

Region 6 Membership Update

November 24, 2020

1. Thank you to everyone who stepped up and placed their name on this year's Region 6 and National Board of Directors ballots. Our region is fortunate to have so many individuals willing to serve and do whatever is needed for the betterment of our region. Congratulations to the following newly elected board members: John Zeliff, Region 6 Representative National Board of Directors 2021-2023; Melvin Houghton, Missouri representative Region 6 Board of Directors 2021-2022; Marilyn Marston, Shari Parys, and Helen Smith, At Large Representatives Region 6 Board of Directors 2021-2022; and Kristen Johansen, At Large Alternate Representative Region 6 Board of Directors 2021-2022.
2. The 2020 NATRC Mileage Challenge has concluded and Region 6 won first place! Way to go! Our Region 6 riders accumulated 4,319 total miles. We defeated the second-place region by over 1,200 miles! We had three individuals place in the top ten nationally. Helen Smith placed 2nd with 852 miles, Kristen Johansen placed 5th with 717 miles, and Janet Zimmerman placed 8th with 524 miles! We also had three horses place in the top ten nationally. Leading the nation was Kristen Johansen and PVA Light 'N the Storm with 717 miles. In 4th place was Janet Zimmerman and Grullopine with 524 miles and in 6th place was Helen Smith and Focus Jessie with 477 miles. Congratulations to these top ten winners and to everyone who participated in this fun challenge!
3. The 2020 NATRC Virtual Obstacle Challenge has also concluded. Region 6 again led the way nationally with the most top ten winners across the four divisions! Region 6 national winners are as follows: Bracket A – 4th place Shari Parys and Rushcreek Concho; 5th place Helen Smith and Focus Jessie; 6th place Helen Smith and Rushcreek Frontier; 8th place Brenda Messick and Rushcreek Allie; and 10th place Brenda Messick and Rushcreek Bonita. Bracket B – 3rd place Julia Hoyt and Skipahead Festus; 4th place Julia Hoyt and Mr. Blackburn Can Zip; 5th place Mary Fettes and RW Braveheart; 10th place Carisa Rinne and Badger Strikes Back; 10th place Dwight Hanson and Silver Valley Tate; and 10th place Mary Fettes and Jazzy Girl. Bracket C – 4th place MaryAlice Braun and Chances Buck; and 9th place Sharon Bailey and Tigerette Twist. Bracket D – 4th place Ayla Heun and Blarney Stone Tank; and 5th place Mackenzie Olsen and Lady. Congratulations to these top ten winners and to everyone who participated in this fun challenge!
4. Be sure to subscribe to our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel. Here you will find all the NATRC 2020 Let's Ride series webinars plus even more. We had 8 outstanding webinars in 2020 with an average attendance between 30 and 50 members participating synchronously. Also, we currently have an average of 80 members who have participated asynchronously with one of the webinars already up to 124 views. One advantage of subscribing to our NATRC YouTube channel is that you will be notified immediately when additional videos are added to our collection. Be on the look out for new webinars when the 2021 Let's Ride series begins in January. Look for posts via Facebook and ENews emails.
5. Sign up now for the 2021 Virtual Mileage Challenge. Help Region 6 defend its crown! Do not wait to sign up thinking that it starts the first of the year because it actually starts December 1st!

The 2021 Virtual Mileage Challenge runs from 12/1/2020 to 10/31/2021. The cost is \$50 per entry and is open to ALL NATRC membership levels. This year there is a new, user friendly submission platform that we will use to log our miles. For more information and to register go to our NATRC webpage at natrc.org and click on "NATRC Virtual Challenges" from the opening page and on the next page that opens up click on "Mileage Challenge".

6. Sign up for the NATRC Holiday Hoedown Challenge! This is the next virtual challenge that you and your equine partner can participate in. The Holiday Hoedown Challenge will consist of 3 challenges. One video submitted each "month." This year there is a new, user friendly submission platform that we will use to submit our videos. (You will no longer have to upload to YouTube and then send in links.) There will be a different NATRC judge judging each challenge month. The cost is \$45 per entry (includes all three-monthly challenges) and is open to ALL NATRC membership levels. For more information and to register go to our NATRC webpage at natrc.org and click on "NATRC Virtual Challenges" from the opening page and on the next page that opens up click on "Obstacle Challenge". The first challenge looks like a lot of fun. Maybe some of you will share your Hokey Pokie outtakes with us.
7. Christina Lyons has agreed to take over as the editor of our Region 6 Rally Newsletter! She will be looking to all of us from time to time for news and various other items. If you are a ride manager perhaps you could share an overview of your ride. If you are a new rider maybe you could write about your initial NATRC ride experiences. If you are an experienced rider how about sharing some of your knowledge with our members. Whatever the situation rest assured that Christina can help you with putting your story together grammatically and will make you look like the expert you are. Plans currently are to publish the next Region 6 Rally Newsletter right after the first of the year. After that, our goal is to have a 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. Thank you, Christina, for your willingness to take on this responsibility. We appreciate this greatly!
8. Since the October Region 6 Update, the Amazon Smile program has donated another \$91.39 to NATRC. To date we have received \$890.04. 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 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 have done this!
9. We are continuing to work on the 2021 ride schedule. Below is the current tentative schedule. Our goal of ten "A" rides is attainable. We are making slow but sure progress. Indian Caves might possibly move their ride to the weekend before but that will not be decided until after the first of the year. Their thought is to try and avoid a rainy weekend plus it would put allow another week before the Sand Hills ride. 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) 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.

Will you help make these rides happen? Ride managers are needed 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. I have some thoughts on possible trail masters.

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 – This is a 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. They have a good number of electrical sites.

Stephens Forest – I have someone willing to manage if someone will co-manage with them. This is a popular location, and we have a lot of history there. It will be wonderful to go back.

Brushy Creek – I have someone willing to manage if someone will co-manage with them. An excellent and very large campground. Trails also include all weather trails so no worry about not having any trails to ride in the case of rain.

There are other ride locations as well. Perhaps you may have another location in mind. We can do all of these, but not without your help! 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 11/24/2020

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/L
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

10. EquiFest of Kansas is scheduled for the weekend of March 5-7, 2021 in Salina, KS. Region 6 will once again have a booth at this expo. I touched base this morning with Justine, the Executive Director of the Kansas Horse Council and Event Manager for EquiFest to see what the status is

for this event. They are having a board meeting next week where this will be discussed. Right now, they are going full speed ahead as if the event will take place as scheduled. If anything changes, we will know by the end of January at the very latest. Currently Saline County has a participation limitation in place that applies to this event. The current limit is twenty-five percent of the facility capacity permitted under the applicable fire code as well as an individual mask mandate. With this in mind, we will hold off on reaching out to everyone for volunteers to help with our booth until we know more

11. Please remember to send in your NATRC dues renewal. Here is the information from our October update regarding the change in membership dues renewal dates as an FYI. 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 an annual 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.
12. The 2021 NATRC rule book is now available on-line! Go to our national webpage at natrc.org and under the Resources tab dropdown menu click on "Rules" located under the column named Rules. An updated Riders Manual is close to being completed.
13. 2021 Rule Changes Summary:

Annual Dues Update

see number 11 above

Change Limits from Placings to Points for Competing in Novice

Changed from 5 first places to lifetime accumulation of 250 points
For details, refer to 2021 Rulebook, Section 4, A. Divisions, 2. Novice, e. Limitations.

Leisure Division

- 1) New scorecards starting with 2021 ride season. Please get new scorecards from Sarah Rinne.
- 2) Placing changed from 1 thru 10 to 1 thru 6 for each class. Point distribution has changed, refer to 2021 Rulebook, Section 9, A. Ride Awards, C. Point Distribution.
- 3) Experienced class added – for details, refer to 2021 Rulebook, Section 4, A. Divisions, 4. Leisure, e. Classes.
- 4) Overnight stabling will be evaluated for safety and must comply with NATRC stabling rules. This will not be scored.

Two Mile Point

Changed to Forward Motion Point
For the Novice, CP, and Open Divisions, the forward motion point should be approximately two (2) miles from the finish each day.

For the Leisure Division, the forward motion point should be approximately one (1) mile from the finish.

President's Cup Criteria

Must officially start in one (1) out-of-region and three (3) out-of-state rides of any ride type.

Recognize Overall High Point Novice on National Level

High point Novice horse

High point Novice horsemanship

High point Novice team

Horse must be at least 60 months of age

Refer to 2021 Rulebook, Section 9 Awards, B. Annual Awards, 2. National Level, q. thru s.

Recognize Overall High Point Competitive Pleasure Team on National Level

Horse must be at least 60 months of age

Refer to 2021 Rulebook, Section 9 Awards, B. Annual Awards, 2. National Level, p.

14. Stay up-to-date and follow Region 6 on social media. There are currently 268 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!
15. Make our Region 6 webpage (natrcr6.org) your startup page for your internet browser. That way every time you open your browser your opening tab will be our webpage. It is an excellent way to stay current with Region 6!

As I said last month, this has been a challenging year. Region 6 however has still managed to rise above it all. Just look at what our members accomplished this year with the mileage and obstacle virtual challenges! As we approach this Thanksgiving holiday and as I reflect upon the past year, I am very thankful for each of you. I appreciate your patience, understanding, and positive attitude that you have maintained all year.

As we prepare for the upcoming ride season my advice is for everyone to stay hungry! Plan your ride schedule and identify those goals you want to accomplish. While we may not know what 2021 will bring as far as the virus is concerned, we still need to have our goals in place for ourselves and our horses and work towards those goals.

Believe in yourself! Everyone has a champion living inside. Work hard, learn, enhance your skills, and never ever give up.

Stay hungry!

John