

Happy New Year ARCHA Members:

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and is staying warm during this cold winter. As we begin a new year, I would like to take the time to look back on 2016, and to share some insights about our exciting 2017 season.

As many of you know, 2016 was a tough year for us financially. We had a reduced number of shows and were saddled with high operating costs, both planned and unplanned. On a positive note we were actually up in runs per show, which is a great result despite the downturn in the economy. Thank you all for your support at our events.

The down turn made it a difficult year to bring in the sponsorship dollars required to maintain the way we have paid out Cowtown Derby and Alberta Snaffle Bit in the past. We did however, have great continued support from so many of our valuable sponsors, including **Back on Track**, who sponsored the Cowtown Derby, and our new major corporate sponsor, **Vetoquinol Zylkene**, who sponsored the Alberta Snaffle Bit Futurity.

Vetoquinol Zylkene has signed on until 2018 to be our major futurity sponsor and has been a true supporter of our association, especially with the addition of **Zylkene's Canada's Greatest Horseman** competition! This event was a huge success and has created a lot of buzz in the horse industry. Sponsors are a key to the success of this club, so let them know we appreciate them and please support them.

In 2016, we updated our website, and increased our advertising in order to attract more competitors and spectators. This was a success, as the numbers of entries per show increased, and we saw some competitors from Montana attend the Snaffle Bit Futurity.



WE WANT YOU

We lost a substantial amount of money in 2016 for to a variety of reasons so as we look forward to 2017, it is imperative that we make some changes to meet our financial goals and maintain the integrity of our club. We need more involvement from the membership to help the ARCHA continues to grow and to be a great place to show. We NEED your help! We need each of you to help to raise sponsorship money. This is not an easy job, but every dollar makes and difference and the board members are happy to help support you. We are ALL members, and without more sponsorship dollars in 2017, we will be forced to make significant reductions to the payouts of the major shows.

Our board consists of 12 volunteers who work hard to ensure the club runs smoothly and there are opportunities for all of us to show our horses. We need more volunteers to help in the following areas: putting up banners, cattle handling, practice pens, scribing and a variety of other opportunities. You will be surprised at what you learn and how good you feel when you help out.

If you have any fun suggestions like holding competitions between barns, or having trainers vs. non pro competition to raise money etc., please let us know.

On a positive note, the ARCHA is now qualified to have a Casino starting in the winter of 2018. Once we work the casino, the club will be able to use the money for a variety of things to help pay operating costs starting in 2019.

New for 2017

- You must attend a minimum of 6* shows to qualify for year-end awards (weekend shows count as 2 shows but the Fort Macleod schooling show is not included as it is a fun show with no points.)

The following are the class changes and additions for 2017

Cutting Classes

- Open Cutting -NCHA Rules
- Open Ranch*
- Non Pro –Ranch*
- 7500 Limit Novice NP Ranch*
- 1000 Limit*- used cattle
- Youth*
- * All ARCHA/NRCHA approved equipment will be allowed

Working Cow Horse and Rein Box Classes

- Select Non Pro 55 years age limit
- Step up Rein boxing

New and Exciting for 2017

- Non Pro Buckle Series will be offered for the weekend shows held in Claresholm
- Non Pro Series will be offered for the weekend shows in Ponoka. Prizes TBD
- Added additional shows in Ponoka on May 13 - 14, 2017
- Fort Macleod and will be holding our Roger Heinz Memorial Schooling show on April 8, 2017
- Daley Ranches are sponsoring Peter Swales Bridles as prizes (more information to come)
- A possibility of the new Claresholm arena for the Alberta Snaffle Bit Futurity. This will allow us to use the other arena to run our practice works.
- We are currently in talks with the Calgary Stampede to have a Qualifier at the July 8-9 Ponoka shows for the Novice Non Pro bridle horses show in Calgary but more information is coming so please stay posted.
- We look forward to your feedback and have a survey coming in the next week that we really hope you will fill out. Your voice is very important to us. We hope that as a member, you will step forward and help your club!

Lastly, have a great season enjoying your horse, renewing old friendships and making new friendships from the board members of the ARCHA.

Sincerely,

Robbie McKay, ARCHA President