

VRHA Morning Star Ranch Memorial Day Classic & Derby

The Virginia Reining Association (VRHA) held their annual Morning Star Performance Horse Memorial Day Classic & Derby, May 22-24, 2009 at the Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center in Williamston, NC.

Two full slates of NRHA approved classes with Beginner/Green Reiner, USEF Youth were offered and our featured event "The VRHA Morning Star Performance Horse Derby" was held Saturday evening. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to The Galbraith Family, Ed, Nadine, Melanie, Carly, Cassidy & Aubrey for their generous contributions & unending support that they have given to this organization to make it such a grand affair and huge success. Our Judges Richard Pokluda, Kim Bowden and Doug Toney did an outstanding job! Thank You!

Friday's classes started out bright and early with **Rookie 1** with 20 entries. Neil McCoy from Carlisle, PA riding Crown Royal BH and Lisa Mathews astride Mifter Clean shared top honors, each with a 71 score. Wow what riding! Craig Stonesifer aboard Lil Ruf Renee was third with a 70 ½. In the **Rookie 2** division we found Hannah Hedgcock & Reminic Rally with the winning ride also scoring a 71 ½, with McCoy & Mathews fighting it out over second place. Cindy LaBar on Tokota Pine took the **Prime Time Rookie Class** with a 69 with Sharon Brown on Cherokee Tradition capturing second place honors.

Mike McEntire won both the **Novice Horse Open 1 & 2** riding Lena Reys All Jazz for owner Katie Bartolotti of Seffner, Fl. Scoring a 145. Heather Johnson aboard Tejons Smart Doc happily took home second place in both classes for owner Freddie Brasfield of Oak Ridge Tenn. Scoring a 143 ½.

Bonnie Hippensteel and Tivitos Shining Star won **Novice Horse Non Pro 1** with a 141 and placed second in **Level 2** with \$500.00 added money in each class. Jill Brown placed second riding Kidsgotitall in level 1 and Katarima Dorminy on Chic To A Hen finished first in the Level 2 division.

The \$1000.00 added **Non Pro** with 6 entries found Susan Wilcox and Fancy Mate riding to the win with a 143 ½, with Shannon Rafacz astride Dun It Found A Star got it done for second place.

Susan Wilcox was on a roll with Fancy Mate also winning the **Intermediate Non Pro** with Jenna Blumer squeezing in second on Lenas Frosty Chic owned by her dad, James Blumer.

Daneile Whitney of Northfield MA captured the **Limited Non Pro** over 13 entries on DA Tucker Light scoring a 140, and Melody Malbin of Redding CT. on Ima Peppy Christmas in second place.

Prime Time Non Pro with 8 entries found Suzy De Champlain and Malt Whizkey at the top with Kay Gould and Its Rowdy Doody Time finishing second, and Debra LaPorta riding Time Square in third place.

Saturday morning it was the **Beginner Reinners** time to shine bright and early with 14 ready to roll entries, but it was Cindi Freeman riding her own Shenandoah Honeycomb sliding to the top of the heap of very talented group of beginner's with a score of 70 ½ which was awesome! Kim Smith and Charming Golden Boy rallied for second and Julie Hefler was close behind rounding out third place honors.

We had 24 entries in the **Green Reiner Class** and a tie for first place which was shared by David McGee and Ridin on Spinners and Jimmy McHone and Im A Flashy Legend both with a score of 69. Gail Murphy and Lucky Street Brawler slid into third.

Smart Little Dudley and Quixote Joe both ridden by Claudia Spreng captured first and second place in the **Youth 13 and Under** on Saturday. Jenna Blumer riding both Lenas Frosty Chic and Lenas Sugar Princess finished first and second in the **Youth 14-18** group. Amasa Smith and Olenas Tio Peppy won the Rookie Youth. The **USEF 13 & Under** first and second place went to Claudia Spreng riding Smart Little Dudley and Quixote Joe. Jenna Blumer had a repeat performance in the **USEF 14-18** on both of her horses. Tucker Lane

commanding Grand Whizard took first place in the **Short Stirrup** Class. Talk About Poco & Sweet Starbuck both ridden by Aubrey Galbraith was second and third. In the **NRHA USEF 19-21** Chloe Gray and Lil Peppys Wave captured this event with a 71 ½ with Amanda Hotz and Hesa Smart Jay closing in for second place with a 71. Congratulations to all the winner's and participants for a great show!

Morning Star Memorial Day Classic

Our Derby was held Saturday Evening and started out with a Patriotic Memorial Day Presentation given by Board of Director John Bates as a tribute to our military services, those who have served and those presently serving. All of the service flags as well as the North Carolina Flag and the Stars and Stripes were presented in the arena on horseback.

Bryant Pace, a Marine Veteran proudly presented the Marine Corps Flag, Marina New presented the Navy Flag, Jinny Hilton waved the Coast Guard Flag. Jim Havlin honored the Air Force, Stephanie Valentin rode with the Army Flag and Aubrey Galbraith carried the North Carolina State Flag. The United States Flag was presented by Beth Richards. Major General David Morris, Commanding General of the United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, NC gave brief remarks and assisted in presenting awards for the VRHA's first ever Pro/Am Team Tournament. The Tournament was a fund raiser for the Wounded Warrior Project and raised \$550.00 from 11 teams. In addition VRHA donated \$1 from every entry for the weekend to WWP amounting to over \$1100.00 raised for this worthy cause.

Champions: Mark & Shannon Rafacz, co-reserve Champs Patty Hohl/Susan Wilcox & Wayne LaFortune/Amanda Hotz. Prizes were awarded to all participants.

The Youth 13 & Under Derby was won by Elizabeth Cosper riding Lid Ruf Whiz Quiz and Daniele Whitney on Lif Ruf Dunit placed second.

Melody Malbin and Ima Peppy Christmas found the winner's circle for the **Youth 14-18 Derby** with Carly Galbraith and her partner Goldpines Last Honey finishing second.

Bonnie Hippensteel and Tivitos Shining Star prevailed over Dunnits Dude and John Crist to capture **Level 4 Non-Pro** \$2000.00 and the **Level 3 Non-Pro** (INP) added Derby Class.

But it was John Crist riding Dunnits Dude finally getting the win in the **Level 2 Non-Pro** (LNP) with \$1000.00 added monies with George Bell and Top Cee Whiz taking second place.

Bryant Pace and All Juiced Up set a scorching ride to win the **Level 4 Open Derby** with \$2000.00 added and a 147. Heather Johnson and Tejons Smart Doc gave him a run for his money with a 146 placing her second.

Wayne LaFortune riding GT The Geym Cutter was third with a 145 ½. It was quite the same outcome in the **Level 3 Open** with Johnson and LaFortune finishing first and second respectfully. Peter Defreitas, riding for Double Run Farm on Horizons Diamond took third place.

The **Level 2 Open** (LO) with \$500.00 added found Johnson again in for the win, with Walter Graham riding Nicatrash and Peter Defreitas and Horizon Diamond sharing second place honors.

On Sunday, 11 competitors in the **Beginner Reiner Class** entered the arena and Julie Hefler won really big on Montes Little Lena also earning the Weekend Buckle. Ryan Lunquist and Just Jensen finishing second and Cory Murphy riding Ima A Continental Cat swept up third place.

Jimmy McHone and Ima Flashy Legend went for broke in the highly competitive **Green Reiner Class**. He had an impressive ride scoring a 72 earning him the Weekend High Point Buckle. Janet Bickes-Stroud also had a remarkable ride on Fancy Mate with a 71. John Bates and Great Tori threatened and remained in third place.

In the **Youth 13 & Under** Claudia Spreng found first place and tied herself for second riding three different horses. Also tying for second place was Cassidy Galbraith and Elizabeth Cosper.

Carly Galbraith prevailed on Miftoria Greyhound to sweep **Youth 14-18** with Jenna Blumer and Carly battling it out for second.

Youth Rookie honors went to Josh Stinson riding BH Trust Fund, with Amasa Smith on Olenas Tio Peppy in second place and Cole Sutton third.

The USEF 13 & Under was won by Claudia Spreng on Quixote Joe and tying for second on Smart Little Dudley and Hesa Smart boy with Elizabeth Cospers riding Lil Ruf Whiz Quiz.

Miftoria Greyhound carried Carly Galbraith to the win in the **USEF 14-18** with Lenas Frosty Chic and Jenna Blumer in for second.

Tucker Land and Grand Whizard won the **Short Stirrup** class with Aubrey Galbraith riding Talk About Poco and Sweet Starbuck finishing second and third. The **USEF 19-21** was won by Hesa Smart Jay and his rider Amanda Hotz.

We had 19 riders competing for first place in the **Rookie 1 Class** and it was Craig Stonesifer riding Lil Ruff Renee at the top again winning the Weekend High Point Buckle for his efforts, with Neil McCoy and Crown Royal BH closing in for second and Ed Certain on Don Maggie Dude took third.

Rookie 2 had 23 competitors and Craig Stonesifer was again found at the top and Neil McCoy and Darlene Tuttle battled for second. Craig won a C.W. Wiley Custom made saddle for the High Point Weekend Award.

Prime Time Rider Cindy Labar and Tokota Pine were the winners in this class, with Gail Murphy and Sharon Brown finishing second and third.

Novice Horse Open 1 had Chex This Action and Peter Defreitas the winner with Heather Johnson and Tejons Smart Doc in for second place honors. In **Level 2 Class** it was Mark Rafacz piloting Gunners Lil Smarty for the win, with Defreitas second and Johnson third.

Kimberly Tillman and Custom Whiz went on to win the **Novice Horse Non Pro 1** with Bonnie Hippensteel close behind on Tivitos Shining Star and Katarina Dorminy on Shinin Joe sliding in for third place. **Novice Horse Non Pro 2** found Katarina Dorminy in for the win on Chic To A Hen. Tillman was second and Bonnie Hippensteel was third.

Shannon Rafacz and Dun It Found A Star won the **Non Pro** with John Crist closing in for second riding Dunits Dude. Crist also won the **Intermediate & Limited Non Pro** with Daniele Whitney on DA Tucker Light in second place in both classes.

Ann Admonius and Better Not Rest were the best in the **Prime Time Non Pro**.

MDS Sailor and Daniel Sanborn took the **Open class** with The Money Train and Wayne LaFortune garnering second and Bryant Pace finished third.

The **Intermediate Open** Marina Morell had top honors on Lenas Noble Prize. Martin Audet in Genes Little Chex rounded out second.

Patrice Hohl on Ed Galbraith talented mount, Mifmatics won the **Limited Open** as well as the **Rookie Professional**. Patrice also won the weekend award a CW Wiley Custom made saddle. Tania Nantais was second in both classes aboard Lady De Whizard.

We wouldn't have a show if not for our **Sponsors** "The Galbraith Family"! Thank You!

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Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Askins, Club Reporter