

Region 6 August Membership Update

August 1, 2023

1. **National Convention** – The 2024 NATRC National Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico the weekend of February 23-24, 2024, in cooperation with AERC. Details regarding hotel, registration, and convention programming will be shared when they are finalized. Meanwhile, be sure to save the date and make plans now to attend this excellent event. You will come away inspired and motivated.
2. **Region 6 Convention** – The 2024 Region 6 Convention will be held in Salina, Kansas during the 2024 EquiFest of Kansas horse expo the weekend of March 14-17. Convention participants will be able to enjoy the clinicians and educational workshops offered during this excellent horse expo. We will also be sure to provide opportunities each day where region 6 members will be able to be together as a group. One of the highlights of the convention will be our awards banquet where we will recognize our horse and riders from the current ride season. More information and details to follow.
3. **2024 Rule Proposals** – The national board of directors voted on the 2024 proposed rule changes during their July board meeting. Thank you to all of you who provided feedback by either contacting Marla or myself, participating in our region 6 zoom meeting, or by sharing during the Pierce Creek ride where we had an excellent discussion regarding how region 6 should vote. Here are the results of the 2024 rule proposals.
 - a. Rule #1 – Extend combined weight classes for one year (2024 ride season) – this vote was postponed until our September board meeting so we would have a little bit more ride data to review.
 - b. Rule # 2 – Appendices changes may be made administratively – Approved.
 - c. Rule #3 – National Leisure Awards – Approved
 - d. Rule #4 – Completion only (rule clarification) – Approved.
 - e. Rule #5 – Placings must be announced (rule clarification) – Approved.
 - f. Rule #A1 – Allow basic injury care during ride – Failed.
 - g. Rule #A2 – Allow preventative ulcer treatment during ride – Failed.
4. **2023 Honorary and Appreciation Award nominations** - Write-ups for the 2023 Honorary and Appreciation Award nominees are due to Ruth Mesimer RuthM9496@gmail.com by October 30th. Brainstorm with your fellow region 6 members and prepare write-ups for deserving individuals in our region. The region 6 board will select applicants to forward to our national board. The national board will vote on these nominees during their December board meeting. NATRC will present the awards to the chosen recipients at the 2024 national convention in Albuquerque.
 - a. **Jim Menefee NATRC Lifetime Achievement Award** – awarded one time only to an individual. Each region may nominate one NATRC member for the award. The national BOD selects one. The recipient gives a brief speech upon accepting the plaque at the national convention. This award honors Jim Menefee, a favorite judge who was especially encouraging to Novices and first-time competitors. Write-up limited to 400 words.
 - b. **Workers Hall of Fame** – one time only to an individual, pair or couple. Each region may nominate one member for the award. The BOD selects one or more at their discretion. Write-up limited to 400 words.
 - c. **National Appreciation Award** – each region may nominate one member for this award. The BOD selects three. A recipient can be eligible only once every 3 years. Write-up limited to 200 words.

- d. **Regional Appreciation Award for National Recognition** – each region may nominate up to three members for recognition. Nominees may be individuals, pairs, or groups such as ride sponsors or clubs. Write up limited to 200 words.
5. **2024 Ride Schedule** – It is time to start to put together next year’s ride and clinic schedule. This year’s schedule was the best one yet for our Leisure Division, as was the number of clinics we were able to offer. Now the challenge is to continue to enhance our Leisure Division schedule while expanding our A ride opportunities.

The priority needs to be the increase in the number of A rides (that offer all divisions) for next season. This is important as we are beginning to see some of our new riders begin to move up to Novice. More importantly, we need those additional opportunities for our riders to compete for regional and national recognition.

We are going to need some new ride managers to do this. The support is there. Our Region 6 board is committed to the elimination of any barriers and/or concerns anyone may have regarding managing 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.

Contact [Mary Fettes](#), our Region 6 ride coordinator, to secure a ride and/or clinic date(s) for next year. She will be reaching out to this year’s managers as well as some potential managers very soon. We are anticipating the following rides at this point. Keep in mind that this is very preliminary at this point and shows this year’s rides and clinics happening next year.

Date	Name	Divisions Offered	Location
April 13-14	Tally Ho	O/N/CP	Leavenworth, KS
April 20	Branching Out Clinic	Clinic	Raymond, NE
April 20-21	Branching Out Ride	LeD	Raymond, NE
May 4	White Rock Clinic	Clinic	Coon Rapids, IA
May 4-5	White Rock Ride	LeD	Coon Rapids, IA
June 1-2	Kanopolis Canyons	O/N/CP/LeD	Marquette, KS
TBD	Fort Robinson	O/N/CP/LeD	Crawford, NE
June 22	Mozingo Lake Clinic	Clinic	Maryville, MO
June 22-23	Mozingo Lake Ride	LeD	Maryville, MO
July 6	Pierce Creek Clinic	Clinic	Essex, IA
July 6-7	Pierce Creek Ride	LeD	Essex, IA
August 24-25	Jesse James Rideout	O/N/CP/LeD	Smithville, MO
Sept 14-15	Indian Cave	O/N/CP/LeD	Shubert, NE
Oct 26-27	Big Hill	O/N/CP/LeD	Cherryvale, KS
TBD	Stephens Forest	O/N/CP/LeD	Lucas, IA

6. **Region 6 Benefit Ride** – This year’s Region 6 Benefit Ride will take place the weekend of October 28-29 at Big Hill Lake located near Cherryvale, Kansas. This ride directly benefits Region 6 and is our region’s only “fund raiser” for the year. Cheryl Bohling has stepped up and will be the ride manager. As soon as this ride opens up on RMS we will send out an email notice to everyone and post on social media. Cheryl has some fun activities planned for us that you will not want to miss out on.

7. **Reminder: 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.)
8. **Reminder:** 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.

9. **Reminder:** Make sure you have signed 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](#).
10. **Reminder: 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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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!
14. **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.
15. As always, stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!
Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! There are currently 933 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.

16. 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!

17. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:

- 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
- National NATRC Convention, Albuquerque, NM February 23-24
- EquiFest of Kansas, Salina, KS March 14-17
- Region 6 Convention and Awards Banquet, Salina KS March 14-17
- Iowa Horse Fair, Des Moines, IA, March 22-24
- Ozark Spring Roundup, Springfield, MO March 22-24 (tentative)

Every ride this year has been awesome. Our ride numbers have been outstanding all year as so has the amount of fun we are having at each ride. Last month I thanked our ride managers and volunteers. These folks cannot be thanked too much. They make what we love to do possible. Nominate one or more of our volunteers that you would like to see recognized for one of the Honorary and Appreciation Awards.

I hope you are planning on being at this year's Indian Cave ride September 16-17. This is going to be a very special ride as we celebrate 50 years of NATRC rides at Indian Cave. This is where it all started for our region 50 years ago, thanks to Chuck Edwards who introduced the sport of NATRC to our region. You do not want to miss this event.

We have three big rides left for this ride season. Get out there and support these rides. Then please help keep the momentum that we have going by helping put together an even better 2024 ride schedule. If you have not been a ride manager, we need you to be. If you have been a ride manager, we need to keep managing. The support is there to make 2024 an even bigger ride year for all of us.

So, thank our Region 6 volunteers, ride managers, and judges. They are the best. Then be sure to let all your horse-riding friends know about how much fun NATRC is. Personally invite them to join us at an upcoming ride.

#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!