

I have seen some amazing things this summer. Of course the VS thing really tested everyone's patience but there isn't any ill wind that doesn't blow some good things in. Because the vs and issues hauling our horses to and from New Mexico the stressful task of finding a horse to compete on at finals began for our contestants. A not so good thing turned into a pretty amazing thing. Our contestants have had the opportunity to meet so many new friends and acquaintances in their search an equine partner. Many, many of the states offered horses to our kids and as the word spread we had more horses offered to the Alberta kids than we needed! Professional cowboys and cowgirls stepped up and offered their help to find whatever we needed for the Alberta kids. If they didn't have what the kid was looking for they found someone who did. It was amazing to see our families and kids sharing meals, visits and lot's of laughter with their new found friends, sharing a cold drink or a meal. All though the border was closed and an invisible wall was put up to stop horses from going back and forth it was like there was no such thing as a border when it come to our kids needing help to find horses from our US neighbors. The rodeo family definitely showed it's true colors and everyone pulled to together to get our kids mounted and ready to rodeo for both the WD and HS finals. There was no such thing as an international border, state border or lines of any kind. It was truly one big bunch of kids and families all working together to do the very best they could for all kids...

It's a truly amazing experience to attend the WD and or HS finals and be part of such an incredible association as the NHSRA. Every state and province national directors and state or provincial secretaries put their "real" lives on hold and devote many, many hours to working the national finals for the kids. They come from everywhere and every occupation. Doctors, lawyers, nurses, accountants, truck drivers, bankers, carpenters, auditors, businessmen and women, farmers, ranchers, vets, homemakers, teachers and goodness know who else all the sudden become the bodies who work many hours in the hot sun making sure each and every one of the 1400+ contestants all have equal opportunity to compete at the world's largest youth rodeos. It's very long days, short nights, lot's of work but also lots of fun. Once again the rodeo family comes together to all work towards a common goal, to put on the absolute best national finals they can for the kids! I have had the opportunity to attend many of the finals and each one of them holds special memories and unforgettable experiences. Alberta seems to have an abundance of great young rodeo athletes and with the dedication of the parents and sponsors the AHSRA is thriving not only at the provincial level but at the national level as well. Thanks to Doug Goodine for making the trek to Farmington to work each of the perfs in the rough stock pen as one of the chute bosses. Thanks to all the people who volunteered to do scholarship interviews, coach volleyball, help in the arena, queen coach and volunteer where ever they were needed. Our queen, Ramona Sawley did a phenomenal job at the national level. Alberta should is so proud of our queen and princess, Melanie Meert. Our royalty is definitely cowboy tuff, any one that can wear full leather outfits all day long in the 95 degree heat and still look like they stepped out of a fashion magazine and be smiling by the end of the day is made of pretty good stuff! We are sure they will do a fine job of representing our province through the year as our high school royalty. Check the website often not only to stay on top of all the wrangler division and high school happenings but to see all the queen updates and events. Another amazing thing happened this summer. I was so fortunate to receive an award as the NHSRA reserve state/provincial secretary of the year. Thank you to Wrangler for sponsoring this

award and thank you so much to Alberta for nominating me for this. It means a lot to me and I was so proud to be recognized at the national level as your provincial secretary

The CHSRA finals are the second weekend in August in Williams Lake and the committee there defiantly knows how to host a high school rodeo finals. It going to be a great weekend for everyone from the contestants to the families and rodeo fans. The results of this exciting weekend will be posted on the website for everyone to check. Once again, thanks to parents for making the haul to Williams Lake. Plans are in the works for the 2010 CHSRA finals are going to move eastward to Manitoba. The

Good luck to all the grade 12 students as they move on to college, university or out into the work force. The association has been so fortunate to have you all as a part of the AHSRA and wish you all the best in your future! Welcome back to returning members and all the new members who are just getting involved in the association. Don't forget to keep a close eye on the website for dates and information and get those memberships in so you don't miss out on any of the fall rodeos.

I think that's it for now.

Betty

UPDATE:

The CHSRA finals in Williams Lake were once again a great success and tons of fun. The results are on the website. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the 2009 finals a memorable experience for everyone.