



**North American Trail Ride Conference
Region 6 Membership Update
July/August 2026**

1. **Support 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.

Individual donations of any size are appreciated and extremely helpful. Donations can be made on our website at natric.org/donate. Be sure to note that your donation is for the Technology Fund. Your donations are tax deductible.

2. **2027 Rule Proposals** – During the July national board meeting the board voted unanimously to approve both rule clarifications.

Proposal 1a – Add grand champion high average Leisure teams by class. Proposal failed with regions 3 and 6 voting in favor and regions 1,2,4, and 5 opposed.

Proposal 1b – Add high point Leisure division rider and horse. Proposal failed with regions 3 and 6 voting in favor and regions 1,2,4, and 5 opposed.

Proposal 1c – Add Leisure division national championship. Proposal failed with regions 3 and 6 voting in favor and regions 1,2,4, and 5 opposed.

UPDATE – During the August national board meeting the board voted to rescind the board's previous action regarding proposal 1c and then voted unanimously to approve Leisure division national team championships!

All members are encouraged to be actively engaged in the rule proposal process and voice opinions and suggestions to the national directors to guide this sport in the future. Our members matter.

3. **All Rides Are Open in RMS** – All of our remaining rides are now open in RMS. Let's fill these four rides to cap off another fantastic ride season! We definitely have saved the best till last with these exciting rides. Thank you to all our ride managers, volunteers, and riders that make it all possible! Now, let's all get there and support these rides!
4. **2026 III L Challenge Buckle Series Standings** – The Whiterock Wander is the remaining ride in this year's III L Challenge. We have had some great competition in the previous two rides in this year's series. There is only a one point separation between the top two riders with other riders definitely in reach to take home the championship belt buckle. It is going to be an exciting finish! Every buckle tells a story, and I cannot wait to see how this story plays out! Good luck everyone!

*** The current standings are attached to this membership update!

5. **Distance Depot Introduces a New NATRC Member Discount** - Long-time national sponsor, Distance Depot, is offering a special discount for current NATRC members this year! This is a new discount, and it is a ten percent discount! The discount code is posted behind the login on our website under members and then partner discounts.
*****Please, do not share this exclusive NATRC paid members code, online, or with friends or non-paid members.***
6. **2027 National NATRC Convention** – The Margaritaville Hotel Kansas City is 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. Be sure to save that date and stay tuned for additional information. Make plans to be there, it will not disappoint!

It will be all hands-on deck for our Region 6 members. Sunday morning, we will have our Region 6 meeting and awards presentation for the 2026 ride season. Get this on your calendar now and then stay tuned for additional information.

7. **Region 6 Webmaster Needed** – We are looking for someone to maintain our Region 6 webpage. Shari Parys has been doing this for us for over twelve years that I know of and has done a wonderful job. She is willing to finish out the year for us, unless we can find someone sooner. She is also very willing to work with her replacement to get them started. Our website uses WordPress, which is pretty easy compared to what we used to use.

If you are interested and willing in helping us out with this important position, please let me know. It is not a huge commitment by any means, but keeping our site current with timely posts is important.

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Thank you, Shari, for all your years of maintaining our Region 6 website!

8. **2027 EquiFest of Kansas** – EquiFest of Kansas will be celebrating it's 30th anniversary in 2027. The dates are February 26, 27, and 28, and we will have our NATRC booth once again.

Clinicians will include Phil Haugen, Joshua Rushing, Laurie Hedlund, Daniel Dauphin, and Riley Olson. Friday night will be a one-of-a-kind show – Celebrate EquiFest, Saturday night will be the amazing Bulls, Broncs, and Bravehearts, and Sunday afternoon will be the traditional Ranch Rodeo.

I am thinking of possibly offering another workshop presentation on NATRC. It has been about three years since we last did one at EquiFest. More on that when it gets a little closer.

9. **Reminder: 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!

10. **Reminder: 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](#)
11. **Reminder: Renew Your NATRC Membership** – If you have not already, [Click here](#) to renew your NATRC membership for the 2026 ride season.
12. **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!
13. **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.
14. **Keep Current** – Stay up to date with Region 6 by following us on social media!
 - a. Follow us on Instagram @natrcr6!
 - 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.
15. **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!
16. **Important Region 6 dates and upcoming events:**
 - Whiterock Wander Clinic, September 12, Coon Rapids, IA
 - Whiterock Wander CTR, September 12-13, Coon Rapids, IA
 - Jesse James Rideout CTR, September 26-27, Smithville, MO
 - Autumn Adventure at Big Hill CTR, October 10-11, Cherryvale, KS
 - Fall in the Ozarks CTR, October 24-25, West Plains, MO
 - 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

I look forward to seeing everyone on the trail!

#cannotwait
#NATRCfun
#NATRCregion6

#chasindreams
#NATRCfamily
#NATRC

John Zeliff, R6 President

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Follow me on Instagram @johnzeliff
And then be sure to follow me to the next Region 6 ride!