

MEADOW MUFFIN

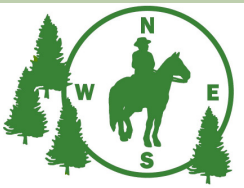


VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 1, 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **NACMO A Year In Review**
- **NEW RIDE MANAGERS**



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NACMO A Year In Review

THIS MONTH let us take the time to reflect on this past year. NACMO has had many new ride managers and new rides throughout the region.

GROWTH is our goal for 2018. Bringing in new members, participating as a ride manager, and attending events around our areas in which we can present NACMO to equestrians.

CHANGES are happening in many of the regions. We have two new Regional Directors coming on board in 2018. Change usually brings growth.

We also have had several regions communicating about the current rules of NACMO and we are working on bringing all the regions into the same game so that any rider, competing in any regions, can expect the exact

same quality of game play.

NON-PROFIT STATUS has been achieved in 2017 for NACMO. Regional Directors and Regional Clubs have been working towards converting. This is a huge step for NACMO in establishing the organization on a national level.

EDUCATION is another goal for 2018. Many equestrian sport organizations are involved in trail management, trail preservation, equine care while away from home, and general health. Getting involved in your own areas with the local clubs and trail organizations will help in promoting NACMO and gaining interest in this sport from other equestrians.

FUN FUN FUN .. As always, having fun is still our number one

priority! Using the Meadow Muffin as a communication tool, as well as the social medias like Facebook, we can all share our experiences with each other and with the general public.

Sharing your stories throughout the year has been most fun and entertaining, as well as educational. Many times one experience has changed another's perspective, or given an idea to a ride manager for being more creative, or taken a sad moment and turned it into a happy moment.

Meadow Muffin is for you, the NACMO members, and for the world. When you receive your email, share the link with your friends and let them read and be entertained and have fun!

NEW RIDE MANAGERS (Highlights)

REGIONAL DIRECTORS! PLEASE submit your new ride manager information to the Meadow Muffin so we can praise these hard working volunteers.

Upcoming new ride managers—

NACMO 2018

(nothing new at this time)

MARTI'S MUSINGS

by Marti Caldwell

I frequently get questions from members, ride managers and interested parties about the rules and how they apply to situations that invariably arise at CMO events. One recent one is particularly concerning. A team found all the markers (objective stations, plates) in the shortest time. The word on the plate was correctly recorded on the map but an additional word or letters were also recorded there. The additional letters were similar to the station number.

A competitor complained that the word recorded was not exactly correct - stating the rule **S-2 C - No Station points will be awarded for that station if the station letters are incorrect.** Evidently this chapter has decided that spelling and legibility can be used to disallow a plate even for a competitor or team who clearly found the marker.

Here is how I see this situation:

1. There is no question that the team did find the plate. The correct word was written on the map. Their time was the fastest.
2. The complaining rider would benefit from the action he/she she sought. (Disallowing the plate for the winner)
3. The rules are intended as a framework within which to provide for fair play.
4. The RM is the ruling body at any ride.
5. The RM should allow the plate along with the first placing.

There is no rule stating that the RM should keep the times, placings and turned in maps confidential until all riders are in and the official ride results are given, but that practice would prevent many issues from occurring. Riders should not be told how other riders have done nor what their times were, and markers should not be discussed among returned riders, RMs or others while teams/riders are still going out.

Competing with the rule book in one hand, looking for a way to gain an unfair advantage, is counter to the purpose of the sport.

In some chapters, the plate will have the station number at the top, the date of the ride and a word with two letters underlined beneath it. Those are the letters to be recorded. Most ride managers underline the first two letters or the first letters of two words, but some will underline the first and last letters or even two letters in the middle of the word. Many riders, hoping to avoid mistakes, will write down the whole word. This is obviously proof that the plate was found, which is, after all, the purpose! There have been instances where the plate was illegible and the riders were given credit when they could accurately describe exactly where the plate was found or what they could read on it. That's where having both letters and words can help. The point is to find the plates and to demonstrate to the RM's satisfaction that they were found. No one else should be involved. Competitors should not have access to the maps or times of other riders until the ride is complete and the placings announced. The RM is responsible for determining if a given team did find and demonstrate that they did find the markers appropriately. Spelling errors do not equal a DQ!!

In some chapters additional rules are made perhaps to deal with an unfortunate incident that occurred at a ride. The NACMO rules are general and in some cases a little vague for a reason - to allow RMs and chapters to interpret them and make allowances for unforeseen occurrences. It is hoped that those rulings will be made by reasonable people with the basic purposes of CMO in mind. There will always be some riders who use the rule book to find a loophole with which to accuse another rider of wrongdoing or to gain an unfair advantage. It is so very tempting to make new rules but please reconsider!! For every rule you make to address a situation that may never happen again, you run the risk of creating more situations. Trust your RMs and your chapter board to handle problems when they arise. When that doesn't work, there is a formal protest process in place.

Let's look at why CMO exists. It was formed to give riders a game to play while enjoying their horses and each other. The entry fees are low - in most chapters it hasn't changed in 30 years! There isn't much money left after paying the NACMO and chapter fees for prizes. Some RMs do not award prizes to each competitor at each ride. No one is going to win a new truck or a silver encrusted saddle!

First off - it's a GAME!! It's for FUN and a way to meet FUN people who also like to have FUN! We have always been self regulating and have no vet checks, monitors on the trail, or judges. It is assumed that sane adult people will not compromise their personal integrity and cheat just to win a \$2 hoof pick. However some folks, in the heat of competition, get a little carried away and take an illegal short cut, split up their team to find two markers or do something else that their honest adult side would not consider. Other riders, perhaps thinking about cheating themselves, imagine or actually witness another competitor doing something not quite kosher and cry foul, lodge formal complaints or demand restitution from the RM. This kind of thing sometimes happens in all groups, but when it becomes a habit, the whole sport suffers. Cliques form, special help is given to some and withheld from others and nasty stuff happens. If competitors feel they have been unfairly treated, hurt feelings grow and friendships suffer. If these instances become common, people leave the sport or seek revenge.

NACMO is the overall governing body. Each chapter has a board of officers who regulate the sport in their region. It is the responsibility of our officers first and foremost - both local and national - to provide for the well being of CMO. We need to ask ourselves if we are welcoming to new members, fair to all, able and willing to keep accurate records, handle funds properly and transparently and are good stewards of the sport. If we find ourselves getting burned out, crabby and unable to keep up with the duties of our office, we need to step down and encourage some new enthusiastic member to take over. Regular members have some responsibility also - we need to acknowledge the time and effort our chapter and national officers put in so that we can all enjoy CMO. We need to attend meetings and make suggestions, respond to questions, and offer ideas. When there is a problem, it's important to ask about it without accusing anyone of wrongdoing - usually it is an error or misunderstanding that can be easily corrected. .

“RIDE

MANAGERS!

Please submit

your ride stories

so that we may

share your

experiences”

Experienced Ride managers give advice..



Kelly Booher SELKIRK CMO



We had a quiet year and although we held five rides, we did not have a team that competed all five so we will not have any teams or individuals in the Nationals this year. I have been away most this year due to health but will be getting geared up for 2018 and will get our region back into the National Standings. GO US! We had a fabulous turnout for the Halloween costume and NACMO competition, with all teams participating and coming up with fabulous costumes to compete in.

Dodie Sable, Pa/Nj/NyCMO member since 2013 and the new Regional Director for 2018 PA/NJ/ NY

I planned a different sort of ride for us at the end of 2017. Winter is upon us and it got cold here early in December (and has pretty much stayed that way). Most our trails were under extreme slippy conditions so what could I do to have a ride in December without getting everyone killed? I held it on some back dirt roads off a local fishing lake. It was easy to setup, riders had no troubles with slippy conditions, and no-one got frost bite. We ended our season with three teams competing. THANK YOU and wait for 2018, we're gonna have a blast.

Janet Wenger is a MiCMO member since 2010

The members of this group never cease to amaze me with their dedication and love for competitive mounted orienteering. There is even consideration for a ride as early as January! This would be a one day ride at a private farm. What fun to be able to enjoy the great outdoors with your horse in the middle of winter. We will be posting the entire schedule on the facebook page. This will not be available until closer to the end of January. Be sure to consider adding competitive mounted orienteering to your calendars for the 2018 season. Hope to see you on the trails! Janet

New Riders tell stories ...

Soooo, I tried a NACMO event and was very frustrated. It was me and my sister and we felt like we couldn't find anything on the map, when we did find the places on the map, we couldn't find the objective, and it was no fun. We talked to a couple experienced riders back at camp and everyone laughed (THIS IS NOT FUNNY) until someone said, "Welcome to NACMO! WE have all been there." We were then invited to ride along with another team at the next month's event. My sister and I

were not impressed, but thought to give it another go as the event was close to us and we loved to ride our horses anyway.

LO AND BEHOLD...after spending the day with the team who offered to mentor us, we learned a lot, discovered how to read our compasses the correct way, and even learned how to find ourselves on the map. We had a fabulous time.

We're looking forward to

2018 and we hope to form our own team and join the fun for the entire season.

Thanks for not giving up on us and for being so wonderful in helping us to find our way. This is a rocking sport we can do with our horses that we love so much.

Karen and Janie

"Being a ride manager is rewarding (as well as scary) and full of adventure!"

New Regions upcoming in 2018...

Naoma Campbell, starting a new chapter in SE VA/NE NC. Tidewater area.

There are many awesome trail systems, some with horse campsites, where CMO rides can be held over a weekend. If you know someone in that area, please have them contact her via the Facebook group, North Carolina/southeast Virginia nacmo.

Jessica Mala, starting a new chapter in New Mexico. She has experience in the WA CMO region.

I am hoping to start a New Mexico chapter of CMO (NMCMO). I am currently gathering some people that may be interested in helping start up a chapter. Please call me 503-329-4827



Ride Food—Recipe Share Corner

Camp Chicken PotPie



Easy to prepare the night before a ride and keeps well at the picnic table. Mmmm!

Serves hot or cold

1 chicken, cooked deboned and shredded (or three chicken breasts), cooked and chopped)

1 large can mixed veggies, cold, drained

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 cans Pillsbury bisquits

Easy Peasy! Mix chicken, veggies, soup in a casserole dish. Place the bisuqits across the top. Bake in the oven (or over a campfire in a cast iron dutch pot) until the bisquits are golden brown. Cover and ready to serve either hot or

For added fun, add chopped parsley to the top to brighten it up.

“Not everyone likes foods spiced up so I always keep that in mind and will make a Spicy batch and a Non-spicy batch.”

HAVING FUN AT A RIDE ...

This just in ... it's okay to be silly.

Yes, many submissions came in over the holiday season of CMO riders dressing up for their competition appropriate to the holiday pending. Riders and horses wearing costume decorations is more than fun, it is pleasing to those people you may encounter on the trail

while searching for your objectives. It also says that you're here to have fun and enjoy the time with your team members and your horse.

Be creative! Some ride managers (like me!) have prizes for the best riding costume!



SEE YOU ON THE TRAILS Janet Wenger

Take advantage of the small moments this winter to help grow the relationship between you and your horse. There are lots of articles out there that will give you great winter training tips that you can do right inside the barn. All of this will help you get ready for your competitive mounted orienteering rides next year!

Two teams from Michigan are coming in second and fifth for the long course. We have a short course team hanging in there at third place nationally. Doing a CMO course alone is a tremendous feat for anyone and we have a great showing in the rankings for that too. Both the short course and the long course find a Michigan rider in

the top spot. I feel very proud to be part of an organization that has such a strong holding at the national level. Michigan has been part of the competitive mounted orienteering world for over 25 years. In that time we have seen riders come and go, injuries happen and mend, marriages, retirements, children learning to ride and growing into great competitors. season.

ASK MUFFIN

your "Go To" for more information

Answers to "Ask Muffin" questions are based on NACMO board member opinions and do not constitute a rule-change or addition. Rather, they are suggestive of what the board as a whole, believes proper behavior to be. Please submit questions for "Ask Muffin" to your state Director, or via email to: askmuffinCMO@gmail.com



Basically, this ride was a Ride-N-Tie, instead of finding the objectives on horseback, we dismounted and tied our horses while searching on the ground.

Tired of walking

like hikers and bikers would not see them and remove them before a ride. A ride manager can hold a Ride-N-Tie competition, but it should have been clearly labeled as such so that any riders wanting to come would know they would be required to dismount.

Dear Muffin:

I visited another region this summer and found the ride a bit different than our region. I had a lot of fun but I wanted to check if there is a reason a region would hold their rides differently.

Dear TOW:

NACMO is a mounted sport however, in some areas, it is not possible to hide objectives where the horse can reach them (mostly on the east coast as trails are heavily regulated) and other trail participants

(Related to Meadow Muffin from NACMO's Rule Book)

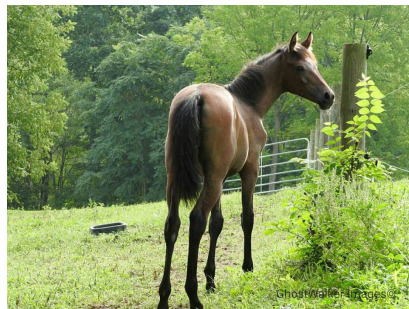
NACMO RULE M-5

- a. Objective Stations must be placed where they can be read from horseback.
- b. To receive credit towards Ride Manager awards, Objective Stations and access trails must be ridden and safely evaluated from horseback.

A Region can request an addendum to the rules and setup their region to have Ride-n-Tie events. The rule would have to be voted upon by the NACMO Board, approved and then added to the rule book under the APPENDIX.

Classified Ads ... are always FREE for CMO members

FOR SALE: Two year old, purebred Arabian filly, graying out. Home bred, home raised, handled and loved from birth. Old bloodlines, Will mature over 15 hands . At 20 months old, she stands an honest 14.3 hands. \$2,000. Contact Dodie Sable, dodie@newpromisefarms.com or 610-756-3836



First photo at 4 months,

Second photo at eighteen-months.



CHAPTER STORIES—(IL/IN)



A River Ran Through It (Colleen Cathcart)

For weeks in advance of managing a CMO ride, you plot and plan out your landmarks; double-check your trail-map; debate whether or not to use confidence-markers; scour the stores for items to award as prizes; decide what to bring for potluck.....the “to-do” list is seemingly endless for a Ride Manager. But sometimes, despite all of that advance-planning, you still get hit with a curve-ball.....from Mother Nature. What to do when that happens? Haul out your raincoat, your sense of humor and get on with it. Or, as we like to say in the IN-IL Chapter, “Suck it up, Cupcake!”

That's pretty much how things unfolded with the Matthiessen State Park (Utica, IL) CMO ride hosted last month (October 14 – 15, 2017) by Marti Caldwell, Sara Dick and Colleen Cathcart of the IN-IL Chapter.

During the week preceding the ride, Mother Nature randomly showered the park with rain. Despite that, footing on the trails was remarkably good as the Ride Managers rode out to set plates and double-check azimuths, all the while bravely repeating their (naively) optimistic mantra: “surely the weather will clear off for our ride-weekend.” By Saturday morning at the pre-ride meeting, it was painfully obvious that the aforementioned mantra had had no effect. The weatherman was predicting (more) rain, and lots of it.

How much rain? Well, according to official sources, 3.33 inches of rain fell on the 9 brave riders who swam / competed on Saturday, and an additional 0.48 inches baptized the 11 competitors who rode on Sunday. Amazingly, 9 of the 11 on Sunday were repeat-customers from Saturday – who ride managers can only assume felt that they didn't get wet enough the day before.

Was it kind of a bummer that the weather didn't cooperate? It sure was, but we rode anyway. Did a river start running through camp at some point during the day on Saturday? It sure did, but we put up a big canopy-tent so we could still enjoy potluck and the company of our (soggy) CMO family. Would we do it all over again? In a heartbeat! CMO is not so much about winning or losing, or having everything go perfectly – rather, it's more about accepting the challenge of overcoming obstacles, making the best of a (supremely-wet) situation, and then laughing your tail off afterwards.

A huge “Thanks” goes out to everyone who participated in the Matthiessen CMO!

Photos:

3 guys on horses photo caption: – Left to right: Shawn Cathcart, Larry Dick and Dave Caldwell moments before hitting the trail. The deluge started 10 minutes after they departed camp!

T-Shirt - “Suck it Up Cupcake” - might not really need a caption



Do you know your local regional members? Have you visited their Facebook Page? At this time, all the chapters now have an official Facebook page. Go join and stay current with your local members!