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Another year has come and gone as we put 2011 behind us and start 2012. Congratulations to all of the 2011 High Point Champions, Reserve Champions and class Honor Roll Winners! Also to all the members who put R.O.M.’s, Superiors, Champions and PVA’s on their horses. These Champions and Award Winners where honored at the 2011 Awards Banquet held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Wild Horse Saloon. All that where in attendance would have to agree it was a great time!

Would like to take the opportunity to introduce and welcome ARHA’s newest Charter, the Mid-Atlantic Ranch Horse Association. This charter is devoted to the North Carolina and Virginia areas. We wish MARHA the best of luck.

The 2012 World Championship Show is coming up before we know it. It will be held in Wilmington, Ohio, July 16-21 again at Roberts Arena. The World Show Committee has come up with some great events for this year’s World Show. There will be a Freestyle Reining added to the show bill for all three divisions, also ARHA is proud to announce that on Wednesday, July 18th there will be a Reining Clinic with the 4 million dollar winner & multiple futurity and derby winner, Shawn Flarida. These are just a few things that will be added!

2012 promises to be a great year—saddle up and come ride with us!

Randy Cope
2011 ARHA President
Horse Show Office Information

As our shows continue to grow, it is increasingly important that complete information is given to the show office. Please follow these important points:

- Please be sure to complete your entry form completely.
- All horses MUST be shown under their registered name.
- MUST present current ARHA membership card(s) (both owners and exhibitors) and horse’s registration papers (Certificate Of Eligibility) at time of entry.
- Incorrect spelling of horses name will cause loss of points. Please take the time to spell your horses name correctly on the show master entry form!

NOTE: Membership and registrations may be done at the show. A $10 rush fee will apply. Normal processing time for memberships, registrations or transfer applications that are mailed to the office is approximately two weeks. For faster service, please call the ARHA at 606-636-4112 or 606-271-2963 for availability and fees for rush services.

2012 ARHA Events

Start making your plans to attend the ARHA Ranch Horse Shows that are scheduled for 2012. ARHA points for 2012 Honor Roll & High Point awards run calendar year January 1st to December 31st.

ARHA members are required to present their membership card(s) and registration papers or a copy of these at time of entry. The show secretary is required to submit correct ARHA numbers with show results. Any horse or member that does not have correct ARHA numbers will be required to purchase a new membership and/or registration or it will result in loss of ARHA points earned at that show. Memberships and registration may be done at shows. Only new members will be allowed to place a “P” (pending) for ARHA numbers at that show.

For complete show listing, contact information and to download showbills go to: www.americanranchhorse.net/events.php.

REMEMBER TO CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL!

March
17-18 SERHA, The Hippodrome N. Augusta, SC 478-237-4666

April
14-15 CGRHA, Perry, GA 404-569-5396
14-15 SKRHA, Bowling Green, KY 606-271-8383
14-15 ARHC – Hoosier Horse Fair, Indianapolis, IN 317-716-9558
28-29 MoRHA, Jackson, MO 314-486-4065
28 ARHC – Mid-Tenn Open Classic Series 615-713-7105

May
6 – ARHC – Smedley Scholarship Fund Show 812-883-6760
19-20 SERHA, The Hippodrome, N. Augusta, SC 478-237-4666
19-29 MoRHA Spring Fling, Columbia, MO 314-486-4065
19-20 IRHA Hoosier Circuit, Cloverdale, IN 812-208-8149
26-27 WRHA, Deerfield, WI 262-859-2178
26-27 VolRHA, PENDING as of 2/2012

June
2 HVRHA, PENDING as of 2/2012
2 Mid-Atlantic RHA PENDING as of 2/2012
3 ARHC - MARHC Show, Oxford, NC 804-832-8373
16 MoRHA Fun In the Sun, Ashland, MO 814-289-1649
16-17 IRHA Hoosier Circuit, Rochester, IN 812-208-8149
23 EMRHA Ranch Show, Fort Ann, NY 518-632-9227
30 CGRHA “PENDING” as of 2/2012

July
1 CGRHA “Pending as of 2/2012
16-21 ARHA World Champion Show, Wilmington, OH 606-271-2963 arhacontact@aol.com

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RANCH REINING PATTERN #2

Revised Pattern as of 1/25/2012

**ATTENTION!**

Be advised that Ranch Reining Pattern 2 in the 2012-2013 Rule Book (page 90) has been misprinted and does not read the way it is drawn. Steps 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 should be omitted in the rule book.

Please use this revised copy of the pattern and pass it along to other ARHA Exhibitors. All of the charters have been contacted and been made aware of this update.

**HORSE MUST WALK OR STOP PRIOR TO STARTING PATTERN. BEGINNING AT THE CENTER OF THE ARENA FACING THE LEFT WALL OF FENCE.**

1. Beginning on the right lead, complete 3 circle to the right, the first circle small and slow, the next 2 circles large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
2. Complete 3 circles to the left the first circle small and slow, the next 2 circles large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
3. Continue around previous circle to the right. At the top of the circle, run down the middle to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback - no hesitation.
4. Run down past next end marker. Stop. Roll back left no hesitation.
5. Stop and back 10 to 15 feet.
6. Do a 360 degree spin to the right.
7. Do a 360 degree spin to the left.
8. Hesitate to show completion of pattern.

Rider may drop bridle to the designated judge.
ARHA Members,

As I sit and reflect on the past few months, my impact on equine enthusiasts and the American Ranch Horse Association, I am very pleased with the impact that I have had as Miss American Ranch Horse. It has been a wonderful experience and I can hardly believe that we are over a third of the way through my reign!

As you may recall, when I wrote to you last quarter, I spoke of membership growth and knowledge expansion of the association. That continues to be an area of focus for me. As Miss American Ranch Horse, I attended the Tennessee State 4-H Horse Show, where I handed out awards during the ranch horse classes and promoted the association. As a twelve year 4-H member and youth leader myself, as well as an active member of ARHA, I strive to be a role model for other young horse enthusiasts. I also attended a novice ranch horse clinic/show sponsored by the Missouri Ranch Horse Association, Missouri Reining Horse Association, and Missouri Quarter Horse Association. Larry Inchiostro organized the event and several Missouri Reining Horse and Missouri Ranch Horse Association trainers volunteered their time and expertise for a weekend of learning and fun with a target goal of increasing participation in the sponsor association events. There were forty participants who were there to learn and just have fun riding and competing. A third event that I attended this fall was the Reichert Celebration in Ft. Worth, TX. I had the opportunity to be introduced as Miss American Ranch Horse during the premiere sweepstakes classes for Quarter Horse, Paint Horse, and POA. These are all great opportunities to expose horse enthusiasts from other circles to the American Ranch Horse Association.

I also spoke about the importance of growth within the youth association. I was recently elected president of the Volunteer Youth Ranch Horse Association. I am looking forward to working with the other newly elected youth officers, along with all members of the youth association. Throughout this next year, we plan to expand youth membership and involvement through several exciting activities! Our November VoRHA show was extremely well attended, giving us a great opportunity to wrap up 2011 and kick off 2012 with a bang. Our first field trip will be to the judge’s seminar in December, where we will audit and learn what our judges are looking for when placing our classes. In addition, I am honored to have been asked to lead the committee in ARHA, along with adult chair, Mike Piper, targeted at expanding the youth and taking this to a national level.

As our 2011 shows come to an end, and we turn our focus to the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I look forward to seeing you all at our first 2012 ARHA shows and at the 2011 awards ceremony in Nashville.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Conti
2011 Miss American Ranch Horse
What is Ranch Horse Conformation? Basically, conformation is defined as the physical attributes to perform under saddle, but a judge must have the ability to look at a horse and find the best individual example that can meet the ranching task at hand with the least amount of down time. You must be able to choose a horse that has the balance, muscle mass and skeletal structure that blends itself to be the most correct individual that you have to choose from on that particular day.

The horse that has the balance, muscle mass, and correct skeletal structure will in itself produce an individual that should be very athletic. All the factors are there except for the horse’s mind set, which cannot be determined by sight alone. That is where motion comes in to play. When you have a horse walk and trot across and away from you, or track, in the conformation class, you see two things: how the horse tracks, as well as, how he travels across the ground. The horse that leads well and travels soft across the ground with good cadence and flowing stride can give you some insight into his mind set. When judging conformation, I like to see a horse track straight through his body at the walk and jog. When he trots away and turns the corner, I like to see a good rhythm that flows through the body. This means that the hind legs will be coming to the point of his hip, then going forward. This tells me the horse is pushing itself forward instead of pulling himself with his front end.

When set up and standing square, I like to see a horse with balance. This means that the horse’s shoulders, ribs and hindquarters equal each other in size and the legs are set up under the horse to provide balance afoot. You want to see that the hips tie to the back with a good strong set of loins. The shoulders should tie to the ribs with a strong withers and the neck should set well up into it’s shoulders to provide balance on the front end. Also the head should set on the neck with a good clean throat latch.

For me, as long as a horse has balance, size is not a big factor. I look for muscling to be smooth and fitting to the size of the horse. The muscle should tie together with some refinement and definition without being overbearing. Skeletal structure will be more of a determining factor for the horse’s size, but should be accommodating to its balance and muscle mass. Proper structure will dictate the how the horse travels and whether or not he can withstand the everyday rigors of ranch use, all day at a horse show or simply a long day on a trail ride.

When judging a conformation class, if I am going to give a little with balance, I much prefer to see a horse a little light in the shoulders and the pectoral muscles between his front legs. The reasoning is that a horse that’s light in the front end should be a bigger pusher than a puller and to me that’s a good attribute. With lighter shoulders, the horse should steer easier and be freer through the front end allowing it to turn around, rollback, and change directions easier with less resistance.

Personally, when asked to judge, and I am placing a Ranch Horse Conformation class, I try to find the horse that best fits those three attributes, but mostly, it’s a give and take situation, for I have yet to see the perfect horse. ###

---

#1 Sorrel with silver halter:
To me, this horse doesn’t quite have the balance that I would like to see. It appears to be a little short coupled, ties in low in the neck, but has good structure and eye appeal.

Appears to stand higher in the hips than I would like.

#2 Sorrel with 2 white feet:
This horse shows a lot of balance. Big hip, strong pronounced shoulders. Rib cage that ties it together nicely and appears strong over the loins. Neck ties deep into the shoulders and clean through the throat latch. A lot of eye appeal.

#3 Light Buckskin:
This horse is not as balanced as the first horse. Skeletal structure looks a little light.

Average neck that ties in low and appears thick through throat latch.

#4 Dark Buckskin:
Balance is good. Skeletal structure appears to be very good. Stands under itself good.

Doesn't quite tie in the neck as well as the first horse, but a better throat latch than #1 and #3. This horse has good eye appeal.

---

Mr. Prather placed this class:
1st: # 2; 2nd: # 4; 3rd: # 1; 4th: # 3
As a judge I find that there are certain exhibitors who have a little something extra about them. The little something extra is what makes an average performance good and a good performance great. The little something extra is what moves them up on my scorecard. I believe almost any judge knows this little something extra when they see it. The little something extra is not being lucky. The little something extra is what I would call CONFIDENCE. It is a confidence in their ability and their horse to get the job done. I also see many exhibitors who lack this confidence. It is very apparent; the exhibitor is nervous and or unsure of themselves. In my personal experience the best horse in the world can sense this nervousness and usually does not perform anywhere near its ability.

Before I go any further I believe that any exhibitor that posses this quality has done some crucial things to have this confidence. First and foremost they have produced a lot of sweat and wet saddle blankets; meaning they have practiced very hard. To me confidence is the direct result of hard work and practice. So you need to ask yourself some very important questions. Is your horse well maintained (is he fit and healthy)? Have you worked or ridden your horse as much as possible? Have you worked on the things you know to be your weak points? Have you asked for advice from professionals or knowledgeable friends about the things you need to improve? Have you taken this advice and applied it to your practice? If you can answer yes to these questions then you already posses this magical quality called confidence.

Whatever your event is, you can create a checklist of things to do and practice. If you are diligent in working through this checklist when it comes time to compete you will already be confident because you have done everything you can to prepare for your event. You also need to learn to have QUALITY practice and not so much quantity when you practice. When your horse has done all things you have asked and has done these things properly then its time to quit. So many times I see someone ask a horse to do some type of maneuver (spin, stop, lope off, etc.) and the horse does it well 2 to 3 times and the rider keeps asking it until the horse does it improperly. Your horse has no idea what is correct because you have not rewarded them when they have done it correctly. Whenever you go to ride or practice you must have a clear set of goals. For example if I am preparing a head horse for roping there are plenty of things I can practice on without a cow. My goals for a head horse would be to break flat into a lope from a stand still, to run and rate off my hands and feet, to pickup his shoulder when asked, to pull a log and face. These goals have to be specific to your event whether it’s cutting, horsemanship, reining, trail, etc.

One of the best ways to develop confidence is to get your horse as broke as possible. I believe one of the greatest attributes of ARHA horses is the fact that most are proficient in multiple events. For me personally this goes back to one of my earlier statements about wet saddle blankets. I really make it a point to do things outside the arena and on the ground with every horse I train. For me the more things I expose a horse to, the more the horse trusts me. I ride a lot of horses that are not competition rope horse quality but all of them are broke to a rope and will pull a log. I try to take my horse across water, I will put out logs in the arena for the horse to trot and lope over. On the ground a broke horse should lead, stop, back, tie, I should also be able to pickup all four feet. When ridden a broke horse should be able to walk, trot, lope on either lead, stop, back, and turn either direction. If you can’t do the basics with your horse you will never have any success in any event. Through repetition and reward you can teach a horse the fundamentals of your event without actually showing in a class.

In conclusion confidence can be made into a math equation. In the equitation I used 1000 to illustrate the point of hard work. Take this equation and apply it to your event(s) and the result will be a confidence that will carry over to actual competition.

\[
\text{CONFIDENCE} = \text{BROKE HORSE} \times \text{QUALITY PRACTICE} \times 1000
\]

(*QUALITY PRACTICE IS GOAL SPECIFIC AND ACHIEVED THROUGH REPETITION AND REWARD)

Billy Springer judged the 2011 ARHA World Show. He is a 1992 Graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Billy is the son of veteran horseman and AQHA and ARHA judge Bill Springer. Billy started competing over 30 years ago as a youth in AQHA and now competes in the open division. Billy enjoys competing in Open Team Roping and Rodeo events. Billy lives in Hampton, Ga. with his wife Heather who also competes in the Amateur Division in ARHA, AQHA, and PHBA events.
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Sheryl Haviland and Smart Redeemin Chic (Skip) have traveled an interesting path to winning the High Point Amateur and Reserve High Point Open Horse awards in 2011. In getting to know Sheryl, you learn that she is an energetic, attractive, talented woman, who will admit to being “60-something.” You also come to admire her depth of knowledge about the horse show world and what it takes to create a winning show season. Sheryl got her first horse when she was six years old, and except for a brief hiatus several years ago, has been involved with horses throughout her life.

Sheryl’s parents were founders of a saddle club, and an open show circuit in Northwest Missouri. They themselves have a rich history in the horse world. Sheryl started showing when she was thirteen, and showed in both the open shows, and AQHA shows in Missouri and Iowa. She first married when she was 17, and her husband raised cattle and horses. Sheryl did all of the riding and has a plethora of stories to tell about coping with young horses, and getting some of the stock that her husband brought home ready to show. Sheryl has always had beautiful horses to show, but is proudest of a mare she raised named Miss Frosty Zipper. She won numerous all-around titles with her at circuit events, and also completed several ROMs in AQHA competition. Sheryl qualified for the AQHA World Show, but was never able to attend. Those who know Sheryl are sure she would have been a success.

Sheryl experienced a divorce, and a several years without owning a horse. She then bought a mare, improved her, and sold her. This brought her to the purchase of her current mount, Smart Redeemin Chic. She purchased him as a four year old from reining horse trainer, Mike McLaughlin. Skip wasn’t finished and another local trainer rode Skip for 30 days. Sheryl was ready to return to the show ring. She and Skip attended an AQHA show in 2008. There was a Missouri Ranch Horse Association show at the same facility. Sheryl and friends went to watch….and as you hear so often – that one exposure to an ARHA hooker her. Sheryl says everyone was having a great time, and everyone was friendly.

She decided right then and there that this was the Association for her. Since that time Sheryl has shown with MoRHA and has attended the ARHA World Show twice. In 2010 she won a World title in Select Ranch Trail. She is proud of many of her accomplishments, but has excelled in trail over the years and is very proud of that win. Sheryl admits that she is very competitive and loves the show ring. In 2011 with coaching and riding help from Prater Farms, Sheryl has improved her ranch trail expertise, and has added Showmanship and Ranch Reining to the classes in which she challenges her competition. Sheryl admits that Skip is not always perfect and both of them continue to learn. She had quite an exciting show year, and did not know, until the final standings were reported that she was High Point Amateur. She is very pleased with this accomplishment, but she is not finished yet.

During the winter Sheryl and Skip have been working on cattle events and are having a great time with it. Sheryl does point out that she is not entirely new to the cattle events. When she was 16, she was at a large AQHA show. All of the calf ropers had missed their calves. One calf remained in the arena. Sheryl loped up to him, right in front of the grandstand, and roped him to get him out of the arena. That might have been her first standing ovation. Sheryl reminds all of us that we should never stop learning, and always strives for excellence. She is also a terrific example of an ARHA member...she returns from every horse show having met someone new, and she never has a cross word to say. She is a great example of someone who loves showing and is forever positive about everyone in her path.

Sheryl and her husband, Mark, live on his beautiful family farm in Linn, Missouri. Mark is an expert on Missouri wildlife, and is a Missouri Conservation agent. He doesn’t always understand Sheryl’s desire to be on the road and in the horse show arena, but he is a great fan and is always rooting her on to victory.

###
It all started around the breakfast table at the ARHA Convention. Lindsey Conti, Carly Soulard, and VolRHA adults, dreaming about the impact that a youth association could have on younger members of ARHA. The seed had been planted. Next, they took the idea to the VolRHA Board of Directors, and then began organizing. They elected officers and held youth meetings at each of the shows. The association is currently over fifteen members and growing. It has been exciting to get the ball rolling and grow this new association to be the best it can be.

Elections were held for 2012 officers at the November VolRHA show. Lindsey Conti was elected President, Katie Shadowens is Vice President, Leah Piper was elected Secretary/Treasurer, and Caitlin Johnson will serve as Historian. There is much excitement for what is in store for this coming year. There are already several events planned and several in the works. In December, they will audit at the judge’s seminar to listen and be able to get a feel for exactly what our judges are looking for. There is also a clinic set up and several other activities that are in the initial planning stage. In addition, the youth will also be organizing field trips or weekend activities as a group. In 2012, the youth officers have volunteered to lead a devotional service on Sunday morning prior to the start of the Volunteer Ranch Horse Association shows.

It is very exciting to see so much interest in a youth association and to really understand the impact that this generation can have on the growth, expansion, and promotion of the American Ranch Horse Association. 2012 is a pivotal year for ARHA, and the Volunteer Youth Ranch Horse Association is positioned with a level of enthusiasm, support, and leadership that can take them to the next level.

###

SUSPENDED PERSONS

Any person, farm, ranch and/or business issuing a check for payment of any ARHA service and/or product that is returned for NSF or on closed account will be charged $50. Any person listed below has been barred from any ARHA activities, and will not be eligible for any awards and/or honorarium from any ARHA organization until reinstated.

- Mike Lilly, TN
- Laura Bolton, TN
- Skinsational Spa, TN
- Stephanie Holst, AR
- Phyllis Phillips, TN
- Steve Pippin, TN
- Katrina Johnson Newbold, MO
- Badlands Rodeo Co., KY
- Middle GA Ranch Horse Assn.
- Harold Hardin, GA
- Kim Ward, GA
- Steve & Debbie Lovell, TN
- David McCoil, AR
- Tim Fowler, OK

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When asked for one word that describes Mary Grace Warren observers use terms like determined, persistent, and focused. Her dad, Mark Warren, enjoys telling the story of how Mary Grace got her first horse. She started out taking lessons at a barn the specialized in POA’s, at age 8. It was also her first year in 4-H. Her parents told her that they would buy her a pony if she could come up with the matching funds. Before the summer was over, and after selling her prize winning hams at the county fair, she had saved enough money to buy the pony, Stardust, who she had her eye on. The family still owns Stardust, who is semi-retired now, but rules her pasture. Beginning her horse showing experience in the POA world gave Mary Grace a firm respect for and love of the all-around horse.

When Mary Grace turned 14 the family began looking for a horse to show. She was taking lessons at Prater Farms by this time, and the family was introduced to a three year old Appaloosa, May I Be Included (Commando), who became Mary Grace’s first full sized horse. After volunteering at a MoRHA show, Mary Grace knew that she wanted to be part of the ARHA. Mary Grace and the Praters showed Commando through his 3-year old year, readying him for a career as an all-around horse. She even attended her first ARHA World Show and placed in Ranch Riding and Horsemanship. Tragedy struck during the following winter, and Commando had to be put down. This did not deter Mary Grace and she showed a different horse for the following year.

During the winter and spring of the next year, the Warrens and Praters looked for just the right horse to get Mary Grace back in the show ring. They found Kiss My Buns at the training facility of Jim and Sandy Jirkovsky in Kearney, Nebraska. Mona and Mary Grace fell in love with her immediately. It took a while, but they finally convinced Mark that Buns was “the horse.” Mary Grace has never looked back. Buns was broke, but had very little show ring experience. Mary Grace and Mona showed her, and introduced her to all the Ranch events except cattle during that first year – 2010. At the end of the year Mary Grace announced that she really wanted to compete for the High Point Youth Award in 2011.

Kiss My Buns has turned out to be a terrific show partner for both Mary Grace in the Youth Division and Mona Prater in the Open. As a five year old, Buns had little show ring experience, but a tremendous foundation, which she received while under the guidance of the Jirkovskys. Mona, who considers them as one of her mentors through the years, knew that horses that came from their program had potential for greatness. Buns proved this theory again. She has excelled in conformation, ranch riding, ranch trail, ranch reining, horsemanship and showmanship. Buns has started the basics for Boxing, Ranch Cutting and even Ranch Roping. They hope to add these classes to her repertoire during 2012.

Even though it meant competing throughout the spring of her senior year in high school and the first semester of her freshman year in college, Mary Grace proved to have the determination and persistence that people use to describe her. After a good World Show, Mary Grace strengthened her focus and went to ARHA shows throughout the fall, ending with Murfreesboro, TN in November. She made good friends along the way, met her goals, and says that she had the time of her life. Mary Grace also lets people know that she has a great support system. Her mom, Ann, and brother, Fred, are her strongest cheerleaders. Her dad, Mark, accompanies her to almost every show throughout the year and is always there to lend a hand. As a matter of fact, Mark has had so much fun going with Mary Grace, that Buns may have a new show partner in the near future.
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Mary Stassi is a self-made woman. She was raised in St. Louis City, and was never able to have horses growing up. Her parents would never let her have a horse, although she devised a plan to keep a horse in an open lot behind their house. Her dad did support her interest and took her to a local riding stable to ride for special occasions and during her summer vacations.

Mary’s desire to show and have a horse of her own persisted. In 1997, with the support of her husband Chris, she began leasing an older Arabian gelding. Then on the next Valentine’s Day, Chris surprised Mary, buying her a horse that she was helping with. It was an 18 year old thoroughbred, who Mary credits with teaching her about riding. This horse was a trained jumper and eventer. She started just showing English and was always in the ribbons. This horse was very good at patterns and Mary used his talents to improve her skills in both English and Western riding. During this time Mary also bought and sold several other horses until 2005, when she purchased Putting R Time (Ricco) as a 2 year old. Ricco, who is now 9, has been a staple in the Stassi show string ever since.

Ricco was Mary’s first young horse, and she is very proud of everything the two of them have accomplished. Mary and Ricco started out in a very tough open association in St. Louis. Ricco is double registered with the AQHA, and with the APHA, although he is considered solid. They attended a Missouri Ranch Show 2006, at the encouragement of some local competitors. She realized this was the venue to highlight Ricco’s talents. They started off by winning ARHA Rookie of the Year honors.

In 2009, Mary planned to show one of their other younger horses, hoping to bring him along to the heights that Ricco has achieved. Right at the beginning of show season in 2009 Mary broke her wrist. She took the year off, and in 2010 Chris showed Ricco himself. Then in 2011, Chris was out of commission, so Mary decided Ricco was too good to just stand around, and Mary took another crack at showing him. It was a successful endeavor – the team ended up High Point Amateurs in Missouri, and Reserve High Point for the ARHA. Quite a year!!

Mary and Chris have now purchased several other horses, including a ½ sister to Ricco, who will be Chris’s horse for the new show season in 2012. Mary has a young horse that she would like to bring along, but this doesn’t mean that Ricco will be getting a rest. He may be on his way to APHA shows in the near future. Ricco has earned PAC awards, ARHA awards, and open show awards. He is quite a horse and he and Mary make a terrific team.

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2011 Reserve High Point Amateur
Mary Stassi & Putting In R Time

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Page 18 Riding The Range • Winter 2012
Casey Ivy is a joy to talk to. She is an enthusiastic ARHA member and exhibitor who is thrilled about being awarded the 2011 Rookie of the Year Award. Her road to this honor took some twists and turns. She rode horses when she was young, being raised by parents, Daniel and Ty Hodges, who were horse trainers. Other interests took her away from the horse world and she moved away from her childhood home. In 2005 Casey and her husband, Kyle, moved back in the vicinity of her mom and dad in Statesboro, Georgia, which rekindled her interest in riding.

Casey enjoyed helping out in her mom and dad’s training program and found a horse, Ms TJ Hickory, who really caught her eye. She describes her horse, who was sent to her dad for training, as the “prettiest thing” she had ever seen. She decided to purchase this mare when she was a three-year old and to get back into the show ring. Her mother pointed out that they finally got Casey back to her interest in horses when she really couldn’t afford it. Casey says that it has been a great decision and she has a top notch support team. Her parents continue to help her with training, and Kyle is the best and most supportive cheerleader ever. Casey reports that one of the best aspects of the ARHA is the value on the versatility horse. Kyle enjoys going to the shows because he can help Casey out – and has a weekend with no “honey do” list.

Casey started showing in 2011, and is excited that it was with the ARHA. She looks forward to every show – not just because of the competition, but because she enjoys the camaraderie and support she found at ARHA events. Casey started the year off showing her mare in conformation, ranch riding, horsemanship and trail. She says she was scared to death but enjoyed every minute of it. By the end of the year, she had added ranch reining and ranch cutting to her array of classes.

Casey had a goal of ending the year ahead of another exhibitor and friend, Brad Allison. Casey describes their interactions as “smack talkin’” about who was better, and all she wanted to do was “whoop” Brad. They teased each other at every show about who was ahead in the local and national point standings. She did not realize until late in the show year that she was a contender for Rookie of the Year. She was even more surprised when she was told that she won this award at the national level. Casey is honored with this achievement. She reports having a great time traveling with her parents, and meeting lots of other ranch horse enthusiasts. Casey has now invested in another horse, so it appears that this one accomplishment may not be her last.

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2011 Reserve High Point Youth
Kendra Kelly & ER Norman

Since 2008 there have been a number of articles written about ARHA exhibitor Kendra Kelley. She is an amazing young woman, who is a terrific role model for the youth she has influenced, but really for all of us who show in the ARHA. Kendra and her wonderful horse, ER Norman, have had a successful show career so far. Here are some of the titles they have earned:

2008 – Rookie of the Year
2009 – Reserve High Point Youth
2010 – High Point Youth and High Point Open Horse
2010 – High Point Youth – ARHA World
2011 – Reserve High Point Youth
2011 – Reserve High Point Youth – ARHA World

When asked about her accomplishments, she says that she shows because she’s having fun. Showing is not about always about winning. It’s about coming, meeting people, competing and having a great time. Kendra started out, during her Rookie year learning about showing at the national level. She remembers learning from lots of folks around her. She reflects that she met a lot of new people, and everyone was willing to help out. Now she is often the one encouraging new exhibitors and helping in any way she can.

In a previous interview, Kendra said that she believes that the fellowship you experience with other exhibitors is one of the ways that everyone contributes to the ARHA. She, in her words, stated that she fully supports the ARHA philosophy. Kendra has been a fine example of this in her words and actions throughout her youth career.

Kendra continues to be the friendly and humble young woman we all met in 2008 as a Rookie. She always has time to say hello and have a smile on her face. She is now leaving the youth competition and in 2012 is advancing as an Amateur competitor. Kendra is really busy this year with college, her sorority, and horses. She is still finding time to come to ARHA shows. Kendra likes showing as an amateur. She says she is more relaxed and is enjoying the challenge of competing with new people.
2011 Youth Rookie of the Year
Emma McDaniel & TS Whisky Izabella

Thirteen year old, Emma McDaniel has had quite a show season. Emma, and her twin sister Ellan, started taking lessons and showing at Indiana 4-H shows two years ago. She had an older mare who she showed during this time. Her trainer, Charlie Swingley, told the family that Emma was doing really well and needed to move up to showing with the ARHA. Both girls enjoyed their 4-H experience, but wanted to do more. The Flying S Ranch had 4 year old TS Whisky Izabella (Izzy) for lease. Emma began riding her, and the family recognized that the two of them were an excellent team. They bought Izzy, and she and Emma began practicing for ARHA events. Six months later was the beginning of show season, and Charlie announced that they were ready for their first ARHA show.

Emma’s mom, LeeAnn, reports that the girls and their horses might have been ready, but she wasn’t. When they arrived at their first Indiana Ranch Horse Association show, LeeAnn reports that they did have any idea of how to make entries, what the horse show scheduled would be like, or how to be at the right place at the right time. With the help of the Swingleys, the IRHA office staff, and all the more experienced horse show moms, the McDaniels made it through the weekend. The family was destined to be loyal ARHA enthusiasts as it is reported that it rained all weekend, was cold, and they were in water up to their knees. LeeAnn and Doug asked themselves if they were really having fun more than once. Their two daughters, and their ten year old brother, DJ, were having the time of their lives.

Emma and Izzy excelled throughout the year at all of the youth events. Emma, who is just one of the “boys” at the barn – with the nickname Leroy – will say without a doubt that she loves the cattle events the best. She and Izzy showed in conformation, showmanship, horsemanship, reining, ranch reining, cutting, ranch cutting, and working ranch horse. Emma really wanted to try the working ranch horse, but was a little afraid. Her horse show friend, Sarah, was getting in it and encouraged Emma to try. LeeAnn admits that she was a little worried, but Sarah and Emma finished the class and came out of the arena grinning ear to ear. LeeAnn knew right then that there was no holding Emma back and just encouraged her to keep working on getting better.

The McDaniels got into the horse business almost by accident. Their neighbor had an accident and needed help with his older mare. Emma and Ellan had ridden the horse, and the family agreed to adopt this horse. She was almost 35, but the family had her for 2 years. At that point Doug and LeeAnn knew that all three of their children were “hooked” about bought another older horse. They began taking lessons at Swingleys’ and they continued to improve. The family now has six horses, and even dad (Doug), who now takes the kids to all of their lessons, rides Emma’s old mare occasionally.

Emma and Ellan are typical sisters and continually compete with one another. Recently Emma was sick and her sister wrote her a get well card. Ellan, who has a new horse herself, pointed out that she and her horse are doing really well – and that Emma and Izzy might be falling behind. LeeAnn believes that the friendly competition motivates the girls to work hard and continue to improve.

Emma, Ellan, and DJ are all looking forward to 2012. They showed in Indiana and at their first ARHA World show in 2011. They hope to be on to bigger and better things this year, and are hoping to show even more. The McDaniels credit everyone in the IRHA with helping them get through the year. LeeAnn still doesn’t consider herself a seasoned “horse show mom,” but she says that now she at least knows how to make entries. The family credits the atmosphere which is fun, friendly and encouraging – typical ARHA – as the thing that keeps them going. Emma is honored by being the 2011 Rookie of the Year, and she says also a little surprised. She and Ellan may think they are competing against one another, but by doing so are sure making a name for themselves in the ARHA youth program.

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