

DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association
www.diabloaha.org

Editors: Meghan Johnson
Sidney Simpson

Letter from the President

By Pat Hendershot

Dear Members,

Another Thanksgiving Day has passed.....and before we know it, Christmas will be upon us! This will be my last letter as DAHA President. It has been an interesting year, to say the least. At the December Board meeting, new officers will be elected. I do know that many exciting events are already in the works for the coming year. Horse shows, clinics, trail rides, participation in the local Horse Faire, hi point awards, etc. All suggestions for DAHA activities are welcome! DAHA's Fall show proved to be successful. Not as many horses as we budgeted for but a good number of entries considering the economy. Everyone had a great time and the weather was great. I visited with one of the judges, Debbie Reid, at the AHA Convention and she told me it was one of the nicest shows that she has judged. She loved the facility, and commented about the great group of volunteers and staff.

In November, Cindy Silvani-Lacey, Jill Mitchell and myself attended the AHA Convention in Vancouver, Canada as DAHA delegates. A smaller convention than usual. Our Convention reports will be available in the near future. Much of the information regarding the Convention can be seen on the AHA website. We had a very busy schedule of attending meetings, General Sessions etc. Since DAHA was nominated for 4 categories in the Club Excellence Awards, Cindy and I attended the President's Banquet to hear the results for the final awards. DAHA won in Breed Promotion and Communications. DAHA also won the overall Club of the Year award for the 2nd year in a row. Quite an accomplishment!!! Thanks to Meghan Johnson and Anne Wheeler for their hard work on the Club Excellence project. I feel that DAHA is so fortunate to have so many volunteers who give much of their time to make all of our events very successful. As our AHA Region 3 Director, Steve Freeman, said at the Banquet after the Club awards

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presentations....."You guys ROCK"! I agree all of you that work so hard and give so much time....you do ROCK!

Please plan to attend our Annual Membership and Hi Point Awards Banquet to be held on January 23rd, starting at 5pm. Plan to have a great evening with good food, great friends, and celebration! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Sincerely

Pat Hendershot
President



DAHA received an Excellence Award for Breed Promotion and another for Communication. Pictured here is Region III President Steve Freeman, DAHA President Pat Hendershot, DAHA Director Cindy Silvani-Lacey, Region III VP Pam Bingham and AHA President Lance Walter at the AHA Convention Banquet

DAHA Calendar of Events

Board of Directors Meeting

Dougherty Station, San Ramon
January 10 – 7:00 p.m.

Budget Meeting

Dougherty Station, San Ramon
TBA – 7:00p.m.

DAHA Membership and High Point Banquet

Lafayette Veteran Memorial Hall
Sunday, January 22, 2012, 5p.m. – 10p.m

Board of Directors Meeting

Dougherty Station, San Ramon
February 7 – 7:00 p.m.

WANTED!! Silent/Raffle Auction Raffle Items!

Contact Debbie and Nancy Bartman
Waycoolzee@aol.com

All About Pets

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



New DAHA Board Members!

After counting the ballots from the October 31, 2011 election deadline, DAHA's new board members include Jill Mitchell, Mitch Sperte, Dr. Cory Soltau and Coke Swift for two year terms. Dr. Cory Soltau will serve as 2012 President, Jill Mitchell will be Vice President, Amy Edwards, Treasurer and Cindy Silvani-Lacey 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, trail/riding clinics, speaker series 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.

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 5p.m. – 10p.m
Veteran's Memorial Building
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

ALL ABOUT PETS

Pet Sitting

Dog Walking

Serving Alamo, Danville, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek

Lynne (925) 285-7140

Bonded & Insured

DAHA has a Facebook Page!

By Tracey Seals

Hey DAHA Friends and Fans,

Diablo Arabian Horse Association now has a Facebook page! Check it out, click on the "Like" button and feel free to visit, post pictures, view pictures or simply stay up to date on DAHA Happenings! Check it out at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Diablo-Arabian-Horse-Association-DAHA/213237038730847>



Follow

on:



AHA Annual Convention 2011

This year's AHA annual convention was held at Vancouver, BC Canada from November 16 - 19, 2011. President Pat Hendershot, Jill Mitchell and Cindy Silvani-Lacey 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. One of the highlights was that DAHA won Club of the Year, best communication and breed promotion for the second year in a row! It was announced that the next AHA Convention will be in Denver.



Ten Feet Tall, Still

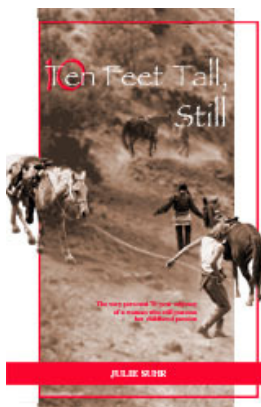
Looking for the perfect holiday gift for the special horse people in your life? Want to support trail promotion and preservation? Ten Feet Tall, Still is her wonderful book about her very personal 70 year odyssey pursuing her childhood passion of horses, endurance riding and riding horses around the 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.

TO ORDER: \$24.95 (+ \$5 shipping) MasterCard - VISA
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Phone: (831) 335-5948 FAX: (831) 335-5933

www.endurance.net/juliesuhr marinera@aol.com



DAHA Fall Show Observations

By Tracey Seals

DAHA's Fall Fling was again a resounding success! For those of you who were able to participate and compete, you know that the weather could not have been more beautiful as were our Arabs and Half-Arabs. We had 244 classes and over 190 horses this year and a record 22 post entries. We had such a good turn-out, Coke Swift was faced with the challenge of adding more stalls at the last minute - which she did with the utmost aplomb! The show started off with the Taco Fest on Friday night which was delicious and as the evening wore on and the sun set, there were those dedicated trainers and riders who were practicing and polishing late into the night.

Saturday and Sunday no less magnificent, and the classes proceeded without a hitch thanks to the hard work of the staff and volunteers. We saw stunning equitation, beautiful trots and lopes, fantastic effort in the trail classes and wonderful form in the hand gallop. Whether young or old, the horses and riders put forth their very best effort and there were lots of smiles to be found. And let's not overlook the importance of DAHA's traditional Spaghetti Feed on Saturday night. There were lots of empty plates and full tummies which is always a good thing!

Whether you were able to ride in the show or had a loved-one in the show, the most important aspect to take in was the bond between our Arabs/Half-Arabs and their human partners. The team-work, commitment and dedication was as evident in the barn as it was in the practice and show arenas. There were horse kisses, sweet nuzzles and TLC to be seen in every direction. For all of us who love our Arabs/Half-Arabs, we are so lucky to share this quality time with them and thank our equine friends for their unconditional love and endless patience. It's the greatest gift of all.



AHA Club Excellence Award

By Meghan Johnson

One of the AHA member awards is the Club Excellence Award. Annual awards are presented in four areas: breed promotion/community involvement, membership recruitment/retention, communication and club projects. DAHA submitted nominations for each area to recognize all the diverse and special things the club does throughout the year. DAHA was informed in October that we were a finalist in all four categories: breed promotion, club projects communication and membership recruitment/retention. The winners were announced at the November annual convention in Canada and **DAHA won Club of the Year, Best Communication and Breed Promotion for the second year in a row!** The winning club in each category receives \$500 and the Club of the Year is chosen from the category winners and an additional \$500 is presented for that honor. We are already planning our Club Excellence nominations for this coming year!

DAHA Website Classifieds Ads

A FREE SERVICE FOR OUR MEMBERS--DAHA members can post ads free on our DAHA website for businesses, horses for sale, training, stallion services, lessons, boarding services, etc. That service is complimentary only to our members. We have a webpage for classified ads and an area at the bottom of our home page with member businesses. All we need to post an ad is a jpeg file of the ad or a jpeg formatted photo and any text you want to include. If you have a website, include that as well. This is a way for us to network and support each other. Just contact Meghan Johnson with your information at MZara75030@aol.com or 925-708-8571. See our ads on page 8.

DAHA Meeting Minutes

Ever wonder what the DAHA Board of Directors discusses each month? You can now read the monthly DAHA meeting minutes on the DAHA website. Learn about the inter-workings of DAHA! Check it out:

<http://www.diabloaha.org/meetingminutes.html>

Classified Ads

KHS Romance



4 year old Arabian Mare. Khutty Sark daughter, half sister to U.S. and Canadian Nationals Hunter Pleasure Top Ten.

Well started under saddle, GREAT potential for Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure and Endurance. Extremely long stride, kid-friendly, quiet, willing and a good attitude.

Highly trainable, excellent potential. Asking \$5,000.

Call Tracey Seals for more information or to schedule a time to meet Romance! 415-793-1837

TW Shaddos



TW Shaddos Image Bay gelding foaled 2009. Sired by National Champion Shaddofax and out of the JK Amadeus daughter, TW A Melody. Shaddo is very tall, smart, loves people and attention. He needs a home where he can be someone's special horse. We love his personality and his eagerness to please. Shaddo is AHA Sweepstakes nominated. Asking \$2000 but we are very negotiable if we can find the "perfect home" for Shaddo! Contact: Carl or Pat

Hendershot 209-835-5181 or twarab@sbcglobal.net

Interested in posting your ad on our website or in our newsletter? Contact Meghan Johnson at MZara75030@aol.com

Remembering Aron Moon+//

With human partner Mike Tracy, Aaron Moon+// was awarded the 2007 Pard'ners Award. The 15'1-hand half-Arabian gelding born in 1983 actively competed for more than 20 years. His first ride was back in 1989, and he finished his endurance career at the Fireworks 50 on August 7, 2010. Moon's total career mileage stands at 6,325 endurance miles, including 15 100-mile rides (and 50 limited distance miles).

By Mike Tracy – Reprinted with permission from the American Endurance Ride Conference, www.aerc.org, 866-271-2372.

Moon died on September 5, 2010. His semi-retirement didn't last long. I was doing a 20-mile NATRC ride at Calero County Park in San Jose, California. He had a perfect vet score all day long. He was about two miles from the finish line and he took off at a fast trot. I didn't think too much about it, because he always picked up the pace when got close to the finish line. When he passed three horses and started to gallop up a hill, I wanted to jump off. In NATRC you can't advance the horse on the ground. He was checked by a vet 30 minutes before he went down. If it wasn't for Julie Suhr's donation to the Center for Equine Health, I would be a real basket case. [Julie made a donation in Moon's memory to the UC Davis Center for Equine Health, and Gregory L. Ferraro, DVM, the center's director, acknowledged the donation with a letter which said, in part, "Gifts like Juliette's make it possible for us to continue to support equine research designed to improve the health and welfare of horses. Such a gift in the name of your horse should be considered a fitting tribute to your wonderful horse."] Once I got the letter of her donation in Moon's name, I called up Dr. Ferraro at UC Davis. He said the veins get thin with age. He said there is no way to predict when they could give out. I know I'm old [hardly, Mike is just 61!]. Moon didn't know he was 27-1/2. He ran up that last hill like he was a 5-year-old horse. In the Bible at Ecclesiastes 3:2, it says, "There is a time for birth and a time for death." I was just hoping that Moon would have a little more time. I guess it's something you just can't buy. The only things humans can do is make a good name with God. And when our time comes, hope for a resurrection in a better world (John 5:28-29; Psalms 37:9-11). It should be noted how nice endurance people are. Judith Etheridge and Kenneth Snetsinger also donated money, to the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, in Moon's name.

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A Note of Appreciation

by Kay Lieberknecht – reprinted from The Leadline, NATRC Region 1 Newsletter

People were so wonderful in how they handled the sudden death of Mike Tracy's horse just over two miles from the finish of the Harvey Bear ride. Riders got needed help or stayed with Mike, and Doug, Mike's local friend, came by at camp and gave him great support. The park rangers were professional, generous and comforting in their manner as they helped Mike prepare to take his horse's body back home, as he wished. The vet for the ride was sensitive, clear and thorough in her explanations, offering reassurance that when an older horse dies suddenly and their gums are white it is almost certainly a rupture of an aneurysm (weakness) in the aorta as it goes through the abdomen. At the second P&R, I was touched by Mike's affection toward his horse, watching him kiss him on the eyelid as his pulse was being checked. I had joked that the pulse would have been 12 instead of 10 if Mike hadn't given those two distracting kisses. I'm so glad I got to notice their love . . . Isn't it the case that when death takes someone we love it seems like they weren't quite at the finish line?



Aron Moon+//

Walnut Creek Twilight Parade Amigos de Anza Historical Riders & Arabian Horse Drill Team

By Anne Wheeler

Saturday, September 17, 2011, on a beautiful, late summer evening, haulers for Amigos de Anza pulled 4 trailers, carrying 9 horses, into the Department of Motor Vehicles parking lot in Walnut Creek to take part in the City of Walnut Creek Twilight Parade. Nine riders scrambled to tack up their horses and make themselves "Parade Ready" for the thousands of spectators waiting along Main Street for the parade.

The Anza National Historic Trail and the Arabian breed were well represented. Leading the parade were banner carriers Mikayla Hudson and Jamie Seals wearing Anza Trail T-shirts and hats. They were followed by color guard riders Rachel Hannigan, Kana Sumyoshi and Rachel Thompson bearing the American, Spanish & Mexican flags. At both of the reviewing stands the history of the Anza Trail was read. In front of the main reviewing stand, the color guard performed a pinwheel maneuver, with their flags flapping in the breeze. The crowd clapped and cheered.

The announcer remarked, "Look at those gorgeous Arabian horses." Those gorgeous Arabian horses were Golden Veil, Shadow & Taylor Made. Prancing, waving & showing off his considerable equestrian skills, Pantaleon Vasquez rode next as Juan Bautista de Anza. His feisty, white Arabian, Skandalous, wowed the crowd with his controlled yet spirited presence. To Panta's back right rode Dave Gordon as Lt. Moraga riding Sage. To his left rode Diana Brucha dressed in a traditional Spanish riding outfit on her young Arabian, Eichon.



The group was well protected followed by three soldados (Spanish soldiers), Stu Christopherson, Arielle Goodfriend, and Cecily Sotomayor. They were dressed in the traditional 1700's navy shirts with red cuffs & collars, quera (poor man's armor-----layers of cow hides), and botas (poor man's boots-----pieces of hide lashed around the calf and upper boot with rawhide laces). Their trusty steeds were Eagle, Radiant & Ruby.

Last in the Amigos unit, but not least, were the pooper scoopers, Anne Marie Quirk and Meghan Self. As always, they were well received by the crowd, and appreciated by the walking bands and cheerleader units that followed the Amigos.

Special thanks go to Claire Thompson and Rebecca Mendnez for being the walkers on the ground to assist the riders in the event of any surprises. Nancy Dupont and Anne Wheeler walked beside the unit to keep overly interested parade watchers away from the riders & horses. Thanks go to the haulers, Lucia Benson, Stu Christopherson, Nancy Dupont & Dave Gordon. Without dedicated haulers, equestrian events can't happen.

After the parade, as darkness began to fall, the unit wove through the back streets of Walnut Creek back to the DMV. The Amigos de Anza equestrians provided dramatic visual reminder of the Anza Trail's significance in the history of the Bay Area, and exposure to the versatility and beauty of the Arabian breed, to thousands of spectators.

Horse Riding in Spain

By Meghan Johnson

As printed in the June 2011 DAHA newsletter, I had just booked my equestrian vacation to Spain, specifically the mountains a few hours north of Barcelona with my equestrian significant other. We left for Barcelona on September 2, 2011. It was hard to find room in my suitcase for all of my riding gear (my helmet and equivisor take up a lot of space)! From past experience, I know to take at least three pairs of riding breeches for the seven days on horseback. I also advised my significant other/equestrian vacation newbie on what to pack. This was a vacation that I had been looking forward to since my last equestrian vacation in 2008 to Southwestern France. My significant other, while being a lifelong rider who rides 5-6 days a week in three day eventing, had a lot of anxiety about the vacation: what kind of horse am I going to ride? Who are we going to ride with? Will there be other men on the trip? Will the other riders know how to ride or will they slow us down? I reassured him that the rides I had been on in the past had at least a couple of men, I hadn't experienced issues with the other riders, in fact most of the time we were all good friends within a few hours since we had horses in common. I had always gotten a good horse to ride, not some old nag. After spending two days in Barcelona (and losing some luggage), we went back to the airport to pick up the lost luggage, meet up with our fellow tour riders and got picked up from the airport to be taken to a ranch in the mountains. We spent the shuttle ride to the ranch meeting our fellow tour riders. There was a young couple from Florida, an older retired couple from Oregon, a middle aged German man as well as a couple of German women and a Dutch woman. Our tour ended up consisting of five men and three women. When we got to the ranch we met the staff and had a chance to freshen up in our very nicely appointed rooms with balconies and views of the mountains and horses. Dinner was excellent Catalan country cuisine with lots of wine. Each tour group was interviewed by a staff member to find out which horse would be best for each rider. The next morning, after a simple Catalan breakfast of café con leche, bread, cured meats, cheese and yogurt, we hiked down to the stable to meet our Andalusian and Andalusian cross horses. We also met our fearless leader and trail guide Luis who looked just like a dark haired Spanish version of Matthew McConaughey! Our guide introduced us to the horses, talked to us about the tack and gave us instructions to tack up. I had a beautiful grey Andalusian gelding named Fosco with the stereotypical long mane and tail and a former guide's horse.

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The saddles were big English style trail saddles with thick square saddle pads and roomy leather saddle bags to store our spare horse shoes, brush, hoof pick, canteen and picnic lunch. We rode about 6 hours a day, with an hour and a half picnic lunch with siesta. We mostly rode through agricultural country roads and on trails through the mountains and forests. There were long trots, vigorous canters (reminiscent of hand gallops) and almost daily hikes while leading our horses through rocky mountain terrain. We were on a progressive ride, meaning we rode from place to place staying in different hotels and country inns almost every night. Our guide was very knowledgeable about the area and horses, he seemed to really enjoy our company. We got to know our fellow riders quite well over 6 hour rides each day/ 120 miles that week as well as during meals. We all learned a few German swear words along the way, some our favorite vacation terms were "low branches" to warn others and "cava!" when someone made a mistake or held up the group. We all had so much fun together that when we returned to Barcelona we hung out together over dinner and wine for our last evening before returning home. We also made plans to have a reunion next year on a Loire Valley ride. The best thing was my significant other is hooked on riding vacations! Seeing the world through the ears of a horse....priceless!

Author Note: Interested in an Equestrian Vacation? Check out www.hiddentrails.com and www.equitours.com



Me and my noble steed Fosco and my fellow ride mates riding through a meadow in Northern Spain

Tevis = Arabians

By Jenni Smith

When I explain about the Tevis Cup (aka the Western States Ride) to a non-horse person, they are completely amazed, usually more so at the fact that we cover the 100 miles in 24 hours than anything else. I don't think it occurs to most of them that someone might intentionally be outside at night, let alone riding along on a horse. Then, of course, they ask me if my butt is really sore afterward. That's where I just smile and say "not really" and change the subject.

Horse people are a lot more fun to talk to about Tevis. They understand almost the whole idea, but most of them get hung up on the fact that I'm riding an Arabian on these crazy-dangerous trails. If they have no experience with the breed, they believe that it must be too hot and high strung to be a good trail horse.

So not true, as you – fair reader – know well.

I would actually submit that an endurance horse – most of them either pure or a large part Arabian– is one of the most level-headed, rideable horses you'll find. We expose them to so much variety and frequently ask them for significant displays of bravery; they become very reliable and dependable. Even in extremely sticky situations – like riding the Tevis trail.

I've completed Tevis six times now on five different Arabians (all purebred, actually). And each of them has carried me honestly and valiantly for 100 miles with no major (knock on wood) mishaps. Some were old campaigners; some were green as the grass in May. But they placed each hoof carefully (most of the time) in front of the other and moved me down the trail for hours on end.

They willingly scrambled up Cougar Rock, following my frantic directions as they lunged up the face of the rock the size of a three-story building. And they waded into the American River up to their chests and forded across by the light of the moon.

Physical capabilities clearly make the Arabian well-suited for this sport, but I think there is also an element of heart, of courage, of chutzpah (for lack of another word that quite says it right) that allows them to be so much fun to ride as they excel in so many equestrian pursuits. I wouldn't trade them for anything.

Lower Right Photo: "Shadow Climbing Squaw" shows me and Bey Shadow BL coming up to Squaw Valley's High Camp in 2003. We finished 8th.



"Cougar Rock on Tosca" shows me going over Cougar Rock (surprisingly :) on Tosca BL in 2004. We finished 36th, it was her first Tevis and she was my project horse at the time.



"Jenni and Bear Tevis Pose" shows me with my mount from this year, BA Bearcat. We finished 16th.



DAHA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BANQUET**SUNDAY JANUARY 22, 2012**

Come join your family and friends for an evening of fun, awards, silent auction, raffle and a slide show of participants in the DAHA HIGH POINT PROGRAM as well as the FAMILY ARABIAN OF THE YEAR!

**LAFAYETTE VETERANS MEMORIAL
3780 MT. DIABLO BLVD. LAFAYETTE, CALIFORNIA**

5:00 SOCIAL HOUR (NO HOST BAR)

6:00 DINNER & WINE

AWARDS FOLLOWING DINNER

Catered by: "CLASSIC CATERING OF PLEASANT HILL"

Reserve your own special table for 8: send in a check with the names of all your guests for Reserved Seating (only available with advanced reservations) Please send pictures for the slide show to Amy Edwards agunnedwards@mac.com

ADULTS.....\$35.00

CHILDREN 17 & UNDER\$22.00

RSVP BY: FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2012

SEND ALL CHECKS FOR RESERVATIONS BY JANUARY 13th TO:

Debbie Compilli 7220 Johnston Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588

TICKETS AT THE DOOR:

ADULTS...\$50.00

CHILDREN 17 & UNDER.....\$30.00

Silent Auction donations please contact: Debbie Bartman waycoolzee@aol.com or Nancy Bartman nbartman@astound.net by January 14, 2011