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## **NRCHA E-Cow Work**

**Updates from the 2010 NRCHA Hackamore Classic**

April 23, 2010

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Competition Begins at 2010 NRCHA Hackamore Classic

One of the premier limited age events in reined cow horse competition is taking place against the backdrop of the California win country in Paso Robles, California. The National Reined Cow Horse Association Hackamore Classic, an event for 4- and 5-year-old reined cow horses, has found a home in Paso Robles, where it is being held for the sixth year.

The Hackamore Classic is unique among the family of NRCHA premier limited age events in that it requires an entry to only be shown in the hackamore, while other events allow for a snaffle. The challenging event celebrates the second stage of the traditional vaquero style of training cow horses.

The Hackamore Classic also differs from the other premier events in that the Championship is decided in only one go - and there is currently a tie for the lead between two extremely tough entries.

Ed Robertson and That CD Rocks were the 2008 Snaffle Bit Futurity Intermediate Open Champions and won the 2009 NRCHA Stakes title. Last year

they were the Hackamore Classic Reserve Open Champions - behind Doug Williamson and Smart Miss Merada.

Robertson and That CD Rocks (CD Lights x Shiney Tari) took an early lead in the herd work of this year's Hackamore Classic with a 147. Competing in the last set, Doug Williamson and Smart Miss Merada (Leo Merada x Uno Smart Lady) managed to tie for the lead. That CD Rocks is owned by Robbie Humphreys, while Smart Miss Merada is owned by Carol Williamson.

Roger Bias rode Senor Rey Gun (PG Rey Gun x Senorita Hikory Chex) to take a 1.5 point lead in the Intermediate Open division. Owned by Ray DeVally, Jr., Senor Rey Gun marked a 143.5.

Currently leading the Limited Open division with a 142 is Travis Dickinson and One Fine Spark. One Fine Spark, by Light N Fine out of Spark My Fancy, is owned by Bill and Amelia Dickinson.

John Showalter and Tangys Classy Chick topped the Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro divisions with a 143. Tangys Classy Chick is by Tangys Classy Peppy out of Crimson Sassychick.

In the Amateur division, Toni Hagen and Just Ask Me Nice have the lead with a 140. Just Ask Me Nice is by Captain Nice out of Missy Dual Master.

Laurie Ward and Kiss Me A Little Win 2010 Hackamore Classic Non Pro Bridle Sweepstakes/Ernie Beal Takes Intermediate Non Pro Title/Joie Coxon Wins Novice Non Pro Championship

The first day of competition at the NRCHA Hackamore Classic not only featured the herd work of the limited age event, but also three NRCHA approved horse show classes. In the Non Pro Bridle Sweepstakes, Laurie Ward and Kiss Me A Little (Smart Little Pepinic x Kiss Me Mister) captured the title with a 290 total, collecting \$2,460. "Kiss (Kiss Me A Little) is the best ever! She's my absolute favorite horse in the world," Ward said following the awards ceremony.

"She was really on in the rein work. She was right there the whole time. She hit all three stops and her turns and circles were great," noted the Kingsburg, California, Non Pro. "We had a tough cow that tested us on the end, and Kiss held it, even though it tried to get away from her. It ran hard and she was right there."

With Ward at the reins, Kiss has earned well over \$100,000 in earnings, including a Reserve finish in the Non Pro and an Intermediate Non Pro Championship

at the Snaffle Bit Futurity. She also recently won the NRCHA Non Pro Two Rein National Championship and at the NRCHA Stakes just a month ago won the Non Pro Bridle Spectacular.

"I thank my parents (Ronnie and Karin Richards) for giving me the opportunity to have such a great horse. We were partners on her, and right before the Futurity they gave their share to me. I'm so blessed," Ward said.

She also thanked her husband John, and her daughter and son-in-law, Bo and Casey Branquinho, for their support. "My girls, Monica and Melonie, also deserve a lot of thanks. They work for us and are such a great help. They're the best," she said.

Former NRCHA World and National Champions Tish Wilhite of Clovis, California, and Hes A Smokin Indian won \$2,050 for the Reserve Non Pro Bridle title. Hes A Smokin Indian is by Hickorys Indian Pep and out of Baroak Again.

Riding Reminics Smokin Pep (Reminics Pep x Shesa Smoker), Ernie Beal took the Intermediate Non Pro Bridle Championship and earned \$780 with a score of 282.5. "My horse was real good in both the rein and fence work," he said of the 9-year-old stallion.

Beal bred, raised, and did all the training on Reminics Smokin Pep, nicknamed Fabio for his long forelock and mane. "John Ward helped me a lot, and I consider Ronnie Richard to be my mentor. I thank John and Laurie Ward, Ronnie and Karin Richards, and John Pascoe. They've all been great," he said.

The pair has a winning history. Beal and Fabio were the Non Pro Two Rein Champions at the 2007 NRCHA Stakes in Nampa, Idaho.

Jayson Fisher and Nu Cash Cutter earned a 280.5 to take the Intermediate Non Pro Bridle Reserve title and \$650. Nu Cash Cutter, by Smart Cash Cutter out of Nu Cashlynn Rose, is owned by Jayson and Teresa Fisher.

Former NRCHA Youth Limited World Champions Joie Coxon and her horse Gallo De Diablo won the Novice Non Pro Bridle Championship and a check for \$1,350. "He was real good and calm in the rein work. He was just perfect the whole way through and I was proud of him. He was pretty much perfect in the fence work, too," said Coxon of her 11-year-old gelding, by Gallo Del Cielo out of A Smart Little Girl.

The 17-year-old high school junior admits that school keeps her busy, but noted that she hopes to eventually qualify for the NRCHA World Championship Show again. "I'm going to keep showing as much as I can through the season, and we'll see how it goes," she said.

Taking Reserve honors in the Novice Non Pro Bridle were Cindy Mendoza and CP Remedy, who earned a 281.5. Mendoza and CP Remedy, by Tangys Classy Peppy out of Miss Remedy, took home \$1,125. CP Remedy is owned by Cindy's husband Tony.