

# Daily Chatter

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## Ballard's horses riding in style

Billy Ballard, who tied as owner of the highest scoring horse at this year's Wayne Hodges & Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Eastern National Championships, took home a brand new, deluxe 3-horse slant load horse trailer compliments of Wayne Hodges Trailers.

Ballard, Winchester, Kentucky, won the \$20,000 Non-Pro division with 221 points on Fox N Style. Caberlena, owned by Jim and Treasa Watson, Defuniak Springs, Florida and ridden by Austin Shepard, claimed the \$10,000 Novice title with 221, while Robert Fullwood, Lakeland, Tennessee, aboard Zacked, took the \$10,000 Amateur with 221 points.

Ballard, Fullwood and the Watsons flipped a coin to determine the order of a draw for a tie-breaking draw.



## Up to scratch

Scratchin wins Open Championship  
Merryman claims Non-Pro Champion title



Dan Irey, left, with Wayne Hodges Trailers, congratulates Billy Ballard, right, who won the use of a brand new, deluxe 3-horse slant load horse trailer for a year, compliments of Wayne Hodges Trailers

Scratchin, owned by EE Ranches, Whitesboro, Texas and ridden by Guy Woods, hit pay dirt with her third cow in the Open Finals and came home a winner.

"We started off with a couple of soft cows that weren't exactly what I thought they were going to be," said Woods. "But the third cow was a really good one. We held her for a long time. That's what made the run."

Scratchin scored 220 points; Little Beau Squeak, ridden by Todd Gann for Charles and Carmen Ellis, Columbus, Mississippi, was second with 217; Downtown Cat with Austin Shepard for Painted Springs Farm, placed third with

216.5 pints.

EE Ranches owner Jo Ellard also rode Scratchin as a finalist in the Non-Pro Finals; while Woods placed seventh in the Open aboard Raked In Satin, also owned by EE Ranches.

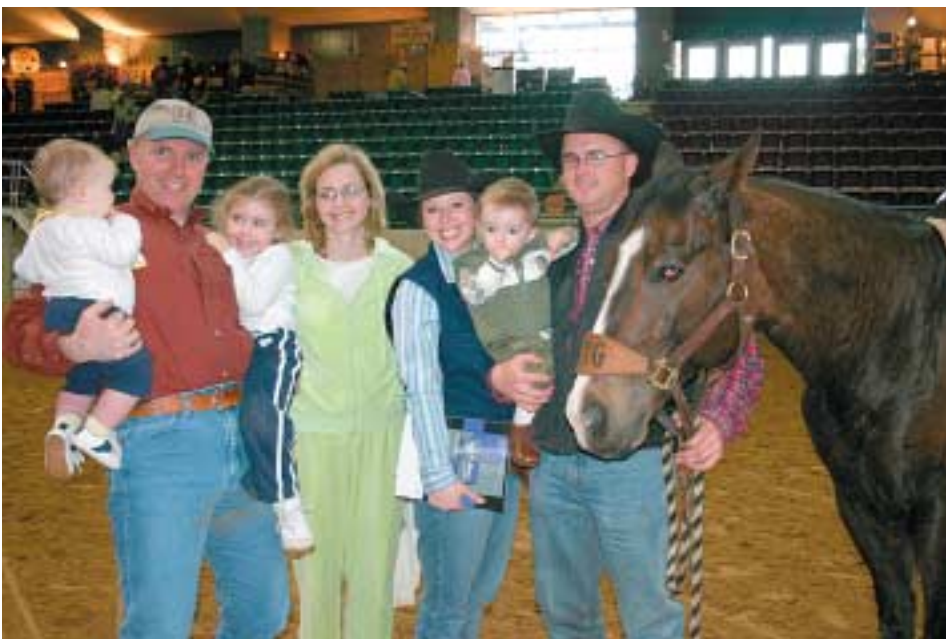
"Raked In Satin is the more physical horse and Scratchin is the more consistent one," said Ellard. "She can cut a variety of cow types. Raked In Satin really needs a cow to grab him and go somewhere. He was next-to-last in the herd and it just didn't happen this time."

Both Scratchin, an eight-year-old mare, and Raked In Satin, an

Continued on page 3



Above: Guys Woods and EE Ranches owner Jo Ellard. Woods rode EE Ranches' mare Scratchin to win the Open Championship. Below: Reserve Open Champion Little Beau Squeak with his connections - rider Todd Gann and owners Charles and Carmen Ellis.



**Up to scratch**, continued from page 1

eight-year-old gelding, were sired by Jo and Bill Ellard's stallion Laker Doc and are from his first crop of foals. Raked In Satin, a three-time Eastern National Champion, is the earner of \$165,000; Scratchin, who is out of NCHA Futurity finalist Lacy Jo Lena, has lifetime earnings of \$75,000.

"Scratchin is one of my favorite horses around the barn," said Woods, who trains all of EE Ranches' horses. "She trained early and to be honest, I messed her up right before the Futurity. I put a little bit too much heat on her.

"I made good scores on her when she was four, but I was snake bitten. I'd make a 220 or 222 the first round and go out the second. But when Jo started showing her, she did really good."

**Open Reserve Champion**

Scratchin set the mark as the third horse in the first bunch, but Little Beau Squeak and Todd Gann drew 24th to ride and had just 216.5 to beat for second place.

"It was a pretty strong run," said Gann, who marked 217. "This horse likes to run and stop and we got to show them that he can do that. We were

lucky.

"My friend Joe Cameron knew two of the cows that I was unsure about. He talked me into cutting them and I'm really glad he did because they turned out to be really good cows.

"It was a tough bunch. The cows have been tough all week, but it worked out for us."

Little Beau Squeak's owner, Charles Ellis, a UPS driver from Columbus, Mississippi, purchased Little Beau Squeak, five years ago to use as an amateur and non-pro mount.

"He's a really solid, great horse to be around," said Ellis, who rode the 11-year-old gelding, the earner of more than \$44,000, in the first go-round of Non-Pro competition.

"I wanted Todd to show him because he's so good. And Todd's fixed him back to where he used to be before I messed him up. I'm very, very proud of them."

Gann was also an Open finalist on Miss Genuine Ote owned by Kimberly Mullins, Knoxville, TN.

**Non-Pro Champion**

Lindy Merryman, 23, rode to the herd on Lil Smokin Dynamite, as the last rider in the first bunch of the Non-Pro Finals, and came out a winner with 218 points. It was the pair's second title of the event. They won the \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro championship with 220 points earlier in the week.

"I should have stayed on my second cow a little longer," said Merryman. "But I was afraid to because of the way everybody else had gone out. The cows in that set started out tough and were pretty much tough all the way through. I just lucked out to get three that would stay out there.

"We had watched my second cow all along when they settled them and she ended up staying until the end. We had some others picked out, but luckily they were cut before me because they ran over the two riders. I just got lucky that they cut them before I did."

Lil Smokin Dynamite, a five-year-old mare sired by Dynamite Badger, was trained by Merryman's father, Tom Merryman. Lindy rode her last year primarily in limited age events, where the mare won most of her \$30,000 in career earnings.



Above: Non-Pro and \$10,000 Novice/Non-Pro Champion Lindy Merryman with Lil Smokin Dynamite, who carried her for both championship wins. Below: Gary Barker, who rode Real Bad Bob to claim the title of Reserve Non-Pro Champion.



**Non-Pro Reserve Champion**

Gary Barker, Madill, Oklahoma, qualified for the Non-Pro Finals on the bubble with 212 points and wasn't sure where his Finals run was heading until he cut his third cow.

"It didn't start out good at all, but it ended up really good," said Barker, who scored 216 points to earn the title of Reserve Champion.

"That third cow was what really

made my run," he added. "The first cow we wanted, I never got cut and my second choice wasn't very good. I thought my second cow would be my best. It was okay, but I had about given up when I went back for my third cow. Then Austin told me to take the gray cow and it was really good."

This was Barker's first time to compete at the Eastern National Championships. But he won the West Texas 5/6-Year-Old Amateur Futurity last year on Real Bad Bob, who is now seven.

Barker purchased the Bob Acre Doc son as a four-year-old from trainer Bronc Willoughby and has received help over the past few years from near-neighbor Jody Galyean, as well as trainer Steve Oehlhof.

Barker, who has an Angus cow-calf herd with 325 mama cows and 200 to 300 yearlings, has been cutting off and on for the past ten years, but became more serious about the sport when he moved to the Southwest from Virginia about four years ago.

Shannon Barker, Gary's wife, also competes and placed seventh at the Eastern Nationals this year in the \$20,000 Non-Pro division riding Bowmans Fancy Mate, a horse with nearly \$40,000 in lifetime earnings.

# Thanks

When lunch time rolled around at the Wayne Hodges & Outlaw Conversions/NCHA Eastern National Championships, cutters had a lot of people to thank for providing some delicious meals. Hot, homemade lunches were served to cutters and their families every day, in the Hospitality Room, thanks to the generosity and hard work of:

- Mississippi Department of Tourism
- Trace Colony Park, LLC
- Utility Constructors, Inc & Rockin L Farms
- Southern Futurity
- Memphis Futurity at Tunica
- Tellus Operating Group LLC
- Kit Dual
- Eagle Ranch
- Titan Development
- Magnolia CHA
- Suncoast/Florida CHA
- Signs First



**"A cloudy day is no match for a sunny disposition."**

*William Arthur Ward*



# North Mississippi wins AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge

Cutters representing the North Mississippi CHA earned 1,425 points to win the AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge and a check for \$7,500. brings a "team" concept to the Wayne Hodges/Outlaw Conversions NCHA Eastern National Championships. The top 10 scoring affiliates at this show will earn cash awards totaling \$27,000 from the American Quarter Horse Association. The program is designed to reward participation as well as excellence, with points awarded for entering, making the finals, placing well in the finals, and finishing first or second. Here's a look at the final scores:



NCHA Director of Shows Dave Brian, (left) presents Mississippi CHA's Lee Garner with the trophy for winning the AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge.

Affiliate	Points	Affiliate	Points
NORTH MISSISSIPPI CHA .....	1,425	SOUTHWEST OHIO CHA .....	160
FLORIDA CHA .....	1,010	WEST CENTRAL TEXAS CHA .....	155
LONGHORN CHA .....	550	OZARK MOUNTAIN CHA .....	145
LOUISIANA CHA .....	550	SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA CHA .....	135
HEART OF DIXIE CHA .....	540	CENTRAL SAVANNAH RVR AREA CHA .....	130
NORTHEAST LOUISIANA CHA .....	530	SOUTHERN CUTTERS ASSN. ....	105
GREAT LAKES CHA .....	520	WEST TENNESSEE CHA .....	105
ONTARIO CHA .....	500	AREA 18 CHA .....	100
MIDDLE TENNESSEE CHA .....	490	NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS SEMO .....	100
KENTUCKY CHA .....	470	SAN ANGELO STOCK SHOW & RODEO .....	80
WEST POINT CHA .....	450	DOUBLE EAGLE CHA .....	75
MAGNOLIA CLASSIC CHA .....	445	MUENSTER CUTTING HORSE ASSN. ....	75
SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHA .....	410	ARIZONA CHA .....	70
LONE STAR CHA .....	400	NORTHERN ILLINOIS CHA .....	70
WESTERN OKLAHOMA CHA .....	395	NUECES CANYON CHA .....	70
OIL BELT CHA .....	355	ACADIAN CHA .....	65
SOUTHEAST CUTTING .....	340	NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI CHA .....	60
MISSISSIPPI CHA .....	295	NORTHEAST CHA .....	45
SHINING M CHA .....	295	RED RIVER CHA .....	40
GEORGIA CHA .....	280	CENTRAL UTAH CHA .....	35
NORTH TEXAS CHA .....	280	OHIO CHA .....	35
CHISHOLM TRAIL CHA .....	275	LIVE OAK CHA .....	30
STATE OF MISSOURI CHA .....	270	PEACH STATE CHA .....	30
CENTRAL TEXAS CHA .....	250	SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA CHA .....	30
ROSE COUNTRY CHA .....	240	BEEF EMPIRE CHA .....	10
EAST TENNESSEE CHA .....	230	BRAZOS VALLEY CUTTERS .....	10
GATEWAY CHA .....	230	CASCADE COW CUTTERS .....	10
BLUEBONNET CHA .....	220	EAST COAST CHA .....	10
MID-SOUTH CHA .....	215	NEVADA REINED COW CHA .....	10
BIG COUNTRY CHA .....	200	NEW MEXICO CHA .....	10
KANSAS CHA .....	185	UTAH CHA .....	10
BLUEGRASS CHA .....	175	WHITE RIVER CHA .....	10
NORTHERN PIEDMONT CHA .....	175		
WATEREE CHA .....	175		
INDIANA CHA .....	165		