



INDUCTION OF  
**MIKE FELTY**  
2020 HALL OF FAME

Growing up in Vine Grove, Ky., owning and showing Saddlebreds was a family affair for Mike Felty and his younger sister LexAnn, along with their parents, on the Kentucky show circuit. In his early years, Mike primarily trained and showed Saddlebreds. As a young trainer in Paducah, Ky. — along with his wife, Sandy, and their two young daughters, Melanie and Melinda — his love for road horses was nourished by the many Standardbred horses and their trainers stabled at Carson Park, where there was a track that hosted races for trotters and pacers. There he purchased his first road horse — Go Getter Pick from Paul Raines — who allegedly had to be tied to a telephone pole to be hooked. It was during this same time period that Mike broke and trained a road pony that would go on to become one of the greatest ponies ever.

When he was sold, his name was changed to Whiplash.



Over his long career, other notable roadster champions Mike has trained include: WC Vivacious, WC Maxmillion, WC Heartland Memory, WC Big and Rich, WC Stanley Steamer, WC My Casey, WC FedEx, Mountain Beach, WC Condoleeza, and most recently the 2020 USTA Roadster to Bike Champion Outer Banks. Mike has even passed down his love of roadsters to his grandsons, who have successfully shown the sporty roadster pony The Lone Ranger to numerous wins. They have proudly worn their silks, in blue, yellow and red, “just like Pop’s.”

Mike has also developed over the years valuable relationships in communities of Standardbred enthusiasts. His efforts at befriending and sharing techniques with the reputable Amish community have resulted in the introduction of other horse people to a network, source, and market that otherwise might be very difficult to reach. On a first-name basis with many of the horsemen who provide Standardbreds to the show and racing markets, Mike’s role in building mutual respect and understanding creates inclusion and opportunities for our show horses and those who enjoy them. For several years, Mike served as chairman of the USEF Roadster Rules Committee. He has also held the office of Vice President of the ARHPA. He has acted as clinician at the USEF Roadster Judges Clinic and also at a Standardbred clinic and demonstration in Mt. Hope, Ohio.

For his numerous contributions to the Roadster industry and commitment to nurturing it into the future, we celebrate Mike Felty.