



Texas Trail Challenge Club Newsletter

November/December 2024

Election for TTCC President

The ballots will be emailed out on **Sunday October 27th** and must be received no later than **Wednesday November 6th** so that the results can be announced at the Semi-Annual General Meeting on **November 8th** at Salute To The Troops. Each TTCC member will have one vote. (Family Memberships only have one vote). The new President will take office on January 1, 2025.

Candidates for President

(The following biographies are in alphabetical order!)



CARIN BAUER-EATON

"Hey Cheesehead!" Can sometimes be heard as Arti and I pull up to an obstacle by Judge Greg Dial. I was raised in Wisconsin, moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1990, then settled in Killeen, Texas in 1992. Teaching brought me to Killeen where I taught for 28 years until I retired in 2017. Since retiring I have dedicated more time to the thing

I enjoy most—horseback riding.

Although new to TTCC, I am not new to horses nor leadership positions. I am seeking the position of president for the 2025-2028 term. Even though I am a Tenderfoot and have not taken part in

judging, nor ride managing, nor any other integral parts of this club, I am bringing a fresh new look with possible new ideas for our future. The position of President is familiar to me due to the 8 years I was president of the Bell County Sheriff Posse as well as other officer positions during my 20+ years' time with them to include-1st and 2nd VP, Secretary, and a Board of Director. Robert's Rules of Order was used to keep our meetings organized. I also helped write and enforce new By Laws which were

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1

Register for Rocky Road at PHR, Killeen, February 15 & 16

November 6

Last day to turn in ballots.

November 8

General Meeting at Salute to the Troops, C Bar, Valley Mills – 7pm

November 9 & 10

Salute to the Troops
C Bar, Valley Mills

November 30

Christmas Party & Fundraiser at PHR, Killeen

December 1

Judges Forum

December 1

Register for Youth Riders Clinic, March 1, Adult Riders Clinic, March 2 at PHR, Killeen

Register for High Tail It, March 8 & 9 at Smiley

January 25

Celebration!

essential so the organization would run smoothly. I ask many questions to learn and understand the dynamics of how people and things operate. I do this for a better understanding since we all have different backgrounds and different ways of looking at things; this gives me the ability to meet people and horses where they are. I'm not afraid to tackle the unknown and have demonstrated that by coordinating clinics, attending clinics, and bringing fundraising opportunities to TTCC. As of this date, the parking lot fundraiser has generated over \$3900 for our club.

TTCC has been a great journey for me, and I want to give back to our club to help make our best even better! When I joined, I was shocked to see so many people getting along and cheering each other on!! What a great club! It made me really want to be an integral part of this organization. Fellowship with our peers and our equines is a top priority for me. I strongly believe that you are successful in an organization/endeavor because of the people you surround yourself with and that support you. No matter who is selected, let's help make them successful.

SCOTT BUTCHER



Scott Butcher Husband, father, volunteer, horse owner, former rider, engineer, artist, and non-profit executive. Fascinated with the equine world and the people in it. I rode until I couldn't; switched to something that kept me close-photography. This is a logical extension of my fine art photography, which is how, by necessity, I earned my non-profit experience. It is time I gave back by using my experience as an executive in the non-profit world in areas of governance, management, and financial planning. What do I promise? Simplicity and clarity of focus. How? Maintain the current course and mission statement of TTCC by crisply executing action to achieve Key Performance

Objectives as determined by the BOD. Promptly engage and manage any conflicts to closure between Board and/or members as needed to ensure the best outcome for TTCC and the overall membership. Tune TTCC financial policies, budgets, and actions to carefully preserve our not-for-profit status. Simply put: Always remember that I serve the organization, and not my ego.

ALEXANDRA MCSTAY

Alexandra McStay has been a member of TTCC since Summer in the Canyon in 2020 when she showed up with her daughter Aislin, and a wildly inappropriate horse to ride. She didn't know that this club would soon become one of the greatest adventures of her life! Alexandra quickly found her drive and through TTCC found her passion. She's eternally grateful for all the learning that being a part of TTCC has afforded her and looks forward to many more years of learning and experiences with the club. Alexandra has been known to use the Horsemanship techniques that she learned from TTCC with her middle school students, parents, and staff. For Alexandra, TTCC isn't just about riding horses, it's family and a way of life.



Ride Recaps



LeeAnn welcoming riders to Hog Wild, photo by Scott Butcher

Hog Wild, hosted by Lee Ann Boore and Jim Miller, was held on September 7 & 8 at the beautiful Woodrock Ranch in Bluff Dale, Texas. The weather was spectacular with cool mornings, and sunny afternoons with a breeze. The highs did not get out of the 80's, a welcome relief after last year's blistering 108*. Doanna Daniel was Senior Judge, assisted by Greg Dial, Nancy Fenimore, Sybil Eagan, and Jean Wilson. Ride secretaries were Marcy Stellfox assisted by Sharon Price, and



Oompa Loompa skit featuring Cheryl Sofaly, Carin Bauer-Eaton, and LeeAnn Boore, photo by Scott Butcher

Becky Cash and Jaxson raised funds with the raffle. The focus was on natural trail obstacles including a mount, map check, downhill, maneuvering in a tight space, side pass, ground tie, and others. The exception to natural obstacles was the water box, featured both days, which a great many horses took exception to! Maybe it was the small floating piggies on top that squeaked (a few were squished) when the horses walked through. Quite a few riders went home with homework on this one. Saturday night was a delicious taco dinner and Teresa Musgrave, who generously shared her ranch, talked about the history of Woodrock Ranch. Dinner was followed by a theater presentation that everyone enjoyed.



"And they flew through the air with the greatest of ease"
Jody Elliot and Barbara Knight, photos by Scott Butcher



Ann Stacy and Teresa Corgill's horses stepped bravely through the floating, squeaky pigs, photos by Scott Butcher



Carin Bauer's horse Artie had a bad hair day after leaping the bottomless pit, photo by Scott Butcher



Becky Cash and Shirley Tarillion tried to cajole their horses into stepping into the water, photos by Scott Butcher



LOST CONCHO

by Greg Dial

When the ride previously known as "Lost Concho" returns in 2026, it may be renamed, "The Great Escape"!

Heavy rains in the first part of September hit Llano County, and Inks Ranch received over 10" two weeks prior to the ride date. Boggy conditions and heavy erosion necessitated a last-minute rethink on the trail, as well as a safer parking plan. Tractors bogged to the axles, four-wheel drive vehicles stuck in the sand, horses caught in deep mud just after the rains...all made caution a watchword. But the changes worked out to our benefit: the new trail took us up into the granite where we didn't get to ride last year, and Scott Butcher took some fabulous photos



Beautiful trail at Inks Ranch, photo by Scott Butcher

with Enchanted Rock as a backdrop. Our host, Robert Inks, knocked Saturday evening's meal out of the park with aoudad and pork street tacos sourced from the ranch, and I think everyone went to bed with a full belly. The weather cooperated, too, with drier air, a decent breeze, good cloud cover and temps in the low 90s, which was a far cry from last year's high of 108 on Sunday. And I can't say enough good things about our volunteers; we were a little short on 4WD transportation, but they carried on and got our judges where they needed to be...usually on time! The scenery at Inks never fails to take my breath away, and I'm sad we won't be back next year. But Leah and I are looking forward to going "back to the granite" in 2026!



Ride Managers Greg Dial and Leah Lynch, photo by Scott Butcher

As to the new name, I don't want to say that Brandy Steele's horse "Echo" set a precedent last year, but we had another horse pull a Houdini on Sunday morning. Tom Walker's mare "Peaches" took a stroll in the morning...but not up into the rocks. She ventured right over the cattle guard at the ranch entrance, and out into the adjoining ranch where she hooked up with a couple of local boys--a palomino gelding and his sorrel compadre. Tom and a handful of volunteers looked for her into the evening but found no sign. Monday morning, we rejoined the search, and after putting out the word on the TTCC Facebook page, I was inundated with folks volunteering to come out and aid in the hunt. Robert Inks and I went out on four-wheelers to look, and by the time I got back, Cheryl Sofaly had arrived with an extra horse so Tom could be mounted. Scott and Priscilla Butcher had already been out from sunup,



Greg Dial and Tom Walker discussing Peaches escape, photo by Scott Butcher



Peaches saying goodbye to her new boyfriends, photo by Scott Butcher

and Brandy Steele came from Round Mountain since she'd been there and done that the year before! Cheryl and Tom were about to mount up when Robert texted me that he'd seen sign, and after we tracked them on a big loop, Robert finally found all three in the deep brush about 400 yards west of the cattle guard. Peaches bid farewell to her gentlemen callers, and they blew kisses at her as Tom drove away. Never a dull moment at Inks Ranch....

The Wild West Wrangle



Kris Johnson, Greg Dial, and Peggy Johnson in period costume, photo by Scott Butcher

was held at historic Fort Griffin in Albany, Texas, on October 5 & 6. Ride managers Kelly Beard and Ginny Mayfield put on an outstanding ride with their wonderful friends Wild Women of the West. Kelly Beard was Senior Judge and created some challenging obstacles including shooting spit wads at a series of hand painted deer, an in-hand L shaped bridge, corn hole bean bag toss from horseback, and many others. She was assisted by Cheryl May, Annette Thurlow, Greg Dial, Jean Wilson, and Ann Stacy. Marcy Stellfox and Sharon Price were ride secretaries. The catfish dinner Saturday night was catered by a friend with a

food truck, and it was superb. Carla Chandler had wonderful turquoise jewelry for the raffle and many of the prizes were handmade items. The

weather cooperated with cool mornings and sunny, breezy afternoons. Staff members from Fort Griffin talked about early settlers, cattle drives, and the fort. We were serenaded with songs popular in the late 1800's with accompanying guitar, and the state longhorn herd was discussed. We will certainly miss this ride as the WWW's take a well-deserved break next year!



Mary Ann Brandon, Membership Director, practicing her spit wad technique



Teresa Moore was about to get a little interference from a longhorn during her obstacle, photo by Teresa Corgill



Mollie Ebel Nelson shooting her spit wad, photo by Carla Chandler



Christina Martin sending her horse across L shaped bridge photo by Becky Cash

The Christmas Ride Is Coming!

by Bill Phillips



If you are like me, every year you tell yourself, "I've got to get a jump on Christmas!" Well, this year we are helping with that by holding our Christmas Ride Fundraiser early. Join us at Parrie Haynes Ranch Equestrian Center for our "Black Friday" version of the Christmas Ride Nov 30th to Dec 1st. Saturday morning, we ride out and tackle Black Friday shopping themed obstacles (way more fun than the real thing!) That evening we feast on ham, sides, & dessert for only

\$12.00. After dinner put on your ugly sweater and get ready for a dirty Santa gift exchange. Gifts should not exceed about \$25.00. We have such a great time at the party that it might be a good time to introduce a friend to TTCC. Sign up on the website TODAY!

JUDGES FORUM

As has become customary, I've scheduled a Judge's Roundtable on Sunday, December 1, immediately following the Christmas Fundraiser on November 30. We try to get our active judges together every year to keep us all on the same page, and to address any issues or judging conflicts that have arisen during the year's rides. You'll find a recap of the meeting in the next newsletter. If we arrive at any new judging criteria or standards, we'll post them in that summary.

Greg Dial
Judges Director

FUN-draiser



THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered at the parking lot fundraiser! Photo by Scott Butcher

Who puts the 'fun' in "FUN-draiser"? TTCC does!!! Who puts the 'fun' in "FUN-damentals"? TTCC does!!! Some of you may already know that TTCC was given a great opportunity to earn money for our organization by parking cars at the Cadence Bank Center in Belton, Texas. This has been a great time for all horse lovers to utilize the horsemanship fundamentals we have been practicing at our trail challenges. Real world application was implemented as volunteers directed parking with pedestrians everywhere, and

surrounded by flags, drones, bicycles, motorcycles, vans, buses, 18 wheelers, balloons, banners, and loud banging music.

Horse and rider relationships grew by leaps and bounds as well as fun and fellowship with our coworkers. So many encouraging comments were heard from the riders exclaiming, "I never knew my horse could ____ (fill in the blank) !; " I never even paid attention to the flag or lighted wand I was waving over my horse, so they didn't either, but at the challenge I was so focused on it, my horse was too!" "I have such a new appreciation for my horse!" "I've never done anything like this before, it was awesome!"

Volunteers came from all over, members, non-members, and sponsors, on horseback, foot and in recreational vehicles to raise \$3900 for 2024. TTCC has been offered additional opportunities for the 2025 calendar year. The number of ticket sales will depend on whether TTCC is needed to help park cars. Notices will be sent out about a month out on whether we will be needed or not.

February-mini rodeo/youth fair

April -4-5 day fair

April 20- Crossroads Church Easter service

May- graduations 2-3 a day for 4-5 days

June-Temple High School graduation



*Getting assignments at Cadence Bank Center,
photo by Scott Butcher*

Debra Sannwaldt said, "Thank you Carin Bauer-Eaton for going above and beyond coordinating the parking events which are raising funds for the club. She purchased orange T-shirts so we would all look like a team, had a blown-up image of the parking lot map printed so we could easily see where we would be positioned to direct traffic, and convinced the event center to buy flags, flashlights and vests for our safety. She does a great job on the briefing before we start and manages the flow of traffic during the crush of cars trying to park. She and her husband are constantly on the move checking on us to ensure there are no problems."



*LeeAnn Boore and Debra Sannwaldt
taking their duties seriously,
photo by Scott Butcher*

We are only as successful as the people that support and surround us. TTCC is a great organization with awesome horse people eager to learn and grow in their fundamentals and fellowship. The money raised couldn't have happened without the 'village' we've created!

CENTURY CLUB AWARD

sponsored by Corgill Happy Heart Ranch and Stables

There will be a new, well-deserved award presented at Celebration starting this year. Active riders who qualify will be awarded membership in the TTCC Century Club, which is given when the combined ages of the rider and his/her primary horse is 100 years. Our three deserving members are Nancy Fenimore and Dulce, Connie Meredith and Negro, and Tom Walker and (the infamous runaway) Peaches.

It's harder than you think! We have several members whose combined age with their horse is in the 90's, but only three qualified for the TTCC Century Club this year. Each will be honored at Celebration. In coming years, we will have a line on the yearly membership application asking members if they and their horse qualify. That way we hope to not miss anyone.

Many equine organizations give this award to their long-time members. Corgill Happy Heart Ranch and Stables will be the sponsor of this award, to be presented yearly to qualifying TTCC members.

This initial year involved a lot of research from membership director MaryAnn Brandon, former president Kate Love and many other members who mentioned names of friends whose age with their horse "might" be 100. Please help the club stay in tune with any member who is approaching the goal of winning this award.

Getting to know you!

Annaliese Scoggin

I live in Abilene, TX which is where I grew up until I was 16. I finished high school in Waco then attended Texas A&M University. After college I went to work for Texas Parks & Wildlife as a wildlife biologist and have worked there for the last 15 years. My wonderful husband, Will, and I moved from College Station to Midland where we lived for six years before moving back to my family's ranch southeast of Abilene in 2015. When I was a young kid, we had a couple of older horses at the ranch that we occasionally messed with but didn't ride much. Later I took English riding lessons for a short time in elementary school and then western riding lessons for a few months in high school. I attended a couple of summer camps where we got to ride horses (including at the YO Ranch!), but it wasn't until I spent two years in the Texas A&M Polo Club that I really became a more confident rider. Those were really fun times, but then I had to focus on what I had actually gone to college for!



Photo by Scott Butcher



Photo by Megan Smart

Once we moved to Midland, I needed a way to get my "horse fix". I had volunteered in high school at a hippotherapy program, and I did the same in Midland for about 5 years, including serving as the president of their board of directors. In fact, my first two horses were retirees from that program. Those two horses, Rosie and Preacher, were around 24 and 25 at retirement and were ridden lightly until they were around 30. They both lived out their lives here at the ranch until they passed at around 32 or 33 years old and they taught me so much during that time. I currently have four horses, plus two "project horses".

They are:

Akane, bay Peruvian mare, 20 yo
Winchester, sorrel paint Missouri Foxtrotter gelding, 15 yo
Arwen, bay thoroughbred mare, 13 yo
Mochi, grulla halflinger/quarterhorse mare, 6 yo
Buddy, bay paint gelding, 16 yo
Lacy, black paint mare, 22 yo



Photo by Megan Smart

I learned about TTCC from Thomas and Tiffany Janke way back when I lived in Midland, but didn't have a horse young enough to reasonably ride such long distances. I first started attending TTCC rides with Megan Smart on her Tennessee Walking horse, Dakota. Then I got Akane who I rode for about 1.5 years before retiring her from longer rides due to arthritis in her back. Then I had the opportunity to purchase my buddy Winchester for a song and I just couldn't pass him up (even

though I never particularly liked sorrels or planned to own a paint!). He had a lot of fear and trust issues when we first started working together, but he has become an incredibly brave and sensitive partner. I enjoy almost any opportunity to work with my horses, though I find repetitive training



boring, and I love any type of game from horseback. At home I'm an active member of our 40 Something Cowgirls chapter, the Marvelous Mavericks. They are a great group of women, and I encourage any women looking for more "horsey" fellowship to check out their website to find a chapter near you! After all, that is how I met my good friends Barbara Knight and Megan Smart!

Rachail Running Horse



My name is **Rachail Running Horse** and my daughter Remedy and I recently joined TTCC. I found TTCC on Facebook and our first year has been very exciting! We have great memories of staying in a lovely cabin in the middle of a bird sanctuary for the Smiley ride. It was the farthest we had hauled our horses from home, and we were welcomed by the nicest group of people. Later the same group of people came to our rescue when I had a breakdown shortly after leaving for home. In less than 90 minutes we had a plan, and the horses and Remedy were picked up and whisked away to comfort and safety while I went to San Antonio to deal with the car. I was profoundly grateful. We also got to ride at Hog Wild held at Woodrock Ranch in Bluffdale.

I was lucky enough to be born into a family with land and horses in the Berryman Forest in Steelville, MO. My family started me on our Shetland pony named Trigger when I was about 3 years old. Some of my favorite childhood memories were of the days we took our horses swimming. We would ride up the Courtois Creek to a spot deep enough for the horses to swim and not touch bottom. They were always so calm on the slow walk down stream toward home.

My 15-year-old daughter Remedy has been riding her entire life...what a lucky girl! Remedy still remembers her 5th birthday party because it was at an equestrian facility in Sydney, Australia, where all the children got to ride the horses for a couple of hours. We lived in Australia for 5 years. Now we live in Parker, Texas, northeast of Dallas, and own two Arabians. I usually ride Det, a 14-year-old Arabian gelding from Michigan who was bred for barefoot track racing. Remedy rides Shady, a 6-year-old Arabian mare bred in Waco, TX.



Remedy and I have competed in quite a few NATRC events as well as a couple of LD's. Remedy has completed a 50 mile, of which I am very proud! We have made lots of NATRC friends who live in our area, so we like to meet up for fun rides. More than once, we have accidentally run into some TTCC members at NATRC Rides, which is always a rich and magical experience. We also are blessed that Trinity Trail Preservation Association (Lake Lavon) and Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails are close to us and are wonderful places to ride. These community driven organizations create and maintain lake side equine trails at Lake Lavon and Lake Ray Roberts.



Besides that, we love to simply trail ride, especially with other horse enthusiasts. We really enjoy exploring new places with our horses and creating lots of fun memories.

One of my favorite quotations is:
“Where in this wide world can man find nobility without pride, friendship without envy, or beauty without vanity? Here where grace is laced with muscle and strength by gentleness confined” — *from the Ode to the Horse by Ronald Duncan*

TTCC August BOD Meeting Minutes Summary

- The TTCC Christmas Fund Raiser will have the “Black Friday” theme since it is the weekend after Thanksgiving. Meal will be ham with traditional side dishes
- Refund policy options will be placed on the Fall ballot for all members to vote on
- Announcement will be made via Newsletter for anyone interested in running for the next President elect should contact Tiffany Janke for an application. The timeline to submit application will be 9/1/24 thru 10/10/24. Ballots going out on 10/27/24 with a 10-day window for voting (ending 11/6/24)
- Results of the ballot will be announced at the General Meeting held in conjunction with Salute to the Troops ride
- Greg Dial reminder that the Fall Rider’s Clinic will be held on the Friday (10/25/24) before the Monster Mash TTCC ride
- Karen Pantel – the 2025 Ride Calendar is still being worked on because of new interest in hosting a ride
- All Board members are working behind the scenes for hosting a fun Christmas Fund Raiser event and planning for the Celebration event held in January

TTCC September BOD Meeting Minutes Summary

- BOD Meeting Minutes for August were approved by all with the understanding that a minor correction would be added stating that the BOD approved a \$200 decorating budget for Celebration
- The rather new reservation process was discussed, and it seems that opening up the rides for up to 100 registrants is working well so far

- The new Refund Policy options for the upcoming Fall ballot were agreed on by the BOD to be:
 1. Full refund up to 30 days before a ride
 2. Full refund up to 45 days before a rideMotion was made by Bill, 2nd by Karen
 - The BOD will meet on the Friday (after the ride meeting) of the Monster Mash ride in Utopia to review any changes to the rules/bylaws for next year
 - Menu for the Christmas Fund Raiser will be ham (provided by TTCC) and appropriate side dishes. Cost will be \$12/plate.
 - Greg mentioned that he spoke with John (caterer for Celebration), and he is in agreement to cater next year's event
 - Karen gave an update on the 2025 Ride Calendar. There is still a need for a planned ride for September 2025. Karen is working with potential new Ride Managers to fill this date
 - Ride Manager's Manual – Karen is reviewing and making minor changes
 - Samples for the 2025 TTCC patch were presented and there was a BOD consensus to accept Option #2, but with a request to James Corgill to modify the design to use less colors.
 - All BOD members will review the current TTCC rulebook and make note of any corrections and/or suggestions to clarify a rule or rules
 - Planning for Christmas Ride Fundraiser as well as Celebration Event in January
- Meeting called to adjourn by Bill at 9:23pm; 2nd by Greg; approved by all

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY / FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS **DECEMBER 1st!**