

ABBE RANCH HORSE TRIALS XXXIV

in Larkspur, CO on June 27-28, 2009

Judges: Frances Cross, MA, Deeda Randle, WY, Suzanne Zimmer, CO
TD: Tom Ordway, ID

“It was fun to come to an old style horse trial”, said President of the Ground Jury Frances Cross of Massachusetts, as she prepared to fly home from Abbe Ranch on the last Sunday afternoon in June. Not just the official briefing, or the guided course walks, or the traditional sequence of tests make this backyard, mom-and-pop event nearly an anachronism. The mounted awards ceremony in show jumping attire and the victory gallop to march music also are endangered elsewhere. Despite the adherence to custom, organizer Susan Farmer prefers to keep it all low key and rural as well. And good changes are welcome: many riders walking the X-C course got their first glimpse of installed frangible pins on a Preliminary open oxer.

Nine states were represented among the riders, but Colorado continued to dominate winning the trophies and best ribbons. Six of the seven blue ribbons and seven of the eight perpetual trophies were won by riders who came from Colorado. An interesting situation developed at Training level, which ended with a three-way tie. All three horses had identical X-C scores. Two had identical elapsed times, better than the other time; and there is no rule to break such a tie, so the tie stood. A coin toss decided who got the trophy, but the loser got another trophy. Serendipity strikes again.

This year, late spring rains had Abbe Ranch as green as it ever is in June. All new construction for 2009 was finished in 2008, so there were no scars on the track for X-C. The weather was great, except for a windy start to dressage. EMTs were not very busy, but one broken leg from a fall had to be transported. 93 horses started.

RESULTS

OPEN PRELIMINARY (5 starters)

1	ENCHANTED	Kaitlynn Chambers	44.0 Joy Martin Farmer Trophy
2	TOP SECRET	Nicole Jones-Taylor	52.8
3	MOXIE II	Kelli Hicks	54.2

OPEN TRAINING (17)

1T	WINSTON XI	Mary Jane Hosch	31.0 Don Robinson Trophy
1T	CULCAIRN 14	Ashlyn Dorsey	31.0 Kirsten Gray (USPC) Trophy
3	BEST BLEND	Natalie Lewis	31.0

OPEN NOVICE A (19)

1	JUST WALTER	Allison Murphy	30.5
2	BAY WOLF	Nicole Jones-Taylor	34.0 Smokey (Jr) Trophy
3	PAWNEE	Sue Gaskill	38.5

OPEN NOVICE B (22)

1	ANDANTE'S SONG	Karen Paul	27.5 Nugget (Sr) Trophy, Nicodemus Trophy for N dressage
2	ZALIG	Cynthia Moore-West	31.0
3	ROSHAMBO	Bonnie Madine	33.0

OPEN BEGINNER NOVICE A (16)

1	MINT JULEP	Jessie Olsen	33.0 Spicey (Pony) Trophy
2	RIVER	Wendy Chase	35.5 Cindy Farmer (Horse) Trophy
3	RIO'S LAST PRAYER	Lisa Ross	40.5

OPEN BEGINNER NOVICE B (14)

1	DON'T TELL DADDY	Courtney Edwards	36.5
2	LAKOTA'S LILLY	Amy Gilbertson	39.4
3	PACA DESTINY	Katie Ryan	41.5