

To paraphrase Claude Thompson, "Go back to your regional clubs- take every advantage to bring the Appaloosa to the public. We are preserving the heritage of a great breed of horses." This was part of the speech Mr. Thompson gave at the banquet at the National Show in Boise Idaho in 1963. The regional clubs were so instrumental in promoting that the greatest growth for our breed was from 1963 to 1970.

The "mother club" for Free State APCH was the Northeastern Appaloosa Assoc., more lovingly known as NAA. The club territory was probably the largest territory for a regional club. The northern border was eastern Canada and the southern border was the Virginia -North Carolina border. The NAA was also one-fifth of the Five Club Regional Club that included Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. This was one power house of members who were involved with their clubs. The membership for both organizations showed up for meetings and shows at a time when the highways of today were in the planning stages. Dr Schwinn from Old Dominion Farms located in southern Virginia, Mrs. Shallcross from Ellicott City, Maryland both had long drives through Pennsylvania to get to New York as did the Bakhaus' from Michigan, Mr. Stump from Ohio and on and on. This partnership in promoting the Appaloosa turned into a family that went on to develop the largest regional breed show in the WORLD - GEAR. The Greater Eastern Appaloosa Regional.

My point is the regional club is the heart of our breed and incase no one has noticed, regional clubs are folding at an alarming rate. These clubs sponsor the shows that lead to the points needed for championships and world qualifying. Programs such as the youth and non pro originated at regional level. Free State APHC was requested to return to the Howard County Fair. Years ago this was a large pointed show and showed our breed to the public who were not horse owners but loved to watch the horses. This show brings our breed and people to the public eye once again and brings points to exhibitors that may be searching for points for World Show qualifying or to satisfy a superior challenge. A member of Free State can also be sponsored by the club to the World Show as long as the membership is known before July 2011. Lastly this show is a payback show which can help with your expenses. Please get involved again. To those we added classes for in past years so you could get the points on your mounts please help us make this show a success. To the Appaloosa owners that do not go to pointed shows, please come and meet some of us and help us put on a power house show of Appaloosas.

Oh yes, how did I know what Mr. Thompson talked about in 1963? I was the NAA queen to the National Show.

Respectfully

President Free State APHC

Mary Skiff-Kessler