

Saddles 'n' Spurs Hosts Annual Open Fun Show

By Mark Johnson, Saddles 'n' Spurs Reporter



On Saturday, September 15, 2007, Saddles 'n' Spurs 4-H Club held their annual Fall Fun Show at the Agricultural Education Center. Thirty-five riders showed up ready for lots of fun and games. They weren't disappointed.

There were three different levels for riders that had nothing to do with age. Both kids and adults competed equally depending on their skill level.

The Walk Division was for people who had just started riding and were not ready for a faster pace. The show classes that walk riders competed in were pleasure, equitation, and trail. They also had a fun/timed set of classes that included the sock toss, poles, 50 Yard Dash, and Keyhole. New 4-Her, Brianne Selders, was having such a fun time at her first show, she didn't want to leave.

Trophy winners in the Walk Divisions were Hallie Erfourth (Brunswick) on EAF Nobel Emotion, Brianne Selders (Maugansville) on Never Wuza Rebel, Sarah Lynn (Boonsboro) on Mac and Nova Boward (Williamsport) on Peachy Keen.

The Beginner Division was for people who could trot but were not ready to canter in a competitive situation. In addition to the classes already mentioned, these riders did Chinese Fire Drill, Water Carry, Command and Break, Sword, Mug Race, Vegetable Dash, Flag Race and Barrels. They found that trotting while carrying a cup of water can be a pretty wet experience!

Champion and Reserve Champion winners in the three Beginner Divisions were Kiley Slimmer (Myersville) on Only My Terms, Nathan Johnson (Keedysville) on Peachy Keen, and Linda Dewitt (Shepherdstown) on Zen.

At the right is Kiley Slimmer on her horse, Only My Terms.





Above, Mark Johnson relaxes between games on his horse Rebel.

Then there was **the Open Division.**

This was for those who have more experience. Their class list was the same as for the beginners, except that each class required them to canter. These riders agreed that every class was a fun class! Champion and Reserve Champion riders in the three Open Divisions were Marie Grossnickle (Myersville) on Mocha, Laikyn Cook (Hagerstown) on Robin's Mayleigh, Katrin Boniface (Boonsboro) on Dizzy Devil, and Jessie Williams (Hagerstown) on Lightning.

Two Jumping Divisions required riders to jump three different courses as quickly as possible. In the low jumper division, the Champion was Katie Wolf (Kearneysville) on Cherries in the Snow and the Reserve Champion was Mark Johnson (Keedysville) on Never Wuz Rebel. In the high jumper division, the Champion was Katrin Boniface (Boonsboro) on Dizzy Devil and the Reserve Champion was Anna Hoover (Boonsboro) on Robin's Painted Hood

4-H promotes teamwork and so did **the Pairs Division.** Teams of two riders competed in the ribbon race, baton pass, pony express and rider rescue. The Champion Team was Marie Grossnickle (Myersville) on Mocha and Melissa Bowman (Thurmont) on Taffy. The Reserve Champion Team was Anneke Tingle (Keedysville) on Macarona and Jessie Williams (Hagerstown) on Lightning.

Fun lunchtime activities included bareback dollar, stick horse races and an awesome cake walk where 11 lucky individuals won cakes. Lilli Sutton was the raffle winner. Thanks to River City Feed, who donated a bucket of great horse prizes.

If you have a horse-loving kid between the ages of 8 and 18, check out 4-H by calling 301-791-1404.



Pictured at the right, Skyler Slimmer takes a cake at the cake walk.