



December 30, 2009

Dear MRHA Members :

As 2009 comes to a close, we look forward with anticipation to an exciting 2010, filled with lots of reining horse events. As we do with many things at the start of a new year, it is helpful to reflect on our goals and direction.

The Montana Reining Horse Association (MRHA) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1988. The Association intends: (1) to encourage the showing of reining horses in Montana, (2) to encourage the participation of riders at all levels of skills and experience at reining horse shows, (3) to encourage cooperation and collegiality among all Reiners within the state, (4) to sponsor and promote reining horse shows at a variety of locations within the state, and (5) to encourage sportsman-like conduct at all reining horse events in Montana.

Consistent with this Mission Statement, the MRHA has historically produced one "big" show each year – our Derby/Futurity/Stallion Stakes. This show is intended to provide a more diverse level of competition, helping members to gain competitive experience, expand their knowledge, skills and exposure to a larger field of competitors, while being able to stay close to home. Additionally, MRHA promotes club activities across the state by encouraging members to take part in reining activities provided and sponsored by "sister clubs". These local shows give members a wider choice of how they want to compete. In 2009, MRHA sponsored these clubs by utilizing local shows as part of our Year-end awards program, and Affiliate circuit. We also are very proud to have offered the Big Sky Classic Futurity and Derby in Kalispell. This was the first time in several years that the MRHA produced this show without the help of a large "single sponsor". Thanks to the very hard work and generosity of our members and sponsors, the show was a success, bringing competitors from Canada, and several states. We were able to achieve our goals of added money offered, despite tough economic times. It is our vision and intention to produce this show again in 2010, and look to all of you for another successful and enjoyable show. We also support the YRHA and NRRHA by declaring the following shows as part of our 2010 Year-end Award, and Affiliate circuits:

April 29,30/May 1,2 (Double Slate) Sapphire Event Center – Corvallis, MT  
May 27-29 Anderson Training Stables – Wilsall, MT  
June 11-13 Sapphire Event Center – Corvallis, MT  
July 8-10 Anderson Training Stables – Wilsall, MT  
August 5-7 Anderson Training Stables – Wilsall, MT

Big Sky Classic – Dates To be Announced. (non-circuit)

We have seen an adjustment in leadership going in to 2010, and want to assure everyone that MRHA is on track with our goals and direction for the coming year, and are moving full steam ahead. Due to the readjustment of Directors, there are several committee vacancies. The continued success of our



organization calls for the support of *all* our members, so that the results we all benefit from is not at the expense of a handful of members doing all the work. This is your opportunity to support the sport you enjoy and participate in, and allow your personality to be reflected in our future direction.

On February 20, 2010, we will celebrate our 2009 show season, and kick-off our 2010 schedule of activities. We hope all of you are planning to join us in Helena at the Red Lion. Remember that this event is MRHA's main fundraiser for Year-End awards, so plan to bring items for auction. There will be several other exciting fundraising activities, including Golf and Poker games, 50/50 raffle, and an auction of several brave MRHA Professionals for Freestyle routines. You buy 'em, you dress 'em up! We will also have *live music* and dancing this year, so bring your friends, and plan on a great evening!

Thanks to all who have participated in our recent Membership Survey, and to those who have volunteered to help out on Committees. The MRHA always needs willing hands, and fresh ideas.

We look forward to seeing everyone in February, and throughout the 2010 Show Season. Let's make it a good one!

Sincerely,

Darra Norgaard  
President

P.S. Don't forget to renew your membership for 2010!