

## Region 6 May/June Membership Update June 2, 2023

1. *Hoof Print*, a mainstay of NATRC, has seen many changes. For many reasons, our national board decided it is time for another. *Hoof Print* will be an all-volunteer, single digital issue in the spring celebrating the previous years' accomplishments, awards, and highlights. As an alternative to our sponsors and partners for losing advertising in three issues, our sponsor chair will present a way for them to have monthly exposure in a smaller format – my monthly updates!

We owe a huge thank-you to our long-time editor, Laurie Knuutila, for her talents and professionalism.

From Laurie, "It has been my honor and privilege to edit "Hoof Print" for the past ten years (how has it been TEN YEARS already!?). I considered it a way to give back to the sport that I dearly love and that has taught me so much. It served as a creative outlet and I have truly enjoyed doing it.

"But, as we all know, things happen, and we must change and adapt in order to move forward. A major life-altering event for me has necessitated that I step back from several things, Hoof Print being one of them. The decision came after much thought and consideration and has not been easy. But I feel confident that the membership of NATRC will adapt and move forward as well. I wish you all the best and may all your trails lead to the most amazing places!"

2. Speaking of the *Hoof Print*, the Spring 2023 issue is online and ready for you to download to all your devices if you have not already. From our NATRC webpage under Resources, click on Hoof Print to open this issue. Inside you will find all the awards winners from the 2022 ride season, plus a lot more!
3. Sign up today for the 2023 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge. We currently have 14 Region 6 members taking part in this year's challenge. If you have not signed up, please do. It is not only fun, but it is also a great motivator to get out there and ride. It is also a great way to show your support for 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](#).
4. **There is still time for this to happen this year!** 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.

### Remaining 2023 Ride Schedule as of 6/2/23

|  |                |               |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| 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 |

5. 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 out on this opportunity. These breed associations provide some very nice awards. It also helps NATRC continue to build our relationships with them.
6. 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.
7. 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!
8. **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.
9. **Reminder:** 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.
10. **Reminder:** Reserve your rider vest number or letter 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 or letter all season.
11. **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>
12. As always, stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!  
Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! There are currently 911 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.
13. 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!

14. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:

- 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, Smithville, MO August 26-27
- Indian Cave 50<sup>th</sup> 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

What a wonderful time of the year. The days are nice and long, the weather has finally warmed up, and our ride season is under way. Sharing amazing trails and enjoying those evening campfires with our NATRC family makes summer so much fun.

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!