

Welcome to Driving Trail Challenges

- ❖ This event is sanctioned and insured by NCTHA (National Competitive Trail Horse Association)
- ❖ NCTHA members are eligible for yearend awards (www.nctha.com)
- ❖ All equine pulling a wheeled vehicle are eligible to compete (harness and vehicle must be deemed safe by judge)
- ❖ There is no dress code – “Fancy Hat” contest at closing awards
- ❖ Drivers will be sent out in intervals to avoid backups at obstacles and trail conditioning
- ❖ Six to ten judged obstacles worth 5 to 15 points each, drivers earn points for final scores within their division
- ❖ Each driver will receive a score card with details of performance
- ❖ This one day event starting at 9:30 am, check-in begins the day before and morning of the event
- ❖ There are three divisions:
 - VSE – under 39 inches
 - Pony – under 49 inches
 - Horses - over 50 inches
- ❖ Passengers are allowed in vehicles but must complete all of the trail and obstacles (including dogs)
- ❖ Three phases to the competition, in camp and on the trail (2 to 8 miles of trail)
- ❖ When judging is complete, awards will follow (1st, 2nd and 3rd place within divisions, High Point and Reserve High Point over all of the divisions)

Driving Trail Challenge Agenda

1. Check in Saturday evening and Sunday morning 8:30 am at main building. You will receive your map with directions.
2. Ride briefing 9:30 am at main building. The Sr. Judge will brief the drivers on the activities and answer any questions. Riders will be set to go out in a particular order so if you have any preferences please let management know.
3. Ride out 10:30 am (details marked on your map). Wear your 'fancy hat' to show it off in the breeze.

4. Trail Obstacles – in camp and 2 miles of trail. Drivers will leave in order of horses, ponies and then VSE's. Look for orange cones on trail that indicate a judged obstacles. Follow directions you're given, when completed continue down the trail. The loop will take you back to camp where you will be timed out for the second phase of the competition.
5. Trail Observations – 2 miles of trail. After coming back to camp you will time out in the same area you went out on the first phase. This part of the trail will be timed, details will be on your map. Keep a watch on the time you will be required to make it back into camp. During this loop you are required to pick up 4 colored ribbons clipped to trees. When picking up clips you will need to stop and settle your horse., take the clip and then continue down the trail. Some of the trail observations may require you to read directions on the trail. Right before camp you will come to a place where your horse will rest for 10 to bring down their heart rate. This part will be judged so if you would like to get out and settle your horse you may.
 - Trail conditioning
 - General will repeat trail
 - Required to verify completion of trail with checkpoints
 - Pulse and respiration when completed.
6. Camp Obstacles – Follow flags to the next judge because your first camp obstacle will be in harness. Follow judge's directions after the obstacles to unharness and return for 2 in hand obstacles.
7. Awards – The judges and work crew will tally the scores to determine placings. A horn will honk indicating the awards are beginning. Wear you 'fancy hat' for the occasion. Awards will be given along with the drivers judging cards. Judges will be available if you have any questions.
8. We appreciate comments and suggestions, please feel free to share your experience to be posted on our website. The scores will be posted there as well.
9. This is the first of the 2010 DTC ride season. Several other locations have been chosen for DTC.
10. Phase Three – in camp could include
 - In hand presentation
 - Trotting in hand
 - Lunging horse both directions
 - Sending horse over object
 - Backing horse up
11. Awards
 - i. for more information www.texasrailandchallenge.com