

MILE HI BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION

December
2011

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Holiday Season

By Lexie Ashurst

The Holiday Season of 2011 is in full swing. As I write this, my house is full of gifts to be delivered, gifts to be wrapped, cookies to be baked and our little countdown to Christmas Snoopy Dog house reads 6 days until Christmas. It really is my most favorite time of the year, but is also the busiest time of the year.

Earlier this month we wrapped up our final race of 2011. As we look back on this past year, it is heartwarming to see the way so many of us who go our separate ways during the week come together on weekends at the events to support each other and rally around.

The most recent example of this could be seen during our past two events as so many of you contributed to our toy drive. I was absolutely blown away with the participation

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and the generosity of the Mile Hi Members. I will share more details of the toy drive and its success later in this newsletter, but I want you all to know that it absolutely blew my socks off!

I hope this holiday season you are all able to spend time with ones you love, doing the things you love to do. And though it may not be politically correct, I want to wish you each a Merry Christmas!

Christmas is a beautiful time of year and I hope you all enjoy it and I can't wait to see you all in 2012!

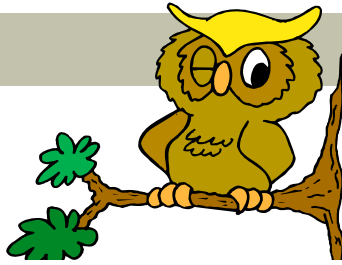
As you are renewing your membership in the months to come, can we please ask that you fill out your membership form completely. It saves us from hunting down the missing and needed information. Especially those Social Security Numbers! They are a must for tax purposes!

Mile Hi has implemented a new policy for the winter months: We will have indoor warm up at every race. As the weather begins to warm we will re-evaluate that policy, but for now, plan on riding inside at each and every barrel race!

Ride Sessions Saturdays After the Race. We have had a few ask and are willing to give it a try. This will be on a trial basis for the next few events. We will do ride sessions after the Barrel/Pole Jackpots and post exhibitions on Saturday only. You can reserve on site. \$10/Horse.

The Wise Old

By Bonnie Crowder



Christmas 40-50 years ago, was different then it is now. We had the stable over on 6th and Simms in Lakewood, CO. The school the kids went to was Daniels Elementary and it was a poor school but no one knew it at that time. They all just seemed the same, the only "nice" schools were the ones just built and they were way out of our neighborhood!

We would try to have a great Christmas for the school as we knew there were several kids in the neighborhood that would not have one. We would donate trees to the school for Christmas so that each classroom would have a tree, that way no matter if the families could afford one for their own home; at least the kids had a tree somewhere. And of course we would have the hay rack rides for all the school kids at our stables. We also had a bonfire for them and would bob for apples, have hot dogs and cold drinks. What a great time we would have for many years, till they decided the trees had to be fire proofed, so that ended the trees for school. We still had the hayrack rides and bobbing for apples till all our kids started to go to junior high. And as you know it was not cool to do that kind of stuff with kids anymore! Whoops they were not kids anymore... they were grownups and

knew more than anyone else!!! By then we were very involved with all the kids/young adults that worked at the stable for us. Always the first snow of the year meant time to make caramel apples at our house... all the former and present kids showed up to help make them and then eat them!!! This went on for many, many years, till they got too old to do this kind of childish thing! It's a shame so many kids had to grow up!

Many the times we would be up all night putting toys together for our kids only to get in bed around 4:00 am and then be awakened by 4:30 am with the kids hollering that Santa had come!!!! It was ok to get up then anyway as I had to get the Turkey on. I always had a house full for dinner, inviting family, the folks who worked in our stables and anyone else who didn't have Christmas plans. I was wore out by evening, ready for early bed, however the know it all kids couldn't, shouldn't, or wouldn't settle down. Needless to say I was one of the few people in this world that was so glad when Christmas was over!!! But I would not change any of it for anything in this world... what wonderful memories I have! I am going to close this early as I have become very melancholy remembering all of this; I feel I have a lot of phone calls to make to stir up the past!!! Merry Christmas to all of You!

Do You Ever Wonder????

This month we are going to talk about warm up group riding. Whenever it is cold and muddy, windy, etc we build in group warm up riding at our events. We let barrel racers ride before the novice/youth/senior classes, again before the open and then again every 50 in the open. Some of you might wonder why we are adamant about NO PONYING of horses and why everyone has to go the same direction.

Well, first off, there are at least 50 horses in the arena during these warm up times. 50 head of barrel racers wanting to warm their horse up, tune him, school him, and get ready to make the best run possible. We want you to have the best run possible....and every other competitor also!

When we very first started doing these warm up times, folks would just enter the arena and lope around. Well, it didn't take but about 2 weekends and we had several close calls and then our first head-on collision.

Needless to say, it scared us all and we implemented the "everyone go the same direction" rule. There are just too many young barrel racers and young horses, coupled with a jam packed arena. So next time you wonder why the warm up might feel like a show class, please know it is for the safety of you and your horse and all the other members. We don't want any more accidents!

We also have a strict no ponying of horses during warm up. It never fails; the horse being ponied feels sassy and special because it doesn't have a rider on its back. We have had 2 people kicked by a ponied horse during warm up riding and we just simply don't want to add a third person to that list. I can attest, being kicked hurts like none other, but something about a ponied horse really really hurts! We appreciate you all "playing by the rules." Lots of thought goes into these policies and we want the best for all of our racers!



Holiday Toy Drive Recap

By Lexie Ashurst

Mile Hi has hosted a toy drive for the past several years.

But, the holiday toy drive this year was an overwhelming success! I must commend you all for stepping up to help with this cause.

This past September while attending a committee meeting at my son's elementary school, I heard a story from the principal of a father who came into his office last year on the final day of school before winter break. This huge statue of a man literally broke down into tears because he had no gifts for his children and no way to purchase any. The principal shared this story with our committee hoping we might be able to generate some community support and gather up a few gifts for the needy families in our school. I told him I would gladly bring in our collections from the annual toy drive and if he would send me a list, I might be able to stir up some interest with our members. Over the next couple weeks, he started sending me information about children in our school that had been identified by teachers and staff. The more I thought about it and participated in events at the school, I just could not imagine every single kid in that school not having something as a Christmas gift! Call me a sucker for children, but I love those kids and that school so much!

I put the call out to you members, and you all answered in a big way. You didn't let the weather, the economy, nothing hold you back from donating. You all gave from the heart! When it was all said and done, I had a present for every single child on my list...**all 112 of them!!**

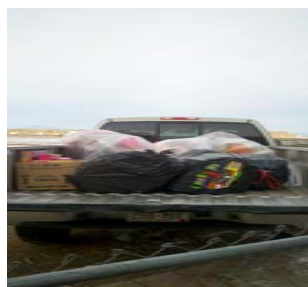
We also collected enough in cash donations that I went shopping and, with a little guidance from the principal, was able to purchase sweatshirts, hats and gloves for the neediest families on my list.

This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I feel a little selfish that I got to be the one involved so deeply when really it was the Mile Hi members that did all the work. I told the principal when all this first started, "I know some people and this is just the sort of thing we can pull off." I am pleasantly surprised all the time by the generosity of our members! Thank you for all of the kind emails and Facebook comments, but really those shouldn't be directed at me, but rather to each person who contributed to this huge effort.

As I posted on Facebook, it is instances like this that YOU are the people I choose to spend my weekends with, the people I let my kids hang out with and the people I call friends. **Thank you all for helping with this toy drive!!**

Due to confidentiality, I was not able to be with the teachers during delivery but I was told there were plenty of tears, hugs and smiles. I also know the next day one mother came to school and went room to room thanking the staff and anyone she could find to hug. Her husband was just recently laid off from work and the box of food and sack of gifts made all the difference in the world to her family.

Thank you ALL for making that possible!



Pictures starting top left: 1. The donation tree on the first day of our Loveland race. 2. My pick up after the toy drive was complete! 3. Doing a little shopping for extra clothes! 4. Grant helping me wrap! 5. Delivery day!

From the Desk of the Office Staff

This Month's Topic: Standings

We are two months into Mile Hi's New Year and I promise we are working on the standings. Since the inception of this association, and especially since this association has grown so much, standings have been our nemesis! There is really no other way to state it! Standings are an incredible amount of work.

They are time consuming, tedious, overwhelming and exhausting for those of us who work behind the scenes. We know they are important to our members and every year we try a new system to improve the entry of the points and updating of the standings. Over the past couple of years, it has gotten better....a little bit! This year we are going to tweak our data entry system a little more. We are going out on a limb here and making the commitment that standings will be updated monthly...I know some of you are laughing because we are only two months into the new year and we are already behind. But, keep in mind, we offered to back date memberships to September 1st for anyone who paid their membership by October 31st, so really we aren't too far behind. Here is the way standings work. When one of us has time (yeah right) we sit down and take the results from any given event. Now, keep in mind, this usually doesn't happen until at least 9pm, often times later. We take the event results and go through and double check if each runner is a member. This means we have to take the current membership list and cross check it with the results for each class, each runner, each horse....time consuming! Then we apply the points, that's pretty easy.

Next, we have to import those results with points applied into the standings. Based on the number of classes we have with each different D, that makes for around 20 different files to upload points into....you better hope the Starbucks didn't give me Decaf because it gets confusing making sure each D imports into the appropriate file.

Now that the specific points from this event are



imported into the standings, I have to merge the cells by member name. That's the part where I go cross eyed and by the time I am done, I have a head ache, its past midnight and the remaining stack of standings/points is just gonna have to wait!

But, like I said, we are committed to updating standings monthly. Here are a few things members can do to make it easier for us when you enter:

- **Are you a member?** Mark Yes or No on EVERY entry card. It saves us time having to verify membership status. When I am entering entries into the draw, I almost turn off my brain and just type literally the letters I see. I know some of you are members and probably should be able to key that in for you, but when the office is crazy, I just simply type what is on the card. Please mark yes/no if you are a member.
- **Horse's Name:** Please put your horse's name on every entry card. And, please call your horse by the same name every time. Every year, I cannot tell you the number of corrections to the standings I have to make because I have points assigned to one horse known by its nickname and another set of points applied to the horse's registered name. Keep in mind; I have no way of knowing that "Bring It On Spice" and "Weezie" are one and the same!
- **Please fill out your membership form all the way!** If you want your horses tracked separately so you can win multiple prize packages please indicate so.
- **Check the standings...**once they are up online, please check them for mistakes. Anything we can do to fix mistakes quickly and avoid any errors in awards is helpful. There are literally thousands of data points...we welcome that second or 300th set of eyes.

I have some time scheduled to get the standings caught up right after Christmas so please be patient for just a few more weeks and then I promise we will have them up on the web!

Winter Series Awards: Mile Hi Barrel Horse will be awarding the following:

Open- Top 5 Places in Each of the 5 D's
 Novice Horse- Top 5 Places in Each of the 4 D's
 Novice Rider- Top 2 Places
 Novice Youth- Top 2 Places
 Youth- Top 2 Places in Each of the 4'D

Futurity - Top 2 Places
 Derby- Top 2 Places
 Novice Senior- Top 2 Places
 50 and Over- Top 2 Places
 Junior - Top 2 Places

Summer Series and Year End Awards Placings will be announced later this year. Attend our events, get in the standings and have a chance at winning 4 Sets of Awards: Winter Series, Summer Series, Year End and Finals Average Prizes.

Sponsor Spotlight: Knobbs Chiropractic

By Knobbs Chiropractic

Dr. Knobbs is a Colorado native, and has practiced chiropractic for over 20 years. He has helped people from all backgrounds to achieve and maintain optimum health for their dynamic lifestyles. In 1993 he began to work with Wrangler Sports Chiropractic, working on rodeo contestants, which lead into his interest of Equine Chiropractic. This enabled him to look at the horse as an athlete as well. In 2005 Dr. Knobbs became a member of the Board of Trustees for the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Chiropractic care in general can be used to accurately detect, predict, treat and prevent many bio-mechanic functions, not only in humans but horses as well. The real benefits of equine chiropractic applications are only now beginning to be recognized. Chiropractic care offers great potential in equine health.

The purpose of equine chiropractic is to optimize health. We ask our horses to perform and to accomplish things they would not normally do on their own. Some of these feats are barrel racing, roping, cross country endurance, hunter jumping, western pleasure and much more.

High level performance can cause spine misalignment and discomfort for your horse. Signs of this include your horse gradually or suddenly becoming less supple, refusing to perform tasks that he would previously do, and feeling generally stiff and flinching during saddling.

Chiropractors help to restore and maintain your health as well as your horse's naturally through regular care and are the only totally natural health care physician's in the United States.



Dr. Knobbs proudly sponsors Mile Hi Barrel Horse Association, and can be found at many of the events. Please feel free to contact Dr. Knobbs at Knobbs Chiropractic 719-528-5656, or himself directly 719-331-2989. He can also be found at www.knobbschiropractic.com or dale@knobbschiropractic.com

Do you know a person or business who would like to join our list of sponsors?? Even what you might consider a small sponsorship can sure add up to help with awards. Watch the website for NEW info about our sponsor packages.

Online Entries, Ride Time Sessions and Exhibitions are taken **ONLY** at entermilehi@gmail.com Starting at 12:00 midnight on Mondays prior to an event.

Something you would like to see in this newsletter?

Contact us at:

MileHiBarrelHorse@gmail.com

We'll do an article on it!

Champions Corner—Linda Ghent 50 & Over Year End Champion 2011

When I was a child I had a secret room. It didn't have four walls or a door but it was alfalfa growing purple flower sweet both spring and summer along the path leading to a small red barn. On one side of the barn were endless hay fields and on the other, railroad tracks disappearing both directions into the horizon. Through the corn field along a dirt road was the river flowing under ancient oak and cottonwood trees. In my secret room I was free to be whom or whatever I chose to be that day.

One day I saddled old Comanche, my Appaloosa horse, and we rode over the train tracks and around the cattail pond to the river. By the big bend, where last winter's wind blew down two cottonwood trees, I visited Indian friends and we were their guests around a blazing fire. We traded furs and food and afterward smoked a peace pipe, last year's dried yellow corn stock broken off along the way. They taught me how to put war paint on my face and on Comanche. Not to over stay our welcome, I would pack up old Comanche and continue up the river. The Chief warned us about other marauding Indians that would scalp any one riding into their territory. Comanche was a valiant warhorse and I was invincible in my young mind, so neither of us was afraid.

I rode north, in and out of the shallow river always keeping an eye out for wild Indians. Sure enough, it wasn't too long before we found ourselves in an intense battle with one-hundred Indians. The victory was almost ours when my brother would find us and yell that it was time for supper. That was ok I guess, I was hungry from all of the hand to hand combat.

In my secret room, there were knights in shining armor and the strongest forts built by the engineering of hay bales. There were wagon trains to be guided, mail to be delivered by the pony express through raging storms, and the iron horse steaming its way to the California gold mines. I was free to lose myself in my wild mind. The heroes always righted the wrong and saved the day.

My feet, always reluctant to head home, dangled from the loft's open door. The sun's brilliance slowly vanished behind tall peaks. The distant train whistle closed another day. I inhaled sweet hay stored above the every day and watched horses silhouetted in the green pasture. The red fox would leave for her nightly hunt and I knew tomorrow I'd return to my secret room.

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Linda and Miss Re O'Lena.

**“The lure of a horse flying to first barrel then around 2nd and 3rd, then smoking home, well the adrenalin rush was calling my name.”
Linda speaking about the desire to start barrel racing.**



Linda and Frenchman's Magnus aka Maggie after their Freestyle Routine.

Yes my horse was my baby sitter. Our family has always been avid skiers so as I approached my junior high years, my parents gave me a choice to continue with my ski racing or to compete with my horse. If I decided to compete with my horse, I'd have to sell Comanche since he probably wasn't fast or quick enough. So I chose ski racing. I quickly reached a level in ski racing where I didn't have enough time to ride Comanche, so he was passed down to another little girl where they could ride their dreams too.

I became a police officer first with Colorado State University and then with the Greeley Police Department. I was a peace officer for a total of 22 years. During that time I enjoyed soccer, skiing and riding my motor bike. One day on a motorcycle ride, Terri Kinney and I were riding around Berthoud and I told her that my cousin, Carol Ellis lived somewhere in the area. So we set out to find Carol and it just so happened that it was a Wednesday, the day she use to put on jackpots. Terri and I watched the barrel race and after the race I told Carol that I wanted to barrel race and I asked her to find me a horse. A week later I asked her if she had found me a barrel horse. She thought I was kidding. Nope, the lure of a horse flying to first barrel then around 2nd and 3rd, then smoking home, well the adrenalin rush was calling my name.

Carol found me a nice horse that could teach me how to ride correctly. After a few years I was ready to step up to a little faster horse and I found a beautiful black mare, Molly. Molly taught me even more about barrel racing but as she aged it was time to find a younger horse. Carol found a five year old for me, Miss Re Olena aka Rio and Molly later became the Momma to our two Frenchman's Guy fillies.

Rio and I have been a team for 14 years. If I had to describe Rio in one word, HEART. She acts like a lazy toad until you point her at the barrel pattern, then "get your hammer cocked", "Katie bar the door". She's all business.

A few years ago Rio started hitting first barrel, something she rarely ever did. Long story short, she had some bone cysts in her right stifle but the ultra sound also showed that her right meniscus had a lateral tear, a torn ACL and a torn cartilage. I opted for stem cell surgery and Rio was CSU veterinary hospital's third recipient. Rio and I rehabilitated her injury for 2.5 years. While Rio was side lined to just exercising at home, it was time to start Molly's second filly, Frenchman's Magnus aka Maggie. Maggie has been quite the learning experience for me as she is totally the opposite of Rio. I have had my knuckles lovingly whacked several times by Carol Crowder regarding being fair to Maggie by giving her, a young horse a chance and not comparing her to Rio. The bottom line to Carol's knuckle whacking is her mantra, "It's all about the horse" (not you and your ego).

Two years ago Rio was strong, and ready to roll. Her first few runs were tentative but after she felt she was 100%, she was back. Her first year back she won the 50+ saddle and placed well in the 2D. This past year, she again won the 50+ saddle and placed 2nd in the 1D. Rio is 19 years old so I'll only run her in the pens I know she likes and runs well. Maggie and I are starting to put some nice runs together so the future is bright. Maggie is a star in her own right. Every year I have dressed her up for the Mile Hi Freestyle Barrel Horse reining. The first year she was a rock star, then a pinball for my wizard routine and then finally a pirate. She's her own rock star as I can put any one on her for a lesson from a 3 year old to an adult beginner rider and she takes complete care of them. She's worth her weight in gold.

I retired as a peace officer and am currently working as an equine massage therapist in our business, Star Amazing Grace Performance Horses. When I'm not massaging a horse I'm helping Terri with the training horses.

I thank God that He has allowed me to experience another's universe, that of a horse. I also thank Carol for her vision and hard work in not only starting Mile Hi Barrel Horse Assoc. but making it a great place to run our horse friends and bringing people together as a horse and barrel crazy bunch.

Online Entries and Ride Time Exhibitions are taken ONLY at entermilehi@gmail.com

Enter online by emailing entermilehi@gmail.com starting at 12:00 midnight on Mondays before an event.

Get entered up starting Mondays before an event...no reservations taken before midnight. Email entermilehi@gmail.com