

USTRC NEWS • JULY 2017

USTRC Announcements

At the NFTR in October, the Cruel Girl Championship will be held on Wednesday, October 25 and the Century Championship will be held on Thursday, October 26. Any lady that is a current USTRC or WSTR member may enter the Cruel Girl Championship roping, no qualification is required. And in the Century Championships, any current USTRC or WSTR member that turns 50 years old or older during 2017, may enter, no qualification required. See the NFTR ad in this issue for complete details of these specialty events as well as all other NFTR divisions.

Again this year the USTRC has a Special Qualifier for the National Finals of Team Roping
- Pine Country Shoot Out -- Flagstaff, AZ Aug 12-13(2 day) Sat-Sun

These ropings are on-site entry and will award 100 National Finals Shoot Out Positions
1-10th in Avg get National Shoot Outs

1-5th in Inc Avg get National Shoot Outs

#13 Slide, #12, #11, #10, #9 - 120/roper enter 4 times

#12 & #10 GP - 150/roper enter 3 times (80% Payback)

#8 P/D - \$150/roper Pick 1 Draw 1 or Draw 2, enter 2 times

The high point Gold Plus roper of the weekend will receive a Cinch National Finals of Team Roping Package which includes, 2 paid Shoot Out positions, 2 complimentary stalls, a complimentary Gold Plus RV Spot and a 2017 NFTR Jacket.

It's Regional Finals time! Please check your Available Earnings by going to www.ustrc.com. The "Member" link on the home page will take you to your personal file page. Click on the "Your Earnings" link once you're signed in.

Remember eligibility to enter a Regional Shoot Out Division requires participation at a 2017 USTRC or WSTR Approved Event. Every eligible current USTRC member has been awarded Flex Earnings (\$1,000 to Gold Spur members and \$3,000 to Gold Plus members) that can be used to qualify for a Regional Shoot-Out position. It takes \$2,000 in earnings to qualify, so combine your earnings with another member and you're in! Be sure to check out your Available Earnings at www.ustrc.com or call 254.968.0002 ext. 5103 should you need more information.

Regional Finals Gold Plus Added Money

Gold Plus members will be able to reap the rewards of \$120,000 added cash to the Regional Finals Gold Plus divisions. That means there will be \$10,000 added to the roper's pot in each Gold Plus roping at each of the 5 Regional Finals. Take advantage of the Gold Plus program today! Contact your Gold Plus Representative Lauren Hardman at (800)250-4966 to become a Gold Plus member and bring home your share of the added cash!

Regional Event Locations, Dates, and Entry Postmark Dates:

Eastern Regional Finals - Murfreesboro, Tennessee - July 7-9, 2017

-- Entries must be postmarked by June 23, 2017

Southwest Regional Finals - Clovis, New Mexico - July 28-30, 2017

-- Entries must be postmarked by July 14, 2017

Lone Star Regional Finals - Waco, Texas - August 3-6, 2017

-- Entries must be postmarked by July 21, 2017

Midwest Regional Finals -- Topeka, Kansas -- August 25-27, 2017

-- Entries must be postmarked by August 11, 2017

High Plains Regional Finals - Loveland, Colorado -- September 2-4, 2017

-- Entries must be postmarked by August 18, 2017

Southeast Regional Finals - Tunica, Mississippi - September 2-4, 2017

-- Entries must be postmarked by August 18, 2017

In order to be eligible to compete at the Cinch NFTR in either a Preliminary or Shoot Out Division (#15 through the #8, including the Gold Plus Shoot Out Divisions) Ropers must be a current member in good standing and have competed a minimum of ten times (10 entries) in a USTRC Sanctioned, Affiliate or WSTR event during the season. The Open Division, All Girl, Century and Invitational Divisions are excluded from this eligibility requirement. However, Ropers qualifying for a Shoot Out Position from these Divisions will be expected to meet the before mentioned (10 entry) requirement in order to advance to a Shoot Out Division. Note: The "10 Entry" requirement does not mean you have to attend ten (10) different events, you just have to have a minimum of ten (10) entries from any, all or a combination of USTRC Sanctioned, Affiliate or WSTR events during the current season.

Upcoming Event
Eastern Regional Finals
Murfreesboro, TN
July 7-9 2017

The sound rumbled like thunder off in the distance. It was an unmistakable sound. Guns from the battlefield defiled the silence in the cotton field. Jake** nodded to his helpmate and they lifted the big bags of cotton onto the wagon. They both knew if the battle continued it would make its way toward the plantation and it scared them. So far they had been sheltered and safe but who knew what might be coming down the pike.

So begins a detailed history revolving around the community of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It's alive and vibrant and like all tales of the south holds an eerie, if not romantic view, of all that transpired.

Many of the old plantation homes still stand and the history of Murfreesboro reaches out and makes one smile at the friendship the city offers. It is the south at its very best and the grandeur preserved fills one with admiration.

Murfreesboro is a city in and the county seat of Rutherford County, Tennessee. The city is the center of population of Tennessee and is part of the Nashville metropolitan area, which includes thirteen counties and a population of 1,757,912. It is Tennessee's fastest growing major city and one of the fastest growing cities in the country. Murfreesboro is also home to Middle Tennessee State University, the largest undergraduate university in the state of Tennessee, with 22,729 total students as of fall 2014. It is this growing community that will welcome USTRC Team Ropers to the Eastern Regional Finals the weekend of July 7th through the 9th.

Ropers are in for a small surprise when they head to Murfreesboro to rope. Little jewels make themselves known as ropers and their families come for the weekend.

The Middle Tennessee Museum of Natural History is the best-kept secret in middle Tennessee. There is so much to see. The displays are awesome. A wide array of fossil, mineral, and seashell specimens capture the imagination. A full scale T-Rex skeleton and a lot of information about the displays gives the visitor something to see and educates simultaneously. The people working there are friendly and helpful and delight in making visitors feel welcome. It's a good place to hang out after the roping winds up each day.

Stones River National Battlefield is another item that should be on the visitor's agenda if time allows. A stop for anyone that has a call to history or a love for this country, walking thru this place one gets an eerie feeling of what this piece of ground has seen. If you need a minute to unwind and want a quiet reverent place it's good to take the time to stop and think back about what this time in history brought forth and it brings a little peace to oneself. The grounds are beautiful and are indicative of what the South gave during the war. It's a great place to regroup and collect one's thoughts.

Cannonsburgh Village is full of Murfreesboro history and it's free.

The houses, store and school are set up like someone just left. The museum has a lot of history about Murfreesboro. The best surprise is the blacksmith school. The men and women are very nice and love to share what they know about the background of the community. It's a nice free place to go or teach the kids about the past. It provides a candid view of how things used to be.

As you prepare to rope in Murfreesboro make a point to check out the community. In many places it offers a step back in time with a quiet reflection of what used to be.

If you have not added the Eastern Regional Finals to your schedule make a point to do so. The area is quiet, friendly and filled with little hide-away escapades that escape the non-observant eye. Pay attention or you will miss it.

The roping will be a good one and the area is friendly and open to visitors. Make a point to set it up on your calendar. Eastern Regional Finals...Be there!

**Jake—fictional character for story purposed only

Ohio Classic
Rodeo Run Arena -- Canal Winchester, Ohio
May 20-21, 2017
Produced by Steve Rickly
story by: Ben Clements

The Ohio Classic in Canal Winchester, Ohio is always a roping ropers look forward too and this year was no exception. Steve Rickly along with Rodeo Run Arena hosted the roping.

The weekend kicked off with the #13 Slide. Mervin Beachy of Millersburg, Ohio and partner Jimmy Kelly from Eighty Four, Pennsylvania teamed up to win first place in the average with a time of 31.41 seconds on four steers. The pairing won \$1520, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Donald Wilson and Zach Kilgus with a time of 36.05 seconds on four steers. Third place in the roping went to Shane Rickly and Preston Barton.

Mervin Beachy and Kenny VanPelt from Greenville, Pennsylvania teamed up to win the #12 Division. They were 41.22 seconds on four steers and earned \$2340, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Trent Gilliam and Zach Kilgus. Third place went to Kilgus and Beachy. The incentive average winners were Donald Wilson and Kenny VanPelt.

Mervin Beachy struck again. This time with partner Shane Rickly. They won first place in the #12 Gold Plus Division with a time of 41.99 on four steers. They won \$2720 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping went to Rickly and Jarred Linton. Third place was Matt Beachy and Zach Kilgus. Rickly and Adam Madaras won the incentive average.

The final roping of the first day of the Ohio Classic was the #11 Division. The Ohio team of Donald Wilson and Mervin Beachy won first place. They were 41.14 on four steers to give them \$2340, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Matt Beachy of Millersburg, Ohio and Jarred Linton from Chesterfield, South Carolina. Third place in the roping went to Mervin Beachy and Preston Barton. The incentive win of the roping went to Donald Wilson and Mervin Beachy.

The second day of the Ohio Classic began with the #10 Division. Jessica Shearer from Huntington, Indiana teamed up for the win with Jared Linton. They roped four steers in 41.81 seconds which earned them \$3140, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Tucker Alberts from Howell, Michigan and Preston Barton of Cromwell, Indiana. Third place was Philip Mullet and Bob Coppock. Matt Lane and Joey Altmeyer won the incentive average.

Jeff Altmeyer and Jay Puzacke took home the win of the #10 Gold Plus Division. They finished with a time of 53.32 seconds on four steers and won \$3110 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. The team of Josh Cox and Larry Habrun finished in second place. Third place was James Cotterill and Justin McMillion. Steve AllDay and Jason Crist were the incentive champions.

The #9 Division was next on the agenda. Doug Clippinger and Jason Crist finished in first place. The pair won \$5170, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Dakota

Sunday and Crist with a time of 39.91 seconds on four steers. Third place was Nate Camper and Zach Waggoner. Danny Kiehl and Nathan Shafer won the incentive average.

The final roping at the Ohio Classic in Canal Winchester, Ohio was the #8 Pick/Draw. After an exciting finish Dion Wade from Lapeer Twp, Michigan and Maurice Carter from Pembroke Township, Illinois finished in first place. The team finished the roping with a time of 41.93 seconds on three steers. They won \$3730, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping was Jimmy Fatheree and Trent Heuerman. They also received trophy Gist buckles. Third place went to Dave Williams and Joe Lietuvnikas.

Cowboy Capital Classic
Lonestar Arena -- Stephenville, Texas
May 20-21, 2017
Produced by USTRC
Story by Ben Clements

The Cowboy Capital Classic was held at the Lonestar Arena in the town that is known as the Cowboy Capital of the World, Stephenville, Texas. It was held May 20-21, 2017 and is one that ropers all around look forward to every year.

The event began with the Open Division. Billy Bob Brown from Carbon, Texas and Joseph Harrison of Overbrook, Oklahoma teamed up to win first place in the average with a time of 37.10 seconds on five steers. The second place team was Twister Vinson and Colton Lee. Mason Boettcher and Pace Blanchard won the incentive average.

Andrew Wong of Weatherford, Texas teamed up with Shawn McKinley from Stephenville, Texas. The duo won the average of the #15 Division with a time of 28.70 seconds on four steers. They received \$2890, trophy leather suede saddle pads, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Stratton Lopez and Pace Blanchard and third place went to Chet Weitz and Tyler Ishman.

The team of Chet Weitz of London, Texas and Jesse Hines from Devine, Texas took home the win of the #13 Division. They were 33.38 seconds on four steers and earned \$2890, trophy leather suede saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping was Garrett Dickey and Cooper Robertson. Third place in the roping was Cutter Duckett and Hines.

The team of Wyatt Bray and Whit Kitchens teamed up to win first place in the average of the #12 Division. They were 34.64 seconds on four steers and won \$4138, trophy leather suede saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Wells Mitchell and Jesse Hines with a time of 35.14 seconds on four steers. Third place was Brandon Dudley and Brett Willberg. Tony Dodds and Samson Jackson won the incentive average.

Billy Weeks and Andy Anaya were the champions of the #12 Gold Plus Division. They were 38.90 seconds on four steers and they took home \$4388 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping was Danny Massingill and Jake McCallister and third place was Jake Moody and Kelly Boswell. Brook Bearden and Randy Vaughn were the incentive champions.

In the #11 Division the team of Max Ramsey of Stephenville, Texas and Michael Tash also from Stephenville finished the roping with a time of 31.98 on four steers. That time gave them first place in the average and they won \$6036, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Mark Spaulding from Stephenville, Texas and Jud Jackson from Morgan Mill, Texas finished in second place in the roping. Wells Mitchell and Buckshot Patterson won third place. Dalton Walker and Samson Jackson won the incentive average.

The final roping of the first day of the Cowboy Capital Classic was the #10 Division. Jason Brisbois from Canton, Texas and Austin Tuley of Red Oak, Texas teamed up to win first place in the average. They won \$6008, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping was Carson Adams and Whit Kitchens and third place was Damian Hernandez and Joel Poth. The incentive winners were Brisbois and Tuley.

The final day of the Cowboy Capital Classic began with the #10 Gold Plus Division. Steve Nolen from Weatherford, Texas and Bill Richards of Dublin, Texas won first place with a time of 35.89 seconds on four steers. For their efforts they received \$5140 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Neil Trammell and Richards were second while David Halford and Jerry Scott roped their way into third place. The incentive winners were Butch Smith and Mark Keimig.

Craig Calkins and Audie Morris were the winners of the #9 Division. They were 42.41 seconds on four steers and won \$8064, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Heliodoro Reyes from Seagoville, Texas and Alfonso Macias from Dallas, Texas finished in second place in the average. Michael Cruz and Rene Martinez won third. The team of Calkins and Morris won the incentive average.

The final roping of the weekend was the #8 Pick/Draw. The team of Anthony Nieto and Joe Rittenbaugh finished first place in the average with a time of 30.95 seconds on three steers. They won \$6914, trophy Gist buckles, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place Wyatt Howell and David Burden and third place was Howell and Gene Leath.

Colorado Spring Classic

National Western Complex – Denver, CO

May 13-14, 2017

Produced by Rope the Rockies

Story by Ben Clements

The Colorado Spring Classic held at the National Western Complex in Denver, Colorado is a great event to attend. The roping took place on May 13-14, 2017 and welcomed team ropers from all over to compete for some great prizes and a wonderful payout.

The #13 Division began the weekend and it was a great roping. J B James from Bennett, Colorado and Brock Hanson of Casa Grande, Arizona won first in the average. They finished with a time of 27.23 seconds on four steers and earned cash, prizes and USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Ken McKibbin and Clint Scheller and third place was Denton Taylor and Gary Rodarmel.

The next roping on the agenda was the #12 Division. The husband/wife team of Rick and Jimmi Jo Montera of Greeley, Colorado partnered up to win first place in the average. They were 33.13 seconds on four steers and won \$1520, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Eric Martin and Lee Lancaster. Third place was Rick Montera and Clint Scheller. The incentive winners were Ken McKibbin and Gerald Watson.

The #12 Gold Plus was won by the team of Dylan White of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Gary Rodarmel of Gill, Colorado. The pair roped four steers in 35.31 seconds to win \$1820 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Rick Montera and Brian Brewster. The third place team was Rick and Jimmi Jo Montera. Joe Stricklin and Cruz Acosta won the incentive average.

The win of the #11 Division went to the team of Larry Rice of Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Scott Laramore from Greeley, Colorado with a time of 41.47 seconds on four steers. They won \$2520, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to the team of Marco Abrego and Gerald Watson and third place went to the team of Dylan White and Dusty Taylor. The incentive champions were Rod Hoy and Jimmi Jo Montera.

Lynn Laramore and Jimmi Jo Montera roped their way into the win of the #10 Division. They were 42.04 seconds on four steers and earned \$2740, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was John Ashley and Tim Brunelle. The third place team was David Egleston and Kurt Eacret. The team of David Egleston and Eric Martin won the incentive average.

The final day of competition at the Colorado Spring Classic began with the #10 Gold Plus Division. The team of Rod Hoy and Tim Brunelle took first place in the average along with the incentive win. They won a total of \$3570 and \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jim Miles and Scott Laramore and third place was John Ashley and Gerald Watson.

Sage Bader and JD Wing finished first place in the average of the #9 Division. They were 41.33 seconds on four steers and won \$3140, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Dana Irwen from Delta, Colorado and Chuck Costopoulos of Delta, Colorado took second and

Rod Hoy and Riley Parsons finished third in the average. The winners of the incentive average were Bader and Wing.

The final roping of the Colorado Spring Classic was the #8 Pick/Draw and it provided the perfect conclusion to a great weekend of USTRC team roping. The team of John Korrey and Garald Eichelberger finished first place in the average. They won \$2850, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Hugh May and Bill Jenkins and third place went to Jonathan Rivera and Wayne Spencer.

Kansas Championships

Kansas State Fairgrounds Expo Center– Hutchinson, KS

May 13-14, 2017

Produced by Jeff Smith

Story by Ben Clements

The Kansas Championships held at the Kansas State Fairgrounds Expo Center in Hutchinson, Kansas is a great event to attend. The roping took place on May 13-14, 2017 and welcomed team ropers from all over to compete for some great prizes and a wonderful payout.

The event began with the #13 Division and it was a great roping. Peyton Holliday from Chouteau, Oklahoma and Chase Gibbs of Dodge City, Kansas finished with a time of 26.33 seconds on four steers and earned the first place prizes and awards. They received \$3010, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Troy Boone and Chase Boekhaus and third place was Trenton Turner and Taylor Schotte.

The next roping on the agenda was the #12 Division. The team of Ben Johnsrud from Plains, Kansas and Peyton Holliday partnered up to win first place in the average. They were 29.44 seconds on four steers and won \$3410, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Kashly Schweer and Scott VanderHamm. Third place was Jerry Short and Tyler Mahlandt

while fourth place was Jesse Boos and Troy Gastonia. The incentive winners were Schweer and VanderHamm.

The #12 Gold Plus was exciting right down to the last steer. Clay Louderback of Liberal, Kansas teamed up with Leo Winfrey of Plains, Kansas to win first place in the average. The pair roped four steers in 32.29 seconds to win \$3230 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Gaylon Robinson and Doug Schmidt. The third place team was Levi Burson and Garrett England. Louderback and Shawn Campbell won the incentive average.

The win of the #11 Division went to the team from White Cloud, Kansas of Jesse Boos and Reed Boos with a time of 31.44 seconds on four steers. They won \$4380, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. They also won the incentive average. Second place went to the team of Jesse Boos and Linden Steve and third place went to the team of Jarek VanPetten and Rick Anderson.

David Markley and Karl Langvardt roped their way into the win of the #10 Division, the final roping of the day. They were 31.33 seconds on four steers and earned \$5090, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jeff VanPetten and Reed Boos. The third place team was Tad Larson and Rick Anderson. Caden Louderback and Leon Winfrey won the incentive average with a time of 28.76 on three steers.

The final day of competition at the Kansas Championships began with the #10 Gold Plus Division. The team of Tad Larson and Karl Langvardt took first place in the average. They were a total time of 35.92 on four steers and took home \$3320 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Kris Ragan and Mark Keimig. Third place went to Pat Hafenstein and Zane Mozingo. The incentive average went to Danny Persons and Don Bay.

Arlan Penrice and Heath Hooch finished first place in the average of the #9 Division. They were 36.27 seconds on four steers and won \$6170, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. They also won the incentive average. Shane Saia from Silver Lake, Kansas and Staci Mitchell of

Carbondale, Kansas took second and TL Heina and Pat Hafenstein finished third in the average. Fourth place went to Camden Hoelting and Hafenstein.

The final roping of the Kansas Championships was the #8 Pick/Draw and it provided the perfect conclusion to a great weekend of USTRC team roping. The Kansas team of Steph Batson and Tegan Kohles finished first place in the average. They won \$4400, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Troy Brunson and Mitchell Hoback and third place went to Dexton Hoelting and CC Stephenson.

Spanish Trail Classic

Spanish Trail Arena -- Moab, Utah

May 6-7, 2017

Produced by Red Rock Roping Productions

Story by Ben Clements

Walt Eddy and the Red Rock Roping Productions Crew headed out to produced the Spanish Trail Classic. The event took place at the Spanish Trail Arena in Moab, Utah. Team roping action started on May 6 and ended on May 7, 2017.

The first roping of the weekend was the #13 Slide. The team of Benson Ramone from Ephraim, Utah and Brady Ramone from Castledale, Utah teamed up to win first place in the average. The pairing was 39.89 seconds on four steers and thus won \$2050, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Kort Albertson from Roberts, Idaho and JoDan Mirabal from Grants, New Mexico. Third place was Rocky Nunn and Benson Ramone.

The winners of the #12 Division were Heavy Sursa from Bluebell, Utah and Blaine Jensen from Cleveland, Utah. The team was 49.53 seconds on four steers and won \$2360, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Andres Chacon and Deon Masters both from Durango,

Colorado. Third place was Seth Weber from Ferron, Utah and Blaine Jensen. Kort Albertson and Brett Christensen claimed the incentive title.

Travis Taylor from Flora Vista, New Mexico and Deon Masters from Durango, Colorado took first place in the #12 Gold Plus Division. They were 37.31 seconds on four steers. The win paid them \$2470 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Kort Albertson and Andy King. The pair also won the incentive average. They won \$1060 plus \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Third in the main average was Weston Parker and Andy King.

Masters continued his winning ways in the #11 Division. He and header Dusty Seeley from Loma, Colorado bested the field of ropers by catching four steers in 42.66 seconds. The win earned them \$3500, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Rod Moore and Trent Bradshaw both from Hinckley, Utah. They also won the incentive average. They took home \$3040, trophy Gist buckles and \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Third place was Corky McIntyre and Deon Masters.

The final roping of the first day of the Spanish Trail Classic was the #10 Division. Larry Wehling from Grand Junction, Colorado and David Smith from Fruita, Colorado took first place. They were 41.63 seconds on four steers and won \$4800, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Earl North from Bloomfield, New Mexico and Joe Cavin from Aztec, New Mexico. They also won first in the incentive average. Third in the main average was Troy Shinsel and Cooper Martin, while fourth went to Shinsel and Blaine Jensen.

Travis Taylor struck again in the #10 Gold Plus. He won first on the head side and second place heeling. Taylor and Kevin Canterbury finished first with a time of 35.52 seconds on four steers. They won \$3640 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Taylor Dean and Travis Taylor. Third went to Earl North and Joe Cavin. They also won the incentive average.

Corky McIntyre was the star of the #9 Division. He finished first and second place in the main average. McIntyre and Rick McIntyre won first with a time of 50.30 seconds on four steers. They won

\$4800, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was McIntyre and Travis Taylor. Third went to Randy Brooks from Mona, Utah and Larry Allen from Lehi, Utah.

The conclusion of the Spanish Trail Classic was the #8 Pick/Draw. Charlotte Davis and Dennis Weight won first place with a time of 33.64 seconds on three steers. They earned \$3200, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Colette Martinez and Dennis Weight. Third was Dallin Weight and Dennis Weight.

**And Then There Was One
13 Shoot Out**

2016 Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping
Gary Cripps and Jake Cripps
By Melinda Clements

One cannot help but notice when you enter the Oklahoma Fairgrounds during the Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping that there are families everywhere. There are moms and dads, kids of all sizes, aunts and uncles and grandparents galore. One thing roping is and that is it's a family affair. You can't hide from it, you can't get away from it and it is what team roping is all about. If you deny that fact you don't know anything about team roping.

The Cripps are family. They are family first and foremost and team roping runs a close hard fast second place. They have been doing it forever and a day. They cut their teeth so to speak; on this sport we call team roping.

"I took Jake to his first USTRC Team Roping when he was ten years old and he won his first USTRC saddle," Gary Cripps explained. "It is our way of life. It is what we do. He and I have been roping together ever since."

Father and son, Gary and Jake Cripps just happened to be the second high team back going into the short go round of the #13 Shoot Out at the 2016 Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping. It just happened to

be a place where they were quite comfortable. They had “been there and they had done that” and this roping was important. It was the icing on the cake, so to speak.

The pair was looking at an awesome prize line: Martin Championship Trophy Saddles, Gist Championship Gold Buckles, Tony Lama Boots and Western Horseman Collector’s Print and a cool \$100,000. Thirty teams were coming back in the short go round and it would be competitive to say the least. It just so happened that a \$276,500 payout on four head of steers was fueling the fire. Every roper there was fired up and ready to rope. The roping would pay the top fifteen teams and the Cripps men knew they were in a good spot to take home a portion of that payout.

“We have roped well today,” Gary Cripps commented. “We got a great start on our first steer out today and it has kind of set the pace for everything that has happened so far. I broke a barrier yesterday so we both just kind of backed off and tried to relax. We have done this before we were not really worried. It is just part of the game.”

When the third high team back, Coy Rahlmann and Blake Wheeler posted a time of 8.74, they took the lead in the average. It outfitted the plan for what Gary and Jake had to do. The Cripps crew needed a time of 9.66 to take the lead. There was no doubt in their mind it was doable. Keep a cool head and just go rope was their focus. They had been doing it all day.

“I just try to rely on intuition and gut feeling and do my job,” Jake Cripps said. “The cattle are always strong and I just try to react and make it happen.”

The Cripps men know each other well. Their years of roping together sets a pattern of continuity and they knew exactly what they needed to do. Gary Cripps nodded for the steer and rode hard from the box. Everything connected and things were on track.

However, there was glitch and Gary almost lost his dally and it took all he had to keep his rope. Everything rested on keeping that rope.

“I just turned loose of my reins and held the rope,” Gary said. “I trusted my horse to do what needed to be done. I took a deep breath and let my horse work. I had to hold that rope. These horses are everything.”

Jake made the heel shot count and the pair stopped the clock with a time of 9.01. Despite the glitch, the pair took the lead in the average of the #13 Shoot Out. Fortunately, for the pair the high team back failed to make a qualified run so the Cripps Crew held the lead in the #13 Shoot Out.

“This win has been a long time coming,” Jake Cripps commented. “You get kids to roping and working and it keeps them busy and out of trouble. It’s a very special win for us. It’s all about family and doing things together.”

“This is special,” Gary Cripps said. “It means everything to win this with my son.”

The pair figures the saddles will have some living room space for a while and they have plans for the money. When the dirt cleared and the clocks stopped AND THEN THERE WAS ONE—Gary Cripps and Jake Cripps—the Champions of the #13 Shoot Out at the 2016 Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping.