

SLIDING H RANCH

by Nancy M. Brannon

For pleasure and reining horses, Sliding H Ranch in Chandler, Arizona, stands the handsome, talented Quarter Horse stallions, Zippin KC Leager and Shining Starlite. Ranch owners/managers, Steve and Lea Ann Hungate, have had the seven-year-old bay, Zippin KC Leager, "Guss," since he was three years old. "He is by Kay Cee Leaguer and out of an own daughter of Zippo Pine Bar. Guss is the image of his sire," says Lea Ann, "and his babies are beautiful. He passes on his great disposition, excellent conformation and athleticism."

His show career had a slow start; however, it did not stop him from becoming a champion by competing in halter, western pleasure, hunter under saddle and hunter hack. His 2003 AzQHA year-end standings are: First in Halter/Aged Stallions, Second in Sr. Hunter Under Saddle and Third All-Around Champion-Senior Horse. His 2003 show highlights include All-Around Champion at the Tucson Classic Quarter Horse Show under both judges and All-Around Champion at the Sonoita Quarter Horse Show. Unfortunately, an injury stopped his shining show career.

"Guss is 15.3 hands, and his gentleness is equal to his size. He has several babies on the ground. His first foal crop has done very well in halter and longe line classes and are now ready to enter performance classes. He has one Paint baby in Nevada that has a phenomenal record," says Lea Ann. "Even though he is bay, the babies tend to be the color of the mother. Several people who have bred their mares to him have returned for breedings because they just love their calm dispositions, the heads and the conformation of his babies. All of his babies are pretty movers."

The stunning Shining Starlite, "Curly," is a career reiner who was originally trained by Todd Summer from Waco, Texas, and was shown by Sliding H Ranch's trainer, Matt Mills, at the 2004 World Show, where he just missed making the finals by one-half point. He is by Bay Starlight (by Grays Starlight) out of Docs Roan Hovey (Doc O Lena



Shining Starlite is nearing his Superior in Reining.

lines). His rare red roan coloring is dramatically enhanced by a mane that cascades below his shoulder and a lush, thick flowing tail. Standing at 14.3 hands, Curly combines his warm disposition, good looks and performance abilities to be an ideal sire.

In 2000, his first year out, Curly was an NRHA open money earner, and he is a two-time World Show Qualifier in reining. He was an Open Finalist (fourth), an Intermediate Open Finalist (third), and Reserve Champion Novice Horse at the 2002 Richmond Reining. At the 2001 Texas Classic Circuit, he was the Junior Reining Champion and the NRHA Intermediate Open Champion. In 2001, he received his Open Performance ROM in reining. He is only five points from getting a Superior in reining.

"We have one of Curly's babies on the ground that is his spitting image, so he's throwing his good looks into his babies," says Lea Ann. "We have offspring from both of our stallions, and one of Guss' colts out of a Blazin Hot mare is for sale."

The picturesque Sliding H Ranch is an inviting oasis for horses. With green pastures, punctuated by trees and flowers, the boarding facility can accommodate up to 50 horses. Pampering is high on the list of caring for horses who are fed four times a day. Every third day, each horse is turned out on grass pasture. "We feed alfalfa twice a day and grass hay once a day along with pellets. We customize diets, according to each horse's needs," says Lea Ann, "and if the owners supply their own supplements for their horses, we feed them at no extra charge, and we provide turnouts on pasture for no additional charge. We have covered stalls that are 12'X20' and larger with a fly system. For riding and training, we have two arenas and a large round pen."

Sliding H Ranch is located at 3220 S. Eagle Drive in Chandler. Visitors are always welcome to view the stallions and their get. While Zippin KC Leager will be standing at Sliding H Ranch, Shining Starlite will be standing at Out West Stallion Station in Rio Verde, (480) 471-0493. The facility and the stallions and their get can be seen on the website at www.slidinghranch.com. For more information on breeding or boarding, contact Lea Ann at (480) 802-7520. □



Zippin KC Leager has both halter and performance points.