



August 2020

Dear Golden State Membership,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Golden State Versatility Ranch Horse Association newsletter. Our intent is to remain connected with our membership during this trying time, and to build greater communication and connectedness going forward.

In this edition, you'll find information regarding the October Vegas VRH Celebration, and the Second Annual Ranch Riding Freestyle competition to be held there. Also, we are highlighting the new Limited Open Division, important changes to the web site for our members, the Paso Pastures Playoff in September, and, to get our competitive juices flowing, a 'Quote of the Month' from none other than former UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

This is your newsletter for you. Please let us know what you would like to see in it. Information about shows? Rules? Individuals? What judges look for? Please give us your ideas. At this time, it's undecided how often we will publish, but know that your needs will drive our energies! Contact President Kathy Torres ([kttraining@toast.com](mailto:kttraining@toast.com)) or newsletter editor Dawn Poston ([JumperDawn@aol.com](mailto:JumperDawn@aol.com)) with your ideas and needs.

Ride clean, ride fast.

Dawn

Dawn Poston, Editor



Spring at the Abel Ranch

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that WSVRHA officially plans to open a new "Limited Open" subdivision (for points and year end awards) in 2021? GSVRHA has already unofficially opened that subdivision, and will continue to do so with any show managers who are willing. Limited Open is a great opportunity for open riders, new to versatility, to compete against each other and learn. This is the perfect spot for trainers from other disciplines, trainers new to our discipline, or employees of trainers who ride outside horses and give lessons. Limited Open riders will ride in the Open division and have all the same requirements of any open rider. However, they also have the opportunity to walk away with limited open prizes and points. Tell your friends that match the description of a Limited Open rider to try their hand at Ranch Horse Versatility!

Official criteria for Limited Open Riders: *This sub-division applies only to exhibitors entered in all-around competition. To be eligible for this division, upon entering the first competition, the exhibitor must not have earned any total all-around points in any ranch horse versatility competitions involving cattle. In addition, riders must not have earned more than \$5,000.00 in any sanctioned cutting, reining, or reined cow horse competition. Limited Open riders may ride any horse and remain in this subdivision until they achieve the points or money earnings that would end their eligibility as Limited Open riders. Riders that earn points or exceed the dollar earnings are allowed to remain in this subdivision to complete a full point year.*



The very first Limited Open subdivision was held at the Mankins Performance Horses Fall Harvest Show, November 2019. Pictured above is winner Erin Corey, on Vicki Amon-Higa's good gelding Jack Jack.

## GSVRHA Website Provides New Services to Members

Gone are the days when competitors searched all over the web and Facebook to find needed show information! Our website will be updated soon - all show info such as flyers/entry forms, schedules, draws, patterns, last minute information, etc. all will be found under "Calendar & Show Info" tab. It is our hope to provide "one stop shopping" for our membership. If you haven't visited the web site lately, make it a practice to come by and visit often. (Show managers may still post information on their web sites, Facebook, or through emails.) <https://gsvrha.org/>

## Viva Las Vegas! Versatility Ranch Horse Celebration

We may not have been able to have many shows this year but we plan to end 2020 with a doozy. Western States Versatility Ranch Horse Association, and its affiliates, will be returning to Horsemen's Park in sunny Las Vegas, Nevada on October 22-25, 2020 for four days of fun and great competition. There will be two complete Western States VRH, AQHA, and Ranching Heritage qualifier shows.

Besides the standard ranch horse competition, there will be a Ranch Riding Freestyle event (see following), Barrel Racing, a Pizza Party hosted by Golden State, and other fun social events. (Last year there was an impromptu and highly competitive dog race in the main arena--tune up your dogs, it's likely to be held again!) Rumor has it that WS is planning even more fabulous award prizes than in the past. You need to be there!

Stay tuned as entry details and information will soon be on the Western States web site (<http://wsvrha.com>) and the Golden State web site (<https://gsvrha.org/>). Pictured above are Dawn Poston and Fred at Horseman's Park.



## Ranch Riding Freestyle Returns to Las Vegas



Dwight Bilyk (shown here) won it going away with his beautiful and evocative ride to the Eagles "Desperado" on Jaw Smart Lena Steel, aka Mr. Steel.

Guidelines for Ranch Riding: *Riders are required to design their own pattern and must provide a sketch with gaits, maneuvers, and transitions for the judge. The pattern must include walk, trot and lope in both directions and extension of the trot and lope in at least one direction; a square stop and back up. Creativity, quality of transitions, change of direction, a forward "ranchy" way of going given consideration when judged. Patterns should be between 2-3 minutes in duration. Costumes are required and music is optional but strongly encouraged. Competitors are responsible for providing their own music selection to the announcer, cued and ready to play prior to their go.*

Get your music and costume ready for the Second Annual Ranch Riding Freestyle event to be held October 23 at the Vegas Ranch Horse Celebration at Horseman's Park, Las Vegas, Nevada. Youth riders are encouraged to enter! They will compete right along with the Open but will have separate placings and prizes.

Last year's event was a huge success with both the competitors and the spectators. Held in the balmy evening,



## Spotlight on Shows: Paso Pastures Playoff



Golden State is very grateful to Paso Robles Pastures owner Vanessa Lawrence who kindly stepped up to provide her family ranch for a September 5-6, 2020 GSVRHA show. If you haven't shown at Paso Robles Pastures, mark your calendar, fill out your entry, and plan to attend. It's a fabulous venue. The ranch is efficient in its layout, with everything close at hand. It's smack dab in the middle of the wine country, with a beautiful rolling hills view to the Southeast. Both the cutting and the main pens have excellent footing and good fences. The knoll above the pens provides an excellent place to sit down and watch either pen at the same time! Bring a chair or sit on the hillside.

The flyer and entry information can be found at <https://gsvrha.org/>. With experienced clinicians like Brandon Staebler and Ryan Smit, the Saturday Cow Horse, Reining & Roping clinics are bound to be first rate. The show will begin Saturday at 5:00 pm with Ranch Trail, judged by Patty Knudsen. Ranch Riding, Ranch Cutting, Ranch Reining and Ranch Cow Work will be judged by Brandon Staebler on Sunday. Covid protocols will be in place both days to assure everyone's safety and health.

Vanessa is an excellent hostess, so enter and plan to have a very good time! She is pictured above with her beautiful stallion Step To The Light aka "Ryker".

## Quote of the Month

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal.  
It is the courage to continue that counts."

**Winston Churchill**

