



TRHA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DEBORAH GOOD



HOW AND WHEN DID YOU COME TO REINING?

I know you have heard this line before.... a man got me into this “trouble.” While on a trail ride with a 7th generation Texan, I went over the trail horse’s shoulder when she “jumped” a small, small, small trickle of water. Once I got to my feet and made sure all parts were moving pain free, I stated “if I am going to ride, I need to learn to do this safely.” I was 48 years old and taking riding lessons for the first time. This is how this unbelievable journey began.

The transition from learning to ride to learning to rein started with a lesson at one place. The one lesson horse had an issue, the next place the one lesson horse had an issue, then ended up at a reining barn, which led to the purchase of my first horse, Mama Lous Remedy aka Lulu (2009 mare) in November 2013. The barn was going to a reining show, my friend, Ellie Luce Dana, said “you should come along.” So off I went to my first NRHA reining show in Marshall, TX. I was green, as green as green as one could possibly be. I did not know what the terms draw, pattern, show attire meant. I could not do a lead change, much less see a lead change. But, from that moment on, I WAS HOOKED. I was so impressed with the

friendship and fellowship of all the other riders. They helped teach me the ropes and, to my surprise, cheered for me, encouraged me to improve and show.

Don’t tell anyone, I would walk the patterns in the alley – right spin (1, 2, 3, whoa), large circle, small circle, large circle, down the center with a roll back to the Judge (“all beauty queens face the Judge”). The best part was turning the corner at the ends, sit back, and run down the arena, accelerating at the final point before you say WHOA!!! Yes, I made all the “green rider” mistakes, several overspins and over my horses shoulders before I learned to count and sit back. I would land in the sand with a large grin on my face and get back on.

I love practice, I have always loved practice, but there is nothing like you and your horse being in the show arena all by yourself before the Judge and Scribe. The adrenaline, joy and fear all rushing deep inside your core, with the sheer joy of riding and showing, allaying all my fears.

With a 2017 relocation from Dallas to Fort Worth, Mike McEntire guided me to Casey Deary - Deary Performance Horses in Weatherford, Texas. Now looking back, it seems ridiculous that I was the one interviewing Casey Deary with a yellow pad full of questions and notes, seeing if his program fit me. Fortunately, Mike McEntire’s recommendation held a lot of weight. In looking past my flaws and rookie mistakes, six years ago Casey and Nicole Deary accepted me into their reining program. This is really the most significant event that changed the course of my journey in reining.

My then reining horse did not fit into Casey’s program, which later we found out that she had an injury that would prevent her from ever stopping in a reining pattern. So, the hunt began for a new horse. In April 2016, Mike McEntire said “I have a horse that I think will fit you.” I flew out to his place in Ione, California, to try this 6 year old sorrel gelding, Chics

Love Me Wimpy. Remember, I was green, green as green could possibly be. For several days I rode Chics Love Me Wimpy aka Duke. From the moment I got on Duke, to this day, this horse has always taken care of me and any rider he carries. I kept asking Mike, “do people really buy the first horse they try?” and “do horses really take care of their rider like Duke was taking care of me?” To this day, Duke has helped me advance out of Green to Rookie and Non-Pro, 2020 and 2022 The Run for a Million Rookie Qualifiers and a 2019 NRHA Adequan North American Championship - Prime Time Rookie

Championship. Duke is one special horse. I must have one heck of a guardian angel watching over me to bring this amazing animal into my life.



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A month before I started riding at Deary Performance Horses, Josh Tishman joined Casey’s team. Josh and I got on immediately. The best part, Josh got along with Chics Love Me Wimpy. We were set to Derby Duke for his 6 year old year (Derby was 4 – 6 yrs) when he threw a chip and ended up lame his first day at the AQHA Redbud Spectacular Horse Show. After a successful surgery, the healing routine began that left me off Duke from June to October. What does a green, green as green could possibly be, rider that needs to practice do without a horse? Call your trainer. Casey called Rob Curtis the owner of Shesouttaylorleague to check on a lease of his roan mare, Pepto’s Little Dancer (2004 mare whose sire was Peptoboonsmal). Pepto’s Little Dancer packed me around, teaching me so much from June to October. With my leasing Pepto’s Little Dancer, Rob and I would talk horses and breeding. I loved his mare, Shesouttaylorleague. In passing I made a comment, “if you get a colt, call me.” Well, it’s always a good thing to put your desires out into the universe. In May 2017, I bought Shesouttaylorleague’s first foal, Down Right Amazing aka Amazin when he was just 3 days old (Colonials

Smoking Gun x Shesouttaylorleague). Fast forward to November 2021, when my dream got even bigger with the purchase of Shesouttaylorleague.

Who would have thought that a trail ride with a 7th generation Texan would have sparked a passion for a new sport at age 48 years.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

After my first year with Casey Deary, I went to Casey and Josh to set up a meeting to discuss my goals. Casey’s reply was “your goal is to have fun.” My reply was, “have you met me?” I work best with goals. Reining allows me to meet my personal passions of learning, growing, and improving. I developed two goals in that first meeting: (1) stay calm and focus in the show arena, and (2) qualify for the North American Championship through the affiliate top 10 program. Fortunately, I have had the horse that has helped me grow with my goals each year.

I love the competition opportunities of the affiliate programs. Before Covid, a rider had to qualify at the affiliate level, then qualify at the regional level to ultimately show at the North American Championship in Oklahoma City. The NRHA Adequan North American Championship - Prime Time Rookie Championship in 2019 meant so much to me because it took me over 5 years to reach my goal of the Top 10 at the affiliate level, making it all the way to Oklahoma City for the North American Championship.

Besides the affiliate programs, Taylor Sheridan’s The Run for a Million program now provides Rookie and Non-Pro riders with another qualifier opportunity. Riders qualify at various host events across the United States and Canada. In March of this year, Duke and I qualified at the Stampede Show -Derby & Stakes in Abilene, Texas, for The Run for A Million Rookie.

“Be where you are and enjoy the ride.”

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHERS THAT ARE NEW TO REINING?

I will tell you what I told someone recently, “if you are not loving showing in reining don’t do it.” BUT if you love the practice and love to show, go out there, give it your best and have fun. Be where you are and enjoy the ride.