

National Versatility Ranch Horse Association

# NVRHA *Rundown*

Summer 2018

Volume 11

**Channing Hawks  
Named 2017  
Horseman of the Year**

**NVRHA joins NRSHA  
National Ranch &  
Stock Horse Alliance**

**SLJ Ruby Slippers  
earns Legend Award**

**NVRHA Celebrates  
10 Year Anniversary**



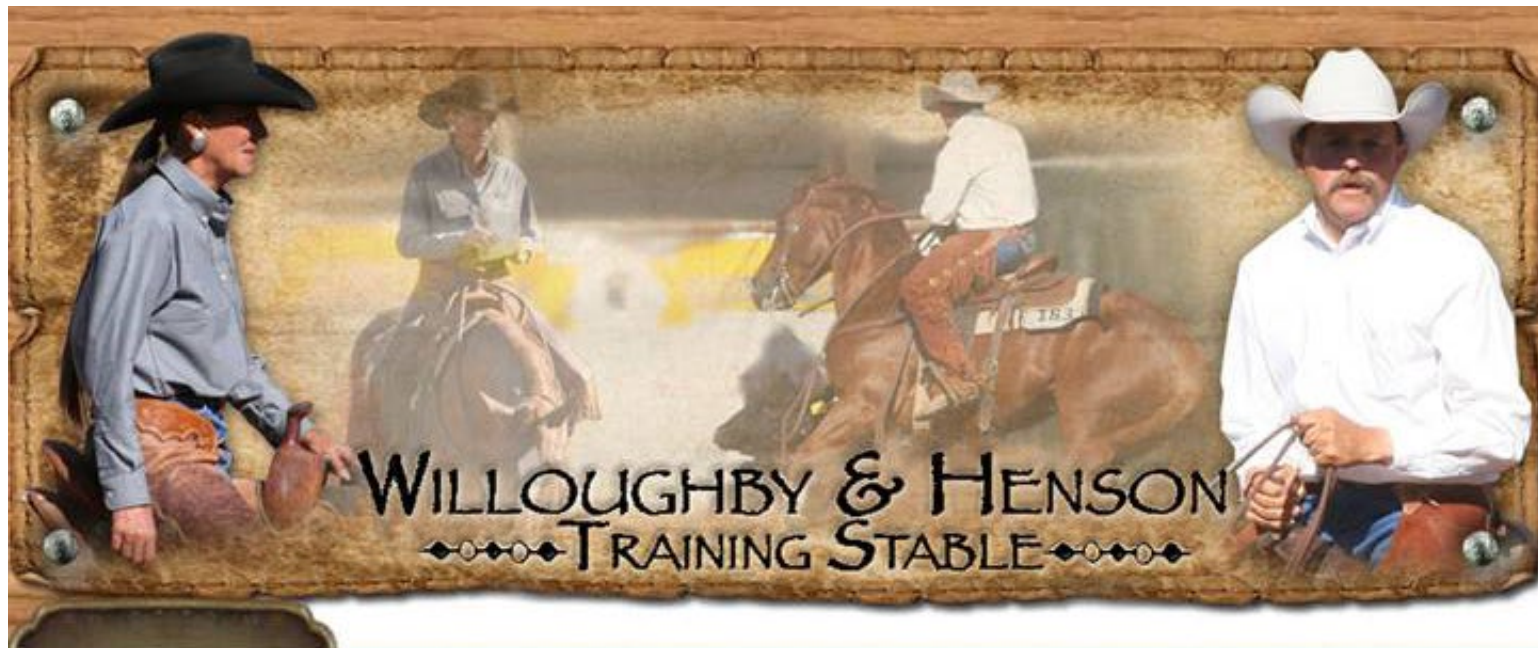
**Donna Stewart  
on Risky Irish  
Whiskey**



## **CELEBRATING OUR 2016-17 WINNERS**

- ⇒ Level of Achievement Awards
- ⇒ National Championship Winner
- ⇒ Year End Awards





# *What Legends Are Made Of*

\*\*\* 2007 Double Tuckered Out

\*\*\* 2010 Docs Second Best

\*\*\* 2011 Little Bell Pepper

\*\*\* 2011 Whiskey Stic Chic

2011 A Time to Spark

\*\*\* 2012 Lil Bit O Badge

\*\*\* 2012 Risky Irish Whiskey

\*\*\* 2013 Starlight Dillion

\*\*\* 2013 Langtrees CD

\*\*\* 2015 Unbranded

2015 Tatanka

\*\*\* 2017 SLJ Ruby Slippers

\*\*\* Indicates Trained &/or Sold by W-H Training Stables

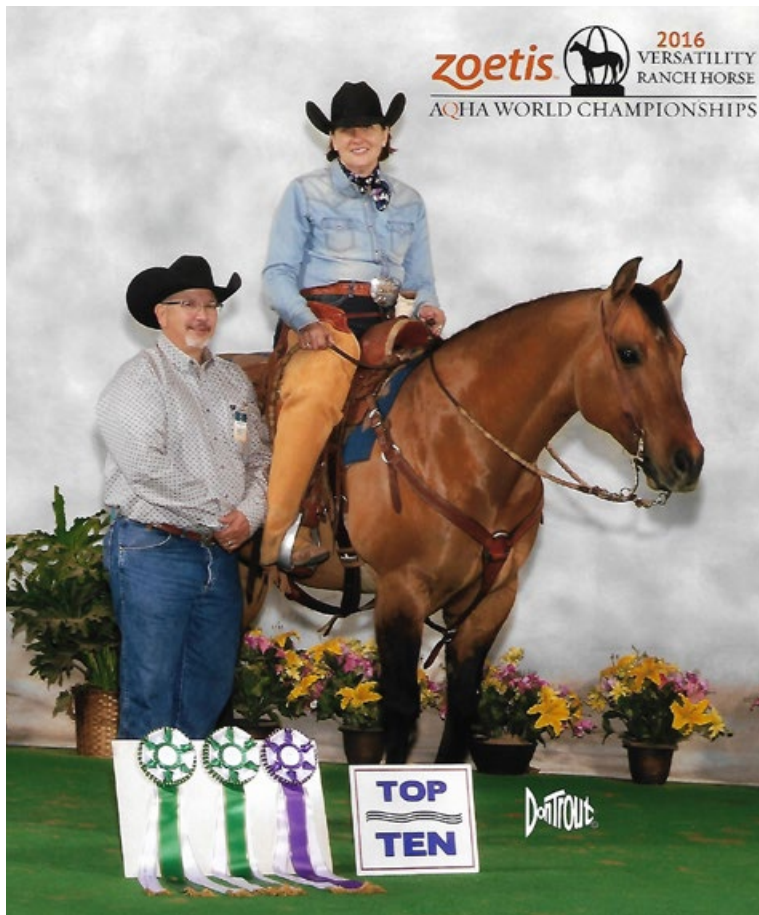


Jay & Gena Henson

620-544-8078

wbarhtrainingstables@yahoo.com





# Thank You Donna

by Dave Currin, Representing all in NVRHA

There are no words that can express the huge thanks that NVRHA owes Donna Stewart! She has been the glue that held the Association together since its founding. Founder, Board Member, Magazine Editor, Vice President, Exhibitor — she did it all ! Assisted by her faithful companion, Charlie — the team accumulated 407.5 Championship Points on Risky Irish Whiskey, the most on record for a one owner family (Donna earned 313.5 points). She single handedly developed eight Volumes of the Rundown — many of these Volumes had up to three issues per volume. Many of us do not realize how much work this constitutes. I did Volume 9, I stopped counting after over 100 hours had been logged. Her Vice Presidency brought a badly needed strong discipline to Board Meetings. It goes on and on! **THANK YOU DONNA** from the bottom of our hearts.

Pictured left;  
Charlie and Donna Stewart with Risky Irish Whiskey

## 2018 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Jay Henson	President	wbarhtrainingstables@yahoo.com
Channing Hawks	Vice President Affiliate Liaison-South Central	chanhawks@yahoo.com
Deb Martin	Secretary and Board Meeting Chairman	d.martinparker33@gmail.com
Alecia Heinz	Treasurer	smartace007@yahoo.com
Cori Atteberry	Office/Web Site Manager Affiliate Liaison-Colorado	sevenaranch@gmail.com
Bruce Perry	Colorado Rep	NVRHA.office@gmail.com
Bill Hauschildt	Business Manager	billh@centralstatesroofing.com
Shane Bangerter	Legal Counsel	shane@rbr3.com
Dave Currin	New Starts	dcurrin@msn.com
Stephany Siitari	Affiliate Liaison-N. Lights	stephenysiitari@gmail.com
Sue Eisenman	Northern Lights Rep	speisenman@aol.com
Vicky Henderson	Northern Lights Rep	vhender4429@gmail.com
Erin Mullinane	Affiliate Liaison-Wyoming	erinmul@aol.com
Kelly Jamison	Affiliate Liaison- Intermountain	onemainranch@icloud.com
NVRHA Office	Secretary, Robin Mercer	nvrha.office@gmail.com tele:719-550-0189

# NVRHA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY Celebration

Ten years ago, the first National Finals was held in Colorado Springs, but the story began nearly five years before that. Here is our story:

Cowboys and cowgirls from Colorado gathered to create an amateur organization that honors the versatile ranch horse and preserves our Western Ranching Culture and Heritage.

They saw a need to build an organization which was different from existing associations; one that was not based



on competition, money and politics, but one that welcomed novice riders and focused on education and fun. They envisioned an organization where like life on a ranch, people roll up their sleeves, help each other and learn new skills. They wanted to create a feeling – the allure of the old west with all of its excitement; the appeal and charm of chuck wagons under the stars and the remoteness of everyday life. They wanted to help people achieve their dreams with their horse.

Visionaries, Founders, Ten Year Board Members: All who have put your brains, backs, and billfolds into NVRHA and got the job done. We are “riding the legend”. *We Thank You!*

## Founders and Visionaries

- **Dave Currin, CO\*** Founding President and Driving Force, 10 Year Board Member, Clinician/Judge, Legend Horse
- **Cindy Rose, CO\*** First Executive Administrator, Event Development, Event Manager, Horseman of the Year, Legend Horse
- **Bill Hauschildt, CO\*** 10 Year Board Member, Business Office, Contracts, Events Management
- **Donna Stewart, 10 Year Board Member, Chairman of the Board, Legend Horse, Horse Person of the Year, Rundown Editor since Volume 1, Issue 1, Historian, Keeper of the Fire**
- **Charlie Stewart, CO\***, Legend Horse, IT, Points Tabulation Program and Problem Solver
- **Jeff Barnes, CO\***, Early Conceptualizer, Worked With RMQH to Lay our foundation: Rules & Research, Event Host, Clinician/Judge, Supporter and Advisor to the Founding President
- **Jay Henson, KS\*** Current President, 10 year Board Member, Event Host, Clinician/Judge
- **Gena Henson, KS\***, Event Host, Clinician/Judge – Jay & Gena were the first authentic ranching professionals who shaped the NVRHA. Legend Makers



Founder left to right: Gina Henson, Bill Hauschildt, Dave Currin, Jay Henson, Jeff Barnes, Charlie Stewart, Donna Stewart

Thank you to those of you attending in spirit: Tim Rose, First Vice President, Mick Flood, Donna & Henry Block, Bill Cantrell, Edgyll Pyles, Marty Pickett, Bill Kretsch, Jeff & Peggy Waller

## Legacy of Legends

2009	CO	Double Tuckered Out	Cindy Rose	CO	Lil Bit O Badge	Rita Lauby	
2010	CO	Docs Second Best	Dave Currin	2013	MN	Starlight Dillon	Susan Lucas
2011	CO	A Time to Spark	Edgyll Pyles	KS	Langtrees CD	Shane Bangerter	
	CO	Whiskeys Chick Stik	Bill Cantrell	2015	MN	Tatanka	Vicky Henderson
	AK	Little Bell Pepper	Jennifer Sadler		MN	Unbranded	Shelly Johnsen
2012	CO	Riskey Irish Whiskey	Charlie Stewart	2017	MN	SLJ Ruby Slippers	Stephany Siitari

## CELEBRATING HORSE PERSON OF THE YEAR

2008 Bill Cantrell	2011 Cindy Rose & Susan Lucas	2013 Becky Grant	2016 Stephany Siitari
2009 Tim Rose	2012 Bill Hauschildt	2014 Dave Currin	2017 Channing Hawks
2010 Donna Stewart		2015 Paulette Marshall	



# SLJ RUBY SLIPPERS

Ridden by Stephany Siitari Awarded

## *The Legend Award*

In 2017, SLJ Ruby Slippers, aka Juice ridden by Stephany Siitari was awarded the NVRHA's highest Achievement Award, The Legend Award. A horse must earn a minimum of 200 Championship Points with a Superior Award in four of the five NVRHA Ranch Horse classes to earn this award. Over the 10 years since NVRHA was founded, SLJ Ruby Slippers is the twelfth horse to be honored with the Legend Award.

"Dream, Dare, Ride, Achieve" became Stephany's road map which guided her and Juice to this prestigious award.

The DREAM began early in Stephany's life as she rode "Geronimo," a black mustang stallion when Stephany was ten years old, winning many trophies back east in Maryland.

The DARE came about when Susan Heyvaart, the first president of NVRHA Northern Lights Affiliate roped Stephany into the organization. Having admired the riding skills of other Legend riders like Susan Heyvaart (Starlight Dillon) and Vicky Henderson (Tatanka), Stephany purchased Juice, a two and a half year old Quarter Horse. Enter Jay and Gena Henson, who set Stephany on her "Journey to the Legend," by honing her horsemanship

skills and training Juice in all the class skills needed.

The RIDE became the Journey. "I learned it is important to set goals for my horsemanship journey and define steps to achieve them. I had to balance the goal with patience. Most people are in too much of a hurry to get a horse trained and I was no exception. It ended up that Juice,

trained by Jay and Gena Henson was far more advanced than I was and she had to wait for me to catch up."

The ACHIEVE became reality two years later when Juice and Stephany won their first major award, the NVRHA Novice Championship at the National Finals. Numerous achievements followed culminating in SLJ Ruby Slippers being honored as a NVRHA Legend. When Stephany was asked about Juice, her comments reflected dreams that had come true. "I learned that the horse is the best teacher. They never lie! Juice had to wait a long time for me, but when we started to understand and trust each other, the rewards just keep coming. Juice is a girl's girl! She loves to have her mane brushed, to be scratched all over, and have picture taken. She always greets me with a whiny and just hates it when the trailer leaves without her — oh such a long face!"

Congratulations Juice and Stephany on this "once in a lifetime" achievement!

To all in NVRHA ....Dream, Dare, Ride, and Achieve.





# 2017 National Champions

## NOVICE DIVISION



**CHAMPION**  
Anna Shafer riding Olenas Lil Wrangler



**RESERVE**  
Teresa Danielson  
riding Prairie Wild Fire



**THIRD OVERALL**  
Gimma Alvey  
riding Gallos Smokin Tall

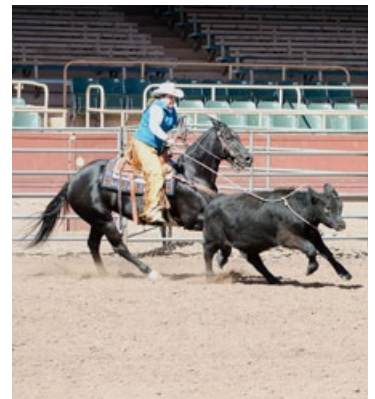
## LIMITED DIVISION



**CHAMPION**  
Jan May riding Electric Element



**RESERVE**  
Megan Newlon  
riding Langtrees CD



**THIRD OVERALL**  
Paulette Marshall  
riding Sontivio Moon

## AMATEUR DIVISION



**CHAMPION**  
Alecia Heinz riding Golden H Mister T



**RESERVE**  
Kay Cornelius  
riding HR Playing Dori



**THIRD OVERALL**  
Cody Hendrickson riding  
Meradas Wood Nickel



# Novice Division 2017 Year End Champions



## HIGH POINT

**Teresa Danielson** (Colorado Affiliate)  
riding **Prairie Wild Fire**



## RESERVE HIGH POINT

**Samantha Hager** (South Central Affiliate)  
riding **Eds Parr Leo Belle**

*"I will always be grateful of NVRHA for allowing us the opportunity to learn, dream, and achieve through great clinicians, people and events."*



## THIRD OVERALL

**Morgan Holmes**, riding **Lil Miss Electric**

*"My most fun part is being able to make my young horse so versatile and seeing the growth in both of us."*

*"It was really a good experience for both of us. It was hard but the end result sure was satisfying. Hard work does pay off!"*



# Limited Division 2017 Year End Champions



## HIGH POINT

**Paulett Marshal** (Colorado Affiliate)  
riding **Sontivio**

*"No matter the background of the horse, coming into the program, there's always something to learn, to improve, and it never ends."*

## RESERVE HIGH POINT

**Megan Newlon**  
(South Central Affiliate)  
riding **Langtrees CD**

*"The most fun is the adrenaline when working cows."*



## THIRD OVERALL

**Jan May** (Northern Lights Affiliate)  
riding **Electric Element**

*"My most fun is getting to know a great group of people and working as a team with Ellee (Electric Element)."*



# Amateur Division 2017 Year End Champions



**HIGH POINT**  
Carlos Osorio, riding AR Especial

## RESERVE HIGH POINT Stephany Sitarii riding SLJ Ruby Slippers

*"I would never have just gone into a competitive show environment - it was intimidating and hard to get information."*



Cody Hendrickson  
Riding Meradas Wood Nickel

## TIE FOR THIRD OVERALL



Vicki Henderson, riding Tatanka



# NVRHA Joins the National Ranch & Stock Horse Alliance



The NRSHA was organized by the American Quarter Horse Association with the mission of preserving and promoting ranching traditions and heritage through ranch and stock horse events. NRSHA will be a strategic marketing alliance with AQHA.

Alliance partners such as NVRHA will provide major awards such as NVRHA Ranch Horse Champion, Legend and other award earned by registered AQHA Horses to be placed on the horses permanent show record.

Alliance members will continue to host events using their own rules to include our NVRHA National Championship. Qualifying NVRHA members will be eligible to attend the annual NRSHA National Championship Show. In

2018, the show will be held in Guthrie, Oklahoma at the Lazy E Ranch on June 14 -17. Five events will be offered: Ranch Cutting, (our two cow cut version), Cow Works (our Working Cow Horse without reining), Ranch Reining (AQHA pattern), Ranch Trail and Ranch Riding (both pattern works like NVRHA).

## ALL BREEDS ARE WELCOME!

To Qualify, NVRHA members in good standing must attend one (1) NVRHA event between Jan. 1, 2017 and Feb. 28, 2018. The NVRHA Office will notify all NVRHA members eligible during March. Entries must be submitted by April 28, 2018 to the AQHA.

Divisions to be offered are Open,

Cowboy, Amateur, Youth, Amateur Limited, Youth Limited, Rookie, Novice and Level 1. Division description will be defined at [www.ranchorse.net](http://www.ranchorse.net).

NVRHA is proud of its members competitiveness at the AQHA World Show over the years. We have had numerous Open and Amateur World Champions and Reserve World Champions — even a Youth Honor Roll High Point in 2017.

At the NRSHA National Championship Show, NVRHA will be hosting a booth and many of our members have expressed an interest in competing —so join in the Fun as a participant or just to check it out for possible future participation.



## 2011 AMATEUR RESERVE CHAMPION

Jennifer Sadler (center) riding Lil Bell Pepper

## 2012 AMATEUR WORLD CHAMPION TOP TEN OPEN

Jeremy Gugelmeyer riding ARC ALL Cash Pleaser,

## 2012 OPEN RESERVE WORLD CHAMPION 3RD IN AMATEUR YEAR END HIGH POINT

Sara Gugelmeyer riding Colorado Miss Chic,



## 2014 OPEN RESERVE CHAMPION

Lavert Avent riding Metallic Gun

## 2017 TOP TEN LIMITED DIVISION 2016 HIGH POINT AMATEUR HONOR ROLL

Donna Stewart riding Risky Irish Whiskey



## 2013 RESERVED AMATEUR WORLD CHAMPION

Shane Bangerter (center), riding Langtrees CD



## 2017 HIGH POINT HONOR ROLL YOUTH LIMITED

Megan Newlon riding Langtrees CD,



# Youth Division Debuts in 2018

Morgan Holmes from Peyton, Colo. was third overall on Lil Miss Electric.

*“My most fun part is being able to make my young horse so versatile and seeing the growth in both of us.”*



During the early years of NVRHA, we supported a small Youth Division; however, the low participation resulted in its demise, despite a strong desire by the Association to continue. In 2017, the Colorado Affiliate sponsored a Youth Division which demonstrated the interest and participation needed to reinstate the Youth Division on the national level to include sponsorship at the National Championship. The Board updated the rules, aligning the Division with rule modification which had occurred over the intervening years. The principal modification was to have within the Youth Division, a Novice Division, Limited Division, and an Amateur Division, for riders under the age of eighteen years. Additionally, the Youth may not double enter into the Adult Division with the exception of the Open in which they may double enter and earn additional Championship Points. In the 2017 National Championship, Youth were allowed to participate within the Adult Divisions with additional recognition only as a Youth Division. Their participation was a great success, resulting in the formation of a Stand alone Youth Division for 2018.



Jessica Dekker from Peyton, Colo. was fourth on Taras Bonnies.

*“Bonnie is a 24 year old T-Cross mare that gets me to the finals every year. She has a huge heart and we always get along — I love this horse!”*



Magan Newlon from Hugoton, Kan. riding Langtrees CD was Division Champion in the Youth Competition and Reserve Year Winner in the Adult Limited Division.

*“The most fun is the adrenaline when working cows.”*



Katie Bryne on her pony Tucker from Minnesota has made phenomenal progress on her beloved Tucker over the past several years.

*“Seeing and being a part of everyone cheering and supporting each other was just an awesome feeling.”*



Emmy Alvey from Peyton, Colo. was Reserve on Gallos Smokin Tara and tied for fourth on Drummer Ticket Bar None.



# Superior Ranch Horse

## Level of Achievement Awards

To achieve the Superior Ranch Horse Award, a horse must earn 40 Championship Points in any of the five classes (Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Working Ranch Horse, Ranch Cutting, or Ranch Conformation).

An award may be awarded in each class.



**Sontivio Moon**  
**Ranch Conformation**  
exhibited By Paulette Marshal

*"No matter the background of the horse, coming into the program, there's always something to learn, to improve, and it never ends."*



**Page Martin Parker**  
**Ranch Conformation**  
exhibited by  
**Deb Martin**

*"I love the Clinics!"*

**PageMartin Parker**  
**Working Ranch Horse**  
riden by Deb Martin

*"Parker is a fighter and I'm so grateful for every single ride we get to have together."*



**A R Especial**  
**Ranch Conformation**  
exhibited by Carlos Osorio





## RANCH HORSE ROUND UP

### *Helping Our Veterans*

*Article By: Tommy Cobb | Photography by: Richard Gill*

This third annual event to help our wounded veterans went off without a hitch as volunteers all chipped in to help those without whom this great nation could not survive. This event came about as a retired Veteran and fellow Patriots were drinking coffee one morning talking horses and solving the nation's problems. They recognized that numerous groups were using horses to help veterans and their families with problems and disabilities resulting from combat injuries. Both men were also members of organizations that had facilities, knowledge and organizational skills that could step up and contribute. The rest is history, as the saying goes.

In 2017, the partnership between The Kit Carson Riding Club and The National Versatility Ranch Horse Association (NVRHA) combined to put on their third annual event to help those of our armed forces community who have sacrificed greatly for us and now needed a boost and a big THANK YOU FOR THEIR SERVICE.

The first event in 2015 was put together in a hurry getting volunteers and clinicians on short notice but everyone made it a success. The event used NVRHA rules for judging and scoring riders on the mock competition day. The event was advertised as a place where novice riders and horses could get a taste of what a ranch horse was expected to do. This first event raised a little over \$3,000, which was donated to the Wounded Warrior Program.

A lot was learned from the first event and planning for the 2016 event started almost as soon as the first one was over. We started planning how to improve the event. Committees and were formed to help with the event. We found local programs for veterans who needed help within the El Paso County area and turned our focus to these programs. The 2016 event even more successful, raised \$6,000.

In 2017 event planning was expanded, having one hundred and twenty volunteers who donated their time and work effort to make it the best yet. The 2017 event raised \$10,000 which was donated equally between the Remount Foundation and The Home Front organization.

Planning for the 2018 event is underway. Funds will be donated to YMCA Camp Corral for military kids, Home Front Cares, and Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center for disabled military personnel.

Kit Carson Riding club donates the use of their facilities and all monies from concessions. Many local businesses donate money and/or items for the silent auction. NVRHA Clinicians/judges donate their weekends and knowledge, other members assist with cattle, arena setup, silent auction, registration, score keeping, clean up, etc. The Event organizer for 2018 is Jim Armstrong, who with Micky Althouse is planning a Barn Burner for 2018. Give Jim a call if you would like to join his team, 719-439-7055.



**FENCING**  
Sophia McFadden, youth rider



**CUTTING** Dan Yopp  
Kit Carson Riding Club  
President



**2017 MANAGERS AND CLINICIANS**  
Left to right-Jim Armstrong, Rita Lauby,  
Channing Hawks, Donna Stewart  
Dave Currin, Micky Althouse, Jeff Barnes  
(Horseback)



## Intermountain Affiliate



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 7 - 8 Caldwell, ID  
Sept. 1 - 2 Caldwell, ID  
Oct. 13 - 14 Caldwell, ID

## Wyoming Affiliate

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 26 - 27 Douglas WY  
July 21 - 22 Douglas WY  
Sept. 1 - 2 Douglas WY

**The Wyoming  
Affiliate, Small,  
But Growing**



## Rocky Mountain Ranch Horse Collegiate Challenges

*Currently being planned for  
2018-2019 school year*

*Events to be held at participating  
schools.*

### INTRODUCTION EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2018

- Demo And Clinic Of Five Ranch Horse Classes
- Clinician and Judge Seminars
- Event Management Seminars
- Schooling Competitions
- Collegiate Challenges

### COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE SPRING 2019

Divisions established to level  
playing field

### COLLEGES INVITED

- Utah State
- University Of Wyoming
- Rocky Mountain College
- University Of Western Montana
- College Of Southern Idaho
- Colorado Northwest Community College
- Treasure Valley Community College
- Others to be added



From Left Mounted: Kim Lance, Justin Hatfield, Erin Mullinane, Dee McCoy, Wendi Lankister, Holly Gundlach, Edie Holmes, Ryan Boner, Rob Fox, Shauna Roberts. From Left Kneeling: Dave Currin, Jeff Barnes



# Open to All Breeds



When you watch an old western movie and you see mules pulling the chuck wagons — occasionally you will see a cowboy riding a mule working cattle. Well Kelly Kruger and her mule Penny would have fit this picture just fine. They say “one picture is worth a thousand words,” well here is four thousand words.



Novice Amateur Division National Championship. In 2017, Kelly and Penny were the Reserve Amateur Champion in the Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Affiliate. Quite

a feat considering the tough competition they faced. NVRHA welcomes “all breeds” — the only criteria is a talented, cow savvy equine ridden by a passionate rider. Kelly and Penny fit the bill perfectly.



Kelly won the 2016 Year - End Championship, went to the National Championship in the same year and earned the

**Don't you do your very best  
to take care of **Your Horse??****

**Isn't it about time you took  
care of **Yourself too??****



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## SOUTH CENTRAL VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE AFFILIATE



"GET CAUGHT IN THE STORM"



2017 Limited Winner, Megan Newton



2017 Novice Winner, Sammantha Hager



2017 Amateur Winner, Alecia Heinz



## 2018 Schedule

May 10-13, 2018 Hugoton, KS

Contact: Jay Henson 620-544-8078

Channing Hawks 620-428-1109

June 30-July 1, 2018 Norton, KS

September 1-2, 2018 Norton, KS

Contact: Kim Kasson 785-871-7171 or

Samantha Hager 785-871-7279

TBA Council Grove, KS

Joint Event, June 30-July 1, Elkhart, IA

Contact: Codi Christianson 641-414-2678





# Northern Lights Versatility Ranch Horse Association *2017 Year End Award Winners*

## 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY 26-27**

Horse First Farm,  
Brooklyn, Wisconsin

**JUNE 14-17**

NVRHA /  
AQHA World  
Championship,  
Guthrie, Oklahoma

**JUNE 30-JULY 1**

Prairie Rose Arena,  
Iowa

**JULY 14-15**

Horse First Farm,  
Brooklyn, Wisconsin

**AUG. 4-5**

River Falls,  
Wisconsin

**AUG 17-19**

Split Rail Ranch,  
Double Event - Nevis,  
Minnesota

**SEPT. 1-2**

Hinkley, Minnesota

**SEPT. 21-23**

NVRHA National  
Finals, Elbert,  
Colorado



**CHAMPION**  
Hannah Hartman and Playboy CJ



**CHAMPION**  
Jan May and Electric Element



Carlos Osorio and AR Especial



**CHAMPION**  
Stephany Siitari and  
SLJ Ruby Slippers

**NOVICE**



**RESERVE CHAMPION**  
Lisa Butler and Sliding Miss Daisy



**RESERVE CHAMPION**  
Kelly Krueger and Penny

**LIMITED**

**AMATEUR**



Vicky Henderson and Tatanka

**OPEN**



**RESERVE CHAMPION**  
Carol Lowery and  
AR I'll Be All A Glow



# Letter From Our President 2018

As we celebrated our 10th Anniversary in 2017, we can all look back with pride on our many accomplishments. If I had to summarize, our Associations emphasis on fun and education would come to the “front of the line.” The constant focus on getting our rules right, coupled with the strong comraderie amongst members and Affiliates made this happen. Congratulations are in order for our board and member input, which has resulted in a program that leads the Ranch Horse Industry.

The 2017 National Championship was one of our very best. Congratulation to all of our participants—a “class act” by all. Sincere thanks for organizing and executing a first class event goes to the Colorado Affiliate - a team effort led by Annie Eitel. Thanks so much Annie!

A very special feature of this National Championship was the revival of youth participation. The enthusiasm displayed by Youth participants has sparked a new Youth Division for 2018 with a saddle awarded to the Year End All Around Youth.

Another highlight was the Award of our 13th Legend Award to SLJ Ruby Slippers ridden by Stephany Sitarii. The journey traveled by “Juice” and Steff in this very significant achievement amplifies what NVRHA is all about. In Steff’s words - - Dream, Dare, Ride and Achieve! Who will be our next Legend? There are quite a few in the que!

As we launch our 2018 Event Year , we are proud to announce that NVRHA will join other key players in the Ranch

Horse world as a partner in the newly established National Ranch and Stock Horse Alliance ( NRSHA ). This AQHA strategic partnership was the result of our success in conducting nearly 200 events over the past 10 years spread over fourteen states and the successful participation of our horses and members at the AQHA Ranch Horse World Show. We can all be proud of this new union!

NVRHA’s basic foundation of “Fun and Education” continues to raise the bar in member achievements. We must never allow these two building blocks to be degraded! That’s the way we want it and it sets the stage for even greater accomplishments in a BRIGHT FUTURE!

*Jay Henson*  
NVRHA President

## 2018 National Versatility Ranch Horse National Championship



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2018**

Latigo Trails Equestrian Facility  
13710 Halleluiah Trail  
Elbert, Colorado

Details to follow at [nvrha.org](http://nvrha.org)

**FLASH!**

**NEW STALL BARN COMPLETED**

**NVRHA President Congratulates  
National Champion Event Manager**

**ANNIE EITEL**

**on a successful 2017 event**



# Channing Hawks 2017 Horseman of the Year

What makes a good horseman? Some may say training skills, others would say a born talent of communicating with animals, and the most important, patience. Many good horsemen have had a long life of working with horses. In NVRHA, the "Horseman of the Year" award is based on event participation, voluntary contributions, levels of achievement, sportsmanship, and whatever other contributions that benefit the purpose of the association.

If you have ever been to an NVRHA event, you are usually greeted by a smiling face, saying "come on in." If you have not been to an event and have that "deer in the headlights" look, there is one person among many you can count on to show you the way. Deb Martin, Northern Lights affiliate member, said the first time she came to Rendezvous in Kansas, she had the new person look. The familiar and smiling face she found was Channing Hawks. Registration was done in a flash, signatures and membership forms were done, with the whole process laid out, step-by-step, with simplicity in mind. Deb remembers, "My first thought was, holy cow, that woman really knows her stuff." You see, Chan was born into the horse world. Gena, her mother, rode while she was pregnant and was cleaning stalls the day Chan was born. Gena commented "I felt funny that day. I told the doc, who had come to ride with Jay that morning, today might be the day", Gena laughs. At the ripe old age of three, Chan followed her parents around everyday on her pony "Twister", and every horse that passed through the barn was used to having a shadow before it left. This built into a show career as a youth in all levels and events; ranging from the Kansas 4-H two-year old pleasure champion to showing at the AQHYA Youth World Championship in Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Riding, and Working Cow Horse.

About the time NVRHA was being founded, Chan picked up a job being the equestrian team coach for Oklahoma Panhandle State University, along with acquiring the duties with the OPSU Equine Program in its entirety. This position is what led Chan to help build the collegiate division in NVRHA, allowing college students to attend and compete in NVRHA events. A special division was added for those in colt-breaking classes by allowing two-year olds in college programs to be shown by



their students. Personally, this is where I met Channing and it was quite the adventure. I learned quickly that at the W-H, Channing's family's ranch, things are not done on time. Things are done on time-ish. My third year of college, two of us students took sixty-day broke colts through four days of clinics and competitions at my second-ever Rendezvous. Michelle and I got asked a lot about how it was going that weekend, and as long as you didn't tell her you got bucked off, the response would be a quick laugh, followed by a thumbs up and "That's good!" Michele Aduddell and "Peanut" won the collegiate two-year old division that year. Michelle says that Chan was the reason they succeeded. "Chan has the ability to focus on improving the horse/rider combos' best qualities, and then work to make the weaker events better. This makes the combo a well-rounded team and competitive at their level."

Chan has been the head show manager at Rendezvous, one of the largest NVRHA events held, every year every since its' start. As you guessed it, this also turned into another position. Due to their expert show management skills and points knowledge, Channing and her best pal, Carrie Kliwer, got roped into being the NVRHA's national office and point tabulators for two years during a time of need. Stephany Sitari, 2017 Legend Award earner, says Chan is the go-to person for questions. "She's like a walking rulebook, trainer, and judge, all in one," Steph says. Horse, points, or clothing requirement questions? Stephany's response: "Ask Chan."

For most of us, there is life outside of a show pen. Do you wonder what Channing does in her spare time? She laughs at the thought of free time. Currently, she has a full-time job as the bookkeeper of A to Z Livestock, where her husband is also

the manager. She has two boys to keep up with, as both are in school, sports, and horse showing. She is still an intricate part of coaching youth at the W-H, with quite the spoils to brag about. Her oldest son won his first saddle this year on twenty-one year old NVRHA Supreme Champion "Smart Enough to Smoke Em." She also has another young prodigy, who has racked up awards like NVRHA Finals Youth Champion, Limited Reserve Champion, Honor Roll High Point Youth in AQHA and Limited Ranch Horse Versatility (all of this being Megan Newlan, aboard NVRHA Legend "Langtrees CD"). Never fear, Chan does not just look on from outside the pen, she has also helped out tremendously by being a clinician! From filling in gaps at small NVRHA events, to donating her time for the Wounded Warrior Benefit Clinic in Colorado, you can bet she is happy to help out. Channing will also be allowed back into the show pen this year as an exhibitor, campaigning around on a ranch riding horse for her dad, Jay Hensen.

Over the years, Channing has expanded her broad horizons. Chan has been the legs of the South Central Affiliate, serving in several positions and building the area's activities schedule. Chan is the secretary, promotional committee, and new start reference. Due to Channing's diligence and Jay's efforts, new starts are becoming quite common in Kansas, and resulting in annual events. Chan has been a long time member of the National Board Of Directors, and recently was appointed as the NVRHA's Vice President. As President Jay Hensen put it, "If I should die tomorrow, she would be your best bet at knowin' what's goin' on in NVRHA."

In the end, after all the invested time and effort, you could say Channing is a good versatility prospect. In a salesman's words, she is the "full meal deal" and sound to boot (mostly in body, mind perhaps needs some work). She can manage your event, serve as a clinician, judge any class, run your office, calculate and verify the points, and make everyone glad they came by showing off that smile. Whether it be on the ground or on a horse, inside or outside, Channing is a prime example of what NVRHA aspires to be, and what all of us look up to. These outstanding reasons are why she was chosen as the 2017 Horseman of the Year.





# Colorado Versatility Ranch Horse Association

## 2017 CVRHA Buckle Series Winners

### NOVICE DIVISION

1. Teresa Danielson/Prairie Wildfire  
**NVRHA 2017 RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPION**
2. Jennifer Walker/Boon She Kai
3. Carol Ackerman/Eves Moonshine Kitty



### LIMITED DIVISION

1. Paulette Marshall/Sontivio Moon  
**NVRHA 2017 3RD PLACE NATIONAL CHAMPION**  
**NVRHA 2017 YEAR END CHAMPION**
2. Sandy Perry/Lil Red Jolene
3. Bruce Perry/Surelysleeeppnfor sugar



### YOUTH DIVISION

1. Morgan Holmes/Lil Miss Electric  
**NVRHA 2017 3RD PLACE YEAR END CHAMPION**
2. Emma Alvey/Gallo Smolin Tera  
**NVRHA 2017 3RD PLACE YEAR END CHAMPION - NOVICE**
3. Cambria Oldenburg/Two T Easter Nic



### AMATEUR DIVISION

1. Richard Cook/Markem Up Sonny
2. Bob Welch/Sade Reyngce Cet
3. Kristen Welch/Blue Savannah Style



**2018**

**APRIL 21-22**

Colorado Kick Off

**MAY 26-27**

Memorial Day Round up

**JUNE 9-10**

Eastern Prairie Showdown

**JULY 17-8**

Mid-summer Rendezvous

**AUG. 11-12**

Colorado Cowhands

**SEPT. 9**

Finals Warm Up

**SEPT. 21-23**

NVRHA National

**OCT. 13-14**

Fall Gathering





# Ranch Horse Supreme Champion

Level of Achievement Awards



**Paulette Marshall**  
riding Sontivio Moon

*"NVRHA provides an excellent format and platform to work on skilled disciplines away from the event and be able to have a good check on progress at schooling competitions."*

*"No matter the background of the horse, coming into the program, there's always something to learn, to improve, and it never ends."*

To Achieve the Ranch Horse Supreme Champion Award, a horse/rider team must earn 10 championship points in all five classes.

Ranch Riding | Ranch Trail  
Ranch Conformation | Ranch Cutting  
Working Ranch Horse



**Shane Bangarter**  
riding Lil Bit of Chic  
*Whoa!*



**Richard Cook**  
riding MarkEm Up Sonny

*"I chose NVRHA because it is fun and I have made so many friends. We all help each other. I truly enjoy being a part of an organization that puts education first. Participating in NVRHA has made me a better horseman."*





# Ranch Horse Champion

Level of Achievement Awards

To Achieve the Ranch Horse Champion Award,  
a horse/rider team must earn five  
championship points in all five classes.

Ranch Riding | Ranch Trail

Ranch Conformation | Ranch Cutting

Working Ranch Horse



Richard Cook/Markem Up Sonny



Debbie Raymond/San Hollys Skipagin



Sandy Perry/Lil Red Jolena



Alecia Heinz/Golden H Mister T



# Open National Champion

## NVRHA'S WORLD GREATEST HORSEMAN Kelly Messera riding Magic Dance Man

*Our first lady to win this  
prestigious award!*

*"When I saw how much support you get from  
the clinicians in NVRHA, I saw that it was  
something I could get into. My most fun was  
meeting all the great People in NVRHA!"*



## It's all about fun, comradie and riding good horses

by Kelly Krueger

Crisp mornings, camp fires, trail rides and camaraderie were at the heart of NVRHA's 2017 year-end event. In Minnesota/Wisconsin we try hard to get the most of our ride time before the snows and bitter cold drive us into heated arenas or "winter vacations" are forced upon some equines. So the last few years we have combined our End of the Year Banquet /Awards Ceremony with a trail ride: no stress, no arenas and a very loose schedule. It is a chance for members to tell stories and laugh; a time for friendships to deepen and our horses to relax and enjoy the trails with us. And Food! Did I mention the food? There is the annual chili-cook off, the huge campfire breakfasts and a catered meal. There has never been an empty plate at one of our gatherings!

This year we met in Central Minnesota at the El Rancho Manana Horse Camp. It was a new venue that proved a good fit for us. The trails offer great variety and the horse camp was well appointed for our needs. Planning a fall event is always tough. Working around busy schedules and inclement weather we still managed to pull together a small group of devoted members. Saturday's ride

started with clear skies and a little friendly competition. Riders broke into two groups and scoured the woods and trails on a poker run. One lucky member won a NVRHA Legends poster after picking the right cards. The weather declined as the day went on yet a small group risked the rain and rode. Much later they came back soaking wet and shivering... but still laughing.

Award Ceremonies are always fun and Saturday night we took the time to recognize some very important achievements. NVRHA members now have a new Legend award recipient ("Juice") to ride with and the "World's Greatest Ranch Horse" ("Dancer") was on the trail for

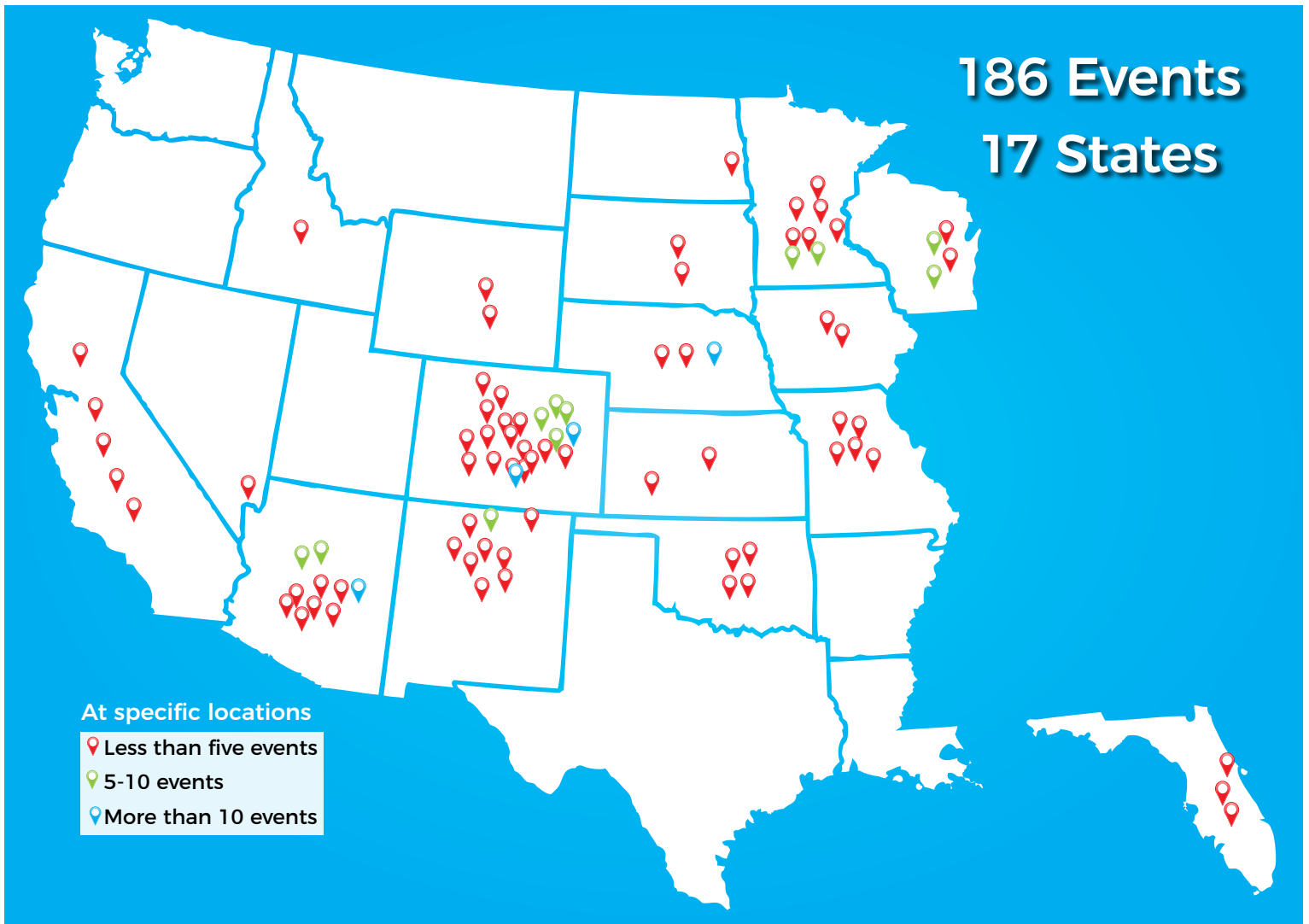
the weekend. Buckles and numerous other awards were handed out to smiling faces. So gratifying to look around at a room full of riders (friends) and remember how far each person has come with their horse. Talk eventually drifted to possible plans for 2018 and there was a clear hint of anticipation in the air.

Next year's event is already booked for October at the same location. Join us!





# NVRHA Events *The First 10 Years*



## How to have an event in your hometown

1. Identify four or five who would like to participate and assist in event organization and promotion.
2. Visit website for general information  
[NVRHA.org](http://NVRHA.org) or [northernlightsversatitility.com](http://northernlightsversatitility.com)
3. Contact NVRHA for assistance  
New Start Coordinator: Dave Currin, 719-641-9191,  
NVRHA Office, 719-510-0159  
Email: [NVRHA.office@gmail.com](mailto:NVRHA.office@gmail.com)

## NVRHA will

- Assist in budget process
- Provide training for administration
- Provide a clinician for first event at no charge, two clinicians required for event with about 16 riders
- Handle registration
- Waive NVRHA fees for first event

## Typical “New Start” events

- Registration fee, about \$200-\$300 for two-day event
- Limit to about 16 riders to optimize fun and education
- No membership requirement to attend first event