



A Letter from the AzCHA Board of Directors to All Members and Friends – March 2016

We are off to another great start to the cutting season here in Arizona although the weather this year has been a little crazy. We started the year with heavy rain and cold temperatures in January then February turned out to be totally dry with literally no rain and most of the month in the 80's. It's anybody's guess what's ahead.

We want to thank everyone who stayed with us at the January show dealing with rain, cold, and late nights. It was tough on the cutters, the lopers, the trainers and the staff but thanks to everyone's great attitude we made it through. We did the best we could trying to manage all the craziness, but it was not our usual high quality fun show which was disappointing since we had so many new faces from out of state. Thanks to everyone for seeing it through!

Congratulations to all the Year End Award winners. It was a long year and we know that many of you worked very hard all year to meet your goals. Job well done!!! Again, our apologies for the challenges created at the awards banquet due to the weather and the long show day.

The first two shows for the year were a little smaller than in the past due to the weather and the conflict with another show in California. Our just completed Wild West Show was much larger than normal and for the year to date we are close to last year on total cuts.

While we miss Lindsey very much, Cheryl Callis and Kathy Unfried have done a great job in trying to fill her shoes and have seemed to hit their stride in managing the office. Thanks to Betty Adams who has been helping us in the office on Sundays and making things a little better for all of us. Thanks also to Betty Weeding and Kathy Greenwell who have done a great job filling the announcer's job when needed.

Our next show is our famous Spring Fling/Novice Challenge, April 7-10. Since this is the last show that will count for the 2015-2016 Youth Year standings, yearend awards for the youth classes will be presented on Sunday. Sunday will be a big day which will begin with a free breakfast for everyone sponsored by AzCHA. The show day will start with the Open, Non Pro, \$50,000 Amateur and Youth

classes. We will then host our very fun Novice Challenge for our novice riders. The top two finishers in the \$500 Novice Challenge, the \$1000 Novice Challenge and the \$2000 Novice Challenge classes will compete in a 6 person shootout for the Novice Challenge Championship. There will be great prizes and it's always a fun event so we hope for a large participation and we hope that everyone else will turn out to cheer on our Novice Challenge riders. Thank you to T & K Performance Horses (Todd and Kim Adolf) and Ryan Else Cutting Horses for sponsoring the Novice Challenge!!

We are adding another fun event to our Spring Fling/Novice Challenge show. On Saturday night we will host a Brideless Costume Cutting to have fun and to raise money for a couple local charities. Costumes will be optional but are encouraged. Prizes will be given for the best costume and for the cutting winner. Thanks much to Barry Barnes who will be the award sponsor and to Mike Wood Performance Horses who will sponsor a cocktail party for everyone. We will be publishing the details in the coming days, but please put this on your calendar and start practicing riding brideless!!

AzCHA is very happy to be hosting NCHA Days for Region 2 this year. The show will be held at West World in Scottsdale, AZ, June 2-5, 2016. Many of you joined us for the first time at West World in June 2014 and we look forward to an even bigger and better show this year. West World is a great facility, it's over 300,000 square feet of enclosed fully air conditioned space. We will have 400 horse stalls, two show pens, warm up area, cattle practice area and two flags **all in air conditioned comfort**. We will be sending out more information on the show, events, hotels, reservations, etc., in the coming weeks. Check out our website to keep informed and please plan on joining us in Scottsdale this June.

We want to thank our great sponsors; we could not do this without you and your generous help!! If you have not re-upped for 2016 please contact Dawn Chapman as we will soon be updating our website and arena signage.

Thanks for all your positive comments and support this year. It has been gratifying to know that you appreciate our efforts to produce the best shows possible. We very much appreciate your support. We look forward to seeing you all again in April.

Good cutting to all of you,

AzCHA Board of Directors