



For Immediate Release
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The Long Ride 2010

One of the most looked forward to and sought out expeditions at the State Fair of Texas is the horse training demonstrations. This year trainer Robert Liner is hosting several daily performances displaying good horsemanship skills and safety issues using a collection of five different horses. He prefers to be referred to as a “horse connector” instead of a horse trainer because he believes a good strong connection has to be made between the horse and the rider above anything else.

Of the five horses Robert is using to demonstrate these skills, a few of them seen at the fair this year will be involved in an upcoming westward expedition led by James Locke of the UK. Beginning in April of 2010, James and five other riders will launch a journey called The Long Ride 2010 from Fort Belknap, Texas to Little Bighorn, Montana. The trip will cover 2,000 miles and is expected to take 6 months to complete. With a deep passion for our western history, James has constructed a route following the famous Goodnight-Loving cattle trail. The ride will pass through five states including Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and finally onto Montana.

There are thirteen different exchange points along the route about two weeks apart from one another where riders will be able to exchange out. A group of thirteen horses, trained by Robert Liner specifically for this type of journey, will be provided to the riders ‘purchasing’ the two week time slots on the trail. There will be five riders on the ground during every leg of the trip alternating between the horses. Of the thirteen horses five will be ridden, five used for packing, and three will alternate between the two.

Katie Lawlor, 19, from Oxford-Shire, England has been assisting Robert in his Spirit of the Horse demonstrations at The State Fair this week. After watching Lonesome Dove time and time again, Katie says, "I fell in love with the cowboy culture and dreamed of seeing the wide-open spaces; there is no big expansion of land back home". When she found out about John's excursion she didn't think twice about joining in on the adventure. "Just being able to live on the trail like the cowboys used to, learning the culture, and riding horses is a great combination". Katie is currently in Texas along with Mr. Locke assisting Robert in his training clinics and will return to the UK later in the week. She will be taking a year off school to return to the United States again in April 2010 to saddle up and begin the long ride.

The Equine Lameness Prevention Organization, ELPO, has volunteered to sponsor the trip providing certified farriers and hoof care at each of the exchange points. In efforts to learn more about an ongoing study in hoof care, the riders will keep daily records for the organization including their weight, the loads the horses are carrying, the terrain and the distance traveled in a day. With these results ELPO hopes to be able to provide the best hoof care possible for the health and well-being of the horses along the many miles they will endure throughout the trip.

John hopes he can gain interest in the ride from elementary schools in both the United States and England. "The extents that Charles Goodnight and Oliver Loving had to take when moving these cattle down the trail and all the harsh conditions they ran into is really very interesting," says John, "the story is an old American legend children should learn about, it's a going to be a very exciting adventure." John has printed several large maps of the route and will provide them to schools so classes can mark their daily progress while engaging in learning our western culture.

The ride is expected to kick off April 4th, 2010 from Fort Belknap, Texas. Until then Robert and John will continue to work with the horses at the State Fair demonstrations and at the Liner training facility in Frisco, Texas. The horses will be trained to undergo weather changes, rough terrains, multiple riding styles, and unexpected obstacles along the trail. The Long Ride 2010 is sure to be an unforgettable

adventure and a unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience in our rich cowboy heritage and culture.

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