

MILE HI BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION

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New Year

By Lexie Ashurst

Well, we made it through the Holiday Season...Congratulations! I love the holidays, I look forward to them every year. Having two little boys only adds to the excitement of the season and I spent a considerable amount of time on Pinterest.com looking for fun projects and then making them with the kids. I will admit, however, that once the new year is here, I can't wait to take down the Christmas decorations, clear out all the junk food we accumulated over the holidays and get back to my "normal" life!

Those of us working behind the scenes with Mile Hi made the most of our holiday break and got the standings up on the website. If you haven't already, please take a peek at them to ensure there are no mistakes to your points. We have made numerous corrections already; almost all of them in regards to horse's names. On page 3 you will find some information on how you can help us with standings. You can view the standings by following this link...

<http://www.milehibarrelhorse.com/standings>

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Our first event of 2012 was January 7 and 8 at The Ranch and it was a great event! We had a great turn out, the weather cooperated for the most part and there were several lightening fast runs.

The Race for the Bonus in Lincoln April 6, 7 & 8 is shaping up to be a great event with lots of Mile Hi members qualifying for the big money race! We have posted lots of FAQ on our website!

We are looking forward to a great 2012, with lots of fast horses, fast runs and fun times! There is so much coming down the pipe, be sure to check the website and our Facebook page often.

Happy New Year to you all!

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

When you reserve a ride session, IT IS YOURS and YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT. As we head into spring the ride sessions become more in demand. If you reserve them, be prepared to pay for them! If you no show, you need to send in payment!

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.

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 months. We will do ride sessions after the Barrel/Pole Jackpots and post exhibitions on Saturday only. You can reserve on site.

The Wise Old

By Bonnie Crowder



Oh My! How things have changed over the last 60 some odd years. We do not do the things the way we used to. And we thought it was the only way to do them!

One of my favorite things to do back in the day when Bob and I had the riding stables was round up horses. We owned over 100 head of horses during our peak. We had pastures all around Lakewood to turn horses out on and would then gather them up during the peak season at the stables, for large parades, summer camps, hunting season, etc. From 6th Ave. to Alameda, along Kipling was one of our pastures, now it has the Jeffco Stadium, an elementary school and a Jr. High school. Driving along that area now doesn't even seem like the same spot on the map. It really did used to be a horse pasture.

Along the west side of I-70 at 32nd down to 44th was another pasture. Now this very same spot they are thinking about putting a Cabelas. We had a lot of fun at that one, rounding up all the horses, getting them in a holding pen, then seeing who could halter the fastest. It always seemed like it wasn't really work because we were having fun, making up games, dividing the chores into teams and seeing who could get it all accomplished the quickest.

After round up, the horses were then loaded into the trucks. We did not have trailers then, only trucks with racks on. We had to make several trips on roundup days to get all of them to the stable! We had a big herd of young kids working for us then. There was always plenty of help and good times.

Out at the old 6th Ave along the Hogback was another pasture. It backed up to the first row of

foothills and the horses had a big area to run in. It now has the old Magic Mountain Company out there. The best pasture though was at a place owned by a Gilbert Acord east of I-25 on Hwy 119. It was a large pasture that split in half by the St. Vrain River. This called for us to check the kids out of school, pack a rather large picnic lunch and to take everything we would need to get all the horses in as it was too far to make more than one trip!

Of course we had to take the revolvers, rifles and shotguns; because there was always Coke cans floating down the river to be shot at. All the kids learned to shoot the rifles at cans every year. Believe me they were a good shot at anything they pointed the guns at. One of the funniest things we did at the pasture was teach the new kids to our crew how to cross the river... beings they were city kids they did not know how to cross a river safely! We would get them to the edge and let them know how very deep the water was and for them to slowly, slowly kick their horses across the river. But they had to hang on to the saddle horn for their lives! We also told them only the new kids would go first so the best riders would gently walk behind to keep their horses nudging across! As the new kids got about middle of river all of us would come like gangbusters behind them and completely cover them in the spray of water that about 20-25 horses would stir up! Haha! The city kids had to wear their wet clothes all day until they dried. Needless to say you could never get them in front of the other riders again! We taught so many younguns' to ride in a very short time. Hard work and lots of miles will teach a person to ride real quick! We were never short for wranglers to roundup horses every year. In fact we had so many it was like a caravan going to the pasture.

We dearly loved the Acord pasture, and really any of the round ups! So many fond memories of that time. So much for me now, I will add some more later on when my melancholy abates!



Do You Ever Wonder????

This month we are going to talk about Fire Lanes. I know sometimes it is just so darn tempting to park in those Fire Lanes, I mean they are in a great spot...close to the barn, the concession stand, etc. But we really do have to keep the Fire Lanes open and clear. First, it is in the contracts with the facility that all fire lanes be open at all times during our events. Second, it is a clause in our liability insurance that fire lanes be clear! Third and most importantly, on occasion we have had to use them! Now, of course not for FIRES, but for other emergencies.

Fire lanes are created so the emergency vehicles have a clear entrance and exit to the facility. Not that it happens often, we do occasionally have a little "oops" in the arena or warm up area and medics or ambulances are needed to assist one of our members. So next time you are tempted to park in that perfect spot (also clearly marked Fire Lane) think about how ironic it would be if you were the one laying on the arena floor and the ambulance was blocked by your rig. Just resist the temptation to park there....we are gonna make you move anyway....we have to....and at some locations, the Sheriff will probably ticket you while you are out riding! As with any policy, we appreciate your cooperation!

Trying something new

By Lexie Ashurst

I am sure by now you all know that Mile Hi is trying something new this winter. In an effort to support our members and keep our events strong we are offering a new rolling of times incentive.

This is being done on a trial basis, and so far it has been met with success. We are now offering contestants to make one run and then carry it over to the next day. For example, barrel racers may choose to make their run on Saturday and then roll that time to the Sunday race, or vice versa. **Entry fees for both days are still required and the declaration to roll the time to another day (within the same weekend) MUST BE MADE BEFORE YOUR RUN!**

Mile Hi was inspired to give this try after Carol fueled up her own vehicle for the bargain price of \$4 something a gallon. We know that times are tough and life is expensive so in another effort to support our membership we wanted to provide the option for folks to only have the expense of getting to the races one time a weekend but still enter both races and earn points.

We also know that a large percentage of our membership has young children. We hope this new rolling option allows members to still support their own habit, earn standings points and pursue their passion without having to miss out on important events with their children.

Again, this is on a trial basis and there maybe a few tweaks along the way. There are always a few that resist change, me being one of them. However, as life and circumstances evolve so must Mile Hi. At our last event alone, the Open saw 12 additional entries to the Saturday race as a result of the rolls from Sunday. This added nearly an additional \$400 to the purse.

The only down fall is results are not ready for either day until Sunday. We do have Grandma trained well to get checks mailed Monday morning and those of you with Electronic Transfer set up, your winnings are deposited to your account on Monday.

Keep this option in mind if you are ever facing the choice of "Can I make it to the race or not"

Standings: We are committed to updating Standings on a monthly basis. I do however need your help.

There are a few simple things you can do that will really make a difference!

Mark YES if you are a member on every entry card and EMAIL entry. If you are sending in email entries please provide me with all the same information you find on the entry cards. Verifying members takes forever and a simple check mark next to "yes" helps me!

Be consistent on the Horse Name you use! I have no way of knowing "Frenchman's Whatever" and "Buddy" are the same horse so I have to assume they are not. Without exception, every correction I have made to standings has been centered on horse names! Going back and merging points takes lots of time too! I totally get the fact that sometimes you're running late, your truck wouldn't start, your dog is driving you crazy...so your husband runs up and enters you or you call a friend....they don't put down a horse name..... Would you do me a favor? When this happens, as soon as you notice it on the results, email the corrections to entermilehi@gmail.com I would rather fix them before I look up membership, apply points and merge them into the standings!

Check the standings after we announce they have been updated. Let's fix mistakes right away. I would rather have to double check, research explain the rules, etc now then right before awards are distributed!

**As always, we have the best membership around!
Thanks for your help, patience and continued support!**

From the Desk of the Office Staff

This Month's Topic: Electronic Transfer Option

Did you know you can pay your fees and collect your winnings electronically with Mile Hi? We have an agreement with Solera National Bank (proud Mile Hi Sponsor) that allows for easy electronic transfers of fees and winnings.

It is a simple process. Come by the office at any event and fill out the authorization form. We will deduct entry fees and deposit any winnings the Monday after an event.

One of the best benefits of this service, is there



is no need to write additional checks or use up your last few dollars in cash when you need a few more exhibitions and decide to enter a second class. We can easily add any additional fees to your running total in the office. Several of our members have signed up for electronic transfer and enjoy the benefits. It is also a free service with no transfer fees, enrollment fees, etc. We would be happy to assist you with the enrollment and authorization forms at our next race. Just stop in the office and get set up!

Sponsor Spotlight: Lazy Heart E Tack Shop and Arena

By Carol Ellis- owner of The Lazy Heart E

Gene and Carol Ellis purchased a small parcel of land east of Berthoud, CO in 1984. Gene designed and registered a brand that reads "Lazy Heart E" and thus the name was born. After they got organized Carol trained horses and gave clinics and instruction in barrel racing and Gene tended to the everyday maintenance of the facility. In 1985 they began hosting weekly jackpots in the summer months at what had become known as the Lazy Heart E Arena. They held jackpots in the summer for 24 years! When they decided they were tired and stopped the weekly jackpots several people called wanting to know if everything was all right. There were a few that had a hard time accepting the fact that there would be no more barrel races at the Lazy Heart E because Gene and Carol were just tuckered out.

Gene had been involved in his family's western retail business for 22 years. In 1985 Gene had a desire to open a tack shop on the premises and so he did. In the beginning of the Lazy Heart E Tack Shop he carried everything for every western discipline from trail riding to barrel racing to roping. Some of you that have been "around a while" should remember the big saddle sale and barrel race they would hold every spring. As he and Carol became more involved with the barrel racing industry he decided to specialize in barrel racing equipment only. His motto was "If you are a barrel racer we specialize in you."



In about 2003 Gene decided to take his show on the road and built the Lazy Heart E mobile tack unit. He hauled the equipment to the barrel races in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. However, his favorite was always Mile Hi. He loved all the barrel racers and especially the children. He always had suckers to hand out to the little ones and candy canes during Christmas. His goal was to provide the best barrel racing equipment he could at a reasonable price. He was also on hand to help with just about any problem a person had from a broken headstall or rein to a shoe that was loose on a horse and needed pulled.

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When Carol Crowder decided to begin Mile Hi Barrel Horse Association the Lazy Heart E Tack Shop and Arena became charter sponsors. They were on board from the beginning. Sponsorship can come in many forms. The tack shop donated gift certificates at every race. If there was an auction there was always something donated from the tack shop. Each year they donated at least one or two buckles.

And of course there is the matter of rubber bands. In the beginning Gene would sell little bags of rubber bands. The girls always needed them. After he realized how much the girls did need them and usually needed access to them quickly he decided to just put out a tub full of rubber bands with a sign that read "For barrel racers only. Take all you need". We are trying to maintain that tradition today.

Gene is gone now. He is missed. When he passed the family decided to have donations made to a fund set up for Mile Hi Barrel Horse because they were and still are Gene's people. The fund managed to support the purchase of several yearend saddles and awards for Mile Hi. The fund is still in existence and any money added to it yearly will be used for awards for Mile Hi.

Carol is doing her best to maintain things. One thing that has changed is the mobile unit. The mobile unit is now the property of Kathy Gannon and Theron Hoedell. Carol sold that part of the business knowing that Kathy is a talented barrel racer and Theron is just like Gene. He is funny, kind, handy and just an all around good guy. To help carry on the legacy they call it the "H Lazy B Tack Shop".

Carol still has the Lazy Heart E Tack Shop on the premises at the arena and she is getting organized for 2012 with her clinics and lessons. She also has the internet business www.laztheartetackshop.com. She is working to be able to donate at least one more saddle this year. She is also working with Carol Crowder—with Carol Crowder doing the work—to produce the Gene Ellis Memorial Barrel Race in April to benefit the awards fund.

Mile Hi is a family. A very large family. Sure there might be a few sore heads and everything is not always going to make everybody happy. But when fun and good things happen to members the vast majorities are happy for them and when "bad" things happen—injuries, loss of horses and/or pets and loss of family members—Mile Hi is there to lend support in whatever way possible. Carol Crowder has single-handedly built Mile Hi into the largest barrel racing association ever to grace Colorado. She is to be commended for her hard work and dedication.

At this point this article becomes personal and I will quit writing in the third person. My family and I would have gotten through the loss of Gene. However, the barrel racers made it so much easier I cannot even tell you. Gene loved what he did and the people he dealt with. He would have never associated with an association that was not first class. The way this organization is run and the quality of members—I am not taking about the quality of horses but the quality of humans—makes me extremely proud to be a sponsor and to help Carol promote this organization. The way Mile Hi has honored Gene is one of the most humbling experiences of my life. I am so grateful to have this organization to associate with. If you are a member thank Carol for her hard work! If you are not a sponsor think about it. If you are a sponsor be proud of the people and organization you are supporting!

Champions Corner—Laurel Benson—Novice Senior End Champion 2011

The Star of the Show!

When I was 9 years old, I dreamed of flying high at the circus as a trapeze artist. In my imagination, I flew from the trapeze to my partner's hands, graceful, sleek, and sparkling in my red leotard. I practiced for hours in the back yard with the trapeze wrapped around the top of the swing set, leaping from the picnic table to the stacked picnic benches. I knew that if I worked hard enough, I would be the star of the circus.

My shape as a child was very similar to my shape today...not exactly sleek...not exactly graceful. My parents said I was "sturdy". However, they never discouraged me or hinted that I might not achieve the success of which I dreamed. Instead, they told me I was smart, determined, kind and that I could accomplish anything with hard work and focus. In their eyes, I was the brightest star in the universe. Over time, my dream of glories under the big top faded in comparison to the wonders I witnessed under the operating room lights. My confidence in my physical abilities, however, faded as I discovered that not only am I not sleek, I am a bit of a klutz. I can fall down on smooth pavement. My balance is pitiful, probably it always was poor but a 10 day stretch of paralysis in an iron lung machine because of a neurologic illness at age 27 did not help.

As a result, I have been hesitant to try new activities. I was hurt falling from a horse, simply because my riding ability was a poor match for his youth and strength (the red horse that Cheri Kyle now rides.) It never occurred to me that I could barrel race.

Given this history, you can only imagine the absolute joy in my barrel racing successes. The buckles gleam in the display case. The trophy saddle occupies a position of honor in my house. The purple breast collar and bridle adorn my wonderful pony, Mo Bandy.

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Laurel and Mo Bandy.

Photo courtesy of Dickens Photography

“My most prized possessions, though, are the friendships that I have enjoyed during the years.”

-Laurel speaking about the people she has met at the races.



Laurel and Mo Bandy making a winning run at the 2011 Mile Hi Finals and Super Show.

Photo Courtesy of Dickens Photography.

My most prized possessions, though, are the friendships that I have enjoyed during the years. I have been encouraged by riders whose skills are so much better than mine. The cheering and the celebrations make every run a victory.

I believe I am the star of Mile Hi Barrel Horse Association. I sparkle and shine because of all of you. I am reassured that my career as a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children is full of challenge and joy. It also supports my "addiction and habit" of barrel racing. In my more truthful moments, I own up to the fact that I mostly "barrel trot" instead of "barrel race", but my pony and I continue to nibble away at the clock. But one thing is sure...we are flying high around the barrels...graceful, sleek and sparkling...champions to the core!

Gene Ellis Memorial Barrel Race scheduled for April 13, 14 and 15th at The Ranch!

Vendor booths are being reserved. Please contact Lexie at clayandlexie@hotmail.com for more info.

Race details have been posted on the website!

It's a new year which means we will once again be collecting new W-9 Tax Forms. Trust us, this is not something we WANT to hassle with but are REQUIRED to do so! Your cooperation is appreciated! We will not issue any winnings until a W-9 is on file. You can print one at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

Mile Hi SILENT AUCTION!
Gene Ellis Memorial Barrel Race

We need your help! Our silent auction generates funds for AWARDS.

Please start looking for great items to contribute. New and Gently Used items are appreciated!

Winter Series Awards: Mile Hi Barrel Horse below is the list of awards packages we will be awarding.

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 1 Place
Derby- Top 1 Place
Novice Senior- Top 2 Places
50 and Over- Top 2 Places
Junior - Top 2 Places

Summer Series and Year End 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.

Something you would like to see in this newsletter?
Want to write an article?
Contact us at
Milehibarrelhorse@gmail.com

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

Formula 707 Competition Essentials™ is a new two-step approach to pulmonary support

LA SALLE, COLORADO — January 6, 2012 — Formula 707 Competition Essentials™, a new two-step approach to improved equine lung support for horses exerting maximum effort, has just been introduced by the John Ewing Company. Competition Essentials Training Formula™ is intended for daily use, while Competition Essentials Event Formula™ is used two days prior to a race or other event.

“The pre-release results we have gotten with these products are really exciting,” said Melanie Luark, John Ewing Company president. “People who have used it can really see a difference. “

“From the results I’ve seen with my clients so far, I think this would be one of the best products Formula 707 has ever come out with,” said Dr. Joe Stricklin, a Colorado veterinarian specializing in performance horses. “I’ve been working with them for four or five years, testing products and helping them do field trial studies, but I haven’t seen the kind of dramatic results I’ve seen with this product.”

During an intense performance a horse’s 20-pound heart will pump blood at the rate of five quarts per second. Its heart rate may rise above 250 beats per minute and its systolic blood pressure can exceed 300 mmHg. Under these conditions, pressure placed on the capillaries in the lungs exerts them to burst. Left unchecked, the condition can cause scarring with ability to perform their natural function of exchanging oxygen and c



Unlike other methods which involve administering powerful diuretics in an effort to lower blood pressure before competition, Formula 707 Competition Essentials consists of synergistic blends of proprietary herbal formulas designed to reduce inflammation and improve vascular integrity.

Dr. Stricklin related one story of a client whose horse had chronic pulmonary problems during intense competition, and had for several years. “I got a text message about five weeks after she started using [the products] and she said they she’d won more money on that horse in the last two weeks than she had in the previous two years,” he said. “She said her horse had run better than he ever had since he’d started bleeding.”

Luark said best results are obtained by using the two products together. Recommendations are to feed two ounces of Competition Essentials Training Formula daily, switch to Competition Essentials Event Formula two days before the event, and return to the Training Formula afterwards.

Competition Essentials Training Formula will be available in 3.75 lb., 7.5 lb. and 16 lb. sizes; Competition Essentials Event Formula is available in 3.5 lb., 8 lb. and 17 lb. sizes.

Formula 707 Competition Essentials training Formula and Event Formula should begin appearing on dealers’ shelves soon. For more information, call the John Ewing Company at 800-525-8601, or visit online at Formula707.com.

About John Ewing Company

Founded in 1946, the John Ewing Company was one of the first to develop and distribute a daily nutritional supplement of vitamins and minerals for horses. Called Formula 707 Daily Essentials, the product was highly successful and is now the flagship for complete lines of Formula 707 equine, small pet and human supplements as well as other animal health products. The company is headquartered in La Salle, Colorado and distributes throughout the U.S. as well as in Canada, Europe and South America. For more information, call 800-525-8601 or visit online at www.formula707.com.