

Cover Story....

IT'S MUCH MORE THAN A TRAILER RACE...

After years of plunking around on my old Arab, it was decided you could get your own horse. "Mom, I want a horse that can jump and do barrels." At 8 years old you were certain of the requirements. You had just begun riding lessons with Laura Verink. "What kind of horse can do that at a show?" I asked. Laura immediately replied, "You need a POA." "A PO what?" I said.

We arrived at the Richmond house in Michigan. As you stepped out of the car, one hairy, chubby, ear backed pony whined and galloped across the pasture to greet you. Debbie later told me at that moment her heart sank, Sabey had picked his girl.

Being a less experienced POA family, we have heard over and over again the value of showing a POA. Sarah, I'm taking this opportunity to remind you of a few lessons you've learned this past year.

Believe in yourself. In 2007 you received your first National Standing at the Convention. On the way home you asked me if you could try for a few more certificates your last year in 9-12. Of course I said yes.

Consistency has its rewards. You are not always first, but you are consistent. Not all of us are rocket scientists; some of us show up for work, keep showing up, and keep getting the job done. After all yellow is my favorite color.

Always be prepared for bad weather. After six tornadoes, countless thunderstorms, and one snowstorm, we learned the safest place in Allegan is the bathroom; dogs are allowed in rest area buildings during an emergency and that annoying beep, beep, beep from the radio isn't always a test.

Stick to your studies. As long as you're on the honor roll, yes you can get out of school early on Friday to go to a horse show. When you play all weekend, yes you still have to go to school on Monday.

Looks aren't everything. Your new pony Cash will never be a beauty, but just like Sabey you felt an instant connection to him. Yes he has a big head, but I know his heart and trot are even bigger.



Time with your family is priceless. Mid summer diesel was 5.09 in the Chicago area. We had the gas and mileage discussion. After 28 miles you realized I had just spent 10.00 dollars and we had 200 miles left. I turned up the radio and we began talking of something else.

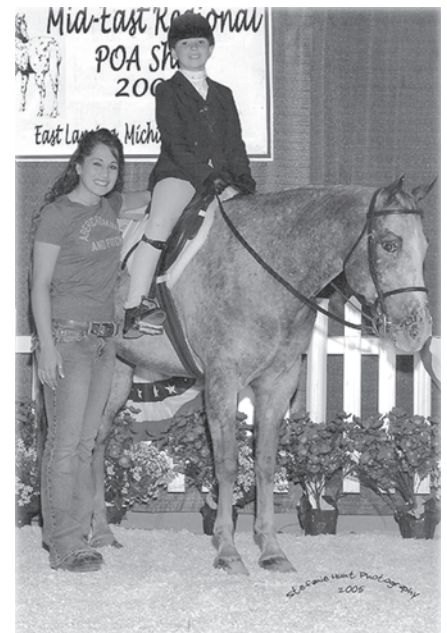
Always remember your manners. A special thanks to your Grandma and Grandpa for their support. Thanks Cole Richmond for sharing your beloved Sabey and Ken Brooks for approving of the match. Laura Verink thanks for all the lessons. Kelly and Clay Cannon thanks for helping us at the shows from patterns to grooming. Cody and Austin we

love showing with you and welcome Sydney! Nancy and Duane Strunk thanks for reminding me why I do this just when I needed it most! At home, SAP thanks for the rides to the barn (your always welcome for dinner) and Janna for being a great friend and neighbor. Thank you Joey for supporting Sarah and we'll be there for you at the McClay.

I'll always be proud of you. A year full of winnings, fun and hard work we had. I'm proud of all your accomplishments. You're the best navigator and traveling buddy ever. I'm proud of you whether in the ring or not, bathing your pony or packing the trailer, whether winning or losing, or just helping me do the laundry so we can take to the road to attend yet another POA show.

Good luck to you and all POA members in 2009.

As Nancy Strunk says in Illinois, First place and Congratulations goes to number 309 Sarah Boxer and Sabres Lil Dust of Luck for 9-12 Showmanship, 9-12 Bareback, 9-12 English Equation, 9-12 Western Horsemanship, Trail, Western and English Pleasure Ridden by a Girl, 9-12 Equation Traveling Trophy; Second Place Reining; Third Place Western Riding, Senior Western and English Pleasure and Large Geldings; 7th Overall in the Nation.



Love,
Mom