

# NAN 2012

By Nancy Timm  
Photos by Jennifer Al-Beik



"Katniss", owned by Jen Al-Beik taking National Champion in OFP Collectibility.

Did you know that there was a model horse show on the national level? Did you know that this year it was held in the week leading up to BreyerFest®? This large model horse show, the North American Nationals (NAN), is an annual model horse show sponsored by NAMHSA (North American Model Horse Shows Association). This was held at the Heritage Hall in downtown Lexington, Kentucky, on July 17th, 18th, and 19th. NAMHSA was first established during BreyerFest 1994 and held its first show a year later. Silke Brockmoeller of St. Claire Shores, Michigan, who served as NAMHSA's president this past term, states "NAN is without a doubt, the single largest model horse show held every year, that spans three days and has anywhere from 100- 300 entrants. It is a way of giving back to the NAMHSA membership an annual championship show for those models that have qualified to compete at NAN. This show has certainly grown over the years from a two day show to a three day show with more divisions added over time. We have seen the expansion of breed classes, the addition of Stone Collectability classes, and China divisions to include Custom Glazed, just to name a few." She added "The Board of Directors every year sponsors the North American Nationals, as a way to continue moving the hobby in a positive, forward thinking manner. It serves to continually promote the hobby to develop interest, support and recognition. This is even listed in our Mission Statement." Horses showing at NAN must qualify in regional qualifying shows between a designated 2 year period.

Jim West, registrar of this year's show, states there were 190 entrants from 41 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Germany, and the United Kingdom entered 5417 horses with 7800 NAN-qualifying cards that were won from qualifying shows around the country. He said it took over 100 hours to enter and process the data into the NAN program set up for the show.

NAN is made up of various divisions just as any regular live show. There are performance classes, where horses as well as doll riders, are set up depicting maneuvers in a number of

disciplines such as harness, English events, Western events and costume. Judges look for properly fitting tack, accurate presentations, and creativity. In halter classes, there are several variables taken into consideration. Anatomy, biomechanics, and conformation are judged as well as breed standards and overall condition of the model. In the collectability division, judges consider rarity, age, condition, and overall desirability when placing classes. Customized models and artist resins are judged on their workmanship – that is the quality of the preparation, accuracy and realism, and execution of the finish work. Classes are divided up into original finish plastic models, in which Breyers would be placed, artist resins, customized models, original finish chinias, and custom glazed chinias. Top Ten rosettes are awarded for the top ten horses in each class and then a National and a Reserve National Champion is selected among them. With over 300 classes, the judges and volunteers had their work cut out for them over the three days. NAN uses three judges for each class. They judge independently and their scores are entered into the computer, which calculates the results. Volunteers were utilized as stewards, ribbon runners, photographers, and welcome staff.

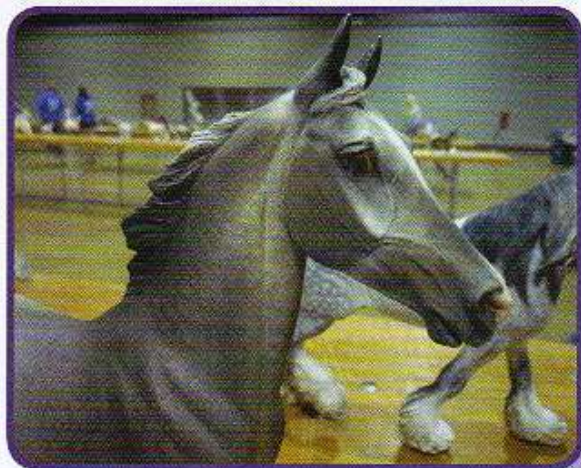
Stacy Faraci of Lexington, co-host of this year's NAN with and Carra McClelland of Nebraska, states that she "wanted to provide the fairest and most competitive show possible. We really tried to plan the classlist to provide the most even classes and split so that models were of similar types. The other part of this was spending time to assure that the judges were the best possible and that they were also placed in the classes that were best for them. We also wanted to provide a show that was fast paced and structured well so that there weren't lulls in the day and so that everyone not only got out at a reasonable hour but also so that the excitement of the day stayed high! We really felt we accomplished the balance between a slow pace and one that was too fast. As far as volunteers and judges it took months [to find them]. We were really grateful to have such enthusiastic volunteers and such qualified judges! "

Sharon Mossy from Connecticut has collected model horses for ten years and shown for eight, says this was her third NAN and she did extremely well. She brought fifty horses which won 46 Top Ten rosettes, eight National Championship plaques, and seven National Reserve Championship plaques. Almost all of her horses showed up on at least one of the three judges' score sheets.

A number of this year's entrants have expressed that to show at NAN is their goal. They enter local model horse shows to try to get their horses qualified, either in performance or halter classes, and by doing so, feel that they have a chance



"PPS Red Hot Chili Pepper", owned by Amanda Reed takes Reserve National Champ in OFP Collectibility.



"Smoke and Satin", a customized Breyer® Lonesome Glory competes in the CM Thoroughbred/Standardbred class.



"Everybody's Starry-Eyed" owned by Karen Gerhardt, competing in OF Western Trail, Stallion & Gelding



A Breyer® "Rushmore" is competing in the OF Western Stockwork class.



Sharon Mosey's "Shaman" (*Independence* sculpted by Sarah Rose & painted by Carol Williams)



to show against other horses from around the country that have also qualified. Ms. Brockmoeller wrote "From being a shower myself, it means to be part of something bigger, and compete with the "best of the best". There is really nothing like winning that coveted "gold or silver cookie" in any individual class. The show managers strive each year to improve in the organization, implementation, recruitment of staff and judges and then simply hope for a smooth running day. Some improvements over the years certainly were the online entry to register, online "live results" posted as we go during the day, and new this year, the streaming video webcam. That seemed to be a huge crowd favorite."

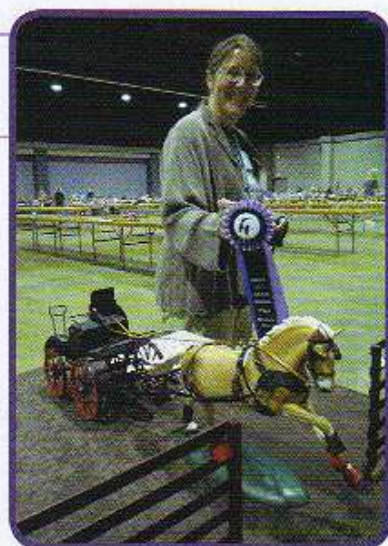
Overall, NAN draws large numbers of model horse showers for competition and fun. Just as BreyerFest often reunites friends from across the country and even across the world, this show does too. For Jennifer Al-Beik of Massachusetts, who has shown in the very first NAN (and six NAN's since), has noticed that with every year, the classes have become more competitive. Thus, "winning that coveted cookie is very rewarding. I've also made new friends and met people I've only corresponded with online. When I can make it to NAN, it's always a fun experience."

NAN 2013 will be held in Harrisburg, PA, on June 21-23, and in 2014 will be held again in Lexington, KY, three days prior to the BreyerFest festivities. 🐾



A class in the OF Collectibility division

Jackie Arns-Rossi proud of her Top Ten winning CM/AR Harness entry "Heidi"



"Friendly Fire", owned by Katherine Dwyer, winning National Championship in the CM/AR English Over Fences-Jumper/ Cross Country class.

