



The following is taken from the Hall Of Fame induction ceremony on March 11, 2011.

One of the greatest honors I have had during my association with the IBHA, the privilege of presenting the Hall of Fame recipients with their awards has been the greatest. I have been able to gain the perspective of where the IBHA came from and how it got to where it is today. There are some pretty amazing people that have been a part of us over the years, and this year's selections are another example of the wonderful people that have been with us.

Chuck Van Horn is a great example of what I am speaking of. A quiet, soft-spoken yet well spoken man who to me is the epitome of an American West man; independent and intelligent with a passion for life and for the lives of people and animals around us. I took the opportunity to interview him via email with questions about him, as believe it or not, he predates my involvement with the IBHA.

According to Chuck, he has been involved with horses since he was born and been riding since he was 5. His involvement with horses includes showing horses in the AQHA, a judge for 4-H and open breed shows in Arizona as well as roping and rough stock riding. He has been involved in the IBHA since early on in the organization. This he says is largely due to the fact that his father would own nothing but a buckskin. He showed at a Buckskin show in Illinois and was extremely impressed both with the horses and the people in the organization. Together with another gentleman, he started the Arizona Buckskin Horse Association and served as President for 4 years. He served as a field inspector for IBHA for 5 years, served on the Rules Committee, Served on the IBHA Executive Committee, and was Chairman and manager of the 1985 Dunarama held in Arizona. Did I mention he was president of the IBHA too? If I have my dates right, he served from 1982-1988.

Chuck has also done a ton of research in the buckskin color. He did lab research on what influenced the hair color, including diet, weather, climate, and genes. He also discovered that amino acids specifically influenced the dorsal color. As I am not a scientist, I am not going to confuse the issue (or myself) anymore on this, but I am certain that he would have something to share with you if you would ask him.

He also sent me a copy of Buckskin Country, the January-February 1987 issue with a photo of him with his mare Skips Total Joy, or "Tootsie" on the cover. This was a real pleasure to go through and see some of the names of people early in my association with IBHA. He also had quite an article in it where he was interviewed by the magazine. Neat stuff.

I then asked him to share his horse related accomplishment that he was the most proud of. I will quote him here. "It is hard to specify the most important accomplishments that are important for me. Just the fact of IBHA growing so much and becoming a high quality horse organization in such a short time during and following my active participation with IBHA is a most gratifying accomplishment. Of all of the experiences and gratifications, I believe this is a standout."

When asked what he would like to be remembered for, he replied, "Of course the most important thing to me is my family and I would like for them to think I was at least a good father and teacher. I would also like to leave this world having the comfortable feeling that I did some good both in life and organizations that I belonged to and that I be remembered as a down to earth gentleman who felt pleasure in teaching others and working with them."

His last line was this. "I always remembered what my father told me when I left home to go on my own, 'Just remember son, big wheels were meant for dogs to urinate on'".

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the 2011 IBHA Hall of Fame inductee, Chuck Van Horn. Chuck VanHorn and his wife Jo.

