

Cutting Horse

FEBRUARY 2016

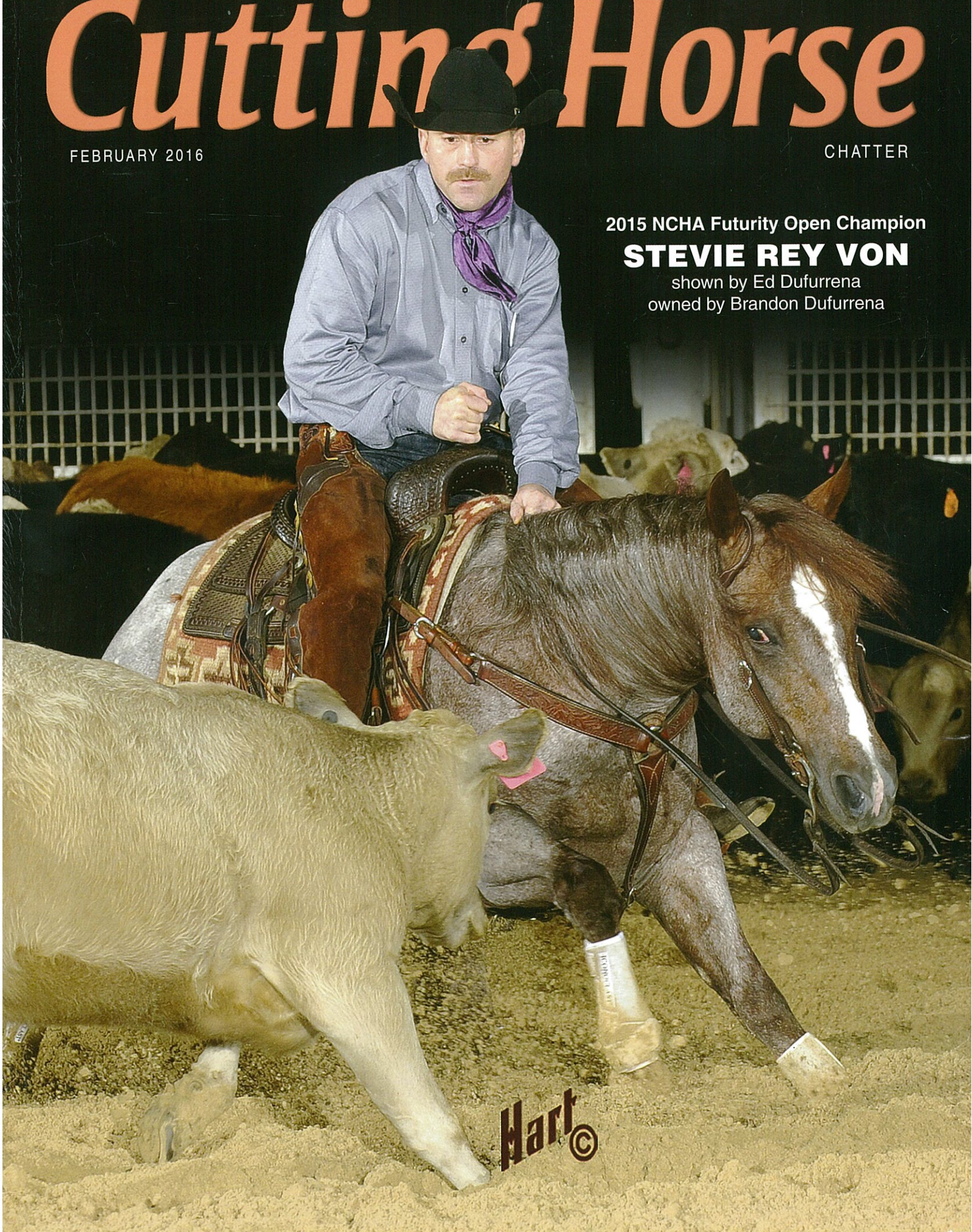
CHATTER

2015 NCHA Futurity Open Champion

STEVIE REY VON

shown by Ed Dufurrena

owned by Brandon Dufurrena



Hart ©

2015 HORIZON YACHTS SENIOR WORLD TOUR



Champions of the inaugural Horizon Yachts Senior World Tour were honored at the 2015 NCHA World Champions Party during the NCHA Futurity. Hart Photography.

Sailing to success

The inaugural Horizon Yachts NCHA Senior World Tour generates enthusiasm, increased entries and new energy

The Horizon Yachts NCHA Senior World Tour wrapped up its first season in 2015 and got high marks from cutters.

The innovative program provided a class-within-a-class and year-end awards for cutters 60 years old and older at weekend shows.

The high-point and reserve high-point riders based on scores in all classes received all-expense paid vacations to the 2016 Horizon Yacht Rendezvous, an exclusive retreat for Horizon Yacht owners and their guests at a luxury yachting resort. Those prizes went to Tom Murrell with 122 points and Jerry McClellan with 114 points.

Writers MaryBeth Gokee, Bridget Kirkwood and Jatona Sucamele visited with the inaugural champions of the Horizon Yachts NCHA Senior World Tour . . .

Open: Dale Robbins

When Alabama cutter Dale Robbins started out last year's show season, he did as he always does—he showed at the Southern shows. Little did he know that by just signing up for the Horizon Senior Tour and competing at the shows he frequented, he could win a World Champion Buckle in the Horizon Open Senior Tour.

"It was Lou Scott at the Geneva show who told me I was leading the Open. I really didn't know anything about the Tour," Robbins explains. "They put on such a good show there and she kept on me so I'd finish."

"This is my third World Championship," says Robbins. "I got two in Novice classes earlier in my career; but this one is pretty special because I'm older."

The new Senior Tour, sponsored by Horizon Yachts, provides cutters

age 60 and over new opportunities at weekend shows. The competitions are a class-within-a-class at any approved weekend show. Senior contestants are defined as any Open, Non-Pro, or Amateur rider who meets NCHA entry requirements. At the World Champions Awards Banquet at this year's Futurity, the winners received special trophies and buckles.

"This buckle is pretty special," Robbins adds. "I think it's great because the average age of Open riders is above 50 years old," he adds. "There are so many good young trainers out there, and so many good horses. This program gives the older generation a good shot at being recognized for doing something. It's meaningful. I was fortunate to ride some real good horses this year."

Robbins didn't have to haul far from his farm in Alabama. The horses

that he showed this year include Sweet Peptosue 10, a 2010 mare he showed in the Open and the \$15,000 Novice. The mare, owned by Jim and Carol Woods, is by Sweet Lil Pepto and out of Playboys Little Sue, a half-sister to the three-time Open World Champion and \$1.4 million producer Meradas Little Sue. Two of his customers, Jim Woods and Debbie White, kept their horses going all year and did the Senior Tour, as well.

"I think the Senior Tour will make a difference," Robbins says. "I think that after this year, everybody will be surprised at how many Seniors will be entered.

"It was so successful, a large improvement in entries by the Seniors. It's nice for the Seniors to have the buckles and awards for something they're trying to accomplish, while competing against riders in their own age group.

"One thing I'd love to see in the future," Robbins adds, "would be if the NCHA would have a Finals class for the Seniors at the World Finals. My customers are all above 50 years old," he adds. "As they get older, they don't feel like they can compete. This year, we're all entering the Senior classes every time it's offered. I'll enter them, too, where ever they're offered."

—MaryBeth Gokee

Non-Pro: Frank Harrison

There's never a better time than the present. Frank Harrison proved that the saying is true when he bit the bullet and hauled for the Non-Pro World and became the Horizon Yacht Senior Tour Champion.

"It was something that I could see was going to be close and it was something that I really wanted to win," said Harrison who found out about the Senior tour after a chance meeting with Jo Ellard.

"Initially that wasn't really my goal, but at the same time I thought, 'This is a good thing.' As the year went on it became more fun and more competitive and I really enjoyed it," Harrison said.

"It also gave us something else to talk about with the people in other classes and with the people who weren't necessarily hauling to get in

Open & Novice

Dale Robbins	75
Nina Lundgren	72
Pat Parelli	44
Jim McCall	28
Dee Merritt	17
Sam Shepard	15
Dave Scribner	11
Leon Harrel	11
Teddy Johnson	9
Ralph Depew	8
Lee Garner	7
Gary Ray	6
Joel Cohen	6
Rufus Hayes	6
Tom Lyons	5
Billy Ray Rosewell	2
Steve Miles	2

the Top 15 of the Non-Pro, but were hauling to get in the Senior Top 15. We needed something like that in the Non-Pro and all the way through the divisions of the organization, because people are getting older. I'm so grateful to the Horizon people for sponsoring it."

Harrison won the trip to Miami and is looking forward to taking it with his wife Johnel.

"I haven't been to Miami in years and years so, it will open up a new area for me," Harrison said.

Harrison went hard throughout the season in his bid to make the World Finals in the Non-Pro, where he ended up ninth.

"I'd hauled before in the \$15,000 Amateur and I'd made the finals a couple of times in the \$50,000 Amateur, but I'd never hauled in the Non-Pro. There was a big difference; it was much more challenging," Harrison said.

Harrison let his age and oil prices dictate that 2015 was the year that he should haul for the Non-Pro. He found his horse, Jay Moss Cougar by High Brow Cougar out of Ariel Rey by Dual Rey, an earner of \$116,356, by chance at a cutting in El Rancho.

"I'd been looking for a horse but I couldn't find one that would vet and haul in Texas or Oklahoma. I'd just about given up, so I said to Gaylon Wells, 'Let's go to California or Canada.'"

While at El Rancho, Harrison saw Bill Lacy.

"I know him from Crested Butte,

Non-Pro

Frank Harrison	91
Chris Dublin	80
Billy Collier	21
Christine King	21
Doug Pritchett	19
Holly Jones	16
Jo Ellard	16
Ron Davis	15
James Bower	14
Sammy Broussard Jr	14
Lee Garner	13
Maben Thompson	13
Jackie Walker	12
Joe Brooks Jr	12
Gerald Brecke	11
Vick Etheridge	11
Don Lee Smith	10
Becky Elliott	9
Hugh Winkles	9
Becky Bracke	7
Lauren Cooper	7
Gary Hansen	6
Joel Cohen	6
Steven Norris	6
Doug Neal	5
Deb Perse	4
Jimmy Kemp Jr	4
Mary Dangelmayr	4
Bonnie Martin	3
Dave Sheen	3
Leon Brown	3
Susan Moody	3
C H Dehaan	2
Charles Israel	2
Eddie Young	2
Faye Boyd	2
Gayle Allen	2
Jack Werner	2
John Claudon	2
Kimberly Thome	2
Lica Pinkston	2
Mary Jo Milner	2
Mike Jones	2
Billy Martin	2

Colorado, because we have a house there. I told him we were looking for a horse and he said, 'What's wrong with my horse, Jay Moss Cougar?' I told him that the biggest thing that was wrong with it was that he wasn't for sale."

Lacy however had put the horse on the market.

"That night he priced him to me. He told me to try him, but I didn't want to do that because he was showing him in the Mercuria (World

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Series),” Harrison said. “He made the finals so then I sure didn’t want to try him and then he won it and the deal didn’t change.”

In addition to Wells, Harrison also received encouragement to haul from Chubby Turner, Lindy Burch and Lee Garner, all World Champions in their own right.

“They said that if I wanted to do it that I should. I didn’t know if it was possible, but it turned out it was.”

He appreciated the hospitality at the shows in Batesville, Mississippi.

“He (Lee Garner) and Susie Barnett, are so friendly and welcoming. It doesn’t matter where you’re from or who you are, you’re welcome and it feels like that from the moment you walk in the door.”

—Bridget Kirkwood

\$50,000 Amateur:

David House and Marilyn Harris

David House never had any intention of becoming a cutter. Now five years in, House is the co-champion of

the \$50,000 Amateur Horizon Yachts Senior Tour.

“It’s an honor to be involved in it especially because it’s the first year. I’m thankful to Horizon Yachts for being a sponsor and to the NCHA for recognizing that there are older cutters out here who enjoy it and who enjoy competing against each other,” House said.

“It’s a competition for folks that don’t get around as good as they used to. In the Amateur I think that the top 10 were 25 years old or younger. It gives us guys and ladies who are a little more mature to compete against people who are our own age.”

House finished the season ranked 14th in the World in the \$50,000 Amateur, but had it not been for his friend Frank Harrison, he would never have got to show at the World Finals or have won the Senior Tour.

“I had not been on a horse for over 40 years. Frank found me an old ranch horse to ride and I was just having fun riding in the pasture,” House recalled.

“Gaylon Wells showed up at Frank’s house one day when I was there. I had no interest in cutting, but they convinced me to get on an old, turn-back horse named Hung Me Out To Dry. I cut two cows, got off, handed Gaylon the reins and said, ‘Go find me a horse. It was a total accident that I’m doing this and it’s been the absolute most fun I’ve ever had in my life.’”

House’s favorite shows from the season were in northern Mississippi and the Mid-South shows in Batesville.

“I like them because of the friendliness of the people and the efficiency with which the shows are run,” House said.

This was his first time to haul.

“It was a great experience. I really didn’t spend that much extra time doing it. I still had a full-time work schedule, so I just went on the weekends and took some vacation time,” said House who works in the oil business.

House rode Purr N Cat by High Brow Cat out of Beckys Haida by Haidas Little Pep, an earner of \$124,651. The 2007 mare had previously made Top 15 finishes with Wells in both the \$3,000 Novice and the Open.

“She is a great mare. She goes down the road easy and she always eats and drinks easy. She’s easy to get along with and to get ready,” House said. “She’s a great big mare and is the largest horse in the class nearly every time she goes to the herd.”

Marilyn Harris’ goal for 2015 was to show in the \$50,000 Amateur at the Mercuria NCHA World Finals. An excellent season delivered her that wish and the co-championship in the \$50,000 Amateur Horizon Yachts Senior Tour.

“Once I realized what the Senior World Tour was, I started entering all the senior classes along with all the regular 50 Am classes,” said Harris, Cave Creek, Arizona of why she entered the class-in-a-class.

“I was very pleased to receive the award and it was a very pleasant surprise when I did win. The tour is a great way of recognizing the senior riders for being successful in their

\$50,000 Amateur

David House	52	Lynn Laske	4
Marilyn Harris	52	Mark Johnson	4
Christine King	50	Morey McDonnell	4
Jerry McClellan	45	Connie Evans	3
Brian Butlin	41	Cynthia Patty	3
Holly Jones	25	James Bower	3
Linda Butlin	25	James Rogers	3
Camilla Brandon	17	Janice Knox Little	3
K C Townsend	15	Ronnie Harrison	3
Billy Collier	14	Susan Moody	3
Lauren Cooper	14	Utah Vardell	3
Sandra Brown	14	Bill Arnett	2
Jody Thiebaud	13	Buddy Thomas	2
Leslie Graor	13	Deb Perse	2
Gordon Gowdy	12	Debra Long	2
Michelle Van Dyke	12	Diane West	2
Gerald Brecke	11	Doug Wiens	2
Michael Doyle	10	Harolyn Deason	2
Gerald Dorros	9	Jeff Fisk	2
C H Dehaan	8	Jerry Yelverton	2
Charlene Lane	8	John Carmichael	2
William Retterath	8	Ken Polk	2
Elizabeth Meers	6	Kenny Thompson	2
Larry Bufkin	6	Lynda Ross	2
John Claudon	5	Dean Rebhuhn	2
Raymond Liles	5	Rondil Beasley	2
Billy Ballard	4	Terry Sligh	2
David Strickland	4	Tommy James	2
		Vicky Reaves	2

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own age division. I think it's a wonderful way to capture the interest of some of the over-60 riders who may or may not compete in the regular division.

"I'm very grateful to the Horizon Yacht people and Jo Ellard for doing it. Also, my hat's off to the show secretaries who did include it in their shows; it's more work for them, but it's a special division of the NCHA."

Harris, predominantly rode Hall of Famer Faith In My Cat by High Brow Cat out of Faith In Your Mate by Smart Mate, who she bought in 2012 from Tom Lyons. The gelding has earnings of \$517,612 initially from a successful aged event campaign with

Clint Allen and then with Lyons who rode him to the World Championship of the 2010 \$10,000 Novice and third of the 2011 Open.

"I am very blessed to own him and he's a big part of why I enjoy cutting so much. He's a great, great horse. He loves people and he loves his job. He's such a good horse to be around; I think he'd live in the house if I let him," said Harris.

After a lifetime horseback, which included showing reiners, cow horses, jumpers and pleasure horses, Harris made the switch to cutting in 2012.

"I'm passionate about horses," Harris said. "This is very exhilarating. I love the people that I'm competing with and against. It's a great opportunity to be competitive at my age in an event. I love it and I hope to be doing it for many more years."

Her favorite show from the season was the World Finals in Fort Worth. She finished the year ranked 13th in the World in the \$50,000 Amateur.

"It wasn't where I was the most successful, but it was fun. The excitement of the show and the crowds was a lot of fun."

—Bridget Kirkwood

\$35,000 Non-Pro and \$15,000 Amateur: Tom Murrell

For Tom Murrell and his wife of 16 years, Tina, showing cutting horses is like getting to visit family and friends while experiencing the thrill of putting your hand down on a good horse. For him, winning two Horizon Senior Tour World Championships in the \$15,000 Amateur and the \$35,000 Non-Pro, was just icing on the cake.

"We have met such wonderful people showing in the NCHA, that we don't want to miss out on seeing them," Murrell said, "so we will continue to show, maybe not quite as hard next year though. Showing in the Coliseum (Will Rogers) was just fun and hearing everyone hollering and having a smooth run in all of that was pretty awesome."

It was a very successful year indeed, for the 73-year-old Murrell, Elm Grove, Louisiana, in 2015. He rode his 11-year-old bay gelding, DR Cuzin, in two classes and made bank in each one. In addition to the two

Senior World Championships he was the \$15,000 Amateur World Show Champion with a first go-round win and composite score of 437.5, earning them \$2,444 at the finals, which made their year-end total \$10,762.46. Murrell ended up fourth in the World in that class and third in the World in the \$35,000 Non-Pro, where he earned \$8,809.84 during the year.

DR Cuzin was bred by Kelly Schaar. He is by Dual Rey and out of the Shorty Lena daughter, Shorty Candy. The gelding was trained by Ronnie Rice and has \$108,656 in NCHA earnings, while Murrell has cut his way to earnings of \$25,718. 'Cuz,' as Murrell calls him, made the Futurity finals with Ronnie Rice in 2007 and is a joy to own. "I love him, he's just a real nice horse that's easy to ride and he's really solid," Murrell said. "Casey Crouch rides him now

\$35,000 Non-Pro

Tom Murrell	65
Jody Thiebaud	34
Mark Whitcomb	21
Douglas Batchelor	19
James Mann	16
Kenneth Gilbertson	15
Jean Paul De Moissac	14
David Pilcher	10
Tom Luge	10
Gerald Abel	8
Larry Sullivan	5
Becky Bracke	4
Billy allard	4
Jerry Rankin	4
Kelley Davis	4
Stephen Harrington	4
Tim Kaehr	4
Hoppy Eason	3
Cheryl Callis	3
Kathleen Burr	3
Stu Steiger	3
Todd Bro	3
Alan Wagner	2
Dianne Schaeffer	2
Donald Weeding	2
Elizabeth Meers	2
Gerald Dorros	2
Jeff Boggess	2
Jim Jorde	2
Kenny Thompson	2
Linda Davies	2
Marilee Smith	2
Morey McDonnell	2
Ray Blair	2
Richard Searle	2
Rick Williams	2

\$15,000 Amateur

Tom Murrell	56
Jim Jorde	39
Linda Davies	39
Charlene Lane	25
Jean Paul De Moissac	23
David Pilcher	16
James Mann	15
Don McCutchen	13
Kenneth Gilbertson	13
Kathleen Burr	12
Jacque Accomazzo	11
Richard Godbee	10
Jerry Rankin	9
Gerald Abel	7
Joseph Dakan	7
Tommy James	7
Gail Wirtz Costello	6
H F Buck Johnson	5
Bill Dickinson	3
George Lane	3
James Cameron	3
Robert Dehaven	3
David Adelman	2
Dennis Fehrman	2
Gary Mark Clevenger	2
Michael Doyle	2
Jerry Lynn Liles	2
John Waters	2
Richard Searle	2
Robert Funderburk	2
Stu Steiger	2

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and then, but he doesn't require too much tuning."

Murrell spent a lot of time roping in his lifetime and dabbled in cutting, especially in 1986 and 1987. About three years ago he made the decision to sell his rope horse and really concentrate on cutting and he has not disappointed himself with the outcome.

Retired from the Fire Department for 20 years, where he served as a fireman for nearly 30 years, Murrell continues to raise cattle as he did even as he made a living at the fire hall.

A clinic with Casey Crouch in 2011 was the beginning of the husband and wife's cutting careers and they are far from done.

"My wife and I will hit the road next year. We have the same love for cutting and horses. We won't be hauling for a title this time, but if I were in my thirties, I would go for it again," Murrell said with a smile.

—Jatona Sucamele

\$2,000 Limited Rider: John Waters

If not for the Horizon Yachts Senior Tour, Louisiana cutter John Waters would have only shown about four or five times this past year. Instead, because of the tour and the incentives, he hauled throughout the south, showing 32 weekends to win the NCHA Horizon Senior Tour \$2,000 Limit Rider World Championship.

"I wouldn't have done this if it wasn't for the Senior," says Waters. "It gave me an opportunity to go and compete against other Senior riders. By doing that, it got me better and

better on my horse.

"For someone who had only won \$500, this Tour got me showing and helped me win over \$5,400. Even with my horse pulling up lame and not showing the last two months, I had enough of a lead with the 31 points, that I was lucky and able to hold the Championship."

Waters was in cutting and got out of it a few years ago, after the tragic loss of his horse.

"I bought a horse called Magic Ride, about two years ago," says Waters. "I loved this horse and since I was eligible for the \$2,000, I was going to haul for the World. But unfortunately, he colicked and died. I came home and got rid of everything. It just broke my heart. I got out of it completely."

About six months later, Waters was at Cowboy Church when a friend kept suggesting he take a look at a horse there.

"I got this horse, Hyastarlight, and I fell in love again," says Waters. "This is a nice mare by Grays Starlight and out of SR Hyacinth. Her dam won the 1991 NCHA 3-year-old Futurity in the Non-Pro and Limited Non-Pro."

"God sent me this horse (through the Cowboy Church) and this Senior Tour pushed me, motivated me to try and win something in the NCHA. So I pushed hard," adds Waters. "I train with Mason Griffin out of Pioneer, Louisiana. He had a lot to do with me winning it, too. He started helping me, and now he handles all my horses for me and takes care of everything."

Waters says he didn't realize what a big deal the Senior Tour was until he got to the Awards Banquet during the NCHA Finals.

"It was so special, we really felt like we'd accomplished something," Waters says. "In the NCHA competitions, it's tough for older people like us who may be on fixed incomes, it gives us an opportunity to achieve something. As long as they keep it in this type of category, I think all of my friends who are in this age group will keep showing in it.

"I think it's going to really get better and increase entries in the Seniors," says Waters. "A lot of people I've talked to think it's a good thing

for those of us who are 60 and over, with the Champion trophy and buckle. I think the impact will be a positive one and more people will start going."

Waters is busy writing a letter to the Horizon executives to thank them for what they've done, for their support and continuation of the Senior Tour.

"It was amazing how many people

\$15,000 Novice Non-Pro

Don Lee Smith	47
Jerry McClellan	37
Lee Garner	30
Holly Jones	22
Doug Pritchett	16
Ross Maggio Jr	13
Sammy Broussard Jr	12
Brian Butlin	10
Julie Curts	10
Kenny Thompson	10
Jo Ellard	9
Sandra Hayes	8
Barry Syra	7
Bob Petersen	7
Leslie Graor	7
Louis Gutierrez	7
Dan Pearson	6
Mike Boone	6
Bruce Richerson	5
Frank Harrison	5
Mary Lattimore	5
Viki Williamson	5
Joel Cohen	4
Norda Berger	4
Dean Rebhuhn	4
Troy Stewart	4
Bruce Hasbrouck	3
Carrie Tiemann	3
Dorvan Solberg	3
Ed Blakey	3
Georgina MacDonald	3
Jim Moody	3
John Walker	3
John Carmichael	3
Lynn Long	3
Marilyn Harris	3
Mike Jones	3
Waymon Traylor	3
Alan Wagner	2
Brenda Burns	2
Chris Dublin	2
Debbie Garner	2
Debbie White	2
Joseph Kalt	2
Pam Clements	2
Stu Steiger	2
Susan Moody	2

\$2,000 Limited Rider

John Waters	31
Dennis Fehrman	18
Keith Pearce	18
Billy Drennan	13
Ellis Cameron	11
Joseph Dakan	6
Debbie Pedrazzi	5
Joy Letourneau	5
Kip Connour	4
Peggy Lee Roy	4
Rita Hassard	4
John Partridge	3
Darla Haynes	2
Hank Elliott	2

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were in the Senior," he adds. "It's really stronger out in Arizona. Tom Murrell won the \$35,000 Non-Pro and he's in his 70s."

Waters plans to go hard at it again this year, showing a baby out of Magic Ride. He will be riding in the Senior classes and hitting the shows around the south including Batesville, Forest, Geneva, as well as the shows close to home.

"I'm still not a good rider," Waters jokes. "But I love it and I've become a better rider because of the Senior classes; it made me want to go show. I hauled up and down the road because of it. I plan to again this year and I hope others do, as well."

"At the banquet, they made us realize that we had accomplished something," Waters adds. "It's special and it gives us older riders an added incentive to push it throughout the year. I think that's a positive thing and I'm thankful for it."

—MaryBeth Gokee

\$15,000 Novice Non-Pro: Don Lee Smith

Don Lee Smith grew up in the Texas Panhandle riding horses and working cattle. His love for the cowboy way has him still in the saddle winning World titles at age 78.

Peptolistic, who has NCHA earnings of \$42,564, is the good gelding that Smith guided to the Senior Tour \$15,000 Novice Non-Pro World Championship. He is a son of Peptoboonsmal out of a Drummond-bred mare, Moms Stylish Socks. Peptolistic was trained by Matt Gaines and Gaines, Ed Dufurrena, Gaylon Wells and Troy Davis have helped Smith tune his horse throughout the year.

Smith sold his gelding at the Futurity Sale, but wonders how he will replace him with a new Novice horse.

"Peptolistic is a real cow horse. He wasn't just a trained machine," Smith said. "He really is a cow horse. I think Shannon Hall started him and Matt Budge and Matt Gaines finished him out. He was real fun to ride and a real gentleman to be around. He will be hard to replace, but he went to Mary Bradford, and she's a real cowgirl, so he got a real good home."

There are several shows that Smith really loves to go to. He feels that they go out of their way to make the cutters feel welcome.

"Lee Garner's at Batesville is probably the most welcoming and fun time to be had. I've been going there for 15 or 20 years. We had a good show up in Phoenix and we support Hamilton and Teddy Johnson, too. Lorren is my wife and she's my biggest fan. She goes everywhere with me."

Don joined the NCHA in 1997 and was a consistent hauler from 2000-2008, winning two Reserve Championships in the \$10,000 Novice Non-Pro in 2004 and 2006 aboard Merada Doc and Smart Lil Outlaw. He currently has NCHA earnings of \$269,465.

"I may be older, but I love to be on a horse and I love to compete. It's just in me. I thank God every day He allows me to do what I love with my great friends and a good horse. I hate to think about quitting," Smith said. "And I think that the Lord God has given me safe travel all over the United States and without His blessings and grace and mercy, I wouldn't have gotten it done. I also wanted to say that I appreciate Miss Jo (Ellard) and her effort to establish this class and thank Horizon for sponsoring it."

Watch out for Don Lee Smith and a new Novice horse in the 2016 hauling year.

—Jatona Sucamele

\$5,000 Novice Non-Pro: Lee Garner

In March of 2015, Lee Garner said that he'd win the Horizon Yacht Senior Tour if he didn't die before the end of the year. While open-heart surgery tried to poke a wrench in his plans, Garner was crowned the \$5,000 Novice Non-Pro Champion of the Horizon Yachts Senior Tour. He also finished seventh in the World standings for the class.

"It's such an honor to win something like that," said Garner, who is a member of the Non-Pro Hall of Fame, and won both the 1990 Non-Pro World Championship on Baldy Freckles and Cee Bar Quixote and the 1996 NCHA Futurity Non-Pro on Peponitas Acre.

"I am tickled to death about winning and I'm tickled that Jo Ellard got this going for us. When we get to about 65, most people discourage us and say that we're too old. Well I don't believe that, so this is truly a wonderful thing for the NCHA."

Garner, 71, likes his champion mare Hearts Desire Me by Bet On Me 498 out of Playguns Desire by Playgun, aka Lady Heart, an earner of \$26,462, because she is a lady.

"I tell her to hurry up and eat so I can go ride her, but she only ever takes one bite at a time," Garner joked.

More than that, he likes her because she is a winner. Hearts Desire Me was bred by Woody Bartlett and is a half-sister to Reys Desire, the 2010 NCHA Super Stakes Open Champion and the 2011 NCHA Super Stakes Classic Open Champion with Lee Francois.

—Bridget Kirkwood

\$5,000 Novice Non-Pro

Lee Garner	44
Jerry McClellan	32
Linda Butlin	29
Waymon Traylor	19
Doug Pritchett	16
Gary Hansen	16
Kenny Thompson	14
Doug Wiens	13
Mike Boone	11
Larry Sullivan	10
Sammy Broussard Jr	5
Billy Drennan	4
Dan Pearson	4
Jim Moody	4
Joy Letourneau	4
Kevin Maxwell	4
Leon Brown	4
Marjorie Massaglia	4
Doyle Fritz	3
Jane Mancuso	3
Susan Grose	3
Debra Cecil	2
Ed Blakey	2
Gayle Allen	2
Jack Werner	2
James Cameron	2
Jeff Boggess	2
Linda Freed	2
Mary Dangelmayr	2
Sonny Dottolo	2
Ron Davis	2
William Jovenall	2