

The River City Riders and their trusty steeds performed in Seaside, OR, just one of the many stops along their "trail rides."

The River City Riders exhibition group now has a new caller standing by, to be announced soon, for the 74th NSDC. The horses will be making the long journey from Oregon to Shreveport via a special trailer pulled by the Cummings, along with a few fellow riders as passengers. The group's sturdy steeds are made from plastic barrels decorated by their riders to look like horses that the dancers step into and then hook onto a belt he or she is wearing. The horses can weigh between 25

to 30 pounds! These steeds have awesome riders that add their expertise to the program, including the RCR's lead riders, Jolene and Ed Cummings on Twilight and Mr. Ed, and then Danny and Carol Williamson riding Freedom and Hayburner, Young and Robert Lumsden on Callus and Choco, Ron Rasmussen riding Butterscotch and Lois Manos on Cocoa.

To fund the program, the group conducts garage sales, performs for Senior Citizen Centers and Square Dance Clubs, and accepts donations. Jolene Cummings said the money raised by the group goes toward transportation for the horses and the riders pay their own way.

"We look at it like it's our vacation," she stated. "So our fellow dancers, friends, and club members help finance this "horse" program and move the horses across the country for the 'trail

rides.' It's pretty awesome!"

One of the group's fun adventures on a previous "trail ride" was a stop in the Four Corners area where four states touch on the way to New Mexico. "The horses felt like galloping, so of course they did!" Ed Cummings added over the past 14 years the horses have traveled more than 70,000 miles, including all the way from Oregon to Georgia, performing for various conventions, clubs and events.

For more information on the River City Riders, call (503) 759-4939 or email: eddiejocu@aol.com.



The River City Riders will be making the long trail ride from Oregon to stampede across the Shreveport Convention Center during the 74th NSDC.

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