



Bob Grant and Boom Tang

ARIZONA AFFILIATE HEADS NORTH FOR THE NVRHA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

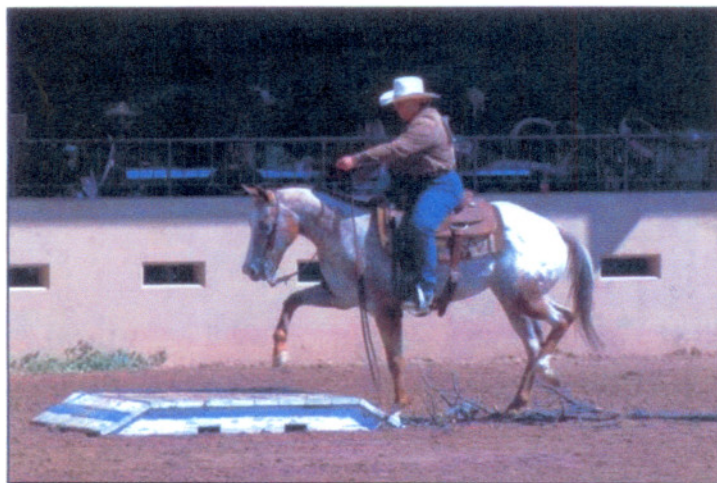
—Becky Grant



Bob Grant and Primos Peppydoit

In February of 2009 Bob and I were spending the day at a horse sale in Prescott, AZ, this particular event is as much a social gathering as horse sale, as we browsed the vendors and tables we came across a flyer for a new association called the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association. (I still don't know where that flyer came from.) We had been discussing ranch horse competitions and wondering how we could get involved and perhaps bring something to AZ and had been looking at an organization in Texas. We went straight home and called Dave Currin, he was so eager to help us get started we set a date for our first event right then and there on the phone... that was the beginning of an epic and eventful year and half. Our first event had 9 participants, our second event 15, and our fourth had 38. Here in AZ we are experiencing phenomenal growth, my contact list has exceeded 150 people. We get calls every week from eager horsemen looking for a place to have fun and we tell them... you have found it! We are so very proud of our new friends and family, what a fantastic year this has been.

To culminate this year, seven from AZ made a trip to Colorado Springs to participate in the National Championship Event... with a lot of success I might add... and I thought it would be fun to share some of our stories...



Kandy Banks and Chase Me To The Top

My mid-life crisis came last year when I just couldn't decide what to do with my horse. I've tried just about everything from western to trail riding but I wanted something exciting, something to make my heart sing and something I really enjoyed. I read about the NVRHA Arizona Sun Country Rendezvous in Buckeye and I packed up my Appaloosa and headed west. I was pretty anxious about the whole thing and didn't know what to expect. Were my novice skill level and my ornery Appaloosa going to make it through that weekend? Well we did and we were hooked.

The people were fantastic, the clinicians taught me so much and even my horse seemed happy about the change. We continued training through the year and made it to several practices and one other clinic/competition in Camp Verde. It was all I thought about. We even moved closer to my training facility so I could learn more and excel. To say I have found a new love is an understatement. I even purchased another horse so I can move up the levels and compete to my fullest ability. To finish out the year my Appaloosa and I planned on going to the Finals/Championships in Colorado Springs. We wanted to finish the year with a bang. Again...my heart was in my throat watching all the big rigs arrive and thinking "why am I here?" But it all changed once we entered the ring and got down to business. We ended up placing 3rd in the Finals and 3rd in the Overall Standings. My Appaloosa put on quite a show with a bucking finale in the Ranch Cutting but I stayed on and we even penned our cow for the first time this year. As my skill level grows so does my excitement and love of the versatility horse; what a wonderful opportunity to be able to learn from the best, to have new found friends and family and to feel the accomplishment of a well mannered horse. I look forward to training and feeling that rush of going 0-90 mph chasing cows in one pen to taking it one step, one transition at a time in the next pen. Who could ask for more?

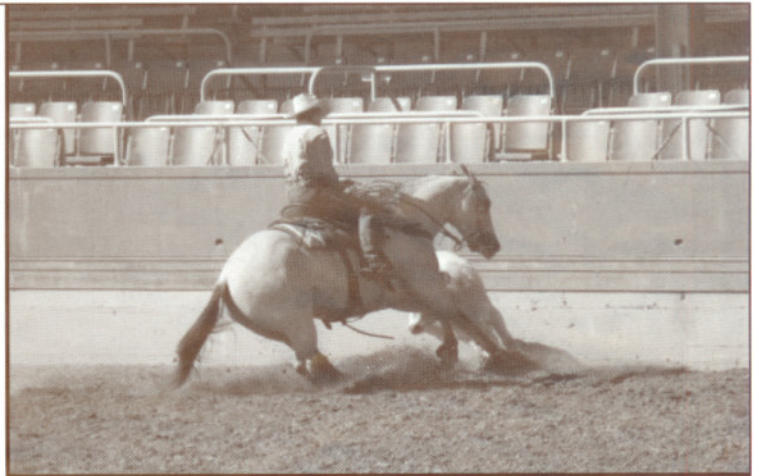


Donna Jensen and Mister Cowboy Chant

For 30 years, my husband (BJ) and I have bred, raised and shown Arabian horses. In June 2008, at the invitation of Bob and Becky Grant of Anchor Cross Ranch, Camp Verde, AZ, we observed our first NVRHA clinic in Prescott, AZ. Participants of all ages were having a blast! Seeing this reminded us that you can learn and have fun at the same time. Now in our early 60s, BJ and I realized it was time to simplify our lives and enjoy our horses more. And being a three-time ovarian cancer survivor, it was especially important for me to fulfill some dreams. The decision to go with NVRHA led to the acquisition of two special quarter horses...Mister Cowboy Chant (Tippy) and Boom Tang (Boomer). Tippy and I practiced several days a week at home with occasional lessons from excellent trainers...Ivan Stewart, Bob Grant, Ben Balow, and Tom Hayman. Tippy and I began competing in NVRHA events in February 2009. Attending the 2009 NVRHA National Finals in Colorado Springs in September, along with six other members of our Arizona team, was a great finale to a fabulous year. I was impressed with the overall team spirit of the participants. It was an atmosphere of friendliness, support, encouragement, and celebrating success. Tippy and I were thrilled at being awarded 2009 NVRHA Reserve National Champion for the Intermediate Division. We look forward to 2010!

The beauty of Versatility Ranch Horse is the average horse owner and their broke horse can start right off participating and improve their skills in the various classes as they attend more clinics and practice at home. The camaraderie and support of fellow competitors just makes the experience all the more enjoyable. I have been involved in just about every equine discipline that exists at one time or another and I have to say the people involved with the NVRHA in Arizona are some of the greatest out there. There are no clicks, or cattiness and everyone is very enthusiastic and supportive of each other. With such a great group of people, the sport cannot help but grow and flourish!

I have also had the privilege of participating in NVHRA both as a clinician and judge as well as a competitor. Competing at the National Finals was truly a memorable experience, all of us from Arizona are glad we made the trip to Colorado and are already making plans for attending in 2010!



Kim McElroy and Chex N Playboy



All of us in Arizona would like to thank the board and founding members of this organization for your hard work and dedication to this endeavor. Those of us who have come along recently are reaping of benefits of your foresight and knowledge.

We are looking forward to 2010 with great anticipation, and we are planning a premier event at Buckeye in February, please come a join us!