

The 2008 Stallion Choice All Around Award was presented to Rain Tree Road who is sired by Colonel Lena Chex. Owner of both sire and offspring, Mike Boardman of Corning, CA received a check for along with a custom buckle sponsored by Bar 11 Ranch, Skip Brown. Trainer and rider, Gary Baumer, received a custom buckle as well.

### ***Colonel Lena Chex - SIF Choice Sire***

Colonel Lena Chex is an own son of Colonel Doc Bar Chex, the 2000 Reserve Champion in the Worlds Greatest Horseman. Colonel Lena Chex, aka Digger, is owned by Southern Cross Ranch, Mike and Elizabeth Boardman of Corning, CA. He wins free nomination into the 2008 SIF for siring the 2007 All Around winner, Raintree Road. While living in Washington, the Boardman's purchased Digger while they were still residing there. Losing their great stallion, Dual Doc, it was 1998 and Mike was still doing a lot of breeding consulting and had referred many breeders to Atwood Ranch (Stoney Creek Station) where they stood a battery of well bred stallions with a great variety of pedigrees which to select from. During one of Mike's many visits to the ranch to observe the foals of the different stallions, Jodi Elliot showed Mike one foal in particular by Colonel Dar Bar Chex. He was considering breeding a "Smart Little Lena" mare to the stallion with the hopes of getting a potential replacement stallion. Mike had noticed this particular foal the year before and knew his dam was a money earning Doc O' Lena daughter. Jodi informed Mike that the foal had been hurt in an accident several months earlier and probably would not sustain a show career and would have to go to a breeding ranch. Mike commented that he would love to have him for just such a role, whereupon Jodi handed Mike the halter lead.....and the rest is history!

Returning to Washington, Digger grew up to be a great addition to the Boardman's breeding program, breeding him to the Dual Doc daughters and many other

mares in both Washington and British Columbia. Digger was sent to Cayley Wilson in BC to determine his ability. Mike says, "He would have been an awesome cow horse, however, we had agreed never to show him and remained true to our word."

Digger has been bred to a great variety of mares including several Appaloosas and a few Arabians. Mike says he consistently throws his fine chiseled and dished head on his foals as well as his wonderful temperament and disposition. His rabicano gene is also passed on, passing along his coon tail and roan flanks with great regularity. He has over fifty offspring scattered from Canada to Utah, registered as Quarter Horses, Paints, Appaloosas and Half Arabs.

Although his get are used primarily in NRCHA they are successfully campaigned in cutting, reining and roping. They are well known for their deep stops as well as their pretty heads and big hips. Ironically, Digger moved with the Boardman's to Northern California and is now standing at their ranch in Corning.....exactly one mile from his birthplace at the old Atwood Ranch.

Digger stands to the public at Private Treaty and there are always some of his babies for sale. His harem included three "Dual Doc" daughters a "Docs Tunda", a "Dustin Quixote" and a well bred Appaloosa mare that they inherited. The Boardman's invite you to come by and see them and Digger, along with his offspring. Originally from Australia, Mike has been in the horse industry for years in multiple disciplines and has a great collection of saddles and bits he loves to show people. You can reach the Boardman's at Southern Cross Ranch at (530) 824-6677.

(Pictured below: Gary Baumer showing Rain Tree Road. Photo courtesy of Wild Time Photos.)

