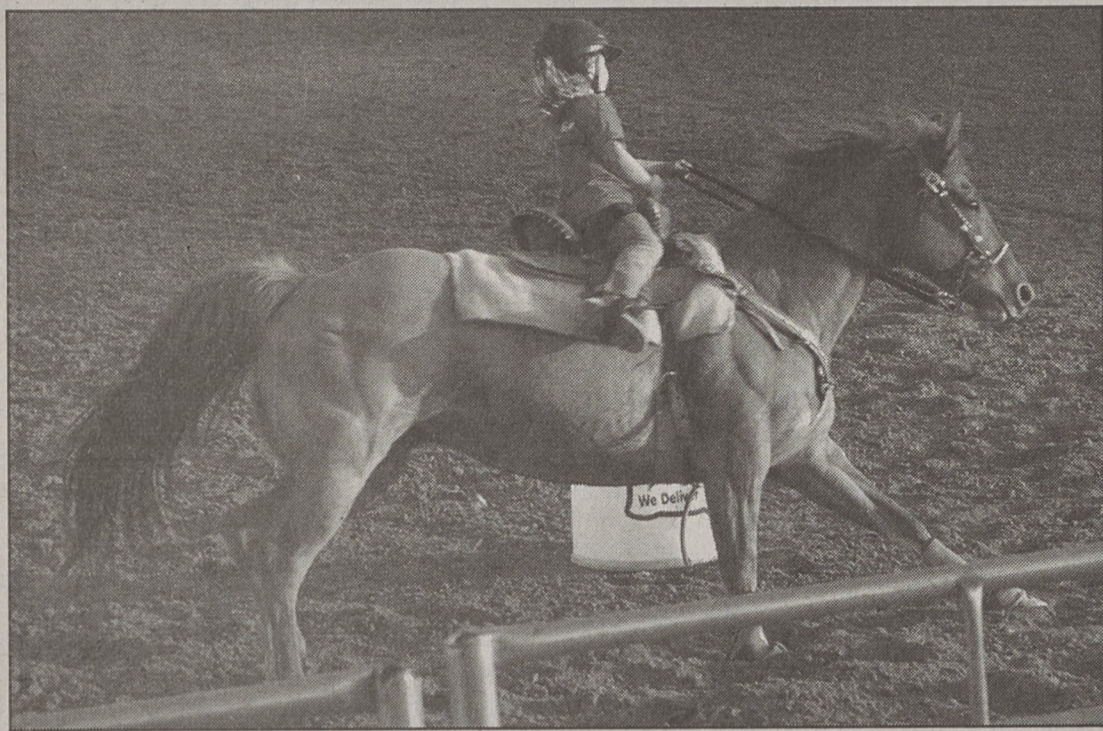


SPORTS



EMILY WEAVER / HERALD

Even the smallest of riders can exude ease and control. Morgan Bailey, 4 years old, races her Palomino in the Peewees.

# Riding for a cure

## Barrel race at Double HH Ranch raises money for Relay for Life

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

The Double HH Ranch off of Putnam Lake Road in Kings Mountain held its first Relay for Life charity barrel races on Tuesday, April 18th and Tuesday, April 25th at 7 pm. The proceeds raised from this two time event will be donated to Relay for Life, a fund-raising team for cancer research through the American Cancer Society.

The \$2 per person gate fees, 50/50 raffle ticket sales and ice cream profits went to Relay for Life. The two barrel races raised an estimated amount of over \$1,000 for the charity.

The average entry fee for adults and youth is \$18 and \$6 for peewees. "There is an 80 percent payback on entries plus added prize money," said Ranch Owner John Hagaman. Weekly winners in the barrel races are awarded prize money from the jackpots and their times are recorded for possible future prizes at the end of the season.

Every rider in the different categories of Peewee (ages 10 and under), Youth (ages 18 and under) and Open (all ages) raced one at a time. The clock began as soon as each horse crossed an invisible laser beam sensor. Then, the rider was faced with the challenge of maneuvering the horse around three barrels, without knocking them over, and bringing the horse back through the starting sensor which stops the clock. All of this was to be completed in the fastest speed possible. If the horse accidentally knocked over a barrel, five seconds was added to the final time.

"There are four divisions in each race," said Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Lisa Proctor, who came out to ride for the cause. "If the fastest race time is 15.0 seconds. You will add half a second to get the next fastest time, another half a second to get the third fastest time and then a whole second to get the last time." She explained that the runner who made it in 15.0 seconds, along with the runners who came between that time and 15.5 seconds would make up the first division. The second division is among the riders who had a time of 15.5 seconds to 16.0 seconds. The next division consists of racers with times between 16.0 and 17.0 seconds. The last

division is for any times above 17.0 seconds. There are winners in each division giving more people a chance to place.

Two of Proctor's horses, Trouble and Dollar, are direct descendants of the great Secretariat. "He was the most famous race horse that ever lived," said Police Chief Melvin Proctor. Secretariat was named Horse of the Year in 1972, at the age of 2, and in 1973 for his winnings and setting world records in racing. He was titled the Triple Crown Winner for coming in first place in three grueling races of increasing distances over a 5 week period. Dollar lost an eye in a previous accident but carried Sgt. Proctor in the Open to a fast time of 16.6 seconds, finishing 1st in the third division. This was Dollar's second time in a barrel race.

Peewees, distinguishable by their safety helmets, started the race. A few went fast. A few went slow. A few could not get their horse to go and at least one little one was lead by a handler on foot. But all of the little ones made for a precious sight.

The second group to race was Youth, ages 18 and under. The Peewees are also allowed to race with the Youth, but many chose not to because of the competition level. The Open category ended the race.

"We had 43 Peewees last year and 137 registered members," said Hagaman. He likes the fact that a lot of kids become involved. "It's good for them (to ride) and it's a lot better here than what they could be doing out there," he said.

The Double HH Ranch promotes a safe and family-friendly environment with no drinking, no profanity and no fighting. Any rule-breakers will most likely be escorted off of the ranch by the security guard or one of the officers in attendance.

Hagaman has been holding barrel races once a week for the past five years. His riding season extends from April to November. He gave away \$18,000 in prizes last year. No one has been seriously hurt at the Double HH Ranch. Twin Lakes Veterinary Services, out of Shelby, is on call for every event.

The Ranch opened in the

spring of 2000 with weekend shows and added Tuesday night barrel racing in 2004 from March to November. Every season riders can compete to earn points that lead to awards which include trophies, plaques, halters, boots and, to the Champion of each of the four Open divisions, a custom designed and fitted Caldwell saddle.

"Each Peewee will receive a trophy for participating whether it was once or every night all season. They are the future of the Barrel racing industry and we want to encourage them all we can," Hagaman said. He admitted that most of his work at the ranch is for the children.

The Double HH also offers weekend opportunities at Barrel racing as well as Junior Rodeo events and Bull Riding drawing competitors from as far away as Maryland, Georgia and Tennessee. In addition clinics are held to provide training in various aspects of horsemanship.

The ranch averages about 100 entries per night. "We've had as many as 200 people come out (to ride)," he said. "Anyone can register to be a member and member or not, anyone can come and enjoy the events."

General admission is \$2 for each person. Kids 12 and under get in free. The new rule changes and safety improvements for the 2006 season are:

- All peewees must wear helmets when riding or racing.
- All riders must wear jeans and cowboy boots on horse back.
- No horses in the arena while tractors are moving.

Hagaman would like to thank the Proctors for their help and support. Due to their idea, a prayer box has been set up at the ranch for requests. He would also like to thank Deb Hawkins and Karen Hoyle who he says has been his "right hands" at Double HH. Hoyle has been the ranch's bookkeeper, barn manager, and people organizer, while still providing for her 10 orphan children.

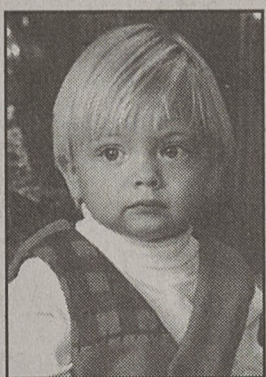
A Junior Rodeo is scheduled for June 23-24. For more information on the Double HH Ranch and upcoming events call John Hagaman at 704-477-6655.

### Collin turns two

Collin Hart Randall celebrated his second birthday on March 10 with a Bob the Builder Party.

Collin is the son of Dr. George and Tammy Randall and has an older brother, John.

Grandparents are Buddy and Sandy Blanton and Don and Tuck Randall. He is the great grandson of Ruth L. Homesley.



# Double HH Ranch Awards presented at Patrick Center

EMILY WEAVER

eweaver@kingsmountainherald.com

Cowboys and cowgirls gathered for recognition, honors, good food and laughter at the recent Double HH Ranch's Awards Banquet at 7:00 pm. The ceremony was held at the Patrick Senior Center and hosted by John Hagaman, owner of the ranch. Proceeds from the 2005 riding season provided \$18,000 in prizes and a fully-catered banquet.

The ranch had 137 registered members last year, including 43 Peewee riders, ages 10 and under. Fifty volunteers help make the Double HH a success in providing affordable, quality family entertainment. The ranch rules, which ensure a safe environment, strictly prohibit alcohol, drug use and profanity.

"Our part in the horse industry is very family-oriented. It's a great way for people to come out, have fun, enjoy the horses and competition. It's not an expensive deal either," Hagaman said. "Plus our concessions are really good." The vendors offer grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and other treats at every barrel race.

Champions in each division among the Youth, Senior and Open classes were awarded custom-fitted leather saddles. Reserved champions or those who were awarded 2nd place received boots for their horses. Third through 5th place were awarded halters. Peewees got to take home trophies and photo frames to cherish the memories of their time at the ranch. Many plaques were also handed out for special recognition.

Awards were given to the following people:

- Peewees:**  
 Champion Cheyenne Cearley; Reserve (Close second) Hannah Warlick; Ashley McCarter, Aston Johnston, Billy Warlick, Logan Calvert, Morgan Bailey, Kelsey Bailey, Tori Royster, Desiree Willis, Betsy Roland, Megan Cole-Edwards, Abby Green, Taylor Royster, Karsyn Armstrong, Legend Fowler, Peyton Wilson, Zachery Billings, Luke GoForth, Ethan Bailey, Steven Lyman, Rebecca Hoyle, Heidi Alred, Heather Bailey, Ashton Beard, Amber Brown, Rebecca Howe, Lanie Cash, Olivia Deaton, McKenzie Feimster, Laramie Fredell, Amanda Gullickson, Morgan Hyder, Taylor Rinehardt, Bobby Payne Bailey, Amber Barber, Victoria Gosnell, Lizzie Hunter, Tyler Hoyle, Cheyenne Nestlerode, Toby Nestlerode, Tanner Tillman and Parker Wilson.

- Youth (ages 18 and under):**  
 First Division - Champion Lindsey Littlejohn, Reserve Casey Royster, 3rd Place Hannah Miller, 4th Place Brad Rhymer, and 5th Place Mikey Callahan.  
 Second Division - Champion Meaghan Perrigo, Reserve Brad Rhymer, 3rd Place Lindsey Littlejohn, 4th Place Mikey Callahan, and 5th Place Kimberly Morgan.  
 Third Division - Champion Brooke Wright, Reserve Tori Royster, 3rd Place Mikey Callahan, 4th Place Kimberly Morgan, and 5th Place Betsy Roland.  
 Fourth Division - Champion Betsy Roland, Reserve Stephanie Barlett, 3rd Place Brooke Wright, 4th Place Kimberly Morgan, and 5th Place Brittany Gilwreath.

- Open (all ages):**  
 First Division - Champion Danielle McCraw, Reserve Todd Royster, 3rd Place Casey Royster, 4th Place Stacey Plonk, 5th Place Mikey Callahan  
 Second Division - Champion Lindsey Littlejohn, Reserve Stacey Plonk, 3rd Place Brad Rhymer, 4th Place Meaghan Perrigo, 5th Place Hannah Miller

Third Division - Champion Sherry Tickle, Reserve Richard Russ and Taylor Royster, 4th Place Roger Bradley, 5th Place Bobby Truitt  
 Fourth Division - Champion Bobby Bailey, Reserve Sherry Tickle, 3rd Place Rett Waggoner, 4th Place Bobby Truitt, 5th Place Tonya Cearley

**Senior (ages 10 to 65):**  
 First Division - Champion Roger Bradley, Reserve Tim Studley, 3rd Place Peggy Lusk, 4th Place Steve Eaker, 5th Place Richard Russ  
 Second Division - Champion Roger Bradley, Reserve Richard Russ, 3rd Place Gary Taylor, 4th Place Tim Studley, 5th Place Vicki Russ  
 Third Division - Champion Roger Bradley, Reserve Don Vergason, 3rd Place Jack Farris, 4th Place Sandy Taylor, 5th Place Randy Littlejohn  
 Fourth Division - Champion Randy Littlejohn, Reserve Sandy Taylor, 3rd Place Roger Bradley, 4th Place Don Vergason, 5th Place Tim Studley

**Special Recognition:**  
 Most Improved Peewee: Logan Calvert who went from being led around the arena by her mother, Amy Calvert, to finishing 6th place in the 2005 season.

**Senior Class Cowboy Up Award:** Randy Littlejohn for surviving the death of his horse during the season and continuing on with a different horse to become the 4D Senior Champion.

**The Funniest Incident Award:** Roger Bradley for his sportsmanship in barrel racing.

**Most Improved Youth:** Morgan Bailey whose riding showed great improvement over the past season.

**Cowgirl Up Award:** Kimberly Morgan for her resilience in switching horses mid-season after her favorite mount was hurt and for continuing to excel in her riding by placing in three of the four Youth Divisions.

**Cowgirl Up Awards:** Brooke Wright and Tori Royster for outstanding sportsmanship in the face of a tie for Champion in the Youth Third Division. The tie was decided with the best two out of three runs in a work-off with Brooke Wright winning.

**Kings Mountain Police Sgt. Lisa Proctor** came on stage to arrest tractor drivers Jim Hawkins, Sam Poole and Eddie Matthews for driving while under the intoxication of tractor fumes, speeding, reckless driving. Her face was very solemn and a few people in the crowd appeared to be quite bewildered, but the charges were in good humor to recognize the gratitude Hagaman had for his tractor drivers and the comfortable, friendly relationship that they share.

**Fastest Time of 14.864:** Danielle McCraw.  
**New Arena Record:** Priscilla Hubbard for a time of 14.817.

**Trainer of the Year:** Becky Griggs who gave a lot of time and effort to help the youth and for her excellent support to all who need it.

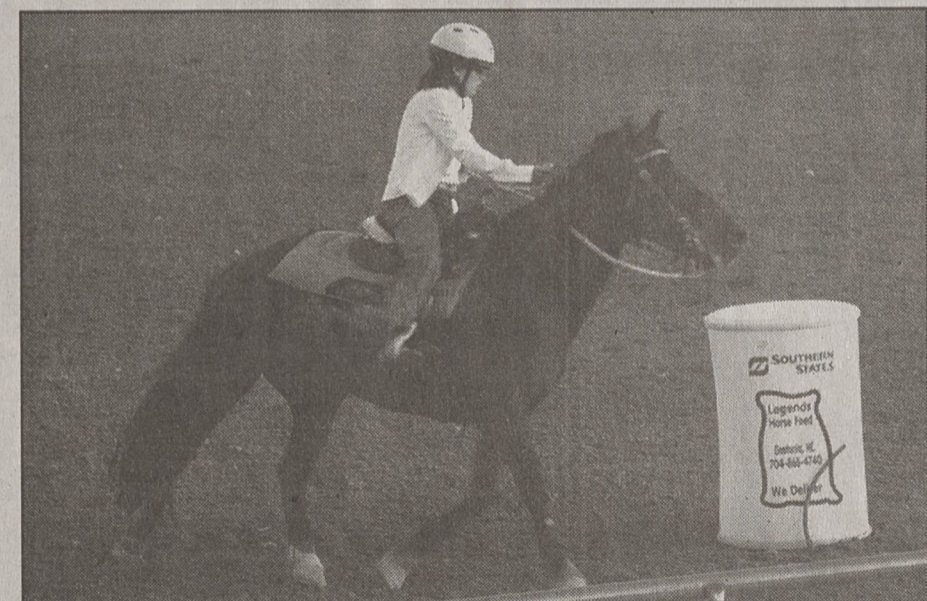
**Most Improved among Open Class:** Mary McKee.

**Horse of the Year:** Chance, Chance's owner Sherry Tickle accepted the award and said that while she appreciated the saddle the award for her horse Chance meant more.

**Cowgirl Up award:** Deb Farris for her spunk and resilience.

The last award was given by Deb Hawkins and Karen Hoyle to Hagaman for their fond appreciation. The plaque which read, "Thank you for a great season, Love Deb & Karen" was engraved with what he describes as "the south end of a horse facing north."

Laughter and punch lines made the night complete. Credit and appreciation was given where it was due and the love that Hagaman and everyone feels for each other resounded with laughter off of the walls.



Charlie Johnson, 15, warms up her horse Rerun in the exhibition before the race. The exhibition was practice time for the horses to get used to the pattern.

Emily Weaver photo

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