

QUARTER HORSE RACING IN ARIZONA

by Nancy M. Brannon

For decades, racing the American Quarter Horse has been one of the most popular sports in the United States, especially in Arizona. In 1976, with fifteen charter members, the Arizona Quarter Racing Association (AQRA) was founded. Its objectives were to “promote, advertise, advance, aid and encourage” Quarter Horse racing and the Quarter Horse industry as a whole. One of the first moves of the group was to found the AQRA Futurity, a stallion stakes race to provide a monied race for colts and fillies sired by stallions standing within the state of Arizona.

Today the AQRA sponsors nine futurities and derbies, with the Desert Classic Futurity estimated at \$100,000. The association also sponsors the Arizona Triple Crown in which points are given to each horse who participates in the three designated futurities, and at the end of the year the horse with the most points receives a three horse slant trailer.

The association evolved, and in 1998 it was reorganized with twelve active and sixty-four actual paid members. Since then, the AQRA has grown to an average yearly membership of more than 400 that include race horse owners, trainers, breeders, jockeys and enthusiasts from all walks of life. Governed by a board of directors, AQRA President is Ralph Fales, Tom Bartol is Vice President, Leanne Oaksen is Secretary, and Carrie Fales is Treasurer, while other board members include Yvonne Lyness, Raul Hernandez, Cray Oaksen, and Lloyd Yother.



Loretta Brasher (AQRA Executive Director) presenting Ralph Fales (AQRA President) and Carrie Fales (AQRA Treasurer) the award to Rocky Jones, champion race horse and sire, when he was inducted into the AQRA Hall Of Fame.



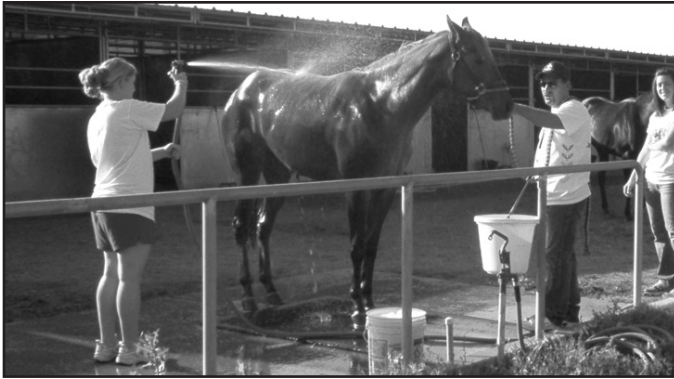
AQRA Hall Of Famers: Dale Allred (deceased), Dale Smith, Mack Hastings (deceased), Jerry Allred, Ramon Figueroa, Robert Keickhefer (deceased), Harvey Allred (deceased).

Executive Director, Loretta Brasher, has been with the organization since 1998. “I have been involved in Quarter Horse racing since 1981. My husband, Wayne, trains racing Quarters, and I worked in the barn with him until I went to work for the AQRA when we reorganized. One of the main objectives for me was to resurrect the yearling sale, and we have had a successful sale each year since. We include broodmares and horses of racing age as a tool for our members to sell their horses. My duties include publishing the quarterly AQRA newsletter, maintaining our website, overseeing Quarter Horse racing at all the race tracks in Arizona, maintaining the Mare and Stallion Registry, certifying all the Arizona Breds, attending all Arizona Department of Racing (ADOR) and track management meetings, participating in all legislative issues, working with the treasurer and stakes secretary in all facets of the futurities, derbies and overnight Quarter Horse races in the state.

“Other AQRA activities include annual awards to leading money-earning horses in several different categories. They are two-year-old fillies and colts, three-year-old fillies and colts, aged mare, aged stallion, aged gelding and distance horse. Each category is given by money earned and AQHA points, and one in each classification is given to



Beduino Rich, owned by Naia and Jeremy Giambi, earned the most points in last year's Arizona Triple Crown and was awarded the 3-Horse Trailer.



The AQRA sponsors a "Youth Day" at the races where kids can interact with the horses and race track personnel.

an Arizona-bred horse, unless the winner is Arizona-bred. Awards are also given to leading owners, trainers and jockeys," continues Loretta. "In 1980, the group decided to add an award to honor the leading sire and dam in the state plus a Horse of the Year award. This award is voted on by the AQRA Board from the leading horses in each category. In 2000, a Hall of Fame was created to honor both a human and an equine who have contributed to the legacy of Quarter Horse racing in the state of Arizona. Nominations from the public to be considered for this Hall of Fame are welcomed by the AQRA Board of Directors. For race-bred foals, we host the AQRA Fall Mixed Sale. This is a mixed sale and not limited to state bred."

Additional association activities include presentation of award blankets for many races around the state, sponsorship of maiden races on the county fairs specifically for

AQRA members and of various other races along the circuit, plus a constant monitoring of the political actions of both the state and national legislatures and agencies on matters affecting racing. Various social gatherings, both formal and informal, are held throughout the year, in addition to the annual banquet to honor the year-end award winners.

The mission of the Arizona Quarter Racing Association is to represent the best interests of racing owners, breeders, stallion owners and trainers participating in the state of Arizona; to communicate and cooperate with the state legislature, racing commission and the department of racing; to work directly with commercial race tracks and county fair racing associations for enhanced Quarter Horse racing opportunities; to publicize and promote advantages of participating in Arizona Quarter Horse racing to racing fans, other Quarter Horse owners, new owners and breeders, media and the general public.

Arizona Quarter Racing Association members receive a bi-monthly newsletter that keeps them informed of all activities, results, and racing Quarter Horse business. To become a member, fill in the membership blank below or call Loretta Brasher at 602-625-0468. For more information, visit the association's website at www.azqra.org. □



2010 AQRA MEMBERSHIP BLANK

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

OWNER ___ BREEDER ___ TRAINER ___ PARTNERSHIP ___ JOCKEY ___ YOUTH ___

ANNUAL DUES:	Individual	\$35.00
	Husband & Wife	\$50.00
	Partnership	\$50.00
	Youth	\$10.00
	Jockey	\$25.00



You must be an AQRA member to run in any AQRA sponsored race including Futurities and Derbies... so why not join today and support your Quarter Horse Racing Association ...plus receive a newsletter that keeps you up on all racing information.
Come on...Join Today!

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