

Reinin' In The Sun



August 17, 2011

In spite of a cool wet Spring, the sun shone down through clear blue Okanagan skies at the fifth annual edition of Reinin' In The Sun, in Armstrong, British Columbia. Near perfect showing weather set the stage for more than 110 exhibitors to show off their skills in the Reining and Working Cow Horse events, as Texas judges Morgan Lybbert and Ronald Sharp adjudicated more than 330 runs over the three day event.

RITS Show Chairman Sandra Rhodes took time out from her organizational duties to pull off a winning ride in the first class of the Show. Sandra, riding her bay gelding Wright N Chex, bested 35 other riders to win the RITS Sweet N Sour, and set the pace for the rest of the Show. Not to be outdone, our hard working RITS Committee member Anna Green piloted her pretty sorrel mare Peps San Jewel to the top spot in NRHA Prime Time Open, taking home her first Championship buckle. Working Cow Horse enthusiasts enjoyed the new Beer Garden under bright stadium lights, as they cheered on friends and family well in to the Friday night competition.

Saturday's classes featured the Three Year Old Futurities, with incentives ranging from custom made silver buckles, monogrammed trophy Show Pads, and coveted NRHA Lawson bronzes to more than \$3,500.00 in added purse money. Jesse Beckley, Cranbrook, BC, riding The Crown Jewels for owner George McIvor, rode away with the Lawson and the lion's share of the purse in the Open Futurity Division, while RITS Committee member Leah Lupyrpa scooped the Non Pro Championship aboard Hot Smokin Pep. Ryan Burnett piloted Safroni Olena to the win in the Rookie Professional Division.

The final day of competition featured the \$2000 added Open and Non Pro Derbys, classes designed to highlight the skills of the more mature 4,5,and 6 year old horses. Whizzen In The Rein, owned by Kyle Weston and ridden by Shayla Malmberg, topped the field with a score of 148.5, sweeping both the Open and the Rookie Professional divisions; while Myrna Thiessen aboard Chics Best Light took the Non Pro Derby Championship home to Prince George.

Rounding out the weekend competition was the awarding of the BC Reining Assn trophy saddles in their respective divisions. Riders vying for these prestigious awards had competed at a series of shows over the past year, and final scores from the respective Derby classes told the tale for the winners. Sharon Gates, on behalf of the BCRA, presented the prestigious awards to Myrna Thiessen for her winning ride aboard Chics Best Light in the Non Pro Division, and to Kyle Weston, riding Smoking Sana Lena for the Open Division. The beautiful trophy saddles were greatly appreciated by all competitors, and will surely be a goal to reach for in the future.

Reinin' In The Sun wishes to thank their generous sponsors, hard working volunteers, and dedicated Show Committee for another highly successful event.