

MULE CROSSING: *Colorado Heart Fund Benefit*

By Meredith Hodges

If ever anyone deserved appreciation and recognition, it is the organizers and sponsors of the Colorado Classic Heart Fund Benefit Horse and Mule Show. They spend many hours all year long to put together a show that is satisfying to its exhibitors and is entertaining to the public, while at the same time is raising money to support research and development for heart related disorders. These selfless



people, led by manager Bruce Wolf, are always searching for ways to improve the show and make it more attractive to the public at large. Our deepest thanks for their extraordinary efforts in putting on a show with the integrity and goodwill of the Colorado Classic!

A wonderfully new and exciting addition to the Colorado Classic Heart Fund Benefit this year was opening night's Symphony of Champions. Riders from all divisions were given spots to ride to the music of the Denver Symphony's Young Artists Orchestra. American Saddlehorses, Arabians, Half-Arabians, Morgans, National Show Horses, Tennessee Walkers, and mules danced to the music of Beethoven and Broadway hits, and came together for the grand finale to the William Tell Overture. It was an evening of beauty, an evening of humor, an evening of suspense... an evening of the deepest emotions--and the audience loved it! What an exciting way to kick off a show!

Sponsored by the Colorado Donkey & Mule Society, the Mule Show itself exhibited quality animals and impeccable training. The Lucky Three Ranch sponsored Meredith and Dena Hodges, exhibiting mules Mae Bea C.T. and Lucky Three Ciji in Dressage and Jumping during its part in the Symphony of Champions, adding suspense and awe as Mae Bea C.T. jumped bridleless during the performance.

The mule show itself opened Sunday morning, April 29th, with halter classes exhibiting some of the highest quality saddle mules in the country! Performance classes began with English Pleasure, and then went on to show some of the smoothest jumping mules ever in Hunter Hack and Hunter Under Saddle. A touch of class by Tammy Dishong and Dena Hodges emerged in the Sidesaddle class, and impeccable driving mules were exhibited by Mountain Shadow Mules and the JD Diamond ranch in the Single Hitch class. Western

Pleasure class was one of the best ever in any Colorado show--Rambling Rose again claimed her title as the ideal pleasure mule. The Green Western Pleasure mule class was short due to some unavoidable scratches, but the two shown were a credit to their breed. Back to Tammy Dishong and Dena Hodges again for Youth Pleasure, where the girls exhibited their mules in a truly professional manner, explaining why each had claimed their World Champion placings in California the two years before! Until recently, California mule exhibitors seemed to claim most of the world titles, but two years ago they had to start working a little harder because our own Colorado mule exhibitors began doing better than ever, giving them a run for their money!

Drive & Ride and Ranch Riding were cancelled as the show was running late and the judge needed to catch his flight home, but in the spirit of the Colorado Classic, the otherwise refunded money was donated to the Heart Fund. Our deepest thanks to all of the mule exhibitors who took time out of their busy schedules to help support this show with their avid participation: Bitterroot Mule Company of Bennett, Colorado; JD Diamond Ranch of Bennett, Colorado; Lucky Three Ranch of Loveland, Colorado; Mountain Shadow Mules of Longmont, Colorado; Kristin Pettinger of Littleton, Colorado; and Steven White of Westminster, Colorado! Everyone did a superb job and is to be highly commended for their excellent performances! Thank you all again, and let's hope that we can have even more support and participation next year! Results are as follows:

HALTER:

Mu 218 - Mules Foaled in 1989

1. Lucky Three Selene Dena Hodges Lucky Three Ranch

Mu 219 - Mules Foaled in 1988

no entries

Mu 220 - Mules Foaled in 1987

1. Lucky Three Foxfire Dena Hodges Lucky Three Ranch
2. Spring Drizzle Carol Dishong JD Diamond Ranch

Mu 221 - Miniatures 48" & under

no entries

Mu 222 - Saddle Mules 48.01"-56"

1. Lucky Three Firestorm Meredith Hodges Lucky Three Ranch
2. Cover Girl Kristin Pettinger Littleton, Co.

Mu 223 - Saddle Mules 56" & Over

1. Lucky Three Nuggett	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
2. Lucky Three Ciji	Meredith Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
3. Lucky Three Mae Bea C.T.	Katy Banks	Lucky Three Ranch
4. John Henry	Kristin Pettinger	Littleton, Co.

5. <u>Zippo Sparks Bar</u>	Diane Walston	Mountain Shadow Mules
6. <u>Lucky Three Cyclone</u>	Gary Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch

PERFORMANCE

Mu 228 - Mule Open English Pleasure

1. Zippo Sparks Bar	Steven White	Mountain Shadow Mules
2. Lucky Three Cyclone	Gary Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
3. Lucky Three Ciji	Meredith Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
4. Lucky Three Firestorm	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
5. Mae Bea C.T.	Katy Banks	Lucky Three Ranch
6. Bitterroot Spider Dee	Fran Howe	Bitterroot Mule Company

Mu 230 - Mule Green English Hunter Hack

1. Lucky Three Firestorm	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
2. Lucky Three Ciji	Meredith Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
3. Rambling Rose	Steven White	Mountain Shadow Mules
4. Lucky Three Cyclone	Gary Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
5. Mae Bea C.T.	Katy Banks	Lucky Three Ranch

Mu 233 - Mule English Working Hunter

1. Lucky Three Firestorm	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
2. Mae Bea C.T.	Meredith Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
3. Rambling Rose	Steven White	Mountain Shadow Mules
4. Lucky Three Ciji	Meredith Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
5. Lucky Three Cyclone	Gary Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch

Mu 236 - Mule Open Western Pleasure

1. Rambling Rose	Diane Walston	Mountain Shadow Mules
2. JD Diamond Blackjack	Tammy Dishong	JD Diamond Ranch
3. Mae Bea C.T.	Katy Banks	Lucky Three Ranch
4. Lucky Three Firestorm	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
5. Lucky Three Ciji	Meredith Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch
6. Lucky Three Cyclone	Gary Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch

Mu 239 - Mule Green Western Pleasure

1. Zippo Sparks Bar	Hal Walston	Mountain Shadow Mules
2. Lucky Three Nuggett	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch

Mu 241 - Mule Sidesaddle

1. JD Diamond Blackjack	Tammy Dishong	JD Diamond Ranch
2. Lucky Three Mae Bea C.T.	Dena Hodges	Lucky Three Ranch

Mu 243 - Mule Single Hitch

1. Zippo Sparks Bar	Hal Walston	Mountain Shadow Mules
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2. Spring Drizzle

Carol Dishong JD Diamond Ranch

Mu 247 - Mule Youth Pleasure

1. JD Diamond Blackjack

Tammy Dishong

JD Diamond Ranch

2. Lucky Three Nuggett

Dena Hodges

Lucky Three Ranch

For more information about Meredith Hodges and her comprehensive correspondence training program, *Training Mules and Donkeys*, please visit **www.LuckyThreeRanch.com** or call **1-800-816-7566**. Also, find Meredith Hodges and Lucky Three Ranch on Facebook and Twitter. And don't forget to check out her children's website at **JasperTheMule.com**.

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