TRAIL RIDE MEDIA GUIDE
2015

ALL TRAILS LEAD TO...

HOUSTON Livestock Show and Rodeo
Trail Ride Publicity Subcommittee

Andrea Sharayha
Vice Chairman
713.826.7050
andrea@HFRRF.org

Kacey White
Captain
713.516.6614
kacey.white@gmail.com

- Susan Buddeke
- Veronica Castillo
- Tammy G. Davis
- Natalie Fink
- Rhonda Freytag
- Cyndy Garza
- Shelly Milwee
- Belinda Rowell
- Miranda Sevcik
- Charlotte Stowe

David Yates
Officer in Charge

Scott Baumann
Chairman

www.rodeoohouston.com
Texas was once a land of many trails — the arteries that linked the outlying areas with settlements. The only transportation in the early days was powered by horse, mule or oxen, and many trails in different parts of the state were originally paths formed by the repetitive use of settlers.

Stagecoach routes also helped establish more trails, and today’s highways are modern day versions of those same routes which connected the more populous areas of the state.

After the Civil War, there was a need for beef in the eastern states, and millions of head of cattle were driven from Texas through Indian Territory to the railheads. It was once said that there were as many trails in North Texas as there were farmers. Two of the better-known trails were the Chisholm and the Goodnight Loving trails. Both were formed by the large-scale moving of cattle north to the railroads or to cities in Kansas and other states where beef was processed and shipped to states all over the U.S.

The traditions of the strong people who settled this state and the cowboys who tamed it give modern day Texans the inspiration to relive the conditions of those times. They spend days and weeks traveling along well-known trails using the traditional equipment of the old West. Even with the benefit of some modern conveniences, a long trip on the trail has hardships to endure with harsh Texas weather, unpredictable animals and the journey through areas ranging from wilderness to bustling metropolitan cities.

The groups of people who comprise the 13 trail rides that converge on Houston are like small cities of settlers, combining their leadership and resources to bring their group over many miles. They are people from all walks of life, and each trail ride has many interesting stories. Their appearance in Houston signals the start of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ as they merge via many routes into Memorial Park and proudly ride Saturday morning in the Downtown Rodeo Parade.
The first Trail Ride took place in January of 1952. Four men made that first journey from Brenham, Texas, to Houston. One year later in 1953, 80 people signed up to make the ride. This was the beginning of the Salt Grass Trail Ride. By 1954, 800 people were participating. More than 3,000 riders will saddle up and head to Houston from all directions, including Louisiana and Mexico. 13 rides will ride into downtown Houston for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Downtown Rodeo Parade, taking place Saturday, February 28, 2015. All 13 Trial Rides will have covered nearly 1,800 miles. The Los Vaqueros Trail Ride is the longest ride, covering 386 miles, beginning in Reynosa, Mexico. The Texas Cattlemen’s Trail Ride is the shortest ride, covering 70 miles, beginning in Montgomery, Texas. In recent years, female Trail Bosses have served several rides as their very capable leaders.

Trail rides enter Memorial Park beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, 2015, and each has a scheduled time for arrival. A team from the Trail Ride Committee and the Jr. Rodeo Committee judge their appearance as they arrive, and that is combined with other judging that took place on the trail. The official Trail Ride Awards Ceremony takes place at Memorial Park (corner of Memorial Drive and N. Picnic Drive) beginning at 5 p.m.

2014 Best Trail Ride Division Award Winners:
Division III (49 or fewer participants) - Old Spanish Trail Ride
Division II (50 to 144 participants) - Texas Independence Trail Ride
Division I (145 or more participants) - Salt Grass Trail Ride
Responsibilities of the Trail Boss: Safety issues are a big responsibility.
How to be a Trail Hand: There are a number of jobs that have to be done on the trail in order to move a trail ride successfully.
Animal Rescue & Turn of the Century Wagons: Many of the horses on the ride have been rescued from bad circumstances and nursed back to health. The Texas Independence Trail Ride has such animals. They also have three original wagons from the turn of the century.
It’s a Family Tradition: Many of the trail rides include family members and generations of all ages.
Community Outreach: Many of the trail rides have a tradition of distributing scholarships to area students as well as visiting schools to share the history of the Show and trail rides.
Manager of the entourage and its activities, the Trail Boss has the ultimate responsibility for:

- The safety of not only the riders, animals and equipment on the ride, but also of the public who watch and visit.
- Organization of the structure of the trail ride group, with its officers and members.
- Coordination of the route, including permission to use roads and rest stops, and securing permits and police assistance in each jurisdiction passed.
- Teams of scouts on the ride maintain traffic control and serve as flagmen on horseback. The team of scouts meets with the Trail Boss each night to go over the next day’s route.
- Coordination with the Wagon Boss, who oversees the wagons, equipment and people who make up the ride. Each trail ride has a number of wagons, and each wagon is the nucleus for its own group of members. Each wagon is usually responsible for most of the food preparation for its members.
- The water truck – with all the animals and the volume of water they require, the water truck is an important item.
- The campsite – the Trail Boss sometimes has to make alternate arrangements during the ride if weather makes the condition of the preferred campsite unusable for the group.
- The safety of the public viewing the Downtown Rodeo Parade, and the horses and wagons that pass near them.
- The Trail Boss maintains high visibility during the ride, riding in front and leading the riders along the route, and during the Downtown Rodeo Parade.
Trail Ride Committee

The trail rides bring to the modern city of Houston the visual reminders of our Western heritage, and the Trail Ride Committee works as a team to help bring the 13 trail ride groups safely to Houston for the Downtown Rodeo Parade.

Led by Officer in Charge David Yates and Chairman Scott Baumann, the Trail Ride Committee’s more than 125 members are involved in every aspect of the journey to Houston. Meetings begin months in advance with leadership of the trail rides to cover the safety and management of the thousands of riders traveling from every direction to converge in Houston. Important issues that are covered range from safety of people, equipment and animals on the road to Memorial Park and downtown, to education about carbon monoxide dangers and proper handling of generators.

Members of the Trail Ride Committee judge the rides numerous times along the route, ensuring that safety requirements are met, and that the rides preserve the standards of Western heritage that must be observed by a sanctioned trail ride of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

As the riders enter Houston, they arrive in Memorial Park and additional nearby campgrounds where they are judged for the last time with the help of the Jr. Rodeo Committee. Trail Ride Committee members have prepared the park, providing camp space and water for the horses, and they supervise the campground in shifts around the clock. The public relations subcommittee works with the media in advance and helps them contact the rides out on the road and in town. The committee also provides entertainment and an awards ceremony with the leaders of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Just as the rides load into the park by a time table in specific order on Friday, they leave in reverse order. On Saturday morning they line up early and exit the park, filling Memorial Drive for miles as they make their way to the Downtown Rodeo Parade, escorted by members of the Trail Ride Committee. After the parade and the departure of the rides from Memorial Park, the Trail Ride Committee returns Memorial Park to its original condition. The Trail Ride Committee is proud to help with the kickoff of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo!
Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
5 p.m., Memorial Park
Memorial Drive at North Picnic Lane

All of the rides gather for the Awards Ceremony, with awards presented by Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo officials. In attendance are the Show vice presidents, representing the 28,500 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo volunteers.

The Awards Ceremony celebrates the completion of each of the 13 trail rides with a special award as each trail boss comes forward to receive recognition for the ride they have led.

The awards for Best Trail Ride recognize the best ride in each of the three divisions. Judging takes place during the week on the road, and upon entering Memorial Park.

Divisions:
- Division I: Large Rides – 145 or more participants
- Division II: Medium Rides – 50-144 participants
- Division III: Small Rides – 49 or fewer participants

Judging criteria include appearance of riders and wagons, adherence to safety requirements, approved animals and wagons, behavior of riders within guidelines, and appropriate dress (traditional Western wear).

The trail rides strive to win the Best Trail Ride in their division, and their award includes a flag announcing their status, which they display for the next year.

The Trail Ride Committee also presents The Spirit Award to the two most energetic and enthusiastic wagon groups.

2014 Spirit Award Winners:
- Spirit Award – Texas Independence Trail Ride
- Spirit Award – Prairie View Wagon 8

Following the Awards Ceremony, the trail rides return to spend time with the media who are filing stories for the evening news, and the trail rides return to their respective camps to relax, eat dinner, and prepare for the ride into town early the next morning for the Downtown Rodeo Parade.
Parade Day Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015
7:30 a.m.  Rides line up to exit park
8:00 a.m.  Rides exit park in reverse order from arrival
9:30 a.m.  ConocoPhillips Rodeo Run
10:00 a.m. Downtown Rodeo Parade begins

All rides return to Memorial Park from the Downtown Rodeo Parade and disband by 3 p.m.

Memorial Park Maps
Los Vaqueros
Rio Grande

STORY IDEAS
• Each year, the Coushatta Indians perform for the riders and guests the night before the ride leaves for Memorial Park.
• Stops and visits with children at seven schools.
• Founded the Reata Committee in 1985 which focuses on providing scholarships to Houston area students in hopes of encouraging them to continue their education. The Reata Committee has since transcended into the Go Tejano Committee.
• Los Vaqueros has a memorial wagon for riders that have passed away.
• Has two wagons that are equipped for handicap children - Horseshoes from the Heart. 10-12 special needs children get the opportunity to ride for one or two days on a trail ride.
• The Hidago Fire Department kicks off the trail ride with a special dinner for all the trail riders and their families and friends.

HISTORY
• Los Vaqueros president and trail boss at the time, Larry Ramirez, had the idea to start a ride that no one had ever made before; he wanted theirs to be the longest and farthest of any of the rides.
• They decided to begin the ride in Reynosa, Mexico, at the Texas/Mexico border, crossing into Hidalgo, Texas, and continuing on toward the great city of Houston!
• It has expanded into the group it is today thanks to a great deal of hard work on the part of the Ramirez family.

Key Facts
Years of Participation: 42
Established: February 1973
Start Date: Feb. 7, 2015
Location: Hidalgo, TX
Distance: 386 miles
Number of Riders: 45
Number of Wagons: 5

David Ramirez
Trail Boss
832.426.0580

Sal Ramirez
Assistant Trail Boss
936.200.0106

Sylvia (Ramirez) Partida
Secretary
281.212.7092
Los Vaqueros
Rio Grande

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
Exit FM 822 left under highway – 1 mile camp on left
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour on service road
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Edna Fairgrounds
Daily Distance: 20 miles

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
US-59 North to Dairy King on right
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour at small store
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Louise (Exit Business US-59 North Co-op)
Daily Distance: 20 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour break near a BBQ house
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Pierce (Lot next to DPS/Hwy 59)
Daily Distance: 18 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
Hwy 59 to Kendleton. Turn west and go toward the rodeo grounds to the Kendleton picnic area
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour break at Heinz Bar-B-Que house
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Kendleton Park on Hwy 59
Daily Distance: 19 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
Take Hwy 59 4-5 miles to 529 caution light, left over freeway, take Spur to Hwy 90A. Go through Rosenberg and Richmond, site in back.
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour break at yellow caution light
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Richmond
Daily Distance: 19 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
Stay on Highway 59 and go through Sugarland, Stafford to Chimney Rock. Go left over the railroad tracks, then take the first right on Dryad St. The camp is on the right side at Westbury Little League Park.
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour at Bar-B-Que restaurant
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Westbury Little League Park (5300 Dryad Street, Houston)
Daily Distance: 17 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
From Westbury Little League Park to Memorial Park
• 8 a.m. - Start time
• Lunch - One hour at Williams Transco Tower
• Breaks - Every 4 miles/15 minutes
• Overnight Camp - Memorial Park
Daily Distance: 21 miles
Mission

STORY IDEAS
• Mission is celebrating 25 years on the trail.
• First time in club history to have a female trail boss and assistant trail boss.
• Only ride that begins from one of the original Catholic Missions in Texas.
• Mass is celebrated at Mission Espada, and the riders are blessed as they depart for their two week ride.
• The host club, Ft. Bend County Vaqueros of the Mission Trail Ride, has been providing scholarships for 30 years.
• The Mission Trail Ride has provided over $150,000 in scholarship grants and educational programs. In 2014, the trail ride awarded 6 scholarships at $1,000 each.
• Division Trail Ride Winners in 2008 & 2012.
• The ride recreates the challenges faced by the early Texas ranching Vaquero.

HISTORY
• The Mission Trail Ride was created from members of the Show’s Go Tejano Committee.
• The ride travels from the historical San Antonio Mission Espada.
• On the third Saturday in January 1991, the Mission Trail Ride began its historical recreation of a trail ride that had not traveled east from San Antonio in more than 200 years. This event is recorded on film in television documentaries.
• The Mission Trail Ride has become one of the most decorated trail rides of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Brenda Whited
Trail Boss
832.375.4473

Martha Melo
Assistant Trail Boss
832.202.5825

Juan Gonzales
Assistant Trail Boss

Debbie Lopez
Secretary
832.335.2655

Key Facts
Years of Participation: 25
Established: January 1991
Start Date: Feb. 14, 2015
Location: San Antonio, TX
Distance: 235 miles
Number of Riders: 65
Number of Wagons: 8
**Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015**
- 6 a.m. - Cattle call
- 7 a.m. - Move rigs out to Pop A Top Restaurant (Rock Island)
- 9 a.m. - Pull out
- Lunch - 10.2 miles out, across from Chevron station
- Breaks - As needed, every 5 miles
- Overnight Camp - Cross J Ranch, Rock Island

**Daily Distance:** 14 miles

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015**
- 6 a.m. - Cattle call
- 7 a.m. - Move rigs out to Taco Tony's (Eagle Lake)
- 9 a.m. - Pull out
- Lunch - Altair Hwy 71 at Hwy 90A
- Breaks - As needed, every 5 miles
- Overnight Camp - Taco Tony's (Eagle Lake)

**Daily Distance:** 14.5 miles

**Monday, Feb. 23, 2015**
- 6:30 a.m. - Move rigs out to Riverside Hall (Hwy 90A at Bulls Road)
- 8 a.m. - Pull out
- Lunch - Cemetery on Hwy 90A (approximately 10 miles out)
- Breaks - as needed, every 5 miles
- Overnight Camp - Riverside Hall

**Daily Distance:** 18.6 miles

**Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015**
- 6:30 a.m. - Move rigs out to Rosenberg
- 8 a.m. - Pull out
- Lunch - Hwy 90A at Propane Tank
- Breaks - As needed, every 5 miles
- Overnight Camp - Fiesta Parking Lot, Rosenberg

**Daily Distance:** 16.7 miles

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015**
- 6:30 a.m. - Move rigs out to METRO Park & Ride (Fondren at W. Orem)
- 8 a.m. - Pull out
- Lunch - TBD
- Breaks - As needed
- Overnight Camp - METRO Park & Ride

**Daily Distance:** 17 miles

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015**
*Layover Day*

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2015**
- 6:30 a.m. - Cattle call
- 8 a.m. - Pull out
- Lunch - Petco/Home Depot parking lot (5445 W. Loop South)
- Breaks - As needed
- 3 p.m. - Arrive at Memorial Park
- Overnight Camp - Memorial Park

**Daily Distance:** 13 miles
Northeastern

STORY IDEAS

• Every night and morning NE trail riders circle their wagons and say a prayer to honor and remember their ancestors who took to the trail before them. The legacy of the ring of defense comes from the Buffalo Soldiers, African American Calvary Regiments who observed buffalo protecting their young and old from predators by standing shoulder to shoulder in a circle. The NETRA circle their wagons to protect their own against illiteracy, drug abuse and the loss of their heritage.
• The trail riders consider their yearly ride a spiritual journey for the generations. In fact, over ten children have been born on the ride over the years.
• NETRA organizes a get together of all four African American trail ride groups for multiple events through the year.
• In 2012 the Northeastern Trail Ride Association created a 4-H program in the North Forest ISD and North East Houston that teaches students leadership, history, horsemanship, rodeo skills, agribusiness and photography.

HISTORY

• Northeastern Trail Ride Association won Best Trail Ride in 2003 and 2007 in their division.
• The association received City of Houston proclamation for their All Girls Rodeo in 1999.
• NETRA works with the Triple E Workshop in the Sheldon ISD to manufacture the ride’s buttons for their routes.
• The association contributes to the Agricultural program at Prairie View A&M University giving $30,000 ten years in a row and grants of $500 to $1,000 in FFA scholarships.

Anthony Bruno
Trail Boss
713.530.7986

Keith Mack
Assistant Trail Boss
832.798.8347

Barbara A. Williams
Secretary
713.419.4291

Key Facts

Years of Participation: 23
Established: January 1982
Start Date: Feb. 23, 2015
Location: Beaumont, TX
Distance: 108 miles
Number of Riders: 300
Number of Wagons: 14
Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
• 8 a.m. wagon assembly at Leon Chevis Cheeks, TX - LeDays Arena (7400 Boyd)

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
• 5 a.m. - Wake up call
• 7 am - Pre-ride “Cowboy Church”
• 9 a.m. - Saddle up and pull out
• 10:30 a.m. - Break at S. China Road
• 12 Noon - Lunch at Blair Road
• 2:30 p.m. - Short break at PR 1009
• 4 p.m. - Arrive at campsite (3643 FM 109, Devers, TX)
• 6-9 p.m. - Trail Ride party with DJ

Daily Distance: 16.2 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• 5 a.m. - Wake up call
• 6:30 a.m. - Saddle up and pull out
• 12 Noon - Lunch at Devers Elem.
• 2 p.m. - Rest Stop at mile marker 866 on Hwy 90
• 4 p.m. - Arrive at campsite in Rivon Rodeo Arena (FM 160, Raywood, TX)
• Dance at campsite
Daily Distance: 17 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
• 5 a.m. - Wake up call
• 9 a.m. - Saddle up and pull out
• 10:30 a.m. - Break at Cooper Road
• 12 Noon - Lunch at Ames
• 2:00 p.m. - Rest Stop in Dayton, TX
• 4 p.m. - Arrive at campsite in Bar-N-Bar Rodeo Arena in Dayton, TX (FM 1409)
• Dance at Campsite
Daily Distance: 17 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
• 5 a.m. - Wake up call
• 9 a.m. - Saddle up and pull out
• 10:30 a.m. - Rest at CR 610
• 12 Noon - Lunch at Ramsey Road
• 2 pm - Break at Ramsey Rd & Crosby Dayton Rd
• 5 p.m. - Arrive at campsite at the Crosby Fairgrounds, Crosby, TX
• Dance at Campsite
Daily Distance: 10.7 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
• 5 a.m. - Wake up call
• 8:30 a.m. - Saddle up and pull out
• 9:30 Break Hwy 90 frontage road
• 11:00 lunch at Sheldon Elementary
• 12:30 highway 90/ Bltwy 8 break
• 2:30 p.m. - Break at Hilliard Elem.
• 3:30 p.m. - Break at KIPP Academy
• 5 p.m. - Arrive at campsite in Triangle 7 Arena (8001 Parker in Houston, TX 77078)
• Dance at Campsite

Daily Distance: 20 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
• 5 a.m. - Wake up call
• 8 a.m. - Saddle up and pull out
• 9:30 a.m. - Break at B.C. Elmore Elem.
• 10 a.m. - Rest stop on Liberty Road
• 11:30 a.m. – Lunch at Bruce Elementary (510 Jensen Drive, Houston)
• 3:30 p.m. - Arrive at campsite in Memorial Park
• Dance at Campsite
Daily Distance: 19 miles
OLD SPANISH
Old Spanish

STORY IDEAS
- Old Spanish Trail Ride covers the second longest route after Los Vaqueros every year.
- Morris Brown is the second generation in his family to serve as Trail Boss. Brown has held this position for 35 years, his father began the tradition. Four generations of the Brown and Cases families are participating in this year’s ride.
- In 2014, a number of Old Spanish Trail Ride members gathered in North Louisiana to assist with a benefit ride and pulling the paddy wagon for participants.
- Each year 30 Old Spanish members gather in Bismarck, Arkansas for a four day trip through the mountains to renew friendship and gear up for the ride to Houston.

HISTORY
- Old Spanish won best in their division six years in a row and won again last year.
- They travel 30 miles a day and always stops at an assisted living home in Livingston for Go Western Day to talk to residents and share the trail ride experience.
- Since they travel 216 miles from the Logansport, Haslem, Joaquin area to Houston there is not the usual collection of wagons.

Key Facts
- Years of Participation: 60
- Established: January 1956
- Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
- Location: Logansport, LA
- Distance: 216 miles
- Number of Riders: 50
Old Spanish

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
• Start of trail ride from Logansport, LA
• Overnight Camp - Soso City Park in Timpson, TX
Daily Distance: 25.4 miles

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
• 7 a.m. - Start from Timpson, TX
• Lunch - Appleby Sand Cafe
• Overnight Camp - Total Service Station (Hwy 59 and Loop 224)
Daily Distance: 30.7 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• 7 a.m. - Start from Nacogdoches
• Lunch - Lufkin, at Angelina Expo Center
• Overnight Camp - Old Orchard Park in Diboll, TX
Daily Distance: 29.7 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
• 7 a.m. - Start from Diboll
• Lunch - Picnic area (Hwy 59, one mile south of Moscow, TX)
• Overnight Camp - Barney Wiggins Memorial Park in Livingston
Daily Distance: 37 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
• 7 a.m. - Start from Livingston
• Lunch - Salvage Metal Yard on (Hwy 59 and Loop 424 in Shepherd)
• Overnight Camp - VFW Post (FM 2025 in Cleveland)
Daily Distance: 28.5 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
• 7 a.m. - Start from Cleveland
• Lunch - 21066 US 59 Feeder, New Caney, TX
• Overnight Camp - Teamsters Local, 5939 Bender Road, Humble, TX
Daily Distance: 21.7 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
• 7 a.m. - Start from Humble
• Break - 11th Street and Durham
• Arrive at Memorial Park
• Overnight Camp - Parking Lot H next to Fonde’ Recreation Center in Houston
Daily Distance: 36.9 miles
PRAIRIE VIEW

HOUSTON Livestock Show and Rodeo
**Prairie View**

**STORY IDEAS**
- Under the leadership of Myrtis Dightman, Jr., this association has endeavored to refocus on its mission of education and giving. The association spent a significant portion of last year working with local school and building relationships with the cities of Hempstead and Prairie View.
- Winner of 2014 Spirit Award and Division II Award in 2012 & 2013.
- 7W Youth Scrambles toward HLSR.
- Annual Safety Workshop and Wagon Inspection.
- PVTRA 2015 Annual Chili Cook-Off.
- Wild Hog Exhibition.
- Stop by Jones Elementary School on Feb. 23, 9:30-11 a.m. in Prairie View, TX.
- Parade by Waller ISD Feb. 24, 11-11:45 a.m.; starting at Holleman Elem., Waller Jr. High and finishes up at Schultz Middle School.
- Assist PV Fire Dept. with its Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and Christmas Toy Drive.
- Assists Jones Elem. with its Community Garden Project.

**HISTORY**
- Established in 1957 under the leadership of James Francies Jr., Nannie Francis, Dr A.N. Poindexter and Myrtis Dightman, Sr.
- PVTRA serves as a booster for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and supports Prairie View University in its educational programs.
- Approved in 1958 as the 1st African American Trail of the HLSR and oldest in the U.S.
- All black trail rides of Texas have roots that trace back to the PVTRA known as the “Mother” of the Black Trails.

**KEY FACTS**
- Years of Participation: 58
- Established: January 1957
- Start Date: Feb. 22, 2015
- Location: Hempstead, TX
- Distance: 87 miles
- Number of Riders: 150
- Number of Wagons: 6
Prairie View

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
301 Donoho, Hempstead, TX 7445
• 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Registration
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
22063 FM 1098, Prairie View, TX 77445
• 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Registration
• 9 a.m. - Break Camp
• 12 p.m. - Lunch Brumlow @ Cochran Rd.
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social
Daily Distance: 14 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
22063 FM 1098, Prairie View, TX 77445
• 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Registration
• 9 a.m. - “Show & Tell” - At Jones Elementary
• 12 p.m. - Parade around PV A&M and Chili Cook-Off
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social
Daily Distance: 4 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
Community of Faith Church, 16124 Becker Rd, Hockley, TX 77447
• 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Registration
• 9 a.m. - Break Camp
• 10 a.m. - Parade by Holleman Elem., Waller Jr. High & Schultz Middle School
• 12 p.m. - Lunch Waller, TX 77484
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social
Daily Distance: 22 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
Sam Houston Race Park, 7575 N Sam Houston West, Houston, TX 77064
• 8 a.m. - Break Camp
• 12 p.m. - Lunch @ 25525 Hwy 290 (Behind Target and Best Buy)
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social
Daily Distance: 20 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
Community of Faith “The King Dome”, 1024 Pinemont Dr., Houston, TX 77091
• 8 a.m. - Break Camp
• 12 p.m. - Lunch @ Garden City Park (9717 W. Montgomery Rd.)
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social
Daily Distance: 14 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
Memorial Park
• 9 a.m. - Break Camp
• 12 p.m. - Lunch - Northwest Mall (Hwy 290 & Mangum)
• 8 p.m. - Camp Social
• Overnight Camp - Memorial Park
Daily Distance: 15 miles
Salt Grass

STORY IDEAS
• Unique Stop: They will stop at the Austin County Fairgrounds on Feb. 22, 2015 in Bellville, TX.
• The Ride will observe “Tough Guys Wear Pink” to promote Breast Cancer Awareness as they ride through historic Bellville.
• They will observe “Friday Red Day” on Feb. 27, 2015 riding into Memorial Park in support of our service members and recognition of their sacrifice.
• The Salt Grass Trail Ride has won the Division 1 award (Largest Trail Ride) for many years in its history.
• The Salt Grass Trail Ride has awarded a Show scholarship for the last 7 consecutive years.
• They also award annual prizes within their ride for Best Trail Rider, Youngest Boy and Girl Riders (highly sought after and a family tradition for some!), Most Experienced Woman Rider, Oldest Rider, Furthest Traveled Rider (inside AND outside the United States) and Best Trail Horse.
• Members began the Salt Grass Trail Ride for love of the animal, fellowship and the camaraderie of family and friends, bringing them closer to the history of the ride. Salt Grass is “The Grand-Daddy of ‘em All”!

HISTORY
• Salt Grass is the original trail ride from which all others were inspired. It created a whole new generation of organized trail riding.
• Since its inception, trail riders in other Texas cities, and even in countries as far away as Spain, have followed suit and started similar trail rides.
• The idea for the revived Salt Grass Trail Ride came in the first week of January, 1952.

Key Facts
Years of Participation: 64
Established: January 1952
Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
Location: Cat Spring, TX
Distance: 100.7 miles
Number of Riders: 1,400
Number of Wagons: 25
www.saltgrasstrailride.com

Mitch Morgan
Trail Boss
832.788.1890

Dan Johnston
Assistant Trail Boss
713.201.1047

Conni Meyer
Media Contact
281.615.3707
Salt Grass

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
• 1 pm - Ride leaves Walker Pasture
• Circle Ride
Daily Distance: 8.6 miles

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
• 9 am - Ride leaves Walker Pasture
• Lunch - FM 949 just before Schaffner Road
• Overnight Camp - Austin County Fairgrounds
Daily Distance: 12.5 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• 9 am - Ride leaves Austin County Fairgrounds
• Lunch - Cochran Store (FM 159)
• Overnight Camp - Waller County Fairgrounds camp site
Daily Distance: 17.5 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
• 9 am - Ride leaves Waller County Fairgrounds
• Lunch - Monaville Hall on Cochran Rd.
• Overnight Camp - Miller Farms Pasture
Daily Distance: 17.3 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
• 9 am - Ride leaves Miller Farms Pasture
• Lunch - on Beckendorff Road
• Overnight Camp - Katy Park in Katy, TX
Daily Distance: 15 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
• 9 am - Ride Leaves Katy Park in Katy, TX
• Lunch - Cullen Park
• Overnight Camp - Houston Farm & Ranch Club
Daily Distance: 12 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
• 9 am - Ride Leaves Houston Farm & Ranch Club
• Lunch - SW Corner of Kemp Forest & Gessner
• Arrive at Memorial Park
• Overnight Camp - Memorial Park in Houston
Daily Distance: 17.8 miles
STORY IDEAS

• The SHTR donates yearly to the Montgomery Fire Department, Magnolia Fire Department and the Cypress Fire Department as a “Thank you” for supplying water during the ride.

• Each year, the ride donates to the Sharp Family Scholarship. Several scholarships are awarded to seniors that are members of the ride.

• There is a parade held in Tomball where the scholarships will be presented and where the Mayor of Tomball declares by proclamation that it is “Sam Houston Trail Ride Day”.

• The SHTR also stops at St. Ambrose Catholic Church to meet the children. The kids dress up for Go Texan Day and ride around on stick horses in true rodeo spirit.

HISTORY

• The Sam Houston Trail Riders Association was established in 1955 and is the second oldest trail ride coming to Houston.

• It began with only three wagons and has grown to 12 wagons and 250 riders.

• The Wagon Boss of Wagon #2, Jennifer Sechelski, is the granddaughter of one of the original founders, Wert Sharp.

• They follow the trail that General Sam Houston took when he traveled to Houston in the mid-1800’s.

• The trail ride’s purpose is to carry on their Western heritage and try to help as many of our graduating seniors as possible.

Key Facts

- Years of Participation: 61
- Established: February 1955
- Start Date: Feb. 23, 2015
- Location: Montgomery, TX
- Distance: 70 miles
- Number of Riders: 250
- Number of Wagons: 12
- www.samhoustontrailride.com
**DAILY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015**
- Move in and Set Up at Ransom’s Steakhouse (pasture), 300 CB Stewart Dr., Montgomery, TX

**Monday, Feb. 23, 2015**
- Ride leaves Ransom’s at 7:30
- First break at 10 a.m. off FM 149 and the south side of FM 1488
- Lunch - Cooks Depot (Hwy 149)
- Second break at 3 p.m. off of FM 1488
- Overnight Camp - Jack B. Corey Ranch (37102 FM 149, Pinehurst, TX 77362)

Daily Distance: 16 miles

**Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015**
- 8 a.m. - Leave Jack B. Corey Ranch
- First break at 10 a.m. in Decker’s Prairie
- Lunch and Parade - Train Station in Tomball, TX
- Break at 3 p.m. off of FM 2920
- Overnight Camp - Spring Creek Park (15012 Brown Road, Tomball, TX 77375)

Daily Distance: 17 miles

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015**
*Layover Day*
- Spring Creek Park

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015**
- 8 a.m. - Leave Spring Creek Park
- 10 a.m. break is on the side of FM 249
- Lunch - Houston Northwest Church
- 3 p.m. break is on Hwy 249
- Overnight Camp - Sam Houston Race Park (7575 Fallbrook and N. Houston Parkway, Houston, TX 77064)

Daily Distance: 17 miles

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2015**
- 8 a.m. - Leave Sam Houston Race Park
- 10 a.m. - Break on Burlington
- Lunch - St. Ambrose Church on Mangum Drive
- Overnight Camp - Memorial Park

Daily Distance: 18 miles
**Southwest**

**Story Ideas**
- Host annual school supply drive benefiting more than 200 pre-K through 12th grade students and college freshmen; in Harris and surrounding counties.
- Provided fully prepared Thanksgiving dinners packaged in baskets to underprivileged families during their annual Basket of Blessing event.
- During Christmas 2014, riders donated 13 bicycles to children and fulfilled a needy family’s wish list.

**History**
- In 1997, the ride was sanctioned by the Show. Since its inception in 1993, the ride has continued to strive to support youth through education, scholarship and community service.
- Education: The ride has sponsored animals for agricultural students, donated funds for 4-H students to attend summer camp, co-sponsored calf scramblers for the Black Professional Cowboys and Cowgirls Association annual rodeo, and participated in the HISD all-district ag sale.
- Scholarship: To date, the ride has awarded approximately $135,000 in scholarship funds to high school seniors in the Houston area.
- Community Service: The ride hosts an annual fun day, to provide a safe and fun place for children while teaching them about horsemanship, sportsmanships, teamwork and camaraderie. Horses are provided for children to ride. A petting zoo is part of the one-day event. This event is free for the community and area children. The ride also has donated toys and other items to the Martin Luther King Center, Third Ward Multi-purpose Center, and the Richmond State School.

**Key Facts**
- Years of Participation: 22
- Established: January 1993
- Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
- Location: Rosenberg, TX
- Distance: 120 miles
- Number of Riders: 250
- Number of Wagons: 14
- www.southwesttrailridersassoc.org
# Daily Schedule

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015**
- Leave Fort Bend County Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. traveling south on Hwy 36
- Break - on Hwy 36
- Lunch (between 11 a.m and 1 p.m. everyday) - at Tejano Nights on Hwy 36
- Overnight Camp - Needville Fair area in Needville, TX

Daily Distance: 11 miles

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015**
- Leave Needville Fair Area at 8 a.m. traveling south on Hwy 36
- Break - Hwy 36
- Lunch - in Damon, TX
- Overnight Camp - HL&P West Columbia, TX

Daily Distance: 24 miles

**Monday, Feb. 23, 2015**
- Leave HL&P West Columbia at 9 a.m. traveling south on Hwy 36 to Hwy 35
- Break - on Hwy 35
- Lunch - Bar X Ranch in Bailey Prairie, TX
- Overnight Camp - Brazoria County Fairgrounds in Angleton, TX

Daily Distance: 12 miles

**Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015**
- Leave Brazoria County Fairgrounds at 9 a.m. for Sandy Point, TX
- Lunch - Hwy 288 and 288 Business
- Break - Post Office in Bonney, Texas
- Overnight Camp - Venus Property in Sandy Point, TX

Daily Distance: 23 miles

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015**
- Leave Venus Property at 9 a.m. for Fresno, TX
- Lunch - Ricky D’s Dance Club in Juliff, Texas
- Overnight Camp - SWTRA Property in Houston, TX

Daily Distance: 19 miles

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015**
- Leave SWTRA Property at 9 a.m.
- Lunch - Harris County Line on Hwy 521 and Beltway 8
- Overnight Camp - SWTRA Property in Houston, TX

Daily Distance: 18 miles

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2015**
- Leave for Memorial Park
- Break - along FM 521
- Lunch - Westpark Drive behind Coca-Cola
- Overnight Camp - SWTRA Property in Houston, TX

Daily Distance: 19 miles
LEGEND
1 ROSENBURG – FORT BEND COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
2 NEEDVILLE – FAIR GROUNDS
3 WEST COLUMBIA
4 ANGELETON – BRAZORIA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
5 ROSHARON – TUTMAN PROPERTY
6 ARCOLA – FORT BEND COMMUNITY CENTER
7 HOUSTON – SOUTHWEST TRAIL RIDE ASSOCIATION (SWTRA) PROPERTY
L DAILY LUNCH STOPS
STORY IDEAS

• The first day of the trail ride, Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015 is dedicated to the youth of the ride. Their circle ride will be led by the youth along side the officers and scouts.

• Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 the ride will stop at Heritage Rose Elem. School in Rosharon, TX for lunch. On Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2015 the ride will stop by Lula Belle Goodman Elem. School in Fresno, TX for lunch. At each of these stops they will visit with the children and introduce them to the cowboys/cowgirls for a discussion about the trail ride and for wagon rides.

• Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 the City of Bellaire will cheer on the SWTRA as they parade by the Historical Teas Nursery and site of the new Evelyn’s Park Conservancy at 4400 Bellaire. The Ride will pass by around 10:45 a.m.

HISTORY

• First organized in 1973 with 11 members, the Southwestern Trail Riders Association first participated in the Downtown Rodeo Parade with four wagons.

• SWTRA scholarship program was founded in 1999 by Mr. James Middleton. The funds raised and efforts by volunteers have equaled over $80,000 to college scholarships thus far. Throughout the year each wagon club sponsors an event to help raise funds for the program. Scholarship recipients return each year to the annual banquet to encourage the youth and speak of their accomplishments that their scholarship has enabled.

• SWTRA has received several awards over the years. They were awarded Top Trail Ride in their division in 1981, 1987, 1988, 1995 and 2009. In 2010 and 2011 the ride won the Trail Ride Committee Spirit Award. In 2014 they were awarded the Best Parade Trail Ride by the Parade Committee.

Key Facts

- Years of Participation: 42
- Established: January 1973
- Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
- Location: West Columbia, Texas
- Distance: 100 miles
- Number of Riders: 250
- Number of Wagons: 9
DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
• Circle Ride - Kids Fun day!
• Lunch Break - 12-12:30 p.m.
• Overnight Camp - 329 Ellis Lane, West Columbia, TX 77486
Daily Distance: 5 miles

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
• Pull out, turn left onto Hwy 35 towards Hwy 521
• Lunch Break - 1440 Hwy 35 South
• Overnight Camp - RV Ranch - 29028 FM 521, McBeth, TX
Daily Distance: 10 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• Pull out, right onto Hwy 521
• Break - every 4 miles / 30 minutes
• Lunch Break - Hwy 521 & Business Rd. 288 (1 hour)
• Overnight Camp - Juliff, TX
Daily Distance: 20 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
• Pull out, right onto Hwy 521 to Glendale Lake
• Rest Stop - Heritage Rose Elementary (1.5 hours)
• Overnight Camp - Arcola, TX (if rain, then camp at Hwy 6 & 521)
Daily Distance: 17 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
• Pull out, left on Post Oak Blvd
• Lunch Break - Lula Belle Goodman Elementary (1.5 hours)
• Overnight Camp - Tom Bass Park, Feeder of Beltway 8, between 288 and Cullen, Houston, TX
Daily Distance: 17 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
• Pull out, U-turn on Beltway 8 then head towards Almeda School Rd.
• Lunch Break - Hwy 521/Almeda Rd. & Fellows Road (1 hour)
• Overnight Camp - Post Oak Arena, 15253 S. Post Oak Road
Daily Distance: 7 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
• Pull out, right on Post Oak Road
• 10:45 am.m City of Bellaire/Evelyn’s Park Conservancy, 4400 Bellaire Blvd
• Lunch Break - Newcastle & Bissonett
• Overnight Camp - Memorial Park in Houston, TX
Daily Distance: 5 miles
2015 STRA
Trail Ride Route
AND OFFICERS

President/Trail Boss
Rosaetta Gray

Vice President/Asst Trail Boss
Elizabeth Cook

Ambassador
Fred Gray

Queen
Theresa Victoria

Financial Secretary
Vonda Ponce

Treasurer
Michael Tippett

Recording Secretary
Gabrielle Curvey

Ram Rod
Leon "Blue" Woods

Chief Scout
Les Montgomery

Wagon Master
Henry "T90" Davidson

Youth Coordinator
Kathy Hebert

Parliamentarian
Mike Wilson

Trail Ride Coordinator
Don White

Sargent At Arms
Carlette Lee

Friday/February 20th
West Columbia, Texas
329 Ellis Lane, 77486

Saturday/February 21st
Circle Ride – 5 Miles
Kids Fun Day
West Columbia, Texas

Sunday/February 22nd
McBeth, Texas
FM RD 521- R. V. Ranch
10 Miles

Monday/February 23rd
Juliff, Texas
9909 FM RD 521
20 Miles

Tuesday/February 24th
Arcola, TX
S. Post Oak @ Hwy 6
17 miles

Wednesday/February 25th
Pearland, Texas – 10 Miles
Tom Bass Park
Cullen @ Beltway 8

Thursday/February 26th
Houston, Texas – Post Oak Arena
15253 S. Post Oak Rd.
7 miles

Friday/February 27th
Houston, Texas - Memorial Park
10 miles

Saturday/February 28th
Downtown Parade
SPANISH TRAIL
Spanish Trail

STORY IDEAS

• Each year, Spanish Trail supports a number of FFA and 4-H chapter fundraisers in towns suggested by members of the ride.
• Received Top Trail Ride award in their division for 1983, 1985, and 1987.
• Joe Cantrell has served 37 consecutive years as Trail Boss and the Rodeo recognized him with a special award on his 30th anniversary.
• This is a family ride. Two generations of the Cantrell family lead the ride, and four generations participate. Joe Cantrell will lead the ride to Houston for the 38th time.
• Friday morning families with children are welcome to visit the ride in the Sears parking lot on N. Shepard from 10:30-11:00am.

HISTORY

• J.P. Dugat of Sour Lake, TX, started Spanish Trail with several of his friends and their families. Riding together for a week provided good fellowship and taught the young people about the hardships and rewards of life in the early years of Texas.
• Joe Cantrell has been the Trail Boss since 1978. His kids have grown up on this ride and are now joined by grandchildren and great grandchildren.
• Maintains a presence along their route by going to local schools in the towns they pass so the children can see the wagons, horses and riders, and see a glimpse of past life in Texas.
• The Spanish Trail Ride is dedicated to preserving Western heritage by teaching the younger generation about true Western traditions.
• A very consistent family ride, Spanish Trail observes the tradition of travelling their established route into Houston each year.

Key Facts

Years of Participation: 55
Established: January 1961
Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
Location: Shepherd, TX
Distance: 109 miles
Number of Riders: 150
Number of Wagons: 10
Spanish Trail

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
• 8:30 a.m. - pull out for Circle Ride
• Morning Break - Rest area on Hwy 150
• Noon Break - FR 217 and Hwy 150
• Evening Break - FR 217 and FR 221
• Overnight Camp - Danny Everitt’s Place in Shepherd, TX
Daily Distance: 15 miles

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
• 8:15 a.m. - pull out for Circle Ride
• Morning Break - FR 217 and FR 221
• Noon Break - Firetower on Hwy 2025
• Evening Break - FR 217 and FR 221
• Overnight Camp - Danny Everitt’s Place in Shepherd, TX
Daily Distance: 14 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• 8 a.m. - pull out for ride to Bronco Speedway in Cleveland, TX
• 1st Morning Break - Lower Vann Road at River Creek
• 2nd Morning Break - Yeager Road and Hwy 945
• Noon Break - FR 274 Hunters Camp Area
• Evening Break - Hwy 1725 and Fostoria Road
• Overnight Camp - 105 Speedway in Cleveland, TX
Daily Distance: 19 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
• 8 a.m. - pull out for ride to Albert Sallas Park in New Caney, TX
• Morning Break - Fostoria Road and Hwy 59
• Noon Break - Creekwood Drive exit and Hwy 59
• Evening Break - Caney Creek and Hwy 59
• Overnight Camp - Albert Sallas Park in New Caney, TX
Daily Distance: 16 miles

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
• 8:30 a.m. - pull out for ride to the Civic Center Arena in Humble, TX
• Morning Break - Between FM 1314 and North Park on feeder road
• Noon Break - Reeves Furniture at San Jacinto River
• Overnight Camp - Civic Center Arena in Humble, TX
Daily Distance: 14 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
• 8 a.m. - pull out for ride to Sears (4000 N. Shepherd in Houston)
• Morning Break - Kanes Western Wear (Aldine Bender and Hwy 59)
• Noon Break - Gillespie (I-45 North)
• Evening Break - N. Shepherd near Little York Rd.
• Overnight Camp - Sears (4000 N. Shepherd in Houston)
Daily Distance: 19 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
• 11:30 a.m. - Pull out for ride into Memorial Park
• Overnight Camp - Memorial Park in Houston
Daily Distance: 8 miles
STORY IDEAS

- The Support Our Troops Wagon, owned by Floyd Stewart & Jim Blount was the original 1871 Pekin Farm Wagon. The greatest honor of “The Support Our Troops Wagon” is that it bears the dog tag of every fallen soldier in Montgomery County from the Korean War to Present.

- TCTR supports the “Portrait of a Warrior Memorial Art Gallery” in Baytown, TX. The artist, Ken Pridgeman makes it his mission to paint portraits of fallen Texas Veterans. Ken donates his time and talent to families all across Texas who have lost loved ones to war.

- TCTR is a family ride with the oldest rider, Martha Laird 82 years old and the youngest rider is her grandson, Jackson at 6 years old.

- Texas Cattlemen’s Trail Ride Members; along with their horses, will support Breast Cancer Awareness on Thursday, Feb. 26.

- On Friday, Feb. 27, as the ride heads into Memorial Park they will show support of our troops by wearing red, white, blue. They are proud to ride, “In honor of our men and women of the Armed Forces, recognizing their sacrifices for our country, here in the United States and abroad!”

HISTORY

- In 1986, four friends formed the Texas Cattlemen’s Trail Ride to promote youth and education through the Show.

- This ride is made up of Retired Policemen, Veterans of the US Military and their families. They will carry the US Flag honoring the Veterans and also the POW Flag to honor those currently held captive and who have perished while in captivity.

- The Texas Cattlemen’s Trail Ride goal is safety, having fun, humane treatment of animals, and upholding the image and values Western heritage.
**Texas Cattlemen’s**

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015**
- No Ride, Form Up
- Overnight Camp at Henry’s Hide-out, 46010 FM 1774 Magnolia, TX 77354

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015**
- Circle ride, depart at 10:30 a.m.
- Two breaks
- Overnight Camp at Henry’s Hide-out, 46010 FM 1774, Magnolia, TX 77354
- Daily distance 7.2 miles

**Monday, Feb. 23, 2015**
- Start time, 9 a.m.
- Three Breaks, Including School Visits
- Willy Williams Elementary School Visit
- Magnolia Parkway Elementary School Visit
- Overnight camp at New Pine Needle, 1219 Honea Egypt, Magnolia, TX 77354
- Daily Distance 17 miles

**Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015**
- Start time, 9 a.m.
- Three Breaks
- Lunch at Spring Creek Feed Store
- Overnight camp at VFW Hall, 14408 Alice Road, Tomball, TX 77377
- Daily Distance 16 miles

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015**
*Layover Day at at VFW Hall, 14408 Alice Road, Tomball, TX 77377*

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015**
- Start time, 8:30 a.m.
- Four Breaks
- Lunch and School Visit at Houston NW Church, 19911 State Highway 249, Houston, TX 77070
- Overnight camp at 7657 Breen Dr. Houston, TX 77088
- Daily Distance 16.4 miles

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2015**
- Start time, 9 a.m.
- Two breaks, plus school visit at Eiland Elementary School, 6700 North Klein Circle Drive, Houston, TX 77088
- Overnight camp, Memorial Park
- Daily Distance 12.4 miles
Texas Independence
Texas Independence

STORY IDEAS

• Won Division 2 & Spirit Award presented by Trail Ride Committee and won Best Trail Ride Group presented by Parade Committee in 2014
• It has been a long standing tradition that the Texas Independence Trail Ride rides into Johnson Space Center (NASA) on the Tuesday of their ride. Riding alongside the trail riders will be a group of special needs individuals. The group is welcomed with a traditional parade and then they set up camp for lunch. One could say they are “Space Cowboys” for the night!
• Texas EquuSearch is an organization they hold close to their hearts. In fact, Tim Miller (founder of Texas EquuSearch) is one of the ride’s members.
• The ride sets aside money each year to assist families with unexpected illnesses, accidents and other life tragedies.
• On Monday 2/23 the riders will lunch at Kroger, 3100 S. Gordon, Alvin, TX, the group will make a bank deposit at the Wells Frago Bank located in the parking lot through the drive thru on horseback. Contact for this event is Tina Wargo 281.744.8404

HISTORY

• The ride was formed in 1961 by a group of riders who originally rode with Salt Grass.
• Riders are not required to ride with a wagon group, which constitutes fewer wagons and a lot of independent riders.
• Each year, the ride passes many schools along its route into Houston. Students look forward to seeing the riders, dressing in Western wear to welcome the ride.
• Preserving the cowboy heritage is the tradition of the ride. There are many authentic wagons and buggies on the ride.
• Riders live a life that is the cowboy way. The trail ride is a time to relax and see the world at a slow pace, about 3 miles per hour. It’s like going back in time when horses, wagons and buggies were the only means of travel.

Jeff Simpson
Trail Boss
409.739.6725

Sandy Flippo
Assistant Trail Boss
979.248.1012

Tina Wargo
Secretary
281.744.8404

Key Facts

Years of Participation: 54
Established: January 1961
Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
Location: Brazoria, TX
Distance: 108 miles
Number of Riders: 150
Number of Wagons: 8
Texas Independence

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015
• Circle Ride, Leave Brazoria County Fairgrounds
• Lunch Kick’s Club
• First Break FM 523 and CR 233
• Second Break Cemetery Rd. and Hwy 288
Daily Distance: 15 miles

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015
• Leave Brazoria County Fairgrounds on CR 428
• Break - exit road before CR 171
• Lunch - Danbury City Park
• Break - Old Roadside Park on Hwy 35 N
• Break - Hwy 35 N
• Overnight Camp - Alvin Rotary Park (CR 172, Alvin, TX)
Daily Distance: 9 miles

Monday, Feb. 23, 2015
• Leave Alvin Rotary Park on Hwy 35 N
• Break - Roadside Park on Hwy 35 N
• Break - on shoulder of Hwy 35 N
• Lunch - Kroger parking on Hwy 35 N
• Overnight Camp - Alvin Youth Livestock Arena, Alvin, TX
Daily Distance: 11.7 miles

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015
• Leave Alvin Youth Arena, Right on CR 351
• Break - corner of FM 528 and Lundy Lane

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015
• Leave JSC on FM 528
• Break - Bay Area Park
• Lunch - Pasadena Fire Department on Genoa Red Bluff
• Break - shoulder of Fairmont Pkwy
• Overnight Camp - Moose Lodge (3919 Pansy St. Pasadena, TX)
Daily Distance: 13 miles

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015
• Leave Moose Lodge
• Break - at parking lot on corner of Allen-Genoa and Spencer
• Lunch - Foodarama on Hwy 3 and Howard
• Break - “closed” Bennigan’s (past YMCA) across from Enterprise Bank
• Overnight Camp - 4320 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX
Daily Distance: 13 miles

Friday, Feb. 27, 2015
• Leave Old Spanish Trail
• First Break Cullen and I-45 Feeder
• Second Break Gray and Taft
• Lunch - Depelchin Center
• Overnight Camp - Memorial Park
Daily Distance: 11.3 miles
Texas Independence
VALLEY LODGE

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
Valley Lodge

Story Ideas
- The Valley Lodge Trail Ride is highly involved with the Brookwood Community located in Brookshire, Texas.
- Received the award for the Best Trail Ride in the 2012 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Parade.
- The ride has the distinction of being known as the “Champagne Ride,” for the gourmet dinners served. Also known as a family ride.

History
- In 1960, the Valley Lodge Trail Ride rode into Houston as the third trail ride to receive its charter from the Show.
- The ride originated as a promotional event to attract buyers to a new subdivision, in Simonton, TX, Valley Lodge Subdivision, and thus how it got its name.
- The purpose of this trail ride is to promote their Western culture and to support the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.
- These dedicated cowboys and cowgirls dust off their chaps at Memorial Park after a 75 mile ride into Houston.
- After a day long ride, Valley Lodge Trail Ride head into Pecan Acres Ranch. The special guests of the evening are the citizens of Brookwood Community, a home for adults with special needs.

Key Facts
- Years of Participation: 56
- Established: January 1959
- Start Date: Feb. 21, 2015
- Location: Brookshire, TX
- Distance: 75 miles
- Number of Riders: 75-100
- Number of Wagons: 7
- www.vltra.com
**Valley Lodge**

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

**Sat. Feb. 21, 2015**
- 10 a.m. - Begin at Highway 90 (1 mile west of Brookshire)
- 11:30 a.m. - Break on Peach Ridge Road (between Donigan and House Road)
- 12:30 p.m. - Lunch at the corner of House Road and FM 1489
- 2:30 p.m. - Break on FM 1489 (between Hunt Road and Vernon Frost Road)
- 4:30 p.m. - Arrive at camp
- Overnight Camp - Pecan Acres Ranch on Vernon Frost Road

**Daily Distance:** 11.6 miles

**Sunday, Feb. 22, 2015**
- 8:30 a.m. - Begin from Pecan Acres Ranch
- 10 a.m. - Break on the corner of Love Rd. and Rogers Rd.
- 11 a.m. - Break on the corner of Wallis Road and 5th St.
- 12:30 p.m. - Lunch on Bois D'Arc (1.5 miles north of FM 1093)
- 2 p.m. - Break on corner of Bois D'Arc and Winner Foster
- 3:15 p.m. - Break on Winner Foster just west of FM 359
- Overnight Camp - Gordon Ranch (Jewish Community Center on FM 359)

**Daily Distance:** 13.8 miles

*Ride Disbands until Wednesday*

**Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015**
- 9 a.m. - Begin from Gordon Ranch
- 10:30 a.m. - McCrary and Morton Road
- 12 p.m. - Lunch at Grand Parkway (Hwy 99) and Morton Road
- 2:30 p.m. - Fry Road at Hwy 99
- Overnight Camp - Great Southwest Equestrian Center

**Daily Distance:** 15 miles

**Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015**
- 9 a.m. - Begin from Great Southwest Equestrian Center
- 10:30 a.m. - Break at Addicks Dam Equestrian Parking Area
- 12:30 noon - Lunch at the Park & Ride Lot on Katy Freeway and Barker Cypress
- 1:30 p.m. - Break at the Church on Park Row Road and Highway 6
- Overnight Camp - Houston Farm and Ranch Club

**Daily Distance:** 15.1 miles

**Friday, Feb. 27, 2015**
- 8 a.m. - Houston Farm and Ranch Club
- 9:15 a.m. - Conoco Phillips on Eldridge Parkway
- 10:30 a.m. - Break at Memorial City Way and I-10
- 12 noon – Metro National on I-10
- Overnight Camp – Memorial Park

**Daily Distance:** 15.8 miles
Back in the Saddle Again!