

For Immediate Release:

## ***Monica Hicks Rides Smart And Shiney to Win SWRHA Performance Versatility***

The first Annual Southwest Reining Horse Association Futurity Rein In Cancer Performance Halter and Pleasure classes were a resounding success. The classes, held during the SWRHA Futurity, benefited Rein In Cancer, an equine-based fundraising program that aids in the battle against cancer.

With 17 horses in the Performance Halter, and 18 competing the Performance Pleasure, the entry numbers exceeded everyone's expectations. Horses and riders competing in both classes were also eligible for the Versatility award – a motorized Cruizin' Cooler.

“This was so fun, and for such a great cause,” noted Versatility Champion Monica Hicks, who rode Smart And Shiney to win the title. “Everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer, so it was an event we all wanted to do. On top of that, we knew it would be fun.”

Hicks and Smart And Shiney began with a first place win in the Performance Halter. When they also took fourth place in the Performance Pleasure, they clinched the title.

Because horses had to already be entered in a reining class to be eligible to compete in the classes, Hicks wasn't planning to enter, because she didn't have a horse. “When I found out you didn't have to own the horse you were competing on, I went hunting,” she admitted. She went to longtime friends Tim and Colleen McQuay, who own Smart And Shiney in conjunction with Lyle Lovett. “Tim made a remark about me riding Highbeam (Smart And Shiney), and I asked him if he was serious. He was, but I thought I was going to have to beg and plead to get to ride him. I really have to thank Tim and Colleen, and Lyle, for letting me ride such a fun, great horse. I also have to thank all the help who groomed him, and Ted and Darleen Turner, who brought me all the stuff I needed to show him in the Halter class.”

As for a game plan, Hicks candidly admitted that, along with most of the other contestants, she was not too proud to bribe the judges. “It was all about having fun, and that was my plan,” she said.

The bribing was abundant. From dollar bills being stuffed in shirts, jeans, and hats, to phone in bribes to the tune of \$300, everyone was ready to support the cause. The bribes accounted for over \$893 of the money raised.

The McQuay family and Lovett generously donated back the Cruizin' Cooler to be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to Rein In Cancer.

Jared LeClair was the high bidder, and his contribution of \$750 helped raise the money collected, not counting the entry fees, to over \$1,843.

The winner of the Performance Pleasure Class was Mike Moser, who rode Cielo Del Six for owner Mary Davis. That was not surprising, for although Mike has been successful in NRHA competition in recent years, he is also a multiple American Quarter Horse Association World Champion in 2-Year-Old, Junior and Senior Western Pleasure!

The judges for the event were Pete Kyle and Todd Sommers, both of Whitesboro, Texas.

For more information on the Southwest Reining Horse Association Futurity, or to inquire about the SWRHA, please call 580-759-2572, or visit [www.swrha.com](http://www.swrha.com).