

NRHA Derby Youth on the Move

NRHYA PRESIDENT IAN BARNARD



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OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE WITHIN NRHYA AND WE'RE very excited to see so many changes and new ideas.

The weekend before the NRHA Derby the officer team attended the AQHYA Youth Excellence Seminar (Y.E.S.) and Convention in Amarillo, Texas. We really appreciated the opportunity to attend this event and gathered many pointers from the wonderful youth leadership speakers.

While at the Derby, my fellow youth officers, many youth committee members, and certain NRHA staff met to discuss a few new topics and ideas. One of the main topics was the proposed Stallion Calendar, which would help support the NRHA Futurity and Derby youth non pro divisions. The calendar will not only be a beautiful display of reining horses, but also a great place for stallion owners to advertise their stallions, and a useful tool for reining enthusiasts with important dates, such as NRHA Futurity and Derby entry deadlines.

At the Derby, the youth were treated to two motivational speakers who encouraged leadership. A hospitality room was available for youth to hang out together and included snacks and a TV. Social activities were also provided; a bowling outing, the Cowboy Luau, and the NRHA Beach Party.

The youth officer team was invited to the VIP reception during the Derby open finals, and we were honored to meet so many of the NRHA Corporate Partners. We were impressed at how eager the sponsors are to support the youth!

A personal interest and goal of mine is to get more international NRHYA members involved. During one of our many meetings we discussed trying to work out details for an international youth exchange, and I'm excited to see progress being made in that direction. Also discussed were international scholarships, PenPal systems, and international representation on the officer team.

The Derby youth classes were the largest ancillary classes with 70 total in the youth 13 & under and 14-18 and 12 youth 10 & under short stirrup riders. Go youth riders!

The USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) National Youth Reining Championships were held on Saturday, June 28, with Emily Winegar winning the 13 & under, Jason Kvols winning the 14-18, and Lacey Vernon winning the 19-21 championship titles. Fourteen riders were selected to populate teams during the NAYRC (North American Young Riders Championship) Reining Selection Trial. 2008 marks the first year that Reining will be included in the NAYRC in Parker, Colorado, in August.

Thanks to everyone who was at the Derby and attended our meetings and events and helped sell raffle tickets for the yearling filly donated by Carol Rose.

Good luck to all who are showing this summer!

Ian Barnard