Peach State Paso News

GPFHA Paso Fino Horse Association

Table of Contents

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Page 1.....President's Message
Page 2.....Regional Baskets for Nationals
2008 Meeting Dates
Silent Auction at the 4 Beat Jubilee Show
Page 3.....New GPFHA Logo
Riding in the Bahamas
Page 4.....Fine Walk, LLC Biography
News from Valhalla Farms
Page 5-6.....The Paso Fino Market
Page 7.....GPFHA Calendar of Events
Things You Need to Know if You Own a Horse
Page 8-11.....Open House Entry Form and Information
Page 12-15.....GPFHA Sales List
Page 15.....Ortho Flex "PFHA Frequent Rider Program"
Page 16-17.....A Daughter Growing Up with Horses
Page 17.....Horse Terms
Page 18.....Letters to God From Horses

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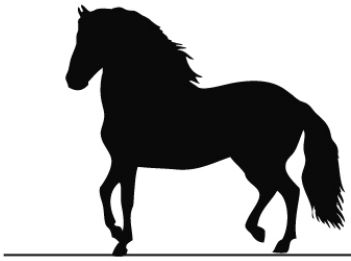

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Presidents' Message

The New Year is well under way with many GPFHA events already in the works and on the calendar.

Included in this issue is the 2008 calendar of events, loaded with trail rides and parades. Please note that there are points of contact for both venues listed at the bottom of the calendar. Also, all of the GPFHA meetings, Spring show and Open House are also on the schedule. Do not hesitate to call any of our officers and contacts if you have any questions or comments.

The flyer for the GPFHA Open House is also in this issue. This one is especially exciting as it is the first time we have offered a 2-day event in a new location, Chicopee Woods Ag. Center. We now have a covered arena so rain or shine, "game on"! Don't miss it! If you plan to bring a horse, please fill out the entry form, sign the waiver and note whether or not you need extra dinners (1 (one) dinner is included with each paid registration). Mail all forms in to the address found on the bottom the entry form with a check. If you are not going to bring a horse, but want to stay for dinner, fill out the portion of the form which has a blank for the number of extra dinners needed. Again, send it in with your check to the address located on the form.

GPFHA trail committee is trying something new this year by promoting a couple of trail rides with the Piedmont PFHA. One of the rides will be at the famous Biltmore House in Asheville, NC. If you get the chance, this is one you don't want to miss. Anyone that I have spoken with who has gone on this ride said it is beautiful and will go again if afforded the opportunity. Don't forget the Ambassador program. There are prizes to win so don't miss the enclosed sign up sheet. For more information, please call Boyd Russell at 404-932-4438 or contact him at sheriamy@hotmail.com. .

The "4 Beat Jubilee" will be held May 16-18. Once again, we will be at the Chicopee Woods Ag. Center. The GPFHA Futurity will also be held at the show on Saturday. If nothing else, come out to see who will win the money! Bonnie Herman will be in contacting members for volunteers to work the gates and to ring master. If you are interested, please contact her at bon3bon@windstream.net or call at 706-379-0944. Brenda Hankinson has graciously offered to take on the Silent Auction and you will be hearing from her as well. Again, the theme will be "The Tack Trunk".

As you can see, the calendar is full of activities for everyone. If there is something that you would like to do and it isn't listed, please contact one of the officers or committee chairmen with your idea. Better yet, pick a meeting and tell us about it in person! Make plans to attend the April meeting to be held at Suzy Varner's' house as a trial ride is also offered that day.

In the meantime, bundle up and ride when you can. Just keep thinking that Spring has got to be right around the corner!

Gwyn Wright
GPFHA President

Regional Baskets needed for 2008 Silent Auction at the Grand National Show

Jo Franklin has agreed to once again, take on the task of collecting and assembling the GPFHA basket. All the proceeds form the auction go directly to the PFHA Youth.

Jo will choose the theme and then contact members to donate items. The last year that this was done, she collected enough items to make 3 baskets! Out of all the regions, we were the only group to come up with that many baskets. In case you missed the first basket, it was named "The Bubba Basket". It contained all sorts of cute items from the area. It was the talk of the 2006 Nationals.

If you are interested in donating an item(s), please contact Jo at 770-962-3347. The deadline for sending items is September 1, 2008he will need time to gather her "bounty" and assemble the baskets.

On behalf of GPFHA, we can't thank Jo enough for taking on this task once again. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated and are reflected in the work that you do.

2008 Meeting Dates Scheduled for GPFHA

Mark your calendars! The dates for the General Membership meetings have been scheduled.

April 5th will be the Spring meeting/trail ride, held at Suzy and Ed Varner's house located near Perry, GA. They have also offered their facilities for a trail ride in conjunction with the meeting so don't miss this one! The start time is 11 AM.

The Awards Dinner/Membership meeting is scheduled for October 11th at Brenda Hankinson's house in Winterville, GA. This is a potluck event and a great time to get together and enjoy good food and friends. The awards ceremony will begin at 11 AM followed by great food. A short membership meeting will be held once everyone has been fed!

As time draws near, a reminder or two will be sent out as well as phone numbers and directions.

Silent Auction for 2008 GPFHA Show

Brenda Hankinson has graciously offered to take on the task of gathering items for the Silent Auction to be held in conjunction with the 2008 4 Beat Jubilee, May 16-18. Proceeds from the sale go directly to GPFHA and are used to fund prize money for the High Point awards. As last year was such a success, we are going to try it again and have the theme be "Tack Trunk". Anything that has to do with a horse is sufficient, whether it be clothing, tack, books, pictures, services; almost anything! Her contact information is 706-742-5697 or bhankinson@alltel.net.

GPFHA Has a New Logo

We are sporting a new look! Many thanks to everyone who participated in the submission and selection process. There were many from which to choose and narrowing it down to just 4 was not an easy process. In the end, there was a tie but thanks to one of our members who had neglected to vote, a decision was made. Below if the new look for GPFHA.

Riding the Surf in the Bahamas

New GA PFHA member, Bonny Herman, who owns two Paso Fino horses, moved to Young Harris, GA from Los Angeles a year ago. She was active in the CA PFHA Bonny is pictured riding in the Grand Turk, Bahamas, last December, fulfilling a lifelong dream. The horses were brought from Jamaica years ago and provide a thrilling ride in the warm waves for adventurers. The horses live at the beach and munch hay from Florida costing $38 a bale

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Herman

Fine Walk LLC
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I was borne in Cologne, Germany and came to the United States in 1978 with my wife, Erika, for just one year. Almost 30 years later, we are still here and loving it. We both became naturalized Citizens in 1996.

We have lived in Nashville, TN, Bradenton, FL, and now in the Atlanta, GA area. About a couple of years ago, I became interested in leather tooling and attended a seminar in Sheridan, Wyoming and discovered a hidden talent.

A friend of mine introduced me to Mike Yancey to learn more about leather tooling. After a few training sessions Mike asked me if I had any interest in learning the art of saddle making. I said yes and he began training me in making the Paso Fino saddles. Now, he says, he cannot see the difference in his and my saddles.

Mike has asked me to continue his work in making these saddles. I am very excited and feel privileged that he has chosen me. I am planning on keeping his high quality standards and the same suppliers he was using to build such a quality product.

News from Valhalla Farms, Vidalia, GA Owners: Mary and Dave Hanby

We are "expecting" four Paso babies starting April 1. Allende', our two year old (now a gelding) is in training with Cindy for the Futurity in May.

We adopted JHA's Castaneta, a lovely buckskin filly, from Anica and Ron Papizan just this week.

El Concierto del Rey and Presidente' de Profeta, our two Profeta stallions, are in training for the 4-Beat Jubilee in May. Mary may actually ride in this one. We have a very talented rider, Suzanne Seidel, helping us here at the farm and at shows.

Mary Hanby