

AQHA REGIONAL EXPERIENCE ANNOUNCER'S GUIDE

FRONT PAGE

GENERAL WELCOME TO USE EACH DAY

SECTION 1

THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES

(Copy this page for each day your event is held)

SECTION 2

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECTION 3

AQHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 4

WHAT IS THIS CLASS AND HOW IS IT JUDGED?

[Insert date here]

Welcome and Opening Statements:

Good morning/afternoon. I'm [announcer name]. Welcome to the American Quarter Horse Region [#] Experience. Region [#] consists of [list states/provinces]. These uniquely-designed Regional Experiences incorporate AQHA's team of corporate partners providing trade shows, Professional Horsemen clinics, test rides, judging sessions and educational seminars, all designed around a fun and relaxed AQHA competition.

Let's get ready for today's classes that will be:

[list of classes held that day]

Let's get started with our first class

Class Announcement Procedure

Class introduction - please include name of horse, exhibitor and owner in all introductions using terminology appropriate for each class. Below are samples.

Barrel racing example - "Now exhibiting is 5th in the working order, Ima Fine Dancer, exhibited by Joe Jones and owned by Sally Smith. Next to go will be Number 1410, followed by Number 2100."

Over fences example - "Now on course is 5th in the working order, Ima Fine Dancer, exhibited by Joe Jones and owned by Sally Smith. Next to go will be Number 1410, followed by Number 2100."

Reining example - "Now exhibiting is 5th in the working order, Ima Fine Dancer, exhibited by Joe Jones and owned by Sally Smith. Next to go will be Number 1410, followed by Number 2100."

Tips:

- Give three calls on the barn mike for each class
- Explain class rules prior to each class
- Announce the judges for each class
- For all final placings, announce horse's name, sire, dam [if available], owner and owner's hometown and state, then rider/exhibitor and breeder of horse [if available]. Draw additional information from bio card.

READ IN CASE AN ANIMAL IS INJURED

As in any sporting event, injuries can sometimes occur to both rider and animal. AQHA is concerned about all participants at the AQHA Regional Experience and all injured animals will be immediately examined by a qualified veterinarian and receive proper treatment.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

[list everyone you may need to contact during your Regional Experience]

Name	Telephone Number

DAILY ACTIVITIES

[list seminars, trade show hours and other activities] *(Insert the day and date - Friday, February 10, 2007)*

Type of activity	Location	Time of activity

You may use these PSAs more than the required number below to fill space as needed.

SPONSORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

[please announce between classes as time allows to give proper sponsor recognition]

Show announcements - [information about other activities taking place]

Test Ride	1	2	3
** Affiliate Booth	1	2	3
Ask The Judge	1	2	3
Social Event	1	2	3
AQHA Executive Committee	ANNOUNCE AS NEEDED		
AQHA Class Descriptions	ANNOUNCE AS NEEDED		

***PSAs for any affiliate booth are not included in this guide and must be provided by the affiliate.*

GIVEAWAYS & SPECIAL SOCIALS

Today at _____ visit the Trade Show for a _____
_____. Tomorrow at _____

_____. Whatever your interest, these activities are guaranteed to be plenty of fun! Don't forget, you only have __ days left to sign up for these great prizes!

- A vacation to the 2007 World Championship Show where each winner will be in a drawing for an Exiss XT300 Horse Trailer
- A gift basket from Farnam
- A free gift from Nutrena
- A custom Innovator Rewards vest from Fort Dodge
- A pair of Justin Boots from the AQHA Collection
- An AQHA logo Saddle Pad from Professional's Choice

Visit these vendors today if you haven't signed up to win these great prizes.

ASK THE JUDGE

During the Region _____ Experience, you have the opportunity to ask an AQHA-approved Judge anything you want! _____ from _____ will be in the audience throughout the weekend to discuss the classes with you. Today, _____ is located _____. Thank you very much _____ for sharing your insight with us this weekend.

RIDE AN AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE

Join us _____ (time and dates) for your opportunity to test ride an American Quarter Horse at the Region _____ Experience. Over at the Nutrena Test Ride Arena, you will be introduced to an American Quarter Horse and have your opportunity to ride at your leisure in the arena. As an added bonus, be one of the first 100 test riders and you'll take home a free T-shirt from Nutrena! Don't miss this unique opportunity to take your test ride this weekend at the Region _____ Experience.

AQHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

[Proper transition into Introductions - "We are very excited to have with us members of AQHA's Executive Committee who have been a huge support to the Regional Experience. Let me introduce...]

FRANK MERRILL - PRESIDENT

Frank Merrill has been involved in the American Quarter Horse industry for more than 40 years. With his wife, Robin, the Merrills operated Windward Stud Ltd. in Purcell, Oklahoma, until October 2006 when the ranch sold. Currently, Merrill serves as CO-CEO of Cowan Select Horses LLC at Windward Stud Ltd.



He has bred, owned and raised American Quarter Horse world, and stakes champions and has participated in almost every AQHA discipline including racing, halter, roping, cutting, reining and other western and English events. The Merrill's mare Holme Maid placed third in the All American Futurity in 1978, and his accomplishments also include multiple championships in the National Cutting Horse Association.

During his tenure on AQHA's Board of Directors, Frank has served on the Stud Book and Registration Committee, Racing Committee and Racing Council, Show and Contest Committee, Public Information Committee and Public Policy Council. He also served on the Nominations and Credentials Committee, and on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

In addition, Frank owned and exhibited two American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame horses, Miss Jim 45 and Royal Santana.

Frank and Robin have three children: Tyler who works for Western States Ranches in Dublin, Texas, and Megan and McKenzie both live in Weatherford, Texas.

KEN MUMY - FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Mumy lives in Metamora, Michigan, and have been actively involved with American Quarter Horses and AQHA for more than 35 years. An AQHA member for more than 30 years, Ken graduated from Michigan State University. He met Maryellen at MSU in 1967 when he was chairman of the Block and Bridle Horse Show. Ken has a primary interest in cutting, showing and recreational riding. Ken and Maryellen attended the first AQHA World Championship Show. Maryellen also won a class at the second All-American Quarter Horse Congress on a horse they bred and raised. Ken and Maryellen have been active in the Michigan Quarter Horse Association for more than 40 years.



Ken has served as an AQHA Director since 1996 and was appointed to the membership committee in 1992, serving as the vice chair from 2000 to 2003 and chairman from 2003 to 2004. He also served on the Hall of Fame committee and the governance task force and was a founding member of the Affiliate Council.

Ken is the owner of a specialized environmental consulting firm and serves national and internationally based certification clients in the United States, Mexico England and Canada. Ken and Maryellen have three children. Lisa Smith and her husband, Todd, live in Holly, Michigan with new daughter Bella; daughter Michelle Sierakowski and her husband, Tom, reside in Hadley, Michigan, with their daughter, Kaitlyn and son Mathew; and son Kenneth Cameron “K.C.” Mumy is a senior at Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan.

JIM HELZER - SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Helzer is CEO and President of JEH Stallion Station, JMH Investments, The Helzer Company, JEH Company, JEH Leasing Company Inc., JEH Pipeline Company Inc., and Helzer and Helzer Company Inc.. JEH Stallion Station is a commercial horse breeding operation and the other companies are real estate and investment companies.



With his wife Marilyn, he established JEH Stallion Station in 1994 and it has become one of the leading equine facilities in the southwest.

Born in Loveland, Colorado, Jim Helzer began racing American Quarter Horses in Colorado in his home state in 1962. Since then, the Helzers have successfully raced Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds throughout the U.S.

The most noteworthy Quarter Horse campaigned by the Helzers was Refrigerator, the sport's world champion in 1992 and '93. The winner of the 1990 All American futurity (GI) after the Helzers supplemented him to the race for \$50,000, Refrigerator is currently Quarter Horse racing's leading all-time money earner at \$2,126,309. He is the only three-time winner of the Grade 1 Champion of Champions, the sports richest and most prestigious race for older horses.

Helzer has been an AQHA Director and chairman of the AQHA Racing Council. He also is a member and past president of the Texas Quarter Horse Association and a member and past director of the Texas Thoroughbred Association. Currently, Helzer also serves on the board of the Texas Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association as its president and as a member of the Texas Horsemen's Partnership management committee.

JOHANNES ORGELDINGER - MEMBER

Johannes Orgeldinger of Grosswallstadt, Germany, is a 20-year breeder and the first person from outside the United States to serve on the executive committee.



Johannes and his wife Astrid own and operate a gravel and stone company and JOMM Ranches in Grosswallstadt, Germany, as well as Main River Quarter Horses in Gainesville, Texas. At their JOMM ranch, they own about 70 American Quarter Horses, including his stallion Fritz Power, a remarkable 22-year-old buckskin stallion that was tremendously successful in the show arena and is now an equally successful sire.

Johannes bought his first American Quarter Horse in 1979 and has been involved in the industry ever since. He has earned championships in German and European competition in western pleasure, trail and cutting.

Johannes became an equally successful breeder. At their JOMM Ranch, Johannes and Astrid breed and raise all-around horses as well as reining horses. Johannes was named DQHA Leading Breeder for 10 years and was Champion of Champions six times. He was key in organizing and conducting one of the largest AQHA-approved shows in Europe since 1986 and has hosted AQHA judging seminars since 1983.

At his Main River Ranch in Gainesville, Texas, Johannes and Astrid breed cutting and reining horses.

Johannes has served on the Affiliate Council, Stud Book & Registration and International Committees. Johannes also serves as the Discipline Manager of Reining for the 2006 World Equestrian Games.

DICK MONAHAN - NEW MEMBER

The AQHA board of directors elected Dick Monahan of Walla Walla, Washington, as the newest member of the AQHA Executive Committee.

Monahan is a practicing lawyer and has been heavily involved in racing horses and promoting racing in the Northwest. After serving twenty (20) years as an AQHA director from Washington, he is currently an AQHA Director at Large. Monahan has served the past two years as chair of the racing committee and Racing Council, has served on the Hall of Fame Committee, and has chaired the nominations and credentials committee. Monahan and his wife, Brenda, have raised and raced American Quarter Horses for more than 30 years.

Monahan has two married daughters, Bridie who practices law with her father and Casey who is head of the English Department at Walla Walla High School. He has four grandchildren. As a youngster, daughter Bridie Hood campaigned American Quarter Horses in AQHA shows.

The Monahans have owned numerous broodmares and running horses to include Movin Niner, multiple derby and stake winner, and Silk and Sassy, who is the 38th all-time leading AQHA broodmare by winners.

Monahan played football for the University of Idaho, where he received bachelor's degree before graduating from the University of Idaho law school.

WHAT IS THIS CLASS, AND HOW IS IT JUDGED?

[All these classes listed below are in ALPHABETICAL ORDER. When referencing a class use the first PSA's to describe the difference between placed, scored and timed classes.]

PLACED CLASSES

In classes that are placed, a computer converts the judges' scores into numerical values. The high and low values are eliminated, and the remaining numerical values are added to determine the class results.

Equitation Over Fences

Equitation over fences, designed for amateur and youth competitors, tests the rider's seat, hands and ability to control and show a horse jumping over fences. The course is similar to the working hunter class in that riders can be judged on their ability to establish an even hunting pace. Judges evaluate the methods used by the rider and the effectiveness of the rider in properly influencing the horse.

Halter

The purpose of this class is to preserve American Quarter Horse type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. Classes are divided by the horse's age and sex.

Hunter Under Saddle

Hunter under saddle is the preliminary class for English riding disciplines, and judges evaluate the way of going of a hunter-type horse on the flat, at a walk, trot and canter. Exhibitors in this event must wear traditional English attire consisting of a hunt coat, breeches, high English boots and hunting cap. Horses circle the perimeter of the arena, performing each gait called at the judge's discretion.

Pleasure Driving

This class exhibits the horse's diversity while harnessed to a two-wheeled cart and exhibited at the walk, park gait and road gait in both directions. Judges look for horses that are a pleasure to drive, with maximum credit given to the horse that moves straight, with free movement, good manners and a bright expression. Pleasure driving horses should carry themselves in a natural, balanced position with a relaxed head and neck.

Showmanship at Halter

A class open only to amateur and youth exhibitors, showmanship focuses on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. Judges evaluate the grooming and fitting of the horse and the expertise of the exhibitor in presenting the horse to the best of his or her ability.

Trail

Trail horses must be accomplished in numerous obstacles such as passing through gates and crossing bridges. Judges focus on the skill of the horse to handle certain situations that might occur on an outdoor trail ride. Scoring is based on the horse's willingness, ease and grace in negotiating the course.

Western Pleasure

Western pleasure remains one of the most popular classes. Top western pleasure horses should be as the name implies – a pleasure to ride. Contestants compete simultaneously, traveling around the perimeter of the arena. Horses are judged on free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with their conformation.

Working Hunter

Working Hunter consists of a minimum of four obstacles that simulate obstacles found in a hunting field: fences, brush and walls. Obstacles can range in height from 3 feet to 3 feet 9 inches. The horse is required to make at least eight jumps. Manners, style of jumping, flow of strides and balance are all considered when marking a score.

Green Working Hunter

Green working hunter, is designed for horses in their first year of showing over fences and those that have not earned more than 10 AQHA points in working hunter or jumping. Rules governing this class are the same as working hunter, with horses required to jump a series of obstacles. However, the fence height requirement is 2 feet 9 inches to 3 feet. Horses are judged for their manners, way of going and style over fences.

SCORED CLASSES

In scored classes, the high and low scores are discarded, and the remaining three scores are added. Scores in scored classes are unofficial until judges' score sheets are verified.

Cutting

Cutting is a battle of wills between a horse and a cow. Horse and rider must move quietly into a herd of cattle, cut one animal from the herd, drive it to the center of the arena and hold it away from the herd. Judges score horses on their ability to keep the cow from returning to the herd, cow sense, attentiveness and courage. Contestants can cut up to three head of cattle in the 2.5-minute time limit.

Dally Team Roping – Heading and Heeling

Dally team roping is an event where two riders and their horses are judged on the horses' ability to position their riders to catch a steer. One rider must catch the horns of the steer (heading) and the other rider must catch the hind legs (heeling). Only one horse is judged in a class. Both the header and heeler are permitted to throw two loops within a one-minute time limit after the steer is released.

The header must catch the steer either by the horns, a half-head, or around the neck, and then dally (wrap the rope around the saddle horn). Once the steer is caught, the heading horse must set and turn the steer at a 90-degree angle and pull the steer across the pen, allowing the heeler to catch the hind legs. Once the heeler catches, the heading horse must turn and face the steer, keeping the rope taut.

Hunter Hack

Hunter hack is the transitional English class between hunter under saddle and working hunter. It requires a horse to move freely and easily while jumping small fences.

Horses are required to jump two fences ranging in height from 2 feet 3 inches to 3 feet. After completing the jumps, the horses are then shown at a walk, trot and canter along the rail in both directions. Horses are judged on manners and way of going, both on the flat and over fences.

Hunt Seat Equitation

Hunt seat equitation is an English class open only to amateur and youth contestants. Hunt seat equitation evaluates the rider, not the performance of the horse.

Individually, contestants must work a predetermined pattern consisting of maneuvers such as changing gaits (walk, trot, canter), traveling in a figure-eight pattern and backing up.

Top riders return to the arena as a group and are judged on the rail, performing gait changes at the judge's discretion. Emphasis is placed on the rider's ability to sit in the saddle correctly, hold the correct riding posture and control the horse.

Reining

The easiest way to understand reining is to compare it to figure skating. While all reining patterns include stops, spins, rollbacks and lead changes, each horse is evaluated on movement, mastery of the pattern and attitude. There are 11 AQHA-approved reining patterns that challenge each rider to guide and control every movement of the horse.

Tie-Down Roping

During competition, the horse and rider must stay behind a barrier while a calf is let out of a chute, giving the calf a head start. Once the calf is released, the horse must rate to the speed of the calf and position the rider where he or she can throw a loop to catch the calf. Tie-down roping is judged on how quiet the horse is in the box; how well the horse runs to the calf, rates its speed and positions the rider; how well the horse stops; and how well the horse works the end of the rope, keeping slack out of the rope without dragging the calf.

Western Horsemanship

Western horsemanship is a class open only to amateur and youth riders and is judged on the horsemanship abilities of the rider using western tack. This class is divided into two sections.

Individually, riders must first follow a prescribed pattern. Riders could be asked to walk, jog or lope their horses in a straight line, curve or any combination.

Finalists from the first portion of the class are then asked back into the arena as a group to show their horses around the perimeter of the arena, or "on the rail." Judges pay close attention to the riders' body positions, how they sit a saddle and their ability to control the horse.

Western Riding

Following a pattern laid out by colored cones, western riding horses are evaluated on precise lead changes using both hind and front legs. Horses must also change gaits – from a walk to a jog to a lope. There are four different AQHA-approved western riding patterns that can be rotated throughout a show.

Working Cow Horse

Combining reining ability and cow sense, the working cow horse class tests a horse's skills that are applicable to ranch work. The competition consists of two parts: reined work, or "dry work," consisting of a reining pattern, and actual cow work, or "fence work." In the reining portion of the event, the horse follows one of eight AQHA-approved patterns where changes of gait, spins and sliding stops are required.

In the cow work portion, a lone cow is turned into the arena where the horse must hold the cow at the end of the arena. The horse must also drive the cow down the arena fence, turning it both directions. Finally, the horse must move the cow into the center of the arena, circling it both directions.

Judging is based on good manners, smoothness, cow sense and ease of reining.

TIMED CLASSES

Timed classes are placed according to the run with the best (or fastest) time.

Barrel Racing

Exhibitors race against the clock, following a course consisting of three barrels in a triangular “cloverleaf” pattern, starting on either side. Barrels are permitted to be touched, but if one is knocked down during the course of the run, a five-second penalty per downed barrel is added.

Breakaway Roping

Breakaway roping is a timed competition, similar to tie-down roping, for amateur and youth contestants. The rope is not tied to the saddle horn as in tie-down, but is attached with a heavy string so it breaks when a catch is made. A legal catch is a clean loop, passing over the calf's head that causes this string to break away from the saddle horn.

Jumping

Jumping courses consist of at least four obstacles, and horses are required to make a minimum of eight jumps. The maximum height of the obstacles in the first go-round is 4 feet for open and 3 feet 6 inches for amateur and youth. Scores are based on time and penalty faults. Faults are assessed when a horse refuses to jump, knocks down an obstacle, or causes an obstacle to be knocked down by bumping or touching it. Failure to complete the course, whether by the rider falling off or the horse falling, results in an automatic disqualification.

Pole Bending

In Pole Bending, six poles are spaced 21 feet apart. Competitors run at a high rate of speed to the end of the poles, turn, and weave their way back to the front; then turning around the front pole, they weave back to the far end. Horses turn back “home” and race toward the finish line. A five-second penalty is added for each pole knocked down.

Team Penning

As the name implies, a team of three riders must sort three identified head of cattle from a herd and then pen them at the other end of the arena. Time continues until all unpenning cattle are completely on the cattle side of the starting line, with a 90-second time limit.