

A Smokin' Finish

The Idaho Reined Cow Horse Association annually hosts the NRCHA's largest affiliate event, and this year was no different as horsemen flocked to Nampa in late October.

By Diane Rice • Action photos by Scootemshootem Photography



Smokin Smart Cat improved her game in the herd work and then shined down the fence to complete a winning performance in the IRCHA Futurity Open.

When reined cow horse enthusiasts started organizing events back in the 1970s, a few of the grassroots people hailed from Idaho. “[The late] George Dines, Jim Moser and a few others came back and put the Idaho Reined Cow Horse Association [IRCHA] together,” said IRCHA Vice President Jerry Beukelman.

Although Beukelman said the organization has seen its ups and downs, with just 11 entries in the Futurity Open when the horse industry hit its low point back in the early '90s, the IRCHA steadily climbed back and hosts the largest affiliate show anywhere. “The only shows larger than this one are put on by the national organization,” he said.

Held Oct. 18-23 at Nampa's Idaho Center Horse Park, the 42nd annual show, judged by Sandy Collier and Carl Gould, tallied 1,767 total entries, with horses and riders attending from the Western states and Canada.

Speaking for the IRCHA's board of directors, Beukelman said he couldn't be prouder of what the club has done over the years to bring together people from the West and Northwest, including Canada, in a friendly, positive environment.

The show featured several special events,

including the Idaho Performance Horse Sale on the evening of Oct. 22.

“This was our third year for the sale,” Beukelman said. “There really hasn't been a good horse sale in the state of Idaho in a real long, long time, and we'd like to provide a place for people to bring their prospects and under-saddle horses – horses that you'd take to an event like this one.”

After a hiatus of several years, the IRCHA also resurrected its team branding event to provide a break from the intensity of the limited-age competition. This year's winning team, the Nobodys, consisted of Jake Telford, Jared McFarland, Jaylen Eldridge and Marlow Eldridge. They took home cash and personalized rope bags from R.C. Bean. Runners-up were the Gay Boys, comprised of Jason Gay, Brady Black, Jared Thompson and Zalin Aritola.

Futurity Open

Taking home the winner's check of \$8,628 and topping 41 entries in the \$21,000-added Futurity Open was Lyn Anderson, of Madera, California, riding Smokin Smart Cat. Also known as “Emma,” the mare is owned by breeders David and Barbara Archer, of Clovis, California.

“The mare is usually pretty good in the reining,” Anderson said. “She'd been stop-

ping really good in that arena the couple days before. Her first stop was a little disappointing; she didn't do as well as normally, so we started out a little bit lower than I'd hoped for at a 141.5.

“The herd work was next and she got three really good cows. I was really happy with that. She was third in the herd and that's the best she's ever drawn. She's been either last or second to last in the herd the other three or four times I've shown her, so that was certainly a help. She dialed right in on cattle that actually let her work. She was real good there and we got a 143.5.

“Down the fence,” Anderson continued, “the cow was good to box and it was a little slow the first half. Then, when I asked her to turn, the cow went faster and faster so we had a little bit of an issue catching it as soon as I wanted to. But she was good enough for a 145.5 and got into the finals for that.

“Then in the finals, she was just really right with me. The cow boxed good and went down the fence. It was a good cow and we got it turned.

“This mare just rates so well,” Anderson added. “She's really comfortable running next to a cow, and [she] guided that cow back to the fence, then got another turn and went to circle. She's a really attractive mare to watch and showed a lot of maturity.”

Athletically, she's always been good. It's just been about her getting the confidence. The more she's figured out how to work and get along with the extra speed and the extra pressure of the show pen, the better she's getting."

Anderson will continue to show her next year in the major National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) events next season.

"We'll put her into the hackamore and see how she does in that, and just go on with her from there," Anderson concluded of the mare's future.

Placing second with a composite score of 579.5 was Dandys April Fool (Metallic Cat x DMAC Dandy Devine x by Smart Little Abner), ridden by **Equi-Stat Elite** \$1 Million Rider Zane Davis, of Shelley, Idaho, for owner Davis Brothers Performance Horses. Doogie Wilson bred the stallion, who added scores of 146.5 in the rein work, 142 in the herd work and 145 in the cow work to a finals score of 146 to cash a \$6,902 check.



Carmen Buckingham opted not to sell Baraka Lights at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity Sales, instead taking the mare to Idaho, where they won the Futurity Non-Pro.

Futurity Non-Pro

Oct. 21 was memorable in more ways than one for Futurity Non-Pro winner Carmen Buckingham. As she and Baraka Lights did their fence work, Buckingham and her husband, Tom's, first grandchild was being born in Kansas. "It was a little boy, Slade, so the

next morning I took off for Kansas and I took that buckle to him!" she said.

Before this show, Buckingham had shown "Baraka" at the NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity in Reno, Nevada.

"She won the prelims, so that was pretty exciting!" Buckingham said. "Then she did really well in the finals, except that during the reining she'd kicked up in the lead change. I think she was just tired. We'd entered her in the sale, too, so besides just riding her to get her ready for the show, I'd previewed her and showed her to some people a few times. So I was a little nervous about that and I'd been practicing that pattern quite a bit. She was really good and nailed it in the Idaho show. She hit her stops and stayed with me pretty well."

Buckingham ended up repurchasing Baraka for \$15,000 at the NRCHA Performance Horse Sale. Having hauled the mare home from Reno, she opted to enter up in Idaho. The decision paid off.

"For the herd work, we'd practiced her

IRCHA FUTURITY, DERBY & CLASSIC

Nampa, ID - Oct. 18-23, 2016

256 Entries - \$70,250 Added - \$165,170 Total Purse

Event/Horse/Rider/Composite Score (herd/rein/cow)/Finals Money/Pedigree/Owner/Breeder *tie

FUTURITY OPEN & INTERMEDIATE OPEN					DERBY INTERMEDIATE OPEN				
SMOKIN SMART CAT	Lyn Anderson	585	(143.5/145/296.5)	\$13,646	SHINERS LIL NICKLE	Clayton Edsall	438.5	(144.5/148/146)	\$3,314
13M (WR This Cats Smart x She Smokes Smart x Senors Lil Brudder)					11S (Shiners Nickle x Lil Lena Long Legs x Smart Little Lena)				
David Archer					Michelle Cannon				
Same					Same				
FUTURITY LIMITED OPEN					DERBY LIMITED OPEN				
ONE SMOOTH MATE	Grant Lindaman II	416.5	(138/140/138.5)	\$2,276	MAGICAT	Ryan Thomas	435.5	(145/145/145.5)	\$2,276
13S (One Time Pepto x Smooth Autumn Mate x Smooth As A Cat)					11M (Metallic Cat x Magical Lena x Little Lenas Legend)				
G2 Performance Horses					Joyce Pearson				
Todd Bergen Performance Horses					Same				
FUTURITY LEVEL 1 LIMITED OPEN					DERBY LEVEL 1 LIMITED OPEN				
BOBBYS PLAYGUN	Callee Miller	413.5	(141/144.5/128)	\$1,125	SJR CASH ADVANCE	Caleb Jantz	425	(137/145/143)	\$1,110
13G (Bobby Starlight x Handle It Playgun x Playgun)					12M (Dual Rey x Shesa Lota Cash x Nu Cash)				
Callee Miller					Del & Susan Bell				
John Semanik					San Juan Ranch				
FUTURITY NON-PRO & INTERMEDIATE NON-PRO					DERBY NON-PRO & INTERMEDIATE NON-PRO / AMATEUR				
BARAKA LIGHTS	Carmen Buckingham	434	(143.5/145.5/145)	\$2,565	DARE TO SIOUX	Hope Miller	430	(140/141/149)	\$4,560
13M (CD Lights x Baraka D72 x High Brow Cat)					12S (A Shiner Named Sioux x Tari Darlin x Taris Catalyst)				
Carmen Buckingham					Hope Miller				
Laurence Hall					Carol Rose				
FUTURITY AMATEUR					DERBY NON-PRO LIMITED				
LIL STARLIGHT SHINES	Farrah Roberts McArthur	424.5	(139/140/145.5)	\$1,120	HIGH TO YOU	Katie Wilson	419.5	(140/137.5/142)	\$750
13G (Shady Lil Starlight x Kiss My Shiny Lips x Shining Spark)					10G (Mr Boonsmal To You x MK Cats Lil Kitty x High Brow Cat)				
Farrah Roberts McArthur					Katie Wilson				
Holy Cow Performance Horses					Slate River Ranch				
DERBY OPEN					COMPLETE RESULTS BEGIN ON PAGE 194.				
BOONLIGHT ROAN BAR	Todd Bergen	440	(144/147/149)	\$7,428					
12S (Bet Hesa Cat x Cat Boonlight Jewels x Boonlight Dancer)									
Tony Grover									
Frank Kahl									