

Colorado State Fairgrounds, Pueblo, CO

Rhoda Rein 303/618-0749

The Sagebrush Slide and Cowhorse Classic show attracted a record number of NRCHA entries, 519, and record number of horses, 222 cowhorses and 165 NRHA horses attending. This show lived up to its reputation as a gathering place of cowhorse and reining talent. The show paid out over \$90,000 on the NRCHA side and posted 68 derby entries, 54 bridle spectacular entries and 56 futurity entries.

During the show, contestant scores in the three event classes were constantly updated and posted by the arena, allowing exhibitors to really know where they stood going into the cow work, and exact payout amounts they could potentially earn.

Boyd Rice unleashed his arsenal of horse power and his great skill to dominate the show. He was the high money winner of the show, pocketing over \$16,000 for his efforts. He was champion and reserve champion in the 21 entry open derby, scoring 436.5 points to win aboard Danny Poole's Boonie Tunes, 434.5 points riding Earl Velarde's Peptoroansmal horse. He also placed 3rd in the 15 entry novice horse derby and 7th in the open aboard Fletch The Littlecat, owned by Moncrief/Burnett Ranches. He placed 3rd and 8th in the futurity also, but what spectators will remember was his performance in the 18 entry open bridle spectacular riding Mr. Playinstylish.

Reining and cowhorse exhibitors were treated to a barbecue dinner and live music on Saturday night following the NRHA derby and a day of exciting fence runs. Wilson and Susan Lyle of Discount Tire Co. hosted the party and gave away goody bags and \$2,000 worth of tire discounts to the crowd. The dinner was a great way to show appreciation for the contestants attendance and a fun reunion for everyone.

After dinner, the crowd adjourned to the cowhorse arena sidelines to watch the open bridle spectacular cow work. The bleachers nearly fell down to sustain the rowdy crowd, listening to loud music and cheering on the talent in the arena. Only 1 ½ points separated the top six contestants going into the fence work. Kevin Stallings and NMSU Truckin Chex drew first and made the most of their cow to score 148 points, coming from behind to earn the reserve championship. Rice and Mr. Playinstylish made the crowd roar when they engulfed their cow to score 150 points and the championship.

Trainer Chris Dawson had a smile on his face Saturday night after winning the championship and reserve titles in the 33 entry open futurity. He rode A Spoonful Of Sugar for Cryin Coyote Ranch to earn 436.5 points for the win. They scored 147 points to win the herd work and 145 points for second high score in the cow work to earn \$3,908 in all. He was reserve champion riding his horse, Travelin Jonez, tying for second in the reined work and earning \$2,500 for his ride.

Dawson topped the \$10,000 weekend earnings mark with his win in the 15 entry novice horse derby riding AR Smart Little Cat for Ron Dawson. They also finished fourth in the open division to earn \$3,616 in all.

While an 80% payback and a good amount of added money might help a show to attract business, what is also very important is having classes for everyone and every horse to show in. In addition to the popular novice horse division, the CRCA began a Select division last year and instituted a Level 1 Limited Open class this year.

“Our Select division and our Level I Limited Open divisions have really taken off and increased the level of participation,” said Darren Miller, immediate past president of the CRCA. “The Novice horse division also continues to add growth to our show as well.”

The Select division offered 100% payback jackpot purse and ran concurrent with corresponding classes, posting 40 entries overall. The Level 1 futurity had 7 entries and derby had 13 entries, each offering \$500 added money. The novice horse derby recorded 15 entries.

A three event bridle spectacular class is another driving force in improving attendance, and the limited spectacular division drew 18 of the 54 entries.

Thru the years, this dual-approved NRHA and NRCHA show has been unique in offering a non-sanctioned non pro limited class, a place for reiners to work a cow. Chris Dawson, Jeffrey Veitch and Brad Lund volunteered to judge the 11 entry Friday night event.

For complete results and upcoming show information, please go to www.coloradoreinedcowhorse.com