

Trainer Gretchen Clark

Owner and trainer Gretchen Clark has been a professional trainer for more than 39 years, beginning her career in 1970. Gretchen specializes in training Hunter-Jumpers and expert care of horses.

She has competed in national and world horse riding events, and holds numerous awards, including National and World Appaloosa titles for riding. She was named Trainer of the Year by the California Western Appaloosa Association and was winner of the San Fernando Valley Horse Show Association Trainer's Award.

She also has trained champion Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation riders on the "A" and "B" circuits. In addition, she has trained many year-end champions for both LAHSA and PCHA. Her vast professional horse training experience also includes current board member of IEHJA, where she has been instrumental in the development of the Association. She is also a member of the USEF, PCHA, and IEHJA, as well as life members of LAHSA and SFVHSA, and former board members for LAHSA and the PCHA. She is past-president of the California Western Appaloosa Association.

Besides her training facility, Gretchen is also the manager of The Showcase Horse Show Series, an event held four times a year and featuring more than 50 classes including Walk/Trot, Cross-Rail, Green Hunters, Short/Long/Rusty Stirrup, Jr./Am Divisions, Medal Classes and Jumpers. Prior to this show series, Gretchen owned and operated horse shows in Sunset Hills for 10 years, where as many as 80 exhibitors participated in an event.

Gretchen is no stranger to hosting horse shows. She held shows for more than 10 years at her previous location in Sunset Hills with as many as 80 exhibitors. Her shows are designed with the hallmark qualities of professionalism-- set to be on-time-- and are managed with back-gate and exit gate efficiency for all divisions and classes. The facilities include the Jumping Arena, an upper and lower practice arena and a large, easily accessible parking area for trailers, trucks and cars. There are on-site food provided, sun shelters, and photographic services.

Gretchen grew up in the Central Valley riding since age of five. She started competing in English when she was 12. During her junior years, she won numerous local and state championships and qualified for the Bunbara Worth Medal. At 21, she became an assistant trainer at Eaton Canyon Riding Club in Pasadena. She advanced to trainer and moved to San Dimas Equestrian Center, with her riders showing locally and throughout California. In 1979 she moved to Oregon to breed hunters and began showing in the eventing world. She advanced to the preliminary level before moving back to Southern California in 1984. She spent the next year as a private training showing horses throughout California, Oregon, and Arizona, competing in hunters and modified grand prix horses. In 1985 she moved to Redlands to take over Sunset Hills Equestrian Center, where she was trainer until she purchases Showcase in 1994.