



**North American Trail Ride Conference
Region 6 Membership Update
May/June 2026**

1. **Supporting our Technology Update Project** – Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to support our NATRC technology update project to date. Phase 2 is currently underway which 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. Individual donations of any size are appreciated and extremely helpful. Donations 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. **Region 6 Benefit Ride at Kanopolis Canyons** – This year our region is conducting two benefit rides. Branching Out was our first benefit ride. Next weekend's Kanopolis Canyons ride (June 5-7) will be our second benefit ride. We will be raffling off a fantastic pommel pack, and we will also be conducting a silent auction. Bring those items you have been needing to find a new home for to the silent auction. All the proceeds from these two rides go to supporting Region 6.
3. **The 2026 Hoof Print is now on-line** - The 2026 edition of *Hoof Print* is now available on-line! This is the official annual publication of NATRC. You can find this year's *Hoof Print* on our webpage under the Resource tab. Download it now to all your devices and then take it with you to your next NATRC ride!
4. **2026 NATRC Raffle** – We are extremely excited about this year's NATRC raffle. Two of our new national NATRC sponsors have stepped up to really enhance this year's prizes. Equescapes Equestrian Adventures is donating a \$500 ride voucher for our 1st prize winner and US Rider is donating a 1-year Premier membership valued at \$385 for our 2nd prize. Our 3rd prize winner will receive reimbursement for their registration to either the 2027 or 2028 national NATRC convention. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 and can be purchased from Marilyn Marston or myself. All proceeds go towards supporting our favorite sport!
5. **Do The 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](#)
6. **National Convention Date and Location Announcement** – The Margaritaville Hotel Kansas City will be the site for the 2027 NATRC National Convention to be held February 19-21! Region 6 will be the convention host for this exciting event with Catherine Gast and Jeff Zeller our convention chairs. It will be all hands-on deck for our region members. Get this date on your calendars now and then stay tuned for additional information.

7. **Ride Schedule Update** – We recently received word from the park officials at Brushy Creek State Park near Lehigh, IA that they are not accepting reservations for 2026 due to ongoing renovations at both the north and south equestrian campgrounds. The same thing happened to us last year with this popular ride venue and they told us then that they expected us to be able to have our ride there this year. Unfortunately, for the second year in a row now, we will have to cancel the Brushy Creek ride that was scheduled for the weekend of August 15-16.

We are currently looking for another ride location to fill this void on our schedule. If you have a suggestion on a possible ride location, please let Holly Barrett, our Region 6 ride coordinator, know.

8. **2026 III L Challenge Buckle Series** – We are extremely excited about this brand-new Buckle Series. Every buckle tells a story, so what is your story going to be?

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: Renew Your NATRC Membership** – If you have not already, [Click here](#) to renew your NATRC membership for the 2026 ride season.

10. **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!

11. **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.

12. **Keep Current** – Stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!
- a. Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6! **There are currently 1,069 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.

13. **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!

14. Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:

- Kanopolis Canyons CTR, June 5-7, Marquette, KS (R6 Benefit Ride)
- Mozingo Lake Clinic, June 26, Maryville, MO
- Mozingo Lake CTR, June 27-28, Maryville, MO
- Lake of Three Fires CTR, July 18-19, Bedford, IA
- NATRC National Convention, February 19-21, 2027, Kansas City, KS
- Region 6 Awards Presentation, February 21, 2027, Kansas City, KS
- EquiFest of Kansas, February 26-28, 2027, Topeka, KS
- Iowa Horse Fair, May 7-9, 2027, Des Moines, IA

Our first ride of the season Branching Out, held at Branched Oak Lake near Raymond, NE, was great. It was so nice to be back together with our NATRC family. There was even a rider waiting list for that ride! You could not ask for better weather than what we had on Saturday. On top of that, there were 6 or 7 first-time riders! How exciting is that! Unfortunately, the weather did not keep cooperating, and we had to cancel Sunday's ride.

Our next ride was Back in the Saddle, held at Hillsdale Lake near Paola, KS. This ride was the first of our two Region 6 benefit rides. Just one month prior to this ride, Hillsdale was hit hard by an EF-2 tornado that caused widespread damage, impacting 100 homes with 50-60 homes completely destroyed. This obviously impacted parts of the trails there as well. Thanks to our ride manager Holly Barrett, trail master Mary Licata, and the local Back Country Horseman group, we were able to make some adaptations to our trail route so that the ride could take place.

We tried something new this year at the Back in the Saddle ride. On Friday evening we held our annual awards banquet. We are so fortunate to have Cheryl Bohling coordinate our awards. She does an amazing job and is greatly appreciated. Attendance was great, I think there was only one person (possibly two) receiving awards who could not attend.

Thank you to all our ride managers, volunteers, and riders for everything that you do! What a fantastic start to our ride year! I look forward to seeing everyone on the trail!

Keep pushing!

#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!