

## I Won by Andrew Frances

- 1) I have been riding since I was about 5 or so. I started with a pony named Jack that wasn't broke, but I would hop on him and see how long I could stay on. After him, when I was about 9, I got a cattle horse named Jet. That is what started my career.
- 2) I have ridden just about every discipline out there on horses. Now I ride mainly western pleasure, which is my favorite. When I first started out with horses I was doing team penning and sorting, along with barrels, poles, keyhole, flag, basically all the speed classes. I did a lot of trail riding as well. After that, I moved to english for a little. Took a lot of lessons, went over some tiny jumps that were basically steps for the horse. During this, I got my first pleasure horse which I did about everything on, showmanship, english, western, reining, I think I even tried barrels on her for equestrian one time...pretty slow but it worked. I did reining on a horse that knew how a little after that and attempted speed on her. Then I got my horse that I still have now and made me go into western pleasure fully.
- 3) The biggest person that has influenced me throughout my career in horses would be my dad. He is the one that got me into them, and has shown me what they are truly like. He is with me every step of the way, showing me what to do and when. He has been the biggest help of anyone, and without him I wouldn't be writing this article.
- 4) In the real world, I am a co-op lab tech at Hemlock Semiconductor. I wish horses could pay all the bills, but don't we all.
- 5) My family consists of my two parents, David and Nancy, who I'm sure many have met before or heard of. I also have 3 sisters: Jennifer, who is married, Emily, and Stephanie.
- 6) The best part of showing MMOHSC would be the ease of everything. They are close to me and just about the cheapest circuit around. I also like how everyone treats each other like a giant family. Even through the stresses of showing, you can find someone who is smiling and enjoying the day.
- 7) One rewarding experience that I've had with the circuit that has stuck with me is my first year of showing MMOHSC. I only did w/t back then but for my first year ever showing western pleasure I won reserve champion for novice rider. It's not really much anymore, but I believe it has helped me stay with pleasure.
- 8) Throughout showing MMOHSC, I have won many things. Much of it is yearend prizes from points I have received from showing that year, but I have also won overall prizes as well. Just last year I won Champion Senior Western Pleasure Horse and 2&under halter, of which I received engraved leather halters. Among the biggest thing I have won is money from the Jackpot classes.
- 9) To anyone considering joining MMOHSC, I would say that it is a good place to go if they want a great show experience. Everyone is friendly and inviting, there is good competition in all classes, the circuit is run to the best of abilities and constantly open to change and new ideas that present themselves. Everything is convenient and simple. The shows may run long at times, but that is all part of the experience. There are many opportunities to show throughout the day/weekend since the show is not split combined. If you have a bad day one day, you can get up the next morning and do everything over again and try to make it better. The prizes are beyond anything else and just add to the fun.