

NOTICES:

Championship show coming soon!

Mini customizing contest closing soon!

2016 BOD Elections

FEATURE: Don't be scared (to live show your models!)

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 \$6.45 for flat rate envelopes and \$6.80 for the small flat rate box. Word has it some first class rates will decrease. Just keeping us on our toes!

Championship Show

Entries for the 2015-2016 **MEPSA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW** are due on June 25, 2016. Everything you need to know is in this newsletter and an entry form is included.

Time to elect new Board members –

Donations coordinator position is vacant. This position is so important to making the MEPSA champ show the amazing experience that it is. We also need a new champ show coordinator as Laurel has agreed to take this position for one year only. You may run for ANY position, but only a board member may run for the treasurer's position. Please send your resume to the board secretary, Carissa Kirksey. The election will be in July and the new board takes control in August.

Last qualifier shows in the show season

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/Factory resin (OF, custom glaze and cold-painted) & Other Plastic (OF/CM non-Stone/non-Breyer, except for Breyer micro-minis) (all divisions except C)

Carolyn Bailey
4N742 Honey Hill Cir.



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DISTRIBUTION: Marie Phillips

<http://mepsa1.tripod.com>

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

May 7, 2016 - OF Plastic/China Qualifier (A,B,E)

Linda Watson Gresham
2842 Kane St
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
watsongresham@charter.net

May 21, 2016 - AR/CM Qualifier (C,D,F)

Jennifer Floyd
142 El Capitan Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91911
shahbazin@aol.com

OPEN 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.

APRIL 18, 2016 Novice - Performance

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

MAY 16, 2016 Novice - Halter

Arlie Ireland
311 Holladay Drive
Cheney, WA 99004-1110
arlieireland@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.

Everything Champ show –

Who can enter?

Each model horse must qualify to enter the championship by entering a MEPSA qualifying show this show season (Aug 2015 – May 2016). There are two show series: Novice and Open. Novice qualifying shows are held once a month, alternating between halter and performance. In the Open series, two to four Qualifying shows are held each month from August through May. Note that some shows are only for original finish (OF) and some are only for custom or artist resin models. Specialty shows are also offered. All instructions are on the website and there is an optional entry form to make things easy for you and the judge.

When your model places first through third in a qualifier halter class (Division A, B, C, D or the novice division), you qualify for **all** the halter classes that model is eligible for. That is gender, breed, color, and make in the Open series and breed and gender in the novice division. However, if you qualify a model in a performance class (Division E, F or Novice), this qualifies you only to enter THAT performance class in the championship show. **New for this season ...** If your model showed in a class with *100 or more entries*, and you placed sixth or better, your model qualifies to compete in the championship. If the class was split and the split had less than 100 entries, then only first through third qualify. If the split had more than 100 entries, 1st – 6th qualify.

Our wonderful tabulator team has been keeping a record of qualified horses throughout the season and their records will be available on the website. Simply visit the “show dates and judges” page and you will find links at the top of the page. Thanks to Kay Myers, Betty Hook, Charlotte Martin, Randa Garrett and Marie Phillips for keeping track of qualifiers.

Good News for mini showers

Once again, we will be including a special “extra” division just for minis, thanks to the generosity of MEPSA sponsors! “Mini” includes both stablemate/chip sized models and Pebble/Paddock Pal sized models. We offered several mini specials this year to help you qualify, however, if your mini qualified in *any* qualifier, you may choose to enter the mini show. As in previous champ shows you have a choice whether to show your mini in its regular division (competing with large scale models) or in the special division for minis only. **You may not do both!** In the mini division, A and B (OFP and OF China/factory resin) compete together, and C and D (artist resins and customs) are combined. The performance class list is abbreviated and both mini performance divisions (E and F) compete together. If I have managed to confuse you, see the entry form in this newsletter for more information.

FAQ (Frequently asked questions)

- *If I qualified more than one photo of a horse, can I enter both?* No. You may only enter one photo per horse in halter divisions and only one photo per class in performance, except where multiple photos are specified. I.e. If you qualified multiple kinds of performance in “other performance” classes (limited to three in a qualifying show), you may enter *all* of them in the championship show (not limited to three), but each must represent a different event.
- *Do I have to enter the actual photo that qualified?* No. The *horse* qualified, not the *photo*. Send the best photo you have – or take a new one.

- *Do I need to relabel my photos for the champ show?* Only in the mini division. Add the special division designations and change the performance class numbers as shown on the champ entry form.
- *Can I use my judge's certificate for free entry?* No, special entry fees apply. See the champ show entry form.
- *When will I get my photos back after the show?* The show takes all summer. You will not have your photos back in time for the first shows of next season. Your entry first goes to the champ show coordinator, where your entry qualifications will be verified. The coordinator will then sort all the photos, sending each division to a different judge. Judges may take up to a month to judge, type results, and return photos to the coordinator (hopefully less). Results and photos of the champs go to the champ book coordinator, who compiles them into the book, the last step prior to sending it to the printers. Meanwhile photos go back to the champ show coordinator, who starts organizing return shipments with prizes and awards. Once the shipment of results books arrives, the champ show coordinator can seal the boxes and start shipping them out. If all goes well, your champ show box should arrive on your doorstep sometime in August.
- *Can I pay for the championship using PayPal?* You may PayPal your entry fee directly to MEPSA. However you are responsible for paying any PayPal or credit card fees associated with this type of payment.
- *Should I include a SASE?* No. We will be sending a package with your photos and prizes. We do ask you to include \$10 as your share of the return shipping cost. Your entry fee is broken down into three parts: \$2 per 50 photos to cover shipping photos to and from judges, \$10 toward your return postage, and \$15 toward the cost of the champ show book.

PLEASE be sure to check your class numbers as judges continue to report errors. You may miss your class in the championship if your photos are not numbered correctly. Remember class 53 is a and b(vintage) now.

Champ show prizes

We have a new champ show coordinator this year – Laurel Dedes – and she has big plans! MEPSA has ordered ribbons and rosettes, and, thanks to our supporters, we have purchased some new 2016 Breyer releases to award as prizes (see next page)! Here is a word from Laurel: “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. 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.”

This means the boxes you receive may be bigger than before and postage is likely to be higher. Of course, we still welcome your prize or monetary donations! Laurel would like to award a traditional model or equivalent for *each* champion. Some entrants would prefer performance related prizes – props, dolls, costumes, etc. These would make wonderful donations! Smaller items will be used for door prizes and other awards. Promote your business both by offering prizes which represent your talents and by advertising in the champ show book. All donors receive space in the champ show book. MEPSA will even help design your ad if you like.

We encourage you to be specific about what prizes you want. If you specify a particular model, you may not get it, but we will try to fulfill as many dreams as possible. If you enjoy customizing, by all means specify that you would like bodies or a particular body. If you like Schleich, tell us! Remember: “Let us know; you never know!”

We have a new sponsor for the “Judge’s Choice” this year. Chelsea’s Model Horses will be supplying gift certificates to the winners selected by the judges of each division.



Treasurer's report on last year's championship

I thought you might be interested in seeing the costs associated with the champ show. The costs shown here do not include ribbons and rosettes, which we are usually able to cover with funds collected through qualifier entry fees. Last year we paid for the judge's choice awards with MEPSA funds.

Champ show report (2015):

Income (from entry fees) \$1362.00

Expenses (not including ribbons/rosettes) \$2517.21

- Amazon gift cards (judge's choice awards) \$200
- Postage to/from judges \$244.95
- Champ book Printing \$1145.09
- Postage to domestic entrants \$662.02
- Postage to international entrants \$111.40
- Postage for judge's payments (books) \$28.75
- Judge's payments (cash) \$125.00

Where to send your MEPSA donations

If you are donating models or other horse-related prizes, you should send them to Laurel Dedes, this year's champ show coordinator. We may turn donations of larger items into cash (sales) to help fund the Championship show (purchase of rosettes, ribbons and other prizes). You may include your donation with your championship entry.

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

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you may send a check directly to the treasurer:

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

Or use the **new** Paypal address: mepsa3@att.net.

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!

Champ show book

One of the highlights of the MEPSA championship show is the results book. This year's book will have more articles than ever, featuring articles on performance, photography, and more! The book will contain full results for all classes, including the mini divisions, with pictures of all the champions. Receiving your box after the show is typically a multistage event: opening the box, finding all the cool prizes, checking the results, and then settling down to enjoy the book. This year's editor is Jennifer Cole. Jennifer has done a tremendous job updating and maintaining the website, I am certain she will do a great job as book editor.

Thanks to the MEPSA supporters – including “patrons” who donated >\$150 in goods, services or cash, and contest entrants who donated valuable customs that were sold to raise funds, MEPSA will be subsidizing the cost of the book to showers. The full value of the book will be over \$30, but champ show entrants will only need to contribute \$15 toward the book – THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

MEPSA Championship Book: American Pharoah Cover Contest

Given the history that he made in 2015, it is only fitting that American Pharoah be a part of the MEPSA Championship Book for the 2015-2016 season. For this contest, Jennifer is 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 will be featured on the cover page of the MEPSA Championship Book. The winner will also receive a free copy of the Book. Other entries will be shown throughout the Book.

Deadline for submission is July 15, 2016.

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!

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!*

FEATURE~

Don't be scared! –

By Summer Simpson

Have you ever had someone look at you funny when they hear about your model horse hobby? I think everyone in the hobby has seen that look at least once. But there is a different face that one experiences when new to the model horse show world. This is the personal face of fear and uncertainty that comes in the beginning. The fear of the model horse hobby is a very real thing, at least for me it was. But I soon learned that this is a fun hobby that is filled with other people just like me that have a passion for horses. This is an outlet to let ones creativity and imagination rule the ring. No matter if you are just starting out at showing models or you are just curious about the hobby. Whether you have horses that have been passed down, and have seen better days, or one of a kind custom painted artist resins, this is for you.

I remember my first model horse show very clearly. I had been so excited for days or even weeks at the thought of my first model horse show and getting to show off some of my loved collection. I thought that I would do well considering I had some nice horses. Boy, did I have a surprise for me when I showed up to the show hall with my ten “nice” horses in tow. I was so overwhelmed when I saw the sheer quantity of horses that were being shown by one person. I walked around and I was in complete and utter awe when I saw the detail quality and artistry of these said horses. These horses were on a whole new level that I had never even imagined possible with what I thought were toys. Looking at my horses in comparison to these other horses, I felt I was in way over my head and I did not think that I had a chance at all, but I was already there and I was determined to enjoy myself and have fun with some wonderful people I had not seen in a while. What I did not know was the adventure I was actually getting myself into and the experience I would gain in the process.

The show began bright and early and moved very quickly in my mind. I very soon realized that I was not at all prepared, then the panic and fear had kicked in. I had not printed the class list, so I was unsure of what classes were what and what classes were next. Also some of my horses were not placed in the correct classes because I did not know for example, that a Spanish breed that was a paint belonged in the Spanish breed class not the paint class. But with a little help from those around me I had a list to look at and my horses managed to get into their correct classes. All I had were original finish (OF) Breyers, and looking back that was probably the best thing I could have started out with. The smaller number of horses I had in turn also kept things manageable for a first timer like myself. I think if I would have shown up with fifty horses I more than likely would have been so overwhelmed that I would not have had a chance to enjoy myself at all. I did not have any champions or even a first placer that day, but I did have fun and I learned a lot. I learned that day that I was there to see what I needed to do to be better prepared for the next show and to start off small and grow as I went along. That first show was a stepping stone for me to dive into the hobby head first, and that I did. I joined numerous Facebook pages dedicated to model horses and the hobby of model horses, to look and see how and what other people were doing. I still felt

unprepared so I began to ask a multitude of questions to whomever would listen. I was blown away by the support and the number of people who jumped in to help a newcomer learn the ropes about a hobby that they were so passionate about. I feel a little more prepared today than I did that day but I am learning something new at a constant pace. My "ten" have grown to quite a few more now and I have even started to dabble with photo showing, tack making, and accessories. With every new show there will be many more questions and I am confident that I can always count on my hobby to help me out.

I am very happy to see that this is a hobby that is so friendly and welcoming. With every question I have asked and still ask, I receive multiple answers and many different ways that people do the same things. So, I listen and learn, I then take the information that I have and I apply it to what I am trying to do and then I find my own way of doing things. Then one day if I am asked a question on how to do things I can pass on what I have learned to the next in line and then the cycle begins all over. That is one thing that makes this hobby so wonderful, the amount of togetherness we all have with each other and to bring in new people to a passion we all share. I am proud to be a part of this community and thankful to everyone for their help and support.

So my advice to those that are new to the hobby is to not be scared, everyone was a beginner at some point. Ask questions, LOTS of them, no matter how silly or simple you think they may be. Look at this as a fun time with other people who enjoy this hobby as well. You will hopefully learn new tips and tricks to do different things and you may also learn about things you have never even been aware of. You may find that you have a hidden talent or talents as well in the process. You will meet wonderful people and make new friends all while just having fun playing with ponies.



2015-2016 MEPSA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW (June 25, 2016) ENTRY FORM:

Instructions: Please enclose this form with your entry. Only models that qualified, placed 1st-3rd (or 1st-6th in classes with 100 or more entries) in a MEPSA qualifying show of the current season (Aug 2015 - May 2016) may be entered in the Championship Show. Limit is one photo per model per class except for performance classes with multiple entries. (In those classes, all entries that qualified may enter, no limits as long as they are of different disciplines). Place photos for each division, (**alphabetized by horse's name, not first class order**) in separate baggies. Write your name and the number of photos on the outside of the baggie. Make sure your class numbers are correct. Make sure your NAME (not your stable name) and address is on each photo. Please be sure to have your five letter code on EACH photo (LADED=Laurel Dedes). Please include a list of the qualified models names (in alphabetical order). MEPSA may request additional postage funds for international packages. Novice entrants please enter the Novice Division.

Special Mini Division Instructions

The halter sections of the Mini Division will have the same class numbers and classes as the normal Open Division. They will be combined into OF Plastic/China Division G and AR/CM-Division H. The Mini Division Performance will be combined OF/CM-Division I and have the following modified claslist (multiple entries permitted in all classes that have multiple entries or were combined from the original claslist (i.e. roping/cutting, hunter/jumper, costume/parade):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Western Pleasure | 13. Hunter/Jumper |
| 2. Western Bareback | 14. Dressage |
| 3. Western Trail (arena/natural) | 15. English Games |
| 4. Roping/Cutting | 16. Other English Performance |
| 5. Other Stock Work | English Performance Grand Champion |
| 6. Barrels/Poles | 17. Harness |
| 7. Other Western Games | 18. Costume/Parade |
| 8. Other Western Performance | 19. Showmanship |
| Western Performance Grand Champion | 20. Liberty |
| 9. Huntseat Pleasure | 21. Other Performance |
| 10. English Bareback | 22. Head Study |
| 11. Saddleseat/Park/Sidesaddle | Other Performance Grand Champion |
| 12. English Trail (arena/natural) | |

Entry Form

Send your photos, entry fee and this entry form to:
Laurel Dedes 5193 Coventry Lane, Barboursville, VA 22923
Email: dserthorse@aol.com

Entrant info

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Entry info

Number of entries per division:

Open

Div A: _____ Div B: _____ Div C: _____ Div D: _____

Div E: _____ Div F: _____ Div G: _____ Div H: _____ Div I: _____

Novice: _____

Total number of photos entered: _____

Do you want your photos shipped to an address other than the entrant address? If so, what address? _____

Do you want your prizes shipped to an address other than the entrant address? If so, what address? _____

Prize preferences: Possible prizes may include the following. Please mark your preferences:

Traditional size models	Y/N	Classic models	Y/N	LB/SM models	Y/N
Ribbons	Y/N	Rosettes	Y/N	Other (please specify)	

By tradition, MEPSA publishes copies of some of the entered photos (such as champions) in the MEPSA Championship results book. Please indicate if you do NOT want your photos published. _____

Entry Fees

_____ Championship Show Entry Fee: Based on number of photos entered (\$2.00 per 50 photos). Includes ribbons, rosettes, awards, and shipping costs* (flat \$10.00 fee).
0-50= \$12 51-100= \$14 101-150= \$16 151-200= \$18 201-250= \$20 251-300= \$22 301-350= \$24 351-400= \$26 401-450= \$28 451-500= \$30, etc.

\$15.00 Results Book: A copy of the Results book with articles, ads and full color photos of the winners. (Please do not add \$15.00 if you are a Board member, a Patron Donor (>\$150 in donations) or do not wish to receive a copy of the results book. The results book will be available as a pdf file download from Lulu.com, for a nominal cost, to those who choose not to receive a book.

_____ Optional Donation: Entitles you to an ad in the results book. Please use donation form available online.

_____ Finance Charge (If using Paypal add \$2.00)

_____ Total: Please make checks payable to Laurel Dedes or via Paypal to mepsa3@att.net

*International entrants may be required to pay additional shipping costs

