



ARCHA IN THE KNOW



DIAMOND 7 FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON HORIZON



WELCOMING NEW OWNER, CHRIS WONDERLEY!

We look forward to continuing Atlantic Reined Cow Horse Association's relationship with Diamond 7 Ranch and Arena in 2026. We expect that there will be some positive changes for our association in the near future!

**JOIN US FOR OUR PRE-SEASON SPRING CLINIC!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[CLICK HERE](#) 



2026 SCHEDULE

- Show Prep Clinic – March 20-22, 2026
- Awards Banquet: April 30, 2026
- DUST OFF THE RUST: May 1-3, 2026
- MIKE CARONE CLASSIC: June 5-7, 2026
- SUMMER SHOOTOUT: July 17-19, 2026
- YOUTH COWHORSE CLINIC: July 20-21, 2026
- WRIGHTMETOSMOKUM: Aug 14-16, 2026
- THE GREEN SHOWDOWN: Sept. 11-13, 2026
- CODE WEST CLASSIC: Oct 29 – Nov 1, 2026

Diamond 7 Ranch & Arena
Dillsburg, PA



UTILIZING PRACTICE CLASSES FOR SUCCESS IN THE SHOW PEN WITH DARREN MILLER

Q: As a rider and trainer, what is the best way to prepare your horse to be shown in schooling classes (warm-up & tacking routine)?

When you're getting ready to go into a paid warmup or schooling class, you have to get your horse in the mindset that they are actually going to be shown. We prepare them the same way- we try to keep our feed schedule the same if the feeding time is going to be involved or affected by showing. You should do the same thing that you do to prepare your horse whether you're at the World Show, a weekend horse show, or a schooling show.

For me personally, there's a little different process in preparing for all three events: the rein work, the herd work, and the fence work. For the rein work, we try to lope them thoroughly and leave ourselves enough time to where we have them prepared. Then, we can take them back to the stalls, let them relax for a bit, and get back on 15-20 minutes before we're going to go show, go trot them around and then go show them. If you are one of those people that has someone with you at the gate to brush their tail out, you need to do all of those things. All of those things need to translate for that horse that "Oh, this really is a show". It is helpful for them to hear the announcer in these situations as well.

To me, the most important part of it is that you can get it set up as close to a show situation as you can. As a rider, you may not be as nervous as you would in a regular horse show, but some of that is going to translate because that horse is in there by itself and it's had the same preparation as a horse show class. **[cont on next page]**

SHOW EMERGENCY KIT MUST-HAVES

- **IN YOUR TRAILER:**
 - Spare tire and tools to change
 - Tire pressure gauge
 - Wheel chocks and Trailer Aid
 - Reflective triangles
 - Jumper cables
 - Duct tape, zip ties, rope, or bungee cords
 - Flash light
 - Spare halter/lead rope
 - US Rider membership
- **IN YOUR TACK STALL:**
 - Thermometer
 - Hoof Pick
 - Bandaging material (Vetrap, Cotton, Gauze, Duct Tape).
 - Antiseptic (Betadine or chlorhexidine)
 - Scissors, Knife, Wire Cutters
 - Disposable gloves
 - Electrolytes
 - Medications used as directed and contact info of your veterinarian.



Darren Miller is an NRCHA Professional and Judge located in Canyon, TX. He currently serves on the NRCHA Judge's Committee.



SCHOOLING CLASSES (CONT): WITH DARREN MILLER

Q: What is the appropriate way to utilize schooling classes to help prepare your horse for success in the show pen and ensure a positive experience?

For me, the most important thing is not letting the horse in on the secret that we're schooling him any sooner than I have to. One of the things that I see people do is walk through that gate and immediately go bumping around the bridle, kicking them, doing things that they would never do to them in a horse show. You'll get by with that a few times on a younger horse that doesn't know. Pretty soon, those older horses figure it out, and think "I've already gotten in trouble, I better not step out of line here because this is a schooling deal". Talking primarily about the rein work, but it also translates to the fence work, it makes it a little harder to trick them later on in that pattern. What's most important is letting them get as far into the pattern and allowing you to work on as many parts as you can before they figure out that they're being schooled.

When I am schooling, my goal there is to mark a 71 in the rein work and school my horse while doing it. I don't necessarily think of schooling as a goal to "0". A lot of times I can school a horse and still be a 70-71 run and not just automatically go pulling and kicking around on one. Now, if that horse does something that I don't want him to do, then I will address it, such as anticipating a lead change or running too soon to their stops. If you can get as much of that schooled out of them in the warm up pen, then take a little bit of the pressure off of them at a schooling show, you can still go and be 70-71 and get a lot done. Sometimes letting your horse relax a little bit and not always expecting them to go mark 73-74 can be beneficial for them mentally.

Q: Do you typically have your non-pros school their own horses or do you prefer to school them?

It depends on what the problem is. If it's a horse problem, a lot of times I'll school their horse for them. If it's a human problem, they need to work through it. A lot of those human problems you can actually fix in the practice or warm-up pen. But even then, once the person gets a little farther along and a little more educated, I want them to be able to do as much of it as they can.

Q: From a judge's perspective, what should be avoided during judged schooling?

I see a lot of people who enter in a schooling class because the horse is anxious. By the time they get done pulling around on it, they've actually made it worse. It is possible to do more harm than good schooling because they've done it in an inappropriate time or in a manner that this horse doesn't really understand. That's something that you have to be really careful of. What to avoid while schooling is what we should all be careful of as professionals in the industry, and what we should police each other when we see these things. As a general rule, if a random person just walked into that horse show and brought their kids, you do not want them to be offended with what they saw.

If you are doing a paid warm-up, you are allotted a certain amount of time and can do any pattern or maneuvers within that time. If you are in a judged schooling class, the horse and rider must attempt to stay within the realm of the pattern. Once that person deviates from that pattern, as a judge I start taking off maneuvers. In other words, if they're supposed to lope 3 circles to the left and they lope 5 circles, I may remove their last stop from the pattern in interest of time. If you are in a judged practice class with the intent of schooling and do not wish to be marked, a good indicator to the judge may be to "0" yourself immediately upon walking into the pen, within the realms of the NRCHA rules.



NOTABLE NON-PRO

ERIN KEYS

2025 NRCHA KIMES RANCH NON-PRO BOXING DERBY CHAMPION



Q: How did it feel to win the 2025 NRCHA Kimes Ranch Derby?

Winning the NRCHA Kimes Ranch Derby honestly felt unbelievable. Going into Scottsdale, I felt quietly confident. My horse, Bubba J, had been incredibly consistent, especially after how well he went at the Stallion Stakes a few months earlier. There, my own mistakes kept us just outside the top five, so coming into the Derby my focus was really on riding my best and staying out of his way. I knew if I could keep myself in line; we'd have a solid showing, but winning was never something I let myself think about.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your horse, and what makes him special to you.

Dixies Reybl Yell, aka Bubba J, is pretty special to me for a lot of reasons. He's a Dual Smart Rey out of a mare by Pretty Boy Cat, and I bought him as a 4 year old right after the World Show. He has the biggest personality and is genuinely fun to be around every single day. "Bubba J" fits him perfectly. He's got that easygoing, larger-than-life presence, and you can tell he truly enjoys life. He comes out of the stall happy, curious, and ready to go to work, whether that work is showing or just hanging out. Over the past year, he's matured immensely. He's definitely a show horse and knows when it's time to step up and lay it down in the pen. His real strength is in the cow work, he can read a cow so naturally, and that feel is something you can't teach. Every horse I've owned has taught me something different. Bubba J taught me patience, and to give the horse the benefit of the doubt. Trusting him and letting him grow into himself has made the journey with him incredibly rewarding.

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment in the reined cow horse?

Wow, that's a hard one. I've been incredibly fortunate to have had some amazing horses who have allowed me to find success in this sport in a relatively short amount of time, and I don't take that lightly. If I had to choose just one, though, it would be winning my first World title on Shesshootingforgold. That moment meant so much more than a win. It came at a time in my life when I was juggling a lot; building my career, becoming a new mom, and finding my way back into riding after taking a break. There were plenty of moments where I questioned myself and wondered if I was doing any of it well. During that time, I found an incredible support system within the reined cow horse community. The people, the encouragement, and the belief they had in me made a huge difference. Accomplishing something like that, in the middle of so much personal growth and change, gave me confidence and reminded me why I love this sport so deeply. That's something I'll always be proud of.

Q: What are your goals for this coming year with Bubba J?

My goals with Bubba J this coming year are really centered on continuing his development and doing right by him. I want to keep getting him more solidly into the bridle and let that process unfold at his pace. We're planning to head to the Celebration of Champions in February and possibly the Bridle Spectacular in Scottsdale in June, but those plans always come second to how he's feeling and progressing. More than anything, my main goal is to keep him happy- both in and out of the show pen. Bubba J truly owes me nothing. I feel incredibly fortunate every day I get to swing a leg over him and show just how talented he is. If we can keep building on that partnership and enjoy the journey together, that's a successful year in my book.



UPCOMING YOUTH HANNAH SOIFER

2025 NRCHA NORTHEAST YOUTH BOXING CHAMPION

Q: How did you get into riding, and specifically into cow horse?

When I was little I used to barrel race and I was looking for a new barrel horse. My mom found Sam [Andriola] and Quinn [Suarez-Rutigliano] and they put me on KitKat and let me work a cow and I ditched barrels.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your horse and what makes him so special.

Tick Tock always tries really hard for me and is really fun to work a cow on. He is also always happy.

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment in your riding so far? How did it feel to accomplish?

My proudest accomplishment was placing in the Youth Boxing at the Hackamore Classic last year. It was my first national show in a big arena and Tick showed really good and I felt happy cause it was are first year showing together.



Q: What are your goals for this year?

My goals are to show in the Box Drive on Tick Tock, to get better at showing my sister's horse Smoke, and to and to help Sam start my baby horse, Rizzy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JILL FLINT AND "DIAMONDS N CAICOS" FOR THEIR 2025 AQHA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN AMATEUR BOX DRIVE!



[To watch the winning run, click here!](#)

New NRCHA Rule Changes for 2026

[CLICK HERE](#)





THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS FOR 2026!

Best of Luck

TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS COMPETING AT THE
CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS!

