TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

KING PERFORMANCE HORSES

Whittier, CA

At the annual CRHA Challenge Horse Show in October 2008, the latest inductees of the CRHA Hall of Fame were announced. Joe and Donna King (photo left to right: Donna, long time friends Ronnie & Karin Richards, Joe), husband and wife and business partners, were recognized for a lifetime of achievement in horse training and reining that spans more than 50 years.

The love of horses began at an early age for Donna when she trained with the legendary horseman, Jack Baker. Donna was showing horses at the age of 13. For Joe, it all started when he met Donna after serving his beloved country with the Marine Corps. The devotion between this special pair and with horses grew as they trained with Jack Baker and, later, from Mack Lynn. Not surprisingly, they decided to marry and train horses professionally. They worked on ranches in California, Idaho, and Washington, striving to perfect their trade; and then, Joe and Donna returned to California where their family and business thrives today.

During these 50 years, it would require many pages to describe all the outstanding students and championship horses that have benefited from their dedication and passion for training horses and teaching students. From their own achievements as riders, to their accomplishments as teachers and judges, their legacy will live on through their daughter and granddaughter who have followed in their footsteps and have the same passion for horses.

In addition to being accomplished riders and instructors, they are also professional judges. Joe was an American Horse Show Association judge as well as Reined Cow Horse judge. Donna judges NRHA, PCHA & USEF shows, and has recently been approved as an AQHA judge. Donna has also served on the CRHA board since 1995, served on the PCHA board for the 4 years, and has served on the USEF western council for the last ten years. Joe and Donna King currently operate their training business at Whittier Narrows Equestrian Center.

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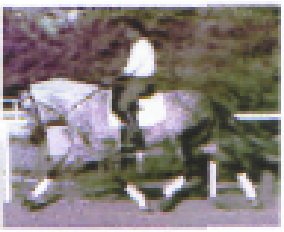

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