

Junior Exhibitor **Jumble**

Kentucky

Hello Everyone! Summer is speeding by, bringing Louisville closer and closer. As the show season continues, I am looking forward KASPHA, Alabama Charity, and the American Royal. I wish everyone the best of luck and have fun.

In July I attended the Junior League Horse Show in Lexington, Ky., at the Red Mile. Congratulations to all the exhibitors and their horses. I would like to give special congratulations to the Kentucky Exhibitors Ivy Johnson, Ellie Headlee, Olivia Weber, Alee Hagan, Mollie Kregor, and Suzanna Crews. During the Lexington Junior League week I had an exciting night myself. I came back for my championship and received the reserve title in the Junior Exhibitor Three-Gaited 15-17. Congratulations to everyone again and I hope to see you all next year! Over a few weeks of down time from horse shows I learned of a new program that UPHA has started for equitation riders and their equine partners. The program is called the UPHA Ribbons of Service. The program was developed to reward and challenge equitation riders who participate in horse show competitions, help others in need through hours of service, educating themselves and others about charities, and discussing how their participation in the program has helped riders learn the values of hard work. On November 1st the fundraising for the rider's charity of choice begins. If you are an equitation rider and would like to participate in this wonderful program contact UPHA at www.uphaonline.com for an application or get one from someone you know with a brochure. Please, if you can, participate in this program to help others that are in need of your support.

Closing Question (please send your answers to my email)

1. Your favorite World Grand Champion?
2. Your favorite thing to do with your horse?

Closing Quotes

All I pay my psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay, and he'll listen to me any day. ~Author Unknown

You know horses are smarter than people. You never heard of a horse going broke betting on people. ~Will Rogers

Please send any ideas you have for this column.

Jackie Schutt

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Midwest

What you've been working all season for is finally here: Louisville. Good luck to all competitors at Louisville and no matter what I hope that you have a lot of fun!

This month we are continuing our summer series: **What They're Really Like...**

Our horse for this month is one of the most famous Saddlebreds of all time: Sky Watch. Over the years, Sky Watch won 12 champion titles, including four World's Grand Championship titles. He was born in 1977 at Earl Teater and Sons Farm in Lexington, Ky. When Sky Watch was two years old, Michele Macfarlane bought Sky Watch and owned him for the rest of his life. She was the first amateur ever to win the World's Grand Championship, and is still one of the few that have. I had the privilege to email Ms. Macfarlane and ask her what Sky Watch was really like outside of the show ring.

What was Sky Watch's barn name? I always called him Sky Watch.

What was his funniest quirk? Sky Watch was fairly destructive of his

wardrobe. RaDon tried everything to keep him well dressed.

What was his favorite toy? He didn't have toys, but I think it might have been a good idea. Might have saved his clothes.

Overall, how would you describe Sky Watch's personality? Kind and very intelligent.

What was your most memorable experience with Sky Watch? Winning the Five-Gaited Grand Championship at Louisville, of course!

What was Sky Watch like when he was younger? Mitchell Clark trained Sky Watch as a youngster. I heard he was kind of hard on jog carts and harnesses and that might have something to do with his being a gaited horse early on.

What did you love the most about Sky Watch? His kindness, intelligence and his willingness to always rise to the occasion when the show ring gate opened.

Thank you, Ms. Macfarlane, for doing that interview with me! Sky Watch is one of the greatest legends ever, and I know that no one will ever forget him.

For this month, Anna Cole nominated her horse, Tell Me No Lies ("Fibbs"), to be **Horse of the Month!**

What color is your horse and does he have any markings? He's black with a white star and two white feet.

How old is your horse? Fibbs turned 11 years old in March.

How long have you owned Tell Me No Lies? Three years this November

What classes do you show him in? I show in either Open Pleasure Junior Exhibitor or Show Pleasure Junior Exhibitor divisions.

Why do you think that your horse should be Horse of the Month? I think my horse should be Horse of the Month because he has done nothing but improve me both as a person and a rider. He has this beautiful personality that shines through; he has taught me everything and still continues to teach me more and more all the time. I couldn't ask for a better horse or friend.

Thank you, Anna, for nominating Fibbs to be Horse of the Month! Good luck with what's left of the show season! Best of luck at Louisville, and no matter what the outcome, have fun!

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Missouri

Hey everyone! Well, it's that time of year again – time for the World's Championship Horse Show!

To many, it's one of the most competitive horse shows of the year, to others, they are elated to simply be able to trot on the green shavings. But to all exhibitors, going to the World's Championship Horse Show to show or watch is a thrilling, unforgettable experience.

And that is just what I have brought you this month—the unique experiences and memories of the World's Championship Horse Show that belong to some of today's best known junior exhibitors, amateurs, and trainers.

But first, I'll give you a brief history of the show. The World's Championship Horse Show was first held in 1902 with the first annual Kentucky State Fair. The show has been held every year since, excluding when it was cancelled in 1942 for World War II. The show we affectionately call "Louisville" hasn't always been the horse show of grandeur it is today; in 1914, the purse for the "Commissioner of Agriculture Saddle Horse Stake" was just \$3,000, the largest in the

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nation at the time. It took a few decades for the show to really take off; John Castleman, co-founder of the ASHA, 1917 Kentucky Governor Augustus Stanley, and Commissioner of Agriculture Mat Cohen were influential in raising the purse of the championship class. Augustus and Cohen raised enough funds for the class to be renamed the Five-Gaited World's Grand Championship, as we know it today, and for the purse to be \$10,000 in 1917. Easter Cloud was the first winner of this class. In 1936, the Three-Gaited and Fine Harness World's Grand Championship classes were formally added. American Model and Allen Adair were the first champions of these classes, respectively. The World's Championship Horse Show is now held during the third week of August in Freedom Hall on the Kentucky State Fairgrounds in Louisville, Ky.

For this article, I interviewed several junior exhibitors, amateurs, and trainers, who shared with me their unique experiences, first impressions, and changes the World's Championship Horse Show has undergone within the past few years. If you are fortunate enough to be able to attend Louisville every year, hopefully you will be able to relate to some of these interviews. If you have never been to Freedom Hall, find a seat and let me take you there!

If I were to roll all of the answers I received from junior exhibitors to the question of "What was your first impression of the World's Championship Horse Show?" into one word, the word would end up being excitement. "What I remember going through my mind was 'Whoa! I finally made it to the World's Championship Horse Show! I am at Louisville! I worked hard all year for this!'" says ten-and-under Walk/Trot rider Shelby Eriksen, who showed at Louisville in 2007 with her horse, Capewell.

Michelle Krentz, who is now in the amateur ranks but showed at Louisville as a junior exhibitor, says that, "When I went to the World's Championship Horse Show for the first time, my first impression was an excitement and ambiance unmatched by any other horse show. I noticed that everyone was a little more tense and nervous, hoping that all their hard work would pay off, ending in a great performance."

Morgan Brison, who showed Callaway's Sunday Edit to a unanimous victory in the 13 & Under Three Gaited class in 2006, had a first impression of, "WOW!!! I could not believe all of the nice horses and all the people ... it was so exciting. That was the first bigger show I have ever been to. I was kind of overwhelmed. But it was so much fun!!"

Lauren Woodruff, who went to Louisville to watch for the first time in 2006, shared Morgan's overwhelmed emotion; "My mom and I drove to Kentucky to watch Saturday night. When I walked into the coliseum and saw all the lights and the green shavings, I got goose bumps. When the first class trotted in (Ladies Five-Gaited Championship) I was so overwhelmed I started crying for the almost the whole first direction. My mom was laughing at me. I didn't know why. It was kind of embarrassing, but I was so excited to finally be there."

From the viewpoint of an amateur exhibitor, Ann Eaker first showed at Louisville in 2007 with her park mare, Gotcha Covered (aka "Lacey"), under the direction of Kent Swalla at Glendale Stables. "I was so nervous and it was really cool to know that I had so much support. In the chute, I remember thinking how lucky I was to be there with the Glendale gang. There were several of them walking with me

as well as a couple of other trainers that Kent knew, holding my coat, trying to calm my nerves and just telling me to have a good time. I just prayed and thanked God for the opportunity and to please keep me safe. As Lacey and I headed down the chute, I just thought in my mind ... this is what you have been dreaming of since you were 12 (I was 43 so it was a pretty long dream) ... make the most of it!"

A few of the people I interviewed have been going to the World's Championship Horse Show since they were very young, so they don't have a very clear memory of trotting down the chute for the first time. Brooke Jacobs, for instance, has been going to Louisville since she was a baby and showing there since she was eight. Regardless, Brooke still has many fond memories of her experiences at the show. "I would have to say that my most unique experience would have to be the entire week of Louisville in 1999." Brooke explained that it was her final year as a junior exhibitor and she planned to show up to a dozen times. She showed in equitation on three different horses, show pleasure, Hackney Pleasure Driving, Roadster Pony, and Show Pleasure Driving. "I had never won at the show although I had come close on several occasions. It turned out to be a dream week for me. I won a total of four classes; the Kentucky Rider Equitation Championship with CH Bright Lights RWF, the ASHA (now USEF) Medal Class with What About Bob, and the Juvenile Hackney Pony Pleasure Driving Qualifier and Championship class with Bristol Fashion." And as if that wasn't enough, Brooke also

scored a second place in the Juvenile Show Pleasure division and a third in the Championship with CH Monster Man, and a sixth place in the Senior Equitation Championship. Brooke says that she believes she was the first person to take a pleasure horse in that class and receive a ribbon. "It was an awesome week and I know that I may never have another one like it, but I sure have a bunch of great memories!"

A fellow *Saddle & Bridle* columnist, Brendan Heintz, provided me with some of his Louisville memories. Brendan first attended the show in 1978, and was lucky enough to see some of the "greats" like Cora's Time and La La Success. When he returned in 1989, he saw yet another "great", Gimcrack, and Jean McClean Davis, who won the Three-Gaited Championship. "... that class really made going to the show worth the trials I went through to get there as I traveled there by bus as my car was in the shop. It was one of those 'goosebump'



Gotcha Covered ("Lacey") and Ann Eaker at Louisville in 2007.



Brooke at the World's Championship Horse Show in 1999.

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experiences.”

Though he has been a Saddlebred enthusiast for nearly 30 years, Brendan didn't show a horse at Louisville until 1998. He showed CH J.C Fox to a third place finish in his qualifier. “That was a thrill I will not forget.”

Brendan showed the ever-popular show pleasure driving horse CH Sand Kalamehameha in 2001 for then-owner Daria Baker at Louisville after winning the Show Pleasure Driving Stake at Midwest Charity earlier in the year. “Kal really enjoyed the ring in Freedom Hall, but kind of backed off the first direction, but turned around and was all business,” Brendan recalls. He and “Kal” were Reserve World's Champions in the qualifier, and placed fourth in the championship, but had a first place vote. “That was a thrill!” At the age of 16, CH Sand Kalamehameha is still showing, and was recently crowned the Show Pleasure Driving Grand Champion at the Midwest Charity Horse Show, besting a field of nine for driver Susan Duchow.

Brendan weighed out the pros and cons of the World's Championship Horse Show. “The great thing about the World's Championship Horse Show to me is the fact that so many great, top horses are assembled in one place. There is no other show like it where quite as many come together each year. And as time passes, the memories you have of so many wonderful horses showing make attending each year a ‘must attend’ for any Saddlebred and Hackney pony worshippers!” he says positively of the show. “I don't like the pressure it puts on people, and now with the qualifying for the pleasure and park turning it into a trailer race, I think that adds to that pressure on horses, customers, and owners. It's a hard show to find anyone at if you don't know where they sit or what hotel they are at, to say nothing of how inflated the hotel prices have gotten for a week's stay at some really outdated hotels.” But when you weigh out the pros and cons, as Brendan sums it up, “It's a great week of horses showing and spending time with the people you've developed friendships with over these many years. It's a ‘command performance’, as they say.”

I was also privileged to interview renowned trainer Melissa Moore, owner and trainer of Sunrise Stables. Melissa shared several of the many unique experiences she has had at Louisville, and also how the show has changed within the last ten plus years. “Louisville has always been my favorite show. Every year is unique and every time I have entered the ring has been very special. I have had great memories of that magical green oval,” she says. A few special memories she mentioned were winning the Ladies Three-Gaited World Grand Championship with Olivia in 1991, and winning the same class with Talent Contest in 1992. “That was special and both horses meant a lot to me.” She continued to say that winning the Three-Gaited 15.2 and



Brendan Heintz and CH Sand Kalamehameha.

Under with Lime Twisted Gin and also the 15.2 and Over with Royal Messenger in the same year was “... pretty amazing,” Melissa adds, “The retirement of my all-time favorite road horse The Secret's Out was a blast!” She also went on to add that judging Louisville in 2005 alongside her sister, Melinda Moore, Kim and Fran Crumpler, and Rodney Hicks was “... extremely memorable.”

Regarding changes that the horse show has undergone within the past ten years, Melissa remembers, “... well over ten years ago they lowered the arena floor which made it where you go down the ramp to enter the ring. You used to go up a ramp and the horses could really make a great entrance when they hit the ring. Now it is harder as they build so much going down the ramp they oftentimes break when they hit the ring.” This is the case for at least one horse in most classes at Louisville. This change has not only affected the horses, but she says it is now much more difficult to get to the rail. “It was always so much fun to be able to visit with everyone.” Melissa says that as for classes being added, they are needed. “Our industry has changed in the last years and if we are to thrive we must change with it. So we need to consider what is attracting people to our breed and entice them with those divisions ... and we have to continue to promote our young horses.” In closing, “Louisville is magical and I love it. Good luck to everyone this year!”

Wow, how about some great interviews! And it's not over yet; let's return to our junior exhibitors and amateurs on their unique experiences at Louisville ...

It seems that whether it's your first time showing at Louisville or your tenth time showing there, the experience can always be described by words like magical, wonderful, incredible ... you get what I mean. To each of these exhibitors, their experiences on the green shavings were all of that and more.

“When I entered the air-conditioned ring, it felt like an ice-pack hitting my face from the hot outdoor temperature! Even though my trip was probably not as nerve-wracking as other people's because my class was just walk and trot, it still made me feel like wow, I just showed at the World's Championship! But my MOST unique experience was when I entered the ring on my horse's back and exited on my trainer, Suzanne Hubbard's back! (My horse acted up and I had to be excused and my horse was still too mad to ride out of the ring on him so I had to ride my trainer out piggy-back!!),” says Shelby Eriksen of her unique experiences on the green shavings.

Michelle Krentz best described herself as “starry-eyed” when she went to Louisville for the first time at the age of 13. “Looking around I saw so many Saddlebred ‘celebrity’ people and horses!” She continued to say of her first show ring experience there, “I had a first hand encounter with the tension and nervousness. I worked hard all year anticipating the moment I would show there, but my trainers, Scott and Carol Matton, calmed my nerves by emphasizing that even



Melissa Moore judging at the World's Championships.

PHOTO BY JANE JACOBS

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though Louisville is the World's Championship, it is really just another horse show and the most important values still were the prominent goals, to have fun and do the best I could."

Morgan Brison says of her unanimous World's Championship ride, "It is very exciting when they call out your number and you see your horse's name on the screen! My first reaction was total shock, I could not believe it! That experience was something I will never forget."

Lauren Woodruff showed at Louisville for the first time in 2007 on Heir Do and Four Alarm in Junior Exhibitor Five-Gaited Show Pleasure and Junior Exhibitor Show Pleasure, respectively. "I showed Heir Do first and surprisingly I wasn't very nervous. I was so excited to get to show there that I wanted to enjoy being there and not put any pressure on myself. The thing I remember most is hearing all the horse's hooves trotting down the chute into Freedom Hall. I just couldn't help but smile," Lauren says. She continued to say that though she did not place, her two horses were the best they have ever been. Four Alarm (also known as "John") would have been ninth; "... that was pretty rewarding."

Last but not least, Ann Eaker provided me with a heartfelt recap of her experience at the World's Championship Horse Show. Ann began preparing for Louisville in January of 2007 by jogging and working out with weights. She says she had never run more than two minutes at a time so it was a long process. "I just had to do something to help my cardio so that I would not embarrass myself being the first person to fall off due to cardiac arrest! It really helped, though, and has made it much easier to show since that time."

"The entire experience was so wonderful and was certainly a combination of little things that all came together," Ann says. She had quite the experience with golf carts that week, from having to tip a teenager on the sidewalk to drive her golf cart off the curb ("I had never driven one before ...") to having to retrieve a stolen golf cart from the mini police station and having to drive it in a down pour! "The one thing that really was special for me was that my parents drove from Georgia to watch me ride. They had always supported me but were never much into my horses." Before watching Ann and "Lacey" (Gotcha Covered) at Louisville, Ann's parents hadn't seen her ride in almost 25 years! "It was just soooo cool to have them there supporting me."

Kent Swalla, Ann's trainer, set up a time for Ann to have a few lessons with Jo Cornell during the week, as she does not get to ride much at home and had only shown her horse three times prior to Louisville. "Jo was really great and helped ease my anxieties. Kent was so wonderful about it and I was impressed that he thought enough about my mental state as well as my physical one for the show."

All of the hard work and preparation were very much worth it for Ann and Lacey; in the Amateur Three-Gaited Mare Park Stake, they placed seventh out of 26 horses, with a second place vote from Mitch Clark. "I had one of my best rides ever!"

"It took the rest of the week to come down from the clouds ... I wouldn't have changed a thing," Ann says. In closing, "I know it is a cliché, but ... dreams really can come true. I know, because one came true for me."

Though we must remember Louisville is just another horse show, we also must remember and appreciate the horses, horsemen, and women who have trotted there before us and who have made the show,

and Saddlebred industry, what it is today. It is an honor in itself to show in the same arena that horses such as CH Sky Watch, CH Emperor, CH My-My, Bellissima, CH Buck Rogers, and CH Sultan's Starina graced. A blue ribbon—any ribbon—that says "World's Championship Horse Show" on it is good, but being able to recall fond memories of fun rides, best friends, and special horses from a magical place called Freedom Hall is great.

Until next month ...

"Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today."

— James Dean

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Support Frances Neunuebel, who continues her chemo therapy treatments: www.caringbridge.org/visit/francesneunuebel

Northeast

Hey Everybody!

When should I get a new horse? This month, I will be writing about how you know when it's time for a new horse and also the emotions you have when your best friend has to leave. We all know you can't stay with one horse forever. There are many reasons for this. For instance, you might get too tall (I grew three inches in one year) for him and then you guys look out of proportion or that one horse has taught you all it can and you have to move to a new horse that can teach you new things. This happened to me and Toby. I got too tall for him. He was my best friend and I thank God every day that we had a chance to learn together. This is the worst part about owning a horse. You become so close. It is almost like you can read their minds and they know your every move. When you have to say goodbye, you find them a good home and realize the horse will be going to some little girl/boy who will love them just as much as you did and then they will teach each other. Every horse is different, they all have different things to teach us. It's a growing process. I am looking forward to working with my new horse, Sports Bar (aka Sport). He is a liver chestnut Saddlebred. We are going to show in country pleasure and maybe pleasure equitation next year. Do you have any good stories about letting your horse go? Write to us at either email below and we will publish your stories!

Our rider of the month is **Theresa Van Dusen** from New York. Theresa is 12 years old and her favorite subject is math. She has been riding for seven years and rides at Champion Hill with trainer Olivia Douth. She owns a bay Morgan named Heritage Elite (aka Eli). Her most memorable show was Syracuse International because it was her first time showing and she won and got a medal. It was a very large class of good riders. Her goals for the show season are to show in walk/trot/canter and to go to Oklahoma. Besides riding she does softball and she loves karaoke, and she likes to make people laugh. Good luck this show season!

Well that's it for us. Good luck at the rest of your shows!

Small children are convinced that ponies deserve to see the inside of the house.

~ Maya Patel

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