

HORSE WORLD

Paso Fino

Vol. 3 of 4, 2024

The Official Publication of the Paso Fino Horse Association



What's Inside

plus

TRAINERS PAST TO PRESENT
TOP TEN PASOS FOR PLEASURE
MEMBERSHIP TIPS & TRICKS

TRAIL HORSE TESTS
YOUTH OF THE YEAR
and THE NEXT GENERATION

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AUGUST 20-OCTOBER 3, 2024

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Eligible to Vote	✓		Ticket to Ride Program	✓	✓
Register Horses	✓		Competitive Trail Program	✓	✓
Stallion Breeding Reports	✓		Endurance Trail Program	✓	✓
PFHA Shows	✓		Pleasure Long Distance Trail Program	✓	✓
Subscription to PFHW	✓		Sport Horse Program	✓	✓
Able to Hold Office	✓		Trail Horse Testing Program	✓	✓
Discounts on Registration	✓		American Endurance Ride Breed Award	✓	✓
Transfer Fees	✓	✓	North American Trail Ride Breed Award	✓	✓
Duplicate Certificate	✓		DNA Kits	✓	✓
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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

SHOW	REGION	DATE	LOCATION
Moon Walker Memorial	NWHA Region 6	October 25-26, 2024	Navaro County Expo, Corsicana, TX
Oktoberfest Ocala	Ocala Region	October 26, 2024	Florida Horse Park, Ocala, FL
Piedmont Fall Fiesta	Piedmont Region	November 2-3, 2024	South Carolina Equine Park, Camden, SC
Hispanic Heritage Show	Florida Region	November 22-24, 2024	Tropical Park Equestrian Center, Miami, FL
Texas Christmas Festival	Southwestern Region	November 23-24, 2024	Great Southwest Equestrian Center, Katy, TX
Spectrum International	Florida Region	March 27-30, 2025	Tropical Park, Miami, FL



Trainer of the Year recipients

1988 Julio Cesar Figueroa	2006 Carlos Figueroa
1989 Robin Ratliff	2007 Carlos Tobon
1990 Pat Figueroa	2008 Charlie Minter
1991 David Castro	2009 Ricky Mendoza
1992 Alvaro Iriarte	2010 Betsy McHugh
1993 Rick Meyer	2011 Nelson Leonel Del Valle
1994 Jorge Suarez	2012 Alonso Betancur
1995 Raven Briggs	2013 Cary Hardimon
1996 Alberto Sierra	2014 Rufino Figueroa
1997 Jaime Suarez	2015 Reuban Ibarra
1998 Javier Suarez	2016 Elicer "Perla" Guzman
1999 Aledita Ortiz	2017 Beth Uelsmann Figueroa
2000 Milda Minter	2018 Josi Nieves
2001 Edgar Ortiz	2019 Johnny Lanier
2002 Larry Whitesell	
2003 Shaw Laney	
2004 Dr. Kelley Cox	
2005 Michael Bruce	

The rest is history. He has now been working for United Paso Fino for eleven years. This year at the Confepaso Youth Mundial held in Puerto Rico, he helped and worked with seven youth riders representing Colombia, Canada, and the United States. He continues to have the same dedication, professionalism, and love towards horses as he did when Alei and Edgar met him in 2013.

Octavio is a loving father to his six-year-old son, Francisco, his three-year-old daughter, Valeria, and a loving husband to his wife, Monica. ■



The Professional Paso Fino Trainers Association took a sabbatical from 2020 to 2023, but it is back and better than ever thanks to new president Christy Meyer and secretary/treasurer Christina Minter Straus!

For the 2024 Grand National Championship Show, PPFTA will be awarding High Point Trainers for all 4 major divisions including: Pleasure, Performance, Fino, & Specialty along with the prestigious TRAINER OF THE YEAR Award. These trainers were nominated and voted on by their peers within the PPFTA.

The 2024 Trainer of the Year Nominees are Octavio Ramirez, Jose Ochoa, and Bill Hurd.



TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Octavio Ramirez

Octavio was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. At the young age of ten years old, he began trail riding and working cows with his father. He loved feeding, bathing, riding, and taking care of the horses and was always ready to give a helping hand at any farm he visited. At approximately twelve years old, he met Luis Manuel Conde who trained at Hacienda Nina Bonita in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico and began working for him after school. He could not wait until school was over every day so he could work and learn more. His most exciting days were at horse shows where there was more than one horse eligible to compete in the championship and he would be allowed to show one of them.

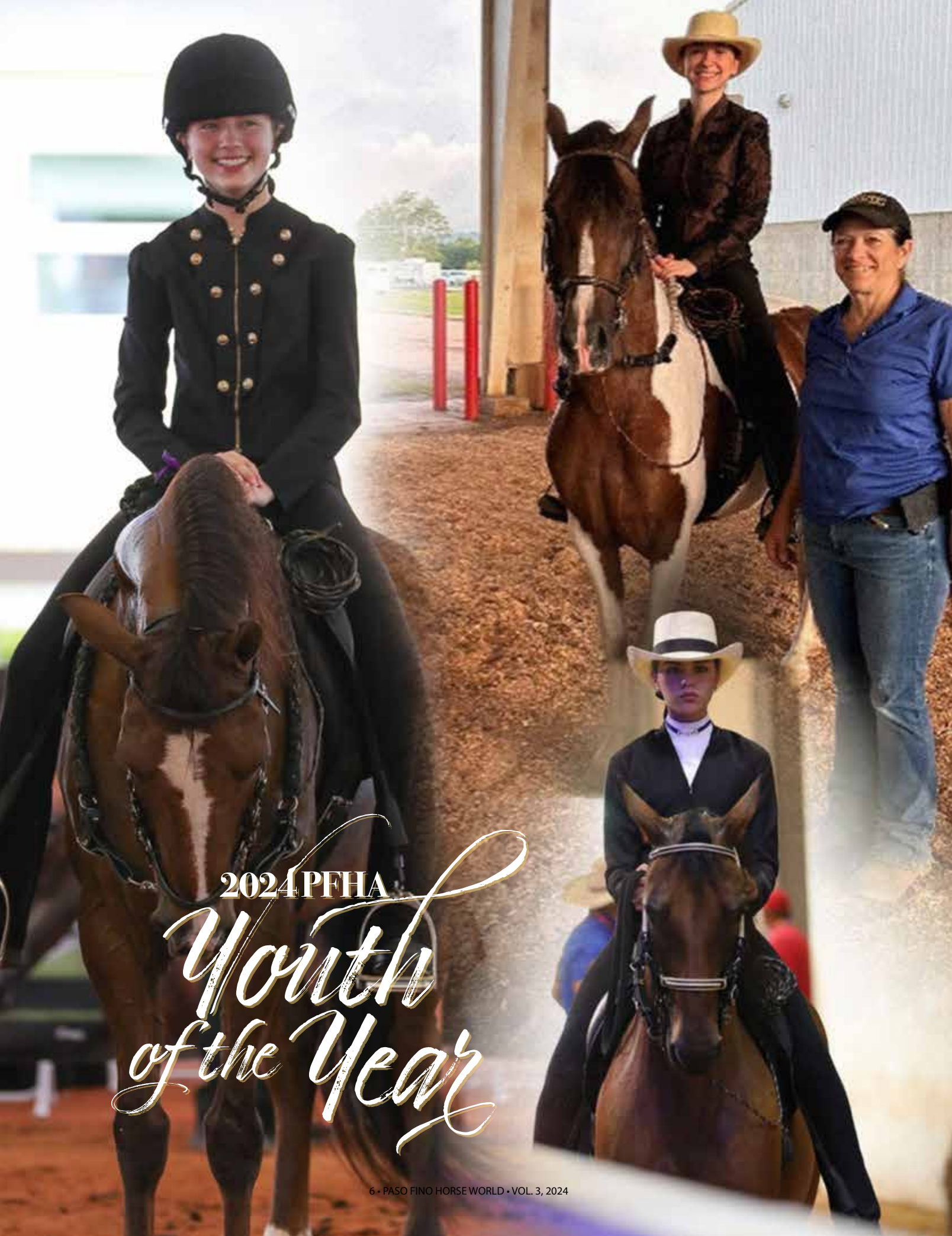
He then moved on to Hacienda Don Carmelo in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, where he eventually became head trainer and worked for a total of six years for Melba Figueroa. During his time there, he had the opportunity to attend the Real Escuela

Andalusa del Arte Equestre in Jerez de La Frontera, Spain, where he learned dressage. Later, Melba also sent him to Texcoco, Mexico, where he learned the art of Mexican Horsemanship.

In 2011, he moved to the United States where he trained with Jose Ochoa of Ochoa Ranch in Alachua, Florida, for approximately two years.

At the 2013 World Cup that was held in Miami, Florida, Alei and Edgar of United Paso Fino took notice of Octavio riding a four-year-old Filly named Zanahoria which won the title of Third World Cup Champion. They admired his professionalism, dedication, and love towards the horses he was working.

Shortly after, United heard through Carlitos Figueroa of La Victoria Paso Fino that Octavio was interested in moving to Ocala and called and hired him immediately.



2024 PFHA
*Youth
of the Year*

YOUTH OF THE YEAR - 10-12

Matilda Gonzalez

Matilda Gonzalez is one of PFHA's most active young riders. She is an admirable competitor, showing in several different categories with her horses in various shows across regions. She is dedicated to the well-being of her horses and is determined to continue to improve as a rider and horseman.

This year Matilda was chosen as a Team USA representative at the XIV Mundial de Jinetes y Amazonas 2024. She competed and won a Silver Medal in the Amazonas 9-11 category with her mare, Jerusalén de Carrion. In and out of the arena, Matilda is a source of constant support to her fellow riders. She will always look to the person beside her in the lineup and offer them her hand, give them a high-five or a warm embrace during results announcements.

She likes to be the first person to arrive to a show – even on days when she is not competing – cheers on her friends and trainer from the side lines, and stays until the last category has been announced.

At her young age, she is the epitome of a dedicated horseman. Her resilience, passion, and dedication to her sport are awe-inspiring. From the first time she got on a horse, Matilda has shown respect, adoration, and a deep connection with horses. When not competing, Matilda enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She enjoys concerts, traveling, and shopping. ■



YOUTH OF THE YEAR - 13-15

Coral Jireh Gonzalez

Coral Jireh Gonzalez was born in 2009 in Orlando, Florida. At an early age, she demonstrated leadership and dedication both at school and activities outside of school.

At the age of seven, she became part of APRVFL (Asociación de Puertorriqueños Viviendo en Florida) as Youth Queen of the Association (Reina Infantil), participating in community activities such as health fairs, collecting and delivering gifts for low-income children during the Christmas season, doing fundraising for St. Jude Children's Hospital, and performing in parades and festivals throughout the year. As a teen, she remains involved with the Association.



Since she was little, she had a special attraction to horses. In 5th grade, Coral's passion for the Paso Fino began fully. During the Spectrum 2020 show in Miami, she declared that one day she would be in that arena competing.

That year, she received a horse for her birthday – not to compete, but to demonstrate that she really wanted to ride and take care of the horse. Her passion and love for that mare was so great that there was no doubt about her interest.

Months later, she had her first opportunity to compete. At Last Chance in Ocala, Coral Jireh's first performance, she won the class and the championship, giving her the opportunity to go to Nationals in Georgia.

In 2020-2021 Coral continued to excel in her school's Honor Group and was selected as the Treasurer of the Student Council, participating in the organization of various activities at school. She was also selected to be part of the National Junior Honor Society. She was recognized at school for her excellence in academics and was awarded the Servant Heart Award. This award is given to students that unselfishly place the needs of others before themselves and have an authentic heart to serve others as a living testimony to Philippians 2:3-5. These recognitions highlight Coral at school and fill her family with pride.

In 8th grade (2021-2022), Coral was selected President of Student Council and part of the district championship volleyball team. This was also year of great experiences and learning as Coral was selected to be part of Team USA 2022 to compete in Cali, Colombia at the World Equestrian Championships. She finished in the top seven of a group of 43 competitors.

At National Shows she earned the following awards and recognitions: Grand National Champion Fino Youth, High Point Fino Youth, and High Point International Equitation.

Coral is currently the President of NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) and was nominated for the 2024 Outstanding Achievement Award of the NJHS, awarded the Presidential Outstanding Academic Excellence Award and is on the USEF Youth Advisors Council (United States Equestrian Federation Youth Advisory Group).

She continues her performances and community service as National Queen of the APVFL, collaborates as a ribbon girl in PFHA shows, and continues to participate in different shows in and out of the country as part of Team USA 2024. ■

YOUTH OF THE YEAR - 16-17

Avery Isabella Jones

Avery Isabella Jones is a 17-year-old youth rider from Mooresville, North Carolina, and has been a member of the PFHA and the Piedmont Region since 2018. As with most girls, her love of horses began at an early age and she started riding when she was seven years old. She began taking lessons in western and English riding and eventually found her way to Paso Finos when she was ten years old. Avery will graduate a semester early this year from Lake Norman High School and will continue her studies by attending a local college for nursing.

She competed in her first local shows in 2018 leading her to show in her first PFHA Nationals the same year.

Avery has always exhibited a can-do attitude and a true love of being an equestrian. She's been known to always congratulate all other riders in her classes and strives to always leave the ring with a smile on her face – regardless of the outcome. At regional shows, she's been seen helping newer competitors get their horses prepared and tacked and helped them with all of the ins and outs of showing. Several coaches and trainers have said that she takes instruction easily and to heart. She has also signed up for the PFHA Youth Mentor Program.

Avery has volunteered at several national shows and many regional shows, handing out awards, helping with show logistics, and working gates. Outside of the arena and barn, she keeps busy volunteering for a local adult daycare program – working with seniors and those with cognitive disabilities. One RN in the program said Avery "Has been one of the best youth volunteers we've had. Her willingness to do anything, and her connection with those with dementia, is unheard of in kids her age." She completed over 100 volunteer hours during one summer alone and was named to their Shepherd Society for volunteers who go above and beyond their calling. ■



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THE BUDDY PROGRAM

BY MEGAN JOHNSON

This year, the Youth Committee wanted to connect youth across different Regions to not only get to know their competitors outside the ring, but to also offer some encouragement and help. From this "Buddy Program," a duo came forth that quickly turned into an amazing friendship.

Meet Avery Jones of the Piedmont Region and Cayden Reddick of the Georgia Region. Avery – a junior Youth that has shown across different divisions, has both National and Grand National titles, and recently just won the 2024 Youth of the Year 16-17 category – wanted to give back to the younger generation coming up by offering some guidance for those scary situations that can present themselves while showing. Cayden Reddick – a sub junior Youth that just started showing this year – wanted to connect with some of her competitors and have a friend she could look for at shows.

Their story starts at the Asheville Alive show, where Cayden found out she'd have to switch horses halfway through the season and was nervous about being in the ring with him. Seeing this hesitation, Avery stepped up immediately and started helping the young rider get through her nerves, walking around with her in the warm-up and offering encouragement. Fast forward to the Summer Spectacular show held in Statesboro, Georgia: this pair was again found walking the warm-up arena on their horses, sharing stories of their classes that day, and Avery offering Cayden more words of encouragement. From the Youth Buddy Program, Avery and Cayden have fostered a friendship that may not have happened otherwise.

The Youth Committee asked both Avery and Cayden how the Buddy Program has helped them grow as riders by having someone outside the Region to connect with.

Cayden responded, "The Buddy Program has helped me a lot, especially just starting out showing on my own. It's nice knowing that I have someone else out there for me. Avery is the sweetest and so supportive. It has really helped me grow in my riding and gain so much more confidence. The Buddies are so nice and helpful to other riders, too, and one more reason why I love our Paso Fino Community."

"When I joined the Buddy Program", Avery said, "I was uncertain about what to anticipate. I was anxious that the Buddy I'd be matched with wouldn't be the right fit, but I'm extremely thankful for being paired with Cayden; we connected right away. I've been assisting her in boosting her confidence



Avery Jones, left, and Cayden Reddick, right, participated in the Buddy Program.

both inside and outside the arena. We communicate almost every day. Moreover, by helping Cayden, I've gained a deeper understanding of myself: I've realized that sometimes I need to heed my own advice."

The Youth Committee congratulates these two on helping the Buddy Program get started and providing an amazing example on what this program can accomplish. They hope to see the Buddy Program continue to grow and share additional success stories in the future. ■

2024 PFHA

TOP TEN

Pasos for pleasure riders

WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE WITH YOU STORIES FROM OUR 2024 TOP TEN PASOS FOR PLEASURE RIDERS. COMBINED, THEY LOGGED OVER 2,600 HOURS IN THE SADDLE LAST YEAR – A REMARKABLE FEAT! WE HOPE THEIR STORIES INSPIRE YOU TO GET OUT AND RIDE YOUR PASOS! FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PASOS FOR PLEASURE PROGRAM, VISIT THE PFHA WEBSITE.

PHOTO ELIZABETH BUYRN

Pasos for Pleasure GOT FLIES?

BRIAVEL CIANELLI: 544.75 HOURS

Every trail rider must deal with flies. I've learned a lot over the years about flies on trail rides.

Years ago, I used to trail my horse a couple of times a year to camp out with a friend in Pennsylvania. On one of those trips, I stopped for a day ride with another friend in Gettysburg. She suggested we spend the day riding up a mountain near her house. When we headed out, the deer flies, sometimes called yellow flies, were horrendous, like something from a horror movie. There must have been close to 30 of them circling and biting me and my horse. It wasn't much of a fun ride . . . but my friend told me not to worry, that on the way down from the mountain, there would be very few flies.

I remember thinking, "That can't be so," as I had never experienced that phenomenon. But she was correct. On the way back, there were only a few pesky flies, and the ride home was delightful. She told me that for some reason, if you travel the same route, both going and coming back, you will encounter very few flies on the way home.

So, I tried that out when I got back home, and sure enough, she was totally correct. From then on, when the flies were the worst, I made sure my rides consisted of going somewhere and then heading back on the same trail. What a relief!

But I discovered that other riders did not believe me when I suggested we do a straight out and back ride. "That's boring. We don't want to do that. And besides, you're wrong. I've never found that to be true," were the comments I got when I suggested how to limit the flies on rides. People told me it just wasn't the case. But I knew it was . . . because, by that time, I had been doing it for over 20 years.

One time on Horse Forum, people were complaining about how bad the flies were on their rides, so I shared my experience. Just

ride up and back somewhere, and the way home would have far fewer flies and be much pleasanter.

"Nah, no," the folks wrote back. "Not so. You are wrong. Doesn't work."

Well, I knew for a fact that it did, because I'd been enjoying rides without many flies for about 30 years by that time. So, I decided to prove it.

At first, I thought I'd count the number of flies around my horse every five minutes. That did not work well because I really couldn't see how many flies were on my horse. They might be



biting my horse on the flank, the chest, or the face, but were not visible to me. So, instead I revised my scientific experiment by counting headshakes and belly kicks. I'd let the horse tell me how much it was bothered by flies.

I counted headshakes and belly kicks for two months—June and July—both heading out and returning, about 60 rides. Also, for a scientific control, I alternated riding one day out and back, and the next day in a big circle.

About 97% of the time, I had far fewer flies riding out and back. About half the time, I had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



GOT FLIES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

even more flies coming back from a circular ride, but only about two rides out of 60 rides, did I have more flies coming home, and those two times, I had maybe only two more headshakes and belly kicks coming home.

Most of the time, I had 45% to 75% fewer flies on the way home. I had proven my point.

Then I started playing around with my discovery. At times, I ride in people's planted pines. I wanted to see how far my "fewer flies" would hold true. I found I could ride between three and six rows away from my original route through the pines and still have way fewer flies on the way back, depending on the day and the weather.

My next discovery was remarkable. When the flies are almost intolerable, I discovered that I could ride a quarter mile circle over and over through the woods and with each pass on the circle, I would have fewer flies. By the fifth circle, I was enjoying the ride with zero flies. So far, I have not tried a bigger circle, because a quarter mile through the Florida scrub is fun, and having zero flies is VERY fun. Sometimes I ride seven or nine times around my circle. I imagine that some people might be bored riding just a quarter mile circle over and over, but hey! I'm riding Paso Finos, and they are NEVER boring.

Of course, I still must deal with the ride out, and years ago, I saw people with fly swishes that they had bought. That seemed like a fine idea, but instead of buying them, I make them. Pasos have luxurious tails, so I always have plenty of hair to judiciously

cut. I've made fly swishes from all kinds of materials. My original swishes were made from dowel rods that I purchased at the hardware store. Then I would shove the end of the dowel deep into the fistful of tail hair with gobs and gobs of white glue. Then another layer of glue, and wrap feedbag string around the end, encircling the hair. Let it dry for 24 hours, then use duct tape on a piece of string or ribbon for a handle.

Fly swishes tend to get lost or broken. Horses step on them, people drop them or leave them places, and at times, I have broken them over a naughty horse's rump. So, I've experimented with all kinds of rods for fly swishes. Broken arrows, sturdy sticks, rattan, pieces of fishing poles, Venetian blind turners, plastic sleeves strengthened with wire, broken whips, and plastic rods have all been made into fly swishes over the years.

The next question is why are there fewer flies coming back on the same route? Nobody seems to know. People have theorized that once they come off the leaves they were resting on, they move on. Other people believe you kill them, or they are satiated from your horses' blood. I honestly don't know why there are fewer flies, but I know for certain that there are.

If you enjoy riding your Paso Finos on the trails in the warmer months, I suggest either riding out and back or riding in the same circle over and over through the woods.

And Happy Trails! ■

Pasos for Pleasure RIDING THE GREENWAY

CATHY BARNES: 241.75 HOURS

I am so happy to have qualified in the Top Ten Pasos for Pleasure again this year!

I purchased Fiestas Majestuoso Macho (Jester) about a year ago. I was lucky enough to see David Palachio's ad for him at Happy Valley Horse Rescue. He sees a lot of Paso Fino horses, and David does a good job restarting these horses and working through their problems. Jester had been sold once but the deal fell through. I planned to see and ride him the next day. Jester was very calm and settled.

I was sitting on him while I called my vet to schedule a PPE.

The past year I spent a lot of time with my trainer, Jaime Franco. We rode the trails three days a week, often hauling to different trail heads so he could experience different obstacles. Jester has become a great trail horse! I am comfortable riding him alone or in a group. I'm so glad I took the chance with this beautiful gelding.

Happy Trails! ■



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Pasos for Pleasure GRATEFUL

RYAN RICHARDS: 240.5 HOURS

As I counted the hours I had ridden this last year, the words of Winston Churchill came to mind, "No hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle." While I have given a lot of time to horses, I have received so much back in exchange. As I sat and tried to think of what to write, I reflected on my riding experiences this last year. My mind kept circling back to gratitude. I am grateful for my horses, for my father, James Richards, who introduced me to them and has made it possible for me to have them today. I am grateful to be able to ride so regularly and for the happiness that brings. I am grateful to have met so many wonderful people through horses. I am more grateful than I have words to express for the people who have helped me on my horsemanship journey.

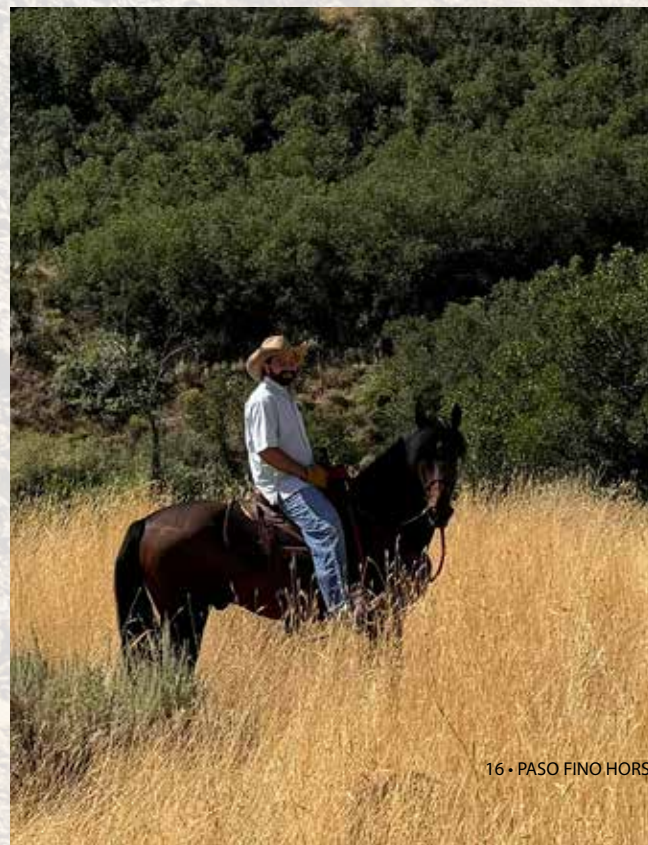
A highlight of the last year was having the opportunity to take one of my mares, Canela Salago, and travel across the country. As part of the trip, I was staying with a family member in Tennessee. By happenstance I arranged a place for Canela to stay, only to learn that it was a Paso Fino barn, Shady Creek Ranch. Norman and Debbie Timbs were such kind and gracious hosts. Riding around the cotton fields and thick woods of Tennessee was a fun change of pace and scenery from the Rocky Mountains that Canela and I are used to. From Tennessee we traveled to Mississippi, where we spent time with the



Gascon family. Again, one could not ask for kinder or more hospitable hosts. I would be remiss to not express my gratitude to them for the incredible and transformative opportunity. Canela and I both learned so much. It was a catalyst for so much growth and progress in each of us.

Where I live, Paso Finos are relatively sparse. While I enjoy being able to expose people to the breed, shatter their misconceptions, and show off what so many of us love about the breed, that trip was such a wonderful experience to be around knowledgeable Paso Fino people and others who have a passion for Paso Finos. I must thank by name two people who have helped me so much on my horsemanship journey and without whom my literal cross-country journey would not have been possible, my two friends and fellow gaited horse enthusiasts Ryan Price and Ryan Kartchner. One could not ask for better friends or riding companions.

As I look toward the future with my horses (including getting ready to welcome a new Salago Stables foal next spring and start two colts under saddle that I've raised from foals), I'm grateful for the time spent in the saddle this last year, for the friends new and old it was spent with, the countless beautiful moments in nature, and for my family's riding horses: Toro, Tico, Corcelita, Canela, and Sangre. ■



2024 Top Ten PASOS FOR PLEASURE

BRIAVAE CIANELLI	544.75 HRS	LYNN STINE	200 HRS
LIG QUIGLEY	368.25 HRS	KIMBERLY LITTLE	196.25 HRS
JENNIFER SHARP	354.25 HRS	ANDREA J. LORD	189.75 HRS
CATHY BARNES	241.75 HRS	JUDITH DEGNER	182.5 HRS
RYAN RICHARDS	240.5 HRS	WENDY METZLER	174.75 HRS

Pasos for Pleasure STAYING MOTIVATED

LYNN STINE: 200 HOURS

I signed up for the Pasos for Pleasure Program years ago riding my first Paso Fino mare, Caricia de Mayo. This is the first time that I have made the top ten in the Pasos for Pleasure Program. Caricia de Mayo has been my main horse for the last twenty years with participation in showing with the Paso Fino Horse Association and all breed shows, parades, and an occasional trail ride. I am using the Pasos for Pleasure Program to keep me motivated while I am improving on my horsemanship skills while I ride my 4 year old filly, Serafina de Peligrosa. I will be turning the reins over to Serafina de Peligrosa to be my main horse in the near future so Caricia de Mayo can enjoy her retirement. ■



Pasos for Pleasure RIDING THE GREENWAY

ANDREA J. LORD: 189.75 HOURS

Isabella de Leader and I accomplished our placement in the Top Ten Pasos for Pleasure for 2024 primarily riding the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway.

Our boarding barn is located close to the Greenway, just south of the Florida Horse Park. We ride through a couple of farms, past a gauntlet of chickens, geese, guineas and peacocks, and the dogs that guard these critters from the local coyotes, and hit the Greenway trail system. Part of the Greenway surrounds the Florida Horse Park, offering even more riding experiences; obstacles, water features and a continual set of horse activities.

The Greenway started as one of the nation's largest public works projects, but it was never completed. Instead, it has been transformed into the unique Cross Florida Greenway,

consisting of more than 70,000 acres of land which was to be the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The Greenway is 110 miles long and more than a mile wide in places. There are more than 300 miles of trails of all types — paddling, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and paved multi-use. It is also a wildlife corridor and has a “land bridge” across I-75 that both trail users and wildlife utilize. Black bears use the Greenway as a major corridor, especially on the eastern end near the Ocala National Forest. The Greenway protects part of the Ocklawaha River and it offers campgrounds!

Isabella and I are fortunate to have the Greenway Trail System and many good riding buddies to help us achieve miles and miles of fun. ■



Pasos for Pleasure GAITED & OLD GLORY

JUDITH DEGNER: 182.5 HOURS

I did not grow up with horses. I started riding as an adult, when my kids started taking riding lessons. I quickly discovered gaited horses and stuck with them throughout my riding years. I have owned Tennessee Walkers, Spotted Saddle Horses, Racking Horses, and Missouri Foxtrotters. All with various levels of 'smooth' in their gaits.

After moving to Missouri, we got more involved with Foxtrotters since they are more common in this area. I was on my third Foxtrotter—which really trotted, hard trotted, just like the previous two I had owned—when I ended up taking him to a clinic at Horse Haven ranch with Michael Gascon, hoping to improve his gait. He was a super sweet gelding. I really liked him. I just did not like the ride.

While at the retreat, they brought out world-class Paso Fino stallions for us to ride. I will admit, I did not know much about Paso Finos. I always kind of laughed at Paso Finos because I thought their feet moved a lot, but they never went anywhere. These stallions were extremely well trained. If a rider moved a tiny bit, they responded. That is the point, to teach you to be a better rider. I picked out which one I wanted to ride based on which was the “prettiest.” I immediately discovered that Paso Finos have a Ferrari engine in their butts. After a minute and a half, I got off, shaking like a leaf. I truly thought I was going to throw up. It took me about five minutes to get my heart beat back. Then I went back into the arena and rode every one they had. I kept getting back in line, over and over, to keep riding. They finally had to tell me that my turn was up. I was hooked. I knew there was a Paso Fino in my future.

In December, I bought my pinto Paso gelding, Corazon, my heart horse. He was two-and-a-half years old with more training than most ten-year-old horses. On Christmas Day, I took him on his first solo ride. It was cold and windy. We went across a bridge over a fast-moving river and two miles up a trail by ourselves before we met some friends. I was ready to get off and walk if he showed any signs of being nervous. He was perfect. It was like riding a seasoned trail horse. Since then, we have ridden hundreds of miles in the Ozarks in the Mark Twain National



Forest. We won first place twice in our local show for gaited pleasure against several Foxtrotters. I even got to carry the American flag during the National Anthem, something I have always wanted to do!

I owe a world of thanks to Michael Gascon and his family for all the help they have given me and for training my wonderful heart horse, Corazon. Michael does not just train horses; he trains people to train their horses, too. I have learned so much. I am safer with my horse and I have more fun because of it. ■

2024 STALLION SERVICE AUCTION

PHASE 2 – BETWEEN GRAND NATIONAL SHOW CLOSING AND MARCH 1ST OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR

The breeding service for SSA stallions that did not receive bids during the GNS will be available for purchase between the closing of Phase 1 above and March 1st of the following year. The list of the still available stallions is posted in the PFHA website. Any member interested in breeding to any of these stallions can purchase it for one half of its listed price or \$500.00, whichever is higher. This can be done by being the first member sending an Authorization to Bid with payment for the breeding to the PHFA office in care of the Stallion Service Auction program by March 1st of the following year. The donors of the stallions whose services were purchased through this phase will get a free initial nomination of a weanling foal to the Fabulous Futurity program.

BREEDERS' SWEEPSTAKES CLASSES (BSC)

Eligibility

A purchase of a breeding to a participating stallion during any of the above three SSA phases will entitle all that stallion's offspring to participate in the Breeders' Sweepstakes classes corresponding to that SSA year. The stallion owner/donor and the purchaser of the stallion service each get a free nomination to one of the BSC classes. All other owners of yearlings of an eligible stallion will be eligible to enter the BSC classes but will have to pay a \$200 nomination fee to participate. GNS class fees will always need to be paid to enter a class.

There is a three-year progression between a given year's Stallion Service Auction and its corresponding Breeder's Sweepstakes classes at the Grand National Show. This is due to the following process:

Year 0 – Stallion Service Auction Year. As described above this starts during the Grand National Show (September) and runs through March of the following year.

Year 1 – Breeding Year. The mare is bred to the stallion whose service was purchased through the SSA.

Year 2 – Foaling Year. Foals resulting from the given SSA are born.

Year 3 – Breeders' Sweepstakes Year. Yearling foals can participate in the Breeder's Sweepstakes classes corresponding to the SSA year identified as Year 0 above.

BENEFITS TO BREEDERS/BUYERS

Mare owners that are planning to breed a mare should look at the list of stallions offered through the PFHA Stallion Service Auction and consider this venue for purchasing a breeding. They will get the following advantages when purchasing a breeding through the SSA:

Opportunity to Win Money

By purchasing a breeding through the SSA the mare owner will get a free nomination of the resulting foal to one of the corresponding Breeders' Sweepstakes classes. This will provide him/her with the opportunity to win money as described above.

By purchasing a breeding through the Stallion Service Auction at the Grand National Show the mare owner will get a free initial nomination of the resulting foal to the Fabulous Futurity program. The owner is still responsible for making the rest of the payments to maintain the foal's eligibility into that program. The Fabulous Futurity program also provides the buyer with an opportunity to win money with his/her foal.

The mare owner can use the resulting foal's eligibility to the BSC and the Fabulous Futurity programs as a marketing tool to sell the foal. ■



<https://new.biddingowl.com/PFHA>



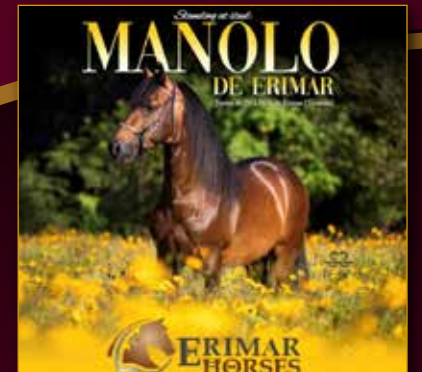
A CAPELLA'S DINAMICO, 59386
Sire: Dulce Arcangel de United
Dam: Metralleta de Los Reyes



BATALLA DE TOMARIA, 60997
Sire: Dulce Sueño de Lusitania
Dam: Olimpia de La J



SUENO DE PAZ, 59936
Sire: Dulce Sueno de Lusitania
Dam: Ambrosia de Paz



MANOLO DE ERIMAR, 58450
Sire: Jordan de JN
Dam: Perla de Erimar



EL JEFE DE LA NUBE, 59546
Sire: Dulce Sueño de Lusitania
Dam: Lunita de Milagro



RENECER DE A&C, 62974
Sire: Barba Roja de La Thania
Dam: Sadiya De San Marcos



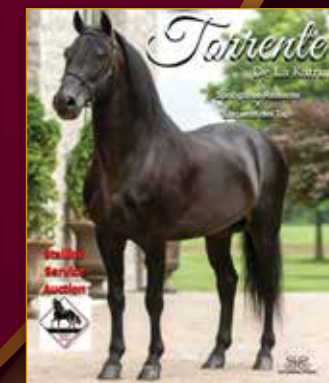
INFINITO DE DONA LOLA, 58515
Sire: Sublime de Dona Lola
Dam: Prima de Sun Haven



MAÑANERO DEL CONDE, 57826
Sire: El Rey de Isla
Dam: Madrugada del Conde



SOBERANO DE JH, 61962
Sire: Hechizo DeLuna deLaCorona
Dam: Reina de JH



TORRENTE DE LA KATRINA, 46771
Sire: Springtime Radiante
Dam: Etiqueta del Tajo



REPLICA DE HH, 51455
Sire: Pedregal del Conde
Dam: Ceremonia de Capuchino



CABILLITO'S TOBIAS, 62029
Sire: Patrón de Isla
Dam: Coloso's Gracia

AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

Marilyn Loaces

BY ANN BELLUCCI-WARD



I have known Marilyn Loaces for about 20 years now. She has always impressed me with her kindness, willingness to help others, sharing information, and her diligence in breeding, training, and presenting her Paso Finos in so many different disciplines where they all

perform amazingly well. Her horses are always in the best condition—nice and shiny—ears UP and content.

She has worked very hard and presented her Paso Finos in so many different genres of the horse world. She has shown her Paso Finos at both Regional and National levels. Her stallion, Manolo de Erimar, has been her best example of showing the tremendous versatility of the Paso Fino Horse.

Marilyn and Manolo have participated at special events with all breeds of horses and have represented the Paso Fino breed;

they also carry the American flag. She has participated in many disciplines, including gymkhana events, obstacle challenges, cow sorting, cow penning, working equitation, and all gaited shows, with amazing results in all her performances. For the past two years, Marilyn and Manolo have been among the High Point for the Year finishers at the obstacle challenge with the Southern Obstacle Challenge Association (SOCA) and with the Florida Walking and Racking Horse Association (FWRHA).

Marilyn and Manolo have competed in the Extreme Cowboy Race for the past for three or four years, always placing among the top ten in his category. Manolo has been the only Paso Fino completing the course and placing so well among all the different breeds.

Marilyn shows her horses, trail rides, and has opened the eyes of many people who were not aware that the Paso Fino is such a versatile and willing breed. She has also volunteered at Nationals for the last few years. ■



SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE 2025 JUDGES' AND STEWARDS' CLINIC

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GREAT WESTERN PFHA Trail Horse Test

Nine intrepid equestrians braved the heat engulfing the western half of the United States in July to take part in the Great Western PFHA hosted Trail Horse Test (THT). Why would they knowingly travel from the eastern and western part of Idaho as well as southwestern Montana? All for the love of our horses! The THT was held July 13 and 14 at C&M Farm, in Pocatello, Idaho. Participants were given the choice to test on either Saturday or Sunday, with most choosing Saturday.

My two Montana friends – Julia Grimes and Shawn Deming – and I arrived in Pocatello with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. After taking care of the horses, we located our AirBnB and made plans for the following day. We arrived early the next day to help set up for the THT and provide necessary paperwork to our Master THT Judge, Christy Taylor, then shopped for the THT lunch. Later, we took a private lesson with Christy to polish up our THT skills. Following our lessons, THT participants started to arrive. It was wonderful to meet so many of our Great Western members that I had never had an opportunity to meet in person. Just another reason to participate in a THT – meet new friends!

Saturday proved to be another scorcher. We started early – 8:15 am – to accomplish as much as possible before the brutal heat arrived.

Seven participants entered the arena, ready to showcase their THT skills. They included Joan Zachary, Horseshoe Bend, ID; Ariana Worsfold, Boise, ID; Pat Clay, Ronda Friesen, and Steven Friesen, all from Rigby, ID; April Carter, St. Anthony, ID; and Cora Greenhalgh, Chester, ID. Watching the field of six Paso Finos and one Peruvian Paso was amazing. The variety of color, style, and size really demonstrated that there is something wonderful available for every rider/owner of gaited horses.

The THT began with a clinic in which Christy answered questions before beginning the actual test. The first section was ground exercises, followed by trailer loading, grooming/tacking and exercises under saddle.



Judi Bradbury on Cascada and Julia Grimes on Charlie take separate paths as they leave one another on the trail.



Julia Grimes tacks Charlie and Judi Bradbury tacks Cascada de Color Sin Par, while being judged by Christy Taylor.

With temperatures soaring, both horses and riders were happy for a lunch break. After lunch, the group completed the test with performance on the trail and maneuvering through trail obstacles.

After untacking and caring for the horses, participants completed the THT survey while scores were tallied.

Temperatures dropped significantly on Sunday with ample clouds and even an afternoon thunder shower. We followed the same format as Saturday, starting with a clinic. We then began the actual test with ground work, trailer loading, grooming/tacking, exercises under saddle, performance on the trail, and concluded with maneuvering through trail obstacles.

The horse's overall attitude and temperament were judged throughout the course of the test for both groups and given the highest priority of all sections.

Congratulations to all our participants! ■



Charlie carries Julia Grimes across the bridge.

Achievements

NOVICE TRAIL HORSE LEVEL

Doc: ridden by Ronda Friesen

Caspian: ridden by Steven Friesen

JUNIOR TRAIL HORSE RECIPIENTS

Elegancia de Más Sabiol: ridden by Joan Zachary

Phoenix del Fuego: ridden by Ariana Worsfold

Friskita Belle Clay: ridden by Pat Clay

Sierra Medalla: ridden by April Carter

Diego: ridden by Cora Greenhalgh

Charlie: ridden by Julia Grimes

Cascada de Color Sin Par: ridden by Judi Bradbury

SENIOR TRAIL HORSE RECIPIENTS

Elegancia de Más Sabiol: ridden by Joan Zachary

Friskita Belle Clay: ridden by Pat Clay

Diego: ridden by Cora Greenhalgh

Cascada de Color Sin Par: ridden by Judi Bradbury



Joan Zachary lunges Elegancia de mas Sabiol, while Ariana Worsfold lunges Phoenix del Fuego.



Youth riders.



April Carter showcases a flat walk.

MID AMERICA PFHA

TRAIL HORSE TEST EXPERIENCE



Great food, friends, conversation, and riding/training sessions made for a successful event at the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA) Trail Horse Clinic hosted by the Mid America Paso Fino Horse Association (MAPFHA) on August 30th, and the PFHA Trail Horse Test on September 1st, at Running Deer Ranch in Rochester, Minnesota, with hosts Jim and Susan Bartels.

The event enjoyed perfect weather—sunny and seasonably cool for the Midwest—creating an ideal atmosphere for both participants and their horses.

The clinic featured a variety of engaging obstacles designed to test both trust and control, showcasing the abilities of each horse and rider. Included were more advanced maneuvers such as shoulder and haunches isolation control and side passing both from the ground and in the saddle.

The clinician and judge was Paul Marlowe, owner of El Escudero Paso Fino Farm in North Carolina. His expertise guided participants through a range of skills, from fundamental techniques like leading, trailer loading, and tacking up, to more advanced maneuvers such as shoulder and haunches isolation control and side passing. This comprehensive approach ensured valuable learning opportunities for riders and horses at all levels.

Pam Farmer, one of the participants, explained: “When you are at a horse show, you are judged for the eight minutes you are in the arena. What I liked about the Trail Test was that it incorporated many pieces of horsemanship, your relationship with your horse, and how you and your horse manage many different situations; starting with trailer loading, grooming, groundwork, then riding, and obstacles in the arena and on trail.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN BARTELS AND ROSIE SCHLUTER
PHOTOS BY JUDY RONEY



TRAIL HORSE TEST EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Pam continued, "One key takeaway for me from Paul is for me to breathe and slow down. When the horse gives you what you're asking, PAUSE, don't keep asking for more! I tend to rush through and move onto the next exercise."

The setting provided a variety of situations Paul used to guide participants through the test elements. An open arena for the movements, a variety of man-made obstacles, and great on-trail obstacles!

Practice included rotating positions on the trail, riding away from the group, and even passing a horse going the opposite direction.

There were ten riders and horses representing a variety of breeds: Tatia Jostock with her horse, Phoenix, a Gypsy/Welsh; Tanya Altman on Rocky, a Quarter Horse; Barb Firth with Tokota, a Paint; Montana Davidson on Sundancers Paxon, a Paso Fino; Pam Farmer on Echo, a Rocky Mountain Horse; Oran Clemmensen with Icey, an Icelandic; Charles Hauser on Coconino JR, a Paso Fino; Nancy Clemmensen with Reggie, an Icelandic; Nancy Drumsta riding Chet, a Fox Trotter, and Susan Bartels with Ruby, an Icelandic.

Participants were engaged and worked through the clinic requirements with their horses. The judge was a real asset to the clinic with his ability to read people and their horses. He kept everyone safe, yet encouraged participants to stretch their comfort zones. He was able to instill confidence in those who needed it and provided individualized attention to each person and their horse.

The clinician, Paul Marlowe, explained that the enthusiasm was re-invigorating for him and stressed the want for knowledge the participants had. They received the lessons well, and were eager to learn. He himself was encouraged with the group's willingness to learn and the overall clinic.

"Once the horse has learned you're communicating with them, you make progress." ■

Special thanks to Montana Davidson as the "overall event planner" and Jim and Sue Bartels for hosting. Ben Davidson was the Marshall at the event. He was essential for the trail test and recording the scores of the riders. He also assisted in the clinic obstacle set up and provided his horse for the Judge to ride on the trail. Chuck Hauser was a huge part of the food preparation, as was Pam Farmer. Sharon Gallagher and Helen Funk organized meals and Judy Roney captured the event through photography.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

I appreciated the judges' one-on-one attention to the participants.

-Nancy Drumsta

It was challenging at times for me as my horse, Phoenix, acted very anxious and was 'buddy sour' as my other horse had been left at the barn. The judge helped give me a lot of confidence, advice, and training techniques to work through my pony's attitude.

My favorite part of the clinic was when we were out on the trails; all the horses were more in their element and seemed to enjoy themselves. The trails were in great condition and had everything we needed for the test day. One of the hardest obstacles for my horse was side passing over a log.

-Tatia Jostok

I had a new horse and it was all new to me and him. The clinic gave us so much confidence and I'm continuing to use what I've learned.

-Nancy and Oran Clemenson

Groundwork with Paul was the most challenging part of the weekend for my horse and me. Paul was very patient and does a good job of reading his pupils' needs.

-Barb Firth

I learned a different technique for lunging my horse that worked and has been working since! It has always been frustrating for me to lunge my horse, Rocky. Paul's technique for lunging clicked for both me and Rocky; we are both happier doing this activity!

-Tanya Altman

Everyone enjoyed it and learned something.

-Sharon Gallagher



THE *Next* GENERATION

BY CLARISSA NIEVES AND SHERRY SCHWARTZ



Josie and Clarissa's wedding, 2006.



Sons Will, 4, and Carter, 2.

In the early 2000s, my husband and I met while competing in national and international Paso Fino Horse Shows. We had both fallen in love with horses at a young age—Josi grew up riding Pasos through the streets of Puerto Rico while I spent my early years on a Junior Equestrian Team performing at state fairs and rodeos in Minnesota. The nights of dancing the merengue at the amazing National parties eventually led to our wedding at a 50-acre, family-owned horse farm in Ocala, Florida, where we opened our business, JC Paso Fino, LLC. Those early days may now seem like ancient history, but they inspired a love for our breed that we wanted to pass on to future generations.

Like many love stories, ours continued to evolve when our two sons, Will and Carter, were born and were soon joined by Gracia, a Paso Fino bred on the farm. Over the years, Gracia developed into a gentle, talented mare that was extremely patient with our boys as they practiced their riding skills. As a part of our business, Josi and I have had the honor and privilege of working with a number of youth clients, and we are thrilled to see their success in the show arena and love for Paso Finos blossom. So, when our two boys were finally ready to compete in their first show, we thought we were an experienced pair.

But as many parents will confess, I was nervous when I registered our boys for their first PFHA Sub-Junior Classic Fino classes. I was so happy that Jamie Suarez, 4J Paso Fino, had given them riding lessons and helped us prepare Gracia for the show. After years of “working” at the farm and shows, the boy’s big day finally arrived, and it was time to go to the World Equestrian Center. As we helped Will and Carter get ready to compete, the memories of their love for Paso Finos came flooding back: riding with Papa before they could walk, loading hay in the back of their blue, F150 truck (that only went four miles per hour) so they could help feed, their delight in the birth of a new Paso baby, and when they were ready—riding, riding, and more riding, and loving every minute of it!

Both boys were super excited to ride in their first competition! Will and Carter each showed their beloved mare, Gracia, in their respective class, and exhibited more nerves than I initially did. But I finally breathed a sigh of relief when I realized they had this under control as they showed the grace and confidence that countless parents and trainers pass along selflessly to the youngest of our exhibitors. And like so many of our special



Pasos, Gracia was taking care of our boys in the arena just as she had during training sessions at the farm.

The boys took turns riding Gracia back to her stall after their classes and hung their ribbons on the door. They knew the drill and gave their horse a bath, rubdown, water, and a well-deserved treat. When the music drifted over from our neighbor’s impromptu gathering, we headed over just in time to dance the merengue. Unlike years ago, when my husband and I would have danced for hours, I soon felt a tug on my arm and familiar voices telling me they were hungry. I looked down to see the unimpressed frowns of our boys and was transported back to reality. As we walked over to find some dinner, the boys talked nonstop about their show classes and seemed to be as excited as I had been when I won my first ribbon.

We are thrilled to help pass on the passion and love for Paso Finos to the next generation, to our sons and our clients. We hope you will support them in upcoming shows, and we will continue to support all the youth in our association! One of the things the Nieves’ family has learned is that our boys now have the “show bug,” and they are looking forward to future PFHA shows!

Note: Josi and Clarissa Nieves own JC Paso Fino, LLC, providing breeding, training, exhibition, and show services. Clarissa is also a first-grade teacher at Marion Oaks Elementary School in Ocala, Florida. Their sons, William and Carter, love riding Paso Finos, especially their favorite mare, Gracia. ■





KATHIE BEESON

QUEEN MARGARITA *on Horseback*

Queen Margarita on her Spanish Jenet was one of a series of royal equestrian portraits painted by Diego Velazques.

A picture of piety, Margarita was characterized as a virtuous woman saintly, chaste and charitable. But Queen Margarita was much more than that. She was a strong and deft political player who could effectively pursue goals in the interest of her family and her independent personal objectives.

Margarita was just one of many royal women who were not openly recognized but were nonetheless at the center of the early modern European political world.

As tribute to Queen Margarita and the many women who were not openly recognized for their accomplishments, Kathie Beeson created, displayed, and donated this magnificent costume for the world to see and learn of its inspiration.

Kathie displayed this piece at the Grand National Show in 2024 and has graciously donated it to the Paso Fino Horse Association where it will be proudly displayed at home office in Frankfort, Kentucky. ■



GINGER VANN

ALL DRESSED UP *and ready to show!*

SCHOLARSHIP MAKES GINGER'S DREAMS A REALITY

The green dress costume was about the butterflies of Puerto Rico. This was a special show because the SWPFHA awarded me a \$2,000 scholarship to attend the Grand National Horse Show this past September after spending 7½ years of showing in costume with the goal of going to Nationals one day. They are the only reason my dream of competing in Nationals became a reality. ■

COSTUMES THROUGH THE YEARS



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Board of Directors APPROVED MEETING DATES

November 16, 2024
 Frankfort, KY
 9AM-5PM EST

Paso Fino 2024 MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES

AD SIZES	WIDTH	HEIGHT	AD RATES	1x	4x (half year)
Full page bleed	8.625"	11.125"	Full Page	\$475	\$450
Full page no bleed	8.5"	11"	1/2 Page	\$299	\$275
1/2 page horizontal	7.5"	5"	1/4 Page	\$199	\$175
1/2 page vertical	9.5"	3.5"	NOTE: 4x ads must be consecutive		
1/4 page	3.5"	4.875"	Business Card (4 issues)	\$199	
Business card	3.5"	1.75"	Rider Ad/Trainer Ad	\$75	
Rider ad	2.5"	5"	PFHA REGION AD RATES		
			Full Page	\$255	
			1/2 Page	\$175	

PREMIUM ADS

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Front Cover	\$1,600
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Inside Back Cover	\$900
Two Page Spread	\$799

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