

March 18, 2020

1. I have attached an updated list of our Region 6 board members and committee chairs for the 2020 ride season for your information.
2. Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended our Region 6 convention in Kansas City. We had an outstanding lineup of presentations. The shopping at Distance Depot was a hit! I especially enjoyed our awards banquet where we were able to recognize the success of our riders during the 2019 ride season. Thank you again to everyone involved in making this year's convention a success!
3. EquiFest of Kansas 2020 was also a success! Huge thank you to Marla Stucky for help setting up and tearing down our booth and for letting us use her tables and chairs! Thank you also to all of the volunteers who helped work our booth. The weather was great this year. We collected the contact information of people who expressed interest in our sport as they stopped by to visit with us. Our mentoring crew will soon be reaching out and following up with these individuals. My observations of this year's EquiFest are: I liked the new venue in Salina. Our booth location was in the building connected to the main arena and as a result we were in a high traffic area. I thought Friday's attendance seemed like it was higher than the past few years. Saturday's attendance was very solid, with a very nice size crowd. Sunday's attendance dropped off and seemed a little less than in years past. The nice weather this year may have made a difference on Sunday's attendance. Overall I was very pleased. NATRC was very visible and we were well represented. Next year's EquiFest of Kansas will be held March 5-7, 2022. This is a date change to what was previously announced.
4. Speaking of date changes. The COVID-19 (aka Coronavirus) situation that we are all dealing with sure has caused a lot of rescheduling and cancellations of all kinds of events. Obviously, the safety and well-being of all of us is of most importance. At this time, as far as our region goes, the Nebraska Trail Riding Expo was cancelled for this year, and NECTRA rescheduled their meeting that was to be held this week to a later date to be announced. Looking at the national NATRC calendar I saw yesterday where Region 4 rescheduled/cancelled their next three upcoming rides because of the virus. The current situation brings us new information each day now. We are obviously all in "unchartered waters" as far as dealing with this situation. The uncertainty of the situation reigns over all of us at this time.

We should all closely monitor developments from our local, state, and national health agencies so that our actions comply with their directives. As far as the Region 6 rides this year, I would suggest a couple things. First of all, given the fluidity and uncertainty of the situation I would recommend just taking it a step at a time and evaluate the situation as it evolves and as more information is forthcoming. We all want to have our rides but we also want everyone to be safe. As a ride manager for an upcoming ride, I would suggest waiting to see what the current virus situation is approximately 2-3 weeks ahead of your ride before making any final decisions in regards to keeping the ride on schedule. This way you will have the most current information and will be able to make the most informed decision at that time. Obviously if the venue where a ride is going to be held already makes a decision to close prior to this then it makes the decision to reschedule the ride an easy one. It could also very well be an easy decision if we are all still being asked to remain at home or if there are even more stringent requests. On the other hand, if everything begins to get back on track (and yes we will get back on track at some point) then that may make it an easy decision as well. We will just have to take it a week at a time and go from there. For ride managers, if you are unable to have your ride, please look at rescheduling first before simply cancelling the ride for the season all together.

Secondly: A few days ago, in an effort at that time to keep a Region 4 ride on schedule, the ride manager opted to eliminate meals at their ride in order to reduce the risk of any virus sharing possibilities. Riders and volunteers would be responsible for their own meals. No offense to anyone, but I really like this idea. I would recommend that all of our upcoming rides, at least for this year, would eliminate all meals and potluck suppers. The only exception I can see is that the ride manager may need to provide meals for any judges who they have had to fly in to their ride. This will accomplish two things. The first is obviously reducing the risk of any virus sharing. The second is that it will sure make it a lot easier for ride managers. Food is always one of the largest hassles in managing a ride. It will also reduce the cost of putting on a ride.

5. Being the optimist, I am keeping my ride schedule calendar in place for this year. I will just take it as it comes and will keep a positive attitude. As you are putting together your ride schedule for the upcoming ride season please try to sign up for the ride in RMS as far out as you can. This is a huge help to ride management as they are working to put together their ride. If you wait until the last minute to sign up for a ride it does cause difficulty for ride managers....well...probably more so for the ride secretary at that moment. So yeah, please get signed up as soon as possible. Much appreciated!
6. Friendly reminder to double check when your NATRC dues expire. Dues are now due on the anniversary date of when you last paid your dues. If you haven't renewed yet please remember to do so as soon as you can.
7. Bring a friend to your next Region 6 ride! Put them on a horse or have them help as a volunteer. Will be a good time either way for sure!
8. Shari Parys updated our Region 6 webpage recently. natrcr6.org On the opening page you will see two of the PowerPoints from convention. You will find Steve Lindsey's presentation in it's entirety. If you remember he had to cut it a little short so check out the remainder of the slides he did not get to share. You will also find the Awards Banquet presentation that we were not able to show at all. There are some good pics included in that presentation from the time "someone" lost their cell phone at Kanopolis.
9. I have been working on a Region 6 Instagram account. I got it all set up and started and it was working great for like one day. Then I starting having issues trying to post pics. I would post a pic and after about 10 seconds it would disappear. Not sure what was causing this. The last couple days though it seems to be working ok. Hopefully it will keep working ok. If you are an Instagram user check out @natrcr6 and see if you can find what I was able to post.

OK.....that's all I can think of for now. Keep positive in regards to our 2020 ride season. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our first ride when ever that may end up being. If we do have to postpone some rides to a later date, just think about how great the condition of our horses are going to be when we do have that first ride!

Meanwhile, get out there and ride! Spring is here and what better therapy is there than that view from between the ears of our pony!

I am looking forward to sitting around a campfire with all of you this summer!

Be safe and take care!

John

2020 Region 6 Board Members and Committee Chairs (Updated 3/5/20)

President	John Zeliff
Vice-President	Cheryl Bohling
Secretary/Treasurer	Ruth Mesimer
Recording Secretary	Shari Parys

Region 6 Board Members

State Representatives

KS	Tamara Andre	20-21
MO	John Zeliff	19-20
NE	Brenda Messick	20-21
IA	Mary Fettes	20-21

At Large - 2 year term

Kristen Schmalzried	20-21
Cheryl Bohling	20-21
Helen Smith	19-20
Marilyn Marston	19-20
Rhonda Levinson	19-20

At Large Alternate - 2 year term

Trish Cleveland	20-21
Priscilla Lindsey	19-20

Region 6 National Directors

Marla Stucky	Board Member	20-22
Shari Parys	Board Member	18-20
Margaret Reynolds	Alternate	19-21

2020 Region 6 Committee Chairs

100% Club	Marla Stucky
Diamond of the Year	Ruth Mesimer
Historian	Brenda Messick
Marketing/Social Media	Kristen Schmalzried
Membership	Ruth Mesimer
Mentoring	Margaret Reynolds, Priscilla Lindsey, Brenda Messick
Newsletter Editor	Tammy Vasa
Radios	Ruth Mesimer
Region Awards	Cheryl Bohling
Region Ride Coordinator	Gina Kollars
Ride Book Editor	Shari Parys
Sale Items	Chuck Edwards
Vest Numbers	Trish Cleveland
Vest Repair	Robin Nore
Web Site/Google Groups	Shari Parys
Worker Awards	Trish Cleveland
FAC Team	Shari Parys, Tamara Andre, Ruth Mesimer, John Zeliff