



# MONTANA CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION "Never Won a Buckle"



## Lepley Creek Ranch Cutting, July 26th NWAB Class Winner **Tanya Dvarishkis**— **Congratulations!**

When did you start riding?

I started riding when I was a child, showing in 4-H and Quarter Horse shows.

When did you become interested in cutting?

My dad was going over to Bill and Jan Parker's to work some cows little over 2 years ago, and asked if I wanted to come along and give it a try. I bailed on work for the afternoon, and was completely hooked after cutting my first cow!!

When did you start competing in cutting?

I started taking lessons from Dennis Ginkens in the fall of 2012, and my first show was at the Thermopolis club cutting, borrowing my dad's horse.

Have you ever ridden in any other events?

I have tried just about everything from western pleasure to hunter/jumpers. I even played polocross one summer.

Who has influenced you in cutting?

My dad, Dennis Ginkens and Travis Young.

What do you like best about cutting?

I love the challenge, the teamwork with the horse, and that magical feeling when everything comes together. I also love the social aspect and can definitely say that cutters are the kindest, most generous and fun people to be around.

Tell us about your horse: What is his/her name and how old?

Bobs Oak – he is six.

Do you have a nickname for your horse?

We call him Bob. I just met a young man at Kalispell that recognized him from riding him as a 2 year old, and he told me his name used to be Clyde – I just can't see him as a Clyde though!

Is there anything interesting about your horse that you would like to share?

He has a wonderful, kind, and sometimes quirky, personality. He likes consistency, and notices anything that changes - especially in his stall, including the color of the water bucket. When there is a change, he will be very suspicious, to the point of standing as far from the new water bucket as possible, while still being able to stretch his neck to reach the water. He is great with my son, Cole, and put up with being the entertainment for Cole's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday party this year. He was very patient with the kiddos, but after packing a few around he started giving me the look to let me know he wasn't totally impressed with his new occupation.

Who trained your horse?

He was started in Texas, and then went to Logan Ginkens, Dennis' son.

Are you riding with a trainer?

Dennis has ridden my horse for me and coached me at home, but had scheduling conflicts with most of the shows the last year. I lessoned some with Travis Young, and he and Tom Campbell have helped to coach me at the shows.

Tell us about you: Where do you live now?

Billings

Where are you originally from?

I grew up in Ballantine, about 30 miles east of Billings.

Do you have a job and what do you do?

I am an attorney, and have been with Social Security in the hearing office for disability appeals for about 4 years now.

Do you have any other hobbies?

I enjoy outdoor activities, running, riding bikes and hiking. I also like cooking and entertaining. I'm on the board for the Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, so that keeps me pretty busy too. Of course, chasing around my little boy takes up most of my time!

Do you have a family?

My husband, Mike, and son, Cole. My parents live in Ballantine, and my husband's family lives in Laurel, so they are all close.

If yes, do they ride also?

My son and dad ride. I'm looking forward to Cole graduating from my old western pleasure mare to Bob, and having him come along to the cuttings with me and my dad.