

Jackie Rongish

Thirty-one years ago, Jackie purchased her first horse – a sweet, yet feisty American Saddlebred weanling – from her brother and she has been hooked on horses ever since. That weanling, Kilarney's Irish Elegance, was shown mostly in fine harness for many years, had five foals and is still 'kicking up her heels' in retirement at home. Over the years, she has owned several other Saddlebreds – and currently has seven, along with one Hackney pony.

Her dad, Ernest Rongish, shared his love of American Saddlebreds with his family, leading 3 of his 4 children to "catch the bug" & become involved with these beautiful horses. This made going to the shows a great "family affair"!

Through the years, Jackie has earned Iowa, Nebraska and Colorado high point awards in several divisions: fine harness, country pleasure driving, western pleasure, park pleasure, and pleasure pony. She has enjoyed showing and making many wonderful friends who enjoy/love the horses as much as she does.

Jackie has been actively involved in the Iowa horse associations as a 'behind the scenes / get things done' type of person. She has worked on committees to organize horse shows in Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She has served on the boards of the Iowa Horse Show Association, the Iowa American Saddlebred Association, and the Iowa Futurity. Currently, she is serving as the secretary/treasurer for the Iowa Futurity.

Jackie is grateful for this Hall of Fame honor and couldn't have done it without the support of her family—her mom, Betty, Richard & Kathy Schmidt, brother Bob, Kayla, CJ, Cody & Trevor, brother Ernie, Cate & their family. She would also like to thank the various trainers that have helped over the years, especially the Herron family, Jim & Joann Torrens and Graham Gould. She would like to dedicate this honor to her dad, Ernest, who passed away last March.

Fay Coulthard came by her love of horses quite honestly. Horses were a large part of her mother's, her great aunts, and her mother's sister (Fay's aunt) growing up. Her mother was raised on a farm where they farmed with 6 teams of horses – which she also rode until they were replaced by machinery. Her mother then acquired a retired 5 gaited American Saddlebred show horse named Champ from the Earl & Proctor Stepp family which she rode with her aunts and also took to some small local shows. She had Champ until she got married. Fay's aunt had a pony as a result of a contest in which the pony was given as a prize. Fay inherited the pony when her aunt moved on up to a horse. The pony almost made it through the third generation of the family before he died. She had several horses and ponies through her high school years but it was in 1983 that she was introduced to the beautiful American Saddlebred and the wonderful world of showing by close friend and neighbor Judy Steenhoek. Fay has had several Saddlebreds that she's won many awards with – Uptown Bandit, Shamrock's Supreme Sonburst, Wind Chill, Go For The Glory, Flames Radiant Promise and her very special old show mare Night Flicker or Buttercup as she's known around the barn, who she's had for 27 years and also just turned 30 in May of this year.

Fay served on the board of the Iowa American Saddlebred Association for 13 years, from 1992 to 2004, the last 6 of those as President. Chaired the IASA Society Horse Show held in Marshalltown & Mason City from 1993 to 2001 and served on the committee for the Iowa Summer Spectacular horse show sponsored by the Iowa Horse Shows Association and the Iowa American Saddlebred Association which was held at the Cattle Congress grnds in Waterloo and then at the Iowa Equestrian Center in Cedar Rapids from 2002 to 2012. She's also helped out in many capacities over the years with several other shows – the Great River Benefit horse show, SIERA Charity horse show and Des Moines Springfest horse show. She has also been member of and served on the board of the SIERA horse club for over 20 years. Fay has been co-editor with Mary Borg of the Iowa Show Horse News show bill magazine for the past 20 years. She has served on the board of the Iowa Horse Shows Association for the past 18 years, recently completing a 3 year term as President and continues to serve on this board today.

Thank you to the Horseman's Hall of Fame for this honor. Thank you to all my family and friends for all their support and also a very special thank you to our extended family, Larry & Jenny Paetz and the entire 7 Oaks gang for their friendship and support as well all these many years.