



SAF

SafeArenaFooting

COMMITTEE

THE TRYING PAGES

SAF's Annual Non-Profit Report

2013

*Pure
Work*

A person wearing a cowboy hat and a light-colored shirt is riding a brown horse over a jump. The horse is in mid-air, clearing the jump. The background is a yellow wall with various signs and banners. The ground is reddish-brown dirt.

MISSION:

TO BE A SOUNDING BOARD AND OUTLET FOR COMMITTEES, PARTICIPANTS, AND ANYONE WHO SHARES OUR LOVE OF LIVESTOCK. TO HELP BETTER THE INDUSTRY AND MAKE IT SAFER ONE SURFACE AT A TIME.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS:



STEVE THORNTON

SINCE ESTABLISHING SAFE ARENA FOOTING, I AM PROUD OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE HAVE MADE IN THE EVENTS AND VENUES THAT WE'VE ASSISTED. THE FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO ALONG WITH THE SAN ANGELO RODEO HAVE BOTH GAINED PRAISE AND AWARDS BY USING THE ADVICE OF THE SAF FOUNDATION. I AM PROUD WHEN A BARREL RACER OR OTHER COMPETITOR RECOGNIZES AND APPRECIATES THE EFFORTS THAT THE RODEO COMMITTEE HAS MADE TO CONTACT SAF.

AS THE FOUNDER OF AMERICAN NOVICE HORSE ASSOCIATION OVER 25 YEARS AGO, IT BECAME A NECESSITY TO LEARN ABOUT GROUND AND HOW TO PREPARE AND MAINTAIN IT FOR EVENTS. I FOUND FROM YEAR TO YEAR THE SAME ARENA WOULD PERFORM DIFFERENTLY WHEN WORKING IT FOR THE SAME EVENTS. THIS MADE ME QUESTION WHY THE GROUND CHANGED.

ALONG WITH THE OTHER FOUNDERS OF SAF, I HAVE LEARNED WHAT COMPOSITIONS MAKE GOOD GROUND AND HAVE SET THAT AS OUR "TARGET VALUE". GROUND NEEDS TO HAVE THE SHEER STRENGTH TO HOLD LATERAL MOVEMENT TO BE QUALITY GROUND. THE SHEER STRENGTH COMES FROM NOT ONLY THE DIRT, BUT FROM CLAY AND OR WATER. ALONG WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR GROUND, YOU NEED TO HAVE EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS THAT CAN MANIPULATE THE GROUND WITH THE CORRECT TOOLS.

THE INDUSTRY HAS PROVEN THAT THEY CAN DO GOOD IN THE ARENA WHEN THEY DRAG EVERY FIVE WHERE NOT EVERY COMPETITOR IS IN TOP FORM.

PROFESSIONAL RODEOS NEED TO HAVE GROUND WITH SHEER STRENGTH TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE MORE THAN TEN RUNS PER DRAG WITH ALL THE COMPETITORS IN TOP COMPETITION FORM.

SAF BRINGS GROUND EDUCATION IN THE ARENA TO THE FORE FRONT AND WILL HELP THE COMMITTEES AND PRODUCERS TO SURPASS THE SUCCESS OF THE OLD MENTALITY THAT YOU RIP IT DEEP AND WATER HEAVY. THIS DOESN'T WORK ANYMORE! WITH SAF, ARENAS CAN BE MADE FAIR FOR ALL COMPETITORS AND HOLD UP TO THE RIGORS OF A DAY LONG OR A WEEKLONG EVENT.



JIM BROWN

WE ARE HOPING TO BRING SOME CONSISTENCY TO RODEO SURFACES, WITH RESPECT TO SAFETY FOR THE HORSE AND RIDER, BY MANIPULATING THE GROUND. STEVE THORNTON INVITED ME INTO RODEO SURFACES, REALIZING THE NEED, AND LIABILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIRT, AMENDMENTS, AND MANIPULATION AS IT RELATES TO THE DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES IN THE RODEO, AND EQUINE INDUSTRY. WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH RACING SURFACES FOR TWO DECADES NOW AND THE SAME NEEDS ARE STILL BEING ADDRESSED WITHOUT A LOT OF PROGRESS. DIFFERENT FACTIONS HAVE DIFFERENT CONCERNS, AND MOST OF THE CONJECTURE IS RAISED BY FOLKS, UNIVERSITIES, AND INDUSTRY THAT HAVE NEVER BEEN ON A HORSE, LET ALONE A RODEO. THEIR PRIORITIES VARY AND FEW HAVE THE INDUSTRY AT HEART. STEVE'S PRIORITY IS TRULY WITH RESPECT FOR THE COWBOY WAY OF LIFE AND EVENT SAFETY. THIS VALUE IS WHY WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF SAF AND ENJOY THE HONESTY, INTEGRITY, AND COMMITMENT TO RODEO. WE HAVE HAD MANY SUCCESSSES IN SURFACE ADJUSTMENT AND HAVE SAVED MANY ARENA OWNERS MONEY AS WELL AS HEADACHES. STEVE'S KNOWLEDGE AND THE RIGHT TESTING ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL SERVICES LABORATORY (E.T.S.), OR MICHAEL DEPEW ARE AVAILABLE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAF ORGANIZATION. THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND DEDICATION PLUS THE INPUT OF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS (RODEO PROFESSIONALS) SUCH AS WPRA PRESIDENTS AND JANET CROPPER, MIKE QUALES, AND RANDY SPRAGGINS GIVE US A BACKBONE THAT PEOPLE CAN BELIEVE IN AND TRUST. BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY I HAVE SEEN THESE PEOPLE TAKE HORRIBLE GROUND MAKING MATERIALS, AND MAKE A SURFACE THAT ANYONE COULD RIDE ON. IT DOES NOT TAKE MORE MONEY TO DO IT RIGHT TO BEGIN WITH, BUT WITHOUT THAT IT TAKES MORE MONEY, A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE, AND A LOT OF HARD WORK TO CORRECT. SAVE YOURSELF MONEY, AND TIME! GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, USE AND BE SAF.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SOIL SCIENTIST:



MICHAEL DEPEW

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH SAF. ALTHOUGH THINGS SEEM TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN SOMEWHAT IN TERMS OF ACTIVITY, ENERGY, AND MOMENTUM, IT HAS BEEN VERY SATISFYING TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST SEVERAL ARENAS UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF SAF TO IMPROVE THEIR FOOTINGS CONDITIONS. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ASSIST MORE..... AND I HAVE GOTTEN MANY INQUIRIES ABOUT SAF PROVIDING A TYPE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. I THINK THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CERTIFICATION PROGRAM WILL BE THE KEY TO THE FUTURE FOR SAF ACTIVITIES. I WILL BE PLEASED TO WORK ON THE ASPECTS OF THIS PROGRAM IN TERMS OF SOIL MATERIALS/AGGREGATES, PROFILE COMPOSITION, AND GENERAL COMPACTION AND ARENA PREP METHODS. OTHERS WITHIN SAF ARE MORE SUITED FOR WORKING WITH RAILINGS/GATES, SITE ELEVATIONS/SLOPE, LIGHTING (IF EQUIPPED), AND EQUIPMENT OPERATION; AND I AM HAPPY TO PROVIDE SOME INPUT INTO THOSE FACTORS AS NEEDED.

ABOUT OUR YEAR:

Copy To: Jim Brown, George McDermott, Michael DePew, Randy Spraggins, Jimmie Munroe, Steve Thornton, Mike Qualls, Janet Cropper, and Cortney Guidry

The Safe Arena Footing Committee (SAF) was franchised by the state of Texas on November 9th, 2011 through the combined efforts of the WPRA, Barrel Racer News, Tex-Sand Equestrian Services LLC, and Environmental Technical Services, for the safety of the horse and rider. SAF'S goal is to provide information about the proper construction of arena grounds or surfaces utilizing the right materials to achieve an optimum surface that can be duplicated anywhere.

During August 2012 an annual report was written outlining the activities of the committee thus far. The report summarized the proceedings from 3 committee meetings held via teleconference.

In 2013, the activities of the committee had stalled to some respects and/or carried on with less emphasis and vigor. An outline of activities in 2012-2013 are below:

- We had several submissions from the website for various items including what kind of materials to use for a base, what surface is best for an all event arena, what the process was to be 'SAF Approved', and what the most efficient and effective way to rake a barrel pattern was. The website seems to be a good place for people to ask their questions openly and we hope to work with that to make it easier to ask questions and get responses quicker.
- We had several folks that emailed us directly to ask questions pertaining to the best ways to maintain outdoor surfaces, and how to conduct a home soil analysis.
- We opened up a public forum on the website for people to post opinions about the ground where they have rode and issue they have experiences. Also to post questions or express concerns. We need to make it easier to access and make a push on this feature via bulk email to our contact list.
- In July we included an insert in the WPRA's member mailer. 500 inserts were mailed to their members.
- We participated in a conference call with ladies from the WPRA (Janet Cropper, Tammy Fisher, Carly, Lindsey, Carolyn Veetore, Sydney Blanchard) concerning the ground at the Calgary Stampede Rodeo. The women expressed their safety concerns for the ground and spoke of their past experiences there. We worked with Keith Marrington later via email to get him to send a sample as well as any data he had run independently through the rodeo committee there. We did receive his data from another lab, but was unable to get him to cooperate with our preferred lab to compare the results with our findings and database. Calgary was flooded shortly after and all correspondence came to a halt. We plan to reach out again to see if we can engage Keith and others on the committee as they make preparations for next year's

stampede. Hopefully we can assist them with the ramifications of the flood, which there will surely be.

- We have had several folks ask about how they can be “SAF Stamped” or “SAF Approved”. This would be an extensive program that would require liability on the organizations end. We are working on the options that may become available and what equipment would be required to purchase and expenses that would be incurred by the organization to make such a program possible.

Items that we hoped to follow up or work on and their status is below:

- Jimmie- get with Butch/ get with Janet on email list of committees/ possible sponsorships/ where can we get forms that judges fill out?
 - We worked independently on reaching out to different associations and to the associations that signed our email list at the talk on surfaces at the NFR in Vegas. Response was not as enthusiastic as we would like. We need to reach out further in order to make connections in order to gain and procure sponsorships and provide definitive information on the forms that the judges fill out.
- Steve- possible sponsorships
 - Steve has worked with Reveal and other industry vendors to gain sponsorship in the way of products and monies to advertise on behalf of SAF.
- Michael- testing database
 - We have continually kept records in database form that is available upon request or via link from our website. We are still exploring better ways to make the data available and usable, but maintain control over such valuable information.
- Cortney- testing database/ E-mail list/ Follow-up call
 - The testing database is still being added to and we are working on ways to distribute or make it available that we can efficiently control. We add any new contact we have to our growing email contact list so we can send bulk emails to anyone that has made contact. Follow up calls are generally made by Steve or Jim and a plan of action is set in motion depending on the individual’s needs or requests.
- Randy- Join the ASTM Committee

IN CONCLUSION:

We are working with the WPRA to get a written endorsement from them to assist us in our creditability. We continue to build on our data base and work to protect the valuable information that has been generously donated by ETS.

Same as last year, our biggest obstacle seems to be participation and we hope to get people more involved and educate folks on the importance and need for such an organization. As you can imagine, forming, promoting, and doing tests “pro bono” has costs us (Tex-Sand) some money. We have been excited and continue to be excited about what we feel SAF can accomplish and the amount of people and committees we could help, but feel we have hit a stale mate and need to make some decisions on committee members and the participation level as a whole.

We have to believe and support our organization!

THIS IS OUR HORSE TO RIDE, BE SAF!

Let's please get together on the committee's future and how we can make SAF a “house hold name” in the rodeo industry.

With Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cortney Guidry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cortney" being more prominent than the last name "Guidry".

CORTNEY GUIDRY
SAF | ADMINISTRATION