

## Inside ...

-Gearing Up for the 2009 RSNC Finals! -Keep It Simple

How to work the gate in ranch sorting competitionwithout losing your cool.



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The official publication of the Ranch Sorting National Championships

## What's Inside.

Fergus Falls, Minnesota Event. . .4
$\qquad$
Tucson, Arizona Event .
RSNC Members Forum. .....  .5
2009 RSNC National Finals .....  6
Fair and Accurate Ratings .....  8
Gainesville, Texas Event .....  9
Queen Creek, Arizona ..... 9
Hill \& Billy .....
Keep It Simple. ..... 10
Palm City, Florida Event. ..... 13
Ekkhorn, Nebraska Event ..... 14
Alma, Michigan Event ..... 14
Kansas, Oklahoma Event ..... 14
Upcoming Events. ..... 17
Sort for the Saddle Point Standings. ..... 18
Cactus Creek, Colorado Event .....  .21
Ramona, California Event. .....  .22
Livingston, Texas Event. ..... 22
On the cover . . .Debbie McFarland high fives Liz McGlendon (largephoto) and Gara Wilfong (small photo).

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 P.O. Box 1 • Wellington, CO 80549 Phone: (970) 897-2901 • Fax: (970)897-2921E-mail: info@rsnc.us • www.rsnc.us Dave Wolfe, RSNC President
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## Friven the pricsidicnt

President's Letter
Congratulations RSNC members! In just the first four months of the 2009 season you have introduced so many new members to this great sport of Ranch Sorting that we together have doubled your membership.
This sport has the attention of everyone in the equine community because you are out spreading the word about the fun, affordable family oriented competition that exists within RSNC events. The
 events have created a buzz that radiates excitement and interest. As a matter of fact, just as promised, we are now in position to attract more great corporate sponsors. Last December Trojan Horse Walkers came on board as a National Sponsor and just this week Priefert Manufacturing came on board! Priefert is without question the leader in steel manufacturing of arenas and accessories in the equine and rodeo industry. With all the sorting pens being set up across the country, be sure to locate your nearest Priefert dealer. Let's support those who support Ranch Sorting

In the last eight weeks I
RSNC events across the
new excitement created by so are experiencing this sport for Last year we had 76 sanctioned over 200 and because of that getting calls almost every day the country. Thank you for

> In just the first four months of the 2009 season you have introduced so many new members to this great sport of ranch sorting that we together have doubled your membership. for sanctioned events is what have been to seven different country and the fresh, many new members that the first time is contagious. events, this year we have buzz and excitement we are from new producers across your support, your requests brings on new producers!
If you haven't had the chance yet, be sure to check out the new RSNC website at www.rsnc.us. The guys that put this thing together are techno wizards and $I$ am amazed at what it is doing for our association already. It has attracted new interest to our sport from all over and it has an analytics service where we can track just that. In just it's first 10 days there were 2000 hits that came from every state in the US except Connecticut and Rhode Island. This is another signal showing how big our sport is about to get. If you have placed in a RSNC event, you are probably in one of the state or national points races so be sure to find these races on the website.
Success doesn't come without hard work and support of many and we at RSNC want to thank some dedicated supporters along the way. In addition to each of you and our great producers, we want to thank once again all the hard workers that started this year off so well with that super National Finals last fall. We would also like to thank Jimmy Goyer whose office expertise is second to none and who helped us make the producers office DVD that is giving new producers the confidence to produce RSNC events. Thanks to Phil, Steve, and Levi for teaming up with RSNC on the creation of the website that is now truly a service to all of us, both members and producers, and a huge tool for the future.
Spring is in the air and RSNC is primed to welcome it with wide open ARENAS and a Fun Family Sport. Years ago Henry Ford produced cars for the "common" family; more recently, Walmart sold VOLUMES to the masses of "common" folks. We at RSNC see Ranch Sorting as the EQUINE FUN SPORT for the "common" family and we will continue to strive to keep it an affordable camaraderie that is FUN, FUN, FUN!
Grab a friend, family member or just any horse lover, load them up in your trailer and bring them to a sorting. Let's make sorting AMERICA'S \#1 EQUINE FAMILY SPORT! And by the way, don't forget that since we are now within 90 days of the National Finals, all new memberships awarded or purchased are good thru June of 2010!



## MEMORIAL EVENT HELD AT RED HORSE RANCH ARENA, FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

## Dear Mr. Dave Wolfe,

I want to thank you for stepping forward and not only participating with us, but contributing to our Memorial. The donations of the sanctioning fees back is much appreciated.
The value of the action alone speaks of the true nature of all the people across the Nation that ride in the Ranch Sorting events. What an amazing family sport and what an example of true sportsmanship when you consider how we all compete against each other and then turn around and support each other like family.
This was the first weekend any of us had ridden since we lost our horses in the fire Dec. 21st. It was emotional to say the least for most. Remembering the horse you lost and trying to build a new bond with a new one. Two riders hit the dirt with new tack slipping or breaking. New horses and new leather kept everybody on their toes. The turn-out was out of this world. We ran 116 Sanctioned RSNC sorting teams sanctioned with our AQHA events. In total I believe we ran around 465 runs between Saturday and Sunday Team penning and Sorting.
Saturday the Red Horse Ranch presented plaques with the names of the horses lost to all the owners that attended. There were only a few owners that couldn't make it. Following all this we grilled and served 128 steaks and 7 hamburgers to the crowd. After a very nice meal we continued sorting until 1:30am. Then back at it at 9 o'clock the next morning. We are looking forward to our next show March 7th and 8th at the Red Horse Ranch Arena. If there is anybody who wants to join us, we would love to see them and I'm sure they would enjoy riding in this facility. Don't let the Minnesota weather keep you away. I promise once you're here you will be warm inside. Thanks again,
Scot Stelter
RSNC, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, CONTRIBUTED TO THE MEMORIAL FUND


Ken Krebsbach \& Matt Longtine were the winners of the Open Ranch Sorting class.


Matt \& Kerri Longtine were the winners of the Amateur Ranch Sorting class.


Horses e Contestants waiting to sort.


Bridget Hanson of Milnor, ND in the Youth Ranch Sorting class.

PHOTOS BY JON STELTER


Jessica Stelter working a cow in the Open Sorting.

Scot \& Jessica Stelter of Detroit Lakes, MN working

## TUCSON, ARIZONA VALENTINE SORT

Our third show landed on Valentines Day!!! So all the sweethearts had to saddle up and ride. It started off a little cold in the morning but Bobby quickly got a fire going in the pit to keep us warm. Over 140 teams signed up for the big day and what a nice day it turned out to be. We saw some new faces along with some of our old friends. Broken Wheel has been producing pennings and sortings for the last 15 years and it's always nice to meet new friends and catch up with the old ones. Thank you everyone for your continued support. Can't wait for the next one!



Beginner Ranch Hand, Jennifer Murphy


Masters, sweethearts Bobby and
Pennie Bishop

## 

We want to hear from you! Please send your comments, suggestions or questions to: Members Forum, c/o RSNC Publications

## P.O. Box 1, Wellington, CO 80549

or email: info@rsnc.us
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Dear Dave \& RSNC Folks,
You really made me feel special! Thank you for your calls, visits, concerns and prayers. Your thoughtfulness means so much to me and really helped me get through this. I appreciate everything and I can't wait to be Sorting again soon!
Nugget Grossetete

This month we would like to address a couple of comments we have heard several times from different contestants. The first is about maintaining the integrity of the sport so that cattle-reading ability and horse athleticism prevails. The second relates to the points race for the Vinton Saddles and top 10 prizes that concludes after competing for additional points at the National Finals.
The Sport of Ranch Sorting has a tremendous opportunity to become the largest discipline in the equine industry. There are many reasons for this, including: the controlled environment to learn to work and read cattle, the rating and handicapping system that levels the playing field, room at the bottom for new riders to compete and succeed, and affordability for the family to compete. However, there is one more component that is just as important, if not more, than all the others. That component is acceptance within the equine and ranching industry.
The reason for that acceptance is that this sport exhibits a degree of difficulty, skill and finesse which shows the horse's ability to work and cut cattle from a herd. Then, after the cut, cattle are left to settle in the other pen. Horsemen like this sport and ranchers who provide cattle like and accept it. We at RSNC and, by comments received, many of our members believe we must continue to look for ways to keep our sport challenging and
accepted within the horse and ranching industries.
Therefore we would like to open this forum up to each of you so you can give your suggestion on this subject. We realize if you add more cattle to the herd and if you bring in more cattle for the event, the cattle are fresher and contestants must slow down to avoid a no time. However this is a bigger expense to the producer and ultimately becomes a bigger expense to the contestant which is detrimental to the affordability of the sport. Let's put our heads together and think of a few ways to keep Ranch Sorting a skilled cow reading sorting event. If you have suggestions on how to keep our sport controlled at an acceptable working pace, we would appreciate your suggestions.
You can send them to us on the contact page of the website at www.rsnc.us or email us at info@rsnc.us or give us a call at (970) 897-2901.
The Sort for the Vinton Saddles contest began at the first RSNC sanctioned event following your 2008 National Finals last October and it ends at the Completion of the 2009 National Finals this June. The contest is set up for contestants to compete at a state level against other contestants in their state to determine the top 20 for each state in six different rating categories. Those six groups of top 20 contestants from each state are then qualified to ride for the Vinton saddles and top 10 prizes in each of their respective rating categories. However, they will enter the finals with 20 points down to one point with 20 going to the first place contestant and 1 point going to the 20th place contestant from the state. They can then add those state points to any points they earn at the National Finals to determine the National Finals winners.
This points system serves two purposes. First, it allows all contestants to compete at a state level and then it gives those state winners an opportunity to compete head-to-head at the National Level. Second, it levels the playing field between states with a lot of events where contestants can earn lots of points and states with just a few events where there aren't many points available. Therefore, if you live in Oklahoma where there are lots of shows and points available, you may be in first place with 200 points. But if you live in Idaho it may only take 50 points for first place. Either way both first place contestants come to the finals with 20 points. Then at the National Finals we have designated certain divisions that will be qualifying point earning divisions for each of the rating categories. They are diagramed in the chart below. - Dave Wolfe

# Sort for the Vinton Saddles - Point Earning Divisions at the 2009 National Finals 

## Beginner:

- Graduated Beginner R/H
- Rookie \#11 HC Sort


## Novice:

- \#11 RH H/C (4 cap in sorter)
- \#10 HC
- Rookie \#11 H/C sort (gate only)
- Beg RH \#10 H/C
(1 cap on sorter) (gate only)
- \#13 HC
\#6/4 incentive
- All Levels HC
- \#8 H/C
- Graduated Beginner R/H \#11 HC (gate only)

Rookie:

- Graduated Rookie \#12 HC Sort
- \#6/4 incentive

Amateur:

- \#10 HC
- \#14 R/H, H/C
- Rookie \#11 H/C (gate only)
- Beg RH \#10 H/C
(1 cap on sorter) (gate only)
- \#13 H/C
- All Levels H/C
- \#8 H/C
- Grad Rookie \#12 H/C Sort (gate only)
- Graduated Beg. R/H \#11 HC (gate only)

Open:
Masters:

- \#10 Handicap
- \#14 RH H/C
- Rookie \#11 H/C sort (gate only)
- Beginner RH \#10 H/C (1 cap on sorter) (gate only)
- \#13 H/C
- All Levels H/C
- Grad Rookie \#12 HK sort (gate only)
- Grad Beg R/H \#11 H/C (gate only)
- Sadie Hawkins
*Explanation - "gate only" means that the class is a point qualifier for the gate person only, not the sorter.

There is plenty of opportunity for a 20th place state contestant entering the Finals with just one point to rise to the top at the National Finals because almost all divisions will be over 100 teams which means double points will be awarded!

## 2009 RSNC NATIONAL FINALS — JUNE 8-13, 2009 PONCA CITY, OK

Since the announcement of the $90 \%$ payback in the four mega classes at the 2009 National Finals, the response has been tremendous. Producers all across the country, 26 states so far, have booked five show series so eager contestants in their area can get qualified. As of February 28th, we have over 200 RSNC sanctioned events booked. The stage is set and plans are being made to host an unprecedented $3500+$ team event. The Play Pen Arena in Ponca City, Oklahoma will be the location.
An additional 300 stalls are being shipped in to handle the onslaught of ranch sorting horses. If the cattle only knew, they would lift their tails and head for the brush. An area adjacent to the arena has been secured to allow all the room necessary for truck and trailer parking so this huge gathering of cowboys and cowgirls can spread out and even pitch a tent right there on location if they wish. There is no better place than the Play Pen Arena for western ranching lifestyle atmosphere and contestant affordability. We are aware that there are many facilities with more amenities, but with that comes tens of thousands of dollars in more costs that are always passed on to the contestant in higher entry fees, office charges and stall costs.
We at RSNC are dedicated to making this a family
oriented sport so the family can afford to participate. That is the primary reason for moving our Finals to June. Kids will be out of school for summer vacation and the whole family can enjoy the life long memories made by traveling and competing together. Stalls for the entire week will be only $\$ 50$ for uncovered and $\$ 75$ for covered. There are no tacked on office charges. Now we would like to address the entry fees. At the 2008 Finals we announced the $90 \%$ payback and $\$ 100$ entry fee in the four Mega Big Divisions which are the All Levels Handicap, \#13 HC, \#10 HC and \#6w/4 Incentive. This has been received tremendously well by the hundreds of contestants that want to compete for the huge payout which that creates. We even posted examples of what 300,400 and 500 teams would produce in paybacks. It has lit a burning fire deep down in the competitive spirit of many. However we also have heard from others that are concerned about the affordability of the $\$ 100$ entry fee for the family oriented contestant. We want you to know that we are listening. Therefore we have created an opportunity for all contestants to compete together with an Option A and an Option B in each of the Mega Big Divisions.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Option A will be just as advertized with a $\$ 100$ entry fee and a phenomenal $90 \%$ payback based on all teams entered. Those who don't wish to pay the $\$ 100$ at a $90 \%$ payback can choose Option B.
Option B will be a $\$ 50$ entry fee at $70 \%$ payback on the total number of teams in the class.
These two options give all contestants the opportunity to ride together in a huge division with a huge jackpot. The $\$ 100$ entry contestants will get a $90 \%$ payback on both the $\$ 100$ entry and the $\$ 50$ entry, exactly like the standard incentive works. The $\$ 50$ entry contestant doesn't have to pay the additional incentive bonus but doesn't share in the additional $\$ 50$ that the $\$ 100$ entry contestant paid.
Either way there will be a huge jackpot to ride for depending on your choice of entry.

## PAYBACK CHART

Following is an example of teams entered with Option A (\$100/man @ 90\% payback) and Option B (\$50/man @ 70\% payback).
Example 1: All Levels Handicap
400 total teams entered in Option A \& B combined
Option A: 200 Teams @ $\$ 100 / \mathrm{man}=\$ 40,000$ plus 200 teams @ $\$ 50 / \mathrm{man}=\$ 20,000$

$$
\begin{array}{rl}
\text { Total } & \$ 60,000 \\
\mathrm{X} & 90 \% \text { Payback } \\
& \$ 54,000
\end{array}
$$

Option B: Total number of teams entered in Class based on \$50/man entry fee @ $70 \%$ payback.
400 Teams @ \$50/man = \$40,000

$$
\text { X } \quad \begin{aligned}
& 70 \% \text { Payback } \\
& \$ 28.000
\end{aligned}
$$

Example 2: All Levels Handicap
400 total teams entered in Option A \& B combined
Option A: 300 Teams @ $\$ 100 / \mathrm{man}=\$ 60,000$ plus 100 Teams @ $\$ 50 / \mathrm{man}=\$ 10,000$

$$
\begin{array}{rl}
\text { Total } & \$ 70,000 \\
\mathrm{X} & 90 \% \text { Payback } \\
& \$ 63,000
\end{array}
$$

Option B: Total number of teams entered in Class based on $\$ 50 /$ man entry fee @ $70 \%$ payback. 400 Teams @ \$50/man = \$40,000

## X 70\% Payback <br> $\$ \overline{28,000}$

OPTION A
Payback on $\$ 63,000$ purse
1st $\$ 63,000$ x. $7.5 \%=\$ 4,725$ for Fast Go
\$63,000 - \$4,725 = \$58,275

| 1st | $25 \%$ | $\$ 14,568.75$ | $\$ 28,000-\$ 2,100=\$ 25,900$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2nd | $18 \%$ | $10,489.50$ | 1st | $25 \%$ | $\$ 6,475.00$ |
| 3rd | $13 \%$ | $7,575.75$ | 2nd | $18 \%$ | $4,662.00$ |
| 4th | $10 \%$ | $5,827.50$ | 3rd | $13 \%$ | $3,367.00$ |
| 5th | $8.5 \%$ | $4,953.37$ | 4th | $10 \%$ | $2,590.00$ |
| 6th | $7 \%$ | $4,079.25$ | 5th | $8.5 \%$ | $2,201.50$ |
| 7th | $6 \%$ | $3,496.50$ | 6th | $7 \%$ | $1,813.00$ |
| 8th | $5 \%$ | $2,913.75$ | 7 th | $6 \%$ | $1,554.00$ |
| 9th | $4 \%$ | $2,331.00$ | 8th | $5 \%$ | $1,295.00$ |
| 10th | $3.5 \%$ | $2,039.63$ | 9th | $4 \%$ | $1,036.00$ |
| 10 | 10th | $3.5 \%$ | 90650 |  |  |

If the 1 st place team wins and they paid a $\$ 100 /$ man entry, they will receive $\$ 14,568.75$.
OR If the 1st place team wins and they paid $\$ 50$ /man entry, they will receive $\$ 6,475$.

## GiET A GREAT RATE FOR YOUR STAY AT THE NATIONAL. FINALS!

Mention that you are with RSNC when making reservations at one of the following Ponca City motels:

Quality Inn • 580/762-8311
Comfort Inn • 580/765-2322
Fairfield Inn • 580/765-3000

Ammentities: Exercise Room • Indoor Pool Restaurant \& Bar - Free Breakfast In-Room Microwave \& Fridge

## 2009 RSNC FINALS SCHEDULE - \$400,000 ESTIMATED PURSE!!!

## JUNE 8-13 - PLAY PEN ARENA, 64253 US EAST HWY 60 , PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA



## Support Your Sport! Get Your RSNC Logo Wear TODAY

Navy or Red Hooded Sweatshirts - \$45 Royal or Red Long Sleeve Button Up Shirt - \$50 Sizes S - M - L - XL - 2XL


## Team Penning \& Ranch Sorting Horses For Sale

Large Selection of "Ready to Compete" Horses for All Levels of Competition Novice, Amateur, Open \& Youth horses Over 15 horses in the show barn at all times!
Starting at \$5000
Horse Training and Tune-ups Available Group \& Private Clinics Available
Book One in Your Area
Jared \& Sara Lesh

$$
405-259-345
$$

## JUST THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED!

- Growth and interest in Florida and California has been so great that we have created a National Director's position from individuals in each of those states. Congratulations and thank you to Danny and Debbie McFarland from Florida and to Andy Edwards and Adrianne Tanzer from California for accepting these positions! - Several premier cutting horse show producers have now came on board as RSNC producers.
- The STAR OF TEXAS FAIR AND RODEO in Austin has committed to produce a RSNC sorting as its major horse event for 2010. - State Fairs like our sport! Oklahoma State Fair, Kansas State Fair, Colorado State Fair, Wyoming State Fair are all hosting RSNC sortings.
- Nebraska Husker Harvest Days will host a RSNC sorting in 2009. - Colleges with equine programs like Colorado State University are having RSNC hosted sortings as fund raisers by equine students.
- County Fairs in numerous states have sent contracts with dates for RSNC events. - 4-H Clubs are producing

RSNC sortings as fund raisers.

- Within two weeks of the placement of the new RSNC website there were over 2000 hits that came from every state in the U.S. except Connecticut and Rhode Island. - We have now received inquiries for sanctioning internationally from Mexico, Germany and Italy.
What is truly exciting about this is the huge majority of these awesome additions have just happened in the last 30 days! By the time you are reading this, with the present rate of growth, this list will have tripled! $\$ 400,000$ is the expected payout at this year's RSNC National Finals and this is only 28 months after the inception of RSNC's first show! Who says the 2010 RSNC Finals purse won't be ONE MILLION DOLLARS! It is unlimited what a group of individuals who are motivated by fun and excitement can make happen and each of you deserves the credit! This is the true definition of team work! The sport of Ranch Sorting says THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! to each individual on the team! The goal has been to grow the sport and you are doing a great job of doing just that


Lessons Available ~ for more information please call: 940-284-9665

## FAIR \& ACCURATE RATINGS ARE ESSENTIAL TO GROWTH OF SPORT

All ratings are probationary for the first year. Producers- It is your responsibility to be sure contestants attending your events are rated accurately according to RSNC
rating guidelines.
Novice- 4 or Below
Amateur- 5-6
Open-7-8-9

RSNC Rule 2.2.1-2.2.5
***Important Note - RSNC will rely heavily on its Producers to keep the ratings fair and accurate.
All contestants will be subject to review at National Finals by rating committee. RSNC Rule 2.4-2.5

## THIS SPORT WILL BE HUGE IF WE KEEP IT FAIR!

## CHISHOLM TRAIL ARENA WAURIKA, OK



Excellent new Ranch Sorting facility now hosting RSNC events starting March 22nd! Producer Chuck Drummond (top cutting producer) is Welcoming Ranch
 Sorting to his facility!


HORSE
PRODUCERS SANCTIONING RSNC EVENTS

QUEEN CREEK, ARIZONA


Jim Goyer and Laurie Roberts


Penny Bishop
Susan Colton and Kip Appenzeller with Mark Malon.
 Schoonover.

## GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

Bryan Kammerdiener and Tommy
Roberson of Spring Creek Arena would like to thank all the participants in our Ranch Sorting Shows. Tommy and I think putting people first is our number one goal. We here at Spring Creek Arena strive to make our shows enjoyable, we have two sorting pens set up to help facilitate our goal. Our good friend Clint Kelley is always here to help keep our shows running smooth from changing out the cattle to gate keeper and let's not leave out the "arena jester". My wife Susie and grandson Bryan III serve up some tasty brisket sandwiches, hamburgers, chili dogs and the like. However you will be seeing less of Susie in the snack bar these days since she is becoming quite the "sorter". Tommy's wife Laura and son Travis help with the shows and excel in the sport of ranch sorting. Family involvement is what makes this sport such fun!!!!

The November, December, January, and February shows averaged over 200 teams. We are extremely proud of the years we've had so far. March 7th and April 4th are the next two shows coming up, we hope to see everyone here!!!
Don't forget to mark it on your calendar our Sorting practices on the 2 nd and 4th Sundays of every month 2:00 p.m. to 4:30p.m.
Tommy Roberson an accomplished "sorter" instructs sorting lessons and has excellent Sorting horses for sale at all times here at Spring Creek so if you're a looking you've come to the right place!!! Looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming shows and the Finals in Ponca City in June.
Thanks again to all the wonderful people that come out to Spring Creek Arena and ride at our shows!!!

## HILL \& BILLY

Hill: Hey Billy, I just got the OK to borrow Uncle Henry's bull so we can start our own PBR bucking string. Only problem is, we ain't got a trailer to get him home.
Billy: Heck that ain't no problem, it's only 30 miles.



8227 Doniphan Drive • Vinton Texas 79821 phone $9158773116 \cdot$ fax 9158774542


How to work the gate in ranch sorting competition-without losing your cool. Article by Jatona Sucamele • Photos by Megan Parks • Reprinted with permission from Performance Horse magazine

Just keep it simple. This is the advice veteran competitor Tommy Roberson of Gainsville, Texas, gives when riders worry over working the gate in ranch sorting events.
"Don't get worked up," Roberson warns. "Just let your horse work for you. With the fast pace in this timed event, people sometimes get almost frantic working the gate and bind-up their horses."
Roberson says he believes man-made panic is the biggest hurdle most ranch sorting teams face during competition.
"I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings, but about 90 percent of the problem is sitting on the horse's back," Roberson says. "That is where horsemanship, and really caring about being a better horseman, pays off. Not only will your horsemanship improve if you work on it, but your game will, too."
Ranch sorting is a timed event, but Roberson is definitely against the old "whip and ride" theory, claiming that quick is not always the best way to get the results you want. He prefers his students develop finesse over fastness, and often reminds his own riding partners to "just take it easy and work the cattle out." How to work the gate in ranch sorting competition-without losing your cool.
It is during these well-paced runs that Roberson says he often ends up with the fastest times of the event. "Sometimes
slow is fast in this game," he says.

## Pull and Pick

Correct body and hand position and use of cues are usually the first things to go when a rider becomes frantic. This is why Roberson says he believes in taking a deep breath and reviewing your rider communication before you ever make it to the gate.
"When you get in too big of a hurry, you sometimes begin picking up and pulling [on your horse] with both hands," Roberson says. "What you need to do is what I call 'pull and pick."
The "pull and pick" consists of concentrating on the way in which you want to go, pulling your horse's nose in that direction and picking up his shoulder at the same time. Meanwhile, your opposite hand should stay loose or lay on the rein on that side of the neck.
Additionally, when Roberson says pull, he means pull-not jerk. He says anyone watching you ride should think, "Man, that looks smooth," not, "Wow, that poor horse's mouth!"
Roberson admits that sometimes the pull isn't going to look pretty, but it should still be executed as smoothly as possible. He says this should be the goal for every ranchsorting rider-hone your skills to work fast and look good
at the same time.
A big part of this overall picture is correct hand placement.
"Keeping your hands right above the horn is a good area for them to be," Roberson says. "When you get your hands up higher than that, you are pulling your horse's head up. Your horse can't work a cow with his head up in the air."
Another body part that seems to become foreign to someone who is in a saddle is the leg. Riders often forget to use their legs in an effort to correctly use their hands.
Cow-event trained horses will do a lot of the work on their own, but they are often programmed to work off a rider's legs. Roberson says it is much easier for a horse to follow through with his instinct to hold a cow if a rider lays an outside leg on him, even if it is just to reaffirm where he needs to be going. "You won't have to be in their mouth so much if you relax and use your legs, along with pulling their nose," Roberson says.

## At the Gate

With the basics out of the way, a rider can finally enter the arena knowing he has the fundamentals to back up his ride. Then it is on to the gate.
When a rider finally enters the arena and finds himself at the gate, the first challenge to be met is taking the correct position in that gate. Roberson says many beginners to the sport of ranch sorting, and even some veterans who should know better, still park their horses in or behind the gate.
"Just standing in the gate too long can cause your horse to start backing up," he says. "Be out in front of the gate ready to move on a cow."
He says when a horse is standing in or behind the gate, cattle will notice the gap between the horse and fence and use it to escape. Being out in front of the gate will block that spot. Moving your horse around a little bit can also be a plus if your partner is taking a while to get his cow. This prevents a horse from becoming rooted and comfortable in one spot. Most importantly, being alert and out in front of the gate puts you in the perfect position to leave when your partner gets his cow headed your way, and this can shave precious seconds off of your time.
"Knowing when to leave the gate is very important," Roberson stresses. "You need to be gone as soon as your partner clears any trash cows [extra cattle].
"But then again, if you leave too soon, you might not see the trash cow hook up with the right cow to go right through an empty gate."

## Step Up

People often ask Roberson to watch their runs and decipher why they are losing cows in the gate. He notes that a much of

the time, riders waiting for the cow to come to them, rather than moving toward the cow to turn it, cause the problem.
"Step up to that cow before it ever gets up to you in the gate," he says. "When you send a moving, aggressively ridden horse toward trash cows, you will more than likely turn them. Intercept those cows you want to turn way before they get close to the gate."
Helicopter Syndrome
A problem that doesn't surface as often, but can be just as lethal to a run, involves the horse turning in circles in the gate. Again, Roberson says he feels like this begins with the rider not using his feet properly to keep the horse square, or the horse trying to escape too much pressure in its mouth.
To fix this problem, Roberson advises working the horse on one cow to get him back square with a cow, using more leg cues and as little pulling as possible.



## Getting the Results

Roberson might school a horse in the actual sorting gate, but notes that most of his training is done in a larger, open area. Horses will be tuned up on holding a cow, although, they won't be corrected for pushing to the cow as much as a cutting horse would. That is going to be part of their job-to push the cows out of the pen, and to really step to a belligerent cow in the gate.
When he is training a sorting horse, Roberson says he will definitely do a few sorting runs with a partner, but he claims that going back to the big pen and working individual cows is what produces the results he is looking for.

Jatona Sucamele is a champion team penning and ranch sorting competitor from Springtown, Texas. Photographer Megan Parks is a freelancer based in Weatherford, Texas.


## ABOUT TOMMY ROBERSON

Tommy Roberson trains out of Spring Creek Arena in Gainesville, Texas. He has lived at the arena for nearly three years with his wife, Laura, and 12-yearold son, Travis. Roberson also has a 27 -year-old son, Adam, and two grandsons, and the
 entire Roberson family is active and competitive in ranch sorting.
Although Roberson's forte has been ranch sorting and team penning, he is aspiring to step into the cutting world soon, as well. He has two futurity prospects in the works for 2009.
Roberson is known as a "go to" person for good, wellbred sorting and team penning horses. He has conducted several clinics, and his lesson days are always full, attesting to his ability to help people with their horses and their horsemanship.

## BACKYARD BARGAINS?

When asked about the type of horse is most useful for team sorting, veteran rider Tommy Roberson is quick to respond. "If someone comes to a lesson and they are on a backyard horse," he said, "as nice as I can, I tell them that they need to get a different horse."
According to Roberson, the quality and type of horse used for sorting makes a huge difference in the end results.
"You might get lucky once in a while at a little jackpot," he said, "but if you really want to succeed and enjoy yourself, you will need a good cow horse."
Roberson contends that ranch sorting is a serious sport, and its equine participants should be serious athletes.
"I was talking to a cutting trainer who told me that sorting horses don't have to be as cowy as cutting horses," Roberson said. "I told him I disagreed. I really think that if you are going to have a successful sorting horse, it has to be very cowy and aggressive in the gate."
Even though most sorting horses are animals that, for whatever reason, were no longer in contention to make the cutting pen, they can still be great athletes. They may be just as cowy as cutters, but in a different way. For instance, some horses want to step to the cow, and those kind of horses will make a great sorting horse, but may not be a cutting horse trainer's first choice.
Other cutting horses are the type that tends to step back and give ground. That horse will need to be trained to go to the cow if it is destined to be a successful sorting mount, no matter how much cow instinct he shows.

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## HELLO FROM LINKED D COWHORSES!

BY DEBBIE MCFARLAND, PALM CITY, FL

We have started out the new year WIDE OPEN! Our first show of 2009 we had 202 teams! That is almost 30 teams more than our previous record. So much for a recession. Just to prove it wasn't a fluke 186 teams showed up at the end of the month. What a great way to start off this year! It is so nice to have so many new people showing up to participate in this fun family sport of Ranch Sorting. As for all the "long haulers" we can't thank you enough for the support you have given us over the years. There have been a lot of changes since our first sorting 71/2 years ago pHotos BY JIM DAVIS

continued on page 20



Hendry


Above, Jimmi Philma

## Bob Cornett

## Dara Purves



Above, Emmett Whitehurst Left, Susan and Tony Shea



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## ELKHORN, NEBRASKA

Come to the Heartland of Elkhorn, Nebraska to a beautiful $150 \times 300$ heated indoor arena that kept us warm at The Chance Ridge Event Center on January 24th. For our first RSNC show we had a great turn out. We hosted folks from South Dakota and Iowa at our Nebraska event. With the free RSNC memberships we brought in a lot of new members. Our youngest member was six-year-old Gavin Vondrak from Lakeview, IA. Gavin rode in the Beginners HC class and he WOW'd the crowd with his little horse, Jewel. After the show, Gavin put on a show of his own with Jewel as they cut on a steer. Just goes to prove that Vondrak can ride Look out Doug!...(Gavin's dad). Our first Class was the All Levels and first place went to Doug Vondrak from Lakeview, IA and Tom Schwarzkopf from Breda, Iowa. Doug and Tom have been on a roll since Denver. Keep it up guys!.. The Beginners HC first place went to Donna Allen. She did a great job sorting out the cattle, while Krissy Peterson did an awesome job for Donna, as Krissy held the cattle in the pen. Good job Ladies!!! First place in the \#10 HC was photos by cindy murray

\#6 HC first place Klancy Peterson and Josh Warner


Gavin Vondrak
smoking with James Hansen from St Paul, NE and Dave Goodman from Tabor, IA. To top the last class of the day, there was a wild ride with Klancy Perterson from Elkhorn, Nebraska and Josh Warner from Ceresco, Nebraska. Good job guys.. Doc, the owner of Chance Ridge Event Center, wants to thank everyone for coming. We all had a great time and Doc invites everyone to the next shows on March 14th, and April 4th. See ya there!


Beginner HC first place Donna Allen and Krissy Peterson


All levels first place Doug Vondrak and Tom Schwarzkopf

\#10 HC first place James Hansen and Dave Goodman

## ALIMA, MMGIAGAI BY rochelLe rondy

The week prior to the Bar J R Ranch sorting to be held in Michigan the temperature never got above twelve (12) degrees. As a promoter, weather has a lot to do with your turn out. I always
get so nervous that nobody will show up. Well, Saturday, the 31st of January the temperature hit 27! We couldn't wait to gather up our hairy horses, stocking caps, extra coats, snow pants, toe and
is word of mouth and we have many GLTPA members that are to thank for spreading the word: "sorting is great fun for all horse lovers." Between the two shows we have had a great turn out of new horsemen and horsewomen that want to try sorting. Some new people include: Peter Chittenden, Carey Ery, Brittnay Kushion, Colton Pylan, Steve Roehm, Melissa Walski, Brandt Clark,

Gary Heemstra,
a GLTPA show.


Hallie Peterman and Rochelle Rondy. Another friendship made from enjoying the common interests of Team Penning and Sorting.

"Trip" the hardest worker at any
sorting. He loves to work the cattle.


Sylvia Yakowenko, one of the first time Sorters. Below, Chad Elliot with Tyler, one of our future Below, Chad Elliot with Yler, one of our
Ranch Sorters. PHOTOS BY RENEE MILLER

hand warmers and head out to the next RSNC Sorting. January 31st was the second RSNC Sorting event we have had. Wow, what an overwhelming success! We even enjoyed the company of Stefanie Yakowenko and her mom Sylvia, all the way from Wisconsin. In my opinion, the best way to grow

## KANSAS, OKLAHOMA

Cedar Tree Arena would like to thank all of you who came to the sorting. We appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for your patience with us.


We hope you had a good time and enjoyed yourself. We are a family ran arena and we hope that shows. We hope to see you again soon. Thanks again!


Adria LaSavage, Ed Gohr, Michelle Edly, and Sylvia Yakowenko. We have a spectacular group of people that support the Great Lakes Team Penning Association. GLTPA is a new organization established in 2005. GLTPA has had three finals, with over seven hundred (700) teams attending at each finals. This year we are very excited to have incorporated the RSNC association and know that the GLTPA finals will be even larger in 2009. As I'm writing, my husband and I are heading home from a few pennings and sortings we attended in the south. Of course it is tough to go home to the cold weather, but one thing we have to look forward to is seeing our friends at our next RSNC show on February 28th. Team Penning and Ranch Sorting isn't only a hobby, but it is our life. All of the friends we have made throughout the past ten (10) years will always remain a part of our life. I do believe those people are the biggest reason we keep going. There is no way to name all of the people I would like to thank for riding with us and supporting our shows. A well publicized THANK YOU is the best I can do for now. We look forward to seeing you! Everybody here in Michigan is looking forward to attending the RSNC National Finals in June. Our goal is to take home the six (6) saddles in the state versus state competition. All of you other States look out! You know if we get excited about 27 degrees, we are a tough bunch of riders!

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May 16, 2009

Hurricane, UT Palm City, FL Gainesville, TX Rozet, WY Golden, CO Fergus Falls, MN Mustang, OK Ramona, CA Humansville, MO Livingston, TX Queens Creek, AZ Elkhorn, NE Pueblo, CO Thermopolis, WY Platt, SD Cortez, CO Center View, MO Purcell, OK Springville, IN Richfield, ID Waurika, OK Fort Collins, CO Ponca City, OK
Anaheim, CA Marshfield, MO Elm Springs, AR Alma, MI Gainesville, TX Palm City, FL Liberty, TX Elkhorn, NE Marshfield, MO Richfield, ID Waurika, OK Thermopolis, WY Fergus Falls, MN Meeker, OK Platt, SD Ramona, CA Tuscon, AZ Humansville, MO Farmington, NM Center View, MO Pueblo, CO Waurika, OK Sante Fe, NM Fulshear, TX Ponca City, OK Anaheim, CA Marshfield, MO Kansas, OK Alma, MI Wanette, OK Palm City, FL Farmington, NM Liberty, TX Richfield, ID Ramona, CA Queens Creek, AZ Cherokee, OK Meeker, OK Platt, SD

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June 8-13, 2009 June 13, 2009 June 20-21, 2009 June 27, 2009 July 3-5, 2009 July 11, 2009 July 11, 2009 July 18, 2009 July 18-19, 2009 July 25, 2009 July 25, 2009 August 8, 2009 August 8, 2009 August 8, 2009 August 15, 2009 August 15, 2009 August 15-16, 2009 August 29, 2009 September 11, 2009 Splen HS September 12, 2009 Wanette, OK September 12, 2009 Ramona, CA September 12, 2009 Rozet, WY September 19, 2009 Liberty, TX September 19, 2009 Leslie, MO September 19, 2009 Farmington, NM September 19, 2009 Gainesville, TX September 24, 2009 Oklahoma City, OK September 26-27, 2009Boone, CO September 26, 2009 Anaheim, CA October 3, 2009 Wanette, OK October 3, 2009 Livingston, TX October 3, $2009 \quad$ Farmington, NM October 10, 2009 Ramona, CA October 10, 2009 Ardmore, OK October 17, 2009 Gainesville, TX October 24, 2009 Rozet, WY October 24-25, 2009 Boone, CO October 31, 2009 Anaheim, CA November 14, 2009 Ramona, CA November 14-15, 2009Boone, CO November 21, 2009 Gainesville, TX November 21, 2009 Liberty, TX November 21, 2009 Rozet, WY December 12, 2009 Ramona, CA December 12, 2009 Ardmore, OK December 19, 2009 Gainesville, TX

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## 2008-09 Sort for the Saddle Point Standings

Top 10 Riders By STATE * Indicates Frozen Competitor

RSNC Shows calculated into the points race for this posting: Boone, CO-10/25/08 Palm City, FL - 11/1/08 Thermopolis, WY-11/9/08 Pueblo, CO-11/15/08 Gainsville, TX - 11/22/08 Ponca City, OK - 11/21/08

Palm City, FL-11/29/08
Ardmore, OK -12/6/08
Bastrop, TX -12/6/08
Humansville, MO-12/14/08
Gainsville, TX -12/13/08
Tuscon, AZ -12/27/08
Alma, MI -12/31/08
Hurricane, UT-1/2/09
Ponca City, OK - 01/03/09
Golden, CO - 1/3/09
Palm City, FL-1/3/09
Bastrop, TX - 1/3/09
Ardmore, OK-1/3/09
Humansville, MO-1/10/09
Ramona, CA $-1 / 10 / 09$
Livingston, $T X-1 / 10 / 09$

Thermopolis, WY-1/11/09 Kaufman, TX - 1/17/09 Queen Creek, AZ - 1/17/09 Platte, SD - 1/17/09 Centerview, MO-1/17/09 Ardmore, OK - 1/17/09 Ponca City, OK - 1/23/09 Elkhorn, NE - 1/24/09

Seguin, TX - 1/24/09 Gainsville, TX - 1/31/09 Palm City , FL - 1/31/09 Marshfield, MO-1/31/09 Alma, MI-1/31/09 Anaheim, CA-1/31/09 Gainesville, TX - 2/7/09 St. Paul, NE - 2/7/09

Kansas, OK - 2/7/09 Humansville, MO-2/14/09 Tucson, AZ - 2/14/09 Purcell, OK - 2/14/09 Ramona, CA - 2/14/09 Pueblo, CO-2/15/09 Thermopolis, WY-2/15/09 Ponca City, OK - 2/21/09



## continued from page 13

We have grown from 35 teams to shows in the hundreds! It is all the good people that come to these shows that make it attractive to newcomers. We are fortunate enough to have quite a few spectators come to our shows. A lot of them come here because they have heard how much fun it is from friends. The general consensus is "how nice everybody is at our shows!' The word is spreading into different disciplines in the area and getting back to me. I am so proud of all the really nice, good people I am surrounded by at these shows. It feels good to hear about it from the people on the outside looking in and checking us out. Being a producer is a tough job; it's all the friends you make and the good feedback you get that keeps you going! Once again; I couldn't be more thankful or proud of all of YOU who come to Ranch Sort at my house: Linked D Cowhorses!! With all the big numbers in our classes; everyone is raking up the points. Jimmie Philman has come back to the RSNC with a vengeance for winning. He was the high point earner as well as the high money winner at our 1st show of the year; winning $\$ 1169$. I managed to come in close behind him in points but far behind in dollars; how does that happen? Bob Cornett was the runner up in money won. No surprises there; Bob is usually at the top! The all levels classes had 56 and 52 teams respectfully. Liz McClendon has been 2nd place in both of these shows;
raking up some points of her own. Liz and her husband: Ron travel about 3 hours to get here for our shows. Liz is no stranger to the sorting pen; she is a good solid rider. I am usually lucky enough to be the one to win with her. The \#6 class was huge at the Jan. 3rd show with 57 teams. Dillon Stalhut and Ed Parks fought their way to the top to win this show. Dillon is the youngest Novice rider we have. He rides his trusty little horse named "Stumpy". They make a great team. Ed is probably our best supporter. He is usually the 1st one at the show and is always happy and ready to help. At the end of the show or practice he's always there to say "thanks so much". He's another customer/sorter turned "good friend". The Jan. 31st show saw Courtney Hutto and Emmett Whitehurst go to the 1st place window. We're excited to have Courtney working her way up the ranks so quickly. We're anxious to have new riders come into the higher \# classes. It won't be long and she'll be in the midst of it all! The \#6 class is such a good class for us here. The \#4's coming into ride w/\#2's really helps bring them along and boosts their confidence. Emmett is a perfect example: he is a \#4 and is always there to ride with anyone who needs a ride. It's people like him that are the backbone of promoting this sport to all the new people; he is much appreciated. We tried a new class at this last show. A \#4 Ranch Sorting. I wanted a class for the Rookies to be competitive in. I will probably
have a \#6 w/\#4 incentive in the future. I thought it might be less confusing to start out simple. I think it will be a perfect class for the graduating rookies; maybe not as threatening as riding against \#3and \#4 riders. I keep on trying new classes to see what works best for everyone and to make sure everyone has a chance at a piece of the pie. Courtney Hutto and Cara Wilfong won this class, and Cara and Montana Hataway were reserve. They sure liked this class! They all got some nice plaques to go along with the money they won. The beginner classes had 57 and 56 teams respectively. Taylor Cox won the 1st show ( she was highlighted in my last article) My son: Garrett Hendry won it this last show. I have to tell you a little story about Garrett. He doesn't like to practice sorting. In order to show he must practice. So, needless to say he has not been showing for the last several months. Well, a week before the show I had to get both of my sons on a horse to help me sort through some calves. It was for work not for fun. My husband was gone and I just plain needed help. After all was said and done; Garrett riding a new mount, Isabelle, decided maybe he would like to show again. And show he did; he won the class with 11 head. He now has a big buckle to wear- I'm SO PROUD! Very close behind Garrett- only in time, was Shelby Kirton. Shelby also had 11 head. She is also riding a new horse. She has just recently started to get comfortable with her mare and it showed! Congrats to Shelby!

We're sure to be seeing more of her. Shelby's mother, Cheryl has been sorting here for years. She was the winner of the \#6 class at the 2008 Finals. Shelby's dad was recruited to try sorting last year. He jumped right in and has become a great competitor as well as a promoter for Ranch Sorting. Shelby also has an older brother, Bailey. Bailey was one of the kids featured on the web site. He also shows and has moved up to a rookie now. They are truly an example of an RSNC family. Oh by the way, Garrett is only 8 and Shelby is only 9 years old. The little kids ruled in the beginner class!! With the finals approaching; we Floridians have already reserved 24 stalls! How many are coming from your state? We've even got a flag ready this year. With any luck we can find a nice pole to tote it AND remember to bring it with us to the finals.
The weather is still really nice and warm down here for any of you that could use a get away; wed love to have you! Ps. I don't even remember the last time I heard someone complain about the ratings-- How Nice is That?!!! News Flash! Blakely Williams and Dara Purves both made the Queens Court in the run for Miss Martin County. Four of the 29 girls in the competition talked about Ranch Sorting! Two of them were asked to explain what this sport is and just how it works. I only wish I'd had a great big sign for RSNC or LInked D Cowhorses or SOMETHING! These girls are great advertising!! Congratulations Girls!


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## RANCH SORTING AT CACTUS CREEK

A brisk morning at Cactus Creek Ranch in the Midway area between Colorado Springs and Pueblo drew many new faces and many familiar faces to the monthly Team Sorting held February 15. The event was hosted by Ric and Sandie Noring of Cactus Creek in conjunction with Rich Smidt and Daryl Tiegs of the Double Barrel Ranch and Dave Wolfe of the RSNC. As the day warmed up, so did the sorting. The event was held in the Cactus Creek Indoor Event Center giving everyone good access to spectating and to the concessions. The monthly Team Penning was held on Saturday, so many folks spent the night at the ranch in their trailers and in the ranch's bunk house. RSNC was giving
memberships away, so it was a good opportunity for existing members to bring someone new. There were 144 teams registered for the six different classes held. All ages and all rankings were represented from 9 to 79 and from 1 to 7 . Beginners and experienced masters all

took their turns in the sorting pen. Two of the classes that drew the most crowd support were the Sadie Hawkins (ladies choice) and the Masters class. There was even an extra cowboy in the herd while the final Masters team was sorting With a big thanks to Sherrie O'Brien for running the office for the event, everyone went home with good memories and some nice checks.
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ISABELLE CARRIED GARRETT, AGE 8, TO WIN BELT BUCKLE OF THE BEGINNER RANCH SORTING OUT OF 56 TEAMS

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## RAMONA, CALIFORNIA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CJ WHEELER OF RUNNING HORSE PICTURES

After watching the weather reports hourly after days and days of heavy rains, CowHorse Ranch decided to go for it and host their second RSNC sanctioned event, rain or shine. While many competitors who were expected to ride the "Sweetheart Sorting" didn't trust the weather and stayed home, the 50 teams who came to play were treated to great conditions and a very competitive day. Stephan Helmer of Lakeside, CA made arena history by finishing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd In the All Handicap division, riding with partner Jeff Peterson for the first place honors, Jim Tyler for second and Melissa Tyler sharing the third place payout. Way to go, Steve! Stephen and Jeff weren't finished yet, though, placing first in the \#8, with Stephanie Sweet and Gail Cantrell a close second. Stephanie placed third, also, this time with Ginni Bradbury as her partner. Jeff Peterson apparently hadn't had enough and went on to win the Beginner Ranch Hand division with Leigha Bailey, and also placing second with Jim Harsh.

Ginni Bradbury picked up another check for third place, riding with Saskia Walker this time. "We only offered the AllHandicap, \#8 Handicap and Beginner Ranch Hand divisions again this time, concerned that we might run out of daylight if we got too many divisions and entries. We plan to add more divisions as the year progresses" said Stephanie Sweet, who, along with John Mallon, operates CowHorse Ranch and is very involved with all aspects of the ranch, which also offers Ranch Roping and cutting practices weekly. "We decided to apply for sanctioning with RSNC after learning about the enthusiasm at Anaheim Hills, CA for these events. Although we have had Ranch Sorting practices every week for years, we felt that another sanctioned club was needed in the area in order to give competitors a chance to rack up some points without having to go broke traveling. The help and support we've gotten from RSNC has been absolutely great, and we look forward to a long relationship with RSNC and other producers."


Lori Watson waiting her turn.
 with John Mallon


Stephanie Sweet and Ginni Bradbury.

Jim Tyler and Steve Helmer- 2nd Place All Levels


All level 1st Place and Beginner Ranch Hand, Jeff Peterson e Stephen Helmer.
 Paint horse. Left, Stephanie Sweet and Gail Cantrell 2nd in \#8 Sort.


Thomas Goodlett makes his cut.

LIVINGSTON, TX


John Glither, Larry Meachum, Kim Baker, Chuck Davis and Richard Caine and Bill Lawless John Hickey at Houston, TX.


Above, great gate defense by Jim Tyler. Right, All Level 3rd Place Melissa Tyler e Stephen Helmer.



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