



Spring 2015

SHOWCASING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE...

AMARILLO, TEXAS

# Tri State EXPOSURE

## Inside:

### Benny Binion

2014 Legend of ProRodeo

### ANC Events

### Public Address System

### Gala Info

### Junior Board

### von Netzer Ranch

2015 Soil Conservationist



September 18-26

Amarillo Tri-State Exposition  
www.tristatefair.com

## Annual Meeting Highlights

The annual meeting of the Amarillo Tri-State Exposition was held March 24 at the Commercial Exhibits Hall. Board members and spouses were present to hear committee reports as well as other happenings at the Exposition.

Officers elected for the 2015-2016 year include: Robert Devin, president; Tom Spanel, vice president, Virgil Bartlett, secretary; Mark Zimmer, treasurer; and Jim Jennings, treasurer elect. "Jim will be a real asset to the leadership team," said Robert Devin, president. Butch Palmer was elected treasurer last spring but resigned due to unforeseen business obligations.

Nominees to the board are Ben Archer, Keith Brown, Dan Quandt and Jonathan Ware.



Keith Brown, board nominee, gives an update on the scholarship endowment as Robert Devin, president, looks on. Myles Smith, 2013 scholarship recipient followed with remarks about the Exposition's investment in his future.

commitment to the volunteer portion of the board each year. "Most of our members log many more than 10 hours each year, and when I need to pull those hours for grant purposes this new recording system will make it easier to compile those numbers," said Hueston. This system will also be in place for future board nominees each year.

Bartlett, general manager, introduced and thanked the Exposition staff and gave a review of the past year. He mentioned the new events that are coming to the grounds this year.

In his president's report, Devin wrapped up the evening by thanking everyone for their support this past year and asked for their continued support in 2015-2016.



President, Robert Devin

"We welcome our four new board nominees, we look forward to your contributions and commitment to the Fair and the Tri-State Exposition," said Devin.

Marie Porter was introduced as Volunteer of the Year. Porter was unable to attend as she is recovering from a stroke she suffered earlier in March. Porter has served as superintendent of youth culinary for over 50 years. She is always looking for ways to assist the youth during the fair, as well as the staff.

Maryann Hueston went over the new guidelines for volunteering throughout the year for all board members. As a volunteer board, each member is expected to log a minimum of 10 hours throughout the year in some capacity here at the fairgrounds. As opportunities arise an email will be sent out that members can respond to and begin to fulfill your



Board members and spouses in attendance enjoyed a great steak dinner prior to the start of the annual meeting.

## 2014 Legend of ProRodeo-Benny Binion

Each December members of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association head to Las Vegas for the National Finals Rodeo. Prior to the kick-off of the rodeo, the PRCA holds their annual convention and it is kicked off each year by honoring the Legend of ProRodeo. The 2014 inductee was Mr. Benny Binion, the father of Brenda Michael, Amarillo Tri-State Exposition board member.

Binion, who passed away in 1989, was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 1988. In 1985, he was named ProRodeo Man of the Year for bringing the NFR to Vegas. The NFR celebrated its 30th year in Las Vegas this past December. Binion worked for 30 years to bring a “big-time” rodeo to Vegas and succeeded in 1985.

Pictured L to R: Brenda Michael, daughter; Jack Binion, son; Hadley Barrett, PRCA rodeo announcer; and Becky Behnen, daughter.



## Amarillo National Center Events



Two of three confirmed new events for the Amarillo National Center are quickly approaching. The Professional Rough Stock Series-Amarillo Open makes its debut April 25 in the Amarillo National Center. Bareback, Saddle Bronc and Bull Riders will converge on Amarillo to see who makes the best “8 second” ride.

“We are extremely excited about bringing the Professional Rough Stock Series to the Amarillo area. We have long had an eye on this area and really look forward to thrilling fans with the best athletes on the best stock,” said Kelly Timberman, executive director of production for PRS.

June 18-21 will find AQHA competitors in the Amarillo National Center for the AQHA Region 8 Championship Horse Show & Quarter Horse Show.

The show will consist of a triple-judged Region 8 event and three Quarter Horse Shows with three judges and three sets of AQHA points. This event is a qualifier for AQHA Novice Championships.

Other regional shows are being held in Rapid City, S.D.; Springfield, Mass.; Logan Township, N.J.; and Jackson, Miss.



## Public Address System Being Installed

With 104 acres at the fairgrounds being utilized 51 weekends each year and 150 recreational vehicle hook-ups used during many of those events, the need for a public address system seems overdue.

The Exposition’s new PA system will address communications issues on the grounds.

The PA system will allow the Exposition staff to immediately reach everyone to make general announcements or warn them of urgent weather-related issues that can materialize in minutes.

Funding was contributed in part by the Betty Fay & R.C. Neely Fund, a component fund of the Amarillo Area Foundation and the David D. & Nona S. Payne Foundation.





## Asleep at the Wheel to Kick-Off Fair Season

When the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo Gala takes place on Sept. 12, you know the Fair is close behind. Serving as the kick-off for the Fair, the gala's main function is the fundraiser for the scholarship endowment as well as a thank you to our corporate sponsors.

"I am excited to bring Asleep at the Wheel in for the 2015 gala," said Virgil Bartlett, general manager of Amarillo Tri-State Exposition. "I look for this to be a great show and our attendees to do quite a bit of dancing." In addition to the entertainment toward the end of the evening the event will open with food from area restaurants and the silent and live auctions.

"Our scholarship recipients will be introduced that evening as well as our Western Heritage Honoree will be introduced," said Robert Devin, president, Amarillo Tri-State Exposition.

Gala sponsors for the evening are Amarillo National Bank, Bell Helicopter and Triangle Realty, LLC.

Tables of eight are \$500 and you should reserve yours by calling the office at 806-376-7767.



## Junior Board Applicants Being Sought

Applications are being accepted for the junior board of directors positions, according to Kim McKinney, junior board coordinator.

"Each year 15-17 applicants are accepted to assist the superintendents and volunteers prior to and during the annual fair," said McKinney. "We typically have around 40 applicants, and Tori Wellman, Carrie Montgomery and I work hard to find the best students to assist during the event."

Junior board members not only assist during the Fair but they are also required to share information about the Fair in their communities and help during the gala. Each junior board member logs over 30 volunteer hours throughout their time helping at the livestock shows and with the creative arts departments.

Applicants must be members of 4-H, FFA or FCCLA. Applications have been sent to the respective agents and advisors or are on the website [www.tristatefair.com](http://www.tristatefair.com) and are due by May 1.

## von Netzer Ranch Earns Wildlife Conservationist Award

The Gillespie County Soil and Water Conservation District recently recognized the von Netzer Ranch, operated by Garet and Mardi von Netzer, as their 2015 Wildlife Conservationist.

The von Netzer Ranch focuses on ways to continually improve wildlife habitat. The von Netzer's have demonstrated excellent wildlife conservation skills by installing multiple water sources, planting food plots, managing tree motts and establishing excellent range grasses.

The ranch is well known for its trophy game hunts, including Mouflon's, Corsican, Texas Dall, and Black Hawaiian Breeds. Additionally, the von Netzer's participate in the breeding of registered Dorper and Royal White sheep. These two breeds are becoming the fastest growing hair breeds of meat sheep in the U. S.

Von Netzer is a member of the Exposition board and the 2009 Western Heritage Hall of Fame inductee.





Amarillo Tri-State Exposition  
3301 S. E. 10th Avenue  
Amarillo, TX 79104



Amarillo Tri-State Fair

### **Mission Statement**

The Amarillo Tri-State Exposition will provide a wholesome, educational, cultural and recreational experience for area citizens by hosting the Tri-State Fair & Rodeo and other events to strengthen the Amarillo economy.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **May**

1-3 | US Team Roping | Amarillo National Center  
5-6 | AgriFood Masters | Bill Cody Arena  
9-10 | CBT Productions "Summer Dash" | Amarillo National Center  
15-16 | Original Team Roping | Amarillo National Center  
16-17 | Panhandle Reined Cow Horse | Bill Cody Arena  
16-17 | Carson & Barnes "Big Top" Circus | Fairgrounds  
23-25 | AOTC Agility Trials | Amarillo National Center  
23-24 | Panhandle Cutting | Bill Cody Arena  
29-31 | PCHA/NCHA | Bill Cody Arena

#### **June**

5-6 | Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo | Amarillo National Center  
5-7 | Palo Duro Cutting | Bill Cody Arena  
18-21 | AQHA Region 8 Championship Show | Amarillo National Ctr  
27-28 | McCracken Team Roping | Amarillo National Center  
27 | Panhandle Team Penning | Bill Cody Arena

#### **July**

23-26 | Panhandle Boom Circuit | Bill Cody Arena  
24-26 | Matthews Team Roping | Amarillo National Center

#### **August**

8-16 | West Texas Futurity Cutting | ANC & Bill Cody Arena  
28-Sept. 5 | AQHA Adequan Select World | Amarillo National Ctr

*Schedule subject to change—[tristatefair.com](http://tristatefair.com) for more information*

### **Exposition Staff**

*Virgil Bartlett - General Manager  
Cindy Backus - Office Manager  
Lavonna Davis - Events Coordinator  
Angela Ragland - Sponsorship/Marketing Director  
Lani Ambs - Receptionist  
Tawney Sippy - Bookkeeper  
Cam Foreman - Equestrian Events  
Maryann Hueston - Development/Fundraising  
Alton Wilson - Grounds/Maintenance Supervisor  
Jonathan Strader - Assistant Supervisor*

### **Board Officers**

*Robert Devin - President  
Tom Spanel - President Elect  
Virgil Bartlett - Secretary  
Mark Zimmer - Treasurer  
Jim Jennings - Treasurer Elect*

Call or check our website for additional information  
Phone: 806-376-7767 Fax: 806-376-6942  
[www.tristatefair.com](http://www.tristatefair.com)

The Amarillo Tri-State Exposition is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Contributions are considered tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.