

2016 PCHA JACK AND LINDA BAKER REINING CLASSIC FINAL

BY GEORGIANA “NOOPY” RODRIGUES

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The Los Angeles Equestrian Center's Equidome was again the venue for the 26th Annual PCHA Jack and Linda Baker Reining Classic Finals. This year, 36 horse/rider combinations qualified. 51 horse/rider combinations actually had points. 24 horse/rider combinations competed in the two-day event. An unbelievable accomplishment when you think of the time, effort and money spent on qualifying and preparing for these two go-rounds. Again, this year, last-ditch classes were offered to give those last minute folks a chance to qualify. Over 14 entries gave it one “last-ditch” to try to qualify

The Baker Classic Finals is part of the **Classic Championship Horse Show**. Known as the “Pink Show” it has the underlying theme of Cancer Awareness. Thank goodness, this year it wasn't as hot as last year. Trainers like **Bob Avila** and **Danny Gerardi** came prepared with misters outside their tack rooms.

This horse show not only offers the Baker Finals, but the **PCHA Youth/Amateur Trail Classic**. And yet again, the Trail Classic continues to have FANTASTIC numbers. Congratulations to **Renee Baker** and her crew for spearheading a marvelous event. Renee literally moved dirt to get it done right for the Trail Horse folk. That's how dedicated she is to this event! There was an exhibitor's party sponsored by the **PCHA**. Again, thanks to Renee for being charge of that dinner.

Most people don't know how much effort has to go into this event, before, during and after. My thanks and gratitude go to my co-chairman, **Dana Avila**. Dana is very passionate about this event and truly believes in it. Her help and contributions are invaluable and help make this event even better.

Again, **Danny Gerardi** is our Guardian Angel. He comes through for us every year. Every single finalist owes Dana Avila and Danny Gerardi their gratitude and thanks

For the inner workings, thanks has to go to **Maggi McHugh** and **Janelle Dewitt**. There is so much preparation **BEFORE** the Finals. We literally start again the minute the Finals end. Janelle, along with my husband, Steve, also helped with the scoring for both nights. I have back up after back up.

Even though **Kuna Kaufman** rode in the Finals this year, she was still there to help with the preparation. **Roberta and Jim McCarty** continue to be invaluable. I could not do this event without them. Roberta loves to be organized, so that's a big plus when it comes to this.

Thanks goes to **Becky Dunning**. To announce this event and that bear of an awards ceremony is a task in itself. She does a great job, is professional and a pleasure to work with. Plus...she's a terrific friend.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to **Track One Events and Poncie Gimple**. This is a big show, and Poncie and her crew make it work and always keep the Baker Finals a priority, which we all appreciate.

Again, I want to thank those that sponsored this year. Mostly the sponsors were repeats, which shows the loyalty people have for this event. I have to say I would like to see more from the current reining community. I truly believe this event is worthy of support and is a good way to support your sport. We don't have huge corporate sponsors. We are the **little engine that could**. This event simply does not happen without sponsors. It's very possible more cuts could be made to make the class more viable money wise. Please keep watching the **PCHA Baker Facebook** page for updates.

THE FIRST GO-ROUND

Friday, August 19th 2016

The draw for the first round was held at 1:00 On Friday. The Finalist's draw number was inside a newly designed PCHA Baker Finals golf hat. Every qualifier received what has now become a wonderful tradition of the Baker Classic, a beautiful porcelain plate with your name and horse's name imprinted in gold and a hand-tinted sliding horse. Every year someone always comes up to me and tells me that getting "the plate" was all that mattered to them. It didn't matter where they placed in the Finals. Thanks again go to **Danny Gerardi** for sponsoring these wonderful plates this year.

Traditionally, scores were not announced. Riders drew for their order for the second go-round when they came out of the pen their draw numbers were on monogrammed Baker Reining Classic luggage tags.

THE FINAL GO-ROUND

Saturday, August 20th 2016

After some great works, all the Finalists lined up in the pen for the Awards Ceremony. **Roberta and Jim McCarty**, and **Dana Avila** kept track of all the awards as they were handed out to the deserving finalists.

The first award was the **Shiners Hickory Perpetual Trophy**, which goes to the first horse/rider combination to qualify for the Finals. **Kim Hutton and American Shiner** won this special award.

The Rona Doc Perpetual Trophy is awarded to the oldest horse participating in both go-rounds of the Finals. This award went to **AR I'll be Peppy** ridden by **Josie Ferrante**. With the Rona Doc Award, was a gift certificate for a horsehair bracelet, made from her horse's tail donated by **Tail Spin, Inc.**

The Tricia Bisbee Perpetual Trophy for the youngest ridere went to **Josie Ferrante**.

The Golden Years Perpetual Trophy for the most senior rider went to **Rex Ross**. Rex received a custom-made pair of spurs made by **Abby Cosenza** in memory of **Joe King** sponsored by **Joline and Dave Pebley and Donna King**.

The John Varble Sportsmanship Award this year went to **Lynn Klein**.

The Emily Jungers Memorial Award which is awarded to the high score 1st or 2nd Year Green Rider went to **Laina Banks** riding **Magnums Little Whiz**. Laina also received a wonderful pair of custom spurs by **Abby Cosenza** sponsored by **Dave and Joline Pebley**.

Each and every Finalist received various products and gifts. All Finalists this year received a gift certificate from **Cinch and Cruel Girl Jeans** for a new pair jeans, donated by **Dana and Bob Avila and Cinch, Inc.** Some finalists received spur straps, Bob Avila spurs, grooming supplies, reining bridle racks, grooming supplies, etc.

The top ten awards are spectacular. Each top ten winner receives the custom designed **Baker Reining Classic** silver belt buckle. The monogrammed Baker Jackets are from **Cinch, Inc.** **Danny Gerardi** generously sponsors all the Top Ten Jackets, Thanks to **Dana Avila** for spearheading the jackets again this year. There are beautiful silver spurs, silver stirrups, silver bits, silver headstalls, headstalls with big and reins and a custom blanket from **Sierra Horse Wear LLC** that varied with the placing.

After two outstanding rounds, it was **Tina Bellini and Big Great Chex**. For her marvelous effort, Tina won a beautiful **Continental Saddlery Trophy Saddle** sponsored by **PCHA**. She won the Championship Silver Belt Buckle and the

custom-made horse blanket from **Sierra Horse Wear, LLC**. She also won the Championship Baker Reining Classic jacket and the honor of having her name and her horse's name engraved on the **Helen Larramendy Memorial Trophy**. A Trophy unique to the Baker Reining Classic because it is an "original" done by Cowboy Hall of Fame artist, **Mehl Lawson** specifically for the Baker Classic. This award is proudly displayed at the **PCHA convention** every year.

Reserve Champion went to **Liana Banks riding Magnums Little Whiz**. For her Reserve Championship, Liana received the Baker Championship Belt Buckle, headstall, bit and reins, plus all the top ten awards.

Tina Bellini and Big Great Chex took home the beautiful bronze **Bud Dillon Perpetual Trophy** for high point gelding

The Kemars Bar Chex Trophy for high point mare went to **Commandaluna** ridden by **Anouk Krueger**.

This year the **John Varble Perpetual Trophy**, which goes to the trainer of the Baker Classic Champion went yet again to **Bob Avila**. Bob has a marvelous habit of winning this every year by bringing talented students and support this event. This award is yet another Mehl Lawson. Bob also received a beautiful of silver spurs with silver spur straps. **Penni Gerardi** sponsors this award.

The 2016 Champion Rookie was **Liana Banks and Magnums Little Whiz**. For her Championship, Liana won a trophy saddle from **Continental Saddlery**.

Yet another beautiful bronze by **Mehl Lawson**, sponsored by **Quail Run Reining Horses** is awarded to the high point opposite rider. This year it was awarded to **AR III Be Peppy and Josie Ferrante**.

Whew! I think that's it. Again, my thanks to you, the exhibitors. Your enthusiasm for this class is contagious. Congratulations to all of you.

And yet again, this class could not function without sponsors. Those of you that came through when Dana and I asked for more and more support, showed your compassion and caring for this event. For those of you that just came up and supported without even being asked...well, you're special.

Please know that we will continue to follow the Baker Rules stringently to keep the integrity of the class. There will be no exceptions. So don't expect them.

Your registrations for 2016 will end **November 30th** unless registered for life. **All 2017 registrations, rider/horse/trainer have to be in the PCHA Office for points to count for the 2017 Finals**. You will be receiving renewal notices very soon.

Register **BEFORE** the first show of the year. Make sure when you put down the owner of the horse you are registering that you **PUT THE SAME OWNER ON THE ENTRY BLANK**. Do not expect the office to know you or your horse or who owns it. **If it's different on the entry blank than what you registered with the office...no points**.

Applications for membership and horse registrations are available at **PCHA** approved shows, but then again, I suggest you do it before the show. You may now join via credit card.

Good luck to all in the coming year. Thank you again for your support of this event. Qualify NOW! Look for any announcements pertaining to this class in the **PCHA News** and the **PCHA Baker Reining Classic Facebook page**.

THANK YOU ALL AGAIN. Let's make the 2017 Finals the best it can be!!

Dear PCHA,



I can't thank you all
enough for your kindness and
generosity for keeping alive
the "Baker Reuning Classic".

Without your
wonderful support, this
show may not exist. This is
the show that brings us all back
to the good old days and I
hope it never ends. So
thank you again,
very much,
Jan Bellini
CHEX #2