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# MODERN arabian horse

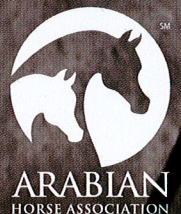
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Equestrian  
of the Year  
Nominees

AHA Club  
Excellence  
Awards

*Sshameless++*  
**Ambassador Horse  
of the Year**

*New Breyer Model*





# AHA Club Excellence Awards

BY JENNIFER WALKER

## *Diablo Arabian Horse Association*

Region 3

### CLUB OF THE YEAR

**Winner:** Breed Promotion/Community Involvement

**Finalist:** Communication, Member Recruitment/Retention, Club Projects

For an unprecedented third year in a row, Diablo Arabian Horse Association (DAHA) was honored as the Club of the Year. They also won the award for Breed Promotion/Community Involvement for their considerable outreach activities promoting Arabian horses to both horse people outside of the Arabian community and the general public. In addition to the two highly popular Class A Arabian horse shows the club holds each year, members participate in parades, the Horse Faire at Heather Farms and Day of the Horse. At DAHA Day at Golden Gate Fields during horse races, they ran a concession stand and talked to racing fans about Arabian horses,



**ABOVE & RIGHT:** During the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Global Flat Racing Festival Series in California, members of the DAHA donned native costumes and raced in front of the crowd.



**LEFT:** DAHA members are decked out for Christmas during their December trail ride.

**FAR LEFT:** The Amigos de Anza Arabian Horse Drill Team pose at the 4th of July Parade.



AHA affiliate clubs do more than give you a discount on your Competition Card. They provide members with an opportunity to network, have fun with fellow Arabian horse owners, and learn more about our fantastic horses. They give back to their local and national communities with community education and outreach, and they are vital to the grassroots effort of getting the word out about Arabian horses to the public.

Because of the important role affiliate clubs play in the success of AHA as a whole and the Arabian breed in general, AHA recognizes those clubs that excel at providing value to their members and promoting the breed. The AHA Club Excellence Awards recognize winners in four categories. From those category winners, a Club of the Year is chosen. Judges look at the content and presentation of the packets to make their decision according to the guidelines set forth by AHA. The winner of each category is presented with a check for \$500 for the club, with an additional \$500 granted to the Club of the Year.

While entries range from a few sheets of paper with pictures depicting activities to binders full of photos, examples and descriptions, all make it clear that affiliate clubs are out there doing a great job of enhancing the experience of Arabian horse owners and spreading the word about these remarkable horses to the masses.

answered questions and generally represented AHA in fine fashion.

Dr. Cory Soltau has been a member of DAHA for over 25 years and is currently serving his third term as president. "We've always had a very strong philosophy in our club of promoting the Arabian horse," he says. "We have put on a lot of different promotional events, extravaganzas, sponsorships and fundraisers from the time the club was created. It's a strong tradition, and it seems to be something we all recognize. It's part of the mission statement of the club to promote the breed. We have a great product — the Arabian horse — and we just keep letting people know about them. We have some great people and a really good board of directors that work well together. They all recognize the value of these special projects. We foster the feeling that all boats rise to the top, so there's no competition within the club between committees. We all benefit by everyone else's success."

One of the highlights of the year for Dr. Soltau was when DAHA had the opportunity to present their horses during the Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Global Flat Arabian Racing Festival Series in Pleasanton, California. "We had a bunch of Arabians there during the race and galloped them down the track in native costumes in front of thousands of people, then let people pet them between races. Getting our horses in front of a crowd like that was a huge highlight. Being there and exposing so many people to the Arabian horse was something special."

Perhaps what makes this club so successful is that what they do comes from passion for their horses and a desire to spread that love to the world. "To have this award and be recognized for the things we've been doing for so many years is just a bonus," Dr. Soltau says. "It means the judges and AHA think we're doing something right. We were proud of our work and our horses before we got it. Our

little club has produced a lot of national winners, Tevis Cup winners, and race winners. I'm proud of the accomplishments of our members. It's nice to receive this recognition and get money to go back towards our programs. We already have plans for next year."

## *Aurora Arabian Horse Association*

Region 17

**Winner:** Communication

**Finalist:** Breed Promotion/Community Involvement

Communication is a cornerstone of any association, but it can be a challenge. This year, the Aurora Arabian Horse Association, founded in 1965, stood out above the rest. AAHA has truly embraced the 21st century style of

A sample of communications material used by the Aurora Arabian Horse Association includes an origami fortune-telling square, bookmark and other printed matter that reaches out and touches members on a regular basis.

