

Keith Deaville

In 1965 I earned my first cutting horse buckle in south Louisiana and have enjoyed showing cutting horses ever since. Throughout elementary and high school I competed in NCHA events with my father, Paul, a well-respected trainer in south Louisiana. I then attended McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and received a degree in Animal Science in 1978. Shortly thereafter I decided to train professionally and I have successfully run my own business, Circle D Training Center, Inc. for almost 30 years. To those of you that have known me during this time, you know that I have been involved in all areas of NCHA including competing, judging, and government.

Throughout the 1990's and into the early 2000's, I had been considered a "hauler." During this period I won three World Champion titles in three different NCHA classes, a National Championship title in Jackson, Mississippi, and numerous top fifteen finishes in all open classes. My clientele, which has always included Non-Pro, Amateur and Youth, have also won numerous World Championships, National Championships and top fifteen finishes. The culmination of those years of hauling reached a high point in my showing career at this past year's Futurity when I was inducted into the NCHA Riders Hall of Fame. I won a million dollars in NCHA events, of which 88% was won at weekend shows. It took a little longer that way, but I am very proud of how I did it.

I have shown as a Youth, hauled many Youths, and now enjoy showing with my wife and granddaughter. As a trainer for thirty years now, I have taught and guided many Amateur, Non-Pro, and Youth riders. In recent years I have come to thoroughly love putting on clinics where I can help a group of riders improve their showmanship and understand the rules of judging. Therefore, I was overjoyed when NCHA came out with their "Grass-roots Clinics" and asked me to be one of the trainers for instruction. I have now done these clinics in the Midwest, Canada, California, and in my home state of Louisiana. I am now and have always been a "grass roots" member with the majority of my participation being with Amateurs and Non-Pro weekend riders. As a professional trainer for thirty years, I have witnessed and lived through the tough challenges of this sport both competi-



tively and through the business aspects. I am also an approved AAAA judge and have judged all major events as well as in Canada and South America.

I have been a director of Louisiana now for nine years and have attended all nine conventions since I was appointed. I have also served as Chairman of the Open Show Committee. I currently serve on the Judges and Rules Committee and the Executive Committee to which my peers at the 2007 convention elected me as an at-large member.

Through my diverse experiences, I feel I have come to understand the many frustrations and challenges of the fundamental

"grass roots" group. My recent service on the executive committee has also given me new insight into the needs of the high-profile aged events and the intense general organizational needs of the NCHA. Most importantly, I recognize the need to continue to promote the NCHA as a family-friendly organization.

Throughout my years as a director and as an Executive committee member, I have always believed that the voice of the membership should be heard through their elected area directors. As a Director, I have always voted with the wishes of those in my area. As an Executive Committee, I have voted with the majority of area directors. By doing so there is no particular group (i.e. trainers, non-pros, amateurs, etc.) that is left unrepresented. This is the way that the governing body of the NCHA was set up and intended to work

If elected, three goals come to mind that I, with the help of the membership, would like to achieve. I will continue to strive toward the goal of full representation of all members, to help guide NCHA through what will be very difficult economic times and to help improve the communication between Members and Directors, Directors and Executive Committee members and officers. Basically better communication from top to bottom.

Over the last thirty years, I have been one of the first ones in the arena, and usually one of the last ones out, helping nearly everyone who rides to the herd. I have never refused to help or walked out on anyone. If you give me the opportunity, I will bring that same spirit and attitude to the office of Vice President. I will ask for and represent *your* ideas and opinions. ★