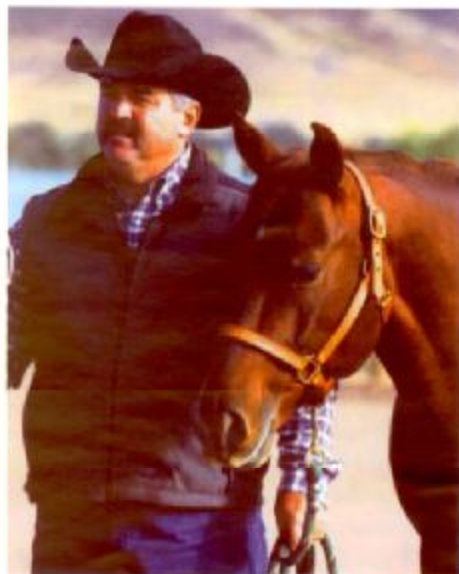


NVRHA Selects 2009 Horseman of the Year

By Donna Stewart



The 2009 recipient of the NVRHA's Horseman of the Year is not only a great horseman, he is just an all around great guy! Tim Rose had no problem meeting the basic requirements of being an excellent horseman and enthusiastic supporter of the mission and goals of the organization. Tim is one of the founding members of NVRHA, and anyone who knows him is aware of the unparalleled effort he has given to this versatility ranch horse program. Currently in his third year as NVRHA treasurer and board member, Tim was the natural choice for our Horseman of the Year. So, before we get on with Tim's story, on behalf of the NVRHA – Tim, thank you for all you've done, all you continue to do, and the assurance that your steady hand will be there to guide this young association into the future. Pick an event, any event in any state, and Tim is probably there. But, if his busy schedule doesn't allow him to attend, you can bet he has certainly reviewed the event's plan and budget, spoken with the event managers, answered dozens of questions, and most likely lent his name as the off-site manager. So why does this busy businessman, husband, and father spend so much time making sure the NVRHA works? Money – ha! Fame – not that kind of guy! A

'cowboy heart'... now you're getting there...

Tim's story may start out sounding familiar but it doesn't take much telling before the uniqueness begins to emerge. Basically, how many little boys born in farming communities in southwestern Ohio dream of becoming cowboys? Lots. But how many actually do it? Few. And, how many do it all of their own accord while concurrently building a business and taking care of a family? Darn few.

Tim did grow up in Ohio the only boy in a family of five children. Four sisters – now that explains why we ladies love him – he 'gets' us! While the girls did their thing, Tim dreamed of the western cowboy life, fuelling his imagination with television shows like *Rawhide* and *The Rifleman*. But the reality of being a cowboy was slim in those days, so when Tim graduated from high school he enlisted in the Air Force. Now for those of you who don't know, the Air Force has set a high priority on airplanes, not horses. So, on his off time from duty in Little Rock, Arkansas, Tim focused all his cowboy energy into another love - hunting and fishing. At the same time Tim also enacted his plan to become a truck driver hauling steel from Ohio steel mills. (Remember how easily he backed that big rig of his into tight spaces at NVRHA events? Now it's all coming together!) So he did that – surprised? – don't be – the common thread in this story is – Tim makes a plan and achieves it. Today we call that - work ethic.

It didn't take Tim long to realize that college was a better choice than truck driving. He moved to Houston, Texas, earned a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, and then went to work for Price Waterhouse as an oil/gas auditor. Living in Texas revived Tim's cowboy dreams and he packed up and moved west to Colorado Springs in 1986. Tim continued his work in the accounting field for several years before launching his own commercial real estate company in 1991. Today Tim is the owner and driving force behind the successful Summit Commercial Group, Inc in Colorado Springs. Anyone who runs their own business knows the incredible time commitment involved to achieve success. Tim was rewarded in 1996 by meeting and marrying his wife Cindy. What a team these two are! Great guy, lovely lady...but now the story is just beginning.

Cindy shared Tim's passion for horses, and the couple bought four (!) in 1999. By Tim's own admission, this first venture into horses was a 'train wreck'. Tim says it was so bad that he was afraid Cindy would lose her desire to ride. No giving up here though, Tim and Cindy gained knowledge and eventually ended up owning several nice trail horses. But cowboys do more than trail ride, so Tim kept searching. Enter Dave Currin – versatility ranch horse guru – who met the Roses in Ft. Robinson, Nebraska at an early AQHA VRH event in 2002. Dave's enthusiasm rubbed off on the Roses and now you know the rest of the story! Might want to thank Dave when you see him!

Tim and Cindy did not just test the VRH waters, they dove in head first! These guys sold all four trail horses in the same week and hit the road looking for a different kind of horse. Now this next part isn't new to those of us who know Tim and Cindy. They met Jay and Gena Henson who helped them find two great geldings and get started in the VRH program. (Read about Cindy's horse, *Double Tuckered Out*, in this issue – winner of our first Legend Award.)

Tim purchased Smart Enuf to Smokem (aka Rowdy) and ever since then it has been 'game on'!

From the time he began to compete on Rowdy in 2005, Tim is the only member of the NVRHA who has accomplished the versatility trifecta – THREE SUPREME RANCH HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS ON THREE DIFFERENT HORSES! If this doesn't make you sit up and pay attention then you don't know much about our sport. To put it simply, this is difficult folks! And from a more realistic perspective, this is darn near impossible for most people. But again, we are not talking about most people, we are talking about Tim...remember that work ethic thing? No doubt Tim has had terrific success on these three horses – Smart Enuf to Smokem, Stylish Gus, and Double Tuckered Out – and that success was born out of his love for horses, the versatility event, and that cowboy dream.

So, it must be time for Tim to rest on his laurels...are you kidding me? Tim has already begun work on his next VRH champion, a 6 year old gelding called Mega Powder N Moore. In addition he will be starting a 3 year old that he purchased as a yearling from Mike Major. Also look for Cindy on the Rose's 4 year old gelding Kwik Silver Rooster. These two just don't quit, which is one of the reasons they are favorites among the NVRHA members. As Tim reminisces about his whirlwind tour of the VRH world, he comes back to one basic. "It's the people that make it all work for me," says Tim, "we have met so many dear friends over the last several years."

Tim is humble in his amazement about his horsemanship skills and numerous accomplishments. And he is quick to credit and thank his wife Cindy and two beautiful daughters Katie and Jackie for supporting the realization of his dreams. Tim is living his dream, as much as anybody can be a cowboy in this year 2010. So back to that 'cowboy heart' thing...it's as big as that grin on his face and those fancy high top orange boots!



Clockwise from top left:

Tim accepts the Horseman of the Year Award from Bill Cantrell,
Tim and Bill - the NVRHA is all about friends (and great boots!),
The Rose girls - Jackie, Cindy, and Katie,
Tim and his next champion Mega Powder N Moore