

CMSA'S 2008



WESTERN UNITED STATES CHAMPIONSHIP

Blazing
sixguns,
galloping
horses and
rock n' roll
music shook
the great
northwest
when the CMSA
rode into
Nampa, Idaho!

by Phil Spangenberg

This year's CMSA Western United States Championship (WUSC) match found itself in Nampa, in the high prairie region of southwestern Idaho. This past August 6-10 marked the first CMSA major championship to be held in this northwestern area, and attracted 162 competitors (151 adults and 11 Wranglers). Contestants included many cowboys and cowgirls from the northwest who had not been able to attend past major championships. Mounted shooters came from Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington, along with a fair number of competitors from a cross section of the U.S., including more the distant states of Arizona, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Tennessee and Texas, as well as those closer like California, Nevada and Utah.

The CMSA shoot was held in the Idaho Horse Park, a state-of-the-art equestrian center and community entertainment site where rodeos, concerts and other large spectator shows are frequently held. The Idaho Horse Park boasts of three indoor arenas, one—the 175-foot by 360-foot Sports Center Arena, which served as the site for our WUSC, is capable of seating 4,500 spectators. This indoor arena features an excellent sound system that is capable of broadcasting events and announcements throughout the entire Horse Park. Although the planned modern food concession addition was still under construction at the time of our event, a handy and fully-stocked concession counter was set up to keep everyone comfortable and well fed.

Adjacent to the Sports Arena is a 100-foot by 120-foot covered warm up arena, with 596 covered stalls, plus 18 wash rack/stalls, and 44 full-hookup, RV Parking spaces, as well as an additional 87 free trailer/RV parking spaces—all within a reasonable distance. By the way, the Idaho Horse Park furnished 24-hour security.

CMSA's competitors were quite impressed with the entire facility and to make things a bit more homey, the

Horse Park is conveniently located just a stone's throw across the street from a huge shopping center—complete with a Walmart, a Sam's Club, and other necessary businesses. In very close proximity are numerous motel and hotel accommodations, restaurants, a water park, an emergency care clinic, two hospitals (less than 5 miles distance), and adjacent to the Horse Park is a totally modern equine veterinary hospital and a well-stocked Western saddlery, tack, clothing and gift store.

From the very start, despite several days of unusually hot and humid weather, this CMSA WUSC seemed to have a special aura of friendliness about it. Actually, the weather had little effect on the CMSA, since the entire shoot was held within the confines of the pleasantly cool, comfortable arena. Northwestern mounted participants were glad to have a shoot of this importance in their region, while those who traveled from further away were enjoying the adventure of being in a different part of the country. With everyone settled in and homesteading the RV campgrounds, live-in horse trailers, motels and other temporary dwellings, the match got off to a rousing start on Wednesday, and the next four days competitors saw lots of mounted competition, and then some—with over \$50,000 in cash and valuable prizes awarded to the various winners.

Unfortunately, the National Advisory Board's (NAB) annual meeting, to discuss possible rule changes and other items of importance to cardholders was poorly attended, but those present did make progress in going over pertinent business. In attendance were NAB Chairman Bobby Ruwe, regional representatives Kenda Lenseigne, Travis Lantis, Clint Judkins and Fernando Vasquez, along with CMSA Board of Directors, Dan Plaster, Jim Rodgers, Brady Carr, our new Administrative Assistant, Patty Ogle and this writer/Director. Wednesday witnessed the beginning of the com-

petitions, and as with our other Big Four matches, the next several days consisted of non-stop exciting runs in such events as the Sundowner Dealer Group Cavalry Class, the Double E Rifle Class, the Colt Eliminator, and the Wrangler Pro Shootout, and of course, the WUSC Main Match!

Although the thick sand caused many to initially at this would be a slow arena, with no records being broken here, the



Kenda Lenseigne and Chad Little win the Overall titles and Natalie Johnson and Dan Byrd win the Reserve titles.

riding and shooting at this match was fast and furious as ever. When the smoke cleared at the end of the four days of competition, Ellensburg, Washington's, Kenda Lenseigne beat out all the gals—and the guys, taking Overall Overall honors in the Main Match! Coming in close behind was St. Michael, Minnesota's Chad Little, who took the Overall Cowboy position, while Natalie Johnson and Dan Byrd, of Arizona, grabbed the Reserve titles.



Natalie Johnson has her first big win capturing the Western US Ladies Reserve title.

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Kenda Lenseigne and Justin sets history by becoming the first woman to win the Overall at a major CMSA event.