

# A Busy Derby Schedule

NRHYA PRESIDENT CLAIRE DITTRICH



“Thank you to all the staff, sponsors, exhibitors, and spectators. I am excited to see what is in store for the Futurity!”

THIS YEAR'S NRHA DERBY WAS AN ABSOLUTE HIT, FILLED WITH MANY MEMORABLE MOMENTS that I would love to share with you.

Move-in started Thursday the 23rd and it couldn't have gone smoother. Everyone was happy to be back at their favorite show! Friday was also a buzz—I didn't know barn row could fit so many trailers at once! Most of the youth officers arrived at the show by Sunday and we were ready to start with our busy agenda.

Monday was the first go, first section of the Derby Non Pro and also a chance for the officer team and me to garner some new leadership experience. We headed to the Toby Keith Foundation OK Kids Korral ([tobykeithfoundation.org](http://tobykeithfoundation.org)) in Oklahoma City for some pool noodle pony building activities! The kids there of all ages were receiving cancer treatments from OU Medical Center or recovering from recent treatment. They were all so sweet and yet so brave—we just couldn't get enough of them! It was so enjoyable to help them build their own ponies and teach them a reining pattern. Who knew how much fun pool noodles could really be!

On Tuesday we were able to take our pool noodle ideas back to the show and help young reiners build their own stick horses! Afterward we had an “NRHYA Stick Horse Reining” where all of the new reiners got to test out their skills. Some of the runs were hilarious, and some were super impressive! Prizes were given to everyone who participated and even a trophy was handed out to the winner! Thanks to NRHA President Rick Clark and NRHA Inside Reining host Jenifer Reynolds for judging the event.

The NRHA Collegiate Reining Championship draw party was held Wednesday along with the NRHYA Anderson Bean Speaking Contest and the Non Pro draw party. We were involved in all three of these events, all of which went well, so it's easy to say our group stayed busy. Though the location of the Speaking Contest had to be changed the day of, that didn't stop our youth from showing us their impressive speaking skills. Interested in this contest? Remember that scholarships and great prizes from our generous sponsor, Anderson Bean, are at stake so you should definitely participate next year!

Our annual NRHA Derby NRHYA Meeting was held on Thursday and it was filled with 50s music, icebreaker games, and pizza, of course! Thank you everyone who attended, I hope you had fun!

Friday and Saturday's schedule included the youth classes and the NRHA High School Reining Championship. The officer team enjoyed cheering on all the youth and helping pass out awards! We were so lucky to be able to have such a large, competitive youth class both days—especially during NRHA's 50th Anniversary year.

Anyway, I hope you all enjoyed this wonderful show as much as I did! Thank you to all the staff, sponsors, exhibitors, and spectators. I am excited to see what is in store for the Futurity!

*Claire Dittrich*

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