

n o t e s a n d u s e f u l i n f o r m a t i o n

and cowgirls hold a special place in American lore, and they continue to provide an invaluable link in our nation's strong agricultural system. It is appropriate that we celebrate their contributions."

Ongoing efforts are aimed at making the fourth Saturday in July a perpetual holiday. Support from local communities and individuals is integral in getting this celebration named as a permanent holiday.

New Mexico Democratic Senator Jeff Bingaman co-sponsored the bill. New Mexico ranchers generated \$964 million in sales in 2005, the most recent year for which numbers are available. In terms of agriculture production, only the dairies are a larger industry in New Mexico than ranching.

"Ranching continues to be a vital part of New Mexico's economy. Thanks to this resolution, July 28th will be the official day this year to celebrate this important way of life," Bingaman said.

American Cowboy magazine, the organization initiating the campaign for the official day, has provided a website with information on the history and future of the official National Day of the American Cowboy.

On www.cowboyday.com interested parties can download items to help them stage their own successful National Day of the American Cowboy event. They can also submit their event for an event calendar. ★

Letter to the Editor:

On Saturday, May 19th, Russell McCord (NCHA Director of Judges), Jeff Hooper (Executive Director NCHA) and Keith Deaville (AAAA Judge) very well assisted by Pam Robison (Administrative Assistant) and Julie Davis (Membership Services Manager) traveled a great distance to bring their expertise to a remote NCHA area in Ilderton, Ontario, Canada. I want you to know how much we appreciate the time and effort required by these individuals to bring this clinic to our grassroots members who came from Ontario, Quebec and New York.

The morning session delivered by Russell McCord gave great insight into how we are judged and what we are judged on. Russell—who instructs, tests and coaches all NCHA judges—explained rule by rule and point by point how we can obtain credits in a run and what we do that lowers our scores. Whether you were a novice or an experienced cutter, Russell showed you how to better present your horse to any judge.

The live works in the afternoon brought theory to practice. The comments and suggestions made by both Russell and Keith after each individual cut told the cutter as well as the observers how an NCHA judge would have perceived their run so far and what they could have done to improve it.

After 25 years of riding and showing cutting horses while always trying to improve, there is no one day that has been as informative or beneficial as the Grassroots



Pam Robison

Clinic I attended. From all of the feedback that I have received, it is obvious that my view is shared by many others.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Randy Chartier (Executive Committee Member and our Regional Director) for his commitment to bring such an excellent program to our area.

I strongly encourage any cutting horse enthusiast, regardless of their experience, to attend one of the NCHA Grassroots Clinics.

Sincerely,
Mike Armstrong
NCHA Director Eastern & Central Canada
President, Ontario Cutting Horse Association