

Region 6 Membership Update

February 23, 2023

1. **We really need at least two more A rides this year.** Please give serious consideration to managing a ride this year. It is an excellent way for you to give back to our favorite sport. You will find being a ride manager challenging but very rewarding. Contact [Mary Fettes](#) our Region 6 ride coordinator to secure a ride date(s) for this year.
2. We do have an excellent lineup of LeD rides plus we have 5 clinics this year! This is outstanding.
3. This year's Indian Cave ride is a very special ride as this will be the 50th anniversary of this ride. Indian Cave is the longest, continuous NATRC ride at the same location in the country! Be sure to attend this year's special ride.
4. Speaking of Indian Cave, we are looking for old pictures and some good old stories from the past 50 years. If you have attended this ride in the past, please take a journey through your photo albums and send your JPG formatted pics with the year noted and any stories that you would like to share to [Alex Braun](#).
5. NECTRA has put together a fantastic Region 6 convention this year. Convention will be held the weekend of March 24-26, 2023, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Omaha, NE. Our convention hotel is in the Old Market area, which is Omaha's most historic, most entertaining neighborhood. We will be recognizing the achievements of our members during this exciting weekend.
6. Cannot attend convention in person this year? Your support is still very important! Actually, it is probably even more important for you to support our convention in that case. Sponsor one or more of our awards. Make a donation to support the convention to make up for not being able to attend. Everyone can support this year's convention by bidding on our silent auction items. Bidding will all be on-line this year. [Click here for the silent auction](#). Bidding begins March 1st. Remember.....this is an important part of our convention. It is a fund raiser.....not a garage sale!
7. Reminder: Renew your NATRC membership if you have not already done so. We have an exciting year coming up. [Click here to renew](#).
8. National convention was excellent. Region 1 hosted this year's convention. Horses, Hills, and Golden Trails was the theme. The speakers were fantastic. The most talked about speaker was Lena Haug. Lena participated in last year's Mongol Derby, the world's longest and toughest horse race. Learn more about her adventure by checking out her [blog posts](#). One of the highlights of the awards banquet was Lori McCutchen receiving her national championship! Congratulations Lori and Noah! Way to represent Region 6!
9. We had some Region 6 winners in the national NATRC raffle. The winners were drawn Saturday evening during the awards banquet at national convention. Cathy Cumberworth from Region 3 won the grand prize Afghan blanket. Debby Starr from Region 4 won the Distance Depot jacket. Third place winners from Region 6 were myself (I did not draw the names), Lori McCutchen, Mary Fettes, and Verona Chaffin. Congratulations to all and thank you for supporting NATRC.
10. Update: As you are aware, the NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge returns for 2023! Be sure to join the fun by signing up today. Top Trail will once again be hosting this challenge. All your rider miles during 2023 will count, including both training and conditioning miles! A couple changes for 2023 are the elimination of the Jan 31 deadline to sign up for the NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge if you

were a previous Top Trail member. You can sign up at any time and your miles from Jan 1 to Dec 31 will count if you were already a Top Trail member. The other change is the extension of the 3 day window for submitting your ride miles. You will now have 10 days to get your rides submitted. For more information and to sign up [click here](#).

11. The Amazon Smile program, that I remind you of from time to time, has turned into a frown. If you have been participating in this program you probably have already received an email from Amazon explaining their reasoning for ending this program. The last day for this program was February 20th.
12. There is still another NATRC member perk available for you. Riding Warehouse offers our members a 10% discount and in return reimburses 5% of your purchases back to NATRC. Contact Sarah in the national office for this year's discount code.
13. Make sure you are signed up for the free NATRC eNEWS. You will receive periodic email updates about NATRC rides, national and regional news, sponsor specials, and other information of interest to competitive trail riding enthusiasts. To sign up go to [NATRC](#) and scroll down to the bottom of the home page and then click on Subscribe.
14. Reminder: The 2024 NATRC rule change proposals are now on the NATRC webpage. [Click here](#) to review these 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.
15. Below is the current tentative 2023 ride schedule. Again, **we need your help!** We really should add at least two and preferably three or four A rides. We need ride managers if we want to go back to Stephens Forest, Big River, and Big Hill. It is always fun to add new ride locations as well. A Region 6 Benefit ride has not been identified at this time. It is great that we have five clinics scheduled!

Tentative 2023 Schedule as of 2/23/23

Branching Out (Clinic and LeD Ride)	Raymond, NE	April 22-23
Going Places Together Clinic	Hutchinson, KS	April 28-30
White Rock Conservancy (Clinic and LeD Ride)	Coon Rapids, IA	May 6-7
Kanopolis Canyons (O/N/CP/LeD)	Marquette, KS	June 3-4
Mozingo Lake (Clinic and LeD Ride)	Maryville, MO	June 24-25
Pierce Creek (Clinic and LeD Ride)	Essex, IA	July 8-9
Jesse James Rideout (O/N/CP/LeD)	Smithville, MO	August 26-27
Indian Cave 50 th Anniv Ride (O/N/CP/LeD)	Shubert, NE	Sept 16-17

16. As always, stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!
Follow us on Instagram [@natrcr6](#)! There are currently 874 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.
17. 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!

18. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:

- EquiFest of Kansas March 16-19, 2023
- Region 6 Convention in Omaha, NE March 24-26, 2023
- Branching Out Clinic and LeD Ride, Raymond, NE April 22-23

Spring is just around the corner. Daylight savings time starts March 12th and we will have another hour of daylight in the evening for those conditioning miles! I just returned from National Convention very motivated for the upcoming ride season. My motivation will reach an even higher level with EquiFest and our Region 6 convention! I cannot wait to get back out there on the trails with all of you!

This year's Region 6 convention is going to be one of our best ever! NECTRA has been working very hard and has put together an excellent program. The "hands-on" workshop, where all of us will come away with our own horse wound care kit that we will each build, will be one of many highlights.

Please make it a priority to attend this year's Region 6 convention! Again, if for some reason you are unable to attend, then please be sure to support our convention. Proceeds from convention are very important to our Region 6 budget.

See you at convention!

John Zeliff, R6 President
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