



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™

NRG Park • Feb. 27 - March 18, 2018

P.O. Box 20070 • Houston, Texas 77225 • 832.667.1000 • rodeohouston.com

2018 Prairie View Trail Ride Association Story Ideas and History

Story Ideas

- PVTRA continues to serve as a booster for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and supports Prairie View A& M University in its educational programs.
- PVTRA Annual Chili Cook-off Benefits Agricultural Clubs on the Campus of Prairie View A&M University. PVTRA Cook-off Teams prepare for the Annual Chili Cook-off. After the judging is completed, bowls of chili are sold to the public with proceeds benefiting agricultural clubs on the campus. This event occurs rain or shine and attracts 200-300 chili connoisseurs each year.
- For the past 30 years, PVTRA continues to stop annually at the Elementary Schools, Retirement Communities and Daycares in route to Memorial Park to display its wagons and animals for the children and adults. We continue to distribute schools supplies/activity books and back packs to deserving students.
- In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, in September 2017, PVTRA held a community "Animal Feed" give-a-way distribution. Over 5000 pounds of feed was distributed to all that were in need.
- Annual Safety Workshops hosted by the PVTRA in conjunction with PVAMU 's Cooperative Extension Program gives the most current information related to trail riding safety. Topics include Trailer/RV Maintenance, Equine Nutrition, Proper Horseshoeing and Saddle Fitting, Food Safety, and Generator/Carbon Monoxide Safety.
- In June, PVTRA participated in the "Juneteenth Heritage Celebration at the Visitor Center Complex in Brazos County. PVTRA had a chance to display various information relating to our organization.
- In October, PVTRA participated in the annual Prairie View A&M University "Homecoming Parade" This event is held annually commemorating the University's existence.
- Throughout the year, PVTRA has supported and continues to support various trail ride clubs by volunteering time & donating funds for their events. i.e. Fish Fry's, raffles, warm-up rides, casino trips, etc. We are looking forward to OUR continued support!
- PVTRA participated in five (5) events partnering with Prairie View A&M University and Sodexo Vending to help raise scholarship funds for PVTRA recipients. PVTRA participated as a concession vendor/seller at Prairie View A&M University home football games. It continues to be a great success. Looking forward to the next season.
- September, 2017, the Myrtis Dightman, Sr. 29th Annual Hall of Fame Rodeo was held in Crockett, TX. In addition, PVTRA participated in a community ride with the "Community of Faith" Church, under the leadership of Bishop James Dixon. This successful event assists the church with fundraising for their community.
- Our 60th year PVTRA annual dance was held and was a great success. Entertainment was provided by J Paul Jr. and the Zydeco Nubreeds. A portion of the proceeds continues to support our scholarship fund. Prairie View Trail Ride Association

Awards

- 2017 – Division 2 Winner – Outstanding Trail Ride Group
- 2017 – Best Appearance Trail Ride Group
- 2016 - Division 2 Winner - Outstanding Trail Ride Group
- 2014 - "Best Wagon Spirit Award" awarded to Wagon # 6 - Acres Homes Riding & Roping Club
- 2013 - Division 2 - Best Trail Award (Med 50-144 riders)
- 2012 - Division 2 - Best Trail Award (Med 50-144 riders)
- 2011 - "Spirit Award"
- 2010 - "Best Wagon" awarded to Wagon # 3 - Circle 44
- 2005 - "Top Trail" Award
- 1992 - "Most Outstanding Trail Ride"

Unique Attributes

Prairie View Trail Riders Assoc. is the oldest African-American Trail Ride in the U.S. Approved in 1958 as the 1st African American Trail of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Prairie View Trail Ride Assoc. is known as the "mother" of the Black Trails. All black trail rides of Texas have roots that trace back to this trail ride group.

In February, 2017, Prairie View Trail Riders Association & The Boss: Myrtis Dightman, Jr. was featured in several magazines such as "Houstonia", "Houston Style Magazine" and "Amtrack The National", in conjunction with celebrating its 60th year anniversary on Preserving the Tradition of Black Cowboys in Texas. Features included these stories: At the stables with the man behind the oldest African American trail ride in Texas, Myrtis Dightman, Jr.'s father clopped into Memorial Park with 10 other horseback riders from the Prairie View Trail Riders Association. They were the first African American group to join the tradition of cowboys riding into the city for Rodeo Houston's Go Texan Day and parade. Last year, the group co-founded by Myrtis Dightman, Sr. won Outstanding Trail Ride at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, a huge honor for any organization, but a particularly gratifying moment for the oldest black trail-ride association in Texas, whose members, in many cases, have been riding together for decades. Raised on a farm in Crockett, Texas, Dightman has been riding since he was 2. The elder Dightman was not only the trail ride's co-founder, but the first black professional cowboy to compete in the National Finals Rodeo and a rodeo clown; last year, he was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Bull-riding, the younger Dightman found out pretty early on, wasn't for him. But he lives for trail-riding, getting out on his horse once a month and spending the entire year and "many sleepless nights" planning the week long, 87-mile journey which some 200 riders on horses and wagons take from Hempstead—about an hour northwest of Houston, by car—to Memorial Park. This year, the ride kicks off on February 17.

Myrtis Dightman Jr., Trailboss states "one thing about rodeo and cowboys, it's just like a family. When you go into downtown Houston, Texas, and over a million people are hollering and screaming at you, to see the smiles on those kids' faces, it's exciting to me. It brings tears to your eyes."

Prairie View Trail Riders Association established in 1957, celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 2017. Prairie View Trail Riders Association is also recognized as a 5013c Non-Profit

Organization. This recognized status provides greater opportunities and resources enhancing the vision and purpose for the PVTRA. We are looking forward to our 61st year!