

The CCRHA held its Affiliate Opener at Miracle Ranch on May 23 and 24th.

Everyone was eager to get the show season started and it was great to see all the familiar faces again. Several new reiners entered the pen and we welcome them to our great association.

Saturday started with the Open and Guy Robertson won it on Great Captain Jac for Stephanie Gruhle. It's great to have Guy back in Canada. His return further strengthens the team of great trainers that Manitoba can offer to our reiners.

The Reining Canada Beginner Class was next to go with John Gartner stepping up to take first place on Doc Otoes Wasp.

Micaela Maharaj won the 13 and Under riding her new horse Fancy Footprint for their first ever run together.

Megan Robinson and Breanna Kid took home the Youth 14-18. Congratulations to her! All her hard work really paid off all weekend.

Next to go was the Nonpro and Ltd. Nonpro. Bonna Jean Bateman and her horse Snazzy Whizard took top honors in both classes.

By this time lunch was a welcome site. Our thanks go to Kylie Wasiuta and her family for the spectacular barbeque. The Wasiutas worked tirelessly in the sun all weekend and Mrs. Wasiuta has the sunburn to prove it. I would like to know how Kylie got her brother to help so willingly!

We welcomed Gerry Loewen, President of Reining Canada, to the show in order to present the prestigious Reining Canada Reiner of the Year Awards. These awards are presented by Reining Canada each year to members of Reining Canada for outstanding achievement. The 2008 recipients were the 2008 Reining Canada Young Rider Team that traveled to Colorado last summer and brought home the Silver Medal from the North American Junior & Young Rider Championships. Congratulations to Manitobans Kylie Wasiuta, Stephanie Gruhle and Allison Love and Ontarians Darcy Wilson and Kelly Truesdel on receiving this award.

The Rookie L2 class ran next with Drifters Chance owned by Perri Gardner being steered to the win by Alexa Kullberg. The two of them looked fabulous out there.

John Gartner let me know that after his 3rd place finish in the Rookie he is finally on his way to Million Dollar status!

The NHNP L1 and the Int. Nonpro were next to run with Kyle Ryan and Call Me Chexy stepping into the winner's circle. Congratulations Kyle.

Next to go was the Equine Canada Young Rider Qualifier. These Youth are on a mission

qualify for the prestigious North American Junior & Young Rider Championships held this July in Kentucky. The teams will be the first reiners on the soil in the Kentucky Horse Park. Congratulations to Megan Robinson and Breanna Kid on their win, but congratulations to all the competitors as each one qualified to be on the Team. Megan qualified both Breanna Kid and Peppy Chic Olena, owned by Mackie Love, and Kylie Wasiuta who had already qualified at the finals last year qualified a second horse, GLH Dolls Badger. Christine Simpson qualified her horse Pick Plays Rocketman and Alexa Kullberg qualified Perri Gardner's gelding Drifters Chance. The combined skill of these four young ladies and their equine partners are a force to be reckoned with and Manitoba will be watching with pride and anticipation.

The Green Rider and Green Horse ran concurrently as the last class of the day. Guy and Micaela had money on it as to who would outscore who. Unfortunately for Micaela, Guy's score on Nics Easter Bud in the GH was higher and was the winner of the class, but Micaela was able to secure the Green Rider win. Not to be outdone, she doubled or nothing for the next day.

Sunday proved to be as hot as Saturday and Guy Robertson riding Pepinics Neat Lacey for Marc Poirier won the Open. Wendy Robinson flashed through the pen, literally, hoping to beat him. I am not sure that flashing the judge is allowed. Nice try though.

Carol Hollinger and her horse CW Strait Shooter won the RC Beginner class. We welcome the Hollingers to our show circuit and look forward to seeing their family at our shows this year.

The Youth 13 and Under once again saw Micaela Maharaj and Fancy Footprint in the winners circle, and the Youth 14–18 was won by Megan Robinson and Breanna Kid.

Bonna Jean Bateman and Snazzy Whizard won both the Nonpro and Ltd. Nonpro again on Sunday. These two seem to be a great match.

Once again the Wasiuta's were BBQing up a storm and this time had some help from Keith Howe. He made his infamous BBQ beef on a bun and pulled Pork. He was so busy in the kitchen, we thought we would have to get the judge to drive the tractor for drags but luckily Guy took the steering wheel and got the job done so that we could enjoy this fabulous meal. Thanks Keith! It was scrumptious.

The Rookie L2 once again saw Alexa Kullberg and Drifter's Chance taking home the accolades.

Guy Robertson riding Great Captain Jac for Stephanie Gruhle won the Novice Horse Open L1.

The Young Rider qualifier was next to go; the girls were able to run their horses again and secure their spots on the team. Megan Robinson riding Peppy Chic Olena, owned by Mackie Love, came out on top on Sunday.

The Green Horse was won by Amy Grainger riding her horse Pepper Be Nimble. Congratulations and nice to see you showing with us. The Green Rider was a tie between Micaela Maharaj and Emily Birch. Congratulations to Emily on her first win. I am sure there will be many more. Micaela also got out of paying Guy double or nothing so it was a double win for her.

The CCRHA would like to thank Phyllis and Keith Howe for the wonderful hospitality. It is always a pleasure to come and show at Miracle Ranch.

We would also like to thank Mr. Steve DeFrang for the awesome job at judging. He always has a welcome comment to competitors and a smile on his face.

Next up is the Wheat City Derby in Brandon, June 20th and 21st. We can't wait! In the meantime, remember - don't just sit there, SPIN!

Kim Maharaj
President, CCRHA