

Region 6 Membership Update

February 1, 2021

1. **2021 Ride Schedule Update:** Below is our current ride schedule for the 2021 ride season. Since the January Membership Update, we have new ride managers for the Jesse James Rideout. The date of the ride was moved from April to August 28-29 with this change in management. The previous ride managers plan to take the reins for the 2022 ride and in the meantime, Ruth Mesimer will handle those duties. Great news with the Kanopolis ride as Cheryl Bohling has stepped up to assist Gina Kollars with managing and trail master.

Thank you very much to all of you who have stepped up to be ride managers. These individuals along with our volunteers make our ride season possible. There is an excellent article about ride management in the most recent *Hoof Print*. Swiss, E. (2021). Ride management is for everyone. *Hoof Print*, Winter 2020-21, 19. Check it out!

We can still add another ride or two. I have indicated the open weekends that are available for this summer in the current schedule. 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.

Region 6 2021 Schedule – as of 1/29/2021

April 10-11	Tally Ho	KS Helen Smith	A, O/N/CP	B1, L	B2, O/N/CP
April 24-25	OPEN				
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 Kollars/Bohling	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	Jesse James	MO Ruth Mesimer	A, O/N/CP	B1, O/N/CP/L	B2, O/N/CP/L
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

2. Now is the time to renew your NATRC dues if you have not already. Thank you to all of you who have already updated your membership.

3. EquiFest of Kansas will be held March 5-7 in Salina, KS. We will once again have a Region 6 NATRC booth. Below is our current work schedule. There are still time slots available each day, so if you would like to help promote our wonderful sport, please let me know. Each worker gets a free entry pass to EquiFest that is good for the entire day. This year's EquiFest has an outstanding lineup of nationally recognized clinicians and presenters as well as plenty of fun horse related shopping.

Friday March 5 (3 passes available)

9:00 to 12:30 Melvin Houghton
12:30 to 4:00 Patti Dollarhide
4:00 to 7:30

Saturday March 6 (4 passes available)

9:00 to 11:30 Marilyn Marston
11:30 to 2:00 Cheryl Bohling
2:00 to 4:30
4:30 to 7:30

Sunday March 7 (3 passes available)

9:00 to 11:30 Tammy Andre
11:30 to 2:00
2:00 to 4:00

4. The NATRC 2021 Virtual Mileage Challenge is on! The 2021 Virtual Mileage Challenge runs until October 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". Region 6 is the defending national champion. Help defend our crown and get signed up today!
5. We are looking for some great NATRC stories to include in the upcoming Winter edition of our Region 6 Rally Newsletter. If you have a special NATRC story, now is your chance to tell it. If you are a ride manager, this is a perfect opportunity to provide an overview of your upcoming ride. How about telling us all about your first NATRC ride. If you are an experienced rider, how about sharing some of your knowledge with our members. [Christina Lyons](#) is our new newsletter editor so send her your story.
6. Our Region 6 Board of Directors is looking for someone willing to serve as the Region 6 Historian. If you are interested in this committee position, please let me know. Brenda Messick is our current Historian and will help with this transition.
7. If you purchase items on Amazon, be sure to sign up for the Smile program and support NATRC. 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. Exciting news! *Hoof Print*, the official publication of the North American Trail Ride Conference, is going all digital! It will be available and downloadable four times a year from the NATRC webpage. The print version, however, will no longer be offered. I really appreciate being able to download each issue and have it available on all my devices. I find it a very convenient way to enjoy every issue, especially when I am out camping.
9. More exciting news! NATRC now has a Riders Manual! This new member benefit is outstanding! This Riders Manual alone is more than worth the cost of membership! Although this manual explains a few NATRC rules, it is not a substitute for the current Rule Book. Instead, its purpose is to acquaint you with the procedures of a NATRC ride and to give you some tips on how to do well in competition. It is loaded with excellent information that will help every trail rider regardless of whether they are trail riding competitively or recreationally. This new member benefit publication can now be found on our NATRC webpage. Go to natrc.org and login with your member login. After you are logged in, move your cursor over the Members tab and then when the dropdown menu appears select Rider's Manual under Publications. Download it to all your devices today! You are going to find yourself referring to this manual lots!
10. The 2021 NATRC "Let's Ride" Seminar Series is a collection of interactive talks with question-and-answer periods about what to expect at a NATRC event, skills you can use, and various tips and tricks. These webinars are presented by NATRC Horsemanship and Veterinary Judges, and Competitors. The first of the 2021 series was just held, and our very own Region 6 member Priscilla Lindsey was one of the presenters. Her topic was "Horse Camping in the Winter? Yes you can!" If you missed it, you find this webinar along with all the previous presentations in the Let's Ride series on our NATRC YouTube channel. New webinars are scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of every month except in November and December. Look for posts via Facebook and ENews emails with information on future webinars and how to sign up.
11. The 2021 NATRC Rule Book is available on our NATRC webpage. Go to natrc.org and from the homepage move your cursor over the Resources tab and then when the dropdown menu appears select Rule Book under Rules. Download it today to all your devices and you will have it readily available to you at all your rides this year.
12. You can view the 2022 rule change proposals in the latest edition of the *Hoof Print* or you can view them on our NATRC webpage. Go to natrc.org and from the homepage move your cursor over the Resources tab and then when the dropdown menu appears select Rule Changes/Proposals under Rules. During February and March the wording will be finalized and published in *Hoof Print* and our NATRC webpage. The vote on changes will occur in July. Please share your input with either Marla or me so we know your thoughts on any or all these proposals.
13. Rider vest numbers for 2021. Those of you who purchased a rider vest number in 2020 are in good shape as those purchases have been rolled over to the 2021 ride season. If you would like to reserve a rider vest number of your choice that you can use at any of the 2021 rides, contact [Trish Cleveland](mailto:Trish.Cleveland@natrc.org). The cost is only \$15, and you will be able to have the same number at each ride.

14. Follow Region 6 on social media and stay up to date. Enjoy the 333 Region 6 pictures that are currently on our Instagram account by following us on Instagram @natrcr6! Follow Region 6 on Facebook on our Region 6 NATRC Riders group and our Region 6, North American Trail Ride Conference page. We are also on Twitter @natrc_6! Subscribe to our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel. Here you will find all the NATRC 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.
15. 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!

The amount of daylight each day has noticeably started to increase. There are still a few more weeks of winter left but it will not be long before we have weather that is more favorable for those conditioning rides. I suppose we will know for sure this Tuesday as Punxsutawney Phill will reveal whether he thinks there will be an early spring or six more weeks of winter.

Hopefully by now you have planned out your ride schedule for the upcoming ride season and have them added to your calendar. If you have not done that yet, it is not too late. Identify goals for you and your horse for the 2021 ride season. Put together a realistic timeline for the conditioning of your horse in anticipation of your first ride of the season. Post this conditioning timeline on a bulletin board or write it on a dry erase board and display it out in your horse barn or tack room so that you see it every day when you are choring and/or going riding.

Use our NATRC mileage challenge for motivation and as a reward for getting those conditioning miles in. Push yourself each day. When you are riding back to the barn, take a longer route back than you did the day before. That not only keeps your horse from anticipating what you are going to do but each extra mile just brings you that much closer to meeting your goals.

When the weather and/or the outside conditions are not suitable for those conditioning rides spend some time enhancing the communication between you and your horse. Work on some in-hand obstacles inside your barn and practice those skills you want your horse to be able to do effortlessly in-hand. Then watch how these skills will more easily transfer over to when you are under saddle.

There is plenty for all of us to do and to look forward to as we prepare for the upcoming ride season.

Stay safe and stay hungry!

John