

# ACTRA Newsletter:

## May 2026

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## 2026 Board of Directors

Since we did not have an AGM in the fall, elections for the 2026 Board were held as part of the AGM/Spring meeting on April 25, 2026. April Haliburton, Jennifer McDonald and Lucy Rudge opted to not re-offer for another term. We thank all three ladies for their hard work over many years as Board members. The new Board based on the new Constitution and By Laws is as follows:

**Chair** – Syliva Gillies  
(actrachair@gmail.com)

**Vice Chair and Rules** – Kim DellaCioppa

**Secretary** - Carrilee Eddy  
(actrasecretary@gmail.com)

**Treasurer, PR & Newsletter and Sanctioning** - Kim Crowell  
(actratreasurer@gmail.com)  
(actranewsletter@gmail.com)  
(actrasanctioning@gmail.com)

**Statistician** - Amy Schneider  
(actrastatistician@gmail.com)

**Director at Large** – Aleida Tweten



Please join us in welcoming **Amy Schneider** as one of our new board members. Amy first joined ACTRA ~2010 and lives in Jewetts Mills, New Brunswick with her partner John-Michael McPhee and children Isaac and Louise (who have both ridden in ACTRA events). When she is not looking after her herd of three equines, (Raudhetta (an Icelandic), Aberto (a Mangalarga Marchador) and Ferris Mueller (a mule) she works on her farm. In addition to competitive distance riding Amy enjoys dressage, hiking, dog sports and reading. We are excited for her to take on the role of Statistician for the club.

And welcome back to **Aleida Tweten** as she officially joins us as a new board member. Aleida has been an ACTRA member since 2024 and stepped up to volunteer on the Board part way through 2025. She lives in PEI with her husband Mike and youngest son James. When she is not spending time with her Standardbred "Fly", she works at Hoofprints Ranch offering Equine Assisted Learning and teaches horse first aid classes. In addition to competitive distance riding, Aleida enjoys hiking with her dogs, swimming and volunteering with her son's outdoor club at his school. We are excited for her to officially take on the role of Director At Large and be our ambassador in PEI.

## Chat Sessions were a success!

There were five chat sessions scheduled this winter/spring and four were held with good attendance and participation: Ride Manager Round Table (Feb 25), Intro to ACTRA and Competitive Distance Riding (Mar 11), Endurance Riding (Apr 1), Judged Pleasure Rides (Apr 22). Thank you to Laura Kelland-May for co-hosting the JP session. At the Ride Manager Roundtable one of the suggestions was to offer a Ride Manager Mentor Program where a new Ride Manager would be paired up with an experienced Ride Manager to guide the new RM through the planning and hosting a ride. If anyone is interested in being a mentor or a mentee, please contact Kim Crowell, Sanction Director at [actrasanctioning@gmail.com](mailto:actrasanctioning@gmail.com) and I will do my best to match you up with either a mentor or a mentee!

## Survey Results

The following are the results of the survey sent out to current ACTRA members by email and posted on the ACTRA Open FB page and the Maritime Trail Horse FB page on Feb 19/26. We had 21 responses:

1. What type of trail riding are you most likely to participate in during 2026?
  - a) Casual trail riding just for fun. 16/21
  - b) Competitive long distance trail riding under 15 miles at a time. 13/21
  - c) Competitive long distance trail riding over 16 but under 30 miles at a time. 4/21
  - d) Endurance riding of 30 miles or more at a time. 3/21
  - e) Do not currently trail ride but would like to learn more about competitive long distance and endurance riding. 1/21
  - f) None of the above. 0/21
2. What geographic areas within the Maritimes would you most likely travel to in order to attend a trail ride? Most people choose multiple locations.
  - a) Central Nova Scotia 15/21  
(Halifax/Hants/Colchester/Cumberland/Pictou Counties)
  - b) The Valley and South Shore 13/21  
(Kings/Annapolis/Lunenburg Counties)
  - c) Western NS 3/21  
(Digby/Yarmouth/Shelburne Counties)
  - d) Eastern NS and Cape Breton 4/21  
(Antigonish/Guysborough Counties and CB Island)
  - e) PEI 6/21
  - f) Southern NB 8/21  
(Westmorland/Albert/Kings/St. John/Charlotte Counties)
  - g) Central NB 7/21  
(Kent/Queens/Sunbury/York/Carleton Counties)
  - h) Northern NB 4/21  
(Northumberland/Gloucester/Victoria/Madawaska/Restigouche Counties)
  - i) None 0/21
3. What limits you from attending a competitive trail ride?
  - a) No horse suitable for trail riding 5/21
  - b) No trailer 0/21
  - c) Not enough time to prepare my horse 1/21
  - d) Too expensive 1/21
  - e) Other (please provide a brief description)  
Most common was work on weekends, but also cost of fuel, distance to travel to ride, lack of knowledge, rider aging out, negative experience in the past.
4. Are you currently an ACTRA member? Yes (6) or No (10) and Plan to Renew (5)

## Ride Schedule for 2026

The 2026 ride season kicks off with the Mud Run Ride on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Late entry fee will apply as of May 11<sup>th</sup> so get your entry in! The following is a list of what is in the works so far. **Please visit the [Calendar](#) page on the ACTRA website regularly for updates on actual ride details and how to enter the rides as they become available.**

- **Mud Run Ride** May 17

- **McDonald's JP Day 1** June 6
- **McDonald's JP Day 2** June 7
- **Kenmar Farm JP Ride** July 11
- **Kenmar Farm Intro Endurance Ride (15 miles)**, Sept 26 (not yet on calendar)
- **Kenmar Farm Limited Distance Ride (30 miles)**, Sept 26 (not yet on calendar)
- **Kenmar Farm JP Ride (12 miles)**, Sept 27 (not yet on calendar)

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](mailto:actranewsletter@gmail.com) and we can chat about options. It would be great to have more rides in 2026!

## Spring Meeting Highlights

Thank you to the 15 members that attended the AGM/Spring Meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Amherst both in person and virtually. At the time of the meeting, we had 31 paid up members. Welcome to new members Emily and Mark Murphy and welcome back to Carolyn MacDonald and Elaine Sode. **The full Minutes with the Treasurer's report, Director's Reports and the amended and approved Constitution and By Laws presented at the meeting have been posted on the ACTRA website. All members are encouraged to review the minutes and relevant documents prior to the AGM in November.** Kaaren Lebert gave an excellent presentation on Horse Therapy and on behalf of the ACTRA Board and Members we thank her for sharing her knowledge on this interesting topic. We had a delicious pizza lunch and awarded several door prizes. Thank you to the donors of our Door Prizes. The Mud Run Ride (a free entry), the Kenmar Farm Ride (a free entry), Carrilee Eddy (a Mud Run Ride Entry), Lucy Rudge (a folding saw), Bev Elliott (a horse statue) and Syliva Gillies (a gift card from Shur Gain) Congratulations to all of the winners! The winners were: Lucy Rudge, Kim DellaCioppa, April Haliburton, Jennifer McDonald, Karen Jonah Brown and Sylvia Gillies. Congratulations again to our year end

award winners (see Jan 2026 Newsletter for details), We presented the actual awards to those winners who were in attendance. Thank you Russlyn for modeling your 4000 Miles Milestone Jacket!



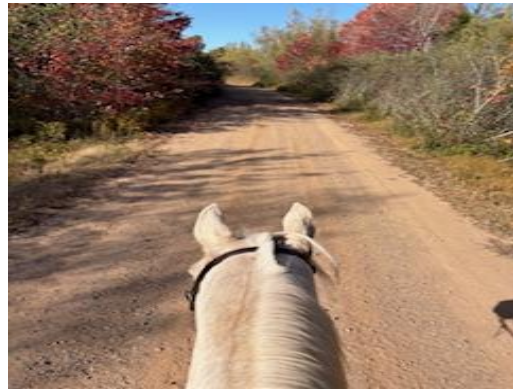
## Reminders

- **It is membership renewal time!** This will be the last newsletter sent out using the 2025 mailing list. If you have not renewed your membership, you will be removed from the mailing list until the membership is renewed. You can renew your ACTRA Membership by completing the Membership Application form found on our website and submitting it and the relevant membership dues to:

Kim Crowell  
P.O. Box 136  
Shubenacadie, NS  
B0N 2H0

[actratreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:actratreasurer@gmail.com)

For a printable version of a **Membership** or **Mount Registration** form please look on our **forms** section. Don't forget in order for an individual to collect points and placings for year end awards, they must be a member of ACTRA in that year. In order for a horse to collect miles and points they must be registered with ACTRA as a lifetime mount.



- **Add to your calendar! AGM Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th, 2026.**
- **Rule Book Updates:** The ACTRA Rule book has been updated as of Feb 14, 2026. There are further updates coming shortly as a result of decisions made at the Spring meeting and the new Constitution and By Laws. All members should review the Rule Book as noted on the website and discard any older printed versions they may possess.



## Ride Manager Handbook

A draft Ride Manager Handbook and Checklist have been developed and posted on the website under the Newsletter/Minutes tab. It is meant as a guide to help new Ride Managers host a ride. We would appreciate any feedback members would like to share with us on the documents. Comments can be sent to [actranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:actranewsletter@gmail.com).

\*Please contact Kim Crowell at [actranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:actranewsletter@gmail.com) with any questions on the content of this newsletter.