

Beam takes fourth in Junior Roughstock Association World Finals

Prairie City freshman shines in Texas

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

A Prairie City School student recently placed fourth in senior saddle bronc riding at the Junior Roughstock Association World Finals.

Frankie Beam, a freshman at Prairie City School, traveled to Texas at the start of December and used each eight-second opportunity for bronc riding to display his training and passion for the sport.

Beam said he has been bronc riding since July but has been involved with rodeo for a large part of his life. He started riding junior bulls in the sixth grade and rode saddle steers for two years in junior high.

"I like to travel and meet new people, and I think that's one of my favorite parts," Beam said. "It also gives me an adrenaline rush, and I like that too."

Beam puts in an abundant amount of time preparing himself mentally and physically because the sport requires so much from the rider.

Beam practices at Blue Music Ranch in Idaho where they put him on bucking horses and have coaches that help him out. He said riding is about 90% mental strength and 10% physical talent.

"Once you go into that bucking chute, everything kind of just fades away and your body takes over and you can't really think," Beam said. "Your body does what you trained it to do."

Beam said competing in Texas was a great experience, but the stakes were higher than usual since it was the world finals.

"Going in to it, you have to put a lot of pressure on yourself and stay on because it's the world finals and you want to win," Beam said. "I tried to go into it thinking it's just another bronc



Contributed photo

Frankie Beam has been involved with rodeo for a large part of his life and enjoys the traveling.



Contributed photo

Along with bronc riding, Frankie Beam also rides junior bulls and enjoys the adrenaline that comes from competing in the sport.

and focus on the basics."

Beam passed the first and second runs to qualify to the short

round, which consisted of the top 10 riders for senior saddle bronc riding. He said in the short round he finished the ride but ended up blowing a stirrup and got disqualified.

Beam placed fourth and was appreciative for the experience and opportunity to compete in Texas and for the support from Prairie City School.

"We had to have masks in Texas, but we were fortunate to have the event," Beam said. "I just want to thank the community for this opportunity and for the support of my teachers and principal."

His mother, Shonna Beam, said she is very proud of him and the fact that he has taken this sport seriously at a young age.

"He really works hard at it and loves this more than anything, and that's why we stand behind him so much because I think that this will be something he does for as long as he can," Shonna Beam said. "It was quite a journey, and it was good to see him compete (in Texas), and he'll get better. He's the kind of kid that'll practice and stay at it."

SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The carbine

The idea of a shorter, handier rifle is not a new one. Even in the very early days of muzzleloading firearms, the horse-mounted cavalry discovered early on just how difficult it was to manage the typically longer arms of the day from horseback. Not only were they slower to shoulder and shoot, but reloading from the muzzle end made it that much more problematic.



Dale Valade

When breechloaders became available, first utilizing paper cartridges and later metallic case cartridges, cavalry units swooned.

The military weren't the only ones to take advantage of the shorter, lighter guns. Cowboys, lawmen, the good, bad and indifferent were also quick to realize the value of a firearm that was easier to carry and wield. The military and sporting carbines, which emerged from the likes of Spencer, Sharps, Springfield and Winchester, became instant favorites due to their portability and increased firepower. Civilians kept their repeaters in a saddle scabbard, which made for a quicker draw at a moment's notice. Cavalry men carried their Springfields on the end of a sling attached to the saddle ring. The sling was worn across the chest like a bandolier and the gun would hang at waist level, where it could be brought to bear without having to untangle oneself from the sling. And if the trooper's horse was taken down in a skirmish, he could jump free of the wreck taking his rifle with him while leaving both hands free to break the fall.

Fast forward to modern day, that idea still isn't without merit. Although horses are no longer the primary method of transportation, the close quarters of a vehicle can present compelling arguments in favor of a shorter barrel.

Although I tend to prefer a long-barreled rifle as a rule, there are times they just aren't practical. Allow me to share a personal example. I have two center-fire .22-caliber rifles of similar design and purpose. One sports a 26-inch long barrel and the other a 22-inch carbine type barrel. If a target of opportunity, say a coyote, was to dart across the road in front of my pickup, I would have but a



Contributed photo

A short-barreled rifle is the ticket for time-sensitive hunting opportunities.

few seconds to stop the vehicle, take aim and fire before that coyote was to disappear entirely from view. I'll give you one guess as to which of these rifles is the absolute winner of that race each time.

When hunting in the thicker-wooded parts of the west, one will often be presented with partially obscured, time-sensitive targets on foot as well. A carbine will come to the shoulder much quicker than a long-barreled rifle in this scenario as well. Oh, you'll lose some small amount of muzzle velocity. A hundred feet per second one way or the other won't be the difference between success and failure. But the milliseconds you save "on the draw" and in target acquisition give you the ability to take your time in a hurry when time is of the essence.

Finally, when hunting in the steep country the sheep and goats call home, each ounce of weight that can be reduced for the backpacking hunter is a welcome boon. Long-action cartridges struggle with increased muzzle blast and recoil in lightweight, short-barreled rifles. Short-action cartridges are designed with lightweight rifles and short barrels in mind. Any of the .308 family of cartridges, or the various WSM or SAUM hot rods can be made to perform very well in such platforms. Whatever your needs as a hunter or shooter, a case can easily be made for procurement of a short-barreled carbine.

Are you a fan of carbines? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.

Grace Chapel (EMC)
154 E. Williams St.
Prairie City, Oregon
541 820-4437

Pastor Robert Perkins

Sunday School (all ages)
9:30-10:30
Sunday Worship
10:45-12:00

JOHN DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Worship • 9AM
(541) 575-1326
johndayUMC@gmail.com
126 NW Canton, John Day
Food Pantry Friday 3-4PM

Like us on Facebook!

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Come Worship with us at
627 SE Hillcrest, John Day

1st Sunday Worship/Communion 10am
3rd Sunday Worship/Communion/Potluck... 4:30pm
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday Worship..... 10am
Sunday Bible Study..... 8:45am

For information: 541-575-2348

MT. VERNON PRESBYTERIAN Community Church

SUNDAY SERVICE 9 am

541-932-4800
EVERYONE WELCOME

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service..... 10:45 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm

Children & Teen Activities
SMALL GROUPS CALL FOR MORE INFO
Weekdays: Sunshine Christian School

Pastor Randy Johnson
521 E. Main • John Day • 541-575-1895
www.johndaynazarene.com

St. Thomas Episopcal Church

Join us on Facebook
live Sunday 10am

Like us on Facebook!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 11 am
Fox Community Church..... 3 pm
Sunday Evening Bible Talk..... 6 pm
Saturday Men's Study 6 pm

Full Gospel- Come Grow With Us
541-575-1202 Church
311 NE Dayton St, John Day
Pastor Al Altnow

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
SATURDAY SERVICES

JOHN DAY
110 Valley View Dr.
541-575-1216

Head Elder 541-575-2914
Bible Classes (all ages)..... 9:30 am
Worship 11 am

LONG CREEK
E. Main Street
541-421-3033

Head Elder 421-3468
Bible Classes (all ages)..... 2 pm
Worship 3 pm

Living Word Christian Center
59357 Hwy 26 Mt. Vernon

Celebration of Worship
Sundays 5:30pm
Youth: 0-6th Grade

Midweek Service
Thursdays 6:30pm
Youth: 0-6th Grade

Jr./Sr. High Youth Connection
Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Overcomer's Outreach
Mondays at 6pm at
LWCC

A Christ-Centered, 12-Step Recovery Support Group
Pastor Sharon Miller
541-932-4910
www.livingwordcc.com

3ABN
Three Angels Broadcasting Network

24/7 Inspirational Christian Broadcasting

Tune into KSPL 98.1 FM

For more information, call 541 620-0340

John Day Valley Mennonite Church
Meeting every Sunday at Mt. Vernon Grange Hall

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:50 a.m.
Pastor Leland Smucker
Everyone Welcome • 541-932-2861

Prairie Baptist Church
238 N. McHaley St., Prairie City
541-820-3696
www.prairie-baptist-church.com
Pastor David Hoeffner
Pastor Keith DeHart

Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m.
Awana (Oct.-Apr.) 3:00 p.m.
Youth Group 5:30 p.m.

New Life Bible Church
2 Corinthians 5:17

Every Sunday in the L.C. Community Center
(Corner of Second & Allen)
Contact Paster Ed Studtmann at 541-421-3888 • Begins at 4:00pm

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church
Corner of S Canyon Blvd and SW 2nd

Mon. - Fri. Mass - 12:05 pm
Saturday Mass - 5:00 pm
Sunday Mass - 9:00 am
Holy Days Mass: Noon & 6 pm

Confession: Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm
Anytime by appointment
541-974-8638

St. Anne Monument -
2nd & 4th Sundays at 12:30 pm

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 Noon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.. 10:50 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.. 10:50 a.m.
No Mid-week Services

Pastor Jesse Gosnell
300 W. Main, John Day
541-575-1355

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

139 N.E. DAYTON STREET, JOHN DAY
541-575-2180

Sunday Worship Service 10 am
Sunday Youth Group 3 pm
Thursday Celebrate Recovery 6 pm
Pastor Levi Manitsas
cornerstonejohnday@gmail.com
ccfd.org