



DEEP IN THE HEART OF BANDERA

BY GENIE STRICKLAND

It's Spring! Ready to put on my boots and ride the Hill Country!

First, NEVER miss the first Tuesday of each month when we kick start with the Cowboy Capital Opry. The music is awesome and surprise performances Rock! Silver Sage Community Center.

We have Bingo weekly all around the County. Also really cool Classic Car Shows in and round the county on a weekly basis too. Good Food at the fish fry with the Knights of Columbus each Friday night! Go to BanderaCowboyCapital.com and click on Events for the dates and times so you will not be late!

Every Saturday, the Bandera Business Association hosts the Cowboys on Main program in downtown Bandera. At noon, at Rattle Snake Ridge (a town located in the backyard of the Bandera Visitor's Center), meet the Bandera Cattle Company. Fulfill your fantasy of the gunfights of the Old West. They are informative, some historical, and some hysterical. Gun safety is covered and the kids get deputized too as official Deputies of the Bandera Cattle Company. Around town you will find chuck wagons, horses, strolling singers, trick ropers or longhorn cattle to get your picture with as well as some occasional horseback rides in City Park. Take a wagon ride down Main Street only in the Cowboy Capital of the World.

First Saturday of each month, at 1:00 pm, visit the Frontier Times Museum for the Cowboy Camp. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy some traditional cowboy music. Better yet, bring your guitar and join in! Most bring their own refreshments too. Don't miss it!

The State Hill Country Natural Area

is an incredible park. Each month offers seminars /workshops on how to become a Junior Ranger or educational Discovery Hikes with the Kids through the 5,000-acre park. Join Birding Buddies for educational bird discoveries in the Texas Hill Country. For more information, call 830-796-4413.



For a unique "Cowboy" experience, check out the Chuck Wagon Dinner every Saturday March 12th through Labor Day at the Flying L Guest Ranch. From 5:30 to 7:30 pm you can experience wagon rides, roping lessons, hat and pistol branding, archery, Old Tyme Photos, a Cowboy Stage Show, Gunslingers, Line dancing and great food! 800-292-5134 for reservations.

Bandera has some awesome events planned for the spring. Start your day off on March 19th with the BEC Annual 5K/10K Cowboy Capital Stampede! Join the fun! But save the later morning for the Kronkowsky Library of Bandera County's 19th Annual WILD HOG EXPLOSION! at Mansfield Park. Did I mention Wild? This is a wild Hog "catch" and the squeals and spills are a hoot! Starts with kids 4 to 5 and moves on up to the adults. Of course the hogs start small too and get bigger as you go! Bring your own Hog and participate in the All Bike Rally, whip up you best entry in the LSBBQ Cook-off, buy a chance for a \$1,000 prize in Bacon Bingo, shop the arts and crafts, and well there is a lot more so check it out at www.wildhogexplosion.com!

banderacowboycapital.com

If catching wild hogs wasn't enough for you, how about riding one! Biker Rallies of Texas presents Thunder in the Hill's March 31st thru the April 3rd. Held at Bandera's Mansfield Park it includes tent camping, poker run, vendors, food, field events, live bands and special entertainment. Friday and Saturday, a bike show, tattoo contest, Sunday morning church service, and well you just gotta go. 18 OR OVER NO EXCEPTIONS.

Things change in April and the month events are kicked off by Bandera Market Days around the Court House. Scheduled the first Saturday in April thru November. Arts and Crafts featuring some of the best in the Hill Country. Free and open from 9 to 4pm.

Head to the Medina River as the Bandera Business Association presents Mayhem on the Medina featuring the National competition of the Reenactment Guild of America (RGA). Scheduled for April 9th & 10th hat Bandera City Park. Exciting competitions of Living History Campsites, costumes, and gunfights. Competitors from across the nation! Vendors, live Music, wagon rides and more! Step into the past and experience Mayhem on the Medina! Games from the 1800's, exhibits and food. More info at www.MayhemOnTheMedina.com

Bandera is all about horses. April 29 to May 1st TETRA/HC-SNAP will host their annual Spring Benefit Trail Ride. Join the Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association and the Hill Country State Natural Area Partners for their annual spring benefit at the Hill Country State Natural Area. Registration on Friday

May 1st is the Annual St. Stanislaus Parish Festival at the Church on Cedar Street. Time: 11 AM - 5 PM BBQ, Games, Music, Auction and more. Way too much fun!

May 6th the Bandera County Helping Hand will hold an annual Charity Golf Tournaments. Starts at noon at the Flying L Guest Ranch. Call 830-796-8300 for more information.

May 7th Join the 16th Annual Medina River Cleanup. Registration 9-noon at Bandera City Park. Help keep our Medina river to stay the cleanest, clearest river in Texas! BBQ and music too! Call Bob Brischetto at 210-413-7264 for information.

Bandera County "Relay For Life"

will kick off on May the 14th - 15th at 6:30 PM - 2:00 AM Bandera High School track and football field. All proceeds go for cancer education, transportation to appointments, and other items to help those getting treatments. Donations and all teams welcomed. 474 Old San Antonio Hwy Bandera, TX 78003 - On May 21st Join the Polly Texas Pioneer Association as they Celebrate a Bandera Legend: Jose Policarpio Rodriguez. This fundraiser will help preserve Polly's Chapel. Entertainment, a delicious luncheon followed by a "Frontier Auction". Call 210-364-7096 for more information.

One of our most exciting events of the year is the Annual Bandera Pro Rodeo Time: 8:00 PM Annual Memorial Day Weekend. Held Fri - Sun May 27th - 29th. Performances Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Mansfield Park Rodeo Arena -

On Saturday May 28th grab a seat for one of the best parades in Bandera! The Chamber of Commerce presents the Annual Funtier Day Parade at 11am! Shop the annual Funtier Days Arts & Crafts Show. Over 75 vendors on the Courthouse Square Call 830-796-4447 for more information. Applications for the art show or the parade on line at www.bandera-tx.com

Who Knew? Such a small town of 857 folks could have so much fun! You cannot be bored in Bandera! Be sure to visit our music venues too!

For more information, dates, times, exact locations, visit www.bandera-cowboy-capital.com and click on events. You never know, we may even add a few by the time you check it out! Yee-haw, Y'all!

