

Region 6 September/October Membership Update

October 13, 2023

1. **Region 6 Benefit Ride** – Our 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. The Autumn Adventure at Big Hill (Region 6 Benefit Ride) will not disappoint. The ride is open on RMS so please sign up today if you have not already. Then join us at this perennial favorite location with its crystal-clear water, thick oak-hickory forest trails, open prairie meadows, and rocky creeks and hills, often referred to as the Little Ozarks. It is Halloween weekend and Cheryl has some fun activities planned for us that you will not want to miss out on. Wait until you see the horse and rider trophies!
2. **2023 Region 6 Worker Report Forms** – Attached to this membership update are the 2023 Region 6 Worker Report Forms. One is for Rides and Clinics and the other is for National and Regional Volunteers. We could not do what we do without our amazing volunteers, and we want to make sure we recognize these important individuals. These forms also determine the Dale Seymour Memorial High Point Worker of the Year Award. Individuals will also be recognized for their cumulative point totals with Bars and Milestone awards. Please complete these forms for all positions worked and submit by the November 30th deadline.
3. **Updated First Aid Kit Recipes** – Attached to this membership update is an updated First Aid Kit Recipes. One of the workshops at last year's Region 6 Convention included making your own first aid kits for your trailer and your saddle bag. This workshop was based on the very popular 2022 National Convention presentation by Dr. Dean Hendrickson, DVM. Those of you who participated in this spring's workshop where we made our own first aid kits will need to replace the recipes you received then with this updated version. Thank you, Cheryl Bohling, for doing this!
4. **2024 Rule Change Proposals** – The national board of directors voted on the remaining 2024 proposed rule change during their September board meeting. Rule #1 – Extend combined weight classes for one year (2024 ride season) was approved.
5. **2025 Rule Change Proposals Due** – Rule change proposals for the 2025 ride season are due by November 1st. If you have a proposal that you would like to submit for consideration, please send your proposal to either Marla or myself and we will share it with the national board of directors. When submitting a proposal, the actual language you propose must be given and any changes to the current language highlighted.
6. **Plan to Attend the Region 6 Convention and Awards Banquet** – 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.
7. **Volunteers need for our NATRC Demo at EquiFest** – The EquiFest of Kansas Horse Expo would like for us to do a competitive trail riding demo in one of their arenas during the 2024 EquiFest. This is an excellent opportunity for NATRC to really shine in front of this excellent horse expo. We are looking for volunteers to help put this together. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping plan and organize our demo. This is very exciting for us!

8. **2024 Board of Directors Nominations** - Be looking for an email from Ruth asking for nominations to both our Region 6 Board of Directors and our National Board of Directors. Please give serious consideration to throwing your name in the hat to serve as one of our directors. This is an excellent way for you to become more involved with our sport. Each of you possess talents and experiences that can benefit our region as we continually strive for improvement. Following this nomination process, ballots will be sent out to all current members.
9. **Reminder: 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.
10. **Region 6 Ride Page Editor Wanted** – We are looking for someone willing to serve as our Region 6 ride page editor. This person would assist ride managers by providing them with previous ride pages so that they may update the ride information page for their upcoming ride. Please let me know if you would be willing to perform this duty.
11. **2023 Honorary and Appreciation Award Nominations Needed** - 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.
12. **Updated Tentative 2024 Ride Schedule** – The 2024 Region 6 ride schedule is looking very good. We have increased the number of A rides (that offer all divisions) which was a priority. These additional rides will increase the opportunity for our riders to compete for regional and national recognition. There are currently 8 rides that will offer Novice, Competitive Pleasure, and Open divisions. We have also enhanced our Leisure Division schedule as there are now 9 rides offering this division. Once again, we are leading the nation in the number of clinic opportunities we are providing. Three rider clinics are currently planned for the 2024 ride season. Stay tuned for some exciting information on an updated format for these clinics.

Please consider managing a ride in 2024. If we can pick up just one or two more ride managers, we can make next year's schedule even better. Our Region 6 board of directors is committed to the elimination of any barriers and/or concerns anyone may have regarding managing a ride. The support is there! You do not have to manage a ride all by yourself. You can co-manage with someone. This works really well, especially if you are a first-time ride manager.

Contact [Mary Fettes](#), our Region 6 ride coordinator, if you are willing to step up and manage a ride and/or clinic.

Tentative 2024 Region 6 Ride Schedule (as of 10/13/23)

Date	Name	Divisions Offered	Location
April 13-14	Tally Ho	O/N/CP	Leavenworth, KS
April 27	Branching Out Clinic	Clinic	Raymond, NE
April 27-28	Branching Out Ride	LeD	Raymond, NE
June 1-2	Kanopolis Canyons	O/N/CP/LeD	Marquette, KS
June 22	Mozingo Lake Clinic	Clinic	Maryville, MO
June 22-23	Mozingo Lake Ride	LeD	Maryville, MO
July 20	Pierce Creek Clinic	Clinic	Essex, IA
July 20	Pierce Creek Ride	LeD	Essex, IA
July 21	Pierce Creek Ride	O/N/CP	Essex, IA
August 17-18	Brushy Creek	O/N/CP	Lehigh, IA
Sept 14-15	Indian Cave	O/N/CP/LeD	Shubert, NE
Sept 28-29	White Rock Ride	LeD	Coon Rapids, IA
Oct 12-13	Jesse James Rideout	O/N/CP/LeD	Smithville, MO
Oct 26-27	Big Hill	O/N/CP/LeD	Cherryvale, KS
TBD	Hillsdale Lake	O/N/CP/LeD	Paola, KS

13. **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.)

14. **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.

15. **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.

16. **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.

17. As always, stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!

Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! **There are currently 963 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.

18. 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!

19. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:

- 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)

What an exciting year we have planned for 2024. While I am not ready for this ride season to be over, I already cannot wait for the 2024 ride season. Along with an enhanced ride schedule, we also have an amazing opportunity to share what we do at one of the nation's top horse expos.

We have a lot of positive momentum going as we head into the next year. Our ride numbers continue to increase as does the amount of fun we are having. We also have some great opportunities for you to become more involved with our awesome region. From helping with our EquiFest demonstration, serving as a Region 6 board member, managing a ride, to taking over as our ride page editor. The more members that we can involve the better our region becomes.

Do not forget to nominate one or more of our volunteers that you would like to see recognized for one of the Honorary and Appreciation Awards.

Be sure to support this year's Region 6 Benefit Ride, the Autumn Adventure at Big Hill. If you are unable to attend, either as a rider or a volunteer, I encourage you to show your support with a donation to our region. Send a \$30 ride deposit to show your Region 6 support! (or any amount)

The Saturday evening special recognition presentation during the recent 50th anniversary Indian Cave ride is one I will always remember. There was not a dry eye in the audience as we recognized and thanked Chuck Edwards, who established the trails at Indian Cave and introduced NATRC to this region with this initial ride. What a great reminder of just how special this organization and our people are!

#NATRCpride #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!