

## TODAY'S NEWS....

### Open go-round and \$2,000 Limit Finals

Widows Freckles, winner of last year's Eastern National Championship \$10,000 Novice, is one of the top contenders in today's open go-round. Owned by Robert and Debbie Middleton of Summit, MS, the 7-year-old son of Freckles Playboy is the lifetime earner of \$55,000 and is ridden by Robert Rust.

Rust also will attempt to qualify Rosies Lena for Ken Sitton of Freeport, LA. The Lenas Jewel Bars daughter earned \$89,292 in limited age events for former owner and non-pro rider Jim Milner, current president of NCHA.

Rust has already garnered three 2000 Chevy Trucks Eastern National championship titles -- champion of the \$3,000 Novice with Little Hickory Jane, owned by Susan Stovall; reserve champion of the same division on

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## Trey Hall scores double-header

### Brannon takes \$10,000 Amateur

Riding High N Fancy, 18-year-old Trey Hall of Bartow, FL ambushed competition in the \$20,000 Non-Pro and \$50,000 Amateur Finals and took no prisoners.

His 227-point score as the last rider in the \$50,000 Amateur Finals, brought down the house. Marcus Haggard of League City, TX, took reserve with 217.5 points.

In the \$20,000 Non-Pro division, Hall beat defending champion Lindsay Moore, with 219.5 on 20-year-old Playboys Habit, by three and a half points (223).

"This year I knew I had a horse that could win," said Hall, who was making his fifth trip to the National Finals. High N Fancy, a 10-year-old High Brow Hickory (APHA) gelding, was a two-time Youth champion for former owner Tennessee Walker of Tehuacana, TX. Walker was reserve champion of this year's



*Rosie Olena, shown here with former owner Jim Milner, goes to the herd in open competition with Robert Rust.*

Senior Youth division aboard Smart Hickory Oak.

Hall's father, Lew, purchased High N Fancy from Walker after last year's National Finals. "He's a neat horse," said Trey. "Quick and powerful."

Hall's 227-point score was a personal high. "I was a little

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## 2000 CHEVY TRUCKS NCHA EASTERN NATIONAL FINALS



### SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, March 22

Beginning at 8:00 a.m.  
1st go-round  
Open

72 entries • 5 sets of cattle  
\$2,000 Limited Rider Finals

#### Friday, March 23

Beginning at 8:00 a.m.

1st go-round  
Non-Pro

76 entries • 6 sets of cattle

7:30 p.m.

Celebrity/Media Cutting

Show continues through Saturday, March 24  
HOSPITALITY ROOM: Daily 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Second floor, south end of arena

#### Saturday, March 24

Beginning at 8:00 a.m.  
Non-Pro Finals  
Open Finals

**Double for Hall, continued from page 1**

scared," he admitted. "I didn't know if there were any cattle left. I worked my last cow for 40 seconds and my horse was about worn out. He handled it though."

Hall has been cutting for six years and is a senior in high school. Lindsay Moore, the \$20,000 Non-Pro reserve champion, was last year's National Finals Senior Youth Champion. She was also a finalist in this year's \$50,000 Amateur division.

Sandy Brannon of San Antonio, TX captured her first championship title riding Montanas Mark in the \$10,000 Amateur division. Her 222-point performance topped reserve champion Quinn Collins by four points.

"My horse was great," said Brannon of her 10-year-old gelding. "He is real strong and solid. You know he's going to stop when the cow stops. He has a lot more experience than I do."

Brannon, who has been cutting since 1997, bought her first cutting horse at Ben Emison's Sale during the NCHA Derby and sold him two hours later. "Some people wanted him worse than I did," she explained. Her next horse was Montana King, a full brother to Montanas Mark, who trainer Jim Watts helped her learn to ride.

"Jim will teach you how to show a horse and not just sit up there like a pumpkin," said Brannon, who hauls horses -- everything from miniatures to Thoroughbred race horses -- for a living. "I'm grateful for that."

**Today's News, continued from page 1**

Huggs Olena; and reserve champion in the \$10,000 Novice on Huggs Olena.

Little Blue Lynx, ridden by Mike Chrustawka to a three-way tie for champion of last year's \$10,000 Novice class (wound up after workoff as co-reserve champion), will also compete in the Open.

Corky Sokol, who won last year's \$3,000 Novice on Colonel Flip Dox, rides two mounts in the Open: Skeetos Super Star, owned by Kenneth and Sandra Ladd of La Grange, TX, and Special Kory, owned by Sokol's daughter Courtney.

NCHA Hall of Fame Rider Keith Barnett rides Sonofadoc Joe for Bill and Frances Ragland of Brenham, TX.

Brenda Skoda of Lincoln, NE won the \$2,000 Limited Rider go-round with 219 aboard the Jewelers Son, by Lenas Jewel Bars. Patrick Collins II of Rochester, IL finished second with 216.5 on Oh Cay Shorty. The two riders have drawn back-to-back for the Finals, in the middle of the second bunch of cattle.

Connie Evans of Tulsa, OK qualified with 214 points on CC LittleBit Magic, a former three-time Eastern National Champion under Dub Leeth.

Alice's Rey Jay and Tom Hastings were the mystery horse and rider in the March 18 issue of the *Daily Chatter*.

**NCHA VIP/Media Cutting Friday night**

On Friday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m., cutters and area residents won't want to miss the NCHA VIP & Media Cutting and John Deere Lawn Mower Giveaway.

The prestigious event will pair celebrities with leading cutting personalities in an exciting showdown.

Former Dallas Cowboys tight end Jay Novacek will team up with Beau Bouget; former PRCA World Champion Cowboy Dave Appleton will team up with Dale Weatherford; Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau executive director Wanda Wilson will team up with Mark Mills; MS 103 DJ Rick Adams will team up with Bobby Bouget; and Jackson Mayor Harvey Johnson will team up with Johnny Sanders.


Just a \$5.00 donation to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, MS Health Science Campus, entitles the purchaser to a ticket to the event and a chance to win a brand new John Deere riding lawn mower. A drawing will be made immediately following the cutting; ticket holder must be present to win.

A separate drawing will be made for those who cannot attend the NCHA VIP & Media Cutting and John Deere Lawn Mower Giveaway, but who would like to make a \$5.00 donation. The winner of this drawing will receive a lifetime NCHA membership (including a lifetime subscription to the *Cutting Horse Chatter*), along with a leather and wool NCHA jacket valued \$250.



Louise Serpa photo

Can you identify this NCHA World Champion who was also a finalist in the 1977 Area Work-Offs? Answer in the next edition of *The Daily Chatter*!



**You say it's your birthday!**  
 These NCHA members are celebrating their birthday today.

Rosemary Atwood .....	Kosciusko, MS	Dewayne Moore .....	Spring Branch, TX
Judy Bingham .....	Decatur, TX	Blaise Murray .....	Victoria, TX
Bob Bouget .....	Branch, LA	Ronald Rizzo .....	San Jose, CA
Ronnie Canada .....	Yukon, OK	Wayne Roark .....	Greeleyville, SC
Terry Colleary .....	Winlock, WA	Mike Schieck .....	Casper, WY
O L Cooper .....	Big Spring, TX	Terrell Barry Sheppard .	Blacksburg, VA
Tom Diaz .....	Woodland, CA	Don Troyer .....	Fairbury, NE
Richard Figoni .....	Red Bluff, CA	Sue Vinson .....	Midkiff, TX
Brad Gillam .....	Bismarck, MO	Paula Wood .....	Stephenville, TX
Tami Lowry .....	Draper, UT	Julie Whitley .....	Augusta, GA
Marvin Maples .....	Kansas City, MO	Barry Wigglesworth .....	Wilton, CA
Greg McDonald .....	Goochland, VA		



*Gil Porter on Miss China Cat. Dalco photo*

## Maryland to Mississippi

### *Gil Porter's been there for the long haul*

**G**rowing up in the ghetto area of Washington D.C., Gil Porter, 61, found escape from the harshness of his surroundings on the backs of horses. "I used to muck stalls at a riding stable so that I could ride the horses," said Porter. "I also lead ponies around in a pony ride. I got a nickel a round. You led them around three times and got fifteen cents. I used to make a couple of dollars a day."

After graduating from high school, Porter joined a semi-professional football league, but eventually gave it up to work in construction. "I had been poor all my life and so I had to take some chances," explained Porter, who wound up with a thriving business building homes near affluent Silver Springs, MD.

A friend invited Porter to the 1963 Washington International Horse Show where Sonny Perry was showing Cutter Bill. "They flew Cutter Bill and Calamity Jane in from the Cow Palace in San Francisco," remembered Porter. "It was really impressive. As soon as I saw the cutting, I knew I had to do it. It really caught my interest."

He rode in his first NCHA Futurity in the 1960s, when the event was held at the

Texas State Fair Grounds in Dallas. He qualified for the finals of the first National Finals aboard War China and Miss China Cat, and over the years, has won both the open and non-pro divisions, and placed as reserve numerous times.

In addition to War China and Miss China Cat, Porter's mounts included the great gelding Chopsticks, Miss China Cat's son. "I have a black granite tombstone at home with a famous picture of Chopstick," said Porter, who attributes his success in cutting to his horses.

"You could tie a sack of feed to War China and he'd go win," said Porter of the War Leo son. "He was great."

Four years ago, Porter underwent brain surgery to repair four aneurysms; one year later, he suffered a stroke. He was soon back in the saddle, however. "My doctors can't understand how I can sit on a cutting horse and not lose my balance," said Porter. "They say it's impossible — that I am a walking, talking miracle."

These days, Porter is riding Miss Magic Molly, a horse he qualified for the finals of the \$3,000 Novice and \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro of the Eastern National Finals, and Haidascope, who he rides in open and non-pro competition this week.



*Trainer Mark Mills knows how to satisfy cutters' appetites. Sally Harrison photo*

### **Meat and potatoes man**

**M**ark Mills of Fulshear, TX began cooking an occasional meal for friends during cutting events eight years ago. Today, Mills travels with a retinue of pots, pans, grills and griddles and he is never far from the heat.

"Everybody needs a break and this is just my way to have fun," says Mills, who started M & M Ranch House Catering last November. "I'm not quitting the cutting horses. This is just a sideline business."

Mills, a former Eastern National Open Champion, has donated food and services to the Eastern National Championship Youth cutters for the past four years. Several weeks ago, he served catfish for Hall of Fame rider Sam Wilson's 70th birthday party.

"We cook a lot in dutch ovens outside," notes Mills. "People like for me to cook breakfast -- they really like my breakfast tacos."

Mills says that he got his knack for cooking as a boy from his grandmother, Lola Tippett, who lived in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas. Later, when he went to college, Mills was tapped to cook meals, while his roommates washed dishes.

While Mills has cooked lots of hamburgers and fajitas, if he was ordering his last meal, he says that he would request an inch-thick ribeye steak, grilled to perfection, and served with his famous ranch potatoes and Lola Tippett's creamed corn -- also favorite dishes of M & M Ranch House clients.

## 2000 CHAMPIONS (through 3-22-01)

**\$20,000 Non-Pro** – TREY HALL, Bartow, FL, riding High N Fancy  
Res. – Lindsay Moore, Onsted, MI, riding Playboys Habit

**\$10,000 Amateur** – SANDY BRANNON, San Antonio, TX, riding Montanas Mark  
Res. – Quinn Collins, Rochester, IL, riding Oh Cay Shorty

**\$50,000 Amateur** – TREY HALL, Bartow, FL, riding High N Fancy  
Res. – Marcus Haggard, League City, TX, riding Smart Lil Highjinks

**\$3,000 Novice** – LITTLE HICKORY JANE, owned by Susan Stoval, Cuero, TX;  
Robert Rust, rider  
Res. – Huggs Olena, Shannon Rust, New Ulm, TX; Robert Rust

**\$10,000 Novice** – DJ TRACKER, owned by Bill & Jo Ellard, Pilot Point, TX; Guy Woods, rider  
Res. – Muchos Bad Boy, Harest & Luella Bryant, Ortonville, MI; Jason Swayne  
Res. – Huggs Olena, Shannon Rust, New Ulm, TX; Robert Rust

**\$10,000 Novice Horse/Non-Pro Rider** – AR BOON RIVER, Tim May, Saltillo, MS  
Res. – Michievous Floyd. Matt Sullivan, Avon Park, FL

**Senior Youth** – J.R. COOK, Ormond Beach, FL, riding Playful Son  
Res. – Tennessee Walker, Tehuacana, TX, riding Smart Hickory Oak

**Junior Youth** – ALEXANDREA LANDRY, Youngsville, LA, riding Snip Of Wild  
Res. – Courtney Sokol, Brenham, TX, riding Special Kory  
Res. – Morgan Middleton, Summit, MS, riding Dusty Tari

# CHEVY TRUCKS



For nearly a decade, Chevy Trucks has been a corporate sponsor of the NCHA and title sponsor of the Chevy Trucks Eastern and Western National Championships. Chevy offers more full-size pickup models than anyone else that are the most dependable, long-lasting trucks on the road. So, when it's time to buy that new haulin' rig, see your local Chevy dealer for a new Chevy Truck.

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### Cutter's Quiz

1. Name the only two horses to have won the Open World Championship and the Open National Finals.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the only horse to ever win back-to-back open National Champion titles.
3. Name the only two riders to win back-to-back National Championships.
4. Name the only two riders to have won the Open NCHA Futurity, Open World Championship, and Open National Championship.

### Daily Chatter Schedule

Look for next editions on March 24 and 25  
([www.nchacutting.com](http://www.nchacutting.com))

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Cartoonist Jerry McAdams, "that cow art guy," is publisher of the Hico News Review and a nationally recognized artist whose favorite subjects are horses and cattle.