

Welcome rodeo families,

I would like to welcome you to the 2011 rodeo season. I hope your winter vacations and time off has gone well. I want to take this time to let you know what has been going on behind the scenes in preparation for the upcoming season.

First, you may have probably figured out we have implemented a rodeo volunteer program, this will require mandatory participation for your child to be eligible for year end awards. For those of you who have volunteered for the Board of Directors and other positions before you will understand the amount of work required to put on a rodeo let alone a season of rodeos. We hope by doing this that everyone will participate and make this season more fun for everyone involved. I want everyone to be able to volunteer and still be able to help their children and watch them compete. This program is not unusual and is used to save money and improve the associations by many different groups from Little league Baseball, YMCA sports, Barrel racing clubs and other junior rodeo associations. A family will be required to choose a weekend to volunteer, your first choice will not always be available. During that weekend we would like someone to volunteer to be rodeo chairman and arrange who will work where and to make sure that it happens. Volunteers can work where they feel comfortable. I want you to be able to watch and assist your children, so plan to work in another performance your child is not competing in. I know that everyone can afford to spend time at one of the seven rodeos. We do not have a full board this year and the directors will be there working and trying to help their own children. Our only other option is to hire these jobs out and that will affect the amount of money spent on year end awards.

The steer dobbing event voted in at the last general meeting is still a work in progress and may make an appearance this season, but only after we have figured out the schedule and the rules. If we are going to proceed with this event, we will have to set the guidelines and criteria for it and the appropriate ages so the event is safe as it can be.

The New age limit on Pre-Pee-Wee is 2-6 years old. I would also like to clear up once and for all the guidelines for the Pre Peewee division. To take all the guess work out of who is lead line and who is not, the rule will be simple. If the parent crosses the start/finish line with the child they will be considered a lead line contestant and their points will be figured as such. I realize this may sound harsh, but a child who completes the event by themselves with no assistance in 2 minutes, should place higher than a child who rides their pony while following their parent regardless if the parent touches the pony or not in a time of 30 seconds. This class is for a child to learn and gain confidence while having fun. At this age the parent is more competitive than the child and I would like everyone to remember it is all for the kids.

The board would also like to have a committee formed with contestants and families to help revise the rule book. We are not trying to rewrite the rules just simplify and combine the NYRA rule book with the High School Rodeo book so there will be only one book. Once this is done we could print this book so everyone may have a copy.

I hope everyone has a good and successful season. If you have any questions or comments feel free to call or email, I'm always willing to listen.

Thank You,

Chris Pedersen