

HORSEMAN OF THE YEAR SHIRLEY BROWN

Shirley grew up on a farm in Bakersfield, CA. Her Dad bought Shirley her first Paint horse when she was only 5 years old. She rode many a mile bareback through every field, yes, even over the crops. This started an obsession for horses that she hadn't realized was already planted deep in her roots.

In her early years Shirley raised Quarter horses. She and her late husband, RC Donaldson, raised Paint Horses, trained rope horses and competed in rodeos and roping. R C Donaldson was one of the founding members of the Central California Paint Horse Club. After ten years of living in Wyoming, RC sadly passed away and Shirley moved back to Bakersfield.

Shirley met and married Jim Brown. Shirley always laughingly said Jim was a "yuppie" when they met, but she soon traded his BMW for a pickup and got him a horse. Shirley even had Jim in the show ring with their beloved stallion Eternal Marauder who was an APHA Champion and California State Champion. He was a champion in halter, roping, reining, and yes, he even jumped. Marauder's foals were always in the futurities, winning in excess of \$150,000. Jim and Shirley also have a 24 hour mare care and foaling facility along with a complete stallion station. Shirley has a scholarship program with Bakersfield College for students with horse related studies. She has spent many years foaling and fitting foals for the fall futurities and has taught many a new horse enthusiast how to fit and show horses.

Shirley joined CCPHC in 1976 and shortly after returning from Wyoming became an elected board member.

Shirley's relentless hours of work and computer skills have been one of the key people running the CCPHC and the Western Paint World Show. She has worn many hats over the years as futurity secretary, she ran the Stallion Service Auction and our Select Sale for years, she was even the show secretary, and she says that was before computers. Shirley has also put together and helped organize the Utah and Nevada breeders' futurities.

Shirley has single handedly worked innumerable hours for the promotion and good of the Paint Horse industry. The Central California Paint Horse Club truly recognizes Shirley Brown as a Horseman of the Year.