

CALIFORNIA CIRCUIT NEWS

MARILYN PETERSON

Let me start this column with a sincere THANK YOU to Steve Chase and the entire Bakersfield Rodeo for remaining loyal to the WPRA and making sure their PRCA rodeo had a WPRA barrel race. The WPRA didn't disappoint the committee or the crowd. It was a tough barrel race as indicated by crowd response, and, as an indicator of good, consistent ground, checks were picked up in the slack and in both performances. The money was spread around pretty well among our California competitors and our out-of-state buddies. Norma Wood and Terri Wood Gates from Utah picked up 1st and 2nd checks; Dude Overton and Stacy Dial brought the money to California with 3rd and 4th. Jolee Lautaret from Arizona was 5th, Linda Vick on her tough colt was 6th, Susan Luschar from Nevada was 7th, and 8th, 9th, and 10th went to California Circuit pros Monica Dunn, Janet Carlson, and Lisa Kline. The WPRA barrel racers were well supported by the Growney group as well. Special thanks to Susie Mills who made everything flow smoothly as usual, and to Rocky Steagal and Bill Pachaco for their excellent judging.

In conjunction with the Bakersfield rodeo, WPRA members were able to take advantage of an excellent jackpot put on by Marie Cabibi at Robertson Ranch in Bakers-



field, only about 10 minutes away. They had a successful 4-D with \$1,000 added on Saturday and \$500 on Sunday. Linda Vick again went to the pay window on her great young horse (watch out Hollywood!!) – she won 1st on Saturday and 3rd on Sunday. Dude Overton also had a great weekend as she not only placed 3rd at the rodeo but she was 2nd on Saturday at the 4-D. Lorie Menez was 3rd, Lyndee Stairs 4th, and Jolee Lauterette was 5th on Saturday. On Sunday Jody Reese smoked a run for 1st, Jane Johnson 2nd, Linda Vick 3rd, Candace Bartleson 4th and Gini Thompson 5th.

The California standings will be updated soon – keep your eye on the website. The reason the standings had fallen behind is that we did not receive results from 7 of the WPRA approved 4-D jackpots. Jerri and Eva Jean are tracking down the results, and all of the standings should be up to date very soon.

We have some great barrel races coming up in May and June. We have \$1,000 added at Tehachapi on 5/12, \$1,000 added in Lemoore on 5/19, \$500 added at Valley City on 5/27, \$500 added in Creston on 5/28, \$500 added in Hay-

ward on 6/1, \$500 added at Creston 6/3, and \$1,000 added in Lemoore on 6/30. Keep your eye on the website for additional approvals; they keep coming in. I'd like to put in a "plug" for the Creston WPRA approved barrel races, which I am helping to produce. This is a Saddle & Buckle series of 6 races with \$500 added to each race. The high money winner on one horse will receive a Saddle Certificate for \$1200, so you can choose the saddle you want. The high money winner on unlimited horses will win a beautiful buckle. Please call me if you have any questions on these races.

I haven't been much of anywhere in the winter, so it was really good to see so many of my friends and fellow WPRA competitors at the Bakersfield rodeo and the Bakersfield 4-D. It truly warms my heart to see the support of our members as we struggle through these difficult times. And, despite setbacks, we DO continue to press on, to try to maintain the best possible barrel racing association for our members. Again, though I have said this many times, it bears repeating: Thank you Jerri Mann for your unrelenting support of the WPRA membership and

the WPRA association. We are truly blessed to have a great director like you.

Please call or email me with any good tidbits for my next column: 805-441-9715, or email at marilynjmanning@charter.net. Until I see you again, happy trails and God Bless each of you.

COLUMBIA RIVER CIRCUIT NEWS

BY RANDY RAE BRITT

Think Spring has finally sprung around the Northwest and things are getting busy. We have not had a lot of news to report on but wanted to say a few things in this article. We have had some great races in our Approved Barrel Races that are 4D and I want to thank all the producers for co-approving with us. It means so much to have the support for the WPRA. The ones that have stood with us and supported us will not be forgotten!!!! Thank you to Shelly Kerr, Roseanne Strobel, BoBo McMillan and Tim Corfield and the Brand Races that have co-approved with us. Also in August we have a great race to look forward too. It has \$50K added with trucks, 4 wheelers, TV's and a number of awards. This should be a great race to attend and one that we have not had before. Victory Farms and Jerri Heinz is putting this race on and we thank them so much for the opportunity of going to a race like this. It will be at The Trac in Pasco, Wa. and an awesome race to com-

pete in!!!!

I have had a lot of memories to think about this year and due to the fact that I was sick had time to reflect on what a year we have gone thru and all the precious people that I have had the pleasure of serving with on the WPRA Board of Directors. We have had some trying times to say the least but have had such a great walk with our friends and directors that I will never regret serving on such a great board and being a small part of a great Association. We never have to be ashamed of anything that we tried to do for our members and what we have tried to do for this Assoc. We have only wanted the very best for the WPRA and have stood together in everything that we have tried to do. At this point we do not know how it is all going to turn out but for my part I want to thank our board, our Office crew. and everyone that has been involved in our quest to push forward with the WPRA. I want to thank God for everything that has happened to me and our board because He has been with us thru it all. Times like this make us remember what is truly important in life and I want to say Thank you to my God, my friends and our Great Association that I have been serving for the past six years.

As we go forward we don't know what will happen but will be here for anyone that has any questions and hope we all have a great year to look ahead to!! Thank you to our Attorney that has stood with us and has done an outstanding job

for us. When we add it all up we can just be thankful for all that we have and our friends that we have made and look forward to nothing but good times. Thank you to all of our members that have stood with us and for us. God Bless and travel safely.

TURQUOISE CIRCUIT NEWS

BY JOLEE LAUTARET

The season is now in full swing with our first rodeo of the year in the books. Huge, huge thanks to the Cave Creek Fiesta Days Rodeo for their continued support of the women of the WPRA. This committee has hosted a WPRA All Women's event for many years in conjunction with the pro rodeo and hosted a WPRA barrel race with the rodeo once again in 2007.

Jolee Lautaret and Belle were the first to run at the Cave Creek rodeo and their 15.52 held up throughout the three performances to claim the victory. Rookie leader Kathee Martin took second place.

On the note of bad news, Chapter President Joanie Cowden suffered a bad break to her leg when her horse spooked into a barrel at the Parker race. Joanie required surgery and something like nine pins to put everything back together. Being the tough nut that she is, she thought she maybe tore a ligament or something in her knee and didn't even realize the leg was broken until she finally went to the hospital several

hours after the wreck. She had even gone back and made the horse go through the pattern correctly!

She won't be out at the races for a while as the doctors have ordered her to stay in the house for several more weeks. The Chapter's April race was turned into a benefit for their leader. Here's wishing Joanie a very speedy recovery, we hope to see her back out and about very soon.

Also some sad news which is very late in being reported but very sincere condolences to WPRA All Women's Champion Kim Williamson on the passing of her father earlier this spring. Kim's dad was a terrific supporter of his daughter and we send our prayers to her during this difficult time.

I spent last week in Colorado Springs for our hearing for preliminary injunction in the lawsuit against the PRCA and PWBR. Just to clarify, the lawsuit alleges misappropriation of our business value and interference with our present and future contracts with rodeo committees. Full results of the hearing should appear in a story in this issue of the *WPRN* so I won't repeat here other than to say that the hearing was an interesting and actually sad experience.

Thank you to the other Board members who came to the hearing as well as 1964 WPRA World Champion Ardith Bruce and gold card member, many times circuit finals qualifier Dolli Lautaret. It was so special to have support from these women, who remember where the WPRA

was and how far it has come— Mrs. Bruce has been a member since the association was founded in 1948. The stories she told were a far cry from some of the testimony and assertions being made by the women who appeared on the PRCA's behalf.

Many thanks are also due our attorneys, Dana Eismeier and Murray Weiner. Of course, Dana has been with the association longer than almost all of the current Board members and Murray is a Colorado Springs attorney who acts like he has been with us forever, too. We sincerely appreciate their passion for our cause and the classy way in which they argued our case. I knew they were the right guys for us anyway but it was cemented for me when they both dropped their briefcases to rush into traffic and help a guy who had lost some metal beams off his truck as we were walking back from the courthouse the last day. How many lawyers would have done that? They truly are some of the good guys and we were blessed to have them on our side.

The Chapter has been having some very nice races, thanks as always to those ladies for their hard work. Look for the upcoming June race in Williams. Mr. Bob Dean of the Williams Labor Day Rodeo always takes care of the barrel racers so we can expect great ground and wonderful weather!

Speaking of June, don't forget the first ever Gallup WPRA All Women's Rodeo to be held June 8 & 9 at beautiful Red Rock State Park. This

CIRCUIT news

rodeo is \$1000 added with two go's. On Sunday following the rodeo is the Leo Mitchell Memorial NBHA Barrel race which is co-sanctioned for the WPRA and WPRA Juniors. It all adds up to a full weekend of WPRA action.

Thanks again to everyone for their support; it means the world to me to know that you are behind us. Best wishes for the upcoming races and may you be blessed in all you do.

WILDERNESS CIRCUIT NEWS

BY TERRI WOOD-GATES

I want to take this time to say "Thank You" to all that

have supported the WPRA in this tough time.

There are many events that are WPRA approved. Check out the WPRA website for all the updated approvals. We have rodeos that have approved with the WPRA first rodeo Tooele, UT June 1 & 2, we all appreciate their support, show your support and enter these great rodeos give them the best WPRA runners. I am having the WPRA Fall Futurity again September 29 & 30, it will be at the Triple C Arena in Panguitch, UT. There are so many good things about this facility good ground, many eating establishments and motels in town. They have also approved their August Barrel Race with the WPRA.

Lita Scott is holding a WPRA Futurity in Reno June 16 & 17 along with a 4D Barrel Race. That is two WPRA Futurities in the Wilderness Circuit. How awesome, Thank You for your support. Barrel Buddies in South Jordan on June 23 is another fun barrel race. Three Can Turn, Preston Idaho is holding their barrel racing series again this sum-

mer, June 13, July 25, Aug 18th. Rock Springs has approved their series and co-approved with the Wilderness Circuit remember their big race June 2 & 3. So many fun barrel races approved this year. If you have any questions about any approvals please contact me terriwood-gates@msn.com

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