

New Program to Benefit Crisis Fund

RHF PRESIDENT MARK A. BLAKE



“We invite you to connect with a Reining Boot Camp.”

If you've been following this column, you know the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) Board is working hard to elevate the impact RHF can make on the reining community. This continues into 2017, where we announce an innovative program change.

For the past decade and a half, the Foundation's Rookie Days have served as the largest fundraising program for the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund benefiting reiners enduring hardships. Rookie Days were designed as fun opportunities for beginning riders to receive instruction from NHRA Professionals and be introduced to a host affiliate. These features will roll forward in 2017 to a new program called Reining Boot Camp™.

While some details remain to be finalized, instruction remains at the forefront of the daylong experience, and each participant can expect to have some maneuvers evaluated. Lunch and time with other reiners add to the sense of community. The new format welcomes any reiner considered NRHA Non Pro eligible. In other words, both Rookies and Non Pros are invited to participate.

We thank Classic Equine, the longtime presenting sponsor of Rookie Days, who will continue to support Reining Boot Camp, and committee chairperson Becky Jordan and her committee members for moving this forward. These would not be possible without the NRHA Professionals who offer to serve as clinicians and the volunteers who put on the events.

All proceeds are pointed toward the 501(c)3 nonprofit Foundation, so hosts seek to get arena and lunch costs donated or discounted. NRHA and RHF will continue to provide affiliate incentives to help alleviate the costs of hosting. The events can serve as terrific gateways to affiliate membership.

Thank you to anyone who has ever hosted, volunteered or participated in a Rookie Day event. The Board recognizes Tracy Lynch of Arizona for her commitment to helping reiners in need and shepherding the program since its inception in 2002.

Lastly, we are so appreciative to donors who have stepped up to fund the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund at exciting levels. In 2016, the program was able to assist eight different families enduring everything from floods to major medical crises. We invite you to connect with a Reining Boot Camp.


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