

Missouri Quarter Horse Association

Member Spotlight

Rosemary Lahmann

My love for horses began at an early age, with reading Black Beauty and other legendary horse books, and if there was a show on TV that starred a horse, I was watching it. Weekdays I hurried home after school to catch My Friend Flicka and Saturdays were spent with Fury, Roy Rogers and Trigger, and other hero cowboys. I was a 'horse crazy' kid.

We lived in the city but spent every weekend at our farm near Paris. I hounded my dad to ask any neighbor who had a horse, to let me ride while I begged for a horse of my own. Finally Dad bought a mare for me and from then on I was a tanned, fearless, bareback riding tomboy. Later when the Monroe County Saddle Club was formed, I was the second female member in a mostly mens' club. We had a drill team and shows. Back then, no-one had a trailer - most people jumped their horse into the back of a pickup to haul. If I wanted to attend a club event, it meant begging a ride with someone, or getting up early and riding the 6 miles to town, and then back afterward.

My interest in cameras and photography started about the same time. I'd ask mom to use her Brownie to take photos of our horses and dogs; then ask dad for another 50 cents to get the film developed. I still have some of those old black/white 3" sq. photos with the deckled edges.

Years passed, I raised a family. In 1982 I left a career in property management and moved to Sullivan to be near my aging parents. Back 'in the country', it wasn't long before I had to have a horse again. With husband Bill, we began raising and showing modern bloodline Buckskins. The desire to take better photos of our horses led me to photography classes at our area college, then to STL CCFP for 3 years of classes and lab. Colleges don't teach how to pose horses, so for that I studied with Larry Larson, Harold Campton and others in the field. In 1995 I shot my first show 'professionally' and it grew from there - some years doing as many as 15 - 20 shows. I've been honored to shoot all of the various MQHA shows over the years . . . as well as other AQHA, APHA, ApHC and POA shows in Missouri and surrounding states, and the ABRA (Buckskin) World Show in Tulsa, OK since 2005. The highlight of my photo career - being the photographer for the AQHA Convention the year it was held in St. Louis. The downside to working so much is that it left me no time to show myself. We've had numerous world and reserve world champions over the years, in halter, longline and snaffle bit competitions.



As a long-time member of MQHA, I've served six terms on the Board, worked to grow the Select Division, and was Directory Chair for two years. These days I'm working less on the road and more near home. I'm slowing down but I keep finding things to do. New doors keep opening. I'll still do farm shoots and ad design, but add weddings and seniors. I want to get one of our dogs into obedience training and eventually get certified for touch therapy to visit nursing homes. I'm now a National Director for ABRA working to promote Buckskin and Dun horses. And I have a fledgling protégé that I'll be helping to get started in show photography. Over the years I've been blessed to work in many different careers - secretary, legal secretary, travel agent and trip escort, among others, and enjoyed them all. I also penned a news column for several different horse publications. As far as advice, whether it's photography or any career, set your goal, get the training for it. I believe you can do anything you set your heart and mind to.