

# Buckling Up

Novice amateur reaches her goal at the 2009 Region Six Experience.

Story and photos by  
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IT WAS FINALLY HER TURN.

Leslie Leasor had been coming to the Region Six Experience since the first one in 2005. However, it was always to help her husband, AQHA Professional Horseman Doug Leasor, put on a speed clinic or get the horses ready for his runs.

But in 2008, Leslie decided to ride one of their horses, Brownies Little Sis, in novice amateur barrel racing and pole bending. She came in second in both classes but was determined to return the next year.

"She's just a great horse, and I knew she could do it," Leslie said. "I just had to stay out of her way."

In July, Leslie made the trip from Wales, Massachusetts, to Springfield, Massachusetts, for the 2009 Region Six Experience. She was again there to help Doug with his clinic but she was also there hoping to win a buckle this year. Brownies Little Sis was also along after recovering from an injury that had sidelined her for a few months.

"I was a little anxious and hoping for the best," Leslie said.

With nine to show in novice amateur barrels, Leslie and the little roan mare smoked the competition and took the championship. The pair came back again in the novice amateur poles and topped the four other competitors in the class.

Leslie had won not just one but two championship belt buckles.

"It's a wonderful feeling," she said.

"I'm pretty proud of her," Doug said of his wife. "She really did great. She really deserves this." □

Leslie Leasor won not one but two belt buckles at the 2009 Region Six Experience.



Jenna Costa and Sheza Lil Asset, put a little "Thriller" in their freestyle showmanship routine.



It wasn't all showing at the Region Six Experience. There were also plenty of parties and get-togethers for exhibitors.



Alexis Potts, the 4-year-old daughter of AQHA Professional Horseman T.R. Potts of East Windsor, Connecticut, made her show debut in the leadline class.

## ALL-AROUND WINNERS

### • Amateur

Stevie Hayes and Bankable Asset, Hopkinton, New Hampshire

### Novice Amateur

Tracey Procter and Tenders Lopen, Concord, New Hampshire

### • Select

Donna Wilson and Jessica Scotch Bar, South Windsor, Connecticut

### • Youth 13 & Under

Lila Owens and Leaguerly Lovely, Durham, Connecticut

### • Youth 14-18

Kaitlyne Wadman and Some Like It Shady, Saugus, Massachusetts

### Novice Youth

Leah Thomas and Mo Roses Please, South Royalton, Vermont

• Markel Insurance sponsored Tex Tan show saddles for these awards