



ELIZABETH STAMPEDE RODEO

Elizabeth Rodeo Association, Inc.

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TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK

PRESS RELEASE

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Volunteers enjoy the Stampede

Longtime volunteers with the Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo and fans of the annual event recall area residents gathering every spring starting in the 1950s for some friendly cowboy competition. Eventually the competition got fierce enough and the cowboys serious enough to get organized.

Sometime in the 1970s, volunteers pooled resources, know-how and muscle to build an arena. It was in 1986, longtime volunteers agree, that the first Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sponsored Elizabeth Stampede, made its mark on the rodeo circuit.

And while Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo volunteers aren't certain about other historical particulars, to a person they are positive about why they invest countless hours to ensure the show goes on the first weekend in June every year.

"It's a great opportunity to work with friends and neighbors to put on a great rodeo," said Norm Almquist, chairman of the Elizabeth Stampede board of directors. A 15-year volunteer, Almquist said camaraderie, teamwork and community spirit combine to motivate the volunteer army that carries out the Stampede's mission and goals.

Those things have kept Almquist involved year after year. "I continue to have fun. I continue to enjoy the people. There's certainly challenges with that many people, but for the most part it has been real fun," he said.

Bridgette Bragg agreed that the people involved with the Stampede make volunteering worthwhile. "Some of my closest friends are involved," said the amateur events committee chairman, adding, "I enjoy putting on an event that the community gets to come out and enjoy."

The Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo owes its success to dedicated volunteers as well as to the many generous sponsors, large and small, who derive value from supporting a grass-roots event celebrating western heritage.

"We've got a lot of good sponsors, but we can always use more," said Ron Vermillion, chairman of the sponsorship committee.

Helping build the sponsor list for the third straight year and sponsors themselves are Scott Skinner and Cindy Rose of Edward Jones in Elizabeth and Franktown, respectively. The pair knock on doors of area businesses to get the contributions needed to ensure the

Elizabeth Stampede retains its “Best Small Rodeo” ranking in the Western Circuit of the PRCA.

Skinner estimated he donates about 60 or more hours of his time to the Elizabeth Stampede every year, but it’s time well spent, he said.

“It’s a way we can be involved in the community and give back to those who have supported our businesses over the years,” he said.

Supporting the Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo is not only a great way to market local businesses, but it gives the entire region an economic boost, Skinner said. “The Elizabeth Stampede is the biggest event in Elbert County and typically that brings exposure to all the great things we enjoy here in Elizabeth and the county.”

Skinner said it amazes him that the Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo is completely volunteer powered. But he’s proud of the fact and he encouraged rodeo fans to get involved in one way or another and find out for themselves that it’s also “great fun.”

Anyone interested in volunteering for or sponsoring the Elizabeth Stampede Rodeo is encouraged to visit the event website, www.ElizabethStampede.org, or call 303-646-0308.