

ACTRA Newsletter: January 2026

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2025 Year End Award Winners

The 2025 Ride season was a short one due to wild fires, drought, woods bans and the threat of strangles, but kudos to those riders that did make it out to any of the three Judged Pleasure Rides held in 2025! Here are the 2025 Year End Award Winners:

Champion Junior

Horsemanship: Olivia Jack; **Reserve** - Breah Yorke

Champion Junior Trail

Horse: Evening in Paris (owner L.Beazley); **Reserve** - Nat King Khol (owner L. Beazley)

Champion Senior

Horsemanship: Sylvia Gillies; **Reserve** - Diane Storey

Champion Senior Trail

Horse: Nellie (owner D. Storey); **Reserve** - Patrine (D. Stevens)



Congratulations to all the riders and mounts that added to their lifetime mileage during 2025:

Lynn Beazley 2,158 and Kindred Spirit 1,923

Breah Yorke 45 and Nat King Khol 533

Olivia Jack 15 and Evening in Paris 710

Sylvia Gillies 6,214 and Essor 710

Russlyn Patriquin- Dyke 4,023** and Ice Capades RF 1,466

Kim Crowell 133 and CN Sparkles Plenty 133

Diane Storey 871 and Nellie 871

Dayna Stevens 103 and Patrine 103

Jennifer McDonald 2,484 and Zandai Gamil 14

Kora McDonald 208 and Wild Parade 162

Rause-Lynn McDonald 287 and Washademoak Sunset 1,655

Amy Schneider 224 and Flying Oaks Alberto 41

**Special congratulations to Russlyn for achieving her 4000 Mileage Milestone award this year!

Year End Awards will be presented at the Spring Meeting in April 2026.

Membership Drive

The Board has been brainstorming on how we can increase our membership in 2026 and one idea is to offer some discounts to membership fees and mount registration fees. We recognize that it is not within the scope of authority of the Board to make permanent changes to annual membership fees, so we are not suggesting a permanent reduction. **We are recommending a one time special offer for the calendar year of 2026 in honour of the Year of The Horse. The special offer is as follows:**

1. Renewing members: Individual fee = \$20; Family Member fees = First Member = \$20, Second member = \$20; each subsequent member = \$15.
2. If members wish to renew for two years (2026 and 2027) the fees are: Individual fee = \$40; Family Member Fees = First Member = \$40, Second Member = \$40; each subsequent member = \$30.
3. In order to be eligible for the discounted fees, renewing members must have submitted their membership forms and fees **by February 28, 2026.**
4. New members (anyone that has not been an ACTRA Member at any time in the past) can join any time during the calendar year of 2026 with the following fees:
 - Individual fee for one year = \$20;
 - Individual fee for two years = \$40;
 - Family Member fees for one year: First Member = \$20; Second

Member = \$20; each subsequent member = \$15;

- Family Member fees for two years: First Member = \$40; Second Member = \$40; each subsequent member = \$30.
5. Renewing and new members are asked to use the attached Special 2026 Membership Form when submitting their 2026 membership fees.
 6. New Mount Registrations received during calendar year 2026 will be discounted to \$15 per horse. Please complete the Mount Registration form as noted on the ACTRA website, but note the reduced registration fee for 2026 when submitting payment.

This initiative will be an agenda item at the ACTRA spring meeting and if the general membership votes to discontinue this initiative as of the date of the meeting they have the authority to do so. A subsequent notice of the discontinuation of this initiative will be shared with the full membership and any membership dues paid after that date will be at the amounts listed on the regular membership application.

If a member has already submitted their 2026 membership dues and wish to receive a refund or take advantage of the two year discount, please contact the ACTRA Treasurer at actratreasurer@gmail.com before Feb 28/26.

Winter Chat Ideas

In addition to increasing membership, the Board has come up with some ideas on how to increase member engagement. We are working on hosting a series of Chats via Facebook Messenger during February, March and April that will be open to everyone. Some of the suggested topics include: a) **Ride Manager - Round Table:** invite past and future RMs to discuss issues that they face as RMs and what help they are looking for in order to host a ride. b) **How to condition your horse for a ride** - tips on how to get started. c) **Open forum on equipment preferences:** things like: hoof boots versus barefoot, what brand of boots do people use? Saddles - types or brands of saddles? Does anyone have any experience with saddle fitters in the Maritimes? d) **What to expect at an Endurance Ride versus an LD or a JP?** Watch the ACTRA Open FB page for invites and details on how to attend.

Proposed Survey

In order for the club to survive, we need to offer members more rides each season and we need more riders to actually participate in the rides that are held in order to make them viable for Ride Managers to host. The Board has agreed to conduct a survey via the ACTRA Open Facebook page in order to gather some information on where rides should be offered, what types of rides should be held and what are some of the barriers people face when wanting to participate in long distance riding competitions. We are hopeful that this information will provide opportunities to

increase ride participation. Please watch for the survey to come out in the next few weeks and encourage your own network to participate in the survey.



Ride Schedule for 2026

The 2026 ride season has kicked off already with the McDonald Run Rides posted for June 6 and 7th! Plans are underway for a ride in Stanley in May and one at Kenmar Farm in September. **Please visit the [Calendar](#) page on the ACTRA website regularly for updates on actual ride details and how to register for the rides as they become available.** If anyone has a location and trail they think would make for a great distance ride, but are hesitant to take on the work of hosting a ride, please reach out to me at actranewsletter@gmail.com and we can chat about options. It would be great to have more rides in 2026!



Nominations for Directors

Because the fall AGM was cancelled, we will be holding elections at the Spring Meeting on April 25, 2026 (location tba).

Currently, our constitution calls for a Board of Directors made up of nine members. The draft constitution shared in the fall of 2025 calls for a Board of eight members. We currently have eight active Board members, but two of them have announced that they will be stepping down as of the Spring meeting and one is a volunteer who stepped up to fill an empty board seat during 2025. Based on our current constitution we will be looking to elect four new Board members. If we accept the draft constitution at the Spring meeting, we will be looking to elect three new Board members.

The Club is at risk of ceasing to exist if it's members do not step up and take a more active role in ensuring the Club continues into the future. We are the only organization in Atlantic Canada that actively promotes and hosts long distance riding competitions. If our members are no longer interested in maintaining such an organization, then it is time to dissolve the organization officially.

Reminder

Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Location to be announced but members will be able to attend virtually or in person. If anyone has any ideas on what we can do to make the meeting more interesting to attend in person, please send your ideas to actranewsletter@gmail.com. Examples: Tack sale, silent auction, lunch, guest speaker?

*Please contact Kim Crowell at actranewsletter@gmail.com with any questions on the content of this newsletter

