



WorldWide Slide Magazine

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

• **GUNNERS TINSELTOWN IS
NOW A \$1 MILLION SIRE**

• **FAMILY BUSINESS WITH NICOLE DEARY**

• **INDUSTRY NEWS
AND MORE!**



Charles Schmitt



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Photos by Chelsea Schneider



Did You Know?

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

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GUNNERS TINSELTOWN REACHES \$1 MILLION

Photo and press release courtesy of NRHA

The National Reining Horse Association recently announced Gunners Tinseltown as an NRHA Million Dollar Sire. The milestone solidifies the stallion's impact on the sport as a competitor and sire.

Gunners Tinseltown, a 2009 stallion bred, owned, and nominated by David Silva Sr., boasts an elite pedigree (Gunner x Miss Tinseltown), with both parents being NRHA Hall of Famers. With such lineage, Gunners Tinseltown's success comes as no surprise.

During his competitive career, Gunners Tinseltown amassed \$305,307 in NRHA Lifetime Earnings (LTE), showcasing his undeniable talent. Ridden by NRHA Professional Sam Schaffhauser and NRHA Hall of Famer Tim McQuay, his standout performance came at the 2012 NRHA Futurity. With McQuay, the stallion claimed Reserve Champion honors in the Level (L) 4 Open, earning \$143,473.

As a sire, Gunners Tinseltown has 99 offspring with NRHA LTE, collectively pushing him into the million-dollar ranks. His top performer, Setting Off To Town, exemplifies his influence. Bred and nominated by NRHA Hall of Famer Rosanne Sternberg and owned by NRHA Corporate Partner Bosque Ranch Performance Horses LLC, the gelding boasts an impressive \$153,186 in LTE. Setting Off To Town's accomplishments include a tenth-place finish at the 2020 NRHA L4 Open Futurity with NRHA \$5 Million Rider Craig Schmersal, earning \$20,657. In 2024 alone, the gelding added nearly \$40,000 to his record.

Gunners Tinseltown's top-earning progeny are:

Setting Off To Town (out of Setting Off Smart), bred and nominated by Rosanne



Sternberg, owned by Bosque Ranch Performance Horses LLC, \$153,186 NRHA LTE

Blueyedgirl (out of Shining Survivor), bred and nominated by NRHA Corporate Partner Cardinal Hill Training Center LLC, owned by Bruna Bertolani, \$108,145 NRHA LTE

Guns Required (out of Icing Required), bred by Carluccio Orse, nominated by NRHA Corporate Partner Toyon Ranch LLC, owned by Tim Roper, \$73,840 NRHA LTE

CBKtinseltownsparty (out of HR Wright On Cash), bred, nominated and owned by William and Corliss Kellogg, \$42,371 NRHA LTE

MMB Chic Gun Renda (out of Lil Chic Balou), bred and nominated by Margarita Arietti, owned by Jenna Webb, \$41,614 NRHA LTE



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GUNNERS SPECIAL NITE, SPOOKS GOTTA WHIZ, AND GUNNATRASHYA REACH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MILESTONES

Photo and press release courtesy of NRHA

The National Reining Horse Association announced three of the industry's leading sires have reached significant milestones, further solidifying their legacies in reining history. Gunners Special Nite, Spooks Gotta Whiz, and Gunnatrashya have each achieved new benchmarks through the extraordinary performances of their offspring.

Gunners Special Nite \$8 Million Sire

Gunners Special Nite, known as "Bailey" to those who love him, continues to shine in the reining world as an NRHA \$8 Million Sire. The 2004 stallion, bred by Kim and Debra Sloan and owned by Turnabout Farm Inc., crossed the \$7 million mark in April of 2024 and reached \$8 million during the 2024 NRHA Futurity and Adequan® North American Affiliate Championships (NAAC). By NRHA Hall of Famer Gunner and out of Mifs Doll, Bailey himself boasts NRHA Lifetime Earnings (LTE) of nearly \$220,000.

The milestone was achieved through the efforts of his 530 NRHA money-earning offspring, highlighted by stellar performances at the NRHA Futurity and Adequan® NAAC. NRHA Hall of Famer Mandy McCutcheon rode two of Bailey's progeny to success: Spookin At Nite (out of Spooks Little Princess) and Golden Nite Survivor (out of Golden Survivor), securing third and fourth places in the Level 4 Non Pro Finals and earning over \$67,000 collectively.

Gunners Special Nite's top-earning offspring include:

Modern Gun (out of Taris Modern Design), bred and nominated by Turnabout Farm Inc. and



owned by MS Stables, \$362,126 NRHA LTE

Guns And Dynamite (out of Chic Olena Starbuck), bred and nominated by Turnabout Farm Inc., owned by Tim and MaryBeth Ruckman, \$297,851 NRHA LTE

All Nite Partier (out of Topsail Survivor), bred and nominated by Deana Nell, owned by Sotol Investments LLC, \$281,183 NRHA LTE

CS Especially Moody (out of Judys A Little Moody); bred, nominated, and owned by NRHA \$3 Million Owner Corrina Schumacher of XCS Ranch LLC; \$229,059 NRHA LTE

Gunna Be Painted (out of Darlins Not Painted), bred and nominated by NRHA \$2 Million Owner Tom McCutcheon, owned by Kevin Colston, \$212,631 NRHA LTE

Spooks Gotta Whiz \$10 Million Sire

NRHA Hall of Famer Spooks Gotta Whiz, known as “Baby,” has achieved the \$10 million sire milestone. The 2007 stallion, bred by NRHA Hall of Famer Clint Haverty and owned by Michell Anne Kimball, crossed the \$9 million mark in August 2024. With NRHA LTE of \$345,138, Baby is by NRHA \$3 Million Sire Spooks Gotta Gun and out of Prettywhizprettydoes.

The 531 NRHA money-earning offspring of Spooks Gotta Whiz have consistently excelled, including Picture Perrfect (out of Isnt She Perfect), who played a significant role in this accomplishment. The talented horse and its NRHA Million Dollar Rider were crowned MS Diamonds TX Level 4 Open Futurity Reserve Champions at the 2024 NRHA Futurity, earning \$150,000.

Baby’s top-earning offspring include: Mic Dropp (out of Dun Dry Whiz), bred and nominated by Clark Reining Horses LLC, owned by NRHA Million Dollar Owners Tim Anderson and Clark Reining Horses LLC, \$352,224 NRHA LTE

Alpha Jac Sparrow (out of Chexanicki), bred and nominated by Alpha Quarter Horses LLC, owned by Fritz Leeman, \$298,564 NRHA LTE

Spooks Gotta Spark (out of Dolittle Lena), bred and nominated by Bobby Lewis, owned by Kevin Truax, \$215,585 NRHA LTE

Outta Yur League (out of Shesouttayourleague); bred and nominated by Curtis Performance Horses LLC; owned by Frank Costantini Jr., Tim Anderson, Clark Reining Horses LLC, and Richard Vernon; \$204,880 NRHA LTE

Spooky Whiz (out of Myo Starlight), bred and nominated by Spence Bell, owned by Bosque Ranch Performance Horses LLC, \$186,043 NRHA LTE



Gunnatrashya \$14 Million Sire

Gunnatrashya (Gunner x Natrasha), an NRHA Hall of Fame inductee, has reached the monumental milestone of \$14 million in sire earnings. Bred by Katarina Dorminy and owned by NRHA \$3 Million Owner Arcese Quarter Horses USA, Gunnatrashya crossed the \$13 million mark in August 2024. With NRHA LTE exceeding \$218,000, the stallion’s success in the show morphed into an even more prestigious career as a sire.

His 812 NRHA money-earning offspring have achieved exceptional results worldwide. Notable among them is Shift N Gears (out of Snip O Gun), bred and owned by Hilldale Farm.

Under the guidance of NRHA Million Dollar Rider Jessica Keller, Shift N Gears claimed the 2024 All American Quarter Horse Congress Non Pro Freestyle Reining Championship and the Open Freestyle Reserve Championship, contributing significantly to Gunnatrashya's milestone achievement.

Gunnatrashya's top-earning offspring include:

Gunnabebigtime (out of Big Time Jazzy); bred, nominated and owned by NRHA Million Dollar Owner Tami Nelson; \$864,903 NRHA LTE

Gunna Stop (out of Stop Little Sister), bred and nominated by NRHA Corporate Partner Toyon Ranch LLC, owned by Amber Gokey, \$672,762 NRHA LTE

Andiamoe (out of Wimpys Little Chic); bred, nominated and owned by Arcese Quarter Horses USA; \$438,139 NRHA LTE

Ten Thirty (out of Dainty Little Step), bred and nominated by Brooke Wharton, owned by Rancho El Fortin, \$418,788 NRHA LTE

Super Marioo (out of HA Chic A Tune), bred and

nominated by Hillis Akin Family Partnership, owned by Tom and Mandy McCutcheon, \$338,891 NRHA LTE



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FAMILY BUSINESS

By Nicole Deary



On January 13, 2023, a colt owned by the Arcese Family was born. Sired by Walla Walla Whiz and out of NRHA's Million Dollar Dam, AmericasNextGunModel, this powerful, gorgeous sorrel colt with a white face and white legs was named "Family Business."

He is a recipe of royal reining blood, dreams, victories, business decisions, love, respect, and family.

We have watched him grow and develop since birth, and now he has reached the age to begin reining training at the Deary Ranch. His name sparked my deep interest and study over the last few months on the topic of family businesses.

My husband, Casey Deary, departed from the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, airport on January

11, 2025, traveling to Rome, Italy, to teach a clinic for the Elementa Resort horse trainers and owners. He was scheduled to teach for five days. During his approximately 15 hours of travel, we corresponded through messages as he departed, landed, passed through customs and airport security, and finally arrived safely in Rome. I was apprehensive about the driver picking him up, and, of course, the language barriers in Italy posed a challenge.

When we were finally able to talk on the phone after his first day of work and dinner with the Fiorucci family, I was eager to hear about his experiences!

In addition to an incredible Italian meal, the most remarkable part of his journey thus far was the one-hour car ride from Elementa Resort to the actual home of the resort's owner,

located in the city of Rome.

As they turned onto the final road in front of the villa, the driver began speaking about the amazing history of that road—the oldest in Rome: The Appian Way, known in Italian as Via Appia Antica.

As they drove down the original cobblestone path, the driver explained that large tombs lined both sides of the road.

It was also infamous as the site where Christians were crucified along its edges. My curiosity was piqued, leading me to research various Roman historical and archaeological sources that revealed even more fascinating facts about this ancient route, built in 312 B.C.

The Appian Way, preserved in its original form since the 4th century B.C., was a crucial road for the Roman Empire, connecting Rome to some of its most distant settlements. Built by Appius Claudius Caecus, the Censor of Rome, it originally linked Rome to Capua, near Naples.

The road was primarily constructed for military purposes, meaning Julius Caesar, along with thousands of other soldiers, leaders, and consuls, once walked its stones.

Christian converts were buried along the route, and in 71 B.C., the famous slave leader Spartacus was crucified along the Via Appia. Eventually, the road extended more than 300 miles to Brindisi, Puglia, on the Adriatic Coast, making it the widest and longest road of its time.

Known as the “Queen of Roads,” its construction was truly momentous—especially considering it was built in 312 B.C.

Today’s Via Appia Antica begins at the Porta San Sebastiano, just two miles south of the Colosseum in Rome. From there, the road leads to the 9th-century Domine Quo Vadis Church. Legend says that this is where Peter, fleeing Nero’s persecution in 64 A.D., saw a vision of Christ.

Peter asked, “Domine, quo vadis?” or “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus responded that he was returning to Rome to be crucified again, prompting Peter to accept his fate and return to Rome, where he was martyred. Inside the church is a stone said to bear the footprints of Jesus, along with frescoes of Peter and Christ.

Compared to many of Rome’s other famous sites, The Appian Way remains incredibly well-preserved. It is the oldest road in the world still in use. Its large, flat stones have been firmly set in place by thousands of years of rain, wheels, and footsteps. Walking on them today means following in the footsteps of Roman emperors, merchants, saints, and perhaps even St. Peter.

On January 17, Casey’s final day of teaching at the clinic, I flew to Rome to join him. I traveled with our four children, our dear friend Cassie Hacking, and Casey’s parents, Tim and Debbie Deary. This journey was an unforgettable experience—one we will cherish for the rest of our lives.

Beyond Rome, we also visited several other cities in Italy, spending time with the Arcese Family. We rode a train from Rome to the breathtaking city of Verona, then traveled to Arco and Italy’s largest lake, Lake Garda. We enjoyed many wonderful days with the Elementa group and the Arcese Family.

Everywhere we went, I was captivated by historically significant family businesses. How had some of these businesses endured for decades, generations, or even centuries?

How could a piece of family land in Italy remain in the same family for over 1,000 years? The United States was established on July 4, 1776. Now, in 2025, it has been only 249 years!

“Family businesses have proven their agility and resilience during the [COVID-19 pandemic] crisis and recovered quickly,” says Peter Englisch, global family business and EMEA Real and Private Business leader for PwC. “One important factor was their values and long-

term commitment to keep their employees and manage customer relationships.” Europe remains the leading region for family businesses, making up over 43% of the top 750 global businesses.

Throughout our 22 years together, Casey and I have been incredibly fortunate to learn from some of the most successful family businesses. A few that have profoundly impacted our lives include the Arcese Family, the Mariano Pedrero Family, Community Coffee, Rancho El Fortin, the Ascencion and Adan Banuelos Family, the Haras Virginia & Fagundes Family, JBJ Ranch, and, most recently, the Maria Cecilia Fiorucci Family.

In interviewing some of these individuals, I uncovered powerful insights into the success of family businesses.

These 10 key factors stood out:

1. Family unity is essential. If the husband goes one way and the wife another, division and conflict arise. The family's leadership must be united.
2. Quick forgiveness after conflict.
3. Recognizing and valuing each family member's unique talents.
4. Seeking external expertise for fresh perspectives.
5. Aligning the family's shared vision and values with business goals.
6. Maintaining family unity as the foundation of success.
7. Planning for generational continuity.
8. Prioritizing love, respect, and shared vision above all else.
9. Establishing clear succession plans, defined roles, strong boundaries, and a focus on long-term vision.
10. Open communication.

In conclusion, I want to share a famous quote from Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, a Saudi politician:

“My grandfather rode a camel. My father drove a car. I fly in jet planes. My son will drive a car. My grandson will ride a camel.”

When asked why, he responded:

“Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times. Good times create weak men, weak men create hard times.”

One of the greatest strengths of a family business is teaching children to work hard—perhaps the very reason such businesses thrive. A family business is not built on excessive comfort, luxury, or indulgence. Generational wealth does not come from spending every dollar earned.

Both of our sons, now 19 and 16, have independently decided not to pursue sports careers in golf and baseball, despite scholarship offers. As their mother, this was difficult for me to accept.

However, the more time they spend working with their father on our ranch, the more they love the reining horse industry. They are setting goals and planning their own paths within the Deary Ranch family business.

I hope that, one day, when I watch my great-grandchildren ride their reining horses in Texas, I can say that Casey and I built something in 2000 that will bless Deary generations for years to come.

Did we know it at the time? No.

Did we have the full vision of what was ahead? No.

But we made a vow before family and God: “To have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part.”

Through all my recent travels, research, and conversations, I have come to believe that marriage may be one of the most crucial factors in the success of a family business.

Thank you for reading! - Nicole Deary

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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VHH TRAINING TIP

by Stevie White

TEACHING THE LEAD CHANGE – NICK VALENTINE

NRHA Professional Nick Valentine has had the opportunity to work for some of the industry's top pro-fessional. Million Dollar Rider Dell Hendricks is one of those professionals and he has learned a lot from Francois Gautier as well.

He currently serves as Chairman of the NRHA Professionals Committee and has made the finals at every major event. He is equally proud of the coaching and training he has done to help Non Pros and Youth make it to the winners circle. He has taught clinics in various parts of the world and is particularly thank-ful for the chance to build programs for repeat clinic and riders.

When teaching the lead change to young horses, Valentine likes to start early so there is less pressure on them because he has more time to teach them. Before beginning the lead change, though he has some prerequisites to consider: the horse must be able to move with relaxed forward motion, yield softly to the bridle and the rider's legs, move should each direction, guide in a circle and know their leads.

He also advises to teach them the lead change on a straight line to teach them to keep their shoulders elevated. To watch Valentine demonstrate his technique, watch this video provided by our partner Vir-tual Horse Help.



STEVE ROSS TO RECEIVE 2025 NRBC MEDIA AWARD

Since its inception in 1998, the National Reining Breeders Classic has benefited from outstanding media coverage across print, radio, and television. Recognizing the critical role the media plays in promoting the event, NRBC management and its board have consistently expressed deep appreciation for those who contribute to its success.



To honor those who go above and beyond in sharing the NRBC story, the organization annually presents the NRBC Media Award to an outstanding media outlet or personality.

For 2025, the award recipient will be Steve Ross. A longtime voice of the NRBC, Ross has provided expert commentary for the show's webcast and covered NRBC events on The Cowboy Channel and RFD-TV. Additionally, he serves as the host of the National Reining Horse Association's Teton Ridge Sport Desk, further amplifying the sport's reach.

"Part of Steve's appeal as a commentator is his deep insight into the reining horse community," said Cheryl Cody, President of Pro Management, Inc., which manages the NRBC. "His knowledge, enthusiasm, and ability to connect with audiences have made him an integral part of the NRBC, and we are honored to recognize him with this award."

Ross, of Scottsdale, Arizona, said, "I am truly honored to receive this award from the NRBC. Since its inception, the NRBC has continually raised the standard of excellence for reining events. Being associated with the incredible media team that consistently produces a

first-class event is a privilege. I am humbled to be recognized as just a small part of a team and an event that has brought the greatest equine sport in the world the attention and recognition it so richly deserves."

He added a thank you to NRBC's Board of Directors and founding members, "Most of all, I want to thank the small group of forward-thinking horsemen and women who saw the potential for a true showcase event and, through relentless effort and unwavering determination, made it happen."

Beyond his work in media, Ross is an NRHA Judge who travels worldwide as a clinician and coach. His approach—grounded in solid horsemanship and a low-key, effective teaching style—has consistently yielded outstanding results. Over the years, he has trained under some of the industry's top professionals, including:

- Doug Milholland – NRHA Futurity Champion
- Bill Horn – NRHA Futurity Champion
- Winston Hansma – NCHA Futurity Champion
- Tommy Manion – 35 AQHA World Championships

With a focus on building strong foundations

in young horses, Ross has developed a reputation for producing some of the highest-selling horses at the industry's most prestigious reining horse sales.

Past NRBC Media Award Winners

The NRBC Media Award has honored a distinguished list of recipients, including:

- 2009: Wide World of Horses
- 2008: Tonya Garrison
- 2007: Abby Whitaker
- 2006: Lee Schneider
- 2005: Horseman's Radio Weekly & Bridle and Bit
- 2004: Reiner Magazine
- 2003: Southwest Horse Trader

- 2002: America's Horse & ANCR Reiner
- 2001: Waltenberry Productions
- 2000: Quarter Horse News

About the NRBC

The 2025 National Reining Breeders Classic is set for April 15-26 at Tulsa's Expo Square Built Ford Tough Livestock Complex. As one of the most innovative and historic reining events, the NRBC has paid out nearly \$30 million in its history, with the majority of prize money stemming from its successful stallion and foal enrollment program.

For more information, visit nrbc.com.

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SHOOTOUT COMPETITION RETURNS TO NRBC FOR ROOKIE, GREEN, MASTERS, AND LEGENDS COMPETITORS



The National Reining Breeders Classic is bringing back its expanded lineup of Shootout classes in 2025, following an overwhelmingly positive response to last year's additions. Originally introduced in 2019 with the Yellowstone Rookie Shootout, the concept has since grown to include the Green Reiner, Masters Non Pro, and Legends Non Pro Shootouts, providing even more competitors with a chance to step into the spotlight.

"The Shootout format offers a clean-slate competition where riders in select divisions can compete for top honors and showcase their skills in the main arena," said Savannah Magoteaux, NRBC Media Coordinator and Assistant Show Manager. "Expanding this opportunity has been a huge success, and we are thrilled to have the continued support of such incredible sponsors who are passionate about growing the sport."

Returning sponsors for 2025 include Andrea and Tish Fappani (Spooks N Jewels), Michael and Joanne Garnett (Blo Gun), Kim and Martin Muehlstaetter (Spooks Grand Slam), and Paul Patterson of the Rios of Mercedes Family of Brands, each of whom played a key role in

launching the additional Shootout classes last year. Their renewed commitment ensures that these highly anticipated competitions will once again provide an exciting platform for riders at all levels.

"These Shootouts bring an extra level of excitement to the NRBC," Magoteaux added. "The energy, the crowd, and the high-pressure environment make these classes stand out. Whether it's a rookie proving themselves or a seasoned rider competing in the Masters or Legends divisions, it's a chance to step up and deliver under the lights."

2025 NRBC Shootout & Qualifier Schedule

The Shootouts will take place on Thursday, April 24, in the Ford Truck Arena, immediately following the Leadline competition at 5 p.m. Riders qualify for the Shootouts by competing in both slates of their respective classes and finishing with one of the top five scores.

The qualifying rounds for each division are scheduled as follows:

- Yellowstone Rookie – Sunday, April 20 / Tuesday, April 22
- Rios of Mercedes Family of Brands Green

Reiner – Saturday, April 19 / Monday, April 21
· Blo Gun/Spooks Grand Slam Masters Non Pro
– Sunday, April 20 / Monday, April 21
· Fappani/Spooks N Jewels Legends Non Pro –
Sunday, April 20 / Monday, April 21

While all Shootout competitions offer great prizes, the Yellowstone Rookie Shootout has built a reputation for going above and beyond. One of its most unique and coveted awards is the custom bench designed by longtime supporter Robert Webb. Years ago, Webb, the owner and founder of My T Coat Commercial Outdoor Furniture, created the first custom bench as a special award for the Rookie Shootout champion. The one-of-a-kind prize quickly became a symbol of achievement, and ever since, riders have worked hard for the chance to take one home.

Webb continues his support of the Yellowstone Rookie Shootout, returning in 2025 to produce

another custom bench for the winner under his new company, Coated Outdoor Furniture. His commitment to recognizing and rewarding riders in this division has helped make the Yellowstone Rookie Shootout one of the most anticipated contests at NRBC.

With strong sponsor support, the Shootouts have become a key part of the NRBC, giving more competitors the chance to test their skills in a high-pressure environment.

About the NRBC

The 2025 National Reining Breeders Classic runs April 15-26 at Tulsa's Expo Square Built Ford Tough Livestock Complex. Known for its strong payouts and competitive atmosphere, the NRBC has awarded nearly \$30 million in prize money since its inception, driven by its successful stallion and foal enrollment program.

For more information, visit nrbc.com.

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