



**24th Annual Big Sky Reining Classic
Futurity, MRHA Stallion Stakes, Derby
Majestic Valley Arena, Kalispell, MT
August 23-27, 2017**

2017 SHOW CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

The Montana Reining Horse Association is once again hosting the Big Sky Reining Classic at the Majestic Valley Arena (“MVA”) in Kalispell, Montana. **THE SHOW WILL START AT 8:00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23.** All paid warm-ups are on Tuesday, August 22, and will be interspersed with open arena riding on that day.

Entries

The **entry form** and the **form to reserve stalls, shavings, paid warm-ups and RV spots** are both available on the Big Sky Reining Classic website at www.bigskyreiningclassic.com, which can also be reached through the MRHA website at www.mtrha.com. Also available there is the **Class Schedule and Worksheet form**, which you do not have to submit with your entry form but will need to have handy to fill out the entry form. You need to submit one entry form for each horse you are entering, but you can combine all your stall, shavings, paid warm-up and RV requirements on one reservation form. Entry forms can be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax to the show secretary at the address shown on the form. Stall reservation forms need to be mailed or emailed to the address on the form.

Entry forms must be received by the show secretary by Saturday Aug 12, 2017 to avoid the late fee and must contain at least enough information about each horse (name, competition license number, owner name and address, etc.) to allow the show secretary to open a file, confirm eligibility, and assign a back number. Other required documentation, which includes a competition license for each horse, a current NRHA membership card for each rider and owner, and an open and signed check (or open credit card account), payable to MRHA, can be turned in when you arrive at the show. Back numbers will not be released by the show secretary until you have arrived at the show and provided her with your check (or credit card information) and all required documentation.

Entries and stall reservation forms will continue to be accepted after the August 17 deadline but will be subject to the \$30 late fee per horse.

All show bill payments must be in U.S. funds. It is not sufficient to write on a check drawn on a Canadian bank that it is to be paid in U.S. funds. If you pay your show bill by check, please make sure you have sufficient funds in the bank to cover your check. There will be a \$30 service fee for all checks that are returned for insufficient funds. Multiple returns will be reported to NRHA for collection and could result in suspension of your NRHA show privileges.

Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express credit cards will be accepted in payment of your show bill. This is a particularly handy way for Canadian entrants to pay their bills in U.S. funds. However, in order to cover MRHA's added cost of taking credit cards, there will be a 3% markup on all credit card payments if you present your card to be swiped and 4% if you don't have the physical card to swipe.

Stalls

The MVA has 164 stalls inside an enclosed stall barn and approximately 175 stalls outside behind the show arena. The "outside" stalls are all under the arena roof overhang and are protected from the weather. Most of the inside stalls have an asphalt floor. The outside stalls have a dirt floor. Both inside and outside stalls are priced the same – \$35 per night.

Stalls will be assigned on the following basis: First priority will be given to sponsors at the Silver (\$500) level or higher. (See "Sponsorships" section below on how to become a sponsor.) Thereafter, stalls will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We will do our best to accommodate your preference for inside or outside stalls and your request to be stalled near someone else, but we can make no guarantees. The inside stalls generally go first, although some veterans of the show prefer the outside stalls because of the softer floors and their proximity to RV hookups.

Shavings

The stall price DOES NOT include any shavings. Shavings are \$9.00 per bag. The inside stalls are large, and because the floor is asphalt, you should plan on starting with at least 3 bags for each stall. Because the outside stalls are slightly smaller and have dirt floors, you should plan on starting with at least 2 bags per stall. Please indicate on your stall reservation form the number of bags of shavings you want to start with, and those shavings will be at your stalls when you arrive. Please pre-order shavings to avoid waiting for delivery when you arrive. You can order more shavings from the show secretary during the show.

Paid Warm-Ups and Open Arena Riding

All paid warm-ups will be on Tuesday, August 22, from 8 to 11 a.m., 1 to 4 p.m., and 7 to 10 p.m. The price for a paid warm-up is \$45 for five minutes. In order to stay on schedule and not cut into time for open arena riding, the clock for each paid warm-up will start as soon as the time expires for the previous warm-up.

Paid warm-ups are likely to sell out early. **ALL PAID WARM-UPS WILL BE ASSIGNED STRICTLY ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**, so be sure to get your paid warm-up reservation form in early. In order that we can accommodate as many requests as possible, please **DO NOT REQUEST MORE THAN ONE FIVE-MINUTE PAID WARM-UP SLOT PER HORSE**.

Once the paid warm-ups have sold out, we will start a waiting list in case there are any cancellations. We will notify you by e-mail or telephone if there is an opening in the schedule

and you are next on the waiting list. The paid warm-up schedule and waiting list will be posted at the BSRC website, www.bigskyreiningclassic.com, MRHA's website, www.mtrha.com, and MRHA's Facebook page at least by Sunday, August 20.

The arena will be open on Tuesday for all horses and riders at those times when there are no paid warm-ups – namely, from 11 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., 4 p.m. to 6:50 p.m., and 10 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. the following morning. On subsequent days, the arena will be open from the end of classes until 7:30 the following morning. During open arena riding, the ground will be groomed from time to time. Please stand to one side or move into the warm-up pen when the tractor and drag are in the arena.

Unless otherwise announced, open arena riding will consist of circling on the hour and fencing on the half hour. For your own safety and that of others, please adhere to this rule.

RV Hookups

If you need a RV hookup, you can reserve it on the same form you use for reserving stalls, shavings and paid warm-ups. RV hookups consist of an electrical hookup but no running water. Water is available, however, at various locations on site to fill your water tanks. The cost of an RV hookup is \$20 per night if you get your reservation in by the Saturday August 12 deadline, and \$25 per night for reservations received after that date. RV hookups will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Judges

The judges are Donnie Bricker from Temecula, California, Tyson Randle from Scottsdale, Arizona, Patrick Flaherty from Scottsdale, Arizona and Brain Welman from Hastings, Minnesota. For the Open, Non Pro, Derby, Futurity and Freestyle classes, there will be three judges in the chair and one equipment judge. Most other NRHA classes will have either one or two judges in the chair and one equipment judge. Club classes will not have an equipment judge.

Class Conditions

NRHA Ancillary Classes

This show offers a full slate of NRHA ancillary classes, including entry level classes for Green Reiners, Levels 1 and 2. All these classes will be conducted in accordance with NRHA rules. Be sure you are familiar with those rules and your own NRHA earnings. You may be subject to NRHA sanctions if you enter a class for which you are not eligible.

NRHA Aged Event Classes

Furities – The Open and Non Pro Futurity classes, Levels 4, 2 and 1, are open to all horses that have turned or will turn three years old in 2017 (*i.e.*, were born in 2014).

Horses in all the futurity classes may be shown one or two handed in any legal bit. The rider may switch hands, or switch from one to two hands and vice versa, at any time during the run.

Stallion Stakes Futurity Classes – Stallion Stakes Open and Non Pro Level 4 futurity classes will be run concurrently with the other futurity classes (see class schedule). The horses eligible to enter the MRHA Stallion Stakes futurity classes are all three-year-old get of stallions donated to, *and sold in*, MRHA's Stallion Stakes auctions for calendar years 2013 and 2017. These eligible horses do not have to be the product of a breeding sold in a Stallion Stakes auction. However, if your three-year old *is* the product of a breeding sold in the 2013 auction, you are entitled to a 20% discount from the entry fee for the Stallion Stakes classes. All other get of that stallion must pay the full entry fee. Let the show secretary know on your entry form if your horse is entitled to the discount.

Stallion Stakes Derby Classes –New to the BSRC is the Stallion Stakes Derby. All horses that were eligible as 3 year olds along with the stallions sold in the 2017 auction will be eligible for the Stallion Stakes Derby.

A list of stallions whose get are eligible for the 2017 Stallion Stakes classes will be posted on the BSRC and MRHA websites. Contact Priss Leslie, at (406) 459-8775 or prissleslie1@gmail.com, if you have questions about the eligibility of your horse for the Stallion Stakes classes.

Derbies – The Open and Non Pro Derby classes, Levels 4, 2 and 1, are open to all horses that have turned or will turn four, five, or six years old in 2017 (*i.e.*, were born in 2013, 2012, or 2011), except that the Open and Non Pro Derby Level 4 classes that are designated for 4-year olds only are open only to horses born in 2013.

All Derby horses must be shown one-handed only, in accordance with NRHA rules.

Maturities – The Open and Non Pro Maturity classes, Level 4, are open to all horses that have turned or will turn seven years old or older in 2017 (*i.e.*, were born in 2010 or earlier).

All Maturity horses must be shown one-handed only, in accordance with NRHA rules.

Club Classes

There will be two club classes offered at this show, as follows:

MRHA Green Horse – This class is open to any Open or Non Pro rider showing a horse that does not have more than \$500 in lifetime reining earnings. As with the Futurity classes, horses may be shown one or two handed in any legal bit, and the rider

may switch between one and two hands at any time during the run. This is not an MRHA year-end award class, and you do not have to be a MRHA member to enter.

MRHA 2-Handed Youth, 14 to 18 and 13 & Under – These classes are open to any youth 18 or under. As under NRHA rules, age is determined as of January 1, 2017. These are MRHA year-end award classes. However, you do not have to a MRHA member to enter. As with the Futurity classes, horses may be shown one or two handed, and the rider may switch at any time during the run. Two handed youth classes have no restrictions on ownership.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in most classes. First place winners in most NRHA classes will receive a NRHA trophy or plaque, depending upon the amount of added money in the class. Second through fifth place finishers in most NRHA classes will also receive valuable prizes. A coin flip will determine who wins which prize in the case of a tie.

Theme

The theme of this year's show is "Reining in the Wild West." Bring your best wild west gear and stall decorations for Thursday evening. Check back later at www.bigskyreiningclassic.com or on MRHA's Facebook page for more information.

Dinner

As is our usual practice, a catered, sit-down dinner will be served at 5 p.m. on Thursday. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased on the entry form or from the show secretary.

Draw Parties

The draws for the Derby and Futurity classes on Friday and Saturday evenings will be conducted at draw parties to be held in the concourse at the north end of the grandstand on Friday and Saturday mornings, respectively, at 7:30 a.m. (There will not be a draw party for the Non Pro Futurity on Thursday night.) If you are entered in these classes, plan on attending or send a representative to participate in the draw. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served.

Calcutta

A Calcutta auction for teams made up of competitors in the Non Pro Derby and Open Futurity classes on Saturday evening will be held in the same concourse area on Saturday afternoon immediately following the NRHA Limited Open and Rookie Professional classes (around 1 p.m.). Thirty percent of the proceeds from the Calcutta will go to the MRHA to help support the show, and the remaining seventy percent will be paid to the first and second place Calcutta winners. Snacks will be served.

Silent Auction

A silent auction will take place during the show on the concourse under the grandstand. Please consider bringing an item to donate to the auction to help support the show. The auction will close at 8 p.m. on Saturday evening.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome on the grounds but must be kept locked up or on a leash at all times. The Majestic Valley Arena has the right to charge MRHA a \$50 fine for each dog not on a leash. Any such fine will be passed on to the dog owner.

Food and Drink

Majestic Valley Arena has a snack bar under the grandstand that will be open each day for most of the day, serving hot and cold breakfast, lunch and dinner food and beverages. MVA also has a bar that will sell alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks each day during the evening classes. Proceeds from both of these operations go entirely to MVA, not to MRHA. MVA asks that no outside alcohol be consumed in the show arena. If you choose to drink, please do so responsibly, and do not under any circumstances drink and drive.

Sponsorships

The BSRC is not possible without generous support from our sponsors. Please consider being a sponsor. The sponsorship form can be found at the BSRC and MRHA websites.