

The Hidalgo Youth Rodeo Association ended its 2013 summer series with a double header weekend. Saturday was "Sponsor Appreciation Day" and several fun events were added. There was a dummy roping contest for every age group, girls and boys, as well as a men's contest and a women's contest. The 0-5 age group held their regular dummy roping event and Cooper Young (Silver City) took the win both days. Whip Peterson (Hachita) and Maycee Michaels (Willcox) won the 6-9 dummy roping. Quirt Peterson (Hachita) and Emilee Ashurst (Apache) won the 10-13 age group. Colton Clem (Willcox) and Talena Campbell (Safford) took top honors in the 14-18 age group. The adult divisions were exciting! Six women competed and Wendy Hooper (Willcox) came out on top winning the donated gifts, gift certificates and cash payback. There were fifteen contestants in the men's division. Everett Ashurst walked away with the win after many rounds of "slick horns only." He also received donated gift certificates and a cash payback...then donated his winnings back to the HYRA prize fund for the kids!!!

A three legged boot race was held for each age group starting with the 0-5. With some parent assistance, they had a great time! Brothers, Cade & Samuel Stratton (Willcox) crossed the finish line first. In the 6-9 age group, Whip Peterson and Meason Ybarra (Silver City) were the fastest putting on all four boots and running back to the finish line! The winners of the 10-13 age group were sisters, Leann & Emilee Ashurst (Apache). The fastest in the 14-18 age group were Emily Alexander and Trisha Adams, both of Willcox. We even had adult participation! Mark Kibler and Howdy Sanborn both of Willcox beat all the couples and took home the big prize!!!

Some rough stock events ended the day. There was calf riding for the 0-5 and Cade Stratton won the prize for staying on for 2.13 seconds. Damian Jackson (Sierra Vista) won the 6-9 calf riding for making an 8 second qualified ride and scoring 86 points. Nathan Kerr (Animas) won the 10-13 steer riding with an 8 second ride and 80 points. The last event of the day was the 14-18 steer riding and Jayson Campbell (Safford) took the prize with an 86 point ride.

Many, many thanks to all the sponsors of the fun events! Goldhill Outpost (Lordsburg) was very generous by donating a gift to each age group in each division! We also want to thank Desert Wildflower Salon & Spa (Lordsburg), El Charro (Lordsburg), Valley Mercantile (Animas) Tricia Washburn (Animas) , DC Cross Mercantile (Willcox), Maid Rite Feeds (Willcox), Stronghold Feed & Supply (Willcox) and Apple Annie's Orchard (Willcox).

In the lead-line class were 12 contestants: Landon Hooper (Benson), Brooklyn Looney (Silver City), Gracie Mashburn (Animas), Maggie Motes (Silver City), Rowel Peterson (Hachita), Morgan Donaldson (San Simon), Bethany Mikow (Duncan), Camry Thompson (Willcox), Rostin Elias (Sierra Vista), Brady Ybarra (Silver City), JW Klump (Willcox) and Brent Klump (Willcox).

Saturday's 0-5 race for the boys' saddle was led by Caden Hooper (Benson) with a win in every event. Sunday's leader was Cooper Young with wins in the flags and poles. Dally Peterson (Hachita) was the high point girl for both days.

The high point boy in the 6-9 age group on Saturday was Whip Peterson with wins in the step down roping and heeling events. The high point girl was Baylee Motes (Silver City) who was only one point from perfect, coming in second in the pole event. She did the same thing on Sunday, winning three of her four events, this time coming in second in the flag race. Reno Hopkins (Animas) and Bridger Sanborn (Willcox) tied for the high point 6-9 boy on Sunday with 26 points each. Reno was consistent through his four events and Bridger won first place in the step down roping.

Quirt Peterson led the competition on Saturday with 39 points. He won the break away roping, the double muggin' and the heeling. The leading lady of the girls on Saturday was Tanna Webster (San Simon) with two second place finishes: barrels & poles. Sherrick Sanborn (Willcox) was on top of the 10-13 leader board on Sunday with three wins and thirty points in double muggin', goat tying and steer stopping. The leader of Sunday's 10-13 girls' race was Tatum Williams (Lordsburg) with amazing wins in the barrels and poles.

In the 14-18 age group Justin Kibler (Willcox) led the race for points on Saturday with a win in the heeling and two second place finishes: tie down calf roping and goat tying. Saturday's leader in the girls' division was Talena Campbell with a win in the pole bending. Sunday was led by Jayson Campbell (Safford) with a win in the tie down roping and Ashley Bales (Willcox) was the leader of the girls with 25 points and a first place in the barrel event.

We especially want to send our gratitude to everyone that has made this season a success, from the volunteers, families & contestants to the sponsors, county support and city support. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!! **It's amazing to know that we touched 129 kids!!!**

The season is not quite over for the top three boys and top three girls in each age group. This team of twenty-four will be competing at the SWNM Gymkhana Finals in Deming on August 31. It's going to be a full day of youth rodeo competition between teams from four other counties. It's a special time when HYRA kids, that have been battling for the top spot all summer, can come together wishing the best for each other. We plan to have a lot of fun and bring home 24 1st place buckles and bragging rights home to Hidalgo County!!!