

The 1st Annual Sonny Garguilo Trail Horse Competition

Sonny Garguilo Natural Horsemanship Together with The Northeast Equine Expo 2010 Presents The 1st Annual Sonny Garguilo Trail Horse Competition

**Hosted by
Natural Horseman Sonny Garguilo**

Rules /Scoring

Eligibility: Any competent rider with a horse, pony, or mule is eligible to enter.

Please note: Safety is our #1 factor. We are looking for horses that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. The horse should travel through and between obstacles with inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the competitor with no apparent resistance.

NOTE: Any one horse cannot be ridden by two different people. Any one person WILL be allowed to compete on two different horses. **NO ONE IS TO BE ON THE TRAIL COURSE AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THEIR ROUND ON HORSEBACK, OR ON FOOT, UNLESS THE JUDGE IS PRESENT.**

Tack and Attire:

Dress as you would for a normal trail ride. Safe supportive boots with a heel of 1 inch min. is required. The only requirement for tack is that it be in good repair. All tack should be carefully inspected by rider/handler before competing. If you use a shank bit, you must use one hand on the reins. Two hands are permitted when using a snaffle. Everyone is entitled to wear protective equipment without penalty and SGNH encourages competitors to do so.

Course Inspection and Walk Through: All exhibitors will have an opportunity to walk through (no horses) and review the course one hour before start time. Challenge line-up from random draw will also be posted at walk through.

Scoring:

All horses begin with a score of 70. At each obstacle, each judge will log scores and penalties if they occur. When all riders have completed the course, scores will be totaled and penalties subtracted to arrive at a final score for each competitor. Scores will be posted as soon as possible. This a judged event. Points and time will determine your placing. You will be allowed 30 seconds per obstacle time to complete the course

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if your horse is maneuvering obstacles at a reasonable and forward moving pace. Once you have reached the time limit, you will be waived off course and will not receive points for any obstacles you did not complete.

*All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.

*The judge may alter the course prior to the walk through.

Each obstacle in the Trail Course will be scored as follows:

+3 EXCELLENT: The horse/pony/mule approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism. The horse's performance over the obstacle is visually impressive.

+2 VERY GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. This horse definitely displays many qualities of a good trail horse and the horse's performance over the obstacle is visually attractive.

+1 GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse, but lacks those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Very Good or Excellent performer. Never the less, the horse's performance is visually pleasing.

0 AVERAGE: For the most part, the horse approaches and negotiates the obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse, they are negated by errors in form. The horse's performance leaves a visually neutral impression.

-1 POOR: The horse fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate the obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Control may have been compromised but safety was maintained.

-2 VERY POOR: The horse approaches and negotiates the obstacle but noticeably fails to do so in correct form. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Safety may have been compromised and the horse exhibits noticeable resistance..

-3 EXTREMELY POOR: The horse approaches and /or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the competitor's commands.

-5 REFUSALS: The judge instructs the rider to proceed to next obstacle after 30 seconds have passed.

Disqualification Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and /or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred will be grounds for disqualification. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in mouth, shin, shoulder, barrel, flank, hip or legs; disrespect or misconduct of exhibitor.

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Off Course: Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction; negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side; skipping an obstacle directed by judge, negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence; not following the correct line of travel either in the drawn pattern or at the judges instruction

Refusal: Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following: balking, evading or running past an obstacle, complete loss of the required gait, any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.

Walk Through: Opportunity to navigate the course on foot (no horses) with the judges, prior to the competition, in order to ask questions and become comfortable with the pattern. This is your opportunity to determine the safety and feasibility of each obstacle for your individual animal. SGNH will notify the Competitors of walk through time.

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This competition is designed to bring many elements of trail riding onto one course. It is a challenging course. You may be asked to perform such maneuvers as backing through an "L", side passing over a log, loping circles on the correct lead, jogging over a series of poles, navigating a bridge, opening and closing a gate, etc. Competitors may be asked to change gaits while they navigate the course. Routes through the course will be the same for each Competitor. Prize presentation will be awarded through 6th place at the Award Ceremony on Sun May 29th The top six competitors will have cash payouts. Amounts determined by number of entries.

The First place competitor along with the cash pay out will be awarded a trophy

Entry Fee

The entry fee for the Sonny Garguilo Trail Horse Competition is \$200 per horse/pony/mule

With the entry fee, each competitor will receive entry into the Ne Equine Expo for the two days.

Stalls are not included for the top six so arrangements must be made.

ALL ENTRIES MUST SHOW UP TO DATE COGGINS

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SGNH holds the sole right to dispute & settle any and all issues arising from any consequence not discussed in this document, show contracts or forms, and the determination by SGNH will be final and binding.

By signing this agreement, Competitor agrees to abide by all Event and Venue rules & regulations, and to hold harmless from any damages or injuries to themselves or their horse SGNH, NE EQUINE EXPO, NRA and any person or persons involved with this competition. The Competitor also agrees that they have read and understand the rules & regulations of the Sonny Garguilo Trail Horse Competition.. The Competitor also agrees to indemnify (to pay any losses, damages, or costs incurred by) SGNH & NE EQUINE EXPO all it's affiliates with respect to claims for harm to you the Competitor or your horse, and for claims made by others for any harm caused by you the Competitor or your horse at this Event. The Competitor agrees that you are participating voluntarily in this competition with your horse as a rider, driver, handler, lessee, owner, agent, coach, trainer or as a parent or guardian of a junior exhibitor. The Competitor is fully aware and acknowledges that horse sports and the Competition involve inherent dangerous risk of accident, loss, and possible serious bodily injury including broken bones, head injuries, trauma, pain, suffering or death.

Owner Signature _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Rider/Handler Signature _____

Print Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if rider is a minor)

Print Name _____

FOR ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE COMPETITION PLEASE EMAIL US AT

SONNYGARGUILOGONATURAL@GMAIL.COM

**Ride Safe,
Go Natural!!!**