



Congratulations to
Mike Flynn
for being Inducted into the
2020 USTPA Hall of Fame!



Hall of Fame

Congratulations to this Year's Inductee!

Mike Flynn was born on January 13, 1949 to Emmett and Kathryn Flynn in Missoula, Montana. He grew up on the family ranch that his great-grandparents homesteaded in 1872. His love for horses, and the western lifestyle started at an early age when he would help his father and grandfather put up hay and feed cattle with their team of horses. Mike and his horse, Queenie, spent many hours covering the countryside around Missoula hunting and fishing.



In 1980, Mike moved back to Missoula to work with his brother-in-law at Missoula Concrete, and to help his parents farm and raise cattle on the ranch. Four years later, he met his future wife Sue, and together they worked on his parent's ranch. In 1986, their daughter Liz joined the family.



Mike graduated in 1967 from Sentinel High School, and the day after graduation he went to work at White Pine Mill. Later, he went on to work in logging and construction along with helping his parents on the ranch.

In 1970, Mike married his first wife, and in 1972, their son Mike Jr. was born in Missoula. Two years later they moved to Okanogan, Washington to ranch with his brother-in-law, and in 1975, their daughter Lisa was born. While in Washington, Mike rodeoed competing in calf roping and team roping.



With the little spare time they had, Mike and Sue were introduced to team penning through their friend, Joe Benner. When they started, team penning for Western Montana was a hobby, not yet an official sport. In the early 90s, Mike, Sue, and their many penning friends, helped start the Western Montana Team Penning Association, and Mike helped produce many pennings in the area. Soon thereafter, they traveled to Spokane, Washington to the first big team penning, co-sanctioned by the Professional Team Penning Association of California. There, (thinking they were "hot shit") they were fine tuned on how to pen correctly, thanks to their mentors the Hailes, Tellams, Hills, and numerous other people they met along the way. Mike's motto was "you are never any better than the people you competed against" and they competed with the best!





Mike and Sue joined the Cascade Team Penning Association (CTPA) and the fun began— traveling all hours to compete in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. In those days, there was not a novice class to start out in and be able to grow to the next level. Originally, you penned in the open only and learned as you went. They put a lot of miles on many pick-ups traveling to California, Canada, Colorado, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and everywhere in the Northwest.

In the mid- 90's, Mike, Sue, and their two partners expanded their cattle business running yearlings in Idaho, Oregon, and California. This later allowed them to provide cattle for penning in Red Bluff, California and Fort Klamath, Oregon for Paddy McAuliffe.

In the late 90's Mike and Sue started producing penning at their home, sanctioned by Cascade Team Penning Association, and then co-sanctioned with USTPA. Thanks to the many businesses in Missoula, their penning grew to be a great success, and they graciously welcomed penners from Canada, California, Idaho, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Washington, just to name a few.



Mike was later a director for Region 5, and spent many hours promoting and working with people at USTPA and CTPA. At this time, Mike and Roger Braa began holding clinics to share their knowledge and helped welcome many newcomers to the sport of team penning.

Mike's greatest accomplishment in his team penning career, was winning the USTPA finals in 1998, with Dave Lewis and Roger Braa. He tips his hat to all who taught and rode with him to succeed in this accomplishment. In 2003, he won another saddle at the Region 5 finals with help from his wife Sue, his daughter Liz, and his many other great partners.



Today, while Mike may not be able to pen, he continues to help Liz and son-in-law James, on their ranch in Eastern Montana. James will help him on a tractor, and he is happy all day doing what he used to do. Mike also manages his family interests in Missoula, including several rental homes, and a trailer court. Mike and Sue have 4 grandchildren, and another one on the way in January 2021.



In 2009, Mike suffered a severe stroke that limits the function of his left side, and because of this, Mike and Sue are not able to attend the induction to the Hall of Fame. Mike is truly honored to be nominated into the Hall of Fame and is grateful to all the people he has met through the years of penning, the friendships, and the memories that were made. Mike and Sue will miss seeing everyone, and they thank everyone for the opportunity at this very special achievement.



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.

