

Meet the Trainers...Margo Ball

Margo Ball first became involved in RMQHA in 1965 when she started showing in youth activities. Even though she was no stranger to the show arena since she had been showing in the nine and under classes in open shows since she was four years old. By the time she was eleven she was competing in nearly every class on the roster including working cowhorse. During her youth career she continued to show in "everything" and proved to be an all around competitor.

Many awards and titles were earned over the years in RMQHA on several different horses. These include All Around Youth, All Around Amateur, High Point Non-Professional as well as over 60 year end high point awards. In addition to these, she also claimed all around saddles and buckles from Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado.

On the national level, she has qualified for the AQHA World Championship Show, placed at the All American Quarter Horse Congress and the AQHA World Championship Show. She has also qualified several horses for the PHBA World Show. Margo's list of accomplishments include several ROM qualifiers, AQHA Champions, PHBA Champions, AQHA Youth Champion and Superior Event horses (including Superior Western Pleasure horses).

In the ten years Margo has held her AQHA judges card, she has judged many of the major shows, circuits, state fairs, and futurities across the nation and Canada. In addition to her AQHA judges card, she hold judges cards with PHBA, IBHA, NSBA, and NRHA. Margo's judging credits include: the AQHA World Championships, the All American Congress, the AQHA World Championships, the Palomino Youth Congress, the Palomino World Championships, the International Buckskin Horse World Championships, the Quarterama in Canada and the Grand National Show at the Cow Palace.

Currently Margo works with youth and amateurs exhibitors at Ball's Quarter Horses in Fort Collins, Colorado. Most of her students are novice youth and novice amateur exhibitors. Some have never shown while others have shown in open shows or other breeds. Margo is a strong supporter of the AQHA novice program. She says, "I believe the novice program is a great way for people to get started showing Quarter Horses whether or not they have shown previously."

Her emphasis with the novice exhibitors concentrates on showmanship, horsemanship, and english equitation. Margo explains, "It is important for riders to refine their skills to become a well rounded horseman and be able to



Judge, Trainer and Author, Margo Lea Ball

apply those horsemanship skills in the future. After showing in the novice division my students may decide to specialize in a class like Western Pleasure or Reining and it is important for them to have a good set of basic skills that they can apply to their area of preference."

Margo has a strong background in education after earning a degree and teaching and vocational certificates from Colorado State University. She has taught at the secondary and college levels and feels this experience proves to be helpful in the day to day instruction of her students. She has also conducted several clinics over the years and is currently scheduled to do a clinic for Penn State University in March.

In addition to showing and judging Margo has written several articles on Western Pleasure, Horsemanship and judging. Her articles have appeared in the Quarter Horse Journal, Southern Horseman, NSBA, "The Way to Go", PHBA, "Palomino Horses, Performance Horseman (now Horse & Rider), The Michigan Quarter Horse Journal and the RMQHA Journal.

Margo is currently taking students for the 1994 season and you can reach her at (303) 484-4148.