Happy New Year to all of our KMSHA/SMHA Members!

As our New Years’ resolution we have developed a brand new Newsletter, “KMSHA News-Wire”, exclusively for our membership in order to keep you informed about the KMSHA/SMHA activities, breed information, new policies, what’s new, show information, the Registry, etc., etc.

We encourage anyone or everyone to “respond” to our Newsletter on our Facebook page entitled, “Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association”. There we can talk about items that you may see here or have heard about elsewhere and ask questions, give us your impression or state your ideas, so that all members can tune in for communication with your Breed association and other members.

We hope that you enjoy the “KMSHA News-Wire” and hope that you come to value it as a helpful add-on and benefit to your annual membership.

For the first bit of news for 2015, it is our pleasure to announce that the KMSHA of KY Inc. a non-profit organization will be electing a new Board of Directors this year. The Directors currently are: Dave & Sue Stefanie and Billy Caudill. Happy New Year to all of our KMSHA/SMHA Members!

Sharing DNA Databases

For over the last five-ten years the KMSHA and the RMHA have been sharing DNA Parentage Reports produced by the University of Kentucky, Equine Lab in Lexington, KY. This is the accepted source of all DNA that the both Associations utilize for proof of Parentage testing. The cost for the DNA is $45 for submitting tail-hairs when paid either to the KMSHA or the RMHA, whoever is the initial registry that the horse has been submitted to first for Registration/Certification.

Recently, a few of our KMSHA members who have gone to the RMHA to co-register their horse(s) have been asked to pay an additional DNA fee of $45 on that same horse again with the RMH. Thereby duplicating the payment of DNA and processing for the same horse twice!
At the February 10th 2015 General Membership meeting at the office at the KY Horse Park, a new Board of Directors will be elected for the non-profit. If you may be interested in running please forward your name to the email address office@kmsha.com. If you are a member in good standing, you can forward your name to be included in this election. The deadline is February 6, 2015.

The responsibilities of an elected Board Member will be to not only help and guide the KMSHA/SMHA in the best direction for the future, but to “give your time to help out and Volunteer” your services to the association whenever needed. We need your help, wisdom and support to continue our association in best direction during these tougher economic times. We hope that in the future that we will get newsworthy contributions from you our members so that we can include them in our Newsletter’s in the future. Please understand that we do use our editorial digression before we print news in our letter. We hope that you like our newest means of communication with our members and wish you all a great year in your show, trail riding and other horsey endeavors!

2015 CALENDAR of EVENTS

March - Youth Activities (Time and place to be announced.)

March 21 - KMSHA/SMHA Judges Clinic

April 9-12 - 2015 Equine Affaire (Looking for volunteers ASAP to hold down the booth.)

May 1-2 - KMSHA/SMHA 2015 Season Show Opener KMSHA Spring Fling Horse Show at the Kentucky Horse Park Covered Arena, Lexington, Ky.

June 2 - KMSHA Youth Trail Ride at Lee County Saddle Club, Beattyville, Ky.

July 3-4 - Kentucky/Ohio State Show, Harrodsburg, Ky.

September 3-5 - 2015 KMSHA/SMHA International Grand Championship at the KHP Covered Arena, Lexington, Ky.

2015 KMSHA News “Special” Stallion Issue

The Stallion Issue is being worked on now and we’d appreciate all articles, regional news and other contributions be submitted ASAP to the office@kmsha.com.

Advertising reservations need to be booked prior to February 10, 2015 and all finished ads need to be supplied by February 16, 2015.

2015 marks the start of a New Year, so all Directory ads, Stallion, Breeders, Trainers need to be paid up for another year at this time. Classified ads need to be submitted at this time too.

Any help or information about your ads contact either dave@kmsha.com or sherry@sherrymays.com. We appreciate your support.

MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES

To reserve FRONT & BACK COVERS

Call 859-225-KMSH (5674)

Front Cover (color only)........................ 595.00
(Includes cover on web page and 1/2 pg ad/article)

Back Cover (color only)........................ 550.00

Center Spread (color only).................... 695.00

Inside Front/Back covers (color only)..... 445.00

Stallion Directory (yearly)................. 150.00
(Includes Webpage ad & hotlink-50 words or less)

Breeder's Directory (yearly)............... 125.00
(Includes Webpage ad & hotlink-50 words or less)

Premier Breeder's Listing.................. 125.00
(KMSHA website yearly)

Trainer's Directory Listing (yearly)..... 105.00
(Classified Ad (50 words or less).......... 50.00
(Includes Webpage listing)

 Classified Ad with Photo.................. 75.00
(all words over 50 are 10 cents each)

Yearly rates available! For details, call KMSHA at 859-225-KMSH (5674). All advertising must be paid in advance by check, money order, cash, Mastercard, Visa, Discover, or American Express. It is not the policy of the KMSHA to bill for any advertising submitted.

Ad design is included with your ad. After booking your ad, if you need assistance e-mail information to sherry@sherrymays.com. Camera ready ads MUST BE 300 dpi and will be accepted in the following formats only: InDesign, Pagemaker, pdf or Adobe Photoshop layered psd files. All photos must be 300 dpi in the size of your ad. Add 1/4 inch for bleed allowance on full page color ads. Templates are available upon request.

Happy New Year ... from page 1
The reason given was that “RMHA said that they will no longer accept any DNA from the KMSHA and that horses must be registered first with the RMHA and pay the DNA fee to them”, thus according to the new Rocky policy, be the only way to avoid paying a $45 fee twice. This would come to a total of $90 for the exact same report for double registration payed in the future to each registry, if paid separately. Another explanation was also given by the RMHA which said that the UK Lab prepares the usage exclusively for the RMHA database. This is not exactly true, once DNA is processed, it can easily go into as many databases as requested. It’s the same DNA per horse!

This has not been the case and certainly not the KMSHA’s policy when it renewed its agreement with the UK Lab to share DNA with specific outside Mountain Horse breeds, namely RMHA and MPHA. It was designed specifically to help members avoid paying an extra fee.

Secondly, not interfering with the results, which is just a matter of directing the UK Lab as to how many databases it belongs, was established in the below correspondence.

**SPECIAL KMSHA OFFER!**

**SAVE $45* DNA FEE FREE**

In order to help all those who are deciding whether to double register their horses, or just register them the first time. All weanlings, yearlings, one, two, three and four year olds who have not been registered or certified yet. KMSHA will offer you an incentive to register/ certify your horse with us and we will pay for the DNA fee for you.

NO DNA FEE! You save the $45., and the test will take place at the UK Lab so that DNA can be retained in our files.

*This offer is only for a limited time, so hurry and get those weanlings, yearlings, one, two, three and four year olds Registered/Certified before this offer is not available any longer.
30th Annual Kentucky After-Christmas Sale

Live/On-Site Multi-Breed Gaited Equine Auction

February 6 – 7, 2015 • 10:00 am Daily

Alltech Arena • KY Horse Park • Lexington, KY

We welcome and anticipate entries from the following:

- KY Mountain Saddle Horse
- Missouri Fox Trotter
- National Spotted Saddle Horse
- Racking Horse
- Rocky Mountain Horse
- Spotted Saddle Horse
- TN Walking Horse
- United Mountain Horse
- American Gaited Mule

Entries and participation from any and all breeds that offer pleasure, trail and show horses that compete in the pleasure divisions are welcome. We anticipate a nice selection of entries that are eligible for the Kentucky Breeding Incentive Fund.

The Auction will be conducted by Kentucky After Christmas Sale, Inc., whose principals are David Landrum and Jerrold Pedigo. David and Jerrold have conducted the Kentucky After Christmas Sale since 1991. Sales were conducted from 1991-2012 at the Tattersalls sales facility at The Red Mile race track in Lexington and in 2013 moved to our current home at Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park.

ENTRY CATEGORIES: In an effort to reduce cost to our sellers, we have created four entry categories, with different catalog fees for each. This new pricing structure will take some of the cost burden off the seller.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRY CATEGORIES</th>
<th>CATALOG FEE</th>
<th>SELLER’S COMMISSION</th>
<th>BUYER’S PREMIUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No-Reserve (Entries Selling Absolute)</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>PLUS 5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional, with Reserve (Entries Selling Subject to Owner’s Right of Refusal)</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>PLUS 5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional, with Reserve (Entries Selling Subject to Owner’s Right of Refusal)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier (Entries Selling Subject to Owner’s Right of Refusal) (These Entries will be Grouped &amp; Offered Saturday Evening)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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Catalog fees do not apply toward the seller’s commission charges.

ENTRY DEADLINE JANUARY 26, 2015

Host Hotel: Clarion Hotel, 1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY • 859-233-0512 (Ask for Horse Sales Rate)

Contact Us:
www.horsesaleslp.com

David Landrum
4468 Murfreesboro Rd.
Franklin, TN 37067
615.794.1190
landrumstables@aol.com

Jerrold Pedigo
P.O. Box 2907
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2907
615.895.9792
jerroldpedigo@gmail.com

Advertisement
This past November 2014 we had to post a serious note on the KMSHA LOVERS and KMSHA Facebook pages by the Administrator concerning some ridiculously “low prices” being posted on those pages for Horses for sale. “Like $400. for a completely broke trail horse, can be KMSHA or SMHA registered or a yearling for $250. with papers, need to sell fast.”

One fire sale after another, bringing our average “respectable prices” for our KMSHA stock “down a tumblin”, right before Christmas.

We do understand that there are some very serious situations like divorce, loss of job, the easy keeper became a hard keeper with a new baby soon to arrive. But those of our members who are Breeders, Trainers and other members who the sales of Mountain Horses constitutes a serious part of their income are hurt badly by a few who for whatever reason drop their prices for our valuable and rare Mountain horses.

We did do our research and found that it was becoming a habit for some non-members to start posting on our KM sites because they are free to post on, rather than some of the popular horse “for-sales sites” out there on the internet that cost money to advertise.

This sort of negative intervention can kill a horse breeding and sales business in a big hurry!

Well, in order to hear some good news for 2015 right out of the horse’s mouth. Below is some encouraging news from our recent survey from those who held their prices higher and didn’t give their horses away for just nothing.

You know how much money one has to invest in our horses? Feed, Vet, training, rent, trucks, trailers, show fees, etc., etc. So we just can’t afford to give well bred KMSHA/SMHA horses away to people who seek out bargain basement prices for top of the line horses. These people rapidly condition the market and force it to drop it’s average prices on quality animals. Making recovery very hard and long!

The good news is that our survey found that prices for well bred, Registered and Certified horses was averaging $4,500. to $7,500. for Trail Horses and $5,500.to $10,000. for both Show horses and Stallions.

It pays to hold out for a decent, fair price for quality stock! Our KMSHA/SMHA horses are well worth it!
RECENT GENETIC DIVERSIFICATION* STUDY

We are proud to say that the KMSHA has now registered over 26,000 horses since 1989 when Junior Robinson first started the breed back in 1989. The first horse registered was a Stallion named General Jackson. You could say that this Stallion was one of the founding horses of the KMSHA breed. He wasn’t from the Rocky Mountains, but from another set of mountains called the “Appalachians”. Geographically this mountain range stretches throughout Kentucky.

Originally the KMSH foundation of horses were remnant stock of the Narragansett Pacers and known as American Saddle or “Saddlin” horses going all the way back to the early 1800s.

Dr. Cothran, a well-respected and long known authority on Mountain horses tells us his belief was that the “Saddlin” horses were the original ancestral horses in Kentucky and were the base herds of horses we all are more familiar with today. For instance, the Mountain horses- Kentucky, Rocky, Mountain Pleasure as well as the Walking horses, Saddlebreds, Morgan’s, Racking etc.

Since the “Mountain horse” breeds were the later to be formally established during the mid to late 1900’s, they are considered the newer of the gaited breed groups. Prior to their formalization, they were referred by those who utilized and owned them as Kentucky Walkers, Kentucky Saddlers, Appalachian Single Footers and Appalachian Walkers.

When the new gaited Mountain horse registries first formed their numbers grew quickly. But from the mid 1990’s to current times, the development of the Mountain horses has been much slower due to the books of several of the Mountain horse breed registries being closed entirely to any outside breed diversification*.

There has been much discussion concerning the inbreeding habits and afflictions resulting from this policy. The Rocky Mountain horse enthusiasts choose to start their registry based on one Stallion. He was named, Old Tobe. A chocolate/ flax colored horse that would further develop a color breed registry and its popularity in the future as was originally established.

Non the less, the KY Mountain Saddle Horse Association has taken a different road. Offering more bloodline diversity rather than none at all. Back in 2009, KMSHA choose to discuss this matter with Dr. Gus Cothran for his opinion on this genetic topic.

Then at Texas A&M University, Dr. Cothran explains that since he was involved with all three Mountain horse breeds from the beginning of their establishment and he knows of something that inherently bothers him.

After meeting with him about our concerns, Dr. Cothran writes the following letter to the KMSHA concerning breed Diversity as a whole in the Mountain horse Industry.

From this enrichment and insight from Dr Cothran, later in 2009 the KMSHA adopts a very sensible and well monitored Genetic Diversification* program which is still active today.

Knowing what we know today about the genetic issues with registries who have chosen to keep their books closed, it’s a blessing to know that the KMSHA took a different path in preservation of our Mountain horse breed all along.

Thank you Dr Cothran for your help and good advice!

*Genetic Diversification* - is the variation of heritable characteristics present in a population of the same species. It serves an important role in evolution by allowing a species to adapt to a new environment and continually to be able to fight off parasites and disease. Genetic diversity is an important feature of adaptation, as evidenced by the fact that animals experience the accumulation and expression of harmful mutations during inbreeding (mating of close relatives). Inbreeding lowers the genetic diversity in a population and makes the creatures less robust and adaptable.
Dave Stefanick  
KMSHA Executive Director  
PO Box 1405  
Georgetown, KY 40324  

April 6, 2009

Dear Dave,

Here are my thoughts about the KMSHA and the preservation of the Mountain type of horse based upon what I know about the policies of the registry.

The "Mountain" horses of Kentucky represent a land race of horses which are derived from the early stock that was brought to the state by settlers. These horses share a common history with some of the more highly developed and more common breeds such as the Saddlebred, Morgan Horse, and Tennessee Walker and appear to represent the ancestral type for these breeds. A breed is most simply defined as "A group of organisms having common ancestors and certain distinguishable characteristics, especially a group developed by artificial selection and maintained by controlled propagation." However, there is no true scientific definition of the term as groups may be called breeds by common consent among the breeders of the livestock. There are now several breed organizations for the Mountain horses, each with different requirements for registration and goals. Each serves the important function of preserving this domestic animal resource. Because the total numbers of this type of horse are relatively low, it is important that that genetic diversity be retained in the breeds. The Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association is one of these breed organizations with a stated goal the preservation of the Mountain horse type and genetic diversity. Based upon accepted breed definitions, the Kentucky Mountain Horse can be considered a breed. Part of the strategy employed by the KMSHA is that the books are open to outside mares of other gaited origins similar to the Mountain horse and to have an Appendix registry for mares. The Appendix does require that at least one parent of an Appendix horse be registered and the animal must meet the judging standards of the breed. These strategies will increase genetic diversity while it should have little impact on the overall genetic composition of the breed, as long as the number of outside mares remains small. Having a partially open registry does allow the KMSHA to dilute the potential impact of the hereditary eye condition known as Anterior Segment Dysgenesis (ASD) which occurs in the Mountain horses. It is imperative that that a partially open registry use strict breed standards criteria to prevent the loss of the genetic characteristics that the breed was founded on, but if these are in place, introduction of genetics from animals that have ancestry from outside the registered population will be an effective means of maintaining genetic variation.

Sincerely,

E. Gus Cothran, Ph.D.
NEW CZECH REPUBLIC CLUB INFORMATION

Dear KMSHA,

I write to you about a new club we established here in Czech Republic, because the interest of gaited horses is growing very much here.

The club’s name is “Gaited Horse Czech Club” and it’s founders are KMSH owners and KMSHA members - Lenka and Martin Charvát from Ranch Pilgrim (first Czech breeders of KMSH) and Anja Brands. The Club starts in January 2015 and it offers to all its members services as a help with setting up the registration and certification of horses, a register of gaited horses in Czech Republic, a list of available trainers and other information to the Europeans who would like to join or monitor our Club. The club helps also to communicate to members about their experiences with gaited horses. We plan to have organized meetings, trainings and competitions for members in the future. I must not forget that without Noemi Le Blanc from Acadiana Stables and her enthusiasm and a very good guidance, it wouldn’t be possible.

Best regards to you and all other KMSHA Friends throughout the World, Lenka Charvátová, Ranch Pilgrim

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KMSHA

To our New Friends in the Czech Republic:

We are very proud of the fact that you would choose the KMSHA as a banner to start your Club! The KMSHA will help you in any way we can to make sure that the Club survives and flourishes in Europe. Good Luck and continue feeding us news about your Club and Events!
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The KMSHA/SMHA is proud to announce our newly appointed Youth Coordinator for 2015 Natalie Wright

Hi everyone! We’ve almost made it through the first month of 2015 and although with the cold and snow you may not think it, our first show is right around the corner. I know we’re all going to have lots of fun showing and trail riding our horses this year but I want to know what other activities you’d like to participate in.

Have you ever wanted to learn more about western riding? Or maybe jumping tickles your fancy. Have you ever wanted to try to ride side saddle? Maybe you’ve always wanted to learn how to rope a calf. I want to hear about all the things you already like to do but make sure you tell me what new things you’d like to try too.

Also, let me know about your awesome equine knowledge skills. I bet there are some of you out there who could label every part to a saddle or tell me all about how to care for a sick horse. If there is a skill you’d like to know more about, please send me a note or give me a call so I can make sure we do our best to include it in our year. Shoeing, bitting, basic veterinary care, anatomy, conformation, all of this counts and more!

This year is all about you and I want to make sure your year rocks! I’m really looking forward to seeing those of you that I know again and I am so excited to meet new faces. Call your friends and ask them for suggestions too. Let’s make sure we reach as many youth riders as possible! Remember our YOUTH TRAIL RIDE listed in the Calendar section of this KMSHA Newsletter. Happy Horsing!

Natalie
859-227-2972
Wgc060708@gmail.com or KMSHA Youth page on FB