

Orla Mae Harvey captured top “Honors” aboard Extras Honor in Buckeye, AZ

The IBRA returned to the Buckeye Equestrian Center in Buckeye, AZ after a 2 year hiatus for the 4th annual West National Finals. As always with IBRA, the show was open to non members, with bonus money offered to high placing members as well as awards for the State Qualifier short go in the Open, Youth, and Masters. Orla Mae Harvey and Extras Honors was the picture of consistency collecting 1-D checks in every class they were entered for a weekend grand total of \$3199.

OPEN 4-D

Friday night kicked off with the Open 4-D barrel race which found 192 entries trying to earn a piece of the \$9045 purse. The 1-D was a tight race with NFR qualifiers Sheri Cervi and Melanie Southard drawing checks. The 1-D win, however, went to Arizona member, Chelsea Shannon and Bonanza aka Bo with a 17.303. Their win was worth \$823 plus an additional \$160 in member bonus money. Orla Mae Harvey rode Extra Honors to finish right behind Chelsea with a 17.332. A Fancy Guy carried Courtnei Cauthen to a 17.812 for the 2-D win worth \$705 plus \$120 in bonus money. California member, Markie Baltaglia, piloted Roley to an 18.308 which was good enough for the 3-D win and \$470 plus \$80 in member bonus money. Kim Uldrikson “discoed” her way to a 19.322 for the 4-D win aboard Disco. Arizona state director, Melissa Rider, finished a close second riding Raisin A Little Cash to a 19.332. Saturday’s Open 4-D found former NFR qualifier Shali Lord and her 17 year old standout SX Docs Slider on top of the leader board with a blistering 17.196. The win was worth \$799 plus \$160 in member bonus money. Shali also won an additional \$200 for her 8th place 1-D check on Cashin Ease aka Cowboy. Arizona member, Cheryl Murray, “cashed” in the 2-D riding Miss Cash Buck to the tune of a 17.702. Their win was worth \$685 plus \$120 in member bonus money. Perry carried Robert Brown to the 3-D win with an 18.204, while Stephanie Schulman and Cooper Wootan topped the 4-D with a 19.211 for \$343. Sunday’s pace was set early when draw 36, Bonanza and Chelsea Shannon set the pattern on fire en route to the fastest time of the weekend, a 17.113, and \$734 plus \$160 in member bonus money for their 1-D win. Taylor Rivera earned \$629 plus \$120 in member bonus money for her time of 17.620 to capture the 2-D top spot astride Dashers Ladybug. Running a near perfect 3-D time of 18.114 was the duo of Betsy Nunn and Sister Tammy Faye. New Arizona member, Bridget Doyle, rode Joker to the 4-D win with a 19.148.

MASTERS 3-D

The Masters 3-D followed the Open class each day, and gave contestants the option to rollover their times from the Open 4-D into the Masters 3-D. Orla Mae Harvey and Extras Honor’s 17.332 in Friday’s Open was good enough to win the Masters 1-D for \$367. Blurrs Best Bet carried Pat Spratt to an 18.357 topping the 2-D. Melissa Rider and her trusty horse Raisin A Little Cash did just that drawing their second check of the day when there rollover time 19.332, which placed them 2nd in the 4th division, held up to win the 3rd division in the Masters. 2007 1-D Open National Champions, Pat Spratt and Misty Blurr Ta Fame, improved their time by 3 tenths to top the Masters 1-D on

Saturday. Orla Mae Harvey finished a close second with a 17.383. Kings Caddy Bar carried Shelby Shupe to an 18.410 for the 2-D win for \$220. Pokey earned \$147 for rider Nancy Elmer when they posted a 19.385 to win the 3-D. On Sunday, Orla Mae Harvey and Extras Honor were back to the top of the Masters 1-D with a 17.342. They also drew a 4th place check in the Open 1-D. She also topped the Masters 3-D riding Moola Bars Bardella for an additional \$133. Capturing the 2-D with an 18.417 was Melanie Edwards on Rose.

YOUTH 3-D

Like the Masters class, the youth contestants were allowed to roll their times from the Open 4-D into the Youth. There was \$500 added to each youth class as well as the short go with awards going to the top 2 in each division of the short go. Open winner Chelsea Shannon and Bonanza took advantage of the rollover option, and her 17.303 winning open run was also good enough to win the youth worth another \$295. Jamie Snyder and Zdots topped the 2-D youth with an 18.356 for \$177, while Skyelar Harmon posted the winning 3-D time of 19.517 riding Colby. Saturday's youth class found 38 entries battling it out with Kendra Stineman and Tilly coming out on top of the 1-D with a 17.605. Jamie Snyder and Zdots won their second check of the weekend, when they once again topped the 2-D in the youth. The team added \$175 to their totals with an 18.658. A 19.777 were the magic numbers to top the 3-D for Caleigh Copeland on Pepper. The rollover option once again was beneficial for Chelsea Shannon and Bonanza whose Open 1-D time once again was good enough to the top the youth. Charlene Howell and Dazzle Jess edged out McKenzie Wiertzema and Glowing Miss Lena to top the 2-D. Charlene's time of an 18.152 earned her \$181, while McKenzie took home \$109 for her 18.155. Bailey LaFrance and Cayanne earned \$121 for their efforts, taking home the 3-D win with a 19.231.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

After the last run on Saturday members were invited to share thoughts and feelings in regards to the show and the IBRA as a whole. The Meeting was hosted by Karen Edelen President of the association. There was a good turn out with about 50 members in attendance. Several general questions were raised in regards to the show. The Majority of members where very happy with the way the show was ran and expressed support of continuing to have the West Finals at the Buckeye Equestrian Center. Karen enthusiastically responded that the IBRA looked forward to its return and was already working with the arena to try and make that happen. Wildcards were the popular topic of the night. Karen listened to suggestions and explained changes that had already been contemplated to be put in the updates for the new rulebook. Members from the West seemed to agree with the suggestions previously discussed in the East. The rulebook revisions are currently underway and the updated version is due to be sent out to members soon.

FUN NIGHT

Immediately following the Membership Meeting, came the always popular fun night. The Fun Night line up included a 2 person team Foot Race, Dog Races, Water Balloon Toss and Tug-O-War.

CHURCH SERVICE

The IBRA has always been blessed to have many top notch performers at all of their church services. The West National Finals was no different. Mike and Darla Cornell traveled all the way from Bakerfield, CA to be with the IBRA at this year's finals. Mike and Darla Cornell have served in many churches and have collectively been in music ministry for nearly 50 years. They have been fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to open for some of the very best in Southern Gospel Music, such as Legacy Five, Palmetto State Quartet, Lisa Daggs, (from the Gaither Homecoming video series), The Gaithers, The Hoppers, and many more. In "1999" they were fortunate enough to win 1st place at the "Great Western Quartet Convention" in Fresno California and then win again at the "National Quartet Convention in Louisville, KY talent show case. The duo performed and gave their testimony, and stayed after their performance to sell CDs and to answer questions that anyone may have had. If you missed them at the IBRA West National Finals, and would like to learn more about them, visit them at: http://www.shoutlife.com/profile_view.cfm?uid=52229 where you will be able to hear a sample of what you missed.

2009 IBRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS & SHORT GO

After the church service on Sunday, the very anticipated short go got under way. To qualify for the short go members had to earn a State Qualifier status throughout the year in their state, or earn a Top Dog status by being one of the Top 5 in any division of the Open, Youth, or Masters. State Qualifiers could then qualify through the first two go rounds on Friday or Saturday. Top Dogs were guaranteed a spot in the short regardless of how they did in the first two go rounds. The Open Short go paid 4 places in each division, with awards going to the Top 5. Orla Mae Harvey and Extras Honor took the early lead with a 17.342 and never looked back. The 7 year old sorrel gelding's consistency paid off to the tune of \$3,199 in total weekend earnings for Orla Mae. There 1-D National Championship was worth \$420, a beautiful frontier trophy buckle, and a monogrammed leather jacket by Carroll Leather. Poverty's Lil Dude carried Deb Phoenix to the 2-D National Championship with a 17.870. Melanie Edwards finished the weekend smelling like a "rose" when her 18.417 was good enough to win the 3-D Championship and \$240. Rose qualified Melanie for the short go in the 1st round with a 18.193. Capturing the 4-D Title was the duo of Carol Hicks and JJ with a 19.490.

California took home the Youth 1-D Championship with Taylor Rivera and her 13 year old sorrel mare Dashers Lady Bug. The pair ran a 17.620 in the Open short go to finish 4th in the 1-D, and that rollover time was exactly what they needed to capture the Youth title. Kendra Stineman and Tilly finished for the Reserve title with a very close 17.644. Although Samantha Vogt and Could Be Sam did not draw a check in the open short go, there 18.712 were the magic numbers to win the Youth 2-D Championship. Julies Rendezvous ran a 19.753 for rider Doskie Edwards to capture the 3-D Championship. The Youth paid two places in each division with awards going the winners as well.

The Masters short go looked a lot like the final results in the Open Short go, with many of the contestants rolling their times over to save wear and tear on their horses. Orla Mae Harvey and Extras Honor made their Open 1-D Championship a little sweeter when their rollover time of 17.342 held in the Masters to capture the 1-D Championship. Pat Spratt settled for a close reserve in both the Open and Masters with a 17.390. Melanie Edwards and Rose captured the 2-D Masters Championship with a 18.417, while Pat Spratt finished another close reserve place on Blurrs Best Bet with a 18.429. After finishing as the Reserve 4-D Champion in the Open short go, Leslie Thompson was pleasantly surprised to learn she had captured the Masters 3-D Championship with her 19.548 riding Rocky. Denise Copeland finished second with a 19.806 riding Champ.