

DIABLO ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Arabian Horse Association
www.diabloaha.org

Editors: Meghan Johnson
Sidney Simpson

Letter from the President

By Pat Hendershot

Hello all to all! This is my first letter to you as your DAHA President.

I am looking forward to a great year in 2010. We started the year off with a bang....at our annual DAHA Banquet. I was not able to attend this year but I have heard nothing but great things about this year's banquet. Over 140 people attended for an evening of great food, socializing with friends and the presentation of our DAHA High Point Awards and the Family Arabian Award. This is a huge project to undertake and as usual, Sherry Pedder did a great job. So, THANK YOU to Sherry and her helpers.

Several of our members are currently in Scottsdale either showing or just enjoying the sunshine and beautiful horses. I wish I were there!

In the coming months, DAHA will be continuing to offer horse shows, trail rides, the Mt. Diablo endurance ride, some open schooling shows are planned, and another clinic (comparable to the Trail Clinic at Summit Ranch last year). So watch for dates on the above mentioned events.

Premiums should be available soon for our upcoming Spring Show. Sponsors are always needed for classes as well as Patron Sponsorships. Patron Sponsors: \$300; regular classes: \$20 or two for \$35; Championship classes: \$40. The show premium will available to be seen at our website: www.diabloaha.org. For further information regarding the show contact Show Manager: Coke Swift (209) 464-1932 or the Show Secretary: Nancy Goetzen at (559) 625-2631. The theme for this year's show is "Your Favorite TV Show". Volunteers are always needed for the show so if you have some time and would like to help please contact Coke Swift (209) 464-1932 and willowjewelfarm@yahoo.com or Jill Mitchell (925) 250-1371 and mitchelljm22566@sbcglobal.net.

The 2010 DAHA Delegates and several other DAHA

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members recently attended the Region 3 Mini Convention in Vacaville. Glen Petty, AHA EVP, was the guest speaker.

The DAHA Board of Directors would like to encourage all members to contact DAHA Board members with ideas or suggestions of what events or programs you would like DAHA to provide for members.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who work so hard so that DAHA continues to provide a great newsletter, High Point Awards, Family Arabian Award, trail rides, horse shows, endurance rides, clinics for our members.

Respectfully,

Pat Hendershot
President



DAHA Day at the Races Part Deux, see page 2 for article

DAHA Calendar of Events

DAHA BBQ Terrace Ride

April TBA, 2010 - 10a.m. - More info to come!

Summit Ranch, CA

RSVP Jill Mitchell at 925-250-1371 or email:

mitchelljm22566@sbcglobal.net

DAHA Western Pleasure/Showmanship Clinic

Sunday, April 25, 2010 - 10a.m.

Summit Ranch, CA

RSVP Meghan Johnson by April 22 at 925-708-8571 or

email: mzara75030@aol.com

DAHA Spring Fling Show

Brookside Equestrian Center -We need volunteers!

Thursday-Sunday May 20-23, 2010

Show Contact: Nancy Goertzen 559-625-2631

e-mail: goertzenarab@gmail.com

DAHA at the Races Part Deux

By Sidney Simpson

Our wonderful day at the races! It was a day of colorful crowds, blue skies, lots of horses, hot dogs, cracker jacks, soda, ice cream, and of course copious amounts of beer! We met on a sunny, beautiful morning in the parking lot at GG Fields and were assigned the lower level Dollar Day Booth, which set us right in front of the race track. We had eleven volunteers, and boy we needed every single one of them. Unlike the first time, this time we had a booth to ourselves, so we really had to hustle. It was good that we had so many who had done this the first time in January--many seasoned professionals to pour beer quickly and get it out. We had three newcomers this time--Judy Gillivan from Horses' Honor along with Judy Shultz, and Dorothy Burt from our Board. Others who volunteered and worked their tails off for the second time were Evelyn Call, Debbie Compilli, Cindy Reichelderfer, Meghan Johnson, Jan and Ken Jones, Coke Swift, and yours truly (Sidney Simpson).

We donned Diablo Arabian Horse Association badges that had our Arabian logo in the middle for a professional "team" look. We hung a DAHA banner in the front of our booth and we also displayed a poster about Arabian racing that Dorothy brought and a binder about Horses' Honor's efforts in horse rescue and horse sanctuary that Judy Gillivan brought. Evelyn also provided a small poster that we placed near the tip bowl that said that we were Diablo Arabian Horse Association and that we were donating our time to raise money for horse rescue. We made close to \$150 in tips and poured 2,700 beers (according to Ken Jones's calculations). It was an exhilarating, fun-filled day--hard work--but fun and very rewarding.

Ariat

DAHA would like to thank Ariat for their generous sponsorship of awards and auction items to our DAHA banquet and high point program. Ariat is dedicated to providing the foundation upon which world-class athletes work, ride and compete as well as being a part of the community. Please support Ariat.

Iron Horse Equestrian

A big thank you to Christine Perry and Iron Horse Equestrian for the generous donation of multiple silent auction items including gift certificates to Christine's A Complete You as well as Nicker Bait horse cookies as party favors. Please think of Iron Horse Equestrian as your source of quality equestrian goods.

Family Arabian 2009

How proud I am that we decided to put the spotlight on the horses who have touched our hearts. We are definitely an Arabian club with lots of heart. It has been four years since DAHA decided to honor the Family Arabian with its own award--something that is unique in the Arabian Horse Association and something for which we should be very proud. Arabians seem to excel at making a heart connection with their humans, so it seems particularly fitting that they be honored in this way.

Establishing this award encourages us to look at our horses from a slightly different perspective--not only for how they can perform but also for how they touch our lives. In an economy where people are selling and sometimes even abandoning their horses, it is particularly touching to read the narratives of the 8 owners who nominated their horses for Family Arabian 2009. I hope you enjoy reading the stories and looking at the pictures. Please think about your own experiences and the horses that have touched you. Your horse could be the Family Arabian for 2010. Contact me and I will help you to nominate your special horse.

Sidney Simpson (Family Outreach Chair)

510-351-9333

sidneysimpson@comcast.net

2009 Family Arabian Horse Award Winner: Sym Sym Serene

By Jennifer Calabro

A Note to My Beloved Family Horse

Dear Symie,

We have been together for 16 years and think it is time to reflect on the time we have had together. First of all, thank you for humoring me through my teenage years. I laughed and cried and you were always there to wrap your head around me and feel my joy or wipe my tears. Thank you for packing me around, (along with other teenage friends and horses) on numerous 8 mile rides down to Taco Bell for lunch. Thank you for making me feel special because my horse could drink a can of Mountain Dew in no time and finish off with tortilla chips. Oh my. Thank you for being the excellent bareback tag horse! I think you enjoyed tag as much as I. Thank you for being a wonderful, willing, strong trail horse and winning almost every trail horse competition I could enter you in. Thank you for tolerating me on those long camp-out nights, where I would lay on you till it was absolutely time to go to bed. I love you!

I know it was awful losing your eye when you were 8 years old but we became so much closer because of it. With every tragedy there is a silver lining. That night in the UC Davis horse emergency room, I heard your sweet, sweet knickers when I returned from calling my mother. Thank you. That meant more than you will ever know. I can still feel the warmth in my heart. I am so proud of the way you adjusted from your injury. You had fearless strength. You acted like it didn't even happen. Around the barn you were called "Sym the wonder horse". See how amazing you are? That same summer we had a great time on that 10 day ride up in the back country of Yosemite where you did not miss a step- thank god! Thank you for making an awesome "Bronco" (The Northgate High School's mascot) at the Homecoming football game my senior year. That was fun to hear the crowd go wild as we galloped by the stands, covered head to toe in school colors, sparkles and streamers!



My dear friend you were even by my side and saw me through 6 ½ years of college- I know it took me a while! Pasadena was incredible. What a memory we shared walking in the Rose Bowl Parade that first college winter break and then rode around the 165 miles of the Tahoe Rim Trail that summer. Again, thank you for all the careful steps! Thank you for teaching my love, Jeremy how to ride. You made our 1st date go really smoothly! And sorry about all those midnight rides but thank you for always taking care of me! You have to admit they were a lot of fun!

It is heart warming to see you bringing the same experiences I had growing-up to another little girl, Kasey. You have given her so much confidence no to mention bringing her riding skills to all new levels. She loves you as much as I do. I know if she could curl up in your stall at night and sleep, she would. I bet you would just lay down next to her and keep her warm. That's who you are. You and Kasey have done so well and you are now making your debut as a true show horse! I love watching the two of you together. Best of luck for 2010 show season. I will be there watching my beloved family horse...Sym Sym Serene.

Again...I love you "Symer, Nimmer, Nimmers". - Cookies are always in our back pocket.
Jenn

Do you want to nominate your horse? Send your story, along with a picture, to sidneysimpson@comcast.net

2009 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

Buckaroo MA+//

By the Englehart Family

We are nominating our horse Buckaroo for Family Arabian of the year for the most simplest and obvious reasons. Buckaroo personifies the term "family Arabian". While he has been part of our family for only about 7 years, he has been part of the Summit Ranch family for so much longer.

Buckaroo is 16 years old now and has many awards and titles to his name. He has done reining, pleasure, endurance and showmanship. But his greatest achievements have been in competitive trail. He will go over around or through anything asked of him. But even with all of his achievements, what makes him special is his kind, patient and gentle personality. He allows riders of all ages and experience levels to ride without fear or worry. Hence, he is the barn's favorite lesson horse. It is unlikely that one has not ridden Buckaroo if they have had lessons with Jill Mitchell. She and he together have taught so many to ride!

Buckaroo may not be the most beautiful Arabian or take you for the smoothest ride, but his love and concern for his passenger shows in the enjoyment he has brought to so many kids and trainers. He is just so kind-natured and sweet. He is a wonderful companion.



Alexis and Buckaroo

2009 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

Khutty Sark



By Mary Kristopherson

I don't know if this is a family horse but he has a pretty special story. His name is Khutty Sark (Khemosabi X Endless Summer), he is 29 years old this year and I have one mare in foal to him for April. He was 1980 Region 2 Champion English Pleasure and region 3 Reserve Champion Stallion. I bought him in 1994 and showed him myself in 1995 (he was 15). He was beginning to have some side bone issues at that time so he had trouble competing against 6 year olds, but when I put him in Classic head classes, he won almost every time. I guess the judges wanted to use him, but his uneven feet hurt him.

When DAHA started to have Older Horse classes at the May show, I would get him out of the stall to go to the class and he would start out lame, but as he got closer to the arena the pain seemed to leave him and he would put on quite a show for the crowd. He won his class several times and even won the Senior Championship once.

I have attached pictures from 1995. I will take more pictures when the sun comes out so you can see how well he is doing.

Thanks for listening to my story.

Do you want to nominate your horse? Send your story, along with a picture, to sidneysimpson@comcast.net

2009 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee: Diamond Sureyn

By Marijanne Nichols

In January of 2009 we picked up a skinny, unkempt stallion from a person about 450 miles north of us who was going to sell him to a kill buyer... He had the horse in his trailer and unless we got him before Friday, would be going to slaughter. On the way home we stopped to weigh our trailer with the horse in it...

When we got home he was so thin we had to use a couple of leather belts and straps just to fit a blanket on him. His halter was embedded in his face so we had to cut it off his head... it was so sad to see/do and the stallion just stood there. It took over an hour to cut this halter off and when we were done he was bleeding on his nose, along his cheekbone and under his chin, it had also made a very deep impression on his poll. The stallion sensed we were helping him and stood shock still even though we knew we were hurting him especially when we took that halter off his nose.

My husband took the trailer over to the local truck stop to weigh it the next morning... We gasped in disbelief thinking we must have read it wrong but when our vet came out to check him over; he said that it was an accurate reading... The stallion weighed 467 lbs... he was literally a rack of bones with skin draped over his skeletal structure. His eyes were dull and even though he whinnied at the other horses his interest was downcast. We kept him in our round pen the first few days because if he did go down there was a way to get him out of there without a lot of trouble and we needed to put up a paddock for him if he did make it through the week. The vet gave us a grim prognosis, said we would be lucky if he made it through the week. We gave him the barn name of Sureyn...



Sureyn made it through the first week, we were free feeding him alfalfa and A&M it was slowly increasing his energy and getting him used to eating. He was starting to show interest in the other horses but had little to do with us. We did not put a halter or anything on his face for a good 2 weeks or so because we wanted his nose to heal... At the end of those weeks it took me almost an hour to get a light rope halter on him, he was head shy and obviously remembering the pain the last one caused him. Leading him was a feat too; both my husband and I on each side of him because he wanted to run off to see the mares but also because seemingly he had no concept of leading in general. To watch him trot the first time in the arena was agonizing. He had no concept of where his feet were going... it looked like his hind end was going in a different direction from his front end. He took several laps around the arena and with each stride got better, he was licking and chewing and trotting... liking what he was feeling. He didn't try to move out any faster until almost 3 weeks later and then he fell the first time he went into a canter. He got up though, looked at me as if saying, "I can do this"...

Sureyn still didn't trust us so we did a lot of things like sit beside his paddock and talk to him while he ate, also going inside his paddock and waiting for him to settle down so we could catch him... We left a short leather strap around his neck at first, not a halter because of his nose but he didn't care for us trying to grab him so we had to let him come to us... patience prevailed of course and I celebrated the first day he actually came up to me to be caught... he knew he would get to go out to play. I took a lot of time to stay with him, brushing him... at first it was hard because for one his coat was so rough but also because he didn't know what it was to be groomed... it took me a good month before I could take a brush down his legs. Within a month of good feed you could see the difference in his coat and the weight he was putting on... Sureyn started whinnying at us when we came out of the house... and got to the point where when it was a 2 person chore to put a blanket or halter him at first to where he would come up readily when he saw me with a halter and no longer acting as if he was going to be eaten alive by that blanket. We took pictures as he progressed in weight... my family and friends were amazed at the transformations and the transitions of his life as he progressed to looking like a horse rather than a skeleton.

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By the time we had him 4 plus months he had gained back a good 250 lbs and was looking nice... it was always a desire to allow him lots of space so it was time to see what he would do in pasture... we had turned him loose in the arena a few times but he hadn't really been able to stretch his legs... that first run was so exhilarating to watch... he started cantering a bit, slowly because he wasn't used to doing much and then it was as if the sky burst... he let loose and ran all the way out to the end of the 6 acre pasture we had let him loose in... it was like watching a kid who had never had been in a candy store before.... I cried and laughed at the same time...because he would run as if there was no end and then would put his head down and stop seemingly in mid air to eat a particular blade of grass... We left him out for a good hour b himself and when I walked into the pasture he came running up to me, stopped and put his head into my chest, giving one very deep, deep sigh... we stood like that for a good 15 minutes and tears were streaming down my face because here was this stallion who was at deaths door when I first saw him, one who didn't want anything to do with humans... and here he was, had come running up to me to bond in a very special place... I wrapped my arms around his neck and he nickered at me... I realized then, how very much this horse meant to me. He wasn't out of the woods yet weight wise, still had a ways to go... but he was on his way most definitely. My husband came over and put his arm around me and around Sureyn and he just stayed there, very content to be with us... it was one of those moments in life where everything comes together and one you remember forever because of its impact on your heart.

Today Sureyn is in excellent health... and is the stallion of my dreams... We had done some research into his background and got him certified for foundation breeding, he is 83% foundation lineage. He is one of the gentlest horses I have ever worked with. His disposition is that of an old aged gelding... we recently used him as a demo for a trimming clinic and the guy who was trimming happened to look up to his belly.. He put his foot down and said... "he is a stallion huh"... we laughed... yup... a big "little" stallion.

Sureyn has taken to training as if it was his passion; he carries a saddle, wears a bridle and does anything I ask of him... I haven't gotten on him but I think that will happen very soon... Sureyn loves to work so will take to riding with a zest for going anywhere I point his nose. It is my desire to show Sureyn in sport-horse classes, and hope that both he and I will be ready this spring. We plan on breeding him to two of our mares, a Bey Oro daughter and a black Nite Deceiver daughter. He is also booked to one outside mare. This will be his first foal crop. Sureyn will be 15 years old this spring... it will be awesome to see what he can do in the show-ring and in the breeding arena. His life certainly deserves recognition for what he has endured. As a family horse, he has rallied every member into his corner... my youngest granddaughter has claimed him as her fairy horse, our oldest daughter wants to ride him and show him, my son just loves to hang out with him and talk about life. He continues to amaze all of us with his willingness to trust... everyone that sees him loves him and no one who has seen his pictures believes that the magnificent animal before them is the same scraggly skinny horse...



Running with the dog is his first time in pasture

2009 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

Montaz



By Sarena Ben-Zeev

I met Montaz when I first went to Cindy's barn and rode him. Mike taught me how to teach him and we became buddies.

Montaz is special to me because he helps out by doing things like sometimes putting his head down when I put his halter on and things like not moving when I get off. Sometime he moves when I get on him, but not all the time.

Montaz makes me laugh by doing things like farting when I'm loping on him and things like tripping - which sort of scares me. But the best thing of all is riding him. He is great for me and riding him is better than great, it's excellent for me.

Montaz is excellent for me because I love loping, but it's scary at night because the horse could get spooked and you could fall off. I did on 12.01.09 and I was scared. But trotting is too bouncy that why I like loping more.

Montaz really makes me feel happy because I love him and he loves me and that's what horses are for - loving!

Do you want to nominate your horse? Send your story, along with a picture, to sidneysimpson@comcast.net

2009 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

Pocket Rocket

By Janet Seager

I have a 12 year old Arabian mare, Gold N Pocahontas (Gold n Ali x SP Magicbounde) that I have owned since she was 3 years old. It has been a tempestuous relationship at times and she aptly earned her nickname "Pocket Rocket." Very light, sensitive, does not suffer fools. I have heard of the legendary bond between Arabians and their owners, esp. the mares. It was tested on one cold November day.

It was right after Thanksgiving Day. My husband Mark, his father Dave, and myself were all looking forward to a trail ride to clear our heads and get out of the house. Mark was on his 5 year old gelding Atlas, and Dave was riding our 23 year old steady mare, Celebration. I was on Pocahontas.

As these rides usually do, it began quiet enough. We headed out towards a trail which runs by a creek to a park staging area. This trail is perhaps two horses wide, with a ravine to the creek below on one side, and high bank on the other. Not a scary trail, but one where you'd prefer to get through without incident. The horses were quietly moving in line with Mark in the lead and I brought up the rear. There was one difficult gate located on a narrow incline which we had to get through before we got to the park. Mark positioned his horse to hold the gate open for us to go through. Atlas was fussing and wouldn't stand calmly. At this point Celebration's saddle started to slip. Calamity struck. Celebration wheeled which caused Dave to slip further down her side. Pocahontas was beside herself and it was all I could do to stay on her. Celebration bolted towards home, and Dave fell off and struck his head on a rock and was unconscious. Mark was stunned-I quickly slipped off my mare, handed him the reins and said calmly, "Look at me. I need you to hold her. I have to go for help". I had to repeat myself several times before it reached him. I ran up the trail, through the gate and into the staging area where there was an emergency phone. I explained the circumstances and perhaps 10 minutes elapsed before first responders were on the scene.

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In the meantime, cars and bicyclists had stopped to help. Mark was having difficulty holding my mare and I was summoned to go back down the trail and hold her, rather than wait for the paramedics. Atlas was extremely upset as well, and as the paramedics and fire department arrived the sirens added to the horses' anxiety. Mark elected to take his horse back to the barn as well and return to assist. I answered questions as best I could re Dave's age, history and medical condition. Pocahontas was anxious and calling out to her herd mates, and I was shaking with fear for Dave. At this time two helicopters arrived, flying closely overhead looking for a place to land to medi-vac Dave to John Muir Hospital. I felt impending disaster as the air pulsed with the turning rotors. It was at this moment everything seemed to slow down. I took Pocahontas' head, looked into her beautiful dark eyes, and said quietly, "I need you to be very very good right now".

If there was ever a heart connection it was now. She quieted, looked around at the paramedics and people just a few feet away, and at the helicopters circling overhead. The trail was narrow, and people had to run past us to assist Dave onto a litter for transport. Pocahontas gave a big sigh, looked at me, and then put her head down to graze on the few grass blades that have sprung up in the cold November sun. I do not know what shifted between us, but I knew at that moment I could trust her with my life.

Dave was in ICU for a week. He suffered a concussion (thank goodness for helmets—his was completely cracked), some cracked ribs, and brain trauma which required rehabilitative care.

I thank my blessings every day for this beautiful creature which shares her life with me.



2009 Family Arabian Horse Nominee:

Kristen and Taylor Made

By Nancy Dupont, Owner of Castle Rock Arabians



Champions often come from inauspicious beginnings. Seabiscuit was not much to look at, and the undersized racehorse was overlooked until trainer Tom Smith had faith in him. Such was also the case with Kristen Wheeler and Taylor Made, a spunky little Arabian mare who turned out to be long in talent even if short in the looks department. Bred by Carol Kenning out of KJ Enjoli, the foal that grew up to become a winner looked like anything but on the day she was born. She had a blaze as wide as one on the face of Hereford cow that ended in a big pink nose, giving her the look of a permanently etched grin.

When Taylor Made turned four and Kristen was about to turn 12, Carol approached Nancy Dupont, owner of Castle Rock Arabians, about finding a buyer for Taylor Made. Nancy believed the horse would be a good match for Kristen, and Kristen's parents, Anne and Bill, were ready to take the big step into horse ownership for their daughter, who had been riding for two years. Taylor Made was purchased and hidden at Castle Rock Arabians until Kristen could be surprised at her birthday party on July 1, 2003.

The next day, Kristen saddled Taylor and headed up Mount Diablo on Castle Rock Arabian's first Annual Explorers Ride.

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She and four other riders camped overnight and then rode down the mountain to don Spanish uniforms and ride in Clayton's Fourth of July parade. The 40-mile roundtrip ride and participation in a noisy parade in front of a rambunctious crowd was a remarkable start for the young horse and young rider. A few weeks later, Kristen and Taylor joined a Yosemite ride led by George Cardinet and rode successfully from the top of Glacier Point down the treacherous, 18-inch-wide four mile trail whose winds down the face of the cliff to the Valley Floor.

Soon thereafter, Kristen tackled a novice North American Trail Ride Conference ride on Mount Diablo, and Taylor left the starting line galloping sideways. Kristen managed to hang on and finish the 25-mile course, with Kristen taking third place youth rider and Taylor first place for youth horse. But Taylor's less-than-impressive start left others believing the horse was too spooky for competitions.

Kristen was undeterred. She worked on improving her riding skills, and then joined the Amigos de Anza Drill Team led by George Cardinet. Although Taylor spun like a top the first time Kristen held a flag while mounted, eventually the duo would be in the lead. On one occasion, as the team performed at the Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace outside of San Francisco, Kristen and Taylor carried the American flag. Suddenly, the flagpole began to collapse, and Kristen struggled to keep the American flag above all others. Then her stirrup came undone. But the teamwork that Kristen and Taylor had developed carried them through to a balanced and beautiful finish.

Sadly, Kristen began to outgrow Taylor. The girl who was under five feet when she got Taylor was now closing in on 6 feet, and had ambitions to jump higher than the Arab could take her. Her parents purchased Chief, a big warmblood, and they enjoyed a successful two years on the jumper circuit. But her heart still belonged to Taylor, and, after Chief had to be sold, she begged her parents to let her take Taylor into the Arabian show ring. Her parents were skeptical that Taylor could do well against other Arabs with better conformation, but eventually relented.

Kristen took Taylor to the DAHA show in Elk Grove, CA, in May 2008. Initially, Taylor wasn't doing well. The judges would not even look at her. On the last day, she entered a class that had an individual equitation test

She finished second out of 17 riders, which qualified her for the Youth Nationals. Kristen asked her mom if they could take Taylor to the Nationals. Anne told her she didn't believe they had a chance.

So they focused on the regional competition in Scottsdale in February 2009 as Anne believed that Taylor and Kristen might have a chance in an Arabian native costume class because the flowing costume would camouflage the fact that Kristen looked too big on her small mount. On the first afternoon of the Scottsdale show, a conflict developed and Kristen had to choose between entering the costume class, where she was guaranteed a ribbon because there were only three entries, or of in competing in two large equitation classes. She chose the greater challenges. "In the first class, there was no individual test. So Kristen and Taylor were not noticed and did not make the top 12. We wondered what she was trying to prove," her mother Anne recalls. "In the later class, they all had to do an individual test. We were surprised when Kristen and Taylor got second place."

The next day came an even bigger surprise. Against a tough field of top horses in the 2009 Hunter Seat Equitation Championship 14 to 17 at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, Kristen and Taylor emerged as the champions. When their victory was announced, Kristen hugged and hugged Taylor Made. The victory was even sweeter because Kristen knew she had persevered despite many skeptics. She remembered the words of trainer Matt Archer, who would advise envious young riders when he heard them complaining about the success of, lusting over and wishing they owned the prizewinning horses, "Ride the horse you're on."

Kristen did.



Kristen and Taylor Made with family and friends

2009 Family Arabian Horse

Nominee:

Zara El Bataa



By Meghan Johnson

I would like to nominate Zara El Bataa (Prince Shiko x Sudans Mayet), aka "Zara". Zara is a 26 year old grey Egyptian Arabian mare owned by Donna and the late Paul Tims. Zara was a part of my life for 6 of my teenage years as her care taker or "Pony Au Pair" along with companion Polish Arabian "George". Zara was a wonderful horse. She loved to trail ride on Mt Diablo and helped introduce me to the wonderful world of Arabians, horse care, dressage and horse showing. What makes Zara deserving of the Family Arabian of the Year award was her willing yet independent attitude, patience, athleticism and her striking beauty.

Zara and George taught me all about horse care and responsibility. My horse trainer at the time found me Zara and George through some friends of hers' that were looking for someone to care for and ride their horses. I became responsible for afternoon feeding, stall/pen/water trough cleaning, blanketing and riding as well as financially taking care of Zara's shoes, vet bills and arena fees. That's quite a responsibility for a 13 - 18 year old girl but I took care of them every day after school and worked many hours babysitting, house sitting, pet sitting, tutoring and house cleaning to pay for my horse passion. I think caring for George and Zara helped me be a better student because I had to be organized to fit in school, working, riding, and caring for them. I learned that horses were a big responsibility and more important than silly school drama, boys and mean girls.

I loved Zara for her eagerness to please and be loved. She and George were always excited to see me.

When I ride my bike up after school she was happy to take me on a relaxing trail ride on the Mt Diablo regional trails whether a quiet trail ride alone or with friends. The boarders of the former Driscollville/Sugarloaf Stables across the street thought it was funny to see George and Zara waiting for me at the gate for my arrival, pawing the ground and screaming in their pen. There is nothing more heartwarming to see them so happy to see me. I even won a photo contest with a photo of them in their stall sticking their heads out the window of the old red barn. On Thursday afternoons, we would have our dressage lesson with my old horse trainer. Zara would always challenge me to do my best and become the rider I am today.

I rode Zara in my first dressage shows. I would spend hours getting her perfectly white, clipped and braided the night before the show and then I would wrap her like a mummy in blankets, hoods and leg wraps and despite my effort, she would manage to get herself muddy and green wherever she wasn't covered before the show. I remember trying to wash the green and brown stains off her at 5am in the morning. Once at the show grounds, fellow competitors would look down their nose at us from atop their fancy warmbloods because Zara was an Arabian, not a typical dressage horse. Zara was an amazing show horse; the second we entered the show ring she would arch her neck and pick up a floating trot, she knew she was being judged. Often she would memorize our dressage test which would make it look like we were telepathic. We always got good dressage scores and often awarded ribbons.

Zara loved to trail ride. She just loved being out in the open and especially loved to canter the hills. Zara actually introduced me to the Mt Diablo regional trails and helped me discover my lifelong love of trail riding. I loved to explore the trails with her and friends. Often we would get lost or travel down trails that we shouldn't have rode down but we learned. I'm often told that I'm a great trail guide but the praise should go to Zara for helping me learn the trails and helping me become a good trail rider. I remember riding through Pine Canyon as a 14 or 15 year old and stopping to eat blackberries along the creek with Zara, sharing them with her and then wiping my hands on her saddle pad. I look back fondly of our rides as some of the best summers of my childhood.

Continued on page 11

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Unfortunately, I had to leave George and Zara. The Sugarloaf Stables across the street from their pen was sold to a developer right out from under us which meant we would not have an arena to ride in, only trails. This was ok until the winter and I realized that this wasn't going to work so I followed some friends to Summit Ranch where I ride today. My riding lessons on Zara awarded me with other horses to ride and care for at Summit Ranch. It completely devastated me to leave George and Zara but I couldn't afford to care for them and not be able to ride half the year. The property they lived on was eventually sold and a home is currently being built on it. After George's owner Paul died, George was given to a family to be a companion horse and Zara was moved out to a ranch in Brentwood where she lives today in retirement.

Zara deserves to be given the Family Arabian of the Year Award. She was a very special horse to a young woman. She and George taught me most of what I know today about the care of horses. Zara taught me so much but more than anything let me love her and share her life. Zara should receive recognition for her bright spirit, patience, and love of life, beauty and intelligence. Zara is the ideal family Arabian.

3rd Annual Diablo Trail Endurance Ride 25/50!

AERC Sanctioned and Region 3 Championship Ride

On June 26, 2010, Save Mount Diablo is sponsoring the second annual Mt Diablo Trail 30/50 mile Endurance ride. This was a huge success last year and we look forward to a repeat performance. Start/finish at the Gateway Mt Diablo State Park North Gate Road, Walnut Creek. Registration opens in February on www.savemountdiablo.org. We need volunteers to make this event a success! For more information, email Trail Chair Jill Mitchell mitchelljm22566@sbcglobal.net or call 925-250-1371. You can also contact Ride Secretary Amara Morrison at amara.morrison@comcast.net.




Do you have news? Email Meghan Johnson at MZara75030@aol.com

Winter Banquet

Our Winter Banquet on Sunday, January 24, 2010 was a great success! We had a record turn out of about 140 members and guests. Classic Catering prepared a delicious spread of prime rib with au jus, roasted garlic/parsley potatoes, creamy vegetarian ravioli, haricot verts, mixed green salad and finally a variety of cookies and bars for dessert. We auctioned off many wonderful gifts during the silent auction and raffle of the horsey, home, and personal variety. A big thank you to our members for donating silent and raffle auction items. Also a big thank you to Western Saddlery for their generous donation of gift certificates and high point award sponsorships. Our own Cory Soltau MCed the event. Family Outreach Chair, Sidney Simpson gave a moving DVD presentation of the Family Arabian nominations and she presented Jenn Calabro with the 2009 Family Arabian Award for Sym Sym Serene. There was a nice presentation for the Amigo de Anza drill team at the Rose Parade and Equestfest. Horses' Honor and Zen Rescue talked to the membership regarding their charity work and Zen Rescue thanked DAHA for the monies received from the Golden Gate Fields fundraiser for providing sanctuary for Arabian horses in need. We had a record 51 horses entered into the High Point program this year. Jill Mitchell presented awards to the winners of the Arabian Horse Association National Youth Competition Award, which was won by Mitchell's Marauders: Kirsten McKillop, Amanda Kelley, Alexis and Maddy Englehart and Allison and Caroline Edwards. Sherry Peddar, our Banquet Chair, presented Cindy Silvani-Lacey with a plaque and gift certificate for a photo session and collage with Photographer Berto Alves for her long service to the club and Sherry also presented all of the high point winners with their prizes. What a special evening--yummy food and drink and a time to come together with other DAHA members to pay tribute to the talented equestrians and horses in our club.

Spring Show Premium

DAHA will **not** be mailing out show premiums this year unless requested from the show secretary, Nancy Goertzen 559-625-2631, e-mail: goertzenarab@gmail.com or Show Manager, Coke Swift 209-464-1932, email: willowjewelfarm@yahoo.com. [You can download the Spring Show premium and entries on the DAHA website at \[www.diabloaha.org\]\(http://www.diabloaha.org\).](#)  Save Paper!

Comments? Suggestions? Ideas? Pictures?

Please send to: Meghan Johnson 925-708-8571
Mzara75030@aol.com

QUIZ – How Well Do You Know Your Arabian Horse History?

Test your knowledge. See if you can answer these questions about Arabians. The answers will come soon in an email!!

1. What is the oldest breed of horse? _____
2. When do we first see the imagery of a horse resembling the modern Arabian?
 - a. Around 1890 B.C.
 - b. Around 1620 B.C.
 - c. Around 230 A.D.
3. Nearly 1,000 years later, what recognizable culture instrumental in fostering the Arabian horse breed that descended from the Hyksos community?
 - a. The ancient Mesopotamians
 - b. The Egyptians
 - c. The Bedouins of the Arabian Peninsula
4. What color were Bedouin Tents?
 - a. white
 - b. tan
 - c. black
5. Arabians were often kept in tents along with the family, rather than outside with the other animals. What was their primary purpose inside the tent, besides companionship with the family?
 - a. Representation of spiritual hierarchy
 - b. Safety from raids and predators
 - c. Protection of women and children
6. Who was responsible for the foals after they were weaned?
 - a. The children
 - b. The women
 - c. The chieftains
7. "Asil" was extremely important to the Bedouins. What does "Asil" mean?
 - a. Hand of God
 - b. Purity of Blood
 - c. Shield of God
8. What was of greatest importance to the Bedouins: mares, geldings or stallions?
 - a. Mares
 - b. Geldings
 - c. Stallions
9. As the religion of Islam began to spread from its Bedouin nucleus of the Near East, they did it mostly from the backs of Arabian horses. What is the Bedouin term that describes the essence of Arab preparation for and conduct of warfare?
 - a. Ramadan
 - b. Jalabiyya
 - c. Fursiyya
10. During "the Crusades", when European military attempted to conquer the Christian Holy Lands, they were profoundly impressed by the Bedouins' Arabian horses and warfare code, and brought home many of its elements to Medieval Europe. It became the notion of what common code of European conduct?
 - a. Gallantry
 - b. Chivalry
 - c. Being debonair

11. The next major era to succeed the Crusades was the Ottoman Empire, from 1299–1920 (during WW1). It encompassed much of the Arabic-speaking world and extended from the Arabian Peninsula to the borders of Poland, and from the Caspian Sea to the Atlantic coast of Morocco. As the Ottomans spread into Eastern Europe, the Europeans developed a keen appreciation of the swift and sturdy Arabian horses upon which they rode, and often were seized after battle. One of the horses that came to Europe as a war prize was one of the three “Foundation Sires” of the Thoroughbred breed. Who was he?

- a. The Darley Arabian b. The Godolphin Arabian c. The Byerly Turk

12. In a similar fashion, Napoleon the Great acquired his favorite horse at the Battle of Aboukir in Egypt-- a 14.1 hh 6-year-old Arabian stallion. What was his horse's name?

- a. Marengo b. Leopard c. The Black

13. Beginning in the 1600s, Arabians were used in Europe to improve the quality of indigenous horses. In the mid-to-later 1800s, Arabians began being imported specifically to establish pure Arabian lines in Europe, thus beginning European Arabian stud farms as we know it today. The Crabbet Park Stud in England was established by Lady Anne and Sir Wilfred Blunt in 1879, and is considered the first major European stud for Arabian horses. What major sire was one of the foundations of this breeding program?

- a. Raffles b. Skowronek c. Naseem

14. Of the countries breeding purebred Arabian horses, Poland's stud farms surely suffered the most during the periods of World Wars 1 and II, likely because the Arabian had become such a deep part of their cultural heritage. Its most memorable figure came when the state stud, Janow Podlaski Stud, came under German control in WWII after the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. What was the name of the Arabian yearling colt that dramatically escaped the Nazis?

- a. Witez b. Witez II c. Witez III

15. Match the oldest stud farm as follows to its country of origin

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 15. Germany | Babolna Stud (1789) |
| 16. Russia | Yeguada Militar (1847) |
| 17. Hungary | Weil-Marbach Stud (1817) |
| 18. Spain | Tersk Stud |

How'd you do?

- 13–15 correct: “Museum Curator”
- 10–12 correct: “Pretty Good”
- 6–9 correct: “Better brush up!”
- < 5 correct: “Camp out for a while in the Arabian Horse Galleries!”

How well do you know your Arabian Horse History? Stay tuned for the answer key in an upcoming e-blast or contact Meghan at 925-708-8571 or email MZara75030@aol.com for answer key.

* Quiz reproduced with the permission of 2009 AHA Convention

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May 20-23, 2010

Brookside Equestrian Park, Elk Grove, CA

Judges

Main Arena - Margaret Rich, Kim Potts Morgan

Trail & Reining - BJ LeMaster

Dressage

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NEW!!! FEI Dressage classes
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Theme – “Your Favorite TV Show”
Stall decorating contest & costume class
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Premium list is available online
diabloaha.org or horsenumbers.com

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