

Pony of the Americas



Hot N' Shameless(POA) – Staci Stapleton

The North Central



Working Western Horse Celebration

### Pony Rides Reach New Strides

As time passes, the world drastically changes and evolves as it strives for improvement. Political, social, and technical norms are being tested by new ideas or a shift of acceptance. This concept also applies to the horse industry and its goal to achieve greater quality through diversity. The potential of certain breeds has been stunted by characteristics such as size or performance pedigree. A new year has presented new opportunities for a breed that may be small, but can compete with the greatest. The Pony of Americas is ready to show the true value to the equine industry through an up and coming event called The Western Working Horse Celebration.

In 2014, a group of people decided to take a chance and put together a show for the western enthusiast. Calling it The Western Working Horse Celebration, this show would offer a variety of events including reining, western dressage, ranch pleasure, trail, cow horse classes, and then some. Not wanting to limit the shows potential, any

breed of equine would be welcomed with open arms. The first gathering was in Cannon Falls, MN, but due to the exponential growth of participants, the Madison Alliant Energy Center is where they will call home for the next couple years. NRHA, NCHA, NRCHA, AQHA, and AHA have all showed their support and made this a sanctioned show. This year, another group of individuals have been asked to join the festivities and bring their horses with, or should I say ponies.

The Pony of the Americas club has been around since 1954 when a man named Les Boomhower obtained an Arabian Appaloosa mare that had been bred to a Shetland. The characteristics of the foal were that of a horse he had never seen and catapulted him into the idea of creating a new breed. With the build of a Quarter Horse, this pony must be between the height of 44 and 52 inches, have a spot visible from 40 feet, and the disposition fitting for a child. Over the years, the height has been adjusted to 46-56 inches for improving quality of breeding and to accommodate an adult rider. A

standard show bill includes everything from western and English riding, in hand events, reining, and speed events. Proving their extreme ability and versatility, the POA will be holding a show concurrent to the WWHC and have a spotlight debut with a breed class through the NRHA.

With a foot in the door, or hoof in the arena, to competing with top breed organizations, the POA is ready to knock down the negative connotation of the term "pony." Just as the Arabians, Paint Horse Association and Appaloosa breed have broke into the scene of greatness, the POA is following suit. Stay updated with the breeds achievements at the Western Working Horse Celebration and maybe your next trusty stead will be a POA!



The North Central Working Horse Celebration

National Pony of the Americas Club  
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