



**Stock Horse of Texas Association**  
3708 E. 29<sup>th</sup> St, PMB #101  
Bryan, Texas 77802  
(979) 846-4538  
[www.stockhorsetexas.org](http://www.stockhorsetexas.org)

**SHOT Contact:**  
B.F. Yeates, Executive Secretary  
(979)-846-4538  
bfjyeates29@suddenlink.net

**MEDIA Contact:**  
Beverly Moseley  
(979) 324-7480  
bevmoseley@aol.com

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SHOT annual conference and banquet resounding success**

FORT WORTH — Stock horse enthusiasts gathered recently at the Historic Stockyards to attend the Stock Horse of Texas Association's second annual stand-alone conference and stock/ranch horse versatility judging seminar.

The event held at the Cowtown Coliseum was an opportunity to educate and inform competitors on SHOT competition guidelines.

"I thought we had a really good turnout. Our association has grown so much. Every time I go somewhere people will ask about [SHOT]," said Vicki Hoggett, a past president of the association who was one of the judging seminar riders.

Some of the top-ranked riders for 2007 rode practice runs and demonstrations in stock horse cow work, trail, reining and pleasure classes. Attendees gained insight on how maneuvers are judged and evaluated at competitions.

B.F. Yeates, Dennis Sigler and Gary Potter served as the panel of judges. The judges and attendees scored each rider's maneuvers in the four events and discussed and evaluated the scores and reasons after each run.

This also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn where credits are earned and deductions taken on scored maneuvers during competitions.

"It was interesting to listen to comments on how to score horses," said Diane Paris of Hico.

This year's seminar also was filmed and will be included in a SHOT judging video currently under production.

More than 100 people attended the year-end awards banquet that was held after the judging seminar.

Before the awards ceremony, Jack Brainard a SHOT founder and renowned horse trainer spoke to the crowd. He shared a lively anecdotal history about how SHOT's inception began in his living room, while also paying tribute to its founders and the individuals that have grown the association into the organization it is today.

Fifty SHOT riders received year-end recognition and awards that included trophy saddles, buckles and jackets. The 2007 high point, all-around riders from each division were awarded custom handmade saddles from Don Gonzales of Don Gonzales Saddlery in Bryan.

All-around saddles for 2007 were awarded to Rick Thompson of Bryan, open division; Vicki Hoggett of Bluff Dale, non-pro division; Allison Rogers of Kaufman, limited non pro division; Alisha Hoke of Stephenville, novice division and the youth division saddle went to Catlyn Wold of Kaufman.

Stock Horse of Texas Association, Foundation, Inc. was founded to promote education for western horse enthusiasts to ride and train an all-around western stock horse that can be ridden on the ranch, in the ring or down the road.

For more information on the Stock Horse of Texas Association contact B.F. Yeates, executive secretary, at (979) 846-4538 or [www.stockhorsetexas.org](http://www.stockhorsetexas.org).