

Dear NRHA Reiner,

I'm the youth advisor for the West Coast Reining Horse Association (WCRHA). What a great bunch of kids we have.

I noticed that in the last couple *Reiner* issues you've added stories written by youth. What a terrific thing to do! I hope you continue. I know I really enjoy them, and I've heard from many others who enjoy them as well. A good place to get these stories is the Varsity Reining Club. You can go online to view the submissions under "Tell a Story." I do this often because there are some super stories. Here's one I came across, written by Alisa Watts (Acampo, California), an 11-year-old who's part of the WCRHyA. She's a great kid, and this is a great story! Thanks for your time!

Sheree Yohey

Truly A Team

BY ALISA WATTS

AT SOME POINT YOU MAY HAVE TO make medical decisions about your horse. These decisions are not easy because your horse is probably your best friend, and you may also be upset.

Last November I had to face some big decisions about my horse's health. My horse, Hale (AQHA Boomen Hale Bopp), and I had been a team for about a year and a half. We compete in reining in both the youth 10 & under and the youth 13 & under classes.

Finding a horse that is both a performance horse and one that will also take care of a 70-pound kid is not easy. When we were shopping for a horse I tried horses that didn't like my

YOUTH CLASSES AT THE FUTURITY SHOW

For the first time, youth who intend to show in the ancillary classes at the 2008 NRHA Futurity & Adequan® North American Affiliate Championship Show must be pre-entered in their class(es). The entry deadline is November 3 (Postmarks do not count). In the past, youth class entries were made at the show. In order to include youth class entries in the Official NRHA Futurity Show Program, NRHA needed to close entries earlier, which also greatly helps show management plan for the event.

boot heals up in their rib cages. Since my legs are short, my boots rested just below the saddle pad. I found horses that wouldn't go for me, ones that wouldn't stop for me, and ones that seemed to not even know I was on them.

When I tried Hale, he was perfect. At least he seemed perfect. You see when I tried him it was 117° outside, and I rode him for about five minutes. When we got home, up north, the temperature was around 85°, and he had a lot more energy! But Hale is smart, and he soon learned that he could take it easy. In our first show season we won three plaques and a belt buckle. I was in love with Reining, and with my horse! People would ask me, "How old are you?" And I would look at Hale and say, "We are both nine." We were an awesome team.

Then last November I got a call from my trainer. Hale was hurt. He couldn't put any pressure on his right hind leg. He was in a lot of pain. The vet was called out and an ultrasound showed a big black hole where tissue should have been. What were we going to do? From that point on I had a lot of decisions to make. First I had to decide about treatment. If we let him heal on his own he might be lame for life. He could have surgery, but it was experimental and there were no guarantees that it would work. I discussed it with my mother and we decided to go ahead with the surgery. We wanted to give him the best chance we could.

The surgery went well, but when Hale came home he needed a lot of care. Who would do the care? Hale was accustomed to being

longed and ridden at the lope every day. Now he was stuck in a stall and could only be hand-walked. I wanted to do the care myself, but I realized that it wasn't safe for me, so my mom and I put together a plan. My mom had always been there to support me at lessons and shows. She would hand me the bridle, check my cinch, and boost me up. Now she would do the rehab until Hale was back to his old self, and I would be the support. I could hand her the bridle, check the cinch, do the rinse down, and be in charge of the cookie jar. The six months of recovery seemed to last forever.

During that time I started shopping for a new horse to show. Again, I'd ridden ones that wouldn't go for me and ones that wouldn't stop. I even flew to Ohio to try a horse that turned out to be perfect, but didn't pass the vet check. Each horse I try just doesn't seem to be Hale.

Hale is back to being sound, and we are just starting to do some maneuvers, like slow spins. One of the decisions I've made is not to rush him. I train him for about 30 minutes, and then I ride him bareback. We're both happy with this, and although I'm dying to show him again, one thing is clear, even if we don't end up back in the show pen together, we will always be a team. ♦



NAISMITH

TOP TEN

YOUTH 13 & UNDER

HORSE	RIDER/OWNER	POINTS
1 Sweet Starbuck	Carly Galbraith/ Nadine G Galbraith Rocky Mount, NC	238.5
2 Talk About Poco	Carly Galbraith/ Nadine G Galbraith Rocky Mount, NC	213.0
3 JD Fritz Jazzman	Elissa Bening/ Elissa Bening, Columbus, OH	92.5
4 Double R Shot	Daniele F Whitney/ Michele M Whitney Northfield, MA	85.0
5 Please Me Whiz	Kyndall Harper/ JB Burney, St Augustine, FL	79.5
6 Chocolate Lady Chic	Mackenzie C Krajenke/ Mackenzie C Krajenke Phoenix, AZ	68.0
7 Time To Be Smart	Daniele F Whitney/ Daniel L Whitney Northfield, MA	64.0
8 Reeboks Diablo	Asa Peeples/ Asa Peeples, Ringgold, GA	63.5
9 Just A Bit Of Pine	Sammy Head/ Sammy Head, Galena, OH	60.5
10 Dun It By Starlight	Hannah Hedgcock/ Hannah Hedgcock Bradenton, FL	60.0

Youth 14-18

HORSE	RIDER/OWNER	POINTS
1 Smart Snap	Melanie Galbraith/ Nadine G Galbraith Rocky Mount, NC	297.5
2 Docs Whizin	Lauren Tieche/ Lauren Tieche, Ocala, FL	282.0
3 A Genuine Coffee	Jesse Gentile/ Jesse Gentile, Valley City, OH	217.5
4 Hobos Lil Remedy	Amanda M Whitney/ Daniel L Whitney Northfield, MA	117.5
5 Outlaw Juicy Wales	Ashley Fox/ Ashley Fox, Rising Sun, IN	99.5
6 Smart N Rattled	Samantha Silver/ Samantha Silver, Webster, NH	96.0
7 Whizker	Angelee M Hale/ Judi G. Hale, Hamel, MN	85.0
8 Catman Whiz	Allie Pitt/ Allie Pitt, Columbus, OH	81.5
9 Custom Specialist	Ian Barnard/ Elizabeth Ann Barnard Kendallville, IN	78.5
10 Lenas Tommy Girl	Amanda M Whitney/ Daniel L Whitney Northfield, MA	78.0

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Each year the Reining Horse Sports Foundation awards five \$1,000 academic and need-based scholarships. This year's recipients are:



Ian Barnard
Kendallville, IN
Attending: Purdue University
Major: Pre-Veterinary Medicine



Brandon Boyle
Ione, CA
Attending: University of California, Santa Barbara
Major: Biology



Allison Byrd
Murfreesboro, AR
Attending: Baylor University
Major: Business Marketing



Ashley Fuchs
Canfield, OH
Attending: University of Akron
Major: Biology, Pre-Med



Helen Lauth
Eyota, MN
Attending: South Dakota State University
Major: General Studies, Biology

Don't Forget!

Varsity Reining Club's 2008 submissions deadline is December 15. Go to www.NRHya.com for more information.



IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FELLOW YOUTH, PLEASE SEND YOUR ITEM(S) TO REINER ASSISTANT EDITOR, KRISSEY COLBATH. THE REINER WELCOMES YOUR SUGGESTIONS, YOUR TIPS ON EVERYTHING FROM BUYING SHOW OUTFITS, SHOWING, HORSE CARE; IN OTHER WORDS ANYTHING THAT COULD BENEFIT OR BE OF INTEREST TO OTHER YOUTH.

Youth Reiners' Resources

A HANDY GUIDE

NRHyA: www.nrhya.com

RHSF:

www.reininghorsesportsfoundation.com

NRHA Reiner Assistant Editor Krissy Colbath:
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