

Minnesota Pony of the Americas Club Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4

Using Pony for Youth

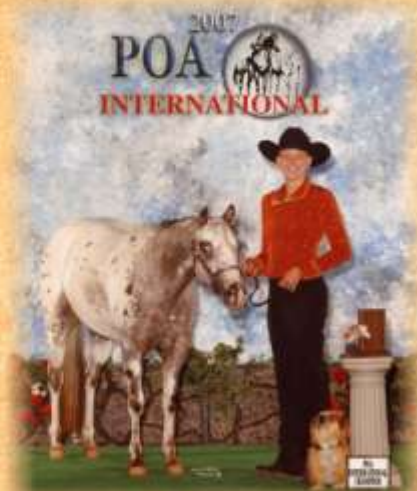
Holiday 2007



Happy Holidays
from
Hestedalen



**See
you in
2008!**



Cover Story

Greetings from Hestedalen

The kids and ponies of West Salem's Hestedalen Farm had a fun-filled, action-packed summer of POA shows. Christina and her pony, J-N Sierra Gold, really became a team this year. They both learned to jump at Friendship Farms last winter and we found out this is what Sierra had been missing. She loves to jump and it shows in her attitude! Erik had a splendid year capped by his wins with Blaze in St. Louis of the McClaren and Leonard Lewis Futurities. We are grateful to Joan and Bonnie for their support of the Lewis event. We enjoyed their company with Andrea on our stable row at Internationals. Bjorn and his buddy of seven years, Santee Scooter Bug, enjoyed the shows, winning many equitation classes, meeting new friends like Sam McCarty, and horsin' around with old friends, Matt, Brent and Tanner. Unfortunately, his asthma led him to the ER twice this summer and he has decided not to show in 2008. Scooter will be back though with a new rider in 8 and under. Misti is in training now with Tracy and Christina plans to ride her next summer as her junior pony. We are looking forward to the Midwest Regionals being in Winona next June, close to home. We are experiencing horseshow withdrawal right now! Congratulations to Becky and Misti on their success in Des Moines in October.

Wishing you and your ponies health & happiness in the New Year.

Eva Dahl

Dates to Remember in 2008

May 25-25: MNPOAC Memorial Weekend Show (Ponyrama/Ponyrama) Hinckley, MN

June 19-22: Midwest Promo & Regional Show, Winona, MN

July 5-6: Independence Weekend Show (Ponyrama/B&P), Windom, MN

August 16-17: Wisconsin Futurity Show (pointed MN), West Salem, WI

September 6-7: Minnesota Futurity Show (Ponyrama/B&P), West Salem, WI

Don't forget to check out www.minnesotapoac.org

For Sale: CR Tough Star



Star is a 10-year old mare out of POA Hall of Fame sire Kid O Tough. Star came to our family as a 2-year old and has been shown by our girls ever since. She has been a great “teacher” for all of our girls as she has taught them to ride competitively and with confidence. Star is safe and suitable for any age of rider and has been competitive in all age categories; from lead line to 13-18.

Check out Star’s videos at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXjmMsA8T5M> - CR Tough Star 1
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCLyI4-Ldk0> - CR Tough Star 2; and
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4NHNuUgmIQ> -CR Tough Star 3. Or go to www.youtube.com and type in CR Tough Star in the search box.

For Further information contact: Jack Geller at 507-385-0837 or geller@hickorytech.net



Cowboy Up! We have all seen these stickers on the back windows of pick-up trucks all over the south, but what does it really mean? This happened to my family a year or so ago, but I haven't forgotten it and I feel it's important to share it. Especially now with all the hype and trouble that professional athletes are causing. My son Dustin has Leggs-Calves-Perthes Disease and he wore leg braces for 18 months. Dustin rarely complained or even asked why he was afflicted with this disease. He wore those braces with pride. One evening my family and a friend were looking forward to a night at the local county fair and rodeo. On this rare occasion Dustin was complaining that the back of his knee was hurting. We removed the braces to find that a terrible blister the size of a baseball had developed and popped. Dustin had to attend the fair and rodeo in his wheelchair. In tradition of all rodeos a calf chase was held that night. That's where a kid can win a prize for catching a calf and remove the ribbon from its tail. Dustin wanted to participate just like every kid did. My husband rolled him out to the center of the arena floor with

all the other kids and lined him up. They released the calf and the chase was on. My husband struggled in the thick dirt and occasional cow patty to keep up with it and others even tried to corner the calf so Dustin would have a chance. Of course, another kid caught the calf and won the prize. As they were leaving the arena floor one of the cowboys stopped my husband and asked him to bring Dustin to a far gate after the rodeo.

That night the bulls got the best of the cowboys. Not a one of them caught that infamous 8 second ride. Each of them leaving the arena floor with their heads hanging low and bones hurting. At the conclusion as the rest of the fans made their way to the exits we battled our way through the crowd to the gate. Waiting there for Dustin was the cowboy. He took Dustin's wheelchair by the handles and pushed him to where the bulls were kept. He spent a few moments pointing out the beasts that had gotten the best of him and his friends. I stood back and watched Dustin, eyes wide and face lit up in excitement. I then noticed a crowd was forming around him. A dozen beaten, bleeding and tired cowboys had stopped to talk to him. As they were talking one of them removed the number from his back and they all began to sign it. "God Bless you Dusty", "You're the best, Dustin!" only to quote a few. Each cowboy waiting their turn to sign the number, shake his hand and say a few words. I stood there with tears swelling up in my eyes watching these cowboys take the time for my son. After they all said their goodbyes and patted him on the head, Dustin turned to me and exclaimed, "Mamma, those were real cowboys!" I quietly nodded yes, afraid to speak for the fear I couldn't hold the tears back any longer.

The true meaning of those words come more evident everyday. "Those were real cowboys!" The rodeo is the only professional sport where the participants have to pay to play. I have stood in line for autographs from pro athletes only to have my artifact signed and pushed aside so the next person could come through. Athletes that are paid millions to play. Those young men proved that night that it takes more than just the talent to ride a bull for eight seconds to become a real cowboy. I think of those men often in my prayers and in everyday life. I don't know their names, they probably don't remember Dustin, but he remembers them all, and always will. It takes only a moment to make a difference in someone's life. Maybe, we all need to take the time to **Cowboy Up!**

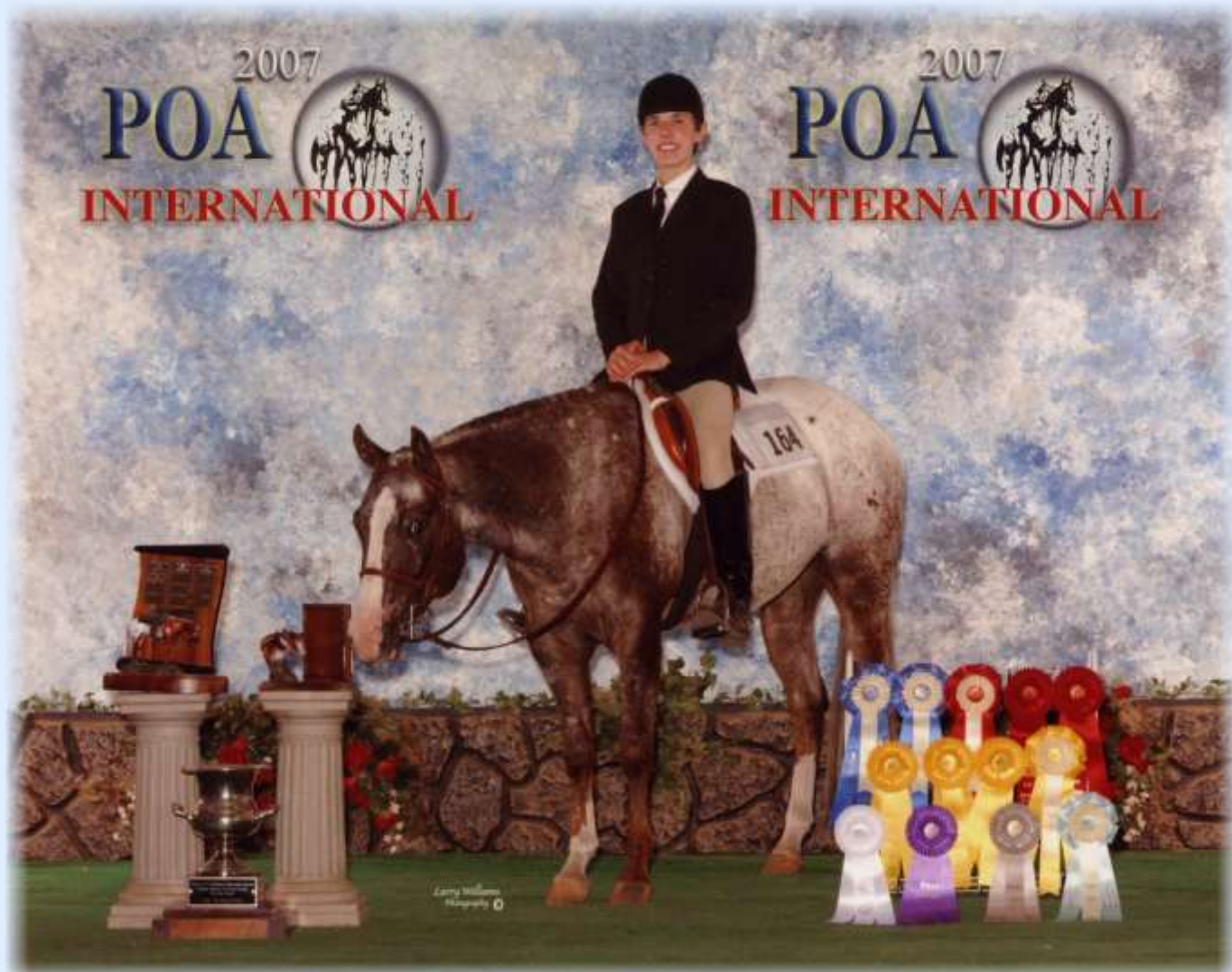
Don't' forget to check out www.minnesotapoac.org

For Sale: Peppy's Tough Reward, 3-year old gelding, 55" with big white blanket, spots and white stripe in the face. This gelding is broke to ride and gentle. A 15-yr. old girl showed him this in 4-H this summer. Contact Carl Aus, 320-564-3626 or poap@mvtvwireless.com.

Congratulations to our 2008 Officers

**President: Julius Reed - Vice President Bonnie Lewis
Secretary Sheryl Quigley - Treasurer Amy Searle.**

Congratulations, Erik and Blaze, on your Spectacular 2007 Show Season!



2007 Highlights

- Champion McClaren Futurity
- Champion Leonard Lewis Futurity
- Champion International Western Pleasure Boys 13-18
- Champion International Team Tournament
- Reserve Champion Int. Futurity Western Pleasure 3,4,5 Yrs 18 & under
- 3rd Place Int. Futurity Hunter Under Saddle 3,4,5 Yrs 18 & under
- 3rd Place International High Point Pony/Rider 13-18 Boys
- Champion Midwest Regional Western Pleasure 13-18 Boys
- Champion Midwest Regional Bareback Equitation 13-18 Boys
- Champion Midwest Regional Huntseat Equitation 13-18 Boys
- Champion Midwest Regional Hunter under Saddle 13-18 Boys
- Reserve Champion Midwest Regional Junior English Pleasure
- Reserve Champion Midwest Regional Stockseat Equitation 13-18 Boys
- Reserve Champion Midwest Regional Equitation High Point 13-18 Boys

Erik Blomquist & Ruff N Tuff Impulse

Hestedalen

West Salem WI

2007 Minnesota Year End Awards Banquet

Including the Leonard Lewis Memorial Awards

**Saturday February 9, 2008
Dinner & Banquet 6:00 pm**

Auction for Newsletter Covers and also for 2008 Midwest Regional covers!

The Owatonna Holiday Inn is home to the Serengeti Indoor Water Park! A Block of sleeping rooms is being held for the Minnesota members wishing to stay overnight. Don't forget to give them the MN POA code that is MPC. The room rates are \$125.00 this includes 5 passes to the water park.

The banquet cost:

6& Under	Free
7-10	\$8.95
Adults	\$17.95

Banquet Reservations: Please contact Bonnie Schaub by February 2nd 763-295-8842 or Email schaubfamily@tds.net

Room Reservations: Call the Holiday Inn by January 10th 507-446-8900 Ask for MPC rate of \$125.00



Wishing Everyone the Best for 2008



from our barn to yours

Happy Holidays



Happy Holidays from the Olson and Hassebroek Families

MN POA CLUB
129 Ironwood Court
Mankato, MN 56001