

Region 6 Membership Update

May 10, 2021

1. The 2021 ride season is off and running! It has been so nice to finally have rides once again. We started the year off with two rides in April followed by a Clinic and LeD ride this past weekend. Our next event will be the NATRC Clinic and Leisure Division Ride the weekend of May 22-23 at Mozingo Lake near Maryville, MO. We will complete the "spring" portion of our schedule June 19-20 with the PonyXpress ride at Rock Creek Station State Park in Fairbury, NE. We have a great "fall" lineup of rides scheduled as well.
2. The current ride schedule is posted on the Region 6 webpage natrcr6.org/schedule/. You will also find the ride information pages there as well. Be sure to thank our ride managers and all the volunteers for making our ride opportunities possible.
3. Please register as soon as you can for our rides. It really helps our ride managers plan when you sign up and pay a deposit as early as possible for your rides. It makes their job that much easier when you do.
4. Support and promote our rides. Participate as a rider, encourage a friend to ride, volunteer at a ride, give a donation to one or more rides, share our ride schedule with other horse folks, or any other way that you can provide support. We will all benefit from these efforts.
5. A fund has been set up to pay the NATRC member ride entry cost of NEW NATRC Junior Competitors for the 2021 ride year. The Donna Keller Memorial New Junior Competitor Ride Entry Fund. The purpose of this fund is to encourage youth (junior riders) and family participation in NATRC competitions. Junior competitors are age 10 as of birthdate through age 17 as of beginning of ride year. For more information contact Ruth Mesimer or any of our 2021 ride managers.
6. Be on the lookout for the next issue of our *Region 6 Rally Newsletter*.
7. A Region 6 general membership meeting is planned for the PonyXpress ride the weekend of June 19-20. As a part of our meeting, we will discuss the 2022 rule change proposals. If you are unable to attend, we would still encourage and appreciate your input on these proposals. The rule change proposals can be viewed 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. 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 of these proposals. These rule proposals will be voted on at the July national board of directors meeting.
8. The 2021 Summer Virtual Obstacle Challenge Series is here! You should have received an ENews email last week with the details. If not, just go to our NATRC home page natrc.org and then click on NATRC Virtual Challenges. There are three challenge sets. Each set runs for two months. Any membership level may participate! The fee is \$15 per set. You may choose to do one set, two sets, or all three. Get signed up and start practicing. The challenges are all very practical skills for all of us and it looks like a lot of fun!
9. Have you signed up for this year's NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge yet? You still can. The 2021 Virtual Mileage Challenge runs until October 31, 2021.

10. Reminder: Set up a reoccurring event in your calendar for the fourth Wednesday of each month (Except November and December) for the NATRC "Let's Ride" Seminar series. Look for posts via Facebook and ENews emails with information on how to sign up. If you have missed any of the webinars you can find all the previous presentations in the Let's Ride series on our NATRC YouTube channel.
11. Be sure to follow Region 6 on social media and stay up to date. It is so fun to have current year ride pictures on our Region 6 Instagram account! Be sure to follow us on Instagram @natrcr6 to see all these new pictures! 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.
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!

The last six weeks have been so wonderful with our region having completed three ride weekends along with a clinic. It has been so nice to see familiar faces after not having our ride season last summer. We have also enjoyed meeting and welcoming new riders who have joined us. Even though some rain has been a part of each of our three ride weekends it has not diminished the fellowship we have enjoyed and the fun we have had on the trails competing.

I would like to encourage all members to reach out to others and share the great things that we do in NATRC and invite them to join us at a ride. Encourage them to become a member. They can test the waters with our free first-time membership offer. We all would like to see our ride numbers increase and we always appreciate lots of ride volunteers. This will not happen if all we talk about is how things used to be and then toss in a quick criticism without any sincere solutions to that criticism. Focusing on increasing our membership will translate into more opportunities for everyone. Ride managers will be less stressed worrying about having enough riders to cover expenses. Riders will enjoy having fuller classes. Communicating a strong positive message about our sport is everyone's responsibility. Positive messages from all of us will reap great dividends.

As NATRC begins to celebrate 60 years, we should be very proud of our past but let us all focus on our bright future!

Be that positive influence!
John