

The Spot News

Nikki McNatt
and Hershey's Special Kid

Golden
West
Cowgirls

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A publication of the
ARIZONA APPALOOSA ASSOCIATION

June 2011

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2011 Nationals

The 2011 National Show and Youth World Champion Show convenes back in Tulsa, Oklahoma after a five year hiatus. The show starts on July 4th and finishes July 16th. For those that are unable to attend, the ApHC offers real-time streaming video of all events.

The AAA is proud to cheer on its members that will be attending. Good luck to all the AAA appaloosas and exhibitors!



LuAnn Bickford winning the Reserve Western Horsemanship championship at the 2009 Nationals, photo courtesy of Larry Williams Photography

Upcoming shows:

- August 6th, Flagstaff Youth Scholarship Open show
- Sep 17-18, National Pointed AAA Sun and Spot Spectacular, four judge show.

Upcoming events:

- November 5th, trail ride, location TBD

Officer & Board Member

Contact Information:

Mary Ann Page, President

623-444-7673

Tori Broadbent, Vice President

480-510-5635

Kathy Turner, Director, Treasurer &

Member Services

623-465-4948

Sonja Berry, Secretary & Newsletter Editor

480-785-6199

Marilyn Van De Graaf, Director &

Web Manager

480-818-2378

Rob Pinckard, Director & No-nPro

Coordinator

480-987-1894

Kelly Potter, Director

602-576-5881

Roseann Sweet, Director

480-987-8705

Linda Gilgosh, Director

602-549-7181

Loralea Daniel, Director

602-999-1002

Shannon Wilson, Director

623-465-4948

Lori Slifer, Alternate Director

480-363-9509

Sandy McNatt, Alternate Director

602-339-8887

LuAnn Bickford, Point Secretary

928-333-2189

Mary Ann Page, ApHC Regional Representative & Youth

Coordinator

623-444-7673

Welcome New Members!



Lori Slifer and Sir Chance-A lot

The AAA offers a warm welcome to our newest members, the family of David, Michelle and Peyton Klein, Lori Slifer, the family of Denise, Louis and Mia Serro, and the family of Karin, David and Katie Ramos.

Sir Chance-A lot, owned by, Lori Slifer, was the Colorado Ranger Horse Association Open Show Point Program High Point Champion 2010, we welcome Lori and Chance.



Karin Ramos and Zip is the Key

The Ramos family hails from Flagstaff and were able to join the AAA last Fall. Both Karin and Katie did a great job at the Spring show. Welcome to the Ramos family.



Peyton Klein and Ima Tardy Te

Peyton and her mare Ima Tardy Te are both ten years old. Peyton showed in numerous classes at the AAA Spring Classic Show, to include Hunter Hack.

We welcome Peyton and her family to the AAA.

Mia Serro showed in numerous events riding her Appaloosa, Scotch Bar Prince, at the 2010 Sun and Spot Spectacular show. Denise Serro also aided the AAA in writing up a fabulous article for the Bit and Bridle publication on AAA events.

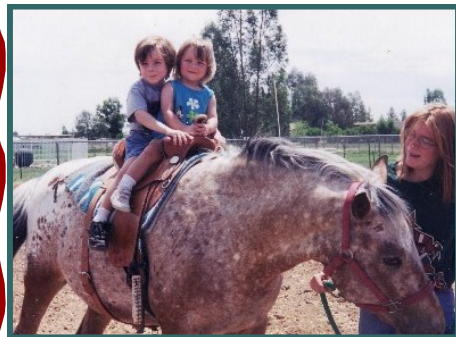
We welcome Mia and her family to the AAA.



Mia Serro and Scotch Bar Prince

AAA Youth Spotlight

Nikki McNatt was born loving horses. From her earliest years, she was surrounded with horse toys, horse games and horse pictures. It was only



Nikki, age 3, led by Sandy

natural that Nikki would graduate to an affinity with real horses. While Nikki's parents did not have horses, their good friend, Roseann Sweet, had a barn full of Appaloosas Nikki could love. As she grew up, "Aunt" Roseann welcomed Nikki's help out at the barn. Roseann's mentoring allowed Nikki to learn the basics of horsemanship and riding.

The McNatt's joined the AAA and assisted at events while cheering on their friend Roseann. It wasn't long before Nikki started as a walk-trot competitor at the age of 9. Nikki's long time equine companion is the 1996 Appaloosa mare, Hershey's Special Kid, a.k.a., Scooter. Bred by Roseann Sweet, Scooter is by Brooks Hershey Bar (AQHA) out of Kids Old Blueeyes.

As Nikkis's equestrian skills improved, she was drawn to the short speed the Appaloosas are famous for. She began riding AAA games and reining. She progressed to 4-H and local gymkhanas where she competes against all breeds.

"As Nikkis's equestrian skills improved, she was drawn to the short speed the Appaloosas are famous for."

Versatility is the name of the game for Appaloosas, and Nikki has certainly exhibited that diversity herself. She has



Nikki riding Scooter at the age of 8

shown Scooter in halter and showmanship, bareback horsemanship and western pleasure, reining and games.



Nikki and Scooter at the Spot of Excellence Open show

The All Around Appaloosa



Nikki riding in her 4-H parade

Nikki joined the Spirit of Queen Creek 4-H club to meet other youth who

shared her passion for horses. As a member, Nikki was exposed to even more events that she and Scooter could participate in. Nikki refined her gymkhana skills and joined the 4-H Parade and Flag team.

As a new member of the Flag team, Nikki's first job was to prepare Scooter for carrying a flag and the excitement of a parade. Nikki introduced her mare to a rolled up flag and patiently taught her to accept the flag until she could drape it anywhere over the mare. The next step, was riding with a flag.

Again, Nikki started first riding with a rolled up flag, rolling it out little by little until the mare was unflappable.

Now Nikki proudly presents colors for the AAA shows, 4-H events, rodeos and has entered numerous parades.

Nikki is drawn to the beauty and horsemanship skills required for a drill team. In 2010, Nikki was invited to join the Golden West Cowgirls drill team. Nikki rides the only Appaloosa horse in the Golden West Cowgirls Drill and Parade Team.



Nikki and the Golden West Cowgirls

AAA Youth Spotlight

Nikki's Current Activities

The Spring was chock full of events for AAA's most active youth representative, Nikki McNatt. Scooter and Nikki competed at the 4-H Maricopa County finals in Buckeye, Arizona, Roots 'N Boots Rodeo, O'Odham Tash Indian Parade and Rodeo, and Globe's Old West Days Parade and Rodeo.

At the county finals, Nikki's hard work paid off when she came in second in poles out of 28 entries and 1st in team sorting out of 9 teams at the 4-H County Finals. But she wasn't done yet. The very next weekend Nikki and the Golden West Cowgirls marched in a Globe Old West Days parade. She finished the evening performing with her drill team at the Globe rodeo.



Nikki and Scooter sorting, Spring 2011



Nikki and Scooter, 3rd from left, and the Golden West Cowgirls

The Mom Behind It All

In the background and without fanfare, Nikki's mother, Sandy McNatt, has been a strong contributor to the AAA. Aside from supporting her daughter's love of horses, Sandy has spent 10 years as an AAA member. The last five years, Sandy has been



Nikki and Sandy, daughter-mother, riding mother-daughter, Hershey's Special Kid and This Kid Can Zip



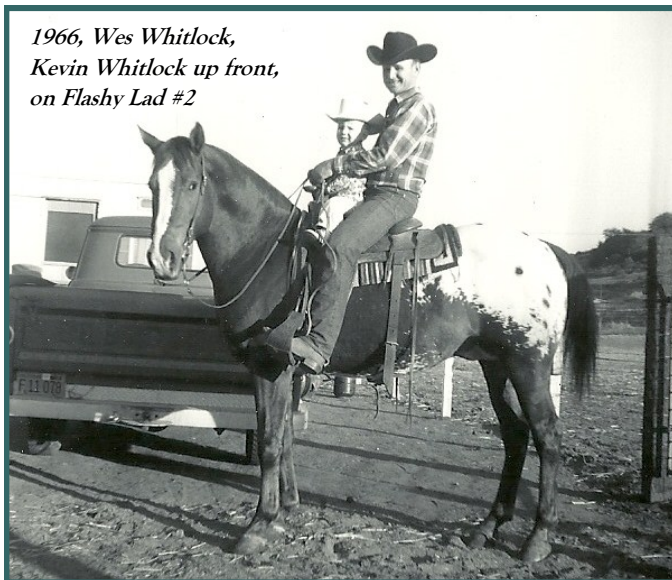
4-H Maricopa County Finals

on the Board of Directors and fulfilled the additional duties of Secretary. Sandy's responsibilities included the Board of Director minutes, editor of the newsletter, helping at numerous shows and with the Stallion auctions, welcoming newcomers to the AAA, and an all around advocate for the Appaloosa horse. Recently, Sandy participated on the Elections Committee and the Trail Riding Committee, which successfully organized a trail ride for twenty-five horses and riders. While Sandy does not compete in shows, she does trail ride and recently started learning the sport of team sorting.

AAA History Corner

Tori Whitlock Broadbent came to love the Appaloosa horse through the initial influence of her grandparents, Wes and Lynn Whitlock.

*1966, Wes Whitlock,
Kevin Whitlock up front,
on Flashy Lad #2*



SUN-BAR Announces the purchase of the Appaloosa Stallion

"SPUD-NIK" F-2707



Bred to
approved
mares only.
\$50 at time
of booking.
Return in
Season.

\$1.50 a day
Mare care.
Veterinarian
on call at
all times.

Spud-Nik, T-2707, by 'Poteet B 'out of 'Granny Jane'

In the early sixties, Wes and Lynn Whitlock teamed up with good friends Jerry and Sally Slocum to create Sun-Bar Training Stables in Poway, California. There, the team stood the famous stallion Spud-Nik, T-2707.

Sun-Bar Training Stables had many renowned appaloosas, to include Mr. Independence, Frauline, and Ouachita. Before the ApHC National Point system was established, all three of these horses excelled in the show ring up and down the coast of California. Both Wes and Lynn Whitlock were involved in training horses. Wes was partial to the roping and cutting horses, his wife, Lynn, was partial to training the Western Pleasure and trail horses. Appaloosas were booming in the sixties and seventies. The Whitlocks usually had 50 to 60 youths training at their facility. Some would stay the summer to show and learn. During this time, the Slocums and the Whitlocks established the Poway Valley Riders Association. This club is still in existence today, now relocated to Riverside, California.

Wes and Lynn had two sons, Kevin and

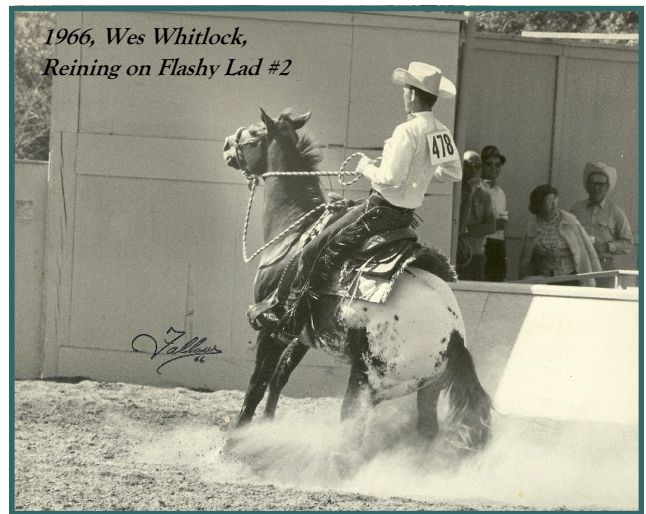


Left to right, top: Jerry Slocum, Sally Slocum, Lynn Whitlock. Center, Kathy Slocum, Claudia Keck, Wes Whitlock, bottom: Debbie Slocum, Kevin Whitlock, Jeff Whitlock



Frauline, A Spud-Nik daughter

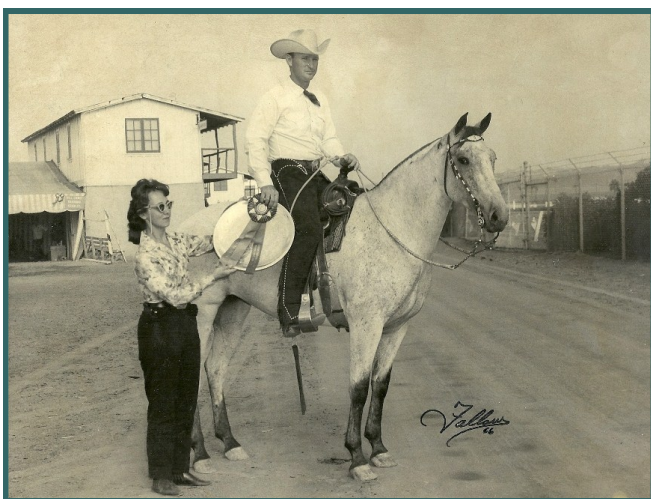
Jeff, both active today in the horse industry. Kevin Whitlock, Tori's father, is the Vice President of Gilbert Promotional Corporation and Rodeo Chairman for Gilbert Rodeo Days. Jeff Whitlock is a trainer today in Southern California. Both Kevin and Jeff showed appaloosas and other breeds as they were growing up. The Whitlock brothers did participated in horse shows, but their true love was in the rodeo arenas, roping. Jeff Whitlock is shown here showing Mr. Independence, a.k.a., Indy. Born on the fourth of July, Indy was found in the backyard as a young colt. He grew to be such a large horse, he was used to aid the breaking of young colts. One weekend, he was used to break colts in the morning then went on to win the \$10,000 stock horse stake at the Del Mar Southern California Exposition.



*1966, Wes Whitlock,
Reining on Flashy Lad #2*



1977, Jeff Whitlock on Mr. Independence, California



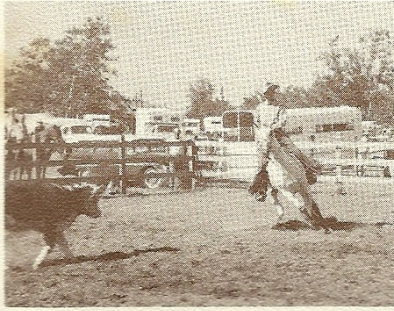
*1966, Wes Whitlock on Ouachita T24626
at Del Mar, California*



Mr. Independence, 1977, California

Excerpt from a Sun-Bar Training Stables Flyer:

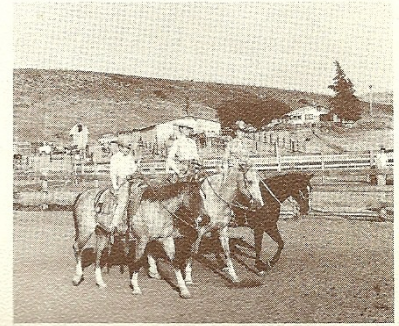
TRAINING FACILITIES: Cutting, Reining, Pleasure and Mannering



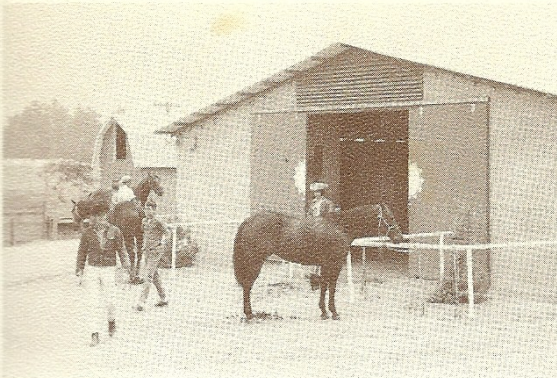
Sun-Bar's Cutting Mare "Ouachita" shown 6 times; 3 Firsts, 2 Seconds, 1 Third.



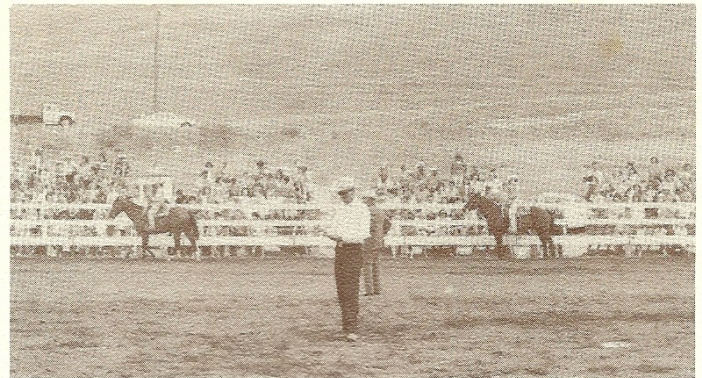
"Lucky Sioux Ann" wins Hackamore Class. Wes Whitlock up. Owner, Bud Donahoo.



Students ready Sun-Bar Show Horses for the coming season.



Sun-Bar Barn Training Stable modern barn.



Sun-Bar is the home of the Poway Valley Riders who sponsor many Horse Shows and fun events each year.



Willow Fire, South of Payson. Photo by Eugene Solberb

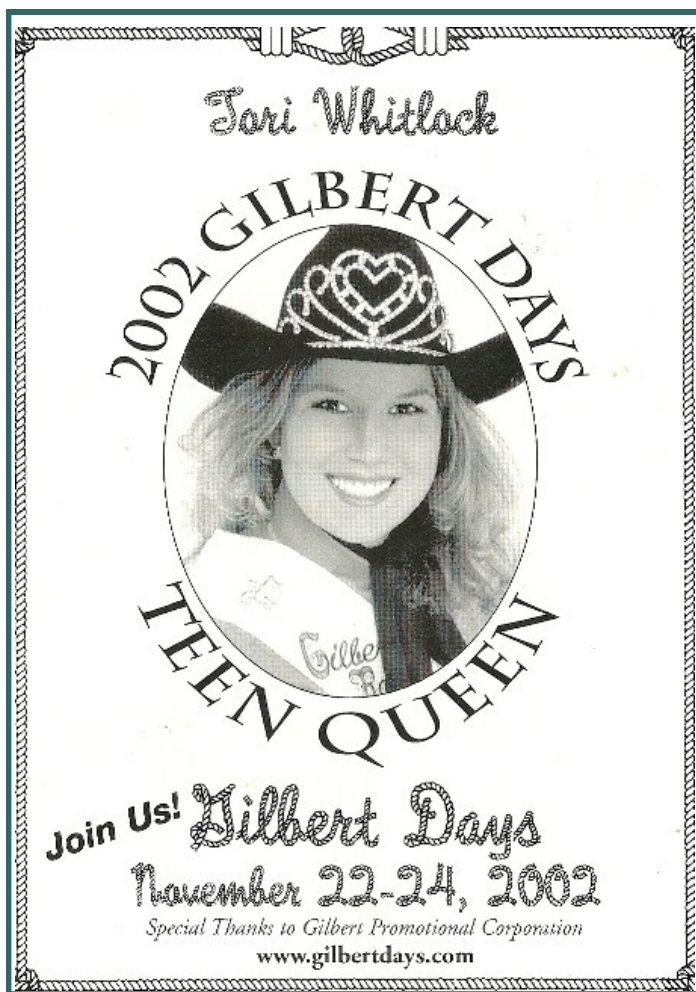
Tori was a year and a half when her mother, Desiree Whitlock, bought Tori her first horse. By the age of two, Tori was riding by herself. As a pre-teen,

"As a young girl, Tori aspired to be a fire fighter. Little did she know she would end up fighting one of the biggest forest fires in Arizona, the Willow Fire."

Tori competed in local gymkhana events. In high school, Tori competed in shows, gymkhanas and aiding horse events. She always took care of her horses, refusing to let her dad feed. Competitive in nature, she showed lambs and goats as well. Tori was

an achiever, participating in various rodeo and gymkhana competitions, succeeding in becoming the 2002 Gilbert Days Teen Queen.

As a young girl, Tori aspired to be a fire fighter. Little did she know she would end up fighting one of the biggest forest fires in Arizona, the Willow Fire, South of Payson. While still in high school Tori attended the East Valley Institute of Technology fire



fighting program. In the program, Tori received EVIT student of the year. Upon graduation, Tori started her career in fire fighting at the Bureau of Land Management. A mentor let her know that if she wanted to fight fires, she needed to apply for a position with the US Forest service in Payson. She applied, and got the job. She went to work out of the Payson ranger station. After one month, Tori was asked to join the Hot Shots, the elite fire fighting team. The Willow Fire broke out a few days later and she spent a month fighting that fire. She has been on the Fire department for the last six years at Johnson Ranch at Engine 841.

Fire fighting still allowed Tori time to pursue her love of horses. She fell in love with a young colt named Beyond Imagination, a.k.a., Pongo. Tori trained Pongo in games, succeeding at the top levels at the 2009 Appaloosa World show where Pongo earned a top-ten placing in Appaloosa Games Horse Association Futurity in the Nez Perez Stakes Race.

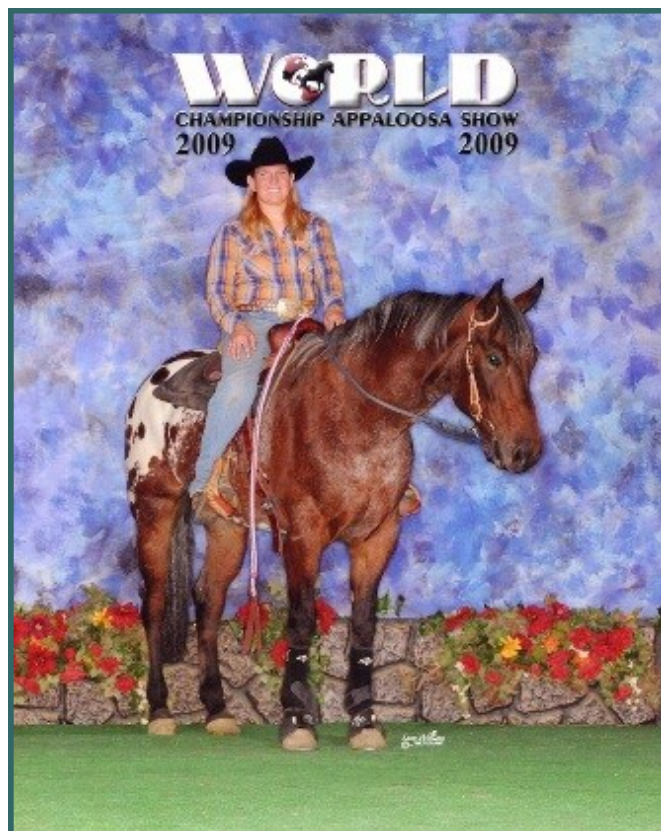
Tori is currently a trainer that specializes in games events. She has been the games champion of the Arizona Appaloosa Association at the past several shows. Her speedy horse, Pongo, has earned ROMs in Open Camas Prairie Stump

Race, Open Figure 8 Stake Race and Open Nez Perce Stake Race.

When not showing, Tori trains other riders general horsemanship skills and teaches more advanced riders the skills necessary to compete in gymkhana events. Tori is frequently seen supporting riders at local gymkhanas, helping them improve their horsemanship skills.

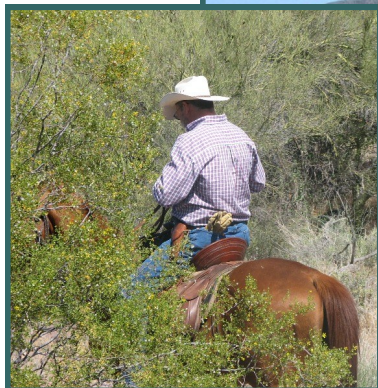
Current Activities

In 2010, the AAA asked Tori to accept the position of Vice-President that had been vacated the previous year. Tori accepted, then went on to win the re-election as Vice-President for the 2011-2012 term. In addition to Vice-President, Tori participates on the Show Committee, which organizes all AAA shows. Tori is not one to believe in spare time, so she has also volunteered to lead up the Parade committee, as the AAA will investigate supporting a parade later in the year.



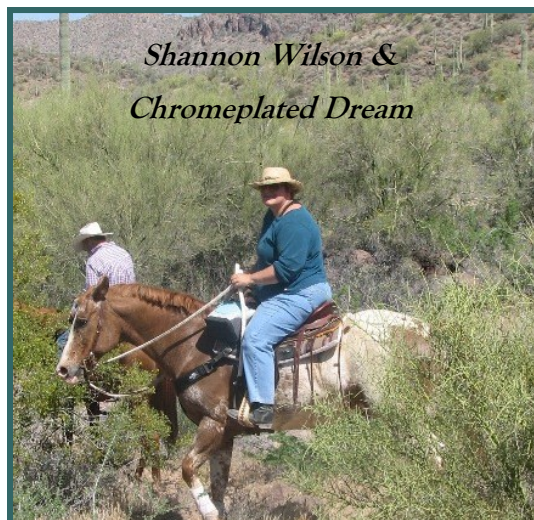
*Tori Whitlock and Beyond Imagination,
2009 World Show Top-Ten AGHA Futurity
Nez Perce Stakes race,
photo courtesy of Larry Williams Photography.*

Spotted on the Trail

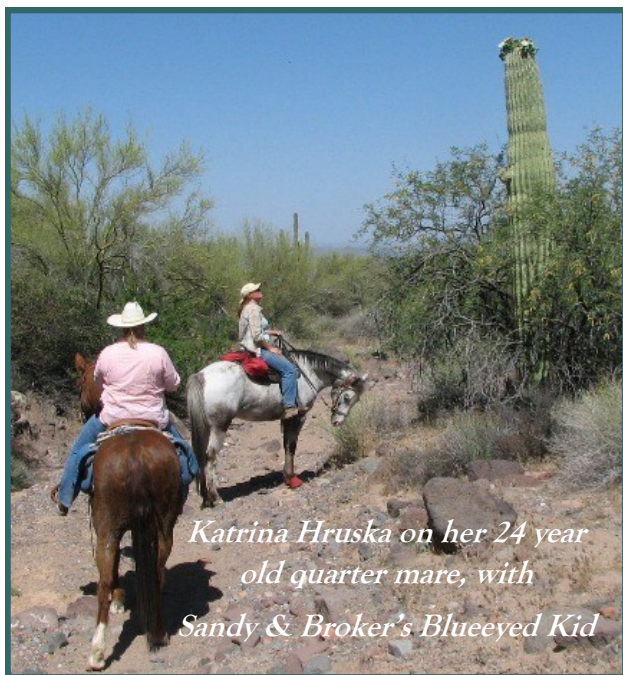


Dan Daniel, Shannon Wilson, Sandy McNatt, Katrina Hruska

AAA appaloosa fanciers met in New River, AZ, to take in new scenery and enjoy the beauty of the desert. Riders enjoyed the blooming flowers of the cacti, good company, and great food! Thank you to Dan Daniel, Lorelea Daniel and Kathy Turner for hosting the event.

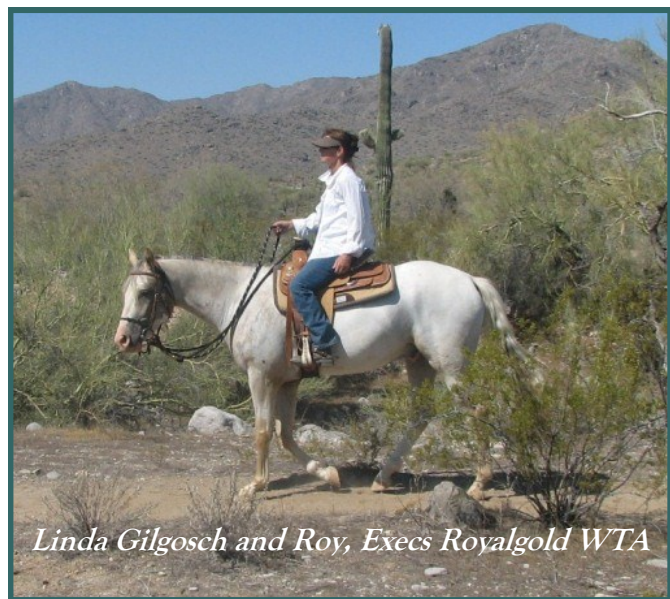


*Shannon Wilson &
Chromeplated Dream*



*Katrina Hruska on her 24 year
old quarter mare, with
Sandy & Broker's Blueeyed Kid*

In June, Linda Gilgosh hosted a scouting trail ride in White Tanks. Her four year old gelding, Roy, did a great job handling the terrain, the deer, the mountain bikers and the jogger that passed us on the trail. ➡



Linda Gilgosh and Roy, Execs Royalgold WTA

See you at the Nationals!



LuAnn Bickford
riding
Resurrected Zip MMR

AAA Spring Classic, May 1st, 2011