

June 2019

This month finds us preparing for the June 15th BMC show at the Monson Fruit Feedlot in Selah. The June show is special for BMC because we hold our annual **Jim Cox Memorial Buckle Class** for cutters who have never won a buckle. Sponsored by Gail Cox, it is with this class that we remember long time member, cutter & NCHA director, Jim Cox. Jim was a friend to all cutters but had a particular fondness for the beginning cutter. This is our 4th year of honoring his memory with the awarding of this buckle. We don't do this as a solemn occasion, although many of us feel the tug of a tear, but rather as a raucous event just the way he would like it. Calcutta bidding can be fierce and the class is filled with hoots & hollers during each run. Some of the participants have been cutting for a bit and for some it's their first foray into the show pen. The first year's winner was Evan McGuire. Although he's the son of trainer, Jerry McGuire, Evan proclaimed his *retirement* from cutting as a teenager a couple of decades ago until his reappearance in this class 3 years ago. The 2017 winner was local veterinarian, Michelle Beaunau. New to the sport then, she is a fierce competitor with a no nonsense persona who melted into tears upon acceptance of her buckle. The 2018 winner was local cattleman, Clint Carl. Clint is with Horse Heaven Cattle Feeders who supply cattle to the Sunnyside shows and always ready to lend a hand when needed. So you see, this is a cherished event for BMC and makes the June show special. To make this year just a bit sweeter, Gail Cox has offered to pay the entry fees for the 1st & 2nd place riders. Gail plans to attend so if you see her sitting up with the secretaries, just take a moment & say thank you. Her continued support keeps Jim's legacy a big part of BMC. The accompanying calcutta is a great fundraiser for BMC and is a way to give back to the members. Jim felt that our job is not to raise money for selective bigger events or to grow bureaucracy of the organization but rather to give back to the members so we make the June show all about *giving back*.

So, if you qualify to ride for the buckle please get a hold of show secretary, Kim Young. Contact info can be found on the home page of our web site <http://bluemountaincutters.com>. Spectators, bring your lawn chairs and hang out on the flatbed and bid with *enthusiasm*

during the calcutta bidding. Pick a winner and you could go home with a pocketful of money. And if you feel the flutter of a breeze or hear a train whistle during this event, and you believe in this kind of thing, it just could be Jim letting us all know he's watching & he approves.