

NOTICES:

BOD Seeks new Donation
Coordinator!

Writing contest closing soon!

Priority Postage increase!

FEATURE: Tribute to Robin



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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<http://mepsa1.tripod.com>

MEPSA is an educational group for model horse enthusiasts, promoting the hobby of model horse mail-in photo showing.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information to showers who do not have internet access. It is mailed free of charge (courtesy of Marie Phillips). The newsletter is also available by email and on the website as a secondary source of information and updates for all members.

NEWS

Flat rate Priority Envelopes

The price for a priority flat rate envelope is going up from \$5.75 to \$6.80. First class rates will remain the same.

Sharing Our loss – Robin Nere

You may have already heard – Robin Nere – our Treasurer for ten years – passed away on November 9, 2015. As president, I have to say, it gave me great confidence to have Robin as our treasurer. I did not know her well. She was on the Board of Directors longer than I, just quietly doing her absolutely critical job. I thought I would share with you Robin's own words (reprinted from the champ show book of 2005) which she wrote upon joining the MEPSA BOD in 2005.

"Like most of you, I have loved horses my entire life. My mother has a picture of me at age 18 months on the pony rides at Griffith Park in Southern California. And this wasn't your normal "hot-walker" style ride. Here you were strapped onto the pony who was then sent out on an oval shaped course. Each pony had its own lane and speed at which you would ride. I can remember going back to that park again until I was too big for the ponies. Meanwhile I had started my own collection of pretty ponies – Breyers lined the walls of my room. I honestly don't remember what my first horse was, but back then my favorite was my Morgan stallion. Or maybe the rearing Palomino stallion. My best friend two doors over had even more than me, and we spent hours together with our herds. Mom was always so upset I didn't want to play with Barbie like the other little girls (if only she could see my doll collection now!).

"But as I grew older, Breyers gave way to other things. I still kept several of my favorites, who mainly sat on the shelf collecting dust. But the love of horses was still there, and indulged by a wonderful husband who doesn't completely understand it. By now, we had moved to Portland Oregon and for an anniversary present, he gave me one of the most wonderful presents I have ever received – jumping lessons! For a year I trained on a school horse while the yearning for my own grew. Finally, I was a horse owner! A beautiful chestnut, off the track Thoroughbred who would jump anything put in front of him. No matter how badly I might make the approach <grin>. We did some limited showing, and I was in heaven until the Christmas

I received a phone call from the barn where we boarded. Tash had colicked and was gone. While devastated by losing him, I did eventually get another horse, this time what is now called a sporthorse. Half thoroughbred, half appaloosa. And an animal that HATED to jump, even though quite good at it. So I switched over to a stock saddle, and spent many long hours out trail riding in the 600 acre wetland preserve that abutted the new barn I was at. It was there I got my first donkey, and the rest is history (see my favorite model article).

"The reason I ran for treasurer was a little complicated. I have the accounting background, having worked in that field for over thirty years now. But the main reason stems from being a member of other clubs. It's been my experience that most clubs are run by a small core group of people. Those same few people take on this task year after year. And while they might be doing an excellent job, I feel that if you're a member of any organization, you should be willing to step up and help in any way you can. Not just sit back and wait for things to happen. Unlike many of you, I've only been photo showing a short time, but have found MEPSA to be an incredible organization and one I'd like to see continue growing and developing. That can only be done with a supportive, active membership. And that's why I ran for an office. I'm looking forward to helping MEPSA become even bigger and better than it already is."

Here, here, I say. Robin was tied for longest term board member at the end of the 2015 season. She also was key to the operation of TOPSA, an online showing group. Most of us know that Robin loved donkeys and mules. We look forward to sharing some of her performance photos featuring these and other equines (aka horses!) in the champ show book. Here's what Robin had to say about her favorite models in 2005:

"I don't believe I could choose a favorite model, there are so many wonderful ones out there. But I can choose a favorite feature - EARS! The longer the better! My passion for mules and donkeys started back when I was around ten and was in a cavalry-style based riding club. The stable where we rode, and who rented out the horses, also had one mule. Of course no one really wanted to ride him, but after a few weeks, I found him to be one of the most agreeable animals I'd ever known. But it wasn't until years later that I became actively involved with long ears. I attended a local auction a few years back to hopefully purchase a new stock saddle, and instead came home with a neglected yearling jennet (donkey). She soon became the hit of the barn and best friend to my appy. Having her around made me want to know more about these wonderful animals so I became a member of Oregon Mr. Longears and ended up doing their newsletter for over ten years. During that time, my husband and I also worked with an organization called Wild Burro Rescue which was trying to save the Death Valley burros from being shot in order to reduce herd sizes. It was during that time I found "the hobby". I was asked to guest judge a class at a local live show. You guessed it - the OF donkey class. About 25 standing and sitting Brightys all on one table and I was supposed to pick a winner? With help from the show holder and other judges, I made it through that class. But it got me started looking at what was going on. I have always loved photography, and what a fun way to combine my two favorite things. I now have more mules and donkeys than I had ever hoped to own, even if they are only models. To me each comes alive and has its own personality which I try to show off in their photos. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. But any way you look at them, ya gotta love those ears!"

I think many of us feel as Robin did about our models. I recently had a chance to judge a TOPSA performance championship division, and I have to say, Robin's photography was such a treat. TOPSA will be featuring Robin's photos on their website and we will be sharing some in the MEPSA "photo showing annual" (champ show book) next summer. In the meantime, I also want to share the Christmas card that Robin designed and her husband Rex kindly sent to me.



Open Division Performance Workshop – first ever!

Thanks to our judge Traci Durrell-Khalife for a very successful workshop, and welcome to new performance showers! This show provided valuable feedback to those of us who are new to performance showing (or otherwise wanted input). We should do this again next year.

Remember, MEPSA has a new Treasurer and a new Paypal address

Carolyn Bailey, 4N742 Honey Hill Cir. Wayne, IL 60184, USA

Paypal address: mepsa3@att.net

Send monetary donations, show proceeds, entry fees, etc. to Carolyn.

MEPSA seeks champ show donations

MEPSA needs LOTS of NIB Traditional scale models or mint condition Traditionals for our year-end Championships. We'll try to give out a whopping 42 or more new condition Traditionals and 42 or more NIB or new condition Classics. We'll buy some, but we need to get donations of some. If you have models that you don't want, and don't want to bother with MH\$P or eBay, or you can't sell them there, please think of MEPSA. We would be very grateful to receive them, and you'd get a nice advertisement in MEPSA's full color, spiral bound, keepsake Championship show book.

We may turn donations of larger items into sales to fund our Championship show, which requires subsidy of the BOOK, and purchase of rosette ribbons and any models we don't get as donations.

The support of the model horse community has been so valuable and is very appreciated by the Board and all our showers! MEPSA welcomes Chelsea Bengel of Chelsea's Model Horses as a new MEPSA supporter for this year's championship show!

Every donation you make, whether a direct donation of items/cash or a contest entry (see below) will be a prize in the championship show or will help provide funds to support the championship.

Let's make this seasons champ show the best one ever!

Donations of goods (models, props and other goodies) should now be sent to Laurel Dedes – this year's champ show coordinator. Laurel is planning a real blow out for this year. Her plan is to award MANY traditional Breyers – mostly new releases from 2016, to champions at the champ show. Pictures of these prizes will be posted on the website and Facebook once we have these in hand. You can play a part by contributing traditional models, NIB or new condition. Some people also like to receive bodies as prizes. And of course tack, stablemates, and other items are also welcome donations. As mentioned above, monetary donations should go to the treasurer.

Laurel Dedes
5193 Coventry Ln
Barboursville, VA 22923
dserthorse@aol.com

Good News for mini showers

Once again, we will be including a special extra division just for minis, thanks to the generosity of MEPSA donors! We offered several mini specials this year to help you qualify. As in previous champ shows you will have a choice whether to show your mini in the regular division it qualified or in the special division for minis only. You may not do both!

Donation Coordinator position open

Many many thanks to Danielle Duggan for serving on the MEPSA BOD as donations coordinator for 1 ½ years. Danielle is very busy with a new job (teaching – I know how THAT is) and her family. Thanks also to Laurel Dedes for serving as acting donations coordinator currently, in addition to her other duties. If YOU are interested in serving on the BOD as donations coordinator, please contact one of the current BOD members.

MEPSA Championship Book American Pharaoh Cover Contest

Given the history that he made in 2015, it is only fitting that American Pharaoh be a part of the MEPSA Championship Book for the 2015-2016 season. For this contest, I am looking for submissions that will become the cover for the Book. The sky is the limit! The only rule is that it has to be something you own (no "borrowing" from the Internet). Some ideas to get you started are:

- model horse photo set ups showing AP – could be in a race, after a race or a paddock scene – whatever!
- artwork

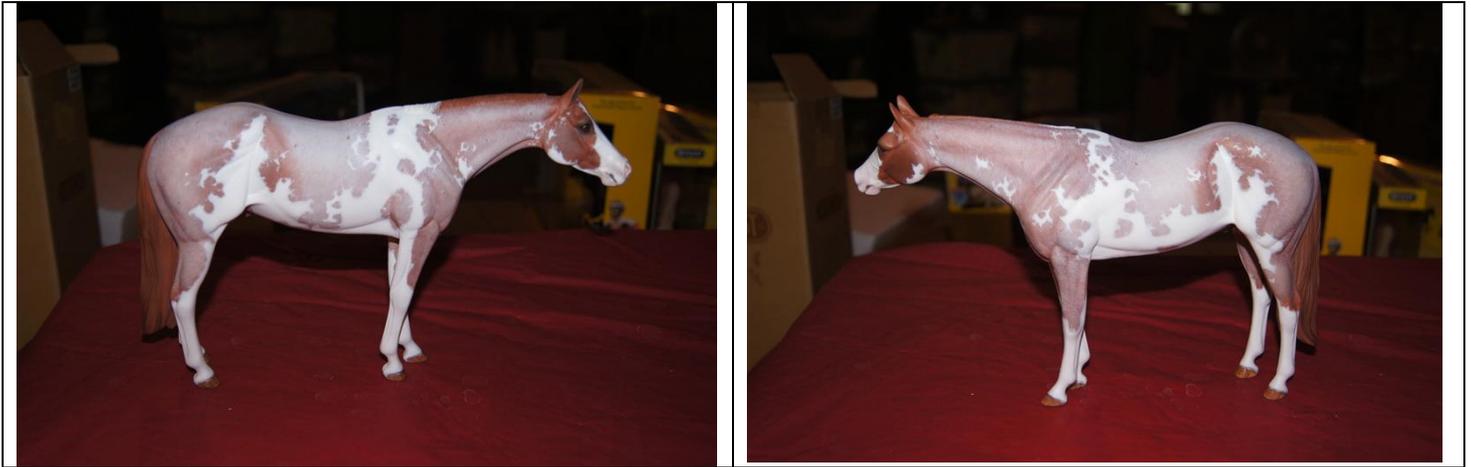
Use your imagination!

Winner(s) will be chosen by the editor, Jennifer Cole and featured on the cover page of the MEPSA Championship Book. They will also receive a free copy of the Book. Other entries will be shown throughout the Book.

Deadline is July 15, 2016.

Writing Contest – deadline January 15

This will be our sixth writing contest, and this year’s prize is a doozy! You probably know something that other model horse hobbyists would like to know! Maybe you know how to customize a Breyer doll to make it sit more correctly, or you raise/keep/ride horses yourself. Articles can be about horses (breed, performance, genetics) or about models (OF, CM, AR), they can be “how to” or interesting stories about your life with horses/models. See below for more info. The contest will end on January 15, and one lucky winner (chosen by an independent judge) will win this GORGEOUS Sandicast stock horse repainted by **Meghann Hoscheid Lorei**.



Show attendance is UP.

And competition is tough! You should feel proud if you place. If at first you don’t qualify, try another judge! Judge’s opinions, methods and choices will differ. As always, keep sharpening your photography skills. Remember to ask for help on the MEPSA Facebook page.

Class 54 – What’s current with Breyer? 2016 traditional models added.

- 1752 - Rhapsody
- 1758 - Fonzie
- 1759 - Cortes



- 1757 - American Pharoah
- 1761 - Hickory Hills Wall Street
- 1756 - Valegro



Open Qualifier schedule for the third quarter:

February 6, 2016 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Sarah Whalley
21 Walden Creek Drive
Batavia NY 14020
WhiteWolfStudio@gmx.com

February 13, 2016 - Light, Gaited & Spanish Breeds Specialty (all divisions)

Anne Giles
359 Stickney Hill Rd
Union, CT 06076
annesrockinhorse@yahoo.com

February 20, 2016 - AR/CM Qualifier (C,D,F)

Tanya Kopkey
109 Phinney Rd
Fulton, NY 13069-4719
Taniwol@yahoo.com

March 5, 2016 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Kristen Lewis
2340 SE 50th Ave. #6
Portland, OR 97215
kristen@pdxrosephotos.com

March 12, 2016 - Other Breeds Specialty (all divisions)

Lori Monk
181 Wild Oak Road SE
Cleveland, TN 37323
silverstokes@gmail.com

March 19, 2016 - AR/CM Regular Qualifier (C,D,F)

Carissa Kirksey
PO Box 31
Creston, OH 44217
sprucewoodfarms@yahoo.com

**March 26, 2016 - Mini Specialty
(A,B,C,D,E,F - Stablemates, Chips, Little Bits, and similar scale models)**

Elena Lemm
37103 Robin George Trail
Magnolia, TX 77354
ejb7920@yahoo.com

April 2, 2016 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Laurel Dedes
5193 Coventry Ln
Barboursville, VA 22923
dserthorse@aol.com

April 9, 2016 - Specialty for China & Other Plastic (all divisions)

Carolyn Bailey
4N742 Honey Hill Cir.
Wayne, IL 60184
foggynote@att.net

April 16, 2016 - AR/CM Regular Qualifier (C,D,F)

Corina Roberts
PO Box 702
Simi Valley, CA 93062
redbirds_vision@hotmail.com

April 23, 2016 - Draft & Pony Breeds Specialty (all divisions)

Brenda Bednar
2 Olympic Annex
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
Stone_prince25@yahoo.com

SHOW FEES:

The fee for the open show is based on the number of entries.

Up to 50 photos: \$2

51 to 100 photos: \$4

101 to 150 photos: \$5.

THERE IS A MAXIMUM OF 100 HALTER PHOTOS ALLOWED PER SHOWER/PER SHOW. And a limit of 150 for halter plus performance. You may send 150 performance photos (and 0 halter) if you wish.
Novice (up to 15 photos) \$2

Novice Qualifier schedule for the second quarter of the 2015-2016 Season:

FEBRUARY 21, 2016 - Performance

Renee Jordan
5415 Mattie Reeves Rd
Lake Charles, LA 70611
renee9235@bellsouth.net

MARCH 21, 2016 - Halter

Betty Hook
41 Old Trail Road,
Liverpool, PA 17045
eclipse@pa.net

APRIL 18, 2016 - Performance

Randa Garrett
5609 W. 97th Street
Overland Park, KS 66207
twinspringsstables@yahoo.com

The fee for the Novice show is \$2. For this show series you must take your own photos as the object is to improve your model horse photography skills. Critiques of each photo will be provided by the judge. You may take new photos at any time. It is the HORSE not the photo that qualifies.

NEW PAYPAL ADDRESS. You can pay using [Paypal](#) for your show fees mepsa3@att.net, but you **MUST** use the Personal Payment option or **you will be responsible for any transaction fees.** Remember to let the judge know you have paid. You can also pay for multiple shows in advance by buying show coupons. Try the optional qualifier entry form available at: <http://mepsa1.tripod.com/forms.html>. Judges love it!

Prepaid Show coupons for MEPSA Qualifier entry!

Nervous about sending cash through the mail? For your convenience, you can now send one check or paypal payment to Carolyn Bailey (treasurer) and receive coupons for show entry! Cash equivalent Coupons will be available in \$2 and \$5 denominations (combine 2 for a \$4 entry). You may receive your coupons electronically or by mail (send an SASE). Each will have a serial number so they can only be used one time. Simply enclose the value needed in place of cash or check in your entry. For example: for 100 halter photos, enclose two \$2 coupons. No more cash in the mail, no more check fees – entering shows just got easier!

If you are an artist – and would like to donate a paint job to MEPSA, we have bodies on hand and artists ready to prep a body for you! Contact any board member to get started, or contact Marie Phillips for a list of available bodies. If you would like to request a specific body to customize, we will try to find one for you.

If you have artist resins or newer body quality models (Nakota, Salinero, Esprit, etc) or classic “Love” molds, you can send these to:

Marie J. Phillips
93 Franklin Ave
Oakville, CT 06779

We will pair the bodies up with artists willing to paint them. Yet another way to raise funds or obtain nice prizes for MEPSA!

MEPSA 2016 CONTEST SCHEDULE

Here is our **revised** contest schedule for this year!

MEPSA reserves the right to be somewhat flexible if necessary, regarding the deadlines. We may offer a choice of the prize named here, or an alternative, as we get closer to each contest date. We may offer two divisions of any contest with enough entries, and a second, smaller, prize!

1/15/16 Writing contest- deadline January 15th 2016

We need both longer & shorter articles. 1000-3000 words is the length to shoot for. If you plan to enter, please email Liz at ubersu@verizon.net or dserthorse@aol.com for an info sheet. -Prize CM Sandicast Resin in Roan by Megan Hosheid Lorei

4/15/16 Stablemate Custom contest- deadline April 15th 2016

Supply your own Stablemate or Chips sized model to refinish/remake it any way you like. Winners will be chosen from a poll on MEPSA'S blog that will be advertised on MH\$P, the mepsa-list and MEPSA's Facebook page -Prize: a Stablemate size *Unpainted and unprepped HA Shetland pony artist resin*.

9/15/16 Tack/Costume contest (any scale) deadline September 15th 2016.

Any type and scale of tack (including costumes) you make or modify from an OF set. Winners will be chosen from a poll on MEPSA's blog that will be advertised on MH\$P, the mepsa-list and MEPSA's Facebook page. - Prize, *western rider doll by Anne Field*. This is the actual doll you can win.

Makeover Challenge Contest- December 31, 2016

Makeover a Traditional scale Proud Arabian Mare any way you want, can be a simple custom or a drastic makeover! A few bodies may be available to live show proven artists, please inquire. Otherwise, artists must provide their own body. Get the body soon, so you have plenty of time to work! For this contest only, we are encouraging posting your works in progress! Please mail Laurel Dedes dserthorse@aol.com if you are interested in more details. We will offer at least two divisions: Intermediate/Advanced Artists (these would be LSQ proven artists- you have created NAN qualifiers, or Live Show winners) and Novice. Winners will be chosen from a poll on MEPSA's blog that will be advertised on MH\$P, the mepsa-list and MEPSA's Facebook page -Prizes *to be determined!*

Track your 2015-16 donations using the Donor record:

At the end of the season, did you have trouble remembering what you donated so that you knew what size ad you should get in the Championship book? Don't let that happen again! Start keeping a list of your donations today! Form available at <http://mepsa1.tripod.com/forms.html>. Record each donation and the value. You can also record judge's fees donated. Get credit for all you do for MEPSA! Value of contest entries should not be included as these have their own separate reward system. Submit your donation record at the end of the season (or with your championship entry). This will make record keeping easier for the BOD. All donors receive ad space in the Championship book. Donate \$100 – get a full page, \$50 gets you half a page and \$25 gets you a quarter page ad. Become a patron level sponsor by donating \$150 or more and get your champ show book (a \$35 value) for free!

Are you judging a MEPSA show this season?

Please read the judges packet. It only takes a few minutes, and it contains important information! It is laid out in an easy to read, bulleted format, and *it contains important information!* (not redundant like this plea). Usually when there is a problem with a show, it is clear it could have been easily avoided if the judge read the instructions provided.

To facilitate returns of show packs after the show, be sure to add up the postage on envelopes where more than one stamp is involved. Write the total somewhere on the front of the envelope. Postal clerks do not have a good way to do this and most of them are not so good at math! It wouldn't be so bad if it was just one envelope, but generally the judge will have 20 or more envelopes to check in at the PO.