

Spring looms just over the horizon bringing thoughts of showing our beloved Quarter Ponies. Keep your goals realistic. Remember you are really showing against yourself as you strive to improve each time you enter that arena. Good sportsmanship and safety is the key. It is time to “raise the bar”. Support others effort, be positive in your quest and always, always smile. Smiling is good for the soul - seeing a sincere, friendly smile may make someone else feel better too! Most importantly give you and your competitors plenty of room – it is common courtesy. Pass to the inside, do not cut each other off, do not intentionally slow your gait (causing the rider in the rear to get too close), and BE AWARE. Further, if you have to make someone else look bad, in order for you to look good, you do not belong in the ring. Fortunately, astute judges are beginning to recognize the “naughty” players... and it’s about time!

That said, lets see...

WHATSA GO’N ON WITH QPA

QPA would like to take this opportunity to remind members that showing your Quarter Pony isn’t the only way to get recognition. Check out the “Riding/Driving Program” offered to members, and their qualified ponies at www.UQPA.com - just click on the stated link. This program is a fabulous opportunity for those to obtain recognition without the expense of the show scene.

WHATSA GO’N ON WITH THE REGISTRIES

Pony enthusiasts are encouraged to check out the “Pony Breeders” link at www.IQPA.com . While this is not the only source of information, for obtaining a quality registered Quarter Pony, it is certainly a start in your journey to find your special pony. Who knows... you may find exactly what you’re looking for without going any further. Either way, most breeders are typically more than happy to offer positive guidance to those embarking on a new journey with QP’s - or those looking to improve an existing program.

IQPA reports the 2007 Christmas Pony Sale went well this year. According to Dominique Nave, over thirty-five “really nice” ponies were offered for sale – and she purchased at least three of them. However, Dominique advised the facility was not up to par. Thus, IQPA will be looking for a new facility to host the 2008 Christmas Pony Sale. For future reference, please take note; the Christmas Pony Sale is planned for the 3rd Saturday in December.

WHATSA GO’N ON IN THE REGIONS & QPA OVERALL

No reports have been submitted in time for this newsletter. However, watch for a special expanded edition of the newsletter – highlighting all 2007 title earners. Get your pictures in if you know you have earned a title (see **Other Important QPA Info** section below).

JUSTIN TIME & DEANNA BATES

Justin Time (pictured above) is a six-year-old IQPA registered gelding, owned by Stacey Bates from Holts Summit, Missouri. According to Stacey, “Justin is the best friend” to his nine year old rider Deanna Bates (also pictured above). This talented QP gelding was 2006 Sports Pony of the Year and earned his ROM. The pair have not been slouches in 2007 either. Look for this pair in 2008 as they attend Hinkson Valley Pony Club events, Combined Training events, and Hunter/Jumper events. They, also, plan to partake in activities at summer camps and various fun shows throughout 2008, as well.

Justin and Deanna reflect what dedication and commitment can bring when youth engage in outdoor activities of an equine nature. Of course, it helps tremendously when parents are able to support such endeavors - as obviously, Stacey has. Sometimes disappointment occurs as Justin sustained an injury - cutting his 2007 season short. However, through love and devotion the pair appear ready for 2008. Maybe it was the green Skittles, Purina Apple Treats, or that occasional S’more from the campfire, that Justin so loves, that speeded his recovery? Good luck to this tough pair in 2008!

OTHER IMPORTANT QPA INFO

Membership Reminder(s):

The Quarter Pony Association (QPA) official website can be located at www.UQPA.com or www.QuarterPonyAssociation.com (both will get you where you need to be).

The International Quarter Pony Association official website is located at www.IQPA.com (at present, this is the only QPA approved registry).

All submissions for consideration in the QPA Newsletter including, but not limited to, emails, articles/stories, commentaries, informational submissions and pictures/images, become property of the Quarter Pony Association and no compensation, for use, shall apply. Pictures and comments may be sent to QPA_Newsletter@mac.com.

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