



OFQHA NEWSLETTER

December/January 2008



HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL!



Year-End Awards Banquet

The Awards Banquet and February meeting will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Perry Township Fire House. The fun starts at 6:00pm and don't forget to bring a dish for our fabulous potluck!

Election Results

The results of the elections for 2008 are as follows:

President:	Larry Still
Vice President:	Pat Badgero
Directors:	Jane Belew
	Susan Elliott
	Patty Fish
	Gus Furness
	Carol Palmer

Best wishes to all the officers and directors in their efforts to lead OFQHA to another successful year!

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE 2008 SHOW SEASON AND A NEW CLASS!

THE OPEN RANCH HORSE SHOWS WILL BE MOVED TO SATURDAYS, WITH CLINICS/AQHA SHOW, ETC MOVED TO SUNDAY. The show committee recommended this change as the open shows were running so late on Sunday nights. Entries, especially in trail, were down as the class ran so late on Sunday night.

Due to requests by members **the Reining Class will be moved to the class BEFORE the Cow Working Class.**

A new class will be added for people who do not wish to rope in the Cow Working Class. The new class will be exactly the same as the existing Cow Working Class, but instead of roping the cow, the cow will be circled in both directions. Points will be awarded in the new class and will count toward the Versatility Ranch Horse Award. You may enter either the normal (roping) class OR the new (circle the cow in both directions) class. You cannot enter both classes and accrue points for both classes.

Versatility Conformation will be moved to after the Trail Class.

Reining/Cow Working Clinics

Shaun McBride will be conducting reining and cow working clinic on February 2, 2008. The clinic fee is \$60/person and if you wish to audit it is free. The clinics will be held at the Black Creek Ranch in Blacklick, Oh. Blacklick is very close to Columbus. For more information contact Shaun at 614-519-5969 or 614-519-2809. More information and directions can be obtained by visiting his web-site at www.cowhorseohio.com.

Jim Wells

Many of you may have been acquainted with Jim Wells who was a farrier and 2nd vice president in the Ohio Quarter Horse Association. Jim passed away unexpectedly on December 25, 2007. He had many responsibilities in OQHA, including obtaining all the farriers for the Q.H. Congress, obtaining the year-end awards for the OQHA annual banquet and organizing the annual trail ride. He was a friend to OFQHA and understood what our organization was all about. Condolences to his family and his many friends.

Equine Affaire

Member Debbie Gosnell has graciously agreed to take over the responsibility of the OFQHA booth at Equine Affaire in April, 2008. Help is always needed at the booth and for set-up and take-down. Also, a corner stall is available to display a Foundation Quarter Horse. This is great advertising for OFQHA and horses are always needed for the stall. If you would be able to help Debbie in any capacity, please call her at 724-588-8844 or e-mail her at deb@advntr.com. OQHA paid for one half of the booth cost again this year, so the booth will be shared with them. There will be no OFQHA demonstration this year due to a lack volunteers to coordinate the demo.

Versatility Ranch Horse World Championship

AQHA will hold the first ever Versatility Ranch Horse World Championship on January 16-17 as part of the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Thoughts from Mike Major who is currently leading the AQHA standings on Smart Whiskey Doc: "I'd sure like to win this thing, but one bad cow in the cutting or the cow work can take out anybody. I've been blessed with some success in the versatility competitions, but anybody in the field could win this thing".

January 2008, Western Horseman



Foundation Legends: Mr Gun Smoke

Many truly great horses were said to be "ahead of their time." This was perhaps never truer than it was of Mr Gun Smoke. In fact, the performance horse industry may still be trying to catch up to the athletic potential available through this explosively talented line. But it took an elite class of horsemen and women to figure out how best to capitalize on the Gun Smoke firepower.

One such horseman was Dale Wilkinson, a National Reining Horse Association and National Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame member. Wilkinson owned Mr Gun Smoke for most of the stallion's 22 years. He called Mr Gun Smoke "a tremendous poor man's sire." He explained that the stallion so consistently passed on his own brand of courage, charisma and cow sense that it didn't take an extraordinary mare to get an extraordinary foal. In turn, Gun Smoke's progeny passed these traits on to their offspring, which is why Gun Smoke's trademark style is still so highly visible in the arena today. Most notably, Mr Gun Smoke sired cutting, reining, and working cow horse winners. His direct offspring have earned just short 2,000 AQHA performance points. Several of his most memorable get and grand get are registered paint horses. Mr Gun Smoke's pronounced ability to produce Quarter Horses with excessive white enriched Paint Horse working lines tremendously.

Harley and Mamie Price of Bazine, Kan., were batting a thousand when they chose to breed their stallion Rondo Leo to Kansas Cindy. The recipe was ripe with cow sense, athletic ability, and speed. The intensive Oklahoma Star breeding on both sides of Mr Gun Smoke's pedigree infused him with a double dose of dynamite. Unlike the stout muscled, compactly built Leos, Mr Gun Smoke matured at 15.1 hands and had a lean, elegant look. "His conformation was just exactly the way you'd build one," said Wilkinson. He had a little ol' narrow chest, a little pencil neck, high withers, short back and his stifle just hung out there about 6

Mr Gun Smoke was foaled in Kansas in 1961. He was sold as a yearling to Bill Nicodemus, who formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Tom Ryan. Nicodemus dabbled in racing and pleasure with Mr Gun Smoke before contacting Dale Wilkinson about training the colt for cutting. Nicodemus offered Dale one-third interest in the horse in exchange for his training fees. But Wilkinson wasn't ready to take the plunge on the unproven 3-year-old. Instead he agreed to take Mr Gun Smoke for 2 months at his regular training fee, after which time he would reconsider the offer.

Dale admitted he was less than impressed with the looks of the horse. But all that changed when he slapped a saddle on his back.

"Mr Gun Smoke was very impressive from the beginning," Wilkinson said. "He was a very athletic horse, very physical, with a lot of uncontrollable moves. He was also very, very cowy. He could move so fast. Too fast," he chuckled. "He was really more than you could control."

Two months wasn't nearly enough time for Dale to figure out how to contain Mr Gun Smoke's extreme reactivity. Yet he was intrigued by the stallion's potential. Wilkinson accepted Nicodemus' offer, and took part ownership of Mr Gun Smoke. He admits he never did collect his training wages.

Unfortunately, not long into his schooling, Mr Gun Smoke sustained a front leg injury that sidelined his early show career. Wilkinson believes the stallion broke a bone in his ankle. As he was recovering from that, he developed ringbone in a hind leg. Over the next several years, Mr Gun Smoke vacillated between soundness and lameness.

Due to his injury, no one probably ever saw Mr Gun Smoke at the top of his form. Dale speculates that the ailment may have slowed the horse down just enough to allow the trainer to get a handle on his phenomenal talent. When he was finally sound enough to compete, he was awesome.

Gun Smoke had undeniable power and presence. He was light to the rein and leg. And he could stop and turn with such force that it often prompted some good natured ribbing. Wilkinson recalls western artist Lex Graham chiding him after watching Gun Smoke cut:

"Hey Dale, I sure wouldn't have any need for your horse."

"Oh, why is that?" Dale queried back.

"Well, I noticed you spent half your time just getting back on him", Graham laughed.

Mr Gun Smoke had a tremendous desire to control a cow. He considered it a personal challenge. And the horse's ground-driving stop was built-in. Dale said he never had to teach the stallion to stop with a cow. He reacted instinctively. The stallion also quickly figured out where to position himself to keep his working advantage. If a cow would stop and face the horse, he would crouch and challenge the animal, just daring it to make a move.

Among horsemen, the Gun Smokes did have a reputation for being volatile. And in truth, they weren't for everyone. Yet in the right hands, they exhibited such courage, determination, and raw physical talent that they were hard to beat

Long before Mr. Gun Smoke had his banner show year in 1967, the stallion had earned Wilkinson's respect. He was hot blooded, light-footed, and exceptionally responsive. He was also extremely intelligent. According to Dale, he was giant step ahead of many of the cooler-tempered horses who were popular at the time. His big eyes and alert, intelligent appearance prompted Texas cutting horse legend Pat Patterson to tell Wilkinson that his horse "looked like a truck driver on bennies".

Dale Wilkinson eventually acquired sole ownership of Mr Gun Smoke. Prior to 1967 Mr Gun Smoke had bred only a handful of mares. As the handful of Gun Smoke sons and daughters began to trickle into the show arena, serious cow-horse breeders couldn't help but notice. Charlie Ward recognized an opportunity to introduce new blood into the West Coast cow-horse industry. He invited Dale to stand Mr Gun Smoke at the Doc Bar Ranch in 1975. He returned to Ohio as few other California breeders took advantage of the service. In 1978 Benny Guitron had begun to beat the drum about bringing the stallion back to the West Coast. Guitron found a receptive listener in California businessman Gary Wexler. Wexler approached Wilkinson and the men negotiated a deal that would install Mr Gun Smoke at GW's Futurity Farms. When he returned to California in 1979, it was to a far warmer reception than he had received the first time. Mr Gun Smoke was inducted into the Cow Horse Hall of Fame at the 1980 World Championship Snaffle Bit Futurity in Reno, Nevada. The great stallion was humanely put down due to failing health. It was 1983 and Mr Gun Smoke was 22.

Condensed from Legends, Volume 3. by Betsy Lynch

Results of the OFQHA 2007 Fall Horse Sale

Joy Sims reported that 40 horses went through the sale ring and 15 (37.5%) of those horses were no sales.

Quote of the Month

"Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway"

John Wayne

2008 OFQHA Schedule—All Events and Meetings*

January 6:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00 pm, Perry Twp. Fire House
February 23:	Meeting and Annual Awards Banquet, Perry Twp. Fire House
March 2:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00 pm, Perry Twp. Fire House
April 6:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00 pm, Perry Twp Fire House
May 17:	OFQHA Open Ranch Horse Show, Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds
May 18:	Roping Clinic (tentative)
June 21:	OFQHA Open Ranch Horse Show, Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds
June 22:	AQHA Versatility Ranch Horse Show (Pending AQHA Approval)
July 19:	OFQHA Open Ranch Horse Show, Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds
July 20:	Undecided. Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds
August 23:	OFQHA Open Ranch Horse Show, Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds
August 24:	Undecided. Guernsey Co. Fairgrounds
September 8:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00, Perry Twp. Firehouse
October 6:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00, Perry Twp. Firehouse
November 2:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00, Perry Twp. Firehouse
December 7:	OFQHA meeting, 4:00, Perry Twp. Firehouse

* Show dates are tentative and other dates/clinics/events will be added as determined.