

BY HEATHER LOVERIDGE

Bobbie Cook, Scottsdale, Arizona

IN THE SPAN OF THREE YEARS, BOBBIE Cook went from buying her first reining horse to purchasing the facility she boarded at and renaming it Outwest Stallion Station and Performance Horses. To an outsider, buying her boarding barn may have seemed like a brash decision, but with more than 20 years experience as a mortgage banking industry consultant (along with her husband David), Cook knew a good investment when she saw one.



From the outset, Cook worked closely with NRHA Professional Matt Mills to build a world-class facility that included breeding and training top reining horses.

"Matt has been very instrumental in implementing our plans and helping our goals come to fruition," Cook said. "For us, it's been a great partnership."

For Cook, a former English rider who switched to western while taking

lessons at Scottsdale Community College and then learned Reining, watching her horses perform is quite thrilling.

"I showed in a reining class twice and marked a zero each time. I quickly realized showing was just too nerve-racking for me!" she laughed. "I love to watch my horse compete as long as I'm not in the pilot's seat."

Cook is especially proud of purchasing the stallion Easy Otie Whiz and seeing him and Mills win the 2006 United States Equestrian Federation open reining championship and help the United States win a team Gold Medal.

Cook, who has three children and two grandchildren, likes trail riding in the Arizona desert when she has time. She's also a jazz aficionado and enjoys snow skiing. She and David own Superior Home Services, a mortgage banking consulting firm based in Scottsdale. ♦

CURRENT TOP 20

(as of Mar. 10, 2008)

Owners	Earnings
1 Wagner & Vandorp	\$30,000
2 Hilldale Farm	\$22,332
3 Lance Griffin	\$10,250
4 Cheree Kirkbride	\$10,000
5 Vaughn Zimmerman	\$6,250
6 Sherry Wayne	\$6,072
7 Kirsten Zook	\$5,100
8 James T Morgan, DVM	\$5,000
8 Rita Harrington	\$5,000
10 Bryant Pace	\$4,901
11 Leslie Weibel	\$4,050
12 Bobbie Cook	\$4,000
13 Smart Like Juice Inc.	\$3,933
14 Nadine Galbraith	\$3,839
15 David & Joanne Hodges	\$3,257
16 Keith Crawford Farms	\$3,159
17 Catherine Achtenhagen	\$2,949
18 Duane Hicks	\$2,750
19 Bonnie Hippensteel	\$2,640
20 April Salisbury	\$2,547

Leslie Weibel, Berthoud, Colorado

IF THE NAME LESLIE WEIBEL DOESN'T RING A BELL, how about the name Spooktacular? Weibel and her dad Roger were the stallion's long-time owners until they sold him last July to Patrice Lee. Adjusting to his absence has been hard for Weibel but her current show mounts are keeping her busy.

Weibel began showing as a five-year-old, competing in 4-H and all-around classes. When she was about 10, she started training with Steve Schwartzenberger.

"One day, I don't know if my horse was sore or what had happened, but Steve said 'Oh, just go ride this old reiner'—one of his daughter's youth horses," Weibel said. "I never showed another all-around horse again. I was totally hooked."

Weibel hasn't stopped showing reining horses since. Even as a student at Montana State University majoring in graphic design and marketing for agriculture, she took



a couple show horses with her. Weibel worked for Showtime Show Clothing while in college and continued there after graduation. When the company moved its offices to Purcell, Oklahoma, Weibel decided to return to Colorado. Since then she's kept busy helping her dad with his various car dealerships, the family's hay farm, and, of course, riding her reining horses.

Over the years she's had some great mounts including Shine A Whey, whom she recently retired to the farm, and Turbo Shine, a non pro futurity finalist. This year, she's showing an aged event horse and a derby horse.

"I've just been so lucky to have such nice horses to ride and be able to work with Steve," Weibel said. "I really enjoy reining. It's so much more challenging than any other event I've done." ♦