

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1974

SPORTS



Frankie Chesler winning All Levels on Leelee in Lithia, Fl.

Chesler Wins All Levels Sorting

On a beautiful clear sunny day, avid western riders gathered for the February 2012 RSNC sanctioned Prine Ranch competition in Lithia, Florida managed by Liz McClendon. The Saturday was spent ranch sorting which boasts being the #1 equine family sport in North America and participated in 23 countries worldwide. In North America alone 20-30 new members sign up on a daily basis. The sport is exploding in an economy where few others are seeing any growth at all! Ranch sorting is great fun as well as competition that will not 'ruin' your good cutting horse, a direct quote from RSNC. With many levels offered, there is a place for everyone. Entry fees are low, so an all day event or weekend is quite reasonable for an entire family.

Wikipedia, the internet encyclopedia describes sorting as a 'western style equestrian sport that evolved from common ranch work of separating cattle for all the ranch tasks'. Competitive ranch sorting entitles the horse/rider combination a second effort if finishing in the top ten. Not only is the area a destination for equestrian competitions, it is home to Lithia Springs known for its therapeutic properties while being touted as America's Legendary Health Elixir. Discovered in 1888, the springs have been a strong annual draw for visitors and locals alike.

The competition was well attended and the action fast and furious. Competitors gathered from all over the state for the many different classes offered where multiple rides are permitted and entered with the attitude 'the more the merrier'. All the levels had big numbers with many at 45 plus. In addition, the cows were good and fresh making competition even keener. The 'Open class' at this show was called All Levels which saw Frankie and her chestnut quarter horse mare Leelee win as well as the # 11 class. In addition to riding Leelee, she brought out Mae, a palomino quarter horse mare. Between Leelee and Mae, Frankie was also 2nd and 4th in the # 11, 5th in the # 10 and 4th in the #7 and 6th in the All Levels class. This was Mae's first time out as she is a new purchase for owner Ed Parks, a wonderful friend to Frankie who purchased Mae for Ed Parks in Oklahoma just a few months ago.

Also, on Frankie's schedule was the RSNC sanctioned Linked DD March 03, 2012 held in Palm City, Florida managed by Debbie McFarland. The action got under way at 'high noon'. Class #14 ranch hand with 45 plus entries found Frankie and Sugarland the winner with 18 cattle in the hole. In addition, Frankie was 2nd with Leelee in the Open and 4th with Chase My Tab in the All Levels with 32 teams. Frankie remarked that all the horses worked well 'in the hole' and 'in the herd' especially new 'greenies' Sugarland and Mae. All in all, they were great days for Frankie taking home the buckles and the cash.

Next stop, back to Prine Ranch, then onto the regional finals the end of March at the Great Smokey Mountains Expo Center, Tennessee where Frankie and some of her students will be heading. It is great experience for horse and rider and plenty of fun. So until the next cutting or sorting, Frankie says, 'Let Your Seat Feel the Beat'.