

2008 Blue Sky \$2000 Added March Madness

March 15-16, 2008

Magic Dog Ranch, Kiowa, Colo.

Excitement was in the air during the Colorado's first NRCHA approved show of 2008. The show was held at Jerry Peters' Magic Dog Ranch located in Kiowa, Colo. A light dusting of snow Friday night gave way to a sunny clear morning for the herd work. The beautiful facility was a great place to kick off the 2008 Blue Sky show season. Luckily, horse people know to ignore the weathermen and take along a variety of clothing when showing outdoors. Contestants and spectators boldly withstood the strong afternoon wind.

The March Madness cowhorse show attracted 87 entries and paid out \$8,700 in prize money, half of that went to the open and non pro derby divisions and the other half to the ancillary classes and a jackpot division.

Tim Unzicker scored 214.5 points to win the 12 entry open derby and \$641 riding Hailin Magic Diamonds for owner/breeder, Jerry Peters. The four year old mare is by Shine Like Hail and out of Thiefs of Diamonds.

"I was really pleased with her and feel that she is getting more consistent in all three events," said Unzicker of Calhan, Colo. "I thought that the ground was really good at the show. You could really power into it and stop. It was deep, but fluffy, nice for all three events."

Blue Allen was reserve champion riding Boonlight Misty for owner Teddy Archuleta. "It was my first time to show her, she has tons of cow and is really cute and expressive," said Allen, who pocketed \$494 for his efforts. Archuleta purchased the five year old mare from Don Murphy at the NRCHA World Show in Stephenville, Texas. She is by Boonlight Dancer and out of a daughter of Smart Little Lena.

"I rode with Don at his place before the world show and saw her there," said Allen. "She is to be Donathan's (Archuleta) youth horse and she was really good for him. I showed last in the derby fence work and fifteen minutes later, he showed her in the youth limited class."

Gray Samenfink of Erie, Colo., won the nine entry non pro derby and the non pro hackamore class riding his four year old mare, Lotta Hickory Smoke.

"I was pleased with her performance in the hackamore. That was my first time to show her in a concurrent entry format where I showed in the hackamore for my herd work," said Samenfink, winning \$628 in all. His

mare, Lotta Hickory Smoke, is by Gunsmokes Hickory and out of Colonels Blue Lena “I want to thank Darren Miller for his helping me and settling the herd for me at the show.”

“I was amazed at the large number of non pro entries,” said Samenfink. “It helps all of us to have the competition. As Glenn Barlow has said, ‘better horsemanship through competition.’”

Miller and Unzicker also showed their derby mounts in the concurrent hackamore class. Miller claimed the open hackamore championship and placed fifth in the open derby riding Shiny Black Shiner for owner Jean Moore of Littleton, Colo., to earn \$737 in all.

Dan Weiss was reserve champion in the non pro derby and hackamore classes riding his mare, Lil Caliente Pepper. She is sired by Kenzy Ranch stallion, Annies Little Pepper. Weiss also won the limited open hackamore class to earn \$540 in all.

The show was produced by Blue Sky Horse Shows, Ltd., a newly formed company dedicated to the promotion and management of cowhorse and reining shows.

“I was thrilled at the number of spectators and new contestants that we attracted,” said facility owner, Jerry Peters. Tim Unzicker added that volunteers were very helpful in running the show. “Because of the wind and colder than forecasted temperatures, it was not a desirable day to spectate.”

A herd work jackpot for bridle horses was held Saturday and a schooling show was held on Sunday. The largest ancillary class was the fourteen entry novice non pro bridle class. Betty Lou Valdez won the seven entry non pro bridle and the novice non pro bridle riding Little Bell Pepper, earning \$378 in all.

Tim Unzicker won the open bridle riding Smart Plain Pep for Runaway Creek Ranch. Blue Allen won the limited open bridle class riding Whiskeys Starlight for Christa Guerrieri.

Kelly Gully of Newell, SD, won the thirteen entry \$5000 non pro limited class and the non pro limited class riding her mare, Sailors Luv Freckles. Kelly Valdez won the youth limited class riding Duallin N Diamonds.

Aaron Ralston was the open two rein champion riding Pauls Time Bomb for owner Mary Griffith. Jack Gully was the non pro two rein champion riding his gelding Tangys Hickory, sired by Tangys Classy Peppy.

The show was judged by Mark Guynn of Berthoud, Colo. For a list of upcoming activities and shows, please visit these websites.

www.blueskyshows.com and www.coloradoreinedcowhorse.com.