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## **NRCHA E-Cow Work**

**October 28, 2011**

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Matt Hoekenga and IX Smart Starlight Win NRCHA Derby Level 1 Limited Open

The NRCHA debuted the Level 1 Limited Open division in 2011, and the fledgling class was a huge success over the year. At the NRCHA Derby, Matt Hoekenga and IX Smart Starlight won their second NRCHA Premier Event Level 1 Limited Open Championship. They received \$1,163, a pair of Rios of Mercedes boots, a bit from Tom Balding Bits & Spurs, and an NRCHA trophy.

The pair kicked off the event with the high score of the herd work - a 204 - and followed that with a 214.5 in the rein work. "My horse tried really hard for me in the herd work. We had a couple hang-ups getting the first cow out, but once we got it to the center he was really watching. I still have a lot to work on in the herd, but I was really proud of him," Hoekenga, of Fallon, Nevada, said. "I was also pleased in the rein work. I pushed him a little harder than I have before and he handled it well and felt very solid."

The pair finished with a 216 in the cow work. "We drew a good cow that boxed nicely. We got him lined out and had a good first turn and then a really good second turn, and then he circled up well," he said.

Hoekenga began riding "Rex" since 2010. Owner Liz Younger noted, "Rex got started late. He was almost three and had a very big motor. Luckily Flint Lee and Matt were able to buckaroo on him many, many times, and Flint's dad Kenny even put some wet saddle blankets on him. It's been fun to see him figure things out and come back so strong this year."

In April, Hoekenga and IX Smart Starlight won the Level 1 Limited Open at the

Hackamore Classic in Paso Robles, California. "He's a 5-year-old now and he's really coming on. Every time I'm able to push him a little more. I'd say he's improved a lot. I hope he keeps going and I'm looking forward to showing him in the two rein next year."

Younger said, "I think I'm going to have a great horse going forward in the two rein and the bridle." Rex will be competing at the Western States Ranch Rodeo Finals next week in the ranch horse class.

Hoekenga added that he has a great support staff. "I thank Flint Lee first and foremost, because I wouldn't be here without all his help. I also thank Kenny and Tammy Lee for letting me use their facility. I really appreciate my girlfriend, Michelle Nicholson, for being so supportive, and my son Tyler for being such a trooper," he said. "Of course I thank Liz Younger for letting me show her horse, and all the Open trainers who have helped me so much in the herd work."

Younger noted, "I think this Level 1 Limited Open class for upcoming trainers and hroses who weren't quite ready for the 3- and 4-year-old requirements works very well."

Finishing just a half-point behind Hoekenga and IX Smart Starlight were Gary Bayles and CD Hen House with a 634 composite. The pair marked 203 in the herd work, 219 in the rein work, and 212 in the cow work. The Reserve Championship netted \$698. CD Hen House, by Cluck Rooster Cluck and out of Rafter S Santa Golda, is owned by Brandon and Sophia Buttars.

Heather Livingston Wins NRCHA Derby Amateur Championship on Soula Jule Girl

While the preliminary round determines who advances to the clean-slate finals of the NRCHA Derby, held at the Horseshoe Park and Equestrian Centre in Queen Creek, Arizona, it also decides the Amateur Champion.

Earning top honors in the Amateur division with a 642.5 composite was Heather Livingston and Soula Jule Girl, by Soula Jule Star out of Okies Hickory Girl.

Livingston and Soula Jule Girl won \$1,380, a pair of Rios of Mercedes boots, a bit from Tom Balding Bits & Spurs, and an NRCHA trophy.

Livingston and Soula Jule Girl began the competition with a 213 in the herd work, and followed that with a 212.5 in the rein work. They finished with a solid 217 in the cow work. "She was really good in the herd work. I was last in the herd, and I couldn't have done it without my awesome herd help. I give a huge thank you to Phillip Ralls, Ted Robinson, Lance Johnston, and Jake Gorrel," she said. "Her reining was good, but it wasn't her very best."

Livingston credited a gutsy open-field turn in the cow work to Jake Gorrell. "Down the fence was awesome. Jake was great - he yelled at me to turn the cow when I was about to drive it back to the fence. Without him I wouldn't have done it," she said.

Livingston and Soula Jule Girl have won several titles, including the Non Pro Hackamore Reserve Championship at the 2010 NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity. "I've also

shown her at club cuttings, but this is her first big reined cow horse win," said Livingston, of Atascadero, California. "She's my girl. I'm going to show her in the two rein next year."

Livingston gave credit to her husband, Rory. "He's the wind beneath my wings. I also thank the Borjons and the Carollos for letting me use their facilities. They make it possible for me to compete, she said.

Taking Reserve honors and \$1,150 with a 639.5 composite was Loretta Showalter and Im Miss Be Haven, by Ill Be Smart out of Miss Lena Badger. The pair marked 213 in the herd work, 212.5 in the rein work, and 214 down the fence. Im Miss Be Haven is owned by John Showalter.

Laura Edwards and Dun Leanin Top NRCHA Derby Limited Open Bridle

Laura Edwards and Dun Leanin scored a 430.5 to take the Limited Open Bridle Championship. The win netted an NRCHA trophy and a check for \$1,500.

Edwards marked a 211 in the rein work, and followed that with a 219.5 in the cow work. "My reining is always a little rough, but it was relatively good today. She was real relaxed, which is important," she noted. "We got a second cow. It's my birthday and anniversary today - so that was my present. It laid up real well, we had good fence turns, and we circled well."

Dun Leanin, by Lean With Me out of Dun Its Jewel, carried Laura's daughter Claire to the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Championship Show twice, and the NRCHA World Championship Show three times. "Claire's going to school at Baylor University now, so I'm getting to show her. She's very refreshing to ride after my last Bridle horse," Laura explained. "It's nice because Claire was here to watch, and so was most of my family. It was a great birthday!"

Edwards added, "I thank Brenda Brown for teaching me how to show; Jimmy Flores, who is always helping me; Russell Dilday who was here to help me and give me great tips right before the fence work; and my husband Jon for letting me have this addiction."

Edwards is actually eligible to compete in the Non Pro Bridle, but noted, "I'm competing this year in the Limited Open Bridle because after this, showing in the Non Pro Bridle won't be so scary."

Tom Duke won the Limited Open Bridle Reserve Championship and \$900 on QP Spin N Money with a 426. QP Spin N Money, by Colonel Cartoon out of Double Biddee Bid, is owned by Quarter Paint Ranch.

Wade Reaney and Kickback Nic Win NRCHA Derby Open Two Rein

Winning the Open Two Rein Championship of the NRCHA Derby was Wade Reaney on Kickback Nic with a total score of 441. Reaney and Kickback Nic, by Nic It In The Bud out of Desire A Chic, earned \$1,500.

Reaney rode Kickback Nic, owned by John Prudden, to amrk 218.5 in the rein work and 222.5 in the cow work.

The New Plymouth, Idaho, trainer has ridden the mare by Nic It In The Bud out of

Desire A Chic, her entire career. They qualified for the Open finals at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity, and later went on to win the Idaho Reined Cow Horse Association Futurity. The pair also won the Open Two Rein at the NRCHA Stakes and Hackamore Classic.

The Reserve title and \$1,250 were earned by Lyn Anderson and Meet Rippen Diamonds. Anderson and Meet Rippen Diamonds, by Like A Diamond out of Cee Bars Rip, marked 216 in the rein work and 221 in the cow work for a 437 total. Meet Rippen Diamonds is owned by Dick Hershan.

Donna Russo and Chicody Leo Win NRCHA Derby Non Pro Two Rein Championship

With a score of 424.5, Donna Russo and Chicody Leo took top honors in the NRCHA Derby Non Pro Two Rein. The win netted a check for \$570, as well as an NRCHA trophy.

"My horse was great. My trainer Justin Wright rode him in the Open Two Rein right before my class and schooled him. He came back for me and was really good," she said.

Russo purchased Chicody Leo, by Smart Chic Olena out of Miss Topsail Okie, from Benny Guitron two years ago. "He's a very sensitive horse. We kept it low key and he really came through for me," she said. Russo's background is with jumping horses, so "Chicody's" sensitivity is very familiar. "He's hot like a thoroughbred is."

The Gilroy, California, Non Pro made the switch to cow horses about eight years ago, after her son, Michael Sposito, began showing. "I hated going to shows and just sitting on the sidelines," she said. Now, her daughter Maya Guzman is also competing in NRCHA events. "It's a family thing. It's nice that we can all show together."

Russo added, "I thank Justin, the Wards, my family, and my horse. I also thank Benny for selling him to me, Sharon Wright, and all of the Non Pros that are so supportive."

Taking Reserve was John Showalter and Tangys Classy Chick, by Tangys Classy Peppy out of Crimson Sassychick, with a 420. Showalter received a check for \$380.

2011 NRCHA Derby Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro Finalists Announced

The Non Pro Finalists for the 2011 NRCHA Derby at the Horseshoe Park and Equestrian Centre in Queen Creek, Arizona, were decided Friday, October 28. Non Pro riders who marked a 638.5 and higher earned a finals berth, while 626 was the magical number in the Intermediate Non Pro division.

Tish Wilhite and The Fresno Fox had the high composite score of both divisions with a 643.5. The pair scored 213.5 in the herd work, 210 in the rein work, and 220 in the cow work. The Fresno Fox is by Heart Of A Fox out of Oaks Jewel Doll.

Non Pro Finalists:

Tish Wilhite and The Fresno Fox
Natali Melo and BR Winning Rey
Tammy Johnston and Nu Prize
Carol Roberts and Oaks Dual Rey

Intermediate Non Pro Finalists:

Tish Wilhite and The Fresno Fox
Natali Melo and BR Winning Rey
Tammy Johnston and Nu Prize
Carol Roberts and Oaks Dual Rey
Debby Sanguinetti and Fresno Plain Peppy

Todd Crawford Wins NRCHA Derby Open Preliminary Rein Work on Moms Silverado Cat

Two legs of the NRCHA Derby Open Preliminary competition are in the books. The rein work phase of the competition took place Friday, October 28.

Todd Crawford and Moms Silverado Cat had the high score of the rein work, marking a 222.5. The go-round win was accompanied by a check for \$900. Moms Silverado Cat, by High Brow Cat out of Moms Stylish Pepto, is owned by Rhodes River Ranch.

While Crawford, an NRCHA Million Dollar Rider, had the high rein work score, Zane Davis and Reymanator are leading the Open Composite with a 444. Davis and Reymanator had the high herd work score - a 224 - and came back with another solid performance in the rein work to mark a 220. Reymanator, owned by John Semanik, is by Dual Rey and out of Savannah Hickory.

The high score of the Intermediate Open rein work belonged to Ron Emmons and Reygans Smart Lena, who had a 221.5. Owner Doug Granade received \$250 for the win. Emmons and Reygans Smart Lena, by Dual Rey out of Smart Fancy Lena, also lead the Intermediate Open composite with a 438, having marked a 216.5 in the herd work.

Limited Open rein work and composite accolades go to Jason Romney and Judge Boon, who marked a 219.5 in the rein work to take home \$75. The pair also had the high score of the Limited Open herd work, a 217.5, for the high Limited Open composite score of 437.

The Open, Intermediate Open, and Limited Open Finalists will be decided Saturday morning following the cow work.

Complete results can be found by visiting www.nrcha.com. The entire event is being webcast live thanks to NRCHA Official Videographers Galloping Video. To view the webcast, visit www.gallopingvideo.com.