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YEAR END AWARD RULES

This week as I've prepared for the Hamilton show, I look at the calendar and see we are almost half way through 2017. This year has flown by, and we are in the middle of our show season!

It is the time of year when some of you may be looking at the year end standings and planning your fall shows. The most recent year end standings (current as of San Antonio) are posted under the "Results" on our website. Keep in mind the following rules in the SHTX rule book related to year end awards:

GR 230.1 Year-End Awards will be based on a total of the approved shows at which a horse/rider combination competes. All but two shows will count for year-end All-Around and Class points, regardless of how many shows are held. (For 2017, there are 11 shows, so your best 9 shows count toward year-end awards.)

GR-230.2 Top points earned in the All-Around standings and the individual classes are figured separately and may be taken from different shows, thereby giving each horse/rider combination every advantage for highest year-end points in each class or the All-Around. To be eligible <u>for All Around</u> Year-End awards, a horse/rider combination must compete as an <u>All Around entry</u> in at least 50% or more of the total shows <u>in</u> a specific division held within a given year.

To be eligible for <u>Class</u> Year-End awards, a horse/rider combination must compete <u>in that class</u> in at least 50% or more of the total shows <u>in a specific division</u> held within a given year. Example: If there are 11 total shows, a horse/rider combination must compete at 6 of the shows <u>in that specific division</u> to be eligible for year-end awards. <u>Year-End Awards are based on SHTX entries only. Entry in other shows held in conjunction with SHTX shows do not count toward any SHTX award(s).</u>

One other important rule to remember related to year-end awards is who is eligible for the Constant Competitor award:

GR-235 Constant Competitor Award -The Constant Competitor Award Program is designed to recognize competitors in all divisions that compete in <u>the all around</u> at least eight shows in a SHTX season (January-December) without making the year-end Top Ten. <u>This award is based on the rider (not horse/rider combination)</u>. <u>Participation in the SHTX Futurity/Derby or other special event does not count toward the 8 show minimum</u>.

Gll granh

We look forward to seeing everyone at the summer shows. We have a busy schedule and many opportunities to earn year end points. Safe travels!

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Trainer's Tip with Brianna Wallis Put in Practice Over Poles

Courtesy of Kate Byars

The trail class offers horses and riders a vary of obstacles to practice. Riders often concentrate on the scariest obstacle to get a horse past fear; however, the more common trail faults come from walking, trotting or loping poles. While the poles seem mundane, they can often set the stage for a disastrous or successful trail run.



Grandview, Texas, horse trainer says that in trail, it is all about having the horse's stride match the poles.

"It is not something you can force, but something that a horse learns to do after going over so many poles," she explains. "I try to change up the distance of poles set as much as I can. Poles can be set between a range of distances for each gait; don't condition your horse for one set of distances. The horse needs to adapt and adjust. If a horse knocks a pole out of place, sometimes I will leave it on purpose."

Wallis' favorite method of practicing poles is a 7-pole sequence that alternates poles set on a diagonal and set strait. The maneuver challenges a horse to alter its stride. SHTX allows for riders to guide a horse through trail, and does not fault guidance. However, Wallis says that the rider is responsible only for getting the horse to the obstacle. Then, the horse should carry itself over it without fault.

"The [alternating direction of the] poles really makes your horse think about where they are placing their feet. The horse has to find the easiest path across there. To guide the horse over the obstacle, you are responsible for the approach to the obstacle and the timing," Wallis explains.

"Riders should feel if the horse is coming in short or will be too long. The horse is responsible for getting over the obstacle. If a rider uses too much leg to encourage a horse and that can cause them to swap leads or change gaits, so practice what is needed to get over the obstacle."

In practice, it is common for the horse to hit a pole at first. But it should adjust stride quickly.

"If the horse hits the poles, I don't stop going over the obstacle until the horse goes over it until they have cleared it," she says. "When people ask if I move poles to match a horse's cadence or stride, my answer is no. At the horse show, the poles will not be set for your horse or may not be set specifically. So [at home] get your horse to lengthen or shorten its own stride when it comes to the obstacles. You will be better off. This comes from practice and going over poles again and again."

Practicing poles as a regular exercise when riding will accomplish more than a better show score, it will help the horse to learn how to adjust its stride to match the obstacle coming. This can help with trail riding as well as cattle work. For more information on Brianna Wallis, visit Triple Bar W on Facebook.

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NEWS
FLASH!!!!
Hamilton
Clinic starts
at 8 a.m.!!!



Why are you limiting the clinics?

We've received this question in the office a few times and we wanted to take a minute and discuss the board's decision on limiting the clinic riders. The popularity of SHTX's clinics is amazing. From experienced riders to those just getting started, the opportunity to ride with world class teachers for a nominal fee is a great way to grow and learn. Education is the backbone of SHTX's mission, and we want that to continue.

Clinics are also the "starting place" for many new members. We want our association to continue to cater to new participants. Some don't feel comfortable going to a show, but want to get their feet wet in a clinic environment.

However, the clinics at shows were getting so large, it was hard for 4 clinicians to spend quality time with each rider. On the flip side of that, riders were only getting a few minutes of instruction and spent a lot of time waiting their turn. At some clinics, we heard riders did not get to participate in a session because that group ran out of time before it was their turn to ride.



Some facilities, like Abilene, provide us ample space to hire extra clinicians

and have 8 instructional groups. (We had 105 riders in that clinic). As we rotate to various facilities around the state, if it's possible to hire extra clinicians and expand the clinic groups, we will!

Unfortunately, facilities with that much room are few and far between. Most only have one area available for the cattle portion of the clinic, which greatly limits how many riders a clinician can help throughout the day.

What we are doing about it

- 1) More riders -- In San Antonio, we limited the clinic to 60 riders, and approximately 10-15 were left on a waiting list. That clinic ran smoothly, and after talking to the clinicians, they felt like we could increase the size of each group by a few horses to allow a few more riders to participate. So the Hamilton clinic now has 70 riders.
- 2) Start Time -- To accommodate more riders, we are STARTING THE CLINIC at 8:00 not 8:30. This will allow 15 more minutes per group so the clinicians will have additional time per section.
- 3) Multiple trail practice areas -- During the trail portion of the clinic, the clinician will provide instruction over many obstacles, but we will also have a practice area set up for you to have individual practice during your trail session (this is open until 5pm for paid clinic participants only.)
- 4) Free trail practice -- The trail course will be open at the conclusion of the clinic (after 5pm) for ANYONE wanting to go over the obstacles. We know many participate in the clinic just for the chance to practice trail, so this is available to you anytime Friday evening.
- 5) Additional Novice clinics This year we have already hosted 2 novice clinics, and we have another one scheduled in July. We hope these smaller clinics give novice/intermediate riders a chance for more individual instruction at a slower pace.

Some long-time members have offered to give up their clinic spot for first-timers coming to a SHTX event. We appreciate their generosity as we continue to grow our membership. We also appreciate your patience as we learn new ways to accommodate our growth.

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THANKS TO THESE DIAMOND SPONSORS

Western Horseman of Fort Worth,

Texas — World Stock Horse Championships title sponsor. Founded in 1936, Western Horseman is one of America's most respected and trusted publishing traditions. Today, our editorial content meets the needs of 21st century horse owners, but



our mission remains steadfast: education and entertainment for lovers of the Western stock horse.

Skyline Silversmiths — makers of handcrafted buckles and jewelry, Skyline Silversmiths are the standard of excellent in Western Craftsmanship. In addition to belt buckles, artists can create headstall buckles, jewelry and other fine art.



Murphy Ranch of Gainesville, Texas

— standing at stud Stylish Rey Gay, named Top Horse by Equi-Stat 10-yr All-Industry Statistics; one of only 2 horses in history to earn more than \$2,500 in each of the three disciplines: Reined Cow Horse, Cutting, and Reining.

RIDETV — RIDE TV is a 24-hour, high-definition, television network dedicated to showcasing the horse culture and lifestyle.

RIDE TV delivers high-quality programming to those that enjoy and care about anything and everything horse related. Join us and help spread





the delight and fulfillment that horses bring to the lives they touch. RIDE TV is currently available to DISH (channel 248), Armstrong and Windstream cable subscribers. You can also watch RIDE TV via Carbon TV.

NRS — NRS was started in 1994 and has continued to grow and offer an incredible selection of products for the serious competitor as well as the pleasure rider. Decatur is where it all began in 1989. Our NRS Ranch location is our largest with a great selection of apparel and home furnishings, over 10,000 boots,



an incredible selection of tack and saddles and our own leather shop where craftsmen make our custom leather products, saddles and other leather items. We hope you will stop by when you are in the area. We'll be glad to show you around and give you a tour of our operations.

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Lindsey Angus



Bob & Jennifer Muir













Youth Corner

by Allora Leonard

Mountains. Pine trees. Cold weather....is what my family and I got to experience after a hot San Antonio show. With a cabin up in the Rockies, we were blessed to see several friends at our home away from home. A day after arriving at our property in Colorado, I woke up with a "what happened?" look in my eyes as snow had hit the ground during the night. Our South Texas horses, too, seemed very surprised as the

once green pastures suddenly turned white. My horse, Doc, like me, woke wide- eyed as he poked his little nose out to the cold outdoors. With a twinkle in his eye, he let out his tongue as the snowflakes fell onto his lip. Shoving his water bucket away he allowed the frosty objects to melt in his mouth to satisfy his thirst. I guess he thought that snowflakes



would be a better supplementary product to improve his performance. But, it wasn't just the snow that helped him, rather riding in the mountains that assisted him in improving his performance. Going up and down the mountains and walking through deadfall allowed him to pick up his feet and gave him better lung capacity and stamina. Sometimes the simplest things like riding in the woods can help a horse so much in competition.

The San Antonio show was very successful although it was not as large as other shows since many of the youth were preparing for final tests and upcoming graduation. But the weather was beautiful and the facilities were great. In true south Texas style, the cattle proved to be challenging and the trail courses kept us on our toes. A good time was had by all!

Now that summer is finally here, we can all spend more time on our horses and have fun at the SHTX shows. Hot weather is expected at the Hamilton show, so bring your swimsuits and plan on cooling down at the arena's swimming pool. There may even be a flying water balloon or two!!!!

Wondering about the AQHAVRH Qualifying period?

This week, AQHA announced the new qualifying period will be January 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018.

The qualifying points have not changed.

Visit aqha.com/versatility for more information.

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2017

Texas Schedule

Hamilton Clinic & SHTX Show AQHA RR & VRH June 9-10, 2017

Dripping Springs Clinic & SHTX Show, AQHA RR & VRH June 30-July 1, 2017

Athens Clinic & SHTX Show AQHA RR & VRH July 21-22, 2017

Sweetwater Clinic & SHTX Show AQHA RR & VRH August 4-5, 2017 Hamilton Clinic & SHTX Show AQHA RR & VRH Sept 8-9, 2017

Bryan Clinic & SHTX Show AQHA RR & VRH Sept 22-23, 2017

FUNDAMENTAL CLINICS

Decatur July 15-16, 2017

**Visit our website for show bills and entry forms for any Texas event!

Stock Horse World Show - Abilene, Texas Oct 26-29, 2017

All members are welcome! You do not need to qualify to attend.

Over \$50,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded!

There will not be any AQHA classes at this show.

CoWN Schedule

CLINIC & SHOW COMBINATION
June 16-18 Clinic & CoWN Show
NRCHA, AQHA VRH & Cowhorse
Estes Park, CO

July 7-9 Clinic & CoWN Show Kiowa, CO

August 28-30 Clinic & CoWN Show & AQHA VRH Pueblo, CO

Sept 8-10 Clinic & CoWN Show Briggsdale, CO



...to our members who volunteer their time to help out in the office, during the clinic and at the shows. We couldn't host our shows without your help. It takes everyone!



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DID YOU KNOW?

The SHTX Board works hard to develop partnerships with other equine organizations to provide more benefits for SHTX members and their horses. Two of those relationships include AQHA and TQHA.

Stock Horse of Texas is a strategic marketing alliance partner with AQHA. SHTX and AQHA came together to align their stock horse and ranch horse rules so that classes can be offered concurrently, giving riders the opportunity to earn SHTX points toward great all around prizes and year end awards, as well as AQHA points in Versatility Ranch Horse.

As a marketing alliance partner, SHTX turns in major accomplishments and earnings from SHTX to AQHA on an annual basis. These awards are then placed on the horse's permanent AQHA show record.

All SHTX shows with AQHA classes are now Texas Quarter Horse Association-approved. TQHA is the Texas-based affiliate of AQHA. TQHA belongs to the Texas Agriculture Council and is

involved in the legislative process regarding equine industry issues in Texas. Members are encouraged to become involved with political issues through our Political Action Committee.

Points earned at TQHA-approved shows are used for Open, Amateur and Youth year end awards and AQHA Youth World qualifying. Multiple SHTX members received year end TQHA awards in 2016.

The TQHA Foundation is organized to promote the Texas Quarter Horse Association and its various initiatives through education/scholarships, research &

TEXAS QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

charitable works for the horse industry in Texas.

The Foundation supports scholarships that help further the education of our industry's future leaders. A SHTX member, Sidney Dunkel, received a TQHA Foundation scholarship this year. Any TQHA youth member is eligible to apply for scholarships. Visit tqha.org for more information about the association and its programs.

