

## Region 6 Membership Update

April 17, 2023

1. Thank you to everyone who made this year's Region 6 Convention a huge success. NECTRA did an excellent job organizing this year's convention. The workshops and presentations were excellent as well as extremely practical and helpful to all of us. Thank you to those of you who supported our convention with your generous donations, silent auction purchases, and especially for those of you who stepped up to sponsor our year-end awards. Our awards banquet is amazing, and this year's banquet set the bar even higher. The awards program that we print out for everyone is first class, as is the corresponding PowerPoint presentation that accompanies the presentation of our awards. Thank you, Cheryl Bohling, for putting both together and making sure that our awards program runs smoothly and is very meaningful. Look for both items to be on our Region 6 webpage very soon.
2. **SAVE THE DATE:** It was decided at our general membership meeting that the 2024 Region 6 Convention will be held March 14-17, 2024, in Salina, Kansas in conjunction with the EquiFest of Kansas horse expo. Kansas will be next year's convention host. They have already had an initial planning meeting. In the past, we have held our Region 6 convention in conjunction with EquiFest and also with the Nebraska Trail Riding conference. This has been done three or possibly four times before. An advantage of doing this is the programming that is available for our participants, and it saves one weekend of being away for those of us who usually attend both events. The negative in the past has been the lack of any scheduled times where just Region 6 members are together. We discussed this and the planning committee is going to be sure and address this issue and make sure that we have times together during the weekend where Region 6 members are together. I think you will notice a big difference next year. Plan now on attending.
3. Our Region 6 ride season starts this weekend with the Branching Out Clinic and LeD ride! I cannot wait. It was a great feeling getting the trailer out, de-winterizing it, and restocking it this past weekend. It is not too late to get signed up for this ride. It is a very nice location with good trails and an excellent campground.
4. With the start of the new ride season, now is a great time to sign up for the 2023 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge. Top Trail is once again hosting our challenge. All your rider miles during 2023 will count, including both training and conditioning miles. And new this year, riders will now have ten days to get their miles logged. For more information and to sign up [click here](#).
5. I would still like to see us add at least one more A ride this year. Hillsdale in Kansas and Stephens Forest in Iowa are two very viable possibilities, as are other locations. You do not have to manage a ride all by yourself. You can co-manage with someone. This would be very helpful especially if you are a first-time ride manager. In addition, our Region 6 board wants to make sure and eliminate any barriers and/or concerns that you may have regarding managing a ride. The support is there if you are willing to make this happen for us. Contact [Mary Fettes](#), our Region 6 ride coordinator, to secure a ride date(s) for this year.
6. The Donna Keller memorial is available for new Junior riders again this year. This memorial pays the competitor entry fee for their first NATRC ride.
7. Do you have the NATRC Riders Manual downloaded to all your devices? This is an outstanding NATRC membership benefit. This manual can be found on our NATRC webpage. Go to [natrc.org](http://natrc.org) and login with your member login. After you are logged in, move your cursor over the Members tab and when the dropdown menu appears, select Rider's Manual under Publications. Download it today! You are going to find it very handy to always have this with you.

8. Remember to send some classic Indian Cave pictures from past rides to [Alex Braun](#). We are collecting stories from past rides as well. So, dig through your old picture albums and find those fun pics. This year's Indian Cave ride is a very special ride as this will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Indian Cave ride. This ride is the longest, continuous NATRC ride at the same location in the country! As Chuck keeps reminding us, we want to make sure this year's Indian Cave ride is a very special event. So please plan on attending to either ride, volunteer, or just come and enjoy the fellowship from several Indian Cave "alumni" who are planning to be there.
9. Reserve your rider vest number for the 2023 ride year by contacting [Trish Cleveland](#). This cost is \$15 per year, and this allows you to keep the same rider number this season.
10. Reminder: Make sure you have viewed the following video regarding the 2023 Pilot Program. This video explains in detail the changes to the horse scorecard. Everyone needs to view this video before their first ride this season. There is also an excellent article on page 20 of the Winter 2022 Hoof Print that provides background information. To watch this video, click on this link: <https://youtu.be/S3Wmm-veYlo>
11. **Reminder:** Renew your NATRC membership if you have not already done so. We have an exciting year coming up. [Click here to renew](#).
12. The 2024 NATRC rule change proposals are now on the NATRC webpage. [Click here](#) to review these proposals. Every region will be holding a zoom meeting for members to provide input regarding these changes. The Region 6 zoom membership meeting will be held on Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. CDST. The zoom details were sent to you in an earlier email. The NATRC board will vote on these proposals during their July meeting.
13. Maximizing storage capability is so important when traveling with your horse. Learn various tricks and hacks during this month's Let's Ride Webinar on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. There is no cost to this webinar as it is a member benefit. You do need to register ahead of time in order to get the zoom link. [Click here to register](#).

#### **Tentative 2023 Ride Schedule as of 3/20/23**

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 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Ride (O/N/CP/LeD)	Shubert, NE	Sept 16-17
Region 6 Benefit at Big Hill (O/N/CP/LeD)	Cherryvale, KS	October 28-29

14. As always, stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!  
 Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! There are currently 894 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 the NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel.
15. Make our Region 6 webpage ([natrcr6.org](http://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!

16. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:

- Branching Out Clinic and LeD Ride, Raymond, NE April 22-23
- Region 6 Zoom Membership Meeting, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. CDST
- Let's Ride Webinar, Wednesday April 26, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. CDST
- Going Places Together Clinic, Hutchinson, KS April 28-30
- Whiterock Wander Clinic and LeD Ride, Coon Rapids, IA May 6-7

We received a nice rain here at home this past weekend, so it made for a nice break for me from all the spring field work. It also provided a nice opportunity for me to get my trailer out and ready for this weekend's ride in Nebraska. I sure am looking forward to our upcoming ride season. It is going to be so nice to be out there on the trails and around those campfires with our NATRC family.

Thank you again to everyone involved and everyone who supported this year's regional convention. It was a huge motivator for the upcoming ride season. We can all be very proud of what we do in Region 6. I mentioned earlier how our awards program booklet and accompanying awards PowerPoint is first class. We can all take pride in that. We have so many wonderful members in our region that do so much for all of us. We have a lot to be proud of in Region 6!

Be sure to reach out to your horse-riding friends and let them know what NATRC is about and invite them to join us at an upcoming ride and/or clinic. They will find us very welcoming, friendly, helpful, and a fun group to be around.....but you already know that!

#NATRCfamily  
#NATRCfun  
#NATRCpride  
#NATRCregion6

Looking forward to seeing everyone this weekend.

John Zeliff, R6 President

Follow me on Apple Music @j\_zeliff  
Follow me on Instagram @johnzeliff  
And then be sure to follow me to the next Region 6 ride!