

The Zane Schulte Memorial Award

Chubby Turner – Known as Ambassador for NCHA

By Jatona Sucamele

Chubby Turner is well-known for developing and nurturing growth and betterment within the cutting horses industry, now he is rewarded for his efforts.

Chubby has been referred to as the ambassador of cutting, with more than 40 years of experience in just about every aspect of the cutting horse industry. "Chubby is a wonderful example of what we should all hope to exemplify as NCHA members. He treats all cutters at every level with friendliness and respect," said Frank Harrison. "He always takes the time to explain the importance of why the right attitude makes a difference."

"It's not for any reason but that I just love cutting and always have," Turner said, "so whatever I can do to help it get better, that's what I do. When they say I've contributed a lot—I feel like I've been the one who has received a lot.

"I have been lucky enough to win a few honors since I've been with NCHA," Turner said, "but this is probably one of the biggest ones to me, because I served on this committee for about five years when they first started giving this award and I know that it's one of the hardest ones to come by. There are a lot of people who are eligible for this award and have done some great things in NCHA, but not everybody receives it. I know that the committee goes through some intense scrutiny to decide who's going to receive it.

"I believe that character plays the biggest role in this award, because of this young man [Zane Schulte]. I knew him all of his life and his mom and dad have been close friends. He just exuded the qualities that this award stands for. He was a brilliant young man who was a great athlete and just a great human being. The people who serve on that committee are very important people, so I feel real honored and a little taken aback to get this. On social media I have constantly been getting congratulations and people telling me that I deserve it. That makes me get a little emotional, it's really quite an honor."

Turner said that he really looked up to Matlock Rose and all of the greats at the time when he was starting out. When he was just a boy of about 13 his dad bought an old horse. "Shiny Pants M was his name and I loved horses, that's all I did when I was a kid," Turner said. "I wanted to be a rodeo cowboy someday, a roper or a bulldogger. Dad asked me to ride this cutter and I told him that I wanted to be a roper. He said, 'son, I've seen you rope and you need to try this cutting.' So I climbed on him and managed to sort one off. Now this horse was about 23 I think, and man he didn't need me, he was doing it all on his own. After the first cow, I knew that's what I wanted to do with my life. From that day forward, that's all I wanted to talk about."



Turner is an NCHA lifetime member and currently serves as a director for North Texas. He served as NCHA President for the 2009-2010 term and served on several committees including the Open Show committee, Limited Age committee, Professional Trainers committee and Judges Rules committee.

Turner helped secure the first World Series sponsor, the Four Sixes Ranch. And then, when the World Series format grew, he was instrumental in developing a business relationship between NCHA and Mercuria Energy Services as the title sponsor. The World Series events and the World Finals have given new life to horses that are out of the aged events, ultimately increasing their value, and provided another platform for weekend cutters to ride to the herd in Fort Worth.

"Chubby developed the World Series cuttings, and fought tooth and nail to get them implemented," said Mike Mowery. "He was also instrumental in getting the current World Finals moved to Fort Worth during the NCHA Futurity."

Turner has a long list of accolades that can't all be named, such as helping to develop a system to practice on used cattle. That format is now used at many bigger shows and also serves as an additional source of revenue for shows that had often been in the red.

While living in California, Turner was also involved in organizing a pilot for the judges monitoring system that

evolved into the system used today.

He has commentated the broadcast of the NCHA Futurity, sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with a broad audience. His dedication to the sport spurred his interest in developing a format to showcase weekend cutters and horses.

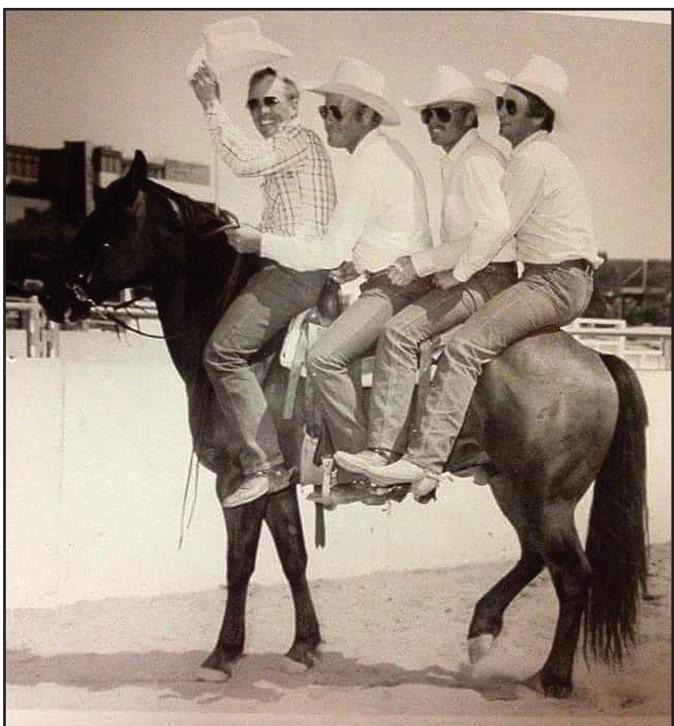
Turner helped start the Brazos Valley Cutting Horse Association and hosted the Pro Cutters Shoot Out at Silverado on the Brazos, procuring national television coverage that helped publicize the sport.

His dedication to cutting and to helping others has not gone unnoticed by his peers. "I think you could say that Chubby has been NCHA's unofficial ambassador for over 40 years," Mike Mowery said. "Ever since I've known him, he has been the 'go-to' guy to teach and encourage cutters of all levels. Chubby's true love of the sport is like a magnet that has pulled so many people in through the years."

Turner says that there is someone who deserves credit besides himself for all of his good deeds. "Ginger and I have been married for 28 years. We do everything together 24/7, therefore we fight a lot, but we love a lot, too," he said with a laugh. "She pushes me, though she only weighs about 100 pounds, to do everything. So a lot of the things that I receive are due directly to her, she's quite a lady."

Over the years, Mary Jo Milner said she has grown to hold an even higher respect and knowledge of Turner's love for NCHA and his "ability, continual effort and time spent to help grow NCHA in so many ways."

Currently serving as the resident trainer of J Five Ranch, Weatherford, Texas, Turner has \$2,476,215 in rider earnings and was the NCHA Open World Champion on J5's good mare, One Time Choice, two years in a row, 2013 and 2014. He had reached that goal first in 2004 as NCHA Open World Champion on Flickacat. Turner has had a successful aged-event career, including NCHA Super Stakes Championship titles.



Chubby Turner, Greg Welch, Mike Mowery, and Gary Bellenfant.

2016 Zane Schulte Award And the Nominees are....

Nathen Anderson	Tom Lyons
Cara Brewer	Jim MacKay
Mike Combs	Sonny Martin
Michael Cooper	Tommy Marvin
Carey Cathey	Scott McClurg
Lloyd Cox	Dylan Meyer
Casey Crouch	Mike Mowery
Don Crumpler	Nick O'Dell
Brett Davis	Bill Pierce
Tim Delagardelle	Kenny Platt
Troy Donaldson	Ben Roberson
Grady Duncan	Tom Shelly
Tom Dvorak	Austin Shepard
Todd Gann	Bryant Slaughter
Robby Hansen	Tim Smith
Russell Harrison	Ted Sokol
Cletus Hulling, Jr.	Tracy Taylor
Caleb Jantz	Craig Thompson
Teddy Johnson	Josh Townsend
Brian Kelly	Zoe Woodland
Joey King	

Here is what a few had to say in their nominations:

"Total honesty and integrity in every aspect of his life. Always has his beloved NCHA first in his decisions. Cutting is his life and he never does anything just for his benefit. I have never known anyone as caring and honest as Chubby Turner. The industry is honored to have him. I watched him sacrifice his private life and even his business during his term as President of the NCHA."—Rolinda Click.

"Chubby is a great horseman and he lives and breathes cutting. He also loves to share this great sport with everyone in a way that they can understand, even if they don't know anything about horses or cattle. Chubby is a very honest and truthful man and will always give 100 percent of himself for the cause, whatever it may be. I am proud to know him and thank him for all he has taught me and done for me over the years."—Charlene Cooper.

"Chubby is always there to help people. He is a great ambassador for the NCHA. He cares about our cutters from beginners to the pros. With all of his travel showing his horses he has drawn people to cutting from coast to coast."—Mike McCarty.

"He is a three-time World Champion, two-time Super Stakes Champion, and many times Reserve Champion. Has turned the weekend cutting back around tenfold. It is really time for him to be recognized. Thank you."—Nancy Clayton. ★