JSC gets in the Rodeo spirit

Buses, big-name concerts and barbeque – it must be rodeo time. For about one month every year, Houston plays host to the world's largest rodeo. An event the size and scale of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLS&R), which kicked off in late February this year, can't help but make city-slicker Houstonians feel a little like cowboys and cowgirls.

Even astronauts and rocket scientists can be heard giving an occasional "yee-haw!" around rodeo time as Johnson Space Center gets into the spirit.

This year's rodeo activities at JSC included performances in the cafeterias by singers, dancers and rodeo clowns. Rodeo clowns also made appearances at the JSC Child Care Center, where they introduced the children to small animals such as chicks and rabbits.

The Texas Independence Trailride passed through JSC again this year en route to Houston's downtown rodeo parade on Feb. 18. Horses, covered wagons, flags and cowboy hats paraded by Rocket Park and on to the Gilruth Center, where the trailriders were welcomed by a dinner and dance hosted by the JSC Go Texan Committee.

JSC also had a presence at the HLS&R itself for the sixth straight year. The Center's exhibit at the rodeo has steadily increased in size since 1998, and the format of the exhibit has changed as well. The exhibits have included pop-up structures, interactive displays and handouts, and this year's exhibit also included a video tribute to the STS-107 *Columbia* crew. The exhibit brought a taste of the space program to the 1.7 million people who attended the rodeo this year.

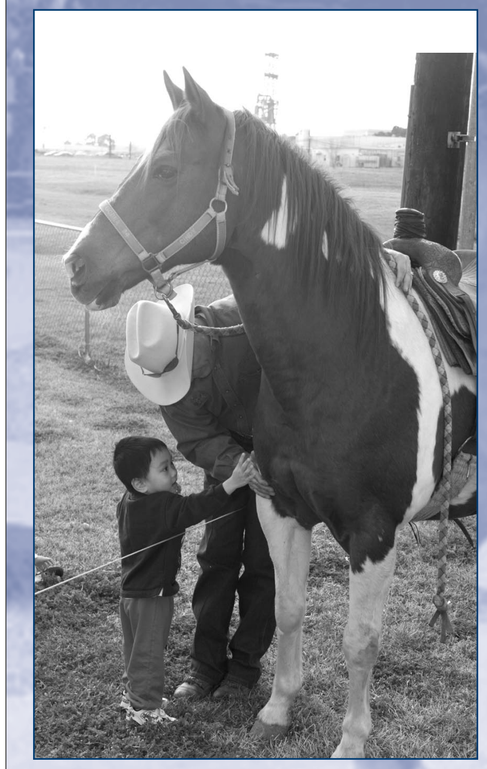
THANK YOU!

Thank you, rodeo volunteers!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make JSC's rodeo exhibit a success. More than 60 JSC and contractor employees gave their time to serve as exhibit volunteers or shift leads, many of them performing multiple shifts to keep the exhibit staffed.

The volunteers did an excellent job of guiding visitors through the exhibit, creating photo souvenirs with the spacesuit photo-op display, keeping the area clean, distributing NASA handouts and talking with visitors.

In short, the volunteers provided friendly faces at the rodeo and represented the Center admirably. Hats off to the volunteers!



NASA JSC 2003e11035 Photo by James Blair

A child at the JSC Child Care Center gets acquainted with a horse, which was brought by during the Texas Independence Trailride.

NASA JSC 2003e20159 Photo by Robert Markowitz

A young visitor to JSC's exhibit at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo signs the STS-107 Memorial Book. The book was provided to allow visitors to share their sympathies for the loss of *Columbia* and the STS-107 crew.

NASA JSC 2003e20145 Photo by Robert Markowitz

A potential astronaut poses for a shot in the spacesuit photo-op display, which was available at JSC's exhibit at the rodeo.

NASA JSC 2003e20158 Photo by Robert Markowitz

JSC volunteer Antja Chambers talks with visitors at the rodeo. More than 60 volunteers helped to staff the exhibit over the course of the rodeo.

NASA JSC 2003e11045 Photo by James Blair

A young girl makes friends with a bunny at the JSC Child Care Center.

Background image: NASA JSC 2003e13174 Photo by James Blair

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