



Texas Trail Challenge Club Newsletter

March/April 2024

Rocky Road Recap

The 18th Rocky Road on February 17 & 18, organized by Kate Love and Nancy Williams, was a grand success! The weather was CHILLY on Saturday, wind chill dipped into the 20's, and the horses were a bit frisky, but the riders endured. The trails were fun, and the obstacles were challenging. Riders were so bundled up they were often unrecognizable but as usual horses were recognized first! Several new types of warming devices were used by riders--toe warmers are great, but you need to follow the directions and manipulate them to expose them to air! If you stick them to your sock and immediately thrust your foot in your boot they do not warm well. James Corgill suggested boot insoles that are charged and then placed in your boots. Lynane Plumlee had Hot Sockee by TraxFactory, a sleeve that fits over your toes. Shirley Tarrillion suggested multiple layers for your feet, two or even three pairs of socks. Layers were extremely important, and wool was helpful as well. Dinner was lasagna with sides and desserts provided by members. Sunday, thankfully, was warmer and sunny with light winds, a much more enjoyable ride. So many board members, judges, and senior judges were helping at obstacles. I was really tickled when Greg Dial, Judges Director, was reading directions as a "volunteer" at obstacle 1. Senior Judge Kelly Beard was also a "volunteer" as she watched her granddaughter Halle ride by on Joe (she is 13 and placed 2nd on Sunday in the ADULT maverick division). Karen Pantel, Ride Director, was judging and Tiffany Janke, Treasurer, was riding and assisting her mom Rhonda who was secretary. Leah Lynch, Senior Horseman, arrived at an obstacle which was, lope into and halt in the box. Leah calmly announced that she and Stella were not ready to lope and would trot. Well, Stella had



*Kris Ritter on Tango
Scott Butcher - Photographer*



*Leah Lynch on Stella
Scott Butcher - Photographer*

other ideas and they proceeded to lope into the box and stop beautifully. Scott Butcher took wonderful photos. Bill Phillips, Acting President, also volunteered and donated ice cream for "Rocky Road". As always, it was wonderful to enjoy catching up with friends and celebrate everyone's achievements!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 REGISTER Camp Reveille, new ride managers Alex McStay & Melanie Vague, June 1 & 2, Reveille Peak Ranch, Burnet

March 9 & 10 High Tail It, Teresa Corgill & Shelley Hilton, Los Arroyos (formerly Lazy F) Ranch, Smiley

March 23 Youth Clinic, Tiffany Janke, Parrie Haynes Equestrian Center, Killeen

March 24 Adult Clinic, Greg Dial, Parrie Haynes Equestrian Center, Killeen

April 1 Deadline to order Cactus Two Step T-shirts (info further down in newsletter)

April 13 & 14 Smiley, Karen & Devin Pantel, Barnhart Q5 Ranch, Berclair

April 27 & 28 Cat Spring Fling, Nancy Fenimore & Suzy Tielke, 7IL Ranch, Cat Springs

Bill Phillips, Acting President:



I suspect that a few of you have been wondering “What’s going on with the position of TTCC President?” As you know, I became the Acting President back in November. At that time, I told the Board I would stay on as the Acting President through the Christmas Fundraiser and Celebration. This was a busy time for the Board, and I thought a little stability would help to keep things going. After Celebration we would consider our next step.

At our February Board meeting we decided the best way forward would be for me to remain as President for the 2024 competitive year and have an election for President at the normal time in the fall. The whole point of the Board of Directors is to facilitate the smooth running of our rides so that we all can improve as riders and, frankly, to have a blast riding with friends all over the state! So, I will be your TTCC President thru 2024.

What we have with this club is pretty amazing and it cannot happen without all the people who give of their time and talents. I am continually awed by how well organized and thoughtfully prepared the rides are. How creative the obstacles are, how helpful the riders are with each other, and how cool it is to ride in such diverse locations. This past weekend I was a volunteer and got to see each and every rider team. Your horses all looked great, which is more than I can say for you frozen and bundled up folks on Saturday!

Whether you are a new member or a “seasoned” member, thank you for all that you do to make these weekends so much fun and such great learning opportunities.



See you on the trail,

Bill Phillips

Judges Director – Greg Dial

Not only did TTCC celebrate the Yuletide season in great fun and style at our annual Christmas Ride and Fundraiser, but your judges attended a forum of discussion and demonstration the next day. Much of what we covered were “housekeeping” issues: procedures, clarifications, and reminders. But several areas revolved around safety and scoring, and those will directly affect you as riders. Those areas are:

- **Ground Tie**

A proper ground tie demonstrates the horse’s willingness to stand still on command after the rider leaves his/her side. In the past, we’ve specified that any rein must be looped over the horse’s neck, and not over the saddle horn to avoid artificially restricting the horse’s ability to move. With equipment involving a loop rein (English bridles, roping or barrel reins, mecáte reins, or romal), this creates a safety hazard if the horse drops his head and steps into the loop. To avoid this, any rein may be laid over the saddle horn or a rein extender secured to the saddle, **provided that there is no tension in the rein to prevent the horse’s movement.** A horse seen to be “testing” the rein in a ground tie and thereby checking his movement will be scored as an improper or incomplete ground tie. A rein (lead rope, etc.) touching the ground is preferred but NOT required.

- **Foot out of stirrup**

Unless specified for the obstacle, a rider removing a foot from a stirrup to effect greater cueing will result in a point deduction to the rider.

- **Use of artificial aids**

Use of sticks, flags, or treats to elicit a specific movement or behavior for a specific obstacle will result in a point deduction to the rider.

- **Second/third attempts**

A reminder that scoring for a second attempt starts at **“8”**; for a third attempt, scoring starts at **“7”**. For clarification, an “attempt” is not a complete do-over, but a re-start from the point where the judge perceived the execution was in error.

- **Endangerment of staff**

Although they are few, we have had instances of horses nipping a volunteer, and at least one of a horse kicking out at or knocking a volunteer off their feet. A horse/rider team that directly endangers staff at an obstacle will receive a score of **“0”** and be dismissed from the obstacle. Repeat offenders may be asked to leave the ride.

- **Tailing**

The purpose of “tailing” is to assist a dismounted rider in walking up a hill. In the interests of control and safety, the lead rope used should **NOT** be run through a stirrup, should **NOT** fall below the level of the stirrup, and should **NOT** touch the ground.

Tailing per division:

→ Horseman—Rider positioned behind horse’s hip, grasping tail hair below the tail bone;

→ Maverick—Rider positioned at horse’s hip, grasping cantle of saddle;

→ Tenderfoot—Rider positioned at horse’s side, grasping stirrup, horn, or breast collar.

If you have any questions about these (or other) points, don’t hesitate to shoot the Judges Director (figuratively) a PM or email.

See you down the trail!

Cactus Two Step

Tiffany and Irene would like you to know that t-shirts are available for their ride. You have the choice of the 2 colors shown below. The cost is \$14.95, and the order needs to be turned in by April 1st. Go to this website to order: <https://www.customink.com/g/twc0-00cu-dbcbb>

There will be a free meal of hotdogs on Friday evening. If people would like to bring sides or desserts that would be welcome. And they also would like to make a note that their trail will be about 8.5 miles on Saturday and shorter on Sunday.



Spring Clinic & Cat Spring Fling

For the Spring Rider Clinic:

The clinic is full. To be placed on the waitlist, text Nancy Fenimore at 979-338-0133. Make your hookup reservation at: www.parriehaynesequestriancenter.com.

For Cat Spring Fling:

The ride is full. There is a waitlist. If you have to cancel, please contact Nancy at above number before you cancel your RV spot. The payment deadline to secure your spot is 3/27/2024. The total for the ride fee, ranch fee, and meal is \$147.00 & can be paid in one payment either by check or PayPal (Friends and Family). I have a waitlist for RV hookups. Text Nancy at 979-338-0133 to be placed on the list.

Silent Auction at Celebration



Laura McClean did a great job taking care of the Silent Auction at Celebration. Thank you, Laura!

The Silent Auction at Celebration was a huge success! Bidders were keeping their eye on their favorite pieces and trying to up the ante as other people signed the bid sheets. Items that were offered included a beautiful handmade horse quilt by Raylene Welch, two sets of Clinton Anderson discs, a cantle bag, a shelf with horses galloping beneath it, and a hay bag. Artwork included gunfighter figurines, Carolyn Mikeska's gorgeous handcrafted pottery, a black and white painting of horses, and a metal horse wall hanging. Western wearables included Ariat riding boots, beautiful leather chaps, a star necklace, two ladies' jackets,

and a Texas flag purse. Lynanne Plumlee donated a beautiful Montana West bag and a throw. Donors included Carolyn Mikeska, Brenda Hicks, Laura McLean, Teresa Corgill, LeeAnn Boore, Betty Phillips, Shelley Hilton, Jean Wilson, and Raylene Welch. We are so very grateful to these donors and to the club members who bid on these items! One thousand three hundred thirty-five dollars was raised by the Silent Auction. Thank you so much!

In the next newsletter we will spotlight our sponsors who are so important to the success of our club!



CELEBRATION

JANUARY 27, 2024

THE FARRIS WHEEL

13682 Maxdale Rd, Killeen TX 76549

4:00 PM - Meet & Greet
Thank You Gifts

6:00 PM - Dinner & Award Presentations



Overall High Point Horseman Champion and
Reserve Champion - Mary Ann Brandon &
Becky Cash



Sandra Ladd Award,
Most Improved
Tenderfoot - Kris Ritter



Jennifer Severson
Award, Most
Improved Maverick -
Cheryl Sofaly

2023 Volunteers

(Volunteered 4 or more days)

Barney Cash Jean Moreau
Carla Chandler Bill Phillips
James Corgill Bill Thurlow
Susie Jernigan Tooter Smith
Carolyn Mikeska

2023 Ride Managers & Judges

Kelly Beard (J)
LeeAnn Boore (RM)
Mary Ann Brandon (J)
Tracee Casarez (J)
Teresa Corgill (RM & J)
Doanna Daniel (J)
Greg Dial (RM & J)
Sybil Eagan (J)
Nancy Fenimore (RM & J)
Shelley Hilton (RM)
Kate Hollar (RM & J)
Tiffany Janke (RM & J)
Leah Lynch (RM)
Cheryl May (J)
Ginny Mayfield (RM)
Jim Miller (RM)
Melissa Neal (J)
Devin Pantel (RM)
Karen Pantel (RM & J)
Bonnie Pasko (J)
Lissa Rabon (J)
Ann Stacy (RM & J)
Jeryl Stauka (J)
Annette Thurlow (RM & J)
Bill Thurlow (RM)
Carol Warren (J)
Nancy Williams (RM & J)
Jean Wilson (J)

2023 Sponsors

David & Carol Warren, DVMS -
Equine Sports Medicine
Tom & Leah Lynch - Our Friends
Campground I
Mark & Mary Ann Brandon - Tanos
Exploration II, LLC
Greg Dial - The Gentle Rein
John Nowel - Specialized Saddles
Jim Miller & Kim Gehring
Jeff & Gayna Smith - Smith Structural
Engineering
Rick & Kate Hollar - Liberty Oak
Bed n Barn
Jamie Zoch - Compass Conversions
Scott & Priscilla Butcher - Photography
LeeAnn Boore - Slice of Heaven Farms
Donnie & Carin Eaton - Bugs
Unlimited Pest Management

2023 Board of Directors

Ann Stacy - President
Tiffany Janke - Treasurer
Greg Dial - Judge's Director
Bill Phillips - Membership Director
Karen Pantel - Ride Director

2023 Secretaries & Assistants

Pat Baring
April Baxter
Becky Cash
Nancy Fenimore
Rhonda Fryer
Kim Gehring
Tiffany Janke
Leah Lynch
Sharon Price
Cathy Schulze
Kit Shadrock
Marcy Stellfox

First-Time Iron Riders

Haley Altomare
Krystal Bunch
Susie Jernigan
Kris Maley
Alex McStay
Juli Steele

Fourth-Time Iron Rider

Jim Miller

Committee Members

Jean Brandau - Ride Tribe
Scott Butcher - Photographer
Nancy Fenimore - Youth/Rider Clinics
Rhonda Fryer - Photographer
Shelly Hikon - Ribbons & Celebration Dessert
Laura McLean - Raffle
Alex McStay - Youth Clinic Involvement
Kit Shadrock - TTCC Website
Gayna Smith - TTCC Newsletter
Shirley Tarrillion - Celebration Decorations
Suzy Tielke - Year-end Awards

Second-Time Iron Riders

Kim Gehring
Katherine Mason
Tooter Smith
Connie Staudridge
Shirley Tarrillion

Milcage Award Recipients

1000 Miles:
Shelley Hilton
Jim Miller

750 Miles:
LeeAnn Boore
Mary Ann Brandon
Becky Cash
Tracee Casarez
Marta Covington
Christi Hudspeth
Cindy Leatherwood
Melissa Neal
Gina Stepchinsky

500 Miles:
Kelly Beard
Connor Cash
Isabelle Dean
Susie Jernigan
Linda Martini
Katherine Mason
Cheryl May
Shirley Tarrillion

250 Miles:
Haley Altomare
April Baxter
Emily Gehring
Kim Gehring
Vivian Johnson
Barbara Knight
Alex McStay

100 Miles:
Haley Altomare
Peggy Baron
Tom Blackmon
Krystal Bunch
Marilyn Dardame
Jane Holland
Wendy Hutchinson
Kathy Lundblad
Mollie Nelson
Sylvia Perry
Kris Ritter
Carolyn Smeltzer
Candice Smith
Cheryl Sofaly
Juli Steele
Avery Vague
Vicky Van Steyn

Class Awards



Junior Class - First Place - Carolyn Smeltzer



Tenderfoot Adult - 1 - Kris Ritter, 2 - Carin Bauer 3 - Krystal Bunch, 4 - Keenia Cowey, 5 - Shirley Tarrillion, 6 - Megan Smart



Tenderfoot Senior 1- Kim Gehring, 2- Teresa Ingram, 3- Sylvia Perry, 4- Marilyn Dardenne, NP 5- Kathy Lundblad, NP



Maverick Adult 1- Cheryl Sofaly, 2- Evelyn O'Hara, 3- Katherine Mason, 4- Alexandra McStay, 5- Gina Stepchinsky, 6- Tracee Casarez, NP



Maverick Senior 1- Connie Standridge, 2- Vivian Johnson, 3-Tooter Smith, 4- Jim Miller, 5-Priscilla Butcher, NP 6- Shelley Hilton



Horseman Adult 1- Mary Ann Brandon, 2- Mary Marczak, 3- Mel Neal, 4- Vicki Van Steyn, 5- Lee Ann Boore, 6- Carol Warren



Horseman Senior 1-Becky Cash, 2- Teresa Corgill, 3- Isabel Dean, NP 4- Jean Wilson, 5- Linda Martini, NP 6- Leah Lynch



*High Point Tenderfoot - Carolyn Smeltzer
Reserve High Point Tenderfoot - Kim Gehring*



*Hight Point Maverick - Connie Standridge
Reserve High Point Maverick - Vivian Johnson*



Buckle Series - Horseman – Isabel Dean on Doc, Maverick – Connie Standridge on Annie, Tenderfoot – Shirly Tarrillion on Junior, Wild Card – Kim Gehring on Josie



Wrangler Award 1- Lynane Plumlee, 2- Lee Ann Boore, 3- Juli Steele



*Volunteer of the Year - 20 Days
Tooter Smith*

If you weren't able to attend the Celebration and see your name listed as a winner, please contact Karen Pantel at dkpantel@gvec.net, to arrange picking up your award.

Horse Awards

Green Partner

Overall Green Partner: Cookie ridden by Lynane Plumlee

Honorable Mention Green Partners:

Horseman – Miracle ridden by LeeAnn Boore

Tenderfoot – Junior ridden by Shirley Tarrillion

Tenderfoot – Cheyenne ridden by Juli Steele

Working Partner

Overall Working Partner: Remingtonite ridden by Mary Ann Brandon

Honorable Mention Working Partners:

Horseman – Truly ridden by Becky Cash

Horseman – RC ridden by LeeAnn Boore

Maverick – Annie ridden by Connie Standridge

Maverick – Cass ridden by Cheryl Sofaly

Tenderfoot – Creek ridden by Kris Ritter

Tenderfoot – Sunny ridden by Krystal Bunch

Seasoned Partner

Overall Seasoned Partner: Josie ridden by Kim Gehring

Honorable Mention Seasoned Partners:

Horseman – Mate ridden by Linda Martini

Horseman – Doc ridden by Isabel Dean

Maverick – Tempted Assets ridden by Evelyn O'Hara

Maverick – Tobijah ridden by Vivian Johnson

Tenderfoot – Blue Bell ridden by Carolyn Smeltzer

Tenderfoot – Lady ridden by Teresa Ingram

December 11, 2023 BOD Meeting Summary

- BOD approved a max attendance limit of 150 for the Celebration Event
- The 2024 TTCC patch has been ordered
- Final preparations for the Silent Auction/Celebration Event are being made
- The Christmas Fund Raiser event – trail will be 6.2 miles long and all obstacles have been designed and are ready to set up
- The 2024 Youth/Rider clinic was discussed, and Alex McStay will be the appointed chair of the youth clinic
- Additional changes to the 2024 Rulebook per below:
 - 1.2.2 – add “has competed at Horseman Level”
 - 1.2.6 – form additional paragraph with wording of “failure to attend a Judge’s Roundtable/Clinic/Meeting, will result in a judge being moved to inactive status”
 - 2.6 – add language “all riders must sign/complete forms from all venues”
 - 4.1 c – edit/add: “Accomplished equine and rider team, and horsemanship professionals”
 - 4.1 c – add addendum to read: “A horsemanship professional is defined as anyone who offers training, lessons, clinics, or media to the public for monetary compensation. Instructors whose sole function is safety in a therapeutic riding program, instructors who work only in a classroom setting, camp counselors, and facilitators in EAL or EAP scenarios are excepted”



2023 Board of Directors

January 8, 2024 BOD Meeting Summary

- Discussion was had pertaining to an idea brought before the Board about the club providing horseback services to direct traffic and assist in parking vehicles for events held at the Cadence Bank Center (formerly the Bell County Expo Center). The intent of this idea was to be a possible fund raiser for TTCC, but the Board decided to not support this suggestion due to the club’s insurance limitations, availability of members to work such events, and conflicts with TTCC ride dates
- The December Christmas Fund Raiser event brought in approximately \$1,600
- The Judge’s forum held on December 17, 2023 was attended by 15 judges.
- A process of how to better account for volunteers at rides was discussed, as well as a process of how to track Iron Riders. Minimal changes to the registration at rides (that will impact the Ride Secretary) may be implemented

For 2024 TTCC ride events, Ride Managers will be charged \$100 for the weekend to help cover the costs of insurance and ribbons. The cost of ribbons and insurance for 2024 is approximately \$3,200.

The 2024 Ride Managers Manual will be sent to all Ride Managers by the end of February.

Deadline for the May-June Newsletter is April 1st!