



### Presidents Message

Hello Everyone!

I hope you're all enjoying this summer. It's certainly more pleasant than the winter we were dealt. And its' given us great weather for our shows this year. We were uncertain what this economy would do to attendance so we tightened our belt accordingly. That proved to be a good call and WRHA sailed through both shows in good shape with no challenges.

Our first two shows were the qualifying shows for the North American Affiliate Championships. The top 10 horse/rider pairs have qualified to advance to the Regional Affiliate Finals to compete for a slot in the National Finals at Oklahoma during Futurity. Congratulations Everyone! I hope all our qualifiers are planning to go to the wall with this great program because it's been a few years since WRHA has been represented in OKC. We all know that this club has the talent to hold our own at any show in the country, so I expect to see some rides thrown down at both the Regional Finals and the National Finals!

The Northwest Region Affiliate Finals will be held at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, ID in 2009 and 2010. The dates this year are Oct 16 – 18. This is a skinny 8 hour haul through the beautiful Blue Mountains and the roads should be easy this time of year. If you've never shown at the Horse Park you're in for a treat. It's one of our most outstanding facilities in the Northwest and has been home to the NRCHA Stallion Stakes the past few years. The Snake River Reining Alliance is the hosting NRHA Affiliate. This is a fun bunch of folks who know how to roll out the hospitality. It's sure to be a great show even if you aren't participating in the RAF part. We have worked really hard to keep the Regional Affiliate Finals in the Northwest so even if your plans don't include OKC if you qualify, we need to support SRRRA at this event ... and bring the winning Team Tournament title back to WRHA. The West Coast RHA kicked our backsides on home turf last year people. Its time to rally!!

Our immediate attention is turned toward our Fall Spectacular and Futurity. WRHA's Annual General Membership meeting is conducted at this event. This years agenda will include ratification of a new set of Bylaws for our Affiliate and Officer and Director elections. The positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer are open as well as two Director chairs. The Board is currently putting together nominations so if you are inclined to get involved on the front lines, we're lookin' for your hat to come sailing into the ring.

I want to invite you all to join me in a warm shout out of appreciation to Dave McKim. There is no other way to describe his efforts other than to say he does a kick a\$\$ job as our Sponsorship Committee of one. As in any club like ours, it's our Sponsors that keep us going. Please be sure that we patronize their businesses whenever possible and thank them frequently for their support.

I think I'm also speaking for all of us as I say how much we appreciate all the volunteers who come together to keep our shows great. I'm always afraid to list names because I'd inevitably forget one and then I'd be in the dog house so – You know who you are and we know who you are and we appreciate you very much! Couldn't do it without ya!

Premium books are out for the Fall Spectacular. Lets get those entries in and plan to...

Stay On Pattern!  
Judy

### Fall Spectacular and Futurity

Its not too early to start making plans to attend the 2009 Fall Spectacular Show and Futurity, held at the Appleatchee Riding Club in Wenatchee, WA October 9-11, 2009. Premiums have been mailed, and the class schedule has been added to the "Fall Spectacular" page on the WRHA website. Please note that the show will run 3 days instead of 4 this year. Paid practices will run on Friday from 7:00 a.m. to noon and regular classes will get under way at 1:30 p.m. Bob Berg buckles will be awarded to the first place and engraved stirrups will be awarded to second place in the NRHA Open, Limited Open, and Non Pro Futurity classes. NRHA trophies will be awarded in all NRHA classes. Awards will be given to 5<sup>th</sup> place in all classes.

### The NRHA Slide

I just returned from the August NRHA Board meeting and Annual General Membership Meeting and Officer and Bylaw Elections. We covered a lot of ground this weekend and it feels like we got a lot done.

**The closing of the Officers elections** saw Dale Lopp returned to position and Roseanne Sternberg of United Kingdom and Terri Griffin of Canada joining Dale as Directors at Large which are officer positions on our Executive Committee.

**All the proposed bylaw amendments** passed. The direct effects of those amendments on our Affiliates are:

1. No more mandatory dual memberships. For our Canadian friends, membership in Reining Canada is now voluntary. Hopefully this is the final round on this issue.
2. The NRHA Annual General Membership meeting and the annual officer and bylaw elections have been separated and no longer are required to happen at the same time. This will allow the Board to hold the AGM in conjunction with the Awards Banquet and have them during Derby in June. The election can be pushed to later in the year giving us more time to properly prepare bylaw amendments and give members adequate time for consideration of both bylaw amendments and officer candidates.



3. Affiliate Officers are now the only members of an Affiliate's Board of Directors that must be NRHA members. Directors have been dropped from that requirement. In this way we hope to encourage more of an Affiliates members to become involved at the Affiliate level.

**The 2010 Derby conditions** were approved. The Gelding Incentive has been dropped and the money applied to added money across the board. 2010 Futurity conditions were on the agenda also but it was decided some more work needed to be done on those so stay tuned in that respect.

**World Equestrian Games** are in Lexington KY in 2010. There is an early ticket purchase opportunity for NRHA members during Sept 21-23, 2009. Prices will range from \$25 - \$150. We were told hotel rooms are going fast so mark the dates and make your arrangements! Check out the NRHA website for details. This is a special event and a unique opportunity.

You are probably all aware that the **NRHA computer system** has had a planned overhaul scheduled for quite some time. The Board was presented with a demonstration of the new software. It is impressive and its flexibility will definitely offer greater efficiency in customer service for our staff. We are all looking forward to the roll over scheduled for Oct 1.2009.

**Our bylaws provide that there by an "Affiliate Agreement"** in place between NRHA and our Affiliates. The creation of one was begun in fall of 2008 by the Affiliate Committee. The NRHA Board applied a priority status to this activity and we included the International Committee to present a completed Affiliate Agreement to the Board at the August meeting. It was passed and will go into service in October this year for National Association Affiliate (NAA) renewals and in December for US Affiliate renewals. Along with our Affiliate Applications, Affiliates will need to sign and return the Affiliate Agreement with a copy of Affiliate Bylaws and a copy of their business license every year. I expect there will be some grumbling around those additional requirements initially, but this brings the NRHA / Affiliate relationship into compliance with NRHA bylaws in places that had not been given any priority previously. If anyone would like more information please feel free to give me a holler.

**Speaking of Affiliates.. there is a Survey** online from the Affiliate Committee that we are asking Affiliates and members to complete and send in. Its focus is on the National Association Affiliate Championship program, what works what doesn't and any ideas to make it better. We'd really appreciate it if you could take the time to print it off and fill it out!!

For quite some time there has been all kinds of discussion in and out of the Board room around an **NRHA meds policy**. We do realize that if NRHA does not create our own, one will be forced upon us sooner or later. At this point a task force was approved to begin a concerted effort on this matter. It is expected that baby steps in this direction will be the recommended route. If any one has thoughts on meds, you are encouraged to put them in writing and send them to the office where they will be directed to the task force for consideration.

We have all experienced the challenges of the rising cost of **our NRHA trophies**. NRHA has been exploring alternatives and we believe we've landed on the perfect one. Montana Silversmiths will begin producing them for us at an approximately 50% savings. The trophies will still be a composite material that will preserve the patina. Quality is not sacrificed at all by the change. The savings in cost will allow us to move more class dollars into class winnings. I'm not sure how soon the new trophies will be offered, but its something to look forward to!

**Speaking of Montana Silversmiths**, you may remember that NRHA has negotiated an arrangement for NRHA Affiliates to receive special pricing on buckles and prizes. I got to see some of their work this past weekend and I must say it does rival the work from some of our other favorite awards vendors. I'm told buckle pricing was coming in around \$175 each. It may well be worth considering Montana Silversmiths when shopping for awards!

**For those of you who are into stats...** Total NRHA membership is at 14,448 which is only down by 500 members from where it was this time last year. 2009 Futurity entries are at 799. This is a pleasant surprise as after last years freakishly high 945 entries, we kinda expected to see it come back in around the typical average of 600 – 650...so surprise again! Foal Nominations in the Futurity/Derby is at 83 which is right where it was last year. This program is still too new to make any evaluations. The count of approved shows in 2009 is at 712, down by 23 shows from last year. It is a very strange year for show attendance. In some places attendance is down while at other shows folks are reporting it's higher than last year. I think we were all holding our breath to see what happened this year. Hard to say why these big differences are happening.

Speaking of show attendance... In May the NRHA Board approved the addition of rules providing an **NRHA Entry Level Show Format**. These are designed to offer the Affiliates another tool to attract and retain new members in both the Affiliates and NRHA. They are completely voluntary and are designed to put little or no burden on the Affiliate. There have been reports from Affiliates on the East Coast who ran a Rookie Day on a Saturday and an Entry Level show on that Sunday with great success. Some of the benefits of this program are; No ownership requirements or competition licenses necessary, reduced entry fees can be offered, only a \$20 Associate NRHA membership fee, NRHA provides prizes (patch, buckles, jackets) upon achieving point levels, No NRHA show retainage, relaxed patterns, one or two hands and lots more. Please check the NRHA website for details. I'm anxious to see some of these type events be offered in our Northwest Region!

Whew! I think that covers the nuts and bolts. Please send me any comments or questions. **I am here to serve you**, NRHA members and Reiners.

Judy Caton - NW Region Director  
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(Please feel free to circulate or reprint this material)

**NRHA NAAC Regional Affiliate Finals**

Snake River Reining Alliance will be hosting the 2009 Northwest Region Affiliate Finals October 15-18, 2009 at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, ID. Congratulations to the following members on qualifying to represent WRHA in the 2009 NRHA NAAC Regional Affiliate Finals:

**Member/Horse: Classes Qualified**

Shawn Church/Little Devil Whiz: Open  
Rebecca Reiter/Super Chex To Cash: Open, Intermediate Open, Limited Open  
Aaron Doss/Miz Hangten Tessie: Open  
Aaron Doss/Cinco De Shiner: Open  
Aaron Doss/I'll Be Doc: Open, Novice Horse Open 1  
Mike Helsen/Power Trip Nic: Open, Novice Horse Open 1  
Mike Helsen/Twist N Fletch: Open, Novice Horse Open 1  
Mike Helsen/Hi Smokin Rooster: Open, Intermediate Open  
Mike Helsen/Doc Gin With A Twist: Novice Horse Open 2  
La Rae Fletcher Powell/What Whiz That: Open, Intermediate Open, Limited Open  
Rod Powell/Slide Down the Coast: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1 & 2  
Skylar Powell/Chics In Demand: Youth 14-18  
Sue Muir/Vandy's Final Play: Limited Open, Novice Horse Open 1  
Nick Muir/Vandy's Final Play: Youth 13 & Under  
Terri Hunter/Chocolate Hustler: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Prime Time Non Pro  
Ryann McKinzie/RU Missin Diamonds: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro  
Dave McKim/Sailano: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Prime Time Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1 & 2  
Steven Ahlberg/Mr Sail Jac: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Prime Time Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1  
Steven Ahlberg/Chic Rock N Wonder: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Prime Time Non Pro  
Libby Metz/Saintreminic: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro, Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1  
Cindy Woodley/Professor Smart: Non Pro, Limited Non Pro  
Jennifer Slough/Talk of the Flock: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro  
Dana King/Gundealer: Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro  
Amy Roy/Newtons Law: Intermediate Non Pro  
Alayne Blicke/Dealn Pay Chex: Limited Non Pro, Prime Time Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1  
Suzie Knudson/Great Custom Dude: Limited Non Pro  
Tracy Lewis/An Educated Hickory: Limited Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1  
Shelby St. Hilaire/Cruisin Peppy: Limited Non Pro  
Tami Kern/Spook N Tivio: Novice Horse Non Pro 1 & 2  
Kim Lansidel/Skeetscootenchic: Novice Horse Non Pro 1  
Holly Lansidel/Smart Like Steady: Youth 13 & Under, Rookie 2  
Rob Walther/West Coast Dream: Prime Time Non Pro, Novice Horse Non Pro 1 & 2  
Marian Weidow/Guinness Playboy: Novice Horse Non Pro 1  
Gloria Woods/Plus Half: Novice Horse Non Pro 2  
Alexis Tomanelli/Fanci Silvertone: Novice Horse Non Pro 2, Rookie 2  
Leslie Strahm/Miz Hangten Tessie: Prime Time Non Pro  
Mike Fenimore/Custom Smart: Prime Time Non Pro, Rookie 2  
Sally Sutherland/Melarkie: Prime Time Non Pro  
Thomas Gillotti/Peppy Freckle Chex: Prime Time Non Pro  
Sarah Cheslock/He's Plum Tuckered: Rookie 2  
Megan Laidlaw/Mavericks Cut Above: Rookie 2

**Sponsors**

Many thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions to WRHA. Please thank them with your patronage when you have a need for their services, and be sure to acknowledge their sponsorship of WRHA.

**Diamond**

Woodley Ranch (Todd, Cindy, Michael and Meg Woodley)  
Maria Danieli Real Estate (Maria Danieli)  
Timberland Homes (Dave McKim)

**Platinum**

Continental Dirt Contractors (The McCann Family)  
NW Weight Loss Surgery (Kevin Montgomery)  
Shawn Church Performance Horses  
All Purpose Structures  
Stargate Ranch (Cory Hutchings)  
RV Town

**Gold**

St. Hilaire Non-Pros (Shelby St. Hilaire, Tami Kern, Libby Metz, Gloria Woods, Megan Laidlaw, Roxanne Peters, Ken McDougall, Dave Gore)  
Stokes Performance Horses (Mike Stokes)

**Silver**

Del Bet Printing (Ken and Janet Hurlburt)  
Precision Images (Sue Muir)



**Bronze**

Reiner Stuff (Tracy Lewis)

- Eve Willett Insurance
- Kari Williams Performance Horses
- Silver Aspen Ranch (LaRae Powell and family)

**Club**

Joshua Green

**WRHA on the web**

WRHA now has a Facebook presence! Search for "Washington Reining Horse Association" and join us for the latest updates and discussions.

**NRHA Judges Seminar**

ORHA is hosting an NRHA Judges Seminar October 24-25, 2009 at the Edgewater Inn in Shady Cove, OR. This event is open to everyone. ORHA is encouraging everyone to come and learn more about the technical side of reining. More details can be found on the ORHA website, or contact Rosie Irish: 541-840-1579.

**Congratulations!**

Val Watson is the proud new owner of Chocolate Kiss Olena, a Chocolate Chic Olena filly out of Tee Cee Ricky Sue (by Taris Catalyst). Sound familiar? "Sissy" is a full sister to Sweet Chocolate Chic, "Sweetie", a lifetime competitor in WRHA with Val and former owner Tracy Lewis. Congratulations Val, we look forward to seeing you and Sissy in the show pen!

Got a newsletter tip or idea? Email us at: [wrha@reinerstuff.com](mailto:wrha@reinerstuff.com)