it and gotten my family and me towards where we need and wanted to be, but the process of moving in and of itself is daunting, overwhelming and just plain stressful at best.

We couldn't have picked a better time to move of course, during the busiest time for me with NATRC. We closed on our house on the Tuesday before national convention and started driving for Austin early the next morning and then returned from Austin late Sunday night to hit the ground running to finalize packing for the moving trucks arriving early Tuesday morning. The truth is, the necessary moves and golden opportunities don't wait on us to be ready.

What does moving have to do with NATRC? Well, the point is moving and change is uncomfortable for many of us. It is work. It is stressful. It can at times be sentimental and sad in the change and leaving things or previous homes behind. There are some people who do, however, just embrace it fully and forge ahead never looking back... but I am not that person. I am, however, the realist and the mission forward

person, and that has always kept me driving ahead in every situation.

NATRC has experienced a great deal of change in a short period of time. It has experienced a great deal of movement and shifts in how we do business and how we define our sport in some ways. It is a beautiful ebb and flow of new faces and horses blending in with those of us who have been around for a very long time hoping to see new traditions meld with the old on our solid foundation of history.

We have to let go of some things we thought we needed to sustain our sport, now understanding what is more impactful and beneficial for members long term and continue to grow our sport, no matter which direction it is destined to go.

Our members decide that in where they show up and how and where they ride. We need to unpack our boxes at our new destination and make it awesome. It doesn't mean we don't travel and try new things and continue to expand when and where we can, but it is important to build a strong core where roots are forming.

Each of our regions has done a wonderful job incorporating change and working to grow our sport through offering clinics and offering Leisure Division (LeD) rides when and where possible. In many cases several venues only have enough trails to support LeD rides or do not allow overnight camping. Several managers are maximizing these opportunities and benefiting from the LeD format for their riders.

We are starting to see more of our LeD competitors try other divisions as well, so the flow of riders is moving in both directions which is a hopeful projection being realized.

I am excited about the future of our sport and the growth we have ahead of us in our recent years of big moves. Our proactive work and framework for more inclusive divisions have been paramount for our sport, and I for one have enjoyed both riding in and judging them all at some point in my career. Let's keep making thoughtful moves and unpacking the boxes!

Sarah J. Smith, Executive Director



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**HORSEMEN'S Roundup**  
For information about partnering, please contact our [Executive Director](#).



**“Calm in the Unexpected**

Today, I remember not every challenge comes from nature.  
Some arrive swift and silent, a bike on the trail, a fisherman's pole, a hiker with flapping gear.  
The unexpected will appear. And I will be ready. I prepare my horse. I prepare myself.

Together we meet the unfamiliar with calm and composure. Adaptability is high performance. It is quiet strength, the steadiness that carries horse and rider when the world surprises us.”

—Robert F. Eversole, *Daily Wisdom from the Saddle* (Trailmeister Press, 2025), 27.

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For Platinum Members Only

# Convention Sponsors

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THE DISTANCE DEPOT



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**Gayle and Fran Muench**  
**Dave and Linda Reilly**

**Jan Stewart**  
**Elaine Swiss**

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**Jonni Jewell**  
Script & PowerPoint, Award Setup

**Sarah J. Smith**  
Chair, Awards, Sponsors,  
Mileage Chevrons, Script  
& PowerPoint



# Convention Volunteer Staff



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Co-Chair, Vendors, Awards  
Banquet. Hotel Coordinator

**Fran Muench**  
Co-Chair, Publicity, Vendors,  
Awards Banquet



**Whitney Walston**  
Secretary, AV/Technology,  
Raffle, Silent Auction



**Carla-Jo Bass**  
Registration



**Emma Walston**  
Registration



**Jonni Jewell**  
Nat'l Awards Pgm & Coord.



**Kim Murphy**  
Nat'l Awards Pgm & Coord.



**Elaine Swiss**  
National Awards Emcee



**Patty Lampley**  
Region 4 Awards Program



**John Nowell**  
Photographer



**Pauline Martin**  
(Alanna's Mom)  
Banquet Décor / Attendee  
Swag

**Alanna Price**  
Raffle, Silent Auction, Banquet  
Décor / Attendee Swag



**Keagan Trischman**  
Raffle, Silent Auction



**Holly Jones**  
Banquet Décor / Attendee  
Swag



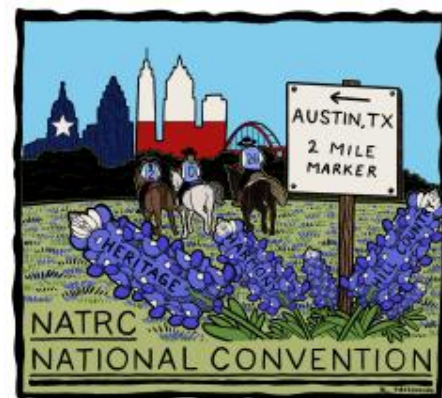
**Alice Perryman**  
Banquet Slide Show



**Cara Liebman**  
Hospitality Room



**David Spell**  
Hospitality Room



***Thank you, everyone!***



# In Remembrance



## Dorothie "Pat" (French) Seymour

May 29, 1928 - January 8, 2026 | Omaha, Nebraska



*NATRC lost a legend. Pat's legacy to our sport will always be an inspiration to us all.*

*Pat was a two-time NATRC President's Cup Champion. Winning in 1987 with her mule, Angel, and in 1991 with her mule, Spring Fever.*

*She will be greatly missed.*

Born to Clifford (a Methodist pastor) and Amy Bell French in Salisbury, Missouri, Pat spent her early years living in six towns. Those formative years helped develop a life-long sensitivity for newcomers.

She began 8th grade in Fairfax where she caught the eye of a local farmer's son. After graduation and one year from at Central Methodist college, she married that farmer's son, Dale Seymour, and happily settled into farm life.

Anyone who got to know Pat discovered a remarkably loving person. It only took about a minute for a stranger to be transformed into

a friend in her presence. There were many such transformations in her 97 years.

She was exceptionally positive and never spoke ill of anyone. Her many interests and talents included pewter work and jewelry making; carding, spinning and knitting wool; sewing, painting, swimming, gardening and landscaping; building a treehouse for her grandchildren.

She was always curious and a lifetime learner. Almost anything interested her. She enjoyed keeping up with current events and studying maps. She taped quotes and affirmations on her walls. She collected and shared memes before the internet took over that job.

Her many roles included Sunday school teacher, choir director, 4-H leader, Welcome Wagon greeter, and PEO member, and brick layer!

Pat learned to enjoy Dale's hobby of showing horses and eventually rode over 8,000 judged miles in competitive trail riding in 17 states on five Arabians and two mules.

She loved being a tag along (her term) in her children's activities, chocolate, Donovan Jones's music, walking outside, swinging on the porch swing, attending church, and listening to Family Radio.

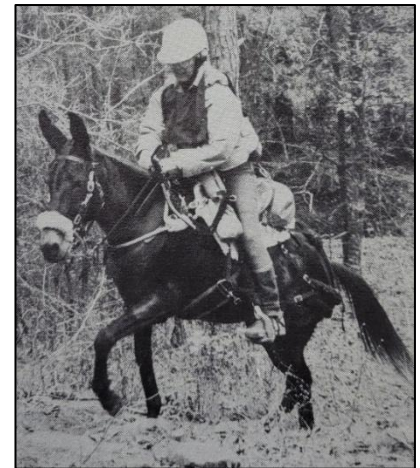
She was a member of the Fairfax Presbyterian Church and attended Christian Fellowship Church in Mound City in her later years.

Pat loved her Lord, people, and music, and she thought life was a grand adventure!

*Memorials: For God's Children International ([www.fgci.org](http://www.fgci.org)) or the Christian Fellowship Church, Mound City, Missouri.*



Pat Seymour and Mule, Angel, 1987 President's Cup Winner



Pat Seymour and Mule, Spring Fever, 1991 President's Cup Winner



## Lois Arbour

February 19, 1932 – February 12, 2025 | Wichita, Kansas

Born in Rock Island County Illinois, Lois was the daughter of Joseph and Ida (Ziegler) Knapp. She retired from the federal government in Denver, Colorado, and Sir Speedy printing in Englewood, Colorado.

Lois enjoyed riding the hills in Colorado for 42 years and the trails in Missouri. She was a member of NATRC and volunteered as a safety rider for 22 years. She rode mules for 23 years. She loved her mules and camping.

She is survived by her three children and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.



# 2026 Approved Rule Changes

Changes are in **RED**.

## #1: CHANGE THE END OF THE RIDE YEAR

### SECTION 2. SANCTIONED RIDES AND CLINICS

### SECTION 9. AWARDS

- A. Ride
- Sanctioning
    - Ride year ends the **last second** Sunday in November
- B. Annual Awards
- General
    - Ride year ends the **last second**-Sunday in November.

*Rationale:* To allow sufficient time to wrap up year-end standings.

## #2: COMBINE DIVISION WEIGHT CLASSES INTO ADULT CLASS

### b: MAKE PERMANENT

### SECTION 4 - DIVISION, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

- B. Classes
- Heavyweight and Lightweight classes will combine into an Adult class on a **permanent** basis. ~~for the 2025 year and will revert to 2022 rules ...~~

*Rationale:* In the 2023 ride season, merging the HW and LW classes into a single ADULT class yielded the desired results. There were many fewer tiny classes (<3 competitors) and while there were some large classes (>10 competitors), the number wasn't large and was still much less than experienced historically in NATRC. HW may be at a disadvantage competing with LW, but without the merge many classes would have no real competition. By making the change permanent, competitors know this is what to expect going forward and the NBOD would be freed up from annual discussions on this rule. Weight class can be reconsidered when ridership increases to offer realistic competition in the weight classes.

# 2026 Approved Rule Clarifications

## #1: SCHEDULING AND FEES FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS

### SECTION 2. SANCTIONED RIDES AND CLINICS

- A. Ride
- Scheduling
    - Rides scheduled for the same weekend shall be at least 250 miles apart in order to be sanctioned. A Leisure Division-only ride may be excepted.  
~~c. Priority on ride dates shall be given to rides sanctioned the previous ride year.~~  
~~d. Rides sanctioned but cancelled will hold their priority date for one year only.~~  
~~e. Sanction written commitment for established ride is due by the 31st of January. After the 31st of January, the priority date will be forfeited.~~

*Rationale:* c, d and e are more appropriate in the P&P in the Ride Sanction section.

- B. Clinics
- Fees - See Clinic Sanction Application
    - ~~There is no sanction fee.~~
    - ~~Clinic fees for participants will be identified in the application.~~
    - ~~Upon request, each NATRC region will be granted funds for insurance at sanctioned NATRC clinics, as determined by the NATRC...~~
  - Scheduling - See Clinic Sanction Application
    - ~~Sanction application must be received in the NATRC office at least sixty (60) days prior to the clinic date.~~
    - ~~In addition to NATRC literature, suggested clinic outlines and format will be furnished upon submission of sanction application.~~

*Rationale:* Not necessary. 2.a-c. and 4.a are covered in the Clinic Sanction Application; 4.b does not apply any more.

## #2: ANNOUNCING TIME PENALTY POINTS

### SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

- J. Timing and Time Penalty Points
- Announcement of Time Penalty Points
    - Timers must inform ride chair, who must in turn inform riders **who were early/late of the number of minutes early/late. any early/late arrivals.** Barring unforeseen circumstances, **ideally** this shall be accomplished within 2 hours of completion of each day's event, ~~but~~ **and** no later than prior to awards presentation.

### SECTION 6 – JUDGING

- Penalty Points
- Ride chair must inform riders and all judges of any penalty points. Barring unforeseen circumstances, **ideally** this shall be accomplished on the same day, ~~but must be done~~ **and** prior to ride awards presentation.

*Rationale:* Sometimes errors in calculating or recording time or other penalties are not found until after the ride. These errors can result in score and placing changes and must be consistent with 5.J.3 (early arrivals), 5.J.4 (late arrivals), 5.J.6 (additional time penalties), 6.E.4 (scoring penalty points) and 6.E.5 (faulting horsemanship).

## #3: PULL IS FINAL

### SECTION 6 – JUDGING

- G. Pull Criteria
- A pulled equine or rider may not re-enter the competition for any reason.

*Rationale:* This would clarify that a pull is final.

# 2027 Proposed Rule Clarifications

To be voted on by NBOD in July 2026 | Changes are in **RED**

## #1: CLARIFICATION – Define Adult Class Same for all Divisions

### SECTION 4 - DIVISION, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

#### B. Classes

~~1. Heavyweight and Lightweight classes are combined into an Adult class on a permanent basis.~~

1. Adult: riders age 18 or over who do not meet the Junior criteria defined in Section 4B3. There are no weight requirements.

2. Riders 18 or older ...

Junior ...

4. ~~Adult: (Leisure Division only) riders age 18 or over who do not meet the Junior criteria as defined in Section 4 B. There are no weight requirements.~~

Helmets

a. Juniors (age 17 and under) must wear an ASTM/SEI, Snell, or approved equal equestrian riding helmet at all times while mounted in camp or on the trail. This rule applies to a junior competing in any class or a junior visiting the NATRC camp.

b. It is strongly recommended that adults also wear a similarly approved helmet as stated in Section 4 ~~5B4~~a .

**Rationale:** The rule for no weight classes was used on a temporary basis, voted on year to year for 3 years. It was approved to be a “permanent” change for 2026. Defining the adult class the same for all divisions would be simpler and more consistent than defining it twice, once for Open, CP and Novice and once for the Leisure Division (current Section 4B4). None of the rules in the Rule Book are permanent as they can be changed by a vote of the NBOD.

## #2: CLARIFICATION – Remove LeD Non-Qualifying Wording from Regional Awards

### SECTION 9. - AWARDS

#### B. Annual Awards

##### 3. Regional Awards

###### a. Team Awards

(1) These regional awards are given for combined horse and horsemanship.

(2) All points for rides in which the same horse and rider combination competed, will be added together and the placings determined by the most points.

~~(3) Leisure Division does not qualify for nationally sponsored team awards.~~

###### b. Regional Championships

(1) These awards are given for horse and for horsemanship in all divisions and classes (See Section 4), first through sixth place.

(2) Will be awarded annually on the basis of points awarded *within the designated region* of the horse and rider (See Section 1 B5).

~~(3) Leisure Division is only eligible for regional combination awards.~~

# 2027 Proposed Rule Changes

To be voted on by NBOD in July 2026 | Changes are in **RED**

## #1: PROPOSAL – ADD LEISURE DIVISION NATIONAL AWARDS

**Rationale:** Help provide the opportunity for Leisure Division riders to set and achieve goals.

### SECTION 9 - AWARDS

#### B. Annual Awards

##### 2. National Awards

### #1a Proposal – Add Grand Champion High Average Leisure Teams by Class

t. GRAND CHAMPION HIGH AVERAGE LEISURE EXPERIENCED TEAM: This award is presented to the Leisure Experienced team with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.

(1) Teams competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out.

(2) Only rides officially started in the same Leisure Class will count.

(3) Every ride which the team officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Leisure Class.

(Continued on pg 10)

**(2027 Proposed Rule Changes** *Continued from pg 9)*

- (4) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
  - (5) The team must be officially started in at least one out-of-state ride or out-of-region ride.
  - (6) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the team which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.
  - (7) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual team's score by the highest Leisure score on that ride. The average score of each team shall then be determined by adding the percentage scores from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- u. GRAND CHAMPION HIGH AVERAGE LEISURE ADULT TEAM: This award is presented to the Leisure Adult team with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Teams competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out.
  - (2) Only rides officially started in the same Leisure Class will count.
  - (3) Every ride which the team officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Leisure Class.
  - (4) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
  - (5) The team must be officially started in at least one out-of-state ride or out-of-region ride.
  - (6) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the team which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.
  - (7) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual team's score by the highest Leisure score on that ride. The average score of each team shall then be determined by adding the percentage scores from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.
- v. GRAND CHAMPION HIGH AVERAGE LEISURE JUNIOR TEAM: This award is presented to the Leisure Juniors team with the highest average score rather than the highest number of points.
- (1) Teams competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of six rides during the year. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
  - (2) Only rides officially started in the same Leisure Class will count.
  - (3) Every ride which the team officially starts during the year shall count, regardless of placing or finishing, provided it is entered in the same Leisure Class.
  - (4) A rider must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
  - (5) The team must be officially started in at least one out-of-state ride or out-of-region ride.
  - (6) In the event of a tie in the high average scores at the end of the year, the winner shall be the team which has won first place on the greatest number of rides.
  - (7) The percentage score is calculated by dividing the individual team's score by the highest Leisure score on that ride. The average score of each team shall then be determined by adding the percentage scores from each ride officially started and dividing by the number of rides of any ride type officially started.

**#1b Proposal – Add High Point Leisure Division Rider and Horse**

- w. HIGH POINT LEISURE DIVISION RIDER: Points shall be credited to Leisure riders regardless of class for the purpose of determining the annual high point Leisure rider. Riders competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year and may ride more than one horse. The rider shall be considered officially started when timed out and must be a current NATRC competing member prior to the start of a ride for the ride to be credited.
- x. HIGH POINT LEISURE DIVISION HORSE: Points shall be credited to Leisure horses regardless of class for the purpose of determining the annual high point Leisure horse. Horses competing for this award must officially start on a minimum of eight rides during the year and may be ridden by more than one rider permitted the riders have a current competing membership prior to the start of a ride for a ride to be credited. The horse shall be considered officially started when timed out.
- Age of Horses
- (1) Horses competing for High Point Leisure Division Horse award must be at least 60 months of age.
    - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
    - (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by a licensed veterinarian.

**#1c Proposal – Add Leisure Division National Championship**

- y. LEISURE DIVISION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. In the Leisure Division (Experienced, Adult and Junior Classes), a team shall be declared a National Champion when all of the following requirements are met within the same ride year.
- (1) Awarded at least one first place or two second placings.
  - (2) Completed a minimum of eight rides (six for Juniors).
  - (3) At least of the rides must be out of state or out of region.
  - (4) Accumulated 35 points (15 points for Juniors). Teams must remain in the same competitive class (Leisure Experienced, Leisure Adult or Leisure Junior) for the duration of the season to qualify.

*(Continued on pg 11)*

Age of Horses

- (1) Horses competing for Leisure National Championship award must be at least 60 months of age.
  - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
  - (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by a licensed veterinarian.



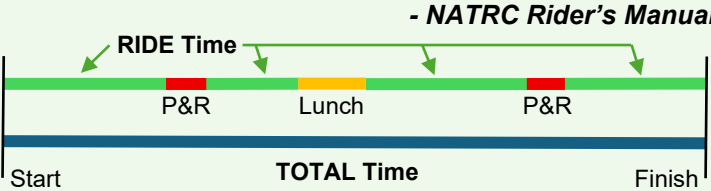
**Meet Our  
Newly  
Approved  
Leisure  
Judge**



**Debbie  
McCullough, R5**

"The terms **total time** and **riding time** are **NOT the same**. The **total time** is the time that elapses between leaving the starting line and crossing the finish line; the total time includes the lunch and P&R (pulse and respiration) stops. **Riding time** refers to the actual riding time not including the lunch and P&R stops."

- NATRC Rider's Manual



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Make an Impact on NATRC's Future Through Planned Giving

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1. Request In Lieu of Flowers contributions by mourners
2. Designate NATRC as an insurance policy beneficiary
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By giving to NATRC, an organization that holds a unique place in your heart, you are ensuring that we can continue to promote equine and equestrian safety through trail competitions and education programs, and to develop and maintain trail systems throughout the country.

Contact: [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org)

The North American Trail Ride Conference is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible. To implement any of the donation suggestions, please be sure to work with your attorney or financial advisor.





Photo by Jim Edmondson



No philosophers  
so thoroughly  
comprehend us  
as dogs and  
horses.

- Herman Melville

# 2025 Open National Awards

## 2025 President's Cup Overall High Point Open Horse

Saddle sponsored by Specialized Saddles & NATRC,

Blanket sponsored by Jonni Jewell, Patti Hicks and Marilyn Bivens, Buckle sponsored by Teresa Galliher, Ribbon sponsored by Sarah J. Smith

### Arabella Z ridden by Cynthia Mettes

113 Points/Arabian Mare

Acceptance Speech by Cynthia Mettes

(Items in parentheses refer to slides shown during Cynthia Mettes' speech.)

The year 2025 was the best year ever. It was also one of the most challenging years ever. I try to focus on positive things as much as possible, but I must admit, it was at times hard to do that.

I like to set goals and for 2025 my first goal was to get Arabella's National Championship which would then give me five horses with National Championships – another goal of mine. I also wanted to FINALLY be a member of the 100% club. All these many years of competing in NATRC, and for one reason or another I could never make every Region 4 ride. In 2025, I finally did that. And then another one of my longstanding goals is more generic and that goal is to improve, if even just a little bit, from the previous ride whether it's a training ride or a competition. And it's also about finding the Joy in the Journey. That joy comes in many forms, seeing new places, experiencing beautiful trails, visiting and riding with old friends, and meeting new folks who end up becoming fast friends for life.

To understand just what we went through in 2025 and how far we have come, I have to go back to July 5th of 2024 when Bantam, who was the 2021 President's Cup winner, suffered a catastrophic injury in the pasture and had to be

put down. It was a devastating loss for us that we still grapple with even today. Bantam and Arabella were brother and sister, born only 2 months apart, so they grew up together and were best buds. This may sound crazy, but Arabella was also affected greatly by his loss.



Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes at Virginia Highlands,

Photo by Becky Pearman

One of the things I do at every competition, and sometimes even on training rides, is to repeat the following to the horse I am on before we start out: "I'm with you, you're with me. We're a team. We stick together like super glue. We take care of each other."

After the loss of Bantam, I added: "And we ride this one for Bantam and for us." It's just my way of remembering and honoring Bantam AND the horse I am on.

Our first ride of the 2025 competition season was at Parrie Haynes Ranch near Killeen, TX in December 2024. EIGHT started in Open, and we placed 4<sup>th</sup>. And yes, it was COLD. I don't like cold.

Then, on January 15, I was leaving my equine vet's facility and waiting to pull out with my trailer loaded with two horses. This facility is located on the Navasota Bypass which is a 75 mile-an-hour highway. It is a divided highway with a very wide median. As I was about to pull out and turn left, I saw two Navasota police cars with lights flashing and sirens blaring coming from my left at a high speed. Cars were moving over to give way to them. I waited as they approached, not knowing what they were pursuing.

Unknown to me, a person was fleeing law enforcement and was going the wrong way and traveling from my right.

Just as that person passed in front of me, she hit head on with the first law enforcement vehicle at a very high rate of speed. She was killed and the police officer, Sergeant Mark Butler of the Navasota Police

(Continued on pg 13)

(Continued from pg 12)

Department, died shortly after the collision. The hardest part for me was that I tried to help but I could do nothing.



Then came the realization that Mark Butler had saved MY life and probably a dozen others that day just by being there and putting himself in harm's way. Had he not put himself there, it could have gone so differently. I very well would have pulled out in front of the oncoming fleeing vehicle, and WE would have been the vehicle hit and who knows how many other vehicles in addition to us. Besides saving me and others, Mark Butler also saved my two horses, and yes, one of them was Arabella, the other being my oldest horse, Expresso.

I witnessed the worst of humanity that day, but I also witnessed the best of humanity - people coming together to do whatever they could to help. From this incident, I learned just what PTSD is and struggled to come to grips with it and move on with my life. I've been through some really tough times in my life, but this was nothing like I had ever lived through and had to deal with. After this, I added to what I would tell my horse before every ride: "And we ride this one for Bantam and Mark Butler and for us."

For me, riding is therapeutic physically and especially mentally, so two days after the fatal collision,

Arabella and I went riding. She spooked at something and I came off and landed hard – one of the worst hits I have ever taken - and I have broken my left leg twice coming off a horse. But this was way worse. It felt like my whole body was bruised. Now emotionally AND physically wrecked, I couldn't compete in the next two competitive trail rides (CTRs) but I did volunteer. I've always said, if I can't ride, the next best thing is volunteering.

It was a full 11 weeks before I was fully physically healed from my unplanned dismount in January but that didn't stop me from riding and competing before I was back 100% sound. I soldiered through – but I must admit, it wasn't pretty. Meanwhile, I got sick with a bad cold that turned into something awful – horrible chest congestion and ear infections. We did the Red Dirt CTR in March and the T-Rex Trot in April. Early May, we went to Raising the Bar ride which only had two in Open. I was really sick at that ride and pretty much just hung on and Arabella got me through it along with Patti Hicks. Thank you, Patti.

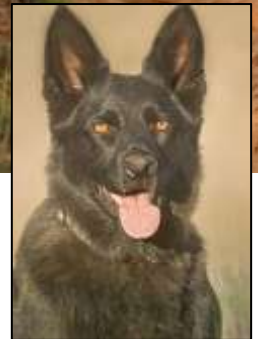
Meanwhile in late April, I noticed something had physically changed with me. So, I had a breast ultrasound done mid-May, and it showed an area of concern. At this point I am thinking, really, what else?

Now, I'll admit, I am probably the worst patient ever. I don't like doctors and I certainly don't trust them. So, after the consultation with a breast surgeon, I decided to go with a non-traditional route of treatment. I have been taking ivermectin and fenbendazole since then. I also combined it with every anti-cancer and immune-boosting supplement I could find. I cleaned up my diet, which was reasonably good prior to this, but I really cut down on sugar since cancer feeds on sugar. The added benefit of all this was that I lost 10 pounds!!

I also listened to healing music, spoke healing affirmations, read positive books, and I just plain decided that I was getting ON with my life and pushing this issue OUT

of my life. I looked at my ride schedule and decided it would not change. I had to laugh after I scheduled my farrier three visits out. After all, I had things to do, horses to ride, and competitions to go to!!

So, off we went to the Kanopolis Canyons ride at the end of May. That was Arabella's first time she placed first. And this was a special ride for me as I took my dog, Ragan, who had been my faithful travel buddy for 12 years. Her health was



**Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes at Kanopolis Canyons,** Photo by Kristen Schmalzried

**Ryan,** Family photo

declining so she had mostly been staying at home since getting in and out of the trailer was hard on her, but something made me take her that weekend. I am so glad I did, she was delightful as always and I so enjoyed her company. It turned out this would be the last weekend we would share together as a week later her health quickly declined and we had to let her go. After her loss, I changed what I would say to Arabella: "And

(Continued on pg 14)

(Continued from pg 13)

we ride this one for Bantam and Mark Butler and Ragan and for us”.

One of the many things I enjoy is going to new rides, as in rides I have not attended before. One of those rides was the Virginia Highlands ride in June which was also intriguing as it was a 3-day CTR – something I had always wanted to do. *(I've included a lot of pictures from this ride as it is just beautiful scenery!!)* And this ride turned out to be a turning point for Arabella. On Day 3, she was a much-improved horse from Day 1. She and I learned to trot downhill balanced.

I have to tell the following story. As we were starting out on Day 1, I told Caren Risley, who I had just met and had the pleasure of riding with the whole weekend, that we do NOT trot downhill. You see, I almost always walked downhill to save my horse's legs. Well, I learned REALLY quickly, that you HAD to trot downhill or you would not make your window of time. That ride was not flat – you were pretty much either going up or going down. On Day 3, I mentioned to Caren that she must have rolled her eyes when I said what I said about not trotting



**Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes at Virginia Highlands,** Photo by Becky Pearman

downhill on Day 1. She said she just giggled when she heard me say that.

Anyway, one of the other things we were working on during that ride was Arabella leading comfortably. Arabella would quite often protest and insist that she could NOT go down the trail first. I would call her my drama queen when she pulled that. Caren was patient and helped us work on leading. And I had the benefit of making a new friend whom I hope to share the trail with again someday. *(And I just have to show you the following series of pictures. Note how beautifully in sync the horses are!!)*



**Cynthia Mettes and Caron Risley, horses in sync, at Virginia Highlands,** Photo by Becky Pearman

Our next ride was in July and was another new ride for us, Chicken Creek in Colorado – beautiful country as every ride in Colorado is. Following that our next CTR was Happy Jack in Wyoming in August. The weekend prior to Happy Jack, Arabella and I did a 50-mile endurance ride, Spruce Mountain, near Larkspur Colorado, another new ride for us. In between the two rides, rather than coming home, we stayed at a wonderful horse motel in Wellington Colorado that I had stayed at many times before.

The Happy Jack ride is held in the Medicine Bow National Forest and if you haven't been, you need to put it on your Bucket List. It's beautiful and challenging for us flatlanders, but very doable. That

weekend there was only one other rider in Open, and the other rider pulled during our lunch break on Day 1. We got through it and in the end, it was good for Arabella. She was making progress in leading!!

Those two back-to-back weekends took a lot out of both of us. I always say it's not the competition miles that are hard on a horse (or me); it's the trailering miles. We both needed a break and so the next weekend we chose not to go to Ride the Edge in Tennessee. That ride is one of my favorites and another one for your Bucket List if you haven't been there.

Our next ride was Wayfarer out West. This was being held at a new ride location. Again, there were only two in Open and again, the other rider pulled after Day 1. I pretty much rode with Novice and CP at the start of Day 2 until I calculated that we needed to move on out to make our time window. So, I asked and Arabella willingly moved on out. I was so proud of her. And then when the trail had us come back into camp on Day 2, I decided to chance it and go back to my trailer and electrolyte her and refill water bottles. I was hoping Arabella would not pull her drama queen card out, and I'm happy to say she was perfect. I asked and she headed out onto trail like an old pro. *(And this Sunday morning sunrise picture,*

*(Continued on pg 15)*

(Continued from pg 14)

*THAT is one of the many things I enjoy at competitions.)*

Next ride on our schedule was the Jesse James Rideout in Missouri. Yay, we had six starters in Open and Arabella placed third. It was a great weekend in that Arabella led for the ENTIRE ride. And I made a new friend, riding with Kim Rumpsa.

We headed to Kansas for the ride at Big Hill Lake. We overnighted on the Thursday night before the ride about 90 miles south of Big Hill. Friday morning Arabella decided to become a racehorse and tore around her nice big 1-acre paddock and tweaked something. She trotted up to me head-bobbing. Since we were so close to the ride, I decided to go on to the ride and hopefully she would work out of whatever her issue was. Well, that didn't happen, so we headed home Saturday morning.

Two weeks later, we loaded up for the Grasslands ride. Now, I always lunge my horse before loading to make sure they are good to go. She looked fine when we left but not so fine when we got there. She was off just enough that I didn't want to chance making whatever it was worse. So, this time we stayed and I volunteered. In the end, I think it was a muscle she pulled running around like a wild horse and trailering her in a slant load irritated her issue and it just took time for her to fully recover.

Last ride of the season was the Bell Cow ride in Oklahoma. There were five of us in Open, but Arabella and I rode that ride probably 98% of the time by ourselves. I realized then that Arabella had definitely come a long way over the year and that just makes me smile.

In competition year 2025, Arabella and I competed in eight different States, completed 11 CTRs and one 50-mile endurance ride, and completed a total of 740 competition miles.

I cannot say THANK YOU enough to the ride managers, ride secretaries, trailmasters, and all the

many volunteers who give so much of their time to these rides. Without your dedication and sacrifice and financial commitment, these rides would not happen. Thank you to my fellow competitors who I so enjoy sharing the trail with. And finally, thank you to my husband, Kim, who



*Cynthia and Kim Mettes, Family Photo*

supports me in every way. Between competing Arabella and our other horses, I was home only about half of the time last year. Oh, and on a different note, I am thrilled to be able to say that I am physically

doing GREAT and my recent ultrasound showed all clear. Is that not the best news ever?

Unknown to many of you, I sold Arabella twice and got her back twice. Does that tell you anything? She is opinionated, stubborn, and dramatic, but also can be quite endearing. I would like to think we are alike in many ways. She is the best traveler, eater, drinker, and just a delight to handle. Early in the year, Fran Muench asked me, "Are you glad you got her back?" At that time, I just shook my head "No." Fran, if you were to ask me that question again, I would without hesitation say "YES."

Arabella is one of the smoothest horses I have ever ridden, I hardly feel like I have done anything after competing on her, and she has made me a better rider. We have always had a strong connection, and it has intensified over this past year. She is mine and I am hers. We are a team. We have both found the Joy in the Journey. And despite all its challenges, 2025 was the **BEST! YEAR! EVER!**



*Cynthia Mettes, winner of numerous awards!* Photo by John Nowell

Open

# COMBINATION and HIGH AVERAGE

## Jim Menefee Memorial Combined High Point Horse and Horsemanship

*Perpetual Trophy Donated by Helen Smith  
Buckle sponsored by Craig & Laura Risk  
Jacket Sponsored by Doanna Daniel  
Ribbon sponsored by Sarah J. Smith*

Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes  
223 Points

**Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes**

Photo by Becky Pearman



## Bev Tibbitts Grand Champion High Average Horse

*Buckle sponsored by Rebecca Wall - Ribbon sponsored by Sarah J. Smith*

Giacomo / Half Arabian.....98.30%

### Runner Up

Arabella Z / Arabian.....97.16%

**Fran Muench and Giacomo**, Photo by Kristen Schmalzried



**Fran Muench and Giacomo**, Family Photo

## Polly Bridges High Average Horsemanship

*Buckle sponsored by Doanna Daniel - Ribbon sponsored by Sarah J. Smith*

Fran Muench .....99.68%

### Runner Up

Cynthia Mettes .....97.82%

## Open Junior High Average Horsemanship and Grand Champion Horse

None Qualified

Open

# OVERALL HIGH POINT HORSE

## Open Adult Horse

*Silver Tray sponsored by LeeAnn Dreadfulwater*

1. Arabella Z / ar..... Cynthia Mettes / R4..... 113
2. Giacomo / har..... Fran Muench / R4..... 110
3. LL Majeed / ar ..... Linda Reilly / R4..... 62
4. CT Nick At Noon / ar ..... Patti Hicks / R4..... 54
5. Windstorm Clay / morg.... Tommy Mitchell / R5..... 46
6. Rushcreek Frontier / ar ..... Helen Smith / R6..... 38



**Arabella Z and  
Cynthia Mettes**  
Photo by Becky Pearman



**Giacomo and  
Fran Muench**  
Family Photo



**LL Majeed and  
Linda Reilly**  
Photo by Jan Stewart



**Rushcreek  
Frontier and  
Helen Smith**  
Photo by Kristen  
Schmalzreid



**CT Nick at  
Noon and  
Patti Hicks**  
Photo by Linda  
Reilly



**Windstorm Clay and  
Tommy Mitchell**  
Photo by Nancy Fuller

## Open Junior Horse

None Qualified

*(Continued on pg 18)*

# Open

## OVERALL HIGH POINT HORSEMANSHIP

### Open Adult Horsemanship

Silver Tray sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench  
Ribbons sponsored by John Zeliff

- 1. Cynthia Mettes / R4 ..... 110
- 2. Fran Muench / R4 ..... 102
- 3. Linda Reilly / R4 ..... 66
- 4. Patti Hicks / R4 ..... 49
- 5. Helen Smith / R6 ..... 42
- 6. Tommy Mitchell / R5 ..... 41

**Cynthia Mettes**

Family Photo



**Fran Muench**

Photo by Rick Rosinski



**Linda Reilly**

Family Photo



**Patti Hicks**

Photo by Jan Stewart



**Helen Smith**

Photo by Kristen Schmalzried



**Tommy Mitchell**

Photo by Nancy Fuller

### Open Junior Horsemanship

None Qualified

Open

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

## Open National Champions

*Ribbons sponsored by Sarah J. Smith*

### Region 4

Arabella Z / Arabian ..... Cynthia Mettes

Giacomo / Half Arabian ..... Fran Muench

*(Jacket sponsored by Doanna Daniel & Linda Reilly)*



**Giacomo and Fran Muench**

Photo by Laurie Allan



**Arabella Z and Cynthia Mettes**

Photo by Becky Pearman

## NATRC Annual Raffle Results



Photo by John Nowell



### 1st Prize

Tennessee Saddlery  
Saddle

Amy Mason, R3

### 2nd Prize



Membership

Elaine Swiss, R4

### 3rd Prize

**FUEL CARD**  
\$100

\$100 Fuel Card (6 winners)

Angie Meroshnekoff R1

Pat French R2

Linda Johnson-Conne R3

Laurie Dunlap R4

Patty Lucas R5

Ruth Schnidler R6

## Congratulations to the Lucky Winners!

The winners were drawn at the National Convention awards banquet in Austin, TX on February 21, 2026. Thank you to the donors and to all who purchased tickets!

# Retirement of the National Traveling Trophy Program

## Advancing Our Award Structure

The national traveling trophy program consists of several large awards including the

- President's Cup,
- Bev Tibbitt's,
- Jim Menefee and
- Polly Bridge's Memorial awards.

Each award boasts a large and heavy traveling trophy that recipients have been required to transport from convention, upon receiving, and subsequently return the following year for the next recipient at their expense. Due to the size and weight of the trophy busts, the costs have often been considerable, and many years recipients have declined to take the trophies in the year earned for that reason.

In addition to transport costs and engraving challenges, the trophies take on damage and normal wear and tear from transport, as well as "life" in multiple homes which takes its toll.

Trophy repair service becomes challenging to find and can be costly to do. The original Jim Menefee large bust trophy was retired and auctioned in 2017 and replaced with a large traveling plaque due to continued need for repair. The logistics and the cost of the program simply outweigh the benefits of maintaining it, and the NATRC Board of Directors concurred there were better options for our organization going forward. It was not a decision that was made lightly, and we wanted to ensure that the spirit of the awards was thoughtfully preserved for our membership.

## New Award Structure

The new award structure will remain largely the same with exception of the traveling trophies themselves and was in effect for the



**Polly Bridges Memorial Trophy**

award winners from the 2025 season. Recipients of these prestigious awards received the same beautiful satin ribbons, exquisite award buckles, and accolades at our national convention as in the past. The exciting changes, however, are not only in the ease of logistics for our award recipients, but the options our recipients have in how they are awarded.

- The President's Cup winner will receive their choice of a keepsake award trophy or award jacket for the rider (the horse is automatically awarded a blanket).
- The Jim Menefee Memorial Combined Open Horse & Horsemanship recipient will have their choice between a keepsake trophy, award blanket or award jacket.

- The Polly Bridges Memorial recipient will have their choice between a keepsake award trophy or award jacket.
- The Bev Tibbitts Grand Champion recipient will have their choice between a keepsake award trophy or an award blanket.

## Retired Trophy Auction

Would you like to call a piece of rich NATRC history your own?

On November 1, 2025, the first of the series of remaining traveling trophies became available for silent auction. The bidding was open until Saturday, February 21, 2026 at noon when all bids closed.

The first trophy for auction was the Polly Bridges Memorial trophy with an opening bid of \$500. Bids were placed by emailing Sarah, NATRC Executive Director, at [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org). All bids remained anonymous during the bidding process with the winning bid announced at the NATRC National Convention in Austin, TX.

Auction proceeds will be applied to our national awards program.

Another trophy will be announced and auctioned later in 2026. One trophy will be offered each year until all retired trophies have been sold.

Any questions may be directed to Sarah at [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org).

## And the winner of the Polly Bridges Memorial Retired Traveling Trophy is ...

**Betty Wolgram with a winning bid of \$775!**



# 2025 Competitive Pleasure National Awards

## COMBINATION and HIGH AVERAGE

### High Point Combination Adult Team

*Buckle sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench*

Precious and Julie Bills - 276 Points



**Precious and Julie Bills**

Photo by Kristen Schmalzried

### Grand Champion High Average Horse

*Buckle sponsored by Doanna Daniel*

Precious / gr - 98.64%



**Julie Bills, winner of numerous CP awards,** Photo by John Nowell

### High Average Horsemanship

*Buckle & ribbon sponsored by Angie Meroshnekoff*

Maria Pilgrim - 99.49%



**Maria Pilgrim,** Photo by Kim Naugle



### High Point Combination Junior Team

*Buckle & ribbon sponsored by Starlight Farms Family*

Scotch For Aces and Anna Beth Lawrence - 124 Points

**Scotch For Aces and Anna Beth Lawrence**

Photo by Brandon Del Gatto

# OVERALL HIGH POINT HORSE

## CP Adult Horse

Silver Tray sponsored by Cindy Mettes - Ribbons sponsored by Patty Lucas

1. Precious / gr ..... Julie Bills / R4 ..... 158
2. Mntop Never Say Never / morg..... Marsha Howard / R5 .... 122
3. Little Rocky Road / gr..... Marilyn Bivens / R4 .....94
4. DMF Jose's Dapple Design / tw ..... Amy Martin / R4 ..... 76
4. Wind River Rose / gr..... Maria Pilgrim / R1.....76
5. Rock Creek's Wild Pepper / must..... Holly Jones / R4.....67
6. Shimmer's Golden Perfection D./ mft . Kathi Wiggins / R5.....66



**Precious and Julie Bills**  
Photo by Kay Gunckel



**Mntop Never Say Never and Marsha Howard**  
Photo by Becky Pearman



**Little Rocky Road and Marilyn Bivens**  
Photo by John Nowell



**DMF Jose's Dapple Design and Amy Martin**  
Photo by Wendy Grotheer



**Wind River Rose and Maria Pilgrim**  
Photo by Kim Naugle



**Shimmer's Golden Perfection D. and Kathi Wiggins**  
Photo by Becky Pearman



**Rock Creek Wild Pepper and Holly Jones**  
Photo by John Nowell

## CP Junior Horse

Silver Tray and ribbons sponsored by the Starlight Farms Family

1. Scotch For .....Anna Beth Lawrence / R5. 78  
Aces / qtr
2. DLC Roxies .....Mikey Patisaul / R5..... 20  
Peponita / paint

Near Right: **Scotch For Aces and Anna Beth Lawrence**  
Photo by Brandon Del Gatto

Far Right: **DLC Roxies Peponita and Mikey Patisaul**  
Photo by Becky Pearman



(Continued on pg 23)



# OVERALL HIGH POINT HORSEMANSHIP

## CP Adult Horsemanship

Silver Tray sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench

- 1. Julie Bills / R4 ..... 118
- 2. Marilyn Bivens / R4 ..... 110
- 3. Amy Martin / R4 ..... 93
- 4. Marsha Howard / R5 ..... 92
- 5. Maria Pilgrim / R1 ..... 85
- 6. Holly Jones / R4 ..... 61



**Julie Bills**  
Family Photo



**Marilyn Bivens**  
Photo by Kristen Schmalzreid



**Amy Martin**  
Family Photo



**Marsha Howard**  
Family Photo



**Maria Pilgrim**  
Photo by Kim Naugle



**Holly Jones**  
Family Photo

## CP Junior Horsemanship

Silver Tray sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench

Ribbons sponsored by the Starlight Farms Family

- 1. Anna Beth Lawrence / R5 ..... 46
- 2. Mikey Patisaul / R5 ..... 20



**Anna Beth Lawrence**  
Family Photo



**Mikey Patisaul**  
Photo by Becky Pearman

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

## Competitive Pleasure National Champions

*Ribbons sponsored by Sarah J. Smith*

### Region 1

Wind River Rose ..... Grade ..... Maria Pilgrim

### Region 4

Precious ..... Grade ..... Julie Bills

*(Blanket sponsored by Alana Price)*

DMF Jose's Dapple Design ..... Tennessee Walker ..... Amy Martin

*(Blanket sponsored by Kate Love & Nancy Williams)*

### Region 5

Mtntop Never Say Never ..... Morgan ..... Marsha Howard

*(Blanket sponsored by Courtney Woodall)*

Scotch For Aces ..... Quarter Horse ..... Anna Beth Lawrence

*(Blanket sponsored by StarLight Farms Family)*



**Wind River Rose**

Photo by Kim Naugle



**DMF Jose's  
Dapple Design**

Photo by  
Carolyn Chapman



**Precious**

Photo by Kristen Schmalzreid



**Scotch For Aces**

Photo by Brandon Del Gatto



**Mtntop Never Say Never**

Photo by Becky Pearman

# Bev Roberts National Horsemanship Champion

Five National Championships on Five Different Horses

Created and sponsored by Bev Roberts

## Cynthia Mettes



**Arabella Z: 2025**  
Photo by Kristen Schmarlzied



**Good Luke Charm: 2024**, Photo by Kristen Schmarlzied



**Bantam Z:  
2022**

Photo by  
John Newell



**Sar Devon Ebony: 2003**  
Photo by Becky Pearman



**Nchanted  
Prince  
Valiant: 2018**

Photo by John  
Newell

# 2025 Novice National Awards

## COMBINATION

### High Point Adult Team

*Buckle sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench*

Sir Tobias de la Kharma and  
Juliana Cruz / R4.... 246 Points



**Sir Tobias de la Kharma and Juliana Cruz**

Family Photo

### High Point Junior Team

*Buckle sponsored by Donna Curry*

*Ribbon sponsored by the Starlight Farms Family*

Watermelon and  
Zane Whitehead / R5 .... 100 Points



**Watermelon and Zane Whitehead**

Family Photo

## TECHNOLOGY and OUR FUTURE

Together, we are paving the way for the future – modern, connected, and ready for what is next.

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:

- new website,
- new RMS, and
- digital scorecards!

### 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. It is a large undertaking. There are still a few items that need to be updated, and that is being worked on.

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.

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).

### Technology Phase 2 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.

### 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](http://natrc.org/donate). Under the label Online Donations, click on Technology Fund. Your donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support and partnership in making it happen!

### Novice Adult Horse

Silver Tray sponsored by Cindy Mettes

Ribbons sponsored by Julie Bills

1. Sir Tobias de la Kharma / gr ..... Juliana Cruz / R4..... 132
2. Kozys Saphiro DaVinci / har ..... Tracy Cann / R4 ..... 74
3. TTT Little Whiz / ar ..... Debbie Betts / R4 ..... 70
4. MGA's Fuerte del Energia / pf ... Erin Rosser / T.Church / R4 ..... 63
5. Dolly / gr..... Rianna Deselich / R6..... 31
6. Immortal General / tw ..... Linda Schwinn / R4 ..... 28



**Sir Tobias de la Kharma and Juliana Cruz,** Family Photo



**Kozys Saphiro DaVinci and Tracy Cann,** Family Photo



**TTT Little Whiz and Debbie Betts**  
Family Photo



**MGA's Fuerte del Energia and Erin Rosser,** Family Photo



**Dolly and Rianna Deselich**

Photo by Cheryl Bohling



**Immortal General and Linda Schwinn**

Photo by Lyman Schwinn



(Continued on pg 28)

(NOVICE High Point Continued from pg 27)

## Novice Junior Horse

Silver Tray sponsored by the Starlight Farms Family

Ribbons sponsored by Elaine Swiss

1. Watermelon / gr.....Zayne Whitehead / R5 ..... 60
2. Inspector Gadget / gr.....Farryn Robinson / R5..... 34
3. Dance Affair / gr .....Emma Walston / R4 ..... 10
4. XEX King Lightfoot / qtr ..Tyler Walston / Emma Walston / R4.. 9



**Watermelon and Zayne Whitehead**  
Family Photo



**Inspector Gadget and Farryn Robinson,** Family Photo



**Dance Affair and Emma Walston**  
Photo by John Nowell



**XEX King Lightfoot and Tyler Walston,** Photo by Elaine Swiss

# Save this Date!



**2027**  
**National**  
**Convention**

To our outgoing board members

# Thank You

for all your hard work and for serving on our national board.

R2, **Lory Walls**

R4, **Cara Liebman**

R6, **Marla Stucky**

**Best wishes from our entire organization!**

(Continued on pg 29)

# Novice OVERALL HIGH POINT HORSEMANSHIP

## Novice Adult Horsemanship

Silver Tray sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench  
Ribbons sponsored by Teresa Galliher

- 1. Juliana Cruz / R4 ..... 114
- 2. Debbie Betts / R4..... 92
- 3. Tracy Cann / R4 ..... 56
- 4. Trina Church / R4.....42
- 5. Cathy Goscha / R5 .....40
- 6. Erin Rosser / R4 .....34



**Juliana Cruz**  
Photo by John Nowell



**Debbie Betts**  
Family Photo



**Tracy Cann**, Family Photo



**Trina Church**, Family Photo



**Cathy Goscha**  
Photo by Becky Pearson



**Erin Rosser**  
Photo by Ivy Starnes



**Zayne Whitehead**  
Family Photo



**Farryn Robinson**  
Family Photo

## Novice Junior Horsemanship

Silver Tray sponsored by Fran & Gayle Muench  
Ribbons sponsored by Elaine Swiss

- 1. Zayne Whitehead / R5... 40
- 2. Farryn Robinson / R5 .... 29
- 3. Emma Walston / R4..... 13
- 4. Tyler Walston / R4 ..... 7



**Emma Walston**  
Photo by John Nowell



**Tyler Walston**  
Photo by John Nowell

# 2025 Leisure National Awards

## OVERALL HIGH POINT TEAM

### Leisure Experienced

Team	Region	Points
1. Diane Wingle and DM's Sweet Chilly Pepper - SC.....	3	44
2. Courtney Woodall and Good Karma.....	5	39
3. Alana Price and Moon Shadow's Black Gold.....	4	35
4. Cathy Cumberworth and Copper's Comet.....	3	31.5
5. Heather Alonso and TR's No Worries.....	5	28
6. Bill Wingle and Majestic's Ringo Star .....	3	23.5



**Diane Wingle and  
DM's Sweet Chilly Pepper - SC**  
Photo by Bill Wingle



**Courtney Woodall and  
Good Karma**  
Family Photo



**Alana Price and Moon Shadow's  
Black Gold**  
Photo by Chrissy Knight



**Cathy Cumberworth and Copper's  
Comet**  
Photo by Lee Sheek



**Heather Alonso and TR's No  
Worries**  
Family Photo



**Bill Wingle and  
Majestic's Ringo Star**  
Photo by Gary Walls

(Continued on pg 31)

## Leisure Adult

Silver Tray sponsored by Region 6

Region 6 recipient ribbons sponsored by Region 6

Craig & Laura Risk ribbons sponsored by Cathy Cumberworth

Team	Region	Points
1. Louise McCall and Rio Bravo.....	6.....	55
2. Laura Risk and Gutti fra' Austurey 2 .....	3.....	53.5
3. Craig Risk and Ragnar fra' Einiholti 2 .....	3.....	36.5
4. Janece Nissen and Mountain Flame.....	3.....	34.5
5. Catherine Gast and Reddens Dakota King ...	6.....	34
6. Laurie Dunlap and Daisy Winn.....	4.....	31



**Louise McCall and Rio Bravo**  
Photo by Mary Fettes



**Laura Risk and Gutti fra' Austurey**  
Photo by Gary Walls



**Craig Risk and Ragnar fra' Einiholti**  
Photo by Gary Walls



**Janece Nissen and Mountain Flame**  
Photo by Bill Wingle



**Catherine Gast and Reddens Dakota King**  
Photo by Kristen Schmalzried



**Laurie Dunlap and Daisy Winn**  
Family Photo

(Continued on pg 32)

## Leisure Junior

Silver Tray and ribbons sponsored by Erin McChesney

Team	Region	Points
1. Wren Woodall and Jessie's Girl .....	5 .....	31
2. Rhiley Muller and Valentyne .....	1 .....	30
3. Grace Silva and Cha Cha .....	1 .....	24
4. Ivey Mason and Impressive Red Rebel .....	5 .....	22
5. Kay Woodall and MCF Mustang Sally .....	5 .....	14.5
6. Savannah Alonso and Mia .....	5 .....	13
6. Lillianne Thrift and StarLight's Macksimum Flex..	5 .....	13



**Wren Woodall and Jessie's Girl**  
Family Photo



**Rhiley Muller and Valentyne**  
Photographer Donna Stidolph



**Grace Silva and Cha Cha**  
Photographer Donna Stidolph



**Ivey Mason and Impressive Red Rebel**  
Family Photo



**Kay Woodall and MCF Mustang Sally,** Family Photo



**Savanah Alonso and Mia**  
Photo by Heather Alonso



**Lillianne Thrift and StarLight's Macksimum Flex,** Family Photo

# 2025 Regional Team Awards at National

## Open Division Sponsors

R5 ribbon by Courtney Woodall | R6 ribbon by Region 6

### OPEN ADULT

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)	4. CT Nick At Noon / ar..... Patti Hicks ..... 81
<b>Region 2</b> (None Qualified)	5. Pharoah Victor / ar..... Helen McMahon..... 70
<b>Region 3</b> (None Qualified)	
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>Region 5</b>
1. Giacomo / har ..... Fran Muench..... 160	1. Windstorm Clay / morg ..... Tommy Mitchell..... 87
2. LL Majeed / ar..... Linda Reilly ..... 128	<b>Region 6</b>
3. Arabella Z / ar ..... Cynthia Mettes ..... 106	1. Rushcreek Frontier / ar ..... Helen Smith ..... 62

### OPEN JUNIOR

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)	<b>Region 4</b> (None Qualified)
<b>Region 2</b> (None Qualified)	<b>Region 5</b> (None Qualified)
<b>Region 3</b> (None Qualified)	<b>Region 6</b> (None Qualified)

## Competitive Pleasure Division Sponsors

R1 ribbon by Region 1 | R3 ribbons by Craig and Laura Risk | R5 ribbons by Courtney Woodall | R6 ribbons by Region 6

### COMPETITIVE PLEASURE ADULT

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)	5. Hueco Count Victor / hwsh ..... Kimberlee Flint ..... 74
1. Wind River Rose / gr must..... Maria Pilgrim ..... 80	6. RFR America's Native Spirit / rkym . Knight/Starnes/Daniels .... 68
<b>Region 2</b> (None Qualified)	<b>Region 5</b>
<b>Region 3</b>	1. Mtn top Never Say Never / morg Marsha Howard..... 116
1. Amazing Grace / gr kym ..... Cheri Westmoreland ..... 108	2. Shimmer's Golden Perfection D./ mft Kathi Wiggins ..... 115
2. Norman / gr mule ..... Donna Lewis ..... 80	3. Elsa Rae / gr tw ..... Victoria Whitehead ..... 102
3. Imma Cool Colour / ap ..... Ashley Edwards ..... 60	4. TR's No Worries / rkym..... Heather Alonso ..... 59
<b>Region 4</b>	5. Jada Angel / har ..... Lael Feist ..... 56
1. Precious / mule ..... Julie Bills ..... 198	6. Mick Jagger / gr ..... Sierra Patisaul..... 52
2. Little Rocky Road / gr morg ..... Marilyn Bivens..... 178	<b>Region 6</b>
3. DMF Jose's Dapple Design / tw . Amy Martin..... 169	1. Prince's Rising Moon / mft ..... Kris Wech ..... 72
4. Rock Creek's Wild Pepper / must . Holly Jones ..... 128	2. Mtn top Never Say Never / morg Marsha Howard..... 68
	3. Roho Honoy Mocha WH / mft .. John Zelif ..... 57

### COMPETITIVE PLEASURE JUNIOR

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)	<b>Region 5</b>
<b>Region 2</b> (None Qualified)	1. Scotch For Aces / qtr ..... Anna Beth Lawrence..... 76
<b>Region 3</b> (None Qualified)	2. DLC Roxies Peponita / paint.... Mikey Patisaul..... 40
<b>Region 4</b> (None Qualified)	<b>Region 6</b> (None Qualified)

(Continued on pg 34)

**Novice Division Sponsors**  
R1 ribbon by Region 1 | R5 ribbons by Courtney Woodall | R6 ribbons by Region 6

**NOVICE ADULT**

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)		3. Kozys Saphiro DaVinci / har.... Tracy Cann ..... 130
1. Gold Dust and Diamonds / mft. Sheri Smith ..... 34		4. MGA's Fuerte del Energia / pf . Trina Church ..... 69
<b>Region 2</b> (None Qualified)		5. MM Mariposa / ar..... Sara Sydnam ..... 58
<b>Region 3</b> (None Qualified)		6. MGA's Fuerte del Energia / pf . Erin Rosser ..... 54
<b>Region 4</b>		<b>Region 5</b> (None Qualified)
1. Sir Tobias de la Kharma / gr ssh Juliana Cruz ..... 228		<b>Region 6</b>
2. TTT Little Whiz / ar ..... Debbie Betts ..... 152		1. Diamond N Bueno Pet / qtr..... Catherine Crites ..... 37
		2. Dolly / mule ..... Rianna Deselich..... 36

**NOVICE JUNIOR**

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)		<b>Region 5</b>
<b>Region 2</b> (None Qualified)		1. Watermelon / gr pony ..... Zayne Whitehead..... 100
<b>Region 3</b> (None Qualified)		2. Inspector Gadget / gr wsh..... Farryn Robinson ..... 63
<b>Region 4</b> (None qualified)		<b>Region 6</b> (None Qualified)

**Leisure Division Sponsors**  
R1 ribbons by Region 1 | R3 ribbons by Craig and Laura Risk | R5 ribbons by Sallie Kudra | R6 ribbons by Region 6

**LEISURE EXPERIENCED**

<b>Region 1 / Region 1A</b> (None Qualified)		4. Final Clu / ap ..... Mollie Nelson ..... 11
1. Jamals Chime VO / ar..... Denise Scheaffer ..... 12		5. Deadpool / har ..... Betsy Zimmerman..... 8
2. Astano SM / ar ..... Susan Smyth..... 7		6. Honnour LL / ar..... Dave Reilly..... 7
<b>Region 2</b>		<b>Region 5</b>
1. Duke of Shadow Canyon / tw....Kandace French Contreras. 12		1. Good Karma / must..... Courtney Woodall ..... 39
<b>Region3</b>		2. TR's No Worries / rkym..... Heather Alonso ..... 28
1. DM's Sweet Chilly Pepper - SC/ mft Diane Wingle..... 44		3. Fairwinds Breezy Surprise / ssh Cindy Keen ..... 19.5
2. Copper's Comet / mft..... Cathy Cumberworth ..... 31.5		4. Beau / gr ssh ..... Sherry Games..... 13
3. Majestic's Ringo Starr / tw ..... Bill Wingle ..... 23.5		5. Shimmer's Golden Perfection D./ mft . Kathi Wiggins..... 11
4. Norman / gr mule..... Donna Lewis ..... 21		6. Snip's Merry Shaker WF / tw ... Sara Baldwin..... 9
5. Okie Proud / thrb ..... Tammy Beyerle..... 18		<b>Region 6</b>
6. Takoda Aussie's Sun / tw ..... Sharyl Walls..... 17		1. Silver Valley Tate / morg..... Dwight Hanson..... 16
<b>Region 4</b>		2. Little Ann / kym ..... Liz Klamm ..... 15
1. Moon Shadow's Black Gold / mft.. Alanna Price..... 35		3. PVA Light Nthe Storm / ar ..... Kristen Johansen ..... 12
2. Dats Bugs Bunny / qtr..... Tara Jones ..... 20		4. Roho Honoy Mocha WH / mft.. John Zeliff ..... 11
3. Painted in the Stars / tw..... Mary Collins ..... 13		5. Princess Dina / mft ..... Debbie Payne ..... 9
		6. Focus Jessie / ap..... Helen Smith ..... 5

*(Continued on pg 35)*

## LEISURE ADULT

### Region 1 / Region 1A (None Qualified)

- 1. Fireball / gr qtr ..... JoAnn McDonnell..... 15
- 2. Ariba / gr must ..... Samantha Muller..... 13
- 3. Drummer / gr qtr ..... Ashlynn Butts ..... 8
- 4. Casper / gr ..... Sue LaValle..... 6

### Region 2

- 1. Trooper's Choice Eliminator / mft..Reuben Contreras ..... 17.5
- 2. Zion / gr must..... Derek Tryon ..... 15
- 3. Boomer / gr ap..... Kristin H Cook..... 13
- 4. Utah / gr..... Aleta Haase ..... 9

### Region 3

- 1. Gutti fra' Austurey 2/ icl..... Laura Risk..... 53.5
- 2. Ragnar fra' Einiholti 2/ icl ..... Craig Risk ..... 36.5
- 3. Mountain Flame / rkym ..... Janece Nissen ..... 34.5
- 4. Rocks-y-Socks / har..... Barb Fjerstad ..... 22.5
- 5. Bush Rat Splash / ar..... Kathy Ambrose ..... 17.5
- 6. SS Kharady Khid / ar ..... Pamela Galchutt ..... 15.5

### Region 4

- 1. Daisy Winn / ar ..... Laurie Dunlap..... 31
- 2. Aria / gr paint ..... Gabrielle Springer ..... 17.5

- 3. Mellow / gr qtr ..... Heather Martinez ..... 17
- 4. Lace in the Moonlight CTE / mft. Karin Loftin..... 13

### Region 5

- 1. Jackie Daytona / gr must ..... Kate Bryant ..... 22
- 2. Jackpot Ace O Spades / qtr ..... Kasey Quiles..... 19
- 3. Dancer / gr rkym ..... Beverly Ruff ..... 17.5
- 4. McCurdys Rogers Grey Glory / mcc Clifford Johnson..... 10.5
- 4. Genuine Coolhandlark / qtr..... Heather Caren ..... 10.5
- 5. Cant Catch Semper Fi / qtr ..... Margaret Plott ..... 10
- 5. Travis / gr ssh ..... Robyn Johnson ..... 10
- 6. Hesatuffimpression / paint ..... Suzanne Murphree ..... 9.5

### Region 6

- 1. Rio Bravo / qtr..... Louise McCall ..... 45
- 2. Reddens Dakota King / gr qtr .. Catherine Gast..... 34
- 3. Ace Cut Diamond / qtr ..... MaryAlice Braun..... 28.5
- 4. Gracie / gr qtr..... Ruth Schindler ..... 24
- 5. Le Doux/ gr morg ..... Martha Elmore ..... 17
- 5. Stars Jessica / qtr ..... Kathrine Kanneman ..... 17
- 6. Sylvester / gr rkym..... Cheryl Frederick..... 12.5

## LEISURE JUNIOR

### Region 1 / Region 1A (None Qualified)

- 1. Valentyne / gr ..... Rhiley Muller ..... 30
- 2. Cha Cha / gr ar ..... Grace Silva ..... 24
- 3. Mogley / gr ..... Lorelei Egerer ..... 11
- 4. 1 Buck Chuck / gr ap ..... Hailey Silva ..... 10
- 5. Denebaborr / ar ..... Lilyn Dausman ..... 8.5

### Region 2

- 1. Show Me Billy / gr mule ..... Temperance Arrowwood.... 9
- 2. Poncho / gr qtr ..... Peyton Tryon..... 3

### Region 3

- 1. Tango / gr ..... Grayson Hager..... 4
- 1. Talk Til Midnight / tw ..... Rachel Vlietstra..... 4

### Region 4 (None Qualified)

### Region 5

- 1. Jessie's Girl / gr ..... Wren Woodall ..... 31
- 2. Impressive Red Rebel / mft ..... Ivey Mason..... 22
- 3. MCF Mustang Sally / gr must .. Kay Woodall..... 14.5
- 4. StarLight's Macksimum Flex / gr rkym Lillianne Thrift..... 13
- 4. Mia / tw ..... Savannah Alonso..... 13
- 5. Impressive Red Rebel / mft ..... Kay Woodall..... 12
- 5. Graceful Empire / must ..... Emma Davis..... 12
- 6. Watermelon / gr pony ..... Zayne Whitehead..... 8.5

### Region 6 (None Qualified)

*"Sportsmanship is about competing fairly, respecting the other competitors, and being considerate to judges, ride management and volunteers. Good sportsmanship is an important element of NATRC."*

**– NATRC Rider's Manual**

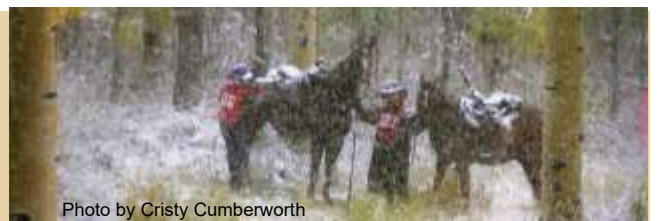


Photo by Cristy Cumberworth

# 2025 National Honorary Awards

## Jim Menefee Lifetime Achievement

### Ruth Mesimer

#### Region 6

Ruth Mesimer started in the sport as a competitor in 1980 and was soon helping with anything that needed to be done. Besides accumulating over 2,000 miles in competition, she has served as rules interpreter, judge's secretary, P&R worker, trail crew, and night "watchman."

Ruth chaired the R6 Benefit Ride several times. A natural at secretarial duties, she has been the official ride secretary for over 60 rides (including the 2002 and 2008 Championship Challenge) since 2000 and the unofficial, "silent secretary," for umpteen more.

Ruth was a NBOD representative for R6 from 2006-2008; honorary and appreciation chair from 2006-2008 and 2012-present, student loans and scholarship chair from 2006-2008. She helped update the current NATRC Clinic Handbook and Management Manual. Ruth has made charts of the history of the NBOD, of committee chairs, and of

appreciation award winners. She is currently on the membership loyalty committee and recently assumed the role of national management chair.

Ruth started reviewing mid-year and end-of-year reports in 2008. She has been the national data chair, responsible for overseeing all the national data and keeping the database updated, since 2022. Ruth constantly reviews the data to be sure everything is correct.

When rides are finished, Ruth processes all the ride information. She reviews scorecards for accuracy making sure every competitor gets the right score and points, scans and uploads the results for further review by our audit team that she spearheads. Immediately following this review, she compiles the official ride results and then uploads the results to our website and database making sure the points are accurate and that the information goes out to the regions.

In 2014 she worked with Janis Baldwin and Colleen Wills to clean up hundreds of duplicate profiles in RMS. She became the RMS guru in R6 and an RMS resource for ride management all over the country, helping set up new rides and guiding new management teams in RMS utilization. As a critical part of the national tech team, she is advising in the new RMS project development.

Ruth gives of her time unselfishly. No task is too large or too small. Many of her tasks are done behind the scenes with no expectation of any recognition. She doesn't do tasks for Ruth; she does them for NATRC.

Ruth Mesimer is the consummate professional. Because of her dedication and countless hours of service, she has made our organization even better!



## Cardiac Recovery Index Scoring (CRI)

In 2017, the National Board of Directors approved a standard protocol and scoring system for conducting the CRI at NATRC rides.

The CRI is conducted 15–30 minutes after the finish of the ride using 15–second counts. The median count, which takes into account both the initial and second count, is used for scoring. Deductions are taken at (-1) per 15–second count starting at 14; the second count will be used if the count goes down.

*(Continued on pg 37)*

## Workers Hall of Fame Award

### Kay Gunckel, DVM Region 3

Nationally, Kay Gunckel is best known as a veterinary judge. She has judged since 2003 in every region including Alaska (x4), usually multiple events per year (3-5/yr 2021-2024). In a pinch, she can judge the Leisure Division. But judging is a small part of what she has done and continues to do for NATRC.

She recruits new competitors, volunteers, and even judges. She does what it takes, from transporting them to rides, loaning them horses and mentoring them.

Kay has served Region 3 multiple terms as a board director, two-years as president, two years as secretary, and R3 convention chair including finding speakers, vendors, planning outings, running the



**Receiving Award from President John Zelif**, Photo by John Nowell

auctions, MCing, and handling the banquets.

For three years she has managed a clinic and R3's Happy Jack ride, voted by R3 as the "Best Managed Ride" two years in a row.

At other events, she's always available to help ribbon and de-ribbon trails, even when she's competing the next day, the day before, or when she just got off trail hours earlier.

Kay promotes NATRC at expos and to various horse groups.

She and her husband Rob have brought new insights into financing events by selling sponsorships to members and commercial companies looking for exposure. These funds turn around ride economics. She's teaching this skill to other ride managers who are trying to break even.

Kay has served in many capacities: one term (2016-2018) as a national board director, multiple terms (October 2020-December 2025) as an alternate national director, Student Loans & Scholarship chair, Judges Committee, and Veterinary Drug Committee.

Dr. Gunckel has a long history with us. She started when she was




Family Photo

10 years old. Her parents hauled her all over Colorado and New Mexico with her horse in the back of a pickup truck. She earned her DVM with the help of an NATRC scholarship. Kay has more than paid back our early financial help. That help turned into a great investment! She diligently supports NATRC nationally and regionally.

She is always there to help. She always has a smile and kind advice.

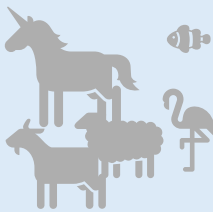
Dr. Kay Gunckel has been, and continues to be, a great asset to NATRC!





"Personally, I have always felt that the best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can't ask his patients what is the matter ... he's just got to know."

- Will Rogers



(Continued on pg 38)

## National Appreciation Awards



Photo by Linda Thomason

### Carol Ormond, DVM Region 1

Carol has been involved with NATRC for 38 years, first as a rider, then as a volunteer in just about every position, and then as a veterinary judge.

Changing professions from being a lawyer, she went to vet school and then did an internship at the University of Minnesota. Carol returned to Oakland and has been in solo equine practice in the East Bay for 25 years.

Carol judged her first ride in 2003 and has been vetting rides all over the country ever since. She loves seeing the harmony between horse and rider and watching new riders/horses learn and improve over the year(s).

Carol takes the time to chat with riders, educating new riders and explaining her findings and easing fears where needed. She often donates her judging time, and in Region 1 drives her own fully equipped vet truck so she has the tools to help a sick or injured horse. She has driven herself and her secretary out to judging sites many times.

In her non-horse life, Carol enjoys baking, attending the theatre and loving her cats. Carol is truly an asset to NATRC. 🐾



### Jamie Dieterich Region 1 & 2

You ask, "Who is Jamie?" Well, anyone who is actively involved in distance riding and NATRC (in particular), knows who Jamie is!

Jamie is the heart and soul of our sport. She is the person who we all go to for information, where to find an answer or how to best solve a problem and always with a smile on her face. She is always willing to reach out and help (even though she may not physically be there).

Jamie has been a member for more than 45 years (also received an honorary lifetime award), an active horsemanship judge, chair of the education committee, has been a director on both the National and Region 1 boards, worked on our guides and manuals including the Riders' Manual, the policies and procedures, *Hoof Print* and *Hoof Print Advisory* and almost every other committee at the National level.

***She is a true NATRC "Renaissance Woman" who has been involved in almost all aspects of the organization.*** 🐾



### Fran Muench Region 4

Fran Muench is always a positive force in NATRC, as a ride and clinic manager, a national and regional board member, a horsemanship judge, and as a mentor. Fran has over 3,000 volunteer hours - donating her judging talents, trimming and marking trails, serving as a board member, being a ride manager and so much more.

Fran was also the chair of the national NATRC convention in 2020 and is currently the co-chair of the 2026 convention. She served as co-chair of these committees: Media Advisory in 2022; Webinar in 2022-23; Sponsorship in 2022-23; as Management chair in 2023; and as vice-president, chair of the Rules and Bylaws committee in 2024-25.

Fran also excels as a competitor. She's always willing to help another rider in camp or on the trail. Her horse, Giacomo, was the winner of the Presidents Cup in 2019. We all know that her horsemanship scores are almost impossible to beat!

There is no better representative of our sport! 🐾

**"If having a soul means being able to feel love and loyalty and gratitude, then animals are better off than a lot of humans."**

**-James Herriot**

# 2025 Regional Appreciation at National

## REGION 1

### Donna Stidolph

Donna Stidolph has been an NATRC member for 17 years, beginning as many of us do as a novice rider, then progressing to the open division.

She has served on the Region 1 Board of Directors for several years, is webmaster for the Region 1 website, and has been a national board representative and alternate for Region 1 for 5 years.



**Donna Stidolph**  
Photo by Jamie Dieterich

Donna has performed various volunteer roles at rides and functions, including rules interpreter, member of the P&R teams, ride photographer, and just being

a general help when anything is needed.

As a rider Donna always looks at what can be learned to be safer and more in tune with her mare, Sunny. She believes the rules are simple: be safe, be considerate, and be on time.

Donna says that sharing a passion with every other person in ride camp makes it easy to start conversations and friendships, and she has made many lasting friendships here over the years.

She was looking for a long time but knew when she came to her first NATRC ride, that she had found her "tribe."

### Maria Pilgrim

What's that phrase? "If you need something done, ask a busy person to do it?" That busy person is Maria. Need a tree cut on the trail? A trail repaired? Distance measured by GPS? Trail marked & unmarked? Other teams organized to mark trail? Juniors mentored? Oh, that's

easy. Need a someone to secretary a ride? Co-chair a ride? Drum up volunteers? Locate and manage awards? Still can do. Need someone to co-organize a mini-convention? Or wait.... a national convention? Still not enough work.

member to help run the region? And better yet, a national board member?

Yep - Maria is your gal.

She does all that and still has time to condition and compete her horse

while holding down a very demanding job. Maria Pilgrim, Region 1 cannot do what we do without ALL of your help.



**Maria Pilgrim**  
Photo by John Nowell

## REGION 2

### Audrey Pavia & MaryJo Malone



**Audrey Pavia**  
Family Photo

It is not often a region has two people as dedicated to the sport of competitive trail riding, Region 2, and NATRC as Audrey and MaryJo. They have been on

the region's board for many years. Audrey has been our president and responsible for our website and advertising; MaryJo as our tax person, etc.



**MaryJo Malone**  
Family Photo

However, the last 2 years, when the Inskos decided to back off from managing most of the Region 2 rides, Audrey and MaryJo raised their hands. They volunteered to not only manage a ride, but rides in new locations. Despite encountering numerous challenges, they got the job done with great horror stories to share.

As managers, they are typically the people designing, marking trails and pulling ribbons after the ride, all while working full-time. They have worked in nearly every position in ride management and often work, ride, and do whatever it takes to keep rides going in these times of limited rider numbers. Their commitment has been vital in sustaining rides in Region 2.

Audrey and MaryJo, thank you.

### Bob & Margie Insko

Very few people are as devoted to the sport of competitive trail riding, Region 2, and NATRC as Margie and Bob Insko. Their commitment is



**Bob Insko**  
Photo by Bev Roberts

evident in their consistent involvement over the years, as they have participated in nearly every Region 2 ride for many seasons.

This year, Margie and Bob served as secretaries, and fulfilled other important roles, for all but one



**Margie Insko**  
Photo by Pam Bishop

Region 2 ride. Their support extends beyond organization al duties; they maintain a small hauling trailer used to transport

(Continued on pg 40)

essential supplies such as chairs, tables, barbecues, and water to each ride. Generously, they are donating this trailer to the region to further assist with future events.

Bob's willingness to share ideas for improving the organization has been invaluable. He often dedicates more time than he can spare, a testament to his passion for the sport, even as he and Margie balance their love of travel and golf. Bob's role as a regional board member further highlights his ongoing commitment.

Although Bob and Margie are relocating, Bob remains steadfast in his support for Region 2 and its rides, continuing to contribute to the organization and its activities.

Bob and Margie, thank you.

## REGION 4

### Dave & Linda Reilly

Through the years, there have been competitors who personify the values of NATRC. Dave and Linda Reilly are two of those people. Linda brings a smile to every ride, supporting her fellow competitors and the management team with her incredible coffee, wine, and words of encouragement. Linda and Dave help manage the ride camp, welcome new competitors, and recruit horse people from all disciplines to NATRC.

Linda was away from the sport for many years, and when she returned, she brought Dave with



**Dave & Linda Reilly**

Family Photo

her, and they have been shining examples of sportsmanship and volunteerism.

Linda has taken on managing the 2026 national convention in Austin, using her hospitality industry skills and experience to deliver what promises to be a stellar yet affordable event. Members like Linda and Dave, who stay with us for decades, deserve the recognition and appreciation of this award.

### Marilyn Bivens

Marilyn Bivens is quiet and soft-spoken, but her organizational skills and efficiency have been the cornerstone for the many jobs she has volunteered to handle for our region.

Marilyn is a pediatrician, now retired, and started competing in NATRC in 2002 with her first ride at Big Oak Lodge in Jefferson, Texas. With a family and busy career, she competed sporadically through the



**Marilyn Bivens**

Photo by Peggy Johnson

years, but her interest and support never wavered.

Since 2012 Marilyn has served as ride secretary for every Louisiana ride. She has also marked, worked, pre-ridden the trails and helped clean camp both before and after competitions. Marilyn handmade most of the awards, timed riders, helped with food and competed herself.

During the past two years, she mentored junior riders on the trail while riding her horse, Rocky, to top national and regional honors and his 1000 miles. She is also responsible for the Region 4 Memory Book and sticker award program.

Region 4 appreciates all Marilyn does to help our rides be successful and are thrilled to honor her dedication.

### Roger Garlitz

To hear Roger tell it, he claims he barely knew the front end from the back end of a horse when he began NATRC in 1993.

A year later, with wit and tenacity, here he comes on Comer Rougezon, earning his first 1000-mile award and the R4 Reserve



**Roger Garlitz**

Family Photo

Champion Novice Horse. But Roger wasn't through. He earned his second 1000-mile award on Adjar's T Shadow (Mr. T), plus an additional 1000 miles.

Roger represented Region 4 on the National Board of Directors 2010 through 2012 and helped implement NATRC's E News, which was later turned over to Jean Green. A familiar volunteer at most Region 4 rides, you can depend on Roger taking on any task asked of him, freely offering his own vehicle and fuel. He is a favorite choice for the rules interpreter position, and he now serves as NATRC's Rules Interpreter/Safety Chair.

Roger is selfless, easy to work with and around, and sports a 1500-hour worker jacket. He brings a confident assuredness to ride management.

Well done, Roger. May you have many more adventures with NATRC trails!

## REGION 6

### Catherine Gast & Jeff Zeller

Catherine joined NATRC in 2022, riding mostly LeD but also a couple of B novice and open rides. Jeff and Catherine encourage other folks at

(Continued on pg 41)

their barn to give NATRC a try and haul their horses to rides.

They help trim and mark trails, check mileage, work on P&R teams, and are a cheering squad for other Leisure riders.



**Catherine Gast & Jeff Zeller**  
Family Photo

At the end of 2024 ride season, it became apparent that original plans for the R6 convention were not going to materialize because of scheduling conflicts with Iowa and Kansas horse fairs. Catherine and Jeff stepped up to host the R6 convention.

With a "can do" attitude, they secured the local country club facility at a very discounted rate. Then put together a wonderful lineup of informative and practical presentations including a hands-on demo at their country acreage. They assembled an extensive silent auction and secured local donations for table decorations as well as prizes for the "Horsey Trivia at the Country Club" emceed by Jeff!

The convention was a tremendous success and well attended. Their efforts serve as a role model for future convention hosts. Catherine and Jeff, well done!

### Holly Barrett

In 2022, Holly attended a clinic and then joined NATRC in 2023, competing in six Leisure Division rides at three locations. In 2024 she competed in 17 Leisure rides at nine ride locations and placed second in R6 national year-end standings with 44 points.

Holly has made a positive difference this year in Region 6. When we were looking for a new

Region 6 ride coordinator, she did not hesitate to take on that role. There was a definite learning curve, but she accepted it as a challenge. The result was an exciting new ride schedule that included a new ride manager and three new ride venues!

When one of our ride managers was looking for someone to co-manage their ride, Holly volunteered. Just a few days before the ride, Holly found out she was going to have to manage on her own during the ride. Again, Holly took that on as a challenge and the result was a highly successful ride thanks to her leadership.

When Lennox was out with an injury, Holly volunteered at rides: P&R worker, rules interpreter, flagger, and cheerleader!

Holly consistently demonstrates enthusiasm and maintains a cheerful outlook regardless of the situation. Thank you, Holly!

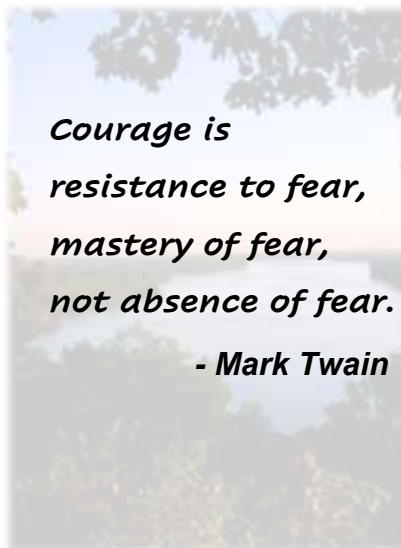


**Holly Barrett**  
Family Photo



*Courage is  
resistance to fear,  
mastery of fear,  
not absence of fear.*

*- Mark Twain*



## Seen at Convention



**A Glamorous Tracy Cann  
Cuttin' up!**

Photo by John Nowell



**Apparently not all attendees  
were two-legged.  
Amy Mason & her service dog.**

Photo by John Nowell

# Special Region 5 Legacy Award

## A Legacy Worth Celebrating: Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski

NATRC's mission is to promote horsemanship and horse care through challenging, educational experiences that strengthen the horse and rider partnership. Our judges are the living embodiment of that mission — and few have taken that responsibility to heart the way Dr. Stephanie Ostrowski has.

Stephanie began her NATRC journey as a competitor, earning completions and making friends along the way. She went on to volunteer at hundreds of rides and events — making even more friends.

But her lasting legacy is what she gave the sport as a Vet Judge, starting in 1982 and spanning every NATRC region from Alaska to Florida, with hundreds of stops in between.

Mention Stephanie's name around any ride meeting and the outpouring is immediate. Inevitably, someone hollers "wet legs" — and everyone laughs. That's Stephanie.

She graduated from the Georgia School of Veterinary Science and spent 20 years with the Centers for Disease Control, carrying her knowledge and compassion around the globe. After retirement, she went

into private practice, devoted herself to charitable organizations, and turned her full attention to teaching — including students at Auburn University, as well as generations of NATRC competitors.

nervously watched the clock tick at vet-in, and still felt lucky to have her there.

The knowledge she shared will stay with this community — and with the generations that follow. Thank



This one-time recognition, given to Stephanie Ostrowski, was conceived by Region 5 and Jennifer Mulligan. Pictured from left to right is Pam Hess, Kay Gunkle, Stephanie O, and Amy Mason.  
Photo by John Nowell

As a Vet Judge, she was a mentor, a role model, and an educator who never left a competitor without a full understanding of the process — the how, the what, and the why. More than a few ride managers have

you, Stephanie, not just for what you gave to NATRC as an organization, but for what you gave to each one of us.



Seminar Participants – Always Learning

Photo by John Nowell

# 2025 Virtual Mileage Challenge

Congratulations to the top ten national riders in the 2025 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge. These ten individuals along with the top three riders from each region were recognized at the national convention in Austin, Texas.

Overall, we had 2,571 active rides logged totaling 15,618.83 miles under saddle! Way to go everyone! What dedication. Join the fun by signing up now at <https://toptrailhorse.com/leaderboards/natrc>. Start logging those miles, and let's see if we can top those totals in 2026!

## Top Ten National Riders

RANK	RIDER	MILES	REGION
1	Cindy Miller	1,151.99	5
2	Sandra Howland	1,137.69	5
3	Mindy Kane	1,032.70	2
4	Heidi Smith	904.27	1
5	Helen Smith	716.22	6
6	Kristen Johansen	707.50	6
7	Anna Beth Lawrence	668.97	5
8	Fran Muench	640.24	4
9	Gayle Muench	631.30	4
10	Preston Springston	630.79	1

## Top Three Regional Riders

Sponsors: R3 medallions by Craig & Laura Risk  
R5 medallions by Courtney Woodall

RANK	RIDER	MILES	RANK	RIDER	MILES
<b>Region 1 / 1A</b>					
1	Heidi Smith	904.27			
2	Preston Springston	630.79			
3	Colleen Fisk	398.54			
<b>Region 2</b>					
1	Mindy Kane	1,032.07			
2	Catherine Dixon	348.85			
3	Sue Feenstra	170.32			
<b>Region 3</b>					
1	Cathy Cumberworth	500.77			
2	Janece Nissen	482.71			
3	Stephanie Sheek	428.08			
<b>Region 4</b>					
1	Fran Muench	640.24			
2	Gayle Muench	631.30			
3	Kimberlee Flint	601.47			
<b>Region 5</b>					
1	Cindy Miller	1,151.99			
2	Sandra Howland	1,137.69			
3	Anna Beth Lawrence	668.97			
<b>Region 6</b>					
1	Helen Smith	716.22			
2	Kristen Johansen	707.50			
3	Matthew Kennedy	554.60			

## An Incredible Year

By Cindy Miller  
2025 Virtual Mileage Challenge Winner

With two terrific Missouri Fox Trotters, how could I say no to the NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge? The Top Trail App made it easy to record my miles and kept me on track to achieve my goal.



Cindy and Merlot riding with friends in Michigan. Family Photo.

As a school bus driver and having support of my loving husband, Scott, I was able to ride a lot.

I'm also very blessed with a wonderful circle of friends who love trail riding just as much as I do. With every beautiful trail mile, we thoroughly enjoyed Michigan's horse trails and camps, making this challenge all the more fun.

My husband and I even tracked miles in Wyoming!



Cindy and Scott riding "dude" horses Black Rock and Ace in Cody, WY. Family Photo.

words. I can't thank my trusty horses enough, 12-year-old gelding Vinnie and 26-year-old mare Merlot. I thank God for them every day.



Cindy and Vinnie on the trail at home. Family Photo.

To be out in nature on your horse is so fulfilling and is such an incredible feeling that is hard to put into

# 2025 High Mileage Awards



Photo by John Nowell

## Rider High Mileage

Medallions presented at the convention.  
Chevrons mailed directly to the recipients.

### 4,000 Miles – BRONZE MEDALLION

- Diane Wingle / R3 *(Medallion sponsored by Craig & Laura Risk)*
- Gayle Muench / R4
- Marsha Howard / R5 *(Medallion sponsored by Courtney Woodall)*
- Cindy Keen / R5 *(Medallion sponsored by Courtney Woodall)*



## Horse High Mileage

### 4,000 MILES

#### BRONZE MEDALLION

Giacomo... har ... Fran Muench / R4

### 2,000 MILES

Little Ann .....kym .Liz Klamm / R6  
Talk Til Midnight .tw ....Kay Gunckel / R3

### 1,000 MILES

Arabella Z .....ar ... Cynthia Mettes / R4  
Precious.....gr ... Julie Bills / R4  
Little Rocky Road .gr ... Marilyn Bivens / R4  
SA Jabari .....ar ... Gayle Muench / R4

# 2025 High Point Breed Awards

<i>Breed</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Rider</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>
Half-Arabian .....	Giacomo .....	Fran Muench.....	Arabian Horse Association
Arabian.....	Arabella Z .....	Cynthia Mettes.....	Arabian Horse Association
Thoroughbred.....	Okie Proud.....	Tammy Beyerle .....	Jockey Club
	Serendipitous Do .....	Jodi Massingill	
Grade .....	Precious.....	Julie Bills.....	Sherry Murphy
Missouri Fox Trotter.....			Missouri Fox Trotting HBA
National & Region 5 ...	Shimmer's Golden Perfection ..	Kathi Wiggins	
Region 1 .....	Gold Dust and Diamonds .....	Sheri Smith	
Region 2 .....	Trooper's Choice Eliminator .....	Reuben Contreras	
Region 3 .....	DM's Sweet Chilly Pepper-SC ..	Diane Wingle	
Region 4.....	Lace in the Moonlight CTE .....	Alanna Price	
Region 6 .....	Prince's Rising Moon .....	Kris Wech	
Paso Fino .....	MGA's Fuerte del Energia .....	Erin Rosser .....	Paso Fino Horse Association
Appaloosa Horse .....	Imma Cool Colour .....	Ashley Edwards .....	Appaloosa Horse Club
Rocky Mountain Horse ..	RFR Native Spirit .....	Ivy Starnes.....	Rocky Mountain Horse Assn
	She's a Gold Digger .....	Chrissy Knight	
	EM Dee's Maybelle .....	Barbara Hempstead	
Morgan .....	Mntop Never Say Never .....	Marsha Howard .....	Morgan Horse Association

# Volunteers Who Work for Us

## 2026 NATRC Standing Committee Chairs

At publication, there was one vacancy. Contact President [John Zelif](#) if you'd like to give back to NATRC and take on Policies and Procedures.

Breed & Organization Liaison .....	Maria Pilgrim	National Historian .....	Maria Pilgrim
Education .....	Pam Hess	Policies and Procedures .....	Vacant
Financial Growth / Sustainability...	Kris Gray	Protest .....	Marla Stucky
Foundation .....	Angie Meroshnekoff	Ride Management.....	Ruth Mesimer
Hall of Fame.....	Sarah J. Smith	Rules and Bylaws.....	Fran Muench
Honorary and Appreciation .....	Ruth Mesimer	Rules Interpreter / Safety .....	Roger Garlitz
HP Advisory .....	Bev Roberts Jamie Dieterich	Sanctions .....	Cathy Cumberworth Sarah J. Smith
Judges .....	Pam Hess, DVM Priscilla Lindsey	Student Loan / Scholarships .....	Marilyn Marston
Marketing / Publicity / E-News .....	John Zelif Kimberley Murphy	Technology and Data .....	Alex Braun Ruth Mesimer
Membership .....	Mollie Kelly	Veterinary Drug .....	Tamara Gull, DVM
New Ride Outreach .....	Sarah J. Smith	Virtual Mileage Challenge .....	John Zelif
National Drug Testing .....	Kimberly Murphy Sarah J. Smith	Webinars .....	Linda Johnson-Conne

### Veterinary Drug Committee

Tamara Gull, DVM	Chair
Susan Dent, DVM	
Carol Ormond, DVM	
Pam Hess	Ex Officio

### Ride Management Support Fund

Jamie Dieterich.....Administrator

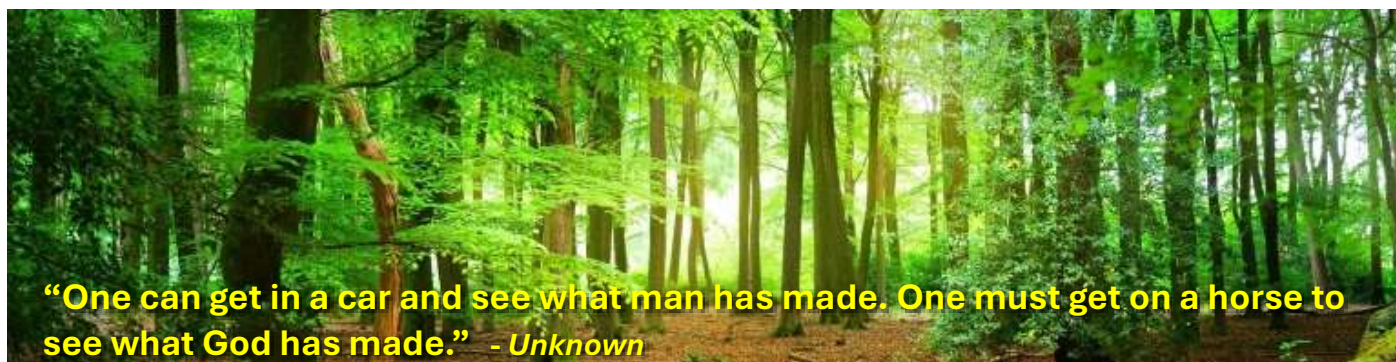
### Judges Committee

Pam Hess, DVM.....	Co-Chair	Veterinarian Judge Rep*
Tamara Gull, DVM .....		Veterinarian Judge Rep
Kay Gunkel, DVM .....		Veterinarian Judge Rep
Priscilla Lindsey .....	Co-Chair	Horsemanship Judge Rep
Norma Newton .....		Horsemanship Judge Rep
Kim Cowart .....		Horsemanship Judge Rep
Erin McChesney .....		LeD Judge Rep
Angie Meroshnekoff .....		Rider Rep
Jonni Jewell .....		Rider Rep
Helen Smith .....		Rider Rep

#### Non-voting members

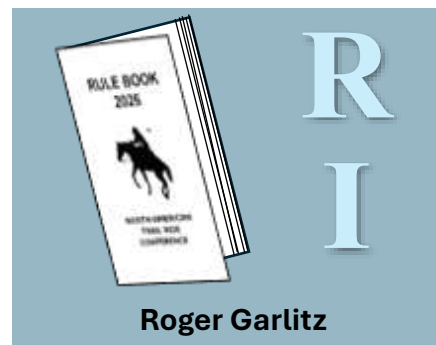
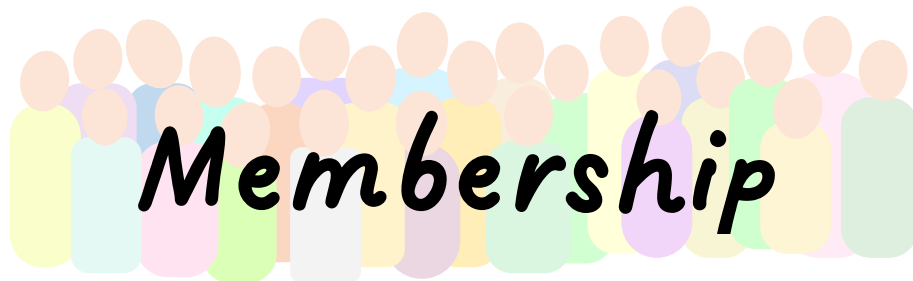
Pam Hess, DVM .....	Ex Officio Education
Sarah Smith.....	Executive Director
John Zelif .....	President

\*Rep - Representative



**“One can get in a car and see what man has made. One must get on a horse to see what God has made.” - Unknown**

# Committee Corner



The updated Rules Interpreter form is now in use. Those of you who volunteer to be timers at rides should know that **timer interaction is critical to a successful ride** when riders are over or under time.

Ride managers and judges' secretaries need clear, accurate reports communicated in a timely (no pun intended) manner each day.



For 2025, NATRC had a small net income. Year-over-year (2025 vs 2024) financial comparison reflects a decrease in total income, an increase in total expenses, and a decrease in net income. The approved budget for 2026, at this time, projects a slight loss/deficit.

Fundraising for the Technology Project, which includes a new website, new RMS and electronic scorecards, is well underway. As of mid-February 2026, we have received \$18,000 of our \$65,000 goal.

*NATRC is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations made are tax deductible as per IRC Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Service. We encourage you to keep NATRC in mind when considering your charitable giving for 2026 and beyond.*



(Continued on pg 47)

The number of members dropped slightly in 2025. Please talk to your equestrian family and friends about trying our sport. As you know, each region has been encouraged to have at least 2 clinics per year. Additionally, if you have any suggestions to promote NATRC, please reach out to a membership committee or region's representative.



## Membership committee representatives.

- R1 - Angie Meroshnekoff
- R2 - Helen Steenman and Sherrie Bray
- R3 - Janece Nissen
- R4 - Sherry Murphy
- R5 - Sallie Kudra
- R6 - Kris Wech

Mollie Kelly - Chair

Below is an image of the flyer for 2026. Please share this flyer by clicking on the image to link to the image file.



# Education



## You're Always Teaching Something

By Robert Eversole

Reprinted from the Trailmeister Website, with permission.

### Quiet Work After the Clinics

I spent some time working with Ruger and the Bean after getting back from leading clinics in Kansas. Nothing flashy. No problems to solve. Just time, quiet hands, and animals doing what they already knew how to do. The kind of work that leaves room to think.

It reminded me how little daylight there is between good horsemanship, doing our own inner work, and old ideas about kind words and right actions. Different language. Same wiring. The fundamentals don't change, whether you're talking about life or horse training principles that hold up outside the arena.

### How Change Actually Happens

Good therapy isn't complicated. It's hard work, done over time. Change how you think and what you do, and your feelings begin to change. You don't wait to feel better before acting better. You act better first. The feelings catch up later.

Some Eastern traditions put it another way. Choose your words and actions carefully, and suffering eases. Not because life stops being difficult, but because you stop making it harder than it already is.

Horse training figured this out long ago. It just never bothered to name it. Long before anyone talked

about mindset, old horsemen understood the basics of calm horse training and rider responsibility.

### What You Bring Shapes the Outcome

In horse terms, it's simple. What you bring to the interaction shapes how the animal feels. How the animal feels shapes how it responds. And those responses, repeated over time, become the partnership you live with.

This is one of the most overlooked horsemanship



Photo by Carol von Michaelis

fundamentals. Rider behavior affects horses far more than most people want to admit.

*Old horsemen didn't talk about mindfulness. They said pay attention. They didn't talk about emotional regulation. They said don't rush. They didn't talk about trauma or triggers. They said leave your temper at the gate.*

They knew that clarity beats force. Timing beats volume. Consistency builds trust. These are

practical horse training principles, not theory.

### Horsemanship Is Built, Not Discovered

Good horsemanship isn't magic. It's built one decision at a time.

That's true whether you're working with a horse, a mule, or yourself. Trail horse training follows the same rules as arena work, but with fewer safety nets and more consequences.

Stay with what's happening right now. Horses never leave the present. We do it constantly. We replay yesterday's mistake. We borrow trouble from tomorrow. Then we wonder why our timing is off.

Presence isn't spiritual. It's practical. You can't release pressure at the right moment if your mind isn't there.

### Why Stress Stops Learning

Reduce unnecessary stress. Stress narrows vision in horses and in people. When pressure

comes too fast or without clear purpose, learning stops.

This is where many trail horse behavior problems begin.

Resistance is often confusion.

Defiance is often self-protection.

Understanding stress and horse behavior is key to training without force.

Good trainers know when to ask, and when it's time to tell.

(Continued on pg 48)



Photo by Carol von Michaelis

This is true whether you're starting a young horse, working through mule training principles, or fixing problems that only show up on the trail.

### Where Most Riders Get Stuck

This is where horses and mules become honest teachers. They don't respond to our intentions. They respond to what we actually do. They don't care what we meant. They care about timing and pressure, applied fairly and consistently.

That can be uncomfortable.

It's easier to blame equipment. Easier to blame attitude. Easier to

blame the animal. It's harder to look closely at your own habits. But that's where real horse training outside the arena begins.

I've seen riders chase confidence in their animals while showing none themselves. I've seen fear met with force and impatience met with noise. It rarely works, not because the animal is difficult, but because the approach doesn't make sense.

### The Quiet Lesson of Trail Horsemanship

The same thing happens away from the barn. People say they want calmer lives, steadier minds, and better relationships. Then they rush, react, and rehearse old stories. They wonder why nothing changes.

Horses don't let us hide from that. They tell the truth every time.

The lesson isn't dramatic. It's quiet.

Improvement doesn't come from adding more. It comes from removing what doesn't help. Fewer mixed signals. Less emotional static. More deliberate choices.

- Kind words.
- Right actions.
- Clear cues.
- Fair timing.



Photo by Carol von Michaelis

These are horsemanship fundamentals that apply on the trail, in camp, and everywhere in be

### Progress Happens Slowly, On Purpose

Change things slowly and on purpose. Horses don't learn from explanations. They learn from repetition. People are no different.

You don't fix a bad habit in one session. You don't build good habits by accident. You build them the same way every time, until they hold. Consistency in horse training matters more than clever techniques.



Photo by Carol von Michaelis



### Go Deeper with TrailMeister

Whether you're in a round pen, on a long trail, or sorting through your own rough edges, the path forward looks the same. Slow. Intentional. Built one honest moment at a time.

If you're looking for practical horse knowledge that hold up outside the arena, start at [TrailMeister.com](http://TrailMeister.com). You'll find trail maps, trail safety guidance, and the largest horse-camping directory in the country, all built for people who actually ride out.

If you want the deeper dive into trail riding horsemanship, preparation, and decision-making from A to Z, his books are available through Amazon and on the site:

- [\*The ABCs of Trail Riding and Horse Camping\*](#)
- [\*It's a Cinch!\*](#)
- [\*Daily Wisdom from the Saddle\*](#)

They're not about shortcuts or silver bullets. They're about what works, lessons learned the hard way, and the long view that comes from miles in the saddle.

# Past National Winners

## PRESIDENT'S CUP WINNERS

### OLD PRESIDENT'S CUP

(National High Point Horse, Unlimited Number of Rides)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1961	Duke	Quarter Cross	Frances Huling
1962	Suds	Morgan	Maxi Riggs
1963	Shamus	Arabian	LeRoy Kusi
1964	Warriors Merry Lady	Missouri Fox Trotter	Larry Rossi
1965	Posse	1/2 Arabian	Leah Martin
1966	Posse	1/2 Arabian	Leah Martin
1967	Rafftez	Arabian	Sandy Parker
1968	Dandy Bar IV	Quarter	Dave Nicholson
1969	Shafarr	Arabian	Mel Eriksen
1970	Lippitts Dusty Thursday	Morgan	Linda Throgmorton
1971	Casey	Grade	Beverly Tibbitts
1972	Stormy	P.O.A.	Denise Throgmorton
1973	Dagger	3/4 Arabian	Linda Peters
1974	Kandar	Arabian	Ruth Waltenspiel
1975	Double	Grade	Lynn Anne Kohlmeier
1976	Jayess Rykstan	Arabian	Ken Burkdoll
1977	El Gaynik	Arabian	Linda Waltenspiel
1978	Chicaro's Mocha	Quarter	Violet Peak
1979	Antelope New Moon	Appaloosa	Beverly Tibbitts
1980	Sailor	Grade	Gail Gouskos
1981	Flashy Tomboy	Thoroughbred	Georgia Boulton
1982	Bezarue	1/2 Arabian	Sue Eoff
1983	Capi Comet	Arabian	Ginger Johnson
1984	Mighty Aledo Gal	Quarter	John Webb
1985	Mahra Khan	1/2 Arabian	Milne Parish
1986	Cody Joe	Grade	Tammy Thompson
1987	Angel	Mule	Pat Seymour
1988	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1989	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobo
1990	Lokman	Arabian	Barbara Harvey
1991	Spring Fever	Mule	Pat Seymour
1992	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol

### NATIONAL SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION

(National High Point Horse, Number of Rides Limited to 16 Starts)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1993	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1994	Hickory's Country Gold	Missouri Fox Trotter	Bill Hinkebein
1995	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1996	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1997	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1998	Chargers Rampage	Missouri Fox Trotter	Lisa Brooks

### NEW PRESIDENT'S CUP

(National High Point Horse, Old Name Returned, Ride Limit Remains at 16 Starts)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1999	Chargers Rampage	Missouri Fox Trotter	Lisa Brooks
2000	Chargers Rampage	Missouri Fox Trotter	Lisa Brooks
2001	Sonic's Morning Star	Tennessee Walking Horse	Gerald Ferguson
2002	Summer	Grade	Ken Wolgram
2003	Windstorm Sienna	Morgan	Wayne Tolbert
2004	Swiss Mocha	Grade	Paula Riley
2005	Windstorm Sienna	Morgan	Wayne Tolbert
2006	Diamond's Sassy Stockings	Missouri Fox Trotter	James Keene
2007	Diamond's Sassy Stockings	Missouri Fox Trotter	James Keene
2008	Generator's Magic Pride	Tennessee Walking Horse	Gary Clayton
2009	Marquisesmischief	Arabian	Jonni Jewell
2010	Prime Sensation WH	Missouri Fox Trotter	Cheri Jeffcoat
2011	Awesomes Fire N Ice	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2012	Susie's Stardust	Missouri Fox Trotter	Tammy Lineback
2013	Awesomes Fire N Ice	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2014	Loco Motion	Grade	Sara Baldwin
2015	Danamyte	Arabian	Esther Diaguila
2016	Turnner's Wild Card	Kentucky Mountain Horse	Lin Ward
2017	Tezuby	Arabian	Jonni Jewell
2018	By The Grace Of God	Grade	Victoria Whitehead
2019	Giacomo	1/2 Arabian	Fran Muench
2020	None - year of Covid 19		
2021	Bantam Z	Arabian	Cynthia Mettes
2022	TA Kaiser+/-	Arabian	Deanne Prusak
2023	Beau	Grade	Sherry Games

## NEW PRESIDENT'S CUP (Cont'd)

2024	RPH Ebony Diamond	1/2 Arabian	Patti Hicks
2025	Arabella Z	Arabian	Cynthia Mettes

## JIM MENEFFEE MEMORIAL

(Combined Horse and Horsemanship)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1979	Antelope New Moon	Appaloosa	Beverly Tibbitts
1980	Sailor	Grade	Gail Gouskos
1981	Flashy Tomboy	Thoroughbred	Georgia Boulton
1982	Bezarue	1/2 Arabian	Sue Eoff
1983	Capi Comet	Arabian	Ginger Johnson
1984	Mighty Aledo Gal	Quarter	John Webb
1985	Mahra Khan	1/2 Arabian	Milne Parish
1986	Cody Joe	Grade	Ripley Tate
1987	Angel	Mule	Tammy Thompson
1988	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Pat Seymour
1989	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1990	Lokman	Arabian	Shirley Sobol
1991	Spring Fever	Mule	Barbara Harvey
1992	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Pat Seymour
1993	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1994	Hickory's Country Gold	Missouri Fox Trotter	Shirley Sobol
1995	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Bill Hinkebein
1996	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1997	PS Ganarmus+/-	Arabian	Shirley Sobol
1998	Moonshiner Silver Mist	Missouri Fox Trotter	Steve Lindsey
1999	Moonshiner Silver Mist	Missouri Fox Trotter	Frank Keeran
2000	Chargers Rampage	Missouri Fox Trotter	Frank Keeran
2001	Sonic's Morning Star	Missouri Fox Trotter	Lisa Brooks
2002	Summer	Tennessee Walking Horse	Gerald Ferguson
2003	Windstorm Sienna	Grade	Ken Wolgram
2004	Windstorm Sienna	Morgan	Wayne Tolbert
2005	Windstorm Sienna	Morgan	Wayne Tolbert
2006	Diamond's Sassy Stockings	Morgan	Wayne Tolbert
2007	Diamond's Sassy Stockings	Missouri Fox Trotter	James Keene
2008	Generator's Magic Pride	Missouri Fox Trotter	James Keene
2009	Prime Sensation WH	Tennessee Walking Horse	Gary Clayton
2010	Prime Sensation WH	Missouri Fox Trotter	Cheri Jeffcoat
2011	Awesomes Fire N Ice	Missouri Fox Trotter	Cheri Jeffcoat
2012	Susie's Stardust	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2013	Awesomes Fire N Ice	Missouri Fox Trotter	Ken Wolgram
2014	Desert Reinbeau	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2015	Danamyte	Mustang	Angie Mershnekkoff
2016	Danamyte	Arabian	Esther Diaguila
2017	Turnner's Wild Card	Kentucky Mountain Horse	Lin Ward
2018	Tezuby	Arabian	Jonni Jewell
2019	By The Grace Of God	Grade	Victoria Whitehead
2020	Giacomo	1/2 Arabian	Fran Muench
2021	None - year of Covid 19		
2022	Windstorm Clay	Morgan	Tommy Mitchell
2023	TA Kaiser+/-	Arabian	Deanne Prusak
2024	Beau	Grade	Sherry Games
2025	RPH Ebony Diamond	1/2 Arabian	Patti Hicks
2025	Arabella Z	Arabian	Cynthia Mettes



(Continued on pg 50)

**(PAST NATIONAL WINNERS Cont'd from pg 49)**

**BEV TIBBITTS GRAND CHAMPION**

(High Average Horse)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1975	Sheiks Scimitar	3/4 Arabian	Barbara Jagoda
1976	Jayess Rykstan	Arabian	Ken Burkdoll
1977	Gam's Borkaan	1/2 Arabian	Julie Munger
1978	Velvet	3/4 Arabian	Gloria Becker
1979	Antelope New Moon	Appaloosa	Beverly Tibbitts
1980	Elmer Bandit	1/2 Arabian	Mary Anna Wood
1981	Talib Amil	1/2 Arabian/Morab	Joan Throgmorton
1982	Touches Velvette	Arabian	Elisabeth Grogan
1983	Capi Comet	Arabian	Ginger Johnson
1984	Mighty Aledo Gal	Quarter	John Webb
1985	Barthart+	Arabian	David Young
1986	Arab Incognito	1/2 Arabian	Linda Tate
1987	San Barraf	Arabian	Kathy Morris
1988	San Barraf	Arabian	Kathy Morris
1989	Bo Rand	Arabian	Helen Logan
1990	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1991	Hickory's Country Gold	Missouri Fox Trotter	Bill Hinkebein
1992	Aur Shammar (Sam)	Arabian	Lory Walls
1993	Wing Tempo	American Saddlebred	Shirley Sobol
1994	Winchester Charm	1/2 Arabian	Lucy Hirsch
1995	Hickory's Country Gold	Missouri Fox Trotter	Bill Hinkebein
1996	Wilson's Abbey	Arabian	Don Parkhouse
1997	Woods Rawhide Ace	Missouri Fox Trotter	Jenny Smith
1998	Prince Alla Ba Ha	Arabian	Ellen Lovett
1999	Brown-R Dawud	Arabian	Judy Wise Mason
2000	Prince Alla Ba Ha	Arabian	Ellen Lovett
2001	Winchester Charm	1/2 Arabian	Lucy Hirsch
2002	Chargers Rampage	Missouri Fox Trotter	Lisa Brooks
2003	Symplicity Sue	Arabian	Nancy Bacon
2004	Panama Jack	Grade	Terri Smith
2005	Desert Reinbeau	Mustang	Angie Meroshnekoff
2006	Andarko (Alex)	Arabian	Lory Walls
2007	Fraidy Cat	Tennessee Walking Horse	Terri Smith
2008	Diamond's Sassy Stockings	Missouri Fox Trotter	James Keene
2009	Andarko (Alex)	Arabian	Lory Walls
2010	Fawn Creek	Norwegian Fjord	Brandy Ferganchick
2011	Awesomes Fire N Ice	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2012	Hot Saki	1/2 Arabian	Terri Smith
2013	Prime Sensation WH	Missouri Fox Trotter	Martha Findley
2014	Awesomes Fire N Ice	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2015	Awesomes Fire N Ice	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2016	Awesomes Fire N Ice	1/2 Arabian	Ken Wolgram
2017	Hot Saki	1/2 Arabian	Terri Smith
2018	Desert Reinbeau	Mustang	Angie Meroshnekoff
2019	Lonesome Lady Bug	1/2 Arabian	Terri Smith
2020	None – year of Covid 19		
2021	Windstorm Clay	Morgan	Tommy Mitchell
2022	Beau	Grade	Sherry Games
2023	Jiminy Cricket	Grade	Jennifer Mulligan
2024	Rushcreek Frontier	Arabian	Helen Smith
2025	Giacomo	1/2 Arabian	Fran Muench

**POLLY BRIDGES MEMORIAL**

(High Average Horsemanship)

YEAR	RIDER	YEAR	RIDER
1987	Barbara Jagoda	2007	Elizabeth Kendall
1988	Charlie Crider	2008	Wayne Tolbert
1989	Charlie Crider	2009	Lory Walls
1990	Betty Young	2010	James Keene
1991	Terri Roberts	2011	Ken Wolgram
1992	Terri Roberts	2012	Terri Smith
1993	Betty Young	2013	Debbie Payne
1994	Betty Young	2014	Ken Wolgram
1995	Ellen Lovett	2015	Ken Wolgram
1996	Charlie Crider	2016	Ken Wolgram
1997	Angie Meroshnekoff	2017	Sarah Rinne
1998	Jenny Smith	2018	Angie Meroshnekoff
1999	Frank Keeran	2019	Terri Smith
2000	Charlie Crider	2020	None – year of Covid 19
2001	Lucy Hirsch	2021	Tommy Mitchell

**POLLY BRIDGES MEMORIAL (Cont'd)**

2002	Gerald Ferguson	2022	Sherry Games
2003	Wayne Tolbert	2023	Sherry Games
2004	Angie Meroshnekoff	2024	Patti Hicks
2005	Wayne Tolbert	2025	Fran Muench
2006	Wayne Tolbert		



**JUNIOR GRAND CHAMPION**

(High Average Horse)\*

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1990	Friday's Applauz	Arabian	Jeanne Kelly
1991	Sadiki	1/2 Arabian	Heather Parson
1992	Shannon's Cameo	1/2 Arabian	Shannon Mitchell
1993	Saint Simon	Morgan	Holly Ward
1994	Cherokee's Pride	Appaloosa	Mica Hart
1995	Jazz	Grade	Klare Chapman
1996	Jazz	Grade	Klare Chapman
1997	Lucite	Grade	Janelle Meuten
1998	Avar Desert Storm	Arabian	Kalinda Renfro
1999	Heartlight Delila	Arabian	Sarah Neunzig
2000	MKS Fancy's Folly	Arabian	Kymerlie Shanor
2001	Cisco Kid	American Indian Horse	Carrie Porter
2002	Rita	Grade	Melinda Hirsch Sadler
2003	MKS Shamal Nejma	Arabian	Kymerlie Shanor
2004	Fortunataa	Arabian	Kymerlie Shanor
2006	TN Valley Hotrod	Appaloosa	Andrew Murray
2007	Rambler	Spanish Mustang	Jenna Galliher
2009	Kiva	Spanish Mustang	Layne Lampley
2012	Gorgeous Dixie	Grade	Maggie Steinke
2013	Flash of Lightening	Spotted Saddle Horse	Jameson Moulis
2015	Lincoln	Grade	Alexis Combs
2016	Shady Sunset WH	Missouri Fox Trotter	Jessica Reeter
2020	None – year of Covid 19		

\*Missing years had no qualifying juniors.

**JUNIOR HIGH AVERAGE HORSEMANSHIP**

(High Average Horsemanship) \*

YEAR	RIDER	YEAR	RIDER
1990	Jeanne Kelly	2003	Kymerlie Shanor
1991	Heather Parson	2004*	Kymerlie Shanor
1992	Shannon Mitchell	2006	Andrew Murray
1993	Holly Ward	2007	Jenna Galliher
1994	Mica Hart	2008	Jennifer Maddox
1995	Klare Chapman	2009	Layne Lampley
1996	Klare Chapman	2011	Hannah Van Poolen
1997	Janelle Meuten	2012	Maggie Steinke
1998	Kara Galliher	2013	Jameson Moulis
1999	Paula Nelson	2015	Alexis Combs
2000	Melinda Hirsch Sadler	2016	Jessica Reeter
2001	Carrie Porter	2020	None – year of Covid 19
2002	Melinda Hirsch Sadler	2024	Anna Beth Lawrence

\*Missing years had no qualifying juniors.

(Continued on pg 51)

**(PAST NATIONAL WINNERS Cont'd from pg 50)**

**COMPETITIVE PLEASURE GRAND CHAMPION**

(High Average Horse)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
2015	Silver Valley Tate	Morgan	Mary Hanson
2016	Andarko	Arabian	Lory Walls
2017	Impressive Red Rebel	Missouri Fox Trotter	Paula Riley
2018	Spirit of Spotted Alen	Tennessee Walking Horse	Cindy Keen
2019	TA Kaiser+//	Arabian	Deanne Prusak
2020	None - year of Covid 19		
2021	Impressive Red Rebel	Missouri Fox Trotter	Paula Riley
2022	Giacomo	½ Arabian	Fran Muench
2023	TA Kaiser+//	Arabian	Deanne Prusak
2024	Little Rocky Road	Grade	Marilyn Bivens
2025	Precious	Grade	Julie Bills

**COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HIGH AVERAGE HORSEMANSHIP**

(High Average Horsemanship)

YEAR	RIDER	YEAR	RIDER
2015	Leigh Riley	2021	Kelly Queen
2016	Lory Walls	2022	Victoria Whitehead
2017	Diane Wingle	2023	Deanne Prusak
2018	Beverly Roberts	2024	Marilyn Bivens
2019	Deanne Prusak	2025	Maria Pilgrim
2020	None - year of Covid 19		

**HORSE HALL OF FAME**

(Outstanding Horse Performance Record)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
1986	Elmer Bandit	1/2 Arabian	Mary Anna Wood
1989	Casey	Grade	Beverly Tibbitts
1991	Barthart+	Arabian	Betty Young
1993	Rebel's Raider+//	1/2 Arab/Appy	Marilyn Hunter
1996	Hickory's Country Gold	Missouri Fox Trotter	Bill Hinkebein
2000	Mahra Khan	1/2 Arab	Milne Parish
2002	Winchester Charm	1/2 Arab	Lucy Hirsch
2004	Brown R Dawud	Arabian	Judy Wise Mason
2010	Chargers Rampage	Missouri Fox Trotter	Lisa Brooks
2014	Swiss Mocha	Grade	Paula Riley
2015	Windstorm Sienna	Morgan	Wayne Tolbert
2021	Desert Reinbeau	Mustang	Angie Meroshnekoff

**WORKER HALL OF FAME**

1998	Lew Muzzy, R2	2011	Bev Roberts, R4
	Bill Cumberworth, R3	2013	Lory & Randy Walls, R2
	Ann Burnsed, R4		Susan Peters, R3
1999	Max Barmettler (posthumous), R1		Elaine Swiss, R4
2000	Joan & Bill Throgmorton, R1	2014	Larry and Barbara Gould, R4
2001	Linda Shannon, R2	2015	Jamie Dieterich, R1
2002	Phil & Betty Young, R1		Beni DeMattei, R2
	Joyce & Frank Keeran, R6	2016	Angie Meroshnekoff, R1
2003	Karel Waugh, R1	2017	Linda Thomason, R1
	Bob & Margie Insko, R2		Mary Jo Malone, R2
2004	Kathy Nixon, R1	2018	Chuck Edwards, R6
2005	Jim & Jan Jeffers, R1	2019	Shirley Brodersen, R4
	Bill Smith, R3	2021	Becky Rogers, R4
	Mike Bridges, R5	2022	Dee Overholt, R3
2006	Steve Meroshnekoff, R1	2023	Alanna Sommer, R4
	Garrie and Marshall Bates, R5	2024	Pam Galchutt, R3
2009	Sue Flagg, R1	2025	Kay Gunckel, R3
	Jenny Smith, R3		
2010	Cork Weir, R4		
	Florence Blanks, R6		

**BEV ROBERTS NATIONAL HORSEMANSHIP CHAMPION**

(Five National Championships on Five Different Horses)

RIDER	YR QUALIFIED	RIDER	YR QUALIFIED
Nancy Diamond	1990	Bev Roberts	2007
Terri Smith (Roberts)	2002	Jonni Jewell	2023
Kymerlie Welp (Shanor)	2004	Cynthia Mettes	2025
Bill Hinkebein	2005, 2016		

**COMPETITIVE PLEASURE HIGH POINT TEAM**

(Combined Horse and Horsemanship)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
2021	Halcon	Grade	Kelly Queen
2022	Oakies' Roanwood	Quarter	Bobby Fields
2023	TA Kaiser+//	Arabian	Deanne Prusak
2024	Little Rocky Road	Grade	Marilyn Bivens
2025	Precious	Grade	Julie Bills

**NOVICE HIGH POINT TEAM**

(Combined Horse and Horsemanship)

YEAR	NAME OF HORSE	BREED	RIDER
2021	Dec Docs Curious Pep	Quarter	Shae Gragg
2022	Jada Angel	½ Arabian	Lael Feist
2023	StarLight's Macksimum Flex	Grade	Nancy Fuller
2024	Precious	Grade	Julie Bills
2025	Sir Tobias de la Khama	Grade	Juliana Cruz

**JIM MENEFFEE LIFETIME AWARD**

**JIM MENEFFEE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

(Award of Lifetime Membership for Outstanding Service)

YEAR	REG	NAME	YEAR	REG	NAME
1977	R1	Leroy Krusi	1995	R3	Michelle Glover, DVM
1978	R1	Joan Throgmorton	1996	R3	Neal McKinstry
1979	R1	George Cardinet	1997	R5	E. Larry Bentley, DVM
1980	None		1998	R2	Henry Logan
1981	R2	Bob Bohannon	1999	R6	Jerry Weil, DVM
1982	R3	Duane & Bessie Scott Family	2000	R1	James C. (Jim) Ferris
1983	R4	Ann Burnsed	2001	R1	Robert (Bob) Goulding, DVM
1984	R1	Fred Kirkham	2002	R5	Connie Driskell
1985	R1	Betty Menefee	2003	R1	Jamie Dieterich
1986	R1	Bill Throgmorton, DVM	2004	R2	Lory Walls
1987	R1	Nancy Kasovich	2005	R5	Bucky Starnes
1988	R1	Bev Tibbitts	2006	R3	Bill Smith
1989	R3	Iris Mosgrove	2007	R4	Patsy Conner
1990	R6	Joann Christensen	2008	R4	Shirley Parker
1991	R3	Patricia Jubb	2009	R3	Doreen Portner
1992	R2	Elisabeth Grogan	2010	R1	Jim & Jan Jeffers
1993	R1	Rod Cole	2011	R3	Bill & Judy Cumberworth
1994	R3	Gene Naugle, DVM			

**JIM MENEFFEE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

(Changed from an award of Lifetime Membership to Lifetime Achievement Recognition)

2012	R4	Jean Green	2019	R4	Larry and Barbara Gould
2013	R5	Paula Riley	2020	None	- year of Covid-19
2014	R6	Priscilla Lindsey	2021	R1	Angie Meroshnekoff
2015	R6	J.R. Kendall	2022	R3	Jim Ward
2016	R3	Laurie DiNatale, NATRC	2023	R4	Bev Roberts
2017	R2	Greg Fellers, DVM	2024	R6	William (Bill) Hinkebein
2018	R5	Mike Bridges, DVM	2025	R6	Ruth Mesimer



# Past Appreciation Award Winners

## PAST NATIONAL APPRECIATION AWARD WINNERS

Year	National	Year	National	Year	National
1982	none	1983	Bill & Judy Cumberworth, R3 Helen & Henry Logan, R2 Amanda Hyatt, R5	1984	Irene Mandeville, R1 Maryetta Stebbins, R1 Dorothy Smith, R1 Chere Bargar, R1 Al & Nancy Moss, R2
1985	JoAnn Christensen, R6 Ike Mosgrove, R3	1986	Theresa Duncan, R1 Nancy Kasovich, R1 Helene Pritchard, R5	1987	Michael Bridges, DVM, R5 Barbara Dean, R4 Rod Cole, R1
1988	Jim Wright, DVM, R6 Richard Becker, R2 Neal McKinstry, R3	1989	JoAnn Christensen, R6 Pat Jubb, R3 Elisabeth Grogan, R2	1990	Gloria Becker, R2 Henry Cook, DVM, R1 Pat Wasmund, R4
1991	Larry Bentley, DVM, R5 Jim Ferris, R1 Ann Burnsed, R4 (declined)	1992	Bev Tibbitts, R1 Helene Pritchard, R5 Gene Naugle, DVM, R3	1993	Nancy Kasovich, R1 Sylvia Rogers, R4 Ruth Bourgeois, R6
1994	Michelle Glover, DVM, R4 Nancy Moss, R2 Heidi Wallace, R1	1995	J. R. Kendall, R6 Jerry Weil, DVM, R6 Helen Logan, R2	1996	Mary Francis Britt, R5 Jill Hicks, R3 David Shannon, R2
1997	Peter Rich, R1 Henry Logan, R2 Pam Pintchuk, DVM, R5	1998	Jim & Jan Jeffers, R1 Jim Ferris, R1 Raymond Brooks, R5	1999	Bill & Jenny Smith, R3 Stephanie Ostrowski, DVM, R5 Steve & Priscilla Lindsey, R6 Ann Burnsed, R4 (declined)
2000	Shirley Parker, R4 Garrie Bates, R5 Helen Logan, R2	2001	Raymond Brooks, R5 Cheri Jeffcoat & Sharlyn McDermot, R6 Laurie DiNatale, R3	2002	Jamie Dieterich, R1 Randy Walls, R2 Sylvia Rogers, R4
2003	Lee Hoth, R3 Ray & Sue Brezina, R2 Greg Fellers, DVM, R1	2004	Sue Flagg, R1	2005	Robert Young, R1 Jim & Lin Ward, R3
2006	Bob Goulding, R1	2007	Beni DeMattei, R2 Kathleen Green, R2 Kathy Brown, R3	2008	Jennie Paddock, R4 Mark & Debbie Jones Family, R5
2009	Peter Rich, R1 Michael Peralez, DVM, R2 Linda Clayton, R5	2010	Betty Wolgram, R3 Laurie Knuutila, R1A Sue Singletary, R3	2011	Jonni Jewell, R4 Kim Cowart, R5 J. R. Kendall, R6
2012	Linda Clayton, R5 Leona Harris, R4 Phil Young, R1	2013	Jerry Sims, R3 Shirley Brodersen, R4 Cindy Keen, R5	2014	Erin Glassman, R6 Tanya Kingsley, R5 Brenda Simpson, R4 Chuck Smith & John Volkerding, R3
2015	Mary Jo Malone, R2 Debbie Jones & Vickie Moore, R5 Sarah Rinne, R6	2016	Linda Thomason, R1 Betty Wolgram, R3 Kim Cowart, R5	2017	Phil Young, R1 Phil Brodersen, R4 Marty Findley, R5
2018	Dave & Sharon Roper-Dashner, R3 Kimberly Murphy, R4 Bill Moore, R5	2019	Lory Walls, R2 Dee Overholt, R3 Jonni Jewell, R4	2020	none – year of Covid 19
2021	Pam Galchutt, R3 Shari Parys, R6	2022	Judy Cumberworth, R3 Helen Smith, R6	2023	Cathy Cumberworth, R3 Esther Diaguila, R5 Chuck Edwards, R6
2024	Alice Perryman, R4 Kris Gray, R5 Ruth Mesimer, R6	2025	Carol Ormond, DVM, R1 Jamie Dieterich, R1 & R2 Fran Muench, R4		

(Continued on pg 53)

## PAST REGIONAL APPRECIATION AWARD WINNERS

### CERTIFICATES NOT SPECIFIC TO REGION

1981	Dorothy & Bernie Bargar, R; Jan Blawat, R1	Jackie Coleman, R4 Bill Cumberworth, R3	Irene Mandeville, R1 Lew Muzzy, R2	Duane & Bessie Scott, R3
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### CERTIFICATES SPECIFIC TO REGION

YR	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
1982	Chere Bargar Suzanne Hurst Irene Mandeville Joan Throgmorton Bev Tibbitts Heide Wallace-Blonigan	Gloria Becker Richard Becker Gene Grogan Nancy Moss	Tom Butterfield Nola Frasure Ike Mosgrove	Sam & Ann Burns		
1983	Nora Cook Fred Kirkham Maryetta Stebbins Dorothy Smith	Richard & Gloria Becker	Louie Pavetti, DVM	Barbara & Ted Dean Diane & Ray Spencer	Bucky Starnes	Dale Jackson, DVM Marian & Al Tritch Col. Gurney Gunther & Army Corps of Engrs
1984	Pat Ersepke Greg Fellers, DVM Dale Lake	Larry Rossi Sheryl Brezina	Jim & Violet Peek	Ray Ledwig Cathie Wincovitch & Glenda Stevens	Lawton & Frances Johnston	Harold Nickeson Tom & Kay Slusher Wayne Thomas
1985	Harry Haeussler Max Barmettler Jill Pass	Noni Mickelson Brian Beckwith Susan Kewley	Pat Jubb	Arthur & Desira Byrd Lloyd Wallace Mary Lou McNeel	Shirley Sobol	Frank & Nancy Diamond Neil & Barbara Spahn Richard & Kaaren Jones
1986	Henry Cook, DVM Nancy Kauk	Sandra Williams	Jeri Avila & Laurie Butterfield	Marion Tomlin Leonard Smith, DVM	Billy Bonds Laurie Sherfese	Gerald & Virginia Peterson Chuck Edwards Jim & Roberta Bess
1987	Marilyn Hunter Bev Barmettler Jean Haugsten	Linda Dopson, DVM	Vel & Gene Naugle, DVM	Barbara Harvey Angelina Trail Riders Assn	Charlie Crider Martha Findley	Bob & Mary Scheer Mary & Jerry Weil, DVM Lucie Hess
1988	Dorothy Smith Paul DeLay, DVM Patti Pearson	Ken Truesdell Linda & David Shannon	Bill & Judy Cumberworth	Mike & Sherry Murphy Linda Reuland Kay Rumfield	Ron & Beverly Williams	Kathy & Rod Smith J. R. Kendall John & Janice Schell
1989	Reta Cole Bev Barmettler Maryetta Stebbins	Susan Kewley Walt, Larene & Willie	Bonnie & Michael Kaufman	Mary Lou & Patrick McNeel Alan & Emalu Nutter	Tom, Sandy & Jeanne Kelly Mark & Debbie Jones	Pam Bond Iowa Trail Riders Assn Dale Seymour
1990	Rita Schlim Al & Irene King Mary & Tom Bertken	Ron Watson Judy Kuplent Bonnie & Hank Peralez	Jill Talbot	Shirley Parker Oklahoma Equestrian Trail Riders Assn Charles & Trudy Kincade	The Harwell Family - Diane, Ron, Matt & Meredith Edna Cook & Michelle Cook Goza	Jackie Coleman Russ & Bethany Kness Carol Roberts
1991	Robert "Bob" Golding, DVM Karel Waugh The Young Family - Betty, Phil & David	Lew Muzzy Tom Thomas Lory & Randy Walls	Judi Tobias	Darlene Wallace Leonard Smith, DVM Danny & Michelle Glover, DVM	Judy Jesse Anne Hayward Phyllis Ellis	Sho-Me-Mo Trail Riders Riders Nebraska Endurance & Comp. Trail Riders
1992	Marilyn Hunter Carolyn Tucker Maryetta Stebbins	Noni Mickelson Trish Downing Leslie & Dave Wilson	Tom & Barbara Butterfield	Rita Hays Gretchen Patterson-Tinker James & Belinda Henderson	Garrie & Marshall Bates Raymond & Lisa Brooks Sarah & Chris Dunn	Steve & Priscilla Lindsey Jacqui Register Dalyn Wilson, DVM
1993	Jim & Jan Jeffers Jim Ferris Nora Cook	Stephanie & David Fling Debbie Zinkl Henry & Helen Logan	Lois Arbour	Larry & Jeanne McFarland Peggy Hixson Pat Wasmund	Connie Ward Martha Findley Dianne & Gary Poovey	Dave Smith & Martha Kunkle Olivia Huddleston & Duane Daily, Mary Rayburn
1994	Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Assn Emma McCrary Dale & Deana Lake	Pam Ronning Wendy Bishop Joyce Miller	Dee Overholt Sue McKelvy	Larry Gould Greg Smith Rusty & Frances Henderson	Cathy Springer Jane Hillegas Julie & Jim Capaldi	Roland & Norma Newton Lucie Hess Mike & Mary Colby
1995	Paul DeLay, DVM Lynne Landis Kathy Nixon	Linda Shannon Randy Walls Trish Downing	Karen Laden Neal McKinstry	Ann Burns Dr. Ed & Doreen Atkinson Gretchen Patterson	John Howard Tanya Kingsley Charlie Crider	Kim Downing Marguerite Sloan Joyce Jensen

(Continued on pg 54)

(Past Appreciation Continued from pg 53)

1996	Marilyn Hunter Phil Young Jean Haugsten	Chris Wagner Judy Kuplent Larry Kelly, DVM	Lisa Sowell Clair Gamble Dale McCoy	Ann Pfeiffer Julie Watson Alice Kidwell	Stephanie Ostrowski, DVM Bobbie Hancock Kim Cowart	Susan Manley Florence Blanks Stacy & Frank Bowman / Diane & Darrell Brauner
1997	Jamie & Bob Dieterich, DVM Karel Waugh San Martin Horsemen's Assn	Bruce Qualset	Judi & Larry Tobias  Cavalier Trail Riding Club San Juan Valley Trail Riders	Lone Star Distance Riders  Angelina Trail Riders Oklahoma Equestrian Trail Riders Assn	Linda Moss  Sallie Kudra Lyn Lewis	J. R. Kendall  Cindy Cameron Frank Keeran
1998	Leroy Burnham, DVM McCrary Family Carol & Dan Barnes	Pam Miller	Kris Cummings	Joan Richardson Ted & Barbara Dean	Garrie Bates Lyn Lewis	Gerald & Virginia Peterson Bill Hinkebein Cheri Jeffcoat
1999	Kathy Nixon Sue Flagg Chere Bargar, Kitty Swindle & Judy Hayamizu	Roberta Dewey Linda Wamekros Linda Shannon	Iris (Ike) Mosgrove Joe Quintana, DVM	Barbara Harvey Kim McKenzie, DVM	Johnnie & Annie (Dow) Strader Gerald & Brenda Ferguson Jim & Vickie Rubeck	Dave Smith
2000	Mary Bertken Lynette Love Ellen Carter	Bob & Margie Insko Vicki & Tony Coscia Cheryl & Steve Erpelding	Kris Cummings Sue Benjamin	Maurice Nelson Cork Weir	Sallie Kudra	Ed McDevitt Ed "Van" VanSciver Gerald Peterson
2001	Ellen & Rufus Lovett Karel Waugh	Carrie Garufis Sylvia Beverly	Steve & Janine Ancell	Tom Richmond Doanna Gross Linda McGrath	Bucky Stames	Becki Jackson Chuck Edwards
2002	Steve Meroshnekoff Kevin Wilson Phil Young	Virginia Schick Michael Stems Harca	Betty Wolgram Judy Mason	Larry Gould Linda Stanford	Gary & Linda Clayton	Hickory's Chillicothe Express
2003	Mike Witt, DVM Bob Young, DVM Debbie Murphy	Melanie Pelczar	Milne Parish Mahra Khan	Shirley Brodersen	Shirley Sobol Tanya Kingsley	Brent Hathhorn Florence Blanks Ron Pappan, DVM
2004	Carolyn Johnson Kathryn Kennard Laurie Knuutila	Pam Miller Ray & Sue Brezina Bob & Margie Insko	Bill & Jenny Smith Bill & Judy Cumberworth	James Keene Katie Weir LeeAnn Dreadfulwater	Nancy Sluys Janis Baldwin	Martha Kunkle Lucie Hess
2005	Marlene Takle Judy Etheridge	Beni DeMattei Kathleen Green	Kip Korthuis Donna Johnson Kathy Shanor	Don Rubley Mark Cole Deanne Prusak	Wayne Tolbert Linda & Gary Clayton	J. R. Kendall Charlie Armour
2006	Neil & Kitty Weber Jack & Mary Chandler	Marcia Nelson Jim Monroe	Kathy Brown Tracey & Kip Korthuis Linell Miller	Carla Jo Bass Brenda Wyant Lisa Gallery	Ginny Tolbert Marlene Buttrey Vicki & Andrew Murray	Kim Weil Marsha Hayes Susan Manley
2007	Nancy Kasovich McCrary Family CMDTRA	none	Kay Gunckel Mike Mason San Juan Trail Riders	none	Phillip Buttrey Sara Baldwin Doug O'Connel	Pat Welsh Zack Edwards
2008	Sue Flagg	Lynda Stems	Gary Inman & Linell Miller Mike & Judy Mason	Liz Scott	Mary Leslie Tammy Lineback	Ruth Mesimer
2009	Lynn Hutnick Chere Bargar, Kitty Swindle, & Judy Hayamizu	Nancy Reed Liz Grogan	Jeff & Kathy Brown Susan Peters Beth Sims	Alanna Sommer	Kathy Nicholl	Cheryl & Jerry Weber Kim Weil
2010	Carol Ormond, DVM	Pima Medical Sue Brezina	Bill & Diane Wingle Chuck Smith Maarten Van Poolen	Linda Courts Linda Reuland Barbara Gould	none	Ginny Peterson J. R. Kendall Virginia Prey
2011	Betty Young Maria Pilgrim	Kandace French, Sherry Bray & Katy Taylor	Pam Galchutt Susan Peters Russ & Linda Jones	Phil Broderson Art & Dee Byrd Vickie Ives	Marty Findley	Mary Anna Wood Sarah Rinne
2012	Leroy Burnham, DVM	Dana Conklin Mary Jo Malone	Alyce Wich WSCSC	Ronald Hicks Rusty Harris Shane Murphy	Cindy Keen Kendal & Debra Porter Sandy West Pegram	Steve Lindsey
2013	Linda Thomason White Dog Ranch	Arizona Triple Crown	Dee Overholt	Becky Rogers Erman & Nettie Sands Alice Yovich	Regina Broughton Mike Daniels Courtney Woodall	none
2014	none	Beni DeMattei	none	Teresa Galliher Patti Hicks Barbara Rubley	Michelle Goza Ginny Tolbert	Fred Altwegg Trish Cleveland Marilyn Marston & Marla Stucky

(Continued on pg 55)

(Past Appreciation Continued from pg 54)

2015	Darlene & Brian Schlerf	Audrey Pavia	Greg Feazell Sonny Mills Bill Wingle	Patty Lampley Becky Lucht Debby Starr	Terry Riley Andrea Rogers	Liz Klamm Gary & Mary McCoy Shari Parys
2016	none	Elvis Lynn Bray Karen Kafka Margie Insko	none	none	Victoria Light Patty Lucas Walter & Medora Mullins	Debbie & Ty McCullough Robin Nore Christine Wallis
2017	none	Carrie Garufis	John Horne	Doanna Gross Daniel Kris Hapgood Betsy Zimmerman	Rita Lowery John Saunby Dave & Maggie Spiker	Cheryl Bohling Debbie Payne John Zelif
2018	none	none	Husbands Club Louis & Cathy Martin	Danny Martin Cheryl Middlebrooks-Ray	Sallie Kudra Andrew Murray Nancy Sluys	Kathy Jackson David Nore
Peter Yovich from all						
2019	none	Bob & Margie Insko	Pam Galchutt Maarten Vanpoolen San Juan Valley	Amy Martin Maddie Martin Teresa Musgrave	Dream Team Carol Auit Courtney Woodall	Helen Smith Marla Stucky & Marilyn Marston
2020	none	none	none	Gayle Muench Mike & Sherry Murphy Elaine Swiss	Alan Yauck	Shari Parys Mike & Chris Wallis John Zelif
2021	Leroy Burnham Lory Walls	none	Hannah Clark Juleen Feazell Dayna Morgan	Pat Collins Cara Liebman Fran Muench	none	Cheryl Bohling Kristen Schmatzried & Mary Licata, Priscilla Lindsey
2022	Gene & Vicki Boicelli Steve Meroshnekoff	Kim Johnson & Bonnie Pollock Catherine McCord & Rob Dixon	Steve Ancell	Betsy Zimmerman David Spell Michael Perryman	Virginia & Wayne Tolbert Paula Riley Sallie Kudra	David Hayes Mary Fettes & Kristen Johansen Ruth & Rob Schindler
2023	none	Carol Evans Bob & Margie Insko	Linda Johnson-Conne Paula Sue	Chrissy Knight LeeAnn Dreadfulwater Holly Jones & Mollie Kelly	Nancy Fuller Cindy Keen Debbie & Ty McCullough	Alex Braun Sarah Smith
2024	none	Audrey Pavia Unforgiven Ranch Mgmt & Volunteers	Kristen Munson Amy Mason, DVM Kay Gunckel, DVM	Anita Waldrip Jan Stewart Fran Muench	Patty Lucas Lael Feist	Kristen Schmalzried Christina Lyons Rianna Deselich
2025	Maria Pilgrim Donna Stidolph	Bob & Marge Insko Audrey Pavia & MaryJo Malone	None	Marilyn Bivens Roger Garlitz Dave & Linda Reilly	None	Holly Barrett Catherine Gast & Jeff Zeller



All photos by John Nowell

# Reminders

Many of these reminders say to contact our Executive Director (ED). Contact Sarah J. Smith at [natrc@natrc.org](mailto:natrc@natrc.org).

## Ride Mgrs & Secretaries

### Non-member Rider Fees

Subject fees are the same for all divisions including LeD and are set at \$36 each.

### Ride Management Forms

Please download [new ride forms](#) EACH year. Last year's are **OBSOLETE!**

### Ride Management Support Fund

- Up to \$1,000 available to help defray upfront costs.
- Ride manager must be a member.
- Submit 1-pg [application](#) & supporting papers 90 days prior to ride.

## Riders & Members

### Membership

- [Join](#) or [renew](#) online or use form.
- New member? First year is FREE!
- Find out [which division](#) is right for you!

### Virtual Mileage Challenge

Can't travel? Ride at home and compete in our [mileage challenge](#).

### Let's Ride Seminar Series

- Watch our [website](#) for details.
- Suggest seminar topics to our ED.

### Ride Results

Find recent / past ride results [here](#).

### Give Feedback on Judges

Let [us](#) know how our apprentices and provisional judges are doing.

### Life Changes?

*Moved, Changed name/phone, Add a jr?*

Please report any changes in your membership information to our ED.

Basic changes like address, email address and phone can be made on the website under My Account at the top right side of the screen. Remember, it is your responsibility to keep your information up to date.

### Points and Data

Please notify our ED of horse, rider, or ownership changes so we can properly apply points and mileage!

### Rule Changes

- **October** - Deadline - submit proposals to your region's [national directors](#).
- View proposed or approved rule changes in [Resources/Rules](#).
- Standing Schedule:  
*NBOD Meeting Activity*  
Oct - Receive rule change proposals  
Nov - Decide proposals to carry forward  
- Publish / post for comment  
Feb - Finalize wording  
Mar - Publish / post for comment  
Jul - Vote on changes  
*After July - Update Rule Book*

## High Point Breed Award

- Does your breed association sponsor a yearend high point breed award?
- If not, ask them to contact our ED to arrange to sponsor one.

## Honorary and Appreciation Nominations

Mark your calendars now. The 2026 write-ups (in MS Word) are *due to Ruth Mesimer by 10pm CST, October 1, 2026*.

### • PROCEDURE

Submit nomination write-ups to your region's BOD by the region's due date. *Please* keep to the word limits. The boards forward approved nomination write-ups to the H and A Chair.

Your NBOD makes the selection at the December meeting. Awards presented at the national convention the following year.

### • CRITERIA

*Jim Menefee NATRC Lifetime Achievement Award (400 words)*  
Awarded one time only to a person. Each region may nominate one member. The recipient gives a brief acceptance speech at the national convention. Award honors Jim Menefee, a favorite judge who was especially encouraging to Novices and first-time competitors.

*Workers Hall of Fame (400 words)*  
One time only to a person, pair or couple. Each region may nominate one member. The NBOD selects one or more at their discretion.

*National Appreciation Award (200 words)*  
Each region may nominate one member. The BOD selects three. Recipients eligible once every 3 yrs.

*Regional Appreciation Award (200 words)*  
Each region may nominate up to three members. Nominees may be people, pairs, or groups.

## NBOD Meeting Minutes

Includes [monthly and full meetings](#).

## Donations

NATRC is a non-profit organization and [donations](#) are tax deductible.

Join us in building the website / RMS / digital scorecard future of NATRC by donating to the [Technology Fund](#). Under the label online donation, click on Technology Fund. Be sure to view our [Technology Update Webinar](#) on our YouTube channel.

## Become a Sponsor

What is your preference? [Awards](#) - [Convention](#) - [Commercial](#) - [Personal](#)

## Juniors & Students

### 4-H Junior Rider

### Yearend High Point Team Award

Use your valuable 4-H skills outside the arena and compete for this special award. Trail riding is a great way to cross train your horse for shows, to safely practice your equitation in a scenic setting, and even to use your showmanship skills during in-hand vet checks!

Encourage your 4-H friends to join you at CTRs and compete for this award. Contact us if you would like a presentation to your club to introduce the sport and answer questions.

Eligibility is simple. Compete in any division, nominate yourself, and prove that you are a 4-H member! The specifics:

- 1) The award goes to the high point horse and rider team *regardless* of the division.
- 2) Your self-nomination must occur before the end of the ride year, the last Sunday in November.
- 3) You must: (a) be a competing member, (b) nominate yourself by contacting our ED, and (c) have your 4-H leader contact our ED to confirm that you are a 4-H member.

Additionally, in a number of states (Colorado for example), 4-H now recognizes competitive trail as a qualifying activity for a 4-H member's project. How cool is that? To document each ride, use [this form](#).

## Student Loan & Scholarship Program

Student loans and scholarships are available at the amount assigned by the National Board of Directors. Fulltime students who have been members, or whose families have been active members for at least 3 years, preferred. We also consider students, or whose families, who have been active for less than 3 years but more than 6 months.

Priority: 1<sup>st</sup>, a student enrolled in an accredited School of Veterinary Medicine; 2<sup>nd</sup>, in studies leading to a degree in Animal Science, Nutrition, Health and/or other related equine field; 3<sup>rd</sup>, in other related equine studies; 4<sup>th</sup>, a college student in his/her senior year, then junior, sophomore, freshman. For a student loan, a student enrolled in other studies may be considered.

Scholastic achievement, financial need, and character, are also noted.

To apply, download the [Student Loan Application](#) or the [Bev Tibbitts Memorial Scholarship Application](#).

Email the completed form to our ED.

Find us on 

 YouTube

Find us on 