

USTRC NEWS • JUNE 2017

Announcements

Regional Finals Draw-In Option: New this season ropers may Draw-In to any Preliminary and/or Shoot-Out division #15 - #9 (Eligibility Rules Apply). The entry fee is \$200/roper. Drawn partners WILL NOT have to pay an entry fee and WILL be eligible for ALL cash, prizes and Flex Earnings. In addition, drawn partners in the Shoot-Outs WILL NOT be required to use their Flex Earnings.

When awarded \$1000 in Flex Earnings from placing at USTRC events ropers may count the greater of their winnings or Flex Earnings (not to exceed \$3000). The difference between winnings and \$1000 in Flex Earnings will be considered Applied Earnings and will not expire at the end of each season. For example, if the winning amount is \$1364, the roper will have \$1000 in Flex Earnings and \$364 in Applied Earnings.

USTRC Regional Finals are just around the corner. Check the enclosed ads to find the Regional Finals you want to attend, or visit ustrc.com

RULE 5.3.6 REGIONAL FINALS SHOOT-OUT DIVISION ELIGIBILITY – In order to be eligible to compete in a Regional Shoot-Out Division ropers must be a current member in good standing and have prior participated in a USTRC Sanctioned, Regional Finals Preliminary, Affiliate or WSTR event during the current season.

Ropers in good standing with USTRC will also be able to earn Flex Earnings by placing at WSTR events. WSTR winnings of up to \$3,000 per placing are counted as Flex Earnings and will expire at the end of the USTRC season.

A minimum of \$120,000 will be added to the Regional Finals Gold Plus divisions this season. That means at each of the six Regional Finals events a minimum of \$10,000 will be added to each Gold Plus #12 and Gold Plus #10 roping.

If you have any questions, contact Gold Plus Representative Lauren Hardman at lhardman@ustrc.com

Upcoming Events

West Texas Championships • San Angelo, Texas
June 3-4 2017

With the end of America's civil war, thousands of settlers began moving west in search of their fortunes. Realizing its need to protect these citizens from hostile threats, the government established forts on the frontier.

One such placement, Fort Concho, was made in 1867 at the confluence of three rivers in West Central Texas. The fort at different times was home to mounted cavalry, infantry, and the famous Black Cavalry whose members were respectfully called "Buffalo Soldiers" by the Native Americans in the area. Almost as soon as the first units arrived at Fort Concho, a small and somewhat lawless village by the name of Santa Angela came to life just across the river. As the village grew into a community, it became a trade center for the many farmers and ranchers who had settled in the area.

By 1889, the hostilities had ended and the soldiers abandoned Fort Concho. However, with the economic base of agriculture and trade, the community later renamed "San Angelo" continued to grow as it moved into the 20th Century. San Angelo will welcome USTRC Team Ropers to the West Texas Championships the weekend of June 3rd and 4th. With a diverse array of places to eat and visit San Angelo will be a good place to hang your hat for a few days as you enjoy the team roping.

Weather and climate also played an important role in San Angelo's early development. That is another thing that makes San Angelo a good place to rope and hang out for a few days. San Angelo's elevation of 1,900 feet, location on the northern boundary of the Chihuahuan desert, and our proximity to rivers and lakes provide brilliant blue skies and a very pleasant climate. With 3 lakes and 2 rivers flowing through the city, San Angelo has an average morning humidity of 79%, which drops to a comfortable average of 44% in the afternoons. Temperatures do reach in the 100's during the summer, but low humidity in the 15% to 25% range keeps the "heat index" down. Usually dry and pleasant the West Texas Championship should prove to be a good weekend filled with typical West Texas hospitality.

From barbecue to Cajun cuisine to some of the best Mexican food, San Angelo offers a wide array of good food and places to frequent after the roping winds up each day. Ropers can pretty much pick and choose what kind of food they want to eat and where to spend an evening of fine dining and entertainment. Pause and think for a minute what you might be hungry for and you can be assured you will find it someplace in San Angelo. Even picky eaters can stumble upon something to soothe their taste buds.

Ropers will be surprised and delighted with the wide range of attractions and activities available in San Angelo. Surprisingly, there seems to be more to do and see than what originally meets the eye. From the scenic River Walk to the rugged San Angelo State Park from our grand and historic structures like the Cactus Hotel and Fort Concho to the culturally sophisticated museums and galleries of Fine Arts, San Angelo has it all. There are some unique hidden away places ropers and their families can take the time to visit when they find a free minute during the roping.

San Angelo invites ropers to come take a look at the community and all it has to offer when they head to the West Texas Championships the first of June. You will find 100,000 friendly people willing to make your visit and stay a memorable one. The roping will be a good one and ropers could not ask for a more friendly and amicable atmosphere than San Angelo, Texas. Mark your calendars for the West Texas Championships and plan on having a good time.

Panhandle Classic
Amarillo National Center - Amarillo, Texas
April 29-30, 2017
Produced by USTRC
Story by Ben Clements

Amarillo, Texas is team roping country and for more than twenty-five years the Panhandle Classic has served as a staple event for area ropers. This year the team roping action took place at the Amarillo National Center April 29-30, 2017 amid a Spring snowstorm. Even though their grit was tested, the ropers remained true to their favorite pastime.

Kory McConnell from Hereford, Texas and Hayden Cape from Earth, Texas were the champions of the #13 Division. The team was 32.66 seconds on four steers and won \$2464, trophy suede leather saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Dustin Pool from Briscoe, Texas and Shane Goad from Wheeler, Texas. Third place was Dalton Ogorman and Shane Goad.

In the #12 Division the victorious team was Jackie Bell from Clarendon, Texas and Jimmy Paul Hrbacek from Lockney, Texas. They were 35.23 seconds on four steers and took in \$4480, trophy suede leather saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Spencer Clements from Stratford, Texas and Joe Hughes from Canyon, Texas with a time of 35.63 seconds on four steers. Third place was Tyler and Jace Thomas both from Dalhart, Texas.

Tim McCright from Amarillo, Texas and Marty Nicholson from Perryton, Texas were the winners of the #12 Gold Plus Division. They were 35.52 seconds on four steers and secured \$2514 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Eddie Joe Pearson from Tulia, Texas and Cody Ware from Logan, Kansas. Third place was Mike Shaw and David Ferrell both from Oklahoma. The incentive win went to Jon VanWey and Butch Whitten.

The win of the #11 Division went to the team of Jarett Stovall from Amarillo, Texas and Kory McConnell from Hereford, Texas. The pairing was 35.67 seconds on four steers and thus won \$5892, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. The team also won the incentive average. Second in the main average was Royce Zybach and Randy McCracken with a time of 39.93 seconds on four steers. Third place was Zane Patterson and Jaydon Laubhan.

The West Texas team of Garrett Dickey from Midland, Texas and Darian Hernandez from Odessa, Texas teamed up to win first place in the #10 Division. They roped four steers in 38.44 seconds and won \$8120, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Dickey and Hernandez also won the incentive average. Second place in the main average was Kooper Huddleston from Memphis, Texas and Levi Molesworth from Amarillo, Texas. Third place went to Huddleston and Scott Venable.

The last day of competition at the Panhandle Classic began with the #10 Gold Plus. Jeff Bourquin from Follett, Texas and Don Bay from Shattuck, Oklahoma were the winners of the average and the incentive average. They took home \$6814 plus \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average went to Brad Thrash and Danny Garcia with a time of 39.89 seconds on four steers. Third place was Shannon McCright and Justin McCright.

Grayson Reed from Amarillo, Texas and his partners dominated the #9 Division. Reed and Mark Keimig from Isabel, Kansas finished first place in the average with a time of 40.96 seconds on four steers. They won \$8726, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Reed and Chuck Senter from Ropesville, Texas. Third place was Josh Barfield from Reydon, Oklahoma and Steve Leonard also of Reydon. Judd Timmons and Caden Beatty won the incentive average.

In the #8 Pick/Draw the championship went to Sam Ortega from Texhoma, Texas and Noe Cruz from Dalhart, Texas. The team was 29.88 seconds on three steers and thus won \$5476, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Eddie Joe Pearson and Cameron McCarley, while third place went to Garrett Miller and Tate Thompson both from Amarillo, Texas.

Mississippi Championships
Harrison County Fairgrounds -- Gulfport, Mississippi
April 29-30, 2017
Produced by Steve and Sherry Judd
Story by Ben Clements

The Harrison County Fairgrounds in Gulfport, Mississippi is the perfect home for the Mississippi Championships. The venue and community provides the perfect blend of everything Mississippi has to offer. Located minutes from the Gulf coast, yet nestled in the woods of the state, it offers USTRC members a great experience. Producers Steve and Sherry Judd put together a first classed production April 29-30, 2017.

The first roping of the weekend was the #13 Division. Kelton Carr and Chase Graves both from Poplarville, Mississippi bested the field of ropers by catching four steers in 32.86 seconds. They won the average and took home \$1672, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to the Texas team of Glenn Webb and Ryan O'Hearn with a time of 34.64 seconds on four. Third place was Justin B Johnston and Dustin Purvis.

Kelton Carr struck again in the #12 Division. This time he was heading for Cole Curry from Liberty, Mississippi. They were 34.90 seconds on four steers and won first place in the average. The win gave them \$1864, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Coleman Thomas from Meadville, Mississippi and Jesse Cook from Prattville, Alabama. The team also won the incentive average. Third place in the main average was Nathan Smith and Clay Green from Mississippi and Louisiana respectively.

Kenny Malone from Wilmer, Alabama and Desmond Ladner from Perkinston, Mississippi teamed up to be victorious in the #12 Gold Plus. The pairing was 39.57 seconds on four steers and won \$2794 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Nathan Smith and Bart Jackson. Third place and the incentive average went to Sammy Sorsby and Ryan O'Hearn.

Kelton Carr hit again in the #11 Division with partner Jordan Hanna from Louisiana. The team was 29.13 seconds on four steers and secured \$2972, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Garrett Jackson and Rickie Leblanc with a time of 30.45 seconds. Third place was Coleman Thomas and Cole Curry. The incentive winners were Pete Starkey and Petey White.

The final roping of the first day of competition was the #10 Division. Nathan Smith teamed up with Garrett Jackson to qualify to the short round in sixth place. They roped their final steer in 6.80 seconds to finish the roping with a time of 37.35 seconds. When it was all said and done, they were the winners. The team parted with \$3444, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Joshua Meese and Garrett Jackson, while third went to Mike Culbreth and Rickie Leblanc. Joseph McCollum and Pete Starkey won the incentive average.

The second day of competition began with the #10 Gold Plus. Guy McNabb and Dan Dalton both from Centreville, Mississippi won the average. They were 43.29 seconds on four and won \$4150 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Ashley Bentley from Rose Hill, Mississippi and Tommy Peterman from Gulfport, Mississippi. The father daughter team also won the incentive average. Third place in the average was Mike Colbert and JD Judd.

In the #9 Division, the win of the roping went to Eric Aymond from Pine Prairie, Louisiana and Cole Guymon from Kiln, Mississippi. They were 39.67 seconds on four steers and won \$4878, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. The pair also won the incentive average. Second place was Jeb Stewart and Dreisson Necaie both from Mississippi. Third place was Ronnie Lee Simmons and Wyatt Simmons with a time of 46.45 seconds on four.

The final roping of the weekend was the #8 Division. The weather had been perfect all weekend, but a gulf storm was brewing. As the rain hit, so did Cody Amacker from Poplarville, Mississippi and Jay Jay McCaskill from Lexington, Mississippi. The team was 28.35 seconds on three steers to claim the victory. They won \$3346, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Clinton Saucier and Morgan Brown, while third place was Drake Daigneault and Kent Shaw.

Texas Championships
San Antonio Rose Palace -- San Antonio, Texas
April 21-23, 2017
Produced by USTRC
Story by Ben Clements
Photos by Jennings Rodeo Photography

The USTRC's Texas Championships is one of the most prestigious USTRC ropings in Texas. The event takes place at the San Antonio Rose Palace, just outside of San Antonio, Texas.

Shane Philipp from Washington, Texas was the dominating header in the Open Division. He finished first and second in the average with heelers Clint Summers from Lake City, Florida and Caleb Anderson from Charlotte, North Carolina. Philipp and Summers were 38.26 seconds on five steers and won the average. They took home \$2824 plus trophy suede leather saddle pads. Second place was Philipp and Anderson with a time of 46.03 seconds on five. Third place was Landon McClougherty and Joel Galvan.

In the #15 Division the championship went to Quito Lopez from Beeville, Texas and Trey Algeria from Falfurrias, Texas. They were 30.08 seconds on four steers and thus won \$3536, trophy suede leather saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jaime Garza from Zapata, Texas and Tanner Tomlinson from Angleton, Texas. Third was Garza and Romeo Moreno.

Andrew Napp from Hico, Texas teamed up with DJ Whitlow of Refugio, Texas to claim the average title in the #13 Division. They were 34.61 seconds on four steers. The win paid them \$4684, trophy suede leather saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Garrett Dickey from Midland, Texas and Trey Alegria. Third place went to Cutter Duckett from Wimberly, Texas and Buckshot Patterson from San Marcos, Texas.

The father/son team of Baltazar and Daryan Gonzalez from Hobbs, New Mexico were the winners of the #12 Division. They were 31.14 seconds on four steers to take \$6094, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jacob Patterson and Jesse Hines, while third went to Tarantino Stewart and Will Harris. Tucker Menz and Corey Blaschke won the incentive average.

Mitch Copps from Boerne, Texas and Randy Hinds from Bergheim, Texas began the second day of the Texas Championships in the right way. The two won the average of the #12 Gold Plus Division with a time of 33.83 seconds on four steers. They received \$6308 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Calvin Blaschke and Romeo Moreno with a time of 35.94 seconds on four steers. Third place was Tony Dodds and Glen Hutto. Jose Gomez and Pancho Chamberlain won the incentive average.

Will Wright from Sandia, Texas and Lorraine Moreno from Mathis, Texas won the average of the #11 Division with a time of 34.55 seconds on four steers. They won \$8638, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was the team of Cody Aguirre from George West, Texas and Moreno with a four steer total time of 34.86 seconds. Third place was Robert Gonzales and Adrian Trevino. Will Wright and Arlis Bluntzer won the incentive average.

In the #10 Division the champions were Daniel Garcia from Rio Grande City, Texas and Ray Lino Guerra from Linn, Texas. They won \$10,166, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings.

Second place was Ray Garcia from Zapata, Texas and JR Gonzalez from Laredo, Texas. Third place in the average went to Skyler Dominguez from Midland, Texas and Andy Avelar from Kingsville, Texas. Cody Woodfin from Wharton, Texas and Derrick Katzer from Boerne, Texas were the incentive winners.

Charles Hale from Crystal City, Texas and Tony Palermo from Big Wells, Texas were the average and incentive average winners of the #10 Gold Plus. They won \$13,184 plus \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second in the main average was Junior Cervantes from Odessa, Texas and Randy Rangel from Andrews, Texas. Third place was Leonel Baeza and Matt Carrasco.

Riley Cole Nelson and Rymond Haby won first place in the average and incentive average of the #9 Division. The pair won \$15,904, trophy Martin saddles, trophy Gist buckles and \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Eddie Trinidad and Adam Silguero and third place was Tex Williams and Roger Muse.

The conclusion of the Texas Championships was the #8 Pick/Draw. Clayton Godwin from Bridgeport, Texas and Brady Nelson also from Bridgeport won first place with a three steer time of 24.68 seconds. They earned \$8928, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Bobby Watson and Josh Koopmann and third went to Ryan and Shane Melton.

Missouri Classic
Hickory Hill Arena - Bethany, Missouri
April 21-23, 2017
Produced by Rope the Rockies/Jeff Smith/Ike Cox
Story by Ben Clements

The Missouri Classic, produced by Jeff Smith, Ike Cox and the Rope the Rockies crew, is a favorite of many ropers. . The roping took place at the beautiful Hickory Hill Arena in Bethany, Missouri on April 21-23, 2017.

The first roping of the weekend was the #15 Handicap. The team of Colby Fletcher from Hannibal, Missouri and Gabe Gwaltney from Carthage, Missouri took the top honors. They were 35.68 seconds on four steers and won \$1440, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place

was Eric Nelson from Wabasso, Minnesota and Jeremy Wagner from Hillman, Minnesota with a time of 38.17 seconds on four. Third place was JR Macoubrie and Kraig VonAhn.

In the #13 Division the win went to Sam Scott from Hillman, Minnesota and Kraig VonAhn from Sac City, Iowa with a time of 32.36 seconds on four steers. The win gave them \$2820, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Eric Nelson and Jeremy Wagner, while third went to Sam Scott and Jeremy Wagner.

Carthage, Missouri team Matthew and Cooper Freeman partnered up to win first place in the #12 Division. The team was 39.76 seconds on four steers. They won \$3340, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. The team also won the incentive average. Second place in the main average was Matt Hannah and Jack Fletcher. Third place went to Joe Kane and Jack Fletcher.

Jack Foster from Stockton, Missouri and Jason OBrien from Pineville, Missouri teamed up to win first place in the #12 Gold Plus. They were 34.73 seconds on four steers and took home \$2710 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Casey Sperry and Dave Cannon. Third place was Jonas Gingerich and Shawn Small. Rowdy Ludemann and Shawn Small won the incentive average.

The winners of the #11 Division were Ben Butt from Maquoketa, Iowa and Tony Goebel from Cottonwood, Minnesota. They finished the roping with a time of 36.78 seconds on four steers. The feat gave them \$4380, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers. Second place in the roping was Matt Hannah and Dave Cannon with a time of 43.58 seconds on four steers. Third place was Jane Murphy and Bubba Reynolds. The incentive winners were Chad Gregg and Josh Worley.

Garrett Kelly from Sturgeon, Missouri and Tracey Fritchey from Ashland, Missouri dominated the #10 Division. They won the average and the incentive average. They received \$6320, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers, trophy Gist buckles, and \$8000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Travis Scott and Shawn Small. Third went to the team of Jack Fletcher and Jonas Gingerich.

The final day of conception began with the #10 Gold Plus. Eric Nelson and Tony Goebel won the average with a time of 33.09 seconds on four steers. The win landed them \$5940 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex

Earnings. Second place was Shawn Murphy and Kevin Fitzgerald and third went to Tracey Fritchey and Kevin Lair. The incentive winners were Robert Higgins and Josh Jay.

Chanse Lair and Josh Jay partnered up to win first place in the #9 Division with a four head average time of 40.02 seconds. The pairing won \$7950, trophy USTRC Saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jack Foster and Pat Hafenstein. Third place was Casey Sperry and Maureen Melton. Kay Stevens and Travis Wilde won the incentive title.

In the #8 Pick/Draw the win went to Billy Lepe from Creston, Iowa and Blake Toliver from Edgerton, Missouri. They were 27.78 seconds on three steers and won \$5910, trophy USTRC Saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Turner Gregg and Shane Ludeman, while third place was Lance Lavin and Mike Curry.

Front Range Championships
Colorado State Fairgrounds – Pueblo, CO
April 15-16, 2017
Produced by Rope the Rockies/Jeff Smith
Story by Ben Clements

Pueblo, Colorado and the Colorado State Fairgrounds is the host of the Front Range Championships. Ropers from all over the country attended the annual event and it was a great Rope the Rockies production.

The #13 Division kicked off the weekend and the winners were Grant Koenig and Ryan Canty from Sanford, Colorado. They caught four steers in 38.75 seconds. The feat gave them \$2790, trophy Gist knives and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was the team of Lane Larson and Taten Koenig. The third place finishers were Butchie Levell and Cody Huwa.

The #12 Division winners were the team of Dick Yates and JT Schalla as they caught four steers in a time of 33.84 seconds. The win was worth \$3290, trophy Gist knives and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Lehmer Jeffers from Gladstone, New Mexico and Butch Whitten of

Cimarron, New Mexico. The third place team was Andrew Jeffers and Whitten. The incentive champions were Mercedes Trenary and Jhett Trenary.

The #12 Gold Plus Division was exciting as it came down to the final steer. When it was all said and done, the team of Dylan White and Gary Rodarmel won the average with a time of 31.66 seconds on four steers. They took home \$2510 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Anna Gregory of Amarillo, Texas and Justin McBride from Meriden, Wyoming were second place and the third place team was John Ashley and Rodarmel. The team of Gene Holm and McBride won the incentive average.

The #11 Division was the next roping of the day and the winning team was Lehmer Jeffers and Clancey Kreutzer. They were 32.94 seconds on four steers and earned \$4740, plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings and trophy Gist buckles. Second place went to the team of Bryer Wadhams and Riley Curuchet and third place was Lane Larson and Matt Belveal. The incentive average was won by John Ashley and Tim Brunelle.

The #10 Division ended the first day of roping. The champions were Josey Schomp and Ty Spickelmier as they finished the roping with a time of 38.54 seconds on four steers. They won \$4450, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Taya McAdow and Gerald Watson with a time of 40.24 seconds on four and third place went to Dana Irwen from Delta, Colorado and Brian Taylor of Manzanola, Colorado. The incentive winners of the #10 Division were Sage Bader and Brian Taylor.

The #10 Gold Plus kicked off the final day of team roping and the team of Darren Ridley and Kevin Morlan won first with a time of 43.41 on four steers. They took home \$3270 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Andy James from La Junta, Colorado and Merrill Bond of Rocky Ford, Colorado. Third place was Tom Palmer and Doc Meeske. The team of Ridley and Morlan also won the incentive average.

Dick Yates of Pueblo, Colorado and JD Wing also from Pueblo, Colorado won the #9 Division with a time of 44.56 on four steers and earned \$4790, plus trophy Gist buckles, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex

Earnings. Second place in the average went to David Carlile and Merrill Bond. Third place in the average was the team of Bill Peacock and Haley Peacock. The incentive average was won by Brenda Rippe Venter of Monte Vista, Colorado and Andy James from La Junta, Colorado.

The final roping of the weekend was the #8 Pick/Draw. Ronnie Childress and Bill Jenkins were 47.63 seconds on three steers and won the average. The win gave the team \$3490, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Nathan VanDeel of Buena Vista, Colorado and Braxton Morgan from Elbert, Colorado. They received \$2330, plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings and trophy Gist buckles. Third place was Annie Mazzetta and KHay Huskin.

The Front Range Championships came to a close and ropers were pleased with the event. They traveled far and wide to enjoy the great Rope the Rockies production and the wonderful USTRC team roping experience.

South Alabama Championships
The Covington Center Arena -- Andalusia, Alabama
April 8-9, 2017
Produced by Ed Allen
Story by Ben Clements

Alabama is a great place to get in a little team roping action. Ed Allen and his crew produce the South Alabama Championships at the Covington Center in Andalusia, Alabama. The event was held April 8-9, 2017 and welcomed team ropers from across the southeast.

Cory Clark from Ridge Spring, South Carolina and Clint Summers from Lake City, Florida teamed up to win the average of the Open Division with a time of 34.87 seconds on five steers. Second place in

the average was Clark and Kyle Lawrence. Third place was Summers and Lawrence. Jerritt Varner and Cody Murphy won the incentive average.

In the #15 Division Jerritt Varner teamed up with Ty Ethridge to win the average. They were 28.30 seconds on four steers and earned \$1940, trophy Gist knives, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was TJ Allen and Ethridge and third place was Allen and Clint Summers.

Wyatt Allen from Dadeville, Alabama and Ty Ethridge of Rome, Georgia were the winners of the #13 Division. They finished the roping with a time of 28.41 seconds on four steers. Allen and Ethridge won \$2630, trophy Gist knives, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Mike Woolven from Nettleton, Mississippi and Cody Murphy from Greenville, Alabama. Third place was Logan McNeill from Lapine, Alabama and Randy Moore from Luverne, Alabama.

In the #12 Division, the winners of the average were TJ Allen and Cole Harmon. They were 32.50 seconds on four steers and won \$3140, trophy Gist knives, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Garrett Jackson teamed up with Desmond Ladner to win second in the average. Third place was the father/son duo of TJ Allen and Ed Allen. The incentive winners were TJ Allen and Cole Harmon.

The team roping action really heated up in the #12 Gold Plus Division. Nathan Smith from Popularville, Mississippi and Jarid Ladner from Pass Christian, Mississippi were the average champions with a time of 31.20 seconds on four steers. The win paid them \$3750 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping was Guy McNabb and Randy Moore and third was Deb Raulerson and Moore. Wes Tindell and Craig Stevens won the incentive average with a time of 23.28 on three steers. They took home \$1930 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings.

Michael Gardisser from Lyons, Georgia and Craig Stevens from Thomasville, Georgia teamed up to win the average of the #11 Division. They were 35.03 seconds on four and took home \$3690, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Rodney Nelson and Homer Coleman. Third place was Mike Woolven from Nettleton, Mississippi and Glenn Kelly of Hope Hull, Alabama. They also finished first place in the incentive average.

The team of brothers, TJ Allen and Colton Allen, were the winners of the #10 Division. They were 31.51 seconds on four steers and they won \$4450, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Nathan Smith and Garrett Jackson both from Mississippi. Third place in the roping was Joey Denney and Lucas Taylor. Bobby Simmons and Wil Whiddon teamed up to win first place in the incentive average.

Shanon Travis of Kentwood, Louisiana and Tal Priest from Centreville, Mississippi teamed up to win first place in the average of the #10 Gold Plus Division. They were 37.00 seconds on four steers to win \$4470 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the main average was Wayne Pope and Shane Whitley. Alex Graham and Shanna Kaye Crawley finished in third place. Travis and Priest also won the incentive average.

The winners of the #9 Division were Guy McNabb from Centreville, Mississippi and Logan McNeill from Lapine, Alabama. They were 35.31 seconds on four steers and took home \$5050, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the roping went to Chris Booker and Zack Hester, while third place went to Ryan Pope and Earl Stafford. Chris Booker and Chris Jay were the incentive champions.

The final roping of the Alabama Championships was the #8 Pick/Draw. Kendall Deese from State Line, Mississippi and Jessie Arnow from Morriston, Florida teamed up to win first place with a time of

23.33 seconds on three steers. They won \$3550, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex

Earnings. Second place was Danny Cox and Luke Denney. The third place team was Chris Potts and Tristian Gillespie.

Bluegrass Championships
Casey County Ag Expo Center -- Liberty, Kentucky
April 1-2, 2017
Produced by Jx2 Productions
Story by Ben Clements

Jx2 Productions headed to Kentucky to bring USTRC Members the Bluegrass Championships. The event took place at the Casey County Ag Expo Center on April 1-2, 2017. Team ropers enjoyed the production and the camaraderie.

The first roping was the #15 Handicap. Austin Nettleship was the man to beat in the roping. He finished first, second and third place. Nettleship from Cynthiana, Kentucky and Adam Schlechty from Ansonia, Ohio won the average. They earned \$840, trophy Gist knives and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Nettleship and Cody Gatlin, while third place Nettleship and Nick Deleon.

In the #13 Division the champion team was Tom Bowling from Hamilton, Ohio and Adam Schlechty. They won \$1900, trophy Gist knives and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Mason Johnson from Piney Flats, Tennessee and Cody Gatlin from Greenfield, Indiana. Third place was Justin McMillion Cody Gatlin.

Cory McVicker from Gibsonburg, Ohio and Ryan Pratt from Shelbyville, Tennessee were the winners of the #12 Division. They were 48.76 seconds on four steers and earned \$2090, trophy Gist knives and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Austin Nettleship and Bruce Bowman with a time of 58.03 seconds on four steers. Third was Justin McMillion and Ryan Pratt. Jacob Spears and Nick Deleon won the incentive average.

Donald Wilson from Vincent, Ohio and Zach Waggoner from Belpre, Ohio won the average and incentive average of the #12 Gold Plus. The team won \$3940 plus \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the main average was Justin McMillion and Adam Schlechty. Third place went to John Johnson and Ryan Pratt.

The victory in the #11 Division went to Ty Wilks from Lancaster, Kentucky and Ryan Pratt. They were 36.79 seconds on four to claim \$3080, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was the team of Beau Tabor from Summer Shade, Kentucky and Pratt. Third was the father/son team of John and Mason Johnson. The Johnson team also won the incentive average.

Ohio's Donald Wilson was back again in the #10 Division. Wilson and heeler Mervin Beachy won first place in the average by catching four steers in 46.75 seconds. They won \$4100, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was the team of Chris Papotnik and Jarrett McLaughlin. Third place and the incentive average was won by Jacob Spears and Bruce Bowman.

Steve AllDay from Shelbyville, Kentucky and Ryan Shaw from Pekin, Indiana, completely dominated the #10 Gold Plus. The team was 36.72 seconds on four steers and won first in the average and first in the incentive average. The win earned them \$6270 and \$12,000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jacob Spears and Brad Bowman, and third went to Lee Buckner and Lalo Govea.

The winners of the #9 Division were Brayden Corzatt and Chris Hanes. They were 56.09 seconds on four steers. The win gave them \$5000, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver Coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Steve AllDay and Ryan Shaw, while AllDay and Jason LaRue won third place. Christy White and David Mitchell won the incentive average.

The conclusion of the weekend came with the #8 Pick/Draw. Kelly Sire from McEwen, Tennessee and Dalton Hall from Nicholasville, Kentucky won first in the average with a time of 37.06 seconds on three steers. They received \$4460, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Beau Tabor and Ken Roark, while third place went to Matt Lane and Denzil Wells.

Northeast Kansas Championships
Kansas Expo Centre -- Topeka, Kansas
March 31 - April 2, 2017
Produced by Jeff Smith
Story by Ben Clements

Jeff Smith and the crew moved into the Kansas Expo Centre in Topeka, Kansas for the Northeast Kansas Championships. The USTRC event took place March 31 - April 2, 2017. The weather was good and the team roping action was better.

The Open Division kicked off the weekend. Butchie Levell of Omaha, Nebraska and Chase Boekhaus from Rolla, Kansas won first. They finished the roping with a time of 41.91 seconds on five steers. Coy Rahlmann and Allen Bach won second place while Levell and Boekhaus also won the incentive average.

The #15 Division was next on the agenda. Will George along with partner Derrick Peterson won first place in the average. They were 29.40 seconds on four steers and earned \$2600, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to JR Macoubrie and Peterson, while third place in the average was Cole Remington and Mitch Murray.

The team of Cati Stanko and Mitch Barney teamed up to win first place in the #13 Division. They finished the roping with a four steer average of 30.90 seconds. The team won \$3190, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Kyle Elwood and Barney with a time of 31.90 seconds on four steers. Third place in the average was JR Williams and Ross Keesling.

The final roping of the day was the #12 Division. The Missouri team of Jay Crain from Morrisville and Cooper Freeman from Carthage won first place. The team was 33.87 seconds on four steers and received \$3340, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings for their efforts. Second place in the average was Mark Driskell from Paola, Kansas and Dalton Vaughan from Louisburg,

Kansas. Third place in the average was Driskell and Ryan Domer. Driskell and Vaughan won the incentive average.

Kyle Elwood and Craig Lawson claimed first place in the average of the #12 Gold Plus Division. They roped four steers in 33.49 seconds which gave them \$3930 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Colby Fletcher and Hugh Gustin. Third place was Seth Potts and Nathan Sorrell. Kevin Carlson and Jeremy Wagner won the incentive average.

The #11 Division was next on the agenda and the Kansas team of Chase Gibbs and Riley Parsons finished first place with a time of 31.82 on four steers. They won \$5010, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Williams Packer from Harvest, Nebraska and Rio Whited from Lincoln, Nebraska. They were 38.62 seconds on four steers. Third place went to Kyle David Vanderleest and Jake Schulenberg. Vanderleest and Tyler Manion won the incentive average.

In the #10 Division the team of Russell Batten from Bolivar, Missouri and Hugh Gustin from Butler, Missouri won first place in the average. They were 34.93 seconds on four steers and won \$6830, trophy Ritchie ColdSaver coolers, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Nathan Sorrell and Cooper Freeman and third place was Casey Sperry and Tyler Manion. The incentive champions were Gage Freeman and Coy Freeman.

The final day of the Northeast Kansas Championships kicked off with the #10 Gold Plus. Pat Hafenstein of Osage City, Kansas and partner Hugh Gustin won first place in the average with a time of 36.30 seconds on four steers. They won \$5910 and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to the team of Eric Nelson and Tony Goebel, while third place went to Doug Krantz and Brian Koedam. Travis Scott and Tony Goebel won the incentive average.

The Carthage, Missouri team of Gage Freeman and Cooper Freeman won first place in the average of the #9 Division. They were 26.54 seconds on four steers and won \$8820, trophy USTRC saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place in the average was Garrett Kelly and Kevin Fitzgerald. Third

place went to the Kansas team of Allen Simon and Danny Rutland. Dirk Henderson and Zane Mozingo took home the incentive average win also.

The final roping of the Northeast Kansas Championships was the #8 Pick/Draw. Randy Henry from Goff, Kansas and Tucker Muskrat from Lawson, Missouri won the average with a time of 25.39 seconds on three. They won \$6420, trophy USTRC saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Jesse Britton and Ed Molt. Third place went to the team of Austin Smith and Roy Dreiling.

The Northeast Kansas Championships was a great event. Ropers from all around are already looking forward to next year.

New Mexico Championships
Curry County Special Events Center
March 31-April 2, 2017
Produced by USTRC
Story by Ben Clements

Clovis, New Mexico has hosted the New Mexico Championships for several years and team ropers like roping at the Curry County Special Events Center. The event took place March 31 through April 2, 2017 and was produced by USTRC.

Michael Bell from Clovis, New Mexico and Cade Passig from Las Vegas, New Mexico teamed up to win the Open Division. The team was 37.41 seconds on five steers and earned first place. They won \$1032 plus trophy suede leather saddle pads. Second place was Bode Baize from Canutillo, Texas and Corban Livingston from Santa Teresa, New Mexico. They also won the incentive average. Third in the main average was Bode Baize and Eddie Medina.

The winners of the #15 Division were Kade Smith from Post, Texas and Jaytin McCright from Amarillo, Texas. The team was 31.43 seconds on four steers and earned \$1530, trophy suede leather

saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was the team of Bode Baize and Corban Livingston, while third place went to Smith and Eddie Medina.

Braden Livingston from Anthony, Texas and Hayden Cape from Earth, Texas won the average of the #13 Division. They were 27.91 seconds on four steers. The win gave them \$1380, trophy suede leather saddle pads and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place went to Spencer Clements from Stratford, Texas and Cape. Third was Casey McCleskey from Solano, New Mexico and Cape.

The second day of competition began with the #12 Division. Blane Chapman from Lubbock, Texas and Kip Middleton from Levelland, Texas were the champions with a time of 37.05 seconds on four steers. The win earned them \$3596, trophy suede leather saddle pads, and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Mitch and Ryan Canty from Sanford, Colorado with a time of 37.66 seconds. The team also won the incentive average. Third place in the main average was David Palma from Denver City, Texas and Daryan Gonzalez from Hobbs, New Mexico.

In the #12 Gold Plus, the win went to Sergio Castillo of Jal, New Mexico and Kade Elkins from Grants, New Mexico. They were 35.99 seconds on four steers and earned a total of \$3352 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Alfredo Martinez from Las Cruces, New Mexico and Aaron Romero from Los Lunas, New Mexico Third was Alvin Archuleta and Ryan Canty. Archuleta and Canty also won the incentive average.

Hayden Powell from Rogers, New Mexico and Loren Doughty from Portales, New Mexico won the average of the #11 Division. The pairing was 34.97 seconds on four steers and thus earned \$5282, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Nick Griggs from Amarillo, Texas and Matt Cramblet from Canyon, Texas as they were 35.70 seconds on four steers. Third place was Levi Molesworth from Amarillo, Texas and Jesse Valdez from Dimmitt, Texas. Dusty Leatherwood and Stewart Kinney won the incentive average.

The team to beat in the #10 Division was Spencer Clements and Bobby Jones. They were 41.03 seconds on four steers to win \$6346, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second

place was Caden Beatty and Kip Middleton. Sergio Castillo and Aaron Hernandez finished in third place. Jesse Nicole Valdez and Jesse Valdez from Dimmitt, Texas won the incentive average.

In the #10 Gold Plus Travis Johnson from Los Lunas, New Mexico and Cody Plant also from Los Lunas were the winners. They were 45.07 seconds on four steers and won \$4108 plus \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Sergio Castillo and Robert Zapata. Third went to Castillo and Clinton Frank. Martinez and Gilbert won the incentive average.

Ronnie Jones from Hereford, Texas teamed up with Allen Bownds from Shallowater, Texas to claim first place in the average of the #9 Division. The team was 45.48 seconds on four steers. The win paid them \$6822, trophy Martin saddles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Second place was Catherine Hisel and John Hisel both of Clovis, New Mexico. They were 47.17 seconds on four steers and won \$4310. Third place was Catherine Hisel and Danny Garcia. Trent Lee Wood and Hayden Powell won first place in the incentive average.

Shawn Walton of Lubbock, Texas really finished off the New Mexico Championships with some style. The header and his heelers Hadley Gilbert and Sergio Castillo won first and second in the average. Walton and Gilbert won \$4478, trophy Gist buckles and \$6000 in USTRC Flex Earnings. Third place in the average was Judd Timmons and Caden Beatty.

And Then There Was One
12 Shoot Out
2016 Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping
Brenten Hall and Buddy Bledsoe
By Melinda Clements

You might wonder exactly how a team roping partnership gets to be a threesome. Inevitably, it comes from the roping frame of mind that this sport is fun. We can do anything and we can rope any way we want and the more the merrier and the greater the fellowship. The more excitement and drama the better it is.

Once in a while you stumble on to some ropers that define the very aspects of what roping is about. They challenge the very formats the sport is based on. They head and heel and switch ends and head and heel some more. They work horses on both ends and they adapt to all that needs to be done. They do it all while having a good time and revolving with the flow of how things come together.

Brenten Hall and Buddy Bledsoe consider themselves to be cowboys. Of course, they maintain the label of roper but cowboy seems to be more important. The pair is versatile and talented. Roping is their game and to say they love it is a gross understatement.

Hall and Bledsoe was the fifth high call back team going into the short go round of the #12 Shoot Out at the 2016 Cinch USTRC National Finals of Team Roping in Oklahoma City. Thirty teams were coming back for the short go round and they were paying fifteen moneys. Add to the dollars and cents was an awesome prize line including Martin Championship Trophy Saddles, Gist Championship Gold Buckles, Tony Lama Boots and Western Horseman Collector's Prints. It was enough to make your mouth water.

The unique thing about how the short go round unfolded was that Bledsoe and heeler, Blake Larmon just happened to be the sixth high team back in the short go round and as things played out the pair was leading the average with a time of 32.54 on four head of steers.

Hall waited for Bledsoe to ride back up the arena after his run with Larmon and he couldn't help but wonder how the short go round was going to come together. Hall and Bledsoe needed to be 8.44 to move Bledsoe and Larmon. It was suddenly a threesome and there was a lot on the line. Money is, after all, almost everything in the roping business. The dollars and cents tend to keep things interesting.

Cowboy comes into play when one realizes that Bledsoe rode back up the arena and never even changed horses or ropes. He merely differentiated the boxes and rode in to rope again. His horse never missed a lick and if Bledsoe was nervous it never showed.

"It was a little nerve wrecking at the end," Hall said. "It was so overwhelming I cannot even explain what I was feeling."

Hall rode into the headers box, took a deep seat and nodded for his short go round steer. He was committed, focused and on track and he wanted to catch because he knew that he knew that he knew that Bledsoe would be there. It was their first time to rope together but Hall just knew.

Sure enough, the pair posted a time of 7.18 to take the lead with four teams left to rope.

“Buddy has no fear,” Larmon commented. “We rope together a lot and he makes it fun and interesting. I knew in my heart Brenten and Buddy would make a run worth watching.” It was all about supporting each other and the fellowship involved. They were pulling for each other and however it ended up was just fine.

Hall muttered, “It was our first time to rope together and it was fun.”

Surely, the three of them Hall, Bledsoe and Larmon were a threesome with the same goals in mind. All three watched as the short go round played out. When the numbers were tallied Hall and Bledsoe won the Average of the #12 Shoot Out with a time of 31.27 on four steers and Bledsoe and Larmon placed second in the average with a time of 32.54 on four steers. The three of them were sorting out about \$140,000. Hall would pocket \$50,000 while Bledsoe would pocket \$70,000 and Larmon would pocket \$20,000.

Hall, at seventeen years of age, was soaking up the experience. He rode his back up horse and was pleased with how the horse always works. His mom commented it was the third short go round during the week. The experience would be well remembered.

Bledsoe used the same horse to head and heel and Larmon, despite being a bit nervous just focused on having a good time and was grateful for the win.

“My family is at home watching all this on the Internet,” Bledsoe said in a very serious tone. “It’s exciting it all came together like it did. I just try to drag every steer into Blake’s rope. It was great to rope with Brenten.”

Despite being very serious in front of the cameras and focused on the interviews all three ropers were almost giddy. It was fun to watch their camaraderie and antics and Hall fit in perfectly. The “cowboy mentality” was alive and well and they were fun loving spirits in it for the fun and the high it provides. No wonder roping is contagious.

When all the hoopla was over and the cameras gone and out of sight one thing remained. It was roping at its best, fun and a high that is hard to define and explain. When the dust cleared AND THEN THERE WAS ONE—Brenten Hall and Buddy Bledsoe—the Champions of the #12 Shoot Out at the 2016 National Finals of Team Roping. What a high and what a memory! It will last a lifetime.