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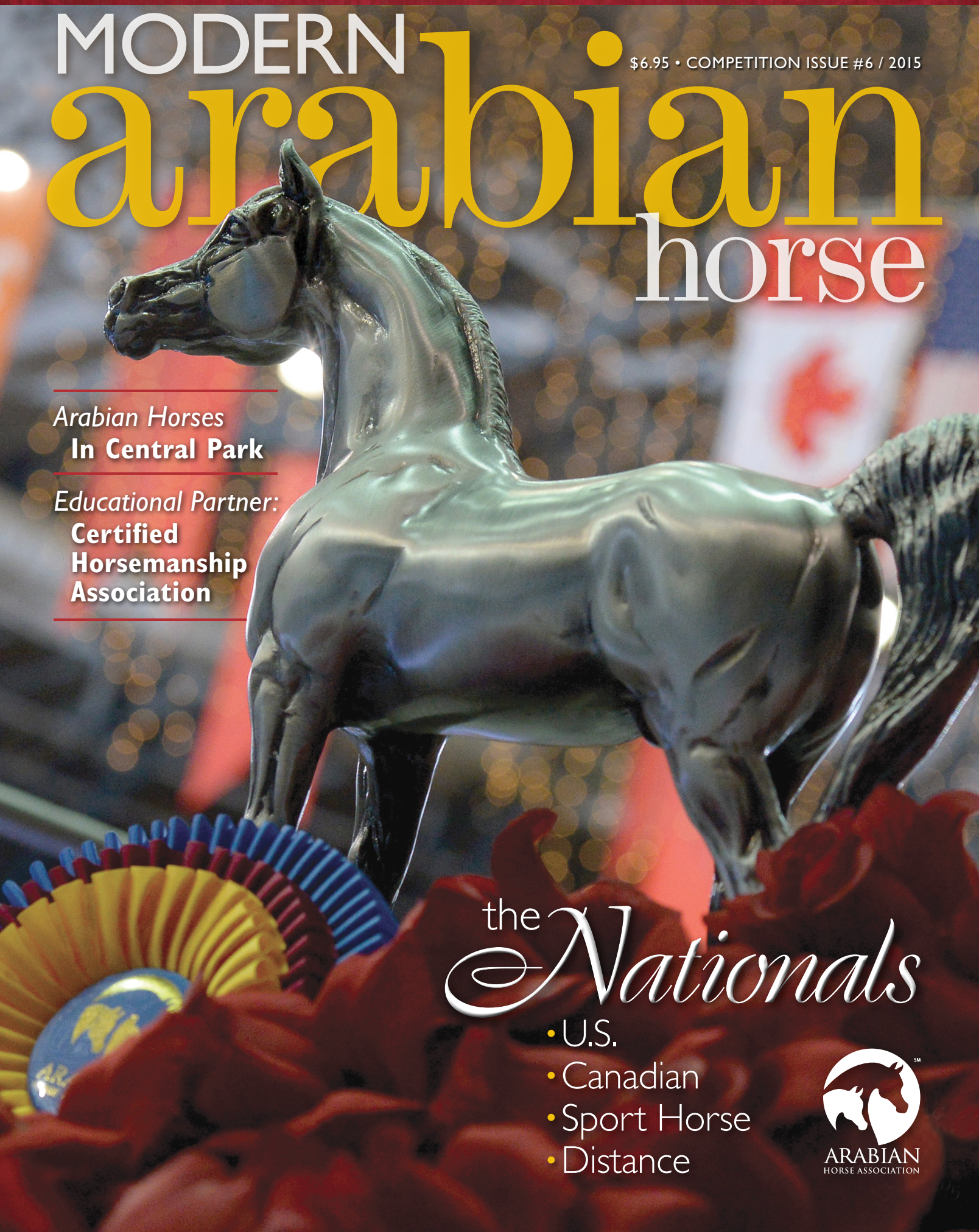

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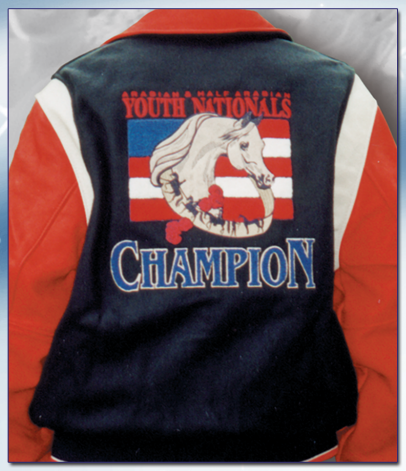











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On the cover:
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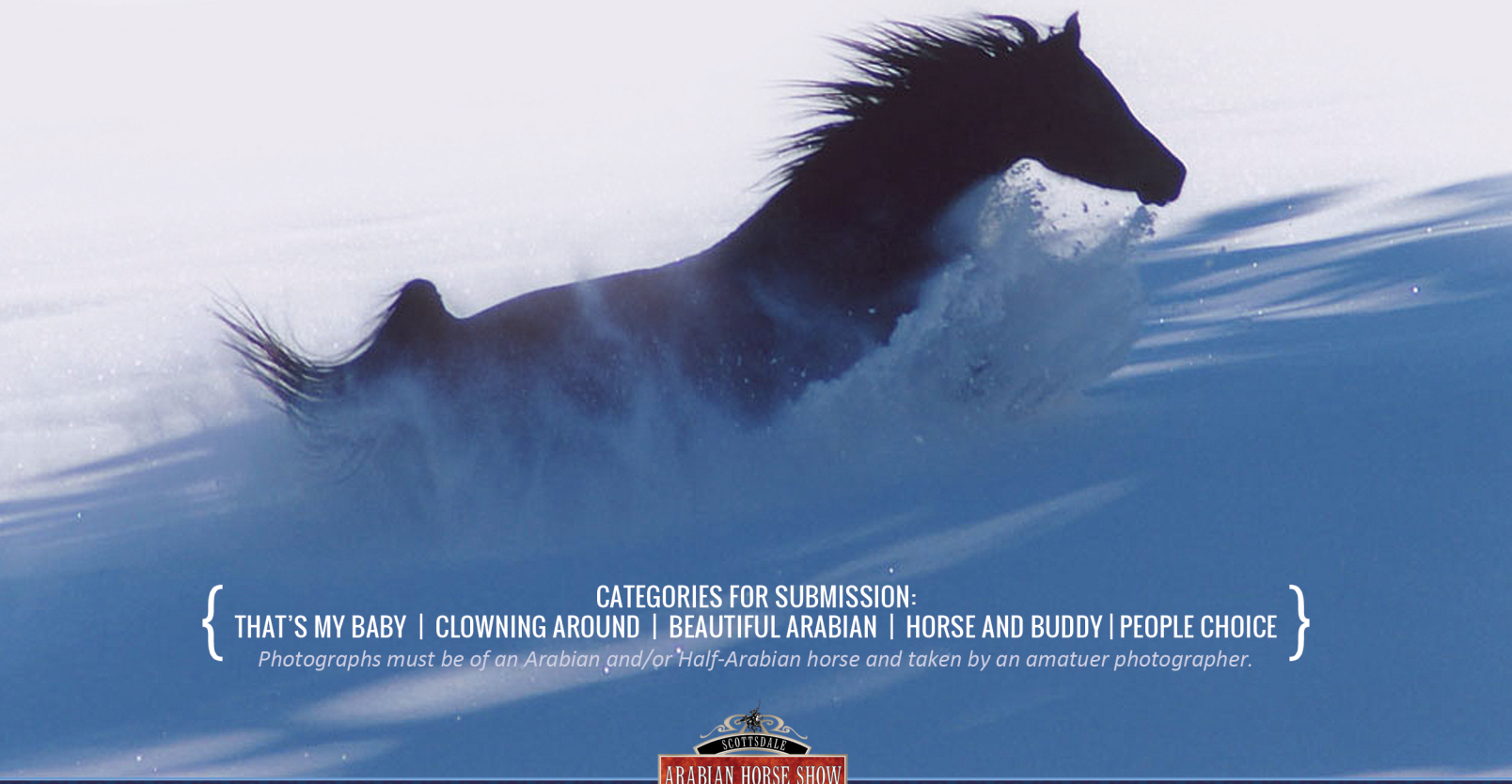

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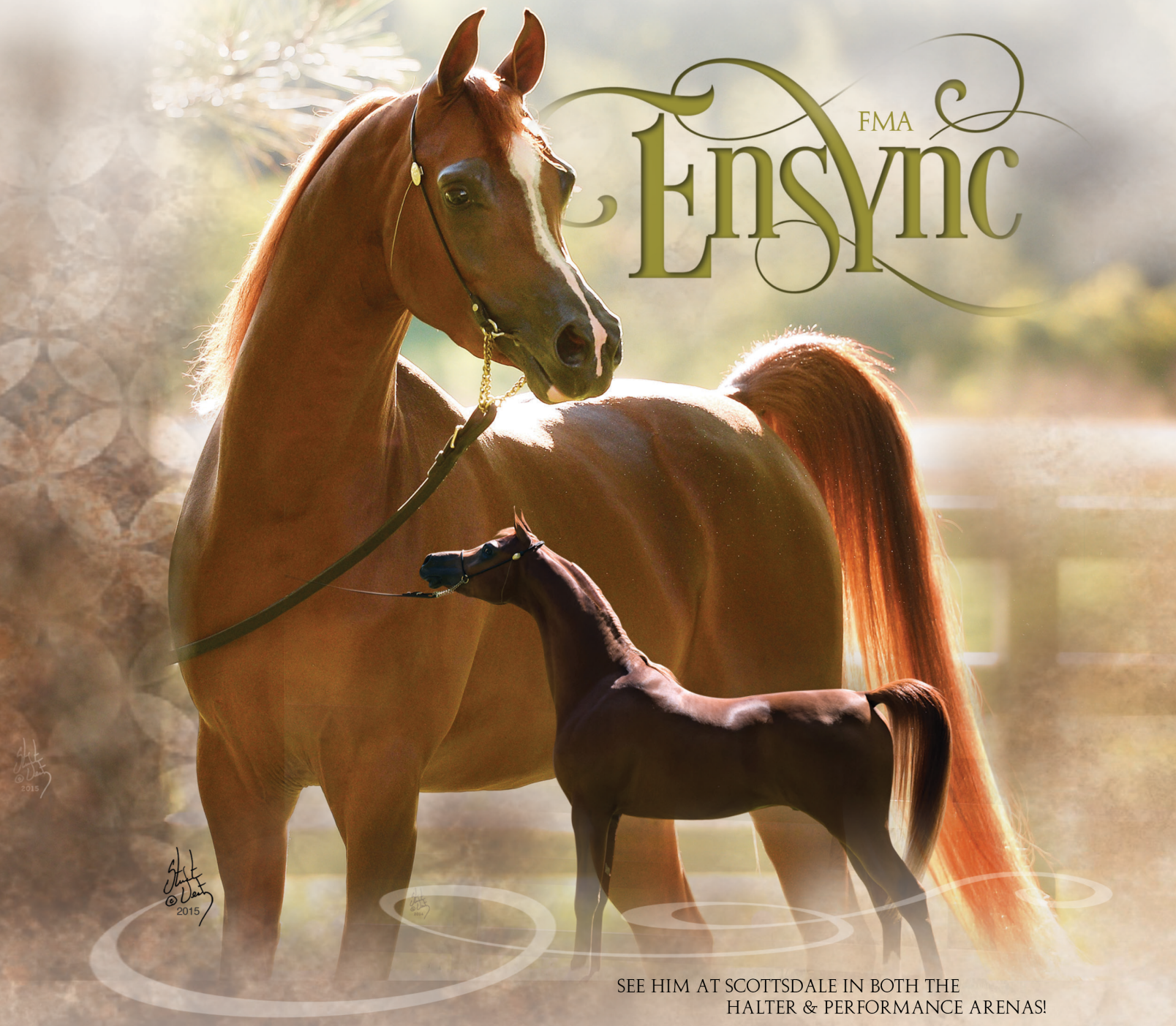

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AHA Future State



Greetings Everyone,

What does "AHA Future State" mean? Where will it take us?

In 2013, the Board of Directors approved a Strategic Plan that looked out five years for AHA, its owners, breeders, trainers, exhibitors and pleasure riders. When we looked at how we could get there, many of the initiatives were dependent on computer systems and technology. AHA had pieced together computer systems over the years that might have met a particular need, but we looked at building an interactive system that could be expanded and upgraded as needed to meet future needs.

AHA also owned the building that housed the offices. However, the 30+-year-old building was in drastic need of repairs. A study was done that looked at whether to keep the building, sell the building and buy a smaller one or sell the building and rent/lease. It was determined that in Denver's market, we were better to invest in the repairs and stay where we were. The building now has a new HVAC, a new roof, new/improved insulation, new heating/cooling controls and new ceiling lighting and tiles where they were needed. There is still much that should be done, but at least the structure is now sound and is a much improved/efficient work environment.

> "Since we are a service organization, we need to meet the needs of our customers, you, as well as make our staff as efficient as possible."

Now, the Board of Directors has switched its focus to updating the computer systems for AHA Future State so that we can step into the 21st century with our work flows. AHA is a company with thousands of small transactions, and we don't have the capability to handle them efficiently. Since we are a service organization, we need to meet the needs of our customers, you, as well as make our staff as efficient as possible. In the spring of 2014, we began the process of studying what we have for Business Technology (BT) and what we needed to move forward. It is rather a daunting task.

I appointed a committee that we have nicknamed HYDRA (the many headed beast) to work with our own BT staff to build AHA Future State. The managed plan is to integrate the many programs (some are more than 15 years old) into a business system designed for our type and size of company. It was determined to put the release of the website on hold until we had the plans and changes in place to be able to release it in versions while developing the new structure behind it. The website you will see after the first of the year is designed to be a place to attract new members (we call it the "Guest Pages"). So when we direct prospective new members to our website, they will be able to use it to learn more about Arabian horses and what AHA can offer. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the website is becoming an Interactive Business Engine (IBE) to satisfy our needs for the present and future.

The Board of Directors has made this the main priority for AHA for the next three years. Yes, of course, we will continue to do business and offer the best service we can, but know all of our staff is dedicated to modernizing AHA.

Hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Best Regards,

Cynthia M. Richardson

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Changes Close to Home and National Events



Dear AHA members,

I have served eight years as your Executive Vice President and have had an opportunity to witness and be a part of many changes. In this first of two letters adapted from my speech at Convention, I'd like to talk about some changes close to home and our national events.

One recent change is a re-established National Events Department that was spun off the Competitions Department. Kelsey Berglund heads this new department. Paige Lockard has become the National Distance Ride Coordinator within this new department with Devin Smith assuming Paige's duties in show approvals. Devin will become our Show Managers' and Regional Directors' primary contact on event approvals.

Our AHA building has received some upgrades. The HVAC system and the roof have been repaired or replaced. Our outdated lighting system was replaced with a modern LED system — all within budget. An additional benefit is that our annual energy costs have been reduced by $20,000 from $48,000 to $28,000. Next on our building "wish list" is a new phone system, new carpeting, painting and some exterior work.

What you have already heard discussed by our President is another investment AHA is involved in — Future State. This is AHA's association-wide project led by our BT department and Bill Richardson to redefine the way AHA does business. In simple terms, we will be striving to do all the business we can — members and staff — online. We have defined a new set of business rules that will implement a transaction-based business model resulting in reduced inefficiencies, streamlined workflows, and an improved customer experience. It is my belief that when completed we will be the envy of our sister breed associations.

Our current website project and financials upgrade are the beginning of this three-year project. The website project has been pulled in-house and is now making great progress. It will be released in stages with the initial release taking place in January.

Assisting AHA in funding our website project has been the USA Equestrian Trust and the USEF Grants Program. USEF also assists with other grants including support for our Youth Program. Our thanks go to both these organizations. I especially want to thank Chris Welton, USEF's CEO, and Chrystine Tauber, USEF President, as well as our own Lisa Blackstone, Vice Chair of the USA Equestrian Trust's funding.

AHA has three major areas of activities and service: Membership, Registry Services, and Competitions.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, 18 regional championships; 343 jointly recognized USEF/AHA horse shows (only 3 less than in 2014); and 63 distance rides were held, down from 182 in 2014. We are investigating the cause of this decline. In addition there were 93 One-Day Competitions recognized, a major increase from the 26 held the first year of the program in 2011.

Our National events all continue to be stable. U.S., Youth and Canada all seem to have reached a leveling of participation based on horse count; Sport Horse is fairly steady taking into consideration the East to West rotation.

In July, Youth Nationals was held in Albuquerque for the last year and had 815 horses entered. The show will be moving to Oklahoma City in 2016. The Youth Nationals Show Commission just returned from a site visit to Oklahoma City that went very well.

There were 77 youth members at the AHYA convention this year. APAHA clinics were held again and a special thanks to Lisa Jo White and Laurie Long for their support as clinicians in these events. Youth were very busy with activities such as flying pigs, pink flamingo flocks and other fund-raisers and activities.

In August was the Canadian Nationals in Brandon, Manitoba. Despite a VS outbreak in multiple U.S. states, Canada had 700 horses entered. Aided by growing sport horse and working western divisions, the average class entries per horse were 2.98. Due to increasing entries per horse, a favorable exchange rate, as well as the support provided by sponsors and patrons, the show was very successful financially.

The Distance Nationals, held in September, was located in Oneida, Tennessee, out of the Big South Fork National

continued on page 20



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General Equine Health

BY MANUEL HIMENES, DVM

My horse had a disgusting discharge coming from his right nostril the other day. The smell was the most offensive thing I have ever smelled in my life. I had the veterinarian examine him and she thinks it's a sinus infection. She put him on SMZ's and he has been on the medication for about three days. He still has a large amount of discharge from his nose and while the smell isn't quite as offensive, it is still awful. I've asked my instructor if he could have tooth root rot in which she said no since he is eating fine. The dentist isn't coming out until March. Does this sound like a problem with the teeth? I'd like to get it taken care of as soon as possible. Please advise.

Your veterinarian may be correct that it is a sinus infection and may need to be surgically drained. It could also be a tooth as those smell really bad. Radiographs or an endoscopy may be necessary to identify the source of the discharge. Once the source of the drainage is identified then a treatment plan can be started. Equine dental specialty in veterinary medicine is just beginning and I would be sure that the "dentist" that you mention is a veterinarian. There are many fly by night "equine dentists" that are not veterinarians and have no formal training.

I administer my own vaccinations to my Arabian horses. I purchased vaccines last year and kept them in the fridge. Unfortunately, there were some family emergencies and basically I forgot about the vaccines, which expired in September 2015. I was going to throw them away but a friend said they might still be effective. The vaccines are 4-way (eastern, western, encephalitis-influenza, tetanus). It's now November. Should I still use them, or dispose of them?

Expired vaccine has no guarantee of potency or sterility. I would recommend that the vaccine not be used and disposed. The cost of the vaccine is minimal compared to the cost of disease treatment or a possible abscess from an expired vaccine.

My 9-year-old Arabian gelding has some yellowing in the whites of his eyes. It was suggested that his liver enzymes may be off and blood required. I researched this issue and find that blood panels will not give an answer to this. What should I ask my vet to do? Is there a supplement I could include to help?

Yellowing of the mucus membranes and the sclera (whites) of the eyes is called icterus, jaundice is the common term. This is caused by a buildup of pigments in the body called billirubin. Billirubin can be elevated for many reasons one of which is liver disease. There are specific blood tests for liver disease that are very accurate. Liver disease is very serious and should be screened for as the sooner this is treated the better the outcome.

I have recently opened a licensed boarding facility. We vaccinate our personal horses fully with veterinarian visits twice a year. I have one boarder (the only one right now) who has only vaccinated her horse for rabies. I can't convince her to get all the others. Can you give me the right words and information that might convince her to do so? She does not leave the property with the horse. Any other horses that would board at my facility, I am requiring them to be vaccinated before they come on the property and also have it set up to quarantine for 15 days…but I have her horse here…any ideas?

I would start by explaining that vaccinations are cheap compared to the cost of treatment. In fact tetanus has a 90 percent fatality rate. Encephalitis viruses (Eastern, Western, West Nile) can also be fatal but the cost of care can be substantial and many horses never fully recover from these diseases. Equine herpes virus and influenza, while not as deadly, can cost hundreds to thousands to

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ask the vet

treat. Since her horse does not leave the property she may feel her horse's risk is low. She is at a boarding facility and with new horses coming in, her horse will be exposed. By not vaccinating her horse, she also provides a window of opportunity creating an exposure risk for other horses on the property. You have the right to require vaccinations of any horses on your property.

My horse has recurrent lameness in the winter months which appears in the shoulder. Could a blanket that constantly rubs his shoulder cause this? He gets adequate turnout, slow warm-ups, plenty of water and hay. The only difference is the cold and the blankets.

Shoulder lameness in the horse is rare so I would be sure that the pain is coming from the shoulder. Cold weather can exacerbate lameness due to many causes. I would suggest a lameness exam to determine the source of the pain. It would be unlikely that a blanket would cause any lameness without some significant skin disease. Skin disease that severe should be visible.



Corrections & Clarifications

Issue 5, 2015: "Wow Factor Permeates 2015 Youth Nationals", page 68

Reserve Youth Nationals HA/AA Show Hack JTR 14-18 Champion at Youth Nationals was CS Roxy and Mary Mag Wilson

from the EVP

Continued from page 16

and Recreation Area. Provided with favorable weather and a popular ride location, the Championship entries were increased by 53 percent and Open ride entries by 25 percent. The 2016 Distance Nationals holds much excitement as the Appaloosa Horse Club has agreed to participate with AHA for the first ever multi-breed national championship held in one event. This historic competition is expected to take place in September 2016 located in Vinita, Oklahoma.

Also in September, Sport Horse Nationals was held in a new venue in Raleigh, North Carolina. Four hundred seventy-two horses entered with an average of 4.62 class entries per horse. Many exciting changes accompanied the move including a successful silent auction that benefitted Duke Children's Hospital and the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund. Many compliments were heard regarding beautifully designed and decorated hunter and jumper courses.

Many of us left Sport Horse to go directly to the first-time ever US Open Arabian Central Park Show. Held against the backdrop of NYC with a drop-in visit by Pope Francis, it was a wonderful promotional opportunity for our breed. Thanks to all those who made this happen from Sponsor to Exhibitor.

U.S. Nationals concluded our National Events, which was better than our projected budget. Limited Reined Cow and Adult Western Horsemanship were new class additions this year and were very well received. Over $1 Million in prize money and awards were disbursed at the show including distributions from the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes and Futurities and Maturities.

New this year were special trophies for the Regional Challenge Breeding Cups. Points were awarded to each region based on the placings' of the horses bred in that region. Region 9 won both the Overall and Performance trophy and Region 12 won the In-Hand Trophy.

Sincerely,

Glenn T. Petty

Glenn T. Petty
Executive Vice President
Glenn.Petty@ArabianHorses.org

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A Peek into AHA's Social Media Strategy

BY JULIAN MCPEAK, AHA DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Yep, believe it or not there is a method to the madness. Social media is a strange beast with its multitude of platforms, algorithms and best practice facts and figures. Social marketing is a maze best navigated by those who understand and apply the rules of engagement.

At AHA, social media is utilized for a variety of purposes: communication, public relations, marketing the breed, marketing the opportunities available through membership at AHA, keeping members updated on important information, live updates from events, brand management, etc.

Social media as a communication tool has a significant impact on AHA as well as the entire equine industry, as it sometimes has the ability to create a sort of grey area between personal and association voice. Therefore, AHA marketers try their best to approach social media through a set of best practices, careful study and constant education.

Because social media can be valuable in all of the aforementioned purposes, plus more, AHA takes a hybridized approach to its social media strategy. Social aspects such as photo sharing, conversation starting and inspirational posts for horse lovers are mixed with brand management, information distribution and marketing aspects of social media. The type of content curated for AHA's various platforms (Facebook©, Twitter©, Instagram©, Snapchat©, LinkedIn©, etc.) depends highly on the audience of that particular platform.

When using social media, AHA strives to meet the needs of its members and different audiences. Demographics (male vs. female, education, annual income, etc.) and psychographics (values, finding fulfillment, lifestyle choices, etc.) all play a role in what media is used by whom. Because AHA members are diverse, and studies have shown that different audiences utilize different social media platforms to review different types of content, AHA strives to utilize each social media platform in a manner that best resonates with that particular audience.

Important to AHA's social strategy is to remember that different content does better on different platforms. Here are some tips on popular social media platforms that AHA utilized in 2015:

Facebook: According to several social media experts, including Simply Measured, the trend for Facebook in 2015 was its use as a 'conversation board.' People utilize Facebook as a sounding board and a place where they can go to be involved in, and bring themselves up-to-date on, the latest topics and issues. Look to AHA's Facebook pages for photos posted from events, updates on important topics of relevance to members, inspiration quotes and more.

Twitter: Twitter has been, and will be for the foreseeable future, a place where users go to receive immediate, accurate and the most up-to-date news. With only forty-two characters of information quickly and constantly, Twitter users want immediate gratification. Look to AHA's Twitter for news and information about, and live updates from, our events and office.

Instagram: An image-based, social media platform, Instagram is used as a place for visual gratification. Hashtags are extremely popular and AHA is constantly tagged in pictures of Arabians or those who want to interact with the Arabian breed. Users are looking for frequent posting, short videos and to have a little bit of fun. Check out AHA's Instagram account for breed photos, photos and videos from our events, 'hash-tagging' of popular horse related topics and more.

Navigating the waters of 'social' can be a little sticky, but is well worth the efforts to share what this amazing breed has to offer. There are both positive and negative outcomes from the use of social media and users are wise to remember that posts on social media are not just seen by AHA members but the public, including prospective members and sponsors as well. AHA is trying hard to keep it positive and fun!

AHA marketing currently manages eleven social media platforms between AHA and the Arabian Horse Youth Association (AHYA). So follow along — there's something for everyone! Join the conversation, share some pics and keep up-to-date on the latest and greatest and so much more!

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The one-time fee to nominate each foal is $200.

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The one-time fee to nominate each foal is $100. Anyone who breeds to a SSS nominated stallion can nominate their purebred mare by December 31 of the breeding year so that the resulting foal can compete for SSS prize money.

The SSS program has expanded prize money offerings to a older range of SSS nominated horses in both halter & performance helping make your horse more marketable.

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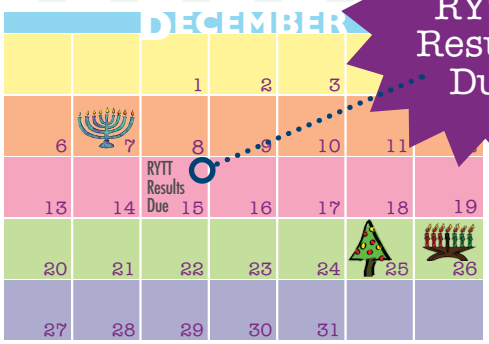
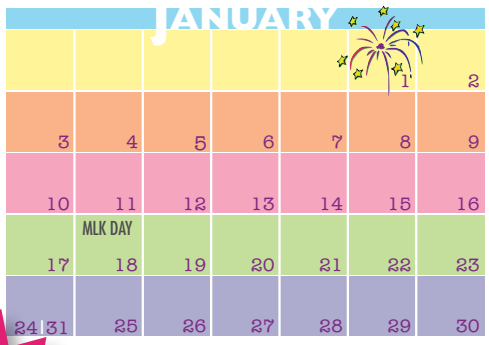
DATES & EVENTS

- **Dec. 15:** RYTT Results due to AHA
- **Dec. 7:** Happy Hanukkah!
- **Dec. 25:** Merry Christmas!
- **Dec. 26:** Happy Kwanza!
- **Jan. 1:** Happy New Years!
- **Feb. 1:** RYTT Entries are Due NEW DEADLINE!

DEC. 15 RYTT Results Due





FEB. 1 RYTT Entries Due NEW DATE!



Glenn Petty and Silja Alexander, High Individual Overall

Arabian Horse Youth Judging Contest Recap

The 45th Annual Arabian Horse Youth Judging Contest was a success this year in Tulsa, Okla., during U.S. Nationals. Over 110 individuals competed within 29 teams to round out our 4-H/FFA, Jr AHA, and Senior Divisions! This year we would like to congratulate the following individuals and teams on their successes!

4-H/FFA

High Individual: Silja Alexander, Wyoming 4-H
High Team: Wyoming 4-H

Jr AHA

High Individual: Madison McKenzie – Jr CO AHC
High Team: Jr CO AHC

Senior

High Individual: Amanda Solie – University of Wisconsin – River Falls
High Team: William Woods University B

We would like to give a special congratulations to our High Individual Overall Silja Alexander from Wyoming 4-H. This young lady was the proud winner of the Faulkner Memorial Award at the age of 13.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and horse providers. This contest would not be possible without all of their help!

Dale Brown
Lowe Show Horse Centre
Melanie Ronan
Jill Mitchell & Sierra Swaffer
Jessica Teasdale
Clanton Performance Horses
Denise Wray
Lee Hunter
Gary Martinez
Steve Freeman
Vallejo III – Katie Beck
Shelby Stapelfeld
McCarty Ltd
Karlan Downing & Ray Lemaster
Judy Clemence
Kathryn Cook
Eleanors Arabians
Rod Matthiesen
Chuck Rickart
Tony Steiner
Gretchen McDaniel
Conway Arabians
Kari Lewis
Wilson Training & Bloodstock
Priceless Arabians
McConaughey Training Center
Strand's Arabian Stables
Setting Sun Stables
Christy Anderson
Fox Hollow Farm
Lisa Pittman
Esser Valley Arabian
P&H Horse & Cattle Co.
Scoggins Training Center
• • • • •
Danielle Janibagian
Lori Maus
April Kaldenberg
Bryan & Steve Hollewell
Debbie Treadwell
Pam Barkley
Jodi Zeier
Kristen Wheeler
Nicole Jones
Katie Watts
Samantha Kline
Nancy Harvey
Cindy & Yvette Howey
Stacey Dunn
Debbie Himmel
Becky Terrell
Erin Verscheure
Kelli Riccitelli
Karen Homer-Brown
Ken Price
Juli Goder-Larsen

Thank You from the AHA Youth

The youth of AHYA would like to thank all of the generous people of the Arabian Industry who gave so much this year! AHYA sold numerous AHYA logoed items, the Silent Auction at Convention was full, and the 2015 Dever Golf Car Raffle was great! Thank you to all the members, donors, and volunteers who helped make 2015 a huge success for our youth.



AHYA Dever Golf Car Raffle

UPDATE — AHYA Vice President Emily Barker selected the winning ticket in center ring at U.S. Nationals. Congratulations to Don Moss of City of Industry, Calif. on having the winning ticket! Mr. Moss has decided to donate this winning golf car to the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who purchased a ticket and supported AHYA Youth Programs. All of the proceeds will be donated to AHYA.



Calling All AHYA Youth!

If you would like to become involved with AHYA and help shape the future of the Arabian industry, we want you!

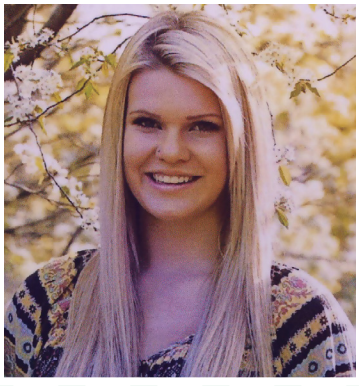
Contact your local or regional Youth Coordinator or AHA for more information on how you can join the fun.

youth@arabianhorses.org or 303.696.4500

YOUTH OF THE YEAR 2015

Sydney Young

The 2015 Youth of the Year is Sydney Young of Region 17! Miss Young brings with her an incredible passion and so many new ideas to help promote the Arabian breed. She receives a $1,000 scholarship along with her title. Sydney is the Region 17 Youth Director as well as AHYA Treasurer. Over the past few years Sydney has taken the initiative in her region to grow her youth program and encourage youth participation. Her dedication to the Arabian breed as well as her innovative ideas help represent the growth and dedication that we are looking for in our youth members. We could not be more proud to have her representing AHA/AHYA. Watch for news about Sydney Young in the future. Also thank you to Region 17 for supporting her on her journey to Youth of the Year!



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- AHYNeigh



Photo by
Linda Sherrill

Specialized Saddles



Photo by
Linda Sherrill

David Kaden is the inventor of the patented "Specialized Saddle" 3-D fit system. David's three Arabian geldings were all different and hard to fit with an off the rack saddle. David thought there must be a way to fit multiple horses with one saddle, he followed his vision and Specialized Saddles was created.

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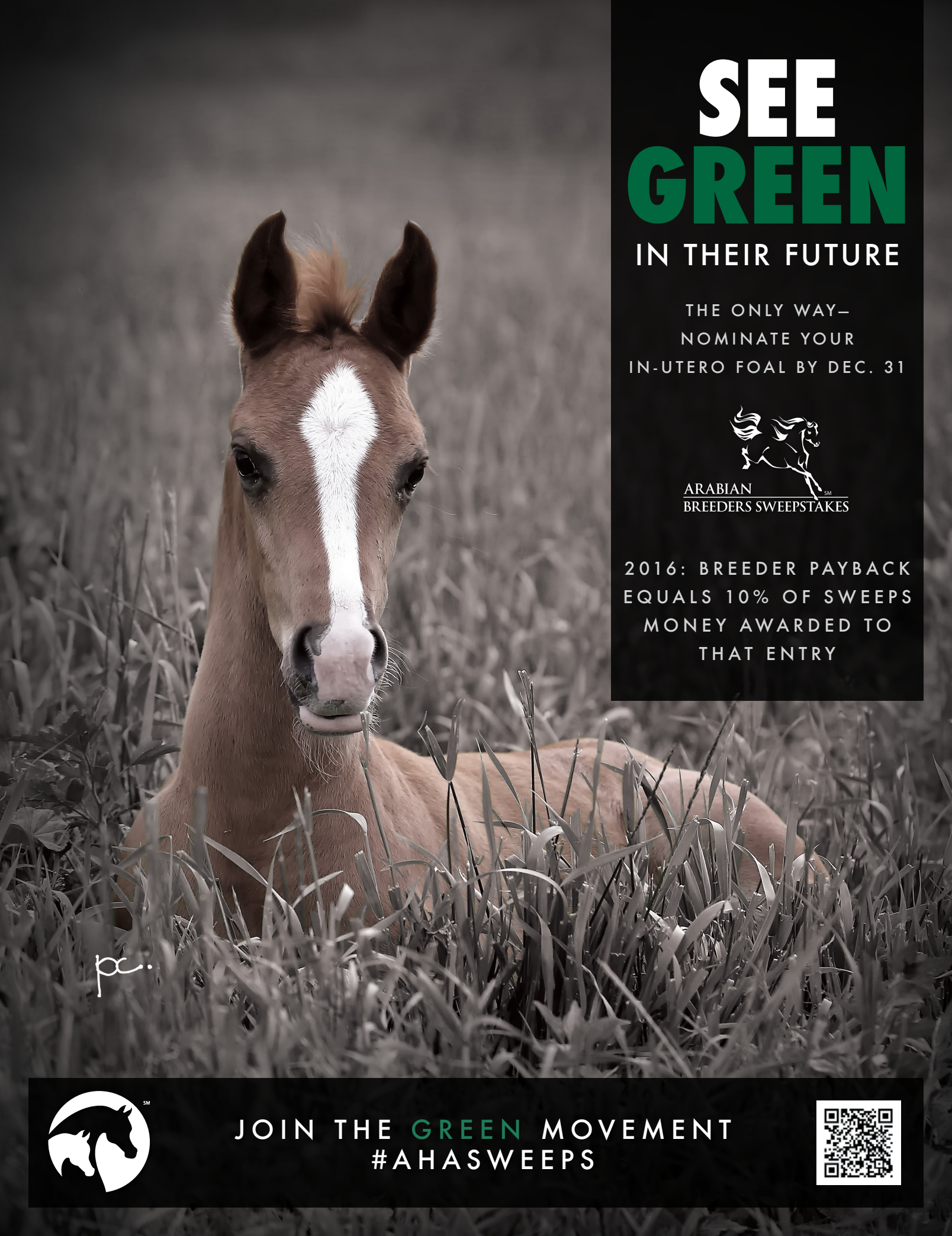

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CAUGHT IN THE ACT

We look forward to seeing you

In future issues of* Modern Arabian Horse, *we will feature your candid photos in this section. The shots you submit should show how you and your friends are enjoying your Arabian horses. Please send digital photos only to: Editor, *Modern Arabian Horse*, Caught in the Act, 10805 East Bethany Drive, Aurora, CO, 80014, or email to: editor@ArabianHorses.org, subject line: Caught in the Act.



This is my Arabian Siena Shai WF. She is so special. In this photo we were enjoying a nice walk through a wooded area.
— Alexis Berryman



I could not resist sending in this photo of Kaylee and Misty. Misty has now moved to the Middle East, and had her first baby this past spring, but Kaylee will remember her forever.
— Patrea Pabst, Beaver Creek Farm





Left: Samantha Fisher enjoying a gallop on her mare, Kenlyn Fantasy, at the Shamrock Endurance ride in 2014 when she was Mountain Region Junior Limited Distance Champion.
Above: Getting ready for the Halloween relay races at Kenlyn.
— Linda Fisher, Kenlyn Stables

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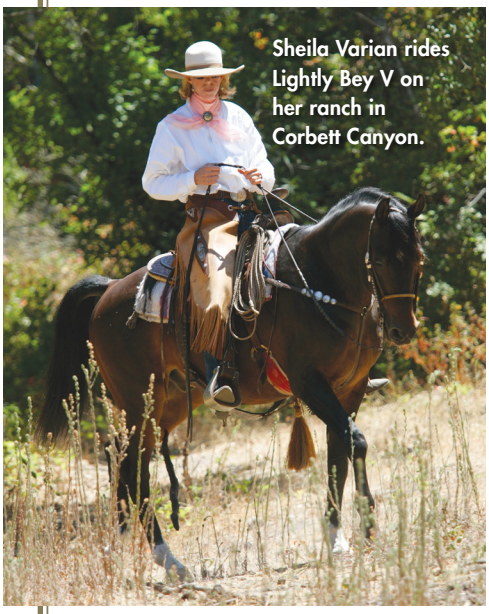
EFFORT LAUNCHED TO PROTECT VARIAN RANCH FROM DEVELOPERS

The California Rangeland Trust is working to raise $2.5 million to conserve the Varian horse ranch in Corbett Canyon between San Luis Obispo and Arroyo Grande. For 60 years, Sheila Varian has been raising award-winning Arabian horses. She has offered to place a conservation easement on her 200-acre ranch. Such an easement would allow Varian to retain ownership of the property, but the easement would permanently prevent it from being subdivided for homes and vineyards. The easement will also preserve the property's value as agricultural land, wildlife habitat and open space.



Sheila Varian rides Lightly Bey V on her ranch in Corbett Canyon.

"I could not bear the thought of if I was not capable, or I die immediately, this place would be broken up," Varian, 78, told attendees of a Jubilee held at the ranch in August. "There would be houses all over it, and the animals would have no place to go."

Varian is working with the Sacramento-based California Rangeland Trust to realize her decade long dream to conserve the ranch. The group hopes to raise the $2 million to $2.5 million to purchase the easement over the next six months to a year through a mix of small and large donations, said Daniel Sinton, a Shandon rancher who serves as chairman of the trust's fund development committee.

"Our belief is that most ranches are worth conserving, but this ranch is especially important due to the lineage of Arabian horses she has there," he said.

Under the terms of the easement, Varian will continue to own and operate the ranch until her death. The ranch will then be managed by Angela Alvarez, who is currently the ranch's manager and a friend of Varian.

Upon Alvarez's retirement, the ranch will be donated to the Rangeland Trust as a planned gift. The trust will then sell the ranch to a conservation buyer, and the money raised in the sale will be used to buy more ranch easements and properties.

"Now, everything on this place will be safe and you will be safe to visit here," Varian told her Jubilee guests. "Angela and the people that work here will be safe. Now, I am comfortable and can rest easy knowing that this place will be taken care of."

PATH Intl. Specialty Certificate Allows for Better & Increased Service to Veterans Programs

Made possible by a grant received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, this course for Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl) Certified Instructors is entitled Instructor Training for PATH International Equine Services for Heroes®. It teaches instructors how to work with this specific population. This course was initially piloted as an in-person workshop at BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding & Educational Center, a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center in Harvard, Illinois, in March 2015 with great success. PATH Intl. staff and volunteers spent the summer transforming the workshop content into an online format.

Because many instructors and centers are providing services for veterans and service members, this course will give current instructors an opportunity to advance their skills beyond their current certification level. Upon successful completion of the workshop and an online assessment, course attendees will receive a PATH Intl. Specialty Certificate in working with veterans and service members. This is the first specialty certificate to be offered by PATH Intl. and aims to provide focused education in special interest areas for PATH Intl. Certified Professionals.

Visit the Online Courses page on the PATH Intl. website for information about this first online course.

PATH INTERNATIONAL
Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International

Corrections & Clarifications

Issue 4, 2015: The Arabian Horse in North America: a Timeline, page 81

The following additions include horses with the most U.S. National Championships through 2015.

ADAMS FIRE
AMERICANBEAUTIE+//
CALIENTE VIRTUOSO+//
DUN SCOOTIN+//
FORTHE LOVEOF THUNDER
IMA COOL CAT CB
JK FAMOUS+//
MM SABE+//

Scottsdale Signature Stallion Auction Contenders

SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW | WESTWORLD | 16601 N. PIMA ROAD, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260

2015 Nominated Scottsdale Signature Stallions

A breeding will be auctioned off to each stallion and the resulting foal will then be eligible for Auction prize money as a yearling and a three year old.

A Jakarta
A Jericho
A Noble Cause
A Temptation
Afire N Flames CB
Ajman Moniscione
Al Ayal AA
Al Maliik
Aliczarr
Alkeynos EA
Always A Jullyen V
Ames Charisma
Amunition
Apalo
Aria Impresario
Art Dekko TT
Ascennsion
Aston Martin
Audacious PS
Baahir El Marwan
Baciano
Barbary Strikes
Barritz SF
Baske Afire
Baskghazi
Beijing BHF
Beijon
Bellagio RCA
Besson Carol
Bey Ambition
Black Daniels
Brandon Bey JCA +
Bremervale Andronicus +++/*
Brixx IA
Cadance PA
Conquest BR
Couturier
Cytosk
DA Prodigy
Destinyed Valentino
EKS Elihandro
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Grand Commandd
HA Toskcan Sun
Hariry Al Shaqab
Hermez E
Hey Hallelujah
HK Krystall
HK Marcello
HS Galileo
Invictus PCF
IXL Noble Express
JA Urbino*
Jaipur El Perseus
Jake Jamaal JCA
Joys Creation
JP Obsession
Jiuliusz De Wiec
Just So Jullyen
Justify
Kanz Albidayer
Kavalle MI
Khaberet PGA
Khaja J
Kharismatic PGA
Khash PGA
KM Bugatti
Krusayder
LA Karat
Lawrence el Gazal
LC Axis
Magic Magnifique
Major Mac V
Marekk
Marhaabah
Mariachi WA
Marjestic WA +
Marsai Mara SWF
Marwan Al Magnifficoo
Masquerade PA
Maximuss
Mazkarade
Mazziah
Michellangelo
Mission WR
ML Mostly Padron
Monther Al Nasser
Monticello V
MPA Giovanni
Nofal NK
Odyssey SC
Om EL Al Azeem
Om El Bellissimo
Om El Shahmaan
Onyx A
Out of Cyte
PA Gazsi
PA Kid Khan
Pershahn El Jamaal
PL Sinatra
Pogrom
Polidoro FC
Possesion PGA
Prometeusz
Psax
Pstrategy
Psymadre
Psytanium
Psytation EA
QR Marc
Rahere
Rashid Van Ryad
RD Dynamo
Rodan LTD
Rohara Extrem Justice
ROL Divine Style
ROL Intencyty
Royal Emanuel
Royal Invictus
S.M.A. Magic One
Sabeh al Salhiyah
SF Sir Real
SF Veraz
Sharif El Shaklan
Skoroneek IA
Skyehawkk
Soltire TO
Soul of Marwan AS
Spades LRA
Spitfyre VF
Sshameless
Stival
Sundance Kid V
TF Psymreekhe
TF Royal Shahbaz
The Magician V
The Renaissance
Titan AS
Truest
Truse
Trussardi
Van Gogh AM
Vicario
Victorious LD
Vitorio TO
WA Mandate
WC Ali Gazal
WGA Beamer
Wish Maker JCA
Xanthuss
Zafiraah Taj Mahal
Zefyr
Zuhre

See our website scottsdaleshow.com for more information on these stallions.

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From the first green shoots that herald Spring through Halloween, AHA and many of its members share in a busy competitive season. After countless hours of training, thousands of horses are trailered, transported, groomed and readied for both the arena and the trail.

It's an exciting and joyful time as both longtime and new friends gather at events for healthy rivalry. Within this Nationals section are just a few of the people that project their passion for the Arabian breed through the excitement and challenge of proving themselves against the best.





IT'S SHOW TIME



THE MANY FACES OF U.S.

"There are eight million stories in the city, and this is one of them," was an opening intro for an old TV series, but you could drop several zeroes off that number and easily apply it to the barn communities that comprise the U.S. Nationals. For down every aisle, there are stories of comebacks, triumphs, losses, wins and most importantly, love for great horses that is at the root of it all.

Stories arrived with the horses coming and left on trailers headed home. Cathy and Russ Vecsey were grateful to show after rescuing all their horses at home from a smoke-filled barn ultimately destroyed by fire. A reserve championship "bucket list" achievement came right on time for an amateur reiner facing imminent blindness. The AHDF Showdown, that Wednesday night "lovefest," raised $350,000+ and saw an appearance and performance by last year's beneficiary, Alexa Nichols. On the last night of the show, a "three-peat" by Arabian Western Pleasure Champion Zefyr+// and Jody Strand pushed elation to a new level. As the song says, "On and on and on and on it goes…"

LEFT: Twinkle lights add a festive flavor to the Pavilion

RIGHT: **1:** HA/AA Western Pleasure Champion STLA C IM Fondau ridden by Ron Copple **2:** Arabian Junior Mare Breeding National Champion Pitonisa AS shown by Sandro Pinha **3:** Arabian Country Pleasure Driving Champion Thunder Struck LR driven by Lindsay Rinehart **4:** Arabian Futurity Colt Reserve Champion SF Verazes Qamar shown by Ted Carson **5:** AEPA Arabian Horse Times $100,000 Arabian Futurity Champion Supreme Sensation SMP ridden by Jim Stachowski **6:** Arabian Western Pleasure Junior Horse Champion Monaco Jullyen V ridden by Joe Reser **7:**. Arabian English Show Hack Champion Glitterati ridden by Chad Judy **8:** Linda Lane, elated owner of HA/AA Yearling Colt/Gelding Champion Dom Perignon LL **9:** Arabian Cutting Non-Pro Champion and Open Top Ten VG Tsatine+/, shown here with rider Wesley Larkin

BY SUSAN BAVARIA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HOWIE SCHATZBERG


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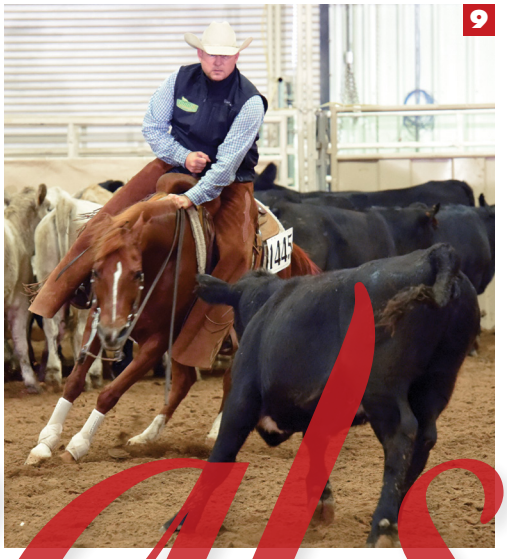
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THRILL TO BE HERE

"Whether I've bred, owned or bought a horse, I've always wanted to compete on the national level," says Joelle Wright of East Manor Arabians in East Manor, New York. This was her dream year with Half-Arabian mare Vangelista+ who won the Reserve Championship Western Pleasure Futurity in 2014 with Tommy Garland when the horse was owned by Ron Rash.

"Ron has had two back surgeries and can no longer ride, but she is his dream horse, and he loves this mare with all his heart," said Wright. "My husband and I are honored to have her because she is a once-in-a-lifetime horse." While the sale of the horse was an extremely emotional and heartbreaking event for Rash, Wright says, "He is always there on the rail for all his friends and is the ultimate supporter of every client at Garlands. He's a positive force in encouragement to everyone to go out there, show their horse and have fun! I was thrilled to have them with us to see her win the Reserve Western Pleasure Junior class!"

Besides their mare, they had two other horses competing, their Arabian Western Pleasure homebred Holdin Aces, who took Joelle to a Top Ten Western Pleasure Select ribbon, and Half-Arabian U Bet GP who went Top Ten in the Half-Arabian Western Pleasure Open class with Tommy Garland.

"I met Mr. Garland many years ago when he brought horses up to Region 16, and I bought his DVD series on starting western pleasure horses and watched his TV show on RFDTV. I always admired his training and his encouragement to all his amateurs.

"It was just exciting to be here. We've always competed at the regional level," said Wright who was raised with Morgans and didn't own her first Arabian until 1993. "We didn't even come to the U.S. Nationals until 2013.

HOW OFFICE STALWART

If the USN is a small village, and the show commissioners are the mayor and city council, then Marlene Kriegbaum is the city manager and her indispensable sidekick is Lurline Combs. Lurline did not come up through the show office ranks but rather was recruited by Marlene as a "free agent" to help at the USN many years ago greeting people and helping at the front desk, but now she performs data entry with Marlene.

"It's a big challenge to try and make each exhibitor experience a pleasant one," she says. "I understand because I've sat on the other side of the table too. Rules are where the stickiest issues usually arise," specifically qualifications where people think a horse is qualified. "Horses need 10 points from a particular class to show in that class at the U.S. Nationals, but sometimes they've gotten 10 points in two different classes which won't work." The "gals" in the office such as Patty Liarakos and Judy Mitten have developed reputations for delivering the customer service that savvy exhibitors expect, and they all take pride in that





ABOVE:
HA/AA Western Pleasure Junior Horse Reserve Champion Vangelista+ ridden by Tommy Garland

RIGHT:
Western Pleasure Select AATR Top Ten Holdin Aces bred and ridden by Joelle Wright

BELOW:
Indispensable USN show office presence Lurline Combs



knowledge. "These people will bend over backwards, says Lurline," it's hard to find people like that."

After talking with Lurline for a while, it's easy to see why Marlene picked her, not the least of which is her stamina. They work hip to hip from one hour before the show starts to one hour after the last class throughout the entire show. "Marlene wants to make sure that the Commission has the stats in the morning to know whether they need to split classes or not. We can sleep when we get home!" she laughs. "But we know that going into it. Marlene keeps plenty of chocolate for us." Besides her advice to "read the specs of the class you want to enter," this seasoned veteran says, "Many times we follow other shows so you never know going in what has been in the stall before. You have to scour that stall and look for hooks and syringes and really disinfect and check it. If there's plastic over it, you know it was probably a tack stall so look for nails and pins. Horses can really get beat up with what's left behind. I've seen it."

Paying the highest compliment to her "boss" Marlene, she said, "When I grow up, I want to be her."

CRUCIBLE FOR BREEDING

You plan, choose, breed, care for, foal out, nurture, school, train, evaluate and finally decide to haul your three-year-old to a U.S. Nationals Futurity, and there's no better crucible for testing young performance stock. They haven't competed before, so there's no way to predict how they are going to react when the in gate opens and they enter the arena. That's the fun of it, and the exhilaration when success strikes again! Boisvert Farm, LLC owners Amanda Purdin Standish and her Dad have steered the farm's breeding program since 1993, reaching remarkable results through planning, research and taking a hard look at their stock. With a niche like Arabian and Half-Arabian English Pleasure, it's very competitive, but this year they proved their breeding program again by taking seven of their own horses with the "BF" suffix to five Top Tens and three Reserves and two national Championships ridden (or driven) by Amanda, her husband Rhein and professional Joel Gangi. And that doesn't include other horses bred by the Farm and owned by others.

"It's a gamble," said Amanda. "Last year the one that ended up winning was not what I would've predicted. For me that's the most exciting part." Her father took to Arabian breeding with a fervor. "He's obsessed,' says Amanda. "He looks at stats and makes charts and does research" which has paid off. They have bred multiple national champions, and this year, helped push Region 9 to the top as the region that bred the most Top Ten, Reserve





Boisvert Farms-bred horses from the TOP: HA/AA Country English Pleasure U.S. National Champion Sal Mineo BF ridden by Joel Gangi and kissed by Amanda Purdin Standish; HA/AA Mounted Native Costume Reserve Natalie Woods BF ridden by Amanda Purdin Standish; HA/AA Country Pleasure Driving AAOTD Champion Starbucks BF driven by Rhein Standish





ABOVE: Arabian Ladies Sidesaddle English Reserve Champion Electrostatic bred and ridden by Rebecca Fleck

BELOW: **1:** HA/AA English Pleasure AAOTR Champion CF Jimmy Neutron ridden by Katie Burr **2:** Sheila Varian has fun with the lifesize screen of her Champion Halter Stallion Bay El Bey++ **3:** HA/AA Yearling Filly Breeding Champion Davincis Ebony GA shown by Rodolfo Guzzo **4:** El Monaco was a double Champion in Arabian Trail Horse Futurity and Western Trail Junior Horse ridden by Lou Roper









and National Championship horses in the inaugural Regional Breeding Cup Challenge. Boisvert Farms, LLC was the top breeder in this region in two categories: Performance and Combined (Performance and Breeding-In-Hand). Rohara Arabians led Region 12 to its place as top breeder of Breeding/In-hand winners.

Amanda admits that she starts a breeding decision by looking at the flaws. "Even if she won, I know my mare has some weak points, and I start there." She says that with Arabian stallions it's hard because a stallion may breed 100 mares, and you may ever only see 10 or so offspring, so she looks at multiple offspring to get clues regarding what may be passed on.

With a combination of extensive research and a gifted eye for what bloodlines make a good nick, spectators should continue to see "BF" horses in the winners' circle for a long time to come.

RINGING A JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE TO COMPETITION

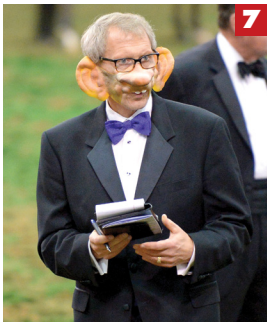
Rebecca Fleck is a member of the AHA Board of Directors from Region 13, a Nationals/Regionals Judge and a longtime amateur exhibitor. Having a judge's perspective when she goes into the arena is a "huge factor" in how she shows her horses. "I know the specifications for the class and a look and attitude that I like, but it always feels different from the way it actually looks," which is why she has her husband, Dr. Tim Fleck, videotape her during practice. "I like to look at the video and evaluate whether I need to raise my horse up, get more impulsion or make changes before I compete." Having judged show hack, she knows she only has about two to three strides to show a transition so she makes it big. "A judge doesn't have the luxury to watch a rider all the way down the rail because you are limited on time, so I make a transition so the judge can really see it." She always goes to the arena prior to her class to "watch the judges work, to see how they get along, where they stand in the arena, are they watching three-quarters of the ring? Or are they watching the straightaways. This helps me maneuver my horse so all three judges can see me. It also helps to have judged where you are showing. Some arenas have a backlit gate so all you see are silhouettes coming into the arena."

Fleck first got started in Arabians when her Mom and Dad bought one in 1962. "My mother is an artist and is attracted to the Arabian horse because of its beauty. Her drawings are still used in the Arabian Coloring Fun Book!"

This year she took her 15-year-old Half-Arabian mare DC Moody Blue to a Top Ten in HA/AA Ladies English Sidesaddle AAOTR Open. Electrostatic, a Sport Horse Nationals Champion, went Reserve in the Ladies English









ABOVE: **5:** HA/AA Hunter Pleasure Futurity Champion Totally Redhot GA ridden by Josie Gillespie **6:** HA/AA Reining Horse Futurity Champion Dunit My Way RA ridden by Crystal McNutt for Vallejo III Ranch LLC **7:** Halloween night brought out the "beast" in Judge Van Jacobsen **8:** Arabian Mounted Native Costume AAOTR Top Ten Frank Sinatra ridden by Andie Szabo

BELOW: Top Ten Arabian English Pleasure Junior Horse Grace Slick ridden by Jessica Cole



Sidesaddle AAOTR class and got Top Tens in Ladies English Sidesaddle Open and Hunter Pleasure 55 and Over — all very gratifying because the Flecks have bred, raised and shown the horse "All our future show horses we've bred and raised. We have Randy Sullivan work the young horses for 60 to 90 days. Most of the time they come home and are turned out to grow up. I eventually bring them to the barn, start working them, figure out what discipline they're suited for and finish their training." This seasoned horsewoman has another tip. When she finds a breeding stallion that she likes, she goes back to the barn and has the handler bring it straight out of the stall "so I can see how much they have to 'train' on him. Does he have Arabian type, good conformation, correct legs? Is he inquisitive (sort of like a first date!)? Finally, would he be a great cross for one of our mares?"

TROTTING SEVEN GENERATIONS INTO THE RING

Jessica Cole of Jessica Cole Training Stables in Wisconsin trotted Grace Slick into the Arabian English Pleasure Junior Horse class, a horse that represents seven generations of her family's breeding. The filly almost didn't come about because her granddam was "just impossible to breed," says Cole who invested three seasons trying to get the mare bred. Finally, after thousands of dollars spent on vet bills, collection and transportation, she just decided to breed the mare back to the mare's sire on site. It took two tries, but the mare got in foal and produced twins! The vet pinched one embryo off, and the resulting twin was Grace Notes, the dam of Grace Slick (by Afire Bey V).

"One thing that I really love about her and her full sister (both by Afire Bey V) is that when I bred into that Varian line, which is so strong in so many ways, I did not lose the distinctive look of my family's bloodlines. I was hoping to preserve their mother's authentic desert look, strength of hindquarter, depth of ribcage, exceptional shoulder and heart. And I was hoping that Afire Bey V would dominate in siring a longer, higher set, more flexible neck and would add even more of the "quality" factor that the Varian line is so strong for. And I pretty much got exactly what I was after both times — the best of both sides of the pedigree."

Jessica's mother, Bevra Cole, suggested the name which harks back to the lead singer of the 1960s rock band Jefferson Airplane. "I thought it was so appropriate to name the filly after a gorgeous rock and roll star," said Jessica, "especially since the name 'Grace' pays respect to her dam Grace Notes as well. She represents a lot of older stuff because our line goes back to 1962." Jessica's mother got her first mare from friends Rick and Ann Heber, a 14.2 CMK horse named Spruce Nabu that served as matriarch

for the Cole breeding program (in addition to rounding up the neighbor's Charolais bull when he got loose!)

"In the early 70s the Hebers imported ★Tuhotmos and ★Farazdac, both very exciting stallions at the time which are also in Grace's pedigree," said Jessica. "I got to ride all seven of those generations and trained most of them. I guarantee you not too many people get to ride through the Nationals in-gate on seven generations! She was Top Ten and really had a great go for how inexperienced she is! It was only the second show of her life, and she very much looked the part and belonged out there. I am very happy with her!"

PASSIONATE ABOUT TRAINING & TEACHING

Showing Arabians is a lifetime passion for halter trainer Tony Steiner of Steiner Arabians International in Pilot Point, Texas. His parents owned and bred Arabians and Tony went to his first Nationals in 1976. He enjoys working with amateurs. One client that he met four years ago in Region 9 was Eric Loftis. "It's just the way I'm wired, but when I saw Eric coming out of his class, I complimented him and it started a relationship." Eric purchased a DaVinci son named Michelangelo and then Skowroneek IA, the stallion that's been a consistent regional champion and U.S. and Canadian National Top Ten, earning the red rose garland last year in the 8 and Over Stallions. "That horse started them in the breeding process," said Tony and they have three babies on the ground this year.

Teaching what you know is a special art, and Steiner likes to articulate it from a basic understanding of the horse. "You have to understand the horse and what those responses should be so you can teach the buttons and responses to others. You have to have the patience so an amateur can understand cues properly and duplicate the skills you want them to learn." The horse must be properly trained, and that's a lesson he learned from mentor and professional Jerry McCrae who said, "If someone can't show or ride the one you trained, it's not trained." Steiner is very proud that horses he initially trained have been shown successfully and became some of the breed's great stars. He's also touched the careers of Ted Carson, Jordan Simons and Mike Bills early in their amateur showing lives. If there's one misunderstood aspect of halter he'd like to correct it's that halter horses can't go on to careers in performance. Holly Dillin's reserve national champion Half-Arabian hunter futurity horse, WC Ali Night Long, was initially a regional sweepstakes champion halter horse with Tony, and there are other examples too. "I love working with all Arabian horses. I enjoy the process of training and bonding with horses as they learn what you are training them to do. When they do what you ask with so much heart and willingness, it is an amazing feeling."



Arabian Yearling Colt Breeding Top Ten Chopard AF handled by Tony Steiner for Eric Loftis

ARABIAN SHOW FIXTURE: HELEN NYMEYER

Helen Nymeyer purchased a western store in 1974, and when her daughter was old enough to show, Nymeyer wanted to find a way to hire a person for the store and take her daughter on the road, so she set up a card table at the show and sold bits and custom tack. "After the card table, it was a camper trailer, then a horse trailer, then a 24 foot trailer, followed by a custom-designed 42 foot trailer. In 1992 I moved to DesMoines and purchased Tanglewood then got a 50 foot trailer and my commercial driver's license. I totally took my hobby and turned it into a business!" But she is grateful for all the professionals and amateurs that have supported her through the years, and it's gratifying for her to see younger trainers raising families in the business too. She travels to 17 Arabian shows a year and doesn't sell at any other breed show. What was popular this year? "Ice boots — we sold out of them and I had to fly more in." She believes that the Arabian horse people are the "leaders of the pack" when it comes to styles and trends, but sometimes she's surprised. "I thought bling would last maybe two years, and that was eight years ago." She laughed about going to Eleanor Hamilton's party this year for Hesa Zee+/ and looking at a saddle she sold to Eleanor made by Peter Runyon for Victor's Custom Tack 30 years ago. "At the time, we thought it had so much silver on it, but by today's standards it's pretty modest. But that was all real sterling silver. Today you couldn't

Nymeyer's at Tanglewood

afford that; most saddles use all silverplate." You have to love what you do to weather the vagaries of the horse business, and Helen Nymeyer does.

LEGALLY BLIND REINER ACHIEVES RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Tracey Rauch of Eagle, Idaho, crossed one goal off her bucket list when she earned her reserve national championship in Arabian Reining Rookie Non-Pro AAOTR at the U.S. Nationals this year on five-year old filly, Shania Nika Sikhs, which she had bred and raised herself. "I think Shania was the only junior horse in that class," she says. Rach's six month training at the Idaho Blind Commission Center instilled in her that "there isn't anything I can't do, I just need to find a new way to do it," she says. "I hear the steps, count the strides, and have learned how to communicate with and trust my horse." While the filly trained at Mike and Gretchen McDaniel's, Tracey practiced the potential patterns with the filly's sire, Cylk Impression, at home. When she got to the show, once the pattern was posted, she used an Apple phone accessibility app to talk her through the pattern to memorize it. "If I'm looking forward, I can't see the ears on my horse, so I pick a banner or sign up higher to target because it's easier to see something above me. I can't see the cones." She credits early mentors, Sterling and Melissa Barter-Bradley and the McDaniels for teaching her the skills that have gotten her to this point. "At home I practice balance by riding bareback because one eye is worse and it feels like I'm walking at an angle." Although she once worked in the mining industry and then in real estate for 20 years, her eyes could not handle land transaction documents anymore. Now she assists her husband with his custom farming business, Gemstone Ranch Services LLC, through phone work and computer programs that scan and read aloud to her everything from invoices to emails. Not one to rest on her roses, she'd like to try western dressage next. Although she's had 12 surgeries since 2006 for the glaucoma that builds pressure in her eyes, she takes it "in stride." "I plan to ride as long as possible. You can't let challenges beat you down," she says.

DEBUT WINNER IN A DEBUT CLASS

Amanda Golestani was the champion in the inaugural Western Horsemanship AATR class this year and says the biggest challenge was "Trying to make it look as effortless as possible! She got her start in Horsemanship as a youth rider and credits Jessica Bein with encouraging her to use it as a foundation for future disciplines. "I was lucky enough to be able to show a mare, IM Destinees Hobby, for a number of years, and it was through her and Jessica that I really developed the fundamentals of showing this class. Jessica's dedication to excellence and my progress helped me to grow and succeed in this division." Now that she's with Silver Aspen Ranch, she says "It's great to be sur-



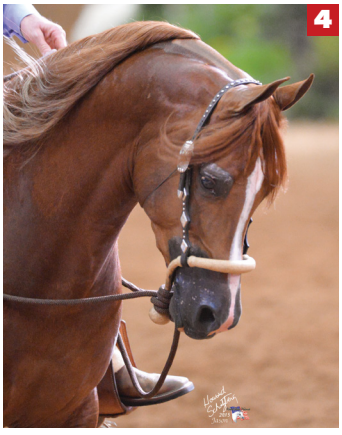
ABOVE: Arabian Reining Rookie Non-Pro AAOTR Reserve Champion Shania Nika Sikhs ridden by Tracey Rauch with Mike and Gretchen McDaniels

BELOW: **1:** Arabian Reining Horse Champion TA Khalil ridden by Tyson Randle **2:** HA/AA Park Horse Champion GSF Alejandro ridden by Matt Siemon **3:** HA/AA Hunter Pleasure AAOTR Maturity Champion Lightning McQueen CRS ridden by Katie Russell **4:** Arabian Western Pleasure Futurity Reserve Champion DA Maxin ridden by Dale Brown











ABOVE: Western Horsemanship riders from left: Top Tens Allie Mostowich (CA Just Plain Fancy) and Katie Mostowich (Tamar Justice for All), Larae Fletcher Powell, Reserve Michelle Pease-Paulsen (BSF Starbuck) and Champion Amanda Golestani (Dun Waltzin)

BELOW: Arabian Mounted Native Costume Reserve Champion Noble way ridden by Lori Conway



IN MEMORIAM

Richard (Dick) H. Faulkner
1943-2015

Richard Hugh Faulkner, 72, passed away October 19, 2015 after a long battle with Diabetes. Dick was a co-owner of Faulkner's English and Western Store, and his passion and his love was the horse tack business started by his parents in 1954, now known as Faulkner's Saddlery LLC. He was loved by many horsemen. He was a man of many accomplishments: a U.S. Naval veteran, entrepreneur, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and beloved friend.

Dick was known for his generosity, kindness, and willingness to support the Arabian horse community worldwide. He was a permanent fixture at many of the Arabian horse shows for as long as many people remember. He was considered one of the most knowledgeable men in the tack business. His legacy lives on in much of his innovative equipment and bits. His customers' satisfaction was of the utmost importance, and he always tried to ensure their happiness, even at his own expense. His passing leaves a huge void in the hearts of many. His twinkling blue eyes will surely be missed by all who gazed upon them.

Contributions in his name may be sent to The Arabian Horsemen's Distress fund: 236 Henry Sanford Rd, Bridgewater, CT, 06752. horsemensdistressfund.com

rounded by such talented people who push you to be your best no matter the circumstance!" Her horse "Wally" is very special too. "He came into my life during a tough time. I had just lost a really special horse and didn't think I was in the mindset to ride again, let alone show. Wally and I bonded immediately and he gave me the courage and confidence to continue showing. I know it's cheesy, but he has been one of my best friends since." She encourages other adults to try this event. "With enough practice and perseverance, I think just about any horse and rider pair can be successful in this class. If you put in effort, you will achieve results. Western Horsemanship has taught me more precision in my reining runs, to keep riding through a trail course with minor hiccups, and to use my arena smartly in the pleasure ring."

TURNING AMATEUR

You hear about people "turning pro" but sometimes circumstances require a professional to choose a new path as it did with Lori Conway of Conway Arabians. Like all transitions in life, it may feel bittersweet, but if you embrace the change and are open to possibilities, you find the leap opens you to a whole new world.

"I had been training horses as a professional for over 35-plus years, but, unfortunately, my body broke down way before my mind was able to give training up," she says. "It felt uncomfortable for me to think of myself as an Amateur, but I definitely was not working as a Professional anymore. The final hurdle that I had to get over mentally to becoming an Amateur was that I could no longer be an instructor. However, it turns out that I have plenty of people to help since we have my stepdaughters that ride, Rachel and Anna, 19 grandkids (six ride now), and my sister-in-law Jane to fulfill the teaching need that



I was going to miss. It was my mind that had to flip the switch and let go of that identity and embrace a new chapter of my life."

What from her pro life experience does she take into the ring with her? "The ability to make decisions quickly regarding showmanship, and ringmanship is second nature from a lifetime of competing." She's proud of her accomplishments this year: "With 4 horses, I came home with a Reserve National Championship, four Top Tens, one Section win, five section ribbons and an 11th in Reining."





The AHDF Showdown featured Jeff Schall (ABOVE), Robin Hopkinson and Jennifer Quintus (RIGHT), and half the winning team of Greg Gallun (BELOW) and Greg Harris riding Capt Jack Sparrow



HORSEMEN WHO HELP

By Tifffany Meites, Ph.D.

Wednesday evening at U.S. Nationals featured the annual fundraiser for the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund (AHDF). This year's event, a "Showdown" Calcutta, paired fifteen teams of Western Pleasure trainers, halter trainers, and renowned horses competing in a Western pleasure class. The evening started with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails sponsored by stallion owners. After a video presentation highlighting the cause, teams entered the arena on foot through puffs of fog to resounding applause. Teams animatedly arrived, whether "loping" in unison on foot or performing synchronized bows.

Last year's featured beneficiary, Alexa Nichols, and her family spoke of the sense of community and support from the AHDF and Arabian horse "family" that helped them through the initial phases of her recovery from a serious motor vehicle accident last year that left her paralyzed from the neck down. After reminding the audience of this year's featured beneficiaries, Ryan Melendez and Andrew Andersen, the auction of teams began. Bidding flowed smoothly, facilitated by Greg Knowles, as would-be buyers sought to select the winning team — and subsequently to win a new John Deere Gator. Following a presentation of the stallions whose owners had sponsored the event, the Calcutta began. The halter trainers rode in, announced in order by Craig Christiansen, while their teammates waited in center ring. Horses such as Onyx A, Kornwall, and Caliente Virtuoso to name a few, showed their talents. From the determined Michael Byatt to the adeptly maneuvering Kim Morgan, the halter trainers guided their mounts through their paces in the first direction. The Western pleasure trainers rode the second direction — with the occasional antic including Tommy Garland's "hands-free" approach to loping. Then the judges requested a rollback and lope out of the line-up to form a second line.

While waiting for the results, Alexa Nichols sang Billy Joel's "The Way She Moves Me" in tribute to her mother. In the end, Greg Harris and Greg Gallun were named the champions with multi-national champion Capt Jack Sparrow PGA to the delight of winning bidder Holland Stevens. Finally Mary Trowbridge and the AHDF board thanked attendees for raising over $360,000, contributing to "horsemen who help."

2015 Canadian Nationals



CANADIAN NATIONALS SM



THIS PHOTO: Arabian Mare Breeding Champion GC Le Marais owned by the Al Shahania Stud and shown by Michael Byatt

TOP: Arabian Mounted Native Costume AOTR Champion CSP Magician and Annalise Himmel

RIGHT: Canadian National Champion and Reserve trophies are actual bronzes by Jill McKinney

BY JANET DE ACEVEDO MACDONALD

ienvenue au Brandon

"Welcome to Canada. Enjoy the Big Red." With that, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) officer slid our packet of horse papers back across the wide counter — all properly photocopied and stamped. Fifteen hours of horse hauling behind us, my friend and I were high-fiving giddy on the way back to the truck and trailer.

THE FACILITY

Located smack dab in downtown Brandon, the Keystone Centre facility sits on 90 acres. Its Agricultural Sales and Events Manager Dave Mein said it takes about two weeks to set up the 21 outdoor barns, 11 indoor barns and haul in 1400 yards of dirt for the various arenas. To picture that much dirt figure a semi dump truck carries 30 yards of dirt — that's 50 truckloads! "We have a horse show every weekend," said Mein, "but most average 100 to 400 horses. Yours, with 700, is by far the largest." He added the wood shavings sales run upwards of 7,000 bales during the show.



Since I was last in Brandon in 2012, the on-site RV parking has been expanded to include some sites with electric, water and sewer hook ups. For a flat fee, our RV was assigned to a spot adjacent to the outdoor exercise arena and sometimes too near the railroad track with engineers who liked to blow the whistle as they chugged through town. As a footnote, during the show the weather gods smiled. However, barns that arrived early for set up told of 90-plus temps and high humidity. Blessedly, that gave way to sun-filled days in the mid-70s and 80s, with cool overnights and mornings good for a brisk workout.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Not everyone who qualifies chooses to show at the national level. It's a commitment whether you're with a trainer, an amateur show pal, or on your own. If you've had an unexpectedly successful season qualifying right through regionals, deciding to show at the upper echelon can mean pulling a rabbit out of a hat financially. For those of us traveling with horses from the U.S., a negative Coggins drawn within the previous six months is required. AHA is very good at giving its exhibitors the heads up on what documentation is needed to cross the border. Once again the diseases vesicular stomatitis virus and the tick-borne equine piroplasmosis added hoops to jump through for entrants. Both CBSA officers asked us where we started our journey and the route we followed. It was done in a casual manner, but the questions were posed in a few different ways. For those who crossed at the International Peace Garden as we did, any stopping in, off loading or, heaven forbid, picking up an animal in South Dakota without the proper paperwork or quarantine to any Canadian crossing was verboten.

LOVE FROM BRANDON

The signs "Brandon Welcomes Canadian National Arabians and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show, August 16-22" were often spotted in local eateries. The show also figured prominently on the BrandonTourism.com major event calendar. Ambassadors for the City of Brandon were on hand outside the show office to answer questions and share information on where to eat, shop, and visit in the area.

Reporters from the Brandon Sun newspaper and local TV news also combed the barn areas for stories. And well they should. Canadian Nationals is responsible for bringing $5.5 million dollars into the local economy. The six-day show had 422 purebreds and 278 Half-Arabians shown across 205 classes. With 2,087 entries, the average entry per horse was 2.98 classes, which is trending up from previous years.

Brandonites love the show. While setting up our stall area, my husband Ian chatted with two octogenarians that told him this route was part of their daily walk and they come each day to watch it transition — watching





ABOVE: Arabian 2-Year-Old Colts Jackpot Champion Beloved One NA owned by Patricia Dempsey and shown by Andy Sellman

RIGHT: Arabian 2-Year-Old Fillies Jackpot Champion RD Versaria owned by Murray Popplewell and shown by Claudinei Machado

it come together, how pretty and creative we make the stalling areas, going to classes and then seeing the area return to how it began. They noticed barn names like Earthquake Arabians, Wunderbar Arabians and this year's favorite, Train Robbery Farm. And being a horse show there are plenty of canines on hand — Bernese Mountain Dogs, Australian Cattle Dogs, Aussie Shepherds, the ubiquitous Jack Russells, every color of Labrador Retriever, the tiniest ball of Pomeranian puppy fluff, and my ever present poodle.

Many local horse lovers attended the free Total Arabian Interactive Learning (T.A.I.L.) tours held on the grounds, and one group made the two-hour drive from Winnipeg to take a tour. I tagged along on the first tour, and as someone new to having a performance horse, it was both fun and educational to listen to the exchange between three prominent breed ambassadors: Pennsylvania's Christine Ryan of Ryan Show Horses, Louisianan Debbie Himmel's with her southern-belle tones, and Wisconsinite, Stacey Dunn. Debbie is one of the AHA's many dedicated volunteers and chairs its Youth Committee. During one of the tour's many Q&A sessions, Stacey, who volunteers as vice chair of Youth Activities, drew relevant parallels for show horses as elite training athletes whose care, feeding, and exercise regimes are all closely monitored.

EQUINE CANADA

Similar to the United States Equestrian Federation stateside, Equine Canada is the national governing body for all equine and equestrian sporting and recreational activities and interests (except racing) in Canada. Equine Canada sanctions four types of competitions each year: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. Our show is the Silver type. Because Equine Canada encourages all equestrian sport in all disciplines to participate in anti-doping measures and fair medication control to safeguard the health and welfare of all, random drug testing is done at the show. What can and cannot be administered is more stringent than in the U.S. That said, in chatting with Dr. Marc Phillippot, the official show vet, he finds he actually talks more with owners about non-medicating measures that can be taken for horses with issues like irritated eyes, coughs reacting to shavings dust, or bug bite welts on horses stalled outdoors. Sprinkling water over shavings, soaking hay, and putting fly sheets on horses overnight are examples of things that can be done to keep the horse comfortable, showing, and not running afoul of Equine Canada regulations.

Jill Barton is one of four Equine Canada Stewards working the show. When asked how many years she's been a steward, Jill laughed easily

saying, "Too many." After witnessing Jill admonish an exhibitor for lunging her horse in the Westoba Ag Centre warm up area, I asked why it was a problem since I'd seen lungers and riders share space many times during the week. Not too surprisingly, the reason stems from the facility's liability insurance, but Jill admits during busy times lungeing is tolerated in these no-lungeing-anytime posted warm-ups as long as no horse and rider are exercising at the same time. "It's a safety issue too. In the nice weather, warming up can be done in the outdoor arena."

ATTENDING THE SHOW

In addition to seeing horse show friends, the two things I love about a big show are the shopping and the show program. These books — for me 200-plus pages is a book — are filled with all kinds of good information. I don't get to see many of these different classes until the national show, so I'm interested to read the class descriptions and what the judges are looking for. I've been known to buy extra show programs and mail them to friends who couldn't attend too. Tens bucks plus postage is well worth it to put the smile on that face.

This technological boom time we live in has so many ways for us not only to stay in touch, but also to "go" to a horse show without leaving home through ArabianHorseGlobal.com. The AHA itself has jumped head long into social media with a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. Using hashtags for its national shows (#ahaCNL15) we can keep up on each other's show wins, horses, and where's a good place to eat?

Arabian English Trail and Arabian English Trail AOTR and the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian counterparts were new to Canadian Nationals for 2015. Seventeen horse-and-rider teams competed in the fifth newbie, A/HA/AA Western Horsemanship AATR. With 19 exhibitors, the show's largest in-hand class was Monday evening's class 1372 A/HA/AA Showmanship AATH in the Westoba Ag Centre.



TOP TO BOTTOM:
Arabian Western Pleasure Walk Trot 10 and Under Top Ten Ima Cowboy Cassanova and Xelyna Colon

Half-Arabian Reining AOTR Champion Freckles Got Trix and Velda Peach

Showmanship AATH Champion Ian Sage and BSF Copenhagen Angel+





COMMENTS FROM CENTER RING

Not only was this Richard Wright's first time to Brandon it was also his first time judging Canadian Nationals. He found his fellow judges an interesting combination of strong-minded individuals with long backgrounds in the horse business and with varied experiences. Richard admired his fellow judges, "not because we always agreed, but because our discussions were always insightful."

In the past, Richard has found the Halter classes lacking. "We've moved away from the overfed, heavy beef cattle look. The top horses in all divisions through Westman Place were exceptional not just at a show level, but on a worldwide level." He added that the horses looked like fit athletes, and their conditioning was exceptional.

Friday evening's Arabian Mare Breeding class received some of the highest praise from Judge Wright. "I saw mares that had the 'good old days' caliber of the Bask ++ daughters Dancing Flame ++ and Fire Music++."

Panel One judge Carmelle Rooker



LEFT: Dressage Training Level ATR Top Ten Ella Fruchterman and Sofine Strait Man+/

BELOW: Arabian Hunter Pleasure Champion Klint Black+++// ridden by Cindy Shelton for Flois and Cindy Burrows

BOTTOM: Ubiquitous Jack Russells



echoed Wright's comments on overall quality. Bey Monet TRJ, bred and owned by Ross Danielson of Buffalo, Minnesota, and shown in Wednesday evening's Arabian Futurity Fillies Championship by Jeff Schall, was one of two horses that were top of mind not only for beautiful but also for being structurally correct. The other horse receiving similar accolades from both Wright and Rooker was Patricia Dempsey's two-year-old Ever After NA colt, Beloved One NA, handled by Andy Sellman in the Two Year Old Colt Jackpot.

VIGNETTES

Prospecting for stories is fun, like panning for gold. Facebook is a stream rich with nuggets. After settling in, I posted on my personal page that I was interested in talking to exhibitors about their Canadian Nationals experience. That, and stopping in the show office a few times to learn what they were hearing, helped me find these gems to share.

"I'll never forget hearing number 595 called," said Patti Meir, the proud breeder, owner and handler of the 2015 Arabian Stallion Breeding AAOTH Champion 2012 Eden C son, MM Zhivago. Two days after that national championship thrill, MM Zhivago took Top Ten honors in the Arabian Futurity Colts with handler Kim Morgan. "It was great to celebrate these victories with Kim. She's been a great friend to me in this business."

CL Berry Supreme+// has been Paul Heiman's horse for 20 years. Owner of the 120-acre Valley Hei Farm in Mason, Ohio, the 89-year-old Arabian Country English Pleasure AAOTR 40 and Over rider gives me hope as a horse lover who hasn't begun showing in the saddle yet. "I started taking lessons when I was 63, and got my first blue ribbon on my 65th birthday." Paul shows with Chuck Siemon Stables and this year is his 10th or 12th Canadian Nationals. "I like the fact that it's fun and feels like a big family."



To have her owner tell it, Fames Harley Girl is a diva. There's just no other way to describe this seven-year-old bay The Color Of Fame daughter. Of the many things she has made clear, showing indoors is preferred. Getting her wish in the Westoba Ag Centre, it was full steam ahead for the prima donna and her amateur owner Stephanie Eckelkamp, taking home three National Championships, three Reserves, and three Top Ten honors for In Hand, Dressage, and Under Saddle classes in the Sport Horse division. Stephanie, a widowed, single parent from Dresbach, Minnesota, crunches numbers by day, and is a second-generation horsewoman of a three-generation branch started by her mother trainer Jan Wiggert. Jan's

younger daughter Kate Wiggert-Johnson and 11-year-old granddaughter Lyric Johnson, also amateurs, share Kate's 11-year-old purebred gelding TAL Java Bey, and mixed it up showing in 10 Sport Horse In Hand, Dressage, and Hunter Pleasure classes.

"Our season begins Memorial Day Weekend and we have certainly peaked nicely at Canadian Nationals," said Jan. "We're having a good season, with many successes, but we're more the 30-year overnight success story. We're not quitters. We learn and keep coming back."

Marg Woodruff of Bono, Arkansas, and her 24-year-old gelding KN Rio Tuff+ have that same kind of grit. The two have been together 20 years. Marg entered Rio in trail classes, including the new Arabian English Trail Open and AOTR, and they went home with two National Championships in English Trail, along with two Top Ten honors in Western Trail. "I've had Rio since he was four and we've done pretty well," said Marg. Her humbly stated, "pretty well" includes gathering enough Amateur Achievement Award (AAA) points for her Rider of Supreme Honor Champion.

Another honorable mention in the AAA category is 11-year-old Ella Fruchterman of West Lakeland,





ABOVE: Sport Horse Under Saddle Champion Jennifer Ramsey and Amazing Grace DB with Top Ten Anne Burnett Ramsey and Farrha

BOTTOM: Arabian Country English Pleasure AAOTR 40 and Over Top Ten CL Berry Supreme+// and Paul Heiman

Minnesota. Aboard her 16-year-old geldings Sofine Strait Man+/ and Starfires Orion+// Ella achieved three national Top Ten honors in Dressage, and enough points for her Rider of Supreme Honor Champion.

AOTS is the acronym for amateur horse owners who train and show their own horses. Anne Burnett Ramsey and Jennifer Ramsey from Elk City, Kansas, and their mares Farrha and Amazing Grace DB, are two of a growing group who choose this route to the show ring. Three years ago Jennifer started an AOTS Facebook Group, now almost 400 members strong. Midsummer, posts went out asking about Canadian Nationals plans and who wanted to stall together in Brandon. Dian Bales of Oklahoma, long-time horse show friend of the Ramseys, with Oso her Miniature Aussie in tow, said she was in, and helped Marg haul KN Rio Tuff+. Greg Held and his three daughters Karissa, Alexis and Lindsey from the Madison, Wisconsin, area brought their two horses, VPA Bravo and Amigos Commander, and settled into the AOTS row, as did mother and daughter team Melanie and Madeline Erce, with their 18-year-old multi-national champion gelding JW Alexandrite++//. I said yes too, bringing our four-year-old purebred gelding AMF Renoirs Legacy. I've known the AOTS group since Jennifer started its annual Secret Santa gift exchange. In June, and with encouragement from both Ramseys to learn about the Sport Horse division, Ian and I had talked with Madeline about her interest in showing our gelding in hand and under saddle. These seven horses were awarded six national championships, one reserve championship, and numerous Top Ten honors. Farrha earned her Legion of Honor and Amazing Grace DB earned her Legion of Merit. Madeline Erce became number ten in the nation in the AHA's Amateur Achievement Awards program.

Number one on that AAA leader board is Rebecca Fielding of Idaho Falls, Idaho. A self-described stay-at-home mom with children ages six, three and six months, Becky has grown up in the horse industry. "I broke my first horse when I was seven. Because Mom's a trainer, I don't feel I really qualify as AOTS, but I did everything with Jack myself." Jack is Half-Arabian



RIGHT:
Arabian Regular Working Hunter Reserve Crimson N Smoke+++// and Kelly Alcorn

BELOW:
Half-Arabian Regular Working Hunter Champion EVG Ellie Mae and Allan Ehrlick



gelding E-Jack Daniels++// who received Top Tens in HA/AA Regular Working Hunter, HA/AA Hunter Hack, HA/AA Sport Horse Under Saddle, and A/HA/AA Hunter Seat Equitation Over Obstacles ATR, one Reserve Champion in HA/AA Regular Working Hunter ATR and a national championship on HA/AA Regular Working Hunter AAOTR. That championship was Becky's second for the show. Her first ever was with her 12-year-old Half-Arabian mare, Winsomes April Fool++++//

in HA/AA Sport Horse Mares In Hand Dressage Type.

When asked why she shows Sport Horse exclusively, Becky said she likes the camaraderie. "It feels more like a family, and I make more and more friends every year."

Showing at Canadian Nationals represents a culmination of the right things coming together. For 15-year-old Tabitha Bell, just getting to Brandon, ready to show in mind, body and spirit was a monumental accomplishment. At this year's Youth Nationals, Tabitha and Ima Rockin Pop Star aka "Stella" made it to the Friday night finals riding Western Pleasure, but in the championship class, Tabitha couldn't continue when her left reins-holding arm went numb. Her request to be excused was granted. Everyone except Tabitha and Michele Reser, whose husband Joe trains Stella, thought the show season ended right there. Even as Tabitha lay tired and worn out, mother Jennifer recalled, "Michele told Tabby 'We can work it out,'" meaning they'd figure a way for her to go to Canadian Nationals the next month. And they did. The triumvirate's work paid off. Tabitha and Stella won unanimous championships in HA/AA Western Pleasure JOTR 18 and Under and placed third of eight for Top Ten honors in HA/AA Western Pleasure JTR 18 and Under. And goals keep being set: Tabitha's learning to drive a car, she and Vickey Bowman, her trainer at home in Utah, are focused on strengthening her right-hand side to use riding Western Pleasure, and you can expect to see this dynamic duo competing Side Saddle Western Pleasure in 2016 where we should all cheer our hearts out from the rail.



The author and her husband with Arabian Sport Horse In Hand Gelding Hunter Type Reserve Champion AMF Renoirs Legacy handled by Madeline Erce



Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Sport Horse Mares In-Hand Dressage Type Champion Winsomes April Fool++++// with handler Rebecca Fielding

Earlier in 2015, on March 26 to be exact, it didn't look as if another Stella was going to make it to Canadian Nationals either. In fact, maybe she wasn't going to make it at all. On the morning the Alves family were ready to depart their farm in British Columbia for Ottawa, Ontario, for daughter Natalie to receive the Canadian Equine Junior Equestrian of the Year for the 2014 Show Year, Stella was found at 4:30 a.m. in great distress. By 9 o'clock she was in colic surgery. Six hours later, with what the surgeon termed "a freak twist" that didn't require any intestine to be removed, 17-year-old Half-Arabian Shake It Up Baby began her three week post-op stay, followed by 90 days of complete stall rest. At the 60-day mark, Natalie, who spent hours a day visiting with Stella got the okay to hand walk. On June 24, the vet cleared her to return to work. Not one week later, on June 29, Natalie entered Stella (who had qualified in 2014) to show in Canadian Nationals. Riding shotgun while dad Antonio Alves drove, father and daughter hauled Stella and two other horses 26 hours over two days with overnight stops along the way from Mission, British Columbia, to Brandon, Manitoba. The results: National Champion in HA/AA Ladies Side Saddle English; Unanimous National Champion in HA/AA Ladies Side Saddle English ATR; National Champion in HA/AA Country English Pleasure JOTR 18 and Under; National Champion in HA/AA English Show Hack JTR 14-18, and Reserve National Champion in HA/AA Country English Pleasure JTR 18 and Under.

Friday, August 21, was Armed Forces Day at the show when members from the various branches of Canadian Armed Forces stand with class members for their win photos.



ABOVE:
Unanimous Champion Ladies Sidesaddle English ATR Shake It Up Baby and Natalie Alves



RIGHT:
Half-Arabian Park Horse AOTR Reserve Champion Halsteads Deven and Michelle Pease-Paulsen

BRANDON. MERCI, À LA PROCHAINE FOIS!

A big thank you to the folks I interviewed and to those who pointed me in their direction. Office staffers Kathy Butkovic and Carol Spriggs — both from Edmonton, Alberta — were always so welcoming and nothing was ever too much to ask as an exhibitor or someone trying to ferret out the good stories happening at the show. Thanks too for a show well organized and executed by the Canadian Nationals Show Commission. There's a lot of work that goes into putting an event of this caliber — plenty of hours put in by both paid staff and volunteers — and it was great. I look forward to next year when I hear "Welcome to Canada. Enjoy the Big Red."

Many show attendees showed their support of Canadian and U.S. military troops by wearing red that day. I'll remember it too as the day the four-year-old gelding my husband and I bred won his first national reserve championship with Madeline in Arabian Sport Horse In Hand ATH Hunter Type. It was a good looking group, and it was a thrill to do so well. My hats off to its national champion Sir Soxx A Lot and Nicole Rowley from Thorp, Washington. His beauty and way of carrying himself caught my eye earlier in the week, and I told his people so after photos.

Janet de Acevedo Macdonald is executive producer for America's number one travel radio show, Rudy Maxa's World. She is co-owner of both U.S. National Champion stallion Legacys Renoir+ and Canadian Reserve National Champion AMF Renoirs Legacy. Janet lives, works and travels full time in a 32-foot RV with her husband Ian and their miniature poodle Buddy.

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The 2015 Sport Horse National (SHN) Championships celebrated its first year of competition in Raleigh, North Carolina, with beautiful weather and over 450 horses from around the country. The new East Coast location accommodated the show's new six-day format, which allowed more time for the 2,000-plus entries to compete and offered more special events.

"Initially, people were concerned about the new facility. However, some of the naysayers came up to me afterwards and admitted it was a great show," says Glenn Petty, AHA Executive Vice President.



BY MOLLY A. BENSTEIN

THEN & NOW

Hunter Judge Tom Brede was pleasantly surprised by the improvement in the horses since the last time he judged the competition. "The work that people are putting into their breeding and training is showing. I used to see a lot of horses that were too high-headed. This year, I saw a lot more horses that were willing to drop their heads and form the arc over the fences, as opposed to just going through it. I saw horses that could show at any hunter show and be very competitive."

"The competition was great," agrees Sport Horse Judge James Reynolds. "I saw really high-quality horses. There were young horses that will be future champions — horses that will be able to go anywhere they want to compete."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Competition that ended earlier in the day gave more time for socializing in the evening at a variety of special events during the week. Exhibitors had time to talk and compare notes during the traditional exhibitor welcome party, the AHYA ice cream social, progressive barn party and a new wine and cheese reception coupled with a silent auction to benefit the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund (AHDF) and a local children's hospital.

AHA corporate partner Markel Insurance offered three events during the week, culminating with its VIP Party and clinic. Nearly 200 exhibitors shared wine and a meal as they listened to clinicians discuss sport horse training, conformation and sport horse potential for former Arabian race horses. Attendees also had the opportunity to view stallions participating in the AHDF fundraiser. Raffle tickets were sold at $50 each for a chance to win a breeding to one of 10 successful sport horse stallions. This was the third year Markel teamed up with the AHDF and their second year at SHN. "We were really pleased with the turnout," says Markel Arabian team member Kim Douglas. "We were fortunate to have Greta Wrigley and Virginia Godwin there to speak about sport horse conformation. The breeders were happy to talk with people about their stallions and know what crosses well with them."



Rally in Raleigh

ARABIAN & HALF-ARABIAN SPORT HORSE NATIONALS



LEFT:
Arabian Gelding MSU Bad Beat Benny won the coveted title of 2015 Supreme Sport Horse Champion

BELOW:
Two years before winning Arabian Training Level with Ryan Yap, ago, Cathy Smoke's Arabian stallion, Spin Doctor, was galloping down the stretch to finish his successful race career.

OPPOSITE:
SHN merchandise from The Hat Lady



FROM THE WINNERS' CIRCLE TO DRESSAGE RING

Cathy Smoke envisioned two futures for Spin Doctor (Falina Des Fabries x Smokey Rose) from the first moment she looked at the colt. She thought he possessed the conformation and athleticism to make a wonderful racehorse, like others from her Mokee Arabians breeding program. She also noticed the movement and charisma that are necessary for success in dressage. Smoke was determined that Spin Doctor could fulfill both destinies.

"As a racehorse, Spin Doctor has a Cinderella story. While he was in training as a 3-year-old, he broke from the gate and must have put a foot wrong. He had a hairline

fracture that was repaired with three screws to his right pastern by the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. He came back a year later and won in his first out. His entire racing career took place after his injury," Smoke recalls.

He raced successfully for three years and amassed $53,640 before Smoke retired him from racing in the fall of 2013 to concentrate on dressage. Roughly 60 days after leaving the racetrack, Spin Doctor was on his way to trainer Ryan Yap to start his training. "Racing does not need to be the end — these racehorses can be reining, jumping or dressage horses. I felt it was my job to guide him where he needed to go," Smoke says.

Spin Doctor and Yap have done well together. In less than a year, they qualified for SHN in Training Level Dressage and Sport Horse In-Hand (SHIH). Spin Doctor received a score of 71.023 percent to win the Arabian Training Level Championship. Yap is impressed with Spin Doctor's transition to dressage and hopes to move up the levels.

A MODERN CLASSIC

Heather Bradford carried the AHA flag aboard her Arabian gelding, Torrific (Werborta+ x Ameri Gogo). At 27 years of age, Torrific was the oldest horse to compete at SHN. Bradford brought him from their farm in Parkton, North Carolina, to compete in the western dressage exhibition classes.

She purchased Torr as a 12-year-old from a trainer that was put off by the fact he was blind in his right eye and had a "bumpy" trot. Over the years they showed in hunter pleasure, show hack and hunter over fences. When Torrific developed arthritis, they limited him to western pleasure and his work as a favorite lesson horse.

"We started showing western dressage last year. It gives me a way to keep riding him. It is tougher than I thought with a lot of horses competing. I also appreciate not having to braid my horse. It has been nice to relax."

MULTI-TALENTED

Amy Kerr and her buckskin Half-Arabian, Urban Legend+++// (True Blue MC Cue x WA Muzel), were noticed by a few different people, mainly because he showed in so many disciplines. Urban Legend earned seven carriage driving titles that include a win in the Working Championship and a reserve in Drive and Ride where he had a chance to highlight his talents under saddle. Kerr rode Urban Legend+++// or "Bandit" to Top Tens in Half-Arabian Hunter Hack and Half-Arabian Green Working Hunters and handled him for Top Tens in Half-Arabian SHIH Geldings Hunter Type open and ATH. They also received the TheraPak Peak Performance Award. She says,



ABOVE: East Meets West: Heather Bradford rode her 27-year-old Arabian, Torrific, to carry the AHA flag following their competition in western dressage.

BELOW: Amy Kerr and Half-Arabian Urban Legend+++// amassed 11 titles at SHN with a championship in Pleasure Driving Working and Top Tens in hunter and in-hand disciplines.





"It has been like a crazy dream and I'm still waiting for someone to pinch me. He was my first baby, and I wasn't sure if I could do it. If I did not know something, I would ask or do research. He's truly an amateur-owned and trained horse."

To find the right fit for Bandit, Kerr used her previous experience in hunt seat and driving to introduce him to different disciplines. "What we do each day depends on my mood — whether I feel like riding or driving. Each week we focus on one thing or another as I think working on both things keeps his mind fresh. I feel very blessed that he came into my life."



Jeanette Aubert trotted her 3-year-old Arabian gelding, MSU Bad Beat Benny, for the victory lap in the Sport Horse Supreme Championship after wins in both Hunter and Dressage Type In-Hand.

SPORT HORSE SUCCESS

Jeanette Aubert found the 2015 Supreme Champion Sport Horse, MSU Bad Beat Benny (EL Nabila B x MSU Sole Heiress), last fall when she visited Michigan State University in search of a sport horse prospect. "They had some 3- and 4-year-olds there, but none of them really caught my eye. I was looking for a phenomenal mover; it did not matter if it was a hunter or dressage type. I started to look at the 2-year-olds and Benny immediately caught my eye. I knew he was the one. He already had a mature look for his age and had an uphill build," remembers Aubert.



Riften+++// successfully switched from a main ring harness horse to a very successful Carriage Pleasure Driving and sport horse with a win in the Drive and Ride and a championship in Half-Arabian SHIH Dressage Type Geldings ATH.

Benny did well in training and qualified for both SHN in-hand and under saddle during the summer. Unfortunately, Benny stepped on a nail and punctured the bottom of his hoof. He developed an anaerobic infection in the wound that required hospitalization for 11 days with regional limb profusion to prevent the spread to his coffin bone. Aubert thought it was likely that they would have to scratch Benny's entries to SHN. Fortunately, he improved in time to attend.

"I didn't have any expectations of him doing well — just because of the events that happened before — but everything just fell into place. He was reserve in Arabian SHIH Geldings Hunter Type with me and won in the ATH with my husband, Michael. Going into the Supreme Championship, I knew I needed to have a really good walk and trot. He was so good and stayed so focused — I think the judges really appreciated that. I was honored to be there and represent the Michigan State University breeding program."

TEAMWORK

A small group of exhibitors from Ohio worked together to make a big impression with two horses in Carriage Pleasure Driving. Wendy Gruskiewicz's Half-Arabian gelding, Riften+++/ (Triften x Rina), earned a championship in Drive and Ride and Top Tens in Working and



Months of hard work paid off when Judy Von Duyke entered the show ring for the first time ever and drove Canadian Justina to the win in Turnout.



Grand Prix Champion RD Waltzing Poetry+/ and Flora Jean Weiss perform a canter pirouette during their test.



Jessica Gould and her Half-Arabian gelding, Ive Been Ripped+++// have become Intermediare II Champions and Grand Prix competitors in just six short years of dressage competition

Turnout with Sarah Vas. He also earned a championship in Half-Arabian SHIH Geldings Dressage Type ATH along with a Top Ten in the open class. Canadian Justina (Canadian Love+ x HL Justaglitter), an Arabian mare owned by Sarah Vas, won the championship in Turnout and a reserve in Working.

When Gruskiewicz went to look at a 7-year-old Riften+++/, he was an English pleasure and fine harness competitor, but she thought he had the potential to be a national champion sport horse. She reached out to Danielle Blymier to start Riften+++/ schooling dressage, and when her friend Sarah Vas asked about his ability to drive, she retrained him for carriage pleasure driving. Riften+++/ had finally found his niche.

"The winning and ribbons are nice, but watching him grow and blossom and change has been the most rewarding," says Gruskiewicz. "He is a very special horse and has taken to all of this gracefully and without complaint. He is very sweet and seems to enjoy his work."

Sarah Vas and her mother, Judy Von Duyke, made a pact this year to compete together with Canadian Justina. They started work in March but suffered a setback when Von Duyke injured her leg at the beginning of April that left her unable to walk for 12 weeks.

"The entries were due in at the end of June so I worked my mother harder than I have ever worked with a student," said Vas. I had one eye on her and one on my horse. I wanted her to have a clean, safe drive and hopefully get a Top Ten. I was so impressed."

Von Duyke was very pleased with her very first horse show also. "After standing on the rail watching Sarah do it for so long, I decided that I wanted to do it. At 72-years-old, after a heart attack, a mini-stroke and a leg injury, I wanted to go in the ring and have that moment. I was so surprised when I won and that people I did not even know were cheering so loud for me."

THE VIEW FROM THE TOP

Half-Arabian gelding RD Walzing Poetry+/ (Windwalzer x R Porcelain) scored a 65 percent to win the Grand Prix dressage Championship for owner Jill Glenn of Los Angeles, California. Glenn started riding as part of a physical therapy program to help her recover after a car accident in 1990. When she started riding, she still had braces on her legs. Her decision to learn dressage led her to Flora Jean Weiss and RD Walzing Poetry+/.

"Flora Jean called to say she had a horse for me. When I first saw him, I asked how far we could go with him. We thought maybe we could do Second Level but weren't sure if I could do it. He was still young when Flora Jean told me that he could maybe do Grand Prix," says Glenn.

Glenn showed RD Walzing Poetry+/ through Fourth Level, but had a hard time physically going to Prix St. Georges. Prone to skin tears and pain from her surgeries and ligament reconstruction, she continues to ride, but no longer shows her Half-Arabian gelding so he can compete with Weiss at the higher levels. Glenn says, "He loves what he does and is always really light and makes things look effortless. He touched me as no other animal ever has, and I love animals. I came to this late, and he's like a comet coming into my life — sometimes you just get it once in your lifetime."

Jessica Gould and her Half-Arabian Paint cross, Ive Been Ripped+++// (Shennendoahs Pride x Roscza Sadon), captured the Intermediare II championship and a Top Ten at Grand Prix. The pair only started showing dressage six years ago after competing in hunter pleasure and halter.

Gould's family has owned the gelding for the past 14 years and she trained him herself. She credits her experiences in the Meredith Manor riding instructor program and her apprenticeship with Kate Fleming Kuhn and Martin Kuhn with giving her the skills to come so far. "We were told numerous times that he would not make it this far in

dressage — that he was not made for it. We have proved them all wrong, just as we kept going and he kept doing what we asked of him," says Gould.

Ive Been Ripped+++// and Gould have become popular with competitors and clinicians near their home in Caseyville, Illinois. The St. Louis Dressage Association invited her to be a keynote speaker at a recent event to highlight that successful dressage horses do not have to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. "He's the most loving horse and likes being in the spotlight. I bought him for $2,500, and he competes against expensive warmbloods and can hold his own."



Siblings Tyler and Zacko Harding were champion and reserve in the Working Hunter 14.2 and Under Championship with AM Zipy Sharpshooter+/ and Sunovagun to prove big things come in small packages.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Kirstin Hardin is a prominent figure on the hunter jumper circuit in her home state of California and a long time fixture at SHN with regular wins in the hunter jumper division. This year was no different with wins on two of her mares. Most Entriguing (OKW Entrigue+++// x Ehrlicheit) took the championship in Half-Arabian Green Working Hunter while Scarlett Jamaal BFS (Mazkarade x Juliana El Jamaal BF), earned championship titles in both Arabian Green Working Hunters and Arabian Hunter Hack Junior Horse. "I appreciate all my horses. They are finally old enough to be competitive. They did a good job at the right time."

This year, the winners from her barn included her 11-year-old daughter, Tyler, and 9-year-old son, Zacko. The family brought nine horses for numerous Top Tens, six reserve championships and five championship titles over-fences. Kristin Hardin's proudest moment was watching Tyler win the championship in Working Hunter 14.2 and Under with AM Zipy Sharpshooter+/ (AM Power Raid+++/ x AM Zippy Handsom) while Zacko took the reserve championship aboard Sunovagun (Showgun PGN++// x Gidget).

"I loved my kids winning," says Hardin. "They love their horses, and the show is fun."



Signe Kay Smith's Half-Arabian gelding, Raayder++, won the championship in SHIH Dressage Type Geldings upon her return to SHN following years of illness.

DETERMINATION

In 2011, Signe Kay Smith, of Joliet, Illinois, purchased her Half-Arabian gelding, Raayder++ (Rosenthal x Afirelight), as a yearling with the dream of competing with him in-hand and under saddle at SHN. It became a goal that helped her through some of her darkest times. Shortly after she purchased Raayder++, she sought medical attention for unidentified immune and gastric issues. While Raayder spent the next few years growing up, Smith spent large blocks of time in the hospital undergoing treatment for Behcet's Disease, a type of vasculitis that affects the blood vessels and joints.



Mary Beth Schultz Smith achieved her dream of winning a national championship when she rode Pstachio PA+++//, an Arabian gelding she rescued, for the Arabian Training Level AAOTR championship.

"I had good days and bad days and sometimes just wanted to give up. I had a goal of finishing graduate school and going to SHN. My family supported my dreams, so my mother actually paid Raayder's board for two years while I could not work. I have a phenomenal team of physicians, including my gastrointestinal doctor that kept me alive. I have been given an extension of life I did not expect."

Raayder proved to be everything Smith hoped for in a young horse with six national titles. He earned a championship in Half-Arabian SHIH Geldings Dressage Type and Top Tens in Hunter Type and Hunter Type ATH with the help of a handler since Smith is unable to run with her medication PICC line. Smith's work with trainer Bobbie Josephs paid off as Raayder earned Top Tens in Half-Arabian Dressage Training Level open and Junior Horse along with a reserve title in Half-Arabian SHUS Junior Horse. "Just to be riding in this caliber of horse show again was overwhelming. The wins were just the icing on the cake. I could not have a more perfect horse. He has a great work ethic, and people have told me they think he could maybe go to FEI level. I'm excited to see what the next two years bring."

DREAMS COME TRUE

Mary Beth Schultz Smith had a dream of one day winning a SHN Championship title. The realization that dream started in 2007 when she and her husband, Jeff, answered a Pennysaver advertisement for an Arabian horse near their home in Grand Island, New York. Their original intent was to find a horse for Mary Beth's sister, but they were surprised to find an underweight 16-hand green-broke gelding. After a few questions about the gelding's background and a discussion over coffee, the Smiths headed back to the pasture to pick up Pistachio PA+++// (Picazso x Lotsn Lotsa Fame).

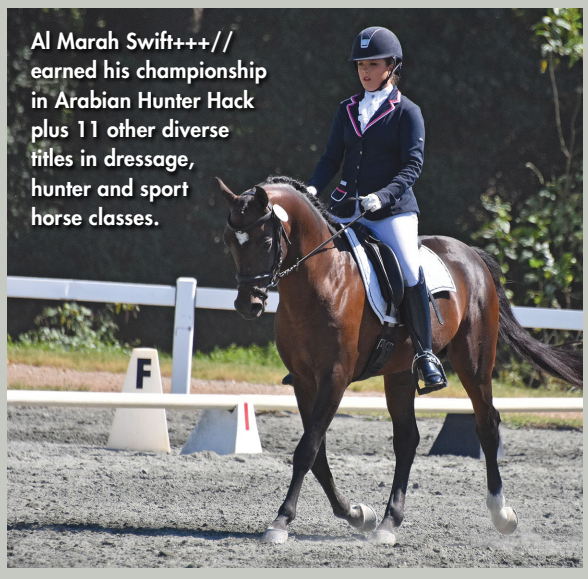
They spent the next year rehabilitating and training the gelding. Once he was trained and healthy, the Smiths set out to find the correct niche. They initially showed him in hunter pleasure, SHUS and SHIH classes. In 2010, they started to compete in dressage and quietly attended SHN in 2011 and 2013 where they received Top Tens in Training Level ATR and AAOTR. In 2013, she approached Janet Henderson to coach them.

"We had a rough early season as Stach had required chiropractic care. I decided to enter him in two classes to see how we could do. I left the class thinking I had a score of 63 to 65 percent and would maybe get a Top Ten. I was very surprised to see the score of 70.227 percent at the top of the pack. Later in the day, Janet came to tell me we won the Arabian Training Level AAOTR championship



Al Marah Feisty Star+++//, a former reining horse and hunter, won the Arabian Dressage Training Level ATR Championship with Keeley Clark.


Al-Marah trainer Cassie Barteau rode AM Chance Command+++// to his reserve win in Arabian Sport Horse Show Hack and Top Tens in Forth Level and Prix St. Georges dressage.



Al Marah Swift+++// earned his championship in Arabian Hunter Hack plus 11 other diverse titles in dressage, hunter and sport horse classes.



Oration++++//, one of the stars of the Desiderio family's Tranquillity Farm, earned championships in Arabian Hunter Hack and Working Hunter with Michael Desiderio.



Audrey Humphrey rode Stephanoso BFA to a Reserve Champiosnhip in Arabian SHUS ATR and two SHIH championships.

and needed to get dressed for photos. It felt very surreal after having this dream for so many years."

ATHLETICISM IN ACTION

"We were not great supporters of SHN in the beginning," admits Mark Miller of Al-Marah Arabians. "We underestimated the importance of sport horses and having non-Arabian judges, which saved the sport horse. As time went on Mom [Bazy Tankersley]. saw how important this was and became involved in hunters."

Miller enjoys the versatility of the sport horses and brought 10 horses for 47 entries that earned national titles in nearly every discipline. Al Marah Swift++++// (Al-Marah Quebec+ x Reem Al Fala) epitomizes versatility with a championship in Arabian Hunter Hack plus 11 other Top Tens in training and first level dressage, working hunters, SHIH and SHUS. Al Marah Feisty Star++++// (AM Good Oldboy+ x AM Misty Dream) started out life as a working western and reining horse before he showed dressage for the first time in August before claiming the Arabian Training Level ATR Championship with stepdaughter Keeley Clark in a class of 49 horses.

"What might make us a little different than other breeders is that we don't set out to breed a horse for a specific discipline but a certain type of horse. We want an athlete that is pretty and wants to please his owner," says Miller.

AM Chance Command++++// (AM Power Raid+++/ x Al-Marah Chanel) took the reserve title in Arabian Sport Horse Show Hack plus Top Tens in Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges dressage with Cassie Barteau. "AM Chance Command is one of the best stallions I've ever ridden," says Barteau. "He always gives you his best effort and shows up to work every day."

UP AND OVER

Carolyn Duncan of Woodstock, Georgia, had the fastest horse on the course with Skips Shady Lady+ (Beau Skippa Gold x Lady Shahtina). The pair sailed over fences for the wins in both the Jumper and Speed Jumper championships and a Top Ten in the Intro Jumpers Exhibition. They won the Speed Jumpers by more than five seconds.

Duncan purchased her mare as a 4-year-old in 2007. Initially, Duncan thought Skips Shady Lady+ would be a good hunter prospect, but she found her true talent as a jumper. "She is always ready and eager to jump. She knows that when the whistle sounds it is time for the jump off. Over the years, she has matured and we have bonded. She is not a slow and quiet horse, but she is always trustworthy."

A DIFFERENT WORLD

Some of the new faces in Raleigh this year were Ted Carson and a few of his clients from Butler Farms in White Oak, North Carolina. Carson decided to pursue sport horses after he noticed the increased presence of sport horses at local shows and after his daughter became interested in jumping. Carson brought horses for SHIH, dressage, jumping and SHUS. Stephanoso BFA (Stival x OSO Enessa), an Arabian gelding owned by Audrey Humphrey and bred by Butler Farms, won championships in Arabian Gelding SHIH Dressage Type and SHIH Dressage Type ATH in addition to a reserve title in Arabian SHUS ATR and a Top Ten in the AOTR.

"Our horses tend to be more halter and hunter types, so we took all year to find out what we needed for success and learn the parameters. We wanted them to be ready for SHN and have success. If a horse doesn't work as you thought, it is important, as a breeder, to ask if you have a horse that is good for nothing or a horse that will succeed in another discipline. There is a spot for horses in the main ring and the sport horse world. It is important that Arabians have a place in both," explains Carson. "It was definitely worthwhile to go, and we will be back to North Carolina."

Arabian Horse Association
DISTANCE NATIONALS



BY MERRI MELDE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BECKY PEARMAN

The annual AHA Distance Nationals Championship showcases Arabians and Half- and Anglo-Arabian horses in 50 and 100 mile endurance rides, and a 2-day, 70-mile competitive trail ride. The multi-day event rotates every year between the East, Central and West regions of the country.

Landing in the East this year on September 10-13, 2015, Big South Fork seemed to be a good choice because of its challenging terrain. "I've had several people along the way tell me over the last few years that I, 'had a championship course here,'" said Eric Reuter, Distance Nationals Commission Chairman, and ride manager for this year's AHA event. "So we decided to come and use it." Reuter has managed the annual Big South Fork ride near Oneida, Tennessee, for a decade, and he was eager to show off this scenic area for the Distance Nationals.

Run by the National Park Service, the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area straddles 125,000 acres of northeastern Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky. The Big South Fork itself — a river crossed by ride participants — is the south branch of the Cumberland River, which gouges a canyon through softer limestone, shale and sandstone, leaving erosion-resistant capstone rock above. Forest trails wind past scenic arches, hoodoos, gorges, and bluffs.

"It's a real wilderness," said 100-mile competitor Sudi Lenhart. She saw a full grown coyote, and a 200-pound black bear cross her trail early in the day.

"That park is God's wilderness!" was how owner/breeder Irene Duffy from Illinois described it.

100-MILE PUREBRED CHAMPIONS:

Sudi Lenhart & A Long Way To El Paso

9 starters, 5 finishers

Though the trails of Big South Fork are in Sudi Lenhart's back yard, she had no intention of trying to win Saturday's 100-mile Arabian competition with her 9-year-old gelding, A Long Way To El Paso; she just wanted a completion. "I decided early in the day, I was just going to let 'Traveler' get in his stride and just stay in his stride," Lenhart said. His stride happens to be a strong, efficient 10 to 10½ mile per hour trot, "And we just had one of those magical days, where everything went right!"

Around the 50-mile mark, Lenhart found herself passing her trail riding partner Becky Bunnell and her "fabulously talented" 100-mile horse, BR Jubaleigh. "We just came cruising by her," Lenhart said. "I thought, 'Oh my God, what am I doing passing Becky?' And she hollered out to me, 'I think this is your day!'"

It certainly was her day. "I rode the last 20 miles by myself, out in front. There were owls hooting, and bats going in and out of my headlamp, just me and my horse. It was magical!" The winning pair crossed the finish line in a time of 13:17, 24 minutes ahead of Reserve Arabian Champion Margaret Clare Summers and LR Georgie Girl. Summers rode in all three National Championships (CTR, 50 Miler, 100 Miler), earning two Top Tens, including another Reserve Championship, in the Half/Anglo Arabian 50-mile ride.

Bred by Lapco Arabians in Kentucky, A Long Way To El Paso is a Polish Arabian, by Alongtheway x Capaso by *El Paso. He was supposed to go to the racetrack, but the co-owner's funding fell through, so the gelding loitered on the farm. In a stroke of luck and good timing, the Lenharts ended up trading a Quarter horse for him. At first, 'Traveler' was a bit of a scaredy cat, but the Lenhart family worked patiently with him, giving him the time he needed to come around.

"You have no way of knowing when you get them if

2015 AHA Distance NATIONALS



THIS PHOTO: 50-Milers cross the river

OPPOSITE: CTR Riders

you're going to like them, if they will hold up, or if they are going to take care of themselves," Lenhart said. "But he's got a huge heart. He has the most drive, and loves his job, more than any of our guys. He finishes a hundred, and he's like, 'Are we going to go out again? I could! I'm ready!'"

Lenhart applies her experience as a triathlete to her eight years of participation in endurance riding. "The principles for training in human endurance and equine endurance are the same. I just took everything I used to do for me, and just translated it to my horse. I love it — the partnership, the teamwork."

'Traveler' now has a record of 17 finishes in 21 starts over 4 seasons of endurance competition, with three 100-mile finishes. He also added the AHA Arabian Best Condition Award to his resume.

"He was a freight train all day, ate and drank like a champion, never did anything but happily go forward. It was just wonderful," Lenhart said. "I thought, 'Life just doesn't get any better than this!'"


Sudi Lenhart and
A Long Way To El Paso


Sudi Lenhart and
A Long Way To El Paso


Clare Summers and
LR Georgie Girl

100-MILE HALF/ANGLO ARABIAN DIVISION:

Gunnar Frank & MI Clever Ansata

4 starters, 4 finishers

When Gunnar and Alanna Frank were leading their horses on foot over some big hills at 3:00 AM in Saturday's 100-mile event with just a few miles to the finish, some other horses had the gall to pass MI Clever Ansata, Gunnar's mount. "He wanted to go so bad, he knew exactly what to do!" Gunnar said. "He's very competitive. He loves to run!"

Frank remounted, and his gelding quickly caught the other riders. "It was pitch black, and we were in a full gallop. I didn't need to do anything; I just released the reins a little bit, and my horse went by them like they were standing still."

Their finish time for the win in the 100-mile Half/Anglo Arabian division was 16:31. "After that fast running, you'd think the horse would be really tired, and his pulse rate and everything would be up. But no, when we came into camp, his pulse was 64; we went straight to the vet check. He wasn't even tired."

The Franks have come a long way in endurance. When they moved from Sweden to the United States in 1991, they wanted to ride across America on horseback. "Then we thought maybe it's a good idea to learn something about horses before we do that," Frank laughed.

It was while taking riding lessons with international endurance rider Darolyn Butler in Texas that they discovered endurance. "Darolyn was doing endurance, so she got us into it," he explained.

Frank competed on Arabians his first two years of endurance. He picked out MI Clever Ansata, an Anglo-Arabian, by the Thoroughbred Clever Return out of the Arabian mare MI Latest Fashion, by Essquire, in 2008. "I didn't know much about horses back then. We were still learning. I picked him because he looked strong to me, and he passed the prepurchase exam."

Referring to MI Clever Ansata as "strong" is a bit of an understatement. "One of the first times we were out riding, he just took off. I had no control basically. I managed to steer him into some bushes to stop him." He bolted in a 50-mile ride in 2010, also. "He ran away with me for 25 miles. I had no control. He followed the trail, and I could steer him, but it was impossible to stop him."

The gelding was actually a bit of a chicken in the beginning. "He was scared of everything!" Frank said. "At home I hand-walked him out on the trail, because he was so nervous early on. But he learned really quick."

While the 13-year-old is all-business on the trail and no longer afraid of anything, he is still very difficult to hold back on the first loop of his races. "He knows when it's race day; he gets very, very tense," Frank said. "He probably feels it from me, because I'm always a little nervous. But he settles down after the first loop. I used to tell people, it's like buying a train ticket. You just sit down and wait till you get there. You don't need to do anything. He will find the trail, and he'll keep up the speed. And he's very easy to ride — after he calms down."

Gunnar and Alana won last year's AERC Husband and Wife Team award, and Gunnar was first place Heavyweight 100-mile National Champion with MI Clever Ansata. The gelding has over 2,500 miles and 61 finishes in 77 starts over seven seasons of competition with three 100-mile completions.

50-MILE PUREBRED CHAMPIONS:

Heather Reynolds & Bound For Honor

14 starters, 13 finishers

The Arabian 50-mile Champion gelding, Bound for Honor, is a big horse at 15.3 hands with "huge bone," and he's the fastest horse that Heather and Jeremy Reynolds, of Reynolds Racing in Dunellon, Florida, have ever had.


Gunner Frank and MI Clever Ansata

He's also "a lot of horse!" said Heather Reynolds, Honor's rider in Saturday's event.

He'd run on the racetrack for Pam Weidel before Elaine Lemieux got him for endurance as a 6-year-old. Lemieux rode him in endurance for just over a year, before he ultimately ended up with the Reynolds. "Elaine didn't want to ride at the level that the horse wanted to ride at. He's not the kind of horse you can take out with your friends and have a nice little ride and enjoy the scenery!"

Now 10 years old, the Virgule al Maury x Eastern Promise by ZT Ali Baba gelding is not only a handful and fast; he's very consistent. With a 14 for 15 AERC record, Honor and Heather arrived at Big South Fork after a win in June in California's Lake Almanor 75-mile FEI ride, and a Silver medal (with Jeremy Reynolds aboard) at the 120-km North American Championships in Ontario, Canada, on August 21.

"Honor is very smart, extremely bold, not spooky whatsoever," Reynolds said. He's also got a sense of humor, and likes to entertain himself out of boredom. "He'll hang his head to the side, dangle his tongue out, and fling his head around going down the trail. He can be goofy and forward and hot and everything else, but when it comes time to be serious on trail, he's right with you, which is really nice."

Reynolds rode in the top ten for most of the ride, moving up as the day progressed. It got hot and humid on the next-to-last loop, and Honor took a long time to recover in the vet check. "I was the fourth one to leave on the last loop, and I had a 14 minute disadvantage. It took me about seven miles to catch up with the three ahead of me.

"There was a really big climb at the end, and Honor just kind of put it in tractor mode. He started jogging up this hill, and I told him, 'Honor, you should probably walk!' It was really steep, and it was crummy clay footing, and I asked him to walk. He did his head shaking thing, 'No, we're going!'"

On they went, powering up the hill all the way to the finish line in a final time of 5:10 for the gelding's fourth career AERC endurance win.

50-MILE HALF/ANGLO ARABIAN DIVISION:

Wendy Justice & Rococco Amber

6 starters, 5 finishers

Winner of the 50-Mile Half/Anglo Arabian Division was a horse of a different color — literally. Fourteen-year-old Rococco Amber is 7/8 Arabian, and 1/8 South Dakota Indian pony on her dam's side. And she's palomino. "She's out of some really good horses," said rider Wendy Justice, of Weir, Kansas. "But nobody suspects it, because of her color."

"Amber is a great granddaughter to Khemosabi++++//, and she's six-times Raffles-bred." She is by the Arabian sire Hilltop Surkeemo x Bint Northlite by Dana's North Lite. The latter won the Purina Race of Champions in 1985, the North American Championship in 1987, and the Race of Champions again in 1988.

Justice started riding endurance 30 years ago at age 10, mentoring under Mary Koefod for 20 years. It was Koefod who bred and raced Dana's North Lite in the 1980's, and who bred Rococco Amber. "Nobody rode Amber until


Gunner Frank and MI Clever Ansata



Lori Dinkelmann and DCL Mooi Roccoby

she was six," Justice said. "I started training her for Mary, rode her a couple of times, and said, 'I love this horse, I've got to have her!'"

Koefod didn't part with her easily, though. "She sold her to me because I'd been training with her for so long; I don't think she would have parted with her to anybody else."

Over five seasons of endurance, Amber has a 20 for 22 completion record, with nine AERC first place finishes. Justice's AHA ride, however, started off conservatively, because Amber did not drink on the 2-day haul to Tennessee. "I felt we were already starting with a dehydration deficit, and she didn't drink until the last half of the ride. Had she been drinking real well, I'd have pushed to give them a run for their money. But I just held up and took it easy. I felt like we cruised in on the last loop, and we still beat quite a few horses." Justice felt the cooler weather allowed them to do what they did, despite Amber's not drinking.

They in fact beat the rest of the Anglo-Arabian entries, with a finish time of 6:17. Amber also received the Half/Anglo Arabian Best Condition award. Justice credits both her mentor, Koefod, and her Certified German Dressage Trainer, Adelinde Schneider, with her success in endurance. Justice regularly incorporates dressage into Amber's training routine, with Schneider's assistance. "I am fortunate to have Adelinde, who moved here from Germany, and lives 15 minutes from my place," Justice said. "I do a lot of Level 1 riding to help build up Amber's stomach muscles, and keep her back nice. She leg yields nicely, so I ride her with a rope halter. She's perfect. It makes it easy and efficient when I'm trying to do a lot of miles."

It's all part of what makes Amber an easy ride. "She's got the power there when you need it, but she's easy to control.

"She's a dream horse; it's my dream come true."

CTR ARABIAN DIVISION:

Jean Shaw & AM Radiant Force

9 starters, 7 finishers

One might be used to seeing Jean Shaw riding mules in Competitive Trail Rides. But she was aboard a 10-year-old Al-Marah Arabian gelding when she captured the AHA Distance Nationals Purebred CTR with a score of 192.50 points.

"I knew Bazy Tankersley's son, Mark, from when he used to have the Arabian Nights show down in Orlando. He had a couple of Al-Marah horses sent up from Arizona for me, and I eventually chose this one," Shaw said.

AM Radiant Force, by AM Double Dream x AM Star Radiance by AM Good Old Boy, was doing dressage in the ring, but he hadn't been out in the world. "It was definitely an interesting situation to get him out and find out what dried up palmetto leaves were and to come across deer that jumped out all of a sudden from a thicket," Shaw said. "But he learned very quickly, and he has a good mind on him. He's aware of what's going on around him, but he doesn't over-react to anything."

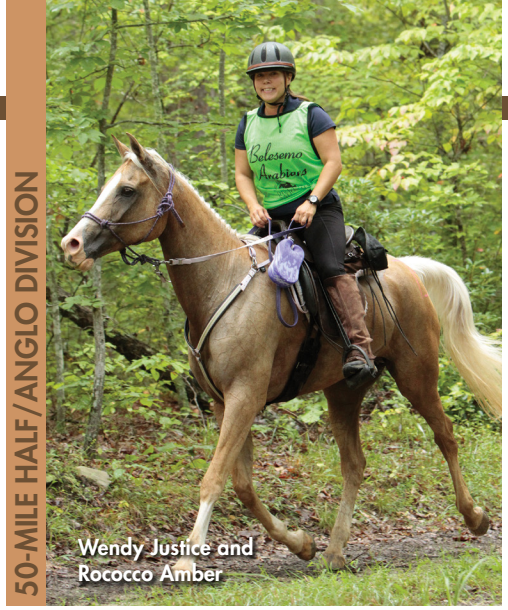
Coming from flatland Florida, Shaw was able to spend almost two months before the ride near Big South Fork, training on steep hills. That served AM Radiant Force well for the long grades at the ride venue. "The grades seemed like they would never end, but it didn't make any difference

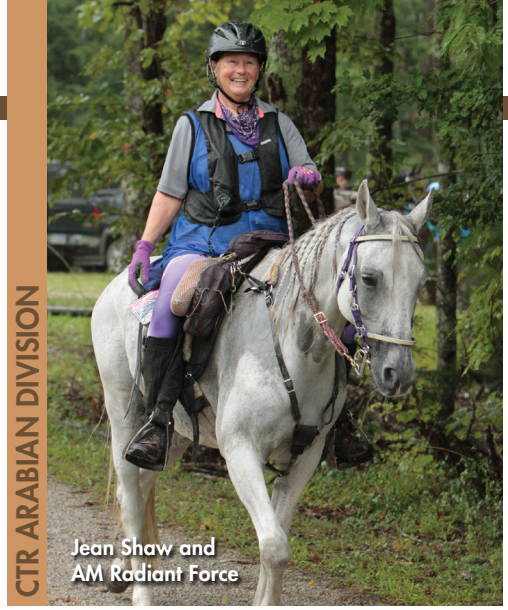
50-MILE PUREBRED CHAMPIONS


Heather Reynolds and Bound For Honor


Heather Reynolds and Bound For Honor


Barbara Hershberger and Kenlyn Irishman







because he had built his rear end up just beautifully."

Shaw thoroughly enjoyed the ride, and not just because she won the first Distance Nationals she ever participated in. "I think Eric did a wonderful job with the trails. They were just lovely. It put my horse to the test, it put me to the test, and by the end of the second day, I was getting very tired. I'm 68! So I'm not a young chicken.

"When they called my name at the awards, (as the Arabian Champion), I said, 'Me? You're sure? It's me?' It was an awesome feeling!"

CTR HALF/ANGLO ARABIAN DIVISION:

Cheryl Van Deusen & Snake Eyes Leroy

5 starters, 4 finishers

CTR Half/Anglo Arabian Division winner Snake Eyes Leroy got his name because of the double whorl in the middle of his forehead. "Those are associated with either really good, or really 'bad' horses. We are fortunate as Leroy is the good kind!" said rider Cheryl Van Deusen.

"Good" rather downplays the talent of this 10-year-old black bay gelding, by Ebony Masterpiece, out of a hunter Thoroughbred mare, Girl Reporter. "Leroy started life as a dressage and sport horse earning AHA Region 12 Champion/Reserve Championships at Training and First Level dressage," Van Deusen said. "He would wig out occasionally in the ring so we decided that trail riding would desensitize him and make him more solid in the arena."

Van Deusen starts all her horses on CTR rides for their first year. "It builds the tendons, ligaments and brains for the first year. Then we move up to slow 50s in endurance, then add some speed."

That has worked beautifully for Leroy, who now has a 24 for 24 AERC record, which includes two 100-mile wins and Best Conditions, and enough FEI rides and points to currently rank him first of 3,434 FEI open world endurance horses.

On the AHA 2-day, 70-mile CTR ride, Leroy finished with the highest score of 196.00. Van Deusen's challenging, winning ride included a wrong turn on a trail for about four extra miles on day 1, and, on day 2, encountering open endurance riders and Ride and Tiers with the same start time and then fast LD riders catching up to and scaring the CTR riders on course. "Leroy's experience with large endurance rides served him well, but we had to be pulsed twice out on the trail. And he was listening intently every time an LD rider rode by — he could hear them well before we could and he wanted to go along with them!"

Van Deusen has topped 16,000 endurance miles since 1999. She has ridden in six countries, including the European Endurance Championships in Portugal, and two Pan American Championships, in Uruguay and Chile. Van Deusen rode Leroy's half-brother, DA Al Capone, in two international rides.

Since Van Deusen's first CTR in 2001, she and her horses have won over half a dozen Regional AHA CTR Championships. This is her first Distance Nationals Championship, although a junior won Reserve Champion on one of her Arabian geldings in 2012.

"A perfect storm" is what ride manager Reuter called this year's Distance Nationals. "We had good weather, low fuel prices and a challenging course," he said. Riders from Canada and from 18 states participated, traveling from as far as Maryland, Texas, Montana and California.

Next year's AHA Distance Nationals, scheduled to take place in Vinita, Oklahoma, at Gunner and Alanna Frank's ranch, will be even more inclusive.

"We are proud to announce that next years' Distance Nationals will include the Appaloosa Horse Club National Championships as well!" Reuter said. "We are hoping to add more breed distance Championships and make the event grow in popularity and prestige."

BY JULIAN MCPEAK

ARABIAN HORSES TAKE Central Park

"…if I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere. It's up to you, New York, New York!"

— Frank Sinatra, 'New York, New York'

Bright lights, big city and an awe-inspiring venue — a perfect platform for the introduction of the Arabian horse to Central Park, New York, and a Big Apple audience. Electricity filled the air, music pumped through the sound system and the crowd quieted, anticipating the first horse of the US Open Arabian Show at the Rolex Central Park Horse Show to enter the ring and position the Arabian horse on a worldwide stage.

The journey to this moment was an incredible, adventure-filled story. Never has such a venue been presented to the Arabian horse in North America. Beyond a horse show, this remarkable and historic event set a new benchmark, allowing the Arabian horse in all its majesty and versatility to be showcased to the world in a picturesque, world-class setting equal to Paris, Aachen or Poland. The possibility of marketing a new image of the Arabian breed emerged here in NYC.



Meg Banks

THE UNFOLDING OF A DREAM

The story behind how this historic and unprecedented appearance came to be is an interesting one, a true collaboration of equine industry leaders and a few creative thinkers. A presentation for the ages, the inaugural US Open Arabian Horse Show, was hosted by the Rolex Central Park Horse Show (RCPHS), the brainchild of equestrian entrepreneurs, Mark and Katherine Bellissimo. The Bellissimos are the owners of several renowned horse show facilities, including Wellington in Florida, Tryon in South Carolina and most recently the Colorado Horse Park. Bellissimo operates International



CP Rock On shows off the Arabian Native Costume discipline during the Mounted Native Costume demonstration

LEFT: Silver Championship ribbon and silver bowl

View of the NYC skyline from Wollman Rink





Equestrian Group (IEG) and is thought to be a true innovator in the Open horse show world.

Behind this adventure stood one of the Arabian horse community's most determined and forward-thinking leaders. When Cynthia Richardson became the AHA President, several people suggested to her that AHA didn't have a 'destination' horse show.

"I actually called Central Park," laughed Richardson. "After getting transferred several times, the individual asked if I understood that the mayor of NYC was trying to get horses out of Central Park and they certainly wouldn't allow a horse show."

In September, 2014, an email announced that a Grand Prix was to be held in Central Park and aired on live television. Cynthia's curiosity piqued. After watching the first-ever Central Park Horse Show, Cynthia involved AHA Executive Vice President (EVP), Glenn Petty, in discussions on how to proceed.

Unbeknownst to AHA, Central Park Horse Show organizers, Mark Bellisimo and Michael Stone, were looking for ideas on how to expand the Central Park show and reach out to other breeds.

"We wanted to include more breeds in the show, [so] we contacted Chrystine Tauber, president of USEF," says Katherine Bellissimo. "Chrystine recommended that we feature the Arabians."

Tauber set up a meeting between AHA and members of the RCPHS staff, including Bellisimo. And so, the concept was born: the story of the Arabian horse would be told through a horse show and demonstration of the breed during the 2015 Rolex Central Park Horse Show. Further planning and funding were needed, but the dream was beginning to unfold.

In April 2015, the group met again in Las Vegas during the USEF World Cup and the Arabian Breeders World Cup (held separately). Petty and Bart Van Buggenhout's from Aljassimya Farm were also a part of the discussion. A large sum of sponsorship money would be needed to make the US Arabian Open a reality, and Van Buggenhout contacts would prove to be hugely helpful in making the entire event a success.

Breeding/In-Hand (Halter) classes were initially conceptualized as the premier event for the evening. Specific performance classes were also chosen for the Wednesday evening show. The entire goal behind showcasing the horse in Central Park would be to attract newcomers and market the true essence of the breed through its beauty and versatility.

LET THE PLANNING BEGIN

As initial planning got underway, a headlining sponsor for the Arabian portion of the event graciously stepped forward. Sheikh Jassim Bin Khalifa Al Thani, owner of Aljassimya Farm, Doha, Qatar, was intrigued by the concept of a horse show in Central Park.

With a reputation for breeding some of the finest Arabian horses in the world, Aljassimya Farm's breeding

program is managed by 100 Oaks Ranch, LLC in the Santa Ynez Valley, California. This region of the country is known to many as the "Valley of the Arabian Horse," and home to several events that support the introduction and outreach of the Arabian breed to newcomers. Sheikh Jassim was interested in how his program might be involved in the Central Park experience. Requesting a meeting of the minds in NYC, he wanted to see the site for himself.

Richardson, Petty, the RCPHS staff and members of the Aljassimya Farm team met in June 2015 in the Big Apple. A tour of the park and an explanation of how the ice rink would be transformed into an arena with the stunning NYC skyline as a backdrop was described as both 'magical' and 'a logistical nightmare.' A stroll through Central Park revealed just how much public exposure Arabian horses would have throughout this event. The excitement of the group solidified.

"Sheikh Jassim agreed to help us even if it meant providing the funding himself," says Richardson. "He did for this year. Without the support of Aljassimya Farm, the US Open Arabian Horse Show would not have happened."

Van Buggenhout expressed excitement over their primary role in the event. "We'd like to stimulate more interest in Arabians among horse farms on the East Coast, so this is a great opportunity for us," he says.

The process for selecting horses to be invited to the show was the next planning step. Breeding/In-Hand horses were to be invited based on their applications, which provided information on their placings at Arabian shows around the world. Performance horses, for the 2015 show alone, were evaluated by a committee on their winnings, ability to perform in a stressful situation, geographical location in relation to the event and capability of showcasing the specific discipline.

The circumstances of this horse show were a bit unusual and the logistics complicated, but Arabian horses were Central Park bound!

THE TRANSFORMATION OF CENTRAL PARK

A complete transformation of the south end of Central Park and the Wollman Ice Rink was required. The landscape of the park is meant for human foot traffic, and the ice rink, well — was ice. Not an ideal layout for a horse show and equine traffic.

Not only did the construction of stands and a patron VIP tent need to be completed, but the ice rink itself required covering. One hundred loads, equaling 1,000 tons of a blended sand and geotextile mix footing, known as International Footing, was trucked into the city to cover the teardrop-shaped Wollman Rink and warmup ring. A temporary drainage system was put into place before the



View of city from the VIP tent



Full VIP/Patron seating on Wednesday evening



Left to Right: Mark Bellissimo, Sally Wheeler-Maier, Cynthia Richardson, Ted Carson and Judge Dr. Nasr Marei



AHA Team: Juan Stuckey, Debbie Fuentes, Julian McPeak, Kelsey Berglund, Cynthia Richardson, Stan Morey, and Glenn Petty


Sr. Stallion, Miracle of Marwaan

Emma Maxwell


Gold Champion Yearling Colt, Jalal Aljassimya and handler Giacomo Capacci

Emma Maxwell


Silver Champion in Yearling Fillies, XXpectations and Ted Carson

Emma Maxwell

sand, so that as it was watered, the drainage was still efficient and allowed the footing to stay dry. Additionally, a light pink dye was added to the mixture in order to keep away any glare from the overhead stadium lighting. Lastly, grandstands were erected for ticket holders, with approximately 1,500 seats.

Shrubbery, temporary arena walls, sponsor signage and more were constructed and put together strictly for the purpose of the horse show. The buildings gave way to a breathtaking backdrop behind the ring, visible clearly from the VIP seating and grandstands. The host hotel, the JW Marriott Essex House, could be seen in the background, its sign lighting up the city skyline.

A vestige of plants, artificial lighting and temporary structures brought the ice rink turned horse arena to life. Shrubs manipulated into the shape of life-size equines surrounded the outside of the venue while twinkly lights and colorful linen punctuated the VIP tent. Unique touches made this venue feel elegant.

With only 50 stalls in the park itself, Arabian horses arrived in Gladstone, New Jersey, at the United States Equestrian Team Foundation (USET) headquarters, located about one hour outside of the city on Tuesday, September 22. They were then loaded into trailers by professional haulers and driven into downtown Manhattan together around 5 a.m. the morning of the 23rd.

The stabling area in the park was just east of the rink, a twelve minute walk for horses and exhibitors. Near the baseball fields, 50 temporary stalls and a small warm up ring were constructed to house the horses during their visit. A path of rubber and temporary barricades provided a walking path for the horses and exhibitors to make their way from the stalling area to the show ring. Though separated, the path was still shared with walkers, joggers, cyclists and those passing by within the park. Horses were literally inches from normal park traffic, and the timing of their walk from the stalls to the ring was carefully planned, well protected and perfectly executed.

Uniquely, the city of Manhattan was in full-swing laying out preparations for a historic week as the arrival of Pope Francis coincided with the Rolex Central Park Horse Show! Nevertheless, the transformation of the park into a world-premiere, equestrian venue was complete and well thought out.

AN EVENING FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

It came down to just a moment — when Arabian horses were just seconds away from making their historic debut in Central Park, Wednesday evening, September 23.

Designed to showcase the athleticism and diversity of the breed, a mixture of Breeding/In-Hand and Performance


Sr. Mare Gold Champion, Valentino's Angel MI and Andrew Sellman

Emma Maxwell


Country English Pleasure Gold Champion, Noble Grace and Carol Skeuse-Hart

Emma Maxwell

classes had been selected for the evening: Arabian Yearling Fillies, Arabian Hunter Pleasure, Arabian Yearling Colts, Arabian Junior Fillies 2-3 Years of Age, Arabian Country English Pleasure, Arabian Junior Colts 2-3 Years of Age, Arabian Western Pleasure, Arabian Senior Mare Halter, Arabian Senior Stallion Halter and closing the evening with Arabian Mounted Native Costume. Gold, Silver and Bronze Champions would be crowned for each class in the foreground of the Manhattan skyline.

Judges included: Fabio Amorosino from Brazil, Koenraad Detailleur from Belgium, Dr. Nasr Marei from Egypt and Lisa Blackstone and Corky Sutton from the United States. Blackstone and Sutton would also judge the performance classes.

Ring staff included some Arabian horse industry favorites. Juan Stuckey served as Ring Master, Scott Benjamin as Show Announcer, Kara McGrew Stark as AHA and USEF Steward and Emma Maxwell as the Show Photographer.


Om El Al Azeem and Andy Sellman float on air during the Sr. Stallion Class

Meg Banks

Michelle Kelly served as the Project Consultant for the event and Michael Steurs of Arabian Horse Results handled the scoring and live-streaming.

As the sun began to set over the Manhattan skyline, the ticketed crowd settled into their seats and VIP tables. Onlookers who did not have tickets climbed their way onto rock outcroppings in the park to look over the edge and a bird's eye view. Everyone found their place, perfectly in sync like a magical dance, and the first Arabian horse of the US Open Arabian Horse Show pranced its way into the ring.

Butler Farms' trainer, Ted Carson, was lucky enough to lead the first horse onto the sand in Wollman Rink. His yearling filly, Xxpectations (Excalibur EA x MC Psynammon), who ended up with the Silver Championship in her class, was the first horse to give a Central Park crowd a glimpse of what Arabian horse beauty and charisma looked like in real life.

Carson had halter horses in five of the six halter classes and took home two Gold, one Silver and two Bronze Championships. He won the Jr. Colts class with SF Verazes Qamar (SF Veraz x Sohos Honey Serenade) and the Jr. Fillies with Edens Manderley (Eden C x Rebecca R).

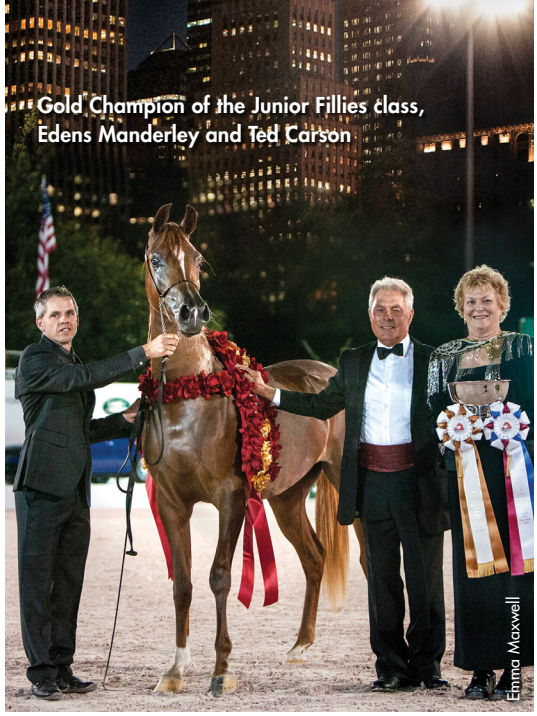
"I've been showing horses professionally for 26 years now," says Carson. "This is the most amazing spot I have ever shown a horse in. To run out there with the first horse of the show was truly special. This is probably the best setting ever."

Because of the setup of the show ring, horses for each class were brought into a small holding area, visible to the crowds, while they waited their turn to enter for their class. Then, these beautiful horses entered the ring, playful and expressive, using the entire ring to trot and show off their movement.

Horses came to stand up before the judges. The presentation of the horses was soft and they were naturally expressive, looking around and enjoying the environment.


Silver Winner of the Sr. Mare class, CR Jasmeenah and Michael Byatt

Emma Maxwell


Gold Champion of the Junior Fillies class, Edens Manderley and Ted Carson

Emma Maxwell


Western Pleasure, Gold Champion, stallion Monticello V and Joe Reser

Emma Maxwell

Some onlookers said that this was the most beautiful and natural they had ever seen the Arabian in-hand horses appear.

Crowd favorites included the beautiful Senior Mare, Valentino's Angel MI (DA Valentino x Always An Angel), who took the Gold Championship and was shown by Andy Sellman. CR Jasmeenah (WH Justice x Fforget-Me-Not), also a Senior Mare, made her first public appearance since 2012 and was handled beautifully by Michael Byatt to the Silver Championship.

Captured in a breathtaking moment by a show photographer, Senior Stallion, Om El Al Azeem (Al Lahab GASB x Om El Beneera), handled by Andy Sellman to a Gold Championship seemed to float on air through the ring. His ears and wide nostrils took in the sights and sounds of the onlookers with his proud tail carried high.


Gold Champion Yearling Filly, Vedette J, handler Jeff Schall and owner, Larry Jerome

Emma Maxwell

The Senior horses were not the only ones to hold their own. Yearling filly, Vedette J (Saiaf Al Shaqab x MM Starlite Jullyen), owned by Larry Jerome and handled by Jeff Schall was the first horse to take a Gold Championship home from Central Park. Aljassimya owned, Jalal Aljassimya (WH Justice x Annaiss) took home the Gold Championship in Yearling Colts and was handled by Giacomo Capacci.

While the essence of the Arabian was portrayed through the variety of Breeding/In-Hand classes, the diversity and athleticism of the breed was displayed by the performance classes.

The first performance class was Hunter Pleasure, where Klint Black+++// (Desparado V x Windsong Bey) took home the Gold Championship. Later, during the Western Pleasure class, his stable mate, Monticello V (Jullyen El Jamaal x Mosquerade V), ridden by Joe Reser and owned by Lesley Farms LLC, also garnered a Gold Championship.

The beauty and magnificence of these two performance stallions was truly magical to watch in the ring and breathtaking against the lights of NYC. Little did the audience know these two dark stallions could be found earlier that day, allowing the crowd and onlookers to touch and meet them in person. Stallions, fearless in the show ring, captivating as breeding animals, and yet gentle enough to greet strangers — truly the Arabian horse was unparalleled.

One of the only classes at the US Open ridden completely by amateurs was the Arabian Country English Pleasure class. The grins and wide-eyed smiles on the riders' faces as they entered the ring was indescribable. Four of North America's best Country horses cadenced, as onlookers 'oohed and aahed' over their long, flowing tails, exquisite

Captain Courageous PA & owner, Sally Wheeler-Maier winning the Silver Championship in Country English Pleasure



26-year-old, HL Sanction ridden by Cathy Vecsey win the Mounted Native Costume class in Central Park







head carriage and balanced stride.

Noble Grace (IXL Noble Express+ x Gina Afire) and Carol Skeuse-Hart went home with the Gold Championship while hometown girl, Sally Wheeler-Maier and Captain Courageous PA (Bucharest V x Autumn Tapestry), took home the honor of Silver Championship.

"I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to show here," said Wheeler-Maier. "It was thrilling to show in Central Park — such a fantastic NYC landmark and a gorgeous evening!" When asked to describe her moment in the ring, Sally said: "Exhilaration! The lights, the skyline, the other beautiful horses and the friendly hometown crowd all combined for a once in a lifetime experience."

Captain Courageous PA was also ridden in the Mounted Native Costume class. Many NYC onlookers had never seen this class and could be heard cheering right along with the Arabian horse enthusiasts. Glittered and tasseled costumes rode into the arena aboard the original 'Drinkers of the Wind,' boasting a heritage from the desert.

And, as ever true to the endurance and stamina of the Arabian breed, HL Sanction (The Chief Justice++/ x Overlook Seratifa++), a 26-year old gelding, came home with the Gold Championship. Ridden by Cathy Vecsey and owned by Hawk Haven Farms LLC, this bay beauty embodied the everlasting enchantment of the Arabian breed as he took his victory pass around Wollman Rink. To the thrill of an ecstatic crowd, this victory pass closed out the inaugural Arabian US Open in Central Park.

When asked about her and HL Sanction's moment in the ring, Vecsey said, "every stride he was trying to leap over his shadow. He just felt so good that night, so powerful and just so happy to be there. He loves doing it. He loves going around. It really mattered that he did good in that class. It's a real honor for me to show him. It matters to

me that he be a good representative of the breed, that he represented the breed with dignity and that I represent the breed with dignity. I was just really honored to be the last horse out of the ring that night."

A SHOWCASE OF THE ARABIAN BREED

While the official Arabian US Open was over, the Arabian breed's time in Central Park had not yet finished. As the opening feature in the Sunday matinee demonstrations, the story of the Arabian horse from desert origins to modern day use was presented to an NYC crowd whose entrance into Wollman Rink and the horse show was free.

Five Arabian horses returned to Central Park to help tell this ancient story. The Arabian breed's variety of colors was well represented (black, bay, chestnut and grey), as well as several disciplines, including: Dressage, Working Hunter, Hunter, Country English Pleasure and Arabian Mounted Native Costume.

Captain Courageous PA, the chestnut gelding owned by Sally Wheeler-Maier made a return to the park as the demonstration's Country English Pleasure horse. CP Rock On+/ (Hucklebey Berry+/ x First Danse) a 12-year old grey gelding came as the Arabian Mounted Native Costume representative for the breed. Spirit of SantaFe (Santa Fe V x NA Sephira), a bay 15-year old gelding represented the Hunter discipline. All three horses journeyed into the park from Trowbridges, Ltd.

Then, the famous Arabian ex-racehorse and current Working Hunter, Oration++++// (Dormane x Ortie), was brought to the Park by Tranquillity Farms to demonstrate the vast athleticism of Arabian sport horses. This 32 time National Champion was also one of the Breyer Model horses in 2015.


Carol Skeuse-Hart gives 'Gracie' an affectionate hug after winning Gold Champion

Meg Banks


CR Jasmeenah and faithful companion Emmie Graafland

Meg Banks

Lastly, Tuxedo Thyme ABA+++// (Pyro Thyme SA x SMA Alad Khelima), a black Arabian stallion owned by Barb Suvaka, represented the Dressage discipline.

Using the horses as visuals and some additional videos to exhibit disciplines that were not physically represented, Richardson explained to a large crowd the different physical attributes of the breed and how their physiology helped them survive the harsh desert climate. Richardson briefly explained the gaits and disciplines and then walked the crowd through the more favored attributes of the Arabian horse: willingness to please, ability to love and take care of people of all ages, genuinely good temperaments, smart and quick minds and most of all, ability to bond with the people around them.

These five horses did not disappoint. After their demonstration in the ring, many of them could be found on the walkway in the park, greeting people and children as they passed by. Soft noses were touched for the first time, and children giggled as they stroked soft coats and reached out to delicate heads. Each horse stood mannerly and kind letting the wonder of their existence captivate the residents of NYC.

For many in Central Park, this would be their first encounter with the Arabian breed. The free demonstration





LEFT:
EQ Escalade and Brooke Fuchs

BELOW:
Tuxedo Thyme ABA+++//, ridden by trainer Jamie Lawton during the Sunday matinee in Central Park

FAR LEFT:
Kayleigh Meyer of Trowbridges Ltd rides Captain Courageous PA during the Sunday matinee



provided a platform for this beloved horse to be shared by many and introduced to potentially new owners and Arabian horse lovers.

PLANS FOR 2016

The adventure is not over. Arabian horses will be back to Central Park in 2016. The US Open Arabian Horse Show has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 21, 2016. Due to the limited stalling, this show will not grow beyond 50 horses, but it will always serve as a showcase of the breed to an international and new audience. The probability of this show as a marketing venue for the bold and beautiful Arabian horse is limitless and revolutionary.

In 2016, horses will be invited based on their international show record (Breeding/In-Hand horses) and their achievements at the North American championship shows (Performance horses).

At the 2015 U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show this past October in Tulsa, Okla., a drawing for performance horses proved to be a fun way to generate excitement about the 2016 event. Four classes were randomly selected from the Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, Country English Pleasure and Mounted Native Costume amateur divisions. The classes drawn were Arabian Western Pleasure AAOTR 19-35 years of age, Arabian Country English Pleasure AAOTR 55 and over, Arabian Hunter Pleasure AAOTR 36-54 years of age and Arabian Mounted Native Costume AAOTR. The National Champions of these four classes were invited to compete in Central Park in 2016.

AHA and Aljassimya Farm wish to thank all those that supported the US Arabian Open in 2015. This show, a new jewel in the crown of the Arabian horse experience, is just beginning to shine. For years to come, New York City will whisper about that first evening of Arabian horses in Central Park. Some will share that time as the moment they fell in love with the breed; others will express how their passion for horses was rekindled. All will remember the magic.

THE Perfect MATCH

Within the Horse Industry

Recently, AHA and the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) joined together in an Educational Alliance partnership. CHA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that teaches and promotes excellence in safety and education for the entire horse industry through professional certification, facility accreditation, events, conferences, and educational resources such as horsemanship manuals, DVDs, safety videos, a blog, webinars, and podcasts. CHA is the largest organization in North America offering certification to riding instructors, therapeutic riding instructors, barn managers, trail guides, vaulting and driving coaches, and equine facility staff. It has certified more than 25,000 professionals since its beginning in 1967.

INDIVIDUAL OPTIONS

A variety of AHA members have already experienced the benefits provided by CHA. From her days at Castle Rock Arabians and Soltau Kings Crest Arabians to Bella Oaks Stables and owning her own business, AHA member Ashleigh Hamill of Frontrange Equestrians in Arvada, Colorado, has always preferred to use Arabians for teaching. During the past 10 years, Hamill has used her CHA Certification to run summer camps and teach her students to show at the AHA Regional and Class-A level in a variety of disciplines. Hamill is a Youth Advisor with the Colorado Arabian Horse Club (CAHC). In addition, she is an official CHA Site Accreditor and a CHA Region 9 Director.

"Having CHA attached to my name distinguished me among the other 100 or so instructors in my area and is a great marketing perk," said Hamill. "The safety standards promoted and encouraged in CHA have kept my horses, students and me safe for over 18 years as an equine professional."

She encourages other professionals in the Arabian horse industry to become CHA Certified. "We have so many excellent trainers and instructors as part of AHA and the Arabian breed, many of whom are already practicing much of the CHA standards and model as part of good horsemanship and experience. So for these members, it really is like putting a stamp of approval on good horsemanship."

CHA Certification Standards are quite stringent. Participants must attend a five-day certification clinic where they are evaluated by their peers and two CHA clinic staff. Each participant must teach a series of practice lessons and undergo a riding evaluation, written test, and an interview with clinic staff. Clinic staff provide workshops on teaching techniques, herd management, professionalism, and risk management. A certification is awarded for specific levels of discipline(s).

Kathy Findley of Whispering Willow Farm in Franksville, Wisconsin, also has a business that incorporates teaching students using Arabian horses from the first ride to showing at the National level. In addition, this CHA Region 3 Director offers trail riding, equestrian programs for Girl Scouts, and birthday parties on Arabians. Future





ABOVE, LEFT, BELOW:
Whispering Willow Farm, Franksville, Wisconsin



BY SARAH EVERS CONRAD





TOP & LEFT:
Circle C Equestrian Center, Sophia, North Carolina

BOTTOM PHOTOS:
Frontrange Equestrians, Arvada, Colorado





plans include teaching her local AHA club about the benefits of CHA.

Findley encourages those looking for an instructor to find a CHA Certified Instructor to assure that it "will be a safe, fun, and educational experience. CHA instructors have gone through a certification process that parallels to none. It has a progressive skill building set of lessons that will help you achieve your goals."

CHA makes it easy to find a Certified Instructor with its database at www.CHAInstructors.com. "CHA takes some of the 'guess' work out of finding the right instructor, as all instructor listings have the level of the instructor, location, what ages they accept students, what disciplines they teach, etc.," said Hamill. "In addition, CHA instructors come with a reassurance to new students that they have voluntarily gone through the 'hands-on certification process' to test their ability as a riding instructor to teach safely and effectively."

While many European countries have set standards within their countries for riding instructor certification and licensing, the United States has no such requirements or standards. Because of this, a variety of certification programs have cropped up across the country with no governing body that manages them or maintains standards. With CHA's strict standards, many have likened it to the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval."

"In Colorado, you are required to have a license to cut hair, but not to put a three-year-old child on a 1,200-pound horse," said Hamill. "I like CHA credentials because I endorse safety standards in a largely unregulated industry. I guess you can say I am choosing to be 'self-regulating' as part of my desire to be the best trainer and instructor I can be for my clients. CHA credentials assure folks you are a committed equine professional."

FACILITY ACCREDITATION

CHA Site Accreditation is a process by which facilities can show that they meet CHA's Standards for Equestrian Programs. Accreditation shows that a facility cares about safety, quality, professionalism, education, and animal welfare, and that it is willing to prove to potential customers that it adheres to safety standards set by some of the top professionals in the horse industry.

"CHA Site Accreditation benefits AHA barns and facilities by ensuring safety for both horse and rider," said Hamill. "It is an extra layer of protection in terms of safety. CHA Site Accreditors help educate us in better, safer ways to run our training facilities, recreational riding barns, and



Eagle Creek Equestrian Center, Griffin, Georgia

"The safety standards promoted and encouraged in CHA have kept my horses, students and me safe for over 18 years as an equine professional."

boarding operations. It's not a question of why would you want to get your barn CHA Accredited, but rather, why wouldn't you want to?"

In addition to showing clients that the instructor or facility meets safety standards, there are marketing benefits with CHA as well, said Findley. "It is validation of the individual's knowledge and ability. Being certified as a safe, educated, and fun instructor will assure the students their instructors are capable teachers." In addition, all Certified Instructors and Accredited Facilities can use the CHA logo on any displays, letterhead, advertising, websites and social media channels. Another great benefit is the insurance discounts given by many insurance companies to CHA instructors and facilities.

Additional marketing benefits are planned by AHA. AHA members who become CHA Accredited and who are AHA Discovery Farms and Learn to Ride Program Instructors will be featured on AHA's website.

CONFERENCES

CHA also offers educational opportunities for all horse industry professionals. CHA's Regional and International Conferences offer presentations by top veterinarians, farriers, horse trainers, riding instructors, behaviorists, and horse industry professionals. In addition, the international conference offers mounted riding sessions in which participants can sign up to ride and learn from the presenter. "Attending a CHA Regional or International Conference is a hands-on educational experience for all levels of equestrians," said Findley. "The variety of topics and demonstrations are plentiful. It is a wonderful opportunity to network with peers and colleagues. The conferences draw people from all over the continent, and the fees are extremely reasonable."

"These conferences transcend specific breeds and disciplines and offer a diverse venue with all different types of industry clinicians and speakers," said Hamill. "As an AHA member and CHA member, I find that every year I attend is an opportunity to expand outside my 'horse bubble' and network with other industry leaders and sponsors. These conferences are like cross-training for horse leaders."

In an AHA press release about the partnership, AHA's Director of Marketing Julian McPeak, encouraged AHA members to "utilize CHA as a resource and reap the many benefits and educational opportunities that it offers."

To learn more about CHA and their accreditation and certification programs, visit www.CHA-ahse.org or to search for a CHA certified professional, visit www.CHAInstructors.com.

Arabians provided Mariel Wrench the foundation she needed to win an Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National Championship in 2015.

BY KATIE NAVARRA







THIS PHOTO: Mariel and Shorty Talls after her IHSA National Championship win in Novice Horsemanship

INSET ABOVE: Mariel hugging her mother, Linda

INSET LEFT: Mariel's IHSA teammates and coaches from Berry College join her in the winner's circle

OPPOSITE: Mariel and Khazmira, her first Egyptian Arabian horse

Owing it all to the Arabian HORSE



Pacing the threshold of the winner's portrait area at the Eastern States Exposition Center in West Springfield, Massachusetts, Linda Wrench could barely contain her excitement. Her 20-year-old daughter, Mariel, had just won the 2015 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championship title in Novice Horsemanship.

"The horse she just won on is a bay and looks so much like the Arabian she has shown to numerous championships," Linda explained.

The bay, Shorty Talls, was Mariel's partner for rail and pattern work. "I had real nice rail work with Shorty Talls, the horse I drew. He scared me a little bit in the pattern because he was giving me a tough time with some of the maneuvers, but in the end it all worked out," she said.

Her win also gave her team from Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia, an early lead in the overall team standings, which contributed to their finish as the 2015 Western High Point Team.

In IHSA competition, riders don't get any warm-up time before entering the arena. They randomly draw a horse, mount up and head into the show pen. It takes confidence as much as it requires skill to succeed. Similar to horsemanship classes at Arabian shows, riders are asked to perform on the rail and complete an individual pattern.

The IHSA National Finals are held in early May of each year and bring together college-aged equestrians from around the United States and Canada. Riders compete as individuals and as an entire team at sanctioned IHSA shows throughout the school year in hopes of earning enough points to qualify for the National Finals.

She credits her ability to stay calm with her experiences as a youth riding and showing Arabian horses. "Our first Arabian, Khazmira, taught me patience," Mariel says. The gray, straight Egyptian Arabian mare (Ibn Safinaz x Kohela) was the Wrench family's first foray into horse ownership.

At first Mariel and Khazmira struggled to build a partnership. "Khazmira could tell when Mariel was in a mood. I would tell Mariel they were both gifted and that they had to work it out," Linda reminisced.

Over time and with hours of practice Mariel learned how to communicate with Khazmira and how to properly ask the mare to





LEFT: Mariel showing LS Especialdi, also known as Cody.

RIGHT: Khazmira provided Mariel a good foundation and taught her patience.

perform expected maneuvers.

"She taught me to always be on my toes. She made me ride when I was in the saddle; I could not be a passenger."

The pair competed in hunt seat events at 4-H and local shows for five years. Then, in 2010, Mariel met John and Shari Power of John Power Arabian Show Horses in Bradenton, Florida. Under the couple's guidance she advanced to competing on the Arabian show circuit. She added western pleasure, horsemanship and showmanship to her repertoire of events.

While training with the Powers, she was granted the opportunity to ride LS Especialdi, also known as Cody. Owner Ms. Tony Robertson transferred the papers for the bay gelding to Mariel so she could campaign the horse.

"I would get out of high school at 1:00 p.m. and spend the rest of my afternoon at the barn," Mariel recalled, "Mr. John was my mentor. He taught me the behind the scenes things it took to compete at that level."

During the two years she rode Cody, she perfected her skills in several events, winning numerous titles. In 2012, she was named Region 14 Reserve Champion in western horsemanship and showmanship. That year she also earned Reserve Championships in Region 12 for western horsemanship and western pleasure. In 2013, she finished in the top four in Showmanship and again claimed the Reserve Championship title in Western Horsemanship.

Winning the horsemanship title in 2013 with Cody was somewhat of a surprise. "I was supposed to ride Gold Country, a Half-Arabian, Half-Quarter Horse palomino in that event. At the last minute I decided to ride Cody. He gave me the best pattern we had ever ridden. It was incredible,'" she said. In her final year of youth eligibility, she and Cody qualified for the Youth Nationals.

Riding Gold Country was a very different experience. Cody, a programmed show horse demanded that Mariel ride every stride. "He was an honest working horse and had great gaits," she said. On the other hand, Gold Country was laid back and offered the best of two great breeds. "He was calm, cool and bulky like a quarter horse. But he had the personality of an Arabian. He had the finesse and fun that comes along with the Arabian horse," she said.

Although she spent a lot of time training with Cody and Gold Country, Powers put her on as many horses in the barn as possible.

"It gave me the adaptability to succeed in different events and at the IHSA shows when I got to college," she said.

Adaptability was key when she prepared to ride Shorty Talls in the Novice Horsemanship class, which she went on to win. Using only the advice offered by the horse's handler, Mariel drew a deep breath, thought back to her days of riding Khazmira and stayed calm.

When Mariel heads back to Berry College for the fall 2015 semester she'll be deeply immersed in her studies relating to a major in physical therapy. She also plans on riding with a local stock horse reining trainer learning all she can about the discipline with hopes of riding Arabians in the event in the future.

While her time with the Arabians will be limited to school breaks, her mom will be carrying on the tradition. The family still owns Khazmira, now 16, as well as a Half-Arabian sport horse Linda is riding in Western dressage competitions. "Arabian horses gave both my mom and me the opportunity to chase our dreams," Mariel said.

Regardless of where school and a career take her, she will be forever grateful for spending her youth show career with Arabians. "I could not have achieved all that I have without my start with Arabian horses," she concluded.

Region 5 Hosts Northwest EquestFest and Year-End Awards Banquet

The folks in Region 5 have come up with a fun and educational way to keep the excitement going past the holidays, generate goodwill among the overall horse community and recognize the hard work of its members. Anyone interested may attend, and the lectures and forums are free of charge. Vendors will also be set up in a special room throughout the day.



Presentation topics include clipping, the foot of a horse, how to become a judge or steward, "those darn show entry forms," an equitation forum, equine dentistry, sport horse trends, equine lameness, performance horse nutrition, equine insurance and law, disaster preparedness at home and on the road, and guest Stan Morey will talk about the view from center ring. Two presentations will be given during each hour, so be sure to bring a friend so you can share notes!

While tickets are required for the lunch, people may attend the equine couture fashion show for free.

At day's end there will be a dinner (tickets required) followed by keynote speaker, AHA President Cynthia Richardson, who will present the Region 5 Year-End High Point Awards.

AHA encourages the further education and recognition of its members through regional events, and congratulates Region 5 on this event that promises to be a great kick-off to 2016!

Reminders from the AHA Office

SWEEPSTAKES & HALTER FUTURITY PROGRAM DEADLINES APPROACHING

Keep in mind that the in-utero foal deadline is fast approaching for both Breeders Sweepstakes and Halter Futurities. In-utero foals must be nominated prior to December 31 (postmarked/electronic transaction dated). *Note for Breeding Entries*: Foals must meet eligibility requirements to be enrolled. Please contact AHA for additional information at (303) 696-4500 or info.comp@arabianhorses.org.

STALLION REPORTS DUE

Don't forget! Stallion Reports must be postmarked by December 31 of each breeding year in order to avoid late fees. We require a stallion report for all U.S. registered purebred Arabian stallions bred to all U.S. registered purebred Arabian mares.

LOOK FOR YOUR COURTESY PROGRAM RENEWALS

Watch the mailbox! Courtesy program renewals have been mailed. Billing for renominations/enrollments is sent to the owner of record each year. It is the responsibility of the owner to renominate their horses prior to the stated deadlines.

CHECK YOUR POINTS!

If you have been participating in the Achievement Award High Point Program you have up to January 15 to check your points online for accuracy. Any corrections after January 15 may not be included in the final tabulation for payout and awards. To view your points go to the member homepage and click on "Horse/Rider Points and Competition Records."

YOUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO CLOSE OUT PENDING WORK

As AHA nears the close of calendar year 2015, it is very important that we clear all of our pending registrations. This is one of the most important activities your Arabian Horse Association manages every year, and we ask for your help to see to it that your foal registration records are completed. We're asking you to please contact us immediately if you have any type of registration work pending. Call Registry Services at 303-696-4500 or email info@arabianhorses.org.

Don't Forget the AHF

The Arabian Horse Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Arabian Horse Association. The Foundation has a board of trustees separate from the Arabian Horse Association. Key funding focus areas for the Foundation are: Youth programs, which includes scholarships; Public Education about the history of the breed and its tremendous usefulness; Equine Research, focusing particularly on diseases and problems associated with the Arabian breed; and Equine Disaster Assistance (when hurricanes, floods, or fires cause horses to lose their homes, requiring emergency feeding, health care, and temporary stabling). Donors may restrict a gift to any of the key funding focus areas. The Arabian Horse Foundation is a 501(c)3 and as such all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Several giving levels are offered to those wishing to contribute to the Foundation. To donate, go to www.thearabianhorse-foundation.org.

RECOGNITION SPOTLIGHT

Gain recognition for your horse and your accomplishments by signing up for these AHA awards. The Horse Achievement and Amateur Achievement Awards are $45 each and the Distance Horse Awards are $40. All three programs have an annual renewal fee of $35. The Dressage Rider fee is $45 per level. You can sign up online at ArabianHorses.org/Activities or you can contact AHA at (303) 696-4500. Under Activities you will also find AHA Incentive Programs–Open Event Incentive Program (for open competition riders), Competitive Distance Program (for competitive trail and endurance riders) and the Frequent Rider Program (for recreational riders). These online programs allow you to log in your events and rides, track your progress and earn recognition and awards..

Horse Achievement Awards

The Horse Achievement Awards Program has six award levels that recognize a horse's accomplishments in AHA-recognized shows, open dressage, eventing, racing and distance rides. Owners receive plaques, recognition in the magazine, prestigious symbols inscribed after their horse's name and are eligible for a year-end High-Point Horse Award.

LEGION OF HONOR

PUREBRED

A SILVER SENSATION+, Ranke, Carol A, East Aurora, NY
AK HALEY LUJAH+, Kellen, Amy, Long Lake, MN
AL-MARAH AENEAS RUMBA+, The Schoettker Family Trust, Scottsdale, AZ
AL-MARAH DOVE STAR+, Hamilton, Jennifer & Schaap, Tim, Lodi, WI
AL-MARAH HEY THOR+, Tucker, Lynn, Pedricktown, NJ
ALASZKA DAWN+, Thomas, Josephine D, Gainesville, FL
AM LADY LIBERTY WINS+, Hamilton, Jerry, Williams, AZ
AM SHINING CAPELLA+, Stowe, Eric E Or Pamela L, Springfield, OH
AMAZING GRACE DB+, Ramsey, Anne Or Jennifer, Elk City, KS
ANNA MIRIAH C+, Tucker, Lynn & James, Pedricktown, NJ
AR-RAQIS+, Hamilton, Jennifer & Schaap, Tim, Lodi, WI
AROZE TO NOBILITY+, White, Angela, Elizabethtown, PA
BEAUDELAIRE+, Rogers, Jolynn, Houston, TX
CA AFLAME OF FIRE+, Gavin, Karen, Rancho Santa Fe, CA
CAIROS+, Mckimmy, Kim K, St Michael, MN
CHICAGO CHAPS RS+, Rancho Sonado Llc, Sahuarita, AZ
CLARK GABLE CLL+, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID
DA SICILY+, Foreman, Ashley, Pittsburgh, PA
DIAMONDS AFIRE+, Henderson, Neil Or Lorie, Fisherville, KY
ELECTRAFIRE PR+, Hoffman, Carol, Dousman, WI
FARRHA+, Ramsey, Anne Or Jennifer, Elk City, KS
GISELE PA+, Crawley, Dana, Bloomington, IN
INDEPENDENCE G+, Gratzl, Bonnie Or Mike, Valley Center, CA
JF STARLIGHT EXPRESS+, Ashby, Kirsten, Rocky Mount, NC
KD ELIJAH BEY+, Oakley, Walter Or Theresa, Carlsabad, CA
LITTLE LADY HEY+, Yarosh, Kilee, Jefferson, OH
MA RAZCALS GLORI+, Amrick, Michelle, St Marys, PA
MADEMOISELLE VA+, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
MAGNUM DESIREE EWA+, Wood, Whitman Darrell Or M, Garner, NC
MANTI VERSACE+, Wood, Whitman Darrell Or M, Garner, NC
MARSHAL DILLON MA+, Merritt Jr, Kenneth Destone, Elizabethtown, NC
MM ZHIVAGO+, M & M Arabian Enterprises, Burleson, TX
MOONSTONE BEYS ZECRET+, Mcdowell, Laura & Emily, Pleasant Hill, CA
MR APOLLO VVF+, Mazzucco, Alison, Schnecksville, PA
ORLAS CARA MIA+, Carraher, Lisa D, Summerville, SC
RAVENHILL TSORNIN+, Morse, Sherry, Easton, PA
ROUSSEAU KF+, Schnellman, Steve Or Mary K, Yakima, WA
ROYALE PRIZE+, Horn, Lauren & Allan, San Juan Capistrano, CA
SB HERITAGE+, Nabhan, Liliana, Virginia Beach, VA
STEPHANOSO BFA+, Humphrey, Audrey, Chichester, NH
TAL JAVA BEY+, Wiggert-Johnson, Kate, Hortonville, WI
TSIMMER DOWN NOW+, Saulvance Llc, Scottsdale, AZ
UPTOWNS IMAGE+, Daniel, Ashlye, Scottsdale, AZ
VA RALVON CRUSADER+, Magic Moments, Houston, TX
VICARIO+, Love, Gretchen, Portland, OR
WP AULSOVAIN+, Lapso, Robert, Pebble Beach, CA
TEXXAS+, Young, Kelly & Sydney, Sherwood Park, AB

ANGLO-ARABIAN

CR MIGHTY CHARITY+, Duffy, Irene, Shirley, IL
SNAKE EYES LEROY+, Vandeusen, Cheryl A, New Smyrna Beach, FL

HALF-ARABIAN

A SAMSARA+, Clarke, Dale & Debbie, Mission, BC
ALL REVVVED UP+, Rasmussen, Pete Or Carol, Newman Lake, WA
ALMOST A FIRECRACKER+, Johnson, Tonya, Saint James, MN
ARIEGANT SQUIRT+, Bartholomew, Ronald & Nicole, Martville, NY
BSF COPENHAGEN ANGEL+, Sage, Ian D, Marysville, WA
CF AMERICAN BEAUTY+, Nordin, Karen, Yorkton, SK
CRUZAN VSH+, Halloran, Nicki Or Joan, Hopkins, MI
DUNS SMOKEY LADY+, Rancho Sonado Llc, Sahuarita, AZ
FAETH+, Craig, Cyndi, Alvin, TX
FLASHFEUER+, Poole, Kirsten S Or Campbell, William, Oxford, PA
FLY ME TO ROME+, Ford, Robin, Anthony, FL
GAME OF THRONEZ+, Gray, Daniella, Aldergrove, BC
ILLUSIVE FIRE+, Schaub, Janet, Caistor Centre, ON
IMA CANDY HUCK+, Tindall, Marsha J & Neis, Darren, Lloydminster, AB
JA BAHIMS MAGIC+, Pondy, Tina L, Appling, GA
LADY AISLINN+, Moyer, Leah, Martins Creek, PA
MATARITA+, Drehs, Janice Or William, Crestwood, KY
MCNIKKERS+, Clark, Lise, Richmond, ON
NOBLE GYPSY+, Paleg, Barbara P Or Regan, Leah, Upland, CA
RAIZE THE BAR+, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
RB BOOT SCOOTIN BOOGIE+, Zimmerman, Pamela, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
REYDAR DDS+, Boissonnault, Tannis Or Phil, Chilliwack, BC
SHF CYN CITI SILVER+, Gagliardi, Stefanie, Spartanburg, SC
SLOW HAND+, Mccowan, Nancye K, Ridgeland, MS
SO SKIPA STAR+, Shone, Debra, Glasgow, KY
SRC GABRIELLA+, Fargo, Charma, Ashtabula, OH
STARSTRUCK ATHENA+, Sherman, Diane, Depew, NY
THE BIG BOPPER ORA+, Oak Ridge Arabians, Freeport, IL
TR BUTCH CASSIDY+, Stetman, Mignon & Greg, Larkspur, CO
VALLEJO MOON TIGER+, Vieira, Jennifer, West Greenwich, RI
VANGELISTA+, Wright, Joelle K Or Wright Jr, Robert J, East Nassau, NY
WHF RHODESIAN SKY+, Howard, Jessica L, Kearneysville, WV

LEGION OF SUPREME HONOR

PUREBRED

A FUSION+/, Jones, Julie L, Afton, OK
ALEXANDER JAMAAL SA+/, Wardlaw, Jane Or Ron, Reno, NV
AM LADY LIBERTY WINS+/, Hamilton, Jerry, Williams, AZ
BENEDITO BEY SMA+/, Rancho Sonado Llc, Sahuarita, AZ
BII PSYRENGETI+/, Bartholomew, Ronald & Nicole, Martville, NY
C SIR TYSON+/, Connolly, Barbara Ann, Mt Vernon, IA
DAKOTA FIRE QIV+/, Gerdes, Makayle, Terrell, TX
DREAMKEEPER DHA+/, Hertel, Ann Donner, Gasport, NY
FOCUS PHANTASM+/, Reimer, Kayla & Roger, Petersburg, IL
GGRAND SLAM+/, Bergeron, Kim M, Douglas, MA
MASKA C+/, Frantz, Megan L, Carlisle, PA
MAXIM LOA+/, Minissian, Garo & Margo, Pasadena, CA
NOBLES ANGEL+/, Hertz, Grace, Spokane, WA
PROCLAIM PA+/, Williams, Hannah, Chesapeake, VA
ROBBYN RIBBONNS+/, Baca, Hannah, Spring Valley, CA
SAMBUCCA RAVES+/, Krueger, Maria Danieli, Bellevue, WA
SF SMOKE BOMB+/, Lindvall, Alan B & Robinn H, Silex, MO
SILVERR MISTIQUE+/, Andrew, Dale & Donna, Stratford, WI
STEPHANOSO BFA+/, Humphrey, Audrey, Chichester, NH
SUNDARA BFA+/, Reimer, Kayla A, Petersburg, IL
SUNKISSED V+/, Gelein, H Michael Or Mckinley, Hudson, WI
THATS MY BABEE+/, Ranke, Carol A, East Aurora, NY
TOO TEMPTED+/, Womack, Bonni, Zephyrhills, FL
TRUE BLUE GABRIEL+/, Noonan, William J Or Sharon F, Oxford, PA
UPTOWNS IMAGE+/, Daniel, Ashlye, Scottsdale, AZ
VINCENZO+/, Ford, Robin, Anthony, FL
WEGAZ+/, Swiezy-Osborne, Sonya, St Michaels, MD

ANGLO-ARABIAN

ECCHO+/, Glancy, Maliclaire, Wilmington, NC
HF IRISHKNIGHT+/, Endrizzi, Amanda, Buncombe, IL
SHES ON MY LIST+/, Alcorn, Larry Or Kelly, Luther, OK

HALF-ARABIAN

ALLTAIR+/, Sibbald, Robyn, Sherwood Park, AB
ALY BE DAZZLED+/, Shelatree, Donald Or Donna, Venus, PA
BA GLORY DAYS+/, Backlund, Cindy, St Louis Park, MN
BA NICA+/, White, Shelley D, Brewerton, NY
BECCA-BELLA GP+/, Al-Marah Arabian Horses Llc, Clermont, FL
FAMES HARLEY GIRL+/, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
GALAMAYA+/, Novak, Vickie, Palatine, IL
HOTSTEPPER RTA+/, Kramer, Renee M, Elk Mound, WI
IMA CANDY HUCK+/, Tindall, Marsha J & Neis, Darren, Lloydminster, AB
JUST FOR FUN WL+/, Misco, Walter J Or Linda C, Chester, NH
JUST PUSH PLAY+/, Sage, Morgan & Tomi, Marysville, WA
LADY AISLINN+/, Moyer, Leah, Martins Creek, PA
MBF JUSTA SPARK+/, Snyder, Cheryl C, Bethesda, MD
MERCURY RISING KE+/, Dwyer, Madison, Gibson, NC
PERFEC SENSE+/, Kunkel, Cynthia, Kansas City, MO
PLAYBOYS WIN STORM+/, Cook, Julie A, Rohrersville, MD
RAAYDER+/, Smith, Signe Kay, Joliet, IL
RAIZE THE BAR+/, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
RB BOOT SCOOTIN BOOGIE+/, Zimmerman, Pamela, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
SHES A LLADY+/, Payne, Kelly, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
SKIPS SHADY LADY+/, Duncan, Carolyn Or Temples, Erin, Woodstock, GA
SRC ALEJANDRO+/, Upchurch, Diane Or Jenna, Chesterfield, MO
TOI SHOWGIRL+/, Wilson, Mackinley, Surrey, BC
WOF UB UP ATDAWN+/, Smith, Mary Beth Or Jeffrey A, Grand Island, NY
WOLKENZORRO+/, Henry, Sally, Gladstone, ND

LEGION OF MERIT

PUREBRED

A SILVER SENSATION++, Ranke, Carol A, East Aurora, NY
AL-MARAH AENEAS RUMBA++, The Schoettker Family Trust, Scottsdale, AZ
ALASZKA DAWN++, Thomas, Josephine D, Gainesville, FL
AMAZING GRACE DB++, Ramsey, Anne Or Jennifer, Elk City, KS
ANNA MIRIAH C++, Tucker, Lynn & James, Pedricktown, NJ
AR-RAQIS++, Hamilton, Jennifer & Schaap, Tim, Lodi, WI
DIAMONDS AFIRE++, Henderson, Neil Or Lorie, Fisherville, KY
HS PSYTATION STATION++, Wilson, Mariah, Albuquerque, NM
JF STARLIGHT EXPRESS++, Ashby, Kirsten, Rocky Mount, NC
MARSHAL DILLON MA++, Merritt Jr, Kenneth Destone, Elizabethtown, NC
STEPHANOSO BFA++, Humphrey, Audrey, Chichester, NH
STL SMOKE BEFORE FIRE++, Withem, Diane, Papillion, NE
TAL JAVA BEY++, Wiggert-Johnson, Kate, Hortonville, WI
TOO TEMPTED++, Womack, Bonni, Zephyrhills, FL
TRUE BLUE GABRIEL++, Noonan, William J Or Sharon F, Oxford, PA
WP AULSOVAIN++, Lapso, Robert, Pebble Beach, CA
CCF INTEGRITI++, Draper, Alice, Erin, ON

HALF-ARABIAN

BECCA-BELLA GP++, Al-Marah Arabian Horses Llc, Clermont, FL
FAMES HARLEY GIRL++, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
GALAMAYA++, Novak, Vickie, Palatine, IL
HOTSTEPPER RTA++, Kramer, Renee M, Elk Mound, WI
KOWETA CALL ME MAJOR++, Dumont, Monica, North Stonington, CT
RAIZE THE BAR++, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
ROL CANDY GIRL++, Stafford, Cassandra L, Aitkin, MN
SHES A LLADY++, Payne, Kelly, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
TR BUTCH CASSIDY++, Stetman, Mignon & Greg, Larkspur, CO
WOLKENZORRO++, Henry, Sally, Gladstone, ND

LEGION OF SUPREME HONOR/MERIT

PUREBRED

ALEXANDER JAMAAL SA++/, Wardlaw, Jane Or Ron, Reno, NV
BII PSYRENGETI++/, Bartholomew, Ronald & Nicole, Martville, NY
C SIR TYSON++/, Connolly, Barbara Ann, Mt Vernon, IA
MASKA C++/, Frantz, Megan L, Carlisle, PA
STEPHANOSO BFA++/, Humphrey, Audrey, Chichester, NH
THATS MY BABEE++/, Ranke, Carol A, East Aurora, NY
TOO TEMPTED++/, Womack, Bonni, Zephyrhills, FL
TRUE BLUE GABRIEL++/, Noonan, William J Or Sharon F, Oxford, PA
WEGAZ++/, Swiezy-Osborne, Sonya, St Michaels, MD
CCF INTEGRITI++/, Draper, Alice, Erin, ON

HALF-ARABIAN

ALY BE DAZZLED++/, Shelatree, Donald Or Donna, Venus, PA
ALLTAIR++/, Sibbald, Robyn, Sherwood Park, AB
BA NICA++/, White, Shelley D, Brewerton, NY
BECCA-BELLA GP++/, Al-Marah Arabian Horses Llc, Clermont, FL
FAMES HARLEY GIRL++/, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
GALAMAYA++/, Novak, Vickie, Palatine, IL
HOTSTEPPER RTA++/, Kramer, Renee M, Elk Mound, WI
MBF JUSTA SPARK++/, Snyder, Cheryl C, Bethesda, MD
MERCURY RISING KE++/, Dwyer, Madison, Gibson, NC
RAAYDER++/, Smith, Signe Kay, Joliet, IL
RAIZE THE BAR++/, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
ROL CANDY GIRL++/, Stafford, Cassandra L, Aitkin, MN
SHES A LLADY++/, Payne, Kelly, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
WOLKENZORRO++/, Henry, Sally, Gladstone, ND





LEGION OF SUPREME MERIT

PUREBRED

BII PSYRENGETI+++, Bartholomew, Ronald & Nicole, Martville, NY
MASKA C+++, Frantz, Megan L, Carlisle, PA
STEPHANOSO BFA+++, Humphrey, Audrey, Chichester, NH
THATS MY BABEE+++, Ranke, Carol A, East Aurora, NY
THE BANDERA+++, Chasteen, Tom Or Gail, Rocky Face, GA
TWILIGHT KOLORS+++, Garcia, Barbara C, Aumsville, OR

HALF-ARABIAN

ALLTAIR+++, Sibbald, Robyn, Sherwood Park, AB
ALY BE DAZZLED+++, Shelatree, Donald Or Donna, Venus, PA
BA NICA+++, White, Shelley D, Brewerton, NY
FAMES HARLEY GIRL+++, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
HOTSTEPPER RTA+++, Kramer, Renee M, Elk Mound, WI
MAJESTTIC BEY+++, Podgorenko, Joan, Aldergrove, BC
PROTEUS BPA+++, Weisenberger, Abby, Sherwood, WI
RAAYDER+++, Smith, Signe Kay, Joliet, IL
RAIZE THE BAR+++, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
SHES A LLADY+++, Payne, Kelly, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
SS MAZARADY BAY+++, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC

LEGION OF SUPREME HONOR/ SUPREME MERIT

PUREBRED

BII PSYRENGETI+++/, Bartholomew, Ronald & Nicole, Martville, NY
MASKA C+++/, Frantz, Megan L, Carlisle, PA
STEPHANOSO BFA+++/, Humphrey, Audrey, Chichester, NH
THATS MY BABEE+++/, Ranke, Carol A, East Aurora, NY
THE BANDERA+++/, Chasteen, Tom Or Gail, Rocky Face, GA
TWILIGHT KOLORS+++/, Garcia, Barbara C, Aumsville, OR

HALF-ARABIAN

ALLTAIR+++/, Sibbald, Robyn, Sherwood Park, AB
ALY BE DAZZLED+++/, Shelatree, Donald Or Donna, Venus, PA
BA NICA+++/, White, Shelley D, Brewerton, NY
FAMES HARLEY GIRL+++/, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
HOTSTEPPER RTA+++/, Kramer, Renee M, Elk Mound, WI
MAJESTTIC BEY+++/, Podgorenko, Joan, Aldergrove, BC
PROTEUS BPA+++/, Weisenberger, Abby, Sherwood, WI
RAAYDER+++/, Smith, Signe Kay, Joliet, IL
RAIZE THE BAR+++/, Lane-Caron, Cheryl, Rochester, MA
SHES A LLADY+++/, Payne, Kelly, Fort Saskatchewan, AB
SS MAZARADY BAY+++/, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC

LEGION OF EXCELLENCE

PUREBRED

AM RISING STAR+//, Tisdale, Ava, Appling, GA
BORN OF FIRE WL+//, Misco, Kimberly A Or Linda C, Chester, NH
EE XTREME HEAT+//, Smith, Lorra Or Laura E, Riverton, UT
EL SHAMAL D SHAKLAN+//, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID
LL DARKH IMAGE+//, Tuscher, Don Or Aronsen, Nichole, Vacaville, CA
MAXIKOV RB+//, Shone, Debra & Yocum, Katie, Glasgow, KY
NW BEAUDACIOUS+//, Baum, Marsha, Albuquerque, NM
PA MONTANA ALWAYS+//, Vandyke, Carole Ann, Costa Mesa, CA
SAMBUCCA RAVES+//, Krueger, Maria Danieli, Bellevue, WA
TRUE BLUE GABRIEL+//, Noonan, William J Or Sharon F, Oxford, PA

HALF-ARABIAN

CENTERFOLD SUE PF+//, Clanton, Jeanna Or Alan, Peculiar, MO
FAMES HARLEY GIRL+//, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
FOUR OF A KIND+//, Perry, Marie Or Jim Or Amalia, Platteville, WI
MILLENNIUM MARINER+//, Poor, Gregory Or Julie, Poulsbo, WA
PLATINUM KNIGHTS+//, Tiziani, Alexa Or Mckella, Shorewood, MN
PROTEUS BPA+//, Weisenberger, Abby, Sherwood, WI
RIFTEN+//, Gruskiewicz, Wendy, Jefferson, OH
ROL CYLENT RAIDER+//, Burnett, Katheryn & Lisa, Sparks, NV
ROL RASPBERRY SUNDAE+//, Berg-Crispin, Danielle M, Tacoma, WA
SS MAZARADY BAY+//, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC
SURE IS BRIGHT+//, Hodgson, Dawn Or Samantha, Southampton, NJ
TCA STREGA+//, Aprile, Terri C, Gibsonville, NC
VT NIGHT LIFE+//, Spangler, Carol, Phillips Ranch, CA
WC DEALINA+//, Riehl, Dennis & Evelyn, Washington, IL
WS CENTER STAGE+//, Meites, Herbert & Karen, Oklahoma City, OK

LEGION OF MERIT/EXCELLENCE

PUREBRED

AM RISING STAR++//, Tisdale, Ava, Appling, GA
EL SHAMAL D SHAKLAN++//, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID
LL DARKH IMAGE++//, Tuscher, Don Or Aronsen, Nichole, Vacaville, CA
MAXIKOV RB++//, Shone, Debra & Yocum, Katie, Glasgow, KY
PA MONTANA ALWAYS++//, Vandyke, Carole Ann, Costa Mesa, CA
TRUE BLUE GABRIEL++//, Noonan, William J Or Sharon F, Oxford, PA
CCF INTEGRITI++//, Draper, Alice, Erin, ON

HALF-ARABIAN

CENTERFOLD SUE PF++//, Clanton, Jeanna Or Alan, Peculiar, MO
FAMES HARLEY GIRL++//, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
PROTEUS BPA++//, Weisenberger, Abby, Sherwood, WI
RIFTEN++//, Gruskiewicz, Wendy, Jefferson, OH
ROL CYLENT RAIDER++//, Burnett, Katheryn & Lisa, Sparks, NV
SS MAZARADY BAY++//, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC
SURE IS BRIGHT++//, Hodgson, Dawn Or Samantha, Southampton, NJ
VT NIGHT LIFE++//, Spangler, Carol, Phillips Ranch, CA
WC DEALINA++//, Riehl, Dennis & Evelyn, Washington, IL
WS CENTER STAGE++//, Meites, Herbert & Karen, Oklahoma City, OK

LEGION OF SUPREME MERIT/ EXCELLENCE

PUREBRED

EL SHAMAL D SHAKLAN+++//, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID
LL DARKH IMAGE+++//, Tuscher, Don Or Aronsen, Nichole, Vacaville, CA
MAXIKOV RB+++//, Shone, Debra & Yocum, Katie, Glasgow, KY
PA MONTANA ALWAYS+++//, Vandyke, Carole Ann, Costa Mesa, CA

HALF-ARABIAN

CENTERFOLD SUE PF+++//, Clanton, Jeanna Or Alan, Peculiar, MO
FAMES HARLEY GIRL+++//, Eckelkamp, Stephanie, Dresbach, MN
PROTEUS BPA+++//, Weisenberger, Abby, Sherwood, WI
RIFTEN+++//, Gruskiewicz, Wendy, Jefferson, OH
ROL CYLENT RAIDER+++//, Burnett, Katheryn & Lisa, Sparks, NV
SS MAZARADY BAY+++//, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC
SURE IS BRIGHT+++//, Hodgson, Dawn Or Samantha, Southampton, NJ
WC DEALINA+++//, Riehl, Dennis & Evelyn, Washington, IL
WS CENTER STAGE+++//, Meites, Herbert & Karen, Oklahoma City, OK

LEGION OF MASTERS

PUREBRED

EL SHAMAL D SHAKLAN++++, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID

HALF-ARABIAN

CAJUN SUMR SUNSATION++++, White, Karen Or Katie, Stafford, VA
CENTERFOLD SUE PF++++, Clanton, Jeanna Or Alan, Peculiar, MO
ROL CYLENT RAIDER++++, Burnett, Katheryn & Lisa, Sparks, NV
SS MAZARADY BAY++++, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC

LEGION OF MASTERS/SUPREME HONOR

PUREBRED

EL SHAMAL D SHAKLAN++++/, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID

HALF-ARABIAN

CAJUN SUMR SUNSATION++++/, White, Karen Or Katie, Stafford, VA
CENTERFOLD SUE PF++++/, Clanton, Jeanna Or Alan, Peculiar, MO
ROL CYLENT RAIDER++++/, Burnett, Katheryn & Lisa, Sparks, NV
SS MAZARADY BAY++++/, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC

LEGION OF MASTERS/EXCELLENCE

PUREBRED

EL SHAMAL D SHAKLAN++++//, Linderman, Catherine L Or Fischer, Sheri, Idaho Falls, ID

HALF-ARABIAN

CAJUN SUMR SUNSATION++++//, White, Karen Or Katie, Stafford, VA
CENTERFOLD SUE PF++++//, Clanton, Jeanna Or Alan, Peculiar, MO
ROL CYLENT RAIDER++++//, Burnett, Katheryn & Lisa, Sparks, NV

LEGION OF MASTERS/EXCELLENCE

HALF-ARABIAN

SS MAZARADY BAY++++//, Bosworth, Cassie, Vernon, BC

Amateur Achievement Awards

The Amateur Achievement Awards Program has nine award levels that recognize amateurs and youth for riding, handling and/or driving any registered Arabian, Half-Arabian or Anglo-Arabian in AHA-recognized shows and distance rides. Competitors receive plaques, letters of certification, recognition in the magazine and are eligible for either an Adult or Youth Year-End High-Point Amateur Award.

HANDLER OF EXCELLENCE CHAMPION

Pugh, Granger Durdin, Waller, TX

HANDLER OF HONOR CHAMPION

Canaday, Dayton, Juneau, AK
Clark, Keeley, Kissimmee, FL
Ellzey, Henrietta, Nicholasville, KY
Kozloski, Danielle, Fredericksburg, VA
Macgarva, Kristen, Ardrossan, AB
Stott, Jacqueline D, Apex, NC

HANDLER OF SUPREME HONOR CHAMPION

Ellzey, Henrietta, Nicholasville, KY
Mclaughlin, Grayce, Margate, NJ
Meites, Herbert, Oklahoma City, OK
Nelson, Paula, Cave Creek, AZ
Rowley, Nicole, Thorp, WA
Walden, Nan, Sahuarita, AZ

HORSEMAN OF MERIT CHAMPION
Bartholomew, Audrey, Martville, NY
Doyle, Kathryn, Cave Creek, AZ
Hunt, Morgan, Auburn, NY
Klingler, Amanda, Albuquerque, NM
Klingler, Elise, Albuquerque, NM
Romijn, Dana C, Sherwood Park, AB
Sexton, Sharon, Darlington, MD

HORSEMAN OF SUPREME MERIT CHAMPION
Macgarva, Kristen, Ardrossan, AB

MASTER HORSEMAN CHAMPION
Caughell, Karen, Sherwood Park, AB
Dudich, Alexandra, Evans, GA
Erce, Madeline, Madison, WI
Mckenzie, Colleen, Sherwood Park, AB
Pugh, Granger Durdin, Waller, TX
Walden, Nan, Sahuarita, AZ

RIDER OF EXCELLENCE CHAMPION
Doyle, Kathryn, Cave Creek, AZ
Dwyer, Madison, Gibson, NC
Reimer, Kayla A, Petersburg, IL
Sanders, Marisa Anne, Chapel Hill, NC

RIDER OF HONOR CHAMPION
Foreman, Ashley, Pittsburgh, PA
Frasier, Amanda, Pinckney, MI
Hollewell, Jessica, Morrison, IL
Klingler, Elise, Albuquerque, NM
Tekolste, Jenna, Harrisburg, SD

RIDER OF SUPREME HONOR CHAMPION
Hunt, Morgan, Auburn, NY
Macgarva, Kristen, Ardrossan, AB
Tekolste, Jenna, Harrisburg, SD
Woodruff, Margaret, Bono, AR
Zahradnik, Anne G, Hurley, NY

Distance Horse Awards

The Distance Horse Award Program recognizes horses that have competed in endurance and competitive trail rides sanctioned by an AHA recognized organization. Owners receive a perpetual plaque after completing 500 miles and a brass mileage marker plate for each increment of 500 miles.

500
PUREBRED

BETHANY GREYC, Cummings, Gerald, Summerfield, IL

1000
PUREBRED

WYNTEZ BUDDY, Roberts, Beverly, Compton, AR
RAZMATAZ DBA, Bass, Carla Jo, Sunset, TX

1500
PUREBRED

ROYALE PRIZE+, Horn, Lauren & Allan, San Juan Capistrano, CA

2000
PUREBRED

AFIREI MOTION+, Weigel, Krista, Tucson, AZ

2500
PUREBRED

FIRE MT ZOOM+, Cunningham, Marci Schmidt, Bakersfield, CA

SWEEPSTAKES

The marketing force behind your horse! Not only are Sweepstakes horses more marketable, if you compete on a Sweepstakes horse, you will be eligible for a piece of the Sweepstakes pie paid out annually. Now more than ever, Sweepstakes is the program for breeders and anyone who competes with Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horses. With points payout now offered at local events in addition to allocated prize money, Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes is a premier equine payback program for all levels of involvement. Newly added is the 5-percent payback to the nominator of a Breeding Entry. For a current list of designated Sweepstakes.
Underline=SCID Clear

NOMINATED SIRE TRANSFERS

AL-MARAH MATT DILLON+/,4 LAZY J ARIZONA LLC, HINSDALE,IL
FIRST FLYTE, ODONNELL, HEATHER,MORAGA,CA,
MASADA MAHMOUD,GRODSKI, NICHOLE M, HAWK POINT,MO
TRIBUTE THYME SA,ESSERLI, HANNAH,LAKE LOTAWANA, MO

NOMINATED SIRE CANCELLED

AHR 652565, FARID AL JANNAT

CENSURES & SUSPENSIONS

ETHICAL PRACTICE REVIEW BOARD

FILING OF EPRB COMPLAINTS

As noted in the *AHA Handbook,* Article 308 delineates the procedure to submit an EPRB complaint. Contact the AHA office to obtain the required form to submit an EPRB complaint along with a $200 non-refundable filing fee (unless exempt).

EPRB SUSPENSIONS

The following individuals are under suspension by the AHA Ethical Practice Review Board:

Boyle, Amanda L. – aka Lea Boyle, individually and dba Zalea Arabians LLC (Sioux City, IA) – permanent suspension
Buchanan, Ty (Little Rock, WA) – permanent suspension
Hayward, Bob (Louis Creek, BC Canada) – permanent suspension
Hayward, Jill (Louis Creek, BC Canada) – permanent suspension
Shaffer, Emily Bellows (Chester, NH) – indefinite suspension
Sperle, Rita (Stroughton, WI) – permanent suspension



USEF RECIPROCITY SUSPENSIONS

In accordance with USEF Rules, the following person(s) are ineligible to participate in any capacity in AHA and/or Federation sanctioned competitions until further notice:
Garrett, David (Temecula, CA)

OTHER SUSPENSIONS –

Hatfield, Susan and Terry (Port Lavaca, TX) – permanent Registration privileges

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGION 1

JAN 10 SAAHA HERITAGE ARAB HORSE ODS II - 160113243 - TUCSON, AZ Type: ONE DAY SHOW Contact: MELANNI A HERSHBERGER - 13031 N MILLER RD (76TH ST) - SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260 (480)443-3372 melannih@aol.com
JAN 22 - JAN 24 SCHAA ARABIAN SHOW - 160113339 - BURBANK, CA Contact: NANCY HARVEY - 490 E MONTECITO AVE - SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024 (626)355-9101 nancy.harvey@arabianhorses.org

REGION 6

DEC 20 HOLIDAY HORRAH ODS II - 150613364 - DENVER, CO Type: ONE DAY SHOW Contact: MARLENE KRIEGBAUM - 4336 BEAUTIFUL CIR - CASTLE ROCK, CO 80109 (716)628 2640 mkriegbaum@mac.com

REGION 7

DEC 03 - DEC 06 DESERT CLASSIC ALL ARAB SHOW - 150713059 - SCOTTSDALE, AZ Contact: MELANNI A HERSHBERGER - 13031 N MILLER RD (76TH ST) - SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260 (480)443-3372 melannih@aol.com
JAN 09 SAAHA HERITAGE ARAB HORSE ODS I - 160713242 - TUCSON, AZ Type: ONE DAY SHOW Contact: MELANNI A HERSHBERGER - 13031 N MILLER RD (76TH ST) - SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260 (480)443-3372 melannih@aol.com
JAN 23 LEAD FOLLOW @ BUMBLE BEE RANCH 50 MILE END RIDE - 160713173 - BUMBLE BEE, AZ Type: TRAIL Contact: JODIE DUKERICH - 16219 N 12TH ST - PHOENIX, AZ 85022 (602)579-0130 jmdukerich@cox.net
JAN 23 LEAD FOLLOW @ BUMBLE BEE RANCH 25 MILE END RIDE - 160713174 - BUMBLE BEE, AZ Type: TRAIL Contact: JODIE DUKERICH - 16219 N 12TH ST - PHOENIX, AZ 85022 (602)579-0130 jmdukerich@cox.net
FEB 11 - FEB 21 61ST ANNUAL SCOTTSDALE ARAB SHOW - 160713261 - SCOTTSDALE, AZ Contact: MARY KANAGA - 7330 W CARIBBEAN LN - PEORIA, AZ 85381 (623)334-5219 MARYKANAGA@YAHOO.COM

REGION 8

DEC 19 HOLIDAY HORRAH ODS I - 150813363 - DENVER, CO Type: ONE DAY SHOW Contact: MARLENE KRIEGBAUM - 4336 BEAUTIFUL CIR - CASTLE ROCK, CO 80109 (716)628 2640 mkriegbaum@mac.com

REGION 9

DEC 03 - DEC 06 NTAHC SHOOTOUT - 150913248 - GLEN ROSE, TX Contact: PATTY LIARAKOS - 16240 SAN PEDRO #180 - SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232 (210)912-8679 liarakos9868@sbcglobal.net
DEC 12 WORKING WESTERN MADNESS ODS I - 150913205 - DEKALB, TX Type: ONE DAY SHOW Contact: KAMBER ULMER - 22746 365TH AVE - WESSINGTN SPG, SD 57382 (605)539-1695 dk.ulmer@yahoo.com
DEC 13 WORKING WESTERN MADNESS ODS II - 150913206 - DEKALB, TX Type: ONE DAY SHOW Contact: KAMBER ULMER - 22746 365TH AVE - WESSINGTN SPG, SD 57382 (605)539-1695 dk.ulmer@yahoo.com
JAN 08 - JAN 10 HOUSTON ALL ARAB A CONCURRENT - 160913214 - KATY, TX Contact: BETH A WALKER - 17188 AIRLINE HWY STE M PMB 105 - PRAIRIEVILLE, LA 70769 (225)772-6815 bethwalker5@hotmail.com

REGION 12

DEC 05 - DEC 06 REGION 12 35 MILE CTR CHAMPIONSHIP - 151213366 - DUNNELLON, FL Contact: LYNN KENELLY - 1040 OLD GANT MILL RD - ANDERSON, SC 29625 (864)287-7161 sunset900@bellsouth.net

REGION 14

JAN 08 - JAN 10 HOUSTON ALL ARAB B CONCURRENT - 161413215 - KATY, TX Contact: BETH A WALKER - 17188 AIRLINE HWY STE M PMB 105 - PRAIRIEVILLE, LA 70769 (225)772-6815 bethwalker5@hotmail.com
NOV 14 LEAD FOLLOW @ MCDOWELL MTN PARK 30 MILE END RIDE - 150713172 - MCDOWELL, AZ Type: TRAIL Contact: JODIE DUKERICH - 16219 N 12TH ST - PHOENIX, AZ 85022 (602)579-0130 jmdukerich@cox.net
DEC 03 - DEC 06 DESERT CLASSIC ALL ARAB SHOW - 150713059 - SCOTTSDALE, AZ Contact: MELANNI A HERSHBERGER - 13031 N MILLER RD - SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85260 (480)443-3372 melannih@aol.com

BOARD MOTIONS

ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING APPROVED MOTIONS July 31-August 1, 2015

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Jan Decker, That the Board of Directors agenda of July 31-August 1, 2015 be approved as amended.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #1-7/31/15-BOD)

ARABIAN HORSE CELEBRATION

MOTION by Margo Shallcross, to rescind the vote to take no action on Motion #10-3/13/15-BOD regarding AHA Show Recognition for the Arabian Horse Celebration.
Motion Defeated. (Motion #2-7/31/15-BOD)

EDUCATION/EVALUATION COMMISSION

MOTION by Tague Johnson, to rescind the election of Bill Melendez to the Education/Evaluation Commission. Effective immediately.
Motion Passed. (Motion #3-7/31/15-BOD) (Extraordinary 2/3 vote)
(Written Ballot – 24 in favor and 1 disapproved)

RECEIVE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Jan Decker, to receive the consent agenda.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #4-7/31/15-BOD)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MOTION by Jan Decker, That CBP 106.4. be amended to read as follows:
4. A member of the Board of Directors Executive Committee may not chair a Tier B Committee. In an exceptional case the Executive Committee may override this limitation. Effective Immediately.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #5-7/31/15-BOD)

SUBMISSION OF BOARD MINUTES TO OFFICIAL BOOKS

MOTION by Jan Decker, That the March 13-14, 2015 ; March 25, 2015; and April 30, 2015 Board of Director minutes that were approved on May 23, 2015, be submitted to the Official Books of AHA.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #6-7/31/15-BOD)

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

MOTION by Nancy Harvey:
Whereas, The Creative Contest is held each year; and
Whereas, AHYA would like to discontinue the Creative Contest as entries have been decreasing each year with only 5 total entries this year; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That the Creative Contest from here forward be discontinued.
Effective: December 31, 2015.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #7-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Nancy Harvey:
Whereas, The current date of the Regional Youth Team Tournament (RYTT) is May 1st; and
Whereas, AHYA would like to encourage participants to enter the contest before the start of show season; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That the RYTT due date in YTH 109. 5. be changed from May 1st of the contest year to February 1st of the contest year.
Effective: December 31, 2015.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #8-7/31/15-BOD)

CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARDS

MOTION by Howard Shenk to approve the recommended revisions to the Club Excellence Award program. Effective January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #9-7/31/15-BOD)

2016 BOARD MEETING DATES

MOTION by Jan Decker to approve the following dates for the 2016 Board of Director meetings: March 11-12, 2016, Aurora, Colorado; August 5-6, 2016, Aurora, Colorado; and November 16, 2016 at Convention in Denver, Colorado.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #10-7/31/15-BOD)

DISTANCE COMMITTEE

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire to reduce ribbon costs for the National Competitive Trail Ride Championship; and
Whereas, There is a desire to clarify what type of ribbon will be awarded to each place; and
Whereas, CT112.11 currently reads:

Top Ten. A horse finishing 1st through 10th in each respective division (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians) will be named Top Ten.

The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride, will award Top Ten ribbons in every class and ride, no matter how many entries per class or ride compete, (and if ten or fewer, all exhibitors will be awarded a Top Ten ribbon). All Top Ten Awards shall include qualifications, and all other AHA program benefits with the exception of the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes, the Horse Achievement Award Program, Amateur Achievement Award Program, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Horse Program, which programs shall remain as is awarding 50%; Therefore; Be it
Moved, That CT112.11 be amended to read:

Top Ten. A horse finishing 1st through 10th in each respective division (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians) will be named Top Ten. The National Championship Competitive Trail Ride will award Champion, Reserve Champion and Top Ten ribbons in every class and ride, no matter how many entries per class or ride compete. (Champion and Reserve Champions will receive respective placing ribbons. All Top Ten Awards shall include qualifications, and all other AHA program benefits with the exception of the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes, the Horse Achievement Award Program, Amateur Achievement Award Program, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Horse Program, which programs shall remain as is awarding 50%. Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #11-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire to clarify when Regional Competitive Trail Ride Championship results are official; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That CT111.2 be amended to read:
1. The results for the AHA Regional Championship rides will be submitted to the AHA office by the Ride Secretary for the placings in the AHA divisions within 15 days of the ride.
a. When AHA Regional Championship rides is held in conjunction with an 'Approved Ride Organization' Open ride, the results from the Open ride must be reported by the owner for each horse by submitting a properly signed and completed Open Qualifying Ride Results form within 90 days of the ride.
2. Regional ride results are unofficial until posted on the AHA website.
Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #12-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire to clarify when National Championship competitive trail ride results are official; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That CT115.1 be amended to read:
The results for the AHA National Championship Ride will be submitted to the AHA office by the AHA Ride Secretary within 15 days of the event. National Ride Results are unofficial until posted on the AHA website.
Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #13-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire to recommend membership for Ride Managers of local recognized rides as they use other organization ride procedures and rules; and
Whereas, There is a desire to hold Regional and National Ride Managers accountable to run their rides in accordance with AHA rules and procedures; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That END102.10 be amended to read:

It is recommended that both the Ride Secretary and Manager have active individual AHA Memberships. Regional and National Championship Ride managers must have an active AHA membership.
Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #14-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire for consistency in the qualification requirements for endurance and competitive trail horses; Therefore, Be It Moved, That END107.6 be amended to read:
Previous AHA Recognized National Champion Endurance Horses are qualified for life and may re-enter any National or Regional Championship Endurance Ride. Reserve National Champion Endurance horses are qualified for four years, plus the portion of the current year prior to the close of entries for the National Endurance Ride, and may re-enter the National Endurance Ride within that period.
Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #15-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire to clarify when Regional Endurance Championship results are official; and Therefore, Be It
Moved, That CT111.2 be amended to read;
The results for the AHA Regional Championship rides will be submitted to the AHA office by the Ride Secretary for the placings in the AHA divisions. Regional ride results are unofficial until posted on the AHA website.
a. When the AHA Regional Championship ride is held in conjunction with an AERC/FEI/Endurance Canada Open ride, the results from the Open Ride must be reported for each horse by submitting a properly signed and completed AHA Open Qualifying Ride Results Form within 90 days of the ride.
Effective: January 1, 2016
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #16-7/31/15-BOD)

ARABIAN BREEDERS SWEEPSTAKES

MOTION by Jan Decker, to recess the AHA Board of Directors meeting and convene as the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Trustees.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #17-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Jan Decker, to adjourn the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Trustees meeting and reconvene the AHA Board of Directors meeting.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #18-7/31/15-BOD)

MOTION by Jan Decker to approve motions number 3, 4 and 5 of the July 31, 2015 Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Trustees meeting.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #19-7/31/15-BOD)

DISTANCE COMMITTEE

MOTION by Rusty Cook:
Whereas, There is a desire to reduce ribbon costs for the National Endurance Championship; and
Whereas, There is a desire to clarify what type of ribbon will be awarded to each place; and
Whereas, END104.8.c. currently reads:
Top Ten. A horse finishing 1st through 10th in each respective division (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians) will be named Top Ten.
The National Championship Endurance Ride, will award Top Ten ribbons in every class and ride, no matter how many entries per class or ride compete, (and if ten or fewer, all exhibitors will be awarded a Top Ten ribbon). All Top Ten Awards shall include qualifications, and all other AHA program benefits with the exception of the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes, the Horse Achievement Award Program, Amateur Achievement Award Program, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Horse Program, which programs shall remain as is awarding 50%; Therefore, Be it Moved, That END104.8.c. be amended to read:
Top Ten. A horse finishing 1st through 10th in each respective division (two divisions: one for Arabians, one for Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabians) will be named Top Ten. The National Championship Endurance Ride will award Champion, Reserve Champion and Top Ten ribbons in every class and ride, no matter how many entries per class or ride compete. (Champions and Reserve Champions will receive respective placing ribbons.) All Top Ten Awards shall include qualifications, and all other AHA program benefits with the exception of the Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes, the Horse Achievement Award Program, Amateur Achievement Award Program, High Point Horse Achievement Award, High Point Amateur Achievement Award and Distance Horse Program, which programs shall remain as is awarding 50%. Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #20-7/31/15-BOD)

COMPETITIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MOTION by Margo Shallcross:
Whereas, After receiving feedback from exhibitors that the Select Rider Division is too large on the Regional/Regular Competition level; and
Whereas, To solve this issue it is felt that the point requirement should be adjusted; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That the leveling points be adjusted as follows:

ACHIEVEMENT LEVELING PROGRAM - AMATEURS

Points apply to a specific, individual section
Level Category
Nationals
Regionals / Regular Competitions
Select Amateur
Has not received more than 20 AHA National Achievement points
Has not received one of the following:
a. Has not received more than 75 AHA Achievement points
b. Has not leveled out of the National Select Amateur Level
Choice Amateur
Has received 30 points but not more than 60 AHA National Achievement points
Has not received one of the following:
a. Has not received more than 200 AHA Achievement points
b. Has not leveled out of the National Choice Amateur Level
Elite Amateur
Has received at least 70 or more National Achievement points.
Has received more than 200 AHA Achievement points
Primetime
AHA member, USEF amateur 60 years of age or older
AHA member, USEF amateur 60 years of age or older

ACHIEVEMENT LEVELING PROGRAM - YOUTH

Level Category
Nationals
Regionals / Regular Competitions
Select Youth
Has not received more than 20 AHA National Achievement points
Has not received one of the following:
a. Has not received more than 100 AHA Achievement points
b. Has not leveled out of the National Select Youth Level
Choice Youth
Has received 30 points but not more than 60 AHA National Achievement points
Has not received one of the following:
a. Has not received more than 200 AHA Achievement points
b. Has not leveled out of the National Choice Youth Level
Elite Youth
Has received at least 70 or more National Achievement points.
Has received more than 200 AHA Achievement points
Walk Trot/Jog
*Eligible as an AHA member to compete in Walk Trot/Jog classes
*Eligible as an AHA member to compete in Walk Trot/Jog classes

Effective: January 1, 2016
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #21-8/1/15-BOD)

MOTION by Margo Shallcross:
Whereas, Several hundred horses each year are qualifying from National wins and are not required to re-qualify to compete at a National show; and
Whereas, Re-qualifying National Champions will help AHA Recognized Shows and would add more revenue to qualifying shows; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That AHA COMP 1216 be modified as follows:
COMP 1216. NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FROM NATIONAL SHOWS
Previous AHA Recognized National Champions are qualified for life and may re-enter that National Championship class. and Reserve National Champions are qualified for two additional years to re-enter that National Championship class. (BOD 8/09). Lifetime Qualifications earned may be used at any National Championship Show (as long as the class is offered). (BOD 3/12)
Exceptions:
1. UPHA Equitation riders must re-qualify each year. (Refer to UPHA for complete rules and age of rider.)
2. An Equitation rider qualified in 18 & under is not affected by a change in the age of the rider.
3. An Amateur Owner qualified horse is not affected by a change in the age of the Amateur Owner Rider (AAO or JO).
4. An Amateur qualified horse is not affected by a change in the age of the Amateur Rider (AAT or JT).
5. Only points or scores from AHA Recognized Shows other than Regionals or Nationals will count for National Shows.
6. A National Championship earned in a Junior Horse Performance class will qualify that horse in that Junior Horse Performance class for as long as that horse is deemed a Junior Horse.
7. A National Champion in Dressage in an Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian National Championship class is qualified for two additional years life in that class including split Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes. A National Championship in Dressage in an Arabian or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian class is qualified for two additional years life in that class including combined Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes. (BOD 3/12)
8. A National Champion or Reserve National Champion in Sport Horse in an Arabian or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian National Championship class may use this qualification for either Dressage Type or Hunter Type (but not both) when classes are split by type. (BOD 3/14)
Effective: January 1, 2016.
Motion Withdrawn. (Motion #22-8/1/15-BOD)

INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

MOTION by Chris Culbreth, That the Arabian Horse Association ("the Association") Board of Directors approve the retention of the independent CPA firm of JDS Professional Group to audit the books and records and prepare the corporate tax returns of the Association for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #23-8/1/15-BOD)

MOTION by Chris Culbreth, That the Arabian Horse Association ("the Association") Board of Directors approve the President's expenses in the amount of $5,994.12 for the period March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. These expenses have been examined by the Internal Audit Committee and have been determined to be acceptable.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #24-8/1/15-BOD)

AHA REFUND POLICY

MOTION by Terry Andreasen:
Whereas, AHA currently has an undocumented policy to send refund checks for net credits on accounts of $5.00 and over; and
Whereas, It has been recommended by staff to carry the net credit until the credit is at least $25.00; and
Whereas, The policy should be documented and placed appropriately in the AHA Board of Directors Policy Manual; Therefore, Be It
Moved, That any refund amount under $25.00 be retained for up to two (2) years; and, Be It Further
Moved, That refunds of $25.00 or more and refunds under $25.00 that have exceeded the two (2) year retention be issued annually unless a customer requests payment; and, Be It Further
Moved, That this policy be added to the AHA Policy Manual, 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities as item number 14.
Effective: Immediately.
Motion Passed Unanimously. (Motion #25-8/1/15-BOD)
(Extraordinary Motion)

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Getting Ahead of Equine Degenerative Joint Disease

By: Betsy LaBelle

Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan), the only product approved by the FDA for the intramuscular treatment of non-infectious degenerative and/or traumatic joint dysfunction and associated lameness of the carpal and hock joints in horses, has been a great help to the horse industry. For the past 25 years and counting, veterinarians have depended on Adequan® i.m. for the treatment of degenerative joint disease in horses.

Proper equine joint function is the precise and harmonious system of tissues that provide strength, stability and protection while allowing a broad range of movement and flexibility. When in a balanced state, healthy joints provide an efficient mechanism to restore aged cells and stimulate repair for minimal loss to the essential joint cartilage. However, this ongoing joint wear-and-repair cycle in even the healthiest of horses can become overwhelmed and insufficient when joints are overloaded from training, excessive use, athletic endeavors, weak conformation or unbalanced feet.

Learning About the Joint and About Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan), – Wear, Tear and Repair

What is degenerative joint disease? Cartilage is smooth living tissue that is water-filled on the end of bones. Articular cartilage provides a smooth, lubricated surface that reduces friction and aids in compression of joints. A lot of training and competing can take a toll on articular cartilage. Degeneration of cartilage is usually due to chronic inflammation in the joint. This inflammation can further break down the cartilage over time, and left untreated, eventually wears away the cartilage, yielding degenerative joint disease.

Degenerative joint disease is a deterioration of the cartilage tissue that supports weight-bearing joints. Once the cartilage is thinned or lost, the constant concussion of cartilage and bone against each other causes pain, swelling and stiffness. Common abnormal bone formations known as spurs can develop as a result of this damaged bone, leading to even further swelling, stiffness and pain.

A thin flaccid membrane called the synovium is responsible for producing the thick hyaluronan fluid that helps keep the cartilage nourished and aids in joints running smoothly. Joint disease is a cyclical disease because as the synovium becomes inflamed and thickened, the deterioration of the cartilage progresses in this ongoing cycle.

Cartilage deterioration leads to thin and dry cartilage where sufficient compression and lubrication in the joint environment no longer exists. If the bone surfaces experience more concussion, this results in additional pain and inflammation to the surrounding tissues. With ongoing recurrent insult, the bone adapts and remodels and can become thicker, sclerotic and develop osteophytes, or bone spurs. The joints most commonly affected in horses include the carpus, fetlocks, hocks, stifles, and any weight-bearing joints. Ongoing changes to the articular cartilage are difficult to detect as this tissue does not have an abundant nerve supply. Understanding the disease is essential to recognizing the subtle changes in your horse and when to intervene. Therefore, it is best to address any symptom of a decrease in stride length before the degenerative joint disease process advances and cartilage deteriorates.

For long-term equine joint health, it is about keeping joints functioning optimally, and Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) assists with this by stimulating cartilage repair. The health of the cartilage is critical to the performance of the joint. Adequan® i.m. relieves pain caused by swelling and inflammation, restores synovial lubrication, decreases inflammation of the synovial membrane, stops the disease cycle and also inhibits harmful enzymes that attack the synovial fluid and cartilage. When the natural "wear and tear" process in your horse's joints is disrupted, non-infectious degenerative joint disease begins. Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) is the ideal treatment for degenerative joint disease.

How Adequan® i.m. Can Help Your Horse

Adequan® i.m. impacts the cells in the cartilage and improves cartilage health. Polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG), marketed as Adequan® i.m., contains a naturally-occurring complex molecule that is the essential building block of the cartilage matrix. Evaluated in a clinical study[1], this disease-modifying osteoarthritis drug stimulates chondrocytes in production of articular cartilage while relieving painful symptoms and improving joint function.

Adequan® i.m., labeled for intramuscular use, is a potent enzyme inhibitor that addresses degenerative joint disease in the carpal or hock joints

while stimulating cartilage repair and reversing joint disease. Extensive studies of Adequan® i.m. (polysulfated glycosaminoglycan) have proven that it passes through the synovial membrane and is absorbed into the articular cartilage. Adequan® i.m. is the only FDA-approved intramuscular polysulfated glycosaminoglycan. Only FDA approved drugs are independently proven, tested and scrutinized routinely.

Studies[2] confirm that the labeled dose of Adequan® i.m. achieves detectable levels in the joints in 2 hours post-i.m. injection. Adequan® influences the chondrocytes to upregulate and produce the main components of the articular cartilage. The correct labeled dose of Adequan® i.m. is 500 mg every four days for 28 days in the muscle. It is important to adhere to the recommended dosage for maximal benefit. Riders often comment that by the third or fourth dose, they will begin to feel benefits in training. The dosing every four days or 96 hours is able to achieve a steady state in the articular cartilage.

The Adequan® i.m. labeled dose is considered a treatment dose, not a loading dose. Work with your veterinary team to determine the optimum time to treat with Adequan® i.m. To help understand the subtle signs of lameness, you can keep a lameness journal to recognize when your horse is not moving in its usual stride and with its usual power.

Sports medicine veterinarian Dr. Meg Mullin, who has worked for B.W. Furlong and Associates (with practices in New Jersey and Florida) for 17 years said, "Most of our clients down here in Florida, from ponies to horses are on an Adequan® i.m. schedule. It's highly beneficial to competing athletes and keeps them happy and competing well. It's pretty important that we support them. Adequan® i.m. is a great product. It's been proven to help keep the joints healthy."

Also an FEI Veterinarian and FEI Delegate at the international competitions for Show Jumping and Dressage, she continued, "I highly recommend the series of seven intramuscular shots every four days every three months [four times a year] for competing horses. It reduces inflammation in the joints within 96 hours and has a beneficial effect on the cartilage."

Maintaining good healthy cartilage relies on several factors and includes the need for:

- good footing
- a good farrier
- complete good nutrition
- a good veterinarian team

References: 1. W. D. Mertens, J. N. MacLeod, S. L. Fubini, M. Vernier-Singer, A. J. Nixon, R. J. Todhunter; Polysulphated glycosaminoglycans modulate transcription of interleukin-1β treated chondrocytes in monolayer culture. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol.* February 2003. 2. Burba DJ, Collier MA, Default LE, Hanson-Painton O, Thompson HC, Holder CL: In vivo kinetic study on uptake and distribution of intramuscular tritium-labeled polysulfated glycosaminoglycan in equine body fluid compartments and articulary cartilage in an osteochondral defect model. *The Journal of Equine Veterinary Science.* 1993; 696-703.

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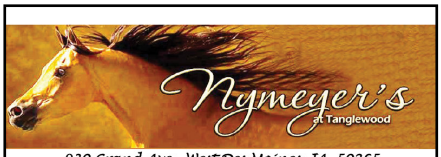

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MODERN arabian horse

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