North Central Reined Cow Horse Association

"Experience a Tradition"

A Note from the President:

Greetings to all members and welcome to the 2008 show season.

As most of you already know, we started off the year with the election of four new board members. Elected to two year terms were Chris Olmanson, Kyle Noyce, Ann Pulling, and Lisa Reiter. When you see these people be sure to thank them for their service to our association.

The next step was to elect board officers for 2008. I was elected President, Donna Schiell was elected Vice President, Tammy Anderson was elected Treasurer and Lisa Reiter was elected board Secretary. Chris Olmanson has agreed to continue as our web site coordinator. Steve Stix, Roxanne Scholl and Mickey Gaines will stay on as Board Members. Again, thank you to all these hard working people.

We have one board member leaving the board this year, Mark Lecy. Mark has had a huge impact on this association. When he was elected President in December 2005, the association was in tough shape. He has worked hard to turn this thing around. Mark has donated a huge amount of time, talent and money. Mark and Denise have hosted clinics. We've used their arena, their cattle and even bent a few of their panels. Mark has been a friend to this association and also has been a friend and trusted advisor to me. As we continue to move forward, I'm sure that we can count on Mark to be active in the association. Thank you, Mark, for everything you have done.

For those of you that missed the awards banquet, we had a great time! The Eagles Club prepared a very nice meal. A delicious dessert was prepared and provided by Brenda Levine. The members present had to sit through my speech, but then came time to present the many fantastic year end awards, including the special year end youth awards handcrafted and donated by Roxanne Sorensen. We will have a youth year end awards presentation at the first show in April, don't miss it! (Unfortunately, due to weather, many of our youth were not able to attend the banquet). For those that stayed to the end of the evening, we were treated to an unbelievable show of our members talents singing karaoke. Details on that part of the evening will not be revealed in this newsletter.

I am happy to report that overall, the association is in pretty good shape. In 2006, we had 82 memberships. In 2007, we had 112 memberships for a total of 170 individual members. On average, our entries for club shows were up slightly over last year. In 2007 we averaged 57 entries per show, up from an average of 50 entries in 2006.

As you can imagine, we do have some critical areas where we can improve. I will start out with the toughest issue, fundraising. We all need to be involved in finding sponsors for the association. These don't have to be large corporate sponsors, but can be local sponsors or family members. Remember, if every membership that we signed up could sell $100 sponsorship, it would add up to over $10,000. Large corporate sponsors are becoming more and more difficult to secure, so we are going to

have to count on our members to support this association. We will be having the raffle again this year. I believe that last years raffle was a huge success. It raised about $5,000, and we only sold 292 out of the 500 tickets, so you can see, we simply need to sell more tickets.

Your board is working diligently to hold down the costs of showing. We have kept membership fees the same as last year. We plan to keep entry fees and cattle charges the same also. However, our costs are rising in many areas. The cattle trucking has gone up significantly, the arenas all are charging more, quality judges cost more, and the list goes on. You know, you see it every day in your own life. The only way to hold down costs is to raise more money. The only way we can raise more money is through corporate sponsors, individual and family sponsorships, and raffle ticket sales

It's your association, get involved!

If we are to continue to have quality shows and hold down costs, we will need support workers at our shows. Each show will have a coordinator that will need to line up volunteers to have enough help to put on their show. Please, these people need your help. We will divide up the duties and divide up the times so we can all work and show, but we MUST have a larger pool of volunteers.

The 2008 show schedule is now available on the website www.ncrcha.com with the first show scheduled for April. Attached is the 2008 show schedule. There are seven club shows on the schedule for the upcoming show season. Each show will have a coordinator and contact information. Please volunteer to help out at these shows. Remember, it's your association – get involved!

Attached is the 2008 Class Definitions, please note two changes. The first is the Advanced Boxing class that replaces the $500 Plus Amateur Rider class from last year. The other is an additional class called Junior Youth. Please read through the Class Definitions and find out more about these two new exciting classes.

Our 2008 Stallion Stakes program is now taking enrollments. This is a great way to promote a stallion and their offspring. If you own a stallion, please consider this program. Members that know stallion owners, please talk to them about this great program. For more information see the web site, Stallion Stakes section, or call Donna Schiell at 641-390-1090.

We would like to increase our memberships and our show entries, so we need to spread the word. We all need to be recruiting new members. When you are out at other events, trail rides, or whatever, spread the word about our association and try to bring a friend to a show or clinic. Once we get someone out to one of our events, I'm confident we can get them interested, and ultimately get them involved. Again, it's your association, GET INVOLVED!

Enclosed you will find a 2008 Membership Form. Let's get those filled out and returned soon. Remember per our by laws, memberships for 2008 are due January 1st and are delinquent on February 1st.

I want to thank all those that helped out in 2007. I'm looking forward to the 2008 season. I think we have a good future ahead. We have a great board in place and wonderful members who care about the success of this association.

Thanks for a great year!
Steve Mattson