

DPS 75TH ANNIVERSARY MOTORCYCLE RIDE

August 10th 2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Texas Department of Public Safety, which was formed in 1935 by combining the Texas Rangers with motor officers of the State Highway Patrol. As a way of celebrating this historic milestone, Diamond Jubilee celebrations will be held at each of the six DPS Regional Headquarters starting on July 26th 2010 and will conclude with a larger event at the Austin Headquarters on August 6th 2010. As the planning progressed for each of these events, the Diamond Jubilee Committee thought it would be a fitting tribute to the history of this agency and those officers who died in the line of duty, to include a motorcycle ride in this celebration. This original concept has now expanded to become an integral part of the Department's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

The DPS 75th Anniversary Motorcycle Ride will begin at Austin Headquarters on July 25th 2010 and will proceed on a thirteen day tour of the state with stops at each of the DPS Regional Headquarters. The motorcycle ride participants will be carrying the DPS Diamond Jubilee flag to be flown at each regional location during its celebration. Also, ride participants will carry uniform items from two motor patrolmen that graduated in the 1930's State Highway Patrol academy class, including one item from Arthur Fischer, the first Highway Patrolman killed in the line of duty.

Participation in this event is voluntary and you will be traveling on your own motorcycle, on your own time, and on your own dime. However, if you are like me, you don't need much of an excuse to spend time on your bike and if it is for a good cause so much the better. The \$50 entry fee entitles you to a ride t-shirt commemorating the event and allows your participation in any part of the ride, or this entire tour if you so desire. The money made from this ride will go toward the building of a DPS Memorial and to the DPS Disability Fund, so any voluntary contributions you would like to make above the entry fee is appreciated.

The ride has been structured so that our longest day looks to be approximately 370 miles, with most days averaging 200 to 250 miles. We will stop every 100 miles or less for gas and a short break in case you are concerned with range limitations. The tentative ride schedule will tell you where we will overnight, and will be updated with meeting times and locations for each town. Each day that includes a regional office celebration will begin at a hotel a short distance from the regional office so we can ensure arrival promptly at 10 am to keep things on schedule.

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If you plan to ride in this event, please ensure your bike is prepped for the trip. We will have a truck and trailer following the riders, but zero breakdowns is our goal and it's safer for everyone involved. Also, make sure you are prepared. This ride will be in the heat of the Texas summer and will proceed rain or shine, so please have all the gear you need to stay relatively comfortable. We are aware of the many opinions on the use of helmets; however the decision has been made to make them mandatory for this ride. Any type of DOT approved helmet can be worn.

If this ride sounds like your kind of fun, please download and complete the application form and hold harmless agreement. If you plan to carry a passenger they will need to complete a separate form and submit an entry fee. Each participant will be notified of receipt of their entry form and will be sent additional information on the ride.

I hope to see you in July.

Sincerely,

Jude Schexnyder, Chief Inspector

Texas DPS

TENTATIVE RIDE SCHEDULE

July 25th – Leave DPS Austin HQ, N. Lamar Blvd. at 12 noon
Overnight in Houston W.

July 26th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at Houston Regional, 10 am for event.
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute Garland
Overnight in Garland

July 27th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at Garland Regional, 10 am for event.
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute Lubbock
Overnight in Lubbock

July 28th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at Lubbock Regional, 10 am for event
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute Midland
Overnight in Midland

July 29th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Stands up at 10 am, enroute El Paso
Overnight in El Paso

July 30th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at El Paso Regional, 10 am for event
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute to Alpine
Overnight in Alpine

July 31st- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Stands up at 10 am, enroute to Del Rio
Overnight in Del Rio

August 1st- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Stands up at 10 am, enroute to Laredo
Overnight in Laredo

August 2nd- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Stands up at 10 am, enroute to McAllen
Overnight in McAllen

August 3rd- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at McAllen Regional, 10 am for event
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute to Corpus Christi
Overnight in Corpus Christi

August 4th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute to San Antonio
Overnight in San Antonio

August 5th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at San Antonio Regional, 10 am for event
Stands up at 12 noon, enroute to Austin
Overnight in Austin

August 6th- Meet at Hotel (TBA)
Arrive at Austin HQ, 10 am for event