

Region 6 July Membership Update July 6, 2023

1. **2023 NATRC Raffle** – Tickets for this year’s NATRC raffle are on sale now! Contact either Marla or myself for your chance to win one of the following prizes. (In addition, we will have them available at the remainder of this year’s rides.)

1st Prize - \$300 Visa Gift Card

2nd Prize - \$200 Riding Warehouse Gift Card

3rd Prize - \$100 Tractor Supply Company Gift Card

4th Prize - \$50 Cabela’s Gift Card

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Drawing for the winners will take place at the 2024 National NATRC Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Need not be present to win.

2. **2023 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge** - Now is an excellent time to sign up for the 2023 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge if you have not already. It is a lot of fun and is a great motivator to get out there and ride. Also, by participating in this mileage challenge you are directly supporting NATRC. 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](#).

3. **2024 Ride Schedule** – It is time to start putting together the Region 6 ride schedule for next season. Contact [Mary Fettes](#), our Region 6 ride coordinator, to secure a ride and/or clinic date(s) for next year. This year’s schedule was the best one yet for our Leisure Division rides and clinics. The number of A rides was less than what I had hoped for and is an area we need to expand.

So, as we begin to plan for the 2024 ride season, if we can increase the number of A rides (that offer all divisions) that will make our Leisure Division schedule even better. More importantly we need those additional A rides as our new riders begin to move up to a higher division and to provide more opportunities for all our riders to compete for regional and national recognition.

Our Region 6 board wants to eliminate any barriers and/or concerns anyone may have regarding managing a ride. The support is there if you will step up and manage a ride. You do not have to manage a ride all by yourself. You can co-manage with someone. This would be extremely helpful especially if you are a first-time ride manager.

Remaining 2023 Ride Schedule as of 7/6/23

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
Region 6 Benefit at Big Hill (O/N/CP/LeD)	Cherryvale, KS	October 28-29

4. **NATRC Sponsor Discount** – [Riding Warehouse](#) offers NATRC members a 10% discount with 5% of your purchase benefiting NATRC. Contact either myself or our national office for the discount code to include in your shopping cart. (Not applicable to non-discountable items. Please do not share this discount code publicly.)
5. **NATRC Branded Products** – NATRC Sponsor [Distance Depot](#) offers NATRC branded products for our members. They have a wide selection of jackets, sweatshirts, polo shirts, gear bags, hats, headbands, and other items for you to shop from. A percentage of your purchase benefits NATRC making this a win-win for everyone.

6. **Reminder:** Keep your breed association individual membership current for the horse(s) you are competing NATRC with. By doing so, you will be eligible for end of the year high point horse awards. Last year we had several high point horses that did not receive awards because their owners were not current members of the breed organization. Do not miss this opportunity. These breed associations provide some very nice awards. It also helps NATRC continue to build our relationships with them.
7. **Reminder:** Efforts are underway to make sure that our horse database reflects the actual registered name of those horses who are registered with their respective breed association. Be sure you are using your horses actual registered name in RMS instead of a "barn" name.
8. **Reminder:** The Nebraska Endurance and Competitive Trail Ride Association (NECTRA) is once again sponsoring an incentive for all first-time NATRC competitors. Compete in two NATRC sanctioned LeD rides and your third ride entry fee will be free. This is an excellent way to introduce our new riders to our favorite sport! Thank you NECTRA!
9. **Reminder:** 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.
10. As always, stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!
Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! There are currently 919 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.
11. 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!
12. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:
 - Pierce Creek Clinic and LeD Ride, Essex, IA July 8-9
 - Jesse James Rideout, Smithville, MO August 26-27
 - Indian Cave 50th Anniversary Ride, Shubert, NE September 16-17
 - Region 6 Benefit Ride at Big Hill, Cherryvale, KS October 28-29
 - EquiFest of Kansas, Salina, KS March 14-17
 - Region 6 Convention and Awards Banquet, Salina KS March 14-17

This year's ride season has been so much fun. Our ride numbers have been outstanding. Kudos to our ride managers and volunteers for making these rides possible and for managing these large numbers. Having full classes makes what is already a lot of fun even better. It also creates welcomed issues for ride managers such as when should we start a waiting list, should we add a second judge's secretary, do we need a second judge, where is everyone going to camp, etc.

Please keep our momentum going by helping put together an even better 2024 ride schedule. If you have not been a ride manager, we need you. If you have been a ride manager, we need you. I am already looking forward to an even bigger year next year!

Be sure to appreciate all our volunteers and judges. They make what we love to do possible. Sometimes it is just the little things that we do or say that make the most difference. Fostering positive relations

with our NATRC judges and volunteers is one of those little things and it is so important for all of us to do. It can be as simple as just showing common courtesy to everyone. By fostering clear communication between ride management and our judges and volunteers. Or just simply showing respect for everyone goes a long way towards enhancing positive relations. We are extremely fortunate in Region 6 to have wonderful volunteers and judges!

And while you are at it, be sure to let all your horse-riding friends know about how much fun NATRC is. Invite them to join us at an upcoming ride or clinic.

#NATRCfamily
#NATRCfun
#NATRCregion6

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!