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Stock Horse of Texas
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Stock Horse of Texas Launches into 2024 with New Board of Directors, Rule Changes & Inaugural Legacy Horse Award

Following a monumental year of growth in Stock Horse of Texas history, the versatility focused association is headed into 2024 with gusto, adding a Legacy Horse Award to honor those competitive stock horses, announcing new Board of Director members and changes to class rules as well as eligibility. Though the association is making adjustments, the commitment to show time camaraderie and dedication to the SHTX motto, “helping people ride a better horse,” remains strong.

In 2023, SHTX offered 18 educational clinics, eight cow practices and 10 shows that also offered concurrent classes or incentives with alliance partners American Paint Horse Association, American Quarter Horse Association and the Texas Quarter Horse Association. Additionally, top world champion competitors earned a berth to compete at the National Reined Cow Horse Association Celebration of Champions event in February 2024. For this year, SHTX once again offers multiple ways for members to earn points, qualifications and money at each show.

“The Board worked hard to offer new opportunities, address member concerns and improve association programs for 2024,” said Executive Director Jill Dunkel. “At the root of their decisions was the goal of maintaining a family friendly place for people to learn and compete with their horses.”

Aligning class rules across associations was primary to the Board of Directors when they met at the end of 2023. To that tune, rule changes and initiatives were voted on for 2024. Complete changes and the *2024 SHTX Rule Book* can be viewed at stockhorsetexas.org. Some items to note are:

- Each show will have a Show Representative
- All horse owners must have a SHTX membership (not a new rule) but a Family Owner membership was introduced to better facilitate enforcing this rule.
- Level 1 Open eligibility changed to \$3,500
- SHTX World Show Qualifying amended
- American Reliable Insurance / Ordner Insurance Derby was moved to the September show in Bryan
- A Provisional Boxing class was added and the Box-Drive, Box-Drive class penalties aligned with NRCHA
- Rules refined for establishing non-pro status

Additionally, the Board of Directors voted to establish the Legacy Horse Award. Horses that were shown in SHTX by at least three SHTX members in three different calendar years that achieved at least one of the following: SHTX Top 10 Year-End Award, Top 10 at the SHTX

World Show or Top 10 at a SHTX premier event (Derby and Futurity) are eligible. Nominations are due February 1 and must be made by the owner or former owner. The award will be presented at the Bryan Year-End Banquet on Saturday, March 2.

“These horses created a legacy within our organization, and we want to honor that. It’s quite an accomplishment for a horse to earn top level awards with three different riders. The Legacy Horse Award highlights these tremendous equine athletes,” said President William Lewis.

The Board of Directors, which includes President William Lewis, Ben Baldus, Ty Ferguson, Carisa Kimbro, Bill Lockwood, Reece Nichols, Taylor Peters, Shannon Pigott, Michelle Reding, Justin Stanton, Bobbie Walton and Jonathan Yarbrough, was busy at the meeting. In addition to the rule changes and award being established, the board recognized that the 2023 Western Horseman Stock Horse World Show and American Reliable Insurance / Ordner Insurance Derby was reaching a level of entries that surpassed ability to have a family friendly show. To that, the Board voted to move the Derby to the fall Aggieland Classic show in Bryan, held September 26 through 29 at the Brazos County Expo. Dunkel said this will allow SHTX to truly showcase the Derby as a special event.

The Western Horseman World Show qualification was also amended for 2024. Qualification will be for the horse/rider combination for all divisions except Open and Level 1 Open. To compete at the World Show, a horse/rider must show in the same class and division at least one time in order to qualify for that class/division. For the Open and Level 1 Open, qualification will be on the horse. The horse must be shown in that class and division by any rider at least one time to qualify to compete at the World Show.

Riders compete all year for the honor of earning a saddle or other prize in the SHTX Top 10 All-Around standings. The Year-End Banquet held during the Bryan Kickoff Classic, provides the celebration opportunity to both wrap 2023 and get 2024 off with a bang. Competitors in SHTX ride in four events: stock horse pleasure, ranch trail, cow work and reining. There are 12 divisions that are awarded World Champion and year-end prizes.

The 2024 SHTX show year starts with the Bryan Kick Off Classic on February 29 through March 3 in Bryan, Texas. The complete 2024 schedule is available stockhorsetexas.org. The show year runs through October and culminates in the *Western Horseman* Stock Horse of Texas World Championship Show, which will be held in Abilene, Texas.