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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2006

Neel makes it a three-peat

Tom Neel of Milsap, Texas, has won The TR3 Arena Rake 2006 Stock Horse Versatility CLASSIC for the third year in a row. This year, Neel rode Delta Olenas Jul, owned by Trinity Lakes Ranch of Bedias, to the all-around title.

“I've been fortunate to have some really good horses. He's a real big stopper,” Neel said. “He's got quite a bit of cow. He's got a lot of speed. He's just real solid.”

The classic was held on Oct. 7 at the NRS Training Center in Decatur. It was open to four-, five- and six-year-olds of any stock-type breed. Riders competed in pleasure, trail, reining and working cow horse classes.

The CLASSIC paid \$5,000 in added money for a total payout of \$7,600 split between class winners and all-around winners. Neel took home a SHOT trophy saddle, GTO gate opener and a total of \$1,877.20 for his day's efforts.

Holly Kent of San Jon, N.M., won the reserve all-around title with just two points standing between her and Neel. Kent rode Red Hot Onion, owned by Carl Kent. She won a custom belt buckle, GTO gate opener and earned a total of \$1,687.20.

Putting in solid performances, Kent was leading for the all-around title after her pleasure, trail and reining performances with a total of 36 points to Neel's 28 points.

The all-around title came down to the working cow horse class. Neel won the class, pushing his points to a total of 40. Kent chose to rope her calf and missed with two loops, knocking her out of the top 10 finishers in the class.

Rounding out the all-around top six CLASSIC winners were Kim Lindsey of Jayton, Texas, who rode to a third-place finish on JRS Hibrow Badger, owned by Tena Johnson of Stoneham, Colo. Lindsey was awarded handmade spurs and CSI saddle pad and earned a total of \$1,284.40. Placing fourth and earning \$889.20 and a CSI saddle pad was Rick Thompson of Bryan on Oh Cay Jose. Rodney Rosenauer of Burleson, Texas, rode Heza German Sailaway to a fifth-place finish and earned

\$661.20 and a 20X Bailey hat. Peggy Walker of Welsh, La. rode to a sixth-place finish on D.W. Cozan and earned \$600.40 and a 20X Bailey hat.

The winners in each stock horse class received \$228 and a 150-dose bucket of Grand Meadows Nutritional Product. Second through sixth place finishers received money and Grand Meadows Nutritional Product.

The top six finishers in the individual stock horse classes were:

Pleasure - Walker; Kent; Thompson; Neel; Mark Stowe of Slaton, Texas, on Conchos Colonel, owned by Kim Guay of Lubbock; and Lindsey.

Trail - Lindsey; Kent; Thompson; Jay Emerson of Merkel, Texas, on Acres of Style, owned by Thomas Hicks of Hawley, Texas; Rosenauer; and Neel.

Reining - Kent; Rosenauer; Neel; Stow; Thompson; and Neel, riding Highbrowed Smooch, owned by Vicki Hoggett of Bluff Dale, Texas.

Working cow horse - Neel; Lindsey; Stowe, on Handle Bar Nic, owned by David Barnes of Prosper, Texas; Neel, on Highbrowed Smooch; James Black of Stephenville, Texas, riding Reckless Rum, owned by Jerry Palmer of Clyde; and Walker.

Sponsors for the CLASSIC included TR3 Arena Rake, Oseloa, IN; Cowboy Publishing Co., Fort Worth, Texas; Pipeline Resources, Van Alstyne, Texas; Martindale Feed Mill, Valley View, Texas; GTO Gate Opener, Tallahassee, Fla.; Stall Dry Stall Deodorizer, Las Vegas, Nev.; CSI Saddle Pads, Creighton, Mo.; Bailey Hats, Fort Worth, Texas; Teskey's Saddles, Weatherford, Texas; and Grand Meadows Nutritional Products, Orange, Calif.

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. The Stock Horse Versatility CLASSIC was sponsored to promote the early development of versatile western stock horses.

The Stock Horse Versatility CLASSIC was run under the same rules as SHOT competitions held throughout Texas. These competitions are held in conjunction with a versatile stock horse clinic almost every month of the year and are open to all breeds of horses.

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