

**Handling Horses at  
New Mexico's  
Singleton Ranches**  
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**National Versatility  
Ranch Horse Association**

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Spring 2010



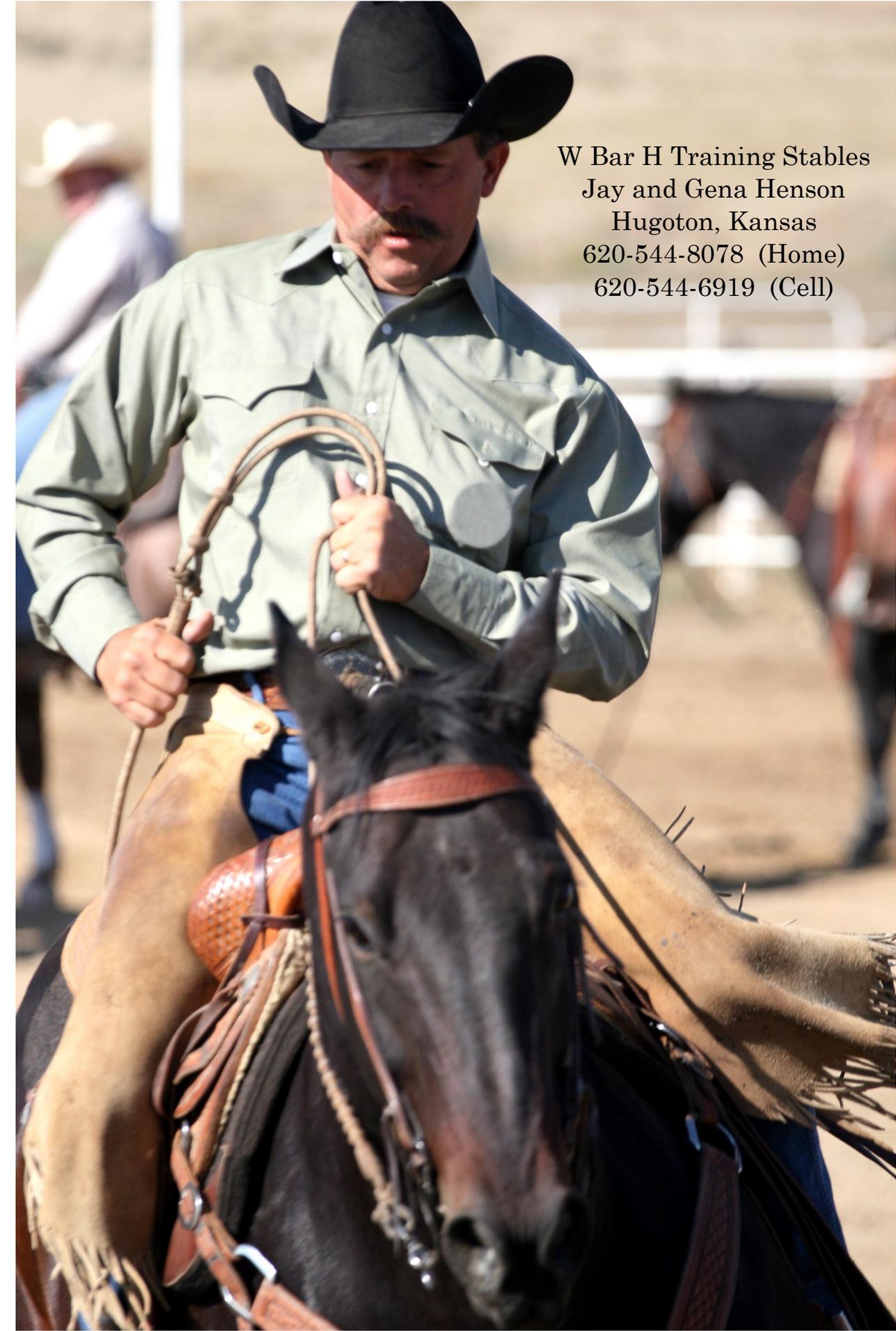
2008 NVRHA Horseman of the Year  
Bill Cantrell  
Whiskey Chick Stick

# *NVRHA RUNDOWN*

**Perfecting your  
Ranch Riding  
with Gena Henson**  
*page 12*



2009 NVRHA Horseman of the Year  
Tim Rose  
Double Tackered Out



W Bar H Training Stables  
Jay and Gena Henson  
Hugoton, Kansas  
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# NVRHA 2010 Event Schedule

(Current as of 5/1/2010 – visit [www.nvrha.org](http://www.nvrha.org) for event details)

February 18-21	Buckeye, AZ.	August 14-15	Bayfield, CO
February 26-28	La Mesa, NM	August 16-22	Yampa, CO
		August 21-22	Minneapolis, MN
March 20-21	Temecula, CA	August 28-29	Grand Island, NE
		August 27-29	Lamey, NM
April 10-11	Colorado Springs, CO	September 10-12	Pueblo, CO
April 17-18	Camp Verde, AZ	September 11-12	Minneapolis, MN
April 23-25	OPSU Goodwell, OK	September 24-26	National Championship Colorado Springs, CO
April 30- May 2	Larkspur, CO		
May 6-9	Hugoton, KS	October 9-10	Paso Robles, CA
May 8-9	Bonnie Springs, NV	October 15-17	Camp Verde, AZ
May 14-15	Red Rock, AZ	October 16-17	Elkhorn, NE
May 14-16	Raton, NM	October 23-24	Dodge City, KS
May 15-16	Paso Robles, CA		
May 15-16	Osceola, WI	November 12-14	Red Rock, AZ
May 22-23	Kansas City, MO		
May 22-23	Temecula, CA		
May 22-23	Pueblo, CO		
May 22-23	Tucson, AZ		
			<u>Potential Introductory Events:</u>
June 5-6	Dardanelle, AR		Columbia, PA
June 12-13	Wellington, CO		Stephens City, VA
June 18-20	Newcastle, WY		
June 19-20	Valley City, ND		
June 25-27	Moriarty, NM		
June 26-27	Tahlequah, OK		
July 10-11	Maxwell, NE		
July 10-11	Carmel Valley, CA		
July 16-18	Rifle, CO		
July 23-25	Granby, CO		
July 24-25	Wessington Sprgs, SD		
July 24-25	Sedalia, MO		
July 30 – August 1	Payson, AZ		
July 31 – August 1	Larkspur, CO		

~~~ Message from the President ~~~

Dave Currin

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## Ranch Conformation – Is Form Related to Function?

The Versatility Ranch Horse concept came about around the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A group of the larger Texas Ranches wanted to establish a competition in which their Ranch Hands could demonstrate their Cowboy skills while riding their best horses, performing events common to a working cattle ranch in a friendly competition between ranches for bragging rights. They wanted to showcase the overall quality of their horses and skill of their cowboys, so they carefully selected activities performed on the ranch which would best achieve this goal. They selected five cowboy/horse classes: Ranch cutting (the ability to separate a cow from the herd, hold the cow, drive and pen), Ranch Trail ( the ability to maneuver over the ranch, through gates, across streams and brush, to ground tie, etc.), Ranch Riding ( the ability to cross country at responsive and comfortable gaits), Working Ranch Horse ( the ability to perform difficult equine maneuvers, to box and fence a cow, and to rope and stop the cow), and finally Ranch Conformation (evaluating the horses form which supports all these functions, the horses structural soundness for lasting durability, cow sense to facilitate agile and effective cow work, and trainability to permit peak performance. NVRHA adopted this versatility concept and is dedicated to maintaining this phenomenal culture of the Great American Ranch Horse.

Many have argued that “If the horse can perform the performance events, conformation should not be a portion of the Ranch Horse events judging”. After having completed an exhaustive evaluation of the relationship between form (conformation) and function (the ability to perform Ranch Horse events), the NVRHA is convinced that a direct link exists between form and function and the inclusion of Ranch Conformation as one of the five classes should be maintained.

This **evaluation of the link between form and function** was carefully designed. Since the initiation of the “point base scoring system” in 2002, careful records have been maintained. The point base scoring system measures the achievement level of each horse/rider team in each of the four NVRHA performance classes and also in the Ranch Conformation class. Each measurement is scored separately by the judge establishing a complete record of the horse/rider performance along with the horse conformation at each NVRHA Ranch Event.

| Class               | Measurement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ranch Cutting       | Herd Entry, Separation from herd, Set up for Cutting, Cutting, Set up for Driving, Driving and Penning                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Ranch Trail         | Walk, trot, lope, log drag, open gate, mount/dismount, drop and re-bridle, ground tie, pick up feet, and four other typical ranch trail obstacles.                                                                                                                        |
| Working Ranch Horse | Horsemanship maneuvers including circles, stops, turns, roll-backs, spins, lead changes; cattle work including boxing the cow, fencing and turning the cow, and tracking/roping/stopping the cow.                                                                         |
| Ranch Riding        | Walk, trot, extended trot, lope, extended lope, transitions both up and down between each gait, and the stop and settle.                                                                                                                                                  |
| Ranch Conformation  | Structural integrity as observed traveling to/from/and lateral to the judge. Form of the head, neck, shoulder, heart girth, back, underline, croup, hip, physical size, muscle size and balance. Trainability, mind and cow sense as observed in the performance classes. |

Scores achieved by each horse/rider, for each class, at each Ranch Horse Event, are listed from high to low regardless of the division in which the horse and rider team competed. Championship Points are awarded (one point for each five horses). For instance, in an Event with fifteen total horses competing; 1<sup>st</sup> place receives three, 2<sup>nd</sup> place two, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place one. These points are cumulative over time. Once a horse/rider team receives 10 Championship Points in each of the five classes (Cutting, Working, Trail, Riding, and Conformation) the team earns the prestigious Ranch Horse Supreme Champion Award. To address the Ranch Conformation skeptic, NVRHA also adopted the Ranch Horse Performance Champion Award, which requires 10 Championship Points in each of the four performance classes (Cutting, Working, Trail, and Riding). No Ranch Horse Conformation points are required for this award.

The **comparison of the results of these two award programs permitted a direct comparison to be made on the impact of conformation on performance.** Over eight years of applying this scoring system, over 3000 entries at Ranch Horse

events have established records which have been carefully maintained. Of these horses, **FORTY ONE** have earned their Ranch Horse Supreme Championship. Only **ONE** horse has earned the Ranch Horse Performance Championship. **This is conclusive evidence that Form is directly related to Function** and is one of the principal reasons why NVRHA continues to include the Ranch Horse Conformation class in all of its Schooling Competitions.

Over the years, some of the most reputable horsemen and veterinarians have claimed this to be true but until this NVRHA comparison was made, no conclusive evidence was produced to substantiate the claim. One need only evaluate an ideally conformed horse to understand **why the results were so conclusive**. Some examples are provided to illustrate the relationship between form and function.

---Structural correctness is fundamental to the horse's ability to perform and remain sound over time. The old timers famous statement "No legs, no horse" has been proved time and time again. A horse with crooked front legs and poor body angles experiences crippling unsoundness which interferes with his working ability, preventing sustained steady use, and is often unsafe to ride.

---A well-formed head contributes to his all important balance, athletic ability and the rider's ability to communicate through the bit. A wide forehead indicates intelligence. A soft, large, dark colored eye is directly related to intelligence and disposition, without which, the horse is essentially useless as a Ranch Horse. A wide, clean, and sweeping throat-latch allows unrestricted air flow and unrestricted movement of the head, essential when cutting or turning a cow. A slim neck, of reasonable length, is essential for effective balance during all Ranch Horse performance functions.

---A "well laid back" or sloping shoulder, which usually is accompanied by sloping pasterns of the approximate same angle provides a smooth gait for the rider as he traverses the ranch and a long sweeping stride for acceleration for tracking the cow easily during roping or fencing the cow.

---A deep heart girth with well sprung ribs provides the room needed for a large lung capacity. When completing in the Ranch Working class, a horse without lots of lung capacity can be easily spotted due to his reduced capability to perform at a peak optimum level. As Ranch work is even more demanding, this feature becomes critical.

---The back carries the weight of the rider and must be in proper proportion to the neck with a strong loin. A long neck with a short back provides the best combination for maximum maneuverability of the head and neck for working the cow and a strong back for carrying the rider.

---The hindquarters are both the engine and brakes of the horse. The large, strong hindquarters of the American Quarter Horse give him his name, as he is extremely fast for the one quarter mile sprint. This also made him a good cow horse as his long hip and well muscled gaskin providing both rapid acceleration and big time stops. When reining and working the cow, this is a must

---The overall size of the horse is also critical. When you tie on to an 800 lb steer and your horse is a 700 lb 14 hand tall horse, you have a problem. Although, the 14 hand horse may be more maneuverable cutting, the Ranch Horse must be capable of stopping the cow after roping. A well muscled horse between 14.3hands and 15.1 hands is ideal.

---Lastly, you can have all good parts, but if they are not in the correct proportion with each other, the horse cannot perform the Ranch Horse function at peak levels. The ideal horse has good parts in proper balance to each other. The neck balances with a proper back length and hip; and overall height with the length of body.

As you can see, there is much to conformation or the form of a horse, and its relation to performance is fundamental. It was not a surprise to NVRHA when the top performance horses all possessed good conformation.

Realizing most horses involved in Ranch Horse activities lack many of the desirable conformation features of form, cow sense, disposition and trainability previously discussed, and rider's horsemanship skills and the training level of the horses vary widely, NVRHA structured the Division System to accommodate all levels. The Division System is based on the horse and rider combination, which takes into account all of these variables. To illustrate, several **typical horse/rider shortcomings** which have been observed at past events are pointed out below to attempt to provide perspective -conformation being only one of many.

---Obviously, a horse with conformation **deficiencies** can result in a loss of 20 to 40 points. A new rule change in 2010, requires up to 20 horses be placed in each Division in the Conformation Balance judging to minimize the impact of this parameter on the horse/rider teams competitiveness for the Division All-Around Award. Often, several places can be gained by simply having your horse fit and at proper weight, with a good hair coat and good muscle tone, and properly presented by the exhibitor to the judge squared and alert at all times. At all 2010 Clinics, Ranch Conformation will be addressed, so exhibitors will avoid these potential point losses.

---Horses with **poor cow sense** will result in major point losses in Ranch Cuttings. These horses cannot hold the cow - resulting in poor maneuver scores, loss of the cow to herd, back fence penalties, difficulty driving to the pen, and inability to pen. Loss of 40 points is common in Ranch Cutting Classes due to this horse's shortcomings.

---**Rider's inability to rope** usually results in penalties no less than 17 points and sometimes as high as 25 points. Riders can lose points for not catching the cow and also for not stopping the cow.

---**Rider's horsemanship shortcomings** often results in significant point losses across the board. Over the four performance events, 80 points can be easily lost due to poor riding techniques.

---**Horse disposition shortcomings** often result in significant point losses, easily 30 to 40 over the entire competition.

# NVRHA 2010 Top 10 Point Standings

*Current as of 5/1/2010 - Does not reflect data from Goodwill, OK*

| ADVANCED DIVISION     |           |            |                        |               |               |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| State                 | Last Name | First Name | Horse                  | 2010 Division | Placement Pts |
| AZ                    | Jensen    | Donna      | Mister Cowboy Chant    | A             | 44            |
| MN                    | Heyvaert  | Susan      | Starlight Dillon       | A             | 24            |
| AZ                    | Roberts   | Ed         | Playing Tricks         | A             | 19            |
| CO                    | Lauby     | Rita       | LiL Bit O Badge        | A             | 15            |
| CO                    | Block     | Donna      | Dunnit Leanin          | A             | 14            |
| NM                    | White     | Heath      | Rise to the Challenge  | A             | 13            |
| CO                    | Rose      | Tim        | Mega Powder N Moore    | A             | 12            |
|                       | Barth     | Mick       | Bar Starrette Hickory  | T-A           | 9             |
|                       | Armstrong | Joe        | Command N Chex         | T-A           | 5             |
| SD                    | Black     | Deb        | Rock N Roll Lena       | A             | 5             |
| AZ                    | Grant     | Rebecca    | Feleena Fair           | A             | 5             |
| OK                    | Bilyk     | Dwight     | Mr. Duplicate Roan     | A             | 4             |
| INTERMEDIATE DIVISION |           |            |                        |               |               |
| AZ                    | Schubbe   | Bob        | King Leo's Peppy Bars  | I             | 41            |
|                       | Sandige   | Randy      | Docs Two Eyed Isaac    | I             | 40            |
| CO                    | Pyles     | Edgell     | A Time To Spark        | I             | 37            |
| NM                    | Cantrell  | Bill       | Whiskey Chick Stick    | I             | 34            |
| NM                    | Clare     | Diane      | One Chexy Chic         | I             | 33            |
| AZ                    | Stockett  | Becky      | Chexn in for Charlie   | I             | 31            |
| NM                    | Padilla   | Charles    | Tequita Poco Doll      | I             | 29            |
|                       | McCarthy  | Krista     | Hondo                  | I             | 27            |
| CO                    | Stewart   | Charlie    | Risky Irish Whiskey    | I             | 27            |
| KS                    | Bangerter | Shane      | Langtrees CD           | I             | 26            |
|                       | Burk      | Jamie      | Mr. Shorty Bill        | I             | 26            |
|                       | Saunders  | Kelly      | Peppy's Dual Lite      | T-I           | 26            |
|                       | Chambless | Cece       | Dual Tunder            | I             | 25            |
| NOVICE DIVISION       |           |            |                        |               |               |
| AZ                    | Hamel     | Patty      | Gin Away Jack          | N             | 56            |
| CO                    | Raymond   | Debbie     | Mr Smart T Smoke       | N             | 33            |
|                       | Banks     | Kandy      | Oragutang              | T-N           | 25            |
| KS                    | Beymer    | Celia      | Flo Vision             | N             | 23            |
|                       | Kurtz     | Carol      | I'm A Peppy Tex Chex   | T-N           | 23            |
|                       | Clifford  | Rachel     | Ima A                  | T-N           | 19            |
| CO                    | Cool      | Lynn       | CD Snip on Her Nose    | N             | 18            |
| AZ                    | Cummings  | Kristi     | JNT Go Leo Man         | N             | 18            |
|                       | Sandidge  | Tammy      | Khemosabi Koshi        | T-N           | 18            |
|                       | Ray       | Danielle   | Sassy's Dunn A Twister | T-N           | 17            |
|                       | Adame     | Linda      | Got Wranglers          | T-N           | 16            |
|                       | Brooks    | Jody       | Gungslinger Bucky      | T-N           | 16            |
|                       | Sherwood  | Hillary    | Rumble                 | T-N           | 16            |
| CO                    | Walker    | Jennifer   | Nike's Pepper Hancock  | N             | 16            |
| AZ                    | Banks     | Kandy      | Chase Me To The Top    | N             | 15            |
|                       | Brooks    | Jody       | Bueno Hotrod           | T-N           | 15            |
|                       | Kliever   | Carrie     | Ash                    | T-N           | 15            |
|                       | Valor     | Ashley     | Solo Chex              | T-N           | 14            |

## Tucalota Creek Ranch Horse Event Southern California's Maiden Masterpiece

By Dave Currin

The weather was great, the facility gorgeous, the clinicians “the Best”, and the participants’ eager—a perfect stage for California’s NVRHA “Ice Breaker” in the southern part of the state in mid-March. Tucalota Creek Ranch’s beautiful arenas with manicured grounds and perfect working ground made it easy for riders to get great and enjoyable works out of their horses. Jimmy Flores, a well-known name in the horse world, provided top notch assistance to amateur riders hard at work honing their Ranch Horse cattle skills. Sarah Clifford, of Monterey, Calif. assisted with Trail and Ranch Riding. Many spectators and the Ranch Horse want-to-be’s, sat around the fence, kicking themselves for not signing up for the clinic once they observed the exhibitor friendliness of the event.

Sixteen of the event’s twenty- two participants were Novice Amateurs. The participant to clinician ratio was about 4 to 1 (normally 8 to 1), resulting in much individual attention, providing the optimum learning environment. Novice Amateurs were monitored very closely during cattle works to insure the safest environment possible. In the Schooling Competition on the second day, an accomplished cutter was mounted in the working pen assisting the participant. This resulted in riders optimizing their run and providing the best learning experience possible.

During the Clinic, the participants were divided into two groups—in the morning, one group did Ranch Cutting and Working Ranch while the second group did Ranch Trail and Ranch riding. In the afternoon, they rotated arenas. During the Schooling Competition, Conformation kicked off the day followed by Cutting and Ranch Riding runs in the AM, and Working Ranch and Trail runs in the PM. It was a busy day, yet by 5 PM the award ceremony was under way. Division winners were awarded handsome hand carved silver buckles and other sponsored prizes.

The event was filmed over the full two days, by Alas Media, headquartered in Las Angeles. A thirty minute segment is planned to be broadcast on Race Horse TV. What could be more apropos for California than to have a little touch of Hollywood? Bet these Amateur Riders never dreamed they would become Television Stars at an NVRHA Event!

The entire event would not have happened had it not been for the masterful organizational skills of Romeo Ramirez of Perris, CA, the Event Manager. Dave Currin, president of NVRHA, said it best during the Award Ceremony, “Romeo was one of the very best Event Managers I have worked with during my six years of Ranch Horse Eventing.” No wonder the event was so successful!

If you missed this one, step up your practice riding, for the future is bright for Southern California and bordering areas. Romeo is planning a five event Award Circuit during 2010! All Events will be patterned after this Maiden Masterpiece. Special Awards will be presented to the high point horses in three Divisions: Novice Amateur, Intermediate Amateur, and Open. The Circuit Award will be presented to riders having the highest total score in three of the five events. For more details, go to [WWW.NVRHA.ORG](http://WWW.NVRHA.ORG) and click on CALIFORNIA.

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## AZ SUN COUNTRY RENDEZVOUS

By Ann Allen

Versatility Ranch Horse enthusiasts were treated to a great 4 days of clinics and competition recently, hosted by the Arizona Versatility Ranch Horse Association and the NVRHA, and held at the Buckeye Equestrian Center. Riders came from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Minnesota, and Canada to receive top notch instruction in the 5 classes of Versatility Ranch Horse. Clinician Bob Grant of Camp Verde, AZ coached riders in the art of cutting, JG Marshall of Elizabeth, CO revealed the tricks to roping a cow in the arena, Jay Henson of Houghton, Kansas instructed in the working ranch horse arena and Gena Henson handled the patterns in ranch riding and trail.

Thursday and Friday everyone enjoyed the beautiful Arizona winter weather featuring plenty of sunshine and balmy temperatures. There were several first time participants at this event as well as many veterans; everyone was quite pleased with the level of instruction and the enthusiasm of the clinicians.

The schooling competition ran over two days. Saturday dawned a bit chilly and rainy so the Conformation classes were judged in a light rain with lots of yellow slickers in the arena! Fortunately the rains ceased, the breezes picked up and the ground was good for the Ranch Cutting and Ranch Riding classes. Two arenas ran simultaneously allowing the day's competition to wind up comfortably in the late afternoon. After putting horses up for the night, competitors, judges and friends gath-



From top:  
Novice Reserve Champion Patty Hamel;  
Intermediate Champion Donna Jensen;  
Advanced 3rd overall Ed Roberts

ered for a real western ranch barbeque. While dining on smoked tri tip and all the fixings provided by Big Daddy E's catering, folks were entertained by the singing and cowboy poetry of Mr. Doug McClain from Wickenburg, AZ. Sunday began with a Cowboy Church service by Alan Lott of Phoenix, followed by a posting of the colors and the National Anthem sung live by J.W. Brooks. At the awards ceremony, the top 6 finishers in each class within each division received ribbons. The division Champions took home a large rosette ribbon and a trophy buckle from Clint Mortensen. Reserve Champions also received a rosette ribbon and an NVRHA jacket. Third place in each division garnered a ball cap courtesy of JW Brooks Custom Hats. Special awards included the Most Improved Novice Rider, Patty Hamel of Camp Verde, sponsored by JW Brooks Custom Hats. Dynamite Horseman Supply donated the headstall for the Most Improved Intermediate Rider which went to Dave Bellar of Flagstaff. Jessie Kimminau took home the other Dynamite Horseman Supply headstall for the top placed junior rider. Check out all the details for the upcoming Arizona Events at [www.azversatilityranchhorse.com](http://www.azversatilityranchhorse.com).

*(Continued from page 5) Form to Function*

These horses often won't settle in Trail, won't enter the herd calmly, refuse to cross trail obstacles, movement during ground tie, and the list goes on.

---**Lack of proper training** is a shortcoming that results in major point reductions.

Therefore, a good rider on a well trained horse with a good disposition can overcome the conformation point losses and be competitive for the overall awards. Yet, there are NVRHA awards which do not require conformation points, such as the NVRHA Performance Champion Award and the NVRHA Superior Awards for each performance Class (see the 2010 Rule Book for details).

In summary, NVRHA has given much consideration to the applicability of Ranch Conformation to the Versatility Ranch Horse. After nine years of evaluation of the relationship of the horse's form to its functions, results are conclusive that a direct correlation exists between the form and function. The NVRHA horse/rider team assignment to Divisions provides for horses and riders of all levels (regardless of shortcomings to include Ranch Conformation) to be competitive at NVRHA events. Riders of all levels riding horses of varying skills can enjoy 'The Ranch Horse' experience and be competitive within their appropriate Division. The Culture of the Great American Versatile Ranch Horse will be preserved in the process and the quality of both horse and rider will continue to improve over time, based upon a "high standard of excellence".

## Colorado ‘Kicks it Off’ Right

By Brian Thomas

Our Colorado NVRHA affiliate started the 2010 season in style, using the same Norris-Penrose equestrian facility that we used last fall for the NVRHA Championships. The “Colorado Kickoff” attracted 24 riders for the Saturday clinic and 21 competitors for Sunday’s schooling competition. Jay & Gena Henson from Hugoton, KS, and Lavert Avent from the T-Cross Ranch, Pueblo, CO, provided outstanding instruction. One rider said, “...I especially enjoyed Lavert’s turn back explanations [on cutting]”. Riders travelled from New Mexico, Minnesota, Kansas, Utah and Colorado. The weather was great; partly sunny and 65 degrees!

Deb Raymond on Mr. Smart T Smoke rode away with first all around novice while Dean Venezia on Kristy’s Whiskey scored first in cutting and conformation and grabbed novice reserve champion. Amateur intermediate, the largest division with 12 riders, was very competitive, and by Sunday afternoon Charlie Stewart and Risky Irish Whiskey placed first overall with 349 points. Not only did Charlie win his division, but he was part of a “cattle posse” that tracked and rounded up five stray cows that had escaped our pens and headed 2 miles south, fast. Thank you, Tim Rose, Mick Flood, Susan Heyvaert, Rodney Carter and Charlie Stewart. We were all thrilled to see Susan Heyvaert fly in from Minnesota to ride with us until Sunday when she and Starlight Dillon cleaned up in the advanced division. This Northern Lights horse/rider combo placed first in riding, cutting, trail and conformation for a total of 375 points. A Kansas cowboy named Mick Barth was the only advanced rider who could beat them taking first in working cow and second overall.

Well...Colorado successfully kicked off the first of 10 NVRHA events between April and September. Don’t forget to check out what Colorado has to offer this season in Wellington, Rifle, Larkspur, Granby, Yampa and Pueblo. All in all, the beautiful Pikes Peak view, great Colorado weather, an army of volunteers and awesome NVRHA members made the weekend really fun! Now, isn’t that what this NVRHA thing is all about?



Colorado Kick-Off Amateur Intermediate Group: (from left) Bill Cantrell, Carol Ackerman, Sadie Ackerman, Charlie Stewart, Diane Clare, Scott Duke, Donna Stewart, (front) Brian Thomas, Nikita Christenson, Susan Flood.

## OPSU Hosts First Collegiate Event of 2010

By Donna Stewart

The small town of Goodwell sits right in the panhandle of Oklahoma. Throw a rock north and you will hit Kansas; throw it south and you’re bound to hit a Texan. Goodwell is home to the Oklahoma Panhandle State University, a four year college with an excellent reputation and a whole bunch of nice kids. The equestrian team of OPSU welcomed the NVRHA to their campus facility April 23-25 for a combined collegiate/NVRHA clinic and competition event. Managed and coached by Channing Hawks, head of the Equine Department for OPSU and Director of the Collegiate Division for NVRHA, the collegiate team members competed in all five ranch horse events on young horses, owned by the college, that they have trained themselves. Several of the team members also competed in the regular NVRHA event on their own horses. In addition to the OPSU team, the collegiate team from Dodge City Community College and their coach Dave McCullum also made the trip. It is exciting to see this talented group of young trainers and equine specialists demonstrate their ability in the NVRHA format.

The rowdy college kids and dedicated coaches!



Friday night the whole group enjoyed a delicious Bar-B-Q dinner, a Calcutta auction for the college teams, and to top it off the ‘kids’ took us dancing! It was almost like being in college again - minus the dorm rooms, studying, boyfriends, and hangovers...

As much of the country hunkered down under some severe weather conditions that weekend, twenty -five hardy riders braved the cold windy conditions and received excellent clinic instruction from Gena Henson, Bill Cantrell, Chris Wilczek, Channing, and judge Maryann Willoughby.

On competition day the Panhandle Gods smiled and gave us a beautiful, sunny, no wind day - rare from what I hear. Everyone had a big time and OPSU turned out its first successful event!

## Singleton Ranches: A Time-Honored Horse Program

By Charles Padilla

**A**t the many New Mexico Singleton ranches, there is always work to be done on horseback. Thirty-five to forty cowboys, each with a string of five to six horses, take care of as many as 14,000 cows. It is not unusual for cowboys to ride fifteen to twenty miles daily on one or two horses. In early January, Grant Mitchell and Terry Riddle, of the San Cristobal Ranch south of Santa Fe, and managers of the horse division, begin the process of training offspring of forty ranch mares and begin the training of as many as thirty-six two-year-olds.

The first work is with yearlings, halter breaking, groundwork, and then turning them loose on the ranch again. Two-year-olds are brought in for breaking, and of this group approximately 15 geldings will be scattered among the ranch cowboys after sixty days of riding. Two-year-old fillies are kept in training and then moved up to be evaluated as performance horses. Three-year-olds continue with the work that began January, the year before. The setting of the Singleton Ranches Horse Division is at the San Cristobal Ranch, set below the cap rock of the Galisteo Basin, country defined by rocky plateaus set between Juniper and pine tree stands thirty miles south of Santa Fe. Other Singleton Ranches stretch south and east to Santa Rosa, and south again to Elida, collectively, well over a million acres and all of it worked with horses.

Every month brings something to do, branding begins in late April, and is finished by July 4<sup>th</sup> at each of the many ranches. After that, cattle are scattered, only to be brought back for pregnancy testing, fall weaning, and shipping yearlings is done by early fall. Younger horses are used for the big rides, and older geldings are used for sorting and pen work. Younger cowboys get the new geldings that are spooky, and older cowboys get the more settled ones.

Jeff Bilbery, co-manager along with Alex Carone,



CONNIE JO MITCHELL

Singleton Ranches, New Mexico  
A thriving horse program in the real West

cannot say enough good things about Terry Riddle, and Grant Mitchell. Prior to their being on board and working in the horse division, the ranch would scatter unbroken two year olds to each of the cowboys. Because of their demanding schedules, some of these horses were never ridden, or trained. Now, they are all at a uniform standard of following a cow, roping, riding, cutting, and making the big circles. The effect of this is to have a more uniform remuda, less potential accidents, and riding well started two-year-old geldings. Carone, in particular likes the genetics and gentle dispositions of the new geldings, work that is patiently drawn out by Mitchell and his breeding program. One can't help but appreciate the team approach at Singleton's, with Riddle and Mitchell supporting cowboys with good riding stock and the outside cow-

boys appreciating better mounts.

For the horse division, their work begins with approximately 35 yearlings, and the same number of -year-olds. Hold over 3-year-old fillies that headed to performance are also worked. Two year olds are tied to fences daily for their turn either with a flag, or helpers that lay on their backs. As they are saddled, they also begin to track cattle. Terry Riddle says that they are worked in pairs, or in fours to keep them looking to buddy up.

At five thirty in the afternoon, after the work is finished for the day, the four cowboys emerge from the arenas, dust everywhere, especially in the creases of their faces. This is how it is, six days a week. A day off is to take a two year old to a branding, 'neighboring' they call it, to give the young horse a mind reset, or a trip to another ranch to scatter the two year old geldings among the cowboys. Jeff Bilberry is excited about getting a new gelding, as he can move his older gelding up a ladder rung as a respected elder, a horse that has ridden the twenty mile a day circles and who can be now used for penning, sorting or dragging calves to

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

the fire.

Terry Riddle has a surprising wisdom and maturity for a twenty eight year old cowboy. He was raised in Tucumcari, NM, graduated from Eastern NM University and then studied with some of the best horsemen in America. Grant Mitchell grew up in Santa Rosa, NM, graduated from Texas Tech in Lubbock, and has been at San Cristobal for ten years. Riddle says that before this year he worried when a horse would not fit a training regimen that he dictated. But this year, he began to accept that a two year old could be responsible for his own training. He explains that when a cow turns, he wants the colt to take just one step forward, and turn with the cow. He explains in great detail how he wants the colt to think that the cow has just kicked him, as he raises his spur to the colt to make the turn with the cow. He tells about the comfort zone that each horse has and of how he keeps the horse within that comfort zone, increasing it slowly so that much of the training is actually done by the horse itself. The zone begins with a buddy in the round corral, and extends to a cow as a buddy to be followed, and finally to follow the commands of a buddy on his back. All of this seems easy until you consider sixty days, sixty saddles on 35 head of two year olds.

All of the fillies are kept at the San Cristobal headquarters to be moved up into the performance division. Each



one is evaluated for where it will ultimately go, and there is a critical test here in determining what horses have ‘cow,’ and which will be reiners. For all, futurities of various sorts lie in their future. Some will go to the big futurities with trainers Bob Avila, Todd Crawford, Robbie Boyce, Boyd Rice, and Terry Riddle who will show many of them. For Grant Mitchell it is at this juncture when he begins to talk about the NVRHA, and how the events they have hosted at the headquarters for the past five years fit into their plans. The two and three year old fillies have a future in performance and one of these might make a versatility ranch horse. He likes the idea of Singleton ranch cowboys showing in NVRHA and giving the ranch geldings a new job, an interruption from the consistency of circles, penning and dragging calves to the fire, for both the cowboy and his horse.

Terry Riddle is building a big reputation south of Santa Fe, not only with the cowboys who ride his well broke geldings, but in the show pen. He, just like Mitchell, is amassing a store of knowledge as they prepare twenty two-year-olds for performance and advance as many three-year-olds into the show pen. With the insight of every horse becoming responsible for its own training, they begin to apply their wisdom to the training and selection of mares going to the show pen. It seems like a winning combination.

To me, it seems like an endless day when I see these two men and their helpers emerge from the dusty round pen. But, they are laying plans that began with a passion for these horses, for the jobs they do, and for the cowboys that they serve. They are new to the futurity business, but there is an excitement that is palpable from the work that comes from south of Santa Fe. For Jeff Bilberry, his is a joy of putting his cowboys on better geldings, and knowing that they all perform at a predictable standard.

South of Santa Fe, the mares are now pregnant. By January a new crop of yearlings will be halter broken, and the two-year-olds will again be tied to the fences. It is the idea that they can be responsible for their own training that is exciting, because it is from there that the dream of where that horse might perform drives Singleton Ranches Horse Division, and Terry Riddle and Grant Mitchell.

## Riding the Broke Horse – Benefits of the Ranch Riding Class With Gena Henson

*By Donna Stewart*



**T**he temperature is 40 degrees. The sustained wind speed is not far behind. Fragments of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” rise in the wind. My horse is tense, jumpy, anticipating. Someone is watching...

Am I about to engage in a bloody Civil War battle? Well, not quite. Squinting into the blowing dirt, I see a lone figure perched on the top arena rail. ‘Relax,’ Gena Henson shouts, ‘and keep humming!’ *‘Mine eyes have seen the glory’*... and around I go.

We are practicing Ranch Riding. My mare is not relaxed but I am trying to convince her that she should be. Go slow, but collected, and on a loose rein. Neck level, ears forward – look HAPPY for pete’s sake! How hard is this anyway?

It shouldn’t be hard, really. Most of us ride a lot. We can all walk, trot, and lope pretty well. There are no lead changes in this class. There are no cows to chase. This should be a piece of cake. But, go to any NVRHA event and watch what happens to even the best cowboys, ropers, or cutters when it comes time for Ranch Riding. Not all of them can jog 20 feet and stop AT the cone. Not too many can transition from a lope to walk without a fancy slide (not appreciated here) or seven strides of a bone jarring trot before old Tex finally makes it to a walk. And, what do you mean the lope comes in more than one speed?

*(Continued on page 13)*

‘That girl is a cowboy...’ a great music lyric by Garth Brooks which could easily have been written about Gena Henson. A born cowgirl raised in Hugoton, Kansas, Gena is one of the NVRHA’s best kept secrets. Now an NVRHA Professional Advisor, if you think Gena is just ‘Jay Henson’s wife’, then think again. Successful in her own right, Gena has trained and shown horses, as well as coached youth and amateurs, to five World Champion Western Riding titles.

Growing up in a supportive and horse-minded family (mother Maryann Willoughby holds eight judges cards; and father Gene is a longtime Kansas farmer/rancher), Gena took naturally to riding and showing horses. By age fourteen she was training outside horses, and eventually took client horses with her while attending Panhandle State College. Talent and success have since combined to define a thriving career. Gena’s strong suit is teaching – both horses and riders. She is skilled at presenting information and techniques in a way most people can understand and apply.

At some point, Gena got tired of Jay Henson hanging around all the time and decided to just marry the poor guy. Good move, because together they have built W-H Training Stables and an impeccable reputation based on an honest, straightforward, and effective training program that has earned the respect of the country’s best horseman.

Gena possesses strong convictions about horsemanship and training, and her philosophy meshes perfectly with Jay’s allowing them to work smoothly together as a synchronized team. It is the advantage of that team approach that benefits their clients.

Ask Gena about herself and she won’t tell you much. Ask about her family and you’d better pull up a chair. Gena credits her success to the constant love and support of her husband, parents, daughter Channing, son-in-law Dustin Hawks, and grandson Cutter who also happens to be the cutest kid in the world. Four generations of Gena’s family live within a mile of each other in southwestern Kansas. They work together, laugh together, and enjoy each other’s success. Its all good.

'I hate this class.' 'Why do we have to do this?' 'There is no point to this.' Oh, really? Just what is it about a few orange cones that gets you boys so fired up?

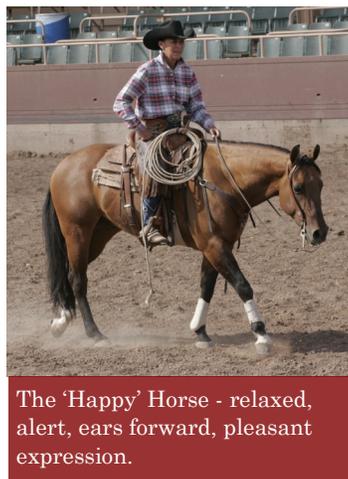
Maybe the place to start is by looking at the value of Ranch Riding, one of the five versatility events. Gena will tell you that Ranch Riding is the foundation for all of the other versatility events. The name of the game for this pattern class is CONTROL. And, she says, most people hate it at first because they just want to chase cows.

"Nobody wants to come to my pen", she says, "until they understand that what I'm teaching is necessary for success in all the other events." Riders realize the importance of Ranch Riding when they learn how to gain control over the horse's body position, movement, and speed. It's this level of horsemanship that allows a rider to become better at all five events. Each maneuver in Ranch Riding relates to a maneuver in one of the other areas of versatility. The control gained in the riding class will influence how carefully and easily the horse moves through the trail obstacles. Those lope speed transitions in the reining portion of the working cowhorse event are no different than what you are asked to do in the ranch riding pattern. And a person just might want to move into that herd slowly in a relaxed controlled manner for cutting, unless you like that scattering thing. Remember that the beauty of versatility is that each event compliments the other.

Some people and some horses make out better in this class than others. Gena thinks that Ranch Riding is usually easier for women. "Men tend to be more aggressive. It's harder for them to relax, go slow, be precise, and ask the same of their horse," she says, "everybody needs to slow down, breathe and think! Funny thing is that if we would just listen to the clinicians in the cow pen they are usually saying the same thing – 'Slow down!', 'Control the cow'. I have been to a lot of NVRHA clinics and have rarely heard any clinician shout 'run like a crazy out of control fool!'

The horses best suited for the Ranch Riding part of versatility are the quiet, good minded, 'good old boy' type. They can handle the pressure in the cow pen, then gear down and come quietly into the riding pen. These horses are valuable – for lots of reasons. If you have been around Gena much, you have heard her tell the "Grandma Story", a great description of the perfect versatility horse. (See box at right.)

NVRHA Ranch Riding consists of pattern work only, which is performed individually by each horse/rider team. The NVRHA now has two approved Ranch Riding Patterns (refer



The 'Happy' Horse - relaxed, alert, ears forward, pleasant expression.

to Rule Handbook). Each pattern is designed similarly to evaluate the horse/rider team's ability to perform a set of maneuvers:

*'...with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. The pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horse/rider team will be judged on the different elements of the patterns and for performing the pattern in correct order.'*  
NVRHA Rulebook 2010

Only one pattern will be required at an event and will be the choice of the show manager and judge. The elements of each pattern include: walk, jog, extended trot, lope, and extended lope with a variety of upward and downward transitions. In addition, the horse will lope on both leads, jog small circles in both directions, stop and settle at cones, and back-up. Gena will tell you that either pattern requires thinking your way through, anticipating the next maneuver, and properly setting up your horse to execute it.

So, what do we do? Go home, set up one of the patterns then drill our horses until we get it right? no, No, NO! Gena will tell her clinic participants not to practice the pattern! What??? Yep, you heard right. Most times our horses are smarter than we give them credit for being, so it doesn't take long for a horse that is constantly drilled on a pattern to begin to anticipate what to do at cones. Then, all of a sudden, he is in control and you are not – and the fight is on. So, instead, Gena coaches us to practice pieces and parts of the pattern, but not in sequence. And don't practice with cones. If you do, ride past the cone to stop or do transitions. Try practicing speed changes in the pasture, picking out markers (a flat rock, a fencepost, etc) to use as cones. Gena reminds us to practice a lot more 'slow' than fast. Keep in mind the idea of slowing down your brain.

If you are having trouble learning the pattern sequence, go ahead and set it up and walk through it a dozen times – on

*(Continued on page 14)*

#### *The Grandma Story for 'Real' Cowboys*

*'Everybody loves Grandma, and Grandma still owns the ranch. Even though she lives in town now, she's coming this Sunday after church to see her cows. What are you going to put her on so that she can enjoy the day? She needs a horse that's smooth, quiet, and good minded, but one that she can still go to the sorting on. Something she can have fun with; without a fight. You don't want to hurt Grandma. You want her to be able to enjoy the day, then get off and still be able to walk to the house with a smile on her face.'*

*-- Gena Henson*

*(Continued from page 13)*

foot. That's right, leave your horse tied to the fence as YOU memorize the pattern, learning where to carry out each maneuver and where the markers are. Some other tips from Gena are to do the pattern backwards or from a different starting point, and mix things up so that you and your horse learn to achieve each maneuver skill without 'souring' him on the pattern. This does not mean you can never practice the real pattern, just do it very occasionally, to keep your horse fresh and thinking.

Now its competition day and you are up next for Ranch Riding. You can do this pattern with your eyes closed. You own this pattern. Your horse is ready. So, what is the judge looking for? Here's where you might want to take a big deep breath and begin that humming thing again, because what the judge is looking for is a correct pattern performed by a team demonstrating an overall relaxed demeanor. Your goal is to present a visual picture of a quiet, well-controlled, responsive horse/rider team who can execute all movements smoothly and pleasantly.



Head and neck should be carried in a relaxed and natural position. Three acceptable headsets: Left - optimal position with level neck, correct head position, light contact. Center - neck higher and nose is slightly behind the vertical. Right - head carried higher but natural.

In the NVRHA, each horse/rider team is judged against a standard, not against other participants. In addition to the expectation of performing the pattern sequence correctly, maintaining consistency of gaits, and exhibiting the correct leads, there are numerous ways to earn plus points in Ranch Riding and Gena outlines some of them here:

- Show a major difference in speed in slow versus extended gaits
- Relaxed and natural head position and movement
- Rider able to sit at the extended trot, showing the horse's quality of movement
- Clean lope departures
- Transitions or stops done at the cone, not early or late
- Precision of movements

Gena also tells us that the judges will fault you for variety of things, including but not limited to:

- Excessive speed, out of control
- Wrong lead
- Breaking gait
- Opening the mouth or chewing on the bit
- Unnatural head position
- Poor quality of movement

(A complete discussion of the Ranch Riding class can be found in the NVRHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations.)

The moral of the story? Ranch Riding has its place, just like any of the other versatility events, even for the best of cowboys. Understand it, appreciate it, and practice it. Gena will tell you that Ranch Riding will 'keep a horse good longer'. Beyond that, it shows us that ranch horses can be 'broke' horses, and that the best roper can also be the best horseman.

## *Ranch Horse Versatility Steals the Show at the 2010 Minnesota Horse Expo*

*By Stephany Siitari*

The introduction of The National Versatility Ranch Horse Association created immediate excitement among hundreds of people at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Horse Expo. Over 40,000 horse enthusiasts attended demonstrations and visited over 600 vendor booths April 23 – 25, at the Coliseum in St. Paul, Minnesota.

President Dave Currin shared his passion for the NVRHA with both large groups and would-be buckaroos. Dave says, “It’s what I love. It’s what I do!” And the good folks in Minnesota were thrilled to hear the golden tones of his voice introducing NVRHA over the Minnesota State Fair Coliseum PA.

Versatility Ranch Horse Trainer Jay Henson presented demonstrations in all of the five events that make up the versatility ranch horse competition; conformation, ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch cutting, and working ranch. It was reported that Jay was just plain “tickled” with the crowd and by their response, they were tickled with him! Jay’s anecdotal stories made for a fun experience for both demo riders and viewers. Thanks to Julie Goodnight, one of our NVRHA Professional Advisory Board members, for plugging our sessions in each of hers!

Two of the five one-hour sessions were in the main Coliseum, cutting and working ranch. Jay broke the session down as he does at clinics and allowed each participant to make a cut, box a cow, run the cow down the fence, pen the cow, or rope, while coaching them throughout. The crowd really got into it when Jay showed his stuff on Susan’s 25-year-old cutting horse, “doin the dance” right in the center of the pen. After the working ranch demo, people flocked to the booth, excited by the action!

Jay was assisted by Northern Lights Affiliate riders Kim Deters, Rick Demulling, and Craig Colter as he did the mock clinic in front of the crowd. In addition to the five, one-hour sessions, we were given another hour on the schedule just for roping. Would-be ranch hands of all ages got a chance to throw a loop with David and PJ Slipka who were there representing the Minnesota Roping Association. Imagine people of all ages lining up to rope a bail of hay! They couldn’t get enough.

With the interested adults came enthusiastic youth and it didn’t hurt that our booth was right next to the Minnesota High School Rodeo booth. In comes another idea by Jan Rooney-Nordvall and Susan Heyvaert. Why not have a free NVRHA clinic for youth this year? It just happens that Jay was at the booth when the idea hatched and there just happened to be six high school rodeo girls hanging around. Well, what do you get when you take six cute smiling girls and Jay presented with a question, “Would you and Gena be willing to donate a day of your time this summer to be the clinicians for a free youth clinic?” Oh, I think you know the answer to that. Now, it gets better. By the next morning a call came in from Rick and Lyla Demulling, NVRHA advisors from Wisconsin, offering their facilities and cows at NO CHARGE! WOW... can our folks up here be any more generous?! So, with Jan taking the reins, we will be having our first clinic for 16 youth, in August.

Stephany Siitari took on the huge task of roping in the cowboys and cowgirls of the Northern Lights Affiliate to create a popular booth where information was shared with enthusiasts who think they too might like to “Ride the Legend”. The first event in Wisconsin was filled quickly and a stack of 140 requests to go on the mailing list filled the bucket! An attractive booth highlighted NVRHA through action photographs, flyers about upcoming events, ribbons, the popular “Ride the Legend” poster and a huge blow-up of the front page of the recent Rundown publication. Enthusiasm (and chocolate) were generously shared with hundreds of people, many of whom signed up for a drawing. It seemed everyone in town wanted one of two free lessons donated by Jay and Gena Henson, and a \$100 gift certificate toward attendance at a Northern Lights Affiliate Clinic.

This was a great way to jumpstart the NVRHA in our area. We are considering adding more events this year to make sure we accommodate all the new interest... what a nice “problem” to have! We are off on the right lead in horse circles across the region!



At left - the busy NVRHA booth at the Minnesota Expo draws the crowds.

At right - Jay Henson ‘settles the herd’ during the NVRHA cutting demonstration.



# The Stage is Leaving... Headed for the Land of Enchantment's 2010 NVRHA Events



## Four Great New Mexico Events

Feb 26-28 La Mesa, NM  
May 14-16 Sierra Grande Roundup  
East of Raton, NM  
Clinician: Josh Armstrong  
June 25-27 Moriarty, NM  
Clinician: Andy Adams  
August 27-29 San Cristobal Ranch  
Lamey, NM  
(Coggins and Health cert req)  
Clinician: Blue Allen

Compete for New Mexico's  
NVRHA Affiliate Year End Awards  
'Ride for the Ring'

## New Mexico NVRHA Sincerely Thanks Our Generous Sponsors:

ABQ Gold & Silver Exchange  
ADM Alliance Feed - Deb Benenson  
Best Western of Moriarity  
Broome's Feed of Moriarity  
Clint Mortenson  
Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center of NM  
Feed Bin of Santa Fe  
LoPour Dentistry  
Mark Bentley/National Public Radio Show  
Route 66 Pawn  
Sandia Trailers  
TS Bedding

"Ride the Legend"

[www.NVRHA.org](http://www.NVRHA.org)

For more information: contact Diane Clare 505-670-9097

## 2010 Events

*California Versatility Ranch Horse Affiliate*

Approved by NVRHA

### Mark Luis Arena "Shoot-Out Saddle Series"

May 15th-16th  
Paso Robles, CA

### Tucalota Ranch Creek

May 22nd-23rd  
Temecula, CA

### Carmel Valley Trail and Saddle club

July 10th -11th  
Carmel Valley, CA

### Mark Luis Arena "Shoot-Out Saddle Series"

October 9th -10th  
Paso Robles, CA

**All Events Include Clinic and Schooling Competitions with Divisions For  
Novice, Limited,  
Amateur and Open**

**Qualify for NVRHA National Finals**

### Contact

**Cece Chambless**

**(505) 470-8989**

**Cece@cybermesa.com**

# CALIFORNIA

# Colorado

## NVRHA 2010 Event Calendar

### FRONT RANGE REGION

#### *"Colorado KickOff"*

**BLOW OFF THE DUST, EARN PTS EARLY!**

April 10 -11

Penrose Stadium, Colorado Springs

Clinicians: Jay/Gena Henson &

Lavert Avert

Mgrs: Jennifer Walker/Brian Thomas

[briancarolthomas@msn.com](mailto:briancarolthomas@msn.com)

#### *"Barnes Ranch Mock Event"*

**NO STRESS WAY TO LEARN THE ROPES, OR BORROW A FRIEND'S ADVANCED HORSE & PUSH YOUR SKILLS!!!!**

April 30 – May 2

Barnes Ranch, Larkspur

Jeff & Gerrie Barnes

(Clinicians & Mgrs)

[barnesranch@hughes.net](mailto:barnesranch@hughes.net)

#### *"Cactus Creek"*

May 22 – 23

Cactus Crk Ranch, S. Colo Spgs

Clinicians: Mark Darling & TBA

Mgr: Jennifer Walker

[jenwalker@mesanetworks.com](mailto:jenwalker@mesanetworks.com)

#### *"Barnes Down Home"*

**FRIENDLY & FUN ATMOSPHERE**

July 31 – August 1

Barnes Ranch, Larkspur

Jeff & Gerrie Barnes

(Clinicians & Mgrs)

[barnesranch@hughes.net](mailto:barnesranch@hughes.net)

#### *"T-Cross"*

**LAST CHANCE TO QUALIFY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

September 10 – 12

T Cross Ranch, Pueblo

Clinicians: TBA

Mgr: Bill Hauschildt

[billh@centralstatesroofing.com](mailto:billh@centralstatesroofing.com)

### NORTHERN REGION

#### *"Colorado Cowhands"*

June 12 – 13

Last Resort Eq Ctr., Wellington

Clinicians: Jay/Gena Henson

Mgrs: Carol Ackerman/Rita Lobby

[dradad@aol.com](mailto:dradad@aol.com)

#### *"Strawberry Creek"*

**ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS RANCH!!!!**

July 23 – 25

Strawberry Creek Ranch, Granby

Clinicians: Jeff Derby/Jack

McCumber/Blue Allen

Mgr: Brenda Simmons

[ubpositive2@gmail.com](mailto:ubpositive2@gmail.com)

#### *"A REAL Western Heritage*

*Experience" on a Working Ranch*

August 16 – 22

Fish & Cross Ranch,

Yampa

Mgr: Brian Thomas

[briancarolthomas@msn.com](mailto:briancarolthomas@msn.com)

### WESTERN SLOPE

#### *"Rifle Event"*

**RIDE WITH A STAR! – AARON**

**RALSTON FROM RFDTV'S "THE RIDE"**

July 16 – 18

Rifle Fairgrounds, Rifle

Clinicians: Aaron Ralston/TBA

Mgr: Dave Currin

[nvrha.office@gmail.com](mailto:nvrha.office@gmail.com)

**" NVRHA National Championships"**  
**September 25-26**

**Norris-Penrose Stadium,  
Colorado Springs  
Mgr: Bill Hauschildt**

**[billh@centralstatesroofing.com](mailto:billh@centralstatesroofing.com)**

# NORTHERN *Lights*

Affiliate

National Versatility Ranch Horse Association

## Upcoming 2010 Events

**May 15-16 • Osceola, WI**

**NVRHA Clinic & Competition**

Clinicians: Jay & Jena Henson, Hugoton, KS

Contact: Rick & Lyla Demulling, 715-248-7243,  
lyladtr@hotmail.com

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**June 18-20 • Newcastle, WY**

**Today's Horse NVRHA**

**Clinic & Competition**

Clinicians: Bob & Dolly Wallace, Bosque Farms, NM

Contact: Deb Black, 605-716-5000 or 605-390-3410,  
dblack@todayshorse.net

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**June 19-20 • Valley City, ND**

**NVRHA Clinic & Competition**

Clinician: J.J. Ryberg, Wiley, CO

Contact: Wyatt Zaun, 701-840-0104,  
wjzaun7@hughes.net

**July 24-25 • Wessington Springs, SD**

**Ranches of Cherry Creek NVRHA**

**Clinic & Competition**

Clinicians: Don & Elise Ulmer

Contact: Kamber Ulmer, 605-890-2188,  
dkulmer@venturecomm.net

Bill Krech, 605-291-9398, b.krech@yahoo.com

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**August 21-22 • Nevis, MN**

**Strait Rail NVRHA Rendezvous**

Clinicians: Jay & Jena Henson, Hugoton, KS

Contact: Greg Booth and Vickie Kettlewell,  
218-828-8895, greg@sunupranch.com

Susan Heyvaert, 763-479-1895, heyvaert@frontier.net

~~~~~

**September 11-12 • MN**

**NVRHA Clinic & Competition,**

Clinician: TBA

Contact: Terry & Shirley Lund, 218-389-6069,  
moosehornranch@msn.com

Susan Heyvaert, 763-479-1895, heyvaert@frontier.net



**For further information on each event  
contact the event manager listed.**

**Local info available at [www.nvrhanorthernlights.com](http://www.nvrhanorthernlights.com)**

**To enter go to [www.NVRHA.org](http://www.NVRHA.org)**

\* 2010 EVENTS \*

PRESENTED BY:

**ARIZONA VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE AFFILIATE**

Approved by National Versatility Ranch Horse Association

\*\*\*

**ANCHOR CROSS RANCH – “SPRING WORKS”**

April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

Camp Verde, AZ

\*\*\*

**OLD PUEBLO – “FUN IN THE SUN”**

May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2010

Tucson, AZ

\*\*\*

**RIM COUNTRY ROUND UP**

July 30<sup>th</sup> & August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010

Payson, AZ

\*\*\*

**ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CLINIC AND SCHOOLING COMPETITIONS WITH DIVISIONS FOR  
NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED AMATEURS**

\*\*\*

**OPEN COMPETITION**

ANY HORSE / ANY RIDER

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Up to date information at:

[www.AZVERSATILTYRANCHHORSE.com](http://www.AZVERSATILTYRANCHHORSE.com)

Bob or Rebecca Grant – 928.853.6183  
e-mail: [info@AnchorCrossRanch.com](mailto:info@AnchorCrossRanch.com)

[www.NVRHA.org](http://www.NVRHA.org)

**“RIDE THE LEGEND”**



|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| April 23-25   | Goodwell, OK       |
| May 6-9       | Hugoton, KS        |
| May 8-9       | Bonnie Springs, NV |
| May 22-23     | Kansas City, MO    |
| June 5-6      | Dardanelle, AR     |
| June 26-27    | Tahlequah, OK      |
| July 10-11    | Maxwell, NE        |
| July 24-25    | Sedalia, MO        |
| August 28-29  | Grand Island, NE   |
| October 16-17 | Elkhorn, NE        |
| October 23-24 | Dodge City, KS     |

## 2010 NVRHA Unaffiliated Approved Events

*Check the website for details on these exciting events!*

[www.nvrha.org](http://www.nvrha.org)

*“Ride the Legend”*

# Cactus Creek 2010

Clinic Saturday 5/22 7:30-4pm  
Competition Sunday 5/23 7:30-5:30

## CONFORMATION JUDGING SATURDAY 4:30PM

Fee: \$350, (Single Day: \$180)  
**SAVE \$25** for registrations received  
**before May 14, 2010** - register NOW  
& **pay only \$325!**

*Clinicians: Mark Darling, Jack McComber & Donna Block*

Register today to reserve your space:  
<http://www.nvrha.org/docs/registration.pdf>

### Contacts:

Jennifer Walker  
303-918-5711

Brian Thomas  
719-659-6551



- Cactus Creek Ranch  
18550 Midway Ranch  
Pueblo, CO 81008
- Judges: Gerrie Barnes,  
Mark Darling
- Check in begins 3:00pm  
Friday
- Concession booth open to  
purchase food/drinks
- Free Bottled Water
- Saturday night Italian  
Dinner - \$20 ticket avail
- Stalls \$25/night, self-care,  
includes shavings and  
final clean out. BYO  
water buckets.
- Camper/RV parking \$20/  
night with electric, free  
without
- Nearby hotels - see  
website flyer for details

## Need Assistance Between Versatility Events?

- Let us help you take your riding to new levels.
- Private and semi-private coaching sessions available.
- Beginner to Advanced
- 25+ years developing successful horse and rider relationships.

**Patti Haddon, Trainer**  
**Kettle Creek Ranch**  
**Colorado Springs**  
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*Quality Horses and Tack For Sale*

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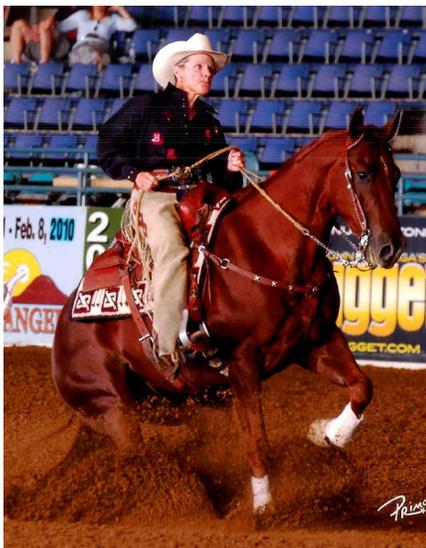
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# Jae Bar Underhill "Amber"

**Ranch Versatility Horse with a great disposition**  
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## Down Home Clinic & Competition Barnes Ranch, Larkspur, CO

**July 31 - August 1**

Come on over and spend a relaxing and fun weekend with Jeff & Gerrie Barnes - playing, learning, and showing your stuff in a friendly competition.

**Saturday, July 31** - Focus on cattle work

**Session 1** - (9 - 1:00 p.m.) Intermediate - 6 riders maximum. Concurrent with Session 2.

**Session 2** - (9 - 1:00 p.m.) Advanced - 6 riders maximum. Concurrent with Session 1.

**Session 3** - (2 - 6 p.m.) rookie riders and/or rookie horses - 12 rider maximum.

*On your down time, practice reining or trail (on your own), play horseshoes, or just relax on our sittin' porch. BBQ included on Saturday night.*

**Sunday, August 1 - Competition - 8:00 a.m.**

For fees & details go to [www.barnesranch.com](http://www.barnesranch.com)

Click on the July calendar for event flyer. Register with NVRHA, [www.nvrha.org](http://www.nvrha.org).

Questions? Gerrie at 303-646-9855 or [barnesranch@hughes.net](mailto:barnesranch@hughes.net)

2010 AQHA World Top 5 Versatility Ranch Horse  
 2010 Champion Working Ranch Horse  
 2009 Champion NWSS Ranch Horse Classic Denver (only woman to ever win)  
 2009 AQHA World VRH Finalist  
 2009 AQHA Top 5 Open VRH  
 2009 AQHA World VRH Finalist  
 2008 AQHA High Pt Jr Horse & High Pt Gelding VRH  
 2008 AQHA Res Champ Open VRH  
 2008 NRCHA Top 10 NP Two Rein  
 2009 NRCHA NP Bridle Spectacular Champion Nampa, ID

**National Versatility Ranch Horse Association  
'Ride the Legend'**

NVRHA  
590 Hwy 105  
Box 150  
Monument, CO 80132

Phone: 866-430-8114  
Fax: 719-487-9014

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



**Redneck Foal Blanket**  
(okay admit it, you wish you'd thought of it first!)

Thanks to Deb Black for this photo