

Virginia Highlands Competitive Trail Ride
June 7-9, 2024

Sanctioned by NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference)

Location: Iron Mountain Horse Camp, 4449 Arrowhead Dr., Ivanhoe, VA 24350
imhcvirginia@gmail.com (276) 237-2600 www.ironmountainhorsecamp.com

A & B Ride

Ride Manager: Jennifer Mulligan, (540) 797-0775, jclaypottery@gmail.com
Ride Secretary: Sherry Garnes, (828)-400-7402 sherrymgarnes@gmail.com
Trailmaster: tbd
Judges: Horsemanship: tbd Vet Judge: tbd

LeD Ride

Ride Manager: Jennifer Mulligan, (540) 797-0775
Ride Secretary: Nancy Johnson Fuller, (334) 614-4357, Nancythefarrier@gmail.com
Trailmaster: tbd
Judge: tbd

Ride Divisions: A ride (2 day): Novice, CP and Open; B Ride (Saturday) Novice, CP, Open
LeD: B1 (Saturday) and B2 (Sunday)

Rider Limits: A ride: 60 riders. LeD: 40 riders

Distances: A ride: Open approx. 26-28/day; Novice/CP approx. 15-18/day, LeD approx. 8-10 miles/day

Ride Fees: A&B rides: Members: Adult \$125, Jr. \$80; non-members: Adult \$155, Jr. \$110

LeD rides: Members \$75 Saturday, \$75 Sunday. Non-members \$105 Saturday, \$105 Sunday
If you ride both Saturday and Sunday, members \$125 and non-members \$180.

Special (and random) notes: A free NATRC annual membership is available for first time riders. There is a Junior scholarship reimbursement program for A, B and LeD riders. For one-on-one mentorship, contact the secretary or ride manager and we will help arrange it. Minimum age of riders is 8 yrs. old. Juniors (and everyone else who wants to be a good role model) will wear helmets whenever mounted. All dogs on leashes, no dogs in public/management area. And finally, Quiet Time from 10 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

Deposits and full Payment: All payments can be made directly to Sherry Garnes. Checks should note "NATRC VH" in the memo section and be mailed to Sherry at 500 Reeves Cove Road, Candler, NC 28715. You can also use Paypal (sherrymgarnes@gmail.com) or Venmo (Sherry Garnes@sherrygarnes) Please add a few dollars to cover the surcharge cost of the electronic payments. Deposits of \$30 should (PLEASE!) be made by June 1st. If payment in full and all paperwork (coggins and waivers) is received by June 1st, we invite you to take advantage of express check-in starting at 11:30 on Friday. There will be two lines for registration and express check-in provides for you to by-pass the secretary and go straight to your penneys. This means no waiting in line and the most favorable vet-in time slots. Regular registration begins at 12:15. Vet-in assignments will be made at that time. Vet-in begins at 1:30 p.m.

Registration: www.rms.natrc.net. This can be a little complicated so if you have any problems contact Sherry (ride secretary) or Jennifer (ride manager).

Camping: IMHC is a private campground with water and electric hookups, shower house, ice machine, tack store and dump station. Reservations should be made through them (see above). Specific sites can be requested but please be flexible if we need to make adjustments for management and volunteers. Horses will be stabled in a 78 stall barn. Camping is \$30/night (plus taxes) and the stall is \$20/night (plus taxes) and includes shavings. Interesting note—I ran across a ride info sheet for the 2012 NATRC ride and the costs for camping (\$30/\$20) haven't changed in all that time! Permanent residential RVs are available for rent at \$75.00/night.

Food: For Friday night dinner you will be on your own so you can catch up with your friends. Saturday night will be potluck at the pavilion so you can meet some new friends! Please bring a dish to share. Volunteers will be fed all weekend--just a token of our appreciation for our volunteers!!

Trail Terrain: Welcome to the Virginia Highlands! Our trail system is part of the Mt. Rogers Recreation Area of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. We have such a variety of trails: we have small mountains and big hills with packed two track and single track trails that go through woods, along ridges and besides streams. Some can be pretty rocky and some go through hundreds of acres of grassy rangelands. Summer in the mountains offers good weather and the views are exceptional. Shoes are highly recommended and we will have a farrier on site if you need her.

DIRECTIONS: Do not use GPS unless you want to meet some of our neighbors who live high in the mountains with no trailer access or turnaround spots. Paved roads are not guaranteed.

Having said that:

The easiest way to get to IMHC is to come off of **I-81 at Exit 80.**

From the south, turn right and from the north, turn left on to **US-52 South.**

Stay on **US 52 South for 1.2 miles.**

Turn **right at the traffic light on to Hwy 94 south** (aka Ivanhoe Road) Food Country USA on right.

Continue **13.9 miles on HWY 94 south.**

Turn right on to **Brush Creek Road (rt. 602).** The Brush Creek Store (now closed and abandoned) will be on your right.

Continue on **Brush Creek Road for 5.5 miles.**

There is an intersection where Brush Creek Road goes right and Arrowhead road goes left. Turn **left onto Arrowhead Road. (signs for IMHC).**

Entrance to IMHC is **first driveway on right.**

From Galax (Interstate I-77 North):

It is much easier to follow I-77 to where it intersects with I-81. Go south on I-81 for one mile. Take exit 80 and follow the directions above. From Charlotte, this route is 2:34 and 150 miles.

Another choice from Charlotte is slightly faster (2:24), and slightly shorter (132 miles), but much more complicated. For those of you who are adventurous:

Take **Exit 14 off of Interstate 77** onto **HWY-58 west.**

Go **13.5 miles on Hwy 58 west.**

Turn **right on HWY 94** north towards Fries.

Go **4.2 miles on HWY 94 north.**

Turn **right at Riverside Store to stay on Hwy 94 north.**

Continue **4.6 miles on Hwy 94 north to Fries.**

At the entrance to the Town of Fries turn **left to stay on 94 north.**

Continue **5.4 miles on Hwy 94 north.**

Turn **left on to Brush Creek Road (rt. 602).** The Brush Creek Store (now closed and abandoned) will be on your left.

Continue on **Brush Creek Road for 5.5 miles.**

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