

Classic News

A publication of The Texas Classic

Professional Horseman Conduct Pleasure, Trail Clinics

By Leigha Stevenson, Intern

When asked if Penny Sharp would like to attend more clinics like the ones at this year's Texas Classic, her response was "in a heartbeat!"

Sharp is just one of the 26 participants who took part in Monday's clinics. The Texas Quarter Horse Association offered the clinics as a chance for exhibitors to learn from industry professionals and benefit from their expertise.

Dave Dellin of Sangre, Texas presented the first session of the day,

focusing on western pleasure.

"I gain a sense of personal happiness from giving these clinics because it is so rewarding to see someone who came with a problem able to leave with a way to fix it," Dellin said.

Dellin began with an overview of his training program and objectives, familiarizing participants with some of his methods and the reasoning behind them.

"One of my goals is to encourage and help people

understand the way their horse thinks, acts and reacts," Dellin said. Clinic participants jumped at the chance to be first

during the one-on-one portion. Sharp was first to go.

"I bought my horse three months ago and he is still pretty green," Sharp said.

"This is a great opportunity for people like me, who can't afford to send a horse to a top trainer, benefit from their experience and teaching.

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2008 Texas Classic Awards

Awards at the Classic are better than ever! Thanks to the generous donations and efforts of families, trainers and individuals.

Awards include High-Point AQHA Green Horse, which will receive an ad in the Equine Chronicle and High-Point Western



The 2008 Texas Classic and TQHA would like to wish all the exhibitors a fun-filled show and good luck!

Horse, receiving a pair of Holly Spagnola spurs.

All around awards for all divisions are flat screen TV's.

Youth circuit winners will be awarded belt buckles designed by Bob Berg.

Vouchers redeemable through trade show vendors will be awarded for daily placing.

TQHA is dedicated to keeping an up-to-date running tally of points for all around and high-point categories, as well as individual classes.

Scribe sheets and judges cards will be available in the show office (located across from the TQHA office next to the sale arena).

Remember, the best way to ensure you have the points you need is to keep a record throughout the show.

TQHA will post all around and high-point leaders on the Web site at www.tqha.com. There will be a column in future issues of this newsletter devoted to the point standings for your convenience as well. ☆

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"Even if I have to drive across the state, I will always come to these clinics."

TQHA is working to provide more clinics at future shows.

"Offering these clinics is something TQHA is very proud of," said Val Clark, Texas Classic show manager.

"We strive to provide our members with fun and exciting opportunities like this."



Later in the day, it was time to conquer the event of trail. Clinicians included Nancy Cahill, Robin Frid and Brad Jewitt.

"With three trainers coaching, riders are able to hear the same thing but in three different languages," Cahill said. "If you don't understand something the first time you hear it, chances are, by the end of the clinic, you will."

Participants practiced on a course similar in design to the one used at the Classic this week, giving exhibitors a leg-up on polishing their skills for their performances to come.

"The one-on-one coaching through the course is something that really helps exhibitors," Cahill said. "It's the closest thing to showing when you're on the course by yourself, plus you have the supervision."

Participants were divided into three groups and rotated from trainer to trainer throughout the clinic.

This series was a product of members like *you* wanting to better the Texas Quarter Horse Association. If you would like to see more of these clinics in the future, please let us know!

Special thanks to our clinicians for their time, teaching and contributions to TQHA, and to all the participants who help make the Classic "not just another horse show." ☆

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