

CALIZONA ApHC REGIONAL CLUB HISTORY

The Early 1950's – Club Founding

Calizona was the 1st official ApHC Regional Club. The name derived from the home of the original members who lived in Arizona and California. The spelling of the Club's name has always been Calizona, not Calizona as seen in the Appaloosa News (8/54) in an early letter from Mr. Rhome Cox Secretary/Treasurer. There is some question as to the actual date when a group had their first organizational meeting. Furthermore, later "historical" stories about either Calizona or ApHC Regional Clubs say that Calizona was founded in 1951, or 1952, certainly by 1953 (still to be further researched).

However, the weight of evidence is very convincing in establishing Calizona as both the first regional and having been established in 1953, given the letter by Rhoma Cox to the Appaloosa News and the date of its first actual show. Calizona was formed in early 1953 by Robert Hawkins (Hall of Famer) and Rhoma Cox with the able assistance of ApHC founder, Claude Thompson (Hall of Famer), who had by that time retired to a ranch in Pomona. The "organization meeting" of Calizona was held at the Hawkins ranch, Double Rocking R Ranch, in Pedley, California. During those early years, Calizona's membership was generally centered in Riverside County with members in Arizona, which was an early hot-bed of Appaloosa breeding involving among others, the ranch empire of Fred Bixby, found throughout southern California.

Charter members of Calizona:

Bob Hawkins
Rhoma Cox
Claude Thompson
Floyd Crippen
Dr. and Mrs. Claire Brown
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Clay
Mr./Mrs. C.K. Allen
Mr./Mrs. "Mutt" Ellis.

The first Calizona show and first ApHC regional show was held June 20, 1954 and hosted a class list of what were called "Breeding Classes". It was held at the Bixby Ranch near what is now Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, California.

There were 4 classes: Stallions, Mares, Appaloosa Colts and Fillies, and Get of Sire.

1st place stallion was American Eagle, 3rd was Joker B.

1st place colts/fillies was Red Eagles Peacock.

Get of Sire winner was Tony Boy

Tony Boy traced back to Solomon Figueroa who had been by Bixby and who obtained him from the world famous Hearst Ranch. Some say the Hearst Ranch started Appaloosas in California in early 1900s.



owned
Ranch.
the

Calizona hosted another show on October 10, 1954, again at the Bixby ranch. This show was called **All Appaloosa Horse Show** and had 16 classes:

11 halter classes

5 performance:

Matched Pairs-Halter;
Matched Pairs-Saddle;
Stock Horse,
Pleasure Horse,
Trail Horse

A report on this show was sent to the Appaloosa News by Bob Hawkins stated that Calizona had 25 members and was going to be represented at the world famous Kellogg Ranch Judging School, and had planned to show Appaloosas in a number of parades. The Appaloosa News issues of 8/54 and 1/55, contained the actual show results for the first and second shows.

The judges for the first show were not listed. However, the October show judges were Charles Austin of Riverside and Ben Johnson, at that time Vice-President of the ApHC National club. It is interesting to note that the Appaloosa breed held the first multi-judge shows as their first Regional shows. The 4th Annual Calizona show was held in 1957 at Victorville, in conjunction with the San Bernardino County Fair. The Appaloosa News, November/57, listed three pages of results and pictures of the winners. The class list had expanded considerably.

Bob Hawkins was Calizona's first President, serving until January 1958 when he stepped down and Rhoma Cox was elected as Calizona's second President.

Stories about the Calizona founders and early members indicate these were a group of people extremely devoted not only to Appaloosa horses, but folks having and spending a great deal of time and energy in order to help get the fledgling breed off the ground and into public awareness. This was especially difficult at a time in the 50's when the Appaloosa was still an unknown breed in many parts of the country. The fact that Bob Hawkins was only recently inducted into the ApHC Hall of Fame, 1998, shows only too well how much early Appaloosa history has yet to be brought into a current historical spotlight. Hawkins' induction was well deserved and long overdue, as is likely the case for other figures yet to be recognized in California and other parts of the country.

Other early and notable members of Calizona:

Frank Gerhardt (nephew of Rhoma Cox & attendee at the first show)
Art Gayten
Phil & Judy Wright
Mr & Mrs Leroy Brannies
O.B. Ambrose
Cindy Morris
Bud Shields
Dee Dee Shields

Calizona Presidents

Past Presidents of Calizona include:

Robert (Bob) Hawkins	President 1953 to 1958
Rhoma Cox	President 1959...
A.C. Marion	President 1974 & 1975
Ken Nelson	President 1977
Dennis Dean	President 1980 thru 1985
Andy Nezwiecki	President 1986 & 1987
Judy Nezwiecki	President 1988
Dennis Dean	President 1989
Toni Dean	President 1990 thru 1993
Evon Owens	President 1994 thru 1997
Toni Dean	President 1998 & 1999
Leslie Foxvog	President 2000 to 2009

By 1962, according to a regional publication, Calizona had grown to over 100 members. Membership had its ups and downs as with all organizations. The late 90's saw a re-building of membership and a steady average of between 70 and 100 members throughout 2000 to the present.

LA County Fair Show

Photo below is Blue Chip, owned by Frank Gerhardt, third from left, as the High Point winner at the October, 1967 Calizona Regional Show at Pomona, California.



A notable event for Calizona was the L.A. County Fair held at Pomona each year. The "Fair show" allowed Calizona to put on the Appaloosa Barn display of various Appaloosa horses and hold the Appaloosa Show. Calizona gave away silver "CZ" buckles to the winners of every class at that show until the early 1980's. And for that reason, the "Fair show" always drew substantial numbers of exhibitors every year. Class size ranged from as low as 10 to the mid 30's and higher. The show lasted two days, however the Appaloosa barn presented Appaloosa horses for the length of the fair

with Calizona members caring for those horses the entire length of the fair (two weeks).

In 1981 the last Calizona Fair show was held. The L.A. Fair no longer supported the Appaloosa barn or show. So the club looked to other means of support. During the years that Calizona put on the Fair Show, the club was in great financial shape and was the richest regional club in southern California and maybe the nation. At that time there were 7 regional clubs in southern California (Calizona, Southern Cal, Cal Border, Spotted Valley, Tri County, Golden Empire, High Desert).

The 70's and 80's Were Up & Down

During the late 1970's a struggle was taking place in California for control and standardization of the show circuit throughout the state. The State organization of Cal-Western had expanded its influence from the racing world and was strengthening its hold on the show world. In the southern portion of the State, a group was organized to control the class list for all shows so that exhibitors could plan on a given set of classes at every show and an associated set of rules to govern them. This group called itself Central Committee and was composed of leaders from each of the southern Regional clubs. Nearly all the major clubs held two shows a year, one in the winter and another in the summer or fall. Shows were large and exhibitors' satisfaction became a point of concern.

The photo shows Madeline Rafflesberger when she was awarded Calizona Queen of 1973. Note the judge in the background, O.J. Martens.



During the 1980's a few shows were enjoyed by many who planned their attendance every year. Some of the highlighted shows were the SCAC Futurity show held the last weekend of July, the Ventura shows held on consecutive weekends the first of August and the Calizona Fair Show held in September. Another show that didn't have as long a run was The Color Caper, held by Spotted Valley every January in Griffith Park.

In the early '80's Central Committee ceased to exist as shows began to shrink, exhibitors began to leave the show arena and the general health of the Appaloosa industry weakened. By 1982 after leaving the L.A. County Fair, Calizona was financially weak. After living

the good life for over a decade, the Calizona members were not used to participating in a club that could no longer afford to give away year-end awards.

A milestone in Calizona history took place in the summer of 1982 when President Dennis Dean called a General Meeting of all Calizona members at Gerry Jimerson's ranch in Norco. The purpose of the meeting was to determine Calizona's future as the apparent membership apathy was taking its toll. He led an open discussion about the future alternatives which included dissolving the club or recommitting the current members to its future. His plan had worked! The members had recommitted themselves and voted to support the club.

With the Fair Show gone, Calizona had to rethink their entire show program. Calizona began putting on single point shows at Wilma Tate's Equestrian Center in Perris. They continued to hold their February show at Pomona and then a second show in August just after the SCAC futurity show the last weekend of July. Usually, this show was held in Norco where the turnout had been small.

In 1986 the current logo was designed by Judy Nezwiecki and adopted by the club. Board meetings were held at their ranch in Woodcrest, California. During this period a major push was undertaken to increase members reaching a peak of about 130 in total by 1988 with many out of state members.

1990's – Rebuilding Years

As the economy worsened and the show circuit shrank, all the Regional clubs in southern California began to feel the pain. The number of regional clubs in the south shrank from seven to four. In 1990 a group of three clubs united to develop a new enterprising show called “Crossroads”. Those clubs were Calizona (under then President Toni Dean), Southern Cal and Cal Border. The “Crossroads show” was held at the City of Industry and was intended to combine all the features of the three individual clubs shows. SCAC had a very successful weanling futurity, Cal Border had a successful Stallion Service Auction and Calizona had a weanling futurity. These were all combined into the Crossroads program and caused “Crossroads” to leap into the show circuit forefront as a show that must be attended. Furthermore, multi-judge shows had begun in California as methods had been developed to work around the ApHC rule to limit the number of judges in the ring at a time to two. The multi judge show actually began in Monterey and was quickly incorporated into the Crossroads formula the next year.

During the next three years Calizona shared the spotlight with the co-founding clubs until poor show industry problems beset the clubs running Crossroads. Cal Border members gave up their regional charter. Calizona chose to separate itself from the Crossroads show and continue with their single point shows. Plans were later developed to put on their own multi judge show.

Regional show activity slowed down. In 1997 the single point shows were restarted and began drawing new exhibitors and former exhibitors back to the show ring. By early 2000, these shows had demonstrated their ability to provide an entry path into the Appaloosa show world. Eventually, these exhibitors grew their skills and confidence and were willing to compete at the larger multi-judged shows and on to the National and Worlds shows. Breed statistics show that Regional show participation began growing during this period and is continuing to grow. Calizona’s unique use of single point shows has proven to be effective in attracting new people into the Appaloosa world and rejuvenate the old timers. Both of these benefits are necessary to the growth and longevity of the breed and the Appaloosa show world.

Time will continue to testify to Calizona’s contribution to the Appaloosa experience. Calizona now has one of the most successful show series in the country. Calizona holds 3 to 4 single point shows each year to develop the new Appaloosa show people for competition, and a large multi-judge show in August for those who want to compete at the highest level prior to the World Championship Show in late October. The August show is one of the largest shows held in California every year and draws exhibitors from throughout the west.



Some times we catch the exhibitors discussing the day’s events. Here’s a 2002 shot of “shooting the bull” in action. You see Rick Aarron, Wayne Beck, Jim and George Minic. Where else would you see George?

Rick , Wayne Beck, Dick, George Minic

Lisa Barthelemy Award Established - 2002

Lisa Barthelemy had been a strong contributor to the Appaloosa horse industry in California. Jerry Lizer, her father, was a major component in the Appaloosa racehorse industry. Over the years Lisa, with her Dad's help, competed and won several major awards in California and the National and World show. However, it was Lisa's unselfish contribution to the exhibitors, the shows, and the Appaloosa breed that made her special. Lisa became the icon for the Appaloosa exhibitor always having a smile, a pleasant greeting and the willingness help wherever help was needed. She was President of Cal-Western Appaloosa Show Horse Association; she drove sponsorship programs for several shows and organizations and was an active member of the Calizona family. In 2001 Lisa

passed away after a struggle with brain cancer. The Calizona Board believed so much in Lisa Barthelemy's unselfish contribution to the Appaloosa world that they established a perpetual award in her name, the Lisa Barthelemy Award to be given to the individual who best displayed the unselfish contributions that made Lisa so special to everyone she met. Close and best friends, Dean & Pam Hargesheimer, donated their World Show Trophy to be the award and the Board created a wood base for the plaque and award names. The first Lisa Barthelemy winner was Lisa. The award was presented to her family (Jim-husband, Casey-son and Kady Marie - daughter) by Pam and Dean Hargesheimer and President Leslie Foxvog (not shown).



Lisa Barthelemy Award Presentation August 18, 2002

Those that have been so honored include:

August 2003	Dennis and Toni Dean
August 2004	Leslie Foxvog
December 2005	Dean and Pam Hargesheimer
December 2007	Pat Stauffer
December 2008	Terri Hart
December 2009	Debbie Herzman

Calizona continued to be a leading Club in the Nation!

Single Point Show Program Success

In the early 2000s Calizona continued to focus efforts on the single point shows. In an effort to save money and re-build the finances of the Club, shows were held at Dean's Ranch in Sun City, CA. The economy was better and new exhibitors came on the scene. However, when the Dean's decided to move their Ranch and residence it forced the Board to find a facility for the shows. The Board decided the show circuit needed a long-term home, a more permanent place that exhibitors could count on. This decision was one of the most pivotal the Board made and set the Club up for its future successes. Thus, the single point shows began to be held at the Vista Palomar Riders Club and arena in Vista, CA. The facility was fairly central to the majority of the membership. It attracted exhibitors from as far south as San Diego and as far north as Apple Valley. One of the facility amenities was separate 12 x 12 pipe corrals on the outer perimeter of the property that exhibitors could affordably rent for the day (VPR over the years put in 39 such corrals). This encouraged exhibitors to bring young horses that might not tie to trailers and provide a safe place for them to be as well as other horses used for only a few classes. This boosted entries in various classes especially in the young halter ages. After the first year at VPR exhibitors realized this was going to be a constant location and set of show dates such that lives could be planned around the shows. Calizona's single point shows have been held at VPR for five or more years.

Calizona pursued a joint single point show program with the Spotted Valley ApHC who started hosting single point shows in the months that Calizona did not host shows. A single point show circuit was born initially titled, "Spotted Blanket Circuit" which featured a separate series of high points for exhibitors that showed at both the Calizona and Spotted Valley single point shows. Members from either club could sign up for a small point keeping fee and points were tabulated separately from the traditional year-end awards program for each of the clubs. The premise behind this effort was to encourage and provide an awards program for those that only wanted to show at the single point shows. Both organizations point all of the shows held in the Southern region for their year-end awards program which includes the respective 4-judge shows. Calizona wanted to encourage new members and/or the portion of membership that showed on a part-time basis to keep showing and reward their participation by offering a program that might not be of interest to the "big trainers". The High Point Awards were funded by both clubs and offered embroidered sheets as the award. The program was fairly successful but in the last year Calizona found that the title of the circuit confused the membership with the connotation of "Spotted" meant that it was "Spotted Valley's program. It was re-titled to the Single Point Show Circuit and as 2008 begins both Clubs are re-thinking if the program has enough interest.

Since 2004 Calizona's single point shows blossomed and were consistently profitable. Articles were published on the successful single point shows held in California. Spurred by Dennis Dean and others on the National Board, the ApHC initiated a temporary program to waive point fees for single point shows that included all-breed classes. This not only made the single point shows more affordable but brought new exhibitors to the show ring and increased class entries. Attendance at the 2006 shows was at an all time high sometimes reaching over 400 entries for the total show including entries in the all-breed classes. Past show horse counts averaged 35 total horses and the 2006/2007 years average was above 50 per show. The number of all breed classes increased from seven to twenty five which brought additional income to the shows from outside sources. One exhibitor liked the program so much she decided to sell her paint and purchased an appaloosa. The increased entry counts in classes increased the points earned which was sometimes enough to bring exhibitors from the northern region and from out of state to

participate in the single point shows. The Club examined show expenses in detail and found ways to ensure expenses were kept to a minimum too! The effort of the ApHC to re-build and re-energize regional clubs was greatly appreciated.

2006 ApHC Exemplary Regional Club Award

Fall of 2005 the ApHC initiated a program to recognize efforts of Regional Clubs that are a model example for others with the outcome being the Exemplary Regional Club Award. Clubs would be scored on selected criteria such as shows, banquets, auctions, trail rides, parades etc. and a submission to document the support meeting the criteria was required. From the clubs that submit for the award, six advance, one from each territory, to the finalist stage. From the six, one will be titled the Exemplary Club and win a perpetual trophy for one year, \$500 and additional accolades. Later the program was revised that each Territory finalist Club would receive a \$250 award.

Upon hearing about this, the mind set of Calizona was “GO FOR IT!” The oldest Regional Club in ApHC history, Calizona, should be and deserved to be the first club to win the award. The tone for 2006 was set, activities planned and full steam ahead. There wasn’t much instruction from ApHC regarding the final submission format for the first year the award would be offered so Calizona took a leap of faith and put together a scrapbook. The heart and soul of CZ was put on paper and hours of creativity documented all the shows, member activities, and achievements for the 2006 year. Calizona was very proud of the submission! For the first time in a long while, besides the website history, there was something that documented the Club. Additionally, the Club recognized the full intent of the program which was to have activities besides just shows. The scrapbook showed that Calizona was full of fun, family and friendship! January 2007 it was mailed off to ApHC with great pride.

During the March 2007 single point show, National Director Dennis Dean reported that Calizona was indeed a winner, the Territory II finalist; but, for the big award Calizona came in as the “reserve” champion. Calizona missed the big award by one (1) point. Submissions of the two leading clubs were very close, the scoring criteria in points identical and it came down to a call of which scrapbook the Committee liked the most – there couldn’t be a tie. Calizona received a plaque and a \$250 award commemorating the award. For the 2007 year Calizona would be challenged to try again.

The Summer Fun Show Comes Back to Its Root Home

Calizona worked hard to build up the 4 judge show held mid-August of each year. Awards were classy, high points included a saddle awarded to the All Around Horse and there was much fun to be had with a wine and cheese socials or dinner. Calizona offered a weanling futurity as well! The first location was hoping to be a permanent home, Huntington Beach, but unfortunately this was not to be. The show moved around to Del Mar and Hansen Dam up until 2006 when the Southern California Appaloosa Horse Club (SCAC) gave up the Industry Hills location. Life comes full circle and Calizona is back to its roots at the City of Industry where in 1990 (see history above) Calizona helped found the Crossroads Show. The 2006 and 2007 Summer Fun Shows were the largest Appaloosa shows in the state with over 100 head of horses.

The Summer Fun Show means just that – fun! Calizona had taken the lead during the week between the SCAC Crossroads show and the Calizona shows back to back offering activities for the exhibitors that stay down in the South between the shows. Some of the past activities included: dinner at Medieval Times, pre-show pizza night, water balloon fun, movie night on the

lawn including popcorn & candy, and a couple years, Monday morning breakfast cookout for the after show layovers. Calizona has also offered pre-show stall bedding for the exhibitors that layover between the shows. The other part of Summer Fun is the Saturday night social event after the day of showing. Either a wine and cheese party has been held or a night under the stars buffet dinner. Then after some coaxing, Rob King graciously provided auctioneer entertainment for the Calizona Hunter In Hand Calcutta (more details below). The Calcutta set up the Sunday morning fun as the exhibitors watched to see who would win big \$\$\$ besides being the Champion of Champion Hunter In Hand winner.

Innovation was key to Calizona's August Show success and over the years building the things that worked well. Shortly after the 4 judge show started Calizona developed a Champion of Champion Halter Horse exhibition to derive the supreme halter horse of the show. This pitted all sexes against each other and included any horse that had won a Grand Champion Halter placing under any of the four judges. This became such a highlight that it was only fair that the same be held for the english type; and thus, a year or so later a Champion of Champion Hunter In Hand exhibition was started. This again pitted all sexes against each other in a separately judged class for any horse receiving a first place award under any of the judges in the open HIH classes. Both exhibitions have been held annually with the expectation of some prestigious awards and bragging rights. Adding to the fun was the related Hunter In Hand Calcutta. At the Saturday night social, all exhibitors were encouraged or arm-twisted to bid and outbid each other betting on which horse would reign supreme as the Champion of Champion Hunter In Hand Horse the following Sunday morning. The person or persons who placed their dollars on the winning horse won all the \$\$\$\$\$ (or in later years a payout of 1st – 3rd place). This could be anyone, owner, trainer, family or exhibitor for any horse pre-entered before the Sunday morning competition. Some years the party that bid on the winning Champion won over \$1,000 in just a split second! It is activities such as these that Calizona has taken great pride in developing and becoming known for over the years.

21st Century Technology Customer Service

Clubs usually have diverse membership and Calizona was lucky to have some members with vision and some with action. In 2003 Calizona went live on the internet with a website – also the initial impetus for this history document. The website became the typical information resource. With 21st Century Technology, in 2007 Calizona not only re-formatted the website, the Club was the first to employ an on-line show pre-entry form – thanks to member, Erin Kortum, the web designer. Exhibitors were able to input entry information and the form was automatically sent to the show manager with the exhibitor receiving an automatic confirmation. This enhanced the pre-entry process (previously done with email) and facilitated show management to get pre-show paper work in order and have all the exhibitor numbers ready to go. Other Clubs began to use on-line pre-entry form on their website going to show that when Calizona takes a leap and if the ideas work – others follow.

Kids Show Free Program

Another contributing factor to the single point show success was the initiation of the Kids Show Free program starting in 2006. Admittedly, Calizona rode the coattails of Spotted Valley ApHC on this idea. To provide an entry path for new youth members and an opportunity to put Appaloosa horses in the hands of youth in an affordable manner both Calizona and Spotted Valley obtained sponsorship monies to cover youth class fees at the single point shows. As long as the youth was a member of Calizona (or Spotted Valley) they could show at designated “Youth Show Free” shows, and pay only the FDA drug fees and grounds/office fees; no youth

class fees. This was essentially showing for “free”. In 2006, sponsorships covered two of the four single point shows and in 2007 three of the four shows. What a boost for the single point show program and Club success! Membership increased, youth class entries increased 25% – 50%, profits increased, and sponsorship funds increased which all resulted in two years of a very successful year-end awards program and funds for other activities.

The Single Point Show and Kids Show Free success did not come without some “wonderful” problems for Calizona to tackle. Additional parking for more rigs, larger classes took longer to judge, the show day extended into longer hours, temperatures dip down after dusk, classes are scratched the later the show goes (reduction of entries), along with the potential for some unhappy customers. Calizona learned to be flexible, acknowledged issues as soon as they arose, and most importantly communicated program changes to the exhibitor base as soon as decisions were made. Calizona adapted quickly and used separate entry and exit gates to run the classes more quickly, parking areas were measured and marked, the class list was refined to move around individual working classes and show pre-entry was highly encouraged and rewarded. Calizona demonstrated that it cared about customer service.

ApHC Exemplary Regional Club Winner 2007

After the 2006 Territory Finalist Award, Calizona was bound and determined to be the next Exemplary Club Winner. As the oldest Club in the nation various members felt CZ was most deserving after losing by one point. All year long during 2007 activities were planned to meet the criteria in addition to the Club’s regular shows. The Club hit the parade circuit with other dreams in mind but it added points and a section in the scrapbook. Charity trail rides were held in addition to advertising outside the Club’s normal Horsetrader ads. In January 2008, members CJ Brooks, Stephanie Vrabel, Danie Foxvog and President Leslie Foxvog toiled over the scrapbook documenting Calizona’s activities for the year 2007. Their efforts were rewarded and in March 2008 Calizona was named the Exemplary Club winner. The Club received a Certificate of Achievement, \$700 and a Crystal Trophy. The ApHC also acknowledged Calizona with an article in the Appaloosa Journal.

2008 Celebrated the 55th Anniversary

2008 was similar in activities as 2007 along with some new added to the base repertoire of breed shows. The Club boasted its 55th Anniversary celebration all year long. Prior year activities had been profitable with the intent to celebrate throughout the year with razzle dazzle show high point and year end awards. Additionally, due to the funds in the bank, Calizona partnered with Spotted Valley for a 2009 endeavor of a two show circuit with the All Around Appaloosa winning a donated two horse trailer (the first in Calizona history). This activity was known as the Indio Super Circuit and Calizona participated with members on a separate show management committee. Lots of planning for the show circuit was anticipated.

Single Point Shows Adapt with Joint Forces

Calizona realized that the biggest challenge for the 2008 single point show program was the length of the show day. Not only did the exhibitors want fun, larger classes at affordable prices but they wanted a reasonable show day hours of 8-5. Again joining forces with Spotted Valley, the two Clubs compromised on a modified show program to offer a full complement of classes but split between the two Clubs’ single point shows. For example, masters and novice non-pro classes would be held by Calizona and Novice Youth and Limited 35 and over classes held by

Spotted Valley. Also, designed around the facilities where each Club holds their shows, Calizona offers all reining and western riding (which it had not before) and Spotted Valley offers an array of jumping classes (never held at the single point shows). The membership of either club is eligible for all year-end awards within their respective club by showing at the single point shows where the classes are offered or at their Club's respective 4 judge show meeting the minimum 3 Club judge qualification requirement. Thus, the class lists for both clubs was pared down from over 100 classes (including all breed) to approximately 85 or so in the hopes that this would meet the desires of the exhibitorship for a shorter show day. It also encouraged more entries, encouraged and mets the non-pro world qualification. Time will tell whether this was a good idea or not.

During 2008, the Club hosted four profitable shows of their own: three single point and one four point show. CZ Directors reacted swiftly to the news of the demise of the Pacific Coast Appaloosa Promoters (affiliate Club - PCAP) and their cancellation of all PCAP shows for 2008. CZ jointly co-hosted replacement shows with Spotted Valley. Named the "No Frills, No Thrills" show circuit, this show effort included (2) double judge shows and (1) four judge show which helped keep the total number of judges in California from being reduced. All of the jointly held shows were profitable too.

CZ hosted a trail ride which raised \$2,500 for the St. Judes Children's Research Hospital. The parade group won Best Equestrian Sweepstakes with their heritage entry in two parades (Moreno Valley & Norco). The Summer Fun Show in August was better-than-ever with many classy awards. CZ participated in the LA County Fair "Hoofprints – Evolution of the Horse" exhibit with members in Heritage costume. This was a live horse demonstration and display booth. CZ joined the ApHC and Spotted Valley in funding participation in the Battle of the Breeds Trail Blazer competition held in Santa Barbara, CA. Two members, adult and youth, rode against other breeds in trail classes. CZ members marketed their beloved Appaloosa Breed as models and clinic riders in the Lyn Palm "Women Luv Horses Retreat", held over three days at Industry Hills, CA. Calizona members strutted their stuff in vendors' attire and clothing on stage along with others who were modeling clothing while on horseback. Later in the weekend, members were demonstration riders for various clinicians as well as voluntary participants.

At the end of 2008, Calizona was proud to claim 87 of 105 Individual Class Year End Champions which was the most in several years. Members and their horses were very versatile showing in multiple classes and horses in multiple divisions. 38 Champion Youth, Non-pro and Open Silver Buckles were awarded as part of the year end program which was an increase of seven over 2007 awards.

Since Calizona was not the first Exemplary Regional Club winner in ApHC history (started in 2006 as a Territory finalist), the Club began 2008 with a challenge to themselves and others to be the first club to attain consecutive Exemplary Regional Club wins. Many activities throughout the year were devoted to meeting the scoring criteria. Again, the team of Brooks, Vrabel and Foxvog produced the required activities scrapbook with the intent to demonstrate that Calizona continued to be the leading Club.

Winning & Losing in 2009

The year started right off in January with the exciting Indio Super Circuit as partners with Spotted Valley. Spotted Valley hosted the Color Caper the 2nd weekend of January and Calizona hosted a new show "Winter Fun in the Sun" the weekend following at the HITS facility in Indio, CA. The most exciting part was the ability to award a two horse trailer to the All Around Horse as the circuit winner showing at both shows. This was a first in either Clubs' history and a first

for a California Regional Club from what most members could recall. CZ & SV had also garnered a sponsor for 14 Circuit Silver Buckle Awards for Non Pro, Youth and Open Divisions. Early in the planning process this was to be a really big event with confidence that exhibitors from several nearby states desired to get out of their cold weather and come to show their horses in the sun. Two shows back to back in wonderful, sunny California. During 2008, the ISC committee widely marketed the show circuit, gathered sponsors, and planned accordingly. This was a new four judge show for Calizona taking place of their traditional single point show. Change always has some facet of risk attached and no one could have predicted the weather or the Country's economic down-turn which started in the fall of 2008. In January there was more snow in all of the western states than they had seen in years and those that had thought they might attend, couldn't & didn't. Due to economic issues, more members stated they were going to pick and chose the shows to go to during 2009. Thus, show attendance at both shows was down with some showing at only the SV or CZ weekends. This was reminiscent of the 1990 economic downturn and something the ISC committee hadn't counted on. As a result, the SV Color Caper show barely broke even and Calizona suffered its first significant show financial loss in fifteen years. Regardless, CZ focused on advertising the Trailer winner and was proud to have had the opportunity to do something similar to clubs in the east.

Exemplary Regional Club Winner AGAIN for 2008!!! In March, National Director Dennis Dean was proud to announce that one of his Territory Clubs was a two time, consecutive Exemplary Club winner. CZ achieved what they set out for – to “create” history. Activities and efforts during the 2008 year paid off and another trophy along with \$ was in hand. Plans began for another submission in 2009.

Since the Parade group's efforts had been so well received locally winning multiple awards it was decided to try for the “big granddaddy” of them all - The Tournament of Roses Parade. The Parade group felt all the elements were in place, unique costume, parade experience for both riders and horses and a video to prove it. Although Appaloosas had been represented in the parade in the past, it had been over 35 years since a nationally recognized regional club represented the breed (CZ back in 1973). In May 2009, Calizona's parade group submitted over 100 pages of narrative, pictures and the video of their group of ten riders costumed in Nez Perce Heritage costume and they wouldn't hear for three months until August to learn if they would be accepted.

In the meantime, efforts concentrated on the show circuit. The Club had to pay close attention to show expenses due to economics. Show attendance was down for both single point and the four judge shows. Calizona continued to co-host the April No Frills show in Indio with Spotted Valley. Throughout the year the Show Management team continued to be the same individuals and the Southern California clubs experienced the same issues as others across the country - lack of volunteers. As a result of the economic downturn and exhibitors picking & choosing shows, the finances of the Club suffered due to reduced attendance at the shows. Only one of the single point shows was profitable and CZ was dealt another blow with a second large financial loss from the August show. Luckily, CZ had previously built up financial reserves to handle the financial impact. However, the August show was the last big event of the year and thus the Board would be required to get creative on year-end awards.

Later in August 2009 spirits were boosted to high heaven – Calizona was accepted into the Tournament of Roses Parade! The application was praised by all and CZ was off on a new path to ride in front of millions of people on January 1, 2010. The Parade Group had demonstrated they had met the theme “A Cut Above The Rest” and prepared to participate in the Tournament's Equestfest on December 29 and then the parade on January 1st. The Parade Group's dreams were going to be realized.

October brought Big Wins at the 2009 Appaloosa World Championships! Calizona can boast that they had the most winners as members. Someone from California let alone Southern California was in the top ten in at least 80% of the classes (not including cattle classes). Trophies, a trailer and top ten ribbons wins came home in the hands of the Calizona members that showed. For the first time in CZ history a member won a Two-Horse Featherlite Trailer as part of the Limited Halter Futurity and other members won money. Maid Me Very Cool owned by Terri Hart (CZ Treasurer) was the highest placing weanling filly winning the Trailer. It was exciting to watch the Calizona and other Southern California Appys show that we are the toughest competition!



Much of the remainder of 2009 focused on Appaloosa outreach. Calizona sponsored show high point awards for two all breed schooling shows in Norco (TLC). With in-Club expertise, CZ held a successful Banding & Braiding clinic. Toni Dean (CZ Past President) who is known for her world & national banding and braiding skills donated and shared her expertise with the youth and other CZ members. Appaloosa horses were used for demonstration and participants to practice on. The Clinic was held at a saddle club barn and taught mostly youth equestrians the techniques of banding and braiding for proper show presentation. Calizona also participated in the Moreno Valley HorseNAround Day with a breed display and riding demonstration. The Parade Group used this event as a test run for their upcoming Equestfest performance. The Club also set up the ApHC table top display and provided materials to those inquiring about Appaloosas. Since the breed show circuit was over, many members were out showing their Appys in open all breed shows. The Calizona journalist prepared many press releases about Appaloosa achievements in fall futurities, CSHA (California State) horse shows, and members winning silver buckles at area Christmas shows. Press releases were submitted to the ApHC for the National and Regional Club blogs and local equine media.

2009 – 2010 The Road to the Rose Parade

The Road to the Rose Parade started in May of 2009 with the submission of an application to the Tournament of Roses. The Application required not only a description of the group but a resume on each rider and horse to be involved. Calizona utilized all of its prior parade experience, video and sweepstakes wins to demonstrate they met the Parade theme “A Cut Above The Rest” along with the fact that CZ was the Exemplary Regional Club for two years running.

In August Calizona received word that they were accepted to participate in the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade. The Tournament’s Vice Chairman of Equestrian entries happened to participate in the Norco Labor Day parade (Sept 2009) same as CZ’s group and saw first hand that the CZ group was beautiful and credible.

CZ’s parade marshals (Leslie Foxvog and CJ Brooks) attended a required Equestrian Orientation in late September. At this meeting a multitude of information, dates, requests and rules were given. CZ’s preparation began in earnest getting paperwork completed and the support team coerced into helping behind the scenes. Calizona was Entry #33 in the parade and the 6th Equestrian Unit. Great position for a new group in the first 1/3 of the parade. Additionally, CZ agreed to perform at the Tournament’s Equestfest scheduled for December 29 at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center. The Equestfest was set up for all the parade groups to perform in front of 4,000 attendees and be filmed live on RFDTV. CZ developed a “performance” pattern drill of sorts with Indian tribal chant and flute music. The Group practiced several weekends to perfect the pattern.

The Week after the Christmas holiday was a whirlwind of equestrian activities. The Tournament's Equestrian Reception was the evening of December 28th, Equestfest the day of December 29th and the Marshals Breakfast on the morning of December 30th and then travel to the parade the evening of December 31st.

Equestfest was exciting and the performance successful. Lots of oohs and ahhs from the crowd! CZ was the last group to perform just before the intermission. Right after the group took the horses to the crowd barriers and shared the Appaloosas and costumes with the crowd. This is what Calizona members do best at any event – get the horses right to the public to share their Appaloosa spirit.

December 31 dawned beautiful and weather for the next day of the parade was to be spectacularly sunny! At 8:30 p.m. five rigs for the 10 riders and 8 support persons met in Ontario, CA to travel into Pasadena's equestrian formation as one unit. T of R requires all groups and support to be in formation by midnight. CZ members toasted and hugged as the New Year arrived and then tucked themselves in their trailers for a few hours of shut eye. Based on their parade position, the CZ group had to be mounted by 6:40 a.m. and estimated to step off into the parade at 8:40 a.m.; thus, the alarm to get dressed was set for 4:00 a.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010! Calizona was dressed and mounted by 6:30 a.m. as the Tournament Liaisons came by on their scooters to escort the group to the parade lineup. Part of the 210/710 freeway is shut down for the Equestrians but there is at least 30 minutes of travel from formation to parade lineup; up a freeway ramp, across a bridge, through a dirt alley and then on to Waverly. All this as the sun was rising in the east taking the chill off the cold morning. Calizona's luck continued and the holding place was the very corner of Waverly and Orange Grove (no other equestrian group in front) which was right across from the Tournament House and KTLA Channel 5 TV crew. CZ was the most photographed group while sitting at the corner as parade goes and press traveled to their grandstand seats further up the line. Many came up to pet the horses and enjoy their picture near Chief Joseph! Later it was found that during the pre-parade show that KTLA had panned in on the CZ Appy Group as the lead in to the commercials.

The ride down Orange Grove and Colorado was a thrill! The crowd responded back to Calizona's yells of "Happy New Year", "Good Luck Ohio State", and "Welcome Oregon Fans"! Crowd recognition included lots of applause, signs with "Perfect 10's and a quickly written 10+", Indian yells, and several call outs of rider names. The horses were well behaved and walked/jogged without a hitch. Calizona was so proud to represent all who love Appaloosas and entertain those that enjoy the Rose Parade. It was a great way to start 2010!



The success from the late 90's to the present is the result of visions of a few and the teamwork of many. The Board of Directors, Club membership, Sponsors and Exhibitors all play an integral part in the success of the Calizona Appaloosa Horse Club.

***This represents 56 Years of Calizona History.
How will Calizona look after another fantastic 50 or so years?***

A special thank you to the contributors of this history. This is a work in progress and will be continually updated as new information is found and/or as events happen. We will incorporate photos as they become available.

Contributors:

Dennis Dean
Frank Gerhardt
Bob Lapp
Leslie Foxvog

And all those who have been members or participated in these events and so kindly helped to illuminate their times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Rose Parade is a major parade televised to millions of people around the world. Calizona was part of presenting the Appaloosa horse around the globe.



Frank Gerhardt on Blue Chip in the 1973 Rose Parade.

Updated June 30, 2003

Updated January 25, 2010