

# Crewing: When to Be, Where to Be, and What to Do When You Get There!

So you think riding the trail is a challenge? Welcome to "Crewing the Tevis!"

A well prepared, calm, and positive crew can be of tremendous benefit to riders of the Western States Trail. There's nothing quite like slogging into a vet check, bedraggled and worn, on a horse who's been questioning the sanity of his human companion for hours and is wondering just when all this fun is going to end, and then being rejuvenated in every way by a capable, motivated crew!

Familiarity with the course, trail conditions, and access roads is an invaluable tool for any crew, but a carefully organized game plan will do the job for newcomers as well. Being met at other non-designated access points is generally **not** an advantage to most Tevis Cup riders, as this slows momentum and offsets the rhythm of progressing down the trail. A simple schedule based on the particular needs and skills of each horse and rider team, combined with a well thought out protocol, will provide the most effective strategy for achieving a successful completion.

Crew access is allowed **ONLY** at the following locations:

- Robinson Flat
- Dusty Corners (not Last Chance)
- Michigan Bluff
- Bath Road to Mill Site
- Foresthill Mill Site
- Mill Site to California Trail
- No Hands Bridge
- Western States Trail Staging Area
- McCann Stadium

Access roads are narrow and parking is limited, so it is highly recommended that crews park their trailers in Auburn, in the town of Foresthill or at the Mill Site, and work from a single vehicle. Car pooling is appreciated! *Roads must be kept open and clear at all times for emergency vehicles.*

Status boards that track rider progress will be maintained at Robinson Flat, Foresthill Mill Site, and McCann Stadium.

Alfalfa hay, oats, wheat bran, and water will be available at Robinson Flat, Deadwood, Michigan Bluff, Foresthill, Francisco's, and the Lower Rock Quarry.

## Rider Pulled or Dropped?

Horses and riders pulled from the ride prior to the Foresthill checkpoint will be trailered to Foresthill when transportation is available. Trailering from Foresthill is the rider's responsibility.

Riders and horses that drop out after Foresthill will be transported to the Gold Country Fairgrounds.

Despite the best efforts of Ride Management, the wait for a trailer ride can be lengthy. Please be patient!

It is important for riders who decide to drop out to inform ride management to avoid unnecessary panic and futile searches.

## Crew Access

• **Robie Park:** For safety reasons vehicles are prohibited on all roads within Robie Park prior to 5:30 a.m. on ride day.

• **Robie Park to Robinson Flat**

*(Allow 2 hours and 45 min. drive time)*

From Truckee, take I-80 West approximately 72 miles to the Foresthill exit in Auburn. Turn left and head east along the Auburn-Foresthill Road, passing through the town of Foresthill (17 miles) and continuing an additional 27 miles to Robinson Flat (road name changes to Baker Ranch-Soda Springs Road).

**NO HORSE TRAILERS ALLOWED AT ROBINSON FLAT.** Drop horse trailers in Auburn, Foresthill, or Foresthill Mill Site.

**NO MOTOR HOMES BEYOND SAILOR FLAT** (four miles before Robinson).

**ONE VEHICLE PER RIDER PAST SAILOR FLAT; A PASS IS REQUIRED FOR EACH VEHICLE. SPECTATORS ARE WELCOME TO WALK OR HITCH A RIDE.**

• **Robinson Flat**

*(36 miles into Ride, 6,730 elevation)*

Consider bringing a light blanket or horse cooler, extra buckets in which to warm water in the sun, spare tack, and a tarp for spreading out gear, food and tired bodies. A farrier will be available.

Crews may assist once the horse and rider are past the "No Crews Beyond This Point" sign on Soda Springs Road, but not before this point.

• **Foresthill to Dusty Corners**

*(29 miles of steep, windy roads; allow 1-1/2 hours)*

Heading east from Foresthill, follow Mosquito Ridge Road 24 harrowing miles to Road N-44. Turn left and go 5 miles to Dusty Corners. N-44 becomes a dirt road and 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended. **THIS IS THE ONLY PERMITTED ROUTE.**

• **Dusty Corners**

Crew access to Dusty Corners above Last Chance is permitted but not recommended. Crew access to Last Chance is not permitted. The event organizers will provide necessary feed and water for the horses at the Last Chance checkpoint. Ride officials, veterinarians, and support staff will be at this remote location. Should a rider be eliminated from the event at this checkpoint, the event

organizers will provide transportation for horse and rider to Foresthill. Rider crews will be expected to check the "progress chart" located at Foresthill and confer with the volunteer staff in order to make arrangements for pickup and transportation of their rider's horses from Foresthill to Auburn.

• **Robinson Flat to Michigan Bluff**  
*(allow one hour)*

Return toward Foresthill on the Baker Ranch-Soda Springs Road, traveling approximately 22 miles to Michigan Bluff Road. Turn left and go 3 miles to town.

**PREPARE TO PARK WELL BEFORE THE ENTRANCE TO MICHIGAN BLUFF AND TO CARRY YOUR OWN SUPPLIES.**

• **Michigan Bluff**

*62.5 miles into Ride, 3,530 elevation*

Past riders of the Tevis are very familiar with the small town of Michigan Bluff, usually a welcome sight for both horse and rider after two big canyon crossings. As usual, riders will find cool water and a group of smiling faces as they pass through town, but riders will not stop in Michigan Bluff for a vet check this year.

For the past several years, room to spread out and stage a vet check in Michigan Bluff has become more and more scarce; riders of past Tevis events are familiar with trot outs down the center of main street! For this year's event, the Ride Committee has secured use of a new staging area on Chicken Hawk Road, approximately 1-1/2 miles past Michigan Bluff on the trail.

• **Chicken Hawk/Volcano Staging Area**  
**NO crew access**

For the 2007 Ride, Michigan Bluff will be a water stop with no vet check or hold. There will be a Gate & Go at the Chicken Hawk/Volcano Staging Area. Please be aware that crews will be able to meet their horse at Michigan Bluff, but will NOT be allowed into the Chicken Hawk/Vocano Staging Area. You can take your time in Michigan Bluff to enjoy all the town has to offer, but be aware that your rider will need to take some time at the vet check at Chicken Hawk/Volcano.

All checkpoint time estimates and cutoff times will be adjusted to accommodate this vet check change. Be sure your rider plans their pacing and feeding schedule as they move through the canyons in anticipation of a longer trail between vet checks.

The Ride Committee is working toward securing a permanent vet check, with full crew access, at the Chicken Hawk/Volcano Staging Area for next year.

• **Michigan Bluff to Bath Road/  
Foresthill Mill Site** *(Allow 20 minutes)*  
Return to Baker Ranch-Soda Springs Road. Turn left and travel approximately 3

1/4th miles to the Foresthill Mill Site, passing Bath Road on your left just before the Mill Site entrance. Turn left into the Mill Site and park your vehicle as instructed.

Crews may meet their riders at the in-timer station or on Bath Road which must be accessed on **FOOT ONLY**. Walk down Bath Road to where the trail intersects the pavement, (approx. 1 mile.) Crews may assist their team anywhere along that stretch

- Foresthill Mill Site

*(68 miles into Ride, 3,225 elevation)*

Crews can check the progress of riders on a status board maintained at the Foresthill Mill Site. Find a quiet spot to set up before meeting your rider on Bath Road or at the in-timer as the Mill Site is large and the crewing and vet areas are quite spread out. Foresthill is the last time you will see your rider for several hours, so make sure that both horse and rider are well-prepared for the evening hours, rested and refueled.

Crews may meet and assist their horse and rider on Bath Road anywhere from where the trail intersects the pavement (approx. 3/4 mile from the in-timer down Bath Road) to the Mill Site; however, NO VEHICLES will

be permitted to travel on this section.

Crews should bring spare tack for the horse and dry clothes for the rider (the evening can be chilly), a small flashlight for rider and possibly glow sticks for the horse (attach to breast collar; three are plenty; try these ahead of time — no surprises for the horse!). A farrier will be available.

#### • Mill Site to California Street

*(Allow 5 minutes)*

Located in the center of the town of Foresthill, California Street takes off to the left and is well marked. With both horse and rider having just enjoyed an hour-long respite, *crewing here is more likely to delay than really help.* Crews are nonetheless welcome to assist their teams along Main Street and California Street up to the point where the pavement turns to dirt.

- Foresthill to No Hands Bridge

*(Allow 30-45 minutes)*

Take Auburn-Foresthill Road to Auburn (17 miles). At Lincoln Way turn left (this is the signal just prior to reaching I-80). Continue on Lincoln Way to Highway 49 and turn left. Continue 3 miles down the canyon to the American River Bridge. Limited parking on

sides of road. Actual crewing is usually unnecessary but not prohibited here. It is a good spot to see your rider before the finish.

- Foresthill to McCann Stadium,  
Gold Country Fairground  
*(Allow 45 minutes)*

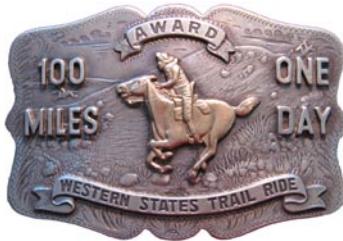
From Foresthill return to I-80 west on Foresthill Road and take Highway 49 exit South to the Gold Country Fairgrounds. (See map on inside front cover.)

- Western States Trail Staging Area

The "timed finish" for the Ride will be at the WST staging area (1/4 mile from McCann Stadium). For safety considerations of both horse and rider, due to several hazards between the WST staging area and McCann Stadium, it is recommended that riders dismount and walk their horses from the staging area to McCann Stadium.

All horses must cross the ceremonial "Finish Line" at McCann Stadium and be presented for and pass a post-ride vet check within 30 minutes of finishing in order to earn an official finish.

Crews should plan to meet their teams at McCann Stadium with a cooler for the horse and a jacket for the rider.



## MILEAGE AND TIME LOG

*Please consult the Tevis Participant Guide for locations where crews are allowed. You are putting your rider in jeopardy if you crew anywhere other than designated locations.*