

C.L. "CONNIE" CAINES

CONNIE CAINES HAS been a devoted member of the Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) for half a century. In 1965 Connie signed up for a membership with the ApHC and began a career that has made him one of the most well known names in today's Appaloosa world.

Connie has many achievements; one of his proudest moments was winning the Junior Western Pleasure class at the Dixie Nationals in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1974. There were more than 100 entries in the class, but Connie and Mom's Wild Honey came out on top. His success in the show ring continued to blossom as he won his first World Champion title in Weanling Fillies with his horse, Lookin' Blue in 1977.

While Connie has accomplished many things in and out of the show ring, one of his favorite moments was as a parent watching his son Randy win the Nez Perce Stake Race at the National Show in Syracuse, New York. Randy took second in the Camas Prairie Stump Race that same year. He remembers how proud he was. To this day it is one of the happiest moments of his Appaloosa career.

The superior breeding program Connie has maintained has led to the Hall of Fame more than once. One of the "greats" owned by Caines Show Horses was the 1973 stallion J&B Big Red, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1994 after a phenomenal career in the show ring as well as on the racetrack. Then in 2004, the iconic Caine's stallion Skip's Reward (pictured below) was inducted after proving himself as a champion and then siring 287 registered foals, 212 of which amassed a staggering combined total of more than 13,000 show points. And 2014 marks a special year for the entire Caines family as Connie enters the Hall of Fame alongside Kendalite N Roses, a granddaughter of Skip's Reward and unanimous World Champion Yearling Filly of 1992 with Connie at the lead.



In addition to the ApHC Hall of Fame, Connie was recently inducted into his high school's athletic hall of fame for his prowess in football, baseball, basketball, track and tennis.

Connie's sole occupation has always been horses—he has been an exhibitor, trainer, breeder and long-time ApHC Judge. Over the years one could find him serving as a ring man at national ApHC sales, promoting his exceptional breeding program, managing futurities, training horses, exhibiting in shows and so much more. In 2009, he achieved one of his loftiest goals by beating friend, Dave Parlier in the Most Colorful at Halter Class.

The miles Connie Caines has traveled throughout his horse career to promote the Appaloosa breed are impressive. He's described by friend Paul Filzen as "a true professional horseman, someone who stands by his word and understands the significance of a deal made with a handshake." His wife Ellen has had a very successful business of her own and credits Connie with her personal triumphs as he has taught her the skills needed to be successful. It is not one area of achievement that has earned Connie Caines this elite honor, but an entire career devoted to honoring and promoting the great Appaloosa breed.

