

2013 NEHC Western/Reining Seat Junior and Adult Medal Finals

by

Melody Taylor-Scott

Photos by EvergreenWebandMediaServices.com

2013 NEHC Western/Reining Seat Medal Finals

October 26, 2013

A frosty 8:00AM morning greeted the six Juniors and twelve Adults in the 2013 NEHC Western/Reining Seat Medal Finals for the Preliminary phase of the Medal requiring pattern work. The beautifully appointed horses and riders in the Junior and then the Adult Medal entered the ring to line up and receive their test instructions from this year's Medal Judges Phillip Fountain of Prairie Village, KS and Michelle Nyberg of Oriskany Falls, NY.



NEHC Western Committee members Camille W. Pepin, Kathleen Keefe, Ginny Kavanagh, Anne Messina, Jim Mullaly, with special thanks to Cecilia Bergeron Allen organized a great event. A welcome

hospitality luncheon for all the Medal exhibitors, organized by Courtney Cahill and catered by Latitudes Restaurant, was held in the Strou Building as interested horses looked on from their stalls.

This year the Pattern Test required both leads, small and large circles at the lope, halts, turns and jog work. Riders in first the Junior and then Adult sections laid down smooth, accurate tests for the Judges



review prior to returning for the second phase of rail work in the afternoon. Hailing from CT, MA, NH, ME, RI, and VT, this year's Medal finalists represented the full New England area.

The six Juniors came back to demonstrate their skills, and were required to ride all gates in the second direction without stirrups. Rising to the top call for the 2013 NEHC Western Reining Seat Junior Medal Champion is Niamh O'Sullivan riding Deirdre O'Sullivan's wonderful and aptly named "Absolootly Ready" who carried both the Junior and Adult Medal riders to their wins.

Riding to the Reserve Champion in the 2013 NEHC Junior Medal was Danielle Jordan aboard DZ Diver owned by Brittany Mayer and the yellow ribbon went to Kelsey Tremblay riding her "Truly A Treat". The remaining finalist are; 4th Ciara O'Sullivan on "Go Chocolate Smoke", 5th Jessie Gagnon on "Leaguer Go Lightly", and 6th to Emily Hathaway riding "Some Kinda Pleasure".



Ten Adults were called back to ride the rail in the second phase and also required to work the second direction without stirrups. Trainer Carol Mayer of Cumberland RI should be proud of her clients, finishing with a phenomenal 1st and 2nd in the Junior Medal and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th in the Adult Medal! Congratulations go to the 2013 NEHC Adult

Western Reining Seat Medal Champion, Chesley Chmura aboard "Absolootly Ready". Keeping it in the family, the 2013 Adult Medal trophy was presented to Chesley by the 2012 Adult Medal winner, her daughter Heather Chmura.

Called in as the Reserve Champion 2013 NEHC Adult Western Medal was Samantha Tickey aboard her "Graceful Version" and the third place ribbon was awarded to Victoria Mayer riding "There's Rox In My Sox" owned by Patrick Gahan of Cumberland, RI. Finishing in the remaining ribbons were; 4th Kendall Fiori and "Sassy Story", 5th Brenna Audette on "This Mister's Awesome", 6th Scott Mayer on "DZ Diver 1" 7th April Sandland on "Go Chocolate Smoke", 8th Caitlin Bilodeau on "Oliver Twist", 9th David DaSilva on "My Sharoana", and 10th to Rita Glaude aboard "Target The Stars".

This year's Western Medal winners received great prizes including a William Woods University \$2,000.00 Scholarship to Junior Champ Niamh O'Sullivan. All contestants received a muck bucket, a gift card and Cowboy Magic products from Smith Brothers/ Dover Saddlery, and the Reserve Ch Riders also received a Director's chair and a Western Saddle blanket from Smith Brothers. The Medal winners received a Belt buckle and embroidered Jacket by Signet presented by the Western Committee, the NEHC trophies presented by President Sue Arthur, and the Adult winner a Fat Max storage rack donated by Camille Pepin and Jim Mullaly.

The Sportsmanship award of a garment bag donated by Smith Brothers went to Adult Debra Hathaway and Junior Jessie Gagnon. Receiving the High Point Appaloosa and the Soper Sorrel Buck Challenge Trophies, both donated by Camille Pepin, was DZ Diver owned by Brittany Mayer and High Point Quarter Horse was Go Chocolate Smoak owned by Debbi Baker. For more information visit www.NEHC.info and find us on FaceBook @ NEHC Western Medal.