



OKYRHA Again Hosts the NRHyA Meeting

SUBMITTED BY: OKLAHOMA YOUTH REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS JESSI CLEMMONS, MAEGAN GARDNER, EMMA HOLBROOK, SARA WALTON, MEAGHAN BURNS, BEN WAGMAN, VANCE BRAINARD, AND JAMES MICHAEL PHILLIPS.

As time approached for the annual Ariat® Tulsa Reining Classic and South Central U.S. Regional Affiliate Finals, eight ambitious OKYRHA youth members were hard at work planning the youth room theme, arranging youth activities and competitions, ordering food, and adding the final touches to the NRHyA meeting.

The planning for the 2008 meeting began in July last year with a conference call and a task list was created. This year we started earlier with the planning after evaluating what we did well in 2008 and what we needed to do better this year.

The Oklahoma Reining Horse Association (OKRHA) was the host of the NRHA South Central U.S. Regional Affiliate Finals for the sixth year in a row. The South Central Finals attracts some of reining's top riders. Tulsa has a great facility and always draws a good crowd.

OKYRHA is honored to have several youth riders qualify for the Ariat Tulsa Reining Classic (ATRC). Typically, the youth represent OKRHA well, with several placing in the top 10. A crowd favorite—the Slide Zone—has become a popular Labor Day event in Tulsa. Breyer® horses are given to the first 100 children through the gates. Families stand in line for hours to get one. There are trade show booths for shopping and there's Slider, the NRHA mascot—Slider, comes out to greet everyone.

A reining demonstration takes place during the Slide Zone since spectators are often unfamiliar with Reining. During the Slide Zone they learn the basics of Reining. Then, a sliding contest benefitting various charities is held. The freestyle class is next, which is a favorite to many spectators. Open reining is the last class of the evening followed by a drawing for a John Deere Gator,

which, everyone likes to stick around for, just to see if they are the lucky winner.

The youth met prior to the Slide Zone and banded T-shirts. During breaks they threw the shirts and Slider key chains up into the crowd. The youth also sold programs. All of our youth had a significant role and enjoyed being a part of the Slide Zone.

For the past two years, OKYRHA has been host to the National Reining Horse Youth Association meeting. This year the theme was the 1950s. The entire meeting is planned and implemented by the youth with every OKYRHA member having a part—introducing the ICE breaker, OKYRHA members, NRHyA officers, blessing for dinner, door prizes, or simply being there as Slider—it's an effort that every member takes pride in!

The highlight for many is the John Deere Futurity that takes place in conjunction with the Ariat Tulsa Reining Classic. Along with a John Deere Gator being awarded to the high-placing open and non pro riders, OKYRHA members are on hand to help with anything that needs to be done!

The last couple of years Radio Disney has been on site. Youth members were able to

participate in talking live on the radio. The OKYRHA members were promoting reining, OKYRHA youth, and the Slide Zone. The local weather is broadcast from the fairgrounds while one of the youth members helps teach the meteorologist how to ride a reining horse.

Everyone described different aspects of reining, such as the maneuvers, the point system, and show preparation. It was fun, being able to talk to other youth on the radio. The youth promoted the Slide Zone as well as the youth classes.

The OKYRHA members helped the NRHyA sell raffle tickets as a fundraiser. OKYRHA retains a portion of the raffle ticket sales. The OKYRHA members also hold a "theme basket" auction each year. The youth member presents his or her basket to the crowd of bidders and then work as bid spotters. There is always quite a variety of basket themes including emergency vet supplies, car washing supplies, movies, OSU, toys, chocolate, horse show supplies, digital frames, and more.

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the ATRC. We look forward to hosting the meeting again in 2010. ♦



The 2008 Tulsa RAF NRHyA meeting was hosted by the OKYRHA.

NRHyA Treasurer Message



BY JORDAN WILLETTE, NRHYA TREASURER

Hello, my name is Jordan Willette and I am the treasurer of the NRHyA. Throughout the year at affiliate shows across the country, our youth clubs have been putting on events, fundraisers, and fun activities. Some clubs have probably increased their activities since the beginning of summer because there is no school, YEAH! I can talk from experience that the activities/fundraisers my club, the Arizona Reining Horse Youth Association (ARHYA), hosted that brought our association closer and created many enjoyable memories.

At our last affiliate show, the Tall Pines Summer Slide, our youth held a "Slave Auction," to raise money and learn from the people who bought us. Twenty-three youth signed up and when it came to people buying youth slaves, we made sure everyone knew what a great deal they were getting. We all flexed our muscles and emphasized what great horse people we were. We ended up raising about \$700 for our youth club!

Summer is drawing to a close and we are starting the second half of our show year, which means the North American U.S. Regional Affiliate Finals (RAF) are fast approaching! Every RAF is different from the next. Each show has at least one activity and most of the time it is the highlight of the whole event. Your local youth may even be the ones to organize and host the activity. I know that some activities are just an excuse to take a break and enjoy yourself. So by all means, take that well-deserved break and visit with some friends from across your region. Just make sure you take your wallet to these activities because I can guarantee that you will see your local youth selling raffle tickets for the Carol Rose yearling.

And, don't forget the Youth Team Tournaments that will be held at each RAF. It's your chance to compete in a team atmosphere and earn substantial scholarships.

Good Luck to everyone showing in their Regional Affiliate Finals. I hope to see you at the 2009 NRHA Futurity. ♦

WHO IS SLIDER?

BY VANCE R. BRAINARD

Slider is an American Quarter Horse. He is truly one of a kind! His AQHA registration number and NRHA competition number is 1234567. His parents, or sire and dam, were ridden by Native Americans and, this explains his liking to Indian corn. He grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and he loves to travel. Slider has a great disposition and really enjoys kids! He is a real show horse and has earned the top score held in Reining.

Look for Slider at a show near you—especially if you will be at the Ariat® Tulsa Reining Classic in September. He enjoys having his picture taken and loping around with the kids. Slider gets hot quickly because he still has his winter coat on, so loping time is limited. Slider is a friend to children and adults. I know this because, you could say, I have walked in Slider's shoes!

VANCE, 15, IS THE SON OF JODY & JEAN BRAINARD AND AN OKYRHA MEMBER.



2009 TOP TEN

YOUTH 13 & UNDER

RIDER	HORSE/OWNER	POINTS
1 Claudia S. Spreng	Quixote Joe Claudia S. Spreng Port Orange, FL	263.5
2 Daniele F. Whitney	Lil Ruff Dunit Daniel L. Whitney Northfield, MA	209.5
3 Claudia S. Spreng	Smart Little Dudley August F. Spreng Port Orange, FL	206.0
4 Daniele F. Whitney	DA Tucker Light Daniel L. Whitney Northfield, MA	102.0
5 Kyndall Harper	Please Me Whiz J.B. Burney, St Augustine, FL	98.0
6 Claudia S. Spreng	Hesa Smart Boy Claudia S. Spreng Port Orange, FL	76.0
7 Elizabeth L. Cospers	Lil Ruf Whiz Quiz Elizabeth L. Cospers Wilmington, NC	57.0
8 Daniele F. Whitney	Hobos Lil Remedy Daniel L. Whitney Northfield, MA	56.0
9 Genevieve L. Shifrin	Magnum Done It George Shifrin, Aspen, CO	54.5
10 Bridget H Hyland	Backinch Banjoe Bridget H Hyland Pittsford, NY	43.5

YOUTH 14-18

RIDER	HORSE/OWNER	POINTS
1 Jenna L. Blumer	Lenas Frosty Chic James J. Blumer Jr, Spring Brook Twp, PA	106.5
2 Jordan Willette	Whizin In The Dirt Jordan Willette, Prescott, AZ	79.0
3 Laura Sumrall	Einsteins Fancy Pine Laura Sumrall, Summit, MS	59.5
4 Jonathan Timberlake	Ruf Maid Chic Jonathan Timberlake Millington, TN	58.5
5 Kaci O Rourke	Mega To A Te Harry O. Rourke, Castleton, VT	54.5
6 Keifer Cospers	Quick Painted Jac Kit & Lourie A. Cospers Wilmington, NC	53.5
6 Ashley J. Auditore	Tejons Smokin Okie Ashley J. Auditore Pepperell, MA	53.5
8 Will R. Letner	A Genuine Diamond Dr Larry J. Letner, Harris, MO	51.5
9 Ryan Tyler	A Genuine Remedy Toby Tyler, Pepperell, MA	50.5
10 Megan E. Goacher	Dun It Last Nite Megan E. Goacher, Dewey, AZ	46.0