

My Trip to The PtHA Convention in San Diego

Hello,

My name is Nicole Braddick and I am a member of Pacific Pinto. This year my horse Stony Brook and I won an award from PtHA in the US called "Youth Championship". A Youth Championship is won when you have a certain amount of ROM's and points. My horse Stony Brook is a red roan overo, Pinto/Paint mare, and I love her to death. The trip I went on was to San Diego to go to the PtHA Convention. In San Diego I went to Sea World and there was a lot of the whales, sharks, dolphins, and then the Budweiser Clyde's with a baby Clyde born Feb. 4/05. She was so cute. It was a BLAST at Sea World. I went to some of the Pinto meetings where we were staying and it was so cool because there was so many people there and I was kind of surprised, mostly Americans and they really showed me how proud they all were to be a member of the Pinto Association. Did you know the Pinto club has their very own building now in Bethany, Oklahoma? I had heard a little bit about it here and in the Pinto Magazine but wow, it's a really big deal to the members down there and it made me see how proud I should be too. They are so excited about having their own "home". It's really a big family that we are all a part of. The meetings were interesting, but mostly what I saw was how smoothly they all went. Unfortunately, I missed the Youth meeting because we weren't there yet. The people were so nice to my mom and me, asking us where we were from and especially some people from Oklahoma. They invited us to sit with them at their table for the Horse of the Year presentations and also the next night for the Awards banquet. I got a chance to meet the Youth President, Adam Roche both nights. He's a really nice guy and asked me lots of questions about Stony. I felt at home there. There were a lot of people and horses that had won Championships and Horse of the Year awards. Not everyone was there so they only announced the ones that were there and they had a booklet with everyone's name in it. There was people from B.C. in it like Jaime Myren, Emilee Chamberland, Jenny Leibenzeder and then there was me. When the announcer guy called my name Nicole Braddick from Surrey, British Columbia and Stony Brook I kind of froze for a minute because I had a flash back of all my experiences with the Pacific Pinto club. I loved it. So when I went up the President shook my hand and they had a buckle like the one they sent me and I got my picture taken with him. He was really nice to me. It went very fast but I will always remember how good it made me feel and that I really love Stony and I'm so proud of her. As I was sitting there I was thinking (again) of my horse Stony and the people that have helped me with her this year with her hocks and everything and that I couldn't have done it without those people (and they are Mellissa Buckley, my trainer who is so cool, my Mom and Dad, Richard Pyke (for the laughs) and Wayne Chappell and Barb Binns for always being so nice to me and always encouraging me) and of course, my horse Stony Brook, she's the best. In the end going to San Diego was a great thing for my mom and me and we loved it. I think if you ever get the chance to go to the conventions you'll enjoy it like me. I hope to see you at the Area Championship and Nationals. Maybe there will be more people come from the U.S. too.

From one of your Youth competitors

Nicole Braddick and Stony Brook