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Houston TX 77079

DIRECTORS

Larry Byars
Joe Fidler
Bill Friedrich
Janis Morton
Lynn Nunez
Joey Pedigo
Leo Reichle
Kimberly Smith
Steve Watson
Jody Wren

SAVE THE DATE: March 15, 2007

**Rancher's Ride
Buyers Appreciation Party &
Happy Hour**

Date: Thursday, March 15
Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Place: Main Corral Club
2nd Floor, Reliant Center

Newsletter Editor: Leslea Stock

Did I overlook your happy news? Send me an e-mail and give me the scoop and it could end up in the next issue of the newsletter:
Stock_leslea@yahoo.com

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Rancher's Ride

News From The Trail

Volume 7 Issue 1

February 2007

GET READY FOR THE 21ST ANNUAL RANCHER'S RIDE APRIL 19 – 22, 2007

Trail Bosses: **Joe & Frances Fidler**
Assistant Trail Bosses: **Toby & Keri Hicks**

Rancher's Ride Schedule

Thursday
GATES OPEN AT 9AM, NO ENTRY PRIOR

Lunch	11:30-1:00pm
Team sorting	1:00pm
Dinner	7:30pm
Dancing – Louie Crapitto	8:30pm

Friday

Mandatory Rookie Meeting	8:00am
Breakfast	9:00am
Rancher's Ride	10:00am
Lunch on the Trail	12:30pm
Dinner – "Hawaiian Nite"	7:00pm
Dancing – Gary P. Nunn	8:30pm

Saturday

Breakfast	9:00am
Rancher's Ride	10:00am
Lunch on the Trail	1:00pm
Dinner/Raffle/Auction	7:00pm
Dancing – Patrick Murphy	9:00pm
Awards ceremony	10:30pm

Sunday

Cowboy Breakfast/church	10:00am
New Member Presentation And Awards	Following church

All Rancher's Ride members should have received their membership invitation. Contact **Kimberly Smith** at (713)898-7899 or kasmith10@aol.com, if you have not received this information.

Member trek fees are \$250, guest trek fees are \$300. Fees due by March 30. Make checks payable to: The Rancher's Ride, Inc and mail to:
14027 Memorial Drive #123, Houston TX 77079

ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year the RR Directors recognize those members who exemplify the spirit of the ride.

Awards will be given for the following categories:

- Best Dressed Male
- Best Dressed Female
- Hard Luck Award
- Rookie of the year
- Outstanding rider of the year – Male & Female
- Campsite competition

CAMPSITE COMPETITION

This will be the first year for a Campsite Competition and everyone is invited to compete.

The camps will be judged on:

- Overall Theme & Name
- Originality
- Organization
- Hospitality (especially toward the judges)
- Cleanliness
- Dress

Judges will be made up of Directors and long-time members. Trophies and bragging rights go to the most outstanding camp -- will it be yours?

4TH ANNUAL TEAM SORTING EVENT

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2007
Time: 1:00 pm
Place: Arena
Entry Deadline: Friday, April 13. No late entries.

The enclosed flyer provides the application and details of the sorting. Applications are due no later than April 13.

Contact **Larry Byars** at (281)798-0619, with questions.

TRAILER/CAMPER SET UP

Power will be on a first-come, first served basis. There is no guarantee that service will be available in all areas. If you hook-up and the circuit breaker blows, you won't be able to use that circuit. Use large gauge wire so you won't cause a power failure. If power is not available, you must bring your own.

Water may be turned off when the kitchen is busy (e.g. preparing meals). The lines are not big enough to serve both the kitchen and trailers too.

Contact **Joe Fidler** at (281)469-4552 for service hook-up questions.

RAFFLE AND AUCTION

This year we have two fabulous raffle items.

1. "Tricked-out golf cart": \$6,000 value. Custom paint job depicting the Texas flag, lift kit with mag wheels, chrome running boards, cd/stereo, flip down seats and front and back headlights.
2. "75th Anniversary Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo commemorative saddle": \$1500.00 value (but it is priceless!)

Each \$50.00 ticket gives you a chance to win one of these great items. Every member will be mailed one ticket, but if you would like to purchase more tickets they will be available through the Directors at the ride. **Doug Knutzen** is heading our raffle this year. If you would like to help sell raffle tickets, please contact Doug at (832)752-1545. Let's give a big round of applause to past raffle chair, **Ellen Kirkland**. Tell her 'thanks' when you see her for all her past work.

Our silent and live auction is shaping up to be another great one. If you have items to contribute, please contact **Leo Reichle** at (713)586-7117 or **Jules Harris Moore** at (713)854-6500. REMEMBER, RANCHERS RIDE, INC DISTRIBUTES 100% OF ALL MONIES RAISED. We have donated over \$400,000 to our designated charities. Jules has agreed to be our auction chairman for one more year. Please tell her 'thanks' for all her hard work.

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

All members in good standing who wish to put forth a new member must have the applicant fill out an application, have it signed by 2 members and submit it to the RR board by March 15.

Forms can be found on the Rancher's Ride Web Site at www.ranchersride.org.

1ST YEAR RIDER DUTIES

Sponsors, please tell your 1st year rider that they are required to serve the food for breakfast and dinner.

1st year members need to attend the rookie meeting on Friday morning at 8am at the cook house and return there 30 minutes prior to all meals. Contact **Joey Pedigo** at (936)327-8515 with questions.

There is no better way to meet ALL the riders and help the members on the cook team, who deserve the respect of all guests and members for their hard work.

ETIQUETTE ON THE RIDE

For the enjoyment of all the riders, please read and follow these simple rules and make it a fun ride for all.

1. All riders are to recognize and abide by the decisions of the Trail Boss. No rider shall precede the Trail Boss of lag behind the Drag Rider.
2. Stay on the trail. Do not take short cuts. Do not leave the ride or trail without notifying the Trail Boss or Drag Rider. Not less than three riders may leave the main ride for any reason. Individual rides out of camp must have three riders at all times.
3. Keep up the pace. Do not use an extended trot or lope to catch up. Do not lag behind.
4. When passing another horse, ask permission to do so or in some way notify the rider ahead of you that you wish to pass.
5. Maintain a reasonable and safe distance between horses. If your horse is a kicker, be sure he wears a red ribbon on his tail.
6. When tying your horse, tie short enough so that it cannot break away and cause trouble. Do not tie too close to another horse. Tie to a fixed object not apt to break or scare a horse if he pulls back.
7. Never throw your trash down to the ground. If you take it in, you can take it out.
8. Smoke ONLY at designated areas called by the Trail Boss. Absolutely no smoking while riding down the trail.
9. Do not crowd at watering places.
10. Do not stop on narrow trails. The Trail Boss will try not to stop unless it is safe for all riders.
11. No stallions allowed on the trail.
12. Hobbles may not be used unless a horse is tied.
13. Don't crowd the horse in front of you.
14. No fighting, you will be immediately ejection from the ride by fighting.
15. Have fun and treat others like you would like to be treated.

WAGONS NEEDED

We will be missing our wagons this year and we are asking members with wagons to bring them to the ride. The wagons need to have rubber tires and the capacity to carry our medic and his/her supplies. We would request that the wagons not have the bows in place, in order to keep damage from occurring. The trails are difficult and the animals must be in good pulling condition. Please contact **Bill Friedrich** at (713) 650-3030, if you or someone you know can supply a wagon. Thanks.

MEMBER NEWS

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR OWN

As many of you may know, **Bobby Schmidt** a member and longtime friend of the Ride, is battling lung cancer. We spoke with his wife **Nancy** and she wanted to pass along Bobby's progress and courage in winning this battle.

Nancy began by thanking all of the members for their prayers and concerns. She said that Bobby had just started his forth round of chemo and is continuing with radiation twice a day through February 26th. The doctors are amazed at his progress and the tumor is starting to show signs of shrinking...So the prayers are working!! The emails, phone calls and cards are truly appreciated and they are hopeful that they we will see everyone on the Ride.

On behalf of all the RR members, we stand by you both and look forward to healthy days ahead and seeing you back on the Ride, where you belong.

LOVE ON THE TRAIL

We have several Riders married since the last ride:

- ♥ **Karen Russell** and Mark Williams
- ♥ Kelly Dietrich and **Harry Klein**
- ♥ **Stacey Golden** and **David Wells**
- ♥ **Marty Solon** and **Craig Officer**

Our best wishes...and congratulations to all!

FUTURE MEMBERS

Double congratulations go to **Larry** and **Angie Byars**, who recently became grandparents twice over. Two times the opportunity to spoil the kids!

2007 APPOINTMENTS

HLSR:

Kim Baker: Chairman, Team Penning & Ranch Sorting Committee

BOOT SCOOT



43 logos from Rancher's Ride members proudly adorn this 6 foot, 40 pound boot from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's, *Boot Scoot*. Currently on display in Hermann Park in Houston; it will be brought to this year's Rancher's Ride for the live auction. The winning bidder may have their brand added to the boot and keep the boot on their property until next year's Ride; when it will again be auctioned to the highest bidder.

IN MEMORY

We have lost a valuable member of our Rancher's Ride family, **Charles Merian**.

Our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

ADDRESS, PHONE OR E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATE

Do we have your correct address, phone and e-mail? If not, you may be missing out on valuable information. If you have not already done so, please submit your e-mail to **Lynn Nunez** lnunez@hometruster.com.

Please submit your phone and address updates to **Diane McWherter** at (281)920-3113 or cot1151@aol.com

THE NEXT ISSUE OF NEWS FROM THE TRAIL WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ Ride Recap
- ✓ Upcoming events
- ✓ Member news