

USA Reining 2016 Champions Announced

The USA Reining 2016 Champions have been announced and members of the USA Reining Board of Directors were quick to congratulate the new champions who attained their titles through year-long competition at USA Reining events.



Shane Brown

For the second year in a row, Shane Brown of Elbert, Colorado is the USA Open Champion Reiner. Shane, was a member of Team USA at the 201 SVAG FEI World Reining Championships August 11-13, at the CS Ranch in Givrins, Switzerland riding Susan Geiger's 2009 AQHA stallion Wind Er Up Wimp. Shane has been a National Reining Horse Association Futurity Intermediate Finalist, multiple AQHA World Show qualifier and finalist, an APHA World Show Champion. He has served as Rocky Mountain Reining Horse Association President and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Reining Horse Association and Chairman of its Professional's Committee.

The USA Reining Open Reserve Champion for 2016 is Matt Palmer of Elverson, Pennsylvania. Matt currently focuses mostly on futurity and derby horses and has lifetime earnings nearing \$320,000. A two-time USEF Gold medalist, he is also a 2-time NRHA World Champion, and winner of various Derby Championships, including the Carolina Classic and Florida Classic and a 4-time American Quarter Horse Congress champion. Finishing third for the year is Troy Heikes from Scottsdale, Arizona.

In the Amateur Reining there Catherine Crandon of Ocala, Florida also won her second championship in a row! A realtor specializing in horse property in Ocala, Florida's horse country, Catherin Crandon's life has always included horses but since she began reining fifteen years ago, she has earned some distinctive laurels. A former Top 20 Non Pro for the NRHA, she has won a couple World titles over the years, including the 2010 Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1 championship. Reserve Amateur honors went to former University of South Carolina equestrian Haiden De Jane with third going to Morris Kulmer of Bountiful, Utah.



Raeanna Thayne

The 13 & Under Youth Champion is Raeanna Thayn of Tioga, Texas. Thayn is an accomplished youth and Non Pro rider with a string of accolades and championships in reining competition. The USEF 13 & Under Youth Reining National Champion Bo Van Duys of Parkland, Florida added another laurel, ending the season as the USA Reining 13 & Under Reserve Champion. Third place went to 6 year old Lisa Pirtle.

In the 14-18 Youth division the USA Reining Championship went to Blair Thompson of Canyon, Texas. An accomplished competitor, Blair has garnered championships at West Texas Reining Horse competitions the NRHA Derby and at the Tulsa Reining Classic.

The Reserve Championship in the 14-18 Youth went to another accomplished youth competitor James Belden, Jr. , with third going to Lia Turenne.



Amanda Hurd



Hunter DeJane

The USA Reining Youth 19-21 Champion for 2016 was Former USEF Youth titlist Amanda Hurd. The Reserve Championship ended in a tie between sisters Hunter De Jane and Haiden De Jane



Dale Dedrick (left), Jennifer Flanagan (right)

The Para Reining Level 1 Champion was Dale Dedrick, with Jennifer Flanagan topping the Level 2. Cole Jacobs ended the year as the USA Para Reining Level 3 champion with Cullen Le Roy winning second.



Fred Win

Frederick Win was the USA Para Reining Grade 4 Champion.

USA Reining embodies youth, amateur and para riders, as well as open competitors. A key priority is to educate and provide a pipeline for reiners to progress through the various levels on their way to the FEI international level of competition. USA Reining represents its members as the fully compliant USEF-recognized affiliate for reining, advocating fair sport and horse welfare as key values of the organization. For information on USA Reining, visit the website at www.usareining.us or call 580-759-2400.

Awards will be given to the top three year-end finishers in Open, Amateur, Youth (3 age groups) and Para Reining.