

Youth Participate at NRHA Convention

NRHyA PRESIDENT IAN BARNARD



“The NRHA Awards Banquet was a big highlight with many youth recognized for their outstanding achievements in the show pen last year.”

DURING THIS YEAR'S NRHA CONVENTION, THE 2008 NRHYA OFFICERS, ALONG WITH OTHER youth, attended and participated in many aspects of the NRHAs committee meetings and this year's youth activity, the Youth Forum. During the Youth Forum, equine businesses from the surrounding area came and spoke with the youth about the variety of career opportunities within the equine industry.

The youth committee meeting turned into a very extensive and productive meeting with many topics covered and lots of helpful discussion. Youth officers then attended the NRHA Board of Director's meeting and presented proposed rule changes. Officers were able to attend a variety of NRHA committee meetings to learn about various NRHA activities not necessarily youth-related.

Lots of fun memories were recorded by the dozen or so youth who were treated to dinner at Toby Keith's grill. We then enjoyed a complicated taxi ride to an indoor rock-climbing gym. We really enjoyed 'hanging out' together.

The NRHA Awards Banquet was a big highlight with many youth recognized for their outstanding achievements in the show pen last year. A total of 145 youth received NRHA Youth Incentive Awards. Eleven youth reached the 400-point level and three youth topped the 600- and 800-point levels.

NRHyA Varsity Reining kicked off in 2007 with the first annual "Youth of the Year" being announced at the banquet. Christy Gordon amassed an impressive 7,400 Varsity Reining points to become NRHyA's Youth of the Year. I would also like to personally congratulate both Austin Griffith and Megan Foley for achieving the world champion year-end titles in youth 14-18 and youth 13 & under, respectively.

During the past year, NRHyA has grown and accomplished much. The new NRHyA Web site enables youth worldwide to access all that we have to offer. New youth programs such as Varsity Reining and the United States Equestrian Federation's opportunities in the North American Young Riders Championship, as well as new classes like the 10 & under short stirrup, offer exciting opportunities for a variety of youth interests.

Through our great success with various fund-raisers, we (the NRHyA) have obviously achieved many goals and accomplishments. Only through the many efforts of volunteering youth and generous donors were we able to exceed 2006's fund-raising successes. Already this year, I'm extremely pleased to share with you that Carol Rose has again graciously provided a yearling filly, Lena Docs Betty, for our annual raffle.

For all of you who participated in helping the NRHyA reach last year's record-setting achievements, thank you very much! In 2008, let's try to top our previous year's huge success by selling even more raffle tickets. Please, let's all work together to set even higher goals and make this year the best year yet!

Ian Barnard

2008 NRHA Regional Clinic Series

Six clinics planned for 2008 to benefit the NRHyA

IN 2007 THE NRHYA ESTABLISHED THE Regional Clinic Series as a fundraiser for the youth programs. The first year was very successful, having raised over \$20,000.

The cost is \$250 for adults and \$150 for youth, auditing available for \$25.

Space is limited so make your reservations early by contacting the NRHA office at 405-946-7400. ♦

2008 NRHA REGIONAL CLINIC SERIES SCHEDULE:

SOUTH CENTRAL

APRIL 26-27

Tom McCutcheon & Dell Hendricks
Tom McCutcheon Reining Horses
Aubrey, Texas

NORTHEAST

APRIL 26-27

Shawn Florida
Morrisville State College
Morrisville, New York

NORTH CENTRAL

MAY 24-25

Tim McQuay & Brian Welman
University of Wisconsin River Falls
River Falls, Wisconsin

SOUTHEAST

JULY 9

Bryant Pace, Francois Gauthier, Mark
Arballo & Mike McEntire
Williamston, North Carolina

SOUTHWEST

OCTOBER 11-12

Randy Paul & Matt Mills
Outwest Stallion Station
Scottsdale, Arizona

NORTHWEST

Date: TBD

Todd Bergen
Location: TBD

NCAA Varsity Equestrian

An exciting venue for collegiate reiners.

BY EMILY EASTMAN, NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

VARSITY EQUESTRIAN (VE) WAS classified as an emerging sport within the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in 1998. The equestrian venue is made up of 23 teams from 23 universities coast to coast. It's highly competitive horseback riding at the collegiate level. VE is comprised of two disciplines: western and hunt seat. Within these disciplines are four events. Hunt seat offers equitation on the flat and over fences. The western team competes in horsemanship and Reining. Competitions are run in a head-to-head format with a rider from each respective team riding the same horse, which is determined in a random draw. Each athlete rides the horse through a predetermined pattern or test and receives a score from the judge. The higher score wins a point for the team. MVPs (Most Valuable Players) are chosen by the judge for each event. All of the universities host competitions throughout the academic year. The VE season runs through the fall and spring semesters, ending with the Varsity Equestrian National Championship in April. As is true of all NCAA Division 1 and 2 schools, athletic scholarships are awarded to deserving athletes.

Reining comprises 50 percent of the western portion at a varsity competition. The NRHA has a huge influence on the collegiate sport. The 10 reining patterns used in VE are NRHA's pat-

terns. The scoring and penalties are identical to NRHA's along with an additional collective mark from the judge. The collective mark is the overall impression a judge has of a rider (+1.5 to -1.5). Many collegiate reining competitors are riders who've been highly successful in the NRHA. Some of the team reining horses, donated to or



bought by the universities, have been futurity finalists and top money-earners in their former careers.

The 2008 Varsity Equestrian National Championship will be held in Waco, Texas, at the Heart of Texas Fair Complex, April 17–19, 2008. The VE selection committee will choose the best 12 hunt seat teams and top 12 western teams to be seeded accordingly into the championship bracket. This placement is decided by the team's win-loss record as well as the strength of schedule. Single elimination is implemented for the championship. 2008 will be the initial year to introduce the individual rider competition at the championship. The

VE National Championships

Watch the VE National Championships in Waco, Texas, April 17–19, at the Heart of Texas Fair Complex. For more information, visit www.varsityequestrian.com.

selection committee will choose the top four riders of each event to vie for individual national titles.

Last year, the University of South Carolina was the national champion as an overall team. Texas A&M University finished runner-up, with University of Georgia third. The western bracket winning team was Texas A&M University, followed by the University of South Carolina, and New Mexico State University. The University of South Carolina beat out the University of Georgia and Kansas State University to be the hunt seat champions.

It requires over 100 horses to efficiently run the year-end championship. Horses are trailered in from all across the country to be ridden in this special event. The horses are primarily provided by the universities, along with stables and ranches from the surrounding community at the championship location.

Some of VE's proud sponsors are the NRHA, Adequan®, the American Quarter Horse Association, and the United States Equestrian Federation. ♦

Youth Leaders

Meet your 2008 North Central Regional Delegates.

Helen L. Lauth

- **Age:** 17
- **City/State:** Eyota, Minnesota
- **A bit about myself:**

“I love reining! I’ve been showing for six years, and have been riding horses since I could stand. Some of my favorite things to do are taking my reining horse “Boots” out through the woods, fishing,

top 15. I’ve also earned the NRHA Youth Incentive 400 Point Award. Outside of the horses, I play basketball and softball for Dover-Eyota High School. I am also in the school drama club; I have been acting for two years. I’ve been active in the Dover-Eyota FFA for the past three years and now serve as sentinel. If I am not outside horsing around you’ll find me

shows such as AQHA and APHA shows. I’ve been fourth at the APHA World Show in Reining, and have been an AQHA Regional Experience Champion six times. In reining competition, I’ve been North Central Reining Horse Association (NCRHA) Green as Grass year-end champion, and top four in youth 13 & under for the past two years, third in

2008 NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DELEGATES



HELEN L. LAUTH



HOLLY LAUTH



ALIE LEONHART



RYAN LIND

deer and pheasant hunting, acting, and hanging out with my best friends at all the reining shows. I’ve been involved in several activities in school, such as FFA (I’m the chapter President this year, last year I was the Secretary), Teens as Leaders, National Honor Society, Theatre, Varsity Golf, Math League, and I served one year as a Student Council representative. I look forward to getting to know all the youth members and other delegates throughout the year.”

Holly Lauth

- **Age:** 14
- **City/State:** Eyota, Minnesota
- **A bit about myself:**

“Hi, my name is Holly and I have been showing reining horses for five years. In 2005 I was tenth in the world on my old horse in the NRHA youth 13 & under division. In 2007, I finished the year in the

buried in a fantasy book. I hope everyone has a great year at the horse shows.”

Alie Leonhart

- **Age:** 15
- **City/State:** Hugo, Minnesota
- **A bit about myself:**

“Hi my name is Alie Leonhart and I have been reining for three years and riding since before I could walk. I go to Stillwater Area High School. I am currently in a 4-H group and have been for more than seven years, where I show my pleasure horse. I have been president, vice president, and treasurer of my 4-H group, and I’ve been vice president of the MPHYA (Minnesota Paint Horse Youth Association). I’ve also participated in the youth organization of the Minnesota Quarter Horse Association. Outside of competing in NRHA, I also compete in breed

the rookie, and this year I was reserve champion in the youth 14–18. Besides showing horses, I participate in my school orchestra where I play the cello. I ran for treasurer and would love to be more involved in the NRHYA and the people involved in the association. I love to meet new people and am creative. I know I would give 110 percent to this association and would have a smile doing it. My favorite quote is “Everyone smiles in the same language.”

Ryan Lind

- **Age:** 15
- **City/State:** Rush City, Minnesota
- **A bit about myself:**

“I have been riding reining horses for two years and also ride cutting horses. When I’m not riding, I enjoy fishing, hunting, basketball, football and biking.” ♦