

**NATIONAL**

**National Versatility Ranch Horse Association National Finals**

By Sandra Walker

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Smart and That's Final by That Smarts A Little with Sandra Walker represented Arizona well by winning the Inaugural Yearling Futurity at the NVRHA National Finals. The futurity consisted of in hand trail, in hand cattle work and conformation. Both the Open and Amateur divisions were won by horses bred for and raised by Gary and Sandra Walker of Rafter M Performance Horses of Camp Verde, Arizona.

The Inaugural NVRHA National Finals along with a slated Yearling Futurity and special event also produced by the NVRHA, The World Greatest Versatility Ranch Horse were held on Sept. 24-28th in Colorado Springs, CO. The show was combined with AQHA, APHA, PtHA and Apha Classes. The show was held at the beautiful Norris-Penrose Event Center and I believe the great weather was a special order. With all the hard work of President Dave Currin and his loyal board members and association members the show went off without a hitch. The weather was great, the facility was beautiful and the competition was deep, drawing such competitors as AQHA World Champion Reined Cow Horse and AQHA Reserve World Champion Versatility Horse – Smart Whiskey Doc and his world champion pilot Mike Major. Names such as Jay and Gena Henson were also in the depths. The show saw many outstanding horses, and many great hands. Not knowing what to expect from the first Finals the event saw high numbers of entries, and with \$5000.00 added money for the Worlds Greatest Versatility Horse Special Event all the hard work paid off with a great showing by many members as well as many new comers. The NVRHA's mission of showcasing top versatility horses in a competitive yet friendly atmosphere was apparent and proven by action at the Finals starting off the weekend on Thursday with a Meet and Greet Cocktail gathering, sponsored by Rob and Lynn Cool of the Cool Company, followed on Friday by a cocktail mixer sponsored by Tim and Cindy Rose of the Summit Commercial Group and on to dinner at the Flying W.

Saturday was the big shindig with the Inaugural Year End Awards Banquet and Live Auction. The Finals Awards were handed out on Sunday at a welcoming ice cream social. Those who were anxious to get on the road and head back to the ranch after a long weekend of showing enjoyed themselves so much that they made a point of attending the awards ceremony directly following the close of the show. With competitors representing states like, Colorado, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona that 's saying a lot for a new association and all the hard work the board members, committee members and association members put into this to make it all happen. It's



obvious how seriously they take their mission statement by the action they have taken all year to produce great events in a friendly, learned and competitive atmosphere and top it off with a National Event of this caliber. For more information about the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association visit them at [www.nvrha.org](http://www.nvrha.org).

The beautiful Norris-Penrose Event Center looks like a temple for cowboys now adorned with beautiful bronze statues among the incredible landscaping.



RFD Color and Smart with Gary Walker represented Arizona in the Worlds Greatest Versatility Horse Event at the NVRHA National Finals finishing 4th in the Working Ranch Horse.