

THE MODERN POA

PONY OF THE AMERICAS

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FIFTY YEARS AGO IF A PERSON WOULD HAVE SAID 'I'LL GOOGLE IT AND THEN TEXT YOU BACK,' THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN COMMITTED.

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED A GREAT DEAL IN FIFTY YEARS. KEEPING UP WITH THAT CHANGE IS THE HORSE INDUSTRY. AS TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN IMPROVING OR AT LEAST CHANGING THE WORLD, BREEDERS HAVE BEEN IMPROVING THE STOCK HORSES IN AMERICA.

One breed in particular that started a little over fifty years ago and has changed a great deal is the POA, or Pony of the Americas. Labeled as a pony, in reality the POA is a short stock horse. Started for young children in 1954, the POA breed has evolved to include all age riders, providing a great family experience.

Stigmatized by the word "pony", the POA breed has had an uphill battle gaining respect in America's horse community. Many horse people that can describe a Quarter Horse or Appaloosa can't properly describe a POA. In simple terms a POA is an Appaloosa with a 14 hand height limit. In order to show a POA it must have Appaloosa color and characteristics.

Just as the Appaloosa and Paint breeds have used the Quarter Horse to improve their look, so has the POA. During the 1970s and 1980s many own sons of Quarter Horse Legends such as Sonny Dee Bar and Two Eyed Jack were purchased by POA breeders to be crossed on POA mares. Own sons of Appaloosa Legends Joker B and Prince Plaudit also were used in POA breeding programs.

Like any breed of animal, sound conformation is important in a POA. Disposition is also key, as many young children start their equine careers on the backs of POAs. POAs are bred to halter and perform. During the course of a day, a POA often is presented in Halter, Showmanship, Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Trail, Equitation, Reining, and Timed-Event classes. In recent years many POA breeders have bred to popular Pleasure-bred AQHA and ApHC stallions. However, the all-around POA is still in demand.

Over the years breeders have built many strong POA lines that are the foundation of most of the top POA breeding

programs. Still every year POA stallions are crossed to horse mares. Also good POA mares are bred to well bred and champion horse stallions. In 1998 the first POA foal by champion Pleasure horse, A Sudden Impulse, was born. Aptly named, First Impulse, this stallion became a POA Champion in several events, and is now the head of his own family of Impulse POAs. Mainly due to First Impulse's success in POA, there have been at least three horse sons of A Sudden Impulse, to stand in POA breeding programs.

The Weiscamp-branded World Champion Quarter Horse Stallion Spanish Array has been used by many POA breeders. One breeder in particular has raised around twenty POA foals by the powerful AQHA stallion. So far five of these foals have been shown at the POA International Show, the equivalent to the World Show in other stock breeds. All five have become International Show Champions.

If a person attended a POA Show today, one could very easily find own sons or daughters of well know horse sires such as One Hot Invitation, Mac's Good N Plenty, Impulsive Zipper, State of The Art, Rock Star, Maid's Dream, and many more. In 2009 a POA mare will deliver the first POA foal by the uber popular Pleasure champion Chocolatey. Rumor has it around a dozen nice POA mares were booked to the famous stallion in 2009. Again the POA breed continues to follow the same popular bloodlines of other stock horse breeds.

The 2009 POA International Show will be held July 18-26 in Lake St. Louis, Missouri. The POA International Show will move to Cloverdale, Indiana, in 2010. The huge POA International Sale and Futurity will once again take place in Des Moines, Iowa, in October of 2009. Both of these events will provide excellent opportunities for people to view the modern POA.