

## Arizona Horse Festival Draws Crowds From All Over the Southwest

Nov. 26, 2007

The *Arizona Horse Festival* attracted thousands of spectators to the first-ever equine expo of its kind in Arizona. The equine festival was held November 9, 10 and 11 at Empty Acres Equine Resort in Buckeye, Arizona. “We were very pleased with the turnout and the support of the Arizona equine community, as well as the city of Buckeye, in our first year of presenting the *Arizona Horse Festival*”, said Lise Streit, Operations Manager for the event.

The *Arizona Horse Festival* featured clinics, lectures, horse training demonstrations, equine entertainment and a trade show featuring products for horse owners and horse enthusiasts. Vendors from all over the U.S. provided their wares for crowds to shop, mingle and ask questions about products.

A multitude of breeds demonstrated their strengths and numerous disciplines in the Breed Demo portion of the festival. The Spanish Barb, Peruvian Pasos, Friesians, Gaited Mules, and Tennessee Walkers were just a few of the many breeds that strutted their stuff. The Arizona Mini Mystique Drill Team put on quite a show with miniature horses and 2 wheeled carts, turning and weaving among one another in precision drill movements, usually reserved for horses ridden astride. The tiny horses in harness were compared in size to the mighty hitch of the gigantic Budweiser Clydesdales, when massive and miniature shared the arena for a few minutes on Saturday, to the delight of the audience.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, *Dancing with Horses, presented by Avondale Toyota* provided an evening of pure equine entertainment. Tommie Turvey stole the show with his Roman Riding and comedy acts. Tommie had the crowd on the edge of their seats, as he stood on the backs of his 2 flashy paint horses and galloped over a wall of fire! Tommie’s comedy routine had the crowd in stitches, as he presented a comedic spoof of a riding instructor and his horse. A wide variety of equine entertainment was also featured, including Dave Davis who wowed the crowd with Cowboy Dressage in a special light and music show, and a costumed dressage rider and horse dancing to music, which topped off an evening of delightful family entertainment.

*Arizona Horse Festival* clinicians provided outstanding educational presentations, teaching audiences about Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation and Judging, Dressage, Cowboy Dressage, Tricks with Horses, Reining, Gaited Horse Training, Barrel Racing and general Horse Training. Featured clinicians were: Craig Cameron; David Davis; Dawn Dawson; Geff Dawson; Mike Kevil; Kerry Kuhn; Mike Nielsen; Jane Savoie; Karen Scholl; Tommie Turvey; and Larry Whitesell.

Craig Cameron’s *Extreme Cowboy Race*<sup>™</sup>, provided thrills and excitement for participants and spectators alike. Friday and Saturday featured the preliminary competition, with the finalists competing on Sunday for the grand prizes. Contestants gave it their all, and produced five winners: Rick Hoffman of Romoland, CA took home the \$2,000 Grand Prize; Ty Kelly from Prescott, AZ won \$1500 in second place; Rick Rosendale of Rye, CO took home \$1,000 and third prize; John Smith of Gilbertsville, KY took the \$750 fourth prize and Lin Johnson of Mesa, AZ came in fifth for a \$500 prize.

Festival spectators enjoyed watching two young horses progress in their early training, with daily sessions from Kerry Kuhn and Craig Cameron. The 2 horses were raffled off on Sunday, with proceeds going to a non-profit foundation to benefit youth. Winners of the colts were: Cheryl Payne of Chandler, AZ and Artie Yazzie of Winslow, AZ.

The Stall Decorating Contest was won by the BLM Mustang in first place; with second place going to the Copper State Peruvian Paso Club; and third place going to Avalanche Friesians.

The *Arizona Horse Festival* is presented by Equi-Venture Promotions Inc., a professional equine venue production company that brings together the common interests of horse people and promotes the entire equine industry.

Sponsors for the event included: Absolute Innovations; Arbico Organics; Arizona Equestrian Network; Arizona Farm Bureau Federation; Arizona Horse Connection; Arizona Machinery John Deere; Avondale Toyota; Blocker Ranch Products; Carney Café; Enterprise Car Rental; Hitchin' Post Trailers; Golden Eagle Distributing-Budweiser; GTO Inc.; Inzo's Place; Jumps West; KAR Trailers, LLC, dealer for Circle J Trailers; PopUp Hitch; Silano Enterprises; and Western Horseman.

For more information about the *Arizona Horse Festival and Expo*, go to [www.arizonahorsefestival.com](http://www.arizonahorsefestival.com) or call Equi-Venture Promotions, Inc. at 785-494-2820.

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