

## MID-AMERICA SADDLEBRED CLUB BARN TOUR A SUCCESS

The Mid-America Saddlebred Horse Club, Missouri's charter club, took a two-day tour by bus of six barns in the Columbia/New Bloomfield areas Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28. Most were from the Kansas City area, but we were also privileged to have on the bus with us Jacquie White from Aberdeen, WA, Kevin Allis, Rochele Cochrane and Lynn Brown from Wichita, KS, as well as two non-Saddlebred owners, but who may become ones after having gone on this tour!

The group was graciously welcomed by the owners and trainers everywhere. The barns took a lot of extra time and effort to prepare their barns and horses, in addition to providing food and drink at every one of them.

The first stop was at Virgil Helm Stables (Virgil and Sandy and their assistant Jesse West), where we were entertained by the horses for the divisions in which we'll be seeing them in 2010: In A Nutshell – Junior Park owned by Theresa Vonderschmitt; Re-Energized – Junior 3-gaited owned by Virgil; What Was I Thinking – 5-year old to be shown by Lisa Duncan, her owner in Amateur 5-gaited; and Grand Master Flash – Junior 5-gaited (what a sight he is!). Desert's Supreme Memories also came over from his other barn to see us; he's now 18 years old, but doesn't look it. Virgil said a couple of years ago, he looked at "Arizona" and thought, "You know, he looks like he could still do it;" but then when he checked with Sandy to see exactly how old he was and learned he was 16, Virgil decided he'd done enough when he was last shown in 2004, and backed off that fleeting idea.

Next, we went to Fairview Farm, owned by Bob and Tonya Brison. They along with daughter, Morgan, assistant trainer Ryan Alexander and instructor Valery Kron showed us: Soquili's Georgia Kracker: - Amateur 3-gaited by owner Theresa Vonderschmitt, Undulata's Health Nutt - Amateur 5-gaited by owner Jessica Curl; ARC'S I can Teach You to Tango- Junior and Ladies/Amateur by owner Ann Curl; I'm Something Wicked – 5-gaited Amateur by owner Theresa Vonderschmitt. We were joined here by the Southeast Iowa English Riding Association members who were visiting the World Cup try-outs at William Woods in Fulton.

Our last stop Saturday was Callaway Hills. We were greeted by gracious owner Tony Weldon, along with Don Mace and Billy Greenwell, trainers and Rick Berry, breeding manager. There are also six other full-time workers, plus some part-time William Woods student helpers. The Southeast Iowa English Riding Association members accompanied us. We saw: Adamant, a 4-year-old stallion by Caramac and out of Callaway's Razzberries (dam of Callaway's Sugar Plum). Next was Stir It Up , a 3-year-old chestnut filly for the 5-gaited 3-year-old classes; then Baa Baa Blacksheep, a Junior 5-gaited mare headed for that class at Louisville this year; Can't Change That – a 3-year-old filly slated for the 3-year-old Sweepstakes class in Indianapolis; No Reservations, a 3-year old gelding for the 3-year-old 3-gaited classes; Revision, a 6-year-old 5-gaited stallion – he was started late, but hope to get him in the show ring this year; and Nuts to You, a 5-year-old headed for the 3-gaited classes.

The Summit Lake Winery in Holt's Summit, MO was our destination for the evening meal.

Our first stop Sunday morning, March 28, was Mike Roberts Stables. He, along with Jeff Vogel, Zach Duffy and Kate Coup-Yunker, as well as the rest of Mike's crew, welcomed us to see: I'm a Lucky Charm - Fine Harness division; The Distinguishing Mark – Junior 3-gaited; Masette – 5-gaited classes by her owner Kate Coup-Yunker; Dreams on Phire – 2-year-old gelding in 3-gaited or fine harness; A First – 2-year-old filly in 3-gaited; Aussie – Gayle Lampe's new entry for 5-gaited classes; Silver Exchange – a gelding who hasn't been at Mike's long, but will do well in any 3-gaited class; CH

Callaway's Dealbreaker – a gelding for the 5-gaited Pleasure division; Heirizona Rose – 4-year-old for Park or Pleasure (reminds one of Naranda); Charming Odyssey – 2-year-old harness or under saddle.

Our second stop was High Spirits Farm. Standing in for owner Anna Marie Knipp were her trainers, Nikki Harrison, Nick Kinsinger, Silvio “Shorty” Azua and wife Carmella, along with customer/friends Jerome and Karen Rader and Lori Hoelscher. Anna Marie was unable to make it to the barn; she was at home recuperating from a recent accident. We saw: WC It's Dan the Man for the Fine Harness Division; Forever and Ever – 3-year-old road pony who will make his first show this year; Winsdown Day Trader – a gelding for Junior Fine Harness; Estoban for Ladies harness pony classes; Odeon – a junior gelding to be shown by Anna Marie in the Pleasure division; RWC One More Time – for the road pony classes; Pretty Outfit – a 2-year-old recently sent from Anne Neil's Blythewood Farm. We were then entertained by Chewy's antics, he's a 6-month llama. There are two female llamas with their new babies and a daddy llama also residing at High Spirits.

When we left High Spirits, we drove by Stephens College so that those who had never been to the college's equine facilities could see them. The historic R. P. Glenn farm was pointed out to us along the way to Glendale Farm by one of our tour participants, Carla Pearman, who learned to ride her first Saddlebred there.

The last stop was Glendale Stables LLC, which sits on Glendale Farms, where matriarch Elizabeth Glenn, son John and his wife Maxine Gill-Glenn, Jackie Glenn and Frank Glenn's wife, Donna, along with co-owner and trainer Kent Swalla and his wife Stacey greeted us. (Frank Glenn was ill and couldn't attend.) Kent's present part-time intern Brittany Logan was also there; she will become the full-time assistant and instructor when she graduates from William Woods in May. We were given an interesting history of this farm which has been in the Glenn family since the 1850s. We saw: Mastercraft's Sandman – a 6-year-old new pleasure driving pony to replace her beloved Heartland's Little Gem, who succumbed to colic late last year; Desert Supreme's Strider – a 5-year-old for the Park division; My Kryptonite – a 6-year-old for the road pony division owned by Stacey's uncle, Gary Dickherber; Gotcha Covered – 7-year-old mare for the Amateur Park classes with her owner, Ann Eaker of Savannah, GA (Kent presently has a 3-year-old full brother and a 2-year-old half-sister to “Lacey” in training); Designer's First Impression – a late 3-year-old gray filly for the young 3-gaited classes.

These barns plan to start their seasons at the Missouri Kick-Off Show, Des Moines Springfest or UPHA Chapter 5.

When we arrived back at our departure point, we were greeted by MASH president, Jan Burden, who thanked all who had attended. She also thanked the tour committee, Marge Bain, Sally Jackson and Shirley Smith, as well as Becky Yockey, who handled the paperwork. A beautiful spring flowers bouquet was presented to Shirley for the job she had done in pulling the tour together.

The Mid-America Saddlebred Horse Club wishes to again sincerely thank all the barns for their hospitality, and the extra efforts and work they did to accommodate us and make this such a delightful weekend for all in attendance. If anyone is looking for a horse of any age or in any stage of training (including those you saw on the tour), please give these great professional barns a call; they are always glad to tell what they have.