

The Colorado Reined Cow Horse association held their Mid-America Classic show Oct. 23-26 at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock.

The club added \$22,900, with nearly half of that paid out to futurity horses. Derby divisions and Spectacular divisions and two rounds of horse show classes offered the remaining added money to pay out a total of \$53,800.

Winners received lots of loot to remember their success. Morrison trophies, high Point class buckles, and buckles, sheets, halters and gear bags were awarded to winners through third place.

The 13 entry open futurity displayed the depth of quality horses. Three horses were tied (144 1/2 points) after the herd and reined work. All 3 horses were raised by Wagonhound Land & Livestock, Douglas, Wyo.

Matt Koch, trainer for Wagonhound, rode two mounts for the 144.5 point tie, Dual With A Shiner and Reys Stressin Melody. Kyle Trahern rode the third tying horse, Metallic Masterpiece.

“With three horses tied going into the cow work, it was pretty amazing to tie in the fence work with 74 points,” said Matt Koch, who tied with Trahern with a 218.5 composite score. “We had the option of being co-champions but decided to go again. That seemed more fair because of all of the prizes and of the spectators.”

Koch wowed the crowd again with his winning cow work on Dual With A Shiner (Reys Dual Badger x Miss Shiner Dear) to win a Morrison trophy, buckle and \$3,888 in all. “He’s solid everywhere. He is correct on a cow in the herd, and he is easy to prepare in the reining,” said Koch. “He is a good mover, he just floats around and wants to please.”

Trahern and Metallic Masterpiece went first in the runoff. “We drew a tough steer in the runoff, a lot of horses would not have handled it. We had a two point penalty and still marked a 71 1/2. The steer was tough to circle and my horse really showed his grit,” said Trahern. “I am really proud of him, he is kind of an underdog because he broke his back as a yearling. He has a happy go lucky attitude.”

Silver Spur Operating Co. LLC, purchased Metallic Masterpiece (Metallic Cat x Kings Masterpiece) from Wagonhound Land & Livestock to just be a breeding horse. When their vet said his odd shaped back seemed ok for riding, they sent him to Trahern to train.

Trahern could also be described as ‘happy-go-lucky’ and it has been a fortunate match. September was a time in Reno that Trahern will remember forever, his first open finals competition and he got married to Andrea Haese . He and Metallic Masterpiece placed 9th in the Intermediate Open and 14th in the Open finals, earning \$15,400. They picked up \$3,434

in Castle Rock. Their next event will be the AQHA Ranching Heritage contest at the 2015 Ft Worth Stock Show.

Koch and Reys Stressin Melody (Reys Dual Badger x Playguns Melody) earned \$2592 for third place. Blue Allen and Diane Clare's HL Twistin Playboy tied for high score reined work honors. Luke Jones and Kenny Schueller's Booha Boon tied for high score herd work honors.

Stephen Hutchins won the 10 entry level 1 limited open futurity riding Robert Elliott's mare, Silver Puddy Cat (Athena Puddy Cat x Silver Booner x Peptoboonsmal). He had been sitting in sixth place after 2 events, but his scorching 74 point cow work won him the championship.

"I was given a second cow to work, and it was fast. The sky is the limit as far as the amount of talent this mare has, so I just stayed out of her way and listened to Luke (Jones) and Matt (Koch) coaching me from the sidelines," said Hutchins. He has worked for Jones for almost 3 years and this is his second year to show cow horses. "He gives me all the opportunity in the world."

The CRCA began in 1996 and the club knows that it is important to give each horse and rider a place to compete. In futurity and derby events, their show offered a novice horse division for horses and a level one division for riders. They have also brought back the Pro/Am derby, in which a rider's lifetime cow horse earnings must be less than \$2500.

The novice horse futurity was limited to horses earning less than \$2,000 as of the date of the show. Horses were not allowed to cross-enter the other futurity divisions.

Trainer EJ Laubscher, Colby Kansas, won the class riding Kathryn for owners Dallas and Bev Talkington. "She is a special mare, small but she has a big heart and is the kind of horse that you want to ride," said Laubscher. The Talkingtons are retired teachers from McCook, Neb., who bred and raised the mare. She is by Smart Lena Boon (Smart Little Lena) out of a daughter of Shorty Lena.

As club president, Laubscher commented that he was pleased with the contestant turnout, especially with many attending the Wyoming futurity the week earlier.

"This Mid America show was postponed from the original August 6-10 date in Pueblo (Colo.) because of the outbreak of vesicular stomatitis," said Laubscher. "Our club committed to adding an a lot of money and prizes and we are glad that moving the date did not negatively affect the show."

Sarah Gugelmeyer won the non pro and amateur futurity divisions riding husband, Jeremy's mount, OTP Rio (One Time Pepto x Hickorys

Tornado Rio x Doc's Hickory). Jeremy owns and operates a hunt guiding business, and is pretty busy during the fall season.

"I am glad I did well, the show gave away nice awards and a Morrison trophy," said Gugelmeyer, earning \$1525. "I was disappointed in my cow work here, but I had drawn softer cattle at the earlier horse shows. This experience working faster cattle showed me some places that I need to work on."

She marked the high scores in the herd and reined work. Reserve champion Joe Gillespie marked the high score in the fence work riding his home bred mare, Diggers Diamond Catt. Diane Clare won the non-pro limited futurity riding her horse, Bug Lights.

## DERBY

Trainer Keith Vogel, Pueblo, Colo., won the 11 entry open derby and the 12 entry level one derby divisions riding Coloradoboonsmal (Peptoboonsmal x Miss Playboys Josie x Freckles Playboy) for owner Ted Swanson, Wellington, Colo.

"I am excited to have this horse to show, he is such an athlete and has progressed so quickly," said Vogel. They were sitting second behind reserve champion Luke Jones riding David Pratt's Dual Reys Belle. Vogel and his 4 year old roan gelding made the most of an honorable steer to mark 74 points, score 218 points and win both derby divisions, \$1673 in all.

"Ted purchased him from Blue Allen as a two-year-old and rode him at home. I got him a year ago, then won the (NRCHA Stakes) limited open in Vegas on him and that was only his second show," said Vogel. The pair also won the level 1 derby division at the NRCHA Hackamore Classic show.

Trainer Jamie Olson won the 10 entry novice horse derby riding Brent Lester's 5 year old mare, Very Icy Remedy. "She is a nice solid mare, very consistent and tolerant of training. Both Brent and I ride her. It takes a special horse to have two riders and do well," said Olson.

Lester purchased her from breeder Annie Reynolds as a four-year-old. He was reserve champion in the amateur derby riding her. "She has lots of try and stop, so I have a lot of trust in her."

Dave Dillman was reserve champion in the novice horse derby riding Mary Boyd's Spooks Sonic Boom. Jeb Stoltzfus was reserve champion in the level one limited open derby riding Betsys Avatar for owner Diane Clare.

Sue Stoltz claimed the Non Pro derby and select derby championships riding her four-year-old gelding, A Time For Jazz. Her 73 point score to win the reined work boosted her confidence riding her new horse.

“He has a great disposition, and is the most cowy horse I have ever ridden,” said Stoltz. She has shown cow horses for 7 years, and gets her Colorado coaching from Jim Cook and Arizona coaching from Corey Cushing. She purchased the 4 year old gelding (One Time Pepto x Starlight and Jazz) from Harry DeHaan after the NRCHA World Show last February.

Scott Bagley and Rosita Rey were reserve non pro derby champions and won the high score herd work.

Brent Lester claimed the top two spots in the 6 entry amateur derby and placed 3rd and 4th in the non pro derby, earning \$1190 in all, riding Flippin Smart and Very Icy Remedy. Lester purchased Flippin Smart (WR This Cats Smart x Flips Lil Angel) as a two-year-old from Wagonhound Land and Livestock.

“He is an awesome horse, he has been my primary horse since Jamie has very Icy Remedy,” said Lester. “I've spent a lot of time working on my reining, it's nice to have that payoff. This Colorado show is full of quality horses and talented riders, it's competitive.”

Brandy Patrick, Steamboat Springs Colorado, won the 6 entry non pro limited derby riding As Smart As Spook (Mister Dual Pep x Smart Spook). Cattle and cow horses are a family affair for Brandy and her family. They purchased the 5 year old mare as a yearling at the Snaffle Bit Futurity sale. Husband Jason trains and also operates a big mountain cattle ranch.

“Our twin sons Jasper and Jaden, 9, and I are Jason's ranch help! So he is pretty patient,” said Patrick, who showed in western pleasure while growing up in Nebraska, but has just recently returned to the saddle as her children are old enough to ride. “My favorite event is the herd work, but it is fun to learn 3 events. I learn more every time that I show.”

Diane Clare captured the reserve title riding Hoo Talks Money.

Ranch hand Matt Fredrick won the Pro/Am derby riding Peppers Dusty Doc for owner Mick Anderson. The 5 year old gelding was started and shown by Frederick's employer, Kirk Hall, Edgemont, S.D.

A ranch cowboy with a colt starting background, this was only the 4th horse show for Frederick. “I took care of him in the herd work, made smart cuts and kept it slow for my horse, our reining was ok, and I was plumb tickled with him in the cow work,” said Frederick.

It is the excitement of the cow work that keeps contestants craving the sport. Going down the fence is a thrill, and those split second decisions create respect and camaraderie among contestants. The horsemanship and courage required make the cow horse sport attractive to ranchers and rodeo athletes.

Each year at the CRCA futurity, a bronze traveling trophy is awarded to the high scoring cow work for the show. It is given in memory of Tom Wipplinger, North Platte, Neb., who died of a massive heart attack during the 2002 show. He was a rough stock rider, then horse trainer, who loved the thrill of “going down the fence.” (See related sidebar for complete story)

### (SIDEBAR) TOM WIPPLINGER MEMORIAL TROPHY DASH

The trophy was created by award winning artist Ben France, Rawlins Wyoming, it is a beautiful way to honor our friend that we lost so unexpectedly. He left behind his wife, Alice, daughter, Nikki Jo, and son, Jed. For years, the contest raised funds to support the Wipplinger family.

He was surrounded by friends that day in 2002 at the Colorado State Fairgrounds in Pueblo at our show. He was a true friend, always willing to help someone, or tell a joke. In typical cowboy humor, his friends still remark that it was so unfortunate that he died during the rein work which he hated! That is why we honor him with a “Trophy Dash.”

Matt Cook and Kelly Valdez did plenty of teasing each other as they were close contestants to win the Tom Wipplinger Memorial trophy. First, they tied with 73.5 points, then Matt scored 75 points on SDP Blue Blood in the open two rein class and also 75 points on Above Da Best Tenino in the open bridle.

She might be a 15 year old girl, but she is a seasoned cow horse and rodeo contestant. The two-time NRCHA world champion didn't let Matt Koch's teasing bother her a bit. She proved that sometimes the youth bridle is the class to watch, marking 75 1/2 points to win the “trophy dash” aboard MH Bold Intentions.

end of Wipplinger Trophy sidebar---

### ANOTHER SPECIAL EVENT - COW WORK CHALLENGE

A special event cow work challenge was held Friday and Saturday night. Sponsored by Wilson and Susan Lyle, the contest awards a handmade Tad Knowles saddle to the high scoring cow work.

The CRCA awarded the top 3 placings in each division, open, non pro and non pro limited with cash, Jeremiah Watt bits, halters and gear bags. The winner of each division advanced to the final cow work to determine the saddle winner.

Non pro Todd Thieszen, McCook, Neb., won the high score finals cow work aboard his 16 year old stallion, Nics Lil Peppy (Diggers Rest x Nic A Lynx).

“He has won money every year since he was three,” said Thieszen. “Darren Miller trained him long ago, I bought him from Carolyn Kupka (breeder) as a yearling. Kelly Valdez also made a good run and they did not announce the scores, so we both stayed saddled to see who would make the finals.”

“Although he has been a finalist at the AQHA and NRCHA world shows, he is mostly retired. He is a born fence horse and always an exciting horse to ride,” said Thieszen.

Open entry Luke Jones made the crowd cheer riding CD Pepto for Kenny Schueller to the reserve finish. Non Pro limited rider Megan Douthit rode Mr. Chic Master to place third.

### (END OF COW WORK CHALLENGE NEWS)

#### BRIDLE SPECTACULAR

The bridle horses also provided plenty of excitement for spectators. Jeff Veitch won the 13 entry open bridle spectacular riding Fifth Avenue Lena for the Coal Creek Ranch. They won the herd work and placed third in the cow work to earn \$615 in all.

She was purchased by Giacomo Mattioli, owner of Coal Creek Ranch, at the Snaffle Bit Futurity 2 year old sale, bred by Lyle Lovett (Lenas Wright On x Fifth Avenue Cash), ridden by Robbie Boyce.

“I am really proud of her you because can you can do anything on her. I take her and rope and gather on the ranch. She will cross a river, she is pretty neat,” said Veitch, who has worked for the Telluride area mountain ranch for 6 years. “I am proud of her versatility. A lot of horse show guys don’t have the opportunity to expose their horses to real work, and I am glad that I do.”

Veitch credits the Jim Paul family for teaching him how to make a horse versatile. “They are from the days when a horse might cut and also show in the western pleasure. The horse wasn't specialized, but rather, trained well.”

“I cut on her some this summer and she won the herd work here. I just put sliders on her a week ago, so it was pretty cool to win such a tough class,” said Veitch. “It’s good competition here, I only won by a half point. We all have a good time together.”

Levi Grimes marked the high score in the herd work, scoring 73 points on his horse, Docs Wild Twist. Darren Miller and Luke Jones tied for the high score in the reined work, 73.5 points, riding Ray J Boonlight (Mill Iron S Ranch) and Nic It In The Rey (Wayne Hanson), respectively. Matt Koch and his horse Above Da Best Tenino won the high score, 75, in the fence work.

Non-pro rider Jennifer Ostenson dominated the non pro bridle spectacular. She won the herd work, 71 points, and placed second in the cow work, 73 points, to capture the win riding Smokum Nicci,9, (Nic It In The Bud x Lena Smokum). Her reserve champion mount was Dual Deuces, 9, (Dual Rey x Smart Janie Junior), placing 3rd in the herd and cow work. She earned \$706 in all.

“I have ridden with the Cook’s for 8 years, and want to thank Jim, He had both mares really prepared,” said Ostenson.

Sherri Mundhenke and Dunnits Surprise won the reined work with 72.5 points. Todd Thieszen and Nics Lil Peppy won the cow work with 74 points.

Diane Clare won the 9 entry non pro limited spectacular class riding her 6 year old gelding, Haida Smooth Cat. She purchased him at the Derby in Paso Robles from Justin and Kelcie Lawrence, Alzada, Mont.

“I think the non pro limited futurity and derby events will really catch on. They are growing and I appreciate the opportunity to ride young horses,” said Clare, who trains with Blue Allen.