

NOOPY NEWS

THE HISTORY OF THE PACIFIC COAST HORSE SHOWS ASSN. BAKER REINING CLASSIC

Over 40 years ago, Western Horse Shows were the epitome of horse showing. Westerns were all over our black and white television sets. Just as there were top Western actors, there were top Western Horse Show Trainers. Two of which were Jack and Linda Baker. One of the most popular classes at Western Horse Shows were the medal classes.

Originally there was the Jack Baker Medal Class. A class in which you rode a stock horse, and was judged on horsemanship. This was strictly a class for Amateur and Junior riders. When Jack Baker passed away, Linda took over the reins of the Medal Class. As time passed, the reining division had worked its way from Texas and Oklahoma to the West Coast and was becoming very popular. So the class was changed from riding a Stock Horse to a Reining Horse. The class would be judged on the horse, not the rider.

When Linda Baker passed, the Class was named The Baker Reining Classic in honor of both Jack and Linda Baker.

All along, the class was always for the Amateur (now Non Pro) and Junior exhibitor. As the class grew in popularity, more and more prizes were given.

Since so many reining events are geared toward winning money, surveys were taken over the years. It was always unanimous that the exhibitors wanted this class to strictly have prizes, not money. This class is and was “never about the money.”

Every dollar that comes in, goes right out in prizes. Eventually, with sponsors, the class, which started out with only one Championship saddle, grew to having a Rookie Division. Then again, with more sponsorship, the Rookie Division was split into age divisions so another saddle could be awarded.

What makes this class totally unique are the “special prizes.” Monogrammed plates are given to each and every person that qualifies for the Finals. The plates have their name and their horse’s name. Silver buckles are given to tenth place. And, this is the only reining event in the country that awards prizes to each and every finalist, no matter where they place.

Most of our sponsors are exhibitors that have ridden in the class in previous years, and love it, and even though they are not involved with horses anymore, they still want to support it.

This has always been an event that has relied on its sponsors. As the cost of prizes has risen, it has become more and more difficult to rely on just past and current exhibitors.

As in the past, all the exhibitors are amateur and junior exhibitors, many unable to afford to travel to the “big” reinings out of state. They look to this class as something they can look forward to, and a goal to reach. There is nothing like this anywhere.

This event is worthy of any sponsorship being large or small. It supports the amateur and junior reining exhibitor. The more sponsors we get, the more the exhibitor gets. That’s the way its been for over 25 years, and hopefully will continue to be.