

# Region Nine – So Fine

One exhibitor overcomes her nerves while the others just enjoy the Experience in sultry Mississippi.

Article and photos by Larri Jo Starkey

LISA DAVIS OF BELCHER, LOUISIANA, was a little nervous.

Make that a lot nervous. In her first AQHA show, she planned to show Taint My Poncho in hunter under saddle classes after borrowing the horse from her husband, John.

“Poncho” was a roping horse for John, but when Lisa appropriated him, Poncho went into English tack. Lisa and Poncho both started taking lessons from Chele Murrell of Elm Grove, Louisiana, and decided to take the plunge into showing August 16 at the Region Nine Experience in Jackson, Mississippi.

John loped Poncho – no cantering for him – to warm up the horse, then Lisa climbed aboard to fight her nerves.

“I just hope I can stay on and that today is a learning experience,” she said. “For me to get calm and see how things go.”

She doesn’t really remember much about her novice amateur class, but John does.

“She was so nervous about cantering from a walk, but when they asked for it in the class, she cantered right off,” he said proudly afterward.

“I don’t think I was thinking as I went in,” she admitted. “I’ll be nervous in the next class, but not as nervous.”

Then Lisa went in for amateur hunter under saddle. Poncho broke gait, and Lisa didn’t place, but she came out excited.




John Davis cleans out Taint My Poncho's hooves for Lisa Davis.

“That was fun,” she said.

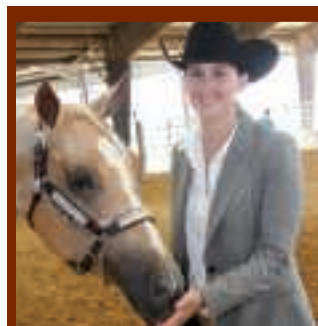
On the way home, John reported, Lisa said, “My next show is in Monroe, right?”

He told her, “It is if you want it to be.”

She does.

Look out, Louisiana. You have a new competitor. 

Larri Jo Starkey is managing editor of AQHA publications. To comment, write to [lstarkey@aqha.org](mailto:lstarkey@aqha.org). To read more stories from the Region Nine Experience, go to [www.americashorsedaily.com](http://www.americashorsedaily.com) and click on *Journal on the Road*.



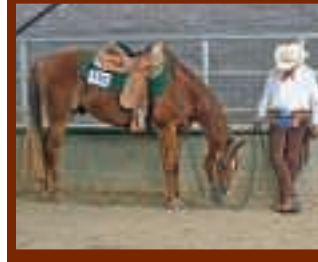
Rachael Wingo of Birmingham, Alabama, showed as a youth. When she went to college on an American Quarter Horse Foundation scholarship, she had to quit showing while she got her degree in business management. The Region Nine Experience was her first show as an amateur with Mister GQ Deluxe. “I was rustier than I thought I would be,” she said after her halter class. “My feet were in the wrong place.”



Don’t tell the doctor that Kayla Hardacre of Florence, Mississippi, showed at the Region Nine Experience. She fell out of the truck, fractured her leg and tore some ligaments and tendons – none of which kept her from trotting her mare, DQ Miss Clue, aka “Miss Piggy,” to a first-place finish.



Last year at the Region Nine Experience, the *Journal* captured a photo of Marietta Booth of Alexandria, Louisiana, when she was sweaty while working her horse. “Why don’t you ever take a picture of me when I look good?” she wanted to know this year. OK, Marietta, how about when you’re walking out after having won your halter class with Stars Do Impress?



Al Fenger of Oxford, Mississippi, contemplates his upcoming horsemanship pattern with AGR Krymsun Secret.

## ALL-AROUND WINNERS

- **Open:**  
RL A Sudden Cover owned by Bobbie Ware of Brandon, Mississippi
- **Select**  
Sheila Schmidt of Fairhope, Alabama, and Shiney Red Kadillac
- **Youth**  
Alicia Berry of Brandon, Mississippi, and Mac In Time
- **Novice Youth**  
Brooke Ware of Brandon, Mississippi, and RL A Sudden Cover
- **Amateur**  
JoAnn Hancock of Coldwater, Mississippi, and Spin My Wheel
- **Novice Amateur**  
Kara Sisco of Memphis, Tennessee, and Royale Asset