

NATRC REGION 2 NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 2013-2 - May 2013

NATRC Region 2 2013 Schedule

Table of Contents

Region 2 2013 Schedule	1
Riders Needed	1
Letter from the President	2
GoodSearch & GoodShop	2
Region 2 Board of Directors	2
Bumble Bee Ride Story	3
Correction	5
Facebook	5
Vail Lake CTR	6
Share the Trail CTR	7
2013 Team Point Standings	8
Earn Distance Awards	9
Rules vs Expectations	9

- May 18** Vail Lake CRT - Region 2 Benefit Ride (B), Vail Lake Resort, Temecula, CA
- June 9** Share the Trail (B) - Descanso, CA
- June 29** Board Meeting - webinar
- August 17** Board Meeting - location TBD
- October 19-20** RAHA (A) - Los Penasquitos, SD, CA
- November 23** Board Meeting - location TDB

F EARLY REGISTRATIONS ARE APPRECIATED!! E
 Check the website for updates, or to register using RMS, at: www.NATRC2.org

RIDERS NEEDED!!

The *Vail Lake Ride* (page 6) is only a week away and the management team reports that they are woefully low on ride entries. Since this BENEFIT ride is designed to raise money for Region 2, they are hoping to receive a LOT of last minute entries!

Likewise, the *Share the Trail Ride* (page 7) is coming up in June and has only received one entry, as of May 10th.

Please help spread the word about these rides to friends and groups in your area to help boost the number of entries.



Letter from the President:

Spring has been lovely and we all should have been able to ride and condition for the new Vail Lake Ride on the 18th of May and the Share the Trails ride in June. The Bumble Bee ride was a success and there were lots of NATRC riders from New Mexico and Colorado as well as a few from California. One

couple from California, Doug and Tammy Brown, came to all 3 of the Arizona rides and participated in the Triple Crown. Sadly, Doug passed away at his home only few days after the ride.

The Triple Crown was won by a long-time Region 2 member, Debbie Zinkl. Congratulations to her, as well as the other riders that competed in all three rides! It was a very close outcome, with the top three competitors separated by less than 1%. Thank you to all who entered and volunteered at any or all three of the Arizona rides. Next year is going to be bigger and better.

For the new riders/members, remember that in order to qualify for a year-end awards, you have to be an Region 2 NATRC member and have completed at least 3 rides within your member region. Year-end awards include ribbons, trophies, and other lovely gifts. So, if you need one more ride, you should plan to attend either or both the Vail Lake Ride in May, Share the Trail Ride in June, or RAHA in October.

Hope to see you at the rides and have a good summer.

Beni & SpyderMann+



**Region 2 - Board of Directors
2013**

Regional Board of Directors:

Beni DeMattei	President	beni2406@hotmail.com	(term expires 12/2015)
Carrie Garufis	Vice President	garufis@aol.com	(term expires 12/2015)
Mary Jo Malone	Secretary	maryjomalone@msn.com	(term expires 12/2013)
Lory Walls	Treasurer	lorywalls@cox.net	(term expires 12/2013)
Katy Taylor	Director	horseitup@earthlink.net	(term expires 12/2015)
Lynda Sterns	Director	lyndasterns@gmail.com	(term expires 12/2013)
Bob Insko	Director	insko@sbcglobal.net	(term expires 12/2014)

Region 2 National Board of Directors representatives:

Lory Walls ~	By-Laws & Rules Committee	lorywalls@cox.net	(term expires 12/2013)
Beni DeMattei		beni2406@hotmail.com	(term expires 12/2015)
Alternate: Bob Insko		insko@sbcglobal.net	(term expires 12/2014)



GOODSHOP.COM and GOODSEARCH.COM

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AZ Triple Crown Winner Decided At Bumble Bee Ride

By Cristina Ballard



Beautiful Bumble Bee Ranch – photo by Cristina Ballard

Hosting three North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) rides in three months at three different locations takes a dedicated team, who work well together and still enjoy each other's company after the final ride. That would definitely describe the Arizona Triple Crown's management team! All of the team members were tired when the final ride wrapped up at the Bumble Bee Ranch but they were also filled with pride and satisfaction in their success of hosting the first Arizona Triple Crown rides.



AZ Triple Crown Team Members – [inside coach from left to right] Catherine Peterson (M&M Ride Manager), Beni DeMattei (Triple Crown Rides Secretary), Karen Kafka (STAR Ride Manager), Penny Nichols (Triple Crown Rides Volunteer Caterer); [outside coach from left to right] Cris Ballard (Triple Crown Promotion/Marketing), Kandace French (Bumble Bee Ride Manager). Photo by Jennifer LaBelle, Silver Buckle Photography.

The only thing harder than hosting the three Triple Crown rides would be to compete in all of the rides within a three month period of time. It is quite an accomplishment for both horse and rider to stay sound and fit enough to allow them to successfully complete the three-ride series. In the end, only nine horse-and-rider teams achieved this goal, which automatically qualified each of them as a potential winner of the Arizona Triple Crown. Special decals were made by the Triple Crown team to present to each rider that completed the Triple Crown rides to acknowledge the significance of their accomplishment.



AZ Triple Crown contenders, [from left to right] Tammy & Doug Brown, Sherrie Bray, Debbie Zinkl, Susan Dreyfus, Jill Worley and Cris Ballard [below, holding the winner's prize]. Not pictured, but were also Triple Crown contenders, are Carol Evans and Sharon Noake. Photo taken by Catherine Peterson.

The Bumble Bee Ride was not only the final jewel of the Triple Crown series, but was also the most spacious. The 30 competitors enjoyed many amenities that are not usually available at rides. Aside from camping in a huge pasture area, the riders were also treated to flushing toilets, hot showers and prepared dinners by the Bumble Bee Ranch staff each night under a large pavilion, which was also used for ride briefings and awards presentations. Each rider packet also included a generous goody bag provided by "Tack Solutions by Leslie", located in Phoenix, which contained horse treats, discount coupons and key chains.

Again, Triple Crown team members, Karen Kafka and Cris Ballard created ride-specific, unique "trophies" for both class and division winners. Kafka and her team assembled prize bags, which contained bumble-bee related items of all kinds. For the Sweepstakes and High-Point Team awards, Cris Ballard made bumble-bee themed wind chimes, which also included the division award, the ride name and year.

All ride results mentioned in the following parts of this story are unofficial until verified and confirmed by NATRC.

Saturday night was time for the one-day awards, which included Novice B and the mini-AZ Triple Crown presentation. Susan Beard won the Heavyweight horsemanship class, while Angie Fura took Lightweight horsemanship's top award. The Heavyweight horse winner was RP Fiery Dream (ridden by Monica Phillips) and the first place winner for Lightweight horse was Toledo Tilly (ridden by Pat Montgomery). Toledo Tilly also took the Novice B Sweepstakes prize. The mini-Triple Crown was given to the highest scoring horse and rider team to complete all three AZ Triple Crown rides, which was awarded to Susan Beard and Little Bit's Merry Lad. Susan was presented with a lap rug bearing the AZ Triple Crown logo, a coupon for her horse to receive a massage/treatment from Kristy Maffucci, owner of "Freedom In Motion", and a

Triple Crown completion decal to display on her trailer or vehicle.



Mini-AZ Triple Crown winner, Susan Beard. Photo taken by Jennifer LaBelle, Silver Buckle Photography.

After all of the competitors were checked out early Sunday afternoon, the number crunching started - not only for the ride awards but, more importantly, also to determine the winner of the *first* AZ Triple Crown. The field was so tight that in the end, the top two scores for the Triple Crown were only separated by less than a point.

In the Novice A Lightweight class, Jill Worley and her horse, Rio, took home both of the blue ribbons. Likewise, the Novice A Heavyweight winners were Holly and her rider, Carol Evans. Carol also happily collected the Sweepstakes prizes for Holly in the Novice A division.

The Open Heavyweight Horsemanship winner was Matt Baker, who rode Peanut. Doug Brown rode National Treasure to another win in the Open Heavyweight Horse class. The Open Lightweight class was swept by Terri Smith, aboard Hot Saki. Hot Saki also earned the Open Sweepstakes prize and Terri was thrilled to pieces.

In the Competitive Pleasure division, Debbie Zinkl was awarded first place in Horsemanship on Society Man's Sunny Boy, while Andarko, ridden by Lory Walls, took the blue in Horse. Lory and Andarko also won the High-Point Team award for the Competitive Pleasure division.

At long last, the winner of this year's Arizona Triple Crown was to be announced. The Crown went to Debbie Zinkl and Society Man's Sunny Boy! Debbie seemed taken by surprise when her name was announced and she was presented with her awards, which consisted of a horse cooler with "Arizona Triple Crown Winner – 2013" and Triple Crown logo embroidered on it, a free entry to an AZ Triple Crown Ride in 2014, a very large championship ribbon and bragging rights as

the first winner of the Arizona Triple Crown.



2013 AZ Triple Crown winner, Debbie Zinkl and Society Man's Sunny Boy.

After months of hard work and time spent preparing for these rides, the management team (and their families) was thrilled with their success but ready to relax. Until next year, that is. Rest assured that the team won't be resting on their laurels too long. Soon they will be gearing up to prepare for 2014 and hope to spread the word between now and then to attract even more competitors at the next year's AZ Triple Crown rides.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a distance-riding clinic, please contact:

Beni DeMattei: 480-892-4120 OR beni2406@hotmail.com

NATRC and Region 2...Come Ride With Us!



See Ya Next Year! Photo by Jennifer LaBelle, Silver Buckle Photography.

The Arizona Triple Crown team dedicates the 2013 rides to Doug Brown - a man always with a ready smile, a kind nature and a true horseman. He will be dearly missed!

CORRECTION

It has been brought to the editor's attention that information in story that ran in in the previous newsletter, entitled "STAR Ride Sets Standard as First Jewel of AZ Triple Crown," was incorrect. The story stated that Susan Dreyfus and Medicine Wolf won the Novice A Sweepstakes but this award was won by Sharon Noake and Night Hawk, who came a group of friends from Kingman, AZ to compete in all of the Triple Crown rides.

Apologies to both Sharon and Susan for any confusion this may have caused them or our readers.

*~Cris Ballard
Newsletter Editor*

FOLLOW REGION 2 ON FACEBOOK

Everyone's heard the tag line, "Find us on Facebook." If you're the kind of person that can't get through the day without getting your Facebook (FB) fix, then rest assured that you can "find us on Facebook!" NATRC has its own FB page that you're invited to visit and Region 2 lives up to its billing by offering not one, but **two** FB pages you can visit and join!

You need to have a FB account to access the NATRC pages but once you're set up you can search for "NATRC" or "NATRC Region 2" or "Region 2 Triple Crown Support Group". All are a good source for ride information, asking/answering questions and learning more about the sport while making friends you may see at future rides or clinics!

GO AHEAD...FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

INTRODUCTORY COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE
VAIL LAKE Competitive Trail Ride
AT VAIL LAKE RESORT, TEMECULA CA



MAY 18, 2013

Join us at **Vail Lake Resort**
for a **one day Competitive Trail Ride**
for the benefit of NATRC Region 2



- The resort is located 11 miles east of Highway 15 in Temecula on Highway 79 South. The average maximum temperature here in mid-May is **82 degrees**.
- Enjoy the **cooling breeze off of the lake** and the **breathtaking scenery of Vail Lake**.
- **This is a sport that welcomes newcomers with open arms.** If this is your first NATRC ride, you will enjoy a fun, fairly easy ride to test yourself and your horse. We invite you to come and ride approximately 16 miles in the Novice and Competitive Pleasure divisions, timed at approximately 3.3 MPH. If you have wanted to try the Open division, this is a great opportunity. Open will ride approximately 27 miles at 4.5 MPH. Check-in and camp Friday night and ride on Saturday. Join us Saturday evening for dinner and awards. Riders are able to stay until Sunday morning (for an additional fee) or leave after awards Saturday evening.
- **A Competitive Trail Ride is NOT A RACE. It is a timed and measured distance-riding event.** Equines of all breeds are invited to compete.
- Join us for a fun filled weekend of challenging horsemanship and camaraderie. Take this opportunity to enjoy some great scenery with your horse. **The REAL idea is to come have fun with your horses for a weekend!**
- Bring a friend to ride or just to help.

Come Ride With Us!

For more information contact Mary Jo at mjm92592@gmail.com,
(951)966-5709 or visit our website at <http://www.natrc2.org>

SHARE THE TRAILS Competitive Trail Ride Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

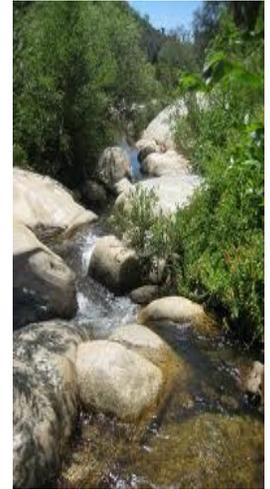
Descanso, CA

June 7-8, 2013

**NATRC-Sanctioned, One-Day "B" Ride
Open, Novice & Competitive Pleasure**

Rider Chair : Lory Walls

Ride Secretary: Bob Insko



For more information, contact Lynda Sterns at: (619) 659-3801 OR
lyndasterns@gmail.com.

Mail Entry & Waiver to:

1455 Harbison Canyon Rd,
El Cajon, CA 92019 **OR**

Use the NATRC Ride Management System (eRide Entry Forms) at:
<http://www.natrc2.org>

Pre-entry is required. To AVOID LATE FEES, register by June 3, 2013.

The ride takes place just 40 miles east of San Diego, Ca. The scenery is beautiful with the ride starting at the staging area, and climbing up to the pine trees and meadows of the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. The course is on trails and fire roads, with good footing. There are a few stream crossings. The trail can be rocky in some areas. You will be sharing the park area with other equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, deer and wild turkeys. There is plenty of room on the trails, but you need to be aware of your surroundings. The course is open to the public at all times and so please know your horse and be safe. We will be sharing base camp and trails with AERC. They have rides going on in conjunction with this ride.

Saturday diners are available for purchase on your registration form. NATRC hosts a Friday night potluck as well. NATRC will have a designated area for parking and camping. The base camp is in an open field next to McClintock's Saddle Works. Descanso Hay and Feed is also nearby. There is a small store with expensive gas (including diesel), and a café. The only water source will be a water trough that we will keep filled with a hose. If it is more convenient for you, you may want to bring your own horse water. There are no trees at base camp, so you may want to bring your own clouds also.

If you are new to Competitive Trail Riding, we invite you to come and ride in the Novice Division. Don't let the idea of "competition" keep you away. If you just want to ride to see what it's like WITHOUT competing, try our new "Just-DO-it" option – the "DO", or Distance-Only option lets riders get credit for the miles they ride without the pressure of the "judging" part.

NATRC and Region 2...Come Ride With Us!

2013 REGION 2 TEAM POINT STANDINGS

(as of April, 2013)

Open Heavyweight

No qualified teams

Open Lightweight

No qualified teams

Open Junior

No qualified teams

Competitive Pleasure

Debbie Zinkl & Society Man's Sunny Boy* - 52 points

Sherrie Bray & Pride's College Boy* - 48 points

Lory Walls & Sea Dragon¹ – 30 points

Karen Kafka & Smokey Sedona¹ – 22 points

Novice Heavyweight

Sharon Noake & Night Hawk+ – 65 points

Carol Evans & Holly+ - 58 points

Susan Dreyfus & Medicine Wolf* - 44 points

Megan Masarsky & Batista Z¹ – 36 points

Susan Beard & Little Bit's Merry Lad* - 32 points

Monica Phillips & RP Fiery Dream² – 24 points

Sierra DeVaney & Magnum² – 24 points

Stephanie Williams & Ripley² – 24 points

AJ Wischmeyer & Deva¹ – 11 points

Kelly McCumber & Ripley² – 10 points

Novice Lightweight

Jill Worley & Rio* - 44 points

Mary Pickard & Ranger² – 24 points

Richard Calvert & Shesa Nifty Blond¹ – 22 points

Angie Fura & WMA Patellea² – 17 points

Merry Lester & Earl Grey² – 16 points

Sarah Watson & Bo² – 12 points

Rachel Larsen & Star² – 8 points

Monique Williams-Chaisson & Skywatch Super Gold¹ – 7 points

Pat Montgomery & Toledo Tilly² – 6 points

Novice Junior

Caden Williams & RA Chloe² – 11 points

Brianna Floyd & Liz² – 7 points

Elizabeth Floyd & Silver² – 7 points

*Qualified for National awards.

¹NATRC member but haven't completed 3-ride requirement.

+Completed 3-ride requirement but not NATRC member.

²Haven't met 3-ride or membership requirements.

REMEMBER – *You must be an NATRC Region 2 member and have completed three rides to qualify for National awards. NATRC membership is retroactively applied during the same calendar year.*

GOT ARABS?

Did you know that if you compete with an Arab, half Arab or Anglo-Arab, you can earn credit for the miles you ride from the Arabian Horse Association (AHA)? The Distance Horse Award Program applies to both competitive and endurance riding and when your horse reaches 500 miles, you will be awarded a beautiful plaque with your horse's name on it, as well as space to affix more plaques. For each additional AHA-recognized distance ride you complete, you will receive a 500-mile brass marker to place on your original plaque.

For more information about this program, go to AHA's web site at:

http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions/distance/dist_programs.asp

OR

Call AHA's Competitions Department at: (303) 696-4500 and select option 4.

Rules vs Expectations

(Reprinted from, "Challenge of the North" web page.)

NATRC does not have a lot of rules as compared to other horse competitions. The Rule Book is small and only has about 50 pages, half of which pertain to things like awards, protests and prohibited substances. Please take the time to read the entire book. It won't take long. (For comparison, the U.S. Equestrian Federation Rule Book is over 750 pages, the Reining Horse Assoc. Rule Book is over 130 pages, and the Quarter Horse Rule Book is over 150 pages.)

There are, of course, rules that must be followed during a ride. For example: you cannot proceed along the course of the trail unless you are mounted on your horse (you can't get off and lead, like you can during an endurance ride), you must use some form of a saddle and bridle, you must maintain forward motion in the last two miles of each day's ride, etc. Becoming familiar with these actual rules is vital to a good CTR experience.

During a competition, however, there are certain "expectations." Sometimes these expectations become confused with rules. Sometimes competitors will lose points on their scorecards for things that aren't found in the Rule Book. So how do you know what these "expectations" are?

The "expectations" vary slightly from judge to judge, with the personal opinions of the individual judges dictating details, but they are basically the same across the board. They are what's "expected" of a good horseman. They could also be termed "common sense." They fall into two basic categories – safety and proper horse care. Every judge is, first and foremost, concerned about rider and horse safety, with proper horse care being second.

A word about judges: When you sign up to compete in a ride, you are essentially asking for a judge's opinion of how well you are able to ride and care for your horse during a long distance ride. When you get your scorecards

back, they will reflect the judge's opinion of you and your horse.

Take them for what they are – that person's opinion, based on the philosophies and rules of the sport. Remember, when you paid your entry fee, you asked for just that. Think about what's on the card, learn from it, and please do not view it as personal criticism. Even though the scoring system is based on negative scoring, the judges really and truly want you to succeed and would rather NOT have to deduct points.

Take for example, crossing a river. You will not find any rule in the Rule Book that says anything about crossing a river. Keeping in mind the two basic expectations of safety and proper horse care, let's say that three riders all arrive at the river crossing together, one behind the other. Rider #1 enters the water. Rider #2 waits on the bank until Rider #1 is about half way across the river, then enters the water. Rider #3 follows Rider #2 immediately, without waiting. About half way across the river, Rider #2's horse stumbles on a submerged rock, causing a loss of forward motion for a few seconds. Rider #3's horse, following closely, collides with #2's horse, causing it to stumble again. They all recover and finish crossing the river without further incident.

The judge was on the bank and watched this scenario. Rider #3 loses points on the horsemanship card for "following too close." There is no rule that says how far behind to follow another horse across a river, or up a hill, or while just going down the trail. But safety and common sense dictate (expect) that you shouldn't follow close enough to get kicked or to interfere with the other horse in any way. Therefore, the rider lost points for not meeting the "expectations" of a good horseman.

Let's take another example. At the ride, the weather is poor; the temperature is in the 60's and it's raining. The horses complete the morning's ride and arrive back in camp for their lunch break. Steam rises from them as they

stand tied to their trailers. Some riders immediately put rain sheets on their horses, while others do not. Some riders lose points for "horse not blanketed at lunch." Why? There is no rule about using or not using blankets.

That particular judge's opinion is that the horses would certainly benefit from being blanketed in those circumstances. The expectations of good horse care, (common sense), also dictates that blanketing in those circumstances would be in the horses' best interests. They have just completed several hours of hard work, their muscles are warm, and they are now being asked to stand around for an hour, while being soaked by a cold rain. Those hard-working, warmed-up muscles are likely to become chilled and tighten up as a result. A blanket would help prevent the horse from getting chilled, thereby making his subsequent work easier. When viewed from that angle, it becomes obvious why someone might lose a point or two for "not blanketing at lunch." Even if your horse never needs a blanket at home, in these circumstances, blanketing makes sense and is appropriate.

When you look at any trail situation with an eye for safety and proper horse care, it becomes easier to understand why you might lose a point for something. Ask yourself: Even if not readily apparent to me, did I do something that was potentially unsafe? A common example is positioning your horse too close to someone on the ground, like the judge's secretary or the timer. If you cause that person to think that they might get stepped on or bumped, you were being unsafe and will probably lose a point for it if the judge observes it. There is no rule that says, Stay so many feet in all directions away from the judge's secretary. But the "expectations" of safety say you will. You may not have even noticed how close you were to the person, but you were still being unsafe.

This story series will be continued in the next Region 2 newsletter so stay tuned to learn more!

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