

# Southeast Reining Horse Association (SERHA)

WRITTEN BY SARA JENSEN WITH PARKER MINCHIN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARIN HINZMANN

**T**HE NORTH CAROLINA-BASED Southeastern Reining Horse Association (SERHA), an NRHA Affiliate of roughly 150 members, first began in the mid 1970s. In 1980, SERHA hosted the first Derby (NRHA Maturity then) in Raleigh, North Carolina, in Dorton Arena to benefit Easter Seals. The Easter Seals Reining Classic was held April 10–13, 1980, and the proceeds went to Easter Seals to aid handicapped children.

The event had a \$5,000-added NRHA Maturity with an amateur division, a \$5,000-added guaranteed purse NRHA Open reining and a \$2,500 guaranteed purse NRHA Amateur Reining and a jackpot Ladies Reining to top it off.

With their first NRHA Maturity a success, the Easter Seals Classic brought out the best-of-the-best with reining legends like NRHA Hall of Fame inductees



Bill Horn, Dick Pieper, and Richie Greenberg, to name a few.

The affiliate's winning ways and tough competition has continued throughout the years and they now host two NRHA shows and a schooling day each year along with hosting the Southeast U.S. Affiliate Regional Championships (formerly Regional Affiliate Finals) in Williamston, North Carolina.

"To help engage and include spectators and competitors, SERHA started SERHA Live with the help of their website coordinator, Karin Hinzmann," said Parker Minchin. "During SERHA shows you can watch a live feed, get draws for classes, results and score sheets."

For years, SERHA has been active and engaged in their community by raising funds for the Reining Horse Sports Foundation (RHSF) and others in need by using quite creative methods.

"In 2013 we did a calendar of trainers for the benefit of RHSF," said Minchin. "In 2014 we began a benefit for Victory Junction, which is a camp for seriously ill children in North Carolina. Our focus in 2014 was to raise money for the outreach program—specifically Vident Children's Hospital and children who were too sick to attend the camp."

There were two main ways to contribute to this cause. If riders entered in the Slide for Victory class and bought a "V" to put on their saddle pads they then went out and got people to match their pledge. Secondly, riders in the Victory Junction Open Slide were matched with sick children at the hospital. The winners of the open classes won a buckle and a buckle for their child. More details were highlighted in the October 2014 *NRHA Reiner* on page 160.

SERHA welcomes all levels of competitors and regularly hosts beginner reiner classes for riders just starting out or trying the industry. They are also in the process of establishing the Joseph Hoggard Memorial Scholarship in memory of a recently lost SERHA board member.

They also make sure to have a welcoming and family atmosphere at their shows with parties, cookouts, and ice cream socials. ♦



Halloween, Leadline



Jesse Chase



Karin Hinzmann



President Bundy Lane

