



A GROWING INDUSTRY

By Krista Lucas

Barrel racing is becoming increasingly popular in Texas and Oklahoma. There is an event to go to nearly every day of the week in this region, and there is something to choose from whether a rider is a beginner or a serious competitor.

Some events stretch over the course of several days, offering large amounts of prize money and awards, while other local jackpots may just be an afternoon of family friendly fun.

Either way, barrel races are seeing an increase in entries. A local jackpot may see more than 50 runners on a week night or weekend, even when there are other races going on in the same area. Recently, the Summer Shootout in Oklahoma City., drew 781 contestants over its three day event.

The barrel race, hosted at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds, awarded \$10,000 added money plus four fully-tooled championship saddles.

The sanctioning body was Better Barrel Races, and the event offered an open race where entries ran in two qualifying rounds, with the top 15 in each division making it back to the short-go Sunday.

This year alone, the Summer Shootout paid out \$124,838 in cash. In the shootout round, the fastest time run that day in each division was declared the winner. Sharin Hall of Harrah, Okla., won over \$2,000 and a trophy saddle, walking away with the 1D shootout championship. The futurity trainer ran a 15.1 in the final round on her standout mount “Dreaming Of Foose.”

Loryn Barclay, riding “Last American Perks,” ran a 15.5 to win the 2D shootout. Linda McConnell on “Brooklyn Bridge Cash” ran a 15.7, winning the 3D championship and Ceri McCaffery improved her time to a 15.9 on “Famous Sum Beach” to win the 4D shootout.

Several locals qualified for the shootout round as well. In the 1D shootout, Erika Ashley of Bowie, Texas, rode her horse “Mitzi Would” and ran a 15.3 to pocket nearly \$800.

Futurity trainer Joy Wargo, Collinsville, Texas, ran her accomplished gelding “Smokin Koa Lena,” placing sixth in the shootout round. National Finals Rodeo qualifier Michele



The Kidd family with Wild West Promotions. (Photo courtesy of www.wildwestpromotions.com)

McLeod, Whitesboro, Texas, also qualified in the 1D shootout.

Professional barrel racer Tana Renick from Kingston, Okla., placed in the 2D shootout round on the stallion “Streakin Boon Dox.” The 3D and 4D shootouts saw locals Kirk Carter and Jaycie Shelburne run down the alleyway, too.

It was a busy weekend for barrel racers in Oklahoma City, but there is also plenty to choose from for those that choose to stay closer to home.

A local producer, Wild West Promotions, has hosted barrel races at Texas venues like Azle’s Wild West Arena, Fort Worth’s historic Cowtown Coliseum, Denton’s Diamond T Arena and right down the road at the Crossfire Arena in Whitesboro.

As the largest producer of premier barrel racing in Texas, owner Tammy Kidd prides herself in offering well-run events that pay well and award great prizes. Last year alone, the WWP payout was \$228,119.

WWP is a family run business and started after Kidd and her own barrel horse were injured at a rodeo. Kidd’s family has been very successful promoting in the motorcycle industry for over 30 years, and after three years of WWP, it has grown bigger and bigger each year.

“I just thought I would start producing and promoting barrel races,” Kidd said. “Racing is just in the Kidd blood.”

Her mother, Sandra, takes entries at the races, while her uncle, Gary, does timing and results. Kidd’s father makes every race flier and poster, and Randy Kidd and Colton Dugan are the “master draggers.” All are integral in conducting a barrel racing production smoothly and in a timely manner.

WWP races are becoming more and more popular. Kidd welcomes anyone to come enjoy the competition, no matter the skill level. Kidd’s races are organized and run in a professional manner.

She even ventured out more recently to produce a 4D pasture barrel race in Wichita Falls, Texas. Buckles were awarded to D winners after running the pattern in a large, open field.

This was in conjunction with the Crumpler West Dove Fest. Barrel racers can find upcoming WWP races on Facebook and at www.wildwestpromotions.com. Kidd is great about keeping everyone up to date on the details of upcoming events. Barrel racing is a rapidly growing industry and has something to offer everyone.

For full Summer Shootout results, visit www.shootoutbarrels.com.