



California Horsetrader

Vol. 35, No. 16 • June 5, 2014

horsetrader.com

The Ride of a Lifetime

Non Pro Tina McClenahan
takes Show Me The Buckles
for memorable go
at the WCRHA Shootout
Page 24

John O'Hara
©MMXIV

Come see us at
HORSE EXPO
Building C, #3212



NRCHA photo

Classifieds **10**

Shows & Events **88**

Fototraders® **93**

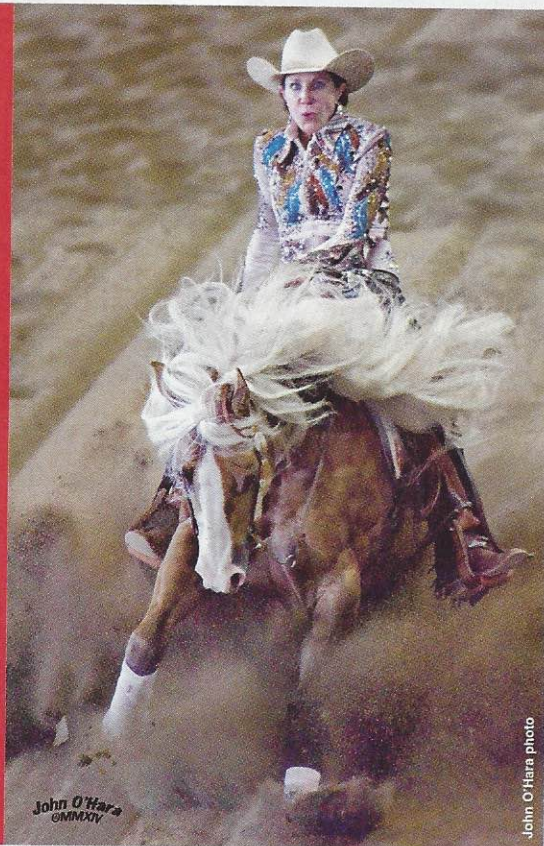
Lyn Anderson & Tuckers Smart Cat take Gilkerson Memorial Page 30



Jennifer Gilliam rides Janiene Borrer's Hick A Shine to the \$3,000-added Murieta Equine Center Shootout Non-Pro title, held during the WCRHA Affiliate 3 and 4 shows May 22-25.

"That girl went out and rode the heck out of it, and he was a good boy for her. I couldn't have been more happy. I thought she did an amazing job."

—Rebeca Martin, owner, Show Me The Buckles, on NP Tina McClenahan



Shootout at the MEC corral

WCRHA spices up affiliate weekend with Non Pro event

FROM HORSETRADER STAFF REPORTS

RANCHO MURIETA—It's not every day that a non pro reiner can catch-ride someone else's horse and compete against other non pros in a major venue—for cash, nonetheless.

For the fifth straight year, that's just what the West Coast Reining Horse Association provided its members May 24 at the \$5,000-added Murieta Equine Center Non Pro Shootout, a popular Saturday night event sandwiched between the club's Affiliate No. 3 and Affiliate No. 4 shows. This year, 23 entries divided the Non Pro Level 1 and Non Pro Level 4 field, half of which were making catch-rides on borrowed horses.

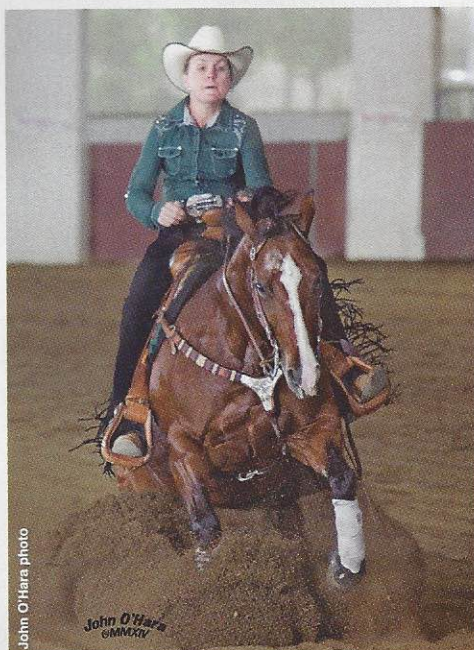
Enthusiasm for the MEC Shootout had begun even before Friday night's draw party, featuring a full barbeque sponsored by GD Performance Horses and Delbert Tullos. Some riders had been preparing for months, looking forward to a \$5,000-added class with no rules or regulations other than being a legitimate NRHA non pro. Not only is the MEC Shootout one of the few chances for non pros to show horses they don't own, it also jackpots all entry fees into the purse, guaranteeing \$2,000 cash to the Level 4 winner at the back gate, and \$1,000 cash to the Level 1 winner. The money, in \$100 bills, is tucked into a custom Ricotti Saddlery trophy wallet.

"The non pros love it," says David Hanson, who worked with MEC to launch the show in order to perk up the spring event calendar. "They don't have to ride their own horse, and with the added money, usually through eighth place they are making money."

Jennifer Gilliam rode her mother's horse, Hick A Shine, to the Level 4 Championship, earning a Skyline buckle along with her \$2,000 cash. On her heels in the reserve spot was Tina McClenahan on her gelding, Little Skeets. In Level 1, youth rider Morgan Davis took her Ghostsliderinthesky to the champion's buckle and \$1,300 in cash winnings, and Kari Ann Moreno, who had pulled her horse Cielo Starlight out of semi-retirement, took reserve.

Saturday's MEC Shootout filled the stands with spectators eager to watch riders paired with new horses, and perhaps the most intriguing entry was McClenahan on Show Me The Buckles

CONTINUED on page 26



Non pro Debbie Valdero Tweedy and Plan Your Luck took multiple wins in both affiliate shows.

CONTINUED from page 24

(Wimpys Little Step x Sunset Whiz by Topsail Whiz), the venerable 6-year-old Level 4 Open Derby horse owned by Rebeca Martin of Ione.

"That was one of the greatest experiences I've ever had—getting to ride that horse," says McClenahan, 50, who has been riding reiners 14 years as a non pro, starting in 2000 with Mike Boyle. "That horse is so powerful."

McClenahan rode the stallion for the two weeks leading up to the Shootout after Martin had asked her if she would like to compete on him.

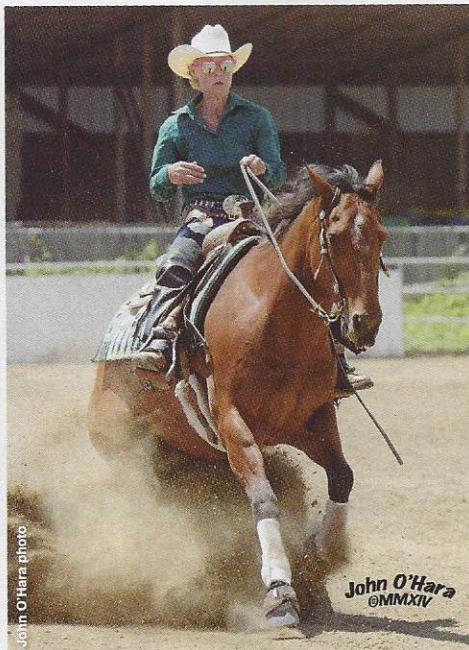
"All along, my biggest worry was whether I could sit the rollback—especially the right rollback," she adds. "When Jordan (Larson) or Andrea (Fappani) would ride him, his right rollbacks were phenomenal. I really was scared I might grab the horn, so I told Rebeca that if I grab the horn, it would be because I *had* to, not because I *wanted* to."

Martin simply told her, "honey, just do your best." And that's what McClenahan did.

"I didn't grab the horn, and I was able to sit it," she says. "I think perhaps the horse knew that he had a non pro up there after two weeks of riding, and maybe he slowed it down a little for me."

Martin has owned "Buckles", the fifth-leading progeny of \$6 million sire Wimpys Little Step with more than \$160,000 in lifetime earnings, since he foaled. She enjoyed watching her friend at his reins.

"Tina has been a dear friend for many years, and she's an accomplished rider," says Martin, who learned of the Shootout when McClenahan mentioned it to her 14 days beforehand. "I would not have trusted that horse to a lot of people, but she has shown in futurities and derbies as a non pro, and I've watched her ride



Chexout This Mirage won Affiliate 3 Rookie titles in Level 1, Level 2 and Primetime divisions.

many, many times.

"I would like to have ridden him myself, but I haven't been in the show pen in six years," she smiles. "I knew there was no way I could get ready in two weeks, so I thought it would be fun to have her show him."

"It had been said that non pros would have a hard time showing this horse because he is a lot of horse," she adds. "But you know what—I am so proud of her. That girl went out and rode the heck out of it, and he was a good boy for her. I couldn't have been more happy. I thought she did an amazing job."

McClenahan fought through her nervousness, executed, and came away both pleased and enriched.

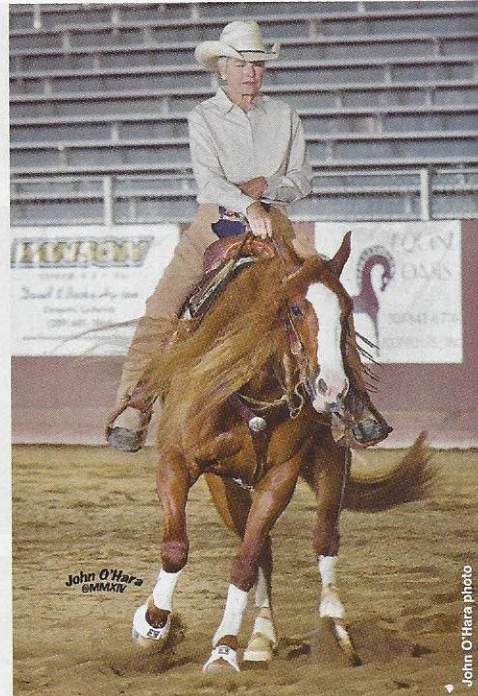
"What an athlete," she adds. "That's the difference between the Level 4 Open horses and others—their mindset and athleticism. I could never have asked for a better partner."

The non pro came away with new expectations, partly because of the different mindset.

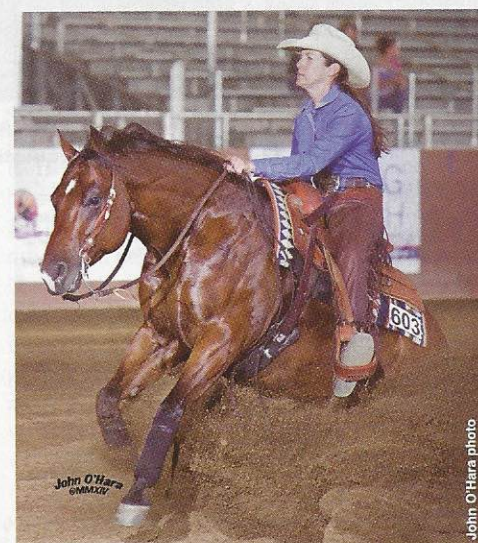
"I noticed with Buckles that I treat my horses kind of like friends, like they are my pals," she says. "I don't do it for any kind of business or money—it's my enjoyment. Horses are my friends, so they act like my friends."

"When I got around Buckles, I noticed he was more like a partner—not so much my friend," she adds. "He knew he had a job to do, and he kind of said, 'let's do it'. He had the mindset that there was a job to do, instead of 'we're going out to play today.' I noticed a big difference working with him the first time. When I get on my 3-year-old now that I've ridden Buckles, I want that higher expectation. Hopefully, that will be a positive thing in the end."

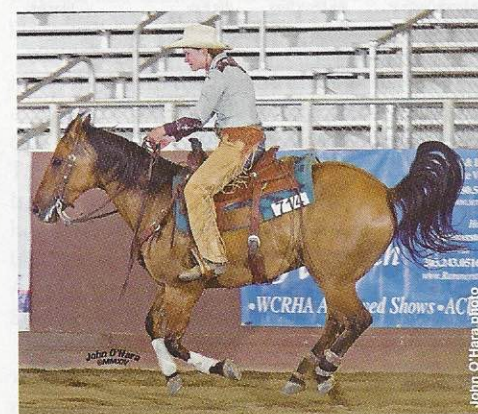
■ MORE ONLINE: http://bit.ly/1406A_WCRHA



Whiz N Steady took owner Linda Hardy to a Masters Non Pro win and Eric La Porte to Open, Int. Open and Novice Horse titles.



Elizabeth Rammerstorfer rides Whoz A Whiz to Affiliate 3 and 4 Novice Horse titles.



Sue Flood takes her Commandonic to the NRHA Ride and Slide Non Pro title.