

Mile Hi Barrel Horse

November 2009

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MOTHER NATURE AT HER BEST

A NEW YEAR? A NEW STORM!

It would appear Mile Hi is on track with El Nina, La Nina, Del Nina, Da Nina, or whatever Nina is affecting our weather pattern this year. That's right; Mother Nature continually shows us just how "in charge" she is. If there's a Mile Hi Event planned, you can bet there's going to be a storm. If there's ANYONE out there that can do a "rain dance" or storm dance which would push us off track: **start dancing!!**

Mile Hi makes every effort to run the events that we have scheduled. The only exceptions are usually centered on facility needs and requirements and/or our ability to notify everyone well in advance. For example, the Power of Pink Barrel Race for Breast Cancer that was held the second week of October in Loveland was not cancelled. We had well over 100 entries Friday evening prior to the storm coming in. As many can attest to, the storm hit fast and furious and forced many to stay over.

Saturday morning we woke to nasty, freezing cold weather. We could not cancel at this point because there were way too many people already on-site and in attendance. I realize many could not make it because of the nasty weather and bad roads. But, we also can't penalize those who did come or were already there.

Now, Halloween weekend was a totally different situation. In this case, the weather forecasters were predicting a terrible storm and had Denver under a winter storm warning. We were in constant contact with the facility (Douglas County) throughout Thursday and Friday – as the predictions were occurring and the snow was falling. If you will recall, the snow hit hard on Wednesday, Thursday, and part of Friday. Due to the amount of snow that had already fallen (27 inches) at the facility and the amount still being forecasted, we were requested to make a decision Friday morning.

Given the situation at hand, the amount of snow that had already fallen and the tight timing needed, we elected/agreed to cancel. We were able to get the communication out well in advance. Got everyone stopped and of course the sun came out.

The Barrel Race For Breast Cancer this past weekend in Downtown Denver is an event that we simply could not cancel. Again we had way too many folks already in town or on-site and thus, could not cancel.

I wanted to share this with all of you and encourage you to continually check our website or call my cell phone 720.530.4159 whenever the weather is questionable. Often times I am faced with making really tough decisions like this and I try my level best to keep everyone informed and get everyone "whoa'd" up – I don't want anyone making an unnecessary trip. So, please double check our website:

www.MileHiBarrelHorse.com

or call us 720.530.4159

we will keep both updated throughout the season!

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CHANGE – Do YOU EMBRACE IT? OR RESIST IT?

Change – the new norm in today's world! How do YOU handle it?



People are funny.....some embrace change and see it as an opportunity, something new, something different, an adventure! While others fear it, hate it, are threatened by it, simply resist it! Regardless of which way you might look at it – it is prevalent in today's world and our sport of barrel racing is no exception. It's undergone significant change the last several years with the "divisional" concept, then of course came the difference in how you "d" (full second splits vs. ½ second splits), flattening of payouts (40/30/20/10 vs. 35/30/20/15), carry over or rolling times, fun races, etc.

While change can create a significant amount of excitement for some, it can wreak havoc and create stress for others. Whenever something new is introduced or a change is made, there are generally two sides to the issue: acceptance or resistance. Those who are the adventuress type and see it as opportunity usually embrace and give it a chance. Those who resist it tend to want things to remain the same, keep it as it's always been, keep doing things like we always have, complain and/or criticize.

Changes To Our Sport:

- Divisional Concept
- Full Second Splits
- ½ Second Splits
- Roll Your Time
- Carry Your Time
- Affiliate Races
- Point Standings
- Money Standings

Over the course of our tenure, Mile Hi has embraced change, introduced it to our members and has experienced success in the majority of our ideas/concepts we've thrown out there. It's important to note that while an individual or particular group of individuals may resist a "change" or new concept/idea we introduce, there are usually an equal number of folks who have embraced it, accepted it, and truly like it.

I want to share with you a recent "change" that we initiated and the opposing view points that resulted. During our recent finals we permitted those that were entered in the Slot Race on Saturday evening to roll their times from the Slot Race to the Open on that day. It's important to note that I offered this same option at our Memorial Weekend Slot Race and received only TWO complaints. It was shared numerous times and by many that it was a great way to keep the Open Jackpot of the Day (the same day as the slot race) strong and solid because we kept the 50 entries of those who were running in the Slot Race. In other words, the majority of those running in the slot race would not have run in the Open Jackpot that same day. This is a true statement based on the number of entries last year that did NOT enter the jackpot on the day of the Slot Race. So, thinking that it was an acceptable option and in an effort to keep the Open numbers strong, I elected to offer it again at our Finals.

I have received 6 complaints and about two dozen compliments (or thank you's for offering the option). While the numbers (6 vs 20+) aren't significant to a membership of nearly 400 or to the entries at finals (in excess of 250), the issue is worth discussing because of their "rumor mill" value. You see there are some who have elected to vocalize their feelings, continually accuse Mile Hi of being unfair and even attempt to bring outside organizations into the mix. Therefore, I want to share with all of you the complaints and thoughts I've received to date about the option:

Change (cont)

First, the complaints or the reasons used to justify NOT allowing the Option (as communicated to me):

- **Rakes.** In the Open we raked after every 5 runners, in the Slot Race we raked after every 3.
- **Different environment.** A different announcer and he was considerably louder, the music was louder, a loud bigger crowd, the horses were on the muscle.
- **Different barrels.** You used pink in the Open and changed them to Blue in the Slot Race. Everything should remain the same across the entire day.
- **Payouts.** When you allow times to roll into the Open it changes the payout. Roll Times aren't included in the Open payoff.
- **It just wasn't fair.** Those horses got to run in the evening and everyone ran during the day. The times in the slot race got faster.

And then there are the offsetting thoughts or the opposing side of the issue. This feedback provided via research into the issue as well as from those who "liked the change":

- **Rakes.** Raking after 3 or 5 isn't a huge difference and the ground doesn't change that much with that said, future options will include matching rakes.
- **Environment.** If you enter a rodeo and draw slack, do you request that the rodeo announcer be in place, music be played, and the stands filled with spectators? Second, there are horses that actually won't run in a loud environment and a few were entered in the Slot Race
- **Different Barrels.** It was basically felt by all who were interviewed and/or shared their thoughts with me that this was unfounded. The change in barrels and/or decals designed to promote your title sponsors is not deemed significant.
- **Payouts.** Totally wrong. The payout remains the same because the roll times **ARE** included in the payoff. Open

entry fees are paid by those that roll just like everyone else.

- **Fairness.** A wide variety of thoughts were shared on this particular aspect. However, the most interesting one centered around the Open being viewed as "sacred ground". That is, it is truly an accepted practice to roll your time from the Open to any other class. The feeling being that we all run on the same ground, same circumstances, etc. So, its become an accepted practice.

It's important to note, that the requirement to run in the Open is a BBR policy. At our events that ARE NOT BBR SANCTIONED we allow rolling INTO the open. IE: the Barrel Race For Breast Cancer – ya'll have been allowed to roll times INTO the Open for 12 years. Never been an issue. It's rather curious and some of you posed the question to me: Why is the Open considered so sacred when it comes to rolling from a Slot Race? I've tried to present both sides of this issue as unbiased as possible but yet include views from all who chatted with me about this issue.

Saturday Statistics

- Fastest Time of weekend Posted 16.007
- Greatest number of entries
- Fastest Day of Event Overall



Slot Race Times vs. Saturday Jackpot Times

It has been suggested that the majority of those who ran in the Slot Race ran faster times in the Slot Race than they did on their Friday or Sunday run.

While this is a true statement, it's important to note that Saturday was the faster day of the entire Finals event. The fastest time of the weekend was run on Saturday and yes in the Slot Race, Sammi Besserts 16.007. Friday's being a 16.493 and the fastest time on Saturday being a 16.109.

Further, we had 158 barrel racers that had 3 clean runs in the average. A quick analysis of those times reveals the following key findings:

- 71 of the 158 or 45% ran a faster time on Saturday than they did on Friday and Sunday.
- 102 of the 158 or 65% ran a faster time on Saturday than they did Friday.
- 77 of the 158 or 49% ran a faster time on Saturday than they did on Sunday.

The numbers, as they say, speak for themselves. The second day, Saturday was a faster day overall, this is pretty much the norm. Remember, a large percent of horses tend to post a faster time their second day after they've been in the pen once and gotten the "feel" so to speak.

Finally, it was brought to my attention that if you look at those who won checks in the 1D (which is where the majority of the complaints centered on) Friday vs. Saturday and Sunday, you will quickly see very VERY little change exists among those setting the pace and receiving checks as indicated in the box to the left.

FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Kim	Schulze	Sammi	Bessert	Shali	Lord
Julie	Haskins	Kim	Schulze	Reata	Hoar
Wendy	Fritzler	Shali	Lord	Sammi	Bessert
Virginia	Evans	Karen	Turek	Kim	Schulze
Shali	Lord	Reata	Hoar	Shali	Lord
Luke	Robinson	Wendy	Fritzler	Julie	Haskins

These are the issues that were presented to me as well as their opposing views and all I simply ask is: Regardless of your respective view point, remember there are always two sides.

Mile Hi **must** take into consideration both sides of any issue and try to **make the best decision for the majority**. That's what we tried to do in this option. If you feel compelled, let me hear your thoughts too!

Meet The Sponsor – John Ewing Company Formula 707

The John Ewing Company, makers of Formula 707 Products was founded in 1946 as a manufacturer of animal feed. It operates today, as it has for most of its existence, from the town of LaSalle, Colorado, in a rich agricultural region near Greeley. When John Ewing first started formulating equine feed supplements back in the 1950s, he was already a young man to whom quality mattered a great deal. He knew he not only had to work out ways to keep his formulas consistent in manufacturing, he had to also be assured the dosages would be consistent when delivered to the horse. He sought out sources of high quality ingredients and developed ways to make his products more palatable for horses. He looked for packaging to keep products fresher and ways to get them to market faster.

As years went by, the John Ewing Company gradually branched into other product areas, but always with the same close attention to making a high quality product, consistently beneficial to the horse. With the creation of Formula 707 in the early 70s, the John Ewing Company became a major player in the equine nutritional supplements market and today manufactures an entire line of [Formula 707](#) horse health products including Daily Essentials, Joint Essentials, Gastro Essentials and Glo-n-Go, just to name a few.

Today, we carry on John Ewing's tradition by manufacturing our products (many using John Ewing's original formulas), from the best ingredients we can find. We carefully control the manufacturing process and then package and deliver in quality containers designed to keep products fresh and free of contaminants. Additionally, we are an audited member of the National Animal Supplement Council (NASC), an organization that requires members to adhere to a strict set of standards regarding the manufacture, labeling and marketing of their products. As an NASC member we are committed to the highest standards of quality and safety in the industry today.

Our promise to you is that the Formula 707 products you buy are the best we can make. Because we believe in them and we feed them to our own horses.

Formula 707 is proud to be a sponsor of the Mile Hi Barrel Horse Association and is thankful for all the positive feedback we receive from its' membership. Most members are users of our products and share their success stories with us at the races. Formula 707 enjoys helping the members and horses of Mile Hi achieve their goals.

Note From Carol: I use a number of Formula 707 Products and highly recommend and endorse them. My favorites: **Go N Glo, Restore, and Daily Essentials**. And my #1 favorite and I absolutely feed loyally each and EVERY day as directed: Gastro Essentials. If you think your horse might have ulcers or stomach issues, chat with these folks.....it makes all difference between winning or NOT! **GASTRO ESSENTIALS are an essential ingredient in my feed program!**

To locate a dealer near you visit us at www.formula707.com

**Mile Hi Barrel Horse Events are more than jackpots!
Our upcoming events include the:
Food Bank Drive over Thanksgiving Weekend
And our
Toys For Tots Barrel Race in December
check out www.MileHiBarrelHorse.com for details.**

The Wise Ole Owl Is Baaaaaacccccckkkk!

Disclaimer: Way way way too many of you encouraged her to start again....So my Mom is back with her Wise Ole Owl Column. For those who are new, please keep in mind these are for fun and entertainment value.....no one should ever take any offense or think she's giving you're a compliment. She's just being mom. If you've been with us over the past 6 years you'll know what that means. If you're new, you will soon know what I mean!!! I hope you all enjoy.....read on!

Hello!!!!

I have been thinking... yes I can think! How I can write about my life and (yours). I get something going and things I write about make me think about other things. So what I intend to do is start with me being very young (skinny and black hair). We will try that and see if it works out. If you guys get tired of it, just let me know and I will keep it up!!!

I was born in Ontonagon Mi. As far north as you can be and still be an American citizen. I was almost a Canadian. Now would we not have had some good border wars had that happened? MY dad worked in a copper mine outside of Rockland, Mi. That is another story.

The thing I remember most is the snow. Lots and Lots of snow. The first snow of the season was the last to go. It just piled up. Up and up. I have never seen that much snow anywhere else until I figured out that I was only 2 ½ ft tall. No wonder the snow was so deep!!! Really it was very deep and it snowed all the time. In the summer we would swim in Lake Superior. I swear it is the coldest lake in the world.

When I was about 8 years old we moved to a warmer climate down south. Sheboygan WI, on the shores of Lake Michigan! I was in heaven till it snowed and snowed and snowed. We would ski (if that is what you would call it) right up the middle of the roads. That was perfect for our homemade skis, didn't have to be careful of cars as there were not that many out and about. The cars back then did not travel well. No heaters, no snow tires, and the rumble seats were really cold. I did not like the skiing but truly loved ice skating.

How many of you remember Sonya Henie? She was our Idol! Man could she skate. Back there we had the baseball fields and in the winter the parks and rec people would flood the baseball fields. They would then push any snow off and put it around the frozen field as a barrier for us to jump in or just sit. The best thing was the little building the team would dress in became our house to put our skates on. So it served double duty. Also the baseball field had lights, so we had lights to skate by.

We all played ice hockey (didn't matter if you were male or female back then nobody cared) and we would have the winter carnival on ice. It was a little like the Olympics. You could win ribbons for racing, and figure skating. Now I know you don't believe me, but I did a lot of skating back then. I wasn't always fat, old, and feeble!

I think I will end this here as I believe another chapter is boiling up in my noggin, and it would be too much for now. I will continue on next month if I can remember where I left off.....

Enjoy and ride safe!!!

Bonnie

Meet The Member - THE SOWARDS FAMILY

Welcome to "Meet the Member", a new column in the Mile Hi monthly newsletter. We are hoping this will bring our Mile Hi family even closer together. And we hope that each of you will take the time to meet and greet each other at our upcoming events.

This month we are proud to introduce you to **THE SOWARDS FAMILY -- CARROLL** and **CHRISTINE (CHRIS)** have been married for 20 years. They have two children **JESSICA** (13) and **COLTON** (9). Originally from the Black Hills of South Dakota, they relocated to Burns, Wyoming five years ago.

Carroll is a supervisor for the Union Pacific Railroad and Chris is a part-time secretary at the community college in Cheyenne. Carroll enjoys ranch work and competing in ranch horse competitions. However, Jessica and Colton tend to have him busy at the barrel races!

Chris enjoys reading, baking and has started to barrel race again. Two years ago, their family was introduced to Mile Hi by Peg and Lexi Bath and they became members in 2007.

Jessica started in the Novice Rider class and had a really successful year winning the year-end saddle in 2008. She also won the 2D Youth saddle the same year. Then last year, Jessica won third in the summer series on her horse, Blue Luck Blanton.

Jessica is in the 8th grade at Burns Jr./Sr. High School. Jessica also enjoys poles, goat tying and track. She likes running with or without her horse!

Colton began trotting the Pee-Wee class in 2007. One of the driving forces behind the creation of the Novice Youth was competitors like Colton; those that were really too old to be pee wee but just not quite ready for the Youth 4D. Colton competed extremely successfully in the Novice Youth last year finishing in the Top 5 for the Summer Series and Year End Standings. He has now advanced to the Junior Class and is very competitive on his horse, Dr. Blanton.

Colton is on the 4th grade honor roll at Carpenter Elementary. He also enjoys riding his go-cart, roping, and playing basketball and baseball.

The family contributes their horses' success to the strong foundation of being raised and used on the ranch prior to being introduced to the barrels. To keep their minds clear, they use the horses for ranch work along with hours of practice.



(L-R) Carroll, Jessica, Colton, & Chris
Mile Hi is proud of our extended family members!

Mile Hi Barrel Horse Is Proud To Announce Our 2009-2010 Schedule

*WE WANT YOU TO COME HAVE FUN WITH US—WHERE BARREL RACING IS MORE THAN JUST RUNNING
BARRELS! IT'S AN EVENT!*

All of our events have added money, run smoothly and timely and are professional.

Affordable fees with GREAT payouts!

2009

- New Year Starts: October 9-10, 2009, - **FRI NITE/SATURDAY** The Ranch-Larimer - Loveland, CO
- October 31-November 1, 2009 - Castle Rock, CO-CANCELLED DUE TO STORM -- WILL BE RESCHEDULED.
- November 14, 2009 - The Ranch-Larimer County Frngds - Loveland, Co then transfer to
- November 15, 2009 - NWSS Event Center, Denver, CO **12th Annual L3 Barrel Race For Breast Cancer**
- November 28-29, 2009 -- Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO
- December 5-6, 2009 -- The Ranch-Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, CO
- December 12-13, 2009 -- Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO

2010

- January 9-10, 2010 - The Ranch-Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, CO
- January 16-17, 2010 - Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO
- February 6-7, 2010 - The Ranch-Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, CO
- February 13-14, 2010 - Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO ****DOUBLE POINTS**
- February 27-28, 2010- The Ranch-Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, CO - **Winter Series Finals**
- March 20-21, 2010 - Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO - Summer Series Kick Off
- April 3-4, 2010 - Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO
- April 17-18, 2010 -The Ranch-Larimer County Fairgrounds, Loveland, CO ****DOUBLE POINTS**
- May 8-9, 2010 - Spin 3 Productions-Penrose Stadium-Colorado Springs, CO

6th ANNUAL MILE HI BARREL HORSE
MEMORIAL WEEKEND BARREL BASH
MAY 29-30-31, 2010

Adams County Fairgrounds - Brighton, CO
\$1,500 ADDED MONEY -- Average Prizes in All Classes
Unlimited Exhibitions Friday Night—we'll go till 9 pm!

- June 12-13, 2010 - Adams County Fairgrounds, Brighton, CO ****DOUBLE POINTS**
 - July 3-4, 2010 - Adams County Fairgrounds, Brighton, CO
 - July 24-25, 2010 - Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO
 - August 21-22, 2010 - Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO ****DOUBLE POINTS**
 - Sept 4-5-6, 2010 - Spin 3-Penrose Stadium-Colo Springs, CO - Last Barrel Race For Points
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7th ANNUAL MILE HI BARREL HORSE 5D SUPERSHOW/FINALS

The Ranch-Larimer County Fairgrounds - Loveland, CO

September 24-25-26, 2010

Saddles to Average Winners in Open - 5D's

Average In All Classes



Another
Don't Miss
Event!

Mark your calendar now! Put in for Friday as Vacation!

Checkout Our Website For Updates! www.MileHiBarrelHorse.com
or Contact Carol Crowder 720.530.4159 MileHiBarrelHorse@gmail.com