

# The Chics Are Fast

## A close-up look at Barrel Horse Sire FAST MOON CHIC

by Lorene Stone



In October 18, 2009 Marthas Ebony Moon and rider Trina Swerbus rounded the third barrel at the Whoop Up Barrel Futurity & Derby and with that run they secured the 2009 Canadian High Point Derby Championship. This talented mare is sired by Fast Moon Chic and this is his story.

Chic was foaled February 20, 1994 in Queen Creek, Arizona. The coal black colt is by one of the greatest sires of barrel horse Marthas Six Moons and out of the mare Chicks Gay by Three Chicks. His owner, Melanie Rettler, had him broke with the intentions of going to the racetrack. After all, Chic's dam was a stakes winning racehorse herself and has produced race winners with earnings of \$378,581 including a Superior racehorse; and Chic looked every bit the part. But a divorce and the legal complications stemming from it halted those plans and Chic was never able to set foot on a racetrack.

Fast forward to 1999. Doug and Carol Schaffer, owners and managers of Sandy Ridge Stallion Station in Bassano Alberta, were on the lookout for a new stallion to add to their roster. More specifically they were looking for a son of Marthas Six Moons and when Doug is on the search for a new horse, well... nothing will stand in his way until he finds what he wants.

After hunting through AQHA printouts of sons of Marthas Six Moons, he came upon some information on a horse named Fast Moon Chic. This stallion looked promising. Doug is a pedigree man so first and foremost a stallion must have both a sire and dam that meet his standards. Chic had both. He met Doug's first qualification in that he was a son of Marthas Six Moons. His dam had been a successful racehorse and was a tremendous producer. She is also a half sister to World Champion racehorse, Tiny's Gay. Second quality met. A horse's color has never and will never be a concern for Doug but Chic was black and he was a big horse too at 16.1 hands; that was an added bonus.

This was the stallion they were looking for but was he even for sale? It proved to be a little difficult to reach Chic's owner Melanie. However, after speaking with some people who had bred mares to Chic, Doug was finally able to contact her. The divorce proceedings she was involved with made it impossible for the Schaffers to buy Chic as he was considered property of the courts at that time. Instead they were able to reach a lease

agreement with the court and shortly after that, Chic was on his way to Alberta.

Chic bred his first mares in Alberta in 2000 and the Schaffers anxiously awaited the arrival of those foals. Chic is a well built, good looking horse. He is a smart horse and is great to work with. Often he is ridden back to his pen with just a halter after being at the breeding barn. But would he be a sire and pass on these exceptional qualities? Time would tell.

Doug and Carol's questions were soon answered with the arrival of his first foals in 2001. They looked fantastic and were real people horses from the beginning. This has been one of the traits of the Fast Moon Chic offspring that has made them so popular with the public. They are easy horses to get along with, are easy horses to ride and therefore appeal to a variety of people with a wide range of horsemanship skills.

**Barb Lappin & Chicks Black Moon**  
4 x Futurity Finalist.  
Chic's first celebrity...  
amazing as a young  
barrel horse, and  
still getting stronger!  
photo by  
Alberta Sports Pics



**Trina Swerbus**  
& Marthas Ebony Moon  
2009 Canadian Barrel  
Futurities/Derbies  
High Point  
Derby Horse  
photo by  
Alberta Sports Pics



# At A Glance

## FAST MOON CHIC

### SIRE:

Marthas Six Moons si 99, earner of \$218,225

- . Leading Living Sire of Barrel Horse Money Earners
- . 1998-99 Leading Barrel Horse Sire
- . Sire of 13 AAAT, 83 AAA, 97 AA and 34 Stakes winners with \$2,966,857 in race offspring earnings

### DAM:

Chics Gay

- . Stakes winner with \$34,114 in earnings
- . Leading Dam of ROM Race, Dam of 6 Stakes winners, 3 AAAT, 5 AAA and 4 AA
- . Dam of World Aged Champion Lucks Gay Chick, SI 104 with earnings of \$154,000 and Sire of Supreme Champion Lucks Easy Fanta Boy

### Dam's Dam:

Gays Delight, SI 95

- . Stakes winner with \$19,416 in earnings
- . All Time Leading Dam of Race ROMs with offspring earning \$679,766.
- . Dam of 5 Stakes winners, 4 AAAT, 3 AAA, 4 AA and World Champion

For more information about Fast Moon Chic, go to:  
[www.sandyridge.ab.ca](http://www.sandyridge.ab.ca)

As Doug says, "You don't have to be a top notch rider to achieve success with Chic's offspring. People at every skill level are finding success and that is what's made him popular". Not only are Chic's offspring smart and level headed, they' have loads of natural athletic ability that has really shown in the barrel racing world.

In his first crop of foals to reach futurity age came Chicks Black Moon who was a four time futurity finalist. The next year, another of Chic's offspring was named 2006 Whoop-Up Barrel Futurity Champion. Fastchicalickin, ridden by Jodi Hart, ran the fast time of the weekend. The following year saw Chics Easy Bug become a multiple futurity finalist and continue on to a successful rodeo career. 2007 is also the year when Chic's talented daughter, Marthas Ebony Moon, entered futurity competition. She finished that year a three-time finalist, was top five in Canada in Derby standings in 2008 and was the Canadian Derby Champion in 2009. While many of the 'Chic's' were rounding the barrels, Marthas Frosty Chic was capturing the FCA Calf Roping Championship in 2007 - proving the versatility this sire has to offer.

Until 2007, Chic remained on lease to Sandy Ridge. Every year Doug and Carol tried to purchase him but Melanie just wasn't ready to sell. Finally in October 2007 she relented and Fast Moon Chic became theirs.

Doug likes to say, "A good looking horse is like a good looking woman - no matter how good looking they are, if you can't get along with them they aren't worth keeping.". Well luckily for Chic, he is both good looking and easy to get along with. He is definitely worth keeping.

## Fast Moon Chic

... photo by Carol Schaffer

