

Mid America Horse Show Assn.

Celebrates 70 Years of Horse Show Fun

By Brendan Heintz

On Saturday, February 7, the Mid America Horse Show Assn. held their annual year-end high point awards dinner dance, but this year's event was no ordinary "come and get your trophy and some chicken dinner" event. Mid America was celebrating its 70th birthday and that served as the theme for this year's "historic" event co-chaired by Kristen Pettry and Dale Arnston.

After some 18 to 20 years at the Oak Brook Marriott Hotel, this year's Mid America banquet was moved to the Drury Lane in Oak Brook Terrace, just the other side of the well-known shopping area. The food was much improved over recent years, and we continued to enjoy wonderful musical selections by our longtime disc jockey, Randy Ridderhoff's A Sound Solution.

As for some background on Mid America's history, some longtime members of the Saddlebred show community will recall that Mid America, named as such, has only been around since October 31, 1973, after the Executive Board voted unanimously to amend the by-laws to change the name of the association from its previous moniker "Northern Illinois Horse Show Association" to that of Mid America Horse Show Association. The Northern Illinois Horse Show Association dated back to 1939 where its inception was noted in various breed publications.

In an article penned by Ruth Laurel Hansen, a longtime *Saddle & Bridle* correspondent, in the December 1973 issue of that publication, Hansen states, "the main purpose for changing the name is due to the very restrictive nature of the name 'Northern Illinois.'" The association at that time sponsored point



Ray Krussell served as emcee for the 70th Birthday Party.



Kristen Pettry and Donna Pettry Smith.

shows on the circuit at Janesville (Rotary); Milwaukee; Oconomowoc; Pewaukee; two in Madison; Crown Point, Indiana; Bloomington, Ill.; Champaign; Kankakee; and two in Springfield, Ill., and it was noted that there really weren't that many shows in northern Illinois, so to encourage increased membership and expansion of the association the name was changed so that under the name Mid America the organization would continue to be one of the strongest in the

country in the promotion of Saddle Horses. That goal certainly was achieved, yet, ironically, many of those shows that once were considered "point shows" of Mid America are no longer on the schedule today. Some others have been born and the organization now recognizes more national level competitions across the Midwest and held primarily in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana.



Katherine Meints, Ron Price, Jacques Marais, Diane Nyhammer, James Natoli, Lisa Strickland, Bonnie Lee and Dave Woods.



Rick Schotthofer presents Pat McConnell with his Horse Person of the Year plaque from UPHA Chapter 10.

In addition to Mid America's being a point organization that blankets many other shows across the nation, the association also hosts three annual horse shows: the Spring Show held in Roscoe, Illinois at Ledges Sporting Horse Complex; the Signature Show, now also held there at Ledges; and the fall extravaganza known as Mane Event that is held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, which is considered by most horse professionals and amateurs to be among the finest, if not THE finest, facility available to us today.

Back in 1973, the premier year of Mid America under their new name, their high point dinner was held on November 9 at the St. Andrews Country Club in West Chicago, Ill., with 375 persons enjoying cocktails, dinner and dancing, and as Ruth Hansen (grandmother of our own Mid America exhibitor and area artist Barbara Brannen Southgate) put it in her *Saddle & Bridle* coverage of that event, "and the fortunate ones received their annual award winning trophies." A short business meeting followed that 1973 dinner and preceded the award presentations and the dancing. The 1973 officers were: President, Donald Fergusson (founder of Royal Scot Stables); Vice President Marshall White (also owner of Marshall White Ford dealership); Second Vice President Edwin Goldfein (the Goldfeins had horses with Don Peebles Stables and later with Ben Segalla and Bonnie Byrne); Secretary Treasurer Ruth Stubblefield. Board members re-elected for three years were Marvin Fishman, Ken "Hey Hey" Fezler, and Nancy Colbert. New Board member that year was Dr. Ray Morandi, whom many will

know from his expertise in the area as a much respected veterinarian in the area. "Back in the day" Dr. Morandi had road horses, both on and off the track and he showed some at the ASB horse shows.

Back to the year 2009, the evening's agenda was somewhat similar to that of the 1973 event with cocktails, dinner at the start and then dancing at the end, but co-chairwomen Kristen Pettry and Dale Arnston put a lovely evening together for the some 330 guests who came out on a balmy 50 degree Saturday evening in February, much to our appreciation and astonishment.

Saddle & Bridle rep of 18 years, Brendan Heintz, along with Set in Ink LLC's Liv LaFleur Moyer, had put together the annual "Year Revue" video presentation using photos from the shows that grace the Mid America circuit throughout the preceding year. Ray Krussell again did an eloquent job as the emcee for the annual event and he even donned a birthday hat with candles to support this year's birthday party theme.

Past President Carol Bart spoke on behalf of current President Jim Cooke, who was recovering from a bad case of the winter crud, and Bart asked longtime Mid America Executive Secretary Cheryl Rangel up to the podium where she was presented with flowers and a gift in respect for her 25 years of service in that capacity to Mid America.

Rick Schotthofer presented the UPHA Chapter 10 Horse Person of the Year award to Pat McConnell, trainer at Margo Baird's (also a Mid America board member) MBA Equestrians; the Horse Show of the Year award was presented to Mid America's own Mane Event Show; and the Chapter 10 Hall of Fame recognized, posthumously, the accomplishments of the late Peter Archer and this award was accepted by Pete's gracious mother Florence Merkin and his daughter Megan, both of whom were in attendance.

"A" and "B" circuit high point awards were presented to all recipients and this year again a Douwe Blumberg statuette was the selected trophy.

The popular raffle basket, which was headed up this year by Amanda Wroble, had tickets busily sold by many board members and by Donna Pettry Smith. Sales were reportedly brisk as, once again, many lovely baskets were put together by area stables and contributors.

Just prior to dancing, there was a 20 minute video presentation of historical references celebrating some of the wonderful memories that Mid America/Northern



Margo Baird, Maureen Katoll, Katie Miller and Brendan Heintz.



Rick Schotthofer presents Peter Archer's award as the UPHA Chapter 10 Hall of Fame inductee, posthumously, to his mother Florence Merkin and daughter Megan Archer.

Illinois Horse Show Associations had enjoyed as well as many of the people and horses and ponies that were once a part of this circuit...and some who still are, even though you might have had to look closely to recognize them.

Mid-America 2008 "A" Circuit High Point Awards

Five Gaited Open

Rs: Aim For The Stars, Linda Goodrich

Five Gaited Ladies

Rs: Kenya Catch Me, Linda Goodrich
Rs: Summer Sweet, Ann MacMurray Cox

Five Gaited Amateur

Ch: Callaway's Case Closed, Glenn Werry Jr.
Ch: The Midnight Hero, Diana Schaefer

Five Gaited Junior Exhibitor

Ch: Callaway's Lil Abner, Glenn Werry Jr
Rs: CF Night At The Castle, MBA Equestrians

Five Gaited Junior Horse

Ch: Benelli, Dr Jane Keil

Three Gaited Open

Ch: Gossip Girl, Dr Meg Knowles
Rs: VHF Belle Epoque, Robert Gardiner

Three Gaited Ladies

Ch: Sue She, Marilyn Gaiswinkler
Rs: Up Close & Personal WRF, Kate Baumann

Three Gaited Amateur

Ch: Heir To A Star, Glenn Werry Jr
Rs: Bubblegum, Liz Pinkerton

Three Gaited Junior Exhibitor

Ch: Tantalize Me LLC, Pamela Slater
Rs: Highland Cavalier, BBK Equestrians

Three Gaited Junior Horse

Ch: Simply Stella, Seven Oaks Farm

Fine Harness Open

Ch: Philosopher, Philipp Meyer
Rs: Alicia Silverstone, MBA Equestrians

Fine Harness Amateur

Ch: Cary's Moonraker, MBA Equestrians
Rs: Philosopher, Philipp Meyer

Fine Harness Junior Horse

Ch: Glinda The Good, Janene Steggeman
Rs: MBA Shadow Phax, MBA Equestrians

Park Open

Ch: The Foxy Prince, Robert Griffin
Rs: Aurora's Asset, Albert Kelm
Rs: J.B.'s Hope N'Pray, LaForce & Heneman

Park Amateur

Ch: Nanette Lepore, Leslie Hartigan
Rs: Matching Spirit, BBK Equestrians

Park Pleasure

Ch: Rosemont's Mystre, Rick Wallen
Rs: Sapphire On Ice, Katherine Meints

Park Pleasure Junior Horse

Ch: Demi's Dark Design, Ingrid Klongland.

Saddle Seat Equitation 14-17 Years

Ch: Meaghan MacQueen

Saddle Seat Equitation Walk/Trot 10/Under

Ch: Samantha Schaefer

Rs: Garrett Weiler

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 39/Over

Ch: DLF's Last Investment, Constance MacQueen

Rs: Summerize, Debbie Black

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 18-38 Years

Ch: Irresistible Day, Abigail Reising

Rs: Blue Grass Jazz, Bailey Freeman

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 14-17 Years

Ch: First Class Heir, Glenn Werry Jr

Rs: Fine By Me, Alicia Sacotte

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 13/Under

Ch: Brookhill's King Of Kool, Glenn Werry Jr

Rs: La Guardia, Meridith Munns

Show Pleasure Three Gaited Junior Horse

Ch: Ro & Me's Miss Independent, Amy Weiler

Show Pleasure Five Gaited

Ch: The Evangelist, Elizabeth Schultz

Rs: Lexmark, Scott & Carol Matton

Show Pleasure Driving

Ch: Royal Crest's Stone Quest, A. Henry & Cornelia Hempe

Rs: Titleist Symbol, Rachel Machamer

Show Pleasure/Country Pleasure O/T/R

Rs: The Peace Giver, Barbara Southgate

Country Pleasure Three Gaited 39/Over

Ch: My Point Of View, Susan Narko

Rs: Pierre Cardin, Beth Krueger

Country Pleasure Three Gaited 18-38 Years

Ch: Callaway's Don't Panic, Scott & Carol Matton

Rs: Worthy One's Party Dude, Megan Mahoney

Country Pleasure Three Gaited 14-17 Years

Ch: Matisse, Narin Avci

Country Pleasure Five Gaited

Ch: A Champagne Event, Shelagh Roell

Rs: Alpha Priority, Barb Fahey

Country Pleasure Driving

Ch: Callaway's Pretty Penny, Brown-Anderson Farm

Rs: Hard Day's Night TS, Tillman Stables

Country Pleasure Western

Ch: Harlem's Mojo, Toni Nastali

Rs: I Told You, Linda Wallen

Country Pleasure Hunter

Ch: Callaway's Scoop The News, Kristen Pettry

Rs: AF Colour Creation, Megan Mahoney

Saddle Seat/Pleasure Equitation 18/Over

Ch: Deann Dinelli

Pleasure Equitation 14-17 Years

Ch: Mallory Hartigan

Rs: Gretchen Bentz

Pleasure Equitation 13/Under

Ch: Killian Sukowaty

Ch: Margaux Walker

Hackney Harness Pony Open

Ch: Art-O-Matic, Priscilla Gise Trust

Hackney Pony Amateur

Ch: Heartland Alluring, Deborah Jahn

Hackney Pony Pleasure Driving

Ch: Wonmore Diamond Legacy, Marylou Wilschke

Hackney Road Pony Open

Ch: Night Heir, Mike Schallock

Rs: Thunder & Lightning, Denise Steinhauer

Hackney Road Pony Amateur

Ch: Seamair's Strutter, Mike Schallock

Rs: Regal's Lady Bess LF, Teri/Ted Klint

Mid-America 2008 "B" Circuit High Point Awards

Park Pleasure Open

Ch: Keep Me, Neva LaFleur-VanEss

Rs: Heiron Spelling, Maureen Mietelski

Show Pleasure Three Gaited Junior Horse

Ch: Supreme's Senorita, Marilyn Pacella

Rs: Worthy's Son-In-Law, Susan Bekenstein

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 18/Over

Ch: Yale Man, Kathy Osmus

Rs: Epiconyare, Jurkynas Family

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 14-17 Years

Ch: Callaway's Calla Lily, Eric Mogren

Rs: Opti-Mystic, Riley Sockett

Show Pleasure Three Gaited 13/Under

Ch: Apache Fire Dancer, Ellen Oswald

Rs: Bright Wind, Neva LaFleur-VanEss

Show Pleasure Driving

Ch: A Champagne Toast, Nancy Turner

Rs: Supreme Attachment, Helene Zasadny

Show Pleasure Five Gaited

Ch: Kalarama's Pretty Woman, Nina Lieponis

Rs: The Evangelist, Liz Schultz

Show/Country Pleasure Three Gaited O/T/R

Ch: Magic's Royal Gift, April Cuthbertson

Rs: Worth Watching, Barbara Pearson

Show/Country Pleasure Western

Ch: I Told You, Linda Wallen

Rs: Starheart Americana, Diane Smrz

Country Pleasure Three Gaited 18/Over

Ch: Stand Up & Shout, Annie Roberts

Rs: Yo Adrian, Nancy Marteau

Country Pleasure Three Gaited 17/Under

Ch: Promise Of Blue, Linda Wallen

Rs: Amberwood's Bobby McGee, Meridith Munns

Country Pleasure Driving

Ch: Captain Ridgefield, Carleton Huntoon

Rs: High Point's Billy Sunday, Joyce Tasch Lennon

Country Pleasure Five Gaited

Ch: April Hill's Special Attraction, Janet Pierce

Ch: My Lady Valkyrie, Gregg/Marie Nielsen

Pleasure Equitation 18/Over

Ch: Rebecca Martin

Rs: Ana Marcyan

Pleasure Equitation 14-17 Years

Ch: Riley Sockett

Rs: Gretchen Bentz

Pleasure Equitation 13/Under

Rs: Monica Caporelli

Pleasure Equitation Walk/Trot 10/Under

Ch: Samantha Schaefer

Rs: Garrett Weiler

Showmanship At Halter

Ch: Corie Jean Allen

Halter/Model

Ch: A Supreme Attachment, Helene Zasadny

Rs: A Champagne Toast, Nancy Turner

ASHA 2008 Junior Judging High Point Awards 13 and Under

Ch: Alex Fisher

14-17

Ch: Claire Mogren

Mid-America 2008 "A" & "B" Circuit High Point Awards

Academy Equitation 18/Over

Ch: Susan Leonard

Academy Pleasure/Horsemanship 18/Over

Ch: Susan Leonard

Academy Equitation 14 - 17

Ch: Emily Mayer

Academy Pleasure/Horsemanship 14-17

Ch: Emily Mayer

Academy Equitation 13/Under

Ch: Savannah Nickey

Rs: Gina Vilar

Academy Pleasure/Horsemanship 13/Under

Ch: Savannah Nickey

Rs: Gina Vilar

Academy Equitation Walk/Trot 11 17

Ch: Cole Allen

Rs: Rachel Starke

Academy Pleasure/Horsemanship Walk/Trot 11-17

Ch: Cole Allen

Rs: Rachel Starke

Academy Equitation Walk/Trot 10/Under

Ch: Brynn Lunaas

Rs: Sydney Budzinski

Academy Pleasure/Horsemanship Walk/Trot 10/Under

Ch: Brynn Lunaas

Rs: Sydney Budzinski