

KMSHA International

Blue's Magical Charm
SMHA Stallions Trail
Pleasure - 1st
Open 4 Gait - 2nd
SMHA Trail Pleasure
Championship - 4th

RRF Gold Nugget
Open Driving - 1st
Trail Obstacle - 4th
5+ Mare/Gelding Confor-
mation - 4th
Men's Open Classic - 5th

Barb's Stormy Knight
Trail Obstacle - Tim
Spencer - 3rd

Gaitway's Jasmine Joy
5+ Mare/Gelding Confor-
mation - 3rd
Open Western - 5th

**Pepper's Capital
Venture**
3 & 4 yo Mare/Gelding
Conformation - 3rd

SRF Silver Sundown
Trail Obstacle - 1st
Open Western - 4th

KMSHA International Show

The KMSHA International this year was held Oct. 8-11. Congratulations to Blue's Magical Charm (MoJo) owned by Tim and Marcia Spencer. Congratulations also to Silver for winning trail obstacle class. It was especially challenging and well designed this year. Silver has won the UMH World Show and both KMSHA and RMH trail obstacle classes this year. In similar fashion, Nugget won the driving class at the KMSHA International and won the other two major shows' driving class. Congrats to everyone!



Happy Thanksgiving

Stoner Ridge Farm

Foundation First Mountain Horse™ Training
2469 Clintonville Rd., Paris, KY 40361

ROBERT & LYNGLAWSON
859.749.3008

NOVEMBER 1, 2009
859.988.9092

The Only Constant . . . Change

It's that time of year again . . . at the end of show season when some horses are going home and new ones are coming in for training. It's a little like raising children. They are really only gifts that we enjoy for a time (too short of a time it seems). We train them up in the way they should go and send them out into the world hoping they remember the important things. Horses, too, go on to a different life . . . again we hope they've learned their lessons well.

Horses are so resilient (kids, too <G>). It is really amazing how talented they are in so many different ways. Horses that have illustrious show careers can become a favorite lesson horse or your best friend on the trail. I was watching our stallion, Sandman, the other day. He was the 2005 UMH Park 5-9 Year Old World Champion. At 9 he continues to do great things - as a trail horse though. His head set is beautiful, his gait fantastic and there's an added dimension - trail obstacle (he also drives like a dream). He is really awesome. Isn't it great that these Mountain Horses can change and reinvent themselves in so many ways. . . a little age, a little maturity can do great things (Too bad it doesn't work for people that way <G>).

As far as change goes, Michael Butler is no longer riding for SRF. We'll miss his sense of humor and his outgoing spirit. We wish him

the best as he moves on.

Another individual who is changing jobs is April Smith at the UMH office. She plans to continue working on the magazine but she has decided to pursue a teaching degree and will no longer be able to work full time. Again, we wish her the best in this career change.

The difficult economic times are also creating change within UMH. The Board will be meeting in November this year to plan for next year. Input is always welcome from exhibitors, owners, and trainers. Email board members - they are always willing to listen and work for what is best for all. If you know a company or corporation that would like to offer their support, it is welcome any time of the year.

The economy will also force SRF to raise rates beginning Jan. 1, 2010. For new clients, the rates will be \$650 for full training. Current clients will stay at \$600 with board going to \$300. Anyone who brings a horse before Jan. 1 will receive the \$600 rate for 2010. The horse market seems to be opening up. We've been getting more inquiries and that is a good thing for us all.

We have much for which to be thankful - Our family, our health, our country, our friends and certainly our horses are at the top of the list!

Serenity Prayer

*God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.*

Important Dates

Nov. 1-7 SRF Clinic in
Waterloo, Iowa

Nov. 9-13 Joan Miller
comes for Apprentice Pro-
gram

Nov. 26-27 Happy
Thanksgiving

Dec. 12 UMH Banquet
Holiday Inn North,
Lexington, KY

Dec. 17 Robert's
Birthday

Dec. 25 Merry
Christmas

Sincere Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve's friend, Sydney, due to the passing of her mother, Phyllis Smith on October 23rd. She was 84. Here is Sydney's address if you'd like to send her a card:

Ms. Sydney Smith
953 West Fifth Street
Winona, MN 55987

Simple Freedom

By: Lauren Hickey

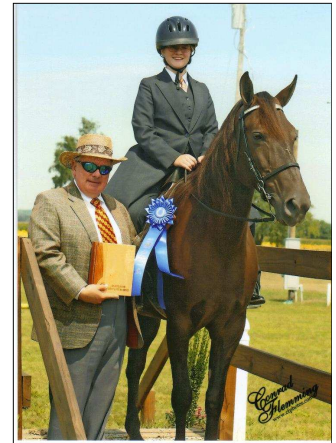
Note: *Too often we get caught up in living life to enjoy it. We have responsibilities and obligations. We don't stop to give thanks for the blessing of having horses in our lives. We don't take time to enjoy what we have. Well, one beautiful October afternoon, 14 year old Lauren Hickey went home after a lesson with Erin and wrote "Simple Freedom" in about 10 minutes. It reminds us to stop and smell the roses. . . Enjoy!*

The breeze weaved through my hair and flowed around my face. A small expanse of fenced in bluegrass stretched before me and my friend. I could hear his breathing as he tasted the air. There were no rules; we were allowed to roam the small pasture. Sensing his new freedom, my companion started into a brisk walk. I clutched the reins a bit tighter, but he knew this wasn't a show ring. Soon, he sped up to a gait. Faster and

faster he started to transform. I let him do as he pleased yet tried to stay in control. The longer we gaited around the small enclosed expanse of grass, the freer he felt. I could feel it too. I could feel the barely controlled excitement. I soaked in the sun and wind and forgot the worries of school and the world. All I knew, all we knew, all we cared about, was the perfect day. I slowed him down a bit, but he hated it. His instincts took over and all he wanted was to leap through the grass and race the wind. But years of training and being under the lead of humans became a shadow in his mind. Slowly, he transformed, right under the saddle. He hopped a bit, switching between the taught gait and a more natural canter. He battled for control. He strained against the bit, trying to become what he truly is;

and I became the barrier he fought. I didn't want that, and I let go a bit. He needed no more incentive. He gaited faster and faster, becoming stronger and stronger. We shared control now. No longer was he the focused, gentle show horse everyone knew. Instead, he became a creature of wind and ocean waves. He could barely be contained, even by his own body. The sweet breeze and warm sun opened a heavily locked door inside him and awoke something ancient. He awoke something that humans attempted to breed out of his race. He became his name, he became a storm. I became a simple passenger, no longer in control. Then, he cantered, not for long just a few seconds. For those few seconds, we lifted into the sky with eagle wings. We raced the wind and mocked the birds. He remembered the days

when horses ran free with only the falcon to match their speed. He remembered everything he forgot while under the saddle. He embodied the spirit of the horse, beauty, speed, and power. For a few seconds, humans did not dominate his life. And I rode the storm and enjoyed every second of it.



**Lauren Hickey
and her inspiration,
Barb's Stormy Knight**



Success Stories

We'd like to congratulate Bob Morris and Thunder (above) on a successful transition from the show ring to the trail. Bob is enjoying riding Thunder at home and it sure looks like both rider and horse are having a great time.

Randy and Regina are also enjoying Squirrel on the trails for a few months before he comes back to KY.

The Cross Filly was bred to Silver last week and has also gone home to be enjoyed by her owners, Dale and Edwina Honn.

Welcome

We have some new horses that we're starting. We'd like to welcome Murphy, who is owned by Larry and Brenda Watson from Leander, KY (near Paintsville). Brenda is always on the look-out for horses she can rescue. Such was the case for Murphy. He was skin and bones when she found him. She knows nothing about his heritage but he was certainly blessed the day she took him home. He is quite a beauty now. We're working him under saddle and teaching him to pull a cart. He is not a gaited horse - we're thinking he is probably part Arab or Morgan. We'd also like to welcome Fed-Ex Faux Pas who is owned by Dale and Edwina Honn. He is replacing Cross. Robert is currently working with these young horses. Welcome everyone!

Visitors from Iowa

We had a quick visit from Joe & Sandy Minard and Brenda & Randy Vandersee last weekend. We had planned to meet them at Big South Fork for trail riding but the weather was so wet and cold, we all agreed that a change of plan was in order. It was great to see them again and talk about our families and the horses. Robert will be going to Iowa this week to do a clinic with the family. They have had him come twice a year since purchasing their herd of horses and they are doing a great job.

Apprentice

On November 9th, Joan Miller will be coming from Millersburg, Ohio to begin an apprentice program with Robert. She is planning to stay for one week initially. Joan has competed in their local rodeos and the NBHA. She has had horses most of her life. Currently, she has only one horse, a five year old filly, Dr.'s Abigail (by

Call the Doctor). She is hoping to enhance her training abilities and wants to show in the future. Joan is also very interested in the training aspect of the Rocky Mountain breed.

We are looking forward to having Joan join us. Robert will do a great job helping her learn how to gain respect and trust. Welcome Joan!