Jerry Jeff Walker Time Line

1942 Born Ronald Clyde Crosby in Oneonta, New York on March 16.
1957 Performs in numerous teen combos around Oneonta, including the Pizzarinos, the Chymes, the Tones and the Townies.
1960 OHS graduation; Ron is a half-credit short but graduates during the summer.
1961 Joins the National Guard, undergoes basic training at Fort Dix, N.J.
1962 Ron and a friend hitchhike from Oneonta to Florida, just in time for the first-ever Spring Break; Ron is photographed on the beach with a guitar by the A.P.
1963 Hitchhikes to New Orleans, begins to street-sing in the French Quarter, also travels to Texas for the first time.
1964 As “Jerry Ferris,” he meets Babe Stovall, who becomes his performing mentor.
1965 First trip to Austin; On July 5, arrested for public intoxication in the French Quarter, meets street-dancer “Bojangles” in the New Orleans drunk tank
1966 Drives an old Mercury from Texas to Washington, D.C.; Adopts the name “Jerry Jeff Walker,” Forms the Lost Sea Dreamers band.
1967 The Lost Sea Dreamers become the house band at the Electric Circus in NYC and change their name to Circus Maximus; CM records two albums for Vanguard Records, Circus Maximus and Neverland Revisited.
1968 Circus Maximus breaks up; JJW cuts first solo single for Atco Records, plays Newport Folk Festival with David Bromberg, releases the Mr. Bojangles album.
1969 Five Years Gone and Driftin’ Way of Life released.
1970 JJW relocates to Key West and Coconut Grove in Florida, joins Jimmy Buffett on the last run of the Pan-American Flyer from New Orleans to Nashville (the inspiration for “Railroad Lady”); Bein’ Free released.
1971 JJW moves to Texas, begins to gig around Austin.
1972 Jerry Jeff Walker, recorded in Austin and NYC with a mixture of Texas and New York pickers released; the “progressive country” or “outlaw” bandwagon begins to gather steam in Austin; Jerry Jeff turns thirty.
1973 Viva Terlingua, recorded in the Luckenbach Dancehall, released featuring the first incarnation of the Lost Gonzo Band (called, on VT, the Deaf Cowboy Band).
1974 JJW and Susan are wed in Luckenbach; JJW plays Willie Nelson’s Fourth of July Picnic in College Station, Texas; Walker’s Collectibles released.
1975 The “progressive country” boom is at its height, with Jerry Jeff, Waylon Jennings, and Willie Nelson at its apex; JJW releases Ridin’ High, recorded in Austin and Nashville.
1976 It’s A Good Night For Singing released.
1977 The Lost Gonzo Band spins off on their own solo career; *A Man Must Carry On*, a eulogy for Luckenbach owner Hondo Crouch and the “progressive country” era released.

1978 The Bandito Band is formed to back up JJW; *Contrary To Ordinary* and *Jerry Jeff* released; Jessie Jane Walker born.

1979 *Too Old To Change* released

1981 Django Cody Walker born.

1982 *Cowjazz*, JJW’s last major label album released; JJW’s 40th birthday party features an all-day concert at Austin’s Town Lake with seemingly every band in Austin.

1986 JJW and Susan form Tried & True Music, the better to do it their way; *Gypsy Songman* cassette released; first JJW Birthday Weekend held in March.

1987 T&TM signs an international distribution deal with Rykodisc; Ryko and T&TM release *Gypsy Songman* on CD.

1989 *Live At Gruene Hall*, recorded at Texas’ oldest dancehall, released; three singles from *LAGH* appear on *Billboard’s Country Singles* chart; Gonzo Compadres formed with Lost Gonzo Band alumni John Inmon (guitar) and Bob Livingston (bass), with Bandito Band drummer Freddie Krc.

1990 *Navajo Rug*, recorded in a makeshift studio on the *Austin City Limits* TV soundstage, released.


1992 JJW hosts a second season of *The Texas Connection* for TNN; JJW turns 50; Tracks for the *Hill Country Rain* album recorded in Austin.

1993 JJW hosts a Caribbean cruise for the Tried & True Warriors; JJW plays the Clinton-Gore inauguration, and the Prez and Vice-Prez return the favor by showing up at a JJW show in February; JJW tours Europe, records *Viva Luckenbach* in the same Luckenbach Dancehall where he recorded *Viva Terlingua* 20 years earlier.

1994 JJW hosts the first Fan Club week in Belize; *Viva Luckenbach* released in March; *Christmas Gonzo Style* recorded in May and released in September; live sessions for *Night After Night* recorded at The Birchmere in Alexandria, Virginia.

1995 JJW builds a second home in Belize; *Night After Night* released in March; Jessie Burdic Conrow, JJW’s grandmother who gave him his first guitar, turns 100; *Jerry Jeff Walker Songbook, Vol. 1* released; Jerry Jeff gets a home page on the World Wide Web.

1996 T&TM turns 10; *Scamp*, JJW’s first album of all-original material since *Driftin’ Way of Life* recorded in Austin and released in October; JJW hosts the first outdoor Luckenbach Laborfest on Labor Day Weekend.
1997 Second Laborfest extravaganza held in Luckenbach; In August, JJW travels with his band to Belize to record *Cowboy Boots & Bathin’ Suits*, the first (as far as we know) album by a commercial artist recorded in Central America.


1999 *Gypsy Songman*, Jerry Jeff’s long-awaited autobiography, is released, along with the accompanying album, *Gypsy Songman: A Life In Song*…Django Walker, Jerry and Susan’s son, accepted at the prestigious Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts; *The Best of the Vanguard Years*, an anthology of early JJW cuts, is released. Last Birthday Weekend of the millennium.

2000 *Gypsy Songman: A Life In Song* enters the Top Ten in the Gavin Americana radio chart.

2001 *Gonzo Stew* released.

2003 *Jerry Jeff Jazz* released.

2004 *The One and Only* DVD released.


2006 20th anniversary of Tried & True Music and the Birthday Bash.

2007 Scamp Walker turns 65. Renames Birthday Bash in Austin the “Retirement Bash”.

2008 Confusion ensues over Jerry Jeff’s alleged “retirement.”