

Missouri Quarter Horse Association

Member Spotlight

Joe Eddy

My family consists of myself, my wife Kelly, 10-year-old son, Justin, and 6-year-old daughter, Abby. We live in Boone County, just west of Columbia, in Rocheport. I am a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Columbia. I grew up in Chillicothe, MO. When I was in 5th grade we moved to Chillicothe and Mom and Dad bought a house in the country and purchased a 3-year-old "green" broke horse for my brother and I to ride! "Babe" bucked us off more than once, but for some reason we kept getting back on. Eventually another horse was acquired so we could ride at the same time. We joined 4H and showed at the county fair and some circuit shows, primarily in the speed events. I started team roping during high school and competed in that event at rodeos and jackpots. I was uninvolved with horses for about five years after college and during that time Kelly and I met and got married. Kelly grew up with horses. Her mom and dad raised Quarter Horses and she and her siblings showed in 4H shows. Eventually we were able to purchase a place in the country with a barn and we bought some horses.

About five years ago we found a great kids horse for sale and purchased her for our son, Justin, to begin walk/trot with. Glow is 17 now; she is a daughter of Zips Chocolate Chip. Justin has come a long way on her, culminating with making the finals last year in Small Fry Horsemanship at Congress and winning the All-Around Small Fry title at March to the Arch this year.

Our daughter, Abby, is getting in on the walk/trot act this year at open shows with her new horse, Tin Man. (Thanks to the Murphys for the chance to have such a great horse!)

Kelly has shown a few different horses over the years. This year she is competing in Amateur Western Riding on her horse, Lope The Bases. Jim Dudley is showing him in Junior Western Riding. She will be showing her other horse, Hershey, in Showmanship and Western Pleasure as well.

My involvement at MQHA shows has been "behind the scenes". I help saddle, longe, tune up, clean stalls, etc. However, I recently purchased a reining horse and have been riding him at Jim's and competed on him the first time a few weeks ago. I really enjoyed it and I plan to pursue that more as time allows.

Kelly and I believe that showing horses is a great thing to do as a family. When we are preparing for or attending a show, we are together as a family. It teaches you how to deal with nerves, that money can't replace hard work (our kids know the meaning of "sweat equity"), it brings out the competitive spirit in us, and it has given us the opportunity to show our children how to be a gracious winner and occasionally to fail with grace.

I think the best thing about horse ownership is opening the barn door first thing in the morning and having them all nicker at me. I also enjoy the feeling you get when you've been working on a maneuver for a while and it finally comes together for the two of you at the same time (I just got that the other day with sliding stops).

The most frustrating thing about horse ownership? Not enough time in the day or money in the bank to buy all of them that I'd like to!



Photo Courtesy of Rosemary Lahmann