

# Member Spotlight

## Mocha Miniatures

*Cindy Moses*

*Bow, New Hampshire*



On a bitter cold January afternoon in 1990, an elegant black and white 9 month old filly, covered in a tiny red blanket, and encased in a greyhound sized shipping crate, was forklifted off a plane into the cargo hangar at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts. NFC's Cherokee Maiden walked calmly up the makeshift ramp to a newly customized pickup, in the unflappable, regal style she still bears today, and Mocha Miniatures was born.

Situated on a gently sloping hillside, with views of the golden dome of the New Hampshire capitol in Concord, Mocha Miniatures is set on nine acres in the beautiful bedroom community of Bow, named for the bow of the Merrimack River where it was first settled in the 1600's. The farm is now home to a herd of twenty or so horses, with a carefully planned yearly foal crop of four to six. So, how did we grow from one feisty black and white filly, to a barn full of pampered little horses?

I am a lifelong horseperson, especially if you count day-dreaming in class over *The Black Stallion*, sketching horses in margins, and keeping lists of romantic sounding horse names in my school notebooks. Many decades later, I am still looking for that special grey horse to call Snow Sky. I rode Morgans and Saddlebreds, fell in love with a challenging half Arabian pintaloosa gelding named

Chieftain who was my best buddy for 23 years, majored in Equine Studies in college, and spent a bunch of years teaching riding

before joining the business world. The horses faded into the background, but never left my heart, and since discovering Miniatures in 1989, I have not ever looked back.

About 4 months before that fateful winter day in 1990, on a business trip to New Orleans, I was introduced to the intriguing world of minis when I innocently planned a detour to visit Bob and Sandy Erwin's incredibly successful NFC Miniature Horse Farm in Whitesboro, TX. For those of you who remember that era, visitors were treated to a stretch limo ride from the DFW airport, made comfortable in a beautiful guest house, and taken out for a Texas barbecue dinner. NFC was staffed at the time by Cheryl Belcher, John Belcher, and Jackie Crisp, Sr. I have these folks, along with Cheryl's Dad, Joe Spino and partner Al Glass, to thank for aiming me on a path that changed my life forever and carried me forward to this day. Bob Erwin, who passed away a few years ago, was a marketing genius, responsible for much of the success and growth of the Miniature Horse industry during that time. NFC produced horses with generous price tags and whose lineage included the legendary stallions Rowdy, Boogerman, Egyptian King. Their memorable production sales were firsts for the industry,



I purchased two yearling fillies from NFC in 1990 - NFCs Cherokee Maiden, a Rowdy granddaughter, and NFC Darks Spice of Life, a Dark Destroyer daughter. Through Joe and Al, over the next several years, I purchased a Boogerman daughter, Bar B Boogermans Queen, a Blue Boy daughter, Flying W Farms Blue Le Fox, and a Flying W Farms Wardance son, Gingerbread Farms Jiminy Cricket.

This was my foundation, and almost twenty years later, all five of these wonderful horses still live in my barn! As do many of their various children and grandchildren. In fact Cherokee Maiden (Cherrie) is nursing foal number *fifteen*, a leggy, symmetrically marked bay tovero pinto colt that Bob Erwin would just love.

Assuming his stallion duties at age three, 30" Cricket performed exactly as Joe Spino said he would – siring foals from these mares that were almost without exception better than he was. I have retained so many of his wonderful daughters, that he has simply produced himself out of a job. Yet, Cricket more than deserves a permanent home here, and he is still visited by a few outside mares even in his twenties.

Cherrie, who was the Honor Roll Weanling Filly for 1989, represents the dedication to quality that has been the hallmark of my breeding program from its inception. I am very proud of this mare's contributions– to Mocha Miniatures and to the Miniature Horse breed – fifteen gorgeous foals, many with World Top Tens, Regional titles, and Honor Roll placings, and more than forty "grandfoals" who also have enviable show records, as well as a slew of great-grandfoals!

Of the other three original mares, Queen and Fox are retired and will stay with me forever. Fox, a solid black 33" Blue Boy daughter provided my first foray into World Show competition, rewarding me with a World Reserve Amateur Senior Mare title in 1991. I will never forget sliding that precious trophy through the x-ray machine at the Oklahoma City airport and crying over the loss of a tiny ear! But more than that I will never forget the first time I spotted this mare, whose timeless elegance literally brought tears to my eyes. Maybe it was her uncanny resemblance to those "Black Stallion" daydreams of mine. In any event, it was meant to be, and home she came, complete with a breeding to NFC Egyptian Kings Keepsake, thanks to Joe's long standing relationship with the Streicher family of What A Folly Farm. Keepsake is acknowledged to be one of the best of the King sons, and he and Fox produced my 28.75" multiple World Top Ten stallion, Mochas Keep It Blue (Kippy) And in that tradi-

tion, Kippy has sired a slew of World Top Ten horses for me, including two World Reserve Champion mares, Mocha's Keep Her in Kalico, and Mocha's Boogerman's Kara Mia.

Queen is, and always has been, my herd boss. She is strict but benevolent, and takes her job very seriously. Queen is mother to, 30" Mochas Boogermans Royal Blue, sired by Kippy.



Royal is a multi World Top Ten and Eastern Reserve Champion who now handles a good portion of the stallion duties here. And those Reserve World Champions mentioned above? Kara is Queen's daughter, and Kallie her granddaughter. Queen has produced six fillies, four of whom I still own. Royal is her only son, and he is special in many ways, not the least of which was his nightmarish two hour birth, requiring two vets and two techs, all of whom were only hoping

to be able to save Queen. No one thought there was any way this "upside down, inside out and backwards" colt could possibly make it. Well, he did, all twelve pounds of him, probably precisely because he was only twelve pounds. Have I mentioned to the uninitiated out there that breeding Miniature Horses is NOT for the faint of heart?



And finally, Spice, the mare I purchased over the phone from the 1990 NFC Production Sale with Bob Erwin coaching me through, is in foal for 2009 with baby num-

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ber nine. She is the steady little mare who taught me how to show. She and I earned many club and regional titles in the early 90's. She has produced Mocha's Penny Royal (by Mocha's Boogerman's Royal Blue) a World Top Ten and Futurity Reserve champion who I will show in Senior Mare classes this year.

Our broodmare band today consists totally of daughters and granddaughters of my original four mares, many sired by my original stallion. With the excellent guidance I was given, there was never any need to 'upgrade'. I must say however, that even with my equine background, it was a mini jungle out there when I got started in 1989! This was in pre-internet times, and it was a challenge to do the necessary homework, and wade through the all too often bad and bizarre advice I was given. Fortunately fate or luck or instinct led me to advice that finally made sense, and has served me well all these years later.

My first foals arrived in 1992, and I never bought another mini — until Arista's Choctaw Charlie became unexpectedly available in 2002, connecting me once again, to my original mentors. Joe Spino, who knows more about



mini pedigrees and lore than most of us will ever forget, had been responsible for basically re-discovering Roan Ranger, by Gold Melody Boy, and did much to promote the resurgence of popularity of the Gold Melody Boy

bloodline. At 30.25" Charlie is a Roan Ranger son, and one of a few remaining sons that are still living and producing. By 2002, he had been tossed around a bit in his nine years, and ended up a scruffy shadow of himself in a wintry field in, of all places, New Hampshire. I snapped him up in a heartbeat, and he has been, as one would expect, the perfect cross for the mix of Rowdy, Blue Boy, Egyptian King and Wardance kids and grandkids now residing in my barn.

Charlie has never let me down, consistently stamping his get with the conformation and type that modern breeders are striving for — extreme refinement, beautiful movement, smooth, level topline with a great hip and laid back shoulder, topped off by a long, upright neck and pretty head. Prince Charles is a delight to have around, asking only for regular meals he does not need to forage for, and his cozy stall, should a raindrop appear! I am forever being chastised by my friends for falling behind in my web site updates, but my Charlie kids are in enough demand that they are often in their new homes before I can announce their arrivals!



*My Dad was an Ob-Gyn and as I was growing up a horse crazy kid, he and my Mom had a few thoroughbred race horses. They enjoyed themselves, but successful was not a word I*

*would use to describe this venture. They had a beautiful bay colt born on June 13, 1974, which happened to be a Friday, and they named him, with tongue in cheek, Lucky Dr. B, after my Dad, Dr. Hal Broady. Known to me as "Lucky", but always "Doc" in later years, this handsome boy did win a few races but ultimately retired and I did my best to make sure he always had a caring home and a good life. Doc died at his last home, where he had been treasured for about 10 years, in the Spring of 2007 at the ripe old age of 33. My Dad, at 92, followed his namesake on June 19 of that same year. On June, 23, 2007, Mocha's Cherokee Angel Feather, following my strict instructions to wait for me to get back from my after funeral family obligations, gave birth (almost the instant I walked into the barn!) to her Charlie son, a tiny, wildly marked black pinto with blue eyes, just like my Dad. The eyes, not the wildly marked part.*



*He, of course, became Mocha's CC Lucky Doctor B, and we call him "Dice". Obviously, he will never leave here, and I am hoping that after a successful show career (he is already a Supreme Halter Champion) he will help his Dad Charlie with some of the stallion duties.*

Mocha Miniatures has always been an enthusiastic supporter of the AMHA Futurity Program, and although at times some of my stallions may be expecting only a foal or two, I nominate them every year, and with the new program, I nominate all the bred mares as well. I have had

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great personal success with the Futurity, especially the AOTE Futurity program, and I believe that the extra investment of the fees are a statement of confidence in my breeding program. It has been my experience, a Futurity nominated foal provides its new owner with an added value and an incentive to show.

When I was first putting my web site together, and took stock of the combined show records of horses carrying my Mocha prefix, I have to admit that I was bit surprised at the list of accomplishments! Many times it is easy to get bogged down in the daily grind, and inevitable setbacks, and occasional heartbreak of owning horses. I was pleased to see that Mocha bred horses, both my own, and those now owned by others, have won multiple Supreme Halter titles, both open and amateur, countless Grand Championships and New England area Year End Championships, Eastern Championships and Reserve Championships and Top Tens, multiple AMHA Honor Roll placings, more than thirty World Top Tens in Open Halter, Amateur Halter, and Futurity, including two open halter World Reserve Championships, and two Futurity Reserve Championships. All of this was accomplished in AMHA competition, from an annual crop of only four to six foals.

And although my own horses have been at times presented on a national level by professionals, virtually all of the training, conditioning and preparation; not to mention mid-wifing, is done by yours truly. In that context, three of my homebred mares and I have won the Eastern Championship AOTE Mare title in separate years, an accomplishment which gives me a huge sense of pride and joy.

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I would be terribly remiss here, while patting myself on the back, if I did not give due credit to my extraordinary assistant Siobhan Desmond. Siobhan was a college student when she came to me more than eight years ago as a summer employee. Though she is a brilliant young lady with a degree in English literature, she has chosen, for reasons I dare not question, to remain here as my good right arm. Siobhan loves the horses, they love her, and I simply could not do what I do without her.

It is very important to me to do all I can to ensure good, permanent homes for the foals I breed. To that end, I price them as fairly as I can, and offer height, bite and breeding guarantees, and value added incentives, such as Futurity nominations, as well as a breeding back to one of my stallions for every filly who is sold. Also offered is a cash back on show entries based on a percentage of sale price, consulting services, and ALWAYS, a buy back clause. I run my farm as a business, but I feel very responsible for the welfare of the little horses that are here on earth only because I have planned their very existence. I am happy to say that I stay in touch with owners and will often help them re-sell their horses if need be. Many times they simply come back here to stay.

In 2005 several friends and I founded the Northeast Miniature Horse Club. We are a sanctioned AMHA club, with a current membership of more than 65 families, and I have been honored to be club president since its inception. We formed not for the usual reasons, but because we wanted to be an official entity in our year long courtroom battle to save more than fifty minis who were being starved and abused on a farm in neighboring Massachusetts. We were successful in having the horses finally removed permanently into foster care, and later adopted. Our group had to raise money and actually purchase these horses from their abusers in order to remove them. Woven into this tale is my fate or chance meeting with a horse from my past NFC connection. NFC Peppy's

Playmate was a pretty black and white Peppy Power son I had met when he was for sale as a yearling in 1991. He was eventually purchased by Pete Aldrich from Connecticut, and shown for a season or two by Ed Sisk, before Pete sold him here in New England. As one of the court's expert witnesses, I went along on a viewing with the court officers to the farm location. I was braced for the worst, and promised myself I would contain my feelings, but when I was led down a path through the woods and saw a pathetic, miserable, depressed bag of bones that the owner told me was Peppy..... I burst into tears. I spent the next 4 months trying to buy him and finally succeeded in September of 2005. Peppy is a testament to the hardiness and resilience of

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this wonderful breed. He is today, happy and healthy, and making a contribution to the breed that he so deserves to make.

The Northeast Club continues to make a real difference in the lives of abused and neglected miniature horses. Our club feels it is important to not only enjoy our horses, but to give something back toward their welfare. We hold two AMHA shows per year, as well as other fundraising events, and contribute thousands of dollars each year toward rescue and research.

I can attest to the many health benefits of multiple mini ownership. I stretch the limits of both brain and body on a daily basis. My mother who is 87 years young, tells me I will never have need of her crossword puzzles or her treadmill. But the minis have brought me so much more. I am incredibly proud of my

equine “kids”, so happy for the huge place they occupy in my heart and soul. I am grateful for what they have given me, not the least of which are the wonderful friendships which have come about through them, and the opportunities I have been afforded to make a difference in countless ways. I have evolved over the years from someone with terrific mentors, to a person thought of as a mentor to others. Never having been blessed with children of my own, I cherish these relationships. I know without a doubt that for these reasons, my life will always have room for my Mocha Miniatures.

The horses and I love company, and we would welcome your visit if you are ever anywhere near beautiful New Hampshire! Or see us on line at [www.mochaminiatures.com](http://www.mochaminiatures.com). Thanks to AMHA for the opportunity to share my story; and I wish everyone competing at Worlds this year the very best of luck.

Enjoy your horses! ➡



*4 years ago, at the World Show there was a pen of Golden Retriever puppies in one of the barns. Very odd, because mini people usually raise mini dogs. But I have been a Golden person for 30 years, and happened to be in a sadly ‘dogless’ state that year. It just seemed fate for me to bring back a furry blonde bundle of joy from the show, and name her, what else, “Dallas”.*

