

# Junior Exhibitor Jumble

## Kentucky

Hello Everyone! Show season is in full swing. Even though it feels like it has just begun, we are now looking towards Louisville.

Unlike last year, Rock Creek and the Indianapolis Charity Horse Show were held in separate weeks. Congratulations to all the exhibitors and a special congratulations to these winning exhibitors; Christina Collis, Chelsea Patterson, and Megan Todd. It was a fun-filled show with a pizza party Thursday night and a chance to win a pink scooter in honor of Breast Cancer awareness.

For the topic of this month's article I thought I would uncover some vacation hot spots for equestrian lovers. The following are just a few.

**Lexington, KY:** The Horse Capital of the World is right here in Kentucky. If you want a fun-filled spot that includes horses, come to Lexington. You can visit the American Saddlebred Museum and see all the history and what the future holds for this breed. If you grow a passion for this beautiful breed, take a lesson at one of the world renowned Saddlebred barns in Lexington. If Saddlebreds do not strike your fancy try Thoroughbreds, and visit some of the most beautiful Thoroughbred farms located just outside Lexington. If the ground is more your friend than the back of a horse, visit the Keeneland Race Course or the Red Mile where you can see up close race horses under saddle or in carts and do a little betting. There are so many attractions to see in Lexington that have an equestrian related background. One spot that is my favorite and where you can see an array of different types of horses is The Kentucky Horse Park. At the horse park you can visit all types of different horses, go on a trail ride, and watch seminars and demonstrations where you can learn about horses. For more information please visit [www.visitlex.com](http://www.visitlex.com).

**Chincoteague Island, Chincoteague, VA:** The home to the famous and very cute Chincoteague Ponies. Every year they hold a swim where the ponies swim across the Chesapeake Bay from Assateague. I recommend the time when the ponies do swim across the bay to be the best time of year to visit the island. There are many other things to do besides watch the ponies. You can visit the Chincoteague Pony Centre where you can ride a pony, visit the gift shop for a Breyer Horse, and visit with baby Chincoteague ponies. If you would like to step away from the ponies for a while there are other activities to do such as boating, bowling, clamming, crabbing, fishing, hiking and biking through the woods and see animals and the ponies in their natural habitat, hunt, and even take scenic cruises. For more information please visit [www.chincoteague.com](http://www.chincoteague.com).

**Pinedale, WY:** To take you out west I chose Pinedale, Wyoming as the next hot spot. If you would like to bring out the cowboy or cowgirl in you, visit dude ranches. I found one called Flying A Ranch that takes you to see the true beauty of the United States and how life on a ranch truly is, but also gives you the luxury of an East Coast city. Activities on the ranch are pilates, yoga, cooking classes, spa, dining, trap shooting, mountain biking, fishing, and of course riding. Some of the top attractions to see are Yellowstone Park, Grand Teton National Park, and The Green River. For more information please visit [www.flyinga.com/index.shtml](http://www.flyinga.com/index.shtml).

**Amelia Island, FL:** The last, but definitely not least, hot spot is Amelia Island, Florida. Located on Florida's northeastern shore, the island gives you a little bit of heaven if you would like to relax without always having a horse around. For attractions you can visit and see the history and heritage of the island, visit the restaurants, nature, fish, golf, visit The Plantation Nature Center, scuba diving, and laying on a beach. For

family activities you can visit the Amelia Island History Museum, river cruises, kayak, fish, and yes even horseback ride. There is even shopping involved; the island has its own quaint shops for you to visit. If you would like to visit this lovely island please go to [www.ameliainland.com/](http://www.ameliainland.com/).

These are just a few of the many places for equestrian lovers to visit. If you have visited any of these places and would like to share your experience please send me an email.

That is all for this month, stay cool and free from sunburn. Good Luck to everyone in their upcoming shows. See you next month! Please send me any ideas or information you would like to see in this column to my email. Have a fantastic summer!

Jackie Schutt

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## Midwest

I hope that you guys are having a great show season – with or without the blue ribbons! Showing is about learning, experiencing, and having fun – right?

A big issue during the show season is showing against friends. Many enjoy it while others have a difficult time with it. And rightfully so. Aren't you supposed to be competitive and leave everything at the gate? And what if your friend beats you? What if you beat them? Maybe you both had a perfect ride and your friend still beat you. It can be very difficult to deal with these situations, especially when our competitive side gets in the way.

So what do you do? How do you deal with such a situation? I asked a few people who show against their friends how they deal with this sticky situation.

*You can't look at showing horses as going against friends. It's you showing your horse at the gaits required the best you can as a team. No matter what placing you get always look for improvement because you can't control the quality or performance of other horse/rider combinations. You should work on worrying about things you can control like preparing you and your horse and doing your best.* ~Rick

*I think that showing against friends makes it a lot more fun. I've made a lot of friends while showing and I show against them all the time. I have the mentality of "If I don't get to win I really hope they do". Sharing each other's glory and losses is what I believe has made us such good friends.* ~Shannon

*Showing with friends was what made it so fun in my junior exhibitor days. We were all in there, and of course we were dealing with our own horse and doing our very best to win. Then on the way out, we picked it back up and usually started talking about what happened, congratulating each other, and then getting ready for the next time we would show with each other. It was a blast.* ~Anonymous  
*I never show "against" friends; I show "with" friends. It's as simple as that.* ~Amanda

Showing is something that should be fun. You look for ways to improve and learn. When you get in the class, you work on just you and your horse and do the best that you possibly can do. If your friend beats you – good for them! You both did your best. Sometimes you'll beat them, sometimes they'll beat you. But have fun. That's what it's all about! And showing against friends only makes it all the more fun – if you let it ;-)

So, have a great show season and have fun! Make new friends, keep

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old friends, and don't let anything get in the way!

Have a great month!

*The better part of one's life consists of his friendships.*

~Abraham Lincoln

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## Missouri

Hey everyone, summer is finally here! That means riding more, spending long days at the barn, and horse shows!! Summer is also a great time to ride and practice more maybe on lesson horses, your horse, your friend's horse, or any you can get. It's good to get as much time in the saddle as possible before shows, even if it's riding an old pony bareback in the pasture. It all helps prepare for horse shows. In Missouri there are a couple of traditional horse shows that take place in July such as the Boone County Fair. Most who attend have been coming for years and still do. It is a good place for academy riders to start and to qualify young horses for the UPHA Classics, or for the Challenge Cup. You can't beat the friendly atmosphere and hospitality as well as a great exhibitors' party. It's a wonderful show that has been a blast for years. One of the newer Missouri shows, the Central States Benefit Horse Show, is held in Hale Arena at the American Royal Complex in Kansas City, Missouri. This year will be its third year, but it's definitely growing. Its classes include American Saddlebred Five-Gaited, Three-Gaited, Fine Harness, Park, Park Pleasure, Show Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Road Horse, Hackney Pony, Friesians, Equitation, Academy, Morgan and Arabian, plus *Saddle & Bridle* Pleasure Equitation, Shatner and Hunter Classic. Those are some of the summer shows in Missouri, although there are also many others too. Good Luck to all this summer!!

*It is not enough for a man to know how to ride; he must know how to fall.*

~Mexican Proverb

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## Northeast

Hey Everyone! I hope everyone's summer is going well! With the recent passing of Mother's Day and Father's Day, I decided that this month should be dedicated to the parents that guide, help and make our passion for horses possible.

First off I'd like to say thank you to my parents who have made my dreams of riding and owning a horse a reality. Secondly, I thought I'd be nice to remind us all of how important our parents are. They take time out of their schedules to make the countless trips down to the barn, cheer us on at horse shows, and even let us take over the washing machine to wash our horse hair and mud covered clothes as well as our horses' leg wraps and saddle pads. And that's only the beginning. It's not only this, they are always willing to support our decisions and guide us down the right path in life.

Going along with the horse parent theme we found a couple "you know you're a ..." quotes that apply to not only horse parents but also to horse people in general.

**"You Know You're A Horse Parent When..."**

- You are glad to see your child eating vegetables as she takes turns biting from the same carrot with her horse.

- You can hem a pair of show pants with safety pins and duct tape in thirty seconds flat.

- You find horse treats in the bottom of the hamper and you're glad that this time you found them before they turned to mush in the washing machine.

**"You Know You're A Horse Person When ..."**

- Your secretary does a "hay check" on your suit each morning and your first stop in the office is the ladies room to remove the shavings from your shoes.

- You pass up social invitations because they'd conflict with your lesson schedule.

- You buy more carrots and apples than you can possibly eat.

- The only pictures you have in your office are of your horses.

- You rush to the front window to watch the horses run and buck in the pasture, even if you're in the middle of a meal.

- You get a little whiff of manure smell and breathe deeper to get the full impact. That goes double for the smell of newly cut hay.

- When you are down and depressed and you go and talk to your best friend your horse.

- You drive by any field anywhere and look very hard for horses.

- You start using baling twine to repair non-horse-related things.

- Your boyfriend gets worried when he overhears you talking to a friend: "And he had the cutest butt! I happened to be behind him for a while, and practically couldn't take my eyes off his butt. And he had really nice legs, and a real strong back, and nice shoulders, and such a pretty face! He came over to say hello once. What a handsome guy!" When you tell him that you were talking about a horse, he's not sure whether to be reassured or get even more worried.

- When your ideal birthday weekend consists of going to a horse show.

- You get a new pitchfork or shovel for Christmas and you're thrilled.

- You are eating lunch out and can continue to eat, not missing a mouthful, and discuss the surgery on a horse's leg and all the graphic details.

- You wonder why people look at you funny when you tell them horse manure doesn't smell.

- You drive over potholes and practice sitting the trot while your car shakes over the road.

- You have to hit the brakes on your truck hard, and you yell WHOA!

Well that's all for this month. Go out and thank your parents for all that they've done and until next time remember ...

*Horses change lives. They give our young people confidence and self-esteem. They provide peace and tranquility to troubled souls, they give us hope!*

– Toni Robinson

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