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## KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

# HORSE PARK HAPPENINGS

by Laura D'Angelo

### SEPTEMBER 2013 MUST-SEES

Kentucky Classique Horse Trials, <a href="http://kyevents.com">kyevents.com</a>	August 30-September 1
Bluegrass Classic Dog Show (Alltech Arena)	September 1-2
Dressage at the Park, <a href="http://mseda.org">mseda.org</a>	September 6-7
Fall Classic Hunter Jumper Show I, <a href="http://robertmurphystables.com">robertmurphystables.com</a>	September 7-8
Rocky Mountain Horse Association International Horse Show	September 10-14
Horses and Hope Trail Ride, <a href="http://horsesandhope.org">horsesandhope.org</a>	September 14
Fall Classic Hunter Jumper Show II	September 14-15
Kentucky National Hunter Jumper Show, <a href="http://thekentuckynational.com">thekentuckynational.com</a>	September 18-21
Jump Start Horse Trials, <a href="http://jumpstarthorsetrials.com">jumpstarthorsetrials.com</a>	September 27-29
Special Olympics	September 28
Paso Fino Grand National Championship, <a href="http://pfha.org">pfha.org</a>	September 29-Oct 5

*For more information visit [kyhorsepark.com](http://kyhorsepark.com) and [khpfoundation.org](http://khpfoundation.org)  
See [TopsinLex.com](http://TopsinLex.com) for photo coverage of these and other events*



## PASO FINO'S – THE SMOOTHEST RIDING HORSE IN THE WORLD

The much-anticipated Paso Fino Horse Association's (PFHA) 41st annual Paso Fino Grand National Championship Show and Expo will be held at the KY Horse Park September 29 - October 5, 2013 for the second year in a row. 2,000-plus Paso Fino Grand National spectators and exhibitors will be on site representing seven countries! The best of the best will be competing, having had to qualify throughout

the year. The Pasos are a sight to behold with their long flowing manes, animated style and beautiful costumes.

Classes range from Lead Line for little Paso people to the extremely dynamic Fino horses, which seem to defy both physics and gravity with their intense, rapid footfalls. Hearing a Fino horse traverse the famed "sounding board" is one of the most thrilling things for spectators at the show. Pasos show in Fino, Performance, Pleasure, Amateur-Owner and other categories which demonstrate the versatility of this horse.



2012 Paso Fino Cowboy Mounted Shooting and Barrel Racing Champion Rick Meyer (who also serves as the Nationals Show Chair) will be returning to Nationals here in Lexington to defend his titles. The colorful official Paso Fino show costume attire includes a long sleeved bolero-type jacket and full length riding pant or jumpsuit which covers the boots and a Spanish-style hat.

The Paso Fino is truly a horse with rich historical roots. Its ancestors came to the Americas more than 500 years ago, originating from Spanish roots. There's nothing quite like the Paso Fino Horse. Its natural and unique four-beat gait has earned the stylish horse the title of "smoothest riding horse in the world." If you watch very carefully, you will note that when in motion, the Paso's four feet hit the ground at different split seconds. Pisos are beautiful, animated and proud, yet extremely gentle and thoughtful on the ground.

The Paso Fino exhibits three distinct gaits. The Paso Corto, with a moderate forward speed, with full to moderate collection. Steps are ground-covering but unhurried, executed with medium extension and stride.

The Paso Largo is the fastest speed shown while in gait, executed with a longer extension and stride. Forward speed varies with the individual horse, which is to attain its top speed in harmony with its own natural stride and cadence. The Classic Fino is shown with full collection. Forward speed is very slow, yet the footfall is extremely rapid. Steps and extension are exceptionally short.



A special Paso Fino Horse Association Youth “Team USA” competition will be held on Saturday, September 28 in the Annex Arena, before the official show begins. Team USA will be representing the United States in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic in 2014. Come watch these young riders test their skills to perform at the international level.

The Grand National show is put on by the Paso Fino Horse Association, the official United States breed registry of the Paso Fino Horse and its associated membership organization (President, Lee Vulgaris and Executive Director, Sally Walker) which is based at the Kentucky Horse Park. The mission of the PFHA to protect and maintain the integrity of the Registry, and the natural characteristics and heritage of the Paso Fino Horse; to promote and enhance the appeal and versatility of the Paso Fino Horse; and to provide support and member services. With more than 50,000 registered Paso Fino horses and 4,500 members, The PFHA is located in the main USEF Building within the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY.





## ON DECK COMING UP NEXT TO THE HORSE PARK

- Paso Fino Grand National Championship, [pfha.org](http://pfha.org) October 1-5
- Fall Classis Saddlebred Show, [kentuckyfallclassic.com](http://kentuckyfallclassic.com) October 2-5
- Kentucky Classic Combined Driving, [kentuckyclassiccde.com](http://kentuckyclassiccde.com) October 4-6
- Thoroughbred Show, [tbhorseshow.org](http://tbhorseshow.org) October 5-6
- Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association Championships, [kmsaha.com](http://kmsaha.com) October 9-12
- National Carriage Drive, [nationaldrive.net](http://nationaldrive.net) October 9-13
- Kentucky Dressage Association I and II, [kentuckydressageassociation.org](http://kentuckydressageassociation.org) October 10-13
- Hagyard Midsouth Three-Day Event and Team Challenge, [hagyardmidsouth.com](http://hagyardmidsouth.com) October 18-20
- PMHA Morab Show, [puremorab.com](http://puremorab.com) October 19-20
- National Mounted Police Colloquim, [kyhorsepark.com](http://kyhorsepark.com) October 21-25
- CKRH Halloween Trail Ride and Used Tack Sale, [ckrh.org](http://ckrh.org) October 26
- US Mounted Games Association, [usmga.us](http://usmga.us) October 26-27
- Alltech National Horse Show, [nhs.org](http://nhs.org) October 29-November 3



*Laura D'Angelo, JD, MBA is an equine, gaming and business attorney at Dinsmore in Lexington. She is an active community member currently sitting on the Boards of the Kentucky Chamber, Commerce Lexington and LexArts. Laura moved to Lexington 20 years ago from Toronto, Canada. Laura followed her lifelong passion for horses in choosing Lexington, UK Law School and her profession. An active competitor in show jumping, she also plays polo occasionally and so makes her second home at the Kentucky Horse Park. Her daughter Lilly is following in her footsteps with her pony, Valentines. Laura loves Lexington for the vibrant and developing downtown scene, the beautiful horse farms and above all, the wonderful people she has come to know here.*