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Horsetrader

Vol. 45, No. 3
January 2024

horsetrader.com



Super Start

WCRH Leadline Champion
Caroline Elzig is riding
high into 2024 / Page 18

Brooke Louise photo

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A Year's Worth of 'Trainer Tips' / Page 26

Ranch Horse Rendezvous reCAP 2023



Brooke Louise photo

Rosie Cowley on pattern with Mr Marie Laveau.



Brooke Louise photo

Helen Foster and Whizadorboom work the gate

WCRH stages its fourth fabulous year-end event

SPECIAL TO THE HORSETRADER

TEMECULA – West Coast Ranch Horse held its Fourth Annual Ranch Horse Rendezvous show Nov. 16-19 at California Ranch Company, and the 2023 Rendezvous lived up to its reputation as the popular organization's year-end culmination event held in celebration of the ranch horse.

The expanded event included a three-day ranch horse show, clinics, three nights of live music, Night of the Horse performance, silent auction, banquet dinner, chili cook off, and a gift show. This year, the 4-under futurities, 5/6 year old futurities and 7-over maturities again offered \$1,500 in added money in addition to the already great prizes awarded.

The second annual Cowboy Christmas Gift Show offered another fun activity for exhibitors and spectators alike. Vendors included Winchester Western Saddlery, Hayes Hat Company, Show N Glo Saddle Blankets, Ranch Horse Supply, MD Barnmaster, Stotz Equipment Escondido, Dale Chavez Saddlery, Saltwater Riders, Cowlifornia Couture and Bentley Show Pads, among others. WCRH added the sold out "Night of the Horse" event on Saturday night this year, featuring exciting and diverse equine exhibitions from Southern California trainers and riding clubs.

Over \$15,000 in awards and prizes were given away, including two saddles to overall high points and buckles to all division champions. Awards

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Brooke Louise photo

The stands were full of spectators cheering on the competition.



Lisa Daines and Whenever Ur Ready.

Brooke Louise photo



Brooke Louise photo

Holly Salzman & Trainer Gail Willis pose with Shady Steppin Chic and her many winnings. Holly and "Goose" were also the overall Top Hand Champions of the show, winning home a new saddle!

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focus on **RANCH HORSE**

Sheila Nash takes a shot at roping the dummy in the Cherie Vonada Gamblers Choice Ranch Trail Stakes.



Brooke Louise photo

also included fancy ribbons, medals, neck sashes, saddle blankets, buckles, romel reins, directors chairs, silver trophies, champion prizes and many other quality awards. Judges included industry stand outs Chele McGauley, George Hernandez, Sami Hernandez and Kathy Callahan Smith. Brooke Louise Creative was onsite putting in long days to capture professional show pictures of all competitors. Show photography and win pictures were subsidized by WCRH so that all competitors could have beautiful photos as mementos.

The event kicked off Thursday with a clinic day with sessions on Scoring, Ranch Horse 101, Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, and Rope Handling. Clinicians included Sami and George Hernandez, Caitlyn Showalter, Rosie Cowley, Lindsay Jerome, Christi Milburn, and Yannay Moshe. The Ranch Horse 101 clinic introduces riders that are new to ranch riding to the four WCRH recognized ranch classes. This year, clinic day culminated in a First Timers **SEE RANCH HORSE, PAGE 22**

Johnny Flores and Sanjos Nifty Angel.



Brooke Louise photo



Brooke Louise photo

Maverick Feiler and his family after a successful day in the Leadline Ranch Division.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

show, where competitors that have never shown in ranch horse classes could give it a try with other first timers in a low stress learning environment.

The clinics were followed by a chili cook off, exhibitor potluck with WCRH provided fried chicken. There was music around the campfire from Sami and George Hernandez. Sam Mello was victorious as the Chili Cookoff Champion with Katie Wise Johnson winning reserve.

Friday, the show ramped up with the Futurity & Maturity Day with divisions for Open and Amateur riders. Futurity classes included Ranch Suitability, Ranch Rail and Ranch Conformation classes and included 4-under and 5/6 year old divisions. 7-over maturities included Ranch Suitability and Ranch Rail classes. Ranch Suitability is a class developed by WCRH which combines an abbreviated Ranch Trail pattern followed by an eight maneuver Ranch Riding pattern. The Friday events also included WCRH's second annual in-hand Ranch Prospect Futurity for horses 3-under, which included Longe Line, Ranch Conformation

and In-hand Ranch Trail components. The Cherie Vonada Memorial Gamblers Choice Ranch Trail competition was a fun way to honor Cherie, who was a friend and supporter of the organization. Cherie's mom Fay was on hand to present awards. Friday night, exhibitors were treated to a free concert from musician Sofie Tabesh and BBQ dinner offered in the fun atmosphere of the CRC Western Town. The night also included a dummy roping contest with buckles given to both the adult and youth Champions.

The well attended 2-Day weekend Ranch Horse Show

started Saturday morning and went through Sunday evening. Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail, Ranch Trail and Ranch Conformation classes were offered in nine divisions including Open, Amateur, Amateur Limited, Amateur Select, Green Horse Walk Trot Lope, Green Horse Walk Trot, Green Rider, Youth, Short Stirrup and Leadline. There were also several exciting stakes classes over the weekend including Open, Amateur, Green Horse and "Never Won a Buckle" Ranch Rail Stakes and Open, Amateur and Green Rider Ranch Trail Stakes classes. WCRH has dedicated the Open Rail Stakes

memorial class to WCRH trainer and friend, Chris Slauson.

Saturday featured the Night of the Horse evening, which started with a cocktail hour and fashion show from Trendz Boutique followed by the Ranch Riding Freestyle competition. The Freestyle competition was a big hit. Buckles were awarded to the Open Champion Johnny Flores, Amateur Champion Kirstin Booth, Youth Champion Abby Hokana and People's Choice Champion Monica Albair. The 2024 Ranch Horse Rendezvous will be held Oct. 10-13 at California Ranch Company.



Chelsea Reid at sunset.

Brooke Louise photo

2023 WCRH RENDEZVOUS

Nov. 16-19, 2023 - CRC Ranch, Temecula, Calif. - Circuit Champions

DIVISION	RANCH RIDING	RANCH TRAIL	RANCH TRAIL	RANCH CONFIRMATION
OPEN	Kelly Miller & Dun It For This	Rosie Cowley & Smokejumper	Rosie Cowley & Smokejumper	Gail Willis & Shady Steppin Chic
AMATEUR	Julie Olvera & Walla Walla Whizdom	Julie Olvera & Walla Walla Whizdom	Holly Salzman & Shady Steppin Chic	Holly Salzman & Shady Steppin Chic
AMATEUR LTD.	Kristina Tracy & Smokejumper	Catherine Schwartz & Mobsters Tommy Gun	Christi Kugler & Im A Smokin Fox	Lisa Daines & Whenever Ur Ready
AMATEUR SEL.	Sheila Nash & Boonlight Roan Bar	Sheila Nash & Boonlight Roan Bar	Holly Salzman & Shady Steppin Chic	Linda Acquistio & LKittle Nic EE
GREEN HORSE WTL	Manuel Lara & Top Off My Jak	Victoria Werner & Step Out N Shine	Monica Albair & Metallic ZZs Dr	Manuel Lara & Top Off My Jak
GREEN HORSE WT	Monica Albair & Metallic ZZs Dr	Rosie Cowley & A Smart Poco Pistol	Monica Albain & Metallic ZZs Dr	Manuel Lara & Top Off My Jak
GREEN RIDER	Cora Dollar & Sallys Haidan A Pistol	Cora Dollar & Sallys Haidan A Pistol	Teri Oosterwyk & Real Steal	Liz Finch & Gota Lil Whiz
YOUTH	Julie Olvera & Walla Walla Whizdom	Abby Hokana & Command Those Leggs	Charlotte Cooper & This Wimpys Dun It	Keilani Whitesell & VoodoosGlock
SHORT STIRRUP	Lillian Hill & Chicota Whiz	Haven Whitesell & Electric Conquistador	Lillian Hill & Chicota Whiz	Haven Whitesell & Electric Conquistador



Brooke Louise photo

Over \$15,000 worth of awards and payouts were given over three days.



Sam Mello, Chili Cook-off winner



Keilani Whitesell poses with her Circuit Champion Award and proud little brother.



WCRH provided live music around the campfire with Sami and George Hernandez singing cowboy songs.

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