

Why Care

Fifi von Goofbaum started her races in Utah. They were put on to help people who had been futuring get their horses qualified for the American West Finals when it was under the ownership of Merlin and Mimi Jones. 6 small races in the summer with good food. Poles, Dog races and eventually the Bikini Challenge. When Elizabeth moved to Arizona, Fifi followed her.

While Elizabeth was working for the new owners of AW4D, Elizabeth and Fifi were approached by the people that owned the formerly Cedars Arena now called J.F. Dapler Arena, to put on a big money barrel race as their kick off. They picked Thanksgiving. No other races on the books. They wanted a 3 day event for the average. The Average is something that Elizabeth and Fifi believe in. It gives a chance to award the people that put 3 clean runs together and spreads more money around for the barrel racers. When this date was picked the only producer who had had this date in recent years was Marlo from Desert Hills. Elizabeth contacted her to make sure she did not want the date. This was always the producer's professional courtesy. Marlo did not.

Elizabeth, Being a long time AW4D member, producer and then employee, sanctioned the race with AW4D. When Elizabeth submitted this date to the AW4D office, the AW4D advised her that this was not a good date. They said that the snow birds were not down yet and it would not get the support...

As time progressed it became clear to the owners of J.F. Daplers that they would not be ready to put this race on for Thanksgiving so Elizabeth and Fifi decided to keep this date and see about changing the venue. Empty Acres had hardly open. Elizabeth booked Empty Acres with Micheal Sully for the indoor arena. As time went on, the barrel races that they had put on there were reported to have terrible ground. Upon hearing this Elizabeth panicked. She contacted Talamage Green, who trained the NBHA Super Show Ground crew, who via the telephone helped Mike get a better understanding of what to do with his ground. After that she had Jay from the High School Rodeo Ground person go to Mike and teach him what to do. Fifi's Thanksgiving Barrel Feast Went with good ground.

Fifi and Elizabeth were pleased with the facility and the race and decided to book it again for Thanksgiving next and for Easter. Before however once again Elizabeth contacted Marlo who used to put on the Easter races and Marlo confirmed that she was not interested. So then came Fifi von Goofbaum's Easter Bunny Bonnet barrel Parade and The Easter Bonnet Contest, Peewee, Groomers Race, Couples race.. along with Poles the Bikini Challenge. All of these races Fifi came up with to add a little more fun and make her races different and to have more to offer for the people coming in from out of town. Just for FUN and it made her races different. They were set.

Last year the AW4D office knowingly booked a race on top of the Fifi von Goofbaum Thanksgiving Barrel Feast. Surprised and upset to learn this since the AW4D office had said it was not a good date for a race, Elizabeth sent an Email to AW4D and suggested that they co sanction their race so the barrel racers would give thanks to them on Thanksgiving. The AW4D declined.

The NBHA AZ02 Arizona Director last year had approved her NBHA AZ09 district director to have a NBHA 09 race alone with the Fifi von Goofbaum Thanksgiving Barrel Feast and it was recorded with the NBHA national office in June. All advertising went out and entry forms. Late that fall, the NBHA Arizona director decided to put on a race with the AW4D Thanksgiving race and it was sanctioned AZ09. When the National office was contacted, they referred all parties to the NBHA Western Director. It was found out that the NBHA Arizona State director never even submitted the paper work for this race to the national office.

The NBHA is a great Association and has paved the way for all other 4D associations and is responsible for making this sport what it is today. It has terrific rules. With reference to this incident it states that which ever approved race has their approval in first has the date. In this case, no other approval form was even submitted. Why did this director do this to one of their own directors? Why did the NBHA Western Director disregard the NBHA Rule Book? Both races were denied. But the decision on this did not happen until so late that entries had already come in and where money had to be refunded and sponsors contacted.

The AW4D NBHA numbers did not prove to be as good as the Fifi Race. But the point is why are these two producers doing this? This does not help the barrel racers? This cuts into the pot and therefore less places are paid with less money for the barrel racers. And More entry fees. Is this a personal vendetta against an ex employee who introduced another barrel racing association to the area and they are threatened? Who knows but they are not just hurting the The Fifi race they are hurting the barrel racers and this sport. And once again the AW4D has booked a race once again on top of the Fifi von Goofbaum's Thanksgiving Barrel Feast.

Last year the Arizona NBHA Director Booked a race over the New Years Theclassifiedhorse Barrel race Weekend with the support of the AW4D. This date has been the ClassifiedHorses Date for several years. And Going forward this year with the same intention of doing the same thing again and also booking on The Beth Cooper Memorial.

The Arizona NBHA AZ02 Director AW4D producer has booked races on top of The Beth Cooper Memorial, Fifi von Goofbaum's Races The AWPRA Races, S&S Barnes Productions Races BRN4D, and TheClassifiedHorse races.

To produce a race is an undertaking like putting on a party. They are as different from BYOB to a society wedding. Going into the planing of one, knowing that another race is 15 minutes down road can not feel good. Local sponsors get torn by being hit up by two big producers and then they have to choose one or the other or neither for they do not want to be involved. If your lucky you may break even. To lay out the cash for the awards added money workers arena has got to be hard in this situation in hopes of breaking even. Getting sponsors has become harder and harder an more important than ever weather big or small.

It is said that Barrel racers don't care. They just want to run and they just want the Money. That may be true. Most barrel Races however start with an acknowledgment of our flag and what it stands for and this great country and a word or two to our higher power giving thanks and asking for safety. Most barrel racers have a good foundation of what is right and what is wrong. Most barrel racers are pretty passionate about these things. They need to realize what is at stake .

Freedom of choice and good sportsmanship. All these associations have good to offer. Each one brings a different point system. Many of us belong at all of them most belong to at least two. Co sanctioning is the best way for all the barrel racers getting points for different association with only having to pay one entry fee. But we get the choice!! Producers need to, as in the past honor each other's dates. We want Arizona Barrel racing to get back on track and grow. We use to have several races a year that were over 200. Now only 1.

These times are difficult and money is tight. We need all producers and all races. Lets get this sport back on the right track here so it will grow. Producers have to be able to make some money for their time so that they will work hard for us to get more money and better awards and find good venues with

good ground food etc.