

## Region 6 Membership Update

October 26, 2020

1. The 47<sup>th</sup> Indian Cave ride was held the weekend of September 26-27. Thank you to the ride management and everyone who volunteered as well as the fourteen riders who competed. We had a successful Saturday ride but unfortunately the weather was uncooperative at the last minute on Sunday which forced the cancelation of the weekend's second LeD ride. Some riders spent the night Saturday while three other riders and a volunteer arrived early Sunday morning only to find out the day's ride had to be cancelled. Ride management made sure that everyone left with a smile as well as with some goodies. Saturday's ride included seven first time riders who gained valuable experience which will pay great dividends in the upcoming ride season.
2. Region 6 continues to lead the NATRC Mileage Challenge! Way to go! With just one month left to go we have a nice lead but do not let up! The end of the month is this Saturday so be sure to get all your GPS tracks submitted by then! Miles only count if ridden on or before October 31 AND submitted by the end of the day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. I liked Verona Chaffin's comment about our lead when she said Region 6 has the wet saddle pads!
3. Be on the lookout for the Virtual Obstacle Challenge final results. This year's challenge concluded at the end of September. The judges are working on scoring your September entries and tabulating the overall scores. Thank you to everyone who participated! Region 6 has been well represented!
4. Our very own Priscilla Lindsey will be presenting the next NATRC "Let's Ride" Seminar this Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. She will be presenting the Basics of Balanced Riding. Check the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) Facebook page for the event information and to register in advance. If you are unable to participate at this time you can always check out our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel and watch this webinar or any of the others in the 2020 Let's Ride series at your convenience. Be sure to go ahead and subscribe to our NATRC channel while you are there so you will know when any new videos are added.
5. Have you checked out the latest issue of the Hoof Print? The NATRC Fall issue of the Hoof Print is now online. Our very own Region 6 rider Mary Fettes is on the cover! Go to [natrc.org](http://natrc.org) and click on Resources to see this great picture and to read the latest issue of Hoof Print. Thank you to Region 6 member David Nore for taking this picture.
6. We are looking for someone willing to take over as the editor for our Region 6 Rally Newsletter. Tammy Vasa has been doing a wonderful job with this the last few years but is ready to hand over the reins. Normally we like to publish a Region 6 newsletter early in the spring as the ride season is getting underway, again around halfway through the ride season, and then at the end of the ride season. Tammy is willing to help get the new person off to a great start. If you are interested in being our editor, please let me know. You could even make this a team effort if you and another person want to do this together!

7. Ruth Mesimer recently sent out ballots to all Region 6 members for the Region 6 Board of Directors and for the Region 6 Director on the NATRC National Board. Thank you to everyone who stepped up and placed their name on these ballots. Our Region is fortunate to have so many individuals willing to serve and do whatever is needed for the betterment of our region and the sport we all love! Please be sure to vote and submit your completed ballots to Ruth by the October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.
8. Although we just experienced a little snow and some colder weather, it looks like there is still going to be some favorable riding weather ahead which means there can still be some “pop up” rides. If you have any plans to go ride and/or camp somewhere please give a shout out to everyone. These “pop up” rides are a great opportunity to check out various ride locations and be able to spend time on the trail and around a campfire with our Region 6 family!
9. The Amazon Smile program recently donated \$63.39 to NATRC. To date we have received \$798.65. If you purchase items on Amazon but have not yet signed up for the Smile program, please consider doing so. It is very simple to do. Just go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and 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. Every little bit helps, so thank you to those of you who are doing this for our favorite sport!
10. Please continue to be aware of any phishing emails that you may find from time to time in your inbox or spam folder. I am not out of town without my phone and I am not looking for you to send any gift cards. Just delete if you get one of these emails. Hopefully, you have not received any, but it seems as if they are utilizing our Region 6 email distribution list to do their phishing. Sometimes they will use my name and a completely different email address and other times they will use my name and an email address almost exactly like mine except for one letter and at first glance you may not realize. Regardless, just delete and do not respond to these emails.
11. Donna Keller, a longtime Region 6 member and competitor, passed away this summer. Her family chose to honor her by establishing the Donna Keller Memorial Fund. The purpose of this fund will be to encourage youth (Jr. Riders) and family participation in Region 6 NATRC by paying the entry fee for new Junior competitors. The specific details regarding this memorial will be sent to all 2021 ride managers. Donna’s NATRC legacy is in great hands as you will find both her daughter Kay Stich and her granddaughter Violet Stich competing in Region 6 rides.
12. No decision has been made at this time regarding a 2021 Region 6 Convention. This will be an agenda item for the Region 6 Board of Directors at their next meeting. Usually our convention is held in person either in late February or March before the new ride season gets underway so we can celebrate the previous ride season. The convention usually includes a “knowledge” piece as well as an “awards” portion. We also conduct a membership meeting as well as board of directors meeting. The current thought is to wait until around the first of the year to make a decision so that we can make a more informed decision, especially in regard to the virus situation. If there is a convention, there is a good possibility that it will look a little different this year. Instead of a Friday evening to Sunday morning convention it could become just a one day in person event. It could become a virtual convention with a knowledge piece as well as a membership meeting. Stay tuned.

13. The 2021 ride schedule is still a work in progress. Below is the current tentative 2021 schedule. We need four more rides to meet the goal of ten "A" rides! Again, this is the tentative schedule, but it will give you an idea of what weekends are currently available. We would like to keep 2 weekends between rides if possible. Gina Kollars ([natrc6rides@gmail.com](mailto:natrc6rides@gmail.com)) is our Region 6 ride coordinator and with whom ride managers need to secure their ride date with so they can submit their ride sanction to national for approval.

**We need managers for the following locations:**

In Kansas

**Big Hill** – I have someone who will mentor a ride manager at this location, and I have someone who will be the trail master for this ride. Great opportunity for anyone, especially a new ride manager.

**Hillsdale** – A popular location for our rides for several years.

**Kanopolis** – Always a favorite location for a ride and a big draw.

In Missouri

**Cedar Ridge Trails** - I have someone who will co-manage this ride. Another great opportunity for anyone, especially a new ride manager.

In Iowa

**White Rock Conservancy** – good location in Iowa for many of our riders. I have someone willing to manage a ride in Iowa if someone will co-manage with them.

**Stephens Forest** – I have someone willing to manage if someone will co-manage with them.

**Brushy Creek** – I have someone willing to manage if someone will co-manage with them.

We can do all of these, but we must have your help!!! There are other locations as well. You may have another location in mind. Regardless, please do not sit back and wait for someone else to step up. You will find managing a ride rewarding with many folks very willing to help. As a rider we benefit from those willing to manage a ride.

**Tentative Region 6 2021 Schedule – as of 10/26/2020**

April 10-11	Tally Ho	Helen Smith	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
April 24-25	Jesse James	Landuyt/Houghton	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP
May 8-9	Branching Out	Helen Smith	Clinic Sat	B1, L	B2, L
May 22-23	Mozingo	John Zeliff	Clinic Sat	B1, L	B2, L
June 19-20	PonyXpress	Helen Smith	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
Sept 25-26	Indian Cave	NECTRA	A, O/N/CP??	B1, L??	B2, L??
Oct 2-3	Sand Hills	Liz Klamm	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
Oct 16-17	Panther Creek	Mary Licata	A, O/N/CP??	??	??

A = 2-day ride (Saturday and Sunday)

B1 = 1-day ride on Saturday

B2 = 1-day ride on Sunday

14. Save the date. EquiFest of Kansas is currently scheduled for the weekend of March 5-7, 2021. Region 6 will once again have a booth at this expo. We will be reaching out after the first of the year for help with our booth.
15. NATRC dues: Beginning January 1, 2021 all membership dues will be due each January and will cover the calendar year in which they are paid. Previously, dues paid provided a membership that ran from the date the dues were paid. To get all memberships back on the January renewal date, those folks who paid after January 2020 will be contacted and provided a one-time pro-rated rate for 2021. IE: If you renewed in March 2020, you would have your 2021 dues pro-rated to cover April 2021 to December 2021 to get you back on a January renewal date. After that you will pay full dues in January 2022.
16. Region 6 is on social media. There are currently 234 NATRC pictures on our Region 6 Instagram account! Have you and/or your horse made it yet? Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! Be sure to also follow Region 6 on Facebook on our Region 6 NATRC Riders group and our Region 6, North American Trail Ride Conference page. Follow us on Twitter @natrc\_6!
17. Stay current with Region 6 by visiting our webpage at [natrc6.org](http://natrc6.org). If you have not already, I would encourage you to make our Region 6 webpage the startup page for your internet browser.

The weather should warm back up here in a few days and we can all get some more rides in before winter really sets in. This has been a challenging year but at the same time a year with lots of opportunities for us to enhance that partnership with our horse. Now is the time to begin planning our schedules for next year and to set our goals for the upcoming ride season. Evaluate where you are with your horsemanship, identify where you want to go and what you want to achieve, and then put together a plan that will get you there. Focus on that plan and then put in the effort needed to ensure your success in reaching your goals.

Stay focused!  
John