

Meet Nell Weber and VKS Thunder Moon

Hi, my name is Nell Weber. My love for the Appaloosa began when I first saw the Walt Disney movie, Run Appaloosa Run back in 1964. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw that magnificent Appaloosa jump over a moving vehicle, get led by a dog, and was so in tune to his rider that they won the hardest race known in America, against all odds. From then on, only two of the dozens of horses that I've had the pleasure of owning were not Appaloosas.

Fast forward to 2007. I recognized the names of several horses that were used for show or breeding, but absolutely nothing about Foundation horses. My husband, Steve and I bought a pregnant brood mare from the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Appaloosa select sale. She was the only leopard mare, and in foal to a Poco Bueno descendant, Poco Tivio Chex, a beautiful buckskin. We had visions of a buckskin baby with a blanket to be the first foal to be born on our place. Surprise! We had a grulla colored, meaner than a rattlesnake, non-characteristic colt born. When he was ten months old, we gelded him to try to settle his less than attractive personality down. ApHC wasn't allowing NC Appaloosas to breed or show until a little later. Needless to say, he was sold and we moved on.

I had come across an ad in our local newspaper that the late Vicki Rizzo had placed the year before regarding her having a few spot stallion and his sire, a leopard stallion, available for breeding. Steve and I decided why not try breeding our broodmare to one of her horses, instead of to the bunches of Quarter and Paint horses that predominated the area. I called her up and asked if she still had those horses, and if so, could I bring my mare over. She in fact still did, so we took our mare Ima Cue Tee over to breed with her younger, few spot stallion VKS Osiris. He is VKS Thunder Moon's full brother. Vicki took my registration papers for "Cutie" to fill out her stallion report and commented that Impressive was back in her line. She usually didn't breed her stallions to Impressive or Poco Bueno descendants because of potentially passing down genetic, possibly fatal problems to the foals.

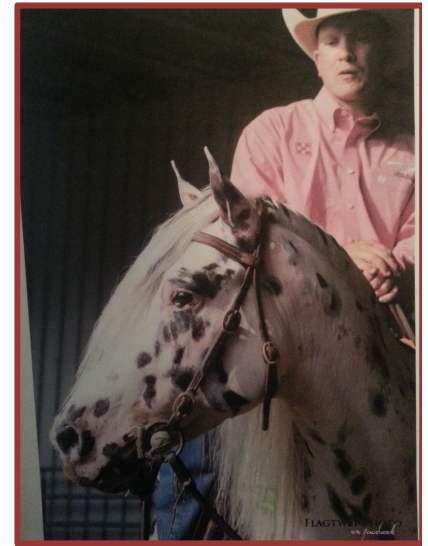
Meanwhile, there was the cutest little leopard colt that was running around, sticking his nose into everything, teasing his dam, chasing the dogs and so forth. While Vicki was telling us about her Foundation breeding program, my eyes kept going back to this yearling. It was VKS Thunder Moon! Steve asked her if he was for sale, and she said that she had a buyer that kept putting off actually paying a deposit with various reasons and excuses, so she said he still was for sale.

We bought him on the spot, loaded him and our mare into our trailer, and brought home a box load of Foundation Appaloosa info, including membership forms to ICAA and other registries. I was so lucky that Vicki Rizzo put me on the path to Foundation Appaloosa breeding.

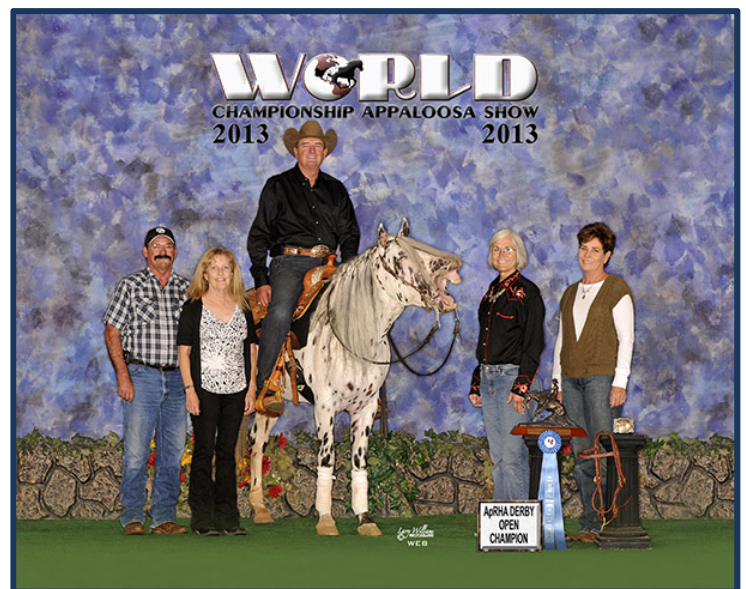
Vicki was an invaluable source of knowledge for us, and Thunder's biggest fan. She went with us through his training, shows, ups and downs. We considered her part of team VKS Thunder Moon, unlike most people that buy horses and never look back at the breeder for their contributions.

I didn't really know too much about ICAA until I read Robyn Lay's piece in a complimentary newsletter last year. Her wonderful writing and the goals set forth came at the time that I think we were all about fed up with wrangling between registries and factions. It was only after I registered VKS Thunder Moon in ICAA that I found out Vicki Rizzo had registered her horses when the club first started. She was a breeder that really cared about what she was putting out into the World.

She passed away last October, but had the chance to get his awards and her breeder's award at the Appaloosa National Award banquet just months before. VKS Thunder Moon, and all that he does and stands for is a tribute to her!



Tell Edgmon on
VKS Thunder Moon, F4-2626



Left to right: Steve Weber, Nell Weber, Pete Kyle on
VKS Thunder Moon, Vicki Rizzo and Tamra Kyle.

VKS Thunder Moon is currently at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY, where he is shown every day in the Parade of Breeds as the Appaloosa breed representative.

