

Daily Chatter

Sunday, May 9, 2004

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION



Gerber generates heat in \$20,000 Non-Pro Spaulding and Bunney tie

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Non-Pro - 1st go-round
72 entries • 5 sets

\$10,000 NOVICE NON-PRO
FINALS
2 sets

\$50,000 AMATEUR FINALS
2 sets

MONDAY'S SCHEDULE

Beginning at 8:00 a.m.

NON-PRO FINALS
2 sets

OPEN FINALS
2 sets

AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE

Next edition of
Daily Chatter
available
Monday, May 10



"You can observe a lot
just by watching."

Yogi Berra



Debra Gerber, of Santa Ynez, CA, won the \$20,000 Non-Pro Western National Championship title with 222 points riding Creeks Bar Peppy.

Last year, Debbie Gerber lost a cow in the finals of the \$20,000 Non-Pro Western National Championships. It was her first year to qualify for the event. On Friday, Gerber got a second shot at the finals and came out a champion.

Riding Creeks Bar Peppy, Gerber scored 222 points for her win. "My little horse was on fire, so I just went with it," she said. "The first cow was awesome and really got us in a rhythm with hard stops and soft moves in the

middle."

Gerber's second cow was testier than the first, but the third one she cut, with just seconds left on the clock, ran right through the turnback riders. Gerber didn't flinch.

"One of the strongest points of this little horse is that he will never quit," she explained. "He stayed on that cow even after it went behind the turnbacks and came out the other side, and he was still there and continued to

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Jim Spaulding, left, and Tiffany Bunney, right, tied with 217 points for co-reserve championship titles in the \$20,000 Non-Pro.

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cut it. He never lets me down.”

Creeks Bar Peppy, a 13-year-old gelded son of Wheeling Peppy, was Gerber’s first cutting horse. She purchased him, sight unseen, five years ago on the advice of her nephew, Frank Merrill, and his wife, Robin, longtime cutting horse breeders and non-pro competitors.

“They had been keeping an eye out for me and they saw him at a show,” said Gerber. “They looked at each other and simultaneously said, ‘There’s Debbie’s horse.’”

Gerber lives in Santa Ynez, CA with her husband, novelist and poet Dan Gerber. “I always tell people that he’s the writer with a “tee” and I’m the rider with a “dee,” she said. “He’s not involved with horses except for giving them their cookies, but I appreciate his support.” One of Dan Gerber’s books of poems is titled “Trying to Catch the Horses.”

Debbie Gerber also qualified for the finals of the \$50,000 Amateur division on Sancho Shorty, a gelding she purchased from the Merrills.

Co-reserve champions

Tiffany Bunney and Jim Spaulding tied with 217 points to share the title of co-reserve champion in the \$20,000 Non-



**You say it’s
your birthday!**

*These NCHA members
are celebrating their birthday today.*

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Chris Atkins | Weatherford, TX | Juliann Mills..... | Woodland Park, CO |
| Melissa Barber | Sorrento, FL | Beth Mitchell | Estancia, NM |
| David Beiswanger | Wolcottville, IN | Sandy Moffett | Grinnell, IA |
| Carolyn Bennett | Ben Wheeler, TX | Kirk Moore | Choteau, MT |
| Gene Bledsoe | Bristow, OK | James Morgan | Plainfield, WI |
| Mary Brehmer | Paso Robles, CA | John Parigoris..... | Lodi, CA |
| Lydia Butler | Gainesville, TX | Mary Pelt | Marianna, FL |
| James Carey | Kingdom City, MO | Dean Profrock | Springfield, IL |
| Tim Cowan | Cedar City, UT | Stephan Ralston..... | Ogden, UT |
| Rick Darling | Oklahoma City, OK | Monte Reynolds..... | Millsap, TX |
| Lawrence Davis ... | Oklahoma City, OK | Mat Rongen | Netherlands, |
| Bill Wietzke..... | Eugene, OR | Jerry Roper..... | Gillsville, GA |
| Leah Horstman | Alpine, CA | Pamela Scheer | Elsmere, NE |
| Joseph Howell | Hooks, TX | Jan Smith | Cumming, GA |
| Dick Hydrick | Albany, GA | Roger Sosa | Denair, CA |
| Gordon Leeson | Canada | Kathi Streeter..... | Franktown, CO |
| Lee Livingston | Auburn, CA | Bob Threlfall | Canada |
| John Logan | Harbor Springs, MI | Stu Vickers | Canada |
| Giles Madray | Houston, TX | Mary Anne Warns..... | Aladdin, WY |
| Allen Miller | Alpharetta, GA | Kristie Windham | Carthage, TN |

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Pro division. Spaulding drew second to ride in the last bunch – Gerber had set the standard as the ninth rider in the first bunch.

“We were able to get two cows that we had picked and I finished up on a third,” said Spaulding, who rode Brinks Quixote. “We cut them all in the center and kept them in the center. It worked out really good.”

This was Spaulding’s first major NCHA championship, although he has qualified for the National Western Championships several times. He purchased Brinks Quixote, who was top ten under Les Bates in the 2000 NCHA \$10,000 Novice world championship standings, four years ago, when the horse was six. While he had competed in rodeos as a calf roper and bull dogger, Spaulding didn’t begin cutting until 1997, when he hooked up with trainer Jim Mapes, of Sugar City, CO.

“Roping and bull dogging are easy compared to cutting,” noted Spaulding. “It’s such a challenge. I had to learn a whole new way of sitting a horse. You

might think you know how to ride, until you ride one of these cutting horses.”

Spaulding and his wife, Judy, both 64, own a ranch in Rocky Ford, CO. Although Judy doesn’t compete, as a show photographer, she has the best seat in the house. She has been photographing the Western National Finals since 1997, as well as numerous other cutting events. She enjoys the work, except when she photographs Jim. “I get nervous when he shows and I stop breathing,” she admitted. “His pictures probably won’t turn out.”

For Tiffany Bunney, 27, and her mother, Cheri Bunney, the draw for the \$20,000 Non-Pro finals went from bad to worst. Tiffany drew to ride second-to-last and Cheri drew dead last.

“We’d been joking about our draws all day and the fact that we would have to be tough,” said Tiffany, who was tough enough to score 217, on Truly A Hot Pepper, for the co-reserve title. Cheri marked 214.5 to finish in eighth place. Both mother and daughter also qualified for today’s \$50,000 Amateur finals.

Tiffany had qualified for the \$2,000 Limit Rider division here in 2002 and 2003 on her mother’s horse, Lynx Flo. But this was her first trip aboard Truly A Hot Pepper, by Ima Peppy Chex, a solid-color Paint bred by her parents and trained by her father, Ike Bunney. Tiffany won the APHA World Cutting championship in 1997 riding Truly A Hot Pepper’s dam, Snow Pepper.

Ike and Cheri Bunney run a guest ranch and training and breeding operation in Tuolumne, CA. It’s definitely a family affair,” said Tiffany, who lives about 45 minutes from Tuolumne, in Oakdale, where she is an economist for Western United Dairymen. “It’s a pretty big operation and it’s hard for both my mom and dad to get away at the same time. My dad was nice enough to stay and hold down the ranch while my mom and I came here.”

The Bunneys stand the black and white Paint stallion Too Much Pepper, a full brother to Snow Pepper, and the Quarter Horse stallion Rey Jay Flo, by Mr Peponita Flo.

AQHA/NCHA Affiliate Challenge Standings as of May 8

Arizona CHA.....	1,775	Minnesota CHA	210	Mid State Illinois CHA.....	35
Northwest CHA.....	1,215	North Texas Aqha CHA	155	Bluebonnet CHA.....	30
Utah CHA	1,180	Four Corners Cuttinghorse Club.	150	Northern Illinois CHA.....	30
Canadian CHA.....	1,175	Western Oklahoma CHA	135	Kansas CHA	20
Idaho CHA	1,175	Beef Empire CHA	125	Louisiana CHA.....	20
Montana CHA	925	Longhorn CHA.....	125	North Central Arkansas Semo.....	20
Central Utah CHA.....	655	Southwest Oklahoma CHA.....	105	Northeast CHA	20
Nevada Reined Cow CHA	575	Double Eagle CHA	90	Western Nevada CHA	20
South Dakota CHA	565	Panhandle CHA.....	90	Barn Church CHA.....	10
Wyoming CHA	540	West Central Texas CHA	80	Central Savannah Rvr Area CHA .	10
Oregon CHA.....	530	Southeastern Oklahoma CHA	75	Florida CHA.....	10
Washington CHA.....	500	Mississippi CHA.....	60	Iowa CHA	10
Alberta CHA	445	Kern County CHA	55	Live Oak CHA.....	10
New Mexico CHA.....	325	Lone Star CHA	55	Mid-south CHA	10
Chisholm Trail CHA.....	295	North Mississippi CHA.....	55	Sowega CHA.....	10
Western States CHA	275	San Diego CHA	55	Waller CHA.....	10
CHA of Nebraska.....	270	Central Texas CHA	45		
Pacific Coast CHA.....	270	Rose Country CHA.....	45		

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a bad stallion is all of it."*

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The American Quarter Horse Association, located in Amarillo, Texas, is the world's largest equine breed registry.

Through their Strategic Marketing Alliance, NCHA will be acknowledged as the authority for cutting competitions and the AQHA will be acknowledged as the foundation breed which provides the bloodlines for the majority of horses used in NCHA competition. Both Associations will work together to actively promote the sport of cutting.

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Daily Chatter

Editor: Sally Harrison

Contributors: Ross Hecox, Rebecca Brian

Contributions, comments, and suggestions welcomed.
sallyharrison@hotmail.com
(mention "Daily Chatter" in subject line)



260 Bailey Avenue • Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 244-6188 • Fax (817) 244-2015