

# DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

## DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association  
www.diabloaha.org

Editors: Meghan Johnson  
Sidney Simpson

### Letter from the President

By Debbie Compilli

Dear Members:

Happy Holidays!

Here's hoping you all had a great Thanksgiving Holiday with you family and friends, both human and equine.

Thanks to Coke Swift and her show committee, DAHA put on another successful fall show at Brookside Equestrian Center in September. It was HOT, HOT, and HOT, just like the spring show. But all of the exhibitors put on a good show for three full days. Thanks to all of our volunteers—you know we couldn't do this without you.

The Trail Ride Committee put on a fun ride at the beautiful Point Reyes Park in October. The riders had a great time in the sun and the surf.

DAHA was well represented at the AHA National show that was held in Tulsa, OK for the first time. Our club members who were there were very impressed with the facility and felt it had many benefits for the exhibitors. Congratulations to all of our members who brought home the coveted national awards.

DAHA's four delegates, Evelyn Call, Pat Hendershot, Jill Mitchell and Cindy Silvani, have just returned from the AHA Convention in Denver. It was an event packed with information and discussions. Their reports will be presented in future newsletters.

Mark Sunday, January 25, 2009, on your calendar for DAHA's Annual Winter Banquet. It will be another great evening of camaraderie and good

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food, all together by Sherry Pedder. Please plan to come mingle with your friends and fellow club members.

Once again thank you for all your support this past year. We are here to enjoy our horses, each other and to work together! Wishing you and your family Happy Holidays!

Sincerely

Debbie Compilli,  
President



Cheyenne, the Arabian cow pony, see page 4

## DAHA Calendar of Events

### Alamo Tree Lighting

See DAHA's "Whitie" and Santa!  
 Sunday December 7, 2009 at 5:30-8pm  
 Andrew H. Young Park, Danville Blvd and Jackson Way  
 Alamo, CA

### Board of Directors Meeting

Cindy Silvani's home  
 January 7 - 7:00 p.m.

### DAHA Annual Membership Banquet

Sunday January 25, 2009 at 5:00pm  
 Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall  
 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549

**WANTED!! Silent Auction Raffle Items!**  
**Contact Sherry Pedder at 925-708-8848**

## New DAHA Board Members!

After counting the ballots from the October 31, 2008 election deadline, DAHA's new board members include Jessica Matson, Pamela Farly and Cindy Volz for two year terms. Jill Mitchell will serve as 2009 President, Meghan Johnson will be Vice President, Amy Edwards, Treasurer and Cindy Silvani will be Secretary. The new board is very excited about this opportunity to bring forth new activities to DAHA including a schooling show, a Mt Diablo endurance ride, more organized trail rides, a trail clinic and social events.

## Hold the Date

Good food, a no host bar, awards, a silent auction, a live silent auction, special presentations, a speaker, time to mingle to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends, a slide show and much more—it's time for DAHA's annual banquet. This year we honor not only our high-point winners but also for DAHA's Family Arabian of the Year. It's a fun, festive evening—a time to get to know one another—so mark the date. An invitation will be following soon.

January 25, 2009, 5:00 p.m.  
 Veteran's Memorial Building  
 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

## All About Pets

Going away for the holidays? Looking for a local, reliable, and professional pet sitter? Call DAHA's own Lynne Chavelle.



### ALL ABOUT PETS

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## DAHA Point Reyes Ride

By Meghan Johnson

On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10a.m, 4 DAHA members including Jill Mitchell, Amy Edwards and friends set out from Five Brooks Staging area in Olema, CA through Point Reyes National Seashore to the Wildcat camp side for a day of trail riding. We enjoyed a spectacular day riding through the redwoods and on the beach. It was a perfect day at the beach to enjoy bagged lunches with our horses and friends! We met a lot of equestrians along the way. It was great to enjoy one our national treasures with our horses.

## AHA Annual Convention 2008

This year's AHA annual convention was held at the Denver Marriott Tech Center in Denver, Colorado from November 19–23, 2008. Vice-President Jill Mitchell, Secretary Cindy Silvani and Committee members Pat Hendershot and Evelyn Call attended as delegates representing Diablo Arabian Horse Association. This was a fantastic opportunity to gather with Arabian horse enthusiasts, friends and professionals for industry education, and AHA business. 37 Resolutions were brought to be voted on by the delegates. This included a resolution the change membership to the calendar year which is supported by show secretaries but can cause problems of AHA being inundated during the Holidays. This did not pass. Region III put on a skit for the upcoming 2009 AHA Convention in Reno. The new Arabian Horse documentary is finished and will be shown on the History Channel and RFDTV, part of it was show at the convention. Our AHA magazine, The Modern Arabian was rated #1 in Equine Publications by USEF, which was proudly announced at the Convention.



Our own Jill Mitchell in a blond wig and dress (right)

## Ten Feet Tall, Still

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for the special horse people in your life? Want to support trail promotion and preservation? Ten Feet Tall, Still is her wonderful book about her very personal 70 year odyssey pursuing her childhood passion of horses, endurance riding and riding horses around the world. 100% of the profits from the sale of this book will be donated to the American Endurance Ride Conference Trails Committee and the Western States Trail Foundation Trails Committee for the purpose of trail promotion and preservation.

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## DAHA Fall Show

By Sidney Simpson and Meghan Johnson



Once again our fall show was a success. We are unique in creating a formal class A horse show that has a playful, social edge to it and are developing the reputation of being the friendliest, most fun show at Brookside Equestrian Park in Elk Grove! DAHA really knows how to combine the beauty and athleticism of the Arabian with whimsy and light-hearted fun.

In addition to the traditional events, the Fall Fling featured a doggie costume parades, ice-cream socials, and first time riders all getting little blue ribbons and prizes. With wide eyes and huge grins, each wee one received his/her first blue ribbon, a medal, some Halloween candy, and a tiny stuffed toy horse—a lovely way to initiate young riders to the world of showing.

The Fall Fling Show had 173 entries with 200 classes which included western pleasure, English pleasure, country, native costume, show hack, reining, sport horse and others. It was sheer delight to see lots of beautiful Arabians all in one place. Everything seemed to go very smoothly thanks to all the volunteers.

**We are looking for photos from the show for the annual slideshow at the Winter High Point Awards Banquet. Please email your photos to Amy Edwards at [agunnewards@mac.com](mailto:agunnewards@mac.com).**

## Cheyenne's Amazing Wonderful Cow Adventure

By Sidney Simpson

Also submitted to AHA Modern Arabian Magazine

What a wonderfully perfect day it was in so many ways. My "cow day" was finally here! There was such a hubbub of activity at the ranch. I think we had about 6 trailers going to the sorting--many big ones. As I arrived, I had butterflies in my stomach--nervous & excited--hard to tell which was which. I had packed a dinner to eat, but my stomach was much too unsettled to put anything in my mouth. I had no idea of what to expect from Cheyenne--how he would be.

As a child I had dreamed of having a horse--heck I used to pretend that I WAS the horse! It was not meant to be...not until many years later when at the age of 58, I wandered into a stable and inquired about lessons. Within about a year I bought Cheyenne, a son of Desperado V-- Sheila Varian's stunningly beautiful, multi-talented stallion. I was a beginning rider. Cheyenne was a finished show horse with many diverse talents. I had no idea of what lay ahead of me. He had a lot to teach me.

Now 6 years later, I am 64. Cheyenne and I are at a training facility where he is the only Arabian. My trainer, a skilled and gifted AQHA man, refers to Cheyenne as his little Ferrari. Many of his other clients take their horses to weekly cow sorting events, but Cheyenne had never been included. My trainer thought we didn't belong; that we would have a melt down, that it would ruin Cheyenne, etc. All of the negative stereotypes of wild, nutty Arabians colored his perceptions. I begged, I cajoled, and I negotiated. I told him that Debbie Compilli, Cheyenne's previous trainer, had told me that Cheyenne had done cows and liked it--that Cheyenne's dad, Desperado V, was known for his versatility and athleticism. At first, he quipped that that Cheyenne's cow experiences had been 9 years ago and meant nothing. Then finally he acquiesced, and I received permission to go--sort of like dispensation from the Pope. Now the day was here--the moment of truth. I wanted to do us proud.

Cheyenne ate part of his dinner and then we loaded up. We rode in a stock trailer with a mule. He loaded politely and with ease and behaved like a gentleman for the ride while the mule pawed and kicked the entire way. When we off loaded, my trainer rolled his eyes and said to those around him, "Look at him--he looks like he's going to a horse show!" I must say that Cheyenne did look like an expensive bottle of champagne at a beer bust. He is a stunning animal--flashy--with a long, flowing mane and tail and a satiny sheen to his coat--elegant.

Cheyenne was very etc. Cheyenne was very tall, very alert, very curious as to where he was, but also a good boy well behaved and respectful. Then I tied him to the trailer with some hay while I got my tack out. I have learned that the world can be crashing to an end, but if a horse has a hay bag, he will pretty much stand still and eat. Cheyenne would grab a mouthful of hay and pick his head up, glancing around while making continuous munching noises. I was still very nervous and had no idea of what to expect, although I was pleased that Cheyenne had not as yet had a melt down.

Then I tacked and we went to the arena. Cheyenne was the only Arabian among 30 or so roust--about quarter horses. I have a reputation for bling, and Cheyenne was tacked in a saddle with silver and tassels and a headstall and reins decorated with Austrian crystal. OK--needless to say, even I knew that we stood out and looked out of place. Every day is a parade as far as I am concerned. Actually, I don't have any "knock--about tack." I haven't been riding long enough to have any. So Cheyenne is always decked out as though we are going to a show.

I walked Cheyenne around and let him get a look at the cows. There were about 30 of us in the arena warming up, walking, trotting, and loping. Cheyenne was very full of himself--excited and fresh. This was not the little western-pleasure, trail-class, jog-trot, slow-lope boy that I am used to. He was chomping at the bit and energized. Once again, I was nervous with a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach. I realized that I clearly had a rocket in my pocket. I also realized that I had to cowgirl up and handle it if I ever wanted to be included with the cow horses again.



Sidney and Cheyenne sorting cows

Continued from page 4

So I mustered my confidence and rode in my very best "I'm-in-control-of-this-ride" form. Was I having fun?? No way-- I was nervous, stressed, and scared.

Then the clinic began. At first Rod, my trainer, who was also the clinician, demonstrated both the sorting behavior and the blocking behavior. Then we took turns sorting random pairs. I pretty much knew that no one wanted to ride with Cheyenne and me (Billy Crystal and "City Slicker" kept running through my head.) Each team did all 10 cows with no time constraint the first time. Rod stood at the side of the corral and shouted instructions to each rider, making comments to them about their horses and how they had done. Cheyenne and I stood at the edge of the sorting area and watch the first teams go through. Cheyenne was alert, focused, and well behaved--his perky Arabian ears, cocked forward, taking it all in. He seemed oddly relaxed while many others bounced off the wall and had to be loped and loped.

Then it was our turn. Cheyenne and I were given the task of sorting while the other rider blocked. From the moment we walked into the little cow area, I could sense that this was all going to be just fine. My nerves floated away. Cheyenne had a job, and he clearly knew what to do. Debbie Compilli's words resonated in my brain, "Cheyenne has done cows. He likes it. You're going to have fun."

Rod called off the number of the cow that we were to start with. I kept my eyes focused on the rump of that cow and let Cheyenne do his thing. He required minimal cueing and was responsive to every change in my body. He went after the cow in question with gusto--spinning, changing directions, loping off, stopping, walking, trotting, loping again--whatever was required--whatever I asked--no hot head here--not out of control or nutty, not for even a second. He knew how to do it and he was having a ball. As we drove the cows through, he would stop, chomp on his bit and wait for me to point him to the next one-- He was flat-out awesome. I left the arena with a huge, silly grin on my face, and I think Cheyenne had one too!

Rod was so complimentary. As we pushed in the last cow, he exclaimed to those around him "Now that is an extremely talented horse who knows what he is doing!"

Cheyenne was the quintessential professional--focused on the task at hand. Athletic, agile, skilled, respectful--he literally shone. Here he was--the pretty boy, the bling bling boy--clearly out-riding many of the rough and ready quarter horses.

His mama might dress him like a sissy, but he clearly "has cow" and does his job. Throughout the evening and even weeks later Cheyenne got so many compliments from so many people--ones I know and ones I don't--many wanting to know what breed he was.

They all said he did a fabulous job, how talented he was, was I coming back to the next sorting, etc. It was a picture-perfect evening--an adrenaline rush.

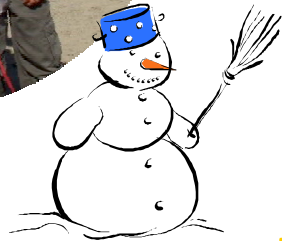
We got back to the ranch close to 11 that night--five trailers lined up on the driveway with busy, tired cowboys and cowgirls off-loading horses and tack. Cheyenne settled into his stall, where his dinner had patiently waited for him. I unloaded the rest of the trailer, picked the dirt that had hardened into a concrete like substance from his hooves, and blanketed him. I kissed him on his sweet little nose and said nighty night--the end to a perfectly wonderful cow-filled day. I swear I could hear Cheyenne say, "Don't let the pretty-boy face fool you...my mom may dress me funny, but I can clearly kick butt."

## DAHA at the Alamo Tree Lighting

DAHA will be loaning its white fiberglass Arabian horse "Whitie" to the Alamo Tree Lighting Ceremony to serve as part of Santa's sleigh from 5:30-8pm Sun. Dec 7 at the Andrew H. Young Park, Danville Blvd and Jackson Way. The free event will feature caroling, a visit from Santa Claus and a canned food and toy drive. This is a great opportunity to publicize DAHA in the local community.



<http://www.virtualhorses.com/graphics/christmashorsecliptart.htm>

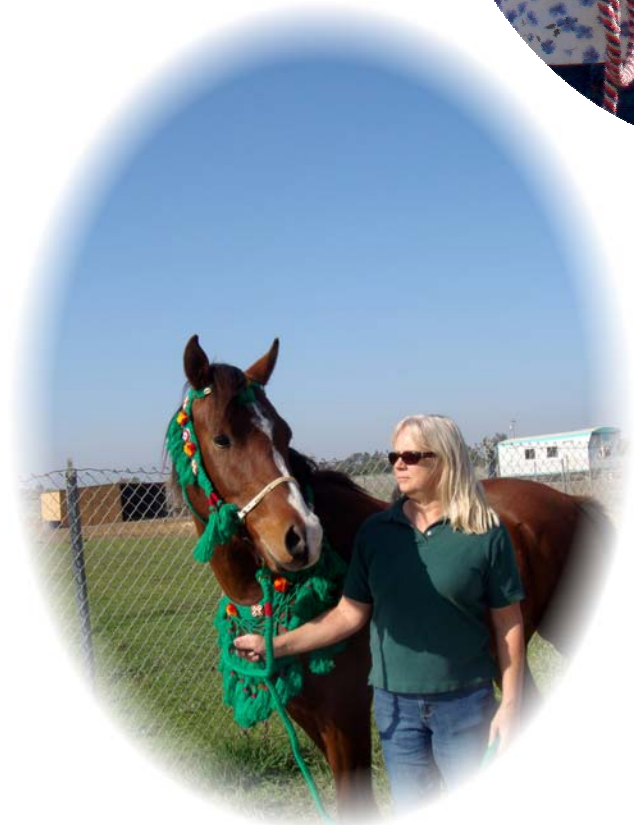


# DAHA Holiday Horses





# Still More Horses!!!





Chenin Blanc



Pati Cake+//



Tasha

# Family Arabian 2008



Breezy



Desert Sheik+



## *Diablo Arabian Horse Association*

*Is proud to present our annual*

### Winter Awards/High Point Dinner

*January 25, 2008*

#### Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall

3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549

**5:00 – 9:00p.m.**

**We will be presenting our annual Family Arabian Horse Award and holding a special presentation for all nominations.**

WANTED!!

Silent Auction Items!

Contact Sherry Pedder

For information:

Sherry Pedder

925-708-8848

Email: [sherry.pedder@yahoo.com](mailto:sherry.pedder@yahoo.com)