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JANUARY 15, 2025

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Cover: Jessicah Keller and Snips Shining Gun at the NRHA Futurity. Snips Shining Gun won almost \$100k with Keller at the reins, and is still showing. She is also the dam of the two horses Keller qualified for the 2024 NRHA Futurity Finals. TOC: Shift N Gears winning the Florida Classic Derby. The stallion now stands at Hilldale Farm.

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Publisher

Cheryl Cody

Senior Editor

Savannah Magoteaux

Digital Manager

Stevie White

Contributors

Kathy Gould
Jason Vanlandingham
Shannon Rafacz
Nicole Deary

Administration

Cheri Johnson

Publisher Media

Pro Management, Inc.
13181 Hwy 177
Byars, OK 74831
P. (580) 759-2572
E. mteaux@gmail.com
www.WorldWideSlide.com



Did You Know?

You can follow WorldWide Slide on Facebook, where the latest news and information from around the reining industry will be posted.

A DIFFERENT ROUTE TO REINING SUCCESS

JESSICAH KELLER BECOMES NEWEST NRHA MILLION DOLLAR RIDER

by Cheryl Cody
Photos provided by Jessicah Keller

In an era where it's common for champions at elite reinings to win upwards of \$100,000 per show on the way to million dollar rider status, it's easy to forget that milestone can be achieved by a different route.

For the newest NRHA Million Dollar Rider, Non Pro Jessicah Keller, of Sumner, Texas, the road to million dollar status involved entry into 2,119 NRHA classes, most of them ancillary competition, with over 87% of her lifetime earnings coming in increments of less than \$1,000.

The daughter of Tammye Hutton, Jessicah grew up surrounded by horses at the family's Hilldale Farm. Her mother's goal was to raise halter horses that could perform, and Jessicah showed halter horses in AQHA competition from the time she was four years old, also competing in the full range of youth classes.

Now 40, Jessicah entered her first National Reining Horse Association-approved event in 1998 as a youth and kept competing in youth competition... then something changed in 2001.

She laughs, "It was really about a mule." Jessicah had been showing Martins Miss Cody in mule competition, winning national championships in mulemanship, showmanship, and keyhole. She also did driving, and predictably, reining. The national mule show dates coincided with a nearby reining show, and Jessicah begged to show their stallion, Nu Chex To Cash.



Jessicah and her first all-around horse, Sheza Royal Step.

Nu Chex To Cash had already secured an all-time record in reining with Charlie Hutton riding so Jessica was allowed to show the stallion in an NRHA Limited Non Pro class at the Kentucky Futurity. The veteran show horse and the young rider clicked and won the class.

The NRHA Futurity was just weeks away so Jessicah and Nu Chex To Cash were late-entered in the Limited Non Pro class at the NRHA Futurity. They ran as draw -3, and their score held to win the class of 108 entries.

With Keller at the reins, the team won NRHA World Championships in the Intermediate and Limited Open divisions as well as the reserve titles in the Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro, all in the same year. They were also the reserve champions in the freestyle reining at the 2002 All American Quarter Horse Congress.

After amassing more than \$57,000 LTE the



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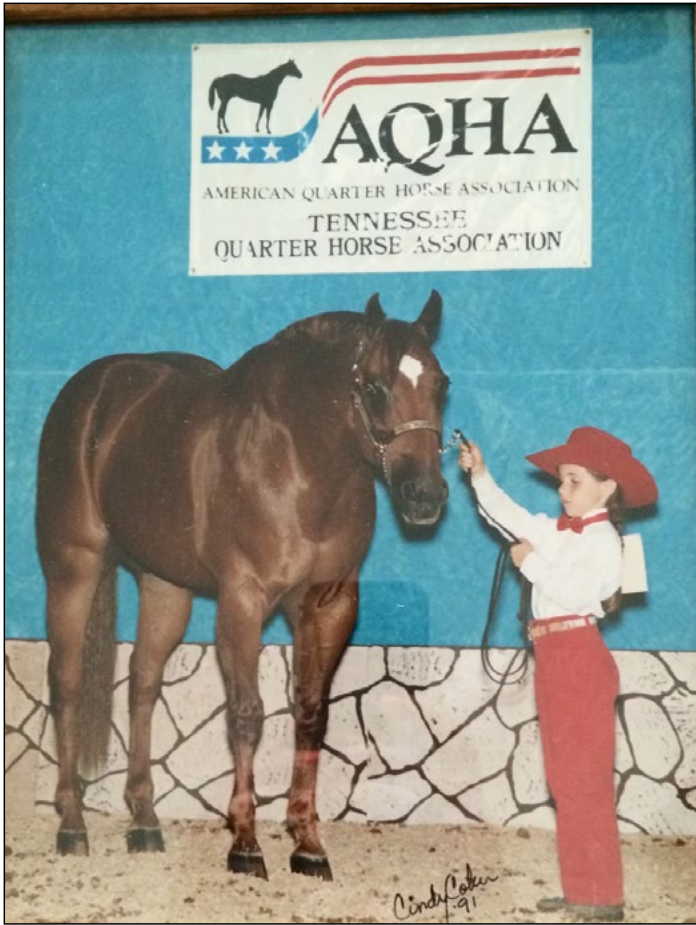
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stallion spent the last 25 years of his life in Hilldale Farm's breeding barn and was inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame. And Jessicah was on her way, claiming titles and championships and earning money in over 77% of the classes she entered. She is now a 12-time NRHA World Champion and 5-time NRHA Reserve World Champion.

Fittingly, Jessicah went over the million dollar mark at a Heart of Dixie event in McDonald, Tennessee, the Wicked Slide. It was a show and a group of people she started out riding with before moving to Texas. This time she was aboard GT Cruise Girl, a Gunnatrashya daughter out of Chexes Girl, a mare out of her 13 and under horse from back in the day, Crews Girl.

Hilldale Farm had owned GT Cruise Girl and planned to show her, but she was sold. When they got her back early last year, Ben Gerst had spent the year getting her show-ready so Jessicah hauled her to the Georgia show to see what she had to work with.



Top Left: Jessicah and Bull Ben Moore, who was shown by both Keller and her mother Tammye.
 Top Right: A special photo from 2002. Pictured are See Chex To Cash, Nu Chex To Cash, and Wimpys Little Step.
 Bottom: Jessicah and The OG Crews Girl at the AQHyA World Show, where they finished 3rd.

Jessicah said, "We took her to the last horse show to see where we were for 2025." They won the Derby and the Novice horse there and Jessicah passed the million dollar mark.

Renowned NRHA Professional and Non Pro



Top Left: Jessicah on Nu Chex To Cash in 2001 at the International Livestock Show.

Top Right: Jessicah showing Sparkling Major, who won one of the first 7 & Up classes at the NRBC when he was 13 or 14 years old.

Coach Ben Gerst has been at Hilldale Farm for about two years and has a tremendous respect for Jessicah. “She has a great feel for what her horse is doing and what she needs to do. She can really get a horse stopping. It’s natural to her. She’s a fierce competitor – just ask for a runoff with her and she’ll hit another level. She’s always better under pressure!”

He adds, “She’s won the million the hard way in mostly small increments but not because she wasn’t competitive!”

Jessicah laughs, “I remember I told Brian Bell that I was going to be the only person that makes it to a million without winning the futurity!”

Keller’s top finishes do include landmark wins, such as in 2008 when she won the Bill Horn Shootout Single Shot L4 Non Pro Derby Championship on Helluva Chex (Nu Chex To Cash X Full Sis by Peppy San Badger), earning \$20,000 (her largest check ever in competition). That win was especially sweet for her and you can hear the emotion in her voice when she explains, “I was such a fan of Bill Horn and he meant so much to me. He was first to win a million and in those days that was so hard to do. Winning that event named after him was

wonderful and we put Chex over a million that weekend as a sire, too.”

One of Jessicah’s favorite horses was Night Deposit Chex, a 1997 stallion by Nu Chex To Cash out of Salena Cee by Maxi Lena. In 2005, when they won the Non Pro World Championship, Jessicah rode him to earn an amazing 11 bronzes. He finished his career with 152.5 AQHA points and over \$118,000 in NRCHA, NCHA and NRHA earnings.

Another favorite is Snips Shining Gun (Colonels Shining Gun X Snip O Gun) . She has won around \$98K now and Jessicah’s goal is to put her over \$100K. Jessicah said, “She’s 9 and still marking 73’s. You know my horses have not always won the biggest events but they have always been consistent and lasted a long time. Charlie (Hutton) taught me how to make them last when I was a kid. My parents couldn’t afford to buy me a new horse if I wrecked the one I had. I had to make mine last 5 or 6 years before I could even think of a new one!”

It’s always been about the horses at Hilldale



Farm, and along with great horses it also takes a great team to get to a million dollars won. Team is family to Jessicah. “My Mom has always supported all of my goals, big and small. She always told me to set achievable goals and she has always stood behind me and helped me reach them. My brother David Hutton and my mom’s boyfriend Doug Gerard both work at the farm and make it to where we can show and do what we do.”

“My sister works a full time job with Purina and still finds time to help at the farm and show with us. Will Sherwood (my other half) stays at home a lot and runs his leather business, feeds horses and takes care of our son, Finn, so I can be away and do what I love. My daughter Josey has been cheering me on, too. It is a family effort.”

For Jessicah, family is big – and behind the bounds of actual relatives. “Ben is certainly part of the family, and when I was getting close this fall, my work family at Sport Innovations (red blankets) called me every day I was showing to see how close we were.”

Top Left: Jessicah and Splash Me A Chex at the NRHA Futurity.
 Top Right: Jessica and Nu Chex at the NRHA Futurity. Both stallions are by Nu Chex To Cash and out of Snips Shining Gun.

So, with the long-sought Million Dollar Rider goal attained, what is the best reward for Jessica?

She quipped, “Obviously I wanted a parking place at the Futurity,” referring to special parking for Million Dollar Riders. “It was all about not having to walk as far at OKC!”

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in
2025!



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PRE-GAME, PRE-SEASON, PRE-FUTURITY

by Nicole Deary

How do you prepare for the NRHA Futurity? Are you counting down the days? Do you evaluate the opportunity ahead and complain, or do you appreciate every aspect of the moment and give 100% effort with each day of preparation? Is someone else paying your entry fee so you can compete in one of the most prestigious reining events, or is this journey funded straight from your own bank account?

What's your pregame routine? Do you even have one? When you're entered in an event with over 500 competitors chasing the same first-place trophy, how do you set yourself apart? What do YOU do when 500 other people want the exact same thing YOU want?

Many famous athletes have unique or even superstitious pregame routines. For example, Michael Jordan, often acclaimed as the greatest basketball player of all time, wore his blue North Carolina basketball shorts under his Chicago Bulls uniform for every game. Jordan believed those shorts brought him luck, reminding him of where his journey to greatness began.

Inspired by this, I asked my husband, Casey Deary, if he'd wear a pair of his 1990 Wrangler Husky jeans from Walmart underneath his Cinch jeans—just to remind himself where he came from. He's still considering it.

Jokes aside, there's more to preparation than rituals. Many professional athletes



follow carefully curated pregame meal plans. I researched the diets of Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, Tom Brady during his years with the Patriots and Buccaneers, and MLB star Mike Trout. Across the board, these athletes focus on hydration, high-protein meals, and plenty of vegetables. Sugar, fried foods, and other indulgences? Completely off-limits.

If multimillion-dollar athletes rely on professionals to design their game-day nutrition, and if we as horse owners invest in veterinarians to care for our horses, shouldn't we also invest in ourselves—mentally and physically?

In addition to diet, many athletes hire motivational speakers to develop their mental game. The goal is to build the greatest version of themselves. And let's be real: the

best version of ourselves is not overweight, hungover, or sluggish from poor choices.

One of my favorite pre-Futurity stories comes from November 2012. Casey and I were preparing for one of the most exciting nights of our lives. He was competing on two Gunner mares in the NRHA Open Finals: Cool N Dun Gunner (draw 2) and Americasnextgunmodel (draw 23). The night before the finals, the Arcese Family purchased Americasnextgunmodel, adding to the excitement.

What made that night so special, though, was a moment of prayer. Dale Harvey, one of Casey's greatest mentors and friends, stopped by our stalls to check on Americasnextgunmodel. Dale, who was the agent for the Arcese Family, asked if we could pray together. Casey and I had already prayed that morning in our hotel room, but Dale, with his patient and unique way of communicating, insisted. "I really want to pray with you two and the mare," he said with a big smile.

So we gathered around Americasnextgunmodel—Casey, Dale, our friend Ed Harrison, and I. The mare, with her striking white face and huge blue eyes, felt our hands on her. Although she was deaf and couldn't hear Dale's powerful prayer, I believe she felt God's presence. We all did.

That night, Casey and Americasnextgunmodel

won the 2012 NRHA Open Futurity. Since then, ¹¹ our prayer tradition has become an integral part of our pre-Futurity routine. Sometimes it's just Casey, our kids, and me. Other times, we're joined by 75 or even 100 people. Whether it's Pastor Mike Seay, one of our parents, or Casey and I leading the prayer, the message is always the same: we ask for God's guidance and His will to be done.

Matthew 18:20 says, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them." We believe this wholeheartedly.

Dale's legacy lives on, even after his passing in 2017. His prayers, patience, passion for Christ, love for his family, and incredible talent with horses are lessons we'll never forget.

As the 2024 NRHA Futurity approaches, I encourage our team to stay focused. Eat right. Sleep right. Pray. Prepare. Practice. Encourage others and be thankful for the support around you.

We can't control everything—especially when working with a 1,000-pound animal—but we can control how we prepare, the choices we make, and the words we speak to ourselves and others.

Thank you for reading, and may your preparation lead you to your own moments of greatness.

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SWRHA ANNOUNCES 2024 YEAR-END CHAMPIONS

Earning a Southwest Reining Horse Association year end title is a tremendous honor and in the lineup of champions for 2024 are impressive and accomplished reiners.

In order to qualify for year-end awards, participants must have paid SWRHA memberships in good standing and compete at SWRHA-approved shows.

SWRHA Year-End Champions receive Custom Skyline Buckles and reserve champions receive custom Skyline pocket knives.

Where noted below, champions in select classes will receive custom award saddles, as well. Because of a generous sponsorship by Scot Pennington, champions in the Rookie Pro, the Green Reiner Level 2 and Ride And Slide Non Pro Level 1 receive award saddles.

The officers of the SWRHA board of directors understands how hard members work to reach these accomplishments and are proud of the awards that the association can offer.

SWRHA President Jennifer Anderson said, "We are so thankful for all our members and appreciate all their support. We strive to make each year better and are so glad we can offer such nice year-end awards along with an amazing venue to have our banquet as a thank you to any member that wants to come. We congratulate the winners listed below!"

SWRHA Year-End Champions

Rhea Pole - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Open Champion (Saddle & Buckle)/Intermediate Open Champion (Saddle & Buckle)/Novice Horse Open Level 3 Champion

Frankie Vazquez – 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Limited Open Champion



Donna Duvall - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Non Pro Champion (Saddle & Buckle)/Intermediate Non Pro Champion (Saddle & Buckle)/Limited Non Pro Champion/Prime Time Non Pro Champion (Saddle & Buckle)

Linda Sawyer - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Masters Non Pro Champion

Jared Leclair - Donna Duvall - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Novice Horse Open Level 1 Champion

Clemerson Barbalho - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Novice Horse Open Level 2 Champion

Mindy Gray - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1 Champion

Debbie Conway - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Novice Horse Non Pro Level 2 Champion

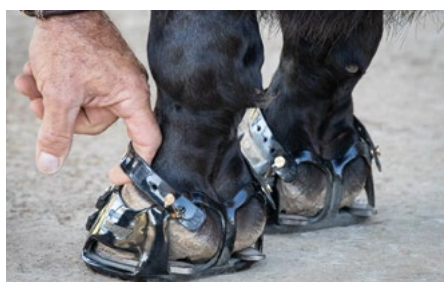


Australian Reiner, Scott Burnett, uses Scoot Boots on his horses when out exercising

Scoot Boots over sliders for extra traction

Considered one of the most popular equestrian spectator sports, reining continues to attract a growing following across the US, but also Australia and Europe.

It's a demanding equestrian sport requiring precision, agility and rapid movements that



places stress on the horse's hooves, hence plenty of natural exercise is important.

This is where Scoot Boot hoof boots can help.

Scoot Boots fit perfectly over sliders - which are wider and longer than normal shoes and worn on the rear hooves of reining horses.

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Give your reining horse that extra exercise, enjoyment and safety with Scoot Boots.

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Kelly Donnelly - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Novice Horse Non Pro Level 3 Champion

Kayleigh Harper – 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Short Stirrup Champion

Lily Forzani - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Youth 13 & Under Champion (Saddle & Buckle)

Grace Greenwood - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Youth 14-18 Champion (Saddle & Buckle)

Tiffany Fisk - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Rookie Level 1 Champion (Saddle & Buckle)

Lynnette Payne - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Rookie Level 2 Champion (Saddle & Buckle)/Rookie Prime Time Champion (Saddle & Buckle)

Rusty Gray - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Green Reiner Level 1 Champion

Lexi Laster - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Green Reiner Level 2 Champion (Saddle & Buckle sponsored by Scot

Pennington)

Morgan Chaffin - 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Rookie Professional Champion (Saddle & Buckle sponsored by Scot Pennington)

Kayleigh Harper – 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Ride & Slide Open Level 1

Madisyn Pole – 2024 Southwest Reining Horse Association Ride & Slide Open Level 2/Ride And Slide Non Pro Level 1 Champion (Saddle & Buckle sponsored by Scot Pennington)/Ride And Slide Non Pro Level 2 Champion

The SWRHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the breeding, training, and exhibition of the reining horse. Founded in 1984, the SWRHA has been a leader in creativity. It holds the claim for the creation of the very first stallion service auction and the Ride and Slide class. Recently, it has hosted other innovative classes like the Youth Frankenstyle class and the Masters and Platinum Shootouts. Over the years, the SWRHA has grown into one of the top affiliates of the National Reining Horse Association. For more information about SWRHA, visit the website at SWRHA.com.

CHAMPIONS AND TOP TEN TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT ANNUAL YEAR-END BANQUET

SWRHA 2024 Champions and top ten can look forward to a night of celebration when their achievements are spotlighted at the 2024 SWRHA Awards Banquet.

Beginning each January, SWRHA members show at SWRHA-approved events held throughout the year and accumulate points for year-end titles that are awarded annually at the SWRHA Party of Champions.

The SWRHA Year-End Banquet returns this year on February 6 to the White Horse Steak House in Valley View, Texas. This unique venue, which is located at Oak Meadow Ranch, was

created as a place to recognize the past and cowboy lifestyle. Nestled among 50 acres of tranquil woods, Oak Meadow Ranch houses a western-style town, restaurant, and event venue full of old-fashioned charm of the old west, along with exotic animals. Honoring the beauty and nature of Oak Meadow Ranch, chef Navarro strives to use sustainable, organically grown produce, eggs, and ethically sourced grass-fed meat from nearby farms.

Reservations are required for the awards banquet. Please RSVP to jennifer@cardinalreininghorses.com if you are able to attend.

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VHH TRAINING TIP

by Stevie White

SEBASTIAN PETROLL – LOOKING SMOOTHER IN THE SHOW PEN

NRHA Professional Sebastian Petroll grew up in Germany where horses were a family affair. He has been showing from a very young age when horses weren't as specialized as they are now. Figuring out which horses would fit best into which event and then training them for it made him a better more rounded trainer.

After graduating business school, moved to the US and spent the next 10 years working and showing for some of industry leaders, before opening Petroll Reining Horses LLC in 2011. Sebastian has made the L4 finals of every major event and clinched several championships. In 2014, his peers elected him to the NRHA professional of the year. He holds a NRHA judge's and steward's card and served several years on the board of directors for NRHA and dozens of committees and task forces. As a coach Sebastian has trained numerous horses and their Non pro riders to futurity, derby and world championships.

Watch as Petroll demonstrates how to position your body in various reining maneuvers in this video provided by our partner, Virtual Horse Help.



THE ETERNAL RIDE

JASON VANLANDINGHAM - NRHA FOUR MILLION DOLLAR RIDER



Jason Vanlandingham is one of the most respected riders in the reining industry. While his resume for the show pen is impressive, he's also known for his faith and regularly fills in to share the Word of God during events.

Jason is a regular contributor to WorldWide Slide, and has been sharing a unique devotional each issue for more than two years.

Find prior episodes at WorldWideSlide.com



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DEARY 

Chelsea Schneider
REAL ESTATE

NRHA TO LAUNCH PILOT PROGRAM FOR NEW RANCH REINING CLASS

The National Reining Horse Association has introduced an exciting new pilot program: the Ranch Reining Class, approved by the NRHA Board of Directors for a pilot phase. This initiative aims to broaden participation in reining events by offering a more accessible, welcoming environment for both newcomers and seasoned competitors. Since the announcement, the feedback has been mostly positive.

"I've received a few emails and calls over the past few days, and there's a noticeable sense of positive excitement from members and show management teams about the potential opportunities this initiative could bring," shared Christa Morris-Stone, NRHA Assistant Commissioner. "At the same time, some have expressed concerns about how it will unfold and whether it can effectively attract more people to reining."

What is Ranch Reining?

The Ranch Reining pilot class highlights fundamental reining maneuvers through simplified patterns and rules akin to other ranch-style events. Designed for inclusivity, this class fosters a relaxed, approachable format while maintaining the essence of reining competition.

Key Objectives of the Pilot Program

The pilot program is structured to achieve several positive outcomes:
New Opportunities for Members: Current riders



and horses gain an additional class to compete in.

Expanding NRHA's Reach: By incorporating ranch-style reining classes, NRHA can attract riders and horses from a growing sector of equestrian sports.

Encouraging Participation: Show management benefits from increased entries and a welcoming format for new competitors.

Evaluation & Refinement: The pilot allows NRHA to gather feedback and refine rules before formal implementation.

"This class offers a friendly venue to try NRHA, especially for those already competing in ranch-type events," said Morris-Stone. "It's an easy cross-over class. This format also may appeal to existing or former members who are looking for a new niche at NRHA reinings."

Key Benefits for Show Management

Attract New Audiences: Tap into the popularity

of ranch events to draw riders, horses, and owners unfamiliar with NRHA.

Support Existing Members: Provide a fresh avenue for current competitors and older horses to remain active.

Flexible Event Options: Simplified patterns and reduced time requirements make Ranch Reining an ideal addition for shows with a variety of schedule and arena conditions.

Class Structure and Rules

The Ranch Reining pilot class comes with a set of guidelines to ensure consistency during its testing phase:

Divisions Offered:

Open, Non Pro and Youth Ranch Reining
Prime Time Non Pro (50 and older as of 1/1)

Rookie and Rookie Youth Ranch Reining
Ownership: Non Pro and Youth ownership restrictions apply.

Jackpotting: Classes may be jackpotted, and money can be added without a cap.

Membership Requirements: Memberships and licenses are not required during the pilot phase.

Judging Standards

Adapted Rules: Judging follows NRHA Green Reiner guidelines for riding two-handed and simple lead changes.

Ranch Equipment Standards:

No hoof polish, no hoof black. No braided or banded manes/tails or tail extensions.

Holding the saddle horn with either hand will not be penalized in any Ranch Reining class.

Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Excessive silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

Patterns: Participants will use approved Ranch Reining patterns from alliance associations:

American Quarter Horse Association: Versatility Ranch Horse Ranch Reining Pattern 3, 4, 6 or 7

American Paint Horse Association Ranch Reining Pattern 1

NRHA Judges: They may judge the class in the pilot phase.

During the pilot phase, NRHA events are not required to apply to NRHA or submit any fees to the Association. Instead, NRHA staff encourages



show management teams and exhibitors to share their feedback on the pilot program throughout the year.

Future Implications

This pilot program provides NRHA and show managers with the tools to evaluate interest, refine event rules, and build momentum for Ranch Reining as a permanent addition. By creating an approachable entry point, NRHA hopes to engage a wider audience and sustain growth in reining competitions.

Morris-Stone said, "Overall, I believe this class could be especially beneficial for smaller events, allowing them to expand their offerings to riders in their area. This class may be like a tipping point – It gives someone another class to enter, and a class they are more excited about competing in, so they decide to put that NRHA event on their schedule.

For questions on the pilot, please contact Christa Morris-Stone at cmorris@nrha.com.

SLIDERS NIGHT OUT PRESENTED BY TOYON RANCH

Sliders' Night Out presented by Toyon Ranch was befitting of the international scope and success of the National Reining Horse Association's marquee event, the NRHA Futurity & Adequan® North American Affiliate Championships. Promoted as the hottest night on reining's social calendar, the festive event had a mix of energy, reverence, and vision that has propelled the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) to new heights since the event was established in 2018.

"I have had so many people come up to me and say that was the most moving evening they have been to in such a long time. It really hit their hearts," said Nancy Tague, secretary/treasurer of the RHF Board of Directors and co-owner of presenting donor Toyon Ranch with her husband, John.

Held December 4 in the historic Centennial Building on the OKC Fairgrounds, Sliders' Night Out welcomed guests from around the globe. The reception provided time for socializing and perusing live auction donations.

Following a delicious surf-and-turf dinner from Impact Catering, the program was emceed by Brian Lookabill. First up was recognition of former inductees into the NRHA Hall of Fame, with nearly two dozen men and women on hand representing people and horses who have received reining's highest honor. Members of the NRHA Hall of Fame are VIP guests whose attendance is underwritten by the event's major donors at the presenting, platinum, gold, silver, and hall of fame levels.

"Sliders' was a super night for me to see where we've come from and where NRHA is today," said NRHA Hall of Fame member and \$1 million rider Jim Morgan, DVM. "I was thrilled to be there with my wife and see the excitement of the people that attended."

The evening's first award went to Markel, recipient of the 2024 NRHA Dale Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Award. Remarks were given on behalf of NRHA's longest-running corporate partner by Frank Costantini, Markel director of western disciplines, who was personally inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame in 2001.

New NRHA Hall of Fame inductees included three mares and the sport's highest money-earning rider, Andrea Fappani. Accepting on behalf of his mare Snow Gun was Andre De Bellefeuille of Canada. Accepting on behalf of her family's mare Wind Her Up Shiner was NRHA non pro Mariana Vazquez of Illinois representing Smart Like Juice LLC. The final mare inducted was Wind Her Up Chic, a half-sister of Wind Her Up Shiner. Accepting was owner Tim Anderson, who splits his time between homes in South Dakota and Arizona.

Fappani of Scottsdale, Arizona, was the night's final inductee. In his remarks, he thanked many who took him under his wing when he moved from Italy to the United States to become a reining trainer. He took the stage to a standing ovation.

In addition to honoring the sport's legends, Sliders' Night Out serves as the largest annual fundraiser for the RHF, helping support other core programs such as the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund, youth leadership development, and scholarships. An appeal to donors during the event raised more than \$6,000. It was the live auction that soared. The high-selling item was "One Last Slide," a mixed media work on canvas painted from start to finish during the event by Josey Butler, Streakin' B Art.

Additional auction items included a John Deere ZTrak Mower donated by Equine



Discounts, an ICSI Services Package donated by NRHA Corporate Partner GeneTech, a custom luxe edition mink hat donated by NRHA Corporate Partner Shorty's Caboy Hattery, a Country Cruising 5-night cruise and music festival donated by FDT Cruises, and a NASCAR Truck Racing VIP experience made possible by ThorSport Racing. The auction grossed more than \$80,000.

"The messages about RHF and what it does really resonated with guests," said Tague. "I know we've actually had people who have been awarded Crisis Fund grants share how deeply it was felt for them to know there was someone like RHF there to take care of them and to think about them. That's why we do this. It's just so inspiring."

For nearly 25 years, members of the equine community have been doing good things through the Reining Horse Foundation, the charitable arm of the National Reining Horse



Association. With its mission of caring for and honoring the reining community, the RHF has supporters from around the world. Core programs include the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund providing financial relief to reiners enduring major hardships; youth scholarship and leadership development through the National Reining Horse Youth Association; and perpetuation of the sport's history through the NRHA Hall of Fame. For more information or to give, visit reiningfoundation.com.

SIX-FIGURE BIDS BREAK RECORDS AT NRHA MARKEL FUTURITY SALES

For the last 24 years, the National Reining Horses Association (NRHA) has given consignors and buyers a place to buy and sell the movers and shakers of the industry. In 2024, the atmosphere of the NRHA Markel Futurity Sales was different than in the past. While the seats at State Fair Park in Oklahoma City were packed early on, it was the online bidders who took the reins at first. Even as the crowd thinned out, the volume around the auction block began to rise. Records were broken during this historic event as a yearling breached the \$200,000 mark.

Navigating the auction block was the two-man team of Randy Woodard and Cody Shelley, who helped 238 horses pass through the ring. Five horses sold for more than \$100,000, which brought the sale average up to \$26,904. Total ring sales for the event grossed \$6,214,800. Similar to the 2023 sale, it looked like the high seller came out early in the day during the Performance Horse Sale when the gavel fell for an impressive \$177,000. Late in the day, that number would be blown out of the water by none other than Anne Tournay of Vieux-Genappe, Belgium, when she bought TR Gunna Bring It for a startling \$250,000. This is the third year in a row that Tournay has purchased the highest seller of the entire event.

Buyers, both in person and online, came hungry, and just about everyone left happy. QStallions hosted the sale breakfast to get the day started as anticipation for the Platinum Performance Draw Party began to build. Once the draw party concluded, the National Reining Horse Youth Association (NRHyA) Stallion Auction helped bidders get warmed up before the first horse entered the ring.

Eleven generous owners donated a 2025 breeding to an elite group of stallions to help raise money for NRHyA activities. Far surpassing last year's auction, NRHyA walked home with

just over \$45,000 to fund its 2025 endeavors. For the third year in a row, a breeding to NRHA Nine Million Dollar Sire Spooks Gotta Whiz (Spooks Gotta Gun x Prettywhizprettydoes) was the high seller for the youth. Generously donated by Mitchell Kimball of Collinsville, Texas, the Spooks Gotta Whiz breeding brought \$10,000 from buyer Tim Anderson from Milbank, South Dakota.

With so many top-quality horses set to sell, it was anybody's guess which horse would top out the sale. When a kind-eyed, simple sorrel colt walked into the pen during the Premier Sale, he commanded quite a bit of attention. As the bidding quickly jumped into the six figures, hip number 506 was truly unbothered. The volume around TR Gunna Bring It kept rising, and yet he proceeded to yawn multiple times. His indifference to the volume and unfamiliar setting around him is a testament to his NRHA Thirteen Million Dollar Sire Gunnatrashya. His dam, Ms Whiz Dunit, is an own daughter of another NRHA Thirteen Million Dollar Sire, Topsail Whiz. Consigned by Cooper Smith of Smith Ranch out of Whitesboro, Texas, the colt sold for \$250,000 to Tournay. This is the third year in a row that Tournay has bought the highest seller. The hefty price tag for this colt contributed to the final ring total of \$3,086,000 for an average of \$24,923. Out of the 124 head consigned, 104 sold for a gross sale of \$2,592,000, which allowed for an average of \$24,923.

Smith Ranch started out the day strong when their consignment in the Performance Horse Sale sold for \$177,000. Hip number 111, Daytona Five Hundred, was sold to Debbie Kuffer of Bradenton, Florida. Previously in training with Tremblay Performance Horses, the 2022 buckskin colt has all the right ingredients to reach new heights for Kuffer. He's by NRHA Four Million Dollar Sire Shiners Voodoo Dr and out of Okie Starbella (by Grays Starlight). Final

2024 NRHA Markel Futurity Sale Overall and Premier Sale High Seller \$250,000



TR Gunna Bring It
2023 Colt – Gunnatrashya x Ms Whiz Dunit
Consigned By: **Smith Ranch**
Purchased By: **Anne Tournay**



ring totals reached \$535,00 for an average of \$48,636. With 11 head on the sale, numbers almost doubled year over year. Nine of those horses sold, which allowed the sale to gross \$473,000 for an average of \$52,556.

Fifty-three of the 69 consignments in the Elite Yearling Sale found new homes, but it was hip number 266 who caught the most attention. Dolittles Top Spook was consigned by Bobby Lewis of Overbrook, Oklahoma, and the buckskin filly was bought by NRHA Million Dollar Rider Fernando Salgado from Gainesville, Texas. Her \$125,000 price tag got Salgado an elite cross between Spooks Gotta Whiz and Dolittle Lena. Averaging \$27,632, the ring total hit \$1,906,600. Out of the horses sold, the sale grossed \$1,574,700 for an average of \$29,711.

Several two-for-one deals circled the block during the Preferred Breeder's Sale, which boasted a 100 percent sale rate this year. The

most sought-after was hip number 328, Chick Out These Guns. Boasting the hallmark bald face of her sire, NRHA Fifteen Million Dollar Sire Colonels Smoking Gun, the 2014 mare is out of Dun It By Chick, who is an own daughter of NRHA Six Million Dollar Sire Hollywood Dun It. Consigned by Chappell Horse Sales, Rancho Los 4 bought the broodmare for \$76,000 which included a confirmed pregnancy to Jerseys Baby Driver. Chappell Horse Sales also consigned the second-highest seller of the Preferred Breeder's Sale with hip number 335, Dont Tell Me (Hollywood Dun It x Shiny Enterprise), who sold for \$57,000 to Alex Castaneda of Lored, TX. Ring totals reached \$687,200 for an average of \$21,475. Since all 32 consignments sold, the sale grossed the same amount as the ring totals.

All prices and totals reflected are unofficial. Final prices will be posted on nrha.com at a later date.

NEWS FROM KISER ARENAS



KISER ARENAS HIRED AS ARENA FOOTING CONSULTANTS FOR NEW ARENAS IN TEXAS AND ALABAMA

Kiser Arenas, a leading authority in equine footing and arena consulting, has been selected to provide footing expertise for two major covered arena projects in Williamson County, Texas, and Lauderdale County, Alabama.

Known for their commitment to safety and performance, Kiser Arenas continues to set the gold standard for equestrian facilities across North America.

Williamson County Expo Center West Arena – \$10.7 Million Project

Ground was broken on the new Williamson County Expo Center West Arena in December

2024. This state-of-the-art facility, valued at \$10.7 million, is being constructed by Bartlett Cocke General Contractors, with Parkhill serving as the architect and engineer. Jim Kiser, founder of Kiser Arenas, has been brought on board to provide equine footing consultation to ensure the arena meets the highest standards for equestrian events.

Lauderdale County Agricultural Events Center – \$33 Million Livestock Arena

In Florence, Alabama, the Lauderdale County Agricultural Events Center recently celebrated the groundbreaking of its \$33 million livestock arena. Jim Kiser will collaborate with Charles D. Smith Architecture & Planning LLC of Knoxville, Tennessee, to deliver world-class footing consultation for this premier equestrian venue.

KISER ARENAS EXPANDS CONSULTING SERVICES AND LAUNCHES FACILITIES TRAINING PROGRAM

Kiser Arenas, the industry leader in equine arena footing, is proud to announce an exciting expansion of its consulting services and the launch of a specialized training program for fairgrounds and event facilities. This initiative reaffirms the company's commitment to enhancing equine safety and performance while empowering facility operators with cutting-edge knowledge in footing management.

Founder Jim Kiser, widely recognized for his expertise and contributions to the Western performance horse industry, has been at the helm of Kiser Arenas' innovative approach for decades. Recently, Kiser made the decision to scale back footing management at horse shows, focusing instead on providing in-depth consulting services and launching training programs. Footing management will now be offered only for premier events on a limited basis, allowing the company to prioritize its broader mission of enhancing arena safety and performance.

The new Facilities Training Program is a direct response to increased demand from fairgrounds, facilities, and venues seeking expert guidance in footing management. The

program is designed to equip operators with the knowledge and tools to maintain consistent footing for a wide range of events. Workshops are tailored to each venue, enabling staff to train together using their own equipment and arena. This eliminates the need to travel or learn in an unfamiliar setting with different tools, ensuring that operators gain practical, venue-specific expertise.

Kiser's decision to pivot toward consulting and training reflects the company's long-standing mission to ensure the highest standards of safety and performance across the equine industry. With an impressive track record that includes managing footing at world-class events and over \$350 million in prize money awarded on Kiser-prepared arenas, the company is well-positioned to take this next step.

About Kiser Arenas

Kiser Arenas specializes in equine footing consulting, providing expertise to equestrian venues across the United States and Canada. Their services include consulting for new construction and existing arenas, as well as fairground and facility training workshops. With decades of experience, Kiser Arenas ensures every venue they work with supports equine safety, performance, and longevity.

For more information, visit www.kiserarenas.com.



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