

For immediate release

Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo 2018

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The Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo recently asked past Horseman's Challenge Champions Thomas Clover, who is currently training in Star Idaho, and Lanny Leach, training in Ainsworth, Nebraska, a few questions about what motivates and moves them as trainers.

We asked Lanny Leach, the 2013 champion from the very first Arizona Horseman's Challenge, why he chose to participate; "I have been training since I was 12 years old. Each year from that time and up to today, I am always wanting to learn and improve myself as a trainer. Competing gave me another opportunity to see what my skills could accomplish in a very short time."

Thomas Clover, the 2014 AZHC champion, said, "I competed...because it sounded like a great experience and opportunity to meet a broad community of trainers and horsemen, learn from them and compete with them. I also felt it was an honor to be selected to participate because there are many good trainers throughout Arizona."

AZHC & Expo asked what they felt was the most important thing they learned by participating in the Challenge. Thomas said he felt that competing in the AZHC was very educational to both people watching and the competitors in seeing new techniques and approaches. It seemed to be a good way to expose and spread quality horsemanship. When asked if winning the Challenge changed the way they approach training, they both agreed that it did not change their approach, it actually validated their techniques and approaches were sound and effective.

When asked who the biggest influence in their training was, Lanny answered, "My Dad was my biggest influence in getting me started riding at the age of 2 and training horses as I got older. He put me on good broke horses". Thomas said there were many along his journey that influenced him in different ways, but the most influential was his father; "Not only did he start this lifelong journey but I learned a general way of handling, thinking about, and working with horses that has stuck with me and has become the backbone of what I do now."

Both trainers are excited about returning to the Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo to compete in the *Challenge of the Champions*. Lanny Leach and Thomas Clover will be offering 'Ride with the Expert' participation clinics at the event. For more information about how you can ride with the experts and to see their full interviews, visit [azhcexpo.com](http://azhcexpo.com).