

DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association
www.diabloaha.org

Editor: Meghan Johnson &

Letter from the President

By Dr. Cory Soltau D.V.M.

So how do you know when spring has sprung? For most people, there are all the old 'standard' things ... the days are longer, the sun is warmer, the grass starts growing like crazy, people start sneezing uncontrollably, and the Turkey Army arrives to take out any new flowers we are foolish enough to have planted. But what about us "horse people?" Out comes the show saddles to clean and polish, mountains of winter hair decorate the barn aisle, the yearling colts and fillies get separated (for obvious reasons... OMG !!!!!.. so young and so soon!) Blurry eyes open after sleepless nights in front of the foaling stall, plans are made for this year's breeding for some of us, while others reflect nostalgically on those foals we brought into this world long ago, trail horses start putting in more conditioning miles, we all call the vet to do spring vaccinations!!!! (I hope!!!), and we all wish for just a little more daylight to spend with our equine friends. See, horse people do see spring differently.

OK, so what's going on with DAHA? Of course the biggest event coming up on our radar is our annual Spring Show, May 16 - 19 at Brookside. Coke Swift, the Show Committee and her crew are putting on the finishing pre-show touches. Bring out the beads and party hats cuz it's Carnival Time! You won't believe all the surprise events planned and I won't tell you. You'll just have to come see for yourselves. I know I've said this before ... but humor me... Our show is one of the biggest and most successful Class A shows in the country, even bigger than several regional championship shows. Whether you're coming to compete or to watch, you'll be seeing some of the best horses, enjoy the friendliest staff and volunteers, and have some just crazy fun.

Currently we are revamping our High Point program. Competitions evolve and change so quickly that we wanted to make sure we stayed ahead of the curve and were proactive to the wants and needs of the participants. Our main objectives are to make it (1) easy to enter, (2) easy to understand, (3) easy to calculate points and (4) to provide categories for everyone. The High Point Committee members are Tracey Seals, Megan Jenkins, Tammy Collins, Dorothy Burt, Ed Oto, Amy Edwards and Jill Mitchell. I know that they

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welcome and need your input. One big change will be that points must be submitted within 30 days of the competition so that all points can be posted on the Internet. Now you will be able to see your points and those of your competitors. Tammy and Megan already have several corporate sponsors signed up for year-end awards. I think this year could be BIG! So enter now.

It's never too soon to start thinking about those special horses in our lives we want to honor in the Family Horse Award program. Not necessarily show horses, or breeding horses, or famous horses, these are horses that have touched our lives in many different ways. Diablo AHA is not just a horse show club. We are an Arabian horse club made up of people who love Arabian horses at so many levels. Many of us don't show or haven't shown for a while (myself included) but can't imagine not having Arabian horses in their lives. They make us better. The Family Horse Award program lets us celebrate those special horses. I have to admit that I have always enjoyed this part of our annual award banquet the most. I hope that more of you will share the story of your special family horse.

I won't rehash the DAHA Event Schedule... Go and check it out on our web site yourselves. Good luck at the show, either as an exhibitor or as an entrant in the Carnival Costume Contest... Oops! Now it's out of the bag! See you at Brookside... and don't forget your beads.

Cory Soltau
President

DAHA Calendar of Events

Castle Rock Arabians Schooling Show

Castle Rock Arabians, Walnut Creek

April 7, 2013

Horse Faire

Heather Farm Equestrian Center - We need volunteers

May 4, 2013

e-mail Anne Wheeler at wabmk@aol.com

DAHA Spring Fling Show

Brookside Equestrian Center -We need volunteers!

Thursday-Sunday May 16-19, 2013

Contact: Coke Swift

e-mail: willowjewelfarm@yahoo.com

2013 Golden Gate Fields \$ for DAHA

By Anne Wheeler

Sunday, January 20 was a gorgeous day in the Bay Area. Sunny skies and mild temperatures greeted the 15 smiling volunteers that gathered at Golden Gate Fields to work in the Dollar Day booth to raise funds for DAHA. The volunteers weren't giving up an ordinary day to help the club. It was NFL championship Sunday with the San Francisco 49ers facing the Atlanta Falcons for the opportunity to play in the 2013 Super Bowl. The DAHA booth was staffed by overwhelmingly, avid 49er football fans. The text messages and TV lounge updates added one more layer of camaraderie with the fun group. Evelyn Call was once again the first to arrive. She, Pat Hendershot, Coke Swift and Anne Wheeler hung colorful Arabian/DAHA banners, and a poster announcing the upcoming Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan sponsored Arabian Global Racing Festival Series in Pleasanton on July 6th. Coke brought Arabian magazines and coloring sheets to promote the Arabian breed. The rest of the returning, reliable revelers volunteering for service at GGF's were; Laurie Baine, Dorothy Burt, Charles Jinks, Ed Oto, Pattie Oto and Bill Wheeler. DAHA welcomed new blood to the volunteer corps with Kathy Campbell, Penny Mars, Marla Melloway, Lisa Walker and Diane Wishart stepping up to serve. Prior to this trip to GGF's the DAHA board voted to donate the tips to Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund. The DAHA board will decide at a future meeting how to share the earnings with the horse community. Past money earned at GGF's has been donated to the UC Davis Center for Equine Health, Horses' Honor Sanctuary for Horses, and the Arabian Horsemen's Distress Fund.



DAHA at the races

Family Arabian 2012

In 2012, we received three nominees for the Family Arabian Award. Their owners and riders expressed eloquently how much their horses add to their lives. Three very special mares. They all are ridden in different fashions, and all are irreplaceable to their "special" humans.

DAHA continues to be one of the few--perhaps the only Arabian club--that has an award that focuses on this unique bond that the Arabian horse forms with its humans. This is often what draws us to the breed; it's the closeness and the connection that we feel to the animal. How appropriate it is that we honor the Arabian for that special connection, as well as for his ability to compete.

Congratulations to all of the nominees. The judges' panel had such difficulty in ranking one above the others. They are all winners to us. Enjoy reading their stories. And maybe take an extra carrot with you the next time you go see your special horse.

Debbie Compilli & Jessica Mattson
Family Arabian Co-Chairmen
925-519-1082
debbie@debbiecompilli.com

2012 Family Arabian Horse Award

Winner:

Shalimar "Pascha"



By Alexandria (Alex) Sheveyda

I'm not just nominating a horse, I'm nominating my best friend. She is and always will be the best thing that has ever happened to me. Not only has she touched my heart but she has touched everyone's around her. The way her eyes lit up and how she whinnied whenever I walked past her was one of the many things that made me realize how strong our bond was. Not only did she make me into the rider I am today, she made me into the person I am. She was my biggest inspiration. She was so strong.

Pascha was my very first horse. We grew and learned together. Getting her was the best day of my life.....loosing her was the worse. Pascha not only taught me how to ride she gave many children and adults their first ride! She gave many young children their first "showing" experience. She took care of them - kept them safe. She participated at the Horse Expo in the paint a horse booth sometimes being painted 4 times a day.

When she would not behave - we put her in training and she came home behaving beautifully.

When she colicked - we sent her to surgery and she recovered fully in record time.

When she colicked again - we gave her medications and sat with through the night and she recovered.

When she was diagnosed with a neurological disorder in November of 2011, we did everything we could to make her comfortable.

.....and in August of 2012 she told us she was tired and ready to find peace and we let her go.

I love her.....I miss her.....and I thank her for making me who I am today!

2012 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

JS Rejoice



We are nominating JS Rejoice "Joy" for DAHA Family Arabians of Year but Joy is much more than that; Joy is a multi-family Arabian and is loved by many. Here is her story.....

Joy was born in Arizona in 1999 where she lived until she joined a family in Northern California in 2006. Joy won HA/AA Hunter Pleasure Walk Trot 10 and Under with this family in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. What a good girl! In 2010 Joy joined the Thompson Family here in the Bay Area; she was immediately loved by both of her girls - Rachel and Claire. Rachel and Claire rode Joy in shows as well as "horsing around" with friends and trail riding. Joy taught both Claire and Rachel to be stellar riders with her calm, sweet and accommodating nature. In 2010 Joy and her girls competed in 23 Hunter Pleasure show classes which included a Top 3 and a Top 5 at the Region 3 Championship in Reno. In 2011 Joy and her girls competed in 15 Hunter Pleasure show classes including a Top 3 and Top 5 at Region 3 Championship show in Reno and Championship at the Canadian Nationals. What a summer! What a horse! The next year, Joy met another little girl - Jamie Seals. Jamie was around the barn and riding other horses for fun and at shows but in the spring of 2012 their mutual trainer brought them together thinking they would be a good team. And they were ...actually they were better than good, they were great. Jamie had never really settled on one horse previously so it took some time for her to get used to riding Joy but they settled in pretty quick with each other, and they started winning at shows.

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Joy was patient and quiet with Jamie. Jamie practiced and practiced, cared for and loves Joy. Jamie and Joy won 4 local Championships in Hunter Pleasure Walk/Trot 10 and Under as well as winning a Regional Championship and a Top Ten at Youth Nationals in July. Jamie and Joy rode and participated in over 15 Hunter Pleasure classes altogether through this last summer and also clocked countless hours riding for fun.

Jamie has moved on to a horse of her own but will always carry Joy in her heart and be grateful for the time they had together. Throughout this winter, Rachel Thompson and her trainer have been working with Joy to get her ready for the 2013 show season in a new discipline – Western Pleasure. Joy and Rachel are taking on this challenge as they have done before – with determination, a kind spirit and a can-do attitude. There is no doubt that this winning combination will bring them much success in the 2013 show season and beyond.

I also want to mention that while at Region 3 Championships in Reno this last summer, the Thompsons were approached by another family asking if their daughter could ride Joy in a Western Pleasure classes – their daughter's horse had coliced the night before and had been rush to the Vet Hospital. They agreed to let this girl ride Joy – in a discipline she had not competed in previously – and came away with a Reserve Champion. Another great accomplishment and another girl fell in love with our Joy that day.

As you can see, Joy is a pretty special mare. She has lovingly carried our three girls – Rachel, Claire and Jamie – through countless shows, blue ribbons, Championships and the ever important occasional trail ride. She has been patient when she needs to be, competitive when the situation calls for it but always, always loving. Clearly Joy is a Multi-Family Arabian – and for those of us who love her, that is the case every single year!

2012 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

Indigo Express



By Nancy Dupont

Looking for a lesson horse, I purchased Whinny sight unseen in the spring of 2005. I was looking for a big horse for my riding lesson program and happened to like Anglo Arabians. The owner explained she used to be an endurance horse but after retiring her to pasture, she made too much noise (Hence, her nickname was Whinny!) and they decided to sell her. Heather Herman delivered Whinny to me. When she backed out of the trailer she lived up to her nickname. Her "Whinny" went up and down the musical scale in loud assertive notes. My first impression was "Wow! Loud, and not too pretty! I had paid so much for a horse I thought would be an elegant, tall Arabian/Thoroughbred type—with the look of Eagles. Yes, she was tall—but built like a tank, designed for front line combat. With her imposing bulk and all her roaring, I wasn't sure what to do with her. Based on her unpopularity at her former home, I dismissed the thought of trying to return her. Then, after a couple of days, something clicked with the big gray horse and me. I decided to give it a chance and watched her take "best" to higher level! She had a way of instructing me how she should be treated in order to gain her respect and cooperation. First she refused to occupy a closed stall and insisted on being in pasture. She acted terrible—calling out and kicking the stall door daily until you listened to her demands. Finally, we complied and moved her. She lived well and healthy in pasture and corral conditions that would make a show horse shudder.

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She never wore a tail bag and her tail was just fine. Never shaved nor blanketed.

She loved the trail and more kids found out that she would pack them for miles. She was the kid's choice to ride in the Explorer's Camp. This is a ride that starts at Castle Rock Arabians in Walnut Creek, over Mt. Diablo and to the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride grounds in Clayton. It included our usual participation in the Clayton 4th of July parade. We learned that Whinny, the "50 mile trail horse" hated parades. We learned that just as we entered the parade line up. Whinny, along with the child on board was spinning around like a top. One mom, Zhana McCullough volunteered to ride Whinny to relieve the child of her parade duties. Zhana doesn't complain much when she's on horseback but Whinny didn't quit her spinning just because there was a new rider. It went on for a block before we decided the parade was not a Whinny-thing. In her younger days, she covered so many miles of trail she could, as they say: "fall asleep trotting." Perhaps that many miles would take the fire out of a normal horse but you just had to tune up the music to wake her up. She would not tolerate music from car radios, reviewing stands, iPods, I phones, or any other computer driven annoyance. In respect of Whinny's desire for quiet, we all rode quietly and used only our voice as a natural aide.

What Whinny liked was packing lightweight kids and timid beginner adults around on her back. No, she did not like bits and fought bitterly against one touching her mouth. So we complied, no bit. We used just a halter. Then she would "fall asleep" at the trot and as she trotted around the arena, a child safely learned to sit and post the trot. We learned to treat Whinny how she wanted to be treated. After that, she looked at us with that patient expression, her dark eyes calmly saying: "Now that is better!" What took you so long to understand? Now I can get my part of the lesson done, and you just stand in the middle and talk." Even a 2 year old could lead her or ride her. She consumed more carrots from visiting students and stood patiently while the birthday kids painted her body with face paint and then washed her off.

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Of all the horses in our equine family, Whinny was photographed more than any. She was photographed by hundreds of parents watching their child's first ride, first trot and first love. She will be remembered as fulfilling our Mission Statement: "Connecting children to horses." What better tribute to the Arabian and Half Arabian breed can be made than that?

Our Whinny crossed over the Rainbow Bridge last night at 12:00 a.m. November 23, 2011. She was 21 years old and at CRA for 8 years. When I get to heaven she will surely be there as calm and patient as ever. I will kiss her again as I did last night and remind her of how much she meant to all of us. Her big dark eyes showed little pain that night as her mortal body was shutting down. Our good doctor Cory Soltau had given her medicine to take away the bitter sting of suffering and let her pass quietly in peace. She died twelve hours after first coming down with colic. Many hands tried to help that day. Mikayla rushed to report to anyone who would help that Whinny needed us. Leigha Perry gave her Banamine. Gaba, Brittany and Rachel took turns walking her and watching and we thought after the shot, she was getting better. Leigha kept a record of her every move to show Dr Soltau who came at 3 pm and administered an aggressive treatment to hopefully pull her through. If she was going to recover, this would be the final hope.

Panta kept a night watch on her, giving her small handfuls of wet hay as prescribed. But after several hours, when the medicine wore off, Panta came to tell us she was worse than before. Cliff and Panta walked her for an hour and more hoping to relieve her distress. I put in an urgent call to Dr. Soltau to come quickly. Dr. Soltau arrived at midnight--minutes after I called him! Her body sweaty and trembling, her heart racing, she stood quietly submitting to what she knew were kind hands touching her. Her passing was peaceful, with dignity as it befits her station as a queen.

We have pictures, testimonials and memories to serve as a tribute to the gift that she gave us. The gift I love best is to hear what the children say when they tell the story of Whinney.

Winter Banquet

DAHA's Annual Winter Awards Banquet was a great success. 130 DAHA members and their guests enjoyed an evening of socializing, great food and lots of awards for members and their horses. The social hour gave all time to peruse the Silent Bid Auction items and make their offers. Lots of great raffle prizes were awarded throughout the dinner hour.

Pres. Cory Soltau introduced the 2013 Board of Directors. Our directors are: Evelyn Call, Amy Edwards, Jill Mitchell, Ed Oto, Tracey Seals, Mitch Sperte, Coke Swift and Anne Wheeler. He also gave gifts to the three members going off of the board: Pat Hendershot, Cindy Silvani and Cindy Volz.

Volunteers are the life of any organization, and two of our members were recognized nationally for their special service. Tracey Seals and Anne Wheeler each received the 2012 AHA Volunteer of the Year award.

At the national level, DAHA again competed for several outstanding club awards. DAHA was the only club nominated in all four categories: Breed Promotion/Community Involvement, Communications, Club Projects and Membership Recruitment and Retention. DAHA won the Breed Promotion/Community Involvement category for the third year in a row. And also won the Club Excellence Award for the third time. We are very honored for these distinguished awards and owe it all to Meghan Johnson and Anne Wheeler for all the work that went into submitting our entries.

Cory introduced our two youth members who have been very active at the national level through the Arabian Horse Youth Association. Camille Waechter, AHYA President, and Tori Oto, AHYA Vice President spoke about their recent trip and activities at the AHA convention in Orlando. They also told us about the AHYA's plans for 2013. If you would like to find out more about the AHYA, you can easily find their contact information on the AHA website.

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Comments? Suggestions? Ideas? Pictures?

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

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Jill Mitchell announced that her team of youth riders, Mitchell's Marauders, won the Region III Youth Team Tournament. The competitors were Alexa Engelhart, Mady Engelhart, Allison Edwards, Caroline Edwards, Halima Elsherbiny. Congratulations to you all!

Tracey Seals, DAHA's High Point chairman, announced the year end results for the many youth and adult members who had signed up for the program. The list of winners in all categories can be found on the DAHA website. Debbie Compilli introduced the three nominees for the Family Arabian Award: Whinney and Nancy Dupont; JS Rejoice and Rachel Thompson, Claire Thompson and Jamie Seals; and Shalimar Pascha and Alexandria Shveyda. The judges' panel named Shalimar Pascha this year's winner. I encourage you all to read their stories on the DAHA website.

A big thank you to all of the people who worked to put this special evening together:

Amy Edwards for putting together a great slide show with photos of many, many horses and their owners and riders. The slide show is a great asset to the evening's mood.

Nancy and Debbie Bartman for the hours spent getting and organizing the donations for the raffle and silent auction. Classic Catering for the excellent food and great service. And to all of the people who helped setup and throughout the evening.



Anne Wheeler, Tracey Seals are volunteers of the year with Cory Soltau

SLIP SLIDING AWAY.....

By Anne Wheeler



On January 4, 2013 DAHA youth gathered to start the New Year with their horsey friends away from barns and arenas. They gathered at Dell Osso Farms in Lathrope for a winter play day. For three hours the young equestrians (and brave parents & chaperones) were snow tubing, zip lining and ice-skating. The group was not without goodies. It was Jamie Smith's 18th birthday, so there was birthday cake for all-----plus caramel apples and M&M's for those who needed an extra boost of sugar power.

Leigha Perry, chairperson for DAHA Youth, organized the event.

In addition to Leigha & Jamie, others attending were: Gaba Burshteyn, Arleen & Raquel Castro; Allison, Amy & Caroline Edwards, Brittany & Dayna Gordon, Mikayla Hudson, Tyler Perry, Noah & Zahlman Scherer, Jamie & Tracy Seals, Monia Smith, Cecily Sotomayor, Rachel Thompson and Mia Waota.

Horse Faire 2013

Mark your calendar, the Horse Faire 2013 is on Saturday May 4, 2013. Gallop on over to Horse Faire 2013 for free Family entertainment, exciting horse riding demonstrations to watch, fun activities for kids, a vendor alley with all kinds of crafts and great shopping, snack shack and a Tri-Tip BBQ lunch. Come see what the world of horses is all about! From 10am-4pm on Sat, May 4, Opening Ceremony ~11am following completion of the Easter Egg Hunt at Heather Farm Park, look for the mini horses and follow them to Horse Faire! DAHA and DAHA members will have booths at the Horse Faire. *Contact our Horse Faire Chairperson, Mary Stewart, at maryrobinada@aol.com if you would like to participate as a vendor or in an equestrian demonstration of skill or breed.*



Amigos de Anza Arabian Drill Team at Horse Faire 2012,
photo by Sidney Simpson

AHA Signs Agreement with Ranch Sorting National Championships

Reprinted from AHA Insider Flash

Aurora, CO (March 5, 2013) – The Arabian Horse Association (AHA) and the Ranch Sorting National Championships (RSNC) announced today an agreement to develop joint programs to attract horse enthusiasts to RSNC and AHA competitions.

Glenn Petty, Executive Vice President at AHA stated, "Ranch Sorting is enjoying immense popularity. The Ranch Sorting organization was only formed six years ago and now has 18,000 members. Ranch Sorting is family-oriented and many Arabian horse owners already participate in this sport."

AHA will hold a judged exhibition competition at the 2013 U.S. National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show, October 18–26, 2013 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Through this partnership with RSNC, AHA will award RSNC points to Arabians, Half-Arabians, and Anglo-Arabians participating in ranch sorting competitions, giving AHA members another avenue to enjoy their horses. In addition, RSNC gives members awards by state, including awards for High Point Arabian and Half-Arabian.

Ranch Sorting is a team-oriented discipline where friends and family can compete together affordably thanks to low participation costs. With over 400 sanctioned events annually, RSNC offered over \$400,000 in prize money to 6,000 competitors at their national finals last year. "RSNC aims to preserve the heritage and integrity of the ranching lifestyle while providing a family oriented, competitive riding experience at the grassroots level," says RSNC President, Dave Wolfe.

Speaking to the grass-roots reach of Ranch Sorting, AHA President, Cynthia Richardson says, "Ranch sorting is an accessible activity where members can literally pull their horse out of the pasture, haul them down the road and compete on an appropriate level, no matter their experience. They can experience an easy, fun day with their whole family."

A participant's rating is assigned after RSNC tracks sorting dollars won and sorting dollars spent on entry fees by each contestant at all RSNC sanction events. The handicapping system encourages the teaming of skilled sorters with the less-experienced partners while the Masters classes feed the appetite of the mature competitor. For information about how you can try ranch sorting, visit www.rsnc.us.

Castle Rock Schooling Show

Castle Rock Arabians will be hosting a Schooling Show on Sunday, April 7th to be judged by Dean Lacey. The Schooling Show will be conducted in a new, large arena with a nearby warm up arena. Please see our website for more information on the schooling show, registration form and a picture of the arena. Hope to see you there!

Classified Ad:**KHS Frolic**

KHS Frolic (Khutty Sark X Flame N Fortune) 14 year old mare, 15 hands, great movement. Has had one foal. Flame N Fortune (shown below) was Show Champion mare 5 shows out of 7 in 1989 and even beat the stallions to Supreme Champion a couple of times that year. She was also the winner of Cow Palace English Pleasure class with Rob Bick riding in 1988. Frolic is a bay copy of her dam. I have a write up of Frolic's pedigree done by Arlene Magid if you would care to see that (packed with Champions). Just call or email me and I will get it to you. Asking \$9,950 or will lease. Contact Mary Christopherson at 925-437-6630

**ZK Saraband**

ZK Saraband (Zaamek X Brite Splendor) Sara is 18 years old in 2013, and stands 14.3 hands. She is pleasure trail sound, has been used as a lesson horse, and done some small-time showing. She is kind and tolerant. Asking \$1,050. Contact Mary Christopherson at 925-437-6630

**Classified Ad****2001 John Deere 790 Tractor**

2001 John Deere 790. 350 hours, 27 hp, includes loader, box scraper, cultivator, and a dozer blade. Asking \$14,950 obo. Contact Mary Christopherson at 925-437-6630

Classified Tack Ad:**Horse Blankets/Etc. for Sale!**

We have various used winter blankets, sheets, hoods, and Turnout blankets for sale. Size range : 60, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72. Most are smaller sizes but there are some large ones.

Price range from \$5.00 to \$35.00

Call or email and I will send you a list of what is available.

Pat

(209)835-56181

twarab@sbcglobal.net

Comments? Suggestions? Ideas?**Pictures?**

Please send to: Meghan Johnson 925-708-8571

MZara75030@aol.com

Attention DAHA Members!

Last year DAHA had a booth presence at the Horse Faire for the first time.



This year the Arabian Horse Association's Club of the Year 2011, 2012 & 2013 will go all out to showcase the versatile and gorgeous Arabian breed....



DAHA would like riders to apply to participate in the breed demos. We also need volunteers to help set up and tear down the double space booth, and/or work shifts during the day. To help please contact Leigha Perry or Coke Swift.

DAHA would also like to provide "good will ambassadors" to help with the jobs that must be done to staff such a huge event. Volunteers are needed with set up on May 3, and a multitude of jobs throughout the day on May 4. If you'd like to help, please contact Anne Wheeler.