



**North American Trail Ride Conference
Region 6 Membership Update
March/April 2026**

1. **Support Our Technology Project** – Phase 2 of our NATRC technology update project is underway. This will result in a brand-new Ride Management System (RMS) that will make it easier than ever to sign up for rides, manage entries, and view results, all in one seamless platform. No more having to log into two different systems to sign up for a ride.

There is an urgency regarding these updates that some of our new members may not be aware of and maybe even others might have forgotten about.

- a. We are still using the Microsoft Access database, and our version has long exceeded its Microsoft lifecycle which means no new security updates, non-security updates, or assisted support.
- b. Our current RMS system was created in the late 1990's early 2000's and it does not integrate with either our database or our website. This results in many manual processes that must be completed following each ride throughout the nation.

Earlier, Sarah Smith and Alex Braun, shared information with our members regarding these technology updates. That webinar has been posted on our NATRC YouTube channel. [NATRC Technology Update Webinar](#)

We have had several Region 6 members already donate towards these updates. Any size donation will be appreciated and very helpful. Our Region 6 membership recently voted to donate \$2,000 from Region 6 towards this project!

As we build the future of NATRC, we invite you to join us on this journey through your donations which can be made on our website at natrc.org/donate. Be sure to note that your donation is for the Technology Fund. Your donations are tax deductible.

2. **Date Change** – Since the last Region 6 membership update, next year's EquiFest of Kansas horse expo has a new date. It is now scheduled to take place in Topeka during the weekend of February 26-28, 2027.
3. **Iowa Horse Fair** – We will not have a booth at this year's Iowa Horse Fair. The reason is due to this year's date change. Rather than Feb or March when it is usually held, it was moved all the way out to May 8-10 due to scheduling conflicts with their facility. In lieu of our attendance, we will have our 2026 Region 6 ride schedule in their program.
4. **2026 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge** – Participate in the 2026 NATRC Virtual Mileage Challenge. It is not only motivational, but it is also a whole lot of fun to do! The top ten riders nationally along with the top three riders from each NATRC region will be

recognized at the 2027 national convention. Sign up today at [Top Trail Horse](#)

5. **Region 6 to Host the 2027 National Convention** – Region 6 will be the host region for next year’s NATRC National Convention. Huge thank you to Catherine Gast and Jeff Zeller for stepping up to be our convention chairs. They have already been busy making preliminary plans. More information will follow but at this time tentative plans are to have the convention in the Kansa City area the corresponding February weekend as this year’s convention. It will be all hands-on deck for our region members, so stay tuned for additional information.
6. **2026 Region 6 Ride Schedule** – Attached is the current 2026 ride schedule for Region 6. Branching Out is our first ride of the season and it is just a couple of weeks away! Bring a friend and join us. This is an excellent ride to start the season with.
7. **Sign up Early For Rides** – Everyone is encouraged to sign up as soon as you can for our rides. This really helps our ride managers in their planning. Your deposits are also particularly important to our ride managers to help them with their upfront costs. We still have some rides that have not been opened up yet in RMS, but they should be very soon so you can sign up.
8. **Brand New In 2026** – We are extremely excited about the 2026 III L Challenge Buckle Series. We have three “stand alone” LeD rides and we have put them together to form this belt buckle challenge. Here is what you need to know.
 - a. To qualify, you must complete a minimum of one ride at each of the following stand-alone LeD rides: Mozingo Lake, Lake of Three Fires, and Whiterock Wander.
 - b. You do not need to be a NATRC or Region 6 member to qualify.
 - c. Eligibility is based on the rider, not the equine rode.
 - d. The highest team score from all divisions for each of the three weekends will be added together to determine the winner.

Best of luck to everyone!

9. **Reminder: 2026 Rider Vest Numbers** – If you are interest in reserving a specific number/letter for 2026, contact Trish Cleveland at trishcleveland166@gmail.com. The cost is just \$15 per number or letter. Secure your favorite number/letter now for the upcoming ride season!
10. **Reminder: It Is Time to Renew Your NATRC Membership** - [Click here](#) to renew your NATRC membership for the 2026 ride season.
11. **Reminder: Free NATRC Memberships** – In 2026, we will once again be offering a FREE membership to first time NATRC members! Tell your friends and bring them to a ride with you!
12. **Reminder: Ride for Free in 2026** – The Nebraska Endurance Competitive Trail Ride Association (NECTRA) will pay the entry fee for a Junior’s first ride or will pay one-half of the entry fee for an Adult’s first ride. This discounted first ever ride offer is good for any of our ride divisions but is only valid for any Region 6 rides in 2026. Tell your friends and neighbors and then bring them to a ride with you this summer! Thank you NECTRA for your continued support to NATRC and Region 6.
13. **Keep Current** – Stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!
 - a. Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! **There are currently 1,065 Region 6 pictures!**

- b. Follow us on Facebook with our Region 6 NATRC Riders group and our Region 6 North American Trail Ride Conference page.
 - c. Subscribe to the NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) YouTube channel.
14. **Follow Region 6 on the Web** - 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!
15. **Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:**
- Branching Out LeD Ride and Clinic, April 25, Branched Oak Lake, Raymond, NE
 - Branching Out N/CP Ride, April 26, Branched Oak Lake, Raymond, NE
 - Region 6 Awards Banquet, May 15, Hillsdale Lake, Paola, KS
 - Back in the Saddle Ride, May 16-17, Hillsdale Lake, Paola, KS
 - Iowa Horse Fair, May 8 to 10, Des Moines, IA
 - EquiFest of Kansas, February 26-28, 2027, Topeka, KS

I am looking forward to the upcoming ride season. See you very soon on the trail!

#cannotwait
#NATRCfun
#NATRCregion6

#chasindreams
#NATRCfamily
#NATRC

John Zeliff, R6 President

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And then be sure to follow me to the next Region 6 ride!