

out. I was looking for a horse that wanted to show as bad as I did. My dad kept telling me she was the one but there was a heavy price tag. Two years later she was in my name. I still feel like I should frame her papers," says Hart.

Cutting is a family thing for Hart. Her dad, mom, and now daughter are all involved in showing. She couldn't have been as successful as she without all of her family member.

Hart says, "I would like to thank my husband for understanding my obsession for horses, my daughter for reminding me to keep my eye on the cow, and my mom for all the encouragement. Plus my dad for training the horse (Lily) to be what she is, making the rider proud and confident and finally, for being in every corner in every cutting pen that I have ever been in."

\$3,000 Novice Horse Champions: Guaranteeya Julestar and Jason Haefner

It takes a special horse to win two classes with two different riders in one hauling year. The Soula Jule Star gelding, Guaranteeya Julestar, did just that and more. Trainer Jason Haefner was able to earn the title of PCCHA \$3,000 Novice Champion and NCHA Reserve World Champion. After purchasing him, both Jason and Dana had success at numerous aged event shows. As a three year old Jason rode Jules to the PCCHA Wine Country Futurity Reserve championship, and Dana made finals in the Non-Pro, Gelding Stakes, and Limit Non-Pro divisions.

Jules holds extreme sentimental value to Jason and Dana. Jason explains, "A very good friend of ours, Jim Vaughn, bred his mother and raised Jules. He was supposed to be Jimmy's next aged event horse to show, but during Jules' two-year-old year Jim unexpectedly passed away. Jim was like a second father to me, so when his family gave us the opportunity to own Jules, it was really sentimental and special. When I started him as a two-year-old he showed a lot of talent and he got better and better the closer we got to his three year old year. When Jimmy died it was devastating to us and although it was a lot of money to us at the time Dana and I could not let him get away from us. There was just too much sentimental value to us, so we scraped together the money and haven't looked back."

Jason is no stranger to hauling on the weekend circuit. He has hauled for three consecutive years, but this year was unique. "We have hauled for three years and this was our fourth in a row. Every year Dana has traveled the road helping all of our clients achieve their goals and accomplishments. For me this year was all about Dana and Jules. My getting to show him and haul My Travalin Samantha in the \$10,000 novice for Mike Chiappari was just a bonus. But my main focus was Dana," says Jason.

In March, Jason hurt his shoulder and had to miss two shows. Tim Smith and Scott Weis stepped up to the plate to fill in for Jason, and show his horses in order to keep them in the standings. This meant a lot to Jason and showed him the true spirit of cutters.

"This year I saw the heart of the amazing people in this industry. When I got hurt and couldn't show, the way Tim (Smith) and Scott (Weis) stepped in with no hesitation and showed my horses was great and will never be forgotten. The concern and help that I received from everyone else was unbelievable. I owe a huge thank you to Lonnie Weaver who came down and helped work horses for two weeks until I was back on my feet and never thought twice about it. I truly have great friends in this industry and for that I am grateful," says Jason.

\$10,000 Novice Horse Champions: Smart Little Wren and Tom Long

With \$1.7 million dollars in earnings trainer Tom Long is no stranger to the winning circle. This year he rode T.J. & Debbie Day's mare, Smart Little Wren, to the \$10,000 Novice championship. He also showed her to 3rd place in the NCHA world standings. Smart Little Wren is a six-year-old mare by Smart Little Lena out of Special Lil Peppy with earnings just over \$50,000.

In 2007, T.J. & Debbie bought her from Bernie Kirkland. Their goal was to find a great show mare with the bloodlines for a future broodmare and Smart Little Wren was just the one for them. They placed her in training with Long and it has been a perfect match ever since.

"She is a great horse. She has the ability to stop and read a cow," says Long.

Hauling for a title was not a goal until March when they were showing in Las Vegas, NV. She had been in the top placing at all of the weekend shows and was leading both the world and PCCHA.

Debbie approached Long and simply said, "Let's try to win both". After the green light from the Days, Long hit the road earning just over \$26,000 this year.

Looking back on the year and his favorite shows Long says, "any show where you dominate and win is a good show. Therefore, there were a lot of good shows this year."

\$5,000 Novice Non-Pro Champions: Guaranteeya Julestar and Dana Haefner

It is an honor to win a championship title, and this year Dana Haefner completed that task with flying colors. On Guaranteeya Julestar, Dana won both PCCHA and NCHA in the \$5,000 Novice Non-Pro division with an unbelievable \$24,000 lead over second place. In 2008, Jason and Dana Haefner made the decision to haul their horse, Jules, in 2009 in order to get him as close as possible to \$100,000 in earning. Little did they know they would finish the year with two championship titles, pushing Jules lifetime earnings to \$135,000.

"Jason and I decided in 2008 that we were going to haul in 2009 and see what we could do. Jason and our barn have hauled consecutively three years in a row, and I've always wanted to do it. With Jules turning six and our clients wanting to haul again, the timing was just right for us to go down the road a lot this year," says Dana.

Dana has been around cutting her entire life. Her mom rode cutters and she started taking lessons at a mere twelve years old. She was hooked at an early age. "What I love best about cutting would have to be the horses themselves and the friends we make. Everyone's trying to win, but it's pretty incredible to know that those same people will turn around and try their best to help you too," says Dana.

Though Dana had great success and dominated her division it wasn't always easy. "This year has been an absolute roller coaster of emotion. The first Arizona show of the year I did everything wrong imaginable, and said 'I'm not hauling anymore.' Everyone was so incredibly kind and supportive. I talked with my friend and seasoned hauler, Diane Smith, and she gave me a lot of great advice and support. From that show on things got better, and of course Tim Smith reminded me all year long that, 'I thought you weren't hauling anymore,'" remembers Dana.

Besides the many accomplishments Dana achieved this year there were many factors making it an amazing year. "This year was especially fun and memorable

because the Booth family, Dedee McWhorter, the Corda girls, and Michael Gennis were also hauling with us in the Non-Pro and Amateur classes, it was a blast. By the end of the year between Jason, I and all of them and our barn ended up with two World Champions, two Reserve World Champions, six NCHA Top 15 winners, and multiple PCCHA year-end winners. It was such a fun and memorable year with the great group of people we were lucky enough to share it with."

\$15,000 Novice Non-Pro Champions: Rumba Boogie and Kim Vaughn

This year's \$15,000 Novice Non-Pro Champion is Kim Vaughn riding her eleven-year-old Rum Squall mare, Rumba Boogie.

"I did not set out to haul in 2009, but after going to the first few shows and doing very well I decided to continue on and see how it went. I could continue to show as long as I could pay my way," says Vaughn.

Paying her way is just what Vaughn did this year, as she drove across the country to become not only the PCCHA champion but also the NCHA World Champion to boot. Rumba Boogie, known as Rumba around the barn, was originally purchased for Vaughn's oldest son, Denton, so he could haul for the Junior Youth. Rumba carried Denton to the 2007 PCCHA Junior Youth Championship, and now every member of the Vaughn family has had the opportunity to show her.

Vaughn's husband Brad has trained Rumba throughout her younger years where she was a finalist in numerous aged events, but she was then turned out to pasture and used on the ranch. She resurfaced a few years ago, and that's when the Vaughns snatched her up.

"The best thing about her is she is very low maintenance. No vices, hardly any loping or schooling, stayed sound all year, and she beats me into the trailer every time. She loves cutting!" says Vaughn.

Vaughn had fantastic memories from the entire year, where she met some new friends and got to hang out with some hold ones. "I truly love weekend cuttings!" exclaims Vaughn.

Senior Youth Champion: Megan Madgwick

Megan Madgwick finished her youth career with a bang, winning the PCCHA Senior Youth championship and ending up Top 15 in the NCHA World standings. Hauling for the championship during her last year as a youth had always been something she had wanted to do, but nothing she truly imagined would happen.

"I liked to tease my parents last year and say I was going to haul, but I didn't really think I was going to get the chance," says Madgwick. "Then the beginning of this year came around and my mom was still letting me show Spinnie (Spinnies Star Olena). We were doing pretty well so my parents sat me down and told me that if we were going to do this, we weren't going to wait until the last minute to throw Hail Marys and jump up the standings. They started taking me to all the shows we could hit and then throwing me in the back of various friend's trucks to the shows we couldn't. It was an experience, like hauling always is, but it was the best time ever. I wouldn't trade a minute of it."

Throughout the year, Madgwick's main ride was Spinnies Star Olena, affectionately known as Spinnie. The Madgwicks imported him from Australia in 1999 after he won the Non-Pro Derby, and their trainer of the time, Terry Clifford, showed them his championship run. Since then he has been more of a superstar than they ever could have dreamed of.

Hauling for PCCHA and World titles is nothing new