



ISSUE: JANUARY 15, 2021

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2021 SWRHA STALLION AUCTION STARTS TODAY!

The 2020 Southwest Reining Horse Association Futurity & Horse Show was one to remember, with 159 Futurity entries competing for a piece of the \$148,000 futurity Non Pro and Open purse.

Big money is the norm for the SWRHA Futurity, which ranks as a top event on the list of National Reining Horse Association approved shows. The large payout is made possible in part from proceeds of the annual SWRHA Online Stallion Auction, which kicked off today - January 15 - and lasts through February 15.

Beneficial to both mare and stallion owners, the SWRHA Online Auction has been a mainstay of the association for several years. Mare owners have the opportunity to purchase breedings to great stallions. And there can be bargains involved as the bids for most stallions begins at half or less than half of the advertised breeding fee. Not only that, but the resulting foal is eligible for a free Level 4 Open or Non Pro SWRHA Futurity entry.

It seems that each year, the auction is more impressive than before. The mother-daughter team of Kathy and Lindsey McCutcheon spearhead the project and Kathy is quick to commend the stallion owners – both local and from farther

away – who support this program and its event. “Thanks to the incredible owners who take part in this auction, no one offers a better or larger group of stallions for bidders,” Kathy said. “That’s why we work to give real benefits to our stallion owners.”

Stallion owners receive value in several ways, including increased promotion throughout the auction and visibility at the show. They are also eligible to win great prizes, including the signature SWRHA golf carts that are given to the sire of the Open Champion, sire of the Non Pro Champion and to the winner of a drawing from all the participating stallions.

“I think that part of the appeal is that, even though this is a regional show for owners and breeders in our area, it is also a show for everyone,” Kathy added. “Each year a large number of people plan to attend this show as the last stop before the NRHA Futurity.”

Lindsey agreed and added, “I can’t wait for another great auction this year! We already have a stellar group of leading sires participating - Magnum Chic Dream, Not Ruf At All and Guns R For Shootin to name a few. And we have an exciting group of brand-new sires such as No Smoking

Required, Tinker With Dreams, and Wimpys Little Nite. The auction starts January 15, but there will be some really exciting surprise stallions added once bidding begins so you'll want to check back every day!"

Stallion owners wishing to add their stallions to the roster can email smreining@gmail.com or call 580-759-2929. The

full lineup of stallions can be found at SWRHA.com beginning on January 15. Registration is simple, and once the auction is completed, winning bidders will be contacted.

For information on the Southwest Reining Horse Association, visit swrha.com.

FUTURITY WIN CLINCHES MILLION DOLLAR OWNER STATUS FOR TISH FAPPANI

It was a night chock full of million-dollar accomplishments during the 2020 National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) CINCH Non Pro Futurity Finals on Friday, Dec. 4. With a first-place finish in the CINCH Non Pro Level (L) 3 Futurity, Tish Fappani solidified her NRHA Million Dollar Owner status aboard Joes Genes (Lil Joe Cash x Electric Genes).

Hailing from Scottsdale, Arizona, Fappani is no stranger to million-dollar milestones. She's the wife of NRHA Six Million Dollar Rider Andrea Fappani. Partners when it comes to the business of horses and reining, the couple shares the workload at home and the limelight when it shines in their direction.

The team dynamic has been a long-standing strategy for Tish, but it first began with her parents, Bob and the late Sue Wood.

"My mom had me on horses before I could even walk," Tish said. "My mom used to do a lot of the American Horse Show Association (AHSA) and stock horse events. When I was 6, I went to ride with Glenn Gimple. It was cool because my mom rode with him, and he was 'The Man' when it came to equitation and stock horses."

From Covina, California, Tish's family always had around 10 horses at home. Tish remembers feeding and cleaning stalls every morning before school, and she would help her mom get horses ready for lessons in the afternoon. Those hours in the barn funded Tish's time in the saddle in Arizona



Tish Fappani on Spooks N Jewels

where her affinity for reining blossomed.

"When I was 15, I was lucky enough to start riding with Brett Stone and John Slack in Arizona," Tish remembered about her official entrance into the world of reining. "That was the year Boomernic won the Futurity."

It was those long, sliding stops that initially caught Tish and Sue's attention for reining. The style and finesse sealed the deal for Tish and is perhaps the reason she's now an NRHA Mil-

lion Dollar Owner.

"My mom was a huge part of my life with horses; she always made sure I had the best opportunities and she put me with the best trainers," Tish said. "I was very lucky to have both of my parents in my corner."

Today, Tish finds partners in Andrea and their oldest son, Luca. The three have been swapping horses in the show pen for the past few years. Titles in the open, non pro, and youth, all on the same horses, speak volumes about the caliber of horses in the Fappani reining program.

"I'm really proud of raising horses that we can all ride and compete on," Tish said. "I remember the first horse Andrea and I bought together—Lean With Peppy Chex—we bought him as a 2-year-old before we were even married. Andrea showed him at the 2002 Futurity and then we sold him as a 4-year-old."

Eight years later, the Fappanis bought that gelding back,

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Impulse Photography

and now ‘Scooter’ is a permanent resident in the retirement pasture. If it were up to Tish, she’d keep them all.

“I get sentimental and think we need to keep all of them,” she said with a laugh. “Andrea isn’t a huge fan of all these geldings in our backyard, but we’ve had a lot of special horses together: Premier Diamond, Spooks N Jewels, Ice Cube, and Joes Genes, the mare I showed at the Futurity, just to name a few.”

Tish is excited to breed her mare and see what kind of

foals she can throw for the Fappanis to show in all three divisions in a few years.

“I always want all of our horses to do their best, but there’s something special when we own one and are able to get it shown,” Tish said. “I’m super shocked by this accomplishment. It’s huge. I’m proud to have raised and shown these horses, it’s super rewarding but it also takes a team to get it done.”

Story provided by NRHA.

FOUR SIRES REACH NEW NRHA MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MILESTONES

Thanks to a record-setting event, four National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) sires reached new million-dollar milestones. Wimpys Little Step is now the third sire in reining history to become an NRHA Twelve Million Dollar Sire and both Gunners Special Nite and Gunnatrashya joined the elite NRHA Four Million Dollar Sire club. Shine Chic Shine, and Shine Chic Shine became the association’s newest Million Dollar Sire.

Wimpys Little Step



It was less than two years ago that Wimpys Little Step became an eleven-million-dollar sire just behind Topsail Whiz and Gunner. Out of NRHA Three Million Dollar Sire and Hall of Famer Nu Chex To Cash, Wimpys Little Step was bred by NRHA Million Dollar Owner Hilldale Farm. The 21-year-old stallion is out of Leolita Step and standing for owner Silver Spurs Equine, LLC in Purcell, Oklahoma.

Wimpys Little Step boasts a short but decorated show career with NRHA Six Million Dollar Rider and Hall of Fame Inductee Shawn Florida. The pair won the All-American Quarter Horse Congress Open Level (L) 4 Futurity followed almost immediately by the 2002 NRHA Open L4 Futurity Championship. Wimpys Little Step has \$185,756 in NRHA

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Lifetime Earnings (LTE).

During the 2020 NRHA Futurity, Wimpys Little Step had three offspring make the open finals and four in the non pro finals. Combined, the seven entries earned over \$67,000, and Wimpys Little Step sailed across the \$12 million mark.

Step N Past Ya (out of ARC Sail Past Ya) was his top earner in the Non Pro L4 finals under the guidance of Gina-Marie Schumacher. With a score of 218, the duo earned a cool \$19,573.

Earning \$15,388 in the Open L3 finals and another \$8,718 in the Open L2 finals was Blonde Addy Tude (out of Miss Lil Addy Tude). At the reins was NRHA Professional Pat-

rick Flaherty piloting for owner Tim Ruckman.

Wimpys Little Step's top offspring include:

- NRHA Million Dollar Dam and Hall of Famer Wimpys Little Chic (out of NRHA Hall of Fame Inductee Collena Chic Olena): \$516,555 NRHA LTE
- RC Fancy Step (out of Sonita Wilson): \$364,454 NRHA LTE
- Wimpys Little Buddy (out of All Thats Dun): \$285,358 NRHA LTE
- Wimpynedsacocktail (out of Seven S Mimosa): \$280,379 NRHA LTE
- CFR Centenario Wimpy (out of Miss Hollywood Whiz): \$173,740 NRHA LTE

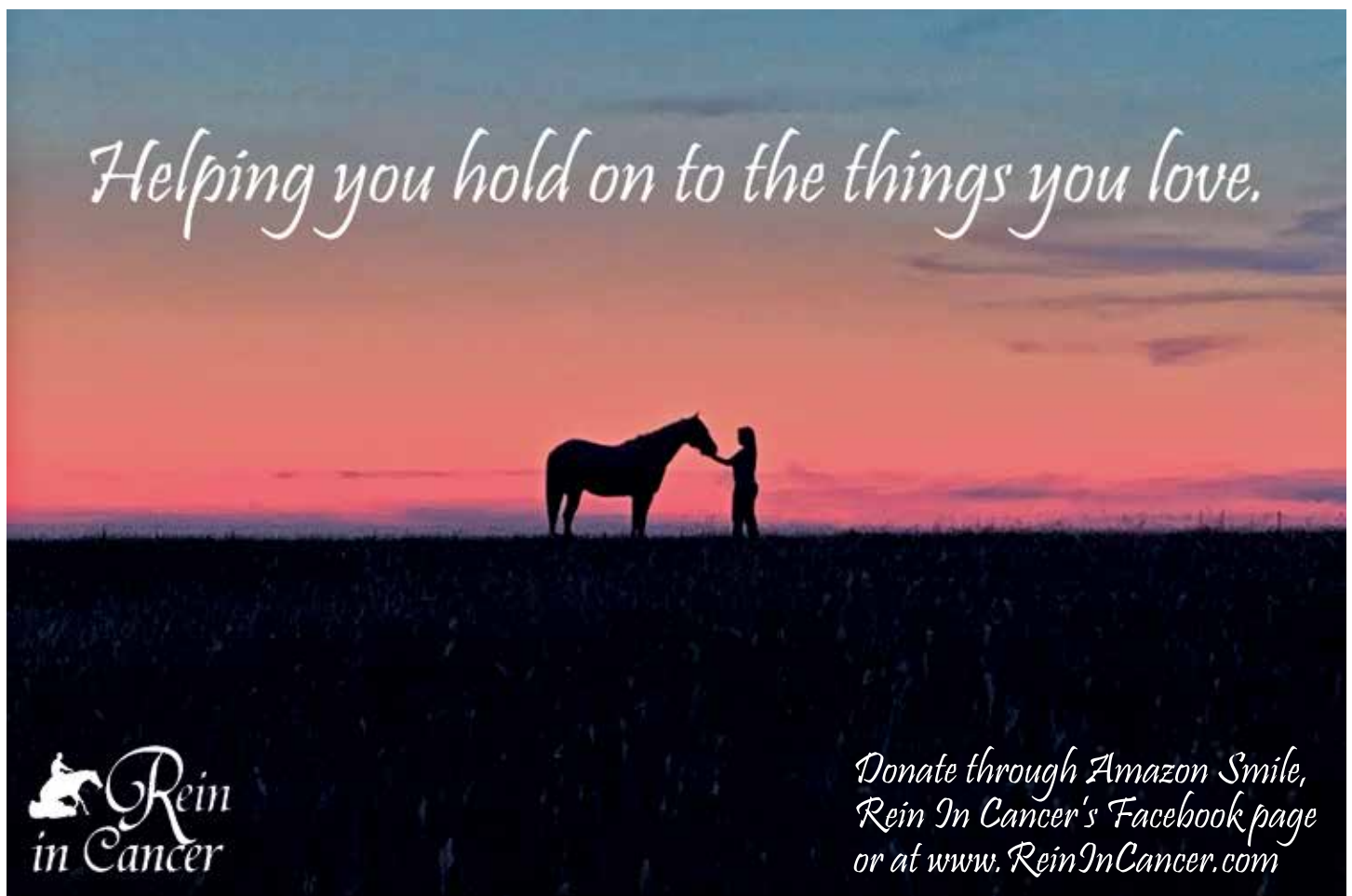
Gunners Special Nite

Gunners Special Nite is making quick work of reaching new NRHA Million Dollar milestones. In the last four years, he's climbed the ladder of success from one to now four million. As one of the newest NRHA Four Million Dollar Sires, 'Bailey' reached this achievement before the 2020 NRHA Futurity and Adequan® North American Affiliate Championship (NAAC) Show began.

offspring wasted no time chipping away at \$4 million. In the 2019 NRHA Open Futurity Finals, Guns And Dynamite (out of Chic Olena Starbuck) was reserve champion in levels 4-2 with NRHA Million Dollar Rider Cade McCutcheon in the saddle.

Gunners Special Nite has always paired well with the name McCutcheon. In 2010, NRHA Million Dollar Rider and Owner Tom McCutcheon reined the 2004 stallion to an

Just after reaching \$3 Million in September 2019, Bailey's



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individual and team gold medal at the 2010 World Equestrian Games (WEG) for team USA. The McCutcheon family continues riding horses out of this show-stopping stallion.

Bailey's offspring kept up their winning streak from the fall at the 2020 NRHA Futurity. NRHA Two Million Dollar Rider Mandy McCutcheon rode Shining At Nite (out of A Shining Sidekick) to the Non Pro L4 Futurity Championship. Thanks to the generosity of the NRHA Futurity Challenge Donors, McCutcheon added \$60,000 to her NRHA LTE and that of Gunners Special Nite.

Bred by Kim and Deborah Sloan and raised by Tim and Colleen McQuay, Bailey was later purchased by Turnabout Farm, Inc. He is now standing at Tom McCutcheon Reining Horses in Aubrey, Texas.



Turnabout Farm, Inc. is quickly becoming a household name when it comes to breeding top reining horses. The Aubrey, Texas, based operation was the leading breeder in 2018 and 2019 according to Equistat. They also listed Turnabout Farm as a "Reining Up-&-Comer" in early 2020.

Gunners Special Nite's top offspring include:

- Modern Gun (out of Taris Modern Design): \$221,043 NRHA LTE
- Guns And Dynamite (out of Chic Olena Starbuck): \$180,606 NRHA LTE
- Baileys Not Painted (out of Darlins Not Painted): \$140,984 NRHA LTE
- Lenas Shining Gun (out of SL Lenas Chick): \$106,184 NRHA LTE
- Special Made Whiskey (out of Starlight Acres): \$93,916 NRHA LTE

Gunnatrashya

With 35 foals in the 2020 NRHA Open Futurity alone, it was nearly impossible for Gunnatrashya to miss the \$4 million dollar mark. When the dust settled, the 2006 stallion far surpassed that milestone after Gunnabebigtime (out of Big Time Jazzy) earned the Open L4 Reserve Champion title. NRHA Million Dollar Rider Brian Bell piloted the stallion to a 224.5 to earn \$118,982.



\$218,046 in NRHA LTE to date.

Gunnatrashya has produced several futurity and derby champions during his breeding tenure. At the 2019 NRHA Open L4 Futurity Finals, one of Gunnatrashya's colts helped Cade McCutcheon become an NRHA Million Dollar Rider. Super Marioo (out of HA Chic A Tune) topped the Open L4 and L3 finals to add \$172,358

Bred by Katarina Dorminy, Gunnatrashya now stands at Oswald Stallion Station in Weatherford, Texas, for Arcese Quarter Horses USA. He's by NRHA Twelve Million Dollar Sire and Hall of Fame Inductee Gunner and out of Natrasha.

As a 3-year-old, Gunnatrashya found significant success in the show pen. Under the direction of NRHA Six Million Dollar Rider and Hall of Fame Inductee Shawn Florida, Gunnatrashya was the 2009 All-American Quarter Horse Open L4 Futurity Champion and immediately followed that up with the NRHA Open L4 Futurity Championship.

The pair came back to the Jim Norick Arena in June to win the NRHA Open L4 Derby title. Gunnatrashya harbors

to his NRHA LTE and pushed Cade over the \$1 million mark.

Gunnatrashya's top offspring include:

- ARC Gunnabebigstar (out of NRHA Million Dollar Dam Wimpys Little Chic): \$298,999 NRHA LTE
- Super Marioo (out of HA Chic A Tune): \$254,528 NRHA LTE
- Inferno Sixty Six (out of NRHA Million Dollar Dam and Hall of Fame Inductee Snip O Gun): \$205,690 NRHA LTE
- ARC Gunna Mark Ya (out of Shiney Miss Marker): \$163,877 NRHA LTE
- Gunnabebigtime (out of Big Time Jazzy): \$134,714 NRHA LTE



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Shine Chic Shine

Owned by Amabile & Strusiner of Grandview, Texas, Shine Chic Shine is by NRHA Seven Million Dollar Sire Smart Chic Olena and out of the NRHA's first Million Dollar Dam, Ebony Shines. Bred by Manntana LLC, the standout palomino was purchased through the NRHA Select Yearling Sale. "His full brother that year (Shiners Chic) was showing in the Futurity and doing fantastic. That horse is still showing now at 15 years old, and is still amazing, so that was a good tell," John Amabile explained. "I also really liked his (Shine Chic Shine's) breeding and confirmation."



the NRHA Futurity. The stallion and the NRHA's top earning rider Florida seemed poised to win it all, but a bit of bad luck kept them out of Championship contention.

"During the Finals, he slipped over by the gate and fell out of lead," Amabile recalled.

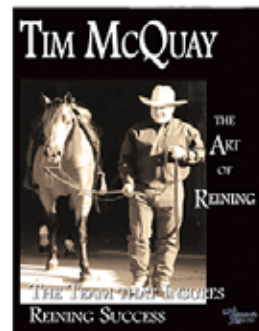
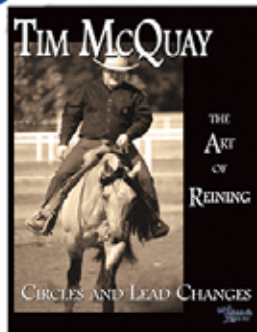
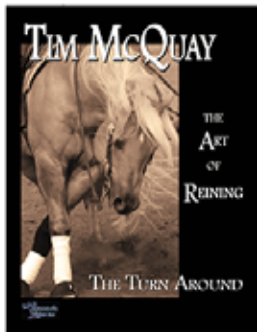
Although disappointing, Shine Chic Shine and Florida rebounded impressively, winning the 2011 National Reining Breeders Classic (NRBC) in

spectacular fashion. During the Finals, the pair marked a 229.5 to tie for the lead with Todd Sommers and Whiz It A Chic. With so much money up for grabs, the riders decided to run-off, and Florida and Shine Chic Shine upped their performance to a 231 to take the win.

He had impressive looks and lineage, and the next step was to pair him with a great trainer, NRHA Six Million Dollar Rider and Hall of Fame Inductee Shawn Florida. Shine Chic Shine was set for success. In 2010, the flashy palomino stallion took a commanding lead in the first go at

"He was awesome for me," Florida recalled. "Personality-wise, he was kind of a clown and enjoyed life, but when it

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was time to be serious, he came to the party.”

Shine Chic Shine was only shown at six events, but in that time, amassed more than \$150,000 in NRHA Lifetime Earnings (LTE). “Shawn Flarida was instrumental in his success, and he did a great job with him,” Amabile said. “We retired Shine early because we wanted to get him to the breeding shed, and we were very protective of him.”

Shine Chic Shine’s first foals arrived in 2012. His top earner is PS Mega Shine Chic with \$219,655 in NRHA LTE, including an American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) World Championship in 2020, as well as the Run For a Million Shootout Championship.

Shine Chic Shine also sired Shine Colt Shine, who, with

Flarida at the reins, took the NRHA Futurity Reserve Championship in 2019. Shine Colt Shine was the 2018 Markel Insurance Prospect Sale high seller, and to date has won \$113,248. Flarida noted that Shine Colt Shine, like many of his siblings, share similarities with their sire. “Shine Chic Shine’s sons and daughters are doing really well. Every one of his babies can run and stop a country mile,” he shared.

Beginning in 2021, Shine Chic Shine will be standing at Toyon Ranch, a move about which Amabile is excited. “They have some of the best mares, and they’re going to be breeding some to Shine. They have a great program, too, and I know this will make reaching the next million dollars a lot easier,” Amabile shared.

Story provided by NRHA.

THE ETERNAL RIDE

With Jason Vanlandingham

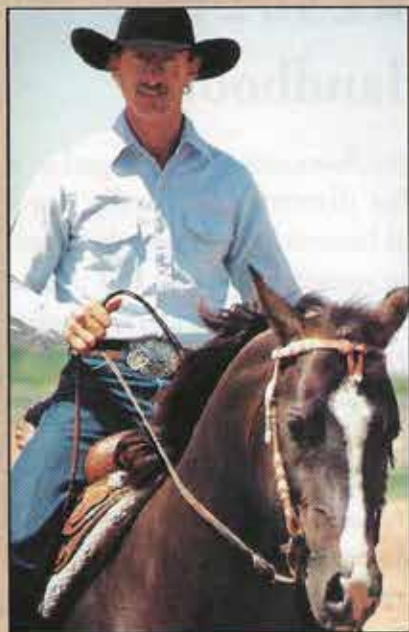


NRHA Two Million Dollar Rider Jason Vanlandingham works hard to be one of the NRHA’s top professionals. He also strives to serve his Savior any way he can.

Jason is always willing to pass on the message that he has been given. Now, partnered with WorldWide Slide, God’s word is carried even further through The Eternal Ride. Tune in to hear Jason share the lessons the Lord has given him.

If you are moved by this message and want to let Jason know or have questions about your own journey, contact him via email at jasonvanlandingham@hotmail.com.

CARL McCUISTION



Carl and Karen McCuiston run a training facility in Wilson, Oklahoma.

Teaching the Lead Change

This Oklahoma trainer first instills the basics in a young horse.

by Cheryl Magoteaux

The lead change is a normal part of Carl McCuiston's schooling process on a young horse, but he never asks a colt to execute one until he has mastered some important basic skills. McCuiston, who with his wife, Karen, operates a training facility in Wilson, Oklahoma, is very specific about how he introduces young horses to this maneuver.

"I want a horse to change leads correctly – making the change behind first, or simultaneously with the front. To have the control to make the horse change in this manner requires that I have a sound set of basics instilled in him.

I'll know the horse is ready to introduce to lead changes when he is broke enough so that my rein cues control his head. I'll want him to give his head to the side when I pick up on a single rein. He should also not only flex at the poll vertically when I pick up on both reins, he should also back off the bridle. By that, I mean that he should either stop or slow down – not just give his face and keep going at the same speed. A lot of times you see a horse that gives you his face (tucks his nose), but just keeps running through the bridle – and that's a real problem. I want him to back off the bridle (yield to the bit) – and be ready to react with his body when I pick up the reins."

The colt should also respond willingly to a cue from the rider to collect himself – to shorten his stride and gather himself up. "This puts him in a position to do just about anything – and I need to be able to collect him to teach him to change leads."

There are different ways to teach collection. McCuiston does it by speeding the horse up and then slowing him down. "I'll get him going at a fairly fast lope, then smoothly pick up on the reins. If he tries to stop, I squeeze him with my legs. As I hold him steady in front, he'll get slower and collect himself." His momentum drives the horse's

"Overlooking any of the basic skills can result in the horse being confused"

hindquarters under him, which is the basis for collection.

According to Carl, teaching collection in this manner gives the colt enough forward motion while he is learning to collect himself "so you don't have to kick him forward to keep him moving into the bit."

Besides giving to the bit and collecting himself, the horse must also have two

other important skills in preparation for learning lead changes. "He should move away from leg pressure in either direction, and he should also know how to pick up and take both leads." There are no shortcuts to teaching a horse to change leads correctly. "Overlooking any of the basic skills can result in the horse being confused," says Carl.

Once a horse has mastered the fundamentals, he is ready to learn an important maneuver that will help prepare him to change leads. This exercise – loping a circle on a reverse arc, with the horse's head and rear to the outside of the circle – is the first step in Carl's lead-change teaching program.

"Not only does this teach him to move sideways off my leg," explains McCuiston, "it also helps him learn to move off the rein." He explains that, for him, the reverse arc exercise is a perfect prerequisite to lead changes because it teaches the horse to put his body in the correct position to execute a lead change. "It's almost like I'm teaching him to put himself into a trap. If his head is in position and I change my leg pressure, he has almost no choice but to take the correct lead. Also, with his neck bent, a horse can't push into

the bridle against me, and it's easier to keep him collected."

For the reverse arc exercise, Carl first has the horse loping comfortably in a normal frame, with his head tipped to the inside (Figure 1). Carl's split reins are crossed over the horse's neck. In a circle to the right, Carl's right hand is lifted, up and back toward his belt buckle. His left hand is low and slightly out and his left calf will be putting just a little pressure on the horse's side, behind the cinch, to hold the hindquarters in.

"As I continue to circle to the right, I will change his position by tipping his head to the outside (to the left)." His left hand lifts and moves back toward his belt buckle to lift the left rein; his right hand moves down low to the horse's neck and slightly out to maintain light pressure with the right rein.

As Carl holds the horse's head in this reverse arc position, he uses his left leg to move him to the inside of the circle (away from his leg pressure). As the horse continues to lope, the circle gradually decreases in size.

"Keeping pressure on the right rein is important. The left rein holding the horse's nose out is a steadying rein. The right rein is the leading rein, guiding him into the circle. Not enough pressure on the right rein will cause the horse to try to follow his nose to the outside instead of moving away from the rein and leg to the right and decreasing the circle. Too much pressure can stop him completely.

"Still loping in the circle and maintaining the right lead, I will ask him to arc his rib cage to the outside by reversing my

hands. The right rein is picked up and against his neck, with the left rein out as the leading rein to make a larger circle. I'll keep my left leg pressure on him to keep him in the same lead – as my left rein pressure causes him to increase the size of the circle."

In this reverse-arc circle exercise, it is important for the rider to look ahead through the horse's ears. "You can see what the horse is doing and yet see where you're going. Keep your circle and position in mind." Don't lean – on this exercise or later when you start lead changes. Sit up straight in the saddle and drive the horse. Shifting your weight will throw him off balance.

"Throughout the exercise, I'm maintaining the same lead, but I am manipulating the horse's head and body in preparation for the lead changes."

Once the horse is comfortable with the reverse arc, the next step is to actually introduce the lead change.

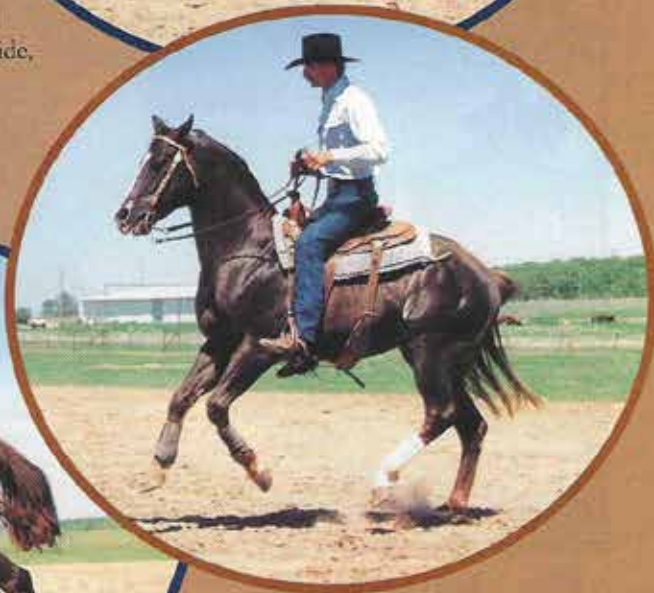
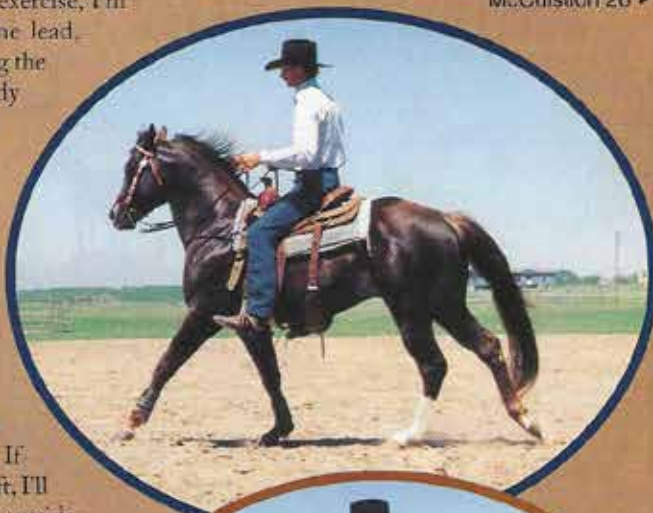
"I'll do this by loping the horse around the arena in a big circle (Figure 2). If we are going to the left, I'll arc his rib cage to the outside,

and tip his nose in to the left. Then when I come straight across the arena, I will tip his face to the right and apply right leg pressure." This puts the horse in a reverse arc.

As he holds the horse in that reverse arc position, the horse lopez across the arena, traveling forward and slightly to the left with his head tipped to the right, moving away from the rider's right leg.

"You're actually still in a circle to the left, so if you're coming across the arena and your horse is not in position to change, or if he's pushing or leaning, you can just go on loping in the circle. Don't try a change if he's resisting or out of position.

McCuiston 26 ▶



Here's a sequence of photos showing Carl making a lead change. 1) First, he's loping across the middle of the arena, in the left lead and in a straight line, with the horse's head tipped slightly to the right. 2) Middle. Carl applies pressure from his left leg to ask for the change to the right lead, and the horse changes. 3) Below, Carl continues loping to the right. As a horse learns to change leads, he will do it more smoothly, without bouncing in the air.



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◀ McCuiston 25

"If the horse is correct, collected, and not pushing into the bridle, and is in position to go the other way, he is ready to try the lead change. To ask him to change, I will continue to hold his head in that reverse-arc position, but I remove the right leg pressure and apply my left leg. That moves his back end over, and he should change leads behind; then with the next stride, change in the front."

From there, Carl continues across the arena, loping in a circle to the right

around the arena. "The horse is already arced for the right lead. If his head was right, it's already aimed right where you want it to go."

McCuiston explains the reason for moving sideways to introduce the lead change. "We do that to control the shoulder and hold it up. We want the horse moving in a straight line when he changes leads. This allows the horse to get the back end to change first. Most missed leads are due to moving the shoulder and head forward and over,

which throws the back end out and causes the horse to miss in back."

Sometimes people lean way out over the horse to look down when they change leads. That throws the rider's weight to the front end, putting him off balance. As a result, the horse will usually change leads in front, but not behind. The rider should sit quietly and not move around in the saddle.

Once the horse has made the lead change, "As long as he doesn't speed up, I'll just loosen the reins and start him on another circle." If the horse does speed up after the change, Carl takes hold of him and backs him off the bit. He makes him collect himself and respond to the bridle.

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"Concentrate on maintaining a consistent speed, and keep your cues controlled and distinct, so he understands what you are asking."

"Sometimes the horse speeds up because when the rider changed legs, he really drove him with the outside leg," Carl explains. "That can cause a horse to move faster. Concentrate on maintaining a consistent speed, and keep your cues controlled and distinct, so he understands what you are asking."

If the horse doesn't make the change when you cue him for it, continue around the same circle to the left, get him set up for it, then try it again.

"On the first day, after he makes the change one way, let him catch his air if he's tired, then do it again in the other direction. If he does a good change in each direction, I might only change him twice. Remember, if a horse is really tired, it's harder for him to change leads," Carl points out.

As the horse becomes more adept at interpreting the rider's signals and executing the lead changes, the cues become more refined and subtle. "What we want
McCuiston 28 ▶

Performance Horse



Loping to the right in a reverse arc. The horse's head is tipped to the left while the rib cage is arced to the right. Note the position of Carl's hands and that he is applying pressure from the calf of his left leg.

Loping to the left in a reverse arc. The left rein is the leading rein, guiding the horse into the circle, while the right rein holds the nose out. Carl is also using pressure from his right leg to move the horse over to the left, into a smaller circle.

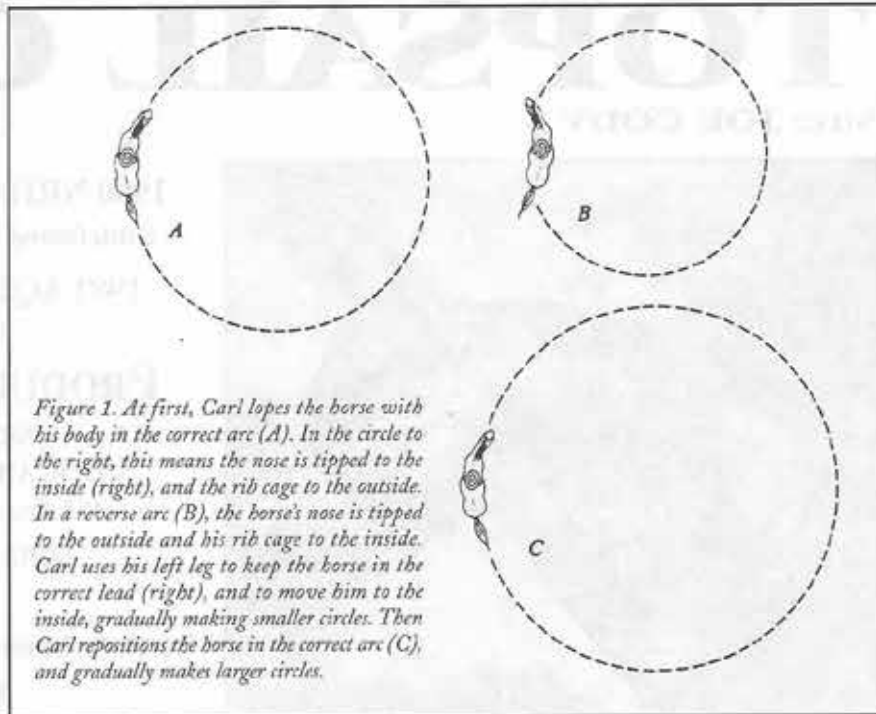


Figure 1. At first, Carl lopes the horse with his body in the correct arc (A). In the circle to the right, this means the nose is tipped to the inside (right), and the rib cage to the outside. In a reverse arc (B), the horse's nose is tipped to the outside and his rib cage to the inside. Carl uses his left leg to keep the horse in the correct lead (right), and to move him to the inside, gradually making smaller circles. Then Carl repositions the horse in the correct arc (C), and gradually makes larger circles.

◀ McCuistion 26

to do, eventually, is just elevate the reins to collect the horse and straighten his body, then release the outside leg so he changes as your other leg moves into him. The rein pickup is like putting the clutch down. You tell him to hesitate, and collect – then your legs give him the cue for the next move.”

One of the most common problems for the horse, at first, is not responding to the rider's leg. This is more likely to happen with a novice rider whose cues are less distinct. Make sure leg signals are clear, by moving your leg slightly back behind the cinch, and applying pressure with the calf of the leg. With legs, as with reins, you have to use enough pressure to get results. If the pressure with the calf doesn't speak loudly enough, then use the heel to ask for the move. If that doesn't work, use a spur.

How light the horse is will dictate the amount of leg pressure needed. “Just lay the leg against the horse's side and squeeze at first. If that doesn't get a response, bump him with your heel – then finally try the spur. Always ask the horse, first, then add pressure if he doesn't respond,” Carl advises.

Another problem occurs when the horse stiffens his body, changing in front and not behind. If this happens, he's not

moving away from the rider's legs and it's time to go back to the basics. Carl says, “Stop him and limber him up. Get him moving away from your leg pressure at a walk and a trot. Slow down so he can think about it. Once he's working off my legs, I'll try the lead change again.”

McCuistion feels it's a mistake to bring the horse down to a trot and make the change if a horse is having problems with the lead change. “When you drop down to a trot and make the change, it becomes a habit and a lot of times the horse will get to thinking that's the only way he can change.”

The single biggest mistake made by novice riders, according to Carl, is leaning in the direction they are changing and pulling the reins as they lean. This tips the horse's head to the outside and moves the shoulder in. The result: The lead change takes place in the front, but the rear change possibly won't happen at all.

Another common problem occurs when the horse fails to change and the rider spurs him to reprimand him or try to force him. The horse takes off, and he learns immediately to speed up every time he changes leads.

Some riders are unable to feel which lead the horse is on without looking down at the horse's shoulders. Knowing what

McCuistion 30 ▶

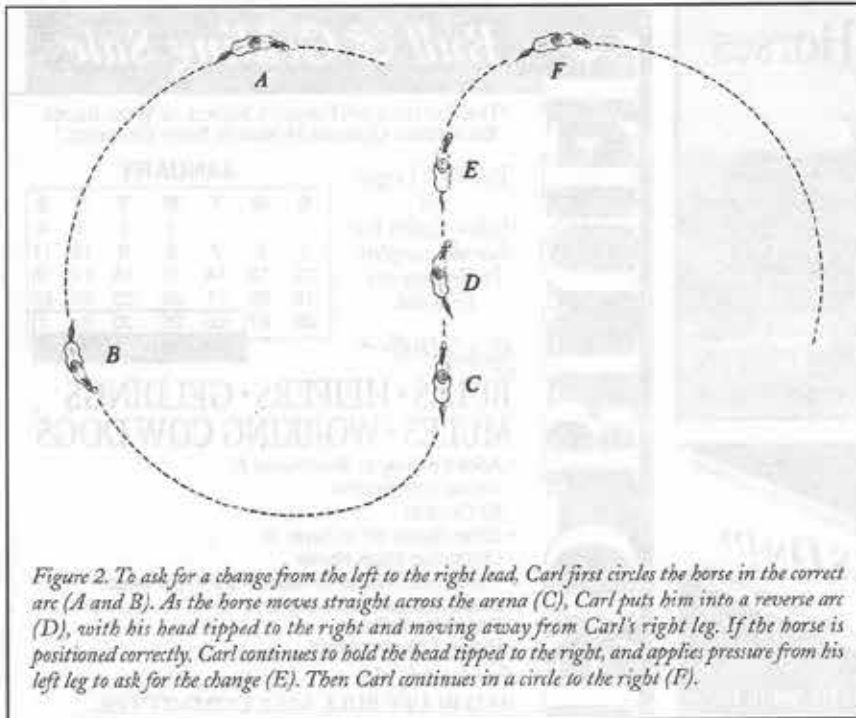


Figure 2. To ask for a change from the left to the right lead, Carl first circles the horse in the correct arc (A and B). As the horse moves straight across the arena (C), Carl puts him into a reverse arc (D), with his head tipped to the right and moving away from Carl's right leg. If the horse is positioned correctly, Carl continues to hold the head tipped to the right, and applies pressure from his left leg to ask for the change (E). Then Carl continues in a circle to the right (F).

◀ McCuiston 28

lead the horse is on is essential for correctly executing changes, and one of the first steps in learning about lead changes is to study the leads from the ground.

"If you don't know how to tell which lead a horse is on, have someone show you while you watch from the ground. Once you can recognize the leads from the ground, you'll be able to feel them better," Carl points out.

From there, have a ground person tell you what lead you're on until you begin to develop a feel. Practice correct lead departures – take a lead, lope a short ways, then stop, and start again.

It is easier to feel the leads when sitting down in the saddle than it is standing up with more weight in the stirrups. As the horse is loping in the right lead, for example, the rider's right leg will move slightly forward, and the torso will turn ever-so-slightly to the left.

Carl says, "Once you get the feel of the leads, continue to develop your awareness of the horse by sitting down in the saddle and concentrating on how the horse's inside leg feels under you when he is loping." Gradually, this amplified awareness of the horse's movement will increase the timing and accuracy in a variety of maneuvers.

Going too slow or too fast on a horse just learning to change leads is another common mistake. "Some horses literally can't change leads going slow. Others have the ability, but need a lot of assistance from the rider, so you really have to set them up to do it. Then, some talented athletes will change leads regardless of what the rider does. McCuiston stresses that every horse is different, but adds



that a pleasure-horse lope translates to a more difficult change because the horse doesn't have much forward motion. In teaching a young horse, he suggests working at a good, cadenced lope – not too fast or too slow.

How much time should a rider spend on lead changes? "Once a horse learns to change and starts anticipating, I change less," Carl replies. "When I'm schooling a horse, I'll do lead changes a couple or three days, then just work on the building blocks without changing leads every day.

"Think of it this way. You teach the horse to change leads. Then you teach him that you can prevent him from changing leads until you're ready."

In lead changes, Carl teaches the basics. "Then we teach the lead change. After that, we maintain the basics that the lead change is based on. Occasionally we check to see that the horse can do the maneuver and is doing it correctly."

If you drill too much on changing leads, the horse begins to anticipate and starts swapping leads on his own in circles or on the straightaway. One big schooling error that novices make is practicing figure eights. That just teaches anticipation, as well as causing the horse to associate lead changes with a change of direction. Don't be predictable in asking for lead changes – either by asking for it in the same place every time, or by asking for it after only one circle. Instead, vary your routine.

What makes a horse able to execute a good lead change? "A horse that's built with his back legs set up under him can usually change leads easier, and a horse with a shorter back can usually change quicker.

"The biggest factor, though," continues McCuiston, "is the horse's mind. If he can change leads in the pasture, he can change leads with a rider – if he is willing, and understands the cues – and it's the job of the trainer to make sure he does." ■

Reprinted from The Western Horseman

Before asking a horse to change leads, Carl teaches him how to move away from leg pressure. Here, the horse is moving away from Carl's right leg while trotting to the left in a reverse arc.



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2020 NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION YEAR-END TOP 10 CHAMPIONS

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS OPEN

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Jacs Electric Girl	Grey Stone Ranch GMBH	Arnaud Girinon	0	\$0.00
2	Colonel Tinseltown	Susan Flynn	Kathy Ferguson	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS INTERMEDIATE OPEN

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	John Wayne Tag	Summerwind Farm Inc	Austin T Morris	0	\$0.00
2	Gunna Bea Natural	Judy Yarbrough Realty	Dan Yarbrough	0	\$0.00
3	Colonel Tinseltown	Susan Flynn	Kathy Ferguson	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS LIMITED OPEN

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	John Wayne Tag	Summerwind Farm Inc	Austin T Morris	0	\$0.00
2	Gunna Bea Natural	Judy Yarbrough Realty	Dan Yarbrough	0	\$0.00
3	Colonel Tinseltown	Susan Flynn	Kathy Ferguson	0	\$0.00
4	Rock On Wimpy	Dana Wetherell	S. Adam R Johnson	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS NOVICE HORSE OPEN

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Maggie Magnum	SQR Performance Horses LLC	Jorge L Puente	0	\$0.00
2	Bazookachic	Ralph Bauwens	Gilad Susman	0	\$0.00
3	Symphony Spook	Laura Shea Do	Rick Weaver	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS NOVICE HORSE OPEN LEVEL 2

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Lime a Rita	Susan Meyer	Jared T Leclair	0	\$0.00
2	Maggie Magnum	SQR Performance Horses LLC	Jorge L Puente	0	\$0.00
3	FM Cottonwood	Carlton/Khris Crowe	Hava Vital	0	\$0.00
4	Bazookachic	Ralph Bauwens	Gilad Susman	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS NOVICE HORSE OPEN LEVEL 3

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Lime a Rita	Susan Meyer	Jared T Leclair	0	\$0.00
2	Bazookachic	Ralph Bauwens	Gilad Susman	0	\$0.00
3	FM Cottonwood	Carlton/Khris Crowe	Hava Vital	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS ROOKIE PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	John Wayne Tag	Summerwind Farm Inc	Austin T Morris	0	\$0.00
2	Smart Sara Roos	Michael Riley	Austin T Morris	0	\$0.00
3	Whiskey N Juice	Izah Braswell	Taylor J Vanmalsen	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Chics Nite	Kevin Colston	Lane Colston	0	\$0.00
2	Coded N Karma	Robert & Robbin Thayn	Raeanna R Thayn	0	\$0.00
3	NVR What a Lucky Joe	Morris H Kulmer	Morris H Kulmer	0	\$0.00
4	Smart Tinseltown	Clay Clausen	Anna Clausen	0	\$0.00
5	Hes Throwing Smoke	Heather Marks	Kaylan Marks	0	\$0.00
6	Made By Magnum	Lucinda M Human	Lucinda M Human	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS INTERMEDIATE NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Smart Tinseltown	Clay Clausen	Anna Clausen	0	\$0.00
2	Hes Throwing Smoke	Heather Marks	Kaylan Marks	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS LIMITED NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
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1	Smokin Whizkey	Julianna M Cook	Julianna M Cook	0	\$0.00
2	Nobiz Like Show Whiz	Edward Bricker	Clay Bricker	0	\$0.00
3	Smart Tinseltown	Clay Clausen	Anna Clausen	0	\$0.00
4	Boom Shine Boom	Angie Eger	Cadence R Eger	0	\$0.00
5	Gun Smoke Dennis	Armenta Quarter Horses	Sarah Armenta	0	\$0.00
6	Rest N Whizkey	Jordan P Roeder	Jordan P Roeder	0	\$0.00
7	Xtra Little Olena	Debra Halsey	Debra L Halsey	0	\$0.00
8	Tinker This	Peter J Smith	Peter J Smith	0	\$0.00
9	Nestle Swihz Choclat	Angela Loechel	Angela Loechel	0	\$0.00
10	Ebony Whizard	Peggy Lovejoy	Peggy Lovejoy	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS NOVICE HORSE NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Girls Lovin Time	Hilldale Farm	Jessicah Keller	0	\$0.00
2	In a Bikini	Smart Like Juice Inc	Jose Vazquez	0	\$0.00
3	Gata Chromed Magnum	Lynn M Miller	Lynn M Miller	0	\$0.00
4	Xtra Sparkles N Town	Michael Ellis	Nicole M Ellis	0	\$0.00
5	Ten Plus Acres	Aidan N Stetzer	Aidan N Stetzer	0	\$0.00
6	KR Smart Dreamer	Tamra L Kyle	Tamra L Kyle	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS NOVICE HORSE NON-PRO LEVEL 2

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Girls Lovin Time	Hilldale Farm	Jessicah Keller	0	\$0.00
2	Nifty Walla Whiz	Lindsay M Handren	Lindsay M Handren	0	\$0.00
3	In a Bikini	Smart Like Juice Inc	Jose Vazquez	0	\$0.00
4	Gata Chromed Magnum	Lynn M Miller	Lynn M Miller	0	\$0.00
5	Ten Plus Acres	Aidan N Stetzer	Aidan N Stetzer	0	\$0.00
6	Smart As Sue	Michelle McDowell	Michelle McDowell	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS PRIMETIME NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Made By Magnum	Lucinda M Human	Lucinda M Human	0	\$0.00
2	Double My Chics	Lisa Bissell	Lisa Bissell	0	\$0.00
3	NVR What a Lucky Joe	Morris H Kulmer	Morris H Kulmer	0	\$0.00
4	Nestle Swihz Choclat	Angela Loechel	Angela Loechel	0	\$0.00
5	Xtra Little Olena	Debra L Halsey	Debra L Halsey	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS YOUTH JUNIOR

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Great King Jack	Bill Thomas Jr	Calla J Thomas	0	\$0.00
2	La Creme Brulee	Calla J Thomas	Calla J Thomas	0	\$0.00
3	Roxys Custom Crome	Katie Jedele	Katie Jedele	0	\$0.00
4	Dun Got My Rest	Sam Schaffhauser	Becca K Schaffhauser	0	\$0.00
5	Lucky Little Seven	Gracie Mae Stingle	Gracie Mae Stingle	0	\$0.00
6	Zz Stop	Olivia L Cardi	Olivia L Cardi	0	\$0.00
7	Playing Ruf	Chris Ballard	Sara B Filiatreau	0	\$0.00
8	Wimpys Little Rosa	Amy Zgrebnack	Emma L Zgrebnack	0	\$0.00
9	Fs Rios Dun Wrangler	Nathan O Connor	Kendra O Connor	0	\$0.00
10	Wayout Of Crome	Emerson Schultis	Avery J Schultis	0	\$0.00

2020 NRHA TOP 10 CHAMPIONS YOUTH SENIOR

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	A Bueno Chic	Adrianna Runzo	Adrianna Runzo	0	\$0.00
2	Outlaw Juicy Wales	Luke Turner	Haley Turner	0	\$0.00
3	KR Smart Lil Devil	Alexandria Brown	Alexandria Brown	0	\$0.00
4	Coded N Karma	Robert/Robbin Thayn	Raeanna R Thayn	0	\$0.00
5	Little Crome Whiz	Paige R Butterfield	Paige R Butterfield	0	\$0.00
6	Jac N Jewels Spark	Carrie Lynch	Shelby J Lynch	0	\$0.00
7	Hollywood Villain	Monica/Todd Stephens	Kennedy Stephens	0	\$0.00

8	Guns N Rio	Emerson I Madonia	Emerson I Madonia	0	\$0.00	10	Coded N Color	Robert/Robbin Thayn	Raeanna R Thayn	0	\$0.00
9	Lil Techno Gun	Sarah Judkiewicz	Brooke Judkiewicz	0	\$0.00						

2020 BRAZIL ANCR REINING FUTURITY

2020 BRAZIL ANCR REINING FUTURITY LEVEL 4 OPEN

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Energizer Kid	Andre Tripoloni	Joao Felipe Lacerda	224	\$339.95
2	So Much Whizkey	Joao Carlos Barros Battistella	Gilson Vendrame	222	\$287.65
3	Kid Did It Again	Andre Tripoloni	Joao Felipe Lacerda	221	\$183.05
4	KR Gunna Git Ruf	Fernando Cervelati Botteon	Marcelo Almeida	218.5	\$130.75
5	Elwood Spook Thing	Jose Henrique Do Amaral	Luis De Souza	218	\$117.68
6	Shine Gotta Lady	Jose Fernando Fagundes	Marcelo Almeida	217.5	\$104.60
7	Golden Chick Boy	Ovidio Vierira Ferreira	Gilson Diniz	215.5	\$78.45
8	Magneto Kid	Andre Tripoloni	Joao Felipe Lacerda	215	\$65.38

2020 BRAZIL ANCR REINING FUTURITY LEVEL 3 OPEN

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Elwood Spook Thing	Jose Henrique Do Amaral	Luis De Souza	218	\$339.95
2	Golden Chick Boy	Ovidio Vierira Ferreira	Gilson Diniz	215.5	\$287.65
3	Chocolate Spook	Ubere Agropecuaria Eireli Me	Ordelon Rosa Da Silva Jr	214.5	\$183.05
4	All Bella Bars	Laercio Casalecchi Jr	Laercio Casalecchi Jr	208	\$130.75

2020 BRAZIL ANCR REINING FUTURITY LEVEL 4 NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
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1	Fantastico Voodoo Mv	Giovana Diniz	Giovana Diniz	221	\$398.13
2	Elwood Spook Thing	Jose Henrique Do Amaral	Jose Henrique Do Amaral	212.5	\$270.73
3	Make Cielo Mad	Catalina Adriana Perez	Catalina Adriana Perez	212	\$191.10
4	Juke Gotta Gun	Juliana Fruet	Juliana Fruet	206	\$151.29
5	Gunna Be Voodoo	Luis Omar De Quadros Barboza	Luis Omar De Quadros Barboza	203	\$127.40
6	Spin Little Step	Luiz Marques	Luiz Marques	198.5	\$111.48
7	Mr Reminic Bk	Ronaldo Giacomitti	Amithys Sampaio J Giacomitti	192.5	\$95.55

2020 BRAZIL ANCR REINING FUTURITY LEVEL 3 NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Make Cielo Mad	Catalina Adriana Perez	Catalina Adriana Perez	212	\$342.40
2	Gunna Be Voodoo	Luis Omar De Quadros Barboza	Luis Omar De Quadros Barboza	203	\$235.40
3	Spin Little Step	Luiz Marques	Luiz Marques	198.5	\$203.30
4	Mr Reminic Bk	Ronaldo Giacomitti	Amithys Sampaio J Giacomitti	192.5	\$107.00

2020 BRAZIL ANCR REINING FUTURITY LEVEL 2 NON-PRO

PL.	HORSE	OWNER	RIDER	SC.	MONEY
1	Make Cielo Mad	Catalina Adriana Perez	Catalina Adriana Perez	212	\$371.00
2	Juke Gotta Gun	Juliana Fruet	Juliana Fruet	206	\$278.25

LOOKING FORWARD TO THESE UPCOMING NRHA EVENTS

1/18 - 1/23	SCRHA 2020 Champion Show	Sydney	NS	AUS
1/23 - 1/24	VRHA Slide Into Summer Jackpot Reining	South	VI	AUS
1/28 - 1/31	Winter Slide	Ardmore	OK	USA
1/28 - 2/01	ORHA Reining In Oregon #1	Eugene	OR	USA
1/29 - 1/31	Heart Of Dixie Southern Slide(T)	Perry	GA	USA
2/05 - 2/08	Warm Up 1	Waco	TX	USA
2/06 - 2/07	SFRHA Super Bowl Slide	Tampa	FL	USA
2/12 - 2/22	ARHA Futurity - Half Arabian	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
2/12 - 2/22	ARHA Futurity - Purebred Arabian	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
2/18 - 2/19	Dixie National Quarter Horse Show(T)	Jackson	MS	USA
2/22 - 2/28	Florida Reining Classic(T)	Jacksonville	FL	USA
3/03 - 3/07	Oklahoma Ride & Slide(T)	Tulsa	OK	USA
3/05 - 3/08	West Coast Reining Horse Association Affiliate #1(T)	Corning	CA	USA
3/17 - 3/21	Cactus Reining Classic(T)	Scottsdale	AZ	USA
3/26 - 3/29	TNRHA Shamrock Slide	Harriman	TN	USA
3/18 - 3/18	Winter Blast(T)	Louis	MO	USA
3/26 - 3/28	History & Champions	Ardmore	OK	USA
4/03 - 4/04	SFRHA Spring Break Slide	Tampa	FL	USA
5/08 - 5/09	SFRHA Cinco De Mayo Slide	Tampa	FL	USA
6/12 - 6/13	SFRHA Welcome to Summer Slide	Miami	FL	USA
7/26 - 7/31	Tuse Euro Slide & NRHA European Championship(T)	Regstrup		DNK
9/06 - 9/12	Belgium Futurity Show(T)	Koningshooiky		BEL
9/15 - 9/19	Matzendorf Reining Masters 2021 (T)	Matzendorf		CHE
9/22 - 9/25	SCRHA 2021 Champion Show	Sydney	NS	AUS
10/09 - 10/10	SFRHA Spooky Slide	Tampa	FL	USA