

NVRHA ORGANIZATION

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

The National Versatility Ranch Horse Association was founded in 2007 to provide an organization which focuses on the amateur use of the American Ranch Horse performing the events established by the American Quarter Horse Association. The NVRHA's primary goal is to facilitate events in which the rider experiences fun and the knowledge gained is the primary focus of each and every event. Events will be designed for all levels of riding skills.

- Youth Riders based on age 18 years old and under.
- Novice Riders will be able to take their backyard horse (of any breed and skill level) and attend Introductory Ranch Horse sessions which will provide a "stepping stone" for both the horse and rider.
- Intermediate Riders will be placed into divisions with like riders to advance their horsemanship skills.
- Advanced Riders will be able to practice the various Ranch Horse events that focus on "Excellence Achievement".

Regardless of the rider level, the event's primary focus will be the "education and enjoyment of the adventure".

The NVRHA will serve as a "ramp up" for amateurs wishing to compete in any Versatility Ranch Horse Special Events. For others, it will provide competitions in which they can enjoy riding the event in a more "stress free" environment.

The NVRHA will advance the All-Around Stock Horse of all breeds performing the functions "The Legend" was bred to do – ranch work – ranch riding, trail, roping, cutting, and reining. The NVRHA will promote the ranch horse which has the form to achieve a high level of excellence in the performance of these events. Structural correctness, balanced body form, a good mind, and athletic ability will be the principle attributes of the Ranch Horse.

NATIONAL EXPANSION

The NVRHA is expanding across the United States. Five regions (Pacific, West, North, South, and Atlantic – see map on home page) are being established. In 2008, primary focus was on the Western Region, however, start-up events will be held in other regions. For information on "how to" organize and hold an event in your area, go to www.nvrha.org. and click on "Event Planning Guide".

COOPERATIVE LINKS

Strong links will be forged with other segments of the Ranch Horse community.

- **Ranches:** This link is considered essential and will be a first priority. A strong link with ranches across the U.S. will provide a major boost to ranch horses' utilization by the

Amateur. The NVRHA is actively seeking Ranch Affiliates and creating mutually beneficial programs such as horse marketing, ranch promotion, breeding futurities, etc.

- Breed Associations: Cooperative promotion of the Stock Horse breeds will be pursued. Joint sponsorship of Stock Horse events are planned. Any Stock Horse Association interested in such a relationship is invited to contact NVRHA.
- Professional Horsemen: The NVRHA uses the Professional Horseman as clinicians and judges at scheduled events. As riders begin to further develop their riding skills (and their horse's), professional horsemen are called upon for both rider lessons and horse training. The NVRHA will maintain a referral for these services.
- Equipment and Services: The NVRHA maintains a list of recommended vendors for Ranch Horse equipment and services.

RANCH HORSE EVENTS

Clinics with an associated Schooling Competition will be the primary event sponsored by NVRHA. The events will be divided into divisions based upon the rider and horse combined skill level. Placement into the "best fit" division will be based upon scores achieved during participation in schooling competitions. Typically, Judges will provide a detailed score sheet covering the "schooling competition" ride with a short critic at the end. Our goal is to achieve an educational, fun and low-stress riding experience.

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

Regional competitions will be encouraged across the country as the availability of clinics/schooling competitions grow. For example, in Colorado in 2008, the Colorado State Fair (in association with the NVRHA and RMQHA) sponsored a Ranch Horse Championship Event at its annual fair. Participants qualified by attending any NVRHA or RMQHA open Ranch Horse event prior to Aug.1, 2008. Three divisions (based on placings at qualifier events) were held with saddles and prize monies awarded to winners in each Division. The top 20% placings will form Division 1, the second 20% Division 2, and the third 20% Division 3. A Youth Division was also held (18 years old and younger) who attend a qualifier eligible to compete. Participants were limited to Colorado and border states for this event.

THE NVRHA NATIONAL FINALS

All activities for the year culminate in the National Ranch Horse Finals will be held in Colorado Springs in late September. All Ranch Horse riders are invited to attend. This will be the "Crown Jewel" event of the NVRHA. Riders will be placed into divisions based upon scores achieved at the Clinic/Schooling Competitions across the nation. All Ranch Horse enthusiasts, from the very beginner to the advanced professional, will be afforded an opportunity to participate. Our current policy to qualify for Finals is the "Rider/Horse Team" must have participated in at least 2 competitions during that show year. For those Ranch Horse enthusiasts wishing to attend who do not have accessibility to a NVRHA event, please contact our office.

NVRHA POINT SCORING SYSTEM

The NVRHA uses a competition scoring system which minimizes the negatives of traditional judging techniques. It promotes fun in competitions, maximizes feedback for skill enhancement, and minimizes the ability of judges to show favoritism. This Point Scoring System forms the basis of the entire NVRHA Ranch Horse program success and has been used and improved for six years successfully.

In the NVRHA Point Scoring System each and every maneuver is evaluated on a scale of 0 – 10. Most penalties are in accordance with AQHA rules and regulations and are recorded and deducted from the final score with one major exception – instead of a zero for an AQHA disqualification penalty, the rider is penalized -20, and the judge continues to evaluate the run. The end result is an evaluation, which provides a basis for rider advancement. In essence, the rider always competes against scores achieved in previous events (i.e. they compete against themselves) reducing the typical stresses of competition.

AWARDS

The principal award program in NVRHA rewards “level of achievement”. Points are earned for each of the five events (Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Conformation, Ranch Cutting, and Working Ranch). Points are assigned based upon the AQHA one half point system.

Five Level of Achievement Awards are provided:

1. NVRHA Ranch Horse Champion: A minimum of **5** points in each class are required in:
 - Ranch Cutting
 - Working Ranch Horse
 - Ranch Riding
 - Ranch Trail
 - Conformation

2. NVRHA Ranch Horse Performance Champion: A minimum of **10** points in all working classes (*does not include Conformation*) are required in:
 - Ranch Cutting
 - Working Ranch Horse
 - Ranch Riding
 - Ranch Trail

3. NVRHA Ranch Horse Supreme Champion: A minimum of **10** points are required in:
 - Ranch Cutting
 - Working Ranch Horse
 - Ranch Riding
 - Ranch Trail
 - Conformation

4. NVRHA Most Improved Rider: The Rider/Horse combination which has the largest increase in the All Around Average Total Score over the previous year average.

5. Horseman of the Year: The Horseman of the Year is presented during the National Finals, to a horseman making extraordinary contributions to NVRHA. Consideration will be given to event participation, levels of achievement, sportsmanship, voluntary assistance to the organization and other contributions. A selection committee will be appointed by the President to nominate worthy candidates and final selection will be approved by the NVRHA Officers.

DIVISION AWARDS

Amateur riders compete within three divisions based upon their Point Scoring System history:

- Youth Division
- Novice Division
- Intermediate Division
- Advanced Division

Professional compete in a separate division

Award for the All Around Rider is presented to the High Point All Around Horse in each Division at the NVRHA National Finals.