

The Official Voice for the Arabian Horse Industry

# MODERN arabian horse

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Back to the Future  
**Breeders Sweepstakes**  
Today

**From Bosal to Bridle**  
With Rick Gault

**Annual Convention**  
In Vancouver





AHYA President  
Laura Killian with  
AHA President  
Lance Walters.



and Coordinator of the Equine Sciences Initiative at Texas A&M University, was well-received. His report, entitled *Issues Critical to the Future of the Equine Industry* talked about the commonality of issues among all horse people regardless of breed or discipline. He stressed the need to talk about, and stop tip-toeing around, issues

## CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS: WORKING IN HARMONY

by L.A. Pomeroy

**P**aul McCartney has confessed that he enjoys listening to a choir because: "I love to see the faces of real people devoting themselves...I like the teamwork." For the Beatles legend (and horseman), it's not just about harmony within the music. It's about communal harmony, created by individual voices, committed to a shared goal.

The same could be said of the volunteers and organizations whose commitment to promoting the Arabian horse and serving members earned them Club Excellence Awards at the AHA Annual Convention. The categories are: Breed Promotion/Community Involvement; Membership Recruitment/Retention; Communication; and Club Projects. From these four category winners a Club of the year is selected.

### DIABLO AHA

For the second year in a row, Diablo AHA of California ([www.diabloaha.org](http://www.diabloaha.org)) was named Club of the Year and again won both the Breed Promotion/Community Involvement and Communication categories and was named a finalist in Club Projects and Membership Recruitment/Retention.

"We were completely shocked the first time we won Club Excellence in Communication and Breed Promotion as well as Club of the Year," says vice president, Meghan Johnson, who worked with director Anne Wheeler, on behalf of DAHA, to put the nominations together for this year's Club Excellence Awards. "The win inspired us to implement more ideas for DAHA, like creating a youth webpage, a business directory and more philanthropic promotion. Anne did a fantastic job making the presentation of each category's nominations more bright and colorful and organized but we were shocked when we won for the second year in a row!"

"We all ride Arabians for fun and enjoy being a part of DAHA. We're all pretty creative and enjoy writing which probably makes us an ideal team for the project," says Johnson, who works as a Human Resources Specialist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"This award," she says, "has energized and inspired the

club to look for more ways to do more for its members and promotion of the breed. We created a Facebook Page and plan more clinics and trail rides, as well as being involved in a local endurance ride."

Anne Wheeler recalls her involvement with DAHA started indirectly, through support of her youngest daughter, an AHA/ DAHA member. "Since I'd been involved with the Amigos de Anza Arabian Drill Team and its connection to the National Park Service since 2002, Dr. Cory Soltau encouraged me to write a 2010 DAHA Club Excellence nomination about the Amigos participation in the Tournament of Roses Parade and Equestfest. He felt a nomination in the Breed Promotion category, with colorful photos and DVDs showing Arabian horse exposure to millions worldwide would be a perfect fit. I was happy to do so. In 2010, we were thrilled to learn that we'd won two categories and Club of the Year.

"As 2011 board members, Meghan and I joined forces to 'defend' our Club of the Year status. Winning twice in a row was a long shot. Regardless of the outcome, we figured the process of gathering information again for the nominations would give DAHA a wonderful record of the club's annual activities. We submitted a daunting total of 35 nominations in our 2011 entry," Wheeler says. "Behind DAHA success is more than skillful submission. When you peruse our website, read our newsletters, see our photos of riders and volunteers of all ages, participating in a wide range of equestrian activities, DAHA's winning 'secret' comes to life."

### DAFFODIL AHA

The 2011 Club Excellence Award for Club Projects went to Daffodil AHA ([www.daffodilarabian.com](http://www.daffodilarabian.com)) of Washington. Established in the 1950s, Daffodil AHA was one of the first Arabian horse clubs formed in the country. Currently one of the largest member clubs in AHA, it offers a variety of member services and activities, including the prestigious



such as the unintended consequences of the cessation of domestic slaughter and said there is legislation coming up that could be positive for unwanted horses that sometimes are shipped out of the country under extremely inhumane conditions. Other issues raised were: wild horse management and the need to do a better job of

gelding stallions and sterilizing mares; multiple use of public lands and right to ride advocacy; equine genetic diseases; national animal equine ID program; training and overuse of young horses; show ring ethics and unacceptable training techniques; declining numbers at horse shows; declining youth numbers; and tax and trans-

portation laws that affect livestock and horse industries. On a lighter note, he also touched on "new age" horse training and barn feng shui.

AHA Corporate Partner and Harbour Cruise Sponsor Adequan featured a seminar on joint health and their sponsorship role in the upcoming Olympics. Additional forums included



**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Club of the Year, Diablo AHA, from left, Region 3 Director Steve Freeman, Pat Hendershot, Cindi Silvani-Lacey, Pam Bingham, Deborah Johnson and President Lance Walters.

Daffodil All Arabian Spring Show and Daffodil All Arabian Summer Show.

"This year, Carol Tedrick (Website and E-News Committee chair) and I decided we should apply for one of AHA's awards," said DAF treasurer and director Linda Stover of Rim Rock Arabians in Eatonville.

"Our club has many projects that involve members, and we had a marvelous charity project in 2011 chaired by Shannon Armstrong. Under her guidance, we raised over \$9,500 for the Children's Therapy Unit at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup. She started with a bake sale at our schooling show, and culminated the event with a huge dinner auction at our spring show. My interests were always in promoting youth events, so I wrote and submitted the story about our Youth Program. We were very pleased to be selected for an award. Now that you have us motivated, you will probably hear from DAF again and again!"

In 2012, Don Lapp and Jessica Blumenthal will take the reins from Linda and her husband, Bill Stover, who have been the manager and secretary for the Daffodil Youth Benefit clinics and schooling shows for the last six years. "We are retiring and letting a young, enthusiastic group follow through — we know they will do a great job!"

## ARABIAN BREEDERS & HALTER ALLIANCE

Winning the 2011 Club Excellence Award in the Member Recruitment/Retention category, and a finalist in Club Projects, was the Arabian Breeders and Halter Alliance ([www.theabha.com](http://www.theabha.com)).

"One of the ABHA goals was to recruit between 200 and 500 members. We accomplished our goal within several months, reaching 329 members. This allowed us to have seven delegates to attend our annual AHA convention. Our board members' passion for the Arabian horse is the catalyst to reach out to other Arabian horse enthusiasts," says Christine Rickart, ABHA president.

Rickart, who submitted the AHA award application, explained some of the efforts behind their success: "Memberships were created through various marketing strategies. Email, phone calls, Facebook, Internet blasts targeting Arabian horse enthusiasts, and a website have helped generate membership. The club had its first membership drive at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show. We continue to bring our banner to other regions to help membership growth."

Among the events uniting club members was a Think Pink fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation at the AHA Region 10 horse show. "We heard positive responses from exhibitors and spectators regarding Think Pink, and everyone enjoyed working toward a common goal of raising money for breast cancer research," said Rickart. The event, which raised nearly \$7,000, is planned again in 2012 during the Region 10 Arabian Championship Show.

"Although our club is in its first year of existence, the fondest memory I have made so far working with the ABHA group is its shared respectfulness. All of us have opinions about breeding and in-hand class procedures, and everyone has developed a way to approach an opinion and express it in a way that can benefit our breed. This award will continue to energize us as we strive to achieve our 2012 goals." ■