



Congratulations to
John Luiz
for being Inducted into the
2023 USTPA Hall of Fame!



Hall of Fame

Congratulations to this Year's Inductee!

John Luiz was born and raised in the Central Valley of California on a dairy/beef cattle operation that his father managed. John always had an interest in horses. As a youngster, around 6 or 7 years old, he would watch the workers gather the cows, tie the horses to the barn and they would milk the cows. He



would then sneak out and ride the horse while they milked. Of course, getting in trouble for this. As he got older, he was allowed to help on the beef operation more and more. He decided he wanted to be a cowboy and in his middle 20's went to work cowboying for Joaquin Medeiros. Joaquin ran around 800 mother cows. Wanting more adventure, he was hired on at the Gill Ranch, NE of Hollister, CA. They were known for its' steep, brushy, tough country and wild cattle. They ran cattle on approximately 50,000 Acres. That's where John began his journey with working cow dogs, mainly using border collie/McNabb cross dogs. John worked there for about two

years as he was offered a job managing the 6B Cattle Co. consisting of approximately 500 mother cows and a feed lot. When 6B started



downsizing, John started leasing a few small pastures to run a few cows of his own. John also worked part time for



Biel Cattle Co. in the mountains south of Livermore. This is where his need and passion for working cattle dogs and tough horses grew. John was hired to gather cattle that no one else could capture.

About this time in the mid 70's, John started team penning with the C.C.P.A. It was a sport he fell in love with. In the beginning, it was a two man, three cattle event. You had to close the gate once they were penned to get a time. Santa Ynez was the first three man penning John attended. The first year penning in the W.C.T.P.A., John was the year-end champion. John continued to pen with the P.T.P.A. and the W.C.T.P.A. winning multiple championships in both associations on his trusty mount, Roanie. John's most memorable win was in 1992, when he won with Willie Tellam and Steve Tellam, the Justin National Team Penning in Guthrie, OK out of 250 teams. In 1990, John with his team penning partners, Mike Quick and John Smalley made, "The Penning Tape". Over the years, John with his partners, Mike Quick and John Smalley put on many team penning clinics throughout the U.S. John also wrote several articles in the Team Penning USA magazine and an article in the Quarter Horse Journal and Western Horseman. John was always trying to encourage new participants and help them whenever he could. You could always hear his voice over others giving instructions and helping everyone even if they were beating him! John also was always on hand to help out at the pennings, loading/unloading trucks, numbering, sorting, whatever needed to be done to help the penning crews. John says his best memories are the comradery within the sport and the many friendships made along the way. And,

of course, best memory was meeting his wife, Sandy, at a team penning.

John also was asked to be the head wrangler for a two-day cattle drive to kick off the 1985 Hemet Team Penning. With the help of John Smalley, Steve Tellam, Mike Quick and many others, cattle were driven from mountains in Anza through downtown Hemet into the fairgrounds . This was the beginning of many cattle drives; Los Angeles County Fair, Orange County Fair, San Diego County Fair, Alameda County Fair to name a few.



John now runs approximately 300 head of mother cows of his own in the mountains of the Diablo Range, south of Livermore, CA with the help of his wife, Sandy, and many working cattle dogs and good horses. Since retiring from team penning, John enjoys helping neighbors gather, along with sorting and brand their cattle.





USTPA Hall of Fame Mission Statement

1. Honor the Heroes of Team Penning and Ranch Sorting. We shall recognize and honor those individuals who have made an impact on our sport and our members.
2. Celebrate Excellence. We shall enshrine those who excelled and made our sport better.
3. Preserve our History. We shall honor those who sacrificed and worked whenever they were asked without personal reward.
4. Promote USTPA Values. Family, teamwork, leadership, excellence, horsemanship, community and sportsmanship.

