

## Region 6 December Membership Update December 15, 2023

1. **Region 6 NATRC Election Results** - Congratulations to the following individuals recently elected to our Region 6 Board of Directors for two-year terms: Tamara Andre – KS Representative; Alex Braun – NE Representative; Mary Fettes – IA Representative; Kristen Schmalzried – At Large Representative; Cheryl Bohling – At Large Representative; and Trish Cleveland – At Large Alternate Representative. Thank you for your willingness to serve on our board. Your service on behalf of all our membership is very appreciated.
2. **Region 6 Officer Elections** – Your 2024 Region 6 NATRC officer team is President – Alex Braun, Vice President - Mary Fettes, Secretary/Treasurer - Ruth Mesimer, and Recording Secretary – Kristen Schmalzried. Congratulations!
3. **National Officer Elections** – Your 2024 National NATRC officer team is President – John Zeliff (R6), Vice President Fran Muench (R4), Treasurer – Kris Gray (R5), and Executive Director – Sarah Smith (R6). Congratulations!
4. **Renew Your NATRC Membership Today** – Renew your NATRC membership by this Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> to be included in a drawing for an additional year of membership for 2025. Three names will be drawn from those who have renewed for 2024 by December 15<sup>th</sup>. [Click here to join or renew today!](#)
5. **Free NATRC Memberships** – In 2024, we will once again be offering a FREE membership to first time NATRC members!
6. **Ride for Free in 2024** – The Nebraska Endurance Competitive Trail Ride Association (NECTRA) will pay the entry fee for one day for all first time NATRC riders. This first ever ride offer is good for any of our ride divisions. Tell your friends and neighbors and then bring them with you to a ride this summer.
7. **First Time Junior Riders Can Ride For Free** – We still have funds available through the Keller Memorial account that will pay the entry fee for any new Junior competitor after the ride has been completed.
8. **2023 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge** – The top three riders from each region will be recognized at this year's national NATRC convention in Albuquerque. These riders will be presented special medallions during our awards banquet. You still have a few more days left this year to ride and get some more miles in and possibly move up in the standings.
9. **2024 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge** – Sign up will begin very soon for this 2024 mileage challenge. Be on the lookout for those details. Everything will carry on similar to this past year, however there will be a lot more opportunity for various contests/challenges on the Top Trail side of things (which all NATRC plus Top Trail members can participate in) with a lot more prizes going out. Pricing will remain the same as 2023 (\$60 for NATRC plus Top Trail). It is a lot of fun to participate as well as an excellent incentive to get out there and get those conditioning miles in.
10. **New for the 2024 Ride Season** – The Region 6 Board of Directors voted to pay for the ride sanction fee and ride insurance cost for our rides this season. The board wants to eliminate any barriers for our ride managers. When a ride is profitable Region 6 will be reimbursed for these costs.

11. **Help Manage a Ride** – We sure would like to have a few more members stepping up to help manage a ride. We have a great ride schedule planned for 2024 however there is still room to make it even better. As I mentioned above, our board is committed to eliminating any barriers when it comes to managing a ride. If we can get a few more ride managers, it will not only enhance our ride schedule, but it will also make it easier on those who are already managing and helping with more than one ride.
12. **NATRC Booth at the 2024 Iowa Horse Expo** – The Region 6 Board of Directors voted to have a booth at this year's Iowa Horse Expo March 22-24 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. We will be **looking for volunteers to help with this booth** and share their enthusiasm for our favorite sport. Contact Mary Fettes if you can be there that weekend. This is a very nice venue and there will be plenty of horse related vendor shopping to be had. Craig Cameron will be a featured clinician. You may have seen his show Ride Smart with Craig Cameron on RFD TV or the Cowboy Channel. Craig also founded the Extreme Cowboy Race.
13. **Pictures Needed for our Region 6 NATRC Booth Display** – We would like to update our NATRC booth display that we use at horse expos and special events with some current pictures. **If you have a favorite picture(s) that you think would be a great addition to our display, please send them to Cheryl Bohling as soon as possible.**
14. **National Convention Gift Basket** – Each NATRC region has been asked to put together a gift basket that includes items that are unique or that can only be found in their region. These gift baskets will then be a part of the silent auction during convention. Marilyn Marston has agreed to put our Region 6 basket together. She is asking for items from each state. **If you have some items that we can use, please make arrangements with Marilyn to get them to her.** (I am planning to take her some Kansas City BBQ sauce and some Cherry Mash candy bars that are made in St. Joseph, MO.) Let us make a great Region 6 basket!
15. **Purchase Your NATRC Raffle Tickets** – Thank you to all of you who have supported NATTRC by purchasing raffle tickets! Marla and I only have twenty-five tickets left as of this evening. If you have not purchased yours yet or if you would like to increase your chances of winning by buying more do not wait much longer. Contact either Marla or myself as soon as you can. Remember, all proceeds directly support our favorite sport.

Tickets are \$5 each or five tickets for \$20. For your convenience you may Venmo me @johnzeliff or you may PayPal Marla @MarlaStucky to purchase your winning ticket(s) today.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$300 Visa Gift Card**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$200 Riding Warehouse Gift Card**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$100 Tractor Supply Company Gift Card**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize - \$50 Cabela's Gift Card**

Drawing for the winners will take place at the 2024 National NATRC Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. You do not need to be present to win.

16. **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. Our hotel is the Garden Hilton at 3320 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street

at the south end of Salina. Our banquet brunch is currently planned for Sunday morning at Crestwood Design Center located at 601 East Water Well Road. Additional information and details to follow. Registration information will be ready soon. EquiFest clinicians should be announced soon as well. I am also looking forward to seeing the improvements and upgrades that have been made at the Saline County Expo Center. It will be a fantastic weekend that you will not want to miss for sure.

17. **A Few More Volunteers are needed 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 a few more 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!
18. **Road Trip** – 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.
19. **Trail Ribbons** – Lucy Hirsch is doing a bulk trail ribbon order from Forestry Supplier out of Mississippi. These are the good quality trail ribbons that do not fade. These ribbons are so much nicer to work with than the once we buy locally at farm supply stores. If you are a trail master or someone who helps mark trails, and you are interested in some of these ribbons contact Lucy.
20. **Updated 2024 Ride Schedule** – Increasing the number of A rides (that offer all divisions) continues to be a priority. As I mentioned earlier, 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!  
The most recent update to our schedule is that the Jesse James Rideout and the White Rock ride have switched dates.

Please consider managing or co-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. Some additional ride locations we are considering for next year include Stephens Forest in Iowa and Lake of 3 Fires in Bedford, Iowa. We just need ride managers and/or co-ride managers to make that happen.

Have an idea for a new ride location? Please contact [Mary Fettes](#), our Region 6 ride coordinator.

**Tentative 2024 Region 6 Ride Schedule (as of 12/3/23)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Divisions Offered</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 13	Tally Ho	LeD	Leavenworth, KS
April 13-14	Tally Ho	O/N/CP	Leavenworth, KS
April 27	Branching Out Clinic	Clinic	Raymond, NE
April 27	Branching Out Ride	LeD	Raymond, NE
April 28	Branching Out Ride	LeD	Raymond, NE
May 18	Pierce Creek Ride	LeD	Essex, IA
May 18	Pierce Creek Clinic	Clinic	Essex, IA
May 19	Pierce Creek Ride	O/N/CP	Essex, IA
June 1-2	Kanopolis Canyons*	O/N/CP/LeD	Marquette, KS
June 22	Mozingo Lake Ride	LeD	Maryville, MO

June 22	Mozingo Lake Clinic	Clinic	Maryville, MO
June 23	Mozingo Lake Ride	LeD	Maryville, MO
August 17-18	Brushy Creek	O/N/CP/LeD	Lehigh, IA
Sept 14-15	Indian Cave	LeD	Shubert, NE
Sept 28-29	Jesse James Rideout	O/N/CP/LeD	Smithville, MO
Oct 12	White Rock Ride	LeD	Coon Rapids, IA
Oct 12	White Rock Clinic	Clinic	Coon Rapids, IA
Oct 13	White Rock Ride	LeD	Coon Rapids, IA
Oct 26-27	Big Hill	O/N/CP/LeD	Cherryvale, KS
TBD	Hillsdale Lake	O/N/CP/LeD	Paola, KS
TBD	Stephens Forest	O/N/CP/Led	Chariton, IA

\*Region 6 Benefit Ride

21. **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.)
22. **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.
23. **Keep Current** – Stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!  
 Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! **There are currently 974 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.
24. **Follow Region 6 on the Web** - 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!
25. **Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:**
- 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

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Region 6 President for the past six years. It has been a true pleasure to serve in this roll and I have truly enjoyed the opportunity. I was first elected President during the 2018 Region 6 Convention. I am very proud of the positive momentum that we currently have going. We are so fortunate in Region 6 to have so many dedicated riders and volunteers who do so much for the betterment of us all. One of those individuals is Alex Braun who will be our new Region 6 President. Alex will do an excellent job of keeping our positive momentum going and building upon that. I will still be active in promoting NATRC and our region. I will be attending every Region 6 ride either as a rider, volunteer, or ride manager.

Meanwhile, set your goals for the 2024 ride season, plan out your individual 2024 ride schedule, go grab some motivation by attending our national and/or our regional conventions, and then start getting those conditioning rides in! The days are going to start getting longer very soon!

Thank you again for the amazing opportunity to serve as President these past six years!

#NATRCpride  
#NATRCfamily  
#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!