



HEPPER & HEMPHILL  
WIN 2009 ALL LADIES  
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# ROPERS SPORTS NEWS

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## Colorado Couple Closes \$200,000 RRI Deal

By Kendra Santos

Special To Ropers Sports News

Jo Ann and Lory Merritt kept all the Reno Rodeo Invitational riches under one roof this year. The husband-and-wife team roped four steers in 38.30 seconds to cash the winning team's colossal \$200,000 RRI check.

Both stared at all the zeros on that once-in-a-lifetime check. But there are some sentiments even money can't buy.

"The first thing is not the money," Lory said. "Jo Ann and I have been best friends for 21 years. We've always encouraged each other. That's the big payoff for me. Don't get me wrong. I'm all over the money. But winning this thing together means a lot more to me than the money. When you believe in each other like we do, that's huge."

As was the load of prizes they hauled back to Eaton, Colo. In addition to their \$200,000 cash payoff, the Merritts also were awarded Cactus Saddles, Gist Buckles, D-Bar-M saddle pads, Resistol Hats and Maloy rope frames.

The 13th annual Reno Rodeo Invitational was held June 23 at the Reno Livestock Events Center, and the Merritts' margin of victory was more than five seconds over the 247-team field, which was led by 2009 RRI reserve titlists Ron Miller and Bert Bilby.

"I wanted to yell when I roped that last steer, but knew I needed to get dalled first," Lory Merritt said. "I'm in shock. I was confident because of Jo Ann. But this is amazing."

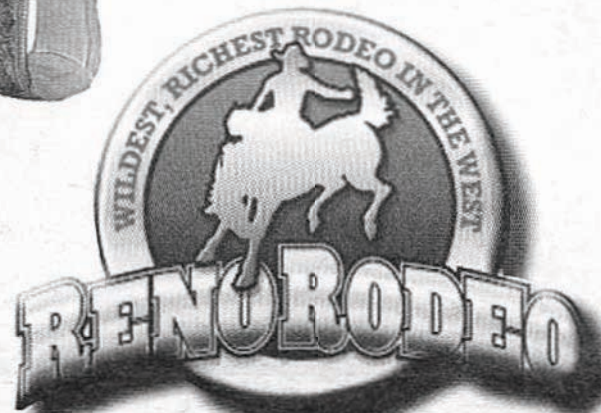
His better half was cool and calm riding in to rope that last one, thanks to an old, familiar feeling. "I've dreamed about being high call, and have roped that last steer here so many times in my mind," she said. "I'm always nervous on the first one here. I'm 42 years old, and

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Coloradans Jo Ann Merritt, left, and Lory Merritt, right, were congratulated by Teresa and Perry Di Loreto on their huge haul at this year's Reno Rodeo Invitational. In addition to their \$200,000 cash payoff, they were awarded Cactus Saddles, Gist Buckles, D-Bar-M saddle pads, Resistol Hats and Maloy rope frames. The Merritts also received the High Money AQHA-registered RRI Head and Heel Horse bronzes, which are crafted by Montana Silversmiths' Steve Miller.

Photo by Kirt Steinke



PacWest



Barrel Racing Association

By Noel Cosca

Special To Ropers Sports News

# LITTLE DAN DO IT Did It At PacWest Finals!

Ceres, CA

The PacWest Go for the Gold 2009 Finals Super Show awarded four new Titan Avalanche horse trailers at the Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, Calif., June 17-June 21. The PacWest Finals Open three day barrel race paid out \$71,877 with 1,063 competitive entries. In addition, the weekend featured a free members only timed run clinic with prominent barrel racing trainers, a Mem-bers Appreciation Day race with \$1,500-added jackpot, a free 2009 year-end awards barbeque dinner and party, a 2-day Go for the Gold Futurity, and was WPRA co-sanctioned. There was plenty of fun including great giveaways, singing, dancing and beautiful weather culminating in a terrific end to a tremendous first season for PacWest producers Bill Swenson and Will Sawyer.

The Hanford California cowgirl and barrel horse trainer Lyndee Stairs proved she can still do it! Winning the Open average riding her 16 hand, seven-year-old bay gelding, LITTLE DAN DO IT. Stairs admitted that she usually doesn't run for the average, but she wanted to support Will and Bill, owners of the PacWest, because they have supported the futurity races all year. Stairs added that



Trailer winners (left to right): Kelly Kutchera, 4D; Mary Jo Camera-Barker, 3D; Kathy McByrd, 2D; Lyndee Stairs 1D, and PacWest owner Will Sawyer.

Photo by ProSportsPix

her horse LITTLE DAN DO IT, is really growing up, and Stairs was going to give the beautiful new trailer she just won to her husband Lance for Father's Day. LITTLE DAN DO IT clocked a 16.351, the second fastest time of the weekend, and netted Stairs a hefty \$3,457 in weekend earnings. DAN is by RENE DAN JET by JET OF HONOR who has sired five NFR horses.

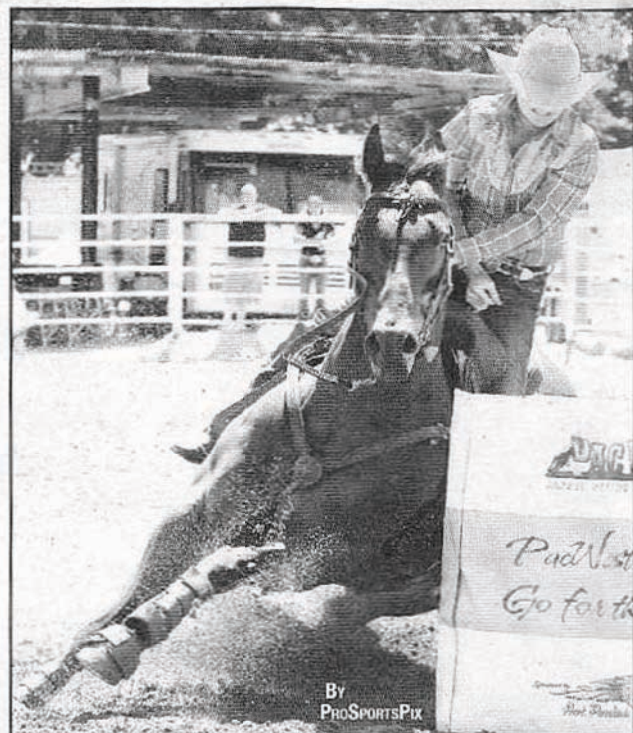
Winner of the 2D Open average and new horse trailer was

Kathy McByrd from Phelan, Calif., riding her 10-year-old mare ANGEL IN THE BAND, ANGEL for short. McByrd bought ANGEL as a four-year-old from Linda and Bobbie Adair, and had a great weekend at the PacWest. ANGEL is out of BAND OF AZURE and MISS SMOKIN'.

Oakdale cowgirl Mary Jo Camera-Barker was so excited to win the 3D average horse trailer on her baby

JOE DYNAMITE, aka COWBOY, her chestnut gelding just four years old that she has been training. JOE DYNAMITE is by LIVE DYNAMITE by PEPPY SAN BADGER and Great Grandson to MISS N CASH. Barker, known for her lively personality, was shocked to win a trailer on her horse's seventh run ever.

Kelly Kutchera was winner of the 4D average and horse trailer riding her six-year-old bay



Lyndee Stairs riding LITTLE DAN DO IT.

Photo by ProSportsPix

mare OH TALENTED STAR, aka TALENT by AR PROMISED STAR. Kelly hails from Brentwood, Calif., and has owned her horse for seven months and this is only her sixth race, and she is half sister to her other horse and this mare is from Ruth Haislip's breeding program. Kutchera, was stunned to win a trailer and said that her horse has heart and tries really hard. She wants to thank her mom and stepdad for buying the horse for her.

Opening ceremonies began Friday morning and the first go-round 1D was won with a 16.542 by Roxie Jimenez riding CANT TELL IT'S A SECRET.

Gayle Lewis won the 2D for riding TAKING ALL BETS. Cathy Vallerga riding CRAFTY C STARLIGHT won the 3D average and Noel Cosca riding CHEX OUT THIS WILLY won the 4D.

Alessandra Anton thrilled spectators when she stopped the clock with a 16.299 on Saturday's Open race, winning the 1D average and the fastest time of the finals. Anton was riding her seven-year-old mare SMOOTH AS FIREWATER, SMOOCHIE for short, who is by FIREWATER FLINT, which she

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FINALS On Page 52

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## FAST BACK FOCUS

With RYAN MOTES

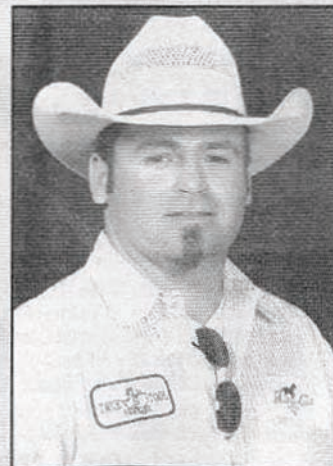
### Staying Focused

I've been asked to talk about how to stay focused during an all-day event like the Bob Feist Invitational or Reno's Richest Invitational. Events like these can be grueling because there's so much time between your runs.

Between runs I loosen the cinches on my saddle, take the splint boots off and give my horse a drink. Don't forget it's a long and tiring day for your horse too. Many people don't realize how hot splint boots are. If you have a little time between runs, it's always a good idea to take your splint boots off and shake any dirt out. Even a small break allows your horse's tendons to cool off.

The hour or so between runs is a good time to watch the barrier and cattle. Then about 20 or 30 teams before I run my next steer, I get my horse ready and warm up just like I'm at a one-head rodeo. It's like getting ready for a one-header - six different times.

It's especially important not to get caught up in what other teams are doing. Stick to your game plan and go make the best run you can on the steers you draw.





WTRA Current Standings

# Season Ends On Labor Day

661-822-5577.

**2009 WTRA Standings**  
(As of July 10, 2009)

**A LEAGUE:**

- 1st ..... Barbara Kenney
- 2nd ..... Lisa Duncan
- 3rd ..... Karen Dias
- 4th ..... Madison Anderson
- 5th ..... Sara Stark
- 6th ..... Oscie Barnish
- 7th ..... Tracy Callahan
- 8th ..... Valerie Criner
- 9th ..... Jenna McCarthy

10th ..... Donna Mahoney

**B LEAGUE:**

- 1st ..... Danell Daniel
- 2nd ..... Karen Deller
- 3rd ..... Sally DeMaria
- 4th ..... Stacey Brooks
- 5th ..... Wendy Frazier
- 6th ..... Lorilee Niesen
- 7th ..... Casey Brooks
- 8th ..... Gayle McCarthy

**C LEAGUE:**

- 1st ..... Jane Peltzer
- 2nd ..... Audrey Cline
- 3rd ..... Mandi Mahoney
- 4th ..... Kate Hart
- 5th ..... Pat Block
- 6th ..... Kristi Baker
- 7th ..... Rachel McCarthy

**HEELING:**

- 1st ..... Oscie Barnish
- 2nd ..... Tracy Callahan
- 3rd ..... Stacey Brooks
- 4th ..... Wendy Frazier
- 5th ..... Lorilee Niesen
- 6th ..... Danell Daniel
- 7th ..... Sara Stark
- 8th ..... Kate Hart
- 9th ..... Jenna McCarthy
- 10th ..... Pat Block
- 11th ..... Ashley Williams
- 12th ..... Audrey Cline
- 13th ..... Karen Dias
- 14th ..... Rachel McCarthy

**ROOKIE:**

- 1st ..... Ashley Williams
- 2nd ..... Diane Schletz
- 3rd ..... Sherri Burns

WTRA is an association open to female residents of California. Membership dues are \$60 and any officer or director would be happy to help you join and answer any questions or you can call WTRA President, Donna Mahoney, 707-275-2580 or Vice-President, Pat Block at

**Ropers Sports News Deadline For SEPTEMBER is AUGUST 10!**

## PacWest Finals... From Page 50

has been training with the help of Cathy Vallerga. Candace Zappetini on RYANS ROYAL GLORY won the 2D. Caitlin Koss took the 3D riding CRUISE N KINDA GUY and the 4D average went to Susan Van Galder on SAVANNAHS SHOWDOWN.

Stacy Freitas claimed her share of the money winning the 1D average on Sunday's Open when she raced home stopping the clock with a 16.385 riding her bay horse LENAS SWEET JALAPENA. Taking the win in the 2D average was Amanda Stallins on TIVIOS CUSTOM GAGE. Wild CHERRY CHIEF had a great run with Kelly Harmon aboard and won the 3D average. Samantha McCarley clocked an 18.386 to win the 4D average riding WINZ PROMISSORY NOTE.

the average. Will Sawyer was third in the 2D Futurity average riding LITTLE FAMOUS AMOS placing second in the 2D first round, fourth in the 2D second round netting him \$311.

The 1D Amateur average went to Amy Von riding RIO, 2D average was Donna Cohn riding SMOKEN RENEGADE, 3D average Donna Cohn again riding LEAN TO ME, and 4D average Sarah Hambly riding LENAPAH LINDA.

The Youth average 1D went to 16-year-old Nicole Riggie who traveled to the finals from Woodinville, Wash. Riggie was riding CHEYS TUCKER DESIRE who's breeding is RYAN TUCKER out of DOC TOM TUCKER, a 13-year-old bay mare she trained. The 2D average was won by Brittani Sisco on RJ, the 3D average went to Kaitlyn Wiggin riding DASH FOR PERRY by PRETTY BOY PERRY by DASH FOR CASH a six-year old-sorrel gelding started by Jamie Cook, and the 4D average buckle went to Leigh Anne Suder riding MEET THE COLONEL.

The Masters average buckle went to Lyndee Stairs riding LITTLE DAN DO IT, 2D average Masters buckle went to Kathy McByrd riding ANGEL IN THE BAND, the 3D average buckle went to June Prater riding TISA STORMY BOY and the 4D average went to Rose McCarley riding WARBAM SHOWDOWN.

To wrap up the 2009 year-end champions and awards the PacWest put on a wonderful barbecue, free to all members on Thursday evening. Pac West would like to thank their great sponsors LubriSyn, Bar F Equine Products, Hot Ponies, Showtime Awards, Bit N Spur, Sharon Camarillo, Sirona IonX, Silver Lining Herbs, Pro Sports Pix, Jub Little Ranch, Rejuv Gelz, Titan Avalanche Trailers and PDO Equipment. There was music, dancing and karaoke.

See results and standings on our website [www.pacwest-barrelracing.com](http://www.pacwest-barrelracing.com).

The Go For The Gold two day futurity was handily won by David Lawson of Penngrove, Calif., riding PAY CZECH, PC for short is a four-year-old black gelding he has been training four months and had only been to eight races. PC is by CORONA CHIEF by a MERRIDOC mare and owned by Steve Youngblood from Dallas, Oregon. Everyone lined the arena fence to watch the PacWest Futurity and they were not disappointed as Lawson turned in a snappy run of 16.965 on Saturday and then repeated the performance running a 16.920 on Sunday netting him \$933. "PC is coming along steadily," Lawson remarked, and after winning the Futurity Championship Finals buckle he said "the PacWest payouts are good. They really work hard to make it a good race and they are contestant centered." Lawson trains barrel horses and placed 9th in the 1D Open average on his second horse ROSEBUDS JET by RENE DAN JET.

The 2D Futurity average Champion buckle winner was won by Tina Garcia riding HALEYS LAST VICTORY, VICTOR for short. Her round one run clocked an 18.548 and then she bettered her time in round two with a 17.903 paying \$249 in



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**BODY: (bod-ee) noun**

- 1 The physical structure and material substance of an object.
- 2 Density; richness; substance.

**BODY: (bod-ee) noun**

- 1 To furnish with or to produce a definite shape; to embody.
- 2 To give form or shape to.





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