

Region 6 Membership Update

January 3, 2021

1. Now is the time to renew your NATRC dues if you have not already. 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.
2. The Winter 20-21 edition of the Hoof Print is now available on-line! There are many helpful articles in this edition that are geared specifically for riders. To access the Hoof Print, go to our NATRC webpage at natrc.org and move your cursor over the word Resources and then click on the drop-down menu item under resources that is labeled Hoof Print. For our new riders, there is a great chart included in this issue with a helpful illustration that helps answer the question "Which division is right for me?". Check it out!
3. The 2020 Region 6 Board of Directors held a zoom meeting on December 30th. The following is a brief recap of their meeting:
 - a. The board voted to allow vest numbers purchased in 2020 to roll over to the upcoming 2021 ride season at no additional cost. If you did not purchase a vest number last year and would like to, contact Trish Cleveland. The cost is \$15, and you can reserve a rider number of your choice for the season.
 - b. Cheryl Bohling is working on updating our worker points form to be more inclusive of all the various jobs and responsibilities our members and volunteers take on during rides.
 - c. We are anticipating an on-line NATRC store will be available this spring where members will be able to purchase items personalized with our NATRC logo. In addition to an on-line store, the board discussed possible items to have for sale at each ride that would be helpful to riders.
 - d. Facebook marketing of rides will be continued in 2021.
 - e. A Region 6 By-Laws update was proposed that reflects the change in dues renewal that NATRC made. This By-Laws update will be presented to our Region 6 membership at the next general membership meeting.
 - f. The board reviewed the Donna Keller Memorial Jr. Competitor Ride Entry scholarship. Information about this memorial will be shared with all ride managers for the upcoming season.
 - g. It was agreed to have no group meal functions at our rides for the foreseeable future. Ride managers will still need to provide for the judges.
 - h. The Hillsdale ride on October 30-31 will be the Region 6 Benefit Ride.
 - i. The Region 6 Convention was discussed. The decision was to not have a convention this spring. Our next Region 6 Convention will be held during the 2022 National Convention our region is hosting in Omaha, NE.

- j. Region 6 officers for 2021 were elected and are as follows: John Zeliff, President; Cheryl Bohling, Vice-President; Ruth Mesimer, Secretary/Treasurer; and Shari Parys, Recording Secretary. Thank you to these individuals for their dedication to our region and our sport.
4. Have you signed up for the NATRC 2021 Virtual Mileage Challenge? If you have not yet please do! It is lots of fun and you will be helping Region 6 defend its crown! 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".
 5. 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 third challenge in this current series will be open from January 16th to February 3rd.
 6. The Winter edition of our Region 6 Rally Newsletter will be published this February! Christina Lyons is our new editor. We really appreciate her willingness to take on this responsibility. Christina is currently looking for news and other content items. If you are a ride manager perhaps you could share an overview of your upcoming 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. So please take a few minutes to put into words your story and share with Christina.
 7. As of the end of November, the Amazon Smile program has donated \$890.04 to NATRC. 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!
 8. Our 2021 ride schedule is coming together nicely. Thank you very much to those of you who have stepped up to be ride managers. Below is the current tentative schedule. Our goal of ten "A" rides is looking good if you count Big Hill even though it will be our first ride of the 2022 ride season!

We can still add another ride or two. I have indicated the open weekends that are still available for this summer in the tentative schedule. So, if you have been thinking of a ride location it is

not too late. If you are worried about the temperatures in July and August, you could always go with a LeD ride.

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.

Our ride schedule is not possible without our members help. 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. There is an excellent article in the Winter 20-21 Edition of the Hoof Print about managing rides I encourage everyone to read.

Tentative Region 6 2021 Schedule – as of 1/2/2021

April 10-11	Tally Ho	KS Helen Smith	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
April 24-25	Jesse James	MO Landuyt/Houghton	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
May 8-9	Branching Out	NE Helen Smith	Clinic Sat	B1, L	B2, L
May 22-23	Mozingo	MO John Zeliff	Clinic Sat	B1, L	B2, L
June 5-6	Kanopolis	KS Gina Kollars	A, O/N/CP	??	??
June 19-20	PonyXpress	KS Helen Smith	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
July 10-11	OPEN				
July 23-24	OPEN				
Aug 14-15	OPEN				
Aug 28-29	OPEN				
Sept 11-12	White Rock	IA Parys/Johansen	??	??	??
Sept 25-26	Indian Cave	NE NECTRA	A, O/N/CP??	B1, L??	B2, L??
Oct 2-3	Sand Hills	KS Liz Klamm	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
Oct 16-17	Panther Creek	MO Mary Licata	A, O/N/CP??	??	??
Oct 30-31	Hillsdale	KS Levinson/Glassman	A, O/N/CP	??	??
(Hillsdale will be the Region 6 benefit ride.)					

2022 Ride Season

Nov 20-21	Big Hill	KS Pricilla Lindsay	A, O/N/CP	??	??
-----------	----------	---------------------	-----------	----	----

A = 2-day ride (Saturday and Sunday)

B1 = 1-day ride on Saturday

B2 = 1-day ride on Sunday

- I have no new information regarding this year's EquiFest of Kansas. It is scheduled for the weekend of March 5-7, 2021 in Salina, KS. Region 6 will once again have a booth at this expo should it take place. We should know by the end of January at the very latest. The Kansas Horse Council is currently taking a poll on their Facebook page (Equifest of Kansas brought to you by Kansas Horse Council) asking viewers if they are planning to attend this year's EquiFest. We will continue to hold off on reaching out to everyone for help with our booth until we know more.

10. Some of you belong to the trail ride program Top Trail, where riders enjoy logging their horseback trail tracks via GPS (www.toptrailhorse.com). (This is completely different and separate from the NATRC mileage challenge. You can enter the miles you ride in both programs.) If you are a Premium or Basic level member of Top Trail there is a NATRC Top Trail Challenge you can join. We had NATRC members from across the country participate last year and I anticipate there will be even more participation in 2021. Immediately when you upload your mileage to Top Trail your ranking against the other participants is updated. It is a fun challenge that you can use as motivation to get those conditioning miles in. Our very own Region 6 rider Helen Smith was the high mileage winner this past year! If you have any questions let me know.

11. Stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media. There are currently 308 Region 6 pictures on our Instagram account! How many of those pictures are of you or your horse? 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. You can also follow us on Twitter @natrc_6! 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. 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 lookout for new webinars when the 2021 Let's Ride series begins this month. Look for posts via Facebook and ENews emails.

12. Have you made our Region 6 webpage (natrcr6.org) your startup page for your internet browser yet? When you do, every time you open your browser, your opening tab will be our Region 6 webpage. It is an easy way to stay current with Region 6!

Our 2021 ride schedule is really taking shape thanks to our members who have stepped up to be ride managers. Even though the schedule is not completely finalized as of this update it is really something to look forward to. Who knows, we may even find some more rides to fill those open dates that are left. (hint hint)

Now is the time for you to prepare for the upcoming ride season! Plan your ride schedule out and get those dates on your calendar. Identify goals for you and your horse. Put together a realistic timeline for the conditioning of your horse in preparation for that first ride of the season and then stick to it.

Be diligent and do not beat yourself up when things do not work out as perfectly as you planned. Maintain a commitment to your plan and as I encouraged during my last update, stay hungry! Work on those things you need to do to accomplish your goals and never give up.

Work hard and be diligent!

John