

MICHIGAN BARREL RACING ASSOCIATION

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February, 2015 Newsletter

2014-2015 officers

President: Heather Greba

Vice President: Kylee Wilson

Directors (2 years)

Konnie May

Wanda Kuripla

Terri Zick

Directors (1 Year)

Charlotte Kennedy

Sherri Oakey

Shelby Williams

Brittany Kuripla

MBRA Events

Board of Director's Meeting

The annual Board meeting was held on February 8, 2015. The show schedule was established so take a look at the website for upcoming shows & contact a Board member or officer if you want a venue to be considered!

Next Race:

March 7, 2015, at TKy. As always, check the website for schedule updates

"I frequently dream of being on these horses' backs and running across a field. And the horse and I are one."

William Shatner

MBRABarrelRacing@yahoo.com



Season Highlights...so far

The holidays are long over and the new-year is well under way. For most of us (and our horses) this gives us a little break from the rigors of the show season. The 2014-2015 season started off with a well-attended race at the Kennedy Arena on September 28. The first go brought 84 riders, with a whopping 35 in poles! We were fortunate that Mother Nature accommodated the three outdoor shows in September and October. The shows held in November were thankfully hosted at either TKy or Sundance, allowing us to run indoors out of the weather.

An average of 77 barrel racers turned out for fall shows. An interesting trend appears to be occurring in that an average of 27 pole benders turned out for the early season shows, as well, which represents an 18% increase over the previous season average of 23 pole benders. This may prove to be an exciting and competitive year for pole benders!

Membership for the current season is growing at a healthy pace. As of February 14, MBRA has 126 new or renewing members. There are plenty of shows scheduled during the spring and summer so encourage your friends who have an interest in joining to visit the website for the membership application!

Photo of Becca (DaSilva) Clark courtesy of Imagewrx, LLC

Results...

9/28/14: Kennedy Arena

	1st Go		2nd Go		Poles	
	84 Riders	\$882.00 pay-out	71 Riders	\$745.50	35 Riders	\$227.50
1D	Sherri Oakey	15.771	Sherri Oakey	15.882	Kassie Ely	22.073
2D	Jessica Main	16.273	Brooke Richardson	16.442	Gailyn Daggett	24.633
3D	Rachel Clark	16.771	Kelly Schlimmer	16.922	--	
4D	Caitlyn Lewiski	17.782	Heather Taucher	17.901	--	



10/12/14: Lakeside Arena

	1st Go		2nd Go		Poles	
	83 Riders	\$871.50 pay-out	82 Riders	\$861.00	26 Riders	\$169.00
1D	Sherri Oakey	16.157	Terri Robertson	16.250	Kassie Ely	21.848
2D	Jeri Witzel	16.659	Emily Elsholz	16.751	Emily Elsholz	24.326
3D	KC Main	17.224	Chelsea Hunt	17.297	--	
4D	Tracy Knauft	18.223	Kaley Lilly	18.269	--	



10/18/14: Kennedy Arena (Co-Approved with NBHA)

	1st Go 67 Riders \$703.50 pay-out		2nd Go 63 Riders \$1108.80		Poles 22 Riders \$231.00	
1D	Sherri Oakey	15.590	Cami Cumper	15.627	Megan Clemens	22.764
2D	Paige Graham	16.338	Jeri Witzel	16.172	Deb Stults	25.071
3D	Kelly Brandt	16.613	Maria Matthews	16.655	--	
4D	Kelly Brandt	17.961	Kali So	17.633	--	



11/1/14: TKy Arena

	1st Go 81 Riders \$850.50 pay-out		2nd Go 75 Riders \$787.50		Poles 29 Riders \$188.50	
1D	Stassi Pyne	15.292	Tasha Burow	15.303	Kassie Ely	21.820
2D	Tasha Burow	15.795	Karen Allen	15.837	Bailey Allen	24.102
3D	Ashley Hoose	16.318	Joanne Shegan	16.331	--	
4D	Brooke Braska	17.361	Taylor Pence	17.366	--	

11/9/14: TKy Arena

	1st Go 84 Riders \$882.00 pay-out		2nd Go 83 Riders \$871.50		Poles 25 Riders \$162.50	
1D	Ronda Casey	15.295	Jessica Main	15.234	Elsie Cripe	22.989
2D	Wanda Kuripla	15.822	Rachel Clark	15.749	Joanne Shegan	25.034
3D	Karen Allen	16.301	Joanne Shegan	16.273	--	
4D	Kalleena Vanhoughton	17.564	Joy Fath	17.262	--	

11/15/14: Sundance

	1st Go 64 Riders \$672.00 pay-out		2nd Go 60 Riders \$630.00		Poles 25 Riders \$162.50	
1D	Sue Bartz	14.362	Sue Bartz	14.100	Jennifer Schumaker	22.867
2D	Bailey Allen	14.907	Shelby Williams	14.601	Tim Zielinski	25.547
3D	Heather Greba	15.419	Hillary Anderson	15.106	--	
4D	Nancy Robertson	16.418	Angela Carnes	16.182	--	



11/29/14: Sundance

	1st Go 73 Riders \$916.50 pay-out		2nd Go 72 Riders \$906.00		Poles 21 Riders \$136.50	
1D	Shelby Williams	14.053	Jamey Griffin	14.196	Kassie Ely	22.230
2D	Rachel Clark	14.561	Jennifer Schumaker	14.730	Deb Stults	24.338
3D	Aly Allen	15.085	Ivy Allen	15.274	--	
4D	Lana Mohler	16.069	Miranda Wells	16.207	--	

Preparation...

A few among us have maintained a schedule of competition over the winter, but for most of us the last few months have been a welcomed break from the pressure to perform. The first show of the spring can sneak up on us though and suddenly we're within a couple of weeks of the first MBRA race of 2015. Preparation is on

everyone's mind! Some among us know the joy of having an indoor arena in which we can spend the long winter months schooling and getting back to the basics, some are lucky enough to haul to a nearby arena, and some just do the best we can keeping our horses fit on trail rides through the deep snow. No matter what our methods of keeping our faithful partners healthy & fit through the cold weather, we're all eagerly getting ready for the upcoming MBRA spring season. Farriers are called to put shoes back on, bridle paths are trimmed for the first time in months, saddles are cleaned, we dust off our own real clothes...not just the filthy overalls in which we've spent the winter doing chores!



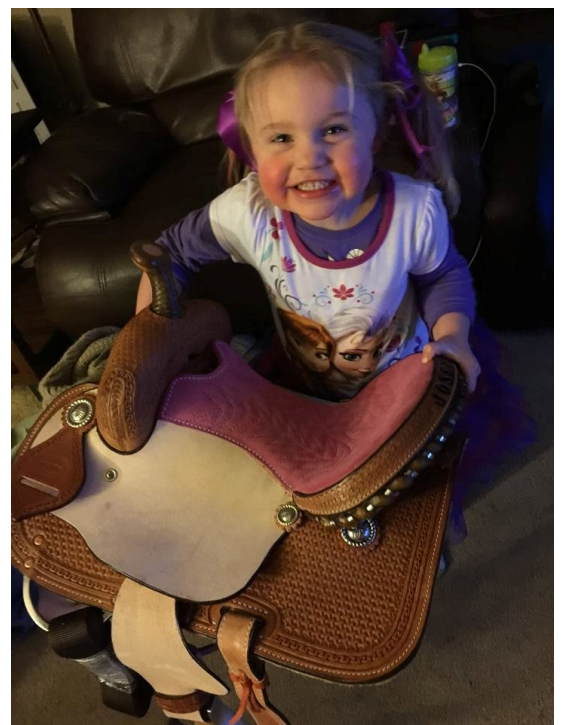
Not only are we all getting physically ready, mental preparation is critical as well. It's easy to give discipline and focus a little break over the winter as we cut ourselves some slack due to weather and the short daylight hours. Now that the days are lengthening and the brutal conditions are showing signs of relenting, we start shifting our attention away from just getting chores done before our fingers ache from the cold to the real reason we do those chores in the first place...we love to work as a team with our horses! Our horses undoubtedly need to make that mental shift as well. Our wonderful mares and geldings that were so in tune with us in November have

spent months doing horse things and may need some time to ease back into the routine.

Preparation is different for everyone and the most experienced among us make the transition from winter to winning seem effortless, while for others it takes a couple of shows to get back in the swing of things.

Regardless, there is an excitement and anticipation that we all feel as the first race draws near. This is evident most clearly in our youngest riders for whom each season is a different and exciting new opportunity. It is fun for the rest of us to watch their enthusiasm as they experience their first Maverick runs, the first run without someone leading, their first REAL barrel horse, getting tack that is all their own...

While our love for our horses and enjoyment of the sport remain constant, our human lives become more complicated over time and preparation can become more challenging. Our President



Heather Greba and Kyle Kedzierski welcomed new baby, Addison, into their lives less than 6 months ago. While a blessing, that will make the upcoming MBRA season more precarious for Heather to balance.

Hopefully we can all help to do a few of the things that Heather takes care of at every show and be ready to pitch in on occasions when little Addison has ideas that don't include barrel racing! From the looks of things, it won't be long until she is joining Mom & Dad at races!



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Welcome to the newest little MBRA barrel racer...on February 13 Ashley Hoose and partner Josh VanGuilder finally got to meet the little girl that they have been anticipating for 9 months...and surprise, she's a BOY!!!

We look forward to meeting Chandler Ray in person in the near future!



The MBRA Experience...

MBRA has enjoyed record membership in the past couple of years and cost effective races and nice pay-outs are only part of what attracts members. The supportive family environment of the Association is a big part of what keeps people coming back. Everyone has something to offer to sustain the success and positive feeling of MBRA.

Whether you pitch in setting barrels (which is always needed), help out in the office between runs, maybe you try your hand at announcing for a few drags or collect expo money for a while before the show, or help break down the equipment after the show you are a valuable part of the process that keeps our shows running smoothly!

Not everyone is in a position to lend a hand in show operations. Let's face it, folks showing multiple horses can have their hands full! Fortunately, everyone can contribute to the efficiency of each race by being prompt & ready for both expos and runs. MBRA is growing and it is important that we all continue to work together to maintain the friendly and upbeat atmosphere that has attracted us all here in the first place! Don't be shy...ask any Board member or Heather how you can help!

Please Note... MBRA Photos from calendar year 2014 will be removed from the Imagewrx website after the March 7 show, so take a last look to see if there are any pics from last year that you'd like to have. There are some bonus photos available in a portfolio called "Leftovers" if you haven't browsed those yet!

Also the current password is MBRA2014. This will be changed to **MBRA2015** for photos posted starting with the first spring show. <http://www.imagewrx.zenfolio.com>

Season Schedule

3/7/15	TKy Arena, 7440 Cox Rd, Bellevue, MI
3/21/15	Sundance Stables, 9250 Nixon Rd, Grand Ledge, MI
3/28/15	Sundance Stables, 9250 Nixon Rd, Grand Ledge, MI
4/12/15	TKy Arena, 7440 Cox Rd, Bellevue, MI
4/18/15	Sundance Stables, 9250 Nixon Rd, Grand Ledge, MI
5/2/15	Sundance Stables, 9250 Nixon Rd, Grand Ledge, MI
5/9/15	Kennedy Arena, 12276 E Dodge Rd, Otisville, MI
5/23/15	Lakeside Arena, 4635 Rathbun Rd, Birch Run, MI
6/6/15	Kennedy Arena, 12276 E Dodge Rd, Otisville, MI
6/13/15	Saginaw County Fairgrounds, 11350 Peet Rd, Chesaning, MI
7/11/15	Lakeside Arena, 4635 Rathbun Rd, Birch Run, MI
7/18/15 **Evening Show**	TKy Arena, Expos at 5 / 630 PM Start , 7440 Cox Rd, Bellevue, MI 49021
7/25/15	Kennedy Arena, 12276 E Dodge Rd, Otisville, MI
8/8/15	Lakeside Arena, 4635 Rathbun Rd, Birch Run, MI
8/22-8/23/15 MBRA FINALS	Saginaw County Fairgrounds, 11350 Peet Rd, Chesaning, MI