

**SPECIAL
BULLETIN!**

Region 6 Rally

Patience & Preparation

As we all wait patiently for the ride season to get underway, I hope you will enjoy this second issue of our “special edition” Region 6 Rally newsletter. Thank you to those of you who have submitted stories for these first two efforts. However, there are more stories out there and I am pretty sure most of those stories could even be included in a third issue. We want to hear from all of you. We all have stories to tell and for most of us it just means stopping what we are doing for a few minutes and putting those stories into a written document. So, plan now to send us your story in time for our next issue. Meanwhile just sit back, relax, and enjoy some mighty fine NATRC reading!



How is your preparation for the upcoming ride season going? As I said before, there has never been a better time EVER to be growing and getting better while we patiently wait until things get back on track. Our national Board of Directors recently took this issue of preparation head on with their release of the 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenge. This three-prong approach includes something for all of us. The new “Let’s Ride” seminar series provides a wealth of knowledge on important NATRC topics. The 2020 NATRC Mileage Challenge provides an incentive as we get those conditioning rides in. And finally, the 2020 NATRC Obstacle Challenge provides valuable feedback on obstacles just as if we were competing at a ride. Actually, we will receive five times that amount of feedback since there will be five sets of eyes judging us. Sign up now for one, two, or all three of these membership benefits!

I really appreciate the vision of our national Board of Directors in putting this program together for our membership. I believe the response has exceeded their expectations. As I look ahead, I can easily see these three programs becoming annual membership benefits!

Keep smiling and stay positive! Keep checking our Region 6 webpage natrcr6.org for ride calendar updates as we learn them. Actually, just make our Region 6 webpage your start up page for your web browser and you will be one of the first to know when our ride season is underway. Follow us on Instagram [@natrcr6](https://www.instagram.com/natrcr6) as we are adding a Region 6 NATRC picture each day. There are currently 63 pics posted! Are you one of them? Follow us also on twitter [@natrc_6](https://twitter.com/natrc_6) for the latest news, 280 characters at a time.

Be safe, take care, show patience, and most importantly be prepared!

John Zeliff, Missouri
Region 6 President

#NATRCregion6prepare



From the Editor

Any Way the Wind Blows

I am always so excited to make it through the cold winter months. March starts to show us a taste of spring and by April, our long wait starts to pay off and we start stealing some early warm weather days. And just when we think we are about there.... The wind returns. Somehow I always forget about the wind. It has quickly become my least favorite weather event. It's never around when you need it – like when its 101 degrees in the shade in the middle of July! Is this a Nebraska thing? Or do you feel it in other Region 6 states? I'm not talking a little nuisance wind where your hair might get ruffled a bit. I am talking about the kind that limits your hearing. Wind which requires leashes on small dogs for fear of being carried away! Wind that can disguise a day that is sunny and 70 into horrible and awful!

Nebraska has slowly been “reopening” to some degree. The Covid19 virus is still very prominent, but we are told we have adequate hospital beds and ventilators. While we could return to church last month, our state was slow to open the campgrounds and this first weekend in June was the first time horse camping is open in most of our parks. In the meantime, I drove out to Custer County to ride with a friend on a 50,000-acre cattle ranch. We climbed the cow paths up to the top of the huge sand hills and bluffs where we could see forever! We wondered down through the canyons and wove through old waterways. It was so good to get out and ride that I honestly cannot remember if it was windy or not?

Kansas parks stayed open to camping so some friends and I drove to Perry Lake a few weekends ago. I haven't been there since I competed many years ago and was pleasantly surprised at all the improvements to that pretty park! It was full of horse campers and most everyone stayed to themselves and their respective parties. We met very few folks on the trail but did run into CTR friends, Margaret Reynolds and Travis Brinck. What a treat!

This past weekend, some friends and I went to Custer State Park in South Dakota. The French Creek Horse Camp was at about half capacity. The traffic in The Black Hills was very light. We returned to temperatures in 90's in Nebraska. Thank goodness the wind is blowing to take the edge off the humidity!

Spring resembled nothing like I had planned this year. I'm sure many of you can relate. And while plans change or are rearranged, it feels good to be getting out and doing something! I saw a quote that said, “*Don't let fear of dying keep you from living.*” Perhaps that is also true for a windy day.

Riding It Out!
Tammy Vasa, Nebraska



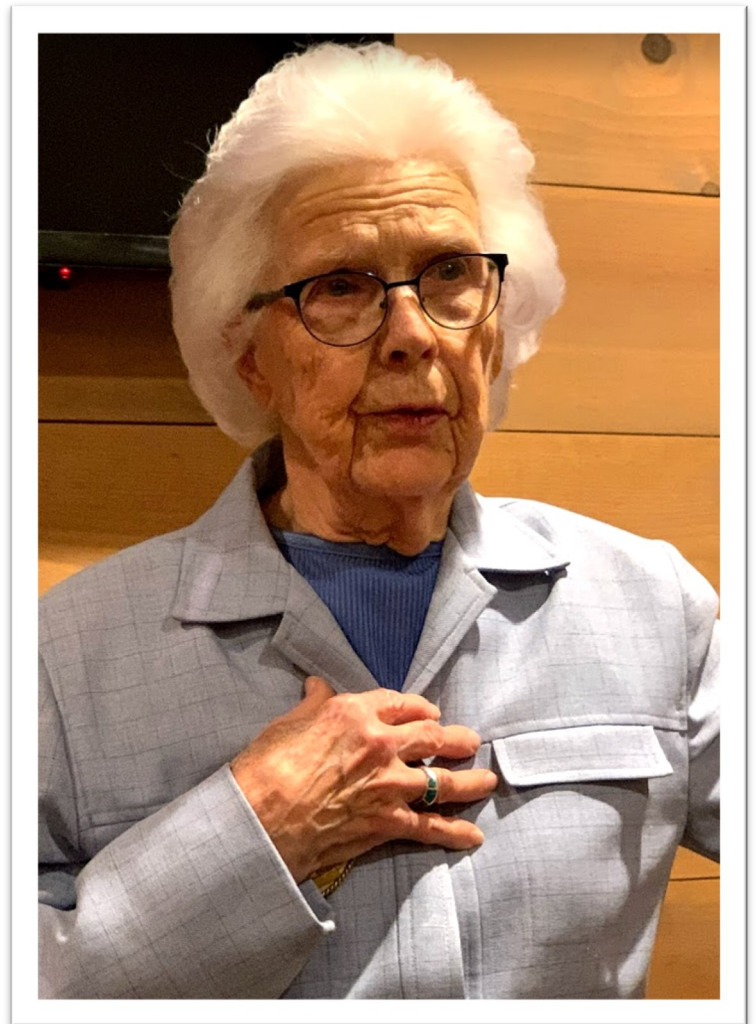
A Special Contribution

Many years ago, I was riding a very good ½ Arab mule by the name of “Spring”. Spring was a small mule and since I also am a small lady, Spring and I were a perfect match. Before I rode Spring for competitions we were in Colorado and I was competing on a big mule by the name of Angel. The judge was Gene Naugle. I knew Mr. Naugle’s daughter, Tracy, was a very good rider and she volunteered to ride Spring for the first time getting the mule used to the NATRC trails. She was impressed with Spring and said the mule was very watchful. I must say that I did enjoy competing on Spring and she proved to be a smart mule. I can’t thank Tracy enough for her help.

At a later ride, we were in Arkansas for a competition. There had been a big rain causing the river to rise. As the two of us were crossing, Spring started to have trouble and the water was going up on Spring’s back. It soon became evident that my Spring could not handle the strong water. Bill Hinkebein was ahead of me riding his stallion, Country Gold, and he heard me call to him for help. He turned and saw what was happening and immediately came to my rescue by riding on the high side of the water keeping the water from pushing on Spring and then he pushed the mule towards the bank. At the time I wasn’t thinking about being in danger, but Bill said it could have been really bad for Spring and myself. I have always been grateful for Bill’s help and thankful for the sportsmanship shown to me by NATRC riders.

Pat Seymour

From the Editor: Pat asked if Gene Naugle was still alive and if anyone knew anything about his daughter, Tracy? Does anyone know? If so, please contact [Bill and Jeanne Hinkebein](#).



More Special Contributions

The story beginning on the next page, “Judging from the Saddle” was submitted by retired NATRC judge, Dr. Dale Jackson. Rather than retype his contribution, I am posting it as he submitted it, staple & all! We certainly hope you enjoy these blasts from the past!

Judging from the Saddle

By

D.E. Jackson DVM

My early experience with NATRC was as a judge. This was in the early 1970s and the organization was just beginning to be introduced into Missouri and Kansas. As new rides began to appear on the schedule the organization needed to expand their judges list to supply these new areas that were opening up. So I started judging in Missouri and Kansas and very shortly expanded into Nebraska, Colorado, California, Texas, Georgia and North and South Carolina. As you well know judges traditionally are moved from point-to-point by four-wheel-drive vehicle so that we may be able to stay ahead of the first competitor. However, twice in my judging career I judged rides where the terrain was not conducive to vehicles and we were forced to judge from horseback. Which I found great fun.

I was contacted by a ride that was located in western Nebraska near Grand Island. Ride management warned me that I would have to judge by horseback and suggested that I might want to bring my own horse. This sounded like fun my horse had just recently got his national championship and I was anxious to get him out on the trail again. England Dan was

A Morgan who I had bred, raised, trained and conditioned specifically for competitive trail. One of my daughters, Shauna, had a full brother to him called Iban. She wanted to take him and be my secretary. So off we went. The location of this ride was in an area where the terrain was a lot of ridges with small valleys in between. I was told that these ridges and valleys were the product of glacial activity during the last Ice Age. As the ice moved south it gouged these valleys like a plow throwing dirt to both sides thus forming the ridges. The camp was located in one of these little valleys. I must back up a little to explain that back then we pretty much camped out with slide in campers in the beds of our pickups. We didn't have access to some of these hotels on wheels that we see at rides today. In those days horses were tied to the trailers overnight, no one brought portable corrals. So we arrived and got our camp set up got our horses all settled for the night and after check-in decided to turn in early because Saturday was probably going to be a long day.

As I said in my last article "a funny thing always happens at the trail ride". In the middle of the night there was a scream that mimicked the sound of a woman being slowly murdered. It was a sound of a mountain lion (a.k.a.

Panther) and once you've heard that sound you never forget it. Now I'm not sure about you Nebraskans but here in Missouri a lot of people don't think they exist in our area. However last year on I-35 north of Kansas City one was run over by a car. So they do exist here but most horses haven't had any experience with them. A considerable amount of the night was spent trying to calm down horses and we survived without any loss of life or injury. The next day's ride went on as routine then something funny happened.

Early Saturday evening the owner of the property came by to see how things were going and invited us to a barn dance. It seems there was a big rodeo over in Grand Island and he had a bunch of people from the rodeo come to his dance and invited our entire group to join them. Will the group decided to go to the dance which was held in the loft of the cleanest barn I've ever seen in my entire life. There is not a speck of dust in that barn loft. They had a band that played good country and western music and food was available. Now turns out the driver of the Coor's six horse hitch was present along with the driver of the Budweiser six horse hitch. During the evening these two fellows got into a friendly debate about who work for the best company and it was decided that the people attending the dance should make the decision. So they went to town and came back with cases of their respective product. They suggested that the people attending the dance should make the decision by voting. Now voting was done by selecting the product of your choice and at the end of the evening the empty cans would be counted. I don't remember which company one and it really makes no difference because a good time was had by all. The next morning all the competitors were ready to ride with no signs of hangover.

The second ride that I judged from horseback was near Asheville, North Carolina. I was advised that they would supply me a horse to use as I judged. Interestingly enough I was put up in a beautiful apartment in the loft of the barn. Nice warm bed place to shower and clean up not at all what I was used to. A member of ride management was a fellow by the name of Claude Abercrombie. His main claim to fame as far as I know was he is the maker of the Abercrombie Trail saddle which some of you may be familiar with. He is a great guy. Ride management brought me this really nice looking horse. He was well mannered, had all the parts put together in the right places and was a pleasure to look at. When you got him out on the trail he was great until you got to a place where you really needed him. A place where the trail was narrow straight up on one side straight down on the other side and that's when he would lose his mind. At the end of the first day's ride I informed management that I would either train the horse or I would judge their ride but I couldn't do both at the same time. I'm pretty sure I irritated them but the next day they brought me Charlie. Charlie was a big stout Tennessee Walker cross who had never won a beauty contest and was squared trotter. He had all his parts and none of them fit together. In short Charlie looked like he'd been whooped with an ugly stick. But boy could he pick them up and set them down. On Sunday I left last P&R stop about 15 minutes behind last competitor and I never let Charlie get out of a trot but I encouraged that trot to be as fast as he could go without breaking gait and I beat the first competitor into camp by hundred yards. As I wandered in and out through that line of horses that last 2 miles Charlie and I were able to provide the horsemanship judge a wealth of information. People were totally taken by surprise as we came through their ranks. And I

even heard one person say "look out there's the judge". I found it quite humorous.

I have already told you the Charlie have wasn't pretty but I guarantee you if I could have gotten him on an airplane he would still be standing in my barn today we had been on the trail only 15 minutes when I realized what a champion horse I was riding.

There was one other time that I judged a ride from the ambulance which appeared on the MASH show but that's a story for a another article.

2020 Coronavirus Challenges

2020 NATRC CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE CHALLENGES

As rides across the nation were being canceled, our NATRC Board of Directors stepped into action, introducing a couple challenges to keep us actively working toward goals with our equine partner. While original plans may have been tabled, NATRC's Mileage Challenge and Obstacle Challenge provided a much needed reprieve from such gloomy national news. The entry fees for these challenges also provides a boost to the organization's treasury, which has also felt an economic hit.

The Mileage Challenge encourages participants to get out and ride! Starting May 1 and running through November 1, conditioning or pleasure rides can be logged for this special competition. It's as easy as submitting GPS tracks! All participants will receive a special "tag" at the end of the challenge and the Top 6 will receive a medalion in recognition of their accomplishment. Post your rides on Facebook or Instagram #natrcr6.

The Obstacle Challenge consists of five obstacles each month to be submitted for review. The first month, riders were observed making off-side mounts, backing our horses in a L, sidepassing, going up hill and stopping from a trot. From the Facebook comments, the biggest challenge was actually getting the task videoed and submitted! I



JUNE CHALLENGE SET
2020 NATRC
OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

C201 Mounted: Ride down a hill or ditch to demonstrate downhill equitation.

C202 In hand: Side pass to a mounting block, mounting aid or terrain then mount.

C203 Mounted: Back around a tree keeping your hand (left or right) on the tree.

C204 Mounted: Put on a rain jacket.

C205 In hand: Pivot horse 360 degrees on the forehand and 360 degrees on the haunches.

happened to break a bone in my foot shortly before this competition and being both rider and videographer, plus having a herd of watchers who would knock over the camera, it took two days for me to get it done!

The outtakes shown on the Facebook pages are quite a hoot! My vote goes to Kristen Johansen's German Shepherd "stalker". The last frame, not pictured, was simply green grass.



June's list of Challenges just came out. I am ready for it this time. Shari Parys shared a tripod idea which Julia Hoyt had shared with her. [The UBeesize Flexible Cell Phone Tripod](#) has flexible legs for easy mounting and a remote control so you do not have to keep going back to the phone itself. It appears to work with any cell phone which has Bluetooth. It's \$19.99 and free shipping with an Amazon Prime membership.

If you are interested in the 2020 NATRC Challenges, please visit <https://natrc.org/virtual-challenges> for more information.

The Indian Cave Tradition

Indian Cave, nestled in the southeast corner of Nebraska along the Missouri River is truly a Nebraska gem. In the fall, when the leaves start to change and a chill is in the air, it is the perfect place to ride. I was lucky enough to have a Zen ride at Indian Cave when it was all that and more. Another time, I brought home my first sweepstakes from Indian Cave. I've also experienced the storms, the slick trails and the re-routes. My first pull was at Indian Cave. The club has changed dates to try to beat the weather, only to find the heat and humidity hanging around too long. Beauty just doesn't come easy.

Indian Cave is the nation's longest running CTR on the same trails. This fall will be the 47th year. Chuck Edwards worked with the park to put in horse trails for that first competition in 1973 and is still the trail master today. Chuck and I sat down last year and talked a lot about those early years as we moved closer to the 50th Anniversary of this famed ride. There will be more on that in future issues of the Region 6 Rally. Today, I know he is feeling the angst of a possible interruption with the Covid19 situation.

If Chuck could predict the weather, he would find the most ideal weekend in the fall for us to ride. It would be 74 degrees with a slight breeze and sweatshirt weather in the evening. The very first time I rode a CTR was at Indian Cave in 2004. I remember signing up early because the ride always filled up. While ride numbers have declined in recent years, Indian Cave has taken quite a few hits in recent years, having to cancel Sunday because of storms and wet trails. And we know that makes you leery about the upcoming year or years.

Chuck and every one in the NECTRA club as well as lots of Region 6 alumni have our eye on the prize—the 50th anniversary. But to get there, we have to get through the 47th, 48th and 49th year. We need your support. Let's bring back the glory days of Indian Cave. Sign up early, bring a friend! Quoting Hunter S. Thompson, let's "skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, "Wow what a ride!"

The ride is on our schedule and come hell or high water (we hope not), the ride will go on.

~Tammy Vasa



NECTRA's Influence on Indian Cave SP

The Nebraska Endurance and Competitive Trail Riding Association (NECTRA) was founded in 1974. In addition to organizing competitive trail riding events and advocating the sport, the NECTRA has always been active in building and maintaining the existence of trails for all outdoor users. The founding members of the club were the same people who put in trails at Indian Cave State Park – prior to their work, no trails existed there.

The organization has continued to donate both labor hours and financial support to Indian Cave SP, including improvements to equestrian campgrounds by purchasing hitching rails, trail supplies such as culverts for crossings, and members also built a picnic pavilion in the horse campground, NECTRA Vice President Sarah Rinne said.

"This is an important part of the work that we do – without trails we do not have a venue for our sport. We care about trail preservation and maintenance for all trail users," Rinne said.

Today, Indian Cave SP offers 16 miles of equestrian trails, 12 horse corrals and numerous tie posts at each primitive campsite in the equestrian area. Each campsite has a picnic table and fire ring. A water wagon is provided during the summer and fall seasons (weather dependent), and a new vault toilet is provided in the camp as well, said Kevin Holliday, Indian Cave's park superintendent.

NOTES FROM JOHN'S 2nd RIDE

2015 Brushy Creek John Zeliff

Left home 9:00 am

Got along good hauling up here. Arrived around 2:30 pm

Found camping spot and backed trailer in. Unloaded Festus. Hitching post is right behind the back of the trailer. Fed and watered Festus. Plugged trailer in. Opened the trailer slide and it made a funny noise. Part of the chrome edging had caught in the slide and broke a piece off.

Went out and started cleaning up horse.

Immediately behind the horse hitching post are trees and a steep bank overlooking the lake. As I was brushing out the mane, I could hear people talking along the lake. Voices started getting closer. Then suddenly someone came up climbing over the bank. As soon as the horse saw this guy, he got very nervous. I told the guy to stop moving. He said five more guys were coming too and hollered down and told them to wait and be quiet. Horse was very concerned still so I untied him and led him away until these guys crawled up the bank. These six guys turned out to be our neighbors two spots down. No horses with them, just on a fishing weekend. They had a good time both nights.

Finished cleaning up horse and then started looking for where registration was at. Found it at the entrance to the north campground. Since I had pulled in, they had put up a nice sized tent. This will be where we eat and have our ride meetings.

I got all registered. That went smooth. Only hitch was I had forgotten my little weigh in card I got at the last ride. It was in my billfold but I had left billfold in truck. Of course my campsite is as far away from the registration tent as can be. The lady said I could weigh in without my saddle. Thank goodness! Before I registered, while I was waiting for the ride secretary to show up, others were setting up tables under the tent, so I helped them with that.

Went back and got horse out to do horse check in. We practiced the trotting while being led and the lunging. Horse did great at practice.

Stopped by and visited with Alan and Noreen and Fred on the way to check in.

During check in horse did good. Lots better than first check in at the last ride.

Judges noticed the white hairs on back of horse. I asked if I could bring my saddle down and have them give me their thoughts. They said that would be great.

Walked back to trailer with horse and saddled him up. Started to walk back and then thought why. I got his head stall out and rode him up there instead.

Judges allowed it was a combination of the thickness of the leather under my stirrup straps and the thickness of the saddle pad there. Suggested that I try a different pad. I asked if I should do that for this ride as I have a second pad with me. They thought that I should wait and try it at home rather than during the ride as it isn't making the horse sore as it is and if I make a change now and have issues it wouldn't be a good thing during the ride.

Rode horse back to the trailer.

Supper started at six followed by ride meeting at seven. Only 21 riders for this ride.

Alan said it was an easy ride, not too hilly. I remember Sarah saying this ride was a flat one when I rode with her.

Supper was good. There was a food trailer next to the tent. I am thinking the Iowa Trail Ride group has this food trailer. It is all set up really nice.

Was getting chilly out so after supper I walked back to trailer to get a jacket before the ride meeting. It has been a long time since I have needed to wear a jacket outside.

Ride meeting was good. Novice going 20 miles Saturday. I studied map and Alan showed me how he figures time. The miles were shown on the directions that went with the map, but the time wasn't calculated. Doing 4.0 mph. They added 30 minutes for two P&Rs. Changed start time from 7 to 8:30 on Saturday am.

Went back to trailer and got canteen bag ready and calculated times on directions.

Nancy made it here around 10 pm. She drove separately as she couldn't leave at same time. I had her

More Notes

get a pair of gloves for in the am. I brought a sweatshirt and a couple light jackets just in case but didn't think of gloves. (Found a pair of old chore gloves in other jacket after she got here and had bought a cheap pair at a gas station.)

Watched movie and fell asleep.

Saturday

Got up 6:30 and fed horse.

Had a little breakfast and then saddled horse up.

While waiting to start Mary asked if I was riding with anyone and if I wanted to ride with her if it worked out. I said sure. She was doing CP but was same trail as Novice.

Timed out at 8:40.

Went 100 yards and judges has us ride between two large piles that had some limbs laying in-between.

Ride was good. Weather nice and cool. I rode in sweatshirt and then took it off at first P&R and gave it to one of the helpers to take back to camp so I wouldn't have to carry it with me.

Judges were busy. Always getting ahead of the riders and then having us do things. With the small number of riders, they did several stops. Maybe four or five? Can't remember all of them. More than the last ride. I had to back down an incline. Side pass over a log. Canter and then come to a stop.

At first P&R I was a 13 and 6. Lost a point on respiration.

Second P&R was even better. No points lost. Yay! (I hugged the person checking I was so happy. LOL)

Horse did good I thought.

When we got back to camp the judge had us ride circles.

Put horse away. Washed him off and fed and watered.

Ate lunch

Showered

Judges came by a couple hours later. Horse had some puffy places where those white hairs are. She suggested putting a cold towel on there for twenty minutes to help make them go away. I took two frozen bottles of water and put in a bucket of water to make it cold. Then used my bath towel to lay over the back of the horse. They

said riders can't use ice packs. After supper those places were not puffy. Yay!

Horsemanship judge said hair coat wasn't cleaned enough. Ugh. Looked good to me. LOL

I did forget to clean the horse's feet. I will see later if I got dinged for that.

Went down to supper at 6

After I ate, I had some time, so I walked back to trailer to get my map. I had forgotten to bring it.

Ride meeting at 7

At the ride meeting tonight, they said they we could look at our score cards. I did not this time.

Dave Smith's wife handed out pics of riders she took today. That was a really nice touch. She also gave everyone water bottles as a participant gift.

Will ride out at 7 in the morning.

Going 16 miles Sunday. Hoping horse makes it!

Sunday

Horse did great. Lost one point on first P&R and none on second.

Was first to finish Sunday. Well, technically the second but we were the first to vet out.

The judge allowed horse was favoring left front hoof when I trotted him in a circle. I'm not sure about that as I would have noticed any issues and there were none.

Ended up 4th in horsemanship and 5th with horse.

Brushy Creek was a nice easy ride as mostly flat. Great camping area. Huge campground.

Can't wait until my next ride!

An Email from John 5/30/2020

1. During this time of rapid change due to the covid-19, please check our Region 6 webpage natrc6.org often for the latest information regarding our 2020 ride schedule. If everything works out like we all want it to, we will have an amazing fall schedule! Our ride year will kick off in July with a LeD ride and clinic in Nebraska followed with 3 rides in September and 3 more rides in October! As always, the safety and well-being of our NATRC family is of utmost importance. Our wonderful ride managers will continue to monitor local, state, and national agency directives.
2. Thank you to Shari Parys for keeping our Region 6 webpage updated with the latest information, especially when it comes to our ride schedule. I would encourage each of you to make our Region 6 webpage the startup page for your internet browser. That way you will be sure to know of any updates and/or schedule changes.
3. As I mentioned last month, Gina Kollars is our new Region 6 Ride Coordinator. You will be hearing from her from time to time with various ride schedule updates. Even though this year's ride season has yet to get started, it is not too early to start thinking about our ride schedule for 2021. We already have three brand new rides and a new clinic on the 2021 schedule! If you are a current ride manager, it is time to secure your ride date(s) for next year. If you are interested and willing to manage a ride that would be very appreciated by all our members! We have locations in MO, KS, NE, and IA identified as possible ride locations. We just need ride managers to make it a reality. We have experienced ride managers very willing to serve as mentors for new ride managers.
4. Our national Board of Directors made the difficult decision at their last board meeting that there will be no live National NATRC Convention in 2021. It will be held in Omaha in 2022 instead and will still be hosted by Region 6. We now have an extra 12 months to plan!
5. Have you watched any of the new "Let's Ride" webinars as a part of the 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenge? There have been three so far and they have each been excellent! Hopefully there are more being planned, so be on the lookout for information on how to participate. Just in case you missed any of these webinars or if you want to watch them again you can find them on our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel. While you are there, why don't you go ahead and subscribe to our NATRC channel, so you won't miss any new videos as they are added.
6. While our ride season is on hold, have you signed up yet for the 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenges. It is not too late to sign up for these virtual challenges. Sign up any time to hone your skills and reach for a new set of goals. <https://www.natrc.org/virtual-challenges>
7. Tammy Vasa will be sending out another "Special Bulletin" of our Region 6 Rally newsletter very soon. Be on the lookout for this second edition! Thank you Tammy!!!
8. Have you been shopping from home during our quarantine? If you are shopping on Amazon, please remember the Amazon Smile program. Designate the North American Trail ride Conference, Inc as your charity of choice and when you do, .5% of your eligible purchases go to NATRC! smile.amazon.com
9. Region 6 is on social media! Huge shout-out to Kristen Schmalzried, our Region 6 Marketing/Social Media coordinator for keeping us up to date with her Facebook posts on our Region 6 NATRC Riders group and our Region 6, North American



Trail Ride Conference page. Follow us on Twitter @natrc_6 and follow us on Instagram @natrcr6. A new Region 6 picture is posted each day. Are you in one of those pics? There are currently 84 pics!

10. Our National NATRC Board has been busy these last few months. Recently they have started meeting monthly utilizing the Zoom video conferencing tool. In fact, given the current virus situation, they are going to utilize Zoom for what would have been their face to face meeting in July. Not only is this the wise thing to do considering any air travel and virus concerns, but it is also the prudent thing to do as this will save our regions significant travel expenses. With our rides on hold for the time being there is no ride income for our regions. I greatly appreciate our National NATRC Board for their wisdom in not overburdening our Regions and creating any additional hardships.
11. Speaking of our NATRC National Board of Directors, Region 6 is fortunate to have two outstanding members representing us. Shari Parys and Marla Stucky do a wonderful job. As I mentioned above, the Board has been conducting monthly Zoom meetings. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd. I will make sure and include a report from Shari and Marla following that meeting in my next membership update. NATRC National Board of Directors meeting minutes can be found on our national webpage. They are a little behind in posting their minutes at this time, but that should be resolved soon. Currently they just have their face to face meetings posted through 2019. I would anticipate that they will also post their zoom meeting minutes when they update the webpage, so keep a look out for those.
12. I am attaching the 2021 NATRC Rule Proposals to this update. Please look these over and share any feedback to Shari or Marla. They are open to any questions you may have regarding these proposals. The NATRC National Board of Directors will be voting on these rule changes in July, to take effect for the 2021 ride season which begins in mid-November 2020.

I hope this update finds all of you safe and healthy. If you haven't already, I encourage everyone to get signed up 2020 NATRC Coronavirus Response Challenges. A few of you posted your obstacle video from last month's challenges. They were awesome videos! So yeah, sign up and join the fun while we patiently wait for that first ride of the season!

Stay safe and get to riding!

John

Have fun!
Win prizes!

2020 NATRC
CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE
CHALLENGES

BRACKET A
Riders with
more than
1,500 miles
in NATRC

BRACKET B
Riders with
less than
1,500 miles
in NATRC

2020 NATRC
OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

BRACKET C
Brand new NATRC
members
(0 NATRC miles)

BRACKET D
Juniors 17 and under,
regardless of
NATRC miles

2021 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS – May 5, 2020 – Changes in Bold

REVERT MEMBERSHIP BACK TO CALENDAR YEAR

SECTION 1 – GENERAL

A. Membership

2. ~~Each membership, except lifetime, shall be for a period of 12 months. Membership fees are due on the individual membership renewal date each year. Each membership, except lifetime, shall be for a period of 12 months commencing January 1 each year regardless of the month in which payment of dues is received. All membership fees are due on January 1 each year.~~

Rationale:

The rolling renewal date led to confusion, extra work to track current members at events, and missed renewals. The calendar year membership is easier for both members and NATRC to use and remember.

CHANGE LIMITS FROM PLACINGS TO POINTS FOR COMPETING IN NOVICE

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Divisions

2. Novice

e. Limitations

- (1) Any horse and adult rider combination having ~~won five firsts earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation,~~ in horse (regardless of ~~division or~~ class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. A horse and rider combination that attains ~~five firsts 250 points~~ in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (2) Any horse and junior rider combination having ~~won five firsts and 225 points earned 250 points,~~ lifetime accumulation, in horse (regardless of ~~division or~~ class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) and rider having reached age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horse Division. Four-year-old horses are exempt from this rule. An age eligible horse and rider combination that attains ~~five firsts and 225 250~~ points in horse during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horse awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horse Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (3) Any adult rider having ~~won five firsts earned 250 points, lifetime accumulation,~~ in horsemanship (regardless of horse, ~~division,~~ or class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A rider ~~that who~~ attains ~~five firsts 250 points~~ in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- (4) Any junior rider having ~~won five firsts and 225 points earned 250 points,~~ lifetime accumulation, in horsemanship (regardless of horse, ~~division,~~ or class in **Open, Competitive Pleasure, and Novice**) and having reached the age of 14 shall not compete for awards in Novice Horsemanship Division. A rider ~~that who~~ reaches age 14, attains ~~five firsts and 225 250~~ points in horsemanship during a ride year, and competes in a novice ride in that year while still eligible for novice horsemanship awards, may continue to compete in Novice Horsemanship Division for the remainder of that ride year.
- ~~(5) A rider or horse and rider combination with five firsts may compete for awards in the Competitive Pleasure Division.~~
- (5)** Horse and rider combinations having won a National Championship or placed 3rd or higher in the NATRC annual high point awards (excluding regional awards) in any class in any previous year are ineligible to compete in the Novice Division except by participating Distance Only.

Rationale:

With low ridership, it's possible for first-time competitors to place 1st in horsemanship when they are the only competitor in their class. Thus riders are ribboning out of Novice too soon. Limitations based on point accumulation would be a better solution.

ADD EXPERIENCED CLASS TO LEISURE DIVISION

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Divisions

4. Leisure

e. Classes

- (1) This division will offer **Experienced**, Adult and Junior Classes as defined in Section 4 B, **with the exception that Experienced teams are defined as:**
 - (a) Any NATRC judge (Veterinary, Horsemanship, Leisure).**
 - (b) Any NATRC rider with more than 250 points of any combination of Leisure Division Team and Open, Competitive Pleasure, Novice Horsemanship at the beginning of the ride year.**
 - (c) Any NATRC rider who has won a national award in a Competitive Pleasure or Open Division.**
- (2) Horse and rider will compete as a team, with their combined scores used to determine placing recognition.
- (3) A Junior may compete in the Adult or Experienced Class.**
- (4) Any adult may compete in the Experienced Class.**

Rationale:

Leisure is meant to be a home for riders new to NATRC and experienced NATRC riders who for whatever reason do not want to compete in a Novice, CP, or Open Division ride. The skill levels here are generally very different. We want to welcome both groups, but they shouldn't be competing against each other.

CHANGE TWO MILE POINT TO FORWARD MOTION POINT

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

I. Trail Conduct

5. ~~Two Mile Forward Motion~~ Point

- a. From a properly identified **forward motion** point (posted sign) ~~approximately 2 miles from the finish each day~~, riders must maintain forward motion and not stop or dismount from this point to the finish line except in extenuating circumstances dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship. Forward motion must be via the most direct route, without stopping, following the marked trail. Any deviation may result in penalty assessment or disqualification unless dictated by good horsemanship and/or sportsmanship.
- b. No one shall interfere with the rider's forward progress and/or pacing except when necessary for the safety of the horse/rider.
- c. **For Novice, Competitive Pleasure, and Open Divisions, the forward motion point should be approximately two (2) miles from the finish each day.**
- d. **For the Leisure Division, the forward motion point should be approximately one (1) mile from the finish.**

Rationale:

Because the Leisure Division can be as short as 8 miles, requiring that one quarter of the ride be forward motion does not seem reasonable. This limits judging opportunities, trail access, and P&R location to a very limited portion of the trail. Shortening the Leisure Division point of forward motion keeps the ratio to total ride distance similar to other divisions.

ALLOW LENIENCE IN LEISURE DIVISION TIME PENALTIES AT COMPLETION OF RIDE

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

J. Timing and Time Penalty Points

3. Early Arrivals

- a. A horse completing the day's ride in less than the minimum time and within 30 minutes prior to the minimum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute before the minimum time. Rider **or Leisure Division team** will also be faulted. **The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.**
- b. A horse **and rider team** arriving more than 30 minutes early shall be disqualified.

4. Late Arrivals

- a. A horse completing the day's ride exceeding the maximum time and within 30 minutes subsequent to the maximum time shall be penalized one point per minute for each minute exceeding the maximum time. Rider **or Leisure Division team** will also be faulted. **The number of penalty points for rider or Leisure Division team will be at the judge's discretion.**
- b. A horse and rider team arriving more than 30 minutes after the maximum time will receive completion points and mileage only.

Rationale:

To allow some judgement is assigning time penalties to the Leisure Division.

LEISURE DIVISION - SOURCING JUDGES and EVALUATION OF OVERNIGHT STABLING

SECTION 5 – THE RIDE

B. Stabling

~~4. Competitors in the Leisure Division are excluded from stabling judging.~~

~~5.~~ 4. Stabling options **not allowed** during competition as primary containment:

~~6.~~ 5. Stallions:

SECTION 6 – JUDGING

D. Leisure Division. Horses will be evaluated on trail ability and manners. Riders will be evaluated on equitation and partnership with the horse. Safety may be scored.

3. Judges **may must** be sourced from the approved Leisure Division Judges List ~~or the standard list. An NATRC-approved veterinary judge may serve as the full judge for this division.~~
4. **This division is exempt from stabling evaluation. Overnight stabling will be evaluated for safety and must comply with NATRC stabling rules. This will not be scored.**

Rationale:

Our standard judges must go through additional training before judging the Leisure Division, so management must refer to the separate Leisure Division Judges List for all who have completed the appropriate requirements. Plus Equisure requires overnight stabling evaluation. Portion of Section 5 was removed since the difference in Leisure Division is better described in Section 6.

REVISE LEISURE DIVISION PLACINGS AND POINTS DISTRIBUTION

SECTION 9 – AWARDS

A. Ride Awards

3. Horse and horsemanship scores for Leisure Division will be added together to determine placing **of** teams for **Experienced**, Adult and Junior Classes. **First through tenth place teams in both classes will be recognized. Leisure Division will include first through sixth place in each class offered.**

C. Point Distribution

TYPE B RIDE – Leisure Division						
Number of starters						
PLACE	6	5	4	3	2	1
1 st	6	5	4	3	2	1
2 nd	5	4	3	2	1	
3 rd	4	3	2	1		
4 th	3	2	1			
5 th	2	1				
6 th	1					
C**	½	½	½	½	½	½

Rationale:

Awarding six placings is consistent with the other divisions. Some feel it is demeaning to not make the top ten, so it is easier to only announce the top six and not draw attention to those placing well below.

ADD OUT-OF-REGION REQUIREMENT TO PRESIDENT'S CUP CRITERIA

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards

2. National Awards

- a. PRESIDENT'S CUP (National Sweepstakes Champion): This award will be presented annually to the overall high point horse in the Open Division.
 - (2) The horse must be officially started in at least ~~four rides of any ride type made up of any combination of one~~ out-of-region ~~and or three~~ out-of-state rides ~~of any ride type~~.

Rationale:

The President's Cup is truly a national award. It should be expected that the winner competes against horses other than those in its own region to win this prestigious award.

RECOGNIZE OVERALL HIGH POINT NOVICE ON NATIONAL LEVEL

SECTION 4 – DIVISIONS, CLASSES, AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Divisions

2. Novice

- a. Age of Horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. (60 months for national awards)

3. Competitive Pleasure

- a. Age of horses: Horses entered in this division must be at least 48 months of age. (60 months for national awards)

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards

2. National Awards

- q. **HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSE:** Points shall be credited to horses for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., Heavyweight, Lightweight, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
Age of Horses
 - (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Horse awards must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
 - (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.
- r. **HIGH POINT NOVICE HORSEMANSHIP:** Points shall be credited to riders for the purpose of determining annual high point awards in each Novice Class (i.e., Heavyweight, Lightweight, Junior), first through sixth place. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
- s. **HIGH POINT NOVICE TEAM:** This award is presented to the Novice Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.
Age of Horses
 - (1) Horses competing for High Point Novice Team award must be at least 60 months of age.
 - (a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.
 - (b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

Rationale:

We want to encourage Novice Division riders to compete and to attend the national conventions. Particularly on this last point, we need to give them some reason to come. Items "q" and "r" are 1st – 6th national placings. Item "s" would be the single best combined Novice Division horse and rider. Costs: For "q" and "r", 3 classes (junior, lightweight, heavyweight) per horse and rider x 6 ribbons (36 ribbons). For "s", one award per year.

RECOGNIZE OVERALL HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM

SECTION 9 - AWARDS

B. Annual Awards

2. National Awards

- p. HIGH POINT COMPETITIVE PLEASURE TEAM:** This award is presented to the Competitive Pleasure Division horse and rider combination having the highest number of total points for horse and horsemanship. Only the first 12 rides officially started will count. Type A ride counts as 1 ride; Type B ride counts as ½ ride. The horse and rider team shall be considered officially started when timed out on the first day of the ride.

Age of Horses

(1) Horses competing for High Point Competitive Pleasure Team award must be at least 60 months of age.

(a) Registered horses are considered 60 months of age as of actual foaling date on the registration papers.

(b) Unregistered horses are considered to be of eligible age if they have a "full mouth" (all permanent incisors having erupted and in wear) as determined by the veterinary judge.

Rationale:

We already have an overall high point Open team with the Jim Menefee Memorial award. If we add a High Point Novice Team, Competitive Pleasure would be the only standard division without this award. For consistency and fairness, if the Novice passes, we should also include Competitive Pleasure. We are encouraging the team aspect and should do so across the board.

Updated Ride Schedule

Go to Region 6 website natrcr6.org for more information about these rides and clinics

July 11-12 Branching Out, Raymond, NE – Clinic and LeD

Sept 5-6 El Dorado, El Dorado, KS – O/CP/N and LeD

Sept 12-13 Jesse James Rideout, Smithville, MO – O/CP/N and LeD

Sept 26-27 Indian Cave, Shubert, NE

Oct 3-4 Sand Hills, Hutchinson, KS – O/CP/N and LeD

Oct 10-11 Salt Creek Ranch, Lyndon, KS - clinic and LeD

Oct 31/Nov 1 Region 6 Benefit - Hoofbeats in the Hills, Hillsdale Lake, Paola, KS - O/CP/N

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