

New Indian rodeo region formed

By Ginger Smith-Crawler
For Spilyay Tymoo

It's been a long time coming, but it has officially arrived.

The Columbia River Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association - CRIRCA - was formally recognized Oct. 18 by the Indian Nationals Finals Rodeo Commission.

CRIRCA is comprised of the states of Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho. Since 1976, those states have been part of a bigger region known as Western States Indian Rodeo Association (WSIRA).

The other states in the region were California and Nevada. The decision to divide the region came about mainly due to its geographical size, which ran from the borders of Canada to Mexico.

The commission, the approving organization, was founded in 1976 under the leadership of Jay Harwood, a PRCA rodeo announcer from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Melvin Sampson, Yakama tribal member and long-time organizer of Indian rodeo.

In the early years the commission was comprised of the president of each of the recognized regions.

Over the years the commission composition was reduced and now has only three members: Willie Johns, a Seminole from Okeechobee, Florida, who serves as secretary-treasurer; Pete Fredericks, a Sioux from Halliday, North Dakota; and Sam Bird, member of the Blackfeet tribe, from Browning, Montana.

CRIRCA's list of both con-



Team ropers Terry Squiemphen and Alfred Smith.

firmed and tentative 2004 rodeos is as follows:

May: Legends Casino Rodeo, Toppenish, Wash.; Tygh Ridge All-Indian Rodeo, Dufur; Southern Oregon Annual Memorial Day Rodeo, Klamath Falls.

June: Treaty Days All-Indian Rodeo, White Swan, Wash.; Umatilla Treaty Days Rodeo, Pendleton; Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Rodeo, Warm Springs.

July: All-Indian Rodeo, Nespelem, Wash.; Spirit Mountain All-Indian Rodeo, Grand Ronde.

The dates and site of CRIRCA regional finals has not yet been confirmed. There is a list of eight potential rodeos, which have not yet been confirmed.

The official CRIRCA state representative and contact for Oregon is Katherine Goodluck of Pendleton. Representatives for Washington and Idaho have not been finalized.

In addition to the eight major sanctioned events, two more have been approved. They are century team roping and wild horse race.

Members may earn points toward year-end awards. The

INFR Commission does not yet recognize these events; however, points are counted toward year-end regional championships.

The executive committee for CRIRCA are: Alfred Smith Jr., president, a Wasco tribal member from Warm Springs; Carson Badoni, a Navajo from Wapato, vice-president; Valerie Squiemphen, secretary, a Wasco/Warm Springs from Warm Springs; and Kate Valdez, treasurer, a Yakama tribal member from Ellensburg, Wash.

The remainder of the directors consists of ten event directors who, together with the executive committee, make up the CRIRCA Board of Directors as follows: Bareback, Luther Leith of Nespelem; Bull Riding, Roy Leith of Nespelem; Steer Wrestling, Cody Barney of Klamath Falls; Team Roping, Waylon Beymer of Terrebonne; Breakaway Roping, Kimma Flammond of Warm Springs; Barrel Racing, Marita Johnson of Warm Springs.

The directorships now vacant are Saddle Bronc, Calf Roping, Century Team Roping, and Wild Horse Race.

State representatives for Washington and Idaho are also

needed. Nominees names should be submitted for consideration to Valerie Squiemphen, CRIRCA Secretary, P.O. Box 644, Warm Springs, OR 97761. General requirements are:

Residence within the regional boundaries, 18 years of age or older, must meet requirements for general CRIRCA membership, willing to serve one-year directorship.

The state representatives will be chosen by cardholder residents of Washington and Oregon, respectively.

A current rulebook will be available to members on January 1, 2004.

For general info about CRIRCA, please call (541) 553-1783 days, (541) 553-3282 days or (541) 553-1401 evenings.

How to become a member: Applications for CRIRCA general membership may be obtained from any of the executive committee members, or from Rita Squiemphen, DMJ Automotive staff, Shannon Adams, or Katherine Goodluck. Applications must be accompanied either by a copy of enrollment card, or a certification from your tribal office or BIA agency stating you are at least one-quarter degree Indian blood.

General membership cards are \$75 and are good for one year, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Cards for 2004 are now on sale. CRIRCA accepts cash, money orders, or cashier's checks made payable to Columbia River Indian Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Cards purchased after April 1, 2004 will be \$85.

Smith wins national wild horse race title

By D. "Bing" Bingham
For Spilyay Tymoo

Jason Smith is untouchable in the rodeo world of wild horse racing.

He just won his ninth national title at Williams, Arizona. His closest competitors are at a distant three.

"Nine national titles, nobody can say that in the whole world," Jason reflects. "There are two teams that can say three."

This year's national finals were an unusual wild horse race: the horses were bigger than usual at 1,200 to 1,300 pounds.

"You had to work them more strategically than just flat getting tough with them," says Jason. "If you get real physical with them and try to handle them like a wild horse, they just get tougher."

This was a horseman's race rather than an athlete's race. Out of eight head, Jason and his team placed on most of them: three firsts, two seconds, and two fourths. The best his competitors could do was place on 4-5 horses. According to Jason, consistency is how you win rodeos.

Over the years, Smith has won national titles with four different teams. He hasn't decided if he's going to go for another national championship next season.

"If you're looking to win a national championship, you gotta get out of town," he says. "You gotta [go national]



Jason Smith

get back East and South and North and everywhere."

That's running hard. "It seems like I've been wanting to slow down for the past however many years," he says. "Then I get a young buck like my rider [Randall Walker from Toppenish, Wash.] who will probably be wanting to defend his title. It's going to be tough to tell him I want to stay home."

His teammates have first option. If they call him this winter and say, "We want to hit it hard next year," he'll run with them. If they don't say anything, he might relax a little and just rodeo in the Pacific Northwest.

"That's exactly what I might do if I decide not to hit the road hard," he says.

Even while Jason Smith relaxes at home with his family, and catches up on the ranch work with his father, Buck, he still thinks about rodeo. The first rodeo of the season is in Red Bluff, California. Smith and his team will make up their minds on what they'll do before then.

In loving memory of a great horse, Fireball Frank

"Here comes Fireball Frank, it's Fire-r-r-r Ball-l-l-l Frank! Looks like nothing can catch him today, that old campaigner," shouted Jim Sorenson, the race announcer.

A familiar phrase I heard so many times before. The tall dark beautiful bay was very special and meant a lot to Frank Stables.

The horse stood 16 hands high, had a unique Arabian head, a gorgeous long shiny jet-black tail and a mane to match, and two very large black coal-colored eyes. He was one talented horse with class wrapped all around him, a quick learner, very easy



Fireball Frank in action

keeper, gentle to ride.

Fireball Frank came to the Frank Stables in 1993, only 5

years old, full of spirit and ready to run. You could hardly see those size six hoofs hitting the

ground, in top shape, he ran one mile one-sixteenth easy, those long strides carried him to victory.

His best distance was seven furlongs. On his workouts, traveling at three furlongs, it was bullet time.

One year in Portland Meadows, coming 800 competitors or more, he was chosen third best horse on the track.

The Frank Stables traveled across the state competing at local race meets such as Salem, Grants Pass, Portland, Tillamook and Burns, to name just a few.

He won the "Coors Brewing

I will cherish the memories, the win pictures, awesome videos, most of all, the time I shared with him.

Co. Purse," not once but twice, a major feature race at the State Fair.

Also the Harney derby special in Burns, or the Chevy-Ford purse in Klamath Falls, or his final race in Simnasho, traveling 16 miles.

People knew Fireball Frank on and off the track, people

such as Sam Davis, a highly recognized trainer, and Kathy Mayo, a respected jockey.

Jeffrey, my older brother, has been on the track most of his life, keeping the family tradition, horse racing, going. Other trainers recognized his ambition and talent working with these horses, theories, he's tough to beat.

I will never forget the horse or the pleasurable moments of training a winner. I will cherish the memories, the win pictures, awesome videos, most of all, the time I shared with him.

He died doing what he did best.

By "Frank Stables"

The Outpost

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Tips on holiday cooking

Thanksgiving is the traditional start of the holiday season, and it's never too late to prepare safely.

According to Oregon State University Extension Service, you should buy a turkey planning for about a pound of bird for every person at dinner.

When thawing the bird in the refrigerator, it will take about 24 hours for every five pounds or so.

Plan on a 20-pound turkey taking four to five days to thaw in the refrigerator. It'll be faster to thaw the bird in warm water. Just remember to change the water often.

Research shows there is less chance of contamination of the bird when you don't wash it. The bacteria which cause food-borne illness are destroyed by adequate cooking so by washing the bird

you are more likely to spread the bacteria from the sink and counter where other foods are prepared that might not be cooked.

Don't forget to disinfect your counters with a bleach solution.

It's a good idea to stuff the bird just before you cook it. Better yet, cook the dressing in a dish next to the turkey.

Never partially cook a turkey at or less than 325 degrees. You'll know when it's done if you use a thermometer in the thickest part of the thigh. The meat should have an internal temperature of 180 degrees and the stuffing must be at least 165 degrees.

After dinner has been served and everybody has retired to the TV for a football game, put the turkey in the refrigerator. Just as an estimate, if food has been

at room temperature for more than a couple of hours, throw it out.

For safest results, put the turkey in the refrigerator right after dinner.

A safe Thanksgiving helps to make a happy Thanksgiving and that's what Oregon State University wants to wish you.

If you have any questions about Thanksgiving meal preparation, contact OSU Warm Springs Extension at 553-3238.

Pool tourney

Pool players are invited to participate in the Bagley Benefit Tournament on Saturday, Nov. 22, at City Slickers and Boss's Office, Redmond. Sign-up will be at 10 a.m., draw at 10:45, start at 11. Entry fee is \$20 with \$10 going to Betty, and \$10 into the prize fund. The tables will be open and there will be no green fees. Betty had to have surgery on her foot and still now can only work three to four hours a day. The tourney will help meet expenses.

Boxing gym hours

5:30 to 7 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Boxing waivers required for gym use.