

Virginia Reining Horse Association
Beginner/Youth Reining Clinic
With Debbie Bull

Rain & gusty winds could not deter this crowd from a reining clinic. VRHA held this event at Carlton Farm in Williamsburg, Virginia on April 20, 2008. The clinic was made possible by a grant from the Virginia Horse Industry Board in association with our VRHA Club Liaison Joy Blake.

Debbie Bull, local trainer/instructor with assistance by Monique Gautreaux was filled with information on how to ride and show a reining horse. Most of the horses were donated for the clinic from VRHA members & a few of the participants brought their own mounts. Debbie & Monique made the entire clinic fun for the 10 youth and beginner riders.

The clinic format was to familiarize riders with the main components of reining patterns: circles, lead changes, spins, roll backs and stops. There were a lot of happy faces when each participant completed their maneuvers.

After a morning of intense learning and a tasty lunch, provided by the VRHA Youth Committee, the riders returned to the arena for a "Mini Show". Each rider memorized a NRHA Pattern and performed the maneuvers to the shouts, whistles and whoops in traditional reining style.

A great time was had by the participants, clinicians & auditors. The horses were on their usual best behavior for the riders. They all did extremely well, since most rider/horse combinations were completely unfamiliar to each other.

Thank you to Carlton Farm for their facility, Shannon Leggett, Blair Childress & Josh Stinson of the VRHyA and Toni Stinson & Jolyn Hooper, Youth Leaders for coordinating the clinic, Debbie Bull & Monique Gautreaux for their expertise and all the volunteers who made this possible, and of course to the horses who were very professional at their jobs.

Respectfully Submitted by Stephanie Askins