

# OVERCOMING OBSTACLES WITH AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE!!

with Kathy Korell-Rach



**SMOKE N SPARKS  
BAR THREE STABLES  
GERALD & IVA KORELL**

God blessed me immensely when he put me in the right family. While my barrel racing road has not always been pleasant (in fact, it's been outright grueling and heart-breaking at many points), I have been fortunate to be able to throw my leg over some of the most talented, athletic, big-hearted horses in the industry. All of this is because of my parents, Gerald and Iva Korell, who own Bar Three Stables and presently stand nationally-ranked barrel horse sire Smoke N Sparks.

Smoke N Sunshine, "Shine," is certainly an answer to prayers. Two years ago, I had three amazing mares winning almost everything I entered. I quickly filled my WPRA permit and was ready to hit the road. In a matter of a few months, all three sustained career-ending injuries and I was left with a huge hole in my life. I put all of my hopes into last year's futurity horse, who also missed the year due to injuries. Mom is a much better trainer than me,

so I don't typically get babies until they are ready to add speed. However, I desperately wanted something to ride and Shine came to me early. It is amazing Shine came to me at all. The only reason I have her is that no one thought she was worth \$10,000 and Dad finally took her off the market when she was three. Many of my horses have been other people's rejects, but I certainly don't mind shopping in the bargain bin at Bar Three Stables!

I stayed home most of last year because I didn't want to chance infection from the VS and EHV-1 crises. Shine was all business from the beginning and pretty much made herself; she won the Open 1D in her very first run for money and has pulled a check in all but seven runs thus far. It is clear that she loves her job and consistently gives me a smooth, fair go every time. She is amazingly sensitive and responsive. The chief drawback of this is that the only brush I can use on her without experiencing "angry alligator" is the softest goat hair brush I could find. Somehow, I think it's worth it.



**SMOKE N SUNSHINE & KATHY KORELL-RACH  
CO CLASSIC - STALLION INCENTIVE AVERAGE CHAMPION  
Sired by SMOKE N SPARKS - GERALD & IVA KORELL**

We were at the top end of both go's at our first futurity, but didn't place in the money. Our second futurity was at the SW Desert Classic, where we were fourth in the Open 1D average (10<sup>th</sup> in the first go, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the second go), fourth in the Breeder's Incentive 1D average (8<sup>th</sup> in first go, 2<sup>nd</sup> in second go), and won my very first saddle for winning the Non-Pro average.

Photo Courtesy PIXEL WORX TEXAS

The Colorado Classic was our third futurity, and it almost didn't happen. I was in a rollover accident where I totaled my vehicle the week before the futurity. I feel humbled that my life was spared, and I walked away with a laceration on my left arm to the bone and into the elbow joint. My father is an amazing horseman, and I'm convinced that he can make a better run on her cold than I can after all this time. I did my best to persuade him to run, but his knee said "no". We also asked Wendy McKee, who has a herd of incredible Smoke N Sparks offspring, but she was going to be somewhere else that weekend. Thank goodness my wonderful husband, Gabriel Rach, is such a support and also an "enabler." Gabe started saddling her for me two days after the accident and I rode in a sling for a few days. Dad said, "You know we would never ask a horse to run in that shape," and he's right, but luckily I'm not a horse!

Mom came down and was my groom all weekend. She is the only reason I was able to get to the arena. Shine proved just how remarkable she is because she more than compensated for my deficits. She was Reserve Champion in the Open Futurity 1D Average (3<sup>rd</sup> first go, 8<sup>th</sup> second go), Champion in the Stallion Incentive 1D Average (1<sup>st</sup> first go, 4<sup>th</sup> second go), Champion in the Amateur Average (won both first and second go), and fourth in the Futurity Slot Race adding another \$6,191.00 to her LTE. It is surreal that we hung tough with the depth and quality of the horses and riders that were there, and I am grateful for our success. I feel so proud and fulfilled to take a homegrown baby and showcase her to the rest of the world the way she deserves.

To date, Shine has won over \$18,000 and I hope we can keep that total increasing. I sincerely appreciate our team, which includes: Jason Collins (for his farrier skills, continuing to answer his phone after my almost daily calls at times, and his willingness to fit me in to fix the multitudes of problems a wet Colorado spring brings), Dr. Joe Stricklin (for keeping her as healthy as possible), Dr. David McClain (for his magic chiropractor fingers for Shine and me, always fitting us in quickly, and understanding "barrel racer panic"), and Dr. Pamela Muhonen (for her acupuncture and manual manipulation expertise and rescuing her from the situations she seems to get herself into).

I also keep her healthy with Forco, which I feed daily for the many gastrointestinal and conditioning benefits it gives her. It's a reasonably priced and highly palatable supplement; from our experience, there's nothing better out there. Because Shine's skin is so sensitive, I can't use traditional cooling and muscle relaxing liniments. Instead, I use a home-made concoction of witch hazel and Young Living essential oils along with ice. She responds extremely well to essential oils and I combine them with the Masterson Method, acupuncture, and massage to keep her body as supple and strong as possible. I don't have any sponsors to thank, but I would love to get some...hint, hint!

Of course, I can't forget the main man that is responsible for Shine's creation. Smoke N Sparks is an excellent sire and has produced numerous champions in every type of barrel racing venue for a variety of rider styles, ages, and experience levels. He has been a top 20 Equi-Stat Barrel Sire for several consecutive years with limited get numbers and many of his prodigy's earnings going unreported because of location. In addition to the multiple futurity and derby champions from most major competitions, his offspring continue to be successful long-term. He has rodeo winners, the most notable being Cleo (RF Firefly), which is a two-time NFR qualifier and go round winner with earnings in excess of \$400,000. He also sired College National Finals Rodeo Champion Let It Smoke and multiple National High School Finals Rodeo qualifiers. There are several recent arena record setters, including Julias Jewels, Little Dragon Slayer, WM Smoke On Water, Lil Snoop Dog, and TDL Smoke N Ice. "Sparks" has certainly cemented his place in barrel racing history as a top sire. Although he is 23 years old, he is in excellent condition and his semen ships extremely well. We will not be keeping any frozen semen, so don't wait too long to get your own Smoke N Sparks baby.

Overall, I sincerely appreciate all of the gifts in my life, and Shine is certainly near the top of that list. I still admire her every day as she grazes in the pasture and feel humbled each time I'm in the saddle. I believe she is one of those special horses of a lifetime, and I aim to keep demonstrating that as long as I possibly can.

BAR THREE STABLES - FORCO DEALER  
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