



Countdown to NRBC - One Week 'Til First Horse Enters Arena!

Cottonwood Springs Ranch Enrolls First Foal of 2010!

For reining, the National Reining Breeders Classic is definitely the place to be, but to be eligible to win any of the more than \$1 million given away, horses must be enrolled in the program.

To enroll a foal in the NRBC, the fee is \$200 until September 15 of the horse's birth year. Those missing the September 15 deadline must then pay \$250 by December 31. The cost increases to \$2,500 during the horse's yearling year, \$7,500 as a 2-year-old and \$10,000 as a 3-year-old.

It's understandable then why breeders and foal owners try to sign up their foals as quickly as possible, and in 2010, Cottonwood Springs Ranch of Bayfield, Colorado, has the distinction of being the first to enroll a foal.

Arriving in early March in the NRBC Office in Byars, Oklahoma, was the enrollment form for a colt by Gunner (Colonels Smoking Gun) and out of Shiney Lena Sue, a full sister to 2003 NRBC Open Derby Reserve Champion Shiners Lena Doc.

"We were so thrilled to hear this was the first foal enrolled in the NRBC because we just love this baby and really excited about him," said Floyd Miller, who owns Cottonwood Springs Ranch with partner Michael Moynihan, and daughter Lehua Miller. "With his pedigree, we think he's going to be great."

The sorrel colt, who was born February 3, has Gunner's trademark bald face and blue eyes. But what's really unique are the white lightning bolt-like marks running down his leg from his hip to his hoof.

"He looks like he's got superpower, like he's a super hero," Miller said with a laugh. "It's funny with the Gunners, it's kind of like waiting to see what kind of prize you get out of a Crackerjack box. They are always such visual treats."

The colt's registration papers have been submitted to the American Quarter Horse Association and the American Paint Horse Association and Miller said they are hoping to get the name Sir Spinsalot approved for him.

Gunner, who just became a National Reining Horse Association \$2 Million Sire, is owned by Tim and Colleen McQuay of Tioga, Texas. He sired the 2009 NRHA Futurity Open Champion Gunnatrashya. Miller and Moynihan chose the flashy stallion for Shiney Lena Sue because they thought it would be a good cross for a reining horse.

"His mother is the full sister to Carol Rose's Shiners Lena Doc and A Shiner Named Sioux, and because both brothers have phenomenal reining skills and records, we thought Gunner was the right horse to breed her to," Miller said. "I wanted a super star reining stallion, and with Shiney Lena Sue and Gunner, this colt has got a really great heritage and a chance to be that super star."

The many foals born at the Cottonwood Springs Ranch each year are always enrolled in the NRBC.

"It's something well worth doing," Miller said. "Of course it gives that foal the ability to enter the NRBC later in life, but it also supports the industry and the event."

And with one of the deepest payouts of any reining show, why wouldn't a breeder or owner enroll their foal in the NRBC, he added.

"The NRBC is one of those unique shows that really crosses over from being a horse show to a horse event. It's one of the best managed shows out there that really delivers entertainment value along with the horse show. The NRBC not only pays deep for the participants, it pays off for the spectators. It delivers a great event for everyone."

The National Reining Breeders Classic is the most successful stallion incentive program in reining history. In just twelve years, the NRBC has grown to include upwards of 275 subscribed stallions and in 2009, there were over 2,800 enrolled foals. Annually, the payout at the National Reining Breeders Classic exceeds \$1.25 million. For information on the NRBC, visit the web site at www.nrbc.com or call 580-759-3939.

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The address to send the banner is:

Great Southwest Equestrian Center
NRBC c/o Kevin Howell
2501 S Mason Rd
Katy, TX 77450-1770

If you have any questions, please call Savannah Howell at the NRBC Office at 580-759-3939. Thank you!