WHAT IS REINING?

The History of Reining:
Reining originated with the Spanish Vaquero, the working cowboy of the Pacific Slope, based upon the abilities and maneuvers desired in an esteemed ranch horse. It was first recognized as a sport in 1949 by the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), the world’s largest equestrian organization with more than 270,000 members and has registered more than 5 million horses. The National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), formed in 1966, is the organizing body governing reining horse events worldwide and is comprised of more than 20,000 members with 97 local affiliate associations. In 2000 reining was accepted as the 7th and only Western Discipline of the United States Equestrian Team (USEF) to be part of the World Equestrian Games by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). Reining is on its way to becoming the first Western Olympic Equestrian event.
What is Reining?

The Sport of Reining:
Reining is a Western Discipline designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type horse where the rider guides the horse through a precise patterns of circles, spins and sliding stops in the arena. Reining is considered by many to be an art form is often described as Western Dressage despite the demanding athleticism required. Reining requires high levels of concentration, skills and ability to perform from both horse and rider in order to achieve the appearance of smoothness, finesse and seemingly relaxed attitude using loose reins on a “willingly guided” horse which defines the judging of the event. Reining is fun, family oriented and is the fastest growing sport in the horse industry.
Reining is a Western Discipline where riders guide horses through a precise patterns of circles, spins and sliding stops. The horse should be willingly guided or controlled with no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. The horse must have an excellent temperament and athletic ability to perform with both speed and precision. A high level of horsemanship and coordination between horse and rider is required. Various class level divisions are available at the competitions for youth riders, senior riders, amateur or “non-pro” riders, professionals and entry level “green reiners”. Reining has become a family oriented sport where everyone can participate and have fun.
Click here to view a reining horse competition video.
The Association:
The Great Western Reining Horse Association, Inc. (GWRHA) was formed for the purpose of continuing to promote, manage and improve the Low Roller Reining Classic horse show held annually in October and the Best Little Derby In the West horse show held in annually April at the Idaho Horse Park in Nampa and to promote the sport of reining in the Northwest U.S. The GWRHA is an Idaho corporation organized under and pursuant to the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act, Chapter 3, Title 30 of the Idaho Code and is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Membership:
The GWRHA’s current membership list includes many of the region’s most recognizable names including NRHA judges, NRHA professionals, reining horse trainers and non pro riders from throughout the Northwest. Membership in the GWRHA is open to any individual or entity. The GWRHA does not compete with other reining horse associations in the region for memberships and does not require membership in the GWRHA to show in any classes at GWRHA events. Instead, it is an association comprised of NRHA members dedicated to the goal of having world class reining events in the Northwest U.S.
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Director of Animal Welfare & Sports Medicine: Stuart Shoemaker, DVM  
Phone: (208) 466-4613  
Email: stuart@gweining.com
NOW $45,000 IN ADDED PRIZE MONEY!

The Low Roller Reining Classic and NRHA Northwest RAC:
The Low Roller Reining Classic (LRRC) and NRHA Northwest Regional Affiliate Championship show is the marquee event hosted by the GWRHA. The 2016 show had a $12,000 added money Futurity plus a $15,500 added money Derby with a total of $45,000 in added money plus more than $57,000 in awards and prizes. The 2015 LRRC was ranked by the NRHA as #28 in the listing of World Leading Events, #18 in the U.S.A. (NRHA Reiner, June 2016, pg. 156) attracting participants from ID, WY, MT, CO, NV, UT, CA, OR, WA & Canada. This event ranked #7 Worldwide for number of entries and had the largest Rookie class of any show.

The LRRC is held at the Ford Idaho Horse Park (FIHP) in Nampa, Idaho immediately preceding the Idaho Reined Cow Horse Association’s annual futurity and derby. This attracts many reined cow horse trainers and non pros to our event. They haul in early and compete at our show. Participants have included National Reined Cow Horse (NRCHA) trainers such as Annie Reynolds, Todd Bergen, Jake Telford, Wade Reaney, Brandon Staebler, Flint Lee, Dan Roeser, John Roeser, etc. This is one of the ways we help to promote the sport of reining in the Northwest U.S.
Low Roller Reining Promo Video

2014
October 15-19

Click here to view the 2014 Low Roller Reining promotional video.
The Best Little Derby in the West:

The Best Little Derby in the West made its debut in April 2014 and features the Red Shirt Futurity, Non Pro, Youth and Open Derby, Maturity and two full slates of NRHA ancillary classes. In 2015 it was ranked by the NRHA as #35 in the listing of World Leading Events, #24 in the U.S.A.

The Red Shirt Futurity:

The term Red Shirt is derived from college football/athletics whereby athletes are “Red Shirted” or allowed to participate in training and suit-up during their initial year but do not actually play in a game. College enrollment is extended to five years in lieu of four with the concept that the student athlete will increase in size, strength and physical maturity during his initial year off. The Red Shirt Futurity is for any four year old horse that was not shown in a three year old Futurity. This Red Shirt Futurity is designed to bring value and longevity to horses that may not be physically ready to endure the rigors of training that is necessary to compete in the three year old Futurity schedule.
The sport of reining is an exciting and dynamic series of maneuvers combined to create a pattern that each horse must perform. Over the last 20 years breeders, owners and trainers have worked to select blood lines and refine training methodologies that have advanced the sport to where it is today. With all of our advancements we still face the challenges of training young horses to perform at the marquis events as 3 year olds.

Great Western Reining Association recognizes that not all horses that start into training can be successfully shown as 3 year olds. The “Red Shirt Futurity” represents the first opportunity for our industry to provide a format to allow the young horses that need another year to mature with a venue to show and win money. This Futurity is designed to bring value and longevity to these horses that may not be ready to endure the rigors of training for the 3 year old Futurity schedule. Eligibility for the Red Shirt Futurity is any 4 year old that did not show in any 3 year old futurities.

As an industry we need to recognize that not all horses are physically and often times not mentally ready for the rigors of training to be shown as 3 year olds. How we handle that is the question at hand. One position is that because it is difficult only the very best of the horses can compete at the futurity making them an elite group of horses.

The Red Shirt Futurity concept does not detract from this premise. It adds to and actually increases the value of the 3 year old Futurity. The industry has and is growing and that is a very good thing. Reining is now an international sport recognized and sanctioned by the IOC (International Olympic Committee). With that growth comes increasing scrutiny for animal welfare practices.

Recognizing that some of our young horses need more time to mature and develop is a first step. The industry goal should be longevity for our horses.

Expanding the futurity system allows us to keep the 3 year old Futurity system in place which helps select for a early maturing durable group of horses and makes their pedigrees more valuable. Additionally, it allows for the slower maturing or the horse that was injured and required some recovery time a showcase similar to the “Big Futurity”. These horses do not have to compete against the horses that did show in the 3 year old Futurity.
The Ford Idaho Horse Park:
The Ford Idaho Horse Park (FIHP) is located in and owned by the City of Nampa Idaho, a suburb of Boise. The FIHP is home to a variety of national and regional horse competitions including the Region 4 Arabian Championships, Region 6 Dressage Championships, Arabian Sport Horse Nationals, Idaho Cutting Horse Association Annual Futurity and, until 2012, was the home of the NRCHA Stallion Stakes – a major national NRCHA event. The FIHP is renowned for its facility, the on-site amenities and infrastructure and its close proximity to area hotels, restaurants and
The Idaho Center:
The 110 acre Ford Idaho Horse Park is only a part of the City of Nampa’s “Idaho Center” which also includes a 10,000 seat indoor coliseum which may also be utilized as an additional main arena for the NWRAF should it be deemed necessary to expand the event in future years. The coliseum facility hosts concerts, sporting, rodeo and other equine events. The coliseum building is immediately adjacent to the indoor horse park arena.

The Idaho Equine Hospital:
The renowned Idaho Equine Hospital (Dr. Stuart Shoemaker) is a full service sports medicine and equine veterinary hospital complete with surgical facilities, MRI and a staff of specialty DVM’s. The Idaho Equine Hospital is located on-site and immediately adjacent to the indoor horse park arena.
Aerial view of the Ford Idaho Horse Park/Idaho Center in Nampa, ID.
Idaho Horse Park Video

Click here to view the Ford Idaho Horse Park promotional video.
ECONOMIC IMPACT

Economic Impact of the Low Roller Reining Classic:
The Economic Impact of the GWRHA's Low Roller Reining Classic horse show can be measured as follows:

400  Estimated number of horses
x  2.5  People per horse
1,000  Total visitors
x  $150  Per diem
x  8  Total days (6 day show plus warmups, move-in/out)
$1,200,000  Direct Economic Impact
x  4  Tourist dollar turnover rate
$4,800,000  Total Economic Impact

Economic Impact of the Best Little Derby in the West:
The Economic Impact of the GWRHA's Best Little Derby in the West horse show can be measured as follows:

350  Estimated number of horses
x  2.5  People per horse
875  Total visitors
x  $150  Per diem
x  7  Total days (6 day show plus 1 day move-in/out)
$ 918,750  Direct Economic Impact
x  4  Tourist dollar turnover rate
$3,675,000  Total Economic Impact
We again thank the sponsors of the 2015 Low Roller Reining Classic for their support. The generosity of all those who contribute so willingly is key to the success of this show without which we would not be able to hold this event.

We are pleased to announce that the NRHA Northwest Affiliate Regional Championships will again be held in conjunction with the Low Roller Reining Classic at the Ford Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, Idaho for 2016 and again in 2017.

We are currently seeking your sponsorship and support for the 2016 Low Roller Reining Classic. With your generous support this year, the show will run for an entire week and we intend to again run two arenas simultaneously. We expect that there will be even more added money, games, awards, many more contestants and even more advertising and promotion for our sponsors.

Below are the levels of sponsorship available for this year’s show. We are contacting you now in order to ensure that your sponsorship is acknowledged in the fliers and show promotion materials which will be produced shortly and will be distributed throughout the year. Remit your payment now or you can pledge your support (i.e. pay at a future date) by contacting Stephanie Porath at #208-390-0283. We hope to see you in Nampa at the 2016 Low Roller Reining Classic!

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<th>Show Level Sponsorship - Major Sponsors</th>
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<td>- Derby/Futurity/Maturity (NP or Open) show named after sponsor, listed on NRHA show listing and engraved on Lawson and Morrison NRHA trophies. [Example: “Lil Joe Cash Open Futurity”]</td>
<td>- Sponsor referenced on brochure, advertisements, fliers, show schedules and sponsor lists.</td>
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<td>- Full screen electronic display of custom ad page on Ford Idaho Horse Park video monitors.</td>
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<td>- Prime positioning of arena banner at the Low Roller Reining Classic.</td>
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<td>- Continuous acknowledgement by announcer throughout show.</td>
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<td>- Premium listing and link on website throughout the year.</td>
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<td>- Sponsor referenced on brochure, advertisements, fliers and sponsor lists.</td>
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<td>- Premium position for arena banner at the Low Roller Reining Classic.</td>
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<th>Gold Class Sponsorship</th>
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<th>Silver Class Sponsorship</th>
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