

State of the Ohio Reined Cow Horse Association

February 27, 2010

Presented by Carrie McBride during the Awards Banquet

I know a lot of you may be interested in the financial side of the organization, so we'll start there and get the boring stuff over with. Here's a snapshot of 2009 and where we stand right now.

One of the goals of our organization is to have higher percentage payouts than most NRCHA shows. The ORCHA paid out \$38,195 last year over 6 weekends. That is HUGE. I know as a competitor, it would sometimes be frustrating when even if you won the class you couldn't even win back your entry fee. The down side to this is that sometimes things can get a little "scary" financially for the organization. As long as we headed into a show with about \$2000, I felt fairly confident coming out on the positive at the end of the show. And then we'd start hunting up more sponsor money to go again. Some shows, we'd have the \$2000 at the end and there were no worries for the next one, but twice, we were in the red. First time was the Memorial Day weekend show – really bad show for us financially. Simply put, if entries are down, it hurts! We closed out May with a deficit of \$704.05. We fell again in the red after paying for the all important sand. The \$2000 sand ran us \$1700 in the red. Shaun & I personally covered the expenses both times and hopefully 2010 will be different. The ORCHA has since repaid both of its loans from the McBride's, the organization is standing on its own right now.

Fundraising was HUGE this year. We ended November 2009 with \$3217.35. We sold \$6150.00 in sponsorships and yearbook advertising. Another \$500 from the NRCHA in annual sponsor money and of course the \$1500 Affiliate of the Year award money. The balance right now is \$8734.18. This sounds like a lot but here are our upcoming expenses:

Sand \$2000 (might be \$3000, depends what OVRHA wants to do)

Yearbook \$1750

Banquet \$2500

Insurance \$1400

This doesn't leave us much left. Fortunately, I am confident the OVRHA will take payments to lessen our burden. We also have some pledges outstanding in the amount of \$260 and some banquet dinners that will be paid tonight in the amount of \$370. We should go into horse show #1 with my \$2000 comfort level.

Some 2010 improvements we've already paid for: Ribbons for all youth classes. (\$277.96) Plaques for all first place in all non payback classes. (\$450, covers Green, ORCHA youth classes for 3 weekend shows)

We will have stadium cups for places 1-5 for all classes. (\$559 covers 5 weekends, most likely 6)

And for those interested, the prizes given out this evening cost \$5961.13.

We are always looking for added money for the Bridle Spectacular, Futurity and Derby – so if you know of a potential sponsor, let us know!!! I would also love to do a special event Morrison Weekend someday and give Morrison plaques to all NRCHA first places at the show, but might not be for awhile!

OK, on to the fun stuff!!!! What a year!!!! Really! First year out of the box and NRCHA Affiliate of the Year! To recap, in January 09, we had 60 members. At the close of November's show we had 125! And the thing that makes me the most proud, we are able to hold a horse show with all levels competing and everyone is so happy! I think the Green is my favorite class, by the end of the day, watching everyone learn and seeing our NRCHA guys hanging on the fence, encouraging all of them. I think I saw Dave,

Shaun and Josh, just having a big time coaching everyone! I just love it!! Our members had a great year! We had our first Green Rider graduate, Donna Garrison!

We had numerous Regional Titles {LIST}

And we had members achieve 10 National NRCHA Top Tens! {LIST}

And of course, the great one, Leavin With Me! I hope you all got to see her run at least once (lord knows she was in the pen enough, you had plenty of opportunity!) With the Phillips family (Dave, Karen, Dylan Nicholson & Ethan Nicholson) the mare won an unprecedented 3 National titles across 3 divisions all in one year. Amazing. Some of you may have noticed some of the stalls have plaques on them – “Terrific Teddy stayed here”....”Dun Dry – first to arrive”Beverly Henderson approached me and told me to pick a cow horse that’s been here, a great one deserving of a plaque. I didn’t even have to think about it. Leavin With Me. She will forever have a stall at Henderson arena in Barn 2. If you don’t get the Quarter Horse News and want to read about Lena, let me know, I have copies of the article.

Changes in store for 2010;

We have appointed a Press Officer Marisa Vetula. Marisa has an abundance of press experience having worked for Equine Affaire, Santa Anita Park as communications manager, as well as Equisponse handling press for several thoroughbred trainers and jockeys and Olympic show jumpers. She also worked as a writer for three publications of the AQHA and Blood-Horse. We believe she will be a great asset to the ORCHA and get the word out about our shows, stallion auction and our course our premier event, the Heartbreak Ridge Performance Horses Derby. As you may know, Skip and Kelly are once again sponsoring the Derby! Thank you guys!!!

We are adding AQHA cutting and cow horse to the June and July shows.

We will hold our first NRCHA approved Bridle Spectacular in May – the Jim Wells Memorial Bridle Spectacular. Many of you did not know Jim, but he was a very dear friend of ours and he was the one who originally inspired me to start the Ohio RCHA way back in 2007. He sat on the OQHA board and was going to help get their financial support and try to get cow horse really going here in Ohio. He passed in December 2007 and the ORCHA almost died with him. I was lucky enough to get the support I needed to keep it going in 2008 when I started working with Bert and Mark. So the ORCHA was born. We felt Jim should be honored in some way for his vision, so this will be an annual event in his honor.

We strive to be a “Big Picture” affiliate. We want a place where everyone can experience the thrill of cow horse, from the greenest of the green to National Champions. We have successfully reached out to our fellow Northeast NRHCA regional affiliates and successfully coordinated a great 2010 show schedule with very little overlap. Atlantic RCHA, GLRCHA and the new Michigan affiliate have been very communicative and helpful in coordinating efforts. More opportunity to show means more people get more exposure to the sport and the region gets stronger. This is good for all of us. So tell your friends in other states how much fun cow horse is, or better yet, jump in the trailer and go! Support our affiliate friends in PA and Michigan!

The one thing we all want to be clear on – if you have suggestions, let us know. We want to make this the best it can be. We want your input. One of the challenges that are a concern to us is successfully graduating our large Green population on to regular ORCHA and NRCHA classes. If you are a green rider, we need to hear from you. What do you need to feel comfortable to make that jump? One thing we thought of was more clinics. We are having a Get Ready for the Green clinic on April 17th – just \$10 for adults and free for kids! All Day! Roger & Julee have donated Rocking S arena space. Trainers donating their time include Roger, Shaun and Kevin. The club will pick up any extra cattle costs. And don't forget, Sandy Collier will be here November 1.

Youth – we want to get a Youth Board of Directors going. As we all know, youth involvement is the key to the future of this sport! Any interested youth, come see me! Emilie Lind was appointed to the NRCHYA Board by Paul Bailey. Her contact information is on the OhioRCHA site as well as our Facebook page.

One last thing, the Stallion Auction ends tomorrow at 12 noon! 100% of the proceeds go to the Stakes fund! All get from the stallions sold will be eligible for stakes money in the 2015 and 2016 Derby. You can also nominate any stallion for any Derby Year – starting this year!

Now I want everyone to give a big round of applause to the tireless work of our Board! Bert Caron, Mark Sullivan, Don Newsome, and Karen Wood!

Now on to giving out the goodies!!! I'll finally be able to see my living room again!