



Arabian Sport Horse Chronicle

A publication
Of the California-Nevada Arabian Sport Horse Association

Board of Directors 2009

Rita Mason, President
Beverly Stevens, Vice President
Margie Pope, Treas./Membership
Shannon LaDay, Director
Crystal Alatalo, Director
Lisa Stapleton, Director
Margo Seabourn, Secretary

Yahoo Group

<http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/CNASHA/>

Website

(currently offline)

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Corrections: Every effort will be made to ensure correctness of newsletter content. In the event of an error, a correction will be printed in the next issue after we are made aware of the error.

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March 2009

President's Message to Members

I hope everybody reading this is pleasantly surprised that CNASHA is actually sending out a newsletter. This is a project our board has always wanted to take on but everyone is always so busy with their lives – both horsey and personal, that nobody was willing to fall on the sword and take on this project. However, Kat Walden recently contacted me and said she would take this on – I thought this was great. But then she told me, since we will be having a club newsletter, it needed to have a message from the president. I just don't know how I get myself sucked into yet another project!



Because this is our first issue since I have been on the board (which has been 6 years now) and we recently had an election for our board of directors, we thought it would be a good idea to include some short profiles of our current board of directors. There was a lot less campaigning for the CNAHSA board of directors than was for the Presidential elections so we thought we would take this opportunity to let you get to know us a little better.

Recently, I went to the Region III Mini-Convention held in Vacaville. First of all I would like to congratulate our club members on being the 2nd fastest growing club in Region III. Our club was presented with a certificate from Deborah Johnson recognizing our club growth. Only three clubs in the Region had growth at all – this shows that the interest in Arabian Sport Horses remains strong. Hopefully, our numbers will be able to remain strong through these tough economic times.

Another point of interest for all Region III members is that the Region has now decided to offer a full Top 5 at all Region III shows. A couple
(continued on back: Page 8)

The 15th Annual Pacific Coast Arabian Sport Horse Classic

It's Spring, and that means our annual club show is coming up! Our dates this year are May 29th, 30th and 31st, and once again we will be at the lovely Starr-Vaughn center near Elk Grove, a young venue that continues to develop and improve. Our judges this year will be Dr. Gail Hoff-Carmona ("S", r Sport Horse Breeding), and Sue Curry ("R"). Once again the In-hand and Sport Horse under Saddle classes will be on Friday with Dressage on Saturday and Sunday. Plan to attend the catered dinner and exhibition show on Saturday night, which continues our tradition of providing a fun break in the middle of the weekend.

Putting on the show every year takes a tremendous amount of work and consumes most of the Board of Directors' time and energy. Our Directors ask you, the members, to help make this show the biggest success ever for the whole club. Please contact Margo Seabourn, our Volunteer Coordinator, if you would be willing to give some time at the show to help with scribing, running or figuring scores, gate duties, lunch breaks, ribbons, exhibitor liaison, etc. We want everyone to have a good time, *including* the volunteers who work so hard to make the show a success! You can reach Margo at margo_seabourn@calpers.ca.gov or cell phone number (530) 613-3807.

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of our club newsletter! We'll start out quarterly with the hope that we can produce it more often with a bigger staff later on. We have in mind to post the newsletter in the Files of our CNASHA Yahoo Group online and to e-mail it as a PDF file to all members whose e-mail addresses we have in our records. A small number of hard copies could be printed and mailed to any members who do not have e-mail accounts or access to a computer at home, but we hope to keep the number of printed copies to an absolute minimum in order to save the costs of printing and mailing (postage is set to go up yet again later this Spring).

Because we are a club that covers a large geographic area, making it a challenge to get us all together for meetings and social events, it is our hope that the newsletter will give us more of a sense of community. For now, at least, we will not accept advertisements; if this venture grows enough that I eventually have a staff to help me, we can reassess that position. However, we want to share your farm and individual news to help us all get to know each other better. Please send your news directly to me, Kat Walden, at: ashai@sbcglobal.net.

You may have noticed that AOL, which hosted our club website, abruptly and without warning ceased to support all websites and dropped them. Needless to say, we are only one of dozens—if not hundreds—of people who were left in the lurch by that action. To date we have not found a new server and reposted our website. If any of you have web-building talents, I'm sure the board would love to hear from you!

Future plans for the newsletter are to print the minutes of Board of Director and Membership Meetings, Arabian sport horse history articles, show photos and announcements of relevance to the club. We have many creative minds in our club, and we hope you'll share your talents.

I look forward to hearing from many of you and to helping keep us all in contact with each other!

Kat D. Walden



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Beverly J. Stevens

Beverly was one of the original organizers of the Pacific Coast Arabian Sport Horse Classic, our annual club show which actually predates the club by one year. She is one of the founding members of CNASHA and has served on the board a total of nine years including this year, during which she has held the offices of Treasurer and Vice President and has also been the Membership Chair (which has traditionally been linked to Treasurer in our club). In addition, she served as Show Manager for the majority of our shows, which is obviously a tremendously demanding job. If anyone wanted to know the AHA rule for something, she was the one to ask.

Beverly has been involved with Arabians for 25 years now, although as she says, "I also showed American Saddle-breds for about 10

years when I was a kid." She has shown her horses as an amateur in Dressage, H/J, English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, and trainers have shown her horses over fences for her. As a small breeder, she is proud that one of her mares was approved for breeding by the ISR/Oldenburger NA; others of her horses have won Regional Reserve Championships for Arabian Hunter Hack, Arabian Working Hunter, First and Second Level Dressage, and they have many wins at open shows. Her proudest moment was "getting a Top 10 at Sport Horse Nationals in Sport Horse under Saddle ATR."

CNASHA has benefited greatly from her energy and unflinching hard work over the years.



Meet the Board!

There are some new faces and personalities on our Board of Directors for 2009, so we thought everyone would appreciate brief introductions/profiles. Accordingly, Rita Mason asked all of the directors—old or new—to answer the following questions:

How long have you been on the CNASHA Board?

How long have you been involved with Arabians or have owned an Arabian?

What disciplines have you competed in—in the past and currently?

Marguerite (Margo) Seabourn

I have been secretary for 4 years. I was introduced to my first Arabians when I moved here from Chicago in 1989. I had become engaged to an Arabian horse breeder and had moved to Auburn prior to getting married. While that was the beginning of my love affair with Arabians, it was also the end of that engagement - but I got to take a few good horses with me when we parted company, one of which was my beloved stallion, Aldar Madrid! I started showing Madrid in 1992 as a hunter/jumper and dressage horse, before the term "sport horse" was generally used in the Arabian world. Due to Madrid's versatility and his congenial temperament, I had a dozen wonderful years of showing him successfully and traveling all over the West Coast to Arabian events. Along the way I accumulated some additional Arabian show



Naismith

horses and mares, and kept one of Madrid's offspring, Primo, as my personal riding horse. Madrid is now 28 and still active, and Primo is 15, just reaching his prime. I also have a 21 year old purebred Arabian gelding, WK Top Gun, who is a gifted dressage horse and has been very successful in the sport horse "in hand" competition. It has been a delight to share my life with these highly intelligent, loyal and talented horses, and I look forward to many years of future adventures with them and their successors. My main areas of interest have been hunter/jumpers, hunter pleasure, and sport horse in hand competitions. Currently, I have been having great fun competing on Primo at open Gymkhana and barrel racing events (in the "Geezer" division). While I have had numerous proud showing moments with both Madrid and Top Gun, my proudest horse related moment is more personal - it was the feeling of elation I felt when I first rode Primo under saddle, after personally gentling him as a 3 year old stallion, with the help of my friend and "horse whisperer", Suzy Hopkins. He was the

first (and will probably be the only) horse that I bred from my own stallion/mare, raised from the day of his birth, and gentled to the saddle without professional training. I was also the only person to ride Primo for the first five years of his life under saddle - he is my "life project", for better or worse. While Primo may not be the "perfect" horse, he is willing and loyal and bold, afraid of nothing - not even water - absolutely the best kind of horse to ride on the trail, and I treasure every moment with him! I live with my husband, Joseph, in the great horse community of Cool, CA, adjacent to the American River Canyon, which is the final leg of the Tevis Cup 100 mile endurance competition. Cool is a town where you can still ride your horse up to the deli for an ice cream, and where the biggest social events in town are sponsored by the Divide Horseman's Association and the Silver Spurs Club. Growing up in Connecticut, I always dreamed of living in a place where I could keep horses in the backyard and wear my riding boots to town and not look out of place! It took me 40 years, but I finally found that ideal spot - where "Cool" is not just a location, it's a state of mind.

Crystal Alatalo

This is Crystal's second year on the board. She has been riding horses all her life, and she is a very accomplished horsewoman. Crystal has competed in western pleasure, trail, competitive trail, halter, hunter pleasure under saddle, jumping, dressage, sport horse under saddle and sport horse in hand. She has also been a part of search and rescue.

Crystal says her proudest moment was "having an article written about me and Smokey and having it published in the *Equestrian Connection* and *Modern Arabian Horse*."



Grey Horse Photography

Marjory (Margie) Francis Hammer Pope

Number of years you have been on the Board of Directors for CNASHA: I don't remember. [Editor's note: this is Margie's fourth year!]

How long have you been involved with Arabians or have owned an Arabian?: My whole life (45 yrs.). I'm a third-generation breeder of Arabian horses descending from Fadjur and 5th generation Californian horse breeder. My family's Jack Tone Ranch is the oldest continuously Family-owned/operated horse ranch (since 1849) in California.

What disciplines have you competed in - in the past and or currently competing in? Of course you don't have to limit this to sport horse disciplines.: I think everything that Arabians show in, I've competed at (except Hunter or Jumper, I haven't shown any since those started-up), plus 50 mile endurance, open dressage, etc.

What is your proudest moment? I will let you decide if you want to use a horse related moment or some other moment.: I have MANY very proud moments, every time I see my girls doing well with the horses. My girls growing up to be such great horsewomen, and all of their accomplishments make me incredibly proud. To be more specific, and something about myself: The ride with Go Dan Go that led to winning 1983 US National Championship in First Level Dressage, earning a 72% score, was the most spectacular accomplishment of my life. I also won Top 10 Second Level Dressage with Big Dan. The Victory Round we made in the Main Arena after our win, dedicated to Marjory F. Tone (my Gran) and Fadjur (Go Dan Go's grand-sire) were like living a dream, it was so spectacularly thrilling for me.



Tricia Pope

Rita Mason

2009 will be my 7th year on the board of directors for CNASHA.

Both of my parents were riding horses when I was born, so I have been around horses all my life. My parents only owned Arabians, so I guess that is why I have always had an Arabian. Growing up, I learned to ride by taking lessons in Pony Club. By age 10, my parents had me riding in Competitive Trail. I did my first 25 mile ride at age 10, and did my first 100 mile ride at age 14. I bought Athena with the idea to continue with Competitive Trail/endurance as my older horse was getting close to retirement age. But I took her to a dressage show as a three year old (since she was too young to do endurance yet) and I was hooked. I did do a 30 mile ride with Athena when she was four, but have otherwise stuck to the sport horse disciplines - riding in dressage from Training Level to Intermediare I, Sport Horse Under Saddle, Sport Horse Show Hack, and Sport Horse in Hand.



My proudest moment was winning National Champion at 4th Level ATR at the 2004 Sport Horse Nationals on a horse that I trained entirely myself and that was only 7 years old.

Shannon LaDay

Shannon is new to the board this year. She has been a member of CNASHA for two months.

She has owned her horse for a year and a half now, and Dracena—aka Xena—is her first horse. So far she has shown only in dressage at a schooling show since she is just learning. She plans on showing Sport Horse in Hand in 2009.

Her proudest moment was "when I bought Xena. It was always a dream of mine to have a horse. I never expected to be so lucky to find a horse like her. Since I've had her I've done my first schooling show and can't wait for our long life of competitions and schooling."



Black and white photos this page by Grey Horse Photography.

Lisa Stapleton

Stanley Ranch, [comprising] Molly & Dave Stanley & Lisa Stapleton, generated the idea of a division specific/breed specific Sport Horse Show in 1996. Lisa & Molly had been competing successfully in the Hunter/Jumper & Hunter Pleasure classes for years and felt that the division needed a growth avenue. They contacted Beverly Stevens and with her energy and expertise for organization the first show was financially sponsored by Stanley Ranch and held in 1996 with 60 entries at MEC. The CNASHA was then formed, initially to put on the show with volunteers and organization by the club. Since that time the division has grown at a tremendous rate, as witnessed by the inception of a separate Sport Horse Regional and National competition.

Lisa has been on the BOD for CNASHA for 8 years and has served as a delegate, VP and President in that time. She has been involved with Arabians since 1972 and has competed in virtually every division offered including: Reining, Trail, Western, English & Hunter Pleasure and in her youth won a total of 13 equitation medals, one in each division from age 14-17. Stanley Ranch has focused on the Sport Horse division since 1994, showing only in those classes.



Her proudest moments include: Winning the largest class at the 1994 U.S. National Show in Louisville, KY, Hunter Pleasure AOTR, on *Joyamia, a mare bred in Spain and imported by the Stanley's at age 3. In 1997 she rode *Discoteca to the double National wins of Hunter AOTR and Open Jumper. In 2003 Stanley Ranch traveled all the way to VA for the inaugural Sport Horse Nationals, with Exodus I+//, *Jezabel+/, and *Galaxia. Exodus earned high score horse of the show by winning National Champion Hunter AOTR, Reserve National Champion Hunter ATR, Reserve Hunter Hack, Top Ten Open Hunter. Each spring when the babies are born healthy and strong she is proud of their unique breeding program and wonderful horses.

Book Report on Tug of War: Classical versus "Modern" Dressage By Dr. Gerd (Gerhard) Heuschmann and translated by Reina Abelshausen

Tug of War was written by a practicing veterinarian who was educated to become a *Pferdewirt* (professional rider and trainer who is also schooled in horse management by the FN, the German National Equestrian Federation) at the performance center for three-day eventing at Ansbach, Germany. He grew up with horses on his parents' agricultural farm. After earning his veterinary degree at Munich, Dr. Heuschmann worked as an assistant in the surgical animal hospital in Munich, as a consultant for the FN's department of breeding, as a DOKR (German Olympic Committee for Riding)-appointed veterinarian for the Olympic driving team and as head of the animal hospital Domäne Karthaus. In 1998, in partnership with colleague Dr. Dirk Remmler, he took over an equine veterinary practice in Warendorf, and since then they have prepared the veterinary studies courses for *Pferdewirt* students at the German Riding School in Warendorf.

Chapters include: "Who's Responsible for Today's Training Problems?"; "Riding According to Classical Principles: What Does it Mean?"; "Basic Equine Anatomy"; "Functional Connections—and Their Importance in Correct Training"; "Correct Physiological Training"; "Training from a Veterinary Point of View"; and "Conclusions." Dr. Heuschmann organizes each chapter into sub-headings that make it easy to locate specific topics and illustrations, which comprise dozens of well-rendered drawings and photographs that show the results of both good and bad training on the horse.

This is a good, clear translation from the original German which preserves the writing style of an experienced teacher. It is accessible but not written specifically for a lay readership.

Dr. Heuschmann is not afraid of controversy or worried with being politically correct. His overwhelming concern is for the well-being—both physical and mental—of all ridden horses. He believes that young prospects are being pushed too far and too fast for economic reasons today, and he worries that young riders are learning abusive training methods rather than gentle ones that do not harm horses. He explains and shows in detail why Classical training strengthens and does not harm a horse and, conversely, how incorrect training stresses and breaks down a horse.

Delegate's Report on the 2008 AHA Convention

It was my great honor to represent CNASHA last November at the AHA Convention. This was my 3rd convention as delegate for CNASHA. I was 1 of the 2 delegates authorized to represent you (1 delegate per 50 members) among 533 eligible delegates in AHA. 375 delegates were credentialed by Session II on Friday, when the elections began.

The AHA conventions are huge meetings, packed full of information, discussions, elections, and so forth. There have been one or more "hot topics" among the resolutions and elections during every convention I've attended, and of course this year was the same. The hot topic for the past 3 conventions has been the overhaul and reformation of the Arabian breeding classes. The Arabian Scoring System began implementation in April 2008 after winning a very contentious election at the 2006 convention. Compromise among the system's proponents and detractors resulted in delaying implementation until after the 2008 Scottsdale show, whose organizers (AHAA) then submitted a resolution to kill halter reform by making the scoring system optional at this past 2008 convention. Politics and emotion aplenty surrounded the issue, including multiple resolutions (all ended up withdrawn or defeated at convention). Bill Melendez, one of the 2008 U.S. Nationals judges and member of EEC, Education/Evaluation Commission, presented an excellent summary of results and "how it worked" at the U.S. Nationals at the Arabian Scoring System Forum, which was one of the most popular meetings of the convention. (Side note: Bill traveled to Vacaville in January 2009 for a repeat performance of this presentation at the Region III mini-convention.)

My favorite event at the convention was when Ann Judge-Wegener rode the famous Thunder, mascot for the Denver Broncos, around the convention auditorium/meeting room. What a spectacular representative for the Arabian horse! Thunder was comfortable INSIDE the hotel lobby, after his parade through the meeting room and very gracious to all his admirers.

AHA's Financial Highlights were grim -- there were some big shake-ups in 2008 with the departure and hiring of a new Executive VP, along with inflated projections and poor performance in several budget areas. With the huge drops in the financial markets since November, AHA is now in an even worse position.

In addition to the General Sessions, I attended as many committee and commission meetings and Forums as possible, including the Dressage, Sport Horse, Equine Stress, Research & Education, Sport Horse National Show Commission, Education/Evaluation Commission, Resolution 5-90 Task Force, Arabian Horse Galleries Forum, Working Western, Arabian Scoring System Forum, Meet the Candidates Forum, and our Region 3 Caucus Meeting. There was also an open meeting with the Pacific Slopes Championship show committee, discussing growth and expansion of the Pacific Slopes to provide a Western Championship at a level higher than Regionals but lower than Nationals. Officially, the Pacific Slopes are counted the same as Regional championships, but in fact the qualifications and physical land-mass areas covered, (as well as the long history of these championships, pre-dating the US Nationals) mean that it was and should be counted as nearly as prestigious as the US Nationals. When you consider the SHN Commission has "pulled the rug out from under" Western sport horse competitors by moving the show permanently East, I recommend strong support for developing these championships.

Another convention highlight was the Arabian Horse Galleries. This effort is being pushed primarily by the Purebred Arabian Trust (formerly the Arabian Horse Registry, before becoming part of AHA) and the Marketing Development and Promotion Committee. There is a huge opportunity for promoting Arabian horses next year when the World Equestrian Games will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park. The Kentucky Horse Park is a pretty magnificent place, with awesome museums. They expect millions of visitors during WEG 2010. This effort will build an annex to the Museum of the Horse dedicated to the Arabian breed. There was a big fundraising push at convention, and the goal is to have the museum opened in time for the WEG. AHA sold the Arabian Horse Trust building in Denver, CO, to finance part of the construction of this new museum. The museum will have rotating exhibits, much of which will feature the Arabian Horse Trust's collections in addition to children-focused interactive exhibits (a la California Adventure's "Soaring over California").

The 2009 convention will be in Reno, NV, hosted by Region III. As is traditional, Region III presented

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a well-received skit, inviting all delegates to come to Reno for Convention 2009. I participated in the skit (designed and developed by the talented Pam Bingham of Red Bluff) as a "Santa Baby" in the Region III skit, where President Myron Krause was the contestant in "Deal or No Deal." Pam was hilarious as the bald, mustachioed Howie! It was very embarrassing, but fun . . . and I hope you will all plan to attend as delegates, alternates, or members at the 2009 convention.

Officers:

Approved resolutions, officers, commissioners, and National judges are available on-line at AHA, so I won't give you the entire list -- e-mail me if you can't find them, and I'll send you copies or links. Lance Walters was elected President (former VP); Dale Harvill (VP), Frank Galovic (Treas.), and Jan Decker (Sec) are the rest of our AHA Executive Committee.

Sport Horse Related Resolutions:

Resolutions (passed by the AHA delegates at Convention) are the primary method for changing rules within AHA and USEF. There were many resolutions brought forward relating to hunters and jumpers by the H/J Committee, the Eventing and Driving Committee, and other clubs. Achievement Award points for open H/J show classes (8-08); Eventing was added to the Arabian Division in the USEF rule book (9-08, needs USEF approval); hunter trail hack and English trail rules added. Callers were eliminated from FEI, FEI Junior & Freestyle classes at Championship shows, bringing AHA rules into alignment with USDF & USEF rules (19-08); jumper attire/appointments defined (20-08), further pony hunter definitions (21-08); Sport Horse in hand appointments defined (opened up with less restriction) (22-08); sport horse show hack appointments defined (23-08); hunter pleasure specifications defined (29-08); hunter pleasure attire defined (30-08); hunter over fences scoring defined (34-08).

The shoeing rule changes implemented as temporary in 2006 (?) were approved as permanent changes (28-08).

The Resolution 5-90 Task Force brought forth some changes that were approved (35-08) to give the Judge's Commissioner more "teeth" and responsibility for oversight of judges. They withdrew another resolution (37-08), which I felt was too far-reaching, for further study, and probably re-submission next year -- this one was to encourage rotation among Regional and National judges, with significant penalties for rejecting assignments.

5-08 was another contentious resolution, limiting the AHA Executive Committee members from financial conflicts by first budgeting and planning as AHA officers, then executing funds as commissioners. I felt this resolution provided an excellent "check and balance" to avoid conflicts of interest between the 2 functions, but it was generally argued strongly against by officers & commissioners. Eventually, a counted vote was required and the resolution passed 217 to 100. Most votes are verbal (aye, no) and there's no question...if there's a question, the President calls for a standing vote. If the result remains unclear to the President, then he asks the convention committee to count the standing delegates for a final vote.

Riders on Shell Ridge near Walnut Creek during the first CNASHA trail ride 1-19-03. Johanna Constance photo.





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CNASHA Member

(President's Message continued from front page)

of years ago, AHA left it up to the individual Regions to decide if they wanted to offer a full Top 5 or only award Top 5 to 50% of the class. As it turns out, I know people have feelings both ways on this issue, but it only makes sense to follow what the other Regions are doing, so at least our horse's show records will be comparable with those in other Regions. Of course one downside from the Region's point of view is that this will cost the show additional funds for awards. And finally, the Region is looking for ways to give back to the clubs. The Region expected a small loss last year, yet ended up with a profit. So the Region wants to give back to the clubs – namely the clubs that take an active role in promoting the Arabian Horses. Therefore, Region III will match up to \$1000 of costs incurred to promote Arabians. Because CNASHA hosts an Arabian show, Region III will give us \$1000 this year to help offset our costs! Since our economy is so bad right now, the Board of Directors realizes it is going to be tough to make our show at least break even. But rest assured, we will still do our best to provide you as an enjoyable experience as we can at our annual show. Our show will be May 29 – 31, 2009 at Starr Vaughn.

As I sign off, I would like to offer that if anybody is willing to help with our show, either at the show or to be a part of the show committee, please contact me. We could always use more help and more ideas on how to make our show better. We only have a few members that do most of the work organizing (and most of that responsibility falls on the very hard working Beverly Stevens), and if we had a few more people, we could spread the work a few more ways. You can contact me at fadaar@aol.com and you can contact Beverly at RiversWest@aol.com.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and hope to see you all at the shows!

Rita Mason