

Region 6 Membership Update

June 29, 2022

1. **I am asking everyone's support for the next two Region 6 rides.** We have been enjoying a wonderful ride schedule for the 2022 ride season, thanks to the efforts of Mary Fettes, our Region 6 ride coordinator, and our ride managers. Our next two rides on the schedule are being managed by first time ride managers. Those of you who have managed a ride know exactly what that is like. Please support these next two rides and these new ride managers. It is important that we make sure that these rides are successful, especially as we begin to work on the 2023 ride schedule.

Support these rides by signing up and/or volunteering. If you have not rode a Leisure Division ride yet, you should. Terrific opportunity to start your next open horse. Leisure division rides are always a lot of fun!

2. NATRC is doing another raffle this year and there are more opportunities to win than in previous years. Those of you who were at the PonyXpress ride had the opportunity to see the actual 1st prize NATRC Afghan Blanket. 2nd prize is a NATRC jacket from Distance Depot. There will be twenty-five 3rd place winners of two \$10 Riding Warehouse Gift Cards. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased from Marla Stucky or myself. The drawing will be held during the national convention in Sacramento, California. You do not need to be present to win. I will have tickets for you to purchase at all our remaining rides this year.
3. You can still sign up for this year's NATRC virtual mileage challenge. I find it to be very motivational as I can see how many miles I am riding as compared to others. To register go to the [Top Trails NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge](#) page. Not only is this a great motivator, but it is also a lot of fun.
4. The 2022 NATRC Summer Virtual Obstacle Challenge is ready for you to enter! Join the fun by signing up today for this year's challenge. Go to natrc.org/virtual-obstacle-challenge-summer-2021 for information and go to natrc.submit.com to register.
5. Ride managers, please remember to send Christina Lyons a couple paragraphs that recap your ride after it is completed. She would like to include this in our Region 6 Rally Newsletter. It could be as simple as just describing the weather during the ride, the condition of the trails, a funny story that took place, etc. This would be very appreciated and would add to our newsletter ride coverage.
6. We could sure use more Leisure Division judges as the number of LeD rides and riders in our region continues to increase. Have you completed a minimum of 750 miles in any division? Have you been a horsemanship judge's secretary or would be willing to do so at a ride this summer? Those are two of the requirements for becoming a Leisure Division Judge. The other requirements are to have a thorough understanding of the Leisure Division Judge's and Management Manuals, pass a written exam, and participate in an official training seminar. If you are willing to help, please let me know.

7. Anytime you are on Facebook and see a post for any of our Region 6 rides, please be sure to like and share.
8. The “Let’s Ride” series of webinars started last week with our very own Region 6 member Sarah Smith’s presentation. Be on the lookout for next month’s webinar (4th Wednesday of the month). There is no cost to participate as this is a free NATRC membership benefit. You do have to register in advance. You can view all the previous “Let’s Ride” presentations asynchronously at natrc.org/webinar-events
9. Updated 2022 Ride Schedule – We are currently considering a new Iowa location for the clinic planned for the weekend of September 10-11. Stay tuned for that announcement. Remember to sign up as early as possible for all rides. This is a huge help to our ride managers. The rides in bold are the ones that are currently open in RMS for you to sign up.

July 9-10	Pierce Creek (Clinic and LeD Ride)	Essex, Iowa
July 23-24	Big River (A, B, & LeD Ride)	Lexington, Missouri
August 27-28	Jesse James Rideout (A, B, & LeD Ride)	Smithville, Missouri
Sept. 10-11	Whiterock Conservancy Clinic	Coon Rapids, Iowa
Sept. 17-18	Indian Cave (LeD Ride)	Shubert, Nebraska
October 1-2	Big Hill (A, B, LeD Ride)	Cherryvale, Kansas
October 22-23	Stephens Forest (A, B, LeD)	Lucas, Iowa

10. Remember to check out the 2023 NATRC rule change proposals. They can be found in the spring issue of the Hoof Print along with statements for and against. You can also find them on our NATRC webpage under Resources, then under Rules, and then click on Rule Changes/Proposals. Please be sure to visit with either Marla Stucky, or myself regarding these proposals so that we know how we should vote to represent our region. The NATRC board will vote on these proposals during their July meeting.
11. Stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media.
 - Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! There are currently 775 Region 6 pictures!
 - Follow us on Facebook with our Region 6 NATRC Riders group and our Region 6, North American Trail Ride Conference page.
 - Follow us on Twitter @natrc_6!
 - Subscribe to our NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel.
12. Make our Region 6 webpage (natrcr6.org) your startup page for your internet browser. When you do, every time you open your browser, your opening tab will be our Region 6 webpage. It is an effortless way to stay current with Region 6!
13. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:
 - Sign up for the NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge now
 - Sign up for the NATRC Virtual Obstacle Challenge now
 - Pierce Creek Clinic and LeD Ride, Essex, IA July 9-10, 2022
 - Big River Adventure, Lexington, MO July 23-24, 2022
 - National Convention in Sacramento, CA February 24-26, 2023
 - EquiFest of Kansas March 17-19, 2023
 - Region 6 Convention in Omaha, NE March 24-26, 2023

Last weekend's clinic and LeD ride at Mazingo Lake was one of those rides that I did not want to end. It was so much fun. The two things that really stood out to me were our riders and our volunteers. For the riders it was the marked improvement of their horses on day two. For the volunteers, it was their willingness to share their talents with our clinic participants and also tackle the various volunteer roles that ensured our ride was successful each day. Throw in a couple NATRC campfires and it just does not get much better than that!

We have some exciting opportunities these next few months with our Region 6 ride schedule. There are new ride locations that I am very excited about. Let's make sure to support these rides.

It will not be too long before we start to plan out the 2023 ride schedule. We have a lot of good things going on in Region 6. Let's keep the positive things happening and put together a better than ever schedule for next year's ride season.

Thank you again to all our ride managers, volunteers, riders, and everyone who supports what we do.

Keep pushing!

John Zeliff, R6 President
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