

The 2018 Arizona Horseman's Challenge & Expo will return to Horseshoe Park & Equestrian Centre in Queen Creek April 19, 20th and 21st 2019. This will be the 7th year for this event, and each year it grows bigger and better. There are over 30 clinics, exhibitions, and Ride with the Expert opportunities hosted at this event. The cornerstone is the Arizona Horseman's Challenge, Arizona's premier colt starting competition. It puts five experienced horse trainers vying against each other to see who can train their colt to the best of their and their colts ability in the time given.

Jody Swink of No Sweat Natural Horsemanship is the creator of this format for the colt starting competition. The concept is not new, the execution of it is. In most colt starting competitions, the one who gets their horse the farthest is the winner, period. In the AZHC there are four judges watching five trainers work with untrained mustangs in eight hours over three days.

They watch how they interact, how they bring the horse along, and what different training tools they use to overcome challenges that the horses present. In this unique setting, the trainers are judged on how they bring the horses along, not only the end result. This format also makes a fun spectator event. The horses are picked by the trainer's using a white elephant style, picking numbers out of a hat and they are allowed to steal each other's horse. The seating puts the spectators up close and personal, watching all five trainers working with their colts simultaneously.