

NATIONAL VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION

NVRHA *Rundown*

Spring 2023

Volume 15

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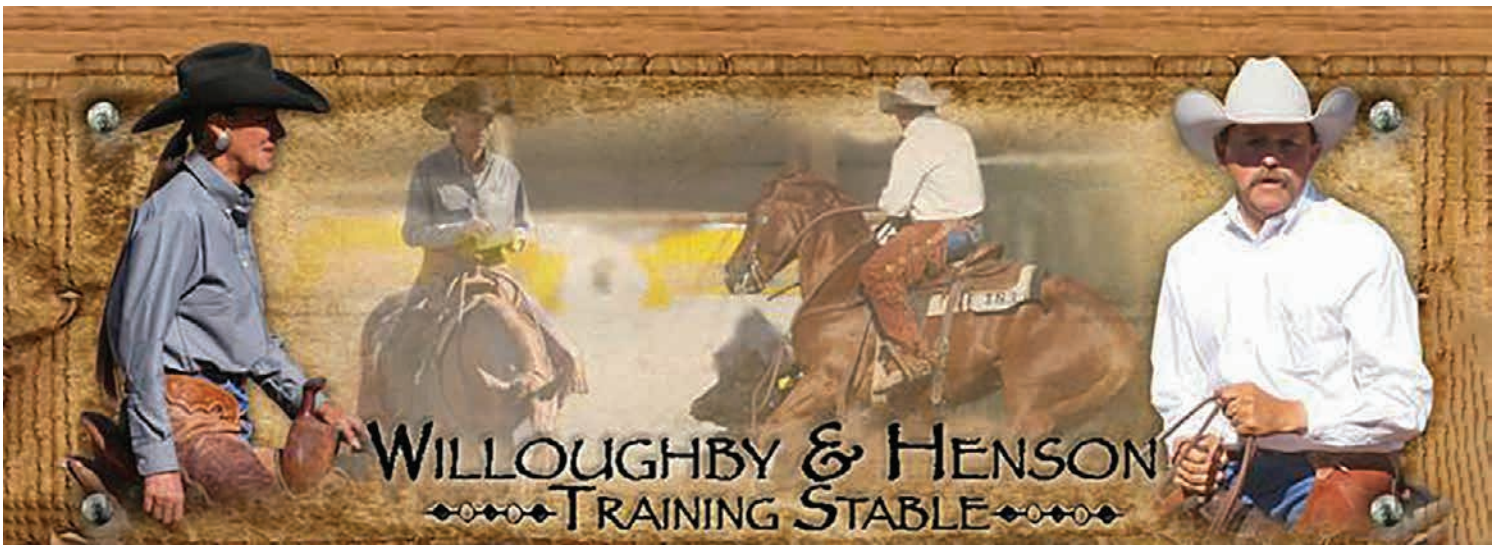
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2022 LEGEND AWARD WINNER

**Docs Shiney Pistol *ridden by*
Michael Beakley**



CO 2009 *Double Tuckered Out & Cindy Rose*



CO 2010 *Docs Second Best & Dave Currin*



AR 2011 *Little Bell Pepper & Jennifer Sadler*



NM 2011 *Whiskeys Chick Stick & Bill Cantrell*



CO 2012 *Risky Irish Whiskey & Donna/Charlie Stewart*



CO 2012 *Lil Bit O Badge & Rita Lauby*



CO 2021 *Golden H Mister T & Emily Lappegaard*



MN 2013 *Starlight Dillon & Susan Lucas*



MN 2017 *SLJ Ruby Slippers & Stephany Siitari*



KS 2013 *Langtrees CD & Shane Bangertter*

KS 2021 *Langtrees CD & NVRHA's First Diamond Medal Winner*



CO 2022 *Freckled Rico & Matt Clark*



MN 2015 *Unbranded & Shelly Johnson*

WHAT LEGENDS ARE MADE OF

2009 Double Tuckered Out
2010 Docs Second Best
2011 Little Bell Pepper
2011 Whiskeys Chick Stick

2012 Lil Bit O Badge
2012 Risky Irish Whiskey
2013 Starlight Dillon
2013 Langtrees CD

2015 Unbranded
2017 SLJ Ruby Slippers
2019 Langtrees CD
2022 Freckled Rico

All horses trained and/or sold
by W-H Training Stables
Jay & Gena Henson
620.544.8078
wbarhtrainingstables@yahoo.com

A Letter From Our President



We can all take great pride in our National Championship held in Lincoln, Nebr. over the last four years. It evolved into a world class event and our membership responded, contributing to a 50% growth in participation.

In the tradition of NVRHA, our history reflects a continuous movement of our National Championship. It began at the Norris Penrose

Event Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 2008, on to Phoenix, Ariz. at Buckeye, back to Elbert, Co. at the Latigo Event Center, and then on to Lincoln, Nebraska. Our 2023 Nationals will be held at the Douglass Event Center in Castle Rock, Colorado.

The decision to make this move was carefully considered by the Board. The quality of venue, the strength of the management team, the potential for growth in participation and the accessibility to our members led to our Board's decision to move. Castle Rock is in the heart of NVRHA, allowing easy participation from South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and even Kansas. Our Northern Lights folks were finally convinced that this was the right move. Our thanks to all the folks that made Lincoln a great success and to all the folks in Colorado that have stepped up to the plate to insure a very successful future Nationals in 2023.

Another very bright spot in NVRHA's growth is our Youth initiative. Many thought that our venue was too advanced for youth — well they showed us they were up to the challenge. In 2022, we had successful Youth participation in all Novice Division's and at our National's, they excelled! What a wake up call that was! This opens a whole new avenue for NVRHA! Many of us old timers remember when the horse world was telling us

that Amateurs would never be able to participate successfully in the Ranch Horse program due to its complexity. Well, NVRHA proved that was wrong! Now the Youth are going down that same road! They are giving us a new and exciting future to look forward to!

As NVRHA grows, more participants are climbing the ladder of success. In 2022, we had more Ranch Horse Champions, Supreme Champions, Superiors and Legends than ever before. Our Medals program is also growing faster than expected. Congratulations to all of our outstanding achievers!

I cannot close without mentioning some other very outstanding NVRHA achievers. Naturally, those earning Level Achievement Awards are special! The unsung heroes are those paving the way for our participants to make the exceptional horsemanship achievements possible.

New Starts and Affiliates are essential to our future! Sherry Sidle in South Dakota, Heather Hart in Wyoming, Alexis Spencer in South West Colorado and Melissa Quern in North Dakota are paving new trails for NVRHA! They are heroes contributing much time and effort insuring the future of NVRHA. Thanks to you all!

I would like to close with the most important message of all. Our mission is to make the NVRHA Ranch Horse as fun and as educational as possible! Let's all work together to make this happen! Gena and I look forward to seeing you at our 2023 Events and at our National's at Castle Rock!



A very special thanks to Brain Duer and wife, Dee. They helped make our National Championship at Lincoln a great success

Sincerely,
Jay Henson

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Office:

5925 Omaha Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO
80915

Telephone:

719-550-0189

Fax: 719-550-0194

Website: nvrha.org

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Editor:

David Currin

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Ann Goebel

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"Ride the Legend"

Penny Beakley

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National Versatility

Ranch Horse Association

2023

Docs Shiney Pistol ridden by Mike Beakley

NVRHA LEGEND

Mike Beakley began his riding career at a very young age starting out in Elm Grove, Texas helping his dad. Later in his early teens they moved down the road to a place that had been in the family since the late 1800's that was bought by Mike's grandparents at Melbourne, Texas. So Mike has been involved with horses pretty much all his life, but did not get into showing until his son Travis stop showing. Mike was present thru all of Travis's horse showing career starting in 4H. Travis decided to move on to Reining in his high school year and on into college. After Travis said he was finished Mike tried his hand at Reining using the horse that Travis trained that Mike breed and raised from a baby. Mike sold that horse and bred a mare that he had to get the horse that he is riding now, Docs Shiney Pistol known as Pistol. Pistol is out of sire Twice As Shiney and dam Leos Miss Sugar Bar. Pistol got his name from birth because he was such a horse that just tried you and had to be in your back pocket. Pistol is a very friendly people horse, but is hard headed and will do it on his terms.

In December of 2017 Mike and his wife moved to Colorado Springs because of grandkids. Not retired but works from home for four days a week. Latigo Equestrian Center was having an event going on which happened to be the NVRHA Finals where he met Dave Currin. So that was the beginning of the journey of him making Pistol a Legend. Mike did not start training Pistol and competing until about 2019. Mike has done most of the training



himself with the help of Jay and Gena Henson and Jeff Barnes.

So Mike decided to begin his journey of riding Pistol to the Legend Award. In this journey you have a lot of hard work ahead of you when you are beginning a new adventure that you know nothing about. This entails talking to a lot of people (which if you know Mike that is not a problem) that have been doing this for several years reading the rule book and most of all just going to the shows and learning. One of the other things that you need is getting to know your horse and horse getting to know what you are wanting from him. Sometimes the two of you are not on the same page which ends up not getting the results that you might want at each show. So you come home and practice, practice and practice. Sometimes your horse does not like or understand the point of some of the obstacles that they have to do. You take Pistol for some reason when it comes to going across the





wooden bridge there are days it does not bother him then there are days it just blows his mind. And sometimes the person on the back of horse has a hard time getting the horse to understand what they are wanting. This is when it takes a lot of patients and understanding from both the rider and horse.

The journey began in the year 2019 where you show up at all the horse shows possible and of course the clinics that has been a big help especially for a beginner. The year was a good one for Mike of which he was not expecting to do as good as he did for a beginner. The year 2019 Mike finished with Reserve Champion Novice NVRHA finals, 3rd Novice NVRHA year end, and 2nd Novice year end COVRHA. With these wins he was encouraged to move on to the next level. This also meant working on things that both the horse and rider needed too perfect.

So moving on to 2020 proved to be a little bit harder with some shows in question because of COVID. Mike forged on at working on his riding skills. The riding skills that Mike had when he was has growing up were different than the riding skills that he needed to perfect. Growing up you basically did what your dad ask and stay on top of the horse. Perfecting his skills meant learning how to sit better in the saddle, dropping his reins, and of working on the chicken wing arm that kept flapping. Pistol was beginning to catch on to what Mike was wanting, but that wooden bridge still seems to be one of Pistol's draw backs. Mike was again proud of himself and Pistol for finishing 3rd Limited NVRHA year end and 2nd Limited year end COVRHA. Overall the year of 2020 was a good one and encouraged the two to move on and hang in there to reach the goals that Mike had set.

The year 2021 was a busy and good year for two dynamic duo. They had seemed to perfect some of the issues that they had been working on in the previous year. Ending the year as Reserve Champion Amateur NVRHA finals, 3rd Open year end NVRHA, and 3rd Amateur year end COVRHA. It seem that Mike and Pistol's goal was getting closer.

Here we are in the 2022 year season and Mike's goal was within reach. Mike and Pistol went to all the shows possible and clinics and they were able to reach their goal. The 2022 year ended the year with Mike and Pistol winning Reserve Champion Amateur NVRHA finals, Reserve Champion Amateur NVRHA year end , Reserve Champion Open NVRHA finals and 1st Amateur year end COVRHA. Mike and Pistol made it. Also, in 2022 Mike and Pistol received all five Ranch Horse Superior awards and the Legend award in a single year.



So now you have a brief history of how Mike and Pistol became a Legend. This was a horse that was breed, raised and trained by Mike. Mike did have some help along the way with training but overall it was a horse breed, raised and trained by Mike.

A Life of Passion, Purpose and Achievement

EMILY LAPPEGAARD AND GOLDEN H MISTER T AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS LEGEND AWARD

by Mel Duke and Nate Lappegaard

As Emily's Dad, I've gotten to experience Emily's interest in horses. When Emily is truly passionate about something, it usually ends up manifesting itself in her life. Horseback riding is no exception. As a teenager, Emily was able to combine her passion for helping others with her joy of being around horses. She volunteered at an amazing organization near home named Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship. Founded in 1994, the organization is based on the premise that adaptive horseback riding provides substantial physical, cognitive, speech, and interactive benefits to people with physical and cognitive challenges. To no one's surprise, Emily stood out as a caring volunteer and developed a relationship with one of the leaders of the organization. As a result, with the oversight of a formative and helpful mentor, Emily was given the opportunity to trade volunteer hours with horseback riding lessons. This was the basis for Emily's lifelong passion with horses.

After moving away and attending college on the East Coast, Emily continued to pursue her passion with horses. She sought any possible equine opportunities near the University, and continued to develop her skills and passion the little bit she could. All the while, she diligently pursued and achieved her undergraduate degree. Despite her focus on academics at the University of Rochester, music at Eastman School of Music, her



sorority and other activities, horses continued to hold a special place in her heart.

After graduating and moving to Colorado, Emily sought out a horse rescue organization, Zuma's Rescue Ranch. Based in Littleton, Colorado, the organization focuses on compassion-based therapy and provides a safe haven for rescue horses. Emily continued to pursue her love and compassion for horses as she volunteered diligently with the organization. And, based on her determination to succeed, she worked equally hard on her English riding lessons. Yet again, her heart provided direction in her pursuit of horsemanship.

As Emily's career continued to grow as co-owner of the boutique luxury firm LUX Denver Real Estate Company, she found time to keep up with riding. And then a remarkable thing happened, she met Dave Currin. Little did she know that her English riding days were about to end, and her competitive Western riding journey was about to take hold.

Fast forward to today, as Emily's husband, I've seen the evolution of my wife's skills and understanding of horsemanship. To continue the story, Dave Currin walked up to the fence between our two houses (with a glass of wine in hand, of course) and said to me, "Son, I see you have those horses over there- do you plan on doing anything with them?" "What did you have in mind?" I replied, and our relationship with NVRHA was born.

At that time, we had two rescue horses- a beautiful draft cross named Galahad, and a sweet old paint named Bo. Galahad, despite our best efforts and more money than we like to remember, turned out to be unrideable due to health issues, so we sent our other horse, Bo, to some trainers Dave recommended- Jay and Gena Henson.

Dave was kind enough to haul Bo out to the W-H stables, and about three days later, we received a call from Jay Henson telling us to, "come get yer horse." Bo didn't make the grade, and Jay was honest enough to send the horse back promptly instead of wasting our money. I knew right then we had ourselves a true treasure- an honest horse trainer.

Jay started looking for a horse for Emily, and after a few bad

candidates, he put us on to a horse out in Greenfield, Iowa- Golden H Mister T, owned by Matt and Alecia Heinz. In April of 2018, we went out and bought the cheapest horse trailer we could find, and headed out to Iowa to buy the most expensive thing we ever had that could die- a horse.

We knew nothing about competition horses at the time, and this whole band of outlaws- Jay, Gena, Dave, Alecia, and Matt, could have really taken us to the cleaners. Instead, they took us in like family and took wonderful care of us. Arriving in Iowa, we were greeted by Alecia. We headed out to the arena in those Iowa winter winds, and Emily hopped on to, "T." Alecia immediately started acting like a cow, and Emily tried to get T to cut! As Emily had never sat in a Western saddle before, not much happened- she says it was like learning to ride all over again. But, as Jay predicted, T was just the horse for Emily. We pieced together all the money and cushion coins we possibly could, and bought the horse along with some tack that Alecia's mom graciously sold us, and off we went with a horse and all the western tack we now owned in the trailer.

Emily rode a little bit in competition that year, but had some challenges due to her MS. She started training with Jay and Gena, and frequent trips with Dave out to Hugoton became a normal occurrence. A great friendship was born on those trips with Dave, the Hensons, their family, and so many of those great Kansas folks- too many to mention here.

Emily rode her first full season in 2019. She kept at it, made mistakes, got her western riding wardrobe act together, dealt with intense heat (hard on a person with MS), and kept improving. I recorded every run on video (well, at least the ones without operator error - show husbands and moms, IYKYK), and Emily compared them to the scoresheets to learn how to do better. She started to win shows, and was ending up in the top three more often than not. After a second place finish in the Novice class in 2020, she won her first NVRHA saddle in 2021.

Through the grace of God (and the patience of our trainers), Emily and T competed at as many shows as possible, including the NRSHA world show twice- in which she placed 5th overall in cutting one year!

As time went on, Emily began to need a new horse- and we knew T was just a few points short of his Legend. The whole team got on board- Alecia even came out to Rendezvous to ride T to try to get those last few working points on him. Eventually, we found the perfect new home for T, and Emily shed more than a few tears as he moved onto his new dream life. We had resigned ourselves to the reality that he



would retire from competition a few points shy of Legend.

Needless to say, we were wrong. When we bought T from Matt and Alecia, he had 130 points on him. Emily put another 150 points on him, bringing him to his Legend. When we got the award last year at Finals, we all cried. Matt Heinz was there and was the proudest horse Dad you've ever seen. Alecia showed up later with hugs and congratulations, and we agreed to work out a visitation schedule for the beautiful Legend award we received. Today, we have a wall of inspiration, showcasing the Legend award, the Superior Ranch Trail award, Superior Ranch Riding award, alongside beautiful custom spurs, belt buckles, grand champion awards and more amazing NVRHA prizes. Whenever the going gets tough, it's a reminder that anything can be accomplished with passion, purpose and dedication.

Thanks to everyone who has supported Emily in pursuing her dream, and most importantly, her parents, Mel and Jennifer. They've been her rock for her entire life, and done everything parents could do to support their daughter's dream.

We'll see y'all out there this year!



Golden H Mister T

THE EARLY DAYS WITH ALECIA HIENZ

You can say by chance, that T ended up where he is today. You could claim fate. His humble beginnings started simply with family friends doing each other favors along the way of life, and his purpose simply grew from there. His breeders, Rich and Connie Kaiser, were having a hard time finding hay, and offered half ownership of the unborn colt to Karen and Alvin Havens if they would feed the broodmare through the winter, foal her out, and on to weaning. Hay is never an issue on the farm, so mare care was pretty simple. In 2009, T (literally short for “trouble”) was born a wonderful golden color, and had quite the personality. By fall, Rich and Connie had medical bills and offered to sell their half interest in the colt. No brainer, he was purchased. T was shown as a stallion during his yearling year, and while he didn’t accomplish accolades, he was reasonable to be around and looked the part.



weren’t any awards left to get. He had his superiors in Trail and Ranch Riding, had several points in Conformation, and was halfway there in the Working Ranch. The Legend was all that was left. Alecia decided to list him for sale, and anticipated it would take over a year to find him just the right home. Enter Emily and Nate. (March 2018)



Upon becoming a two year old, he was shipped down to OPSU with Alecia to be broke to ride. His time there finished up by showing that spring in the Collegiate division at Rendezvous in all of the NVRHA classes. Alecia continued to ride him at home over the summer, and he was sent to Jay and Gena as a 3 year old for more training. Matt did try to ride him at first, but after a mishap and bent bit, he decided to just include T in his shenanigans, and rode Sunny during the shows. This was also the time it was decided that T would make a better gelding than a stallion, so upon returning to Iowa that year, he lost his appendages. His three and four year old years were fraught with T’s ability to stir up trouble and then somehow make up for it in the show pen. He did buck her off once, in Windom, MN. Alecia took in all the english classes that day as retribution. Matt only seemed to encourage the trouble; taking T into conformation with costumes, laughing when Alecia would get bucked off, and T would happily go along with anything that was out of the ordinary and not boring.



By age five, T and Alecia had started winning hi point awards wherever they went in PHBA, and in the following years, the NVRHA titles also started coming in. It was obvious he would never make a kids horse, so Alecia retired her old gelding to the kids and left T as the sole show horse for herself. The year they won the NVRHA Finals was when Alecia finally felt like life had come full circle. He was a fresh teenager by now, and there



Novices Share Insight of their First National Finals

A journey starts with one small step. NVRHA honors all those who make their first NVRHA National Championship Finals finding new confidence to return again, and again.

I suppose it is a bit like what a first time player at the Superbowl experiences. A chance to fulfill a dream finally opens up and then that mental process of preparing takes hold. Questions like: What will it be like? How will my nerves settle down? Am I ready to compete at this level? What's the facility layout going to be like? Will my horse settle in? Excitement mixed with anxiety. Then that anxiety gets a bit tempered knowing others in your affiliate are making the journey, plus NVRHA is all about learning and growing right? That takes a bit of the edge off plus no one will be watching you on national TV, whew. So now just my horse and me....plus that cow... hope I get some good cattle. Then your packing truck and trailer, trusty equine, and headed down the road. Hoping you remembered everything, but especially the grace and grit that got you into this in the first place!

In 2022, the NVRHA National Finals was hosted in Lincoln, Nebraska. To honor those making their first trip to National Finals across all our affiliates, and to inspire others to take that first trip, we've captured some notes from several Novice riders who made their first journey as a big step toward more to come.

Chris Masterpole: Chris shares, "I have been riding since I was little, no formal training until the last handful of years. Sue Eisenman, a long time Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Affiliate member, approached me at a Buck Brannaman clinic in 2020 about potentially joining.

I initially started with my Overo Paint Sonny (Hard Time Sonny) but due to his age, I went looking for a horse and found Lu, Suddenly R Lazy Lu. She was only 3 and spent 6 months with trainer Anthony McClimon getting restarted and a building a solid foundation...along with myself." Her favorite class is Ranch Trail. "It is fun to do obstacles and show that kind of control with your horse and the idea of practical application of what my horse knows." says Chris.

Coming off a solid 2022 event season, Chris joined 14 other NLVRHA members at the Finals. When asked her favorite part of



Chris Masterpole aboard Suddenly R Lazy Lu, with a serious gaze as she starts a Finals class 2022 NVRHA National Finals Novice Division

going to Finals, Chris remarked, "The best part of National Finals was the experience of driving to Nebraska and meeting so many wonderful horsewomen and men. Giving my horse a chance to experience a new situation and challenging myself with the primary goal of keeping my horse with me and have fun, learn and just try to the best we can do as a team."

Kelly Anderson: In the spirit of those who finally find their NVRHA time, Kelly smiles, "I came to horses later in my life than many people, finally living out my childhood dream after I turned 40!



Kelly Anderson aboard Rowdy As Rascal (KayCee) trotting over logs in her favorite Ranch Trail. 2022 NVRHA National Finals Novice Division.

"I went to my first National Finals with a total of 4 years of riding experience on a recovering barrel horse that I trained for ranch versatility all on my own. I learned about NLVRHA at the MN Horse Expo in 2018. NVRHA Clinician and Judge Russ Ratkowski was doing demonstrations of some of the events with a number of NLVRHA members of all different experience levels. I was attracted to the organization because of its focus on education and how they support riders of all levels. I also love that the discipline focuses on good horsemanship and useful horse skills that are transferable to actual ranch work. I attended my first event as a 40th birthday gift to myself. That's where I discovered how much I had to learn...I didn't even know what a lead was, let alone how to get my horse to take the correct one!"

"I've come to love this organization and the people in it. I've learned so much through the events. My favorite class is trail class because it showcases just how much my horse and I have learned, from an inexperienced rider on a horse that only knew how to turn barrels to a calm and confident team that can maneuver obstacles with grace. As a bonus, all the obstacles represent things we actually encounter on our home ranch and those skills help us do real work back home." shares Kelly.

As to why this was the year for Kelly, she states, "This year the stars aligned and I was able to go to National Finals for the first time. I was so nervous and it showed, even in the warm-up pen. Jay Henson, president of NVRHA, called me out. He told me not to worry about getting it other people's way. He said, "you belong here, you just ride." Once I finally felt ready to get my hot barrel horse into a lope, she put on the most beautiful show, loping the prettiest circles she's ever given me. Jay noticed and hollered from across the arena, "would you look at that! That's the nicest lope in the arena!" The rest of the weekend was filled with some great rides and some not so great rides. It was fun to hang out with great horse-loving people, learning and challenging myself to come back better next year"

Article by Ann Goebel who remembers her first NVRHA Finals in 2017 and her return trip in 2019.

Laura Hildebrandt

2022 NVRHA HORSEPERSON OF THE YEAR

Just ask any member of Northern Lights – “Who is the ONE person responsible for the success of every horse and every rider at every event?” and they’ll tell you – it is the quiet, behind the scenes leader, Laura Hildebrandt. Communication, organization, perseverance, knowledge, dedication, selflessness.. she has it all and so much more!

Deb Martin – “In October of 2013, Laura attended her first NLVRHA event as a volunteer in Proctor, Minnesota. At that very first event, she quickly could see the struggles and gaps that the Event Manager was having and automatically stepped forward to fill in those gaps. On the long drive home from that event, Laura said that she would really like to organize and manage an event in her neighborhood. Since that time, she has become an amazing asset to so many riders from NL, and also bringing her skills, knowledge, and organizational talents to riders at the NVRHA National Finals. We have all witnessed countless times when Laura has been up late into the night getting paperwork ready, and then preparing systems to make things run more smoothly for everyone from the tabulators to the volunteers. Her communication style is very quiet and as a result many people don’t recognize the depth of knowledge and strength that she brings to this organization. What is most important to note is how much Laura truly cares for the horse and rider at all

levels and at all events. Ask her why she does it – she will tell you she wants to help all of us, her friends, and especially help the horses. She sees the results that are possible with NVRHA and she is dedicated to its success.”

Stephany Siitari – “In the summer of 2014, at an event in Cannon Falls, MN, I was serving as the event manager when Juice tore her lower eye lid on a set of bridle hooks that were accidentally hung on the stall. Juice required stitches, and was scratched from the event and hauled home – NLVRHA was left with no one to manage the event. Laura had been volunteering at a couple NLVRHA events in a number of helpful ways, but in this emergency, I prevailed upon her to PLEASE handle the remaining registrations, greet participants, coordinate the volunteers, the catering, make the announcements, make the payments, and everything else to keep the event on track. If you know Laura, she is about the last person to be inclined to take a microphone and be the center of attention. After a quick chalk talk on what to do, Laura reluctantly agreed

and pulled off the remainder of the event without a hitch. Every now and then, there is a rare individual who can get things done in spite of competing interests. Those amazing leaders are quiet, and thoughtful. They lead from behind the scenes, are competent and calm in the face of imminent disaster. That person can make an observation and draw your attention to the error of your ways and never offend anyone. That person is Laura Hildebrandt. All members of NL appreciate and recognize the hard work she puts forth to make each event successful



and profitable, with her forever smile and “it’ll be okay!” attitude.”

Sue Eisenman – “We were at the Rimoe Ranch event a couple years back, and Laura was showing a horse named Baby. There were several riders waiting outside the Ranch Trail pen for their turn to compete, along with Laura and Baby. We had a nervous, first-time participant waiting with us, and I heard her ask Laura, “So ... how are YOU going to do this trail pattern?” In my mind – I’m thinking, “Oh my gosh, where do we start? With how to approach the trot serpentine, or where to position your horse on the side-pass, or what to do when things get hairy with the log drag?” As I’m mulling that over in my mind, I hear Laura’s response. “Well ... first off, I’m going to walk up to the gate, then I’m going to open it and walk through, then I’m going to close it! And then I’ll head over to the bridge and walk over it, and then....” And you knowthat was the perfect answer for an anxious rider – one step at a time, in typical Laura fashion – break it down, keep it simple, get-r-done. Laura is currently the event secretary for NL, and EVERY event manager takes on that role only because we know that Laura has our back! Because she handles registrations, stall assignments, setting up clinic groups, accommodating judges, and so much more ... we get to RIDE OUR PONIES! She is the first welcoming hug when you arrive, the peaceful solution to



any problem during the event, and a true friend to all. She has helped NL become the fun family where everyone gets along and everyone helps and encourages each other to become better partners with their ponies!"

Paul Haugland - "My first experience with Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Association was watching them do a demo at the Minnesota Horse Expo with my wife. When the session was over, I had some questions. So, we went in search of some information. That is when I met Laura and we have been GREAT friends ever since. At that first meeting, she was a person who greeted me with a smile and was willing to share with me any information that she could about NLVrHA. I was hooked after our meeting. The first show that I went to watch was at UWRF in River Falls. Who was the first person there to greet me and answer any questions that I had – Laura Hildebrandt. My first show to participate in was at Windom, MN. Who was the first person that I met at the show – Laura Hildebrandt. I was only going to do the clinic that weekend. But because of Laura and a couple other members, I stayed and participated in the show the next day. Since then it has become a common occurrence that Laura is one of the first people to greet me and wish me Good Luck!! Laura puts in a lot of time and effort to make the weekend events successful from way before the event starts to way after the event is over. She is always willing to help and provide encouragement to anyone and everyone at the shows. Recently, I was able to attend one of her shows and was very proud of what Laura has been able to accomplish in Western Dressage. She has had some success while competing and this past year qualified for the Western Dressage Association World Show and I was able to watch one of her runs. We are VERY LUCKY to have Laura Hildebrandt working with the NLVrHA. We would be lost without her help and support. NICE JOB LAURA!! "

Vicky Henderson - "I remember once when we had our Tabulator unexpectedly cancel. Laura - not having a clue how it's done - stepped right up and said "I'll give it a try". She did an awesome job and has been our backup tabulator ever since. The dedication this girl has is awe inspiring. Behind the scenes is her truck - packed full of several totes, computer bags, and a printer that she hauls to every event, sets



up, and tears down without a complaint. Having Laura as a bunk mate, I can attest that she will not come to bed till the last person has checked in (no matter the time) and all the paperwork is ready for the morning, and she is the first one up in the morning - making sure there is hot coffee for everyone! I was excited to see Laura and Baby finally compete at a NL event. I hope to see more of that!"

The fact that Laura gives so much of her time and financial resources to be at our events has continued to expand over the years. The amount of work she can get done single-handedly is amazing. She has been the Event Manager, Event Secretary, and Tabulator, and sometimes all of the above at some events. At the end of the day we know she's got to be incredibly exhausted, but you would never know it by the smile on her face and the genuine care she gives

everyone! Laura agreed to be a Co-Event Manager with Channing Hawks for the 2019 NVRHA National Championships. Channing said it worked out great because Laura's skills complemented her own so well. In 2020, Channing had a family emergency which precluded her from managing the National Championships, so Laura stepped up and like any great cow hand, once again did what needed to be done. Channing and Laura were also the co-managers for the 2021 and 2022 National Finals in Lincoln, NE.

Laura is also on her own journey to further her horsemanship skills. For the past several years, she has studied Western Dressage in addition to working western skills under the guidance of NVRHA/NLVRHA clinician/judge Jennifer Bull of LongShot Farm. Laura has successfully competed in Ranch events as well as Western Dressage on LongShot Farm's various school horses, including having shown at the Western Dressage Association's 2022 World Show. Because of Laura's riding ability and knowledge of horses, she provides an even greater degree of support to everyone she comes into contact with both at the local and national level. She knows just what to say to that rider who might come to give NVRHA a try for the first time and we believe that the quality experiences people have at their first events is why NVRHA is growing.

We are so proud of our Laura being the 2022 NVRHA Horse Person of the Year! We all love you, – and we thank you for all you do!!



Stephen Hendrickson

NVRHA'S 2022 MOST IMPROVED RIDER

Humble Hendrickson's road to this well-deserved title started literally, *from the ground up*.

While his first NLVRHA/NVRHA competition wasn't until the end of 2020, Steve has been no stranger to the horse. As a Certified Journeyman Farrier, Steve has made his living shoeing horses since 2001. He is always striving to improve his skills no matter what he is doing. Steve attributes his successful career as a farrier to his involvement with horseshoeing competitions.



Steve riding Meradas Wood Nickel, "aka" Jersey, at the 2022 NVRHA National Finals in Lincoln, Nebraska. The pair earned the Amateur Championship Title. The World Championship Blacksmiths has a slogan, "Education through Competition", and this certainly applies to the NVRHA program as well.

You could say Steve was born into his horse-centered lifestyle. His time around horses began on his Grandpa Hewitt's farm in Northwestern Minnesota. Steve's first time on a horse would have been riding double with his mom, Cindy, on her old horse, Joey. As a youngster, Steve has memories of riding a pony named Blaze at the Hewitt Ranch and his Uncle Jim picking him out of the dirt after Blaze took off a runnin' ("Get Back on that Pony" by Chris LeDoux, anyone?). Yep, from the ground up.

Steve has always had a love for the Western way. He made several trips with friends from Church to the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming. Donning his hat and boots everywhere he went, his friends affectionately referred to him as "Cowboy Steve".

For years, Steve focused on building his shoeing business and left the riding to his wife, Cody. Her most recent seasoned NVRHA horse, is Meradas Wood Nickel, also known as Jersey. Knowing Jersey's potential, Steve saw the perfect opportunity to learn the ropes on a really broke horse. Steve recalls a conversation he had with his mom while she was in the midst of battling cancer, and she encouraged him to "ride while you have the chance." Steve wanted to spend more time with his wife and this was something they could enjoy doing together.

Prior to 2020, Steve never had any formal instruction on proper, discipline-specific riding, and he was eager to learn. A



Cody began showing Jersey (Meradas Wood Nickel) with NLVRHA in 2015 while Steve attended horseshoeing contests. After Jersey earned the Legend Award in 2019, it was time for Cody to start focusing her attention on her next Versatility prospect, Whiskey N Ginger. Pictured right are Cody on Jersey and supportive Steve aiding the team's efforts and hardware.



Whether it is a horse's foot, building project on the farm, or making a pair of spurs out of a raw piece of steel, Steve applies the same dedication to learning how to be a better rider.

Steve said, "if you want to become 'Most Improved' you have to be able to evaluate yourself." That mindset allowed Steve to ride with intention with the goal to get better.

word from the wise... spouses should avoid trying to teach each other! Especially when one half is a competitive horsewoman who recently turned over her show horse to her husband. But Steve is a mild-mannered, patient man and he took it all in stride. All kidding aside, Steve and Cody have both learned a



Steve is a welcome presence and attends almost every NLVRHA Event helping out in some way. Always has a kind word and up early for the coffee with a smile. Over the years, he and Cody have been very active in planning and running events and supporting their home NVRHA Affiliate, Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Association (NLVRHA). In 2021, shown here with trophy knives, the couple were voted co-recipients of Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Association Affiliate's Horseman of the Year for their demonstration of service to other members.

great deal riding together. Through the clinics, lessons, and dedicated practice at home, it has been an awesome journey watching Steve and Jersey grow together as a team.

In 2021, Steve competed on Jersey in the Limited division. It was the last show of the Northern Lights season when Steve expressed to one of our judges that he didn't know if he would continue to show Jersey. NVRHA Clinician and Judge, Jennifer Bull was emphatic to Steve, "You need to keep riding this horse!" She saw the special bond Steve and Jersey had. Jennifer knew there was much more for Steve to learn from riding Jersey, but he would have to put in the time and effort. Jersey is a special kind of horse. She's not exactly an "easy" horse, but she is honest, willing, and will teach the rider a great deal if they are willing to listen. A person can't teach someone "feel", but Steve was able to develop his "feel" from riding Jersey.

Steve had big goals for him and Jersey in 2022! They moved up to the Amateur division. The competition would be tough and they had new skills to work on, including fence work, circling and roping. Working Ranch Horse class has always been Jersey's favorite class, and Steve got to experience the thrill when she locks on to her cow and gives it all she's got!

When Steve first expressed an interest in trying Versatility, it was all about doing the Working Ranch class and how he just wanted to "rope a cow". It didn't take long for him to realize how all the skills developed from working on the different classes build on each other and contribute to making a great ranch horse. It was the countless hours working on his riding



Steve and Jersey in Ranch Cutting on the left. Steve went quickly from the Novice, to Limited, and then elected to compete in the Amateur ranks in 2022.

In 2021, Steve competed on Jersey in the Limited division. It was the last show of the Northern Lights season when Steve expressed to one of our judges that he didn't know if he would continue to show Jersey.

and building a strong relationship with Jersey, that makes this award so meaningful. Looking back just a few years ago, as Steve would be coming up the drive after a long day of shoeing horses, he would look out to see Cody riding in the outdoor arena. Fast forward to this past summer, now it was Cody returning from work, and to her surprise, there was Steve and Jersey, practicing in the outdoor.

No matter what it is Steve does, his goal is to make it better. Whether that is a horse's foot or a building project on the farm, or making a pair of spurs out of a raw piece of steel. And he applied that same dedication to learning how to be a better rider. Steve said, "if you want to become 'Most Improved' you have to be able to evaluate yourself." That mindset allowed Steve to ride with intention with the goal to get better. The World Championship Blacksmiths has a slogan, "Education through Competition", and this certainly applies to the NVRHA program as well.

Steve's future goals continue along that same frame of mind: forward progression. He knows there is much more for him to learn. Steve and Cody have a couple young horses to introduce to NVRHA and with that presents a whole new challenge. Steve's plan is to enjoy the journey as he continues to grow and improve his horsemanship.

Northern Lights (NLVRHA), Steve's home affiliate, joins with NVRHA in congratulating Steve on this award! Steve is a welcome presence at our activities and attends almost every Event helping out in some way. He's always one who has a kind word while up early for coffee with that hospitable smile! He and Cody have been very active in event, mini clinic planning, running, and supporting our affiliate over the years. In 2020, Cody and Steve were member voted co-recipients of NLVRHA's Horseman of the Year for their demonstration of service to other members.

Story by Cody Hendrickson with contributions by Ann Goebel

Level of Achievement Award

LADDER OF SUCCESS

2022 AWARDEES

DIAMOND MEDAL

Tatanka ridden by Vicky Henderson

MEDAL AWARD

HR Playin Dori ridden by Kay Cornelius - Bronze and Silver

Meradas Wood Nickel ridden by Stephen Hendrickson - Bronze

LEGEND

Kay Cornelius riding HR Playin Dori
Stephany Siitari riding Little Lido Ote

SUPERIOR AWARD

Stephany Siitari/Little Lido Ote - Trail, Riding

Deb Martin/Page Martin Parker - Trail

Sue Eisenman/DLB Smart Blue Bars - Trail

Megan Newlon/Langtrees CD - Trail

Glenn Ryan/Sly Fancy Cat - Working Ranch

Deb Raymond/Chexy Bar West - Trail, Riding

Emily Lappegaar - Trail, Riding

RANCH HORSE SUPREME CHAMPION

Emily Lappegaard and Golden H Mister T

Kay Cornelius and HR Playing Dori

Kelli Gaines and Dixons Got A Big Gun

Kaylee Sefcovic and Smoke N Wright On

Lisa Butler and Boogers Little Fancy

Connie Gebhart and Im Your Wimp

Annie Eitel and Im Your Huckelberry

RANCH HORSE CHAMPION

Kelli Gaines and Dixons Got A Big Gun

Grace Douglasss and Very Smart Lover

Megan Newlon and Langtrees CD (Open)

Annie Eitel and Im Your Huckelberry

Cori Atteberry and Smokes First Choice

Dave Currin and Rowdyhollywoodcowboy

Kristen Welch and Blue Savannah Style

Stephen Hendrickson and Meradas Wood Nickel

Gay Jordan and Barn Diva

Jessie James and Im Gunna Let It Shine

ROM

Numerous - see NVRHA website

DIAMOND MEDAL

MEDAL AWARDS

BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD,
PLATINUM

LEGEND

SUPERIOR

RANCH HORSE SUPREME CHAMPION

RANCH HORSE CHAMPION

REGISTER OF MERIT

Four Medals with
minimum of 450 points

Legend award plus 90
points in any class

Four Superior Awards
with minimum of 200
points

40 points in any class

10 points in all five
classes

Five points in all five
classes

10 points in any class

NOTE: Ranch Horse Champion, Ranch Horse Supreme Champion and Superior Awards are based on Horse Rider Teams.
Legend and Medal Awards are based on Championship points earned by horse.

2022 Ranch Horse Champions



Kelli Gaines and Dixons Got A Big Gun



Grace Douglass and Very Smart Lover



Annie Eitel and Im Your Huckelberry



Megan Newlon and Langtrees CD (Open)



Cori Atteberry and Smokes First Choice

2022 Ranch Horse Champions - cont



Dave Currin and Rowdyhollywoodcowboy



Stephen Hendrickson and Meradas Wood Nickel



Gay Jordan and Barn Diva



Jessie James and Im Gunna Let It Shine

NVRHA would like to say "thanks Edye" for a wonderful photography job at the 2022 National Championship. We welcome her back to Castle Rock for our 2023 Championship.



Wright Focus
Photography

wrightfocus.com
316.641.6900
Edye Wright, CPP



2022 Ranch Horse Supreme Champion



Kay Cornelius and HR
Playing Dori



Kelli Gaines and Dixons Got A Big Gun



Kaylee Sefcovic and Smoke N Wright On



Lisa Butler and Boogers Little Fancy



Connie Gebhart and Im Your Wimp



Annie Eitel and Im Your Huckelberry



Emily Lappegaard and Golden H Mister T

2022 Medal Winners



HR Playin Dori - ridden by Kay Cornelius
Bronze Medal: Working Ranch Horse
Silver Medal: Ranch Cutting



Meradas Wood Nickel - ridden by Stephen Hendrickson
Bronze Medal: Working Ranch Horse



The Medal Achievement Award Series initiated in 2019.

Over the first fifteen years of NVRHA, over 1,000 horse / rider teams have participated in the NVRHA events. During this period, nineteen teams have earned the prestigious Legend Achievement Award. Upon achieving the Legend, riders have invested much time, money, and training and the horse has just reached a level where he or she has the potential for higher levels of achievement. Additionally, the potential for many years of enjoyment for the rider remains. The Medal Achievement Award Series was adopted by the NVRHA to provide a goal for these horses and riders to climb the ladder of excellence.

The Medal Award series consists of five levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond).

Championship Points earned on the horse by multiple riders and owners are used to determine Award Levels. Medal Awards will be presented to the horses having been awarded

the “Legend” Award that have earned 90 Championship Points in four of the five classes (Ranch Riding, Ranch Cutting, Ranch Trail, Working Ranch Horse, Ranch Conformation).

The Bronze Medal will be awarded to the Legend horse first earning 90 points in any of the five classes. The Silver Medal will be awarded for 90 points in a second class, the Gold Medal for the third class, and Platinum Medal for the fourth class. The Diamond Medal will be awarded to the Legend horse having earned a Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Medal and a total of 450 Championship points.

Championship Points counted towards Medal Awards may be earned in any NVRHA Division (Youth, Novice Amateur, Limited Amateur, Intermediate Amateur, Amateur, and Open). All Championship Points earned will be counted regardless of owner or rider, division, etc. Points will be cumulative.

PAST NVRHA DIAMOND METAL WINNERS



2020

Langtrees CD ridden by Megan Newlon

2021

Tatanka ridden by Vicky Hendrickson



2022 Year End Award Winners

LIMITED DIVISION



1st - Megan Newlon & Dollee Parton



2nd - Kaylee Sefcovic & Smoke N Wright On



3rd - Lisa Butler & Boogers Little Fancy

YOUTH LIMITED DIVISION



Grace Douglass & Very Smart Lover



Morgan Eskam & Bets Smart Lena



Ella Zimmerman & Whatcha Been Smokin

AMATEUR DIVISION



1st - Stephen Hendrickson & Meradas Wood Nickel



2nd - Michael Beakley & Docs Shiney Pistol



3rd - Ted Pogue & Poguearosa Rompin Luna

OPEN DIVISION



1st - Alexis Spencer & Uno What Time



2nd - Lisa Butler & Boogers Little Fancy



3rd - Michael Beakley & Docs Shiney Pistol

2022 Year End Award Winners

NOVICE DIVISION



1st - Cody Hendrickson & Whiskey N Ginger



2nd - Jessica Tully & Skeets Starlight Eve



3rd - Janel Opeka & Zantivo Red

YOUTH NOVICE DIVISION



1st - Elisa Roden & Peppy Dual Desire



2nd - Autumn Manuelito & Cromed Mint Twist



3rd - Maclain Marion & Gentleman Pep

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION



1st - Connie Brase & Mr Made Wright



2nd - Vicky Henderson & DJ Joe De Boon



3rd - Sue Weller & Moonstruck Remedy

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE DIVISION



1st - Stanton Tully & Foolish Little Pepper



2nd - Lilly Quern & Sweet Ressurrection



3rd - Quincy Swanson & Smart Little Coach

2022 National Champions

NOVICE DIVISION



1st - Cody Hendrickson & Whiskey N Ginger



2nd - Samantha Hagar & Gun N Whizzen



3rd - Rich Masoner & Lil Whizky Chex

YOUTH NOVICE DIVISION



1st - Autumn Manuelito & Cromed Mint Twist



2nd - Maclain Marion & Gentleman Pep



3rd - Elisa Roden & Peppy Dual Desire

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION



1st - Sue Weller & Moonstruck Remedy



2nd - Sue Eisenman & Peppys Lil Beggar



3rd - Connie Brase & Mr Made Wright

YOUTH INTERMEDIATE DIVISION



1st - Stanton Tully & Foolish Littlepepper



2nd - Teagan Eskam & Warrigal



3rd - Lilly Quern & Sweet Ressurrection

2022 National Champions

LIMITED DIVISION



1st - Megan Newlon & Dollee Parton



2nd - Lisa Butler & Boogers Little Fancy



3rd - Kaylee Sefcovic & Smoke N Wright On

YOUTH LIMITED DIVISION



1st - Grace Douglass & Very Smart Lover



2nd - Morgan Eskam & Bets Smart Lena



Morgan and Grace

AMATEUR DIVISION



1st - Stephen Hendrickson & Meradas Wood Nickel



2nd - Michael Beakley & Docs Shiney Pistol



3rd - Ted Pogue & Poguearosa Rompin Luna

WORLD'S GREATEST DIVISION



1st - Lisa Butler & Boogers Little Fancy



2nd - Michael Beakley & Docs Shiney Pistol



3rd - Alexis Spencer & Uno What Time

National Championship



SOUTH CENTRAL



AFFILIATE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



NORTHERN LIGHTS AFFILIATE



YEAR END NOVICE



YEAR END INTERMEDIATE



YEAR END AMATEUR



YEAR END YOUTH NOVICE



YEAR END LIMITED



YEAR END OPEN



SUPREME CHAMPIONS



SUPERIOR AWARDS



NATIONAL CHAMPION NOVICE



NATIONAL CHAMPION LIMITED



NATIONAL CHAMPION INTERMEDIATE



INTERMEDIATE



NATIONAL CHAMPION YOUTH LIMITED



NATIONAL CHAMPION AMATEUR



NATIONAL CHAMPION OPEN

Michael Beakley riding Docs Shiney Pistol

COLORADO AFFILIATE

Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Legend; Superior — Ranch Riding, Working Ranch Horse, Ranch Trail, Ranch Conformation, Ranch Cutting

Year End: 2nd Amateur Division, 3rd Open Division

National Championship: 2nd Amateur Division, 2nd Open Division



Stephen Hendrickson riding Meradas Wood Nickel

NORTHERN LIGHTS AFFILIATE

Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Ranch Horse Champion: Bronze Medal — Working Ranch Horse

Year End: 1st Amateur Division

National Championship: 1st Amateur Division



Kay Cornelius riding HR Playin Dori

COLORADO AFFILIATE

Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Legend Awarded In 2021

Bronze Medal: Working Ranch Horse

Silver Medal: Ranch Cutting



Emily Lappegaard riding Golden H Mister T

COLORADO AFFILIATE

Limited Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Legend

Superior: Ranch Riding, Trail



Lisa Butler riding Boogers Little Fancy

NORTHERN LIGHTS AFFILIATE

Limited Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Ranch Horse Supreme Champion

Superior — Ranch Trail, Ranch Riding, Ranch Conformation

Year End: 2nd Open Division, 3rd Limited Division

National Championship: 1st Open Divisions, 2nd Limited Division



Kaylee Sefcovic riding Smoke N Wright On

COLORADO AFFILIATE

Limited Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Ranch Horse Supreme Championship

Superior — Ranch Riding, Ranch Conformation

Year End: 2nd Limited Division

National Championship: 3rd Limited Division



Connie Brase riding Mr Made Wright

COLORADO AFFILIATE

Intermediate Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Superior— Ranch Horse Conformation

Year End: 1st Intermediate Division



Matt Clark riding Freckled Rico

SOUTH CENTRAL AFFILIATE

Limited Amateur Division

2022 Awards

Level Of Achievement: Superior — Ranch Riding, Working Ranch Horse, Ranch Trail



Judy Parsons riding Pistol Packin Picasso

SOUTH CENTRAL AFFILIATE

Limited Division
2022 Award

Level Of Achievement Award:
Superior — Ranch Riding



Kim Kasson riding Spark Olena 309

SOUTH CENTRAL AFFILIATE

Limited Division
2022 Award

Level Of Achievement Award:
Superior — Ranch Conformation

Turnback & Herdholders

MOST COMMON MISTAKES

Jay Henson comments

TurnBack:

1. "When Turnback assist the cutter by clearing cattle away from the cow being cut or when moving a sluggish cow to allow the cutter to show his horse, the Turnback not sure of where he needs to be or not being able to get in and out quick enough thus interfering with the Cutter's cut."

2. "When cow takes cutter to fence and Turnback assists in moving the cow back to the working area, often the Turnback does not stay long enough to insure the cow does not reverse and come back to the fence."

Brad Weller comments:

TurnBack:

"On the first cow cut, when the cow is not allowing the cutter to legally quit, the turn back should ride down the fence to

encourage the cow to turn away from the cutter."

Herd Holder:

"Most common mistake of herd holder is not coming down the fence during the cut to be in a position to clear the excess cattle from the cow selected to cut."

Jeff Barnes comments:

Turnback:

"Cutter does not actively communicate with Turnback."

Herd Holder:

"When cow to being cut comes towards back fence, if the herd holder moves toward cow, this would be considered excessive assistance. Must instead use subtle move (pivot right or left) gaining attention of the cow causing it to slow so cutter can regain working advantage."

Article and figures, continued on the next two pages

Turnback & Herdholders

THE CUTTER'S BEST FRIEND

By Dave Currin plus consultation with Jay Hensen, Jeff Barnes and Brad Weller

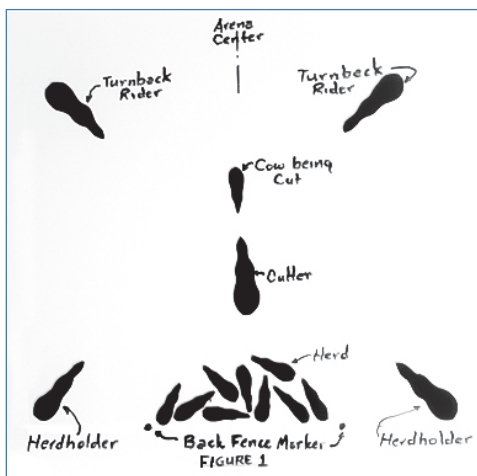


Fig 1 - Position of Riders

The Turnback Riders Job

Assist the cutter by

- ◆ Containing the cow in the cutting area. (FIGURE 1-Position of Riders)
- ◆ Pushing the cow or cattle back to the cutter when the cutter is selecting cow to be cut or is working a cow.
- ◆ Follows (mirrors) the cow from his side of arena to the middle of arena as the cutter works his cow.
- ◆ Without working the cow for the cutter, contains the cow in the working area.
- ◆ Return all remaining cattle to the herd after the cutter makes his cut.
- ◆ Apply just enough pressure to keep the cow moving toward the contestant.

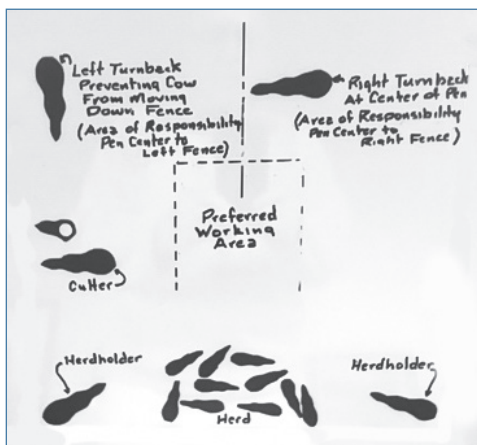


Fig 1A - Turnback Area of Responsibility

The Herdholders Job

Assist the cutter by

- ◆ Containing the herd in the middle of the pen

- ◆ Assist the cutter in making his cut
- ◆ Return any loose cattle out in front of the herd, after the cutter has made his cut.
- ◆ Sitting in proper position during the cut, facing the cutter.
- ◆ Not to close making herd uneasy and more likely to run out and join the cow being cut.
- ◆ Not to far, providing an outlet for the cow to escape and join the cow being cut

Making the Cut

The Role of the Turnback Rider

The Turnback Rider must be alert to every action the cutter makes, maintaining constant communication with the cutter. If cattle remain in the arena after the cutter makes his cut, the Turnback Rider and Herdholder must send them back to the herd so the cutter will have a clean working area. Extreme care must be taken not to interfere with the cutter (must always know which direction the cutter is going). This establishes what the Turnback Rider can and cannot do.

Should an extra cow slip behind the Turnback Rider while making the cut, the Turnback Rider should push the cow back to the herd if it can be done without disturbing the Cutters work. If The Cutter's work would be disturbed, he must watch the Cutter, contain the cow the cutter is cutting, and keep the cow that slipped behind him away from the working area.

Often two cows will pair during the cut. Once they are separated and the Cutter makes his cut, the extra cow should be returned to the herd by the Herdholder. If the extra cow will not return to the herd, the Turnback may allow the cow to go past to the opposite end of the arena, maintaining him there during

The Role of the Herdholder

The Herdholder must return to the herd any cattle remaining in front of the herd after the Cutter has made his cut and before he begins his RUN (see Fig 2). He leaves the arena corner to allow space for the cattle to return to the herd (See Fig 4 and 5).

After all the loose cattle have been returned to the herd, the Herdholder positions himself so as to contain the herd during the Cutter's run. Too close will disturb the herd resulting in a cow

running out to join the cow being worked. Too far would provide an easy outlet for a cow or several cows to escape.

The Herdholder should also alert the Cutter if he is working to close to the herd.

The Herdholders can assist the Cutter by containing the herd while he is making his cut. (see Fig 3) He moves out with the Cutter being careful not to be directly beside him.

As the Cutter makes his cut, the Herdholder adjusts his position allowing the remaining cows to freely filter back to the herd.

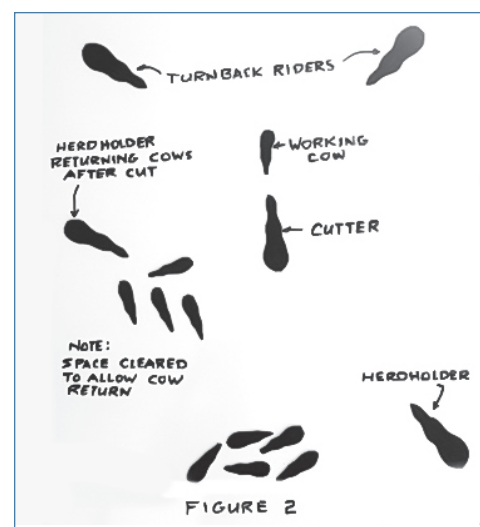


Fig 2 - Herdholder Returning Cows after Cut

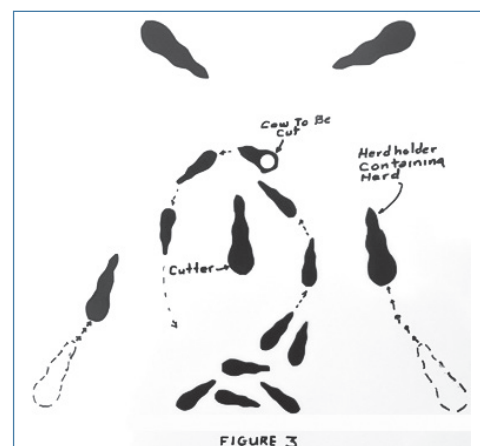


Fig 3 - Herdholder Containing Herd while Cutter separates Cow to be cut

The Run

The Turnback Rider

The Turnback Rider usually moves back and forth across his half of the arena, angling his horse towards the shoulder

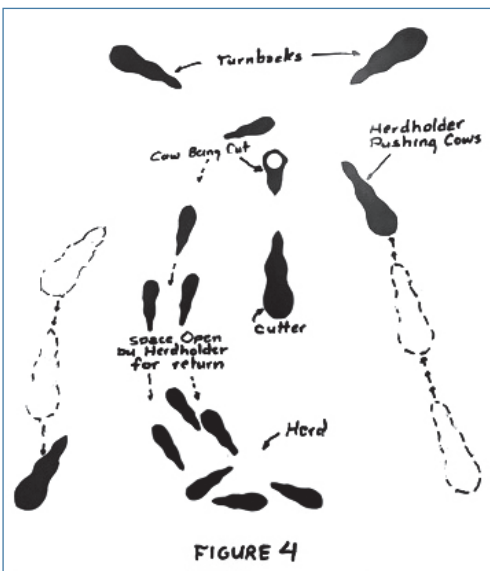


Fig 4 - Herdholder Pushing Cows back to Herd

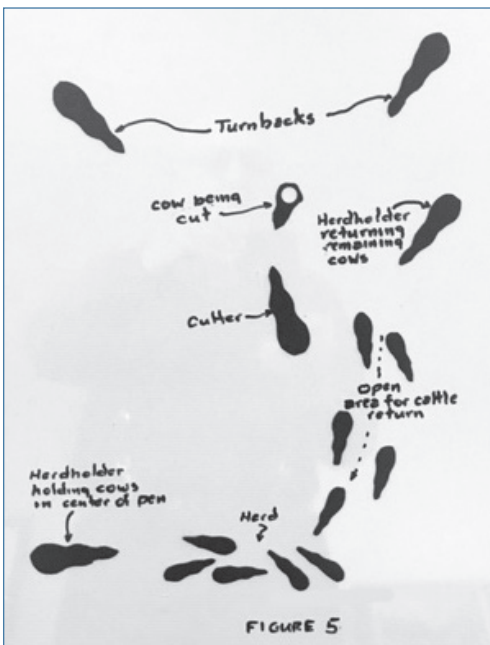


Fig 5 - Herdholder Holding Herd and Pushing Cows back to Herd

area (see Fig 6).

If the cows are in a close group, less pressure is needed to hold the more secure group in place (see Fig 7).

The herd holder can make Subtle Moves during the Cutters work which may be very beneficial. The Herdholder must time the moves for the desired effect.

Cutter loses working advantage. As the cow moves toward the herd, Herdholder pivots to left and takes one step forward. This could turn the cow back from the herd., allowing Cutter to regain positive working position (see Fig 8). Cows darting to the corner presents a challenge to the Herdholder, requiring quick thinking. The route the cow is on will establish whether the Herdholder should move towards the Back Fence or move up the side fence. The goal will be to give the Cutter the open space he needs to hold the cow.

The cows position relative to the Back Fence marker often establishes the actions of the Herdholder. If the cow is inside the Back Fence marker, the Herdholder must remain in the corner and not assist the clutter in any way. If on the outside, the Herdholder can assist the Cutter in getting the cow out of the arena corner (see Fig 9).

of the cow, connecting with the cow facing it towards the Cutter. When the Cutter turns the cow, the Turnback turns, moving with the cow to the arena center, where the second Turnback Rider picks up the cow and repeats the process. (Figure 8 -Turnback Area of Responsibility)

When the Cutter quits the cow, the Turnback Rider returns the cow to the herd as quickly as possible before the Cutter attempts his second cut.

Often the Cutter will select a cow that does not want to move. The Turnback Rider must move closer to the cow, applying more pressure, causing the cow to give the Cutter a better opportunity to score higher.

The Cutter may select a cow that is a runner, moving from one side of the arena to another. For the Cutter to quiet the cow, the cow must turn away from the Cutter or stand still. To achieve the quiet position, the Turnback can back his horse away, releasing the pressure on the cow. If this does not achieve a quiet position, the Turnback can ride down the arena fence toward the Herdholder, opening a space for the cow to run to turn away from the Cutter.

The Turnback Rider must not be too close to the cow, adding excessive pressure, causing him to try to escape. Neither should the Turnback Rider be too far away from the cow, providing insufficient pressure to keep the cow moving.

The Herdholder

The position of the herd holder during the Cutter's run is key. If the herd scatters along the back fence, they will lose herd security and are more prone to run out in the working

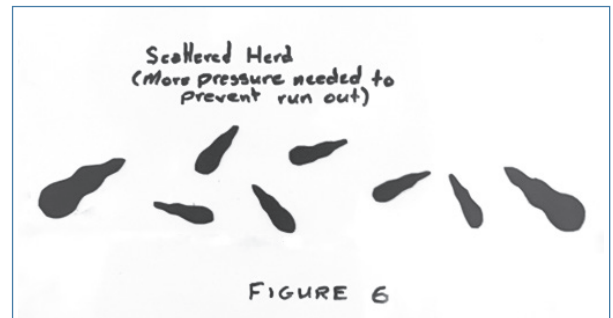


Fig 6 - Scattered Herd requiring Herdholder to apply pressure to squeeze together which will help prevent run out

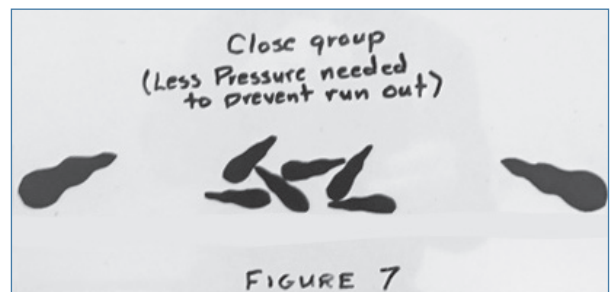


Fig 7 - Herd in close group

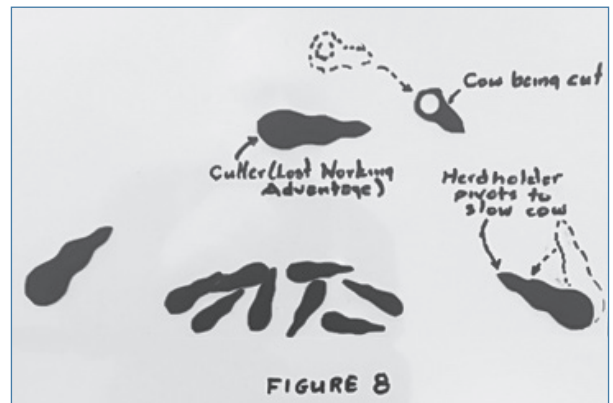


Fig 8 - Herdholder may pivot while in corner when Cutter loses Working Advantage which slows cow allowing the Cutter to regain control of cow

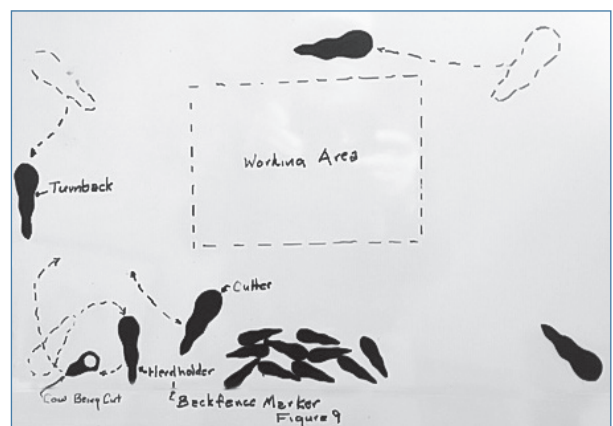


Fig 9 - Herdholder moving out of way of cutter when cow lost by cutter to corner (outside of Back Fence Marker).

Colorado Versatility

RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION



ADULT	YOUTH
NOVICE DIVISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jessica Tully riding Skeets Starlight Eve Julie Wunderlich riding Cant Fool This Chic 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Elisa Roden riding Peppys Dual Desire Maclain Marion riding Gentleman Pep
INTERMEDIATE DIVISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Connie Brase riding Mr Made Wright Kristin Stites riding Dunnit Flashy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rylie Baumen riding Daseke Tori Dinan riding Mighty Effie
LIMITED DIVISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kylee Sefcovic riding Smoke N Wright On Bruce Rice riding Sweet Lil Oak 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ella Zimmerman riding Whatcha Ben Smoking Paige Pointer riding Hollysalena
AMATEUR	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Beakley riding Docs Shiny Pistol Cori Atteberry riding Smokes First Choice 	
OPEN	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alexis Spencer riding Uno What Time Dawson Kouba riding Sunolena Gal 	



2023 COLORADO AFFILIATE SCHEDULE- COLORADO AFFILIATE

April 7-8, Elbert
 May 26-28, Elbert
 June 09-11, Durango
 July 15-16, Elbert

Aug 19-20, Elbert
 Sept 9-10, Elbert
 Oct 14-15, Elbert

TBD
 Ranch Horse Roundup -
 Kit Carson Riding Club,
 Colorado Springs



Youth Novice Champion:
Mia Severson on PLC Rascal Driftwood



Youth Intermediate Champion: Lilly Quern on Sweet Resurrection

Youth Novice Reserve: Hayleigh Wiedeman on Pearl



Amateur Reserve: Ted Pogue on Pogearosa Rompin Luna



Intermediate Reserve: Sue Eisenmanon Peppy's Lil Begger

Amateur Champion: Steve Hendrickson on Meradas Wood Nickel



Limited Champion/HORSE OF THE YEAR: Lisa Butler & Boogers Little Fancy



2022 HORSEMAN OF THE YEAR and Novice Reserve: Paul Haugland on Whoa Betsy Parker

Intermediate Champion: Vicky Henderson on DJ Joe De Boon



Novice Champion: Cody Hendrickson on Wizkey N Ginger



Open Reserve Novice Champion: Viviane Bearbower on PBR Black Diamond



Open Champion & Limited Reserve Champion: Connie Gebhart on Im Your Wimp

South Central Affiliate

2022 YEAR END WINNERS

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION



Champion: Connie Brase riding
Mr Made Wright



Reserve: Janet Yost riding
Heza Splashy Chic



NOVICE DIVISION

Samantha Hager riding Gun N Whizzen

INTERMEDIATE YOUTH DIVISION



Champion: Teagan Eskam
riding Warrigal

Reserve:
Calvin
Gugelmeyer
riding
Hal of
A Dawg



2023 SCHEDULE SOUTH CENTRAL AFFILIATE

Feb 18-19, Lyons, KS (Clinic only)

April 22-23, St Joseph, MO

May 11-14, Hugoton, KS

May 27-28, Norton, KS

Aug 5-6, Lyons, KS

LIMITED DIVISION

Champion: Gay Jordan riding
Barn Diva

Reserve: Megan Newlon riding
Dollee Pardon



YOUTH LIMITED DIVISION

Champion: Grace Douglass riding
Very Smart Lover

Reserve: Morgan Eskam riding
Bets Smart Lena



OPEN DIVISION

Champion: Kellie Jenson riding
Custom Red Wine

Reserve: Cutter Hawks riding
Whats Your Deal





South Dakota Versatility Ranch Horse Association

2023 Show Dates: May 20-21 in Hermosa, SD
Sherry 605-381-3781 June 10-11 in Edgemont, SD
August 26-27 in Hermosa, SD



*Novice Buckle Winner
Michele Mlinar riding Peptos Smart
Deuce*



*Intermediate Buckle Winner
Sherry Sidle Riding DJ*



*Limited Buckle Winner
Jean Kirk riding Soul Dreams*



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Wyoming Affiliate



LIMITED DIVISION

Heather Heart riding Lil Peppy Melo

NOVICE DIVISION

Matthew Woody riding MW Pearlsnap



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

Keshia Brinkerhoff riding Barbie Doll



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

Grand: Goldie Olson riding Mercedes In Crome



YOUTH ADVANCE

Torrin Hermen riding Remington Gunsmoke



YOUTH NOVICE

Kailee Klobberclance riding Holidocs Lil Annie



NOVICE DIVISION

RUNNER-UP Dee McCoy riding Cee Heart Fast Annie



OPEN DIVISION

Erin Mullane riding SLN Dr Moo

2023 EVENTS

May 13–14, Wheatland

June (TBD)

July 15–16, Rawlins

Aug 19–20, Glenrock

Sept 9–10, Cheyenne

A Summer at the Sixes

By Megan Newlon

By 4:30 a.m., my alarm clock was sounding – often in the form of hungry horses kicking at their stalls – and I was awakened from my sleep. It was time to start the day as an intern at the Four Sixes Ranch in Guthrie, Texas.

After I threw on some clothes and finished my morning routine, I stepped outside into the immediate darkness of the Race Barn – the stall barn in which my apartment was located. Flashlight in hand, my path was illuminated as I walked by a row of beasts who were eager to devour their morning meal. I eventually reached the breaker box, and with a flip of a switch, the four-legged creatures emerged from the darkness.



Tasks began at 5 a.m. sharp around the ranch. Prior to breakfast, we had race yearlings fed, turn out gates swapped, the first round of medications administered as well as the veterinary clinic prepared to start the workday.

The mornings were cool and quiet before the scorching Texas heat crept in on us, but the silence didn't last long as the entire ranch quickly came to life as we all tackled the morning tasks before our 6 a.m. breakfast. Once our chores were complete, and it was time to mosey on over to the cookhouse where Ms. Susie's infamous cooking was waiting for us.

The entire team would gather there to grab some of her fixings and a cup of coffee and find their way to the table. On one end sat the legendary veterinarian, Dr. Blodgett or "Doc" and on the other, Phil Fox, known as the "Mare Man" or the mare



manager. As interns, we scrambled to find a seat in between eager to listen in to whatever they had to say. Even so, breakfast chatter mostly revolved around the weather or the results from the latest ranch rodeo.

Once we finished our food and cup of coffee or two, it was time to head to work.

Until the end of breeding season – July 1, we spent most of our days with the broodmares. While we waited on the cowboys to saddle their mounts and begin gathering traps, we looked



over our list of mares that needed palpated and sorted off any we could on foot. Managed much like cattle, we pushed them up into a smaller catch pen in the clinic where we were able to throw on a halter and load them into the stocks for the veterinarians.

We had to work efficiently as possible and communicate as a team to always keep mares in front of the vets. Usually someone would be sorting out the next pen while others were busy haltering, holding mares in the stocks, examining foals, drawing blood, administering reproductive shots, and putting the mares back where they belong.

While I started during the downward slope of breeding season in mid-May, we were still palpating over 200 mares a day.

By Noon most days, we managed to put a good dent in the mares on our palpation list. However, it was time to break for lunch and we headed back to the cookhouse an entire array of food Ms. Susie had prepared for us. Each day the spread was different but always impressive. And my favorite part – there was always dessert!

We finished our meals with full stomachs and waddled out of the cookhouse to finish the day.



Once we finished with the palpators, it was time to bring back the breeders – any mare soon to ovulate and ready to breed. Finally, we gathered all the mares on the breeding list, loaded them in the stocks, and prepared them to be artificially inseminated by the veterinarians.

Many ranch mares were bred to on-site stallions such as Multi-Million Dollar Sires, Bet Hesa Cat and WR This Cats Smart while other racing mares were bred to #1 All-Time Leading Freshman Racing Sire, One Famous Eagle.

To finish out the breeding portion of the day, we flushed the donor mares on our list and their embryo was carefully transferred into one of the eligible recipient mares.

On the downward slope, it was time to take care of the treatment horses. As the ranch is a working veterinary clinic in addition to a reproduction facility, we spent the rest of the day tending to treatments, cleaning, evaluating and rebandaging wounds.

Usually by 7 or 8 p.m., the horses were fed and tended to, and the workday was over.

As breeding season waned, we spent less time inside the clinic with the mares and it was time to start working with the race



yearlings, preparing them to be fitted for the fall sales.

At the 6666s, foals are halter broke briefly as weanlings – usually only for a period of a few weeks. After their initial halter breaking, they are turned out on pasture until the following year when it's time to begin their sales prepping journey.

One afternoon, the Mare Man and I hooked up the trailer and headed to gather the first batch of yearlings. As we worked to push them up to a set of working pens, they seemed like a bunch of wild brumbies who had never seen a human, much less ever been touched. We quietly ran them through the chute, carefully latched on halters and eventually got them onto the trailer to head back to the headquarters.

Upon our return, we unloaded them slowly, one-by-one and flagged them into their individual stall in the Race Barn with the help of a brave saddle horse showing them the way.

Each day, we would work with them little-by-little. Attaching a lead to their halter was the first big milestone. As they slowly became more adapt to their new lives, we were able to begin leading them to the walker where they would get their daily exercise.

However, what seemed like a simple task, was no easy feat. Being pumped plum full of alfalfa, grain and other fat supplements, they were hot. For a period of several weeks, each trek to the walker was always quite eventful as it seemed like it was their very first time. Many of them were skittish and certainly not afraid to run, rear, kick or buck at any given minute.

As the summer came to a close, they finally settled into the routine of a sales prep horse – sleep, eat, exercise, groom, repeat.

By the end of the summer, we prepared several sets of race yearlings consigned to select sales between Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico and Heritage Place in Oklahoma City.

As the workdays became shorter, I spent many evenings exploring with my new friends. We managed to only get lost a time or two on the many miles of dirt roads, waterways and caves the ranch had to offer.

Aside from the day-in and day-out experiences at the ranch, the people I met, the wisdom they willingly shared is something I have treasured the most. More specifically, I forever cherish the times stayed up conversating with Doc as we watched after a colicing horse, or the days spent sorting mares with Boots O'Neal. Even as such legendary individuals, they were more than willing to welcome me into their home on the ranch as well as invest in me and my future.

My time in Guthrie was nothing short of memorable. I will be forever grateful for the relationships, experiences, and adventures during my summer at the 6666s.

Charity Event 2022

MOVES CLOSER TO GOAL

Ranch Horse Round Up 2022 Helping Our Veterans

Another successful year for the eighth annual Ranch Horse Round Up that is jointly sponsored by Kit Carson Riding Club and NVRHA. We are approaching the \$75,000 mark



which again has been donated to two local recipients. They are the Remount Foundation, an equine assisted therapy center for veterans, first responders and their families that is based at the Air Force Academy. The second recipient is Camp Corral, a YMCA camp in Deckers, Colorado that provides free summer camp to children of deployed, injured or fallen veterans. Last year our contribution paid for horse back lessons at camp for these riders. \$8800 was donated last year to these two charities.

High contributors in either donation or volunteer time are as follows:

NVRHA whose clinicians have donated their expertise and time all these years.



Robin Mercier from NVRHA with her endless hours managing, organizing and keeping track of everything. A special thank you to Annie Eitel for getting wonderful, experienced clinicians every

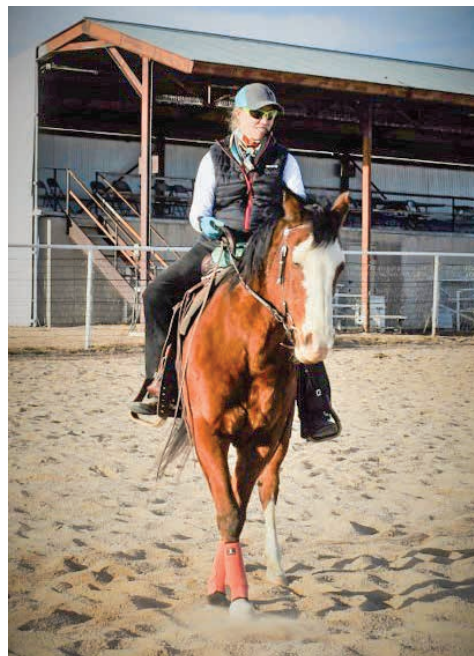


year and our cows.

Kit Carson Riding Club who donate cash and the facility each year. Their members provide grounds maintenance, put up panels and obstacles, provide volunteers who make lunches and help in many other ways. Kit Carson provides the event manager who coordinates all with NVRHA.

A special thank you to last years event manager Joni Zimmerman, photographers John Opeka, Mickey Althouse and Melissa Wiseheart. Our Clinicians were Jeff Barnes in Cutting, Linda Hitt in Ranch Riding, Keith Vogel in Reining and Spencer Bruce in Trail.

Main Financial contributors:



Bingos saddle shop, Soluxe décor, Bills Equipment, Oleo Acres, Rockin B Feed, Equiline, The Grill at Latigo, Prairie Springs stable, Dr Unruh, Colorado equine, Black Forest Auto, Orion Mortgage in Broomfield, and high contributor is The

GOAL	
\$100,000 BY 2025	
2022 \$8,800	\$71,248
2021 \$8,600	\$62,448
2020 \$7,382	\$53,848
2019 \$12,731	\$46,466
2018 \$11,285	\$33,735
2017 \$9,950	\$22,450
2016 \$9,000	\$12,500
2015 \$3,500	\$3,500

First National Bank Of Monument.

Please remember that this event is a place for veterans, horse enthusiasts and those who love and honor them by contributions, by attending, and giving either money or an auction item. Also, a great deal for those new to an event for a reasonable price. All entrance fees are donated to the total contribution.

We are always looking for Volunteers!

2023 NVRHA Events

COLORADO AFFILIATE

April 7–8, Elbert

May 26–29, Elbert

June 9–11, Durango

July 15–16, Elbert

Aug 19–20, Elbert

Sep 9–10, Elbert

Oct 14–15, Elbert

TBD - Rifle Area

July 30th, Ranch Horse Roundup - Kit Carson Riding Club, Colorado Springs.

Clinic benefiting military and their families

NORTHERN LIGHTS AFFILIATE

Apr 29–30, Valley City, ND

May 27–28, Brooklyn, WI

June 10–11, Nevis, MN

July 15–17, New Richmond, WI

Aug 18–20, Hinckley, MN

Sep 9–10, Decorah, IA

SOUTH DAKOTA AFFILIATE

May 20–21, Hermosa

June 10–11, Edgemont

Aug 26–27, Hermosa

SOUTH CENTRAL AFFILIATE

Feb 18–19, Lyons, KS (Clinic)

April 22–23, St Joseph, MO

May 11–14, Hugoton, KS

May 27–28, Norton, KS

Aug 5–6, Lyons, KS

WYOMING AFFILIATE

May 13–14, Wheatland

June TBA

July 15–16, Rawlins

Aug 19–20, Glenrock

Sept 9–10, Cheyenne

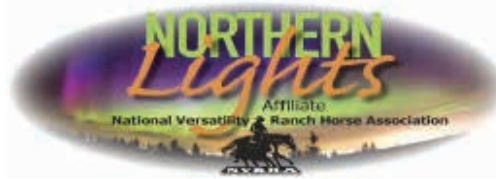
NVRHA FINALS Sept 23–24, Lincoln, NE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NVRHA.ORG

2023 National Championship

SEPTEMBER 23–24 | CASTLE ROCK COLORADO





National Versatility Ranch Horse Association Clinic and Schooling Show

NVRHA NEW START

Saturday April 29 & Sunday April 30

North Dakota Winter Show Building; 700 7th St SE, Valley City, ND

Saturday: Ranch Horse Clinic

Sunday: Ranch Horse Schooling Competition

Each day starting about 8AM

Classes included: Ranch Riding, Working Ranch, Ranch Cutting, Ranch Trail, Ranch Confirmation

Compete with like abilities: Novice, Intermediate, Limited, Amateur, Open (Youth classes at all levels)



Live Cattle provided at both the clinic and competition!

\$425 full weekend if postmarked by 4/15

\$225 for either Saturday Clinic or Sunday Show Only

***Registration priority will be given to those who sign up for both days

Please check out our website www.northernlightsversatility.com to register or for more information.

Event Managers: Melissa Quern: 701 219-1986; Alecia Severson 701-793-7978
Show Secretary: Laura Hildebrandt 715-821-6464

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Sixes Pick (AQHA World Ranch Versatility Ch.) x
Raise The Pay (Dam, noted stallion Irish Pay PE \$216,000)
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*And Alecia Heinz in
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