

# DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

## DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association  
www.diabloaha.org

Editor: Meghan Johnson &

### Letter from the President

By Dr. Cory Soltau D.V.M.

Dear Members,

With Christmas just around the corner, I thought I'd spare you a lengthy President's message in favor of a "Power Point"-style presentation of what's been happening and what lies ahead for DAHA. Convention: So many great things happened this year- just ask one of your DAHA delegates -- Cindy Silvani, Pat Hendershot, Mitch Sperte and yours truly for a rundown of what went on.

- Our very own former DAHA President, Cynthia Richardson, was elected AHA President! Together with our new VP, Nancy Harvey, returning Executive Board members Bob Fauls and Howard Pike, along with our Region 3 Director, Steve Freeman, I can assure you of some very positive changes for the Arabian community in the near future.
  - Another very big Highlight -- The 2013 President of the Arabian Horse Youth Association is Tori Oto... AND Camille Waechter... the 2012 Youth of the Year. Both young ladies are Diablo AHA youth members, and I believe this is the first time in history that both the President and the Youth of the Year are both from the same Region let alone the same club. We are so proud of them. Let them remind us that the future of the Arabian horse industry belongs to the Youth ... and we should feel confident that we are in their capable hands.
  - Our own Diablo AHA Elections of 2013 Officers: President - Cory Soltau; Vice President - Jill Mitchell. I have appointed Cindy Silvani to serve as Secretary and Donna Bolla as Treasurer. Thank you Cindy and Donna for accepting these important positions.
  - The Diablo AHA Annual Winter Banquet will be held January 27, 2013. Make sure you reserve the date for our most popular social event of the year. It's a great opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, find treasures at the Arabian Silent Bid Auction, win prizes, and enjoy wonderful food and wine.
- Also, note that we have moved to a new location: The Shadelands Art Center, 111 North Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek (just off Ygnacio Valley Rd) Starts at 5:00 with the Famous Jim Pedder Social Hour... You're gonna love it!
  - One last FYI: Our Horse Show Committee is busy putting together the details for the Spring Show. Even though our show is rated one of the top Class A Shows in the country, we are always looking for new, fresh ideas to keep it that way. Please don't think you have to leave it up to our Show Committee... It's YOUR SHOW and we value your input!

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Best of all, just come and enjoy and celebrate the reason we are all here, the Arabian horse! Just an FYI, all our members should have received a "very" yellow invitation in the mail. Please let us know how many tables we can reserve for you ASAP to make sure we order enough wine! Just kidding...

OK, OK ... Enough is Enough. Now go out there and have a great holiday, count your blessings, and enjoy your family who are friends and your friends who are family.... And BUY ANOTHER ARABIAN! See you all in 2013!

Cory

## DAHA Calendar of Events

### Board of Directors Meeting

Dougherty Station, San Ramon  
January 8 – 7:00 p.m.

### Budget Meeting

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

### DAHA Membership and High Point Banquet

Shadelands Center, Ygnacio Valley Rd  
Walnut Creek, CA  
Sunday, January 27, 2013

### Board of Directors Meeting

Dougherty Station, San Ramon  
February 5 – 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.



### ALL ABOUT PETS

Pet Sitting

Dog Walking

Serving Alamo, Danville, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek

Lynne (925) 285-7140

Bonded & Insured

## Did you know...?

DAHA offers free advertising of Arabian events and news for DAHA members through the DAHA newsletter, website and e-blasts! This is a great way to promote the Arabian breed as well as our DAHA members' equine businesses to our 190 members. Please contact Tracey Seals or Meghan Johnson. This service is free for members only.

## 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 27, 2013, 5p.m. – 10p.m  
Shadelands Center  
Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek



If the thought of an open trail and distance riding intrigues you, contact the [American Endurance Ride Conference](#) for their free information packet.

It tells it all.

[aerc@foothill.net](mailto:aerc@foothill.net) or [www.aerc.org](http://www.aerc.org) or 866-271-2372

## AHA Annual Convention 2012

This year's AHA annual convention was held at Denver, CO from November 14 - 17, 2012. President Cory Soltou, Pat Hendershot, Mitch Sperte 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. 60 Resolutions were brought to be voted on by the delegates, 54 were presented and 44 were approved. Former DAHA President Cynthia Richardson was elected as AHA President in a big upset. Nancy Harvey from Region III was elected AHA Vice President. For more info please see the [Arabian Horse Global Article](#). One of the highlights was that DAHA won Club of the Year and breed promotion for the third year in a row! AHA Youth of the Year is our own Tori Oto! Congratulations Tori! Here is an excerpt of AHA award presentation: "As you can see, the pool of candidates this year was exceptional. However, one individual clearly distinguished herself in terms of her passion for the Arabian breed and her extraordinary contributions to her community. This bright young star of Region 3 inspired the selection committee. She is the current AHYA Vice President and served as Vice Director for her Region and Chaired the Youth Nationals Activities Committee for 2 years. As an active member of her local and regional clubs, she led a highly successful youth fundraising effort that considerably surpassed previous years. An accomplished horsewoman, her show record includes numerous regional and national achievements in hunter and English pleasure. Still, she cites an achievement at the 2012 AHYA Convention as her proudest moment: being elected Vice President by her peers. She also has pursued excellence in education and civil service. Not only is her GPA impressive, she is involved in Model United Nations and Youth and Government Club at her school. She held an 8-month internship with Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner during her sophomore year and is an active member of the Walnut Creek Youth Action Council, a community service organization. Her combination of equine knowledge, skills, demonstrated leadership, and philanthropic endeavors set our 2012 Youth of the Year apart. In recognition of her achievement, she will be awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Arabian Horse Youth Association. We are honored to have her and her parents here with us today to accept the Youth of the Year perpetual trophy in person. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in heartily congratulating our much-deserved Youth of the Year, from Moraga, Calif., Victoria Oto." (<http://www.arabianhorses.org/youth/contests/youthoftheyear.asp>)

## DAHA Fall Show Observations

By Tracey Seals

One of my favorite ways to end a season of Horse Showing is by participating in the Diablo Arabian Horse Association (DAHA) Fall Fling Show at Brookside, and this year was no exception! Mother Nature showed up in all her glory to provide us with beautiful sun-shiny days...and a lot of heat. Thank you to Brookside for that lovely pool in which we can all take a moment to refresh ourselves in between riding and showing our beautiful Arabians and Half-Arabians. Sun and heat aside, there was a great turn out at the show - our Arabs and Half-Arabs did not disappoint in their performances and beauty. DAHA had 175 horses entered in 225 classes over the course of the 3 days. We had English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, English Show Hack, Side Saddle, Native Costume, Horsemanship, Showmanship, Reining, Sport Horse and Trail. Beautiful all of them, the crowds went wild with each class. In addition to watching our beautiful horses showcase their skills and expertise, there was plenty of fun to be had at the Mexican Fiesta Friday, the Ice Cream Social on Saturday afternoon and of course.... the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday night is always a hit. The vendors also enhanced the experience with their wares and might have saved a rider or two by have a "spare this" or "spare that" on hand. There is a bittersweetness that rolls around about Sunday afternoon at DAHA Fall Fling. The sweetness of knowing how lucky we all are to share our lives and a sport with our much loved Arabian horses, and a tinge of sadness that another year of horse showing is coming to an end. As we pack up our trucks and trailers and head off home, we can all thank our lucky stars for the fun, camaraderie, companionship and experiences DAHA provides to us by sponsoring such a great show. Thank you DAHA, see you at the spring show in May. Have a great winter everybody!



Photo by Brookside Equestrian Park



## 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 November 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 and **DAHA won Club of the Year and Best Breed Promotion for the third 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](mailto:MZara75030@aol.com) or 925-708-8571. See our ads on page 8.

## ...But it wasn't the horse's fault!

The Center for Equine Health at University of California at Davis, CA has an Endowment Fund, under the direction of Dr. Gregory Ferraro, for research in exercise related cardio-pulmonary and metabolic disorders of the long distance horse. All profits from the sale of Julie Suhr's book **...but it wasn't the horse's fault!** go to this fund. If you need some holiday gift suggestions, go to [www.marinerpublishing.com](http://www.marinerpublishing.com) and download the order form there.

## Classified Ads

### SH Legacy Ofstone+

AHR\*528058

"Stoney" is a beautiful gelding by Blackstone Bey standing at about 15.3hh and definitely stands out in the ring. He has been successful in Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, and Showmanship. He is sweet, versatile and is a sad sale. Please email for more photos! Here are some of his wins: Region IV Champion – Western Pleasure AT; Reserve Champion – Western Pleasure Select, Western Pleasure AT, Canadian National Top 10– Horsemanship JTR 14–17, Showmanship 14–17, Region III Championships Champion – Hunter Pleasure AATR, Hunter Pleasure Select; Top 5 – Hunter Pleasure JRT 14–17. **Price Reduction**, now asking \$6,000

Contact: Claudia Thompson

(925) 788-5304 or [claudyat@pacbell.net](mailto:claudyat@pacbell.net)



Interested in posting your ad on our website or in our newsletter? Contact Meghan Johnson at [MZara75030@aol.com](mailto:MZara75030@aol.com)

## Where Have All the Arabians Gone?

By Bruce M. Johnson – Reprinted with permission from the Arabian Horse World, [www.arabianhorseworld.com](http://www.arabianhorseworld.com), August 2012 and 2012 Bruce Johnson and Institute for the Desert Arabian Horse.

*The number of Desert Arabians registered in the US continues to decline rapidly. In 2005, Bruce Johnson presented "Looking Outside the Preservation Tent: Examining the Health of Arabian Horse Breeding in the US" at the Institute's first symposium on preservation. Since then, matters have declined further. Here Bruce updates and expands on that presentation, offering recommendations to improve the outlook for the future. In addition to being the Vice Chair of the Institute, Bruce Johnson is a member of the AHA Registration Commission, Trustee of the Arabian Horse Owners Foundation, and past Director-at-Large of the Purebred Arabian Trust, with long-time involvement in show management in Region 7. He and his wife Diana have bred horses at their Bint Al Bahr farm in Buckeye, Arizona, for more than 30 years.*

Where have all the flowers gone?

Long time passing.

Where have all the flowers gone?

Long time ago

Where have all the flowers gone?

Girls have picked them every one

When will they ever learn?

When will they ever learn?

© 1961 Pete Seeger

Those of us who recall this ballad may well now ask, "Where have all the Arabians gone?" as we continue to read about declines in registrations and show entrees. What is the situation? How is the Desert Arabian doing? What lies ahead, and what can we do to improve the prospects for the future?

### Historical Perspective

Registrations of Arabian horses began in 1908 with the establishment of the Arabian Horse Club of America (later the Arabian Horse Registry of America). Horses were registered by year of birth. Prior to 1908, fewer than 10 foals had been born each year. That number grew to more than 20 by 1925, and then reached 75 by 1932. Breeding by Albert Harris, Henry Babson, J M Dickinson, Roger Selby, W K Kellogg, and many others drove the annual number of foals into triple digits in 1936 and reached 398 in 1945. The numbers continued to climb in most years after World War II, hitting 1,097 in 1956 and 2,084 in 1960.

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Breeding grew rapidly for the next 25 years. There were so many foals that statistics were kept by year registered rather than birth year. In 1985 there were just over 30,000 horses registered. This pinnacle was followed by tax law changes in 1986, with an impact that is well known. Those who had been breeding as investment or using their interests in Arabian horses to offset other income left the breed in droves. I recall classified advertisements in the Phoenix newspapers in the mid-1980s offering colts at one of the most famous Arabian breeding farms in Scottsdale for \$400 each. No mention was made of the registration papers. There was an immediate and sharp decline in the value of most Arabian horses to the end of the decade. One advantage was that the price of very good horses also dropped, allowing breeders to acquire horses that they could only dream about in the early- to mid-1980s. An exception was straight Egyptian horses, which carried their value into the mid-to late 1990s as demand continued to exceed supply. The Arabian Horse Registry of America (AHRA) addressed the declining registration rate by initiating new marketing and outreach programs like Discovery Farms, Arabian Horse America, Mentor programs, and Online Classified Advertising (Marketplace). However, these attempts have not turned the tide. AHRA and the International Arabian Horse Association (IAHA) merged in April 2003 in an attempt to develop a single breed organization to promote the Arabian horse.

### Stepping back to look at the Big Picture – Arabians Compared to Other Breeds

The drop following the 1986 tax law change initially affected all breeds, but the Quarter Horse and Paint breeds significantly expanded market share and registrations during economic boom of the 1990. In comparison, Arabian registrations began a long, continuing decline.

### Behind the AHA Membership Numbers

Various types of AHA memberships all continue to slide. Arabian memberships declined before and after the merger. There are several reasons. Before the merger, many Arabian owners were members of both the AHRA and IAHA. At the time of the merger, these members were counted twice as part of both organizations, and some counted this way for several years because they had multi-year memberships in one or the other organization. Also, many members had multiple full IAHA memberships with different clubs to allow participation in futurities, etc. Recently, individuals have been trimming back based on the current economic situation, getting out of showing the horses, etc.

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A survey of former members conducted in 2009 revealed a primary reason members left AHA was that they “did not show” and saw no other reason to maintain their memberships.

### **Behind the 2011 Registration Decline**

In 2011, 3,939 purebred Arabian horses were registered, down almost 20 percent from the previous year’s 4,912. Half-Arabian registrations fell even further, with 1,162 representing 34 percent fewer registrations than the previous year. The decline in 2011 was not due solely to breeders reducing the number of mares bred in 2010. The new Horse Registration System (HRS) was implemented in April 2011. Testing and problem correction prevented Registry Services from entering registrations through the last 3 weeks of April. The system proved to be two to three times slower than the old system. Then it was determined that the system had the unintended consequence of allowing only two Registry Service Representatives to work on the system at the same time. The responsible programming error was found and corrected in June. Despite the best efforts of the AHA Information Technology staff throughout the remainder of 2011 and into 2012, the new HRS program is still two to three times slower than the previous system. Registry Services Representatives have less time to call or write members, urging them to send in names, obtain required signatures and complete payments to close the registration process on the increasing number of pending registrations. HRS is not, however, the cause of a single bad year; 2011 was the tenth year out of the past eleven where the number of Arabian horses registered was fewer than the previous year. The declines have been consistent, in good economic times and bad.

### **Ripple Effects**

Regional and Class A (now classified as USEF recognized) show participation numbers and number of USEF-recognized shows have declined throughout the first decade of the 21st century. This decline can easily be seen in the total number of horses entered in the 18 Regional Championships since 1998. Participation in the IAHA Regional Championship Horse shows was stable during the late 1990s and early 2000s. After the 2003 merger that created AHA, participation increased to a peak of 10,576 but has steadily declined since then. In 2011, only 7,785 horses participated in the Regional Championships, a decline of 26% in 7 years. The rate of this decline has been relatively steady since 2006.

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The number of horses entered at the US National horse show has varied during the past 10 years, ranging from a high of 2,219 in 2002 to a low of 1,657 in 2010, and recovering to 1,805 in 2011. There are no distinct trends that can be ascertained in the Nationals entries. Is there a causal relationship between the decline in show entrees and number of registrations – or is it just coincidence? Or is the poor economic environment of the past 4 years the primary factor? Trainers have reported that they are looking harder for “good” horses to put into training. Economic conditions in various areas of the country have declined to the point that some trainers and owners have left the Arabian breed and moved to other breeds or have left the equine business altogether. The average age of horses competing at Youth Nationals is 10 years and six months. Many of these horses showed formerly at the US or Canadian Nationals but are continuing their careers by serving as mounts for today’s youth at the highest level of their competition in Albuquerque each year. Other impacts have been to the number of AHA staff. At the time of the merger of AHRA and IAHA in April 2003, the combined staff totaled about 90 people. In the past 9 years, this number has been reduced to less than 45.

### **Desert Arabian Registrations**

AHA has agreements with three organizations, the Pyramid Society, Al Khamsa, Inc., and Shekyh Obeyd Foundation, to show pedigree-based eligibility of horses on DataSource. The Institute for the Desert Arabian horse collectively refers to these as Desert Arabians, and tracks these unique gene pools within the broader breed. There has been a decline of foal registration for each of the last 11 years in both the total population of Arabians as well as the Desert Arabian horses. The total number of horses shown for 2011 does not correspond to the 3939 horses registered in 2011. Because horses can be registered at any age, it is likely that the overall numbers for both the total and Desert Arabian subset will increase somewhat in the coming years, especially for 2010 and 2011. While the number of foals registered each year is obviously declining, the percentage of Desert Arabians foals compared to total number of foals has increased in most of the last 11 years (continuing a general trend since 1985 when Desert Arabians were about two percent of registrations).

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The primary reason is that straight Egyptian horses, which now comprise about 90 percent of the Desert Arabian population, have declined at a much slower rate than the rest of the breed. In contrast, the number of Desert Arabians in various bloodline groups other than straight Egyptian, such as Davenport, Blue Star/Blue List, blends of Egyptian with other rare elements, etc. has declined precipitously. These horses made up 20–30 percent of Desert Arabians in the 1980s; that has dropped to less than 10 percent since 2007, with fewer than 75 such foals born each year since then.

### **What Are We Up Against? Cultural Changes Altering the Landscape**

The 21st century horse competes against many recreational opportunities for discretionary dollars – boats, motorcycles, Quads and ATVs, dance, karate classes, music lessons, etc. But those are not all of the challengers. The expanding urban and suburban environment means that kids are less likely to see horses either physically in the neighborhood or in surrounding areas. This reduces the opportunity for introducing them to the pleasures of equine companionship. Computers, multi-channel cable or satellite television, game boxes, etc. attract children indoors and keep them there. Because many families first purchase a horse because of youth interest, that market is declining. Horses are no longer prominent on network, cable, or satellite channels. The days of growing up with network shows like *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Rawhide* and all the Western-genre' movies are past. Today, kids need access to the RFD network to see horses. But how many other cable and satellite channels are competing for the same kids' attention? Hundreds! The cultural changes impact all breeds – but what has been done about it? Recently, an outcry from pleasure riders of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) convinced the AQHA leadership to alter their strategic plan and consider shifting the focus away from racing and horse shows and back to the pleasure rider, which makes up the vast majority of AQHA owners. In the Arabian world, about one-half of AHA members have competition cards; fewer than half of those actually show horses. Yet AHA remains primarily focused on producing and profiting from four National shows (Youth – Albuquerque in July; Canadian – Brandon in August; Sport Horse – alternating between Idaho and Virginia in September; and US Nationals in Tulsa in October). Profits from these shows pay a large portion of the organization's operating expenses for the following year.

### **Economic Challenges**

As noted above, Arabian registrations declined even during the 1990's, one of the largest and longest "boom" periods of our country.

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The great Economic Collapse of 2008 removed the term "discretionary income" from the dictionary of thousands of families across the country. Despite the recent economic crisis, the American Farmland Trust has reported that agricultural land (both farmland and ranchland) is being developed at a rate of an acre a minute. Less land available results in increased prices for remaining land and reduced choices on which land is available for raising/breeding/training horses. Parents are needing to invest in college savings, decreasing funds available for lessons and related horse expenses. Those children who are able to be involved Arabian horses face higher costs for college and the burden of large student loan debts. This in turn makes it even more difficult for kids who grew up with Arabian horses to return to the Arabian activities while starting careers and families. Climatic and Overseas Challenges the 2011 drought in Texas and Oklahoma had a ripple effect on hay prices around the country. The Southeast states, suffering from several years of drought, had no reserves to tap. Hay shortages and explosive price increases sent cattlemen and horsemen searching the neighboring states and distant regions for hay. One report showed two large tractor trailer loads of alfalfa were shipped from the desert west of Phoenix, Arizona, to Delaware to satisfy the demand for quality hay. The hay shortage is currently compounded by large amounts of hay grown in the western states being shipped on formerly empty Sea-Vans back to China, Japan, and Korea to feed their livestock. Lessons in supply and demand abound all over the country, driving up prices of feed and driving down prices of horses in most breeds.

### **Gazing into the Crystal Ball – What Will the Future Bring? The Good –**

Advanced reproductive technologies are available: frozen semen, embryo transfer, frozen embryos, sexing of semen, and the fertilization of an egg from a single sperm produced by shipped cooled semen or frozen semen.

- The internet provides immediate communication and the ability to share information, photos, results, video. Prospective customers can "shop" for the perfect stallion for their mare or the riding gelding of one's dreams from across the US and even internationally. The caveat is to be certain that the photo or DVD gives an objective view of the horse.

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- Advances in science and research are expanding our understanding of genetic disorders, with tests that allow breeders to avoid producing affected foals.
- Despite claims that “too few” stallions are being used, there is still a wide genetic diversity available to choose from. During the past several years, data show each stallion used sires an average of about 2.2 registered foals; 1,559 unique stallions were used to produce the 2011 purebred Arabian foal crop.
- Social Media, especially Facebook, allows an immediate dissemination of information (both good and bad, truth and rumor) across a wide population for discussion.

#### **The Bad –**

There are many challenges for Arabian breeding, with all breeds in the same boat of declining registrations. How can we increase the Arabian share of an ever-shrinking pie? With declining revenues, can the Arabian Horse Association make itself relevant for anything other than national shows and transform itself into a true breed organization?

#### **The Ugly (Statistical) Truth**

According to AHA statistics (March 12, 2012), there are approximately 205,665 Arabian horses in the active pool in the United States and Canada. Horses are designated “active” if there has been at least one registry transaction in the past 15 years, such as transfers (when a horse is sold), initial registration, color change, sex change (gelding), stallion report, or foal produced. Within this active pool, the total mare population is 118,624 ranging, from 0 to 30 years of age. Precise numbers are not available because many mare and filly deaths are not reported. AHA removes horses at age 35 if they are not “reported dead,” unless communication with an owner shows the horse is still alive. This latter group does not affect the projections shown here. Of course, not all of these are breedable. Figure 10 provides a detailed view of the mare population most likely to produce in the near future – those up to 20 years old. This assumes that the number of mares over 20 that are breeding is offset by number of young fillies not yet old enough to breed. This chart also excludes the large number of mares produced in the mid-1980s, when the AHRA was registering over 30,000 horses a year, because almost all are out of the breeding population. Using the assumption that few mares over 20 produce, approximately 7,500 mares born in 1992 will leave the breeding population this year. But in 2011, fewer than 2,000 mares were registered. The net effect is that, by the end of 2012, the potential breeding population of available mares will shrink by 5,500.

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This phenomenon, where a large number of mares is being removed from a population and only a small number of replacement mares are entering the breeding population, has been going on since 2005. If one assumes the number of registrations remains at the current 3,939 level (registrations through May 2012 are essentially at the same level as May 2011), the total population of breeding mares will shrink by the following percentages from today:

2016 –16%

2021 –36%

2026 –47%

In fifteen years, the breeding population of mares will be approximately 41,000, slightly more than half (53 percent) of today’s population. This forecast is dependent on the number of fillies registered in future years remaining at the 2011 number of 1,970. However, the annual trends show no hint that the decline in registrations has stopped.

#### **Summary**

The current trends show that the future is not promising for the Arabian horse. It will take a concerted effort by breeders, owners, trainers and AHA first to level the registration trend and then slowly start them in an upward direction. New Arabian horse enthusiasts are needed to strengthen entry-level markets and to expand the demand for mid- and upper-level horses. Current breeders need to start horses under saddle so there is a market for horses that will not be bred forward. An entire generation of breeders needs to be replaced by individuals who share the same love and respect for the Arabian horse. AHA must adopt a breed organization similar to the American Quarter Horse Association, to develop interests, activities, and information for the vast majority of Arabian owners who do not show their horses. It is not everyone’s fault, but it should be everyone’s responsibility to change the environment so that registrations can stabilize and grow and that the Arabian horse can carve out a larger piece of the ever-shrinking pie that is facing all of the equine breeds today in the face of cultural change. Failure can result in the Arabian horse passing into a zoo animal status in the not-so-distant future.

For the full article:

<http://issuu.com/arabianhorseworld/docs/0812-where-have-all-arabians-gone-1?mode=window&viewMode=doublePage>



## Horse Riding in France

By Meghan Johnson

As printed in the June 2012 DAHA newsletter, I had just booked my dream equestrian vacation to the Loire Valley, France with my equestrian significant other. We left for Paris, France on August 23, 2012. 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. This was a vacation that I had been looking forward to since last year's equestrian vacation in Spain where my significant other had become hooked on equestrian vacations.

We arrived at the airport and then took the TGV train to Blois and then walked down the street to our hotel. We found out that we would be having dinner next door with our fellow riders and our hosts. Our tour consisted of five men and six women: a middle aged couple from Canada, the German man from our last equestrian holiday with his female companion and five young Swedes. Dinner was quite surprising with each of us getting a large container with a lid containing mussels cooked in white wine and pernod. Each rider was interviewed by our hosts to find out which horse would be best for each rider. During dinner, we got a chance to know each other and the hosts gave us maps of tomorrow's ride to show us where we were going.

The next morning, after a simple French breakfast of café, bread, cheese and yogurt, we were driven to the stable to meet our French Trotter horses. Our hosts/guides introduced us to the horses and gave us instructions to mount. I had a beautiful bay French Trotter gelding named Orando. He was quite tall and had supposedly been a champion on the race track before beginning his second career as a trail horse for the past year. My boyfriend also had a handsome bay French Trotter who was known as the jokester of the herd. The saddles were big English style trail saddles with thick square saddle pads and roomy saddle bags to store our brush and personal items. I was very pleased to learn that this was a real vacation where we didn't tack up our horses!

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We rode about 6 hours a day, with an hour and a half picnic lunch and usually a visit to a castle. In all, we visited six castles: Chaumont Castle, Amboise Castle, Chenonceaux Castle, Gue Pean Castle, Cheverny Castle and Chambord Castle. We mostly rode through agricultural country roads and on trails through the forests and along vineyards and sunflower fields. There were long trots and vigorous canters (reminiscent of hand gallops). My boyfriend even used his camera to record our canters! We were on a progressive ride, meaning we rode from place to place staying each night in different hotels, country inns and two castles. Our hosts/guides was very knowledgeable about the area and horses, they seemed to really enjoy our company. We were all impressed with how well cared for and trained the horses were and we were encouraged to feed our horses grain and befriend them. We got to know our fellow riders quite well over 6 hour rides each day/ 120 miles that week as well as during meals. There was a lot of sharing and caring throughout the week. The hosts even made a comment that it made the ride so easy and so much more enjoyable that we had been so friendly and caring among ourselves. After the ride, we spent that last night in the first hotel we stayed in and the next morning we took the train back to Paris for an action packed four days visting Paris. We have already made reunion plans next year to possible join our German friend in Munich and then travel to Prague for another riding vacation. Seeing the world through the ears of a horse....priceless!

Author Note: Interested in an Equestrian Vacation? Check out [www.hiddentrails.com](http://www.hiddentrails.com) and [www.equitours.com](http://www.equitours.com)



Me and my fellow ride mates riding along the river towards Castle of Chaumont.

## **DAHA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BANQUET**



**SUNDAY JANUARY 27, 2013**

*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!*

**SHADELANDS ART CENTER – AUDITORIUM  
111 NORTH WIGET LANE, WALNUT CREEK**

**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](mailto:agunnedwards@mac.com)*

**ADULTS.....\$35.00**

**CHILDREN 17 & UNDER .....\$22.00**

**RSVP BY: FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013**

**SEND ALL CHECKS FOR RESERVATIONS BY JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup> TO:**

**Debbie Compilli, 2380 Nissen Drive, Livermore, CA 94550**

**TICKETS AT THE DOOR: ADULTS...\$50.00**

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

**Silent Auction donations please contact: Debbie Bartman [waycoolzee@aol.com](mailto:waycoolzee@aol.com) or Nancy Bartman [nbartman@astound.net](mailto:nbartman@astound.net) by January 19, 2013**