

The Rocky Beat

MONTHLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORSE ASSOCIATION®

AMBASSADORS OF THE BREED

2019 RMHA AERC Breed Award

Sarah Pereverziev
MS's Shad's Prince William



2019 RMHA NATRC Breed Award

Lisa Nauditt
Memphis Squirrel



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2019 RMHA ETS Breed Award

Wendy Montgomery
SF Distinguished Gentleman



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SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER
9-12

32nd
RMHA
International
Grand
Championships

Kentucky
Horse
Park

OFFICE UPDATES



Thank you! As many of you may already know, my position in the RMHA office recently transitioned to Office Manager. Thank you to the RMHA Board and, more importantly, to you, the members, the heart and soul of the RMHA. Thank you for the support that you have given me over the past six years. Accepting the office manager position would not have been possible for me without your faithfulness and support. I am truly blessed to be in this position and to have the responsibility to carry on the work in the office but without every one of you to help me this wouldn't be possible. The saying "it takes a village" is 100% correct.

The RMHA is a giant wheel with many spokes, and all the spokes must be working for the wheel to keep spinning. The many volunteers, committee chairs, committee members, board members are what keep the wheel turning. It couldn't continue without the work of EVERY-

ONE. Please contact me if you would like to help on any committees or offer special skills. We are always in need of help. The office has remained extremely busy during the changes that are happening all over the world, and Shawna Smith, our Office Assistant, has been an invaluable asset to keep us moving forward.

That said, you may have seen a slow down recently in receiving registry documents back from the office. There are two reasons for this: a decrease in the time we could both be in the office (due to state restrictions in place) and, more than that, the mail system has slowed down considerably. Please be patient as we navigate these conditions and consider sending all documents by certified mail with tracking. The office is open on our regular schedule; however, we are limiting the number in the office at one time and will not be processing documents while you wait. If possible, use the mail, call us or send an [email](#).

Spring is here...get out there and ride your horses. Laughter is the best medicine, so they say. I say laughter and sharing time with our horses is the cure!

Stay safe, hug your horse,
Cyndee

We hope to see a return to our regular schedule of horse shows in the near future.
Updates will be posted to the [RMHA Show Schedule](#) as they are received from show managers.

PLATINUM-GOLD-SILVER 2019 RMHA INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS



[Stoner Ridge Farm](#)

[West Coast RMH Club](#)

[Mike Walker](#)

[Lee Boyd](#)

[Bluegrass Equine Vet](#)

[eMDDee Mountain Horses](#)

*The RMHA is very grateful to the generous donors who support many of our programs.
Would you like to see your name (or the name of your farm/business) displayed here with a live link during 2021?
Be a Silver, Gold or Platinum sponsor of the 2020 RMHA International !*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEADLINES TO NOTE

Rocky Beat Deadline
for content or classifieds
1st of each month.

Summer Issue Magazine:
Deadlines for submission of:

Articles— pending

Ads— pending

Approx release-August 15th

Next RMHA Board Meeting

June 27th, 12 p.m.
Winchester, KY

[2020 RMHA Shows
and Sanctioned Classes](#)
updated information

[American Horse Council Benefits](#)
available to RMHA members

**2020 RMHA
International
Grand Championships**
September 9-12, 2020
Kentucky Horse Park

Breeders
Equine [B.E.S.T.S.](#)
Services **Directory**
Trainers links to all
Sales

Advertise with the RMHA

You can help to support the programs of the RMHA by advertising in the Rocky Beat, on the RMHA website or in the Rocky Mountain Horse magazine. All advertising must be prepaid. Call (859-644-5244) for more information.

RMHA Publications Committee Openings

If you have strong writing, communications or proofreading skills, good organizational abilities and the ability to work well as a team member, please join the RMHA Publication Committee and help to promote the programs of the RMHA and the Rocky Mountain Horse breed by creating or helping to create educational and entertaining articles and news items for the Rocky Mountain Horse Magazine and the Rocky Beat. If you are interested, please contact [Cyndee Davis](#).

The **Rocky Mountain Horse** magazine is produced bi-annually as a promotional tool and a benefit to members of the RMHA. The RMHA Board has hired a publisher to solicit and prepare advertising content for the magazine and create the print magazine. All articles and editorial content will be the responsibility of members of the Publications Committee.

The **Rocky Beat** provides monthly updates to our membership and is edited and published by members of the RMHA Publications Committee using Publisher software.

Please send story or classified
submissions to
rmha.magazine@gmail.com

[Friends of Sound Horses](#)
news and activities

[RMHA KHBIF Information](#)
Kentucky Born and Bred
Program

[RMHA Trail Program](#)

If you ride your Rocky Mountain Horse on the trail, you should be gaining awards in this program. A new online trail mileage tracker is coming soon.

[2020 Expo Participation Forms](#)

If you plan to participate in Expos in 2020 with your Rocky Mountain Horse, please consider representing the RMHA. Reimbursement for

[RMHA Versatility Program](#)

Do you participate in parades, trail competitions, horse shows, cowboy mounted shooting, obstacle competitions, extreme cowboy competitions, drill team, gaited dressage, expos, endurance? You should check out our versatility program and start adding up your points.

Youth Horse Camp

~~June 12-14
Rudy's Ranch
Salt Lick, KY~~

We regret to inform you that the RMHA 2020 Youth Horse Camp has been **cancelled** due to COVID19 and ongoing restrictions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Please join the RMHA Youth Facebook page for updates and information.

Three Not-So-Common Myths

by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D.

Horses are complex animals, and correctly meeting their nutritional needs can be challenging. We all have our horses' best interest at heart, but it is easy to understand how feeding misconceptions can occur. Here are three not-co-commonly held myths.

Myth #1: Horses don't need as much hay during the night because they sleep.

Horses are awake and moving virtually all the time. Mature horses will sleep up to two hours per day, broken into short periods. These 15 to 20 minute naps are intermittent throughout the day and night. In other words, horses do not sleep for any length of time like other animals do. Being prey animals, horses' sleep must be taken in frequent breaks of short duration, ideally in a group situation where some take turns resting while others remain alert for dangers.

And here's why they need to have forage (hay and/or pasture) available all of the time, day and night: Horses are trickle feeders, designed to graze continuously to keep the digestive system functioning normally, thereby preventing ulcers and colic. Feeding them in sync with their natural instincts and physiology requires that they have forage available any time they want it. 24/7.

The way you can determine how much hay to feed at night is to make certain that there is some hay left over in the morning. If your horse runs out of hay and you wake to find him kicking and pawing, he is hungry. But more than that, he is in pain (due to the acid bathing his stomach) and he is mentally stressed. This stress can lead to a multitude of health problems and, ironically, it can prevent an overweight horse from losing weight. You can ease your horse's discomfort by giving him more hay than he could possibly eat during the night. Once he realizes that the hay supply will never run out, he will start to self-regulate his intake and actually begin to eat less than he used to because he has calmed down, both physically and emotionally.

Myth #2: The horse's stomach should be empty while exercising to avoid digestive upset.

We don't feel comfortable exercising after a large meal and we therefore assume that our horses don't either. But define a "meal." We generally think of feeding a commercially fortified feed—something that comes out of a bag. Or we may feed a meal of oats along with supplements. And you're right: This type of meal that is low in fiber and high in feedstuffs that provide starch, protein, and fat should not be fed immediately before exercising your horse. But forage should! It's just the opposite—restrict forage before exercise and you'll produce, rather than avoid, digestive upset. Here's why:

The horse's stomach, unlike our own, secretes acid all the time. That's right—it never stops. Chewing produces saliva, a natural antacid. But when the horse is left without anything to chew, the acid will accumulate in the stomach and settle along the bottom (as water would in an empty jar). The lower portion of the stomach (the glandular region) has a protective mucus layer, but the upper squamous region has no such lining. Ask your horse to move, and the acid sloshes around, reaching the unprotected area, leading to an ulcer. And, as the acid flows through the small intestine, cecum, and large colon, it can cause further damage along its path, potentially leading to colic and ulcerative colitis.

Allow your horse to graze on hay or pasture before asking him to move—15 minutes ought to do the trick. You'll not only keep him healthy, but he won't be in physical and mental discomfort, making him more relaxed and receptive.

Myth #3: Electrolyte supplements meet the horse's salt requirement.

Your horse sweats more during the summer and drinks less during the winter, making electrolyte supplementation worth considering. But electrolytes alone will not stimulate your horse to drink more water—and water intake is critically important to ensure proper digestion. To encourage drinking, your horse needs to have enough sodium (salt). A balanced electrolyte supplement is designed to replace what is lost from perspiration, but electrolyte supplements

should only be given to a horse that is already in good sodium balance. There are several ways to accomplish this. The best ways include offering free-choice granulated salt, or adding salt to your horse's meal. A white salt block or preferably, a natural salt rock, will help, but many horses do not lick them adequately.

A full-sized horse requires at least one ounce (two level tablespoons) of salt each day for maintenance, providing 12 grams of sodium. This is true all year long, even during the coldest winter months. Heat, humidity, and exercise increase the horse's need. Horses often will not eat extra salt, so consider syringing one ounce of salt mixed with some oil or flavored liquid after an hour of intense sweating, not to exceed 4 ounces per day. If your horse is working for several hours at a time, you can add an electrolyte supplement but it should be offered in addition to salt, to replace what is lost from perspiration.

In order to prevent ulcers, always allow your horse to eat something before giving him salt or an electrolyte supplement. And never add electrolytes to a horse's only water supply — this will interfere with water intake. Fresh, clean water should always be nearby.

Tips provided with permission by Juliet M. Getty, Ph.D. at [Getty Equine Nutrition](#)

CONTACT LINKS FOR REGIONAL CLUBS

Consider joining one of the RMHA's affiliate Regional Clubs. This is a great way to meet other Rocky Mountain Horse owners and enjoy your Rocky in new ways. Many clubs arrange trail rides, horse shows and other events to promote the breed and to share their love for the Rocky Mountain Horse. Club members are also good resources for information about local supplies or services.

[Lone Star Rocky Club](#)

Texas and surrounding states

[Facebook](#)

President: [Loyd St. John](#)

Michigan RMH Club

Michigan & surrounding states

President: [Brenda Ricksgers](#)

[Mid-Atlantic RMH Club](#)

VA, MD, WVA, PA, NC

President: [Joe Jolley](#)

Pacific Crest RMH Club

Northern CA, WA, OR and surrounding states

[Facebook](#)

President: [Jan Dunn](#)

[Southern States RMH Club](#)

FL, GA, AL, SC

[Facebook](#)

President: Melissa Grimes

TriState RMH Club

OH, IN, KY and surrounding states

President: [Tess Smith](#)

[West Coast Rocky Mountain Horse Club](#)

CA, NV, AZ & surrounding west coast states

[Facebook](#)

President: [Linda Clarke](#)

You belong
in a Rocky Mountain Horse Club!

RMHA VERSATILITY PROGRAM

If you enjoy a number of different activities with your Rocky, you really should check out this RMHA program.

Like other programs of the RMHA, the Versatility Program operates on an annual competition year which runs from November 1st to October 31st of the following year. Points can accumulate from a variety of activities, including: trail riding, competitive trail events, traditional horse showing, educational and competitive 4H programs, team penning, western/gaited/traditional dressage, stadium jumping, cross country, eventing, carriage driving, drill team or demonstration exhibitions, parades and many other activities that may be popular where you live. Keeping good records of the events and programs you participate in will be important as you must provide documentation (score cards/sheets, photos, receipts, awards or other forms depending on the activity) with your entry form (postmarked) by November 15th to be tabulated for the year.

Youth and adults may participate, and awards are provided in both Youth and Adult categories and are presented at the annual RMHA Awards Banquet which has been held in February for the last few years. The forms needed to participate in this program are on the RMHA website. One form will allow you to compete for the annual RMHA Versatile Horse of the Year award; the other, the Accumulating form, will be needed to create a continuing record for cumulative awards presented each year. A more detailed description of the program is on the RMHA website [Versatility Program page](#).

Good luck! We look forward to seeing you participate in the RMHA Versatility Program.

RMHA TRAIL MILEAGE PROGRAM

Starting with the 2020 Trail Year (November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020), Registered Rocky Mountain Horses, certified and uncertified, are participating in the RMHA Trail Mileage Program. The revised program includes two awards subprograms.

An **RMHA Rider Mileage Program** where yearly and lifetime trail miles are tracked by Riders, in two divisions:

1. For riders riding one or more RMHA Registered uncertified horses.
2. For riders riding one or more RMHA Registered and Certified horse(s).

An **RMHA Trail Horse Program** in which yearly and lifetime trail miles are tracked by Riders on Registered and Certified Rocky Mountain Horse(s).

All Yearly and Lifetime awards will be presented at the annual RMHA Awards Banquet. Details about these programs and how to join in tracking you and your horses' trail miles is available on the RMHA website [Trail Mileage Program page](#).

The Trail Committee is currently working on updating the awards for the Trail Program and developing a sponsorship program, to help provide improved awards for this program and promote the Trail Programs. If you are interested in being a sponsor – please let us know!

2020 RMHA ELECTION BALLOTS OUT

June is ballot month for annual elections in the RMHA. Ballots are sent by email and mail to all qualified voting members (qualified members must be in good standing on the day the ballot list is printed in May and must have been a member on December 31st of the previous year). Members can elect to receive ballots in either way when they become a member or when they renew their membership.

This year the ballot includes elections for nine positions on the Board of Directors and a proposed Bylaws change. The members of the Board are elected by simple majority (of the ballots returned). The proposed Bylaws changes on this ballot will require a 3/4 majority approval (of the ballots returned) in order to be adopted and incorporated into the Bylaws.

If you are qualified to vote and did not receive either an email or mailed ballot, please contact the RMHA office as soon as possible to verify your contact information. Ballots must be received in return by June 15th.

EXCITING NEWS ITEMS

*A Publisher has been contracted to produce the next issue of the Rocky Mountain Horse magazine. You may receive a call from a Connections Advertising and Marketing representative asking if you would like to place an ad in the upcoming summer issue of the magazine. This issue will include information about the 2020 RMHA International and will be used for promotion at EquitanaUSA, as well. Please consider placing an ad to help support the RMHA and the publication of our magazine.

*The RMHA Board has signed a contract with a CiviCRM developer to upgrade and update the RMHA Member's Only Portal section of our website and the membership database. CiviCRM is the web-based software used to manage membership information since 2011. This, the third phase of development in the RMHA's online presence makeover, will complement our public website, improve accessibility to information for our members and improve the RMHA office staff's workflow through integration with accounting and newsletter software. It will now be integrated with our accounting and newsletter programs. The pedigree database will continue to be housed on a separate server to maintain its security at the highest level possible.

*COVID19 hasn't stopped the RMHA office staff from continuing to provide all membership services. To comply with the Kentucky Governor's stay at home orders, Cyndee and Shawna have been doing as much work as possible from home, but they both have been spending some time in the office each week. The RMHA's phone system allows for incoming calls to be forwarded during regular office hours, so they have been available by phone Monday thru Friday just like usual.

It is still recommended that business be conducted by phone, mail or email, if possible, but the RMHA office space did reopen to the public for members just a few days ago, with special restrictions in place for all visitors to the office to keep the RMHA in compliance with all ordinances and to protect the health of our members and our staff.



Sarah Pereverziev with
MS's Shad's Prince William
2019 RMHA AERC Breed Award

The [American Endurance Ride Conference](#) hosts endurance (50 or more miles) and limited distance (25-35 miles) rides for junior and adult riders. Riders compete for regional and national AERC awards and for breed awards with their favorite trail companions. The real challenge is to complete the course with a horse that is "fit to continue."



"William is the poster child for the Rocky Mountain breed. He has an impressive resume, including carriage driving, horseback falconry, team sorting, just to name a few, but his crowning work has been his eagerness to prove himself in the endurance world. Up against the Arabian breed, it can be difficult to get a competitive edge, but with his stubborn tenacity and years of long, slow training, he has been consistently finishing in the top ten and has achieved two best condition awards. He is always willing to see what is around the next corner, and his endless energy to rise to any occasion has encouraged me that this is just the beginning of our adventures! All hail, Prince William!"

Wendy Montgomery with
SF Distinguished Gentleman
2019 RMHA ETS Breed Award

[Equine Trail Sports](#) sponsors various Trail Challenges, Obstacle Courses, Recreation Rides and In Hand Obstacle Competitions, too. Youth and adult riders and handlers compete for ETS awards at several challenge levels in national, regional and breed tournaments.



"The main question I get asked everywhere I go is, "What do you do with your Rocky?" My reaction is the same every time: I smile and look at them and say, "What don't I do!"

SF Distinguished Gentleman, who everyone knows as "Rocky," is my 15-year-old Rocky Mountain Gelding. Rocky and I have been together for over 12 years. When I purchased Rocky, I had no idea what a Rocky Mountain Horse was. All I knew was that I loved his calm, levelheaded, willing disposition.

In the Fall of 2013, Rocky and I competed in our first obstacle challenge, after that...we were hooked. There was never a competition we attended that I did not learn something, but most importantly I learned how to gain Rocky's trust and form an amazing partnership.

Rocky and I have spent several hours trail riding and training for various obstacle challenges. When ETS (Equine Trail Sports) finally moved into Kentucky, I couldn't have been more excited. I love the laid-back friendly competition it offered. This year we were the Reserve Champion for the Battle of the Bluegrass tournament and we were the High Point Breed winner for the Rocky Mountain Horse Association.

In 2016, Rocky was named the Versatile Horse of the year for the Rocky Mountain Horse Association.

Rocky is a true ambassador for the RMHA. He represents everything these horses are: filled with poise, willingness, curiosity, beauty, levelheadedness and friendliness. When Rocky and I are competing, he gives me his all. He wants to make me happy, and he truly loves the obstacle competitions.

Over the last seven years, Rocky and I have traveled and competed in obstacle challenges in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Alabama. Some of our accomplishments include being accepted as 1 of 25 horse and rider pairs to compete in the Equine Affaire in Columbus, Ohio, at the Versatile Horse and Rider Challenge for the last three years. We placed 7th in 2019 and 8th in 2018. Rocky and I hold the 2018 Amateur Smoky Mountain Trail Challenge Champion title, the 2019 Open Level 3 Smoky Mountain Trail Challenge Champion title, the 2020 Amateur & Open Level 3 Smoky Mountain Trail Challenge Champion title from the Southern Equine Expo located in Murfreesboro, TN. We competed in the IMTCA (International Mountain Trail Challenge Association) in Ohio in 2018 and hold the Midwest/Northeast Regional Champion Title Adult Level 2 Riding, Adult Level 3 Riding & Open Level 2 Riding.

Rocky truly is my heart horse. The partnership he and I have formed will never be matched. It is a privilege for me to have such an incredible animal by my side. His willingness to please me goes hand in hand with my willingness to make sure he is taken care of to the full extent he deserves. I don't own Rocky; Rocky is my partner! "

L i s a N a u d i t t w i t h
M e m p h i s S q u i r r e l
2 0 1 9 R M H A N A T R C B r e e d A w a r d

The [North American Trail Ride Conference](#) sanctions long distance competitive trail rides and clinics for riders of all ages in six regions across North America with evaluations of horse and rider by veterinary and horsemanship judges. Riders compete for rider and horse NATRC awards at several competition levels and for breed awards while learning horsemanship and horse care skills.

My name is Lisa Nauditt. I am the proud owner of Memphis Squirrel. I want to start by saying, thank you for the beautiful awards that the RMHA sent to me for the NATRC awards banquet, and thank you to Jennifer Mulligan for allowing me the honor of owning him.

The story begins with Squirrel being an abhorrent boy every time, and everywhere he went with Jennifer, breaking loose and causing trouble at the rides she attended. Between some of his excursions, she was trying to find someone to teach and show him manners. It seemed nothing worked for either of them or anyone who attempted to control this boy as he is a smarty, kicking out at others and just running over everyone. My daughter met him and volunteered for me/us to sell him.

We brought him home, and being a Quarter Horse person, my intentions were to sell him because I didn't think I wanted a gaited horse. I had no knowledge about Rocky Mountain Horses until I met Squirrel. I didn't know how to gait, and at eight years old, he didn't really know how to gait under saddle either. Me being me, I sat down and studied with Ivy Schexnayder via YouTube. I learned the way to ride this breed of horse, and we went to work.

My introduction to Squirrel was to move his feet by backing him away from me. It worked. As the weeks passed, my husband insisted that I buy this horse. His words, "That horse loves you and will do anything for you." I insisted I had too many horses and didn't need him. He insisted, "Yes." So, I did, and that was the beginning of our journey together. Squirrel is an amazingly smart horse, and we certainly have a bond that will not be broken.

We had to pull from our first NATRC ride. We completed all rides except the last one, as misfortune hit our lives. This horse has heart, and our bond helped us to do very well in our Region 5 competitions, as well as Nationally, where we placed 6th in the Open Division. I could go on and on about my Memphis Squirrel. I will end this story by saying he is by far the best horse I have ever met, next to my Paint/QH, Skippy, who has now passed on across the rainbow with my husband. I thank my husband every day for making me buy this boy. I love him so much, and I am so proud to own such an awesomely created breed of horse. My Rocky Mountain Horse, "Memphis Squirrel."



WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.RMHORSE.COM



One Horse for All Occasions ®

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**The Rocky Mountain Horse Association
is a non-profit corporation organized under the
laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.**

Mission:

**The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Horse
Association is to aid and encourage *the*
preservation, promotion, breeding and
development of the Rocky Mountain Horse
throughout the United States and Internationally.**

Thank you for supporting the RMHA!

C L A S S I F I E D S A V A I L A B L E

Fifty words may not seem like a lot, but when you think about it, you can pack quite a bit of information into that many words. Adding a live link to your website and another to your email address would also be an option. Of course, include your phone.

With room for a photo, too.

Since Facebook no longer allows ads for horses, this might be a good place to advertise horses for sale or promote equine services or products. Add a live link for your website and email. Include your phone number, as well. Put some thought into it and you can say a lot.

With room for a photo, too.

Just remember the deadline for submission is the first of each month. Write your ad and send in your photo and information (rmha.magazine@gmail.com). Then sit back and wait for the phone to ring or the email to arrive. There is only room for three but remember there is room for...

A photo, too.

Classified Ad (max 3 ads, max 50 words) -\$10