

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION** *continued*

**\$1,000 Non Pro Limited**

**KELLI NOELLE BUCKLEY / NVR ANOTHER LUCKYHIT**

Kelli Buckley rode Connie Buckley's NVR Another LuckyHit (Pale Face Dunit x What A Lucky Hit x Hit The Lights) to the top of the \$1,000 Non Pro Limited standings in the North Central Region. Buckley and the 2013 gelding she calls "Chunk" teamed up in 2018.

"He was born and raised a reiner, as was I. In 2019, we transitioned over to learning cow horse and absolutely love it."

Buckley's most memorable NRCHA show moment of 2020 was a rainy day run at the Colorado Reined Cowhorse Association Mountain High in Estes Park. "That show was pretty memorable. Plus, it's hard to beat showing in the beautiful Rocky Mountains," Buckley said.

"This sport is humbling to say the least and every person that made their name on the NRCHA year-end regional standings deserves a big congratulations," Buckley said.

Buckley, who works in marketing, says her gelding's mile-long stops make him a horse that others readily notice in the show pen—that, and his flowing mane have earned him the nickname "Fabio" among their reined cow horse peers.



PERFORMANCE HORSE PHOTOGRAPHY

**NORTHEASTERN REGION**

**Open Bridle**

**MARK SIGLER / ITS TIME TO SMOKUM**

Winning the Open Bridle title in the Northeastern Region was the 2013 stallion Its Time To Smokum (One Time Pepto x Smokum Chic x Smart Chic Olena), ridden by Mark Sigler for the Dominic Conicelli Estate.

**Limited Open Bridle**

**KAREN BLACK / WANTS TWO B A CAT**

Wants Two B A Cat (Star Bert Gray x Two B Blue Baditude x Blu Quachita Hancock), ridden by Karen Black for owner Dina Mazzola, earned the Limited Open Bridle title in the Northeastern Region.

**Non Pro & Intermediate Non Pro Bridle**

**JAMES ROTH / KICK UP THE LIGHTS**

James Roth rode Kick Up The Lights (CD Lights x Kickback Nic x Nic It In The Bud) to the title of Northeastern Region Non Pro and Intermediate Non Pro Champion.



**Novice Non Pro Bridle**

**LISA F. SYKES / I INHERITED SMARTS**

Lisa Sykes and her 2005 mare I Inherited Smarts (Bodee Boonsmal x Smart Heritage x Smart Little Lena) made their second full show season together count. Sykes, 57, of Sarasota, Florida, just started going down the fence this year.

"We really started to trust each other this year," Sykes said, "When we started to get more consistent it showed, especially at New York's Cowgirl Classic Bridle Spectacular."

Sykes cites the greatest challenge of her season as the tough competition she faced from fellow non pros. "That being said, they were also my biggest cheerleaders. In New York and Pennsylvania we have a very supportive group. If I don't do well one of my friends does, which is just as good."

Sykes says I Inherited Smarts (Boonie) is talented in all aspects of reined cow horse competition, but particularly circling a cow.

"There are so many people to thank for our success this year. Jay and Rhonda Holmes at Triple J have given us a new home to train out of, which has been an amazing experience. I thank all my New York family for their support and of course my family for encouraging me to keep riding," she said.

**NORTHEASTERN REGION** *continued*

### Open Hackamore

#### REYS PRECIOUS STAR / MARK SIGLER

Reys Precious Star (Reys Star Cat x Tazanic x Nic It In The Bud), ridden by Mark Sigler for the Dominic Conicelli Estate, earned the Open Hackamore title in the Northeastern Region.

### Limited Open Hackamore

#### THIS CATS BOSS / REBECCA LIPKA

This Cats Boss (WR This Cats Smart x Boss Woody x CD Lights) ridden by Rebecca Lipka for Elizabeth Piccone earned the Northeastern Region Limited Open Hackamore title.

### Non Pro Hackamore

#### WENDY KUHN / THIS SENORITAS SMART

Wendy Kuhn rode her horse This Senioritas Smart (WR This Cats Smart x Shiney Seniorita x Shining Spark) to the Northeastern Region Non Pro Hackamore title.

### Open Two Rein

#### SOME SWEET BETTINCAT / MARK SIGLER

Some Sweet BettinCat (Bet Hesa Cat x Some Kinda Sweetie x Sweet Lil Pepto), ridden by Mark Sigler for Stephen Black, topped the Open Two Rein standings in the Northeastern Region.

### Non Pro Two Rein Champion

#### LIA J. SAVAS / METALLIC NICKEL



Lia Savas, of Central Islip, New York, has shown her 2014 gelding Metallic Nickel (Metallic Cat x Nickel N Dime Smart x Smart Little Lena) through each phase of reined cow horse competition.

"I bought 'Nickel' as a 2-year-old and showed him at the Snaffle Bit Futurity, the derbies, and now in the two rein," Savas said, adding that Nickel's cow sense makes him particularly fun to show. "He's great on fast cows down the fence and can easily maintain position and stay close on them."

Savas' most memorable NRCHA show moment of 2020 came during the 2020 Snaffle Bit Futurity when she won the Non Pro Two Rein class.

"I couldn't believe it," she exclaimed.

### Youth Limited

#### SYLVIA SPEELMAN / SWEET DEPOSIT CHEX



Sylvia Speelman and her 2011 mare Sweet Deposit Chex (Night Deposit Chex x Shes A Sweet Peppy x Peppy San Royal Lad) became a team in 2020. The 15-year-old student from

The East Berlin, Pennsylvania, youth had to start showing Sweet Deposit Chex in June after the gelding she had been showing was injured. Speelman met the challenge head on and finished the show season with her highest score and most memorable show moment of 2020.

"During my last show I scored my best with a 141, that was my most memorable NRCHA show moment of 2020. This mare always works hard when you believe in her," Speelman said.

COURTESY: BECKY SPEELMAN

## Non Pro Limited & \$5,000 Non Pro Limited JILL FLINT / CHAMP SUNSHINE



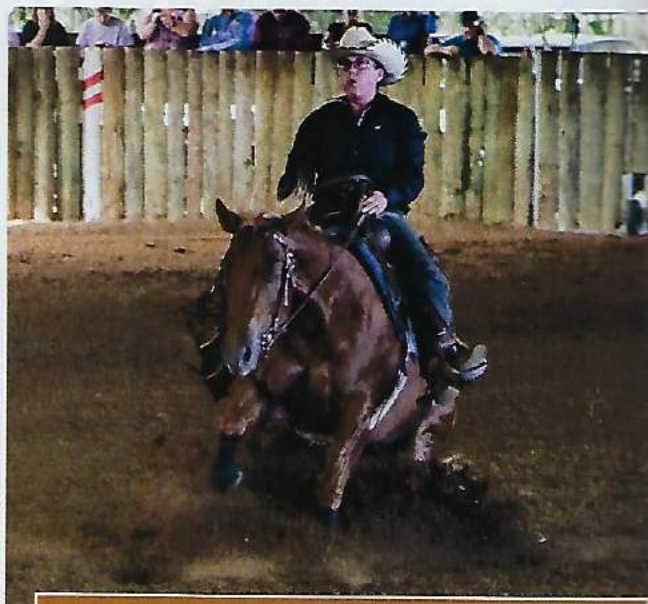
Jill Flint, of Newark, Ohio, and her 2014 mare Champ Sunshine (PA Oh Cay Champ x Jazzys Baby Bob x Bob Acres Reward) earned dual titles in the Northeastern Region, winning both the Non Pro and \$5,000 Non Pro Limited.

Flint, who is the Senior Vice President of Veto Pro Pac, has been partnered with Champ Sunshine for the past two years. The show memory that stands out for her most from 2020 was winning a Don Rich Saddle.

"Going into the final New York Reined Cow Horse Association show of the season, we were sitting second overall for the non pro limited high-point award. We had a great score and ended up winning the year-end high point award, which was a Don Rich saddle."

Flint, who comes from a Hunter Under Saddle background, says that with no arena or flat ground on her property, her biggest challenge has been coming up with creative ways to keep her horse show ready.

## \$1,000 Non Pro Limited ERIN KEYS / SHESHOOTINFORGOLD



Erin Keys and her 2015 mare ShesShootinForGold (PRF Spoonful Of Gold x Gunners Easter Lilly x Colonels Smoking Gun) enjoyed their first full show season together in 2020. The veterinarian from Oxford, Pennsylvania, says the highlight of her season was building show-pen confidence while gaining the skills needed to perform at her best.

"Sometime mid-year, I consistently had enough confidence in mine and my mare's ability to be able to consume more than just a cracker and a little ginger ale prior to showing. This was a huge testament to the development of my confidence in the show pen," she admitted.

Beyond gaining confidence, Keys says she had to work hard to perfect ShesShootinForGold's lead changes. She credits her coach and trainer Mark Sigler for his help.

"I can confidently say we can reliably change leads the majority of the time now," Keys said, adding that ShootinForGold's stop is her best attribute.

