

The Virginia Reining Horse Association (VRHA) in conjunction with The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) & Classic Equine held their first fundraiser "Rookie Day" August 1, 2009 with the proceeds going to benefit the National Reining Horse Sports Foundation Crisis Fund. Campbell Springs Equestrian Center, Chesterfield, Virginia donated this beautiful facility for this special event. Classic Equine supplied Awards and Gifts. Tracy Lynch from NRHA was on hand to orchestrate this event for us. What a wonderful informative lady who is a lot of fun and told great stories!

**Double Run Farm sponsored the Champion & Reserve Buckles for this event.**

All of our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this a very special day!

**Our Clinicians who gave their time and expertise:**

Lucas Duchesne, Lucama, NC

François Gauthier, Lucama, NC

Wayne LaFortune, Damascas, MD.

Doug Minton, Powhatan, VA

Tania Nantais, Sanford, NC

Danny Pelletier, Sanford, NC

Wendy Workman, Smithfield, NC

Gail Berghorn representing Show Secretaries donated her time and travel for this event. Thank you Gail!

**Our Participants:**

Amasa Smith, Karla Gragg, Katie Chase, Phillip Pezet, Claudia Pezet, Parker Minchin, Cindi Freeman, Katherine McLaughlin, Jon Lamb, John Bates, Jacqueline Bates, Rebecca Bryan & James Armstrong.

After a half day under intense tutelage from our talented trainers the competition began. All of the participants competed in a "show" with Francois Gauthier as the judge and Elizabeth Richards as out scribe.

Training team-Minton & Nantais were the Team Winners, with their students: James, Karla, Rebecca & Jackie.

Katie Chase was the overall winner coached by Lucas & Danny winning a Rookie Day Buckle, compliments of Double Run Farm, Classic Equine Saddle Pad, and Bell Boots & Leg Wraps.

John Bates was our Reserve Champion, coached by Wayne & Wendy, winning a beautiful buckle donated by Double Run Farm, Classic Equine Saddle Pad, Bell Boots and Leg Wraps.

Amasa Smith was our Youth Winner, coached by Wayne & Wendy presented with a Double Run – Rookie Day Buckle and goodies from Classic Equine.

The Prince George Royal Riders once again were tops serving a delicious lunch for everyone. What a great group of people associated with this organization!

The day was gorgeous and the temperature was fantastic for this time of year. At the end of the day, new friendships were forged; lasting memories and hopes of taking a new found knowledge to the show pen.

Congratulations to all who participated and hopefully we will do this again.

Respectfully submitted by: Stephanie Askins, Club Reporter