

Junior Exhibitor *Jumble*

KENTUCKY

Hello everyone! Just like most of you, I can't believe that show season is almost here. Winter break is over for our furry friends, it is time for shoes to go back on and the training begins. It is also time for us to try on our suits. I'm sure for some of us the suits may be a little snug. Maybe a trip to your favorite seamstress or favorite habit maker is in order; it is always exciting to look for new clothes. I'm sure the talk at the ASHA Convention and Youth Conference was about this year's show season, new horses and what division people are showing in this year. Hopefully, a lot of you were able to attend the Youth Conference. If you have never had the opportunity to attend the ASHA Youth Conference you really should try in 2009. It is a lot of fun to be with other kids who share the same interests as you, to tour some of the best Saddlebred farms in Kentucky and attend the Saddlebred ball on Saturday night.

This month I thought I would talk about raising money for a charity or a fund. In October of this year Biggins Bridle Bunch of Simpsonville, Ky., raised \$1,727.50 at their annual ASHA Ride-A-Thon Trail Ride. Every year they donate the proceeds to the ASHA Youth-to-Youth Scholarship fund. The sponsors pledged money for every mile ridden. 17 members of Biggins youth club participated; riding a 10 mile trail.

Author Sarah Hinds to Sign Books at ASHA Youth Conference

Sarah Hinds, author of "World Champion Material", will be on hand to sign books on Friday, February 15, 2008 from 4 pm to 8 pm at the ASHA Youth Conference. The Embassy Suites Hotel Lexington, Ky., is the host site for this year's Youth Conference as well as the ASHA Annual Convention.

This fictional work, revolving around the show horse world, is a suspenseful and engaging read for anyone who loves horses and for those who simply enjoy a good story well-told.

For those unable to attend the conference and convention, autographed copies may be pre-purchased through the American Saddlebred Museum's Gift Shop by calling 1-800-829-4438 between 9 and 5 EST. Sarah will be happy to personalize a book and the Museum will then ship it to you. Cost is \$11.95 plus \$8 shipping and handling. (Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax.) Museum members save 10% and can purchase their copy for only \$10.75 plus shipping. The book is also available through the online gift shop at www.asbmuseum.org/gift_shop.



I know that this next charity fund raiser that I am going to talk about is not in Kentucky, but is for a very good cause. The White Star Show Stoppers of Cave Creek, Ariz., had their second White Star Show Stoppers Chili Cook Off and Consignment Sale. The members of the youth club raised more than \$1,200 for the Dreamchaser PMU Horse Rescue and Rehabilitation center. Dreamchaser PMU is a non-profit organization in Arizona. Just like any other horse rescue, they buy the horses, feed them, care for them, and when well enough the horses can be adopted. Since they are a non-profit organization the owner and I'm sure the people working are using their own money to keep the rescue going. So if you have a Saddlebred Rescue and/or a horse rescue facility, whether it is non-profit or makes a profit, maybe donate some money to them because you never know when they might need it.

You Know You Own Saddlebreds If...

1. You totally freak out if your electric tape has gone MIA.
2. You think half the fun of horse shows is going to exhibitor parties.
3. You think that because you can body clip a horse, you can most certainly cut a boy's hair.

A Few Closing Quotes

What delight

To back the flying steed, that challenges

The wind for speed!--seems native more of air

Than earth!--whose burden only lends him fire! -

Whose soul, in his task, turns labour into sport;

Who makes your pastime his! I sit him now!

He takes away my breath! He makes me reel!

I touch not earth--I see not--hear not. All

Is ecstasy of motion!

—James Sheridan Knowles,

The Love-Chase

Horses - if God made anything more beautiful, he kept it for himself.

— Author Unknown

Please send any ideas you have for this column — new horses in the Kentucky region, information or tips, etc.

Jackie Schutt

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MIDWEST

As it is now February and the middle of winter, many of us are longing for spring and its warmer weather, plants, grass, and trees coming back to life, and thoughts of the 2008 show season fresh in our mind. It's like a new start to life. It's not just the new start for all of the scenery, though; it's a new life for horses as well. As spring approaches, breeders all around the country prepare for the foaling season, when thousands of new foals are born. Breeders just like Romy Ackerburg, the owner of Indigo Acres in Montros, Minn., where the well-known stud, Trust Fund, stands. As you know, last month was the start of a new series, The Life of a... where I interviewed Desiree Devries for The Life of a...Trainer! This month, I had the privilege of interviewing **Romy Ackerburg** from Indigo Acres on what it's like to be a breeder. So, I present to you this month, The Life of a... Breeder!

How long have you been around horses? My whole life!

How long have you been breeding horses? 17 years

How many mares do you have? 45

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Approximately how many foals do you have every year? 30-40

What time does your day usually start? 6:00 a.m.

What time of year do you breed your mares? February to July

What is the busiest time of year for you? January to November!

What are the ups and downs of being a breeder? Pros: Every spring brings new surprises and incredible blessings. Cons: Every serious breeder has some "secret" genetic recipes, however, in the game of breeding, luck comes into play more than any recipe. So we educate ourselves, and then cross our fingers!!

What is the most important aspect of being a breeder? Compassion for the animal, healthy environments, and finding the right "niche" for every horse you raise, from trail horse to world champion!

What do you think is the best part of being a breeder? It is incredibly rewarding to raise an animal that goes on to bless so many people with so much joy!

Thank you, Mrs. Ackerburg, for doing that interview with me! For more information on Indigo Acres and/or Trust Fund, you can go to www.indigo-acres.com.

Last month, two riders from LaFleur Stables anonymously nominated Neva to be Trainer of the Month, saying, "She's done so much for our barn, she's an awesome person, and she's super talented at what she does." So, this month, we have our first Trainer of the Month: **Neva LaFleur!**

How long have you been riding? I could saddle and bridle my horse when I was four years old.

How long have you been training horses? I started in 1991.

How many horses are you training right now? 25

What is your favorite part about being a trainer? Flexibility, being self-employed, meeting the people, having the horses, trying to figure out the horses and strategies, and trying to put the rider with the horse.

Thank you, Neva, for doing that interview with me and congratulations on being Trainer of the Month! If you would like your trainer to be Trainer of the Month, you can e-mail me and/or you can go to my website for more information:)

Have a great month everyone and I'll see you next month!

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MISSOURI

Hey everyone! It's now February and even though we still have a few months of winter ahead of us, show season is fast approaching. I don't know about you, but I will be glad when spring arrives—it's difficult to fasten a cavesson with thick winter gloves on! I hope everyone had a great holiday and congratulations to anyone who received new horses for Christmas. Time to start buckling down and preparing for 2008!

Those of you from the Midwest show circuit may know 12-year-old Frances Neunuebel who rides with Lisa Hillmer of Linden Hill Stables. Frances was very successful in the junior exhibitor show pleasure division with her horse, Desert's Supreme Cowboy, (aka Cowboy) throughout 2007. She also sang the Star Spangled Banner at several 2007 horse shows. Just before the 2007 American Royal, it was discovered that Frances had a small tumor near her brain stem that would have to be removed. The tumor was removed successfully a few days after Thanksgiving, but it was determined that it was cancerous. Frances has been undergoing treatments at the St. Louis Children's Hospital and will continue to do so for the next few months. Please

keep Frances in your thoughts and prayers as she goes through this difficult time. You may read her journal and leave an encouraging message in her guestbook by visiting www.caringbridge.org/visit/francesneunuebel.

Morgan Brook Brison stars as the February 2008 rider of the month. Morgan has been very successful in the show ring with her pleasure pony B.R.S Mark's Delight, or "Willie", who she recently won the AHHS Pleasure Pony Under Saddle Medallion National Championship with at the American Royal, and equally successful with her 2006 Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited World's Champion, Callaway's Sunday Edit, or "Cody". She is instructed by her father, Bob Brison, at Fairview Farm, her uncle, Virgil Helm, at Virgil Helm Stables, and by Kent Swalla of Glendale Stables. Their most common sayings to her are: "Use your corners," (Bob), "High and light," (Virgil), and "That's fast enough," (Kent). Morgan's current goal with her horses and ponies is, "...to just have fun!" Morgan's biggest influence is Frances Neunuebel, "...because she is really brave." When she isn't at the barn or at a horse show, Morgan plays basketball and is in seventh grade at New Bloomfield Middle School. She says her favorite subject is social studies. Her favorite color is pink. Morgan's most memorable equine experiences were when she and Cody won at the World's Championship Horse Show, and when she and her pony were undefeated for two years. Morgan's first horse was the much celebrated CH Holy Fruit Salad, which explains why her favorite horse color is bay. Her favorite horse show is the Midwest Charity Horse Show in Springfield, Ill. Red Flame Thrower, Glenview's Excelalante, and Manila Thrilla are her favorite horses other than her own. Morgan would most like to ride CH Sprinkles. When she is not showing or taking a lesson, Morgan likes to play with her horses and ponies in the stall. Morgan would have liked to have met the great horseman, Tom Moore. She says she would like to be a horse trainer when she grows up because, "...I love horses!" Thank you, Morgan, for completing my interview. Best of luck to you in 2008!

Again, please keep Frances Neunuebel and her family in your thoughts and prayers. I hope to see many of you at the ASHA Youth Conference this month as well!

Sarah Hinds

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NORTHEAST

Hey everyone! I would like to share with you the experience I had at a barn visit in November. My mom has a saddle seat suit business named Suited By Susan. She makes custom saddle seat suits, shirts and vests, and the girls at the barn were looking to order some suits so my mom, dad and I decided to drive to a barn on the outskirts of Buffalo, N.Y., named Champion Hill with trainer, Olivia Doust.

When I walked into the barn there were four girls, Lisa, Theresa, Colleen, and Nikki. They were so nice and very welcoming. I felt like I knew them forever! Then we had the joy of picking out suits, vests and shirt material, which, of course, have to match! So we went on a hunt to find what matched each color. They loved their choices, and I think it was all worth the time. Little did I know that Olivia was going to let me ride one of their Saddlebreds. They put me in a pink helmet! My mom thought it was funny because I don't like wearing pink. Before we left, I took a picture of each girl and the horse they owned or just rode. At the end we all stood under the sign and Olivia took our picture.

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Olivia also invited me back for a summer camp that they do every summer. I'm glad my mom owns the suit business because I get to go to different barns and see how they do things. What a wonderful barn. Horse people are like a family because we all have the same thing in common. Olivia is a very special trainer. You can tell she really loves what she does and really has fun doing it. Thank you Olivia, for that wonderful experience and thanks for letting us come! We had a great time.

Well that's all for me this month. Don't forget to ask us about rider of the month forms. Stacey and I want to wish everyone Good Luck this show season. We hope to see you at the shows!

A horse gallops with its lungs, perseveres with its heart, and wins with its character.

— Tessio

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SOUTHEAST

Hi everyone! Show season is near or already upon some of us. For those of you who are waiting for your first show, whether it is with an old friend or a new one, I wish you luck. For those of you who have already shown, I hope those rides were fun and exciting.

This month I decided to talk to two people who have made themselves known inside and outside of the showing. The first is **Kristen Thomas**. She rides at Silver Run Stables under Bill and Leigh-Anne Rogers and at Hawkwood Farms under Abbott Wilson and Linda Weber. She shows Cabernet's Will Command in three-gaited and Heirogant in five-gaited.

Other than your horse, who is your favorite horse(s)?

Besides the horses that I show, my other favorite horses are my best friend Ali DeGray's horse, Tigerlee, and a horse named Long Distance; he's absolutely beautiful.

Other than the division you already show in, what other division would you like to try?

Definitely road horse under saddle! I want to show in that so bad, it just looks like so much fun and it's a class that not a lot of amateurs show in, so I think it would be exciting to do.

Do you have a memorable experience that you would like to share?

The only memorable thing I can think of was when I was about 12 I was showing my favorite horse of all time, Bi Mi Champagne Tate, at Carolina Classic in equitation. She was a really hot three-gaited pony that would never

slow down, let alone walk. So we went to reverse at the trot and there was a change in the color of the shavings at the middle of the ring. She looked down and took a six foot leap in the air over the shavings, then bucked, almost taking out the learner judge. It was one of the funniest things I have ever seen. Everyone in the crowd was gasping until they realized that I wasn't worried, then everyone started to laugh including the judge. It was great.

What have you learned through riding and horses?

The biggest thing that I have learned because of riding and horses is a sense of responsibility, since you have to completely take care of another thing and you can't just be selfish. I'm not just talking about grooming and cooling off; I line, jog, clip, wash tails, give shots, worm, and everything else that goes along with taking care of a horse. It has been really good for me because of it I'm more grounded and responsible.

What are your goals?

My goals for the future are to have a successful year next show season, and hopefully win at Worlds. By then I will be in college so my goal is to just be able to show and ride as much as I do now.

Thank you, Kristen, for the excellent interview. I hope you continue to do well in the show ring and in your other ventures.

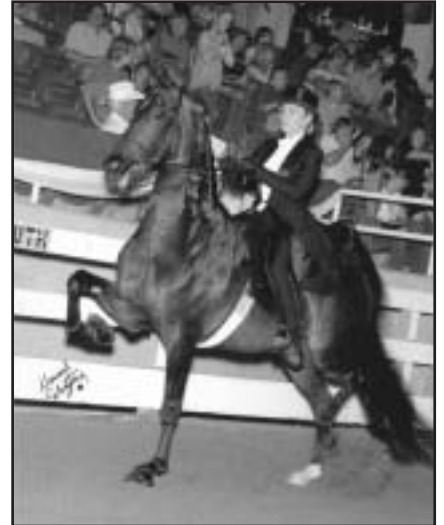
Next we have **Amber Pitts**. She rides under the direction of Anne Judd at Zebra Ltd. She shows Answered Prayer in the pleasure equitation division.

What is your trainer's favorite saying?

Well the "Queen's" eloquence goes far beyond the humble ranks of a single phrase. "Heels down" or "chin up" simply aren't good enough. Anne goes far beyond those ranks and relates everything into a story or a metaphor. By the time she's done describing how and why you do something you completely understand it. As Anne says, "If I can't tell you why you do something than you don't have to do it".

Other than your horse, what horse is your favorite?

Glenview's Excelalante is my favorite of 2007. However, I also love watching CCV Casey's Final Countdown and other horses that have that kind of presence.



Kristen and Boo.

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If you could pick any division to show in, other than your own, what would it be and why?

I'd probably choose three-gaited because of their elegance and style, although I'd definitely miss patterns.

Do you have a memorable experience you would like to share?

In 2005 I lost my best friend, Amberhill's Antares or Ares. He was my Morgan show horse. He got sick at the beginning of that summer and I took care of him until he finally had to be put down two months later. It began as a simple abscess but evolved into founder and ended with his body becoming septic and poisoning itself. I was the first person in his life that he never threw. Ares was a constant challenge and would take advantage of whatever slack he could get. But as much as he taught me in life, he taught me so much more in death. He re-instilled passion into my life. I remembered why I loved the sport. Riding took a whole new turn in my life; it was no longer simply an activity and riding in competitions. Passion drove riding to a pursuit of excellence and a simple satisfaction of the ride. Most importantly this new motivation pushed me toward many successes and new dreams. Loss doesn't instill as much of a feeling of absence as it does of love and unity. It's amazing how the plight of a horse such as Barbaro can unite a nation.

What have horses and riding taught you?

I have been riding for 13 years starting in the ranks of pony club and I've had so many incredible experiences. I've ridden in all divisions and shown many breeds ranging from dressage on a Thoroughbred to show hack on an Arabian and western on a Quarter Horse. It was with Saddlebreds that I found my niche. I can't say I have a most memorable experience. Riding itself has been an adventure. Each stage in my journey has brought me new experiences and I have

encountered all types of people. This past show season has probably been the most memorable. Winning the championships at both Blue Ridge and Southeastern were tests of perseverance. Those wins were not handed to me, and I made a lot of great friends along the way. Those friends have made showing that much more enjoyable. The wins wouldn't mean anything without these people to share it with. I'll never forget late night picnics in hotel lobbies, celebrations and disappointments with the barn family, guys asking me to borrow ties, sitting in calculus practicing patterns for the upcoming show, getting funny looks for going out to lunch in jods, and explaining what our horses do with my hands. Most importantly I'll never forget the wonderful people in the Saddlebred community and what each one I have encountered has taught me. The passion and perseverance for perfection will follow me into college and life beyond that.

What are your goals?

I'd like to compete in the *Saddle & Bridle* Pleasure Equitation Finals next year and just enjoy my final year in the junior exhibitor division.

Thank you, Amber, for the inspiring words. I hope that you get to fulfill your goals and also keep the passion alive and burning.

That's all we have time for this month. Till next time, may your days be filled with fantastic rides and memories!

Send ideas, pictures, questions, news, New Horse, Rider of the Month, and Barn of the Month to:

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