

Arizona Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association Escapes to Payson to beat the Heat of June and July 2007

Story & Pictures by Lily Rodgers

Danny Byrd Top Overall for June Shoot (Saturday)

Emily Johnson Top Overall for July Shoot (Sunday)

Two Months of successful shoots were accomplished in one action filled weekend in Payson, Arizona at the Rodeo Grounds. The ACMSA held their June shoot on Saturday July the 7th and then followed it on Sunday with the official July Shoot. It was a great success in the beautiful revitalized arena in Payson. There was camping among the trees in the parking area and much cooler temperatures than down in Phoenix.

After a wonderful day of shooting and the awards ceremony finished by 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon everyone had time to relax and get together for a Barbeque and party at the Morris and Morris Camping area. The spectacular afternoon shower cooled everything right down, settled the dust and brought that beautiful fragrance to the air.

The party had it usual group of kids and dogs and food and laughter. We were also entertained by Cowboy Poetry from the likes of Tom Latimore and Jim Rodgers. The Morris' were having a family reunion and the Ruben Gonzales family had relatives in from Missouri. Eric wandered in from Florida to get more information about starting in the sport. We enjoyed his stories of his work in the Caribbean looking for shipwreck treasures.



Dan Byrd and Faye Leerson

Saturday, July 7th, DAN Byrd Wins top honors, Faye Leerson is Reserve overall Champion. The 4 stages on Saturday were a great test of CMSA horse and rider skills. Dan Byrd showed his extreme talent by winning again and this time on Annie Ellet's horse that she recently bought from Chad Little at the Nationals. Faye Leerson was awarded not only the top Cowgirl honors but also Reserve Champion Overall. The Reserve Cowboy was awarded to Jim Rodgers of Rio Verde Foothills and Paige Bowe was the reserve Cowgirl.

A look at the top ten overall standings at the end of the contest is a great way to assess the progress of some of our long time riders. The list includes 5 men and 5 women. There were 3 junior girls in the top ten and one senior. Jana Morris and her husband, Bob, were also both in the top ten. Trisha McMaster showed her talent on her new horse and made the top ten.



Saturday Top Ten, 1 Dan Bryd , 2 Faye Leerson, 3 Jim Rodgers, , 4 Bruce Dressel, 5 Page Bowe, 6 Jana Morris, 7 Natalie Johnson, 8 Bob Morris, 9 Terry Richmond, 10 Trisha McMaster,

President of ACMSA Diana Olson makes a special award to anyone not missing any targets in the entire match. This group included every single Women's Class four rider: Dawn Morris, Diana Olson, Jana Morris, and Trisha McMaster. There were eleven riders that had no misses at all. Nine of the Clean Shooters made the top ten list. Bob Morris must have been rolling fast because he made it to spot #7 even with a miss. Congratulations.

Sunday, July 8th, 2007 Payson Rodeo Grounds had another face off of many of the top Cowboy Mounted Shooters of CMSA. ACMSA, the Arizona club, put on a well organized competition winding up at Tony Romano's Horse trailer patio for a wonderful awards celebration. The arena has wonderful footing, the grounds are well groomed and the sound system is excellent. The ACMSA announcer Matt did a wonderful job of keeping everyone informed of their standings and kept the event so efficient all was finished by 2:00 pm. Matt got a lot of good experience at the CMSA National competition in Tunica, Mississippi where he was one of the two official announcers for over 200 riders in April.

Emily Johnson---CMSA Junior Rider and Cave Creek Cheerleader—WINS top overall rider. **Bruce Dressel** came in 2nd overall and won the top cowboy honors. Emily's Twin sister, Natalie Johnson came in as Reserve top Cowgirl.

This is a big win for Emily Johnson, a local high school girl. She beat Dan Byrd and Jim Rodgers and Bruce Dressel for the top honors. Also among the competitors was

Melissa Dragoo and Elizabeth Dragoo. Melissa also a local high school student was the CMSA Reserve World Champion in Las Vegas in 2006.

Analyzing the top ten for Sunday gives a nice overview of the competition. 6 men and 4 women made the top spots. 3 junior and one senior made the top ten. Christina Bryd, Stan West, Grant McMaster and Tony Romano were on their game to make the top Billings.



Sunday Top Ten, Emily Johnson 1, 2 Bruce Dressel, 3 Jim Rodgers, 4 Dan Bryd, 5 Natalie Johnson, 6 Melissa Dragoo, 7 Grant McMaster, 8 Kristina Bryd, 9 Stan West, 10 Tony Romano,

WEEKEND Champions DECLARED after 8 stages



DAN BYRD & NATALIE JOHNSON

Dan Byrd was on top when all scores of both days were added up and Natalie Johnson as the top woman rider out of all the classes. Jim Rodgers was Reserve Champion Cowboy and the Reserve Champion cowgirl honors went to Faye Leerson, who is a junior rider.

Special thanks go out to the Globe High School ROTC who did all the target setting and kept the competition going smooth. They looked military perfect in the new uniforms. They ran all weekend and did a superb job.