

NVRHA Rundown

National Versatility Ranch Horse Association
Volume 5, Issue 1 ~ Summer 2012



Practice Makes Perfect...Roping with Lavert Avent

Road to the AQHA World - The Jennifer Sadler Story

Katy Doke, OPSU college student, takes one down the fence at the W-H Rendezvous.

Photo by Danette McGuire

The NVRHA Season - Off and Riding!



National Championship Program Inside

Cimarron River Saddles

"I ride one everyday" ~Jay Henson



From the Ranch to the Show pen



**Contact Jay Henson
at W-H Training Stables
Phone: (620) 544-8078**

**Check out the special base price for
NVRHA members**



From the Editor...

Better get your ducks in a row because its summertime again and the NVRHA season is in full swing!

There are numerous events happening in all of our affiliates and regions - Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, California, Arkansas, and Iowa. See the complete schedule at www.nvrha.org - check it out soon and get qualified for the upcoming 2012 National Championships!

Plan to attend the 5th Annual National Championship Event to be held September 21-23 in Colorado Springs. Complete Championship information can be found in this issue.

Moving the NVRHA Office early this year to Hugoton, Kansas has been a huge undertaking. Our office staff, Channing Hawks and Carrie Kliever, have been busy with the change over and office restructuring. Centralization of the administrative duties will streamline processes and allow for shorter turn around times for NVRHA business. This is one of the few remaining places where you can talk to knowledgeable staff during business hours! No more computer voices, detached operators, or long numerical option menus - you get a real live person - amazing!

The other big news is NVRHA's recent association with a marketing professional to ensure the continued growth and success of the organization. Danette McGuire, from New Mexico, comes to us with years of horse and people experience as a past youth director for NCHA. She holds a Master's Degree in Agriculture and Extension Education. Danette attended the W-H Rendezvous this spring and spent the day watching the event and talking with members. Danette is the author of the NVRHA Member Survey that was sent electronically to all members. The purpose of the survey was to gather demographic and horse ownership information. Danette reports an excellent survey return rate from members with much useful information. She brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to our organization - welcome Danette!

~~~ Donna Stewart



*Five survey participants were randomly chosen to receive a free NVRHA year membership! Congratulations to:*  
 Steve Todd  
 Linda Cellini  
 Kelcey Swyers  
 Karla More  
 Peggy Bond-Heath



**Danette McGuire**  
**NVRHA Marketing**

My life as Rundown Editor would be easier if Lavert Avent, head trainer at T-Cross Ranches, would ride something other than a gorgeous talented grey horse. But, it seems that model is a specialty of the renown T-Cross Ranch. Lavert showed two of them at the 2012 NVRHA Championship Event and won the Open Division on the stallion Gallo Poco Cross. In the last Rundown issue, I mistakenly printed a photo of Lavert on the awesome grey mare instead of Lavert on the awesome grey stallion - go figure. My apologies to the T-Cross Ranch, Lavert, and both grey horses.

~~~DS



Lavert roping on the stallion Gallo Poco Cross - the horse that won the title of 2011 Open Division World's Greatest Versatility Ranch Horse. Top left: Lavert also competed on the T-Cross mare - Charmin Melody.

ATTENTION ALL AFFILIATES AND REGIONS...

YOU CAN'T BEAT THIS DEAL!

Share your news with the whole NVRHA membership by sending information, articles, photos and schedules for inclusion in the Rundown at no cost! It's the best way to get national attention, draw out of state members, and brag on all your accomplishments. Please direct all correspondence to Donna Stewart at dmstewartn@aol.com, and don't wait!

Regional News

South Central Region



NVRHA is happening in Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas! This region has hosted three successful events this year and has a growing cadre of versatility enthusiasts.

Three great events - Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas - have already happened and there is still another potential event being planned in Missouri next fall once the weather cools off! The annual W-H Rendezvous offered two complete schooling shows in two days, each with a different set of judges. It was a great way to get qualified for the NVRHA Championships all in one weekend. Show manager Channing Hawks also trialed combining the Ranch Riding and Ranch

Trail classes much as is done in AQHA versatility. Most riders really liked this approach and now it is being trialed in several events around the country. Watch for more innovative ideas from this growing versatility region and consider a trip to the South Central Area soon.

New Mexico



New Mexico

The NVRHA folks in New Mexico need your help to make their events a success! Brian Young has planned several events in the state for 2012 and they need riders! So saddle up everyone, and consider heading to New Mexico for events located at some authentic ranch sites around the state. See the NVRHA website for upcoming details about what's happening in New Mexico.

Northern Lights: The Upper Midwest NVRHA Affiliate

Five! That's how many spectacular events are planned in the Minnesota/Wisconsin region this season! Each of these events will be held in a unique location with a different set of clinicians/judges. Our friends up North are serious about their versatility and once again are offering a full season of events concluding with their annual banquet and awards presentation. Northern Lights members have been very successful in both their state and at the National competition. All events that have happened thus far have had over 20 participants (and the word on the street is that they served up some really great food)!

Northern Lights has an outstanding crew of volunteers, led by President Susan Heyvaert, who work hard to get sponsorship from local businesses and promote successful fundraisers - both of which enable them to run a dynamite program. These guys are organized! Again this year, the group hosted a booth complete with educational opportunities at the Minnesota Horse Expo - all to draw and educate potential new NVRHA members.

Way to go NL!

You just know that you're riding in the right organization when you see young Sadie Ackerman pen her cow in cutting - and the announcer enthusiastically says "Good job, Sadie!", to which Sadie grins and responds, "Thanks, Grandma!"

NVRHA has a big and enthusiastic family in Colorado. So much is happening in the Rocky Mountain region and most of it is a direct result of the energy and dedication of affiliate leader Paulette Marshall. Undaunted by recent catastrophic fires, four very successful and well attended events have already occurred and two more are planned to complete the year. Once again the affiliate's circuit championship is a competitive race for the custom year-end Mortenson trophy buckles, and saddle blankets! And the social events have been top notch - you should have been at the western trivia contest hosted by Colorado Cowhands managers Rita Lauby and Carol Ackerman. Some pretty nostalgic questions and beautiful prizes - handmade mason jar wine glasses - very western! (Just what were the names of television's Bonanza horses, anyway?)



Everyone in Colorado wants to wish a speedy recovery to our friend and local clinician/judge, Gerrie Barnes. Gerrie suffered a broken hip in a recent fall but seems to be handling it with her usual spunk - I

hear she was 'walker dancing' at the Block's shindig a few weeks ago! And a huge thank you to Donna Block and Lavert Avent who pitched in at the last minute to keep the event going. Go Team!

Come visit our beautiful state for the September NVRHA National Championship Event!



Arizona Versatility Ranch Horse, the NVRHA affiliate headed up by Bob and Becky Grant - is booming! These guys have already had five events this year and Arizona has the distinction of being the affiliate with the highest event participation - very close to 40 riders at one of their events this year - way to go AZ!

Because of the extreme summer

temperatures in their area, Arizona runs a slightly different schedule than the rest of the affiliates. They often have a fall event and then start earlier in the spring with events scheduled in February/March/April. So if you don't feel like putting your horse away after the Fall Championships, head to Arizona to continue showing and take advantage of some great weather to hang out with the AZ NVRHA folks!



Greetings from the California Ranch Versatility Riders! And do we have some things to celebrate in both NVRHA and AQHA forums!

This past January at the Denver Stock Show AQHA Versatility Event, Sarah Kennedy picked up the win on Spookin in Time, a 12 year old mare by A Chic in Time and out of Spooks Playmate. Sarah and Spook placed 2nd and 3rd in the Ranch horse, were 1st and 2nd in Trail, a 1st and 4th in Ranch Riding, then 1st and 1st in the cutting, and 3rd and 4th in Conformation.

Debby Sanguinetti was Reserve on She Ain't Plain a mare by Just Plain Colonel. Debby was 1st and 2nd in the Ranch Horse, 6th and 6th in Trail, a 3rd and 4th in Ranch Riding, then 2nd and 2nd in the Cutting and 1st and 2nd in Conformation. It was a nice ending to a long haul for our folks to do so well at such a prestigious event.

Then we moved on to the AQHA Versatility at the Sun Circuit in Scottsdale, Arizona which boasts the highest attendance of any AQHA show other than the Congress and the World Championship. Sarah Clifford and Very Smart Cowpony AKA "Chase" took the Championship win in the open. Chase is a 7 year old gelding by Very Smart Remedy. Sarah and Chase won both the trail and cutting. We are proud to have so much talent here.

Our NVRHA schedule to date has included a clinic on April 28th and two NVRHA sanctioned events: June 9-10 in Farmington California – this was a great success!

August 11-12 in Carmel Valley California – and we know this will be another great success!

Looking forward to a great season!



Sun Circuit Conformation Class

UPDATE ON THE LIMITED DIVISION

There has been a lot of interest and very good participation in this new division, especially in the Arizona and California regions. Non-Novice riders who for a variety of reasons are not ready or choose not to go down the fence and rope are very happy to have a place to exhibit their horses. The Board of Directors has made the decision to offer the same year-end awards for the Limited Division as for all the other Divisions. So if you want to try this out, now's your chance! And if you think that double boxing thing is easy, think again!

UPDATE ON THE COLLEGIATE DIVISION

NVRHA owes a big thank you to Channing Hawks (Oklahoma Panhandle State University) and Dave McCollum (Dodge City Community College) for hauling their VRH College Teams to multiple events! If you have attended any of these events, you don't need to be told what a welcome addition and how much fun these kids are! The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that the Collegiate Division will also be recognized with the same 2012 year-end awards as all other divisions.

Top Five Division Leaders (as of 7/19/12)

| NOVICE | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Place | State | Last Name | First Name | Horse | Permanent Div Assignment | 2012 # of Events | Placement Pts |
| 1 | KS | Sazama | Kaylee | Miss Gees Ole | N | 4 | 84 |
| 2 | MN | Durma | Kathy | Smokin Jake Brake | I - EARNED POINT IN NOVICE | 2 | 55 |
| 3 | KS | Groetz | Travis | Jigger | N | 4 | 52 |
| 4 | MN | Haagenson | Heather | Hang on Fifi | N | 3 | 50 |
| 5 | AR | Brooks | Jody | Mac's Tuff Playboy | N | 4 | 47 |

| LIMITED | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-----------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Place | State | Last Name | First Name | Horse | Permanent Division Assignment | 2012 # of Events | Placement Points |
| 1 | AZ | Birnie | Tracey | My Lena Del Rey | L | 3 | 38 |
| 2 | MN | Johnsen | Shelley | Unbranded | L | 5 | 29 |
| 3 | KS | Lamont | Jesslin | Busy Baby Bee | L | 2 | 20 |
| 4 | CO | Stewart | Donna | Dig A Little Jay J | L | 3 | 17 |
| 5 | MN | Rixe | Lisa | Hazel Rey Lena | L | 3 | 14 |

| INTERMEDIATE | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Place | State | Last Name | First Name | Horse | Permanent Div Assignment | 2012 # of Events | Placement Pts |
| 1 | AZ | Schubbe | Bob | Payton | I | 3 | 19 |
| 2 | CO | Marshall | Paulette | DI Zans Brite | I | 3 | 16 |
| 3 | CO | Ackerman | Carol | Kickers Smokey Girl | I | 3 | 15 |
| 3 | AZ | Bellar | Dave | Chick Am I | I | 3 | 15 |
| 3 | TX | Guglemeyer | Jeremy | ABC A Lil Cash Please | I | 2 | 15 |
| 4 | CO | Wilson | Kim | CDS Boonolena | I | 2 | 14 |
| 5 | CO | Duke | Katy | Mr Chics Dig It | I | 3 | 12 |

| ADVANCED | | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Place | State | Last Name | First Name | Horse | Permanent Div Assignment | 2012 # of Events | Placement Pts |
| 1 | AR | Sadler | Jennifer | Little Bell Pepper | A | 3 | 37 |
| 2 | UT | Duke | Scott | Tuckered Out Playboy | A | 4 | 28 |
| 3 | CO | Lauby | Rita | Lil Bit O Badge | A | 4 | 23 |
| 4 | TX | Guglemeyer | Sara | Colonels Miss Chic | A | 2 | 20 |
| 5 | KS | Rangerter | Shane | Langtrees CD | A | 3 | 18 |

| OPEN | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Place | State | Last Name | First Name | Horse | Permanent Div Assignment | # of Events | Placement Pts |
| 1 | AZ | Grant | Becky | Calboys Hometown | OPEN | 2 | 25 |
| 2 | AZ | Grant | Bob | Felona Fair | OPEN | 1 | 17 |
| 3 | AZ | Rogers | Trapper | Frosty Rose Blossom | OPEN | 1 | 16 |
| 4 | MO | Webb | Gary | Just About A Star | OPEN | 2 | 15 |
| 5 | AZ | Roberts | Frika | Spoon Shine | OPEN | 1 | 13 |

2012 SCHULZE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Contacts</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| March 3 & 4 | AZ Ranch Horse Challenge | Desert Hills, AZ | Rebecca Grant (928)-853-6183 |
| March 23 - 25 | New Mexico NVRHA Event | Mesilla, NM | Brian Young (740)-973-3733 |
| April 14 & 15 | Pinegar Arena Darr Ag Center | Springfield, MO | Waland Burger (417)-276-3516
Gary Webb (417)-459-8741 |
| April 21 & 22 | 5th Annual "Spring Works" | Camp Verde, AZ | Rebecca Grant (928)-853-6183 |
| April 26 - 29 | W-H Rendezvous | Hugoton, KS | Channing Hawks (620)-428-1109 |
| April 28 & 29 | Barnes Ranch | Larkspur, CO | Gerrie Barnes (303)-646-9855 |
| May 19 & 20 | Cactus Creek | Pueblo, CO | Paulette Marshall (720)-320-1616 |
| May 19 & 20 | Northern Lights C/C | River Falls, WI | Dianna Kusilek (715)-760-1716
Jaimi Hoernke (651)-261-2468 |
| June 9 & 10 | Spicer Arena | Eaton, CO | Rita Lauby (970)-481-1041 |
| June 9 & 10 | Sadler's Arena | Lakeview, AR | Jennifer or Philip Sadler (479)-936-1794 |
| June 9 & 10 | Simon Arena | Canon Falls, MN | Stephany Siitari (952)-292-2002 |
| June 9 & 10 | Northern California NVRHA | Farmington, CA | Chris Bugenig (530)-888-1306 |
| July 7 & 8 | City of Windom Arena | Windom, MN | Susan Heyvaert (612)-812-2267 |
| July 7 & 8 | Elbert County Fairgrounds | Kiowa, CO | Paulette Marshall (720)-320-1616 |
| July 21 & 22 | Hidden Hollow Arena | Kearny, MO | Rich Masoner (816)-685-3060 |
| July 28 & 29 | Rim Country Round Up | Payson, AZ | Rebecca Grant (928)-853-6183 |
| July 28 & 29 | Hashknife Ranch | Watrous, NM | Brian Young (740)-973-3733 |
| August 11 & 12 | Barnes Ranch | Larkspur, CO | Gerrie Barnes (303)-646-9855 |
| August 11 & 12 | Northwest Saddle Club Arena | North Branch, MN | Kim Deters (651)-674-5979 |
| August 11 & 12 | Carmel Valley Gathering | Carmel Valley, CA | Deb Matko (612)-860-6371 |
| August 18 & 19 | Dallas County Fairgrounds | Adel, IA | Sarah Clifford (831)-747-7545 |
| August 18 & 19 | Hashknife Ranch | Watrous, NM | Alecia Havens (641)-745-9170 |
| September 1 & 2 | California NVRHA | Auburn, CA | Brian Young (740)-973-3733 |
| September 8 & 9 | T-Cross Ranch | Pueblo, CO | Chris Bugenig (530)-888-1306 |
| September 8 & 9 | Northern Lights C/C | Rice Lake, WI | Bill Hauschildt (719)-570-1774
Deb Matko (612)-860-6371 |
| September 21 - 23 | National Championship Event | Colorado Springs, CO | Lance Scheffel (715)-296-0093
Bill Hauschildt (719)-570-1774 |

Practice Makes Perfect



It may look as simple as 1-2-3...
But successful roping requires
practice - a lot of it.



Article and Photos by
Sara Gugelmeyer

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To most ranch-raised children, learning to rope is a natural rite of passage, much like learning to walk or learning to read. It's a skill that is necessary on a ranch and therefore taught at a young age. Successful versatility ranch horse exhibitor Lavert Avent is one of those ranch-raised people who literally grew up with a rope in his hand.

Roping and stopping a cow is a required part of nearly all ranch horse competitions including the American Quarter Horse Association's working ranch horse class. But for those who haven't been roping all their life, roping a cow in competition is a daunting, if not seemingly impossible, feat. However, Lavert, the head trainer at T-Cross Ranches, Colorado Springs, Colorado, says it's doable for anyone who is willing to work at it.

"Everybody wants to get better at roping, but few people want to spend the time to get there," Lavert says.

And time is exactly what it takes. Roping is a learned skill requiring muscle memory, much like dribbling a basketball or playing the guitar.

Lavert Avent grew up on a ranch in the Texas panhandle. His family raised horses and he started colts from the time he was 15. After graduating from high school in Stratford, Texas, he sought jobs where he could be horse-back and worked at ranches and feedlots. In 1997, he competed in the first versatility show in Amarillo, and despite 'not doing worth a flip,' Lavert was hooked. He became the head trainer at T-Cross Ranches in 2007. Aboard T-Cross horses that he trained, Lavert has won two AQHA versatility ranch horse high-point titles (2009 and 2010 on Charmin Melody), is an AQHA World Champion Show qualifier in Working Cow Horse, and was a top 10 finisher at the 2010 and 2011 Pfizer AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse World Championship Show. He has won titles for T-Cross in the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association, the Ranch Horse Association of America, and the National Reined Cowhorse Association.



From the Ground Up

Lavert says it's best to start on the ground, "I don't think there's a person around that doesn't need to rope the dummy." Using the right rope and dummy is important. First, Lavert says, don't use a brand new rope.

"A lot of people go buy a brand new rope and that's the last thing they need," Lavert says. "Go find a team roper or rancher that's got a worn out rope and that's what beginners need to rope with. They'll think it's terrible because it has no life to it, but when they throw it, it's not going to hit and bounce right back to them. Because brand new ropes will bounce everywhere."

Lavert suggests a larger diameter rope that is a little more weighty. Sure it might make your arm tired quicker, but it's going to stay where it's thrown. "Get a full 3/8" or 7/16" scant rope that's got some weight to it," Lavert says.

He prefers extra soft nylon, but many ropers use poly ropes. The brand isn't necessarily important, but avoid using a brand new rope. Lavert says, "Let somebody use it for awhile if you have to, to get it good and broke in."

He also avoids any rope longer than 30 foot. "If you can't rope well, anything longer is just going to cause trouble," Lavert says. "To me, two to three coils in my hand is enough. More than that is just more you've got to hang on to and figure out. A lot of people say longer length ropes are more to hang on if you miss your dally, well I would say learn how to dally. It's preference, but longer ropes can just get in the way."

The type of dummy can also make

a difference. Lavert prefers to simply use a bale of hay. Many people use a bale with a calf head dummy pushed into it.

"I don't like to use a head," Lavert says. "A lot of people will stick that head in where it's sticking nearly straight up and down, well there's not very many cattle that run with their heads straight up in the air. If you are going to use a calf dummy head, stick it straight in from the end."

Just roping a bale of hay works well, Lavert says, and most people who have horses have a bale of hay around. He recommends putting a marker, like a stick, or piece of tape, about a foot and a half from the end of the bale. This creates a target, designed to replicate where the shoulder of the calf would be.

"That's your target," Lavert says. "When you throw it, watch where the hondo hits and see if it hits where you're aiming. The hondo should hit the piece of tape or target you are using, then the tip of the rope ought to hit the ground in front of the bale as it comes across."

Lavert recommends roping the bale as much as possible. "When I was a kid my dad wouldn't let me carry a rope on a horse until I wore it out on the dummy," Lavert says. "Do you know how long it takes to wear a rope out on a dummy? A long time."

Get the Swing of It

“More or less, rope the bale of hay until you can rope the bale of hay well, catching every time,” Lavert says. “Then get on the horse and rope the bale. Swing the rope enough to get your elbow and shoulder built up, so you don’t just swing it a couple times and your arm gives out and you give up.”

Once riders are comfortable roping the bale on foot and roping the bale horseback standing still, Lavert suggests riding around and swinging the rope while moving.

“Get your arm to where you can go around the arena, swinging a rope and never have to quit cause your arm’s tired,” Lavert says.

Swing the rope at a walk, trot, lope and go in circles. It’s important to be able to swing and continue to steer and handle the horse without thinking only about swinging.

Lavert points out, “You go to a roping or a rodeo and everyone is out there warming up their horse, swinging their rope. It’s more habit for them than anything, but it’s a good idea for everyone who wants to rope.”

“You need a horse that will rate and track and darn sure put you there, where you have a chance to rope,” Lavert says.

“You don’t want to worry about guiding your horse when you are trying to worry about roping.”

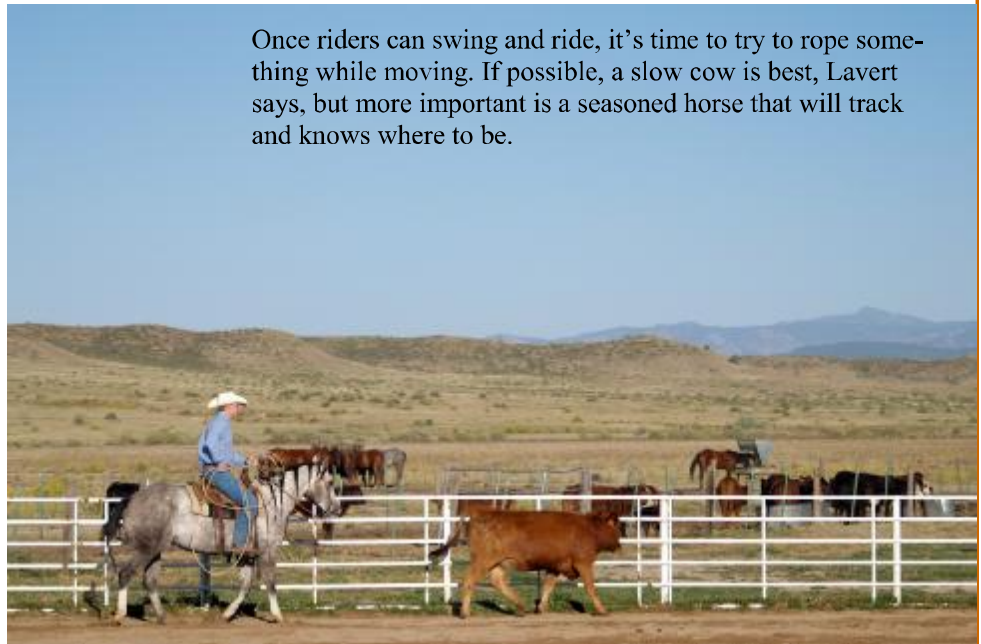
At this point, Lavert encourages the use of a breakaway rope, “in case something goes wrong, it will turn loose.”

Lavert says, “Just track the cow around until you’re comfortable then rope and rope and rope until your arm’s about to fall off, then keep roping.”

It’s best if the cow is moving slowly to start with, so

Lavert says to track it until it slows some. “If a cow is way out in front of you, go around the arena in the same track the cow made. If the cow’s going around the end, and you cut across the corner, all you’re doing is teaching that horse to drop his shoulder and drop into that cow. Take the same track the cow made to get there. That’s what I do on all my colts, it teaches them to keep their shoulders picked up and track that cow. I’ll just hit a trot and trot around behind them and finally the cow will get tired and then we’ll be right behind it,” he says.

Lavert emphasizes that running the cow at top speed from the beginning won’t do anything but wind the horse up. Simply track the cow until all three (the cow, the horse and you) are relaxed, then try to rope.



Once riders can swing and ride, it’s time to try to rope something while moving. If possible, a slow cow is best, Lavert says, but more important is a seasoned horse that will track and knows where to be.

If at First You Don’t Succeed...

Lavert also stresses not to get discouraged if you don’t catch right away. It takes time and patience. Getting frustrated will just make it worse. If you miss, stop, collect yourself and your horse, get everything reset and try again. Repeat the process of tracking the cow until all three are comfortable and relaxed and then throw.

If things still aren’t working right, back up and practice roping the bale again for a while until you get your confidence back, then try again on the live cow.

Lavert admits that although a live cow is best, many versatility competitors don’t have access to cattle to practice every day. If that is the case, there are many commercially available roping dummies that pull behind another horse or a four-wheeler. You can also rig up something on your own for practice. Use the same steps of tracking, swinging and throwing when you and your horse are comfortable.

Remember to position the horse in the same spot every time, for example, Lavert likes to rope just off the left

hip. “You don’t need to be like a calf roper over on the right side of the calf, but if you get right behind them or off to the left just a little, it keeps that elbow picked up and you’ve got to get more dip in your rope,” Lavert says. “Also remember not to look at the back of the cow’s head. Look about where their neck and shoulders meet, about a foot behind the head is where you should aim. If you aim at their head your hondo will hit them in the head and go right over the top or you’re going to rope their ears. If you aim back a little so that the hondo hits about a foot behind the head, then the tip goes out and over its nose.”

Put a Knot in It

Once you are good at roping with the breakaway rope, tracking the cow, roping it, dallying and stopping your horse, it’s time to actually stop the cow. Lavert suggests using a knot rope for practice.

A knot rope can be made out of any rope by tying something around the hondo to make it about half its normal size and tying a double knot about three foot from the hondo. This keeps the loop from getting tight on the cow’s neck so it can come off easily.

“If you haven’t got anybody out there or any way to get your rope off, when you stop the cow and it looks at you the rope will come off its head,” Lavert explains. “I rope with a knot rope all the time training horses, because I don’t have to take the rope off. Plus, if something happens and you are tied to that cow, just stop and the cow will turn to you and the rope will come off.”

Lavert says knot ropes are good training tools for young horses learning to take the jerk of stopping a cow. “You rope and stop your horse and start backing up. That rope’s going to come off when the horse starts backing and that’s the reward. Horses figure out if they just keep backing they’ll get a release.”

If dallying is a challenge, Lavert suggests practicing dallying with a friend. “Throw your rope out there like you’re roping something, then have somebody grab it and go to pulling on it as you dally,” Lavert says. “This helps you learn to let the rope slide through your hand. It’s not going to burn your hand, but you’ve got to let it slide so you can go to the horn, because if you’re just trying to hold on to it in one spot and dally, it’s hard to get it done. You’ve got to let it slide through your hand a little bit without panicking.”

This also helps riders learn how to dally without looking down at the horn. Lavert says, “That’s the hardest thing I see with novices is getting used to letting it slide through their hand and not looking down.”

Lavert stresses that position and timing are the two most important things to roping successfully. Both must be learned by practicing until one can recognize the right position and the right time to throw. Beyond that, common mistakes Lavert sees riders make is aiming too far forward on the head, not getting enough dip in their rope and not keeping their elbow up.

One way Lavert avoids making those mistakes himself is by setting up a particular way to rope in the arena. “You need to realize where you are at in the arena. I like to rope going toward the out-gate,” Lavert says. “Every cow that comes in the arena knows where the out-gate is. I like to drive my cow to the other end of the arena and let them run to that out-gate because they are more likely to run straight. If you try to take a cow and chase it away from the out-gate, it’s going to duck and dive and just as you lean up to throw it’s going to duck and run the other way. A lot of times you’ll throw and it’ll duck and you miss.”

Although things don’t always work out perfectly in the show pen, Lavert says it’s important to practice at home like you’re planning to show. “When you’re training a horse you want to do it the same way every time. Repetition is how a horse learns,” Lavert says.

When it comes down to it, everything about riding horses takes practice. When people first learn to ride, it takes awhile to remember to kick with the left leg to make the horse go right. Well, Lavert says, roping is the same way. If you practice it enough, it becomes second nature. ~~~



The Knot Rope

(Sara Gugelmeyer is a freelance writer whose work appears in a variety of professional publications. Sara is an active member of the NVRHA and a successful AQHA competitor in multiple events. Sara, her husband and son, ranch and run a hunting business in Texas and Kansas.)



The NVRHA Board of Directors
would like to express their
sincere thanks to all the
members who managed events
during the 2012 season.

We know that without the
commitment of the event
managers and other volunteers,
there would be no NVRHA.

Thank you for all you do!



Colorado Springs
September 21-23
Norris Penrose Arena

Sara Gugelmeyer riding
Colonels Miss Chic

2012 NVRHA Championship Event

Countdown to the annual Championships has begun! The NVRHA will hold its fifth annual Championship show and awards banquet in Colorado Springs at the Norris Penrose Arena on the weekend of September 21-22. This event, our biggest of the year, is a chance for NVRHA members from all over the United States to come together for a weekend of tough competition and to celebrate the success of many of our members. A ranch horse 'Olympics' if you will...

Don't miss out on this opportunity for all the competition and fun that the sport of Ranch Versatility offers. Exciting Competition, Outstanding Awards, Blow-out Banquet, and an Incredible Auction will all make it worth the trip to Colorado Springs. Come support NVRHA for a Ranch Horse weekend you won't forget.

Get your entries in now!!!

World's Greatest Ranch Horse

Competition is the Open Division at the Championship event. Any horse/rider team is eligible to enter. Come ride against the best and win the Custom Trophy Buckle!



Awarding

5

Custom Trophy Saddles From Cimarron River Saddlery in all five divisions: Novice, Limited, Intermediate, Advanced, and Collegiate!!!



2012 Team Challenge

If the championship competition and banquet is just not enough excitement and you feel the need to add a little more fun to your weekend - consider entering this year's Team Challenge! It's time to unseat last year's smoking team of Shane Bangarter, Charlie Stewart, and Stephanie Siitari! The challenge is a lot of fun and another way to compete for some great prizes and recognition. The Team Challenge is open to teams of three riders from any affiliate or region. A team consists of three Horses/Riders - one each from Novice or Limited, Intermediate, and Advanced. The team with the highest combined total event scores will earn the bragging rights and awards for the 2012 Team Challenge! Individual riders may participate on multiple teams. There will be a \$50 entry fee per team and your team must be entered prior to the start of the event. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the Championship Event on Sunday afternoon.

**GET SOME BUDDIES TOGETHER
AND BRING IT ON!!!**

Introducing our Championship NVRHA Certified Judges...



Dolly Wallace was born and raised on a farm in Bosque Farms, NM. Dolly had a great love for horses from a young age, and aspired to become the best trainer possible. Dolly showed in the New Mexico Quarter Horse Association as a youth, winning many titles and awards. Dolly became the first girl to earn the year end award in one of her favorite events - breakaway calf roping. Before graduating from Los Lunas High School, Dolly was already building a solid business training horses.

Dolly & Bob Wallace were married in 1984. Since Bob was an NCHA and AQHA judge, Dolly started her mentorship with Bob, learning cutting, team roping, reining, halter, and the specialized skill of developing a judge's eye. Together Bob and Dolly have had longtime success in most every aspect of the horse show world, winning over 85 World Championship Titles. A few years ago, Dolly also won the Open Division at the NVRHA Finals and was Reserve Champion World's Greatest Ranch Horse. The Wallace's have also developed a small breeding program raising all-around horses, focusing on cow-bred horses with quality conformation, athleticism and outstanding dispositions.

Dolly has carried judges cards in the Pinto, Buckskin and Palomino Associations, as well as NVRHA, and has been honored to judge the American Buckskin Horse World Show, the Palomino Youth World Show and the Pinto Congress.



Sarah Clifford was raised on a working cattle ranch in Birney, Montana. She grew up showing Quarter Horses and starting colts with her father, renowned horseman Jack Carrel. After attending college in California, Sarah settled there with her husband, Tom Clifford. Sarah worked for several trainers, including Joe Wolter, winner of the first AQHA versatility ever held, before opening her own business in 1993. Since then, Sarah has built her business around versatility and reined cow horse and she was instrumental in starting the Central Coast Ranch Horse Classic AQHA Versatility Event, now in its tenth year.

In 2009, Sarah was introduced to the NVRHA and was immediately attracted to the emphasis on learning and fun. The NVRHA philosophy fit Sarah's training program perfectly and she became an NVRHA judge in 2010. Sarah's clients continue to experience

success as versatility competitors. Her daughter, Rachel, recently won the youth division in Farmington, CA where Sarah won the open on a client's horse, Cat Like. Sarah also won February's Sun Circuit versatility on her own horse, Very Smart Cowpony. Sarah has qualified "Chase" for the AQHA World Show open division and plans to compete next February in Houston.

2012 NVRHA National Championship Schedule of Events

SEPTEMBER 20th – Thursday:

5:00pm – 10:00pm – Check In – NVRHA Trailer in Main Arena Parking Lot

SEPTEMBER 21st – Friday:

8:00am – 10:00pm – Check In – NVRHA Trailer in Main Arena Parking Lot

3:30am – 5:00pm – General Membership Meeting – Norris Penrose Meeting Room

5:00pm – Welcome and Social Hour – Lower Level Snack Bar Area Main Arena

SEPTEMBER 22nd – Saturday:

6:00am – 7:00am – Check In – NVRHA Trailer in Main Arena Parking Lot

8:00am – Morning Welcome & Posting of Colors (All Horses to be in Main Arena)

8:15am – Judges Meeting with Exhibitors – Main Arena (All Events)

9:00am – West Main Arena: (30 minute Lunch Break beginning at approx. 12:00pm)

- Morning

- Open Ranch Cutting
- Amateur Ranch Cutting (Advanced, Intermediate, Limited, Novice)

- Afternoon

- Amateur Working Ranch Horse (Novice, Limited) (Time Permitting)

9:00am – East Main Arena: (30 minute Lunch Break beginning at approx. 12:00pm)

- Morning

- Amateur Ranch Riding (Novice, Limited, Intermediate, Advanced)
- Open Ranch Riding

- Afternoon

- Open Ranch Trail
- Amateur Ranch Trail (Advanced, Intermediate) (Time Permitting)

5:30pm – 6:30pm – Banquet Cocktail Hour – The Warehouse Restaurant & Gallery

6:30pm – 10:00pm – Dinner & Awards Banquet – The Warehouse Restaurant & Gallery

- 2012 NVRHA Year End Review
- 2012 NVRHA Awards
- Live Auction

SEPTEMBER 23rd – Sunday:

8:00am – Morning Welcome & Posting of Colors (All Horses to be in Main Arena)

8:15am – Announcements

8:30am – West Main Arena: (30 minute Lunch Break beginning at approx. 12:00pm)

- Amateur Working Ranch (Intermediate, Advanced)
- Open Working Ranch

8:30am – East Main Arena: (30 minute Lunch Break beginning at approx. 12:00pm)

- Amateur Ranch Trial (Limited, Novice)

Upon completion of above events – East Main Arena:

- Ranch Horse Conformation

Approximate 4:00pm – 2012 National Championship Award Ceremony/Lower Level
Snack Bar Area

** Event Manager – Bill Hauschildt (719) 499-1666, billh@centralstatesroofing.com**

Sponsored By



SEPTEMBER

22&23

**Norris
Penrose
Event
Center**

1045 Rio Grande St.
Colorado Springs,
Colorado 80906

JUDGES:

Dolly Wallace
&
Sarah Clifford

**Must Register By:
Sept. 19, 2010**

For further Details:
www.nvrha.org
Or
Bill Hauschildt
billh@centralstatesroofing.com
(719) 499-1666

National Versatility
2012 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Ranch Horse Association

Saturday & Sunday

NVRHA

Versatility Ranch Horse Competition
\$280.00 per "Amateur" Horse-Rider

TO COMPETE FOR WORLD'S GREATEST AND \$1,500.00 PURSE
ADD \$60.00

ALL MEMBERS WITH A PERMANENT DIVISION ASSIGNMENT WHO HAVE
ATTENDED ATLEAST TWO EVENTS DURING THE 2012 SEASON ARE ELIGI-
BLE TO COMPETE IN THE 2012 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

MUST BE A CURRENT NVRHA MEMBER

FOUR DIVISIONS

NOVICE, LIMITED, INTERMEDIATE, & ADVANCED
BUCKLES TO ALL DIVISION WINNERS

NVRHA

World's Greatest Ranch Horse

"OPEN TO THE WORLD"

Any Horse, Any Rider, Any Breed

Rider May Ride More Than One Horse

\$340.00 per "Open" Horse-Rider

Buckle to Open Division Winner
\$1,500.00 Purse Payout Per NVRHA Rules

Saturday Night

Year End Awards Banquet & Auction

\$38.00 per Person

Reception 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm / Dinner 6:35 pm

Hotel Recommendations: Clarion Hotel & Conference Center 719-471-8681

Indoor Stall Fee \$ 20.00 per day / Shavings \$ 10.00 per bag / User Supplied Shavings \$ 3.00 per bag / Stall Stripping \$ 7.00
Camping Elec. Hook-up \$ 30.00 per day / Camping Non-Elec. Hook-up \$ 25.00 per day



NVRHA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AUCTION

~ Now accepting donated items ~

You've seen the excellent, functional and creative items we've had in the past. Please help us continue with this quality.

Proceeds from the NVRHA Auction are used to: Reduce Event Costs/
Support High Quality Awards Program/Launch New Limited Division/
Support Collegiate Participation

This is our 'one and only' fundraiser for the year.
Have you considered helping to sponsor an Award Saddle?
We are awarding 5 Saddles!!! Help us with your Donations!

To enter your quality item to the Auction, please call Tim Rose at (719) 338-9222

NVRHA - 2012 - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Participant Name: _____ email: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____

Zip: _____ Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Registered Name of Horse: _____ Year Foaled: _____
 Owner's Name: _____ Horse Identification No. _____ **(MANDATORY)**

Check your assumed permanent assigned Division

(Novice Amateur ☐) (Intermediate Amateur ☐) (Advanced Amateur ☐) (Open ☐)
 (Limited Amateur: ☐)

For **Rider Classification** by Divisions refer to the Rules & Regulations, Item IV on our web site www.NVRHA.org

COMPLETE **ONE** FORM PER HORSE/ RIDER TEAM:

Event Name: National Championship

Location: Norris Penrose Events Center, 1045 Rio Grande St., Colorado Springs., CO

Date: September 22, & 23, 2012 Zip: 80906

Registration Fee - Amateur: \$ 280.00 = \$ _____

Amateur - Add \$ 60.00 to compete in Worlds Greatest: \$ 60.00 = \$ _____

Registration Fee - World's Greatest (Open) \$ 340.00 = \$ _____

Stall Fee: _____ Stalls at \$ 20.00 per stall x _____ nights = \$ _____

Facility Supplied Shavings Fee: _____ bags at \$ 10.00 per bag = \$ _____

User Supplied Shavings Fee: _____ bags at \$ 3.00 per bag = \$ _____

Stall Stripping Fee: _____ Stalls at \$ 7.00 per stall = \$ _____

Camping Fee (w/Elec.): _____ sites at \$ 30.00 /day x _____ days = \$ _____

Camping Fee (w/o Elec.): _____ sites at \$ 25.00 /day x _____ days = \$ _____

Awards Banquet & Auction Fee: _____ Tickets at \$ 38.00 per ticket = \$ _____

NVRHA Membership Fee: (see web for prices: www.nvrha.org) = \$ _____

(Second time participants are required to become a member)

Please include a completed membership form also, if applicable

TOTAL: \$ _____

Are you a current member? ☐ Yes ☐ No. ~ Do you accept remuneration for training horses, giving riding instructions or related type activities? Yes ☐ No ☐

Cancellation Policy: 15 days or more 100% refund; 14 days or less; decision by event manager to transfer fee to another event or partial refund determined by expenses; full refund if rider gets a paid replacement. NVRHA reserves the right to cancel an event within 48 hours prior to the event.

Payment: Make checks payable and mail registration to: NVRHA, 5925 Omaha Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80915, Telephone 1-719-499-1666 / Fax: 1-719-570-7013. **To pay by credit card: M/C or Visa ONLY:**

Name: _____ CC #: _____

Expiration date: _____ A 3% fee will be added to all credit card payments.

Release: By signing below, I/We are waiving our right, if any, to claim against, maintain an action against, or recover from any equine activity sponsors, equine professionals, or any other person for injury, loss, damage, or death resulting from any of the inherent risks of this equine activity. I/We hereby request to enter the event indicated and agree to abide by the bylaws, standing rules, judging, and rules of the respective organizations involved with this event. I/We hereby release AQHA, NVRHA, and other involved organizations and its members and employees from any loss to myself, employees, agents, horses and/or equipment while attending and/or participating in this event. The provisions contained herein are hereby made a part of this entry agreement. In addition, the general understanding of any "publication, video, and internet consent and release agreement" is incorporated in this release including: no monetary considerations; photo, video or verbal statements may be used now and in subsequent years as the program deems fit; is binding upon heirs and/or future legal representatives.

 Signature - Participant, Parent/Guardian (under 18 years old) / Date

South Central Region 2012 Event Schedule

April 14-15
Pinegar Arena
Springfield, MO
Event Manager: Waland Burger
Phone: 417-276-3516

April 26-29
W-H Rendezvous
Hugoton, KS
Event Manager: Channing Hawks
Phone: 620-428-1109

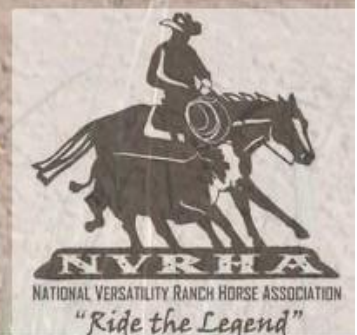
June 9-10
Sadler's Arena
Lakeview, AR
Event Managers: Jennifer and Philip Sadler
Phone: 479-936-1794

For more Information on Events
Contact Regional Manager:
Jennifer Sadler
(479)936-1794

July 21-22
Sedalia, MO
Event Manager: Rich Masoner
More Information to Come
Contact NVRHA Office with Questions

August 18-19
Dallas County Fairgrounds
Adel, IA
Event Manager: Alecia Heinz
Phone: 641-745-9170

**HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF
OUR EVENTS SOON!!!!**





April 28-29

**Colorado Kick Off,
Barnes Ranch;
Larkspur, CO**

May 19-20

**Cactus Creek;
Pueblo CO**

June 9-10

**Colorado Cowhands,
Spicer Arena, Eaton CO**

July 7-8

**Elbert County Event;
Kiowa, CO**

August 11-12

**Down Home Event,
Barnes Ranch;
Larkspur, CO**

September 8-9

**T-Cross Ranch;
Pueblo, CO**

Colorado Year End Awards in all 4 Divisions:

**Overall - Trophy Buckle; Reserve - Trophy Saddle Pad
(Must attend four events to be eligible for year end awards)**

**Check out all the details at CoNVRHA.com, or contact
Paulette Marshall 720-320-1616**

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☆ 2012 EVENTS ☆

PRESENTED BY:

ARIZONA VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE ASSOCIATION

Approved by National Versatility Ranch Horse Association

☆ ☆ ☆

2012 - KICK OFF THE NEW EVENT YEAR RIGHT AT ARIZONA FALL GATHERING

WESTWORLD OF SCOTTSDALE
October 29th and 30th, 2011
Scottsdale, AZ

AZ RANCH HORSE CHALLENGE

MARCH 3RD & 4TH, 2012
DESERT HILLS, AZ

FRONTIER DAYS

JUNE, 2012
PRESCOTT, AZ

5TH ANNUAL "SPRING WORKS"

ANCHOR CROSS RANCH
APRIL 21ST & 22ND 2012
CAMP VERDE, AZ

RIM COUNTRY ROUND UP

JULY 28TH & 29TH 2012
PAYSON, AZ

☆ ☆ ☆

**ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CLINIC AND SCHOOLING COMPETITIONS
DIVISIONS FOR NOVICE, LIMITED, INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED AMATEURS
OPEN JACKPOT - ANY HORSE / ANY RIDER**

☆ ☆ ☆

QUALIFY FOR AZ YEAR END AWARDS & NVRHA NATIONAL FINALS

More information at:

www.AZVersatilityRanchHorse.com

Bob or Rebecca Grant - 928.853.6183
E-mail: info@AnchorCrossRanch.com

www.NVRHA.org

"RIDE THE LEGEND"



Upcoming 2012 Events

NVRHA Clinic & Competitions

Serving the Upper Midwest

May 19-20

River Falls, Wisconsin

Clinicians:

Neil Henning & Bonnie Minor

August 11-12

North Branch, Minnesota

Clinicians: Jay & Gena

Henson

June 9-10

Cannon Falls, Minnesota

Clinicians:

Mary Leonhart & TBD

September 8-9

Rice Lake, Wisconsin

Clinicians: Lance Scheffel

Michael Saterbak

July 7-8

Windom, Minnesota

Clinicians: Tom Bjorklund

Terry Lauth

**Mark your
calendars!!**

www.northernlightsversatility.com

www.nvrha.org



Come join the gang at Northern Lights NVRHA...

CARMEL VALLEY
NVRHA
GATHERING
AUGUST
11TH & 12TH
2012



- Clinicians and Judges are: Sarah Kennedy & Chris Bugenig.
- Buckles awarded to Division Winners. Special Youth award.
- Join us both days at the Clinic and Show for \$400.00.
- Start time : 9am
- Bring your own Lunch Saturday
- BBQ Lunch available Sunday for \$8.00

DIVISIONS

- Novice
- Limited
- Amateur Advanced
- Open

**EARLY ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUGUST 4TH. ENTRY & LIABILITY RELEASE
FORMS SHOULD BE MAILED TO SARAH CLIFFORD.**



**SHOW WILL BE HELD AT:
CARMEL VALLEY TRAIL & SADDLE CLUB
85 EAST GARZAS ROAD / CARMEL VALLEY, CA 93924**

CONTACT PERSON: SARAH CLIFFORD 831 747-7545

Road to the VRH World...via Arkansas

By...Donna Stewart



Photo courtesy of Don Trout Photography, Sanger, Texas.

It's inspiring, it's fun, it will have you cheering for the unlikely heroine. But best of all, Jennifer shows us that it is most certainly doable.

Determination is not something new for Jennifer Sadler. She had it a long time before horses became part of her life. She grew up tough, married young to her high school sweetheart Philip, and then together they put themselves through medical school. If you don't know the process for that type of education it involves lots of lean years, long hours, hard work and personal sacrifice. But, they did it and now both are Emergency Medicine Physicians. The Sadler's moved to Mountain Home, Arkansas in 2005 to pursue a passion for fly-fishing! Yes, you read that right – fishing. Along with Jennifer's mother, they purchased a farm with the intent of opening a bed and breakfast. Not long after, Philip and Jennifer adopted an Appaloosa horse from a neighboring farm to put out with the cows they had acquired. After making several attempts at riding the horse, these neophytes discovered that it was 32 years old and really beyond riding! Realizing that they needed education, Jennifer and Philip sought help in the form of riding lessons. Thus, it wasn't too long before they made their first horse purchases – a Friesian/Thoroughbred Amish carthorse for Philip, and a Foxtrotter for Jennifer. And then: a broken pelvis for Philip, and broken ribs for Jennifer!

What do you get when you mix equal parts of want-to and determination, then throw in a little bit of grit to hold it all together? That's the recipe for an Arkansas Cowgirl! And boy do we have one! The NVRHA's own Jennifer Sadler shot to the top of the cowgirl heap in March by winning the AQHA Reserve World Champion Versatility Ranch Horse title in Houston. Jennifer rode her gelding, Little Bell Pepper, to a second place finish behind Laurie Shelton among a field of 13 qualified contestants in the Amateur Division of AQHA's growing versatility program. And thanks to the AQHA's live stream feed, many NVRHA members and others around the globe were able to watch and cheer on Jennifer through a tough three days of competition.

Why is this so amazing? There are, after all, plenty of good horses and riders winning titles all the time. True, but not many of them present with Jennifer's 'Cinderella story'. We usually hear this familiar tale... raised on a ranch, rode before they could walk, married to a trainer, blah blah blah. How many can say that until seven years ago they had never even been on a horse; that it took them one and a half years of riding to be able to lope; that they began versatility competition on a Foxtrotter and didn't even own a Quarter Horse until 2009; and most amazingly had never ridden in an AQHA competition until two years ago? Enjoy this story folks. It's kind of like the American Dream.

(Continued on page 28)

Give up – you say? Nope, not these two. Through a stroke of good fortune they met up with Arvell Bass, a horse-man in their area who could really help. Arvell took on the training of the novice riders and their horses and improved the abilities of each. Soon Philip was involved in Arvell's colt starting program and purchased a 2-year-old filly named Lena's Gay Bar. He progressed to the point of wanting to show the filly and that was when Arvell introduced the Sadler's to the idea of versatility ranch horse. The NVRHA was a perfect fit for these two for several reasons. First, it allowed any horse breed and Jennifer was still riding her Fox-trotter. But best of all, the NVRHA's focus on education provided the needed platform for Philip and Jennifer to continue learning while beginning to compete in a friendly schooling competition atmosphere.



The early days, Jennifer on her Foxtrotter.

They rode in their first NVRHA event in Oklahoma in 2008. Jennifer's horse was the first Foxtrotter to enter an NVRHA competition and boy did that cause a sensation! First, what do you do with a non-stock horse in a stock horse world, and then the realization that this Foxtrotter really could do this! Over the next year, the Sadler's got hooked on versatility and hooked on NVRHA. They grew in confidence and ability and it wasn't long before the competitor in Jennifer wanted to step up to the next level.

Enter, Little Bell Pepper. This gelding had been around and NVRHA Clinician and Judge, Jay Henson, knew he was the best out there. Pairing his talent with Jennifer's drive turned out to be a brilliant move. Purchased in 2009 after the NVRHA Championship Event in Colorado Springs, Jennifer took Little Bell Pepper home to Arkansas.

"My first year with him was frustrating because I didn't know how to ride or show him," says Jennifer. "Here I was with this great horse and didn't really know what to do."

She did the right thing. Jennifer took Pepper (whom she renamed Cowboy) to Henson's to learn. She spent the next year riding and showing in the NVRHA and SHOT programs, gaining confidence, with her sights set on AQHA events.

"AQHA is a totally different experience than NVRHA," says Jennifer. "There is just competition, no clinic, so you had better be ready to show when you get there. I don't think I could have ever shown in AQHA if I hadn't had the educational experience that I got from NVRHA. That's why I'm such a proponent of the program."

Jennifer showed Cowboy at many different venues. In addition to NVRHA, the pair have shown and had success in the AQHA, NCHA, SHOT, and ASHA.

"There is something to be said for every organization, and it is a challenge to ride in so many of them," she says. "Each want different things and you have to adapt your style to that. I particularly like the NVRHA for its education format and clinics preceding the events. It is very helpful to get your score sheets back at the end of the day and see what you did well and what you didn't. The feedback is a learning tool, and allows you to you make changes in your performance. I also like the camaraderie and the planned social events that the association offers. Philip and I have made lots of friends there."

Along the way, Jennifer has sought help from some of the top horseman in the profession. She especially wants to thank Arvell Bass, Jay and Gena Henson, Bobby Avila, Jr., Jerry Hampton, Jay McLaughlin, and Norman Martin.

Jennifer and Cowboy quickly qualified for the AQHA World Versatility Event and the rest is history, right? Not so fast now, I told you this was a Cinderella story. In the summer of 2011 during a SHOT show, Jennifer navigated Cowboy through a difficult trail obstacle involving logs. When she came out of the class she noticed that the big bay horse was lame, just a little off, and she chalked it up to his hitting a few of the logs. But Cowboy got worse, not better, and Jennifer got concerned. Fearing the worst, Jennifer took Cowboy for an MRI. Now if that doesn't sound like an ER Doc thing to do!

Diagnosis: Bruising of the Cannon Bone.

Treatment Plan: 6 months off with 2 months of Aqua Therapy at the Lazy E in Oklahoma – right during the critical training period for AQHA World's.

Prognosis: Full recovery, with riding to resume late December 2012 – just two months before the big event.

Pressure Level: High.

Chance of Success: You bet.

The road to Houston was pretty short for Jennifer, no lifelong trip to get there. But, it wasn't a painless one and when she arrived and realized the caliber and talent of her competition, reality set in.

"It was surreal," she says, "I just couldn't believe that I was really there. Lavert Avent was really helpful. But, it all came down to knowing that I just needed to give it my best shot and let it all play out."

"I felt really good about winning cutting," Jennifer laughs and says, "It was really exciting! But then I got a dose of reality the next day in the other classes. These people are very good and they are very serious."

As the three-day competition wound down, Jennifer did exactly what she came to do – give it her best shot. And, you know, that worked. She took the Reserve Title, not too bad for our Arkansas Cowgirl!

Words of advice for the rest of us and for those who might just be starting out – persistence, learn wherever you can, and buy the right horse!

"A lot of it is up to you, but you do need to have a horse with some talent and I was lucky enough to be able to purchase Little Bell Pepper," says Jennifer.

"I'll be back next year, I hope," Jennifer insists. "I have some goals and one of them is to qualify to return, and hopefully win! I also want to try riding Cowboy in the NRCHA so I can learn something new. And I want to really work on my roping skills!"

And you know, there isn't a doubt in my mind that this lady will do every one of those things...and that somewhere in Arkansas there is a very grateful fish.

~DS




Jennifer and Cowboy hung in there to win the Reserve World Champion Title in AQHA Ranch Versatility.

~~~~~

Photos courtesy of  
Jim Jennings,  
The American Quarter Horse  
Journal.



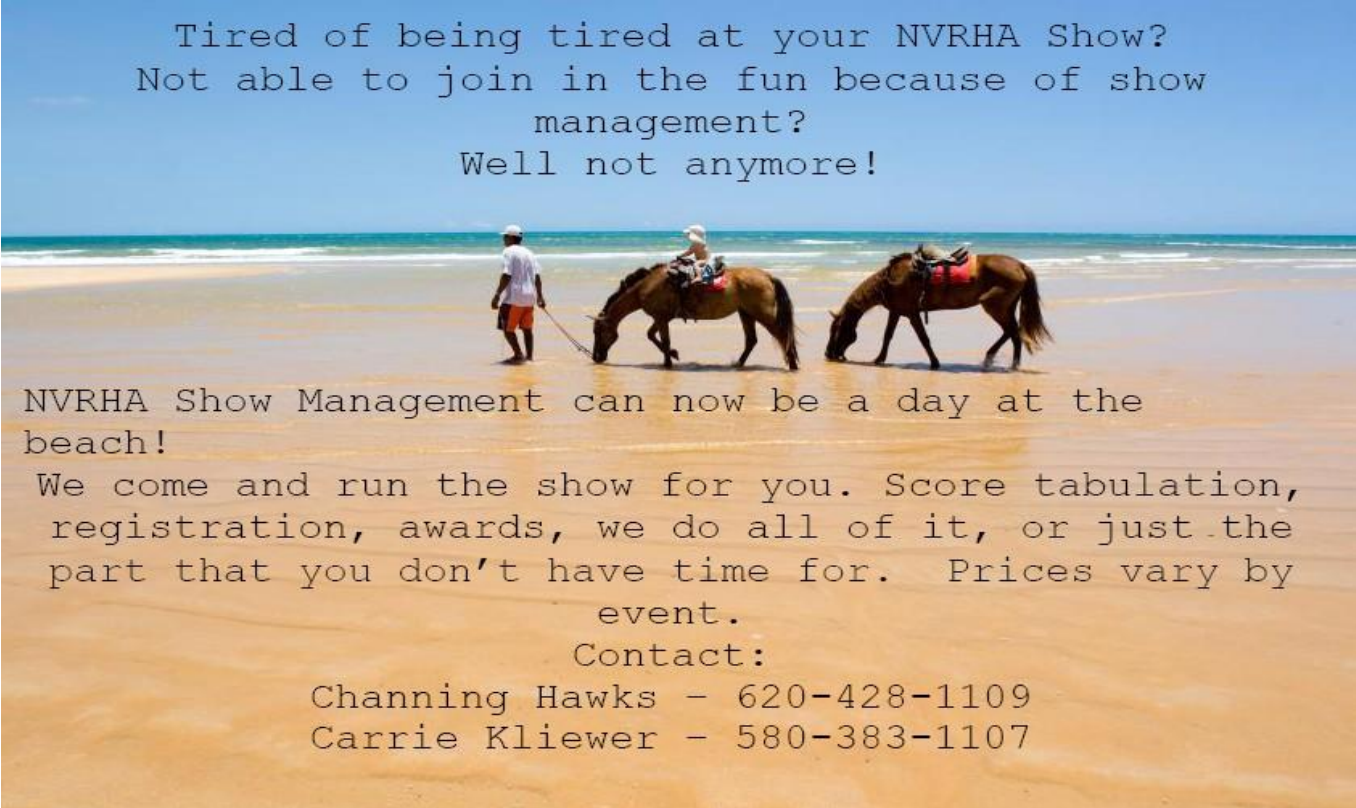


## Golden Horse Ranch Versatility Challenge

*Perfect for the first time Novice,  
Educational for the Old Pro!*

August 18-19 Clinic and Competition  
Dallas County Fairgrounds - Adel, Iowa

Clinicians: Jay and Gena Henson  
Cost: \$175/one day; \$325/both days  
Info Contact: Alecia Heinz 641-745-9170  
[smartace007@yahoo.com](mailto:smartace007@yahoo.com)



Tired of being tired at your NVRHA Show?  
Not able to join in the fun because of show  
management?  
Well not anymore!

NVRHA Show Management can now be a day at the  
beach!

We come and run the show for you. Score tabulation,  
registration, awards, we do all of it, or just the  
part that you don't have time for. Prices vary by  
event.

Contact:

Channing Hawks - 620-428-1109  
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## **Clinics, Lessons and Events**

(All ability levels – Novice to Advanced)

### **Training**

Versatility Ranch Horse, Cutting, Working Cow Horse

### **Quality Performance Horses for Sale**

**Bob Grant**

Certified NVRHA Clinician and Judge

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Camp Verde, AZ

Circa 1978

2010 National Finals

## **NVRHA RUNDOWN ADVERTISING**

### Ad sizing:

Full page 7 ½" W x 9 ¾" H

Half page 7 ½" W x 4 ½" H

Quarter page 3 ½" W x 4 ½" H

### Ad Pricing:

Full page (Color) \$300 (B&W) \$250

Half page (Color) \$150 (B&W) \$100

Quarter page (Color) \$100 (B&W) \$50

The Rundown is striving to become an all color publication. As such, black and white ads may not be available in the future. Finished ad layout must be submitted electronically and in photo ready format – pdf, jpeg. There will be a charge for original design or redesign of any improperly sized or created ad layouts. All ad layouts are subject to editor approval.

Submit to [dmstewartn@aol.com](mailto:dmstewartn@aol.com)



**Real Cowboys do Trail...**

## 'Ride the Legend'

NVRHA  
P.O. Box 421  
Hugoton, KS 67951

Phone: 620-428-5400  
Fax: 620-428-6874

Website: [www.nvrha.org](http://www.nvrha.org)  
Email: [nvrha.office@gmail.com](mailto:nvrha.office@gmail.com)

National Versatility Ranch Horse  
Association is a 501 C3 Organization