

Well, it's been quite a summer. A lot has happened and it's going to take more than a few notes to catch everybody up. First of all, the Wrangler Division finals in Gallup were great! The contestants and families all enjoyed the experience and overall the kids made a great showing at the national level. All the WD National finals results are on www.nhsra.org and then click the icon for WD. Thanks to all the parents who volunteered where ever they were needed! It is very much appreciated. Thanks to the kids who carried our Alberta flag and sponsor flags for the grand entries. A special thanks to Jessa Galloway for singing the Canadian anthem at the WD finals! The VS problem for horses going to and from New Mexico was interesting to say the least. It caused both our WD and HS contestants and families to make some pretty tough decisions regarding the national finals.

As I am putting this together the high school finals are just beginning. All the results from the NHSRF will be on the national website as well. Thanks to Doug Goodine for representing Alberta as the acting National Director at the finals. The AHSRA very much appreciates all Doug's work and commitment to the association and his many hours of arena work in Farmington in the rough stock arena. Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to do scholarship interviews, sell tickets and made the haul to Farmington.

The next stop on the 2009 finals trail is the CHSRA finals in Williams Lake the second weekend in August. Good luck to all the contestants who will be representing Alberta at that event.

The next thing on the list is to remind everyone to get their memberships in. Entries start in mid August and each division and district has a full slate of fall rodeos. Remember the website www.albertahsrodeo.com is the most up to date source of all the entry dates, events and happening in the Association. The membership forms are on the website and please remember to send your June report card in with the rest of your membership paperwork or we cannot process your membership. Without a 2009-2010 membership you cannot enter so, please get those forms in the mail. I would suggest express posting them if you are remotely cutting close to an entry date as we don't want to have to tell anyone they are not on the membership list when they call in and enter. You will be told your back number the first time you call in and enter and if you are a returning member it should be the same number as last season. Wrangler Division members please note the new entry number. Welcome to Shelley Weestra who will be doing the WD entries! Donna Griffith will continue to do the entries for the high school division and manage the CES and rodeo packages. The association looks forward to another great year working with Donna! New back numbers, membership cards and any other information will be given to you by your district secretary at the first rodeo you attend. Check to see when your subscription to the Rodeo Connection expires so you won't miss out on a monthly paper. It's going to be a very busy year for all districts and WD with lots of dates and deadlines to remember. Just a hint for entries, have a backup plan, find a buddy and both of you enter. It's much nicer to tell a member they are already entered when they call in than to have to deal with the frustration of missing entries for whatever reason. Like I said last month, no one is perfect, and everybody makes a mistake or forgets to enter but one sure fire way to make sure this doesn't happen is to have a backup plan in place. The CES system works well and all the calls are recorded by the time of call in so we know by the past 2 years of tracking there is lots of "quiet" time and everybody should be able to call in the 4 hour time frame.

I think that's it for now, and I know you are all tired of hearing it from me but check the website often for updates and get your memberships completed and sent so you can enter the first rodeo's of the new season.