August 1, 2007

As usual, our summer seems to be passing us by before we know it. The 4th and 5th West Coast Show has come and gone, as has Gold N Grand. We are now looking down the throat of the National Stock Horse Furturity in Paso Robles followed by the Reining Spectacular in Rancho Murrieta.

I'm only about 6 weeks late in relaying the show results, but better late than never! I would say by and large, everyone had a great show, but there are a few standouts that I would like sincerely congratulate on their success…….Stacy Hamiltion and Nestle finally hit the jackpot. Congratulations Stacy on winning the Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro on Sunday with a big fat 72. We all know how hard you have worked and we have all been pulling for your success. Congrats on job well done! In addition, we have Margaret Netherby and Don Hodge who were Rookie (and Prime Time Rookie) Co-Reserve Champions during show 4 and then went on take both 1st and 2nd place in the Prime Time Rookie during show 5. You have both come such a long way this spring and we are thrilled to see you reaping the benefits of your hard work. Then we have Mark Faley and his gelding Hobbs who after placing 4th the first day in Intermediate and Limited Non Pro then went on to take home the Reserve Champion title in Intermediate Non Pro and the Championship title in the Limited Non Pro. Then there were the Youth kids, all of whom showed great. Congratulations to Nichole Hurst for winning the 14-18 the second day, followed by Ashley Severson in second and Ricca MacCalvy in third. Good job girls Lots of fancy NRHA plaques coming home with the Hansons this trip! Honorable mentions go to Janet Freeland for placing Reserve in the Prime Time Non Pro the first day.

Congratulations to George Deffterios, the owner of "Rocky", who took Dave to the first place spot in the Snaffle Bit Hackamore class during the first day. In the Novice Horse Open, Dave also took second on Margaret Netherby's Whiz "Howie", third on Tony Romero's Custom Chrome "Cisco" and sixth on Jerry Vaughn's "Trigger". Day 2 proved prosperous as well when Cisco placed Reserve Champion and Trigger followed him up in third place, again in the Novice Horse. Finally, after a little faux pa on Friday (resulting in a big fat zero), Slide Zone and Becky went on to win the Open, Intermediate Open, and Limited Open. All in all, a great weekend for Troop Hanson.

Gold N Grand was a little more low profile, but I would like to take a moment to congratulate both Christina Madlenar and Christine Ramsey for their consistency, tenacity, and positive attitudes. You girls both did a great job showing each day and we are really proud of how well you are "showing" your horses. Good luck at the next one. Also, Don Hodge is really kicking down with consistency as well. Despite a hiccup the first day, Don went on to mark a 71.5 and 70 in the ensuing days and ultimately won a circuit buckle! Buckle winners also included Ashley Severson in the Youth, Dave and Cisco in the Novice Horse and Trigger in the Open.

Now, we look forward to the Reining Spectacular and the Affiliate Finals which will be hosted by the Spectacular. Qualifiers include: Dave Hanson on Cisco and Trigger in the Novice Horse Open,…Becky Hanson and Slide Zone in the Open, Intermediate Open, and Limited Open….Stacy Hamilton and Michelle Devine in the Non Pro…Stacy Hamilton, Mark Faley, Janet Freeland, and Michelle Devine in the Intermediate Non Pro…Nichole Hurst, Mark Faley, and Ken Hamilton in the Limited Non Pro…Stacy

Hamilton, Ashley Severson, and Janet Freeland in the Novice Horse Non Pro…Janet Freeland, Peggy Fry, and Don Hodge in the Prime Time Non Pro…Nichole Hurst, Kaitlyn Hurst, Ricca MacCalvy, and Ashley Severson in the Youth 14-18. And finally, after a rough start, Margaret Netherby (who ended up 2nd overall) in the Rookie! Congratulations to everyone who made the finals and also to those who just made it through the season. Iregardless of your ultimate placing, we know that you have all worked hard and we are thrilled to see everyone improve and evolve as riders and showmen (or women as the case may be)! So, here's to kicking down at Spectacular! Good luck to everyone. See you in a few weeks!