

Western States Trail Ride - 2010 Starting Instructions

The pen start system for Tevis, instituted in 2006, will again be utilized in 2010. There will be a couple of changes this year. Pen 2 and Pen 3 will be combined into one group because the Mansfield Arena is not available for use as a staging area for one of the pens. Members of the Cup Committee will monitor the pens to ensure a safe and fair start.

Pen Assignments:

Pen assignments are not made until approximately 10 days before the ride to allow for all the late entries to be included in the pen assignments. Riders will learn to which pen they have been assigned when they pick up their check-in packet at Robie Equestrian Park. **Please see map on the reverse.**

- A rider assigned to Pen 1 may enter Pen 1 or Pen 2.
- A rider assigned to Pen 2 may only enter Pen 2.
- Juniors must enter the pen to which their sponsor is assigned

The Pens:

Pen 1 is the same as last year and is located on the main road just past the "Y" to the vendor area. The entrance to Pen 1 will be on the main road just past the "Y".

The entrance to Pen 2 will be between the trail from the main road to Mansfield Arena AND the entrance to Pen 1. There will be a light marking the entrance and a person calling out where the entrance is. **Please see the 2010 Start Map.** Read below because Pen 2 will be different this year.

The Start:

Riders may enter their assigned pen up to the time their pen empties. Pen 1 will begin emptying at 4:55 AM which is 20 minutes before the start. The horses will **WALK** to the starting line for the start at 5:15 AM. It will take the riders approximately 10 minutes to walk to the starting line so it is anticipated that the horses will only stand on the road for about 10 minutes. As the last riders from Pen 1 give their numbers to the number taker, Pen 2 will be released to walk to the number takers. Each pen will have designated lead riders lead the riders to the starting line. The lead riders shall not be passed. Any rider that is late for the emptying of their assigned pen may join the riders in the next pen.

Pen 1: There will be up to 70 horses in Pen 1. There is adequate room in Pen 1 to allow the horses to walk in a large circle until the pen empties. It is hoped the riders will take advantage of this opportunity to allow the horses to warm up. Riders will not be allowed to congregate at the gate of the pen until 2 minutes before the pen is to empty. The pen manager will make a loud two minute call at which time the riders can line up to exit the pen if they wish. We apologize in advance for the dust.

Pen2: Since Mansfield Arena is unavailable to be used for the start, Pen 2 and Pen 3 have been combined and the start procedure has been changed. Since the ability to warm up horses is an important part of the pen starting system, the Pen 2 start procedure allows for the horses to warm up by walking down the main road, then down the road towards the vendor area, then along the Mansfield Arena, and then up the trail back to the main road – this is called "the circle". Pen 2 riders are encouraged to use this circle to warm up until 4:45 AM when the gate to Pen 2 will open and all of the Pen 2 horses will be directed into the Pen 2 holding area. This will give the riders enough room to sort themselves out; riders who want to ride faster can filter to the front of Pen 2 and the riders who want to start slower can filter to the back of Pen 2. Pen 2 will proceed to the starting line when Pen 1 empties which is anticipated to be at 5:00 AM. They will be led to the starting line by a lead rider.

Any question regarding the start can be asked at the ride briefing.

7/9/10 jy