

# DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

## DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association  
www.diabloaha.org

Editors: Meghan Johnson  
Sidney Simpson

### Letter from the President

By Jill Mitchell

Just a special thank you to all of our sponsors and volunteers who helped with the fall show to make it run smoothly and successfully. We were excited to see everyone have such a fun and memorable time, seeing old friends and meeting new.

New classes will be added to the DAHA Spring Show, including walk/jog, trail ATR and JTR. In addition to DAHA's two horse shows, we hope to offer additional events, such as trail rides, a trail clinic and community schooling shows. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, as well as your continued support, as we try new approaches with the ultimate goal of providing excellent service to you and the horse(s) that means so much to you.

I also wanted to mention our Winter High Point Awards Banquet. It will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Lafayette, on Saturday, January 26, 2008. We are looking for silent auction items so if you have something you'd like to donate, please contact Sherry Pedder at 925- 708- 8848. Classic Catering will be providing the food and it should be as wonderful and delicious as last year.

There will be a new award given this year called the Family Arabian Horse Award which will be presented by Board member and Family Outreach Committee Chair Sidney Simpson along with a special DVD presentation of each of the seven nominees.

I just returned from the 2007 Arabian Horse Association Convention. I really enjoyed the opportunity to represent Diablo Arabian Horse Association as a delegate at the convention. I was able to attend a lot of meetings and meet a lot of

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club delegates and AHA officials. One of the interesting events at the convention that I wanted to share with you was the creation of a new National Rides Commission which will oversee national and regional long distance rides, which as you probably know is near and dear to my heart.

Also, created was the new Arabian Horse Foundation which will focus on Youth Scholarships, Equine Research and Displaced Horses. Diablo Arabian Horse Association pledged funding to the Foundation in memory of Bud Soltau. Over \$100,000 was pledged to the Foundation during the convention.

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

Jill Mitchell  
President

## DAHA Calendar of Events

### Board of Directors Meeting

Cindy Silvani's home  
January 8 - 7:00 p.m.

### DAHA Winter High Point Awards Banquet

January 26, 2007 at 6:30 – 10p.m.  
Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall  
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549

## Classifieds

WANTED!! 2 horse trailer, serviceably sound.  
Call 925-519-1082.

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

## New DAHA Board Members!

After counting the ballots from the October 31, 2007 election deadline, DAHA's new board members include Evelyn Call, Pat Hendershot, Amy Edwards, Jill Mitchell and Meghan Johnson for two year terms. 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.



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 the first time DAHA's Family Arabian of the Year.

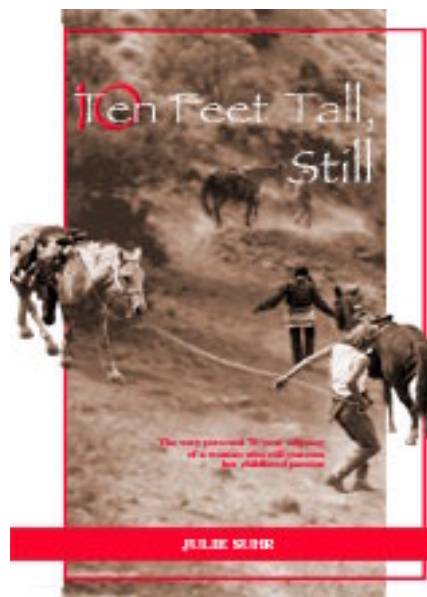
It's a fun, festive evening—a time to get to know one another—so mark the date. An invitation will be following soon.

January 26, 2008, 6:30 p.m.  
Veteran's Memorial Building  
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd  
Lafayette

## 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?

Some of you might remember our 2006 Winter High Point Awards Banquet speaker, Julie Suhr. 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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## AHA Annual Convention 2007

This year's AHA annual convention was held at the Renaissance Tulsa Hotel and Convention Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma from November 14- 18, 2007. 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, AHA business, and a visit to the future site of U.S. Nationals!

One of the most exciting new initiatives approved at the convention is the creation of an AHA National Distance Commission which will oversee endurance rides, develop new programs and initiatives to promote AHA membership to endurance riders. AHA believes there are 12,000 to 15,000 endurance riders who do not belong to AHA or have their horses registered with AHA. This would be a great way to add value to belonging to the Arabian Horse Association.

A new Arabian Horse Museum at the Kentucky Horse Park was announced at the convention. This museum is scheduled to be completed by the World Equestrian Games in 2010. This is a very exciting announcement and a way to showcase this very special breed. Over a million visitors travel to the Horse Park every year and many will visit this museum.

The new Arabian Horse Foundation was created during the convention to focus on the funding of youth and scholarships: education and equine research, specifically on the diseases and illnesses that affect Arabian, and displaced horses, e.g., the rescue of horses of any breed in emergency situations such as Hurricane Katrina and the recent fires in Southern California. Tragedies such as these leave many horses in need of emergency medical needs and supplies such as medical supplies, temporary stabling, hay and water. The foundation will be able to address philanthropic needs to help not just Arabians but also the rest of the horse world. To participate in this endeavor, please send your contributions to:

Arabian Horse Foundation  
10805 E. Bethany Drive  
Aurora, CO 80014

## DAHA Fall Show

By Sidney Simpson and Meghan Johnson



Once again our fall show was a huge 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!

In addition to the traditional events, the Fall Fling featured an ice-cream social, where attendees could create their own sundaes with various toppings and syrups, and a parade of flashy Arabians that were for sale (a first-time event for us). Young riders being led through the arena for their very first show were delighted to hear that the judges had declared a ten-way tie for first place. 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 a record 194 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 [agunnedwards@mac.com](mailto:agunnedwards@mac.com).



## Racing Arabians

By Evelyn Call

We were standing at the rail of the saddling paddock at the Fresno Fair on Friday October 5th. watching the horses in the second race getting ready to go on the track. It was a maiden race for Arabians. A mixed race, there were a couple of geldings, a colt, a 6 yr. old mare and four fillies. Some very nice looking horses of varying quality. A couple of women came up behind us and started talking about the horses. One of them pointed out the little three year old filly and asked "What's wrong with that horse's ears? Aren't they funny looking?" and other comments. They didn't know that the owner was standing right in front of them, hearing every word. Dorothy Burt and I just smiled at what was being said. Dorothy had heard it all before. Well, at first look the filly, Skeezitz, did look funny. She was born with little ears which chose their own way in life, sticking out to the sides like a lop-eared bunny. But if you looked past the ears, you would see that she's really nice, well constructed, with a very pleasant manner about her. Her movements were well coordinated and though she was looking at everything in sight and probably was confused by this change in her routine (This was to be her first race), she didn't seem unduly upset or nervous. She's not very big, but as one of only two three year olds in the race, she obviously still has some growing and filling out to do to catch up with some of the others in the paddock. Dorothy wasn't expecting a lot, but the filly needed the work to start preparing for the races coming up after the first of the year.

It would be a big surprise if she placed fairly well. We went over to the rail, near the finish line, to watch the race on the big infield screen. We wouldn't be able to see the horses well directly until they turned for home. It was a five furlong race, starting on the backside of the track. They broke from the gate in fairly good order, except Skeezitz, in the sixth post position, and another horse came off a little slow. They were used to the slower-opening training gate at Pleasanton and had no clue about getting out of the gate fast. At the 3/16th pole she was seventh by a head and traveling on the outside. At the 3/8th she was still seventh by 1 ½ lengths and still on the outside. The jockey had been instructed to keep her clear of trouble and to not let her go too early. You don't want trouble in a horse's first race. As they entered the stretch, she was way outside but had moved past three horses to be in fourth. It was at this point that Dorothy and I started to get a little excited. Maybe she was going to place! It was then that little lop-eared filly looked ahead at the open track in front of her and started to run. And she just kept on rolling. Past one, then the next, then alongside the final rival, with her neck stretched out low and her head poked out forward. They swept past the finish line together. We were yelling. Had it really happened? Had she won? Yes, the photo showed, by a nose! The whole crowd was yelling. At odds of \$25.60 to one, not many of them had bet on her, but it was a great race. Dorothy looked stunned as we found our way to the winner's circle. Jose Gonzalez, the trainer (assistant to Terri Eaton) was there and pretty happy too. We collected our winnings and went back to the barns. Skeezitz looked a little tired but otherwise just fine. Everyone congratulate Dorothy and told how much they had always liked cute little Skeezitz. Amazing how much winning can finally get respect for a filly that hadn't been noticed beyond her ears before. The next day, the Fresno Bee commented "It's a good bet nobody will make fun of Skeezitz's funny little ears anymore." Go, Skeezitz!!!

- Dorothy Burt is a longtime DAHA member and Evelyn Call is the head of DAHA membership.
- Want more information? Article on Skeezitz can be found at <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1Y1-111045349.html>

Comments? Suggestions? Ideas? Pictures?

Please send to: Meghan Johnson (925) 708- 8571  
[MZara75030@aol.com](mailto:MZara75030@aol.com)



# Holiday Horseyys





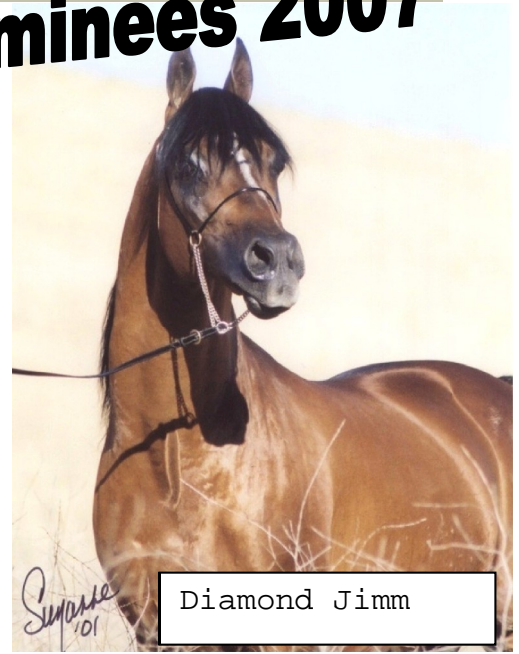
# More Holiday Horseys



# Family Arabian Nominees 2007



Cypress Samurai+



Diamond Jimm



Cheyenne



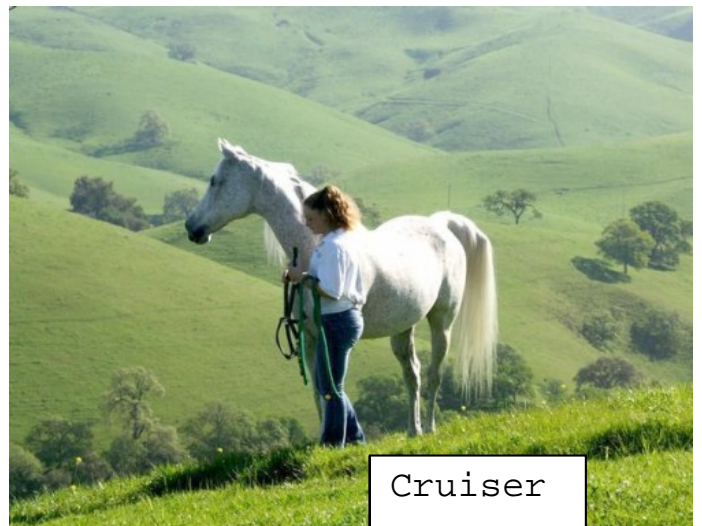
Excelante



Faja



Lad



Cruiser

## *Diablo Arabian Horse Association*

*Is proud to present our annual*

### Winter Awards/ High Point Dinner

*January 26, 2007*

#### Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall

3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549

**6:30 – 10:00p.m.**

NEW!! We will be presenting our first 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)**