

PAINT *P*ORTFOLIO

THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN THE PAINT HORSE WORLD | EDITED BY ABIGAIL WILDER BOATWRIGHT

Largest European Paint Horse futurity celebrates 20 years

The Paint Horse Club Germany (PHCG) Breeders Futurity celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2010. Held jointly with the European Paint Horse Championships (EPHC) in Kreuth, Germany, the futurity boasted 87 entries and paid out 31,000 Euros (about \$39,700).

Kayitah Smart King, a 5-year old bay tobiano stallion and one of the futurity's entries, was a long shot going into the competition. Trained by a teenage girl and ridden mostly as a trail horse until January, the stallion—who is owned by Birgit-Susanne Sandler of Volklingen, Germany, and trained by Maik Bartmann—earned a top five finish in the EPHC's Junior Reining class and also earned seventh place in the reining futurity.

"He's a nice horse," said Bartmann. "I like him a lot. He's got a good attitude."

Past PHCG President Hardy Oelke says the futurity has helped the Paint Horse breed grow throughout Europe.

"The money that was paid out—it really helped the Paint breeders," he said. "I'm really convinced the financial incentive helped a lot."

Now drawing entries from outside of Germany too, the futurity has helped unite the European Paint Horse community.

"We call it the German futurity," said Oelke, "but I think it truly is an European futurity."

Visit international.apha.com for more information about the EPHC.

Team Paint wins Battle of the Breeds

Four American Paint Horses clinched top honors for their breed at a Canadian event, earning the overall title in the Pacific Spirit Horse Show's Battle of the Breeds competition. The Battle of the Breeds took place during the 100th anniversary of the Pacific National Exhibition Fair, held August 30–September 2 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The Battle of the Breeds is a team competition designed to showcase the versatility of horse breeds. With four horses per team, exhibitors competed in barrel racing, dressage, jumping and trail classes. Team Paint accumulated 584 points to take the top spot.

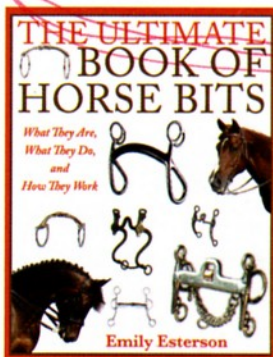


Banana Shake and Heidi Hogan helped Team Paint win the Pacific Spirit Battle of the Breeds event.

COURTESY KELLY ALLEN

Team Paint was comprised of Windancers Cimaron, a 1999 bay tobiano gelding, and the 1999 black tobiano mare Bar J Zandas Beauty, both of whom are owned by Ron Stolp and Kelly Allen of Langley, British Columbia; WW Pistol Mccue, a 1994 black tovero stallion owned by Cynthia Ann Mostad Pelletier of Langley; and Banana Shake, a 2003 palomino overo mare owned by Heidi Hogan of Mission, British Columbia.

Ridden by Christa Byrd, Bar J Zandas Beauty placed first in dressage and tied for second in jumping. Windancers Cimaron won the jumping with Brandie Thom aboard; Stephanie Ivs rode the gelding in dressage. Banana Shake and rider Heidi Hogan won the barrel racing event. Pistol Mccue and Cynthia Pelletier placed second in barrel racing and trail.



A bit about bits

Bits are some of the most basic, yet complicated, pieces of equipment available to horsemen. A new book written by accomplished equestrian journalist Emily Esterson, titled *The Ultimate Book of Bits*, provides a comprehensive look at the world of bits and biting.

The Ultimate Book of Bits covers history, manufacturing, bit styles and how to deal with specific biting problems, while focusing on proper training as the first step. The hard-cover book contains more than 120 color photographs.

Published by Skyhorse Press, *The Ultimate Book of Bits* retails for \$24.95. It's available through skyhorsepublishing.com, through equestrian book distributors and on amazon.com.

The couple that jumps together...

Kelly Allen and Ron Stolp are making strides on the hunter-jumper circuit with their Paints.

By Abigail Wilder Boatwright



COURTESY, KELLY ALLEN

Kelly Allen and Ron Stolp

LOUD PAINTS ARE a rarity at typically conservative hunter-jumper shows. For Kelly Allen and her husband, Ron Stolp, of Langley, British Columbia, Canada, however, flashy Paints are their mounts of choice. The pair's Paints left their marks at top-rated hunter and jumper competitions, and they are currently racking up credits in Paint Alternative Competition (PAC), too.

Allen grew up riding horses and has always loved Paints. Primarily a

hunter-jumper exhibitor, she mostly rode solid-colored Thoroughbreds and warmbloods until she met Stolp eight years ago.

Stolp began riding horses as an adult. He loves Paints, so the couple decided to purchase the 1999 black tobiano mare Bar J Zandas Beauty to breed to Allen's warmblood stallion.

"Zanda' does drill at rodeos," said Allen. "She can go in the jumper ring and win, and she can go in the hunter ring and win. She can compete against those really high-end warmbloods. We loved her so much that I wanted to buy Ron a horse like her."

When the pair found another Paint by Zanda's sire, Go Fast Cat Go—Winddancers Cimarón, a 1999 bay tobiano gelding—they decided to purchase him for Stolp.

"He'd been reining-trained and then parked in a pasture for three years before we got him," said Stolp. "We bought him as a trail horse, and then we found out he jumps even nicer than my wife's horse."

Allen convinced Stolp to try competing at some larger hunter-jumper shows nearly two years ago, and he quickly became hooked on jumping.

At one such show, the Thunderbird Show Park Hunter-Jumper Show in April, Stolp rode both Zanda and Winddancers Cimarón in the 0.85m

(approximately 2' 7" fences) Junior/Amateur Jumper class. To the couple's delight, Stolp won the class against 32 other horses, tying for first place with his Paints after earning a double-clear round on each. Even more remarkable, both Paints clocked the same jump-off time of :38.81.

"That was unbelievable," said Stolp. "Even if it had been second or third place, it would have been great. But to tie yourself—that's never happened at Thunderbird."

One week later at another show in Kelowna, Canada, Stolp piloted the same two horses to a first and second place in a 2' 9" jumping class. This time, the gelding won by only :017 of a second in the jump-off.

"We almost did it the second time," said Stolp. "It's funny because they are totally different. One is shorter-strided, and one's got a very long stride."

Stolp and Allen joined the PAC program in 2009, and that year, their horses came in second and fourth in the PAC Over Fences year-end category. Despite only showing Zanda for part of that year, Allen still managed to collect 110 credits in hunter classes with the mare.

"She would have finished the year but suffered an accident that left her with a broken pelvis and tail," said Allen. "We thought she would never come back, but she did, and we now have her back under saddle. She's racking up points already."

This year, Zanda and Winddancers Cimarón—along with the couple's 2004 black tobiano stallion The Huntsman—have again secured top spots in the PAC Over Fences category.

The two say what they enjoy most is spending time in the great outdoors with their horses—an experience made even better by the Paints' wonderful temperaments.

"We love the variety of things we can do with our horses," said Stolp. "We've gone camping in Arizona with them. We can take them on trails and they're fine. They're not high-maintenance. They're really easygoing."

"We take our show horses and camp with them," said Allen. "We do everything with our horses. Every one of them—even the stallion—is so quiet. It's great. I don't think you could do that with half the warmbloods out there."